

Faridpur get nasty on BKSP

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka routed Mymensingh 7-0 while a rough and tough Faridpur held BKSP 2-2 in yesterday's super league matches of the 27th National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

In the day's first match, Jimmy and Dinar struck twice each while Moshir, Iqbal and Afzal netted one goal apiece as Dhaka handed Mymensingh their second consecutive defeat in the 5-team championship leg.

In a tense match later on the day, a brace by Mamanur Rahman Chayan salvaged a draw for Faridpur, whose players mercilessly tackled the BKSP boys and seriously injured Irfanul Haque.

The BKSP boy had to leave the turf with a bleeding nose and the Faridpur seniors also came close to assault the umpires while they were trailing 2-1.

Chayan put Faridpur ahead after 14 minutes but BKSP's Zahid Bin Taleb cancelled the lead eight minutes before the break. Syed Al Mamun then gave the Savar sport institute lead in the 38th minute before Chayan pulled off the equaliser on the hour.

Hair back for int'l matches

INTERNET, undated

Controversial Australian umpire Darrell Hair returns to international cricket this week when he officiates in a four-day game between Canada and the Netherlands in Ontario.

Hair was voted off the International Cricket Council's elite panel in November last year for his handling of the ball-tampering incident in a Test match between England and Pakistan last August.

But he remains under contract with the ICC until April 2008.

In an indication of how Hair has fallen from grace, the 76-Test veteran -- the third most experienced umpire in world cricket -- is listed to stand alongside Roger Dill, a 49-year-old Bermudian firefighter.

The pair will officiate in the four-day Intercontinental Cup game and two one-day internationals between the sides next week.

Hair, 54, last officiated in a match between Kenya and Scotland in Nairobi in February.

He has not stood in a Test since he and West Indian umpire Billy Doctrove ruled that Pakistan had forfeited the match against England at The Oval last August by refusing to take the field after tea on the fourth day.

Pakistan was subsequently cleared of ball-tampering but captain Inzamamul Haq, who has since retired, was suspended for four one-day matches for refusing to lead his team back on to the field, leading to the only forfeit in Test history.

Doctrove remains on the elite umpires panel.

Hair, 54, is taking his case to a London employment tribunal, claiming racial discrimination by the ICC cost him his livelihood.

The ICC has said it will vigorously defend the matter. The hearing, expected to last two weeks, starts in London on October 1.

Hair has returned from England to live in Sydney and is understood to be writing his memoirs.

Inzamam eyes

FROM PAGE 17

"I am training hard and am fit. I played a one-day match at the weekend and will continue my efforts to get into the Test side," said Inzamam.

Pakistan selectors have said Inzamam, who is not known for his athleticism, will have to prove his fitness to get a place in the home series against South Africa in late September this year.

But there are no domestic matches in Pakistan in between, meaning that Inzamam is looking towards England.

"I have been in touch with people and if there is a place vacant in the county I would definitely like to go and play," said Inzamam, who played 119 Tests and 378 one-day matches in a career spanning more than 16 years.

He needs just 20 runs to beat Javed Miandad's 8,832 in 124 Tests as the leading Test scorer for Pakistan.

The country's chief selector Salahuddin Ahmed has said Inzamam was not included in a list of 30 players among whom 20 will get central contracts from the Pakistan Cricket Board.

"Since Inzamam is not playing in both forms of the game we have not included him in the list for central contracts -- but the doors of Test cricket are open for him," Ahmed said last week.

Inzamam's decision to stand down as captain was prompted by Pakistan's defeat by minnows Ireland, which forced them out of the World Cup held in March and April this year.



Scene from the National Hockey Championship Super League clash between BKSP and Faridpur at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

C'wood stays happy

Cricket

AFP, London

Paul Collingwood was encouraged even though his first game as England captain ended in defeat, claiming his side would learn from the experience.

England lost the first Twenty20 international at the Brit Oval by 15 runs, and, aside from a belligerent 80 off 41 balls from Collingwood, offered little resistance after conceding a total of 208-8.

"It was a great experience," the Durham all-rounder said. "They might not think so now, but all the players will think the same. I'm sure we've learnt a lot tonight."

He was dismissive of criticism that England, as they had been in the World Cup, were not aggressive enough, claiming there was no need to pick a specialist Twenty20 squad.

"We shouldn't get carried away," he said. "It's just one game. The 14 guys in that dressing room are the best one-day cricketers in the country at the present time and I'm sure we can adapt our game."

The next highest score after Collingwood's was Matt Prior's 25, but given only three sides in the history of Twenty20 -- at any level --

had ever chased down 208, the problem on Thursday was more the bowling than the batting.

Given how successful spin has been in domestic Twenty20 -- Surrey's Nayan Doshi is the leading all-time wicket-taker -- it was a major surprise that Monty Panesar was left out of the side, with Michael Yardy offering the only spin option.

"It's difficult," Collingwood said. "I thought Yards did a good job, trying to take the pace off the ball."

"But you have to give West Indies a lot of credit. With (Shivnarine) Chanderpaul flipping the ball over fine leg it's very hard to set fields."

"We've got to look at the lengths we bowled and see where we can improve."

"On the Oval pitch it's very difficult. Even if you get it in the blockhole, it bounces up so the margins for error are very small."

Collingwood accepted responsibility for the gaffe in the fifteenth over of the West Indies innings that conceded a no-ball because England had too few fielders in the circle.

"I hold my hands up," he said. "It was obviously my fault, and these are the things I have to learn from."

The West Indies captain Chris

Gayle was delighted, after a chaotic build-up, his side at last produced a performance worthy of the name.

Having lost the Test series 3-0, West Indies were beaten in a warm-up game by Derbyshire, having been forced to call on university players in a previous warm-up game in 2005.

CA hoped that this time around the Australian fans would appreciate Muralidaran.

"Last year we had Monty Panesar and we were really pleased that he became a cult figure. With Murali coming back, our ambition would be to achieve the same outcome," a CA spokesman was quoted as saying by 'The Age'.

"As Ricky Ponting said, any international cricketer visiting Australia has the right to be treated with respect and in the same manner as Australian players are treated. That is the bottom line," the spokesman said, adding "our message to the public will be 'please treat all visitors with the respect they deserve'."

If you don't the consequences go through to the possibility of life bans from venues." CA has toughened the conditions of entry and security adviser Sean Carroll will lead a police team to London this month to help improve venue security around the country.

Henin, Krajicek

FROM PAGE 17

In another game, Switzerland's 15th seed Patty Schnyder beat Alona Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-4, 3-6, 8-6.

Earlier, Wimbledon police chiefs have altered their security plan for the championships following Friday's defusing of a car bomb in the heart of London's theatre district.

Superintendent Peter Dobson, in charge of the police operation at the All England Club, said that, while there had been no specific threat to Wimbledon, security measures at the Championships had been fine-tuned in the wake of the incident.

"Whilst I have made some adjustments to the security of the perimeter, with some police officers being redeployed from inside, and some enhanced checking of vehicles entering the car parks, the security plan remains commensurate to the threat," Dobson said.

"There is no intelligence that increases the threat to the championships. My message is for all persons attending to remain vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police."

"This is a timely reminder that we live in dangerous times and our top priority will always remain the safety of the public."

The new plan means more vehicle interiors are being checked and there is a higher police presence around the edge of the club, which is bordered by busy roads, a golf course and suburban housing.

Amid widespread disruption in city, new Prime Minister Gordon Brown warned that the alert was a fresh warning of the threat faced by Britain, which soon marks the second anniversary of the London suicide attacks which killed 52 people.

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Van Wyk rescues SA

FROM PAGE 17

Van Wyk completed his fifty in 87 balls with one six and five fours.

It was his second one-day international half-century in a week after he made 52 in the 42-run win against Ireland on Sunday.

Left-hander Duminy offered solid support but a lapse in concentration cost him dear when he cut Yuvaraj's third ball straight to Dravid at backward point, having faced 59 balls with three fours.

At 166 for four off 40 overs, South Africa were better placed for a late charge than they could have hoped earlier in their innings.

But Van Wyk, who until this trip had gone four years without playing a one-day international since his debut against England at Lord's, fell in the next over.

The 28-year-old bottom-edged a cut and was well caught, low down, by fit-again wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the first India player to fall victim to the flu bug that had run against Ireland on Sunday.

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Boucher struck Chawla for six as he gave South Africa's attack something to bowl at.

SCOREBOARD

First innings scoreboard in the

second one-day international between India and South Africa at the Civil Service Cricket Club ground at Stormont in Belfast on Friday:

SOUTHAFRICA

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	9	2	29	1
RP Singh	6	1	21	1
Gibbs c Karthik b Zaheer	7	0	38	0
Duminy c Dravid b Yuvaraj	8	0	41	0
Power	10	0	46	0
Tendulkar	1	0	10	0
Yuvaraj	9	0	36	3

INDIA: Tendulkar, Ganguly, Dravid, Yuvaraj, Karthik, Dhoni, Zaheer, Chawla, RP Singh, Sharma, Powar

Toss: India.

Umpires: Billy Bowden and Mark Benson.

Durani rues lack of all-rounder

PTI, New Delhi

Former Test cricketer Salim Durani believes Indian team will miss a genuine all-rounder on their next month's series against England.

"The series will be very challenging. The balance appears to be tilted in the favour of England as they have all rounder in their team, who would also be benefited by the home conditions," Durani said at a book release function here yesterday.

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, recuperating after surgery on his right ankle, is expected to be fit for the series while Paul Collingwood could also prove effective with his medium pace bowling.

Durani said Indian team desperately needs a genuine allrounder if they are to make their presence felt at international level.

"If India want to dominate in international cricket, an allrounder is a must for them. It was unfortunate that we could not produce a genuine allrounder after Kapil Dev," Durani, who made 1202 runs and took 75 wickets in 29 Test, said the onus would be on batsmen in the series.

"Batsmen will have to shoulder more burden in England. They will have to give their bowlers big scores, only then they can be successful in getting 20 wickets."

Sports Journalists Day on July 2

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) will observe the World Sports Journalists Day on July 2.

The BSWA has decided to organise a number of programmes on this occasion including a daylong carom competition yesterday. Arif Sohel of Ajker Kagoj became singles champion while Masud Alam of Prothom Alo finished runner-up. Sarwar Hossain of Kehler Bhubon clinched third place among 16 competitors.

"Coming into this game with all the negatives, it was a tremendous effort from the guys," said Gayle.

And not only does he believe his side played fantastically, but also he was delighted with the energy and synergy of his team.

A warm-up win earlier this week

against the PCA at Arundel paved

the way for a convincing triumph this evening. "That's what I wanted -- a good start," said Gayle after his side had rattled up an imposing 208 for 8.

"It's up to us now to try and capitalise on it. We pulled together and decided we were going to come out as a unit. We guarantee that once we get it right on the day we are

unbeatable."

With a beaming smile, Gayle was happy to concentrate on the events of this evening, including Marlon Samuels' whopping six off Ryan Sidebottom. "That's one of the biggest hits I've ever seen. It was good to see him get some runs as well, and hopefully he can carry on tomorrow."

Samuels made 51 from

Gayle lets cricket talk

CRICINFO, undated

After several days of off-pitch wrangling, it was a relief for Chris Gayle at last to let cricket do the talking. He may have perished for just 5, but his West Indies side batted with belief to post their first win against England this tour.

"Coming into this game with all the negatives, it was a tremendous effort from the guys," said Gayle