

Bangladesh lose in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's cricket didn't get any better in Sri Lanka as the junior team succumbed to a massive 129-run defeat in the tri-nation under-19s tournament final against India at the Colts Cricket Club ground in Colombo yesterday.

Alike the seniors, who returned home after a disastrous performance in the Test and one-day series, the reason behind the debacle was nothing rather than their brittle batting as the Bangladesh under-19s were bundled out for 70 runs in 30.5 overs in reply to India Under-19s' 199 in 49.2 overs.

Right-arm medium-fast Abu Nechim Ahmed decimated the Bangladesh batting by taking six wickets for nine runs only to enable his side's, which also won the league game in the tournament against the same opponents by 132 runs, emphatic victory.

Captain Mahmudul Hasan (17) and Nasir Hossain (21) were the two batsmen who could manage double figures.

New ball bowler Rubel Hossain gave Bangladesh a good start after their opponents decided to bat first but left-handed middle-order batsman Sourav Tiwary slammed 88-ball 86 with the help of five fours and as many sixes as India recovered from 48 for three to 199.

Sourav was associated in a 50-run fourth wicket stand with Virat Kohli to repair the early damages. Kohli made 27 runs off 69 deliveries that contained two boundaries.

Rubel claimed three wickets for 33 runs while his new ball partner Golam Kibria captured three for 43 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA UNDER-19: 199 all out in 49.2 overs (SP Goswami 24, A Mukund 16, TM Srivastava 0, V Kohli 27, S Tiwary 86, M Pandey 10, I Abdulla 16, PJ Sangwan 0, AN Ahmed 1, Amanpreet Singh 1, KP Appanna 0, extras 18, Rubel Hossain 3-33, Golam Kibria 3-43, SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Did U Know?

The last British man to win Wimbledon was Fred Perry in 1936. He was a three-time Wimbledon champion.



Malcolm Speed

(ICC chief executive)

"It will bring many of the best international players from around the world together for a short, sharp event we believe will capture the public's imagination both in South Africa and around the world."

On the upcoming inaugural Twenty20 World Championships.

What to WATCH

Channel i

Asian Cup Football Final
Iraq v Saudi Arabia
Live from 6:35 pm

DAY'S EVENT

B.League
Ctg Abahani v Brothers Union
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong
Time: 4:15 pm



THE DEFEATED TIGERS: Bangladesh national cricket team on their return at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

More questions than answers

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Speculation on the new Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) ad-hoc committee was rampant even till yesterday.

There were numerous versions of what could happen as it became the hottest topic in the sporting arena. A change in the cricket board is expected on the next working day -- that is today -- but no one could confirm that it would take place today.

According to some of the members named in the draft committee that was reported on Friday, there was no decision yet from the caretaker government.

The main point that encircled was that the higher authorities were taking their time to make the committee as neutral and non-political as possible. In a bid to maintain this policy, the authorities are still asking some influential people in the cricketing circle to come up with their opinions.

After the ad-hoc committee was reported on several television channels on Thursday evening, questions were raised about some of the members in the committee and it was learned that it was not unlikely to see only a few changes in the list.

The draft list included some

members from the previous committee. Many observed that their presence could be counter-productive given the changes that are being talked about.

But at the same time, it is quite difficult to find people in the cricket arena, even in sports arena, without political affiliation or bias.

No matter what might happen, the nature of the organisation is so active that there is an urgent need for a committee to take charge as soon as possible. Since Wednesday last, there has been a void in the board that has hampered its financial activities.

Appointment of a new coach, for which three have been shortlisted already but with the prevailing situation, their arrival in Dhaka for interviews this week is in doubt.

Dave Houghton, Jamie Siddons and John Hamer were all supposed to face the BCB and given the situation, the need of a coach for the Tigers has never been so important.

Adding to the coach, the selection committee -- leaving Akram Khan -- will also expire on July 31. The new selection committee, who will be appointed, will have till July 11 to select the team for the Twenty20 World Championships.

The team management will also have to be named by the new ad-hoc members.

Chawla stars in big win

CRICINFO, undated

India A cruised to a nine-wicket win against Zimbabwe Select on the final day of the opening four-day match at Harare Sports Club. Zimbabwe were dismissed for 216 in the second innings, leaving India with a target of 65, which they rattled off for the loss of just one wicket.

The equation was simple at the start of the day: Zimbabwe needed to bat out the entire day to force a draw. Resuming on 15 for 1, Zimbabwe lost Hamilton Masakadza early but rallied through a 108-run partnership between Vusi Sibanda (69) and Tatenda Taibu (40) before Piyush Chawla got the act.

He grabbed four wickets that included Sibanda, Taibu, and Elton Chigumbura (30) to propel India towards victory. Irfan Pathan, who opened in the second innings, hit a breezy 30-ball 39 to take India home.

"We started very well in the morning with Sibanda and Taibu getting quick runs but everything crumbled once Taibu fell," Zimbabwe Cricket spokesman Blessing Mauigwe told VOA. "The experienced guys need to pull up the socks. Only Taibu performed in the first innings. The guys like Masakadza, Sibanda and Chigumbura need to perform consistently and our batsmen have to give something for our bowlers to defend."

The two sides will meet in the second and final four-day game at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo starting on Tuesday.

Wright days are back

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

At which point Wright got serious, blocking furiously as if defending on the final afternoon to save a Test.

Once, the ball rolled a metre away from his bat. Convention is that the batsman lobs the ball back to the bowler.

But Wright stood his ground as the youngster marched all the way down the pitch to pick up his ball. Watching this, Wright's teammates chuckled.

And as New Zealand look to toughen up their cricket outlook, it's that measure of hard-headedness, that determination not to give an opponent a break which New Zealand's cricketers will get from Wright.

He starts work, on a two-year contract, at the high performance centre in Christchurch late next month.

His role is vague for now, but

national coach John Bracewell and New Zealand Cricket chief executive Justin Vaughan have their ideas of how best to use Wright's abilities.

One of the planks of Bracewell and Vaughan's thinking is that New Zealand cricket must hardened its approach. Test cricket will be more central to thinking in the year ahead.

Under Bracewell, New Zealand have won nine and lost 12 of 27 Tests since late 2003. But the nine include two each against lightweights Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and the West Indies.

Wright never sold his wicket at bargain rates in 82 Tests from 1978 to 1992. He hit 12 hundreds and 23 fifties, averaged 37, and with every dismissal, whatever the scoreboard said, looked as if he was on his way to a funeral as he trudged back to the pavilion.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Arambagh's big victory

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Arambagh Krira Sangha registered an emphatic 4-2 victory over Chittagong Mohammedan in the B League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With the outcome Arambagh not only avenged their 0-2 first-leg defeat against the port city side but also moved up to the sixth position in the table upscoring 26 points from 19 matches. Chittagong Mohammedan remained at 25 points from same number of outings.

The first-half was locked at 1-1 as Asif Yusuf put Mohammedan ahead in the 17th minute by capitalising on a Dipu cross from the left-flank and Ugandan Iddi Badamzube, aided by Domenic, levelled the margin for Arambagh here on Saturday.

India, at tea, were 149 for one, a first innings deficit of just 49 runs, with Karthik 77 not out.

Together with fellow opener Wasim Jaffer he put on 147 for the first wicket to show there was more to India's batting than their much-vaunted middle-order.

India captain Rahul Dravid was unbeaten on nought.

At lunch, India were 40 without loss after Karthik (20 not out) and Jaffer (15 not out) had come through 16 testing new-ball overs.

Ryan Sidebottom saw his first delivery after the break steered off the back foot through point for four Jaffer.

England captain Michael Vaughan brought on Paul Collingwood, no doubt hoping he could replicate the effort of India medium-pacer Sourav Ganguly who had opener Alastair Cook lbw on Friday.

Karthik, on 29, then saw a mis-timed drive off Collingwood just about carry to James Anderson in the covers before lobbing him just short of mid-on.

Meanwhile fast bowler Chris Tremain repeatedly beat the bat.

And when he did induce a false drive from Jaffer, on 32, Ian Bell drove off the difficult one-handed chance in the gully.

The introduction of Monty Panesar almost yielded a wicket first ball when Karthik, on 44, missed a sweep. But South African

India in command

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Dinesh Karthik built on the good work of India's attack to consolidate the tourists' strong position on the second day of the second Test against England at Trent Bridge on Saturday.

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The introduction of Monty Panesar almost yielded a wicket first ball when Karthik, on 44, missed a sweep. But South African

umpire Ian Howell rejected Panesar's vehement lbw appeal.

Jaffer,

on 36,

also survived a

Panesar

shout when it looked as if he might be 'hiding' his bat behind his front pad.

Karthik then completed his second Test fifty in as many innings with a trademark cover-driven four off Panesar, his eighth boundary in 95 balls.

Jaffer then completed his sec

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

'Shoaib bolsters Pak chances'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

ing really fast. He has been down and out for a long time and is hungry for wickets, which is why I am sure he is going to be the biggest star in the tournament," Aaqib told The News.

Pakistan's players are currently involved in the third leg of a grueling summer camp schedule in Karachi, where they players are taking part in a series of Twenty20 games as practice for the tournament. Shoaib has been among the wickets in most games, selectors reporting that his pace has been swift. Though he isn't at the camp yet, he is due to join on Sunday. Aaqib, who is head coach at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore, is part of the camp as a bowling coach.

Shoaib's famed slower ball, which so flummoxed English batsmen in the 2005 home series will be a useful weapon again, believes Aaqib. "With the sort of pace he has, Shoaib's slower delivery comes as a major surprise and in fast-paced matches it is going to cause major damage to any opposition."

Aaqib said that the support Shoaib will get, from the likes of Mohammad Asif and Umar Gul, makes Pakistan one of the favourites. "I count us among the favourites to win the tournament because we have some world class bowlers and a strong batting line-up."

"The Australians are a very balanced side and they would be the team to beat. South Africa and New Zealand also have the firepower to go all the way."

Yellow cards: Iddi (Arambagh)

TEAMS

ARAMBAGH: Monu, Ramzan (Malay), Thomas, Akram, Sharif (Suman), Iddi (Ridan), Zuku, Domenic, Nicodemus, Ratan and Piru.

CHITTAGONG MOHAMMEDAN: Tito, Sohel, Saikat, Asif, Zahid, Camara, Dipu (Tauhid), Yusuf, Anthony, Tareq and Alam (Daulat/Pavel).

Referee: Ram Krishna Ghosh.

Cosgrove accepts Academy ban

CRICINFO, undated

Mark Cosgrove, the South Australian batsman suspended from the Centre of Excellence, insists he did not damage his Brisbane apartment and was punished for leaving it untidy. Cosgrove was banned for four weeks, which includes the Academy's tour of India next month, alongside Aaron Finch and David Warner after they did not clean up their act despite repeated warnings about the state of their rooms.

The suspension is the second high-profile punishment for Cosgrove, who was sidelined by South Australia for a month in 2005 for being overweight, but he said he would have missed the India trip anyway because of an ankle operation.

"Obviously I didn't keep my room tidy enough to (meet) the standards of Cricket Australia and I've accepted their punishment," Cosgrove told AAP. "There's no damage to my room and never has been, just untidy."

Regarded as one of the brighter thinkers in the dressing room, a man whose opinion Vaughan has slipped comfortably into the job and made it clear he was calling the shots out on the field rather than Vaughan operating via remote control.

Whatever he was doing, it had two positive effects.

Firstly, he scored almost