

3-dayer drawn in Colombo

UNB, Dhaka

The three-day match between touring Bangladesh Under-19 team and Sri Lanka U-19s ended in a draw at the Colts Cricket ground in Colombo yesterday.

The hosts, who scored 329 runs in the first innings, resumed the second innings on the final day on overnight41-1 and declared at 178-4.

The Bangladesh U-19s, who were all out for 228 in the first innings, reached 222 for six at stumps.

Mahmudul Hasan scored 81 not out, Nasir 64 and Mithun Ali 23 for the tourists.

Bangladesh will play their Sri Lankan counterparts in the next three-dayer beginning on July 12.

DRU cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Channel i thumped Bhorer Kagoj by 29 runs, Karatoa handed a 19-run defeat to Sangram while Naya Diganta edged Inquilab by four runs at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

In other matches, CSB beat BSS by five wickets, New Nation defeated Manavzamin by same margin, Janakantha thrashed Bhorer Dak by 62 runs and Banglabazar defeated Amader Shomoy by three wickets.

Meanwhile, Amar Desh received full points against satellite TV channel Boishakhi who illegally fielded players who are not DRU members.

Bravo missing Ireland trip

BBC ONLINE, undated

All-rounder Dwayne Bravo has been ruled out of West Indies' trip to Ireland for a one-day series there which will also feature the Netherlands and Scotland.

The 23-year-old Trinidadian has stayed behind in London and will return home after treatment on an ankle injury.

"We are going to miss Dwayne but we decided against replacement because it is a short trip with only three games.

"We've had some good performers who did not get a chance in the one-dayers in England," coach David Moore said.

"Darren Sammy did well but unfortunately missed out in the ODIs and Austin Richards Jr and Lendl Simmons will also have a chance to stake their claims."

Selection

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Akram meanwhile, was not ready to explain their U-turn about the inform batsman, whose exclusion from the Test squad had raised a lot of eyebrows.

Chief selector Faruque then defended that Tushar was given enough chance but failed to prove his worth but suddenly, the selectors found that Tushar is an inform batsman who can rescue the team from batting debacles.

"Actually we considered him after our unexpected failure of the top order batting. We thought that Tushar would be a good choice to strengthen the batting," Akram told.

The selectors were also in confusion over the one-day fate of Habibul Bashar as they have actually no policy about the one-day team.

It has been all but confirmed who will return home on conclusion of the Test series except one place. Bashar lost his captaincy mainly because of his poor form in limited-overs cricket and continued his bad patch in the Test series to jeopardise his chances to stay.

However, it was learnt that Faruque wants to see his last Test performance before deciding his one-day fate.

Kandy's favourite

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He was crazy about cricket but he hardly had any ambition with the game in the early days. I feel proud because of my son's simplicity," said the 65-year old, the owner of one of the big companies in Sri Lanka.

"You know we are Tamil but the masses love him very much regardless of caste and religion and everybody has taken him above all the controversy and conflicts. You can understand if I give one example: few years back my driver was summoned to court because of some problem with his license but the judge simply released him when he learnt that he was the driver of Murali's father," said Muthiah.

"You know we sent him to England for higher study but he came back after a month as he thought that his career was not in studies but in cricket. He is a very responsible person and rarely gets upset, not even when he was in big trouble in Australia," he informed.

It is not hard to find out the house of Murali in the city as the Kundsale area is well known as a residence of the superstar of Sri Lanka cricket.

"Everybody knows the Muthiahs," confirmed the auto rickshaw driver, M Razeek.



Jamie Murray of Great Britain and Jelena Jankovic of Serbia celebrate after defeating Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and Alicia Molik of Australia in the mixed doubles' final at the Wimbledon on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

WI's KP plan worked

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Daren Powell has revealed how the West Indies deliberately targeted England batting star Kevin Pietersen in their decisive one-day international here at Trent Bridge.

South Africa-born Pietersen, ranked Sunday as the world's second-best one-day batsman behind Australia captain Ricky Ponting, failed to make much of an impression during the three-match series.

And on Saturday he was out for a second-ball nought in Nottingham during West Indies' 93-run win which gave the tourists a 2-1 victory overall.

Powell produced a classic piece of fast bowling, softening up Hampshire shotmaker Pietersen with a first-ball bouncer before having him caught in the slips with a full-length delivery.

"After the first Test at Lord's (where Pietersen made a hundred), we realised that if we attacked him, he tried to go out of

his shell and it progressively worked for us in the one-day series. We attacked him a lot and it paid off for us," Powell explained.

"To me, he's the kind of person who doesn't like people to get on top of him. When he comes out to bat, I normally talk to him and stuff like that, tell him things that probably make him uncomfortable.

"This time I didn't do that. I bowled a sharp ball at him and give him a stare. Then I got my ball in the right area, he went and played a stroke and he nicked one."

Powell added he had tried to learn from some of the world's leading fast bowlers. "When you watch (South Africa's) Makhaya Ntini and Shaun Pollock, they just give a batsman a stare and the (Australia) great Glenn McGrath did the same thing. I just tried that and it worked."

The 29-year-old Jamaica quick put England, chasing 290 to win, even further on the backfoot by dismissing openers Matt Prior and Alastair Cook in an aggressive opening spell that saw the hosts slump to 33 for three.

Powell, named man-of-the-

match after finishing with four wickets for 40 runs added: "For the past couple of seasons representing the West Indies, when it's come to crucial games like this I haven't picked up any wickets at all, even in the last game of the World Cup (where England beat West Indies in Barbados).

"On Friday night I sat in my hotel room and thought about what I had to do to create pressure and take early wickets.

"On Saturday morning, I assessed the wicket when our guys went out to bat and I realised I had to bowl straight and vary my pace. I thought about my game, and put the ball in the right areas."

Powell, who has previously expressed a desire to play county cricket, also revealed he'd been in talks with Welsh side Glamorgan.

"I'm still in negotiations. It would be nice to play some county cricket here whether it's Glamorgan or whoever.

"Playing county cricket, would help my game improve a notch for West Indies cricket as well. I just want to use it to propel my game to the next level."

SLC body expanded

CRICINFO, undated

Gamini Lokuge, the sports minister, has expanded the interim committee of Sri Lanka Cricket from its present size of five members to seven.

Sidath Wettimuny, the former Test opener, Premasara Epaasinghe, a commentator, and Dion Gomes, president of the boxing association, have been added to the committee along with Lalith Wickremesinghe, a representative of the ministry.

Prakash Schaafter and Damien Fernando, a representative of Jeevan Kumaratunga, the former sports minister, have been replaced. Sri Lanka Cricket sources suggested that Schaafter's sacking was a consequence of the media fiasco that took place on the opening day of the second Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the P Saravanamuttu Stadium.

Local and foreign mediapersons complained to Sri Lanka Cricket about the poor facilities that were made available to them at the Tamil Union club where Schaafter is the secretary. The replacement of Fernando was expected following the appointment of Lokuge, who replaced Kumaratunga as sports minister during a cabinet reshuffle in March.

The top three members in the interim committee however remain unchanged, with Jayantha Dharmadasa as chairman, Kanganana Mathivanan as secretary and Sujeeva Rajapakse as treasurer. The new-look committee is due to have its first meeting on July 11. Sri Lanka cricket has been under interim administration since April 2005, after the elected body was accused of misappropriation of funds by Kumaratunga.

Dhaka Open tennis

UNB, Dhaka

Top-seed Amal Roy, Dipu Lal and Prithul Mandal moved into the semifinals of the men's singles of the Dhaka Open Tennis tournament winning their respective quarterfinals at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Amal Roy of Bashundhara Club beat Laxman Lal of American Club 6-3, 6-2, Dipu Lal (Nordic Club) defeated Delwar Hossain (NTC) 7-5, 7-5 and Prithul Mandal (BKSP) beat Tazmul Hossain (BKSP) 6-4, 6-4.

In the boys' singles (16 years), Mofazzel Hossain, Hanif Munna and Sabbir qualified for the semis.

In the girls' singles (16 years), Kibria Ayta Zaman Bhabna, Aachal, Anika and Tasnova advanced to the last four.

In the boys' singles (13 years), Rustam, Biplab Ram, Jamil and Raisul booked the semifinal berths.

Rahul backs VVS

CRICINFO, undated

Rahul Dravid, the Indian captain, has backed VVS Laxman to compensate for past failings in England and produce a big series this time round.

In a largely bat-dominated series in 2002, Laxman made only one fifty in six innings, averaging a touch under 40, a record Dravid believes will be rectified this time. "I back Laxman to have a big tour this time. The last time he didn't have as great a tour as the other guys. I can see that he's determined to correct it this time. He looks hungry," Dravid said.

Laxman began his tour in good shape with a sparkling 95 on the second day of a tour game against Sussex at Hove and is likely to feature in the first Test at Lord's, starting from July 19, after not being picked to play in either of the Tests against Bangladesh in May.

New BCB

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like it is in a big cricket organisation so that we can compete with them in that regard too," said the man who is regarded as the most known Bangladeshi face in world cricket since the 1980s.

But the names that are swirling in the closely-knit cricket circle of Dhaka suggest a few names that are definite causes for concern.

According to Huq, the board should have a business plan, run by full professionals with an executive board, but he emphasised that cricket should be decentralised, that is, the board should have people not only based in Dhaka but also from Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet.

Huq slammed the current regime as one that has failed in maintaining a domestic cricket circle.

"In the next few years, BCB will receive an astronomical amount of money from the ICC so it would not be wise for someone with an honorary post to handle that much because that person would not have any accountability. A general secretary cannot exist when there is a CEO. But here, the CEO should be someone with some cricketing knowledge because he represents Bangladesh in the important ICC meetings. But for that matter, if you keep both, then I don't think it makes any sense," opined a lively Huq.

Qatar snatch

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lead eight minutes later when Abdulla Waleed shot a 25-metre freekick toward the left post, forcing a diving punch away by gutsy Japan goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi.

Led by Celtic dead-ball specialist Shunsuke Nakamura, Japan pushed the attack but three long shots, including one from his left foot, in seven minutes before the break got nowhere.

Japan stepped up the pressure in the second period and were rewarded by a Takahara goal.

The Frankfurt man, who scored 11 Bundesliga goals last season, should have sealed the win 20 minutes later when he took a cross in front of the goal but sent his right foot shot wide.

Tevez deal

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"The essential thing for us is that everything is agreed," said Ferguson.

"We want complete clarity in the deal, with no suspicions or anything dodgy. There is no way we will be involved in anything underhand."

United legal expert Maurice Watkins has been left to find a solution to the impasse, with the Old Trafford club anxious to push through a deal quickly.

Sources close to the Red Devils are confident a compromise can be reached by the time Tevez's current commitments with Argentina at the Copa America are concluded at the weekend.

Kapil challenges BCCI

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Kapil Dev has challenged the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to remove him from his position as chairman of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for associating with the Indian Cricket League (ICL).

The ICL was launched by the Essel Group a few months ago and intends to organise a Twenty20 tournament in October.

Kapil, who joined the ICL's executive board as its chairman and was sent a letter from the BCCI on the issue, told an Indian news channel, "I have already sent my reply to them. They can remove me

from the NCA if they want to.

"They only wanted me to contribute to the game of cricket, and when I am doing so they cannot challenge me. If I can do something for the game and the young cricketers through the Indian Cricket League, I will not budge."

Kapil also reacted to the BCCI decision concerning pensions for players joining ICL.

"I did not go to them asking for pension, and if they want to stop it, what can I do? Let them stop it."

Kapil, India's only World Cup-winning captain, didn't know what made the BCCI see a potential rival in the ICL. "Why do they see ICL as a parallel or rebel body? The BCCI is trying to promote the game in India and if somebody else is pumping in more money why is it a

problem with them?

"This league can help the BCCI only. This can help Indian cricket and shape so many careers. What is BCCI's problem?"

Speaking to the same channel, Niranjan Shah, the secretary of the BCCI, made it clear that players like Kapil would have to make a choice. "We have decided not to recognise ICL in our Working Committee meeting as no state association was in its favour. We don't want to promote anybody who wants to be a parallel body. We have a policy and there will not be any re-think on this."

Kiran More, another former player to join the ICL, had resigned from his post as secretary of the Baroda Cricket Association.

Topsy-turvy transfer scene

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only about 0.37 a game for his club the same as current Liverpool forward Dirk Kyut.

On now to Bayern Munich, who have completed a complete overhaul of the squad bringing in seven new faces. While the less heralded (but no less talented or versatile) stars of Marcell Jansen, Jose Ernesto Sosa and Jan Schlaudraff have not rung many bells worldwide, the capture of Luca Toni, Franck Ribery and Miroslav Klose have set alarm bells ringing. The latter three cost a huge chunk of the money splashed and all of them are well established international stars. Ribery is the one to watch, his lightning pace and superb ability setting him apart. The news coming out said that he was set for Real Madrid and Champions League football next season, but Bayern have managed to pull off a big coup by snapping him up. If 25 million dollars equates a coup that is. And Uli Hoenes's famous words of 'sickening transfer fees' have been stuffed deep down his throat.

From one red to another. The Red Devils themselves were one of the first movers in the transfer market splashing out a huge sum for three players. Nani and Anderson came from Portugal for a combined sum of 30 million pounds and Owen Hargreaves' long drawn out move finally completed by compensating Bayern a very generous 17 million quid. The danger in Fergie's move is the fact that while Hargreaves is quite established, with Nani and Anderson he is buying purely potential. Nani was a target for Spurs and half of the thirty million pounds seems a bit on the high end for a man who most observers agree is still quite some way behind in the

talent radar than the obscure kid Fergie picked up from Portugal three years ago. Anderson while precociously talented (best player in the U17 world cup two years ago) has only played some 38 professional club games. Quite a big gamble but if anyone can, Fergie can. And he atleast kept his promise of signing 'three to four world-class players.'

One club not taking any gambles with big money is the Londoners of Chelsea. The Blues have been remarkably quiet in the close season (even Jose has managed to zip his lip) but have snapped up four players for the handsome sum of a dollar which was splashed out to PSV for acquiring the services of Brazilian defender Alex. Having secured him two years ago, the burly defender honed his skills in Holland while earning his work permit. Three other players also joined Steve Sidwell shoring up midfield, Tal Ben Haim the problematic right-back slot and Claudio Pizarro proving cover for the two up front. So four players for one dollar. Simple division later we come to the weighty sum of 25 pence each. (if only football were that beautiful). Ofcourse Roman hasn't tightened the purses one dollar isn't too far off the thirty million spent last year is it?

The Serie A have been notoriously quiet save for the debate over the Honduran David Suazo's flirt with both the Milan giants before finally committing to the blue half. Milan look to be shaping up for atleast one big buy which may in the end turn up to be the wantaway Antonio Cassano, whose club Real are trying and failing to lure Kaka the other way to the Bernabeu. Pedrag Mijatovic though has been busy even during the holiday

firing title winning coach Fabio Capello while managing to rope in first Christoph Metzelder and now seemingly the Romanian Christian Chivu, to shore up a leaky backline.

In less spectacular but no less effective transfer dealings, Darren Bent showcased the inflated fees that English clubs pay these days costing a cool 17 million pounds for Spurs from Championship side Charlton. Arsenal filled in Henry's place by signing the ambitious and prolific Eduardo da Silva. Barcelona kept busy with the captures of the midfield holding man Yaya Toure and Lyon left-back Eric Abidal.

Finally no mention of transfers will be complete without the two biggest of this season. Yes, that of David Beckham moving to a Galaxy far far away and Roberto Carlos ending his career at Real Madrid by signing on for a final payday at Turkish kicks Fenerbahce. Ah! What strings money can pull!

Paul, Emeka

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game contained within long-range efforts that really did not bother the keepers as the Dhaka giants reached safety.

Yellow cards: Arif, Divine (Mohammedan) and Bonei (Chittagong Abahani)

TEAMS

Mohammedan: Himel, Arif, Odafe, Biplab, Zahid (Belal), Kamal, Divine, Sharif, Mithu, Paul and Emeka.

Chittagong Abahani: Surendra, Mintu (Dhiman), Bonei, Sohel, Narayan, Monir, Jahangir, Khokon, Jitu, Towhid (Anis) and Santosh.

Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.

Metzelder

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won the League title last season.

"I now hope the team does well again this year.

"This is a dream come true for me and I hope I can help the team to win more titles this season."

Standing at 1.93m and with 30 international appearances for Germany under his belt, Metzelder brings height and experience to the Madrid back line.

"I'm going to bring to the team what I do best. I will work to strengthen Real Madrid. I wish to adapt in the first few weeks to help the team in all I can.

"I have never met any of the players on the squad personally, but I obviously know many of them because they are internationally famous, especially those who play for their national teams.

"I admire Ruud van Nistelrooy, (Fabio) Cannavaro and (Iker) Casillas.

"I think that they are very good players."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Sweater style	2 Standard	20 Matter-horn,
1 Milky gemstone	37 Water-carved gully	3 "The Greatest"	1 for one
5 Pal in Paris	40 Journey segment	4 Andean herd	21 Criterion
8 Radiate	41 Apply finger paints	5 Jason's ship	22 Den
12 Phone option	42 Home of the steel drum	6 Wire measure	23 Saline solution
14 Hitchcock tour de force	47 Tulsa's st.	7 Impractical one	25 Abstain from alcohol
15 Percussion instrument	48 Reconcite	8 Deep-seated ill will	26 Stallion's companion
16 Guitars' kin	49 Crystal gazer	9 Trickster god	27 Grand story
17 Cattle call	50 Illuminated	10 Oil cartel	29 Crucial time
18 User	51 Nitwit	11 Into the sunset	31 A "mouse"
20 Book of maps		13 Grandson of	33 Weather-map line
23 Hi-tech journal	DOWN	14 Eve	34 Surround
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25 Gallery type			37 Commotions
28 Omega precursor	Solution time: 24 mins.		38 Croupier's tool
29 Belief in natural religion	STEP ELISA ACH PITH LTAM RHIN ANNIO ACHT GRI MEAT PIRA SICK OSS RAH ADESTE ALHAGH MACHO LOITRE SNOOPY GOTTEIN OSE EWE BOLL EMMIT MOON RUE LEWITT URG ICE EARL PALE OHS KNEE SLED		39 Hold the scepter
			40 Roster
			43 Hitler's stat
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			45 Cleo's slayer
			46 Fourth letter

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CRYPTOQUIP

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G C M A R ' G C E R F E P R E C Y G F J .
Saturday's Cryptquip: IF SOME SMALL POOCHES CARRY AROUND ELECTRICAL FITTINGS, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT PUGS LUG PLUGS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: E equals P