



Sheikh Russel's Moroccan centre-back Bourdif tries to thwart an attack from Brothers Union right-back Rony during their B. League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Club shooting begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The three-day 13th Inter-club shooting competition began amid huge enthusiasm at the Rangpur Rifles Club ground yesterday.

A total of 280 shooters from 37 clubs of 27 districts are participating in three events.

Maj Gen Sayed Fatemi Ahmed Rumi inaugurated the meet organised by National Shooting Federation in association with Rangpur Rifles Club.

Pakistan

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sources said Wednesday.

Younis, who was deputy to former skipper Inzamamul Haq for nearly two years, is demanding full powers like his powerful predecessor, a condition unacceptable to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), board sources said.

Following the country's humiliating first-round exit from the World Cup in Caribbean the PCB says it wants to put in place a new code for players and the captain.

The new strategy envisages strong checks and balances on the captain to curtail his role in selecting players and dictating terms to the coach and the management, as has been the practice in the past, a PCB official told AFP.

"Younis Khan wanted to be an all-powerful captain and is reluctant to accept curbs," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The PCB wants to curtail "player power", which it believes has been responsible for the poor showing of the national team in big tournaments.

The official said announcement of the captain had been delayed as the board authorities try to resolve the problem.

However a cricket board spokesman said the delay in choice of men for the two key posts was not due to any differences with Younis.

The board is still discussing various options on who should be appointed as captain and coach for the team," spokesman Ahsan Malik told AFP.

"We have not reached the stage where we can offer captaincy to any player, we have chalked out a criterion and once that is settled we will announce the name."

Lara quits

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Runs: 10,354

Highest score: 169

Average: 40.60

Strike rate: 79.38

100s: 19

50s: 63

Fours: 1,031

Sixes: 131

Catches/Stumpings: 119/0

Bowling

Matches: 297

Balls: 49

Runs: 61

Wkts: 4

Best bowling: 2/5

Average: 15.25

Economy rate: 7.46

De Villiers

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game under pressure and I guess that's what it's all about, so we're happy.

"To get 356 was a superb total. We had the game won pretty early and it was about finishing it off at the end."

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

IM Abdullah Al Rakib regained his solo lead in the 33rd National Chess Championship after his win over Mohammad Javed at the NS hall-room yesterday.

While his win took him to 7.5 points, it was GM Ziaur Rahman who helped Rakib's cause after the former champion dropped points against Minhzuddin Ahmed. Ziaur gained seven points at the end of nine rounds.

Meanwhile, FM Aminul Islam earned nine games International Master norm after his win over Abdul Maleq.

DIV 1 CRICKET

Sadharan Bima continued their dream run in the Kai-Altech First Division Cricket League with a 40-run win over Rupali Bank at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Opting to bat first, Sadharan Bima posted a massive 206 for 8 in 24 overs after early morning shower in Dhanmondi delayed the start of the match. In reply, Rupali Bank were bowled out for 166 runs in 19.5 overs.

Rajib struck an unbeaten 61 for Bima.

DIV 2 CRICKET

Bipul Dey had a day to remember as

his all-round effort saw Farashganj Sporting Club to an exciting two-wicket win over Mirpur Cricket Club in the Kai-Altech Second Division Cricket League at the Dhaka University ground.

Having bowled out Mirpur for only 99 runs in 29.2 overs with Bipul taking five for 27. When Farashganj replied, it was Bipul again who took centre-stage as his unbeaten 32 saw his side home in 30.4 overs.

In the other match, Shawon's 110 off 99 balls gave Young Cricketers (344-5 in 39 overs) a massive 150-run win over Udayachal Club (194 all out in 38.3 overs).

CLUB CUP CHALLENGE

Panditpara of Mymensingh defeated Provati Sangha by four wickets in the Club Cup Challenge at the Mymensingh Stadium.

Arafat struck an unbeaten 74 to propel Panditpara to a successful chase of 218 runs. They got past the total in 43.5 overs.

Earlier, it was Moshfiq Rahaman's 55 which was instrumental in Provati posting 217-9 in 45 overs. Arafat took three for 34.

Bangladesh Academy smell victory

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Ziaur Rahman and Mosharraf Hossain shared six wickets evenly as Bangladesh Cricket Academy were on the brink of victory against their Pakistani counterparts in the first four-day match at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Pakistan Cricket Academy ended the third day's play on 130-9 in 42 overs, still 91 runs away from the winning target.

New ball bowler Ziaur (3-28) started the carnage before left-arm spinner Mosharraf (3-47), who caused damage in the visitors' first innings by picking up four wickets, ripped through the middle order.

Earlier, despite overnight batsmen Rokibul Hasan and Nazimuddin's 155-run third wicket partnership, the local boys were all out for just 222 in their second essay to set a 221-run target for the opposition.

Bangladesh Academy resumed the day on 70-2 with Rokibul, who was overnight 35, playing a strokefull 120-ball 83 that contained 14 boundaries. Nazimuddin, who

resumed on 29, also faced same number of deliveries to score 59 with the help of seven fours and a six.

The home side were well placed at 165-2 but off-spinner Atif Maqbool's five-wicket haul brought the Pakistanis back as they grabbed eight wickets for 57 runs including the last half in the space of only 32 runs. Maqbool finished with 5-50 from 16.3 overs.

The tourists ran into big trouble in the chase when Zia and his new ball partner Sajidul Islam shattered the top order. Zia conceded 28 runs in 11 overs for his three victims while his partner took two for 23 runs from seven overs.

Mosharraf's three wickets came in 13 overs that took his match analysis to 7-126.

Captain Fawad Alam topscored 47 before being trapped by left-arm spinner and his Bangladesh counterpart Mehrab Hossain.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH ACADEMY: 223

and 222 all out in 63.3 overs

(Jahurul 0, Mehrab 4, Nazimuddin 59, Rokibul 83, Nadir 23, Sahagir 24, extras 22, Nafaj 3-52, Maqbool 5-50, Zia 1-25).

PAKISTAN ACADEMY: 225 and 130-9 in 42 overs (Rahim 0, Latif 1, Yousuf 2, Fawad 47, Adnan 7, Tanveer 5, Sharfaraz 21, Rauf 0, Zia 22 n.o., Maqbool 18, Najaf 0 n.o. extras 7, Zia 3-28, Sajidul 2-23, Mosharraf 3-47, Mehrab 1-16).

Fleming's self

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But Jayawardene said generally slow West Indian surfaces meant ideas of good totals had to be revised.

"On these pitches 230, 250 is a very acceptable score. Sanath didn't get many against England (25) but the middle-order did well."

New Zealand bat a long way down, Oran and fellow all-rounder Scott Styris pivotal figures, while a well-balanced attack features fast bowler Shane Bond and left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori.

"They've got guys who can bail them out if they struggle at the top. But we've played them a lot in the last 12 months and we know their strengths and weaknesses," said Jayawardene.

New Zealand must decide whether to recall batsman Ross Taylor, whose 128 in Napier, was his maiden one-day international hundred.

Taylor has missed the last four games due to a hamstring injury, sustained during his half-century against Kenya in a group match.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Peter Fulton, Ross Taylor, Hamish Marshall, Scott Styris, Craig McMillan, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum (wk), Daniel Vettori, James Franklin, Shane Bond, Jeetan Patel, Mark Gillespie.

SRI LANKA (from): Upul Tharanga, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara (wk), Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Chamara Silva, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Russell Arnold, Chaminda Vaas, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralidaran, Dilhara Fernando, Farveez Maharoof, Nuwan Kulasekara.

Umpires: Asad Rauf and Billy Doctrove.

PTI, Mumbai

AFP, Bridgetown



Australia opener Matthew Hayden said Tuesday that the World Cup is too long and called for the tournament to be trimmed.

"It's too long. It's too long for everyone," said Hayden with another 18 days still to play in the 47-day marathon competition.

World Cup holders Australia played their first match in the Caribbean, a warm-up game against Zimbabwe, back on March 5 in St Vincent.

Since that time, they have played three first round group games in St Kitts and three Super Eights matches in Antigua. But it's the huge gaps in between which irk many players.

Australia's seven-wicket win over England on Sunday was their first match in eight days; they won't play again until Friday this week when they clash with debutants Ireland here.

"As a batter, it's nice to be able to get that continuous sort of

Russel still on top

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Brothers top scorer with four goals, Junior stunned Russell's Moroccan captain Bourdif Mohamed from the left. Zia was also there when he pulled off another save on Tapan's low drive on the rebound.

Zia almost gave Brothers the lead five minutes from time but the substitute's effort from outside the penalty box hit the sidebar while Tapan scooped the ball over the bar three minutes later from 12 yards as the two-time defending Premiership champions slumped to their second draw.

Yellow cards: Rony, Rintu, Tapan (Brothers) and Zia, Bourdif, Khoubbache (Russel).

TEAMS

BROTHERS: Ali, Rony, Jewel Rana, Shuvra, Masud Rana, Monwar, Rintu, Inani (Manum), Faisal (Manu), Jalal (Tapan) and Junior.

RUSSEL: Zia, Pradip, Bourdif, Hasan, Mishu, Ighi (Kaiser), Saad, Rikta, Rana (Nayan), Khoubbache and Bulbul.

Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.

Nothing could

FROM PAGE 17 build-up to Tuesday's make-or-break clash against South Africa when he spoke at a Jesus 2007 Not Out event at the new 13,000-seat temporary stand at Kensington Oval.

"I would like to be Barnabas the great encourager and give the team a lift. I know that millions of West Indies cricket fans might have been disappointed with our previous visits to the crease, but we must still support the team. They are our team," said Hall who took 192 Test match wickets.

"What the team need to do is to play every game like a final. If they play each game like a final and win all the games then I'm sure that would be a great blessing to all West Indian people."

"We want the fight to come back, we want the players to play with pride. What we do not want is another supine surrender."

Hall lamented the absence of a strike bowler in the West Indies team and his mood would not have been lightened by seeing Jerome Taylor dropped again from the team to face the South Africans in Grenada.

Fergie's greatest night

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United were in the kind of mood that can make them one of the most exciting teams in Europe. Their slick passing and finely-honed movement destroyed Roma during an amazing opening period.

Michael Carrick opened the scoring in the 12th minute with a superb long range effort and Alan Smith got the second five minutes later with a perfectly-placed strike.

Wayne Rooney turned in Ryan Giggs's 19th minute cross to send Old Trafford wild and put United firmly in control of the tie.

United were determined to savour their dominance and Ronaldo fired in their fourth just before half time. The Portuguese winger was in typically brilliant form and added his second when he turned in Giggs's cross after 49 minutes.

But the hosts weren't finished there. Carrick made it six with another superb 25-yard strike and, after Danieli De Rossi pulled one back for Roma, Patrice Evra completed the humiliation with an 81st minute drive to seal United's biggest ever Champions League victory.

Ferguson was delighted to see Smith get his first goal since November 2005 after his long battle with leg and ankle injuries and he said: "I think everyone is pleased for

Alan. His enthusiasm spreads through the team. The great quality he has had in the last year is patience. He has kept going and going and has got his reward tonight."

"I just think the early goal was difficult for Roma because it gave us the advantage and put them on the back foot. It gave us the confidence to get at them and the speed of our play caused them a lot of problems after that."

Roma's defeat was the heaviest suffered by an Italian side since Juventus lost 7-0 against Vienna in 1958 and coach Luciano Spalletti admitted he was shell-shocked by the result.