

MERIL MEDIA CUP Bangla Vision, Ajker Kagoj in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangla Vision put an end to UNB's chase for glory in the seven-a-side football tournament for media people when the private television channel ousted the Meril Media Cup hot favourites from the semifinals yesterday.

After the first semifinal of the day between the two ended in a stalemate in regulation 30 minutes and the 10-minute extra period at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Bangla Vision beat the news agency 3-2 in the tiebreakers to set a final clash against Ajker Kagoj.

Prolific scorer Barik Anjam scored one and Bellal added the other as Ajker Kagoj blanked surprise package New Nation 2-0 in the day's other semifinal.

After today's rest day, the third-place deciding match (9 am) and the final (10 am) will be held tomorrow morning.

There were plenty of stars shining at the sideline yesterday with former national footballers Badal Roy and his 'glory days' strike partner Abdus Salam Murshedi, Satyajit Das Rupu and recent past national captain Arif Khan Joy present as match adjudicators.



SHAKING AT THE RIGHT TIME: Sreesanth begins a dance routine after getting rid of England's second innings centurion Kevin Pietersen on the final day of the third Test at The Oval on Monday.

India A ease to win

CRICINFO, undated

A tight bowling performance and some entertaining batting from the openers took India A to an easy win in their first one-dayer against Kenya at the Gymkhana Ground in Nairobi.

Praveen Kumar backed up Pankaj Singh's 4 for 29 with three economical wickets before blazing an unbeaten 57 from 27 deliveries to take India to their target of 99 in 7.4 overs.

Big guns get

FROM PAGE 17

McCullum, Jacob Oram, Jeetan Patel, Bradley Scott, Scott Styris, Ross Taylor, Lou Vincent.

Pakistan: Shoab Malik (captain), Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Akhtar, Kamran Akmal, Fawad Alam, Yasir Arafat, Mohammad Asif, Salman Butt, Umar Gul, Mohammad Hafeez, Misbah-ul-Haq, Rao Iftikhar, Younis Khan, Imran Nazir, Abdul Rehman.

Scotland: Ryan Watson (captain), Fraser Watts, Dougie Brown, John Hamilton, Gavin Hamilton, Navdeep Poonia, Gregor Maiden, Neil McCullum, Qasim Sheikh, Colin Smith, Craig Wright, Dewald Nel, Gordon Drummond, Ross Lyons, Majid Haq.

South Africa: Graeme Smith (captain), Gulam Bodi, Loots Bosman, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Herschelle Gibbs, Justin Kemp, Albie Morkel, Mome Morkel, Makhaya Ntini, Vernon Philander, Shaun Pollock, Thandi Tshabalala, Johan van der Wath.

Sri Lanka: Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Dilhara Fernando, Hasantha Fernando, Kaushal Lokuearachchi, Sanath Jayasuriya, Faweez Maharoof, Lasith Malinga, Jehan Mubarak, Muttiah Muralidaran, Kumara Sangakkara, Chamara Silva, Upul Tharanga, Dilshan Tilakaratne, Chaminda Vaas, Gayan Wijekoon.

West Indies: Ramnaresh Sarwan (captain), Dwayne Bravo, Shivnarine Chandepaul, Pedro Collins, Narsingh Deonarine, Fidel Edwards, Chris Gayle, Runako Morton, Daren Powell, Dinesh Ramdin, Ravi Rampaul, Daren Sammy, Marlon Samuels, Devon Smith, Dwayne Smith.

Zimbabwe: Prosper Utseya (captain), Gary Brent, Chamunorwa Chibhabha, Elton Chigumbura, Keith Dabengwa, Tymisen Maruma, Hamilton Masakadza, Stuart Matsikenyeri, Johnson Marumisa, Christopher Mpofu, Tawanda Mupariwa, Vusimusi Sibanda, Tatenda Taibu, Brendon Taylor, Shaun Williams.

Source: ICC Media Release.

Rooney joins

FROM PAGE 20

October 13 and Russia on October 17.

England injured XI: Goalkeeper: Ben Foster (Manchester United).

Defenders: Gary Neville (Manchester United), John Terry (Chelsea, capt), Jonathan Woodgate (Middlesbrough), Wayne Bridge (Chelsea).

Midfielders: David Beckham (Los Angeles Galaxy/USA), Lleyden King (Tottenham), Joey Barton (Newcastle), Aaron Lennon (Tottenham).

Forwards: Wayne Rooney (Manchester Utd), Michael Owen (Newcastle).

After 21 years...

FROM PAGE 17

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Zaheer Khan, Sreesanth, Kumble, RP Singh, Tendulkar.

Result: Match drawn and India won the three-match series 1-0. Man-of-the-match: Anil Kumble. Man-of-the-series: Zaheer Khan and James Anderson. Toss: India

Cricket

AFP, London

Michael Vaughan may have lost his first home Test series as England captain but the performance of a makeshift attack against India left him in optimistic mood.

India won a three-match series 1-0 after the final Test at The Oval ended in a draw. It might have been different for England had they taken the one wicket they needed for victory in the series opener at Lord's and won the toss at Trent Bridge, where India's seven wicket success ultimately proved decisive.

Vaughan though was in no mood to seek solace in any such excuses. "There are series that you lose where you know you've played really bad cricket, and there are series like this one where you think you haven't played that badly," he told reporters.

"But in a three-match series, the team that plays better cricket wins, and the way India played the last two games, they picked the series." England though were without the

Gooch slams Strauss

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Graham Gooch says the position of Andrew Strauss in England's Test line-up is under the microscope following the series loss to India.

Gooch told BBC Radio 5live: "Strauss hasn't played that well this summer.

"There's been lots of talk about his footwork and he looks a bit down on himself and not that confident.

"His position will come under scrutiny soon and there's a couple of lads coming through - Owais Shah has been waiting and there's young Ravi Bopara."

Middlesex man Strauss had an amazing start to his Test career, hitting five centuries in his first 11 matches from the summer of 2004.

But he endured a poor winter in Australia, lost his place in the one-day squad after the World Cup and has had no centuries in his last 13 Test appearances.

However Gooch, the leading scorer in Test history for England with 8,900 runs, did not limit his criticisms to Strauss.

He went on: "England's batting has not been solid enough throughout the series. They have to sell their wickets more dearly.

"You have to convert to big scores.

"In this particular match (the drawn final Test at The Oval) there were a lot of middling scores that

MU seek first win

FROM PAGE 20

El-Hadji Diouf could play for Bolton at Fulham as fellow strikers Kevin Davies (hamstring) and Ricardo Vaz Te (foot) are both ruled out.

The volatile Senegal striker demanded talks with the Trotters' boss Sammy Lee and chairman Phil Gartside after being left out for Saturday's 3-1 defeat at home to Newcastle.

"Diouf is always talking to me and I am pleased he is disappointed," Lee said.

"I can understand his frustration. But I want competition for places.

"It is important people are always looking over their shoulders and being spurred on by

injured pace trio of Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison and Andrew Flintoff for all three Tests.

However, England will hope to have the three bowlers fit by the time they fly to Sri Lanka in November for their next Test series.

In the meantime the likes of tall fast bowler Chris Tremlett, whose first three Tests yielded 13 wickets at a highly creditable average of under 30 apiece, suggested there will still be competition for places when all of England's seamers are fit.

"I'd like to have all the senior bowlers back for selection," said Vaughan. "They have invaluable experience at this kind of level."

However, he added: Our young bowlers have been asked to bowl at some of the best batsmen in the world, and if you'd said Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman wouldn't get a hundred (in the series) I'd probably have ripped your hand off.

"Yes, we've lost 1-0 but that's exactly what happened, so all the bowlers deserve credit."

In one respect this series was something of a throwback with

swing bowlers on both sides making top order batsmen work hard for their runs.

That was particularly true of the India left-arm duo of Zaheer Khan and Rudra Pratap Singh, a rare combination in modern cricket.

"We've been up against a very good Indian team," said Vaughan. "We've been asked different questions against the left-arm angles which we haven't seen before, while our bowlers were up against some of the best batsmen to have played the game. With these kind of experiences, it's important you learn from them and the mistakes you make when you lose."

England, on the backfoot at The Oval after conceding a huge total of 664 in the first innings, at least ensured India didn't win the series 2-0 with the last day enlivened by Kevin Pietersen's tenth hundred in 30 Tests.

"I hope people have seen that England are prepared to fight," said Vaughan. "Kevin's innings was tremendous in the circumstances."

The Caretaker Government last month named an ad-hoc committee to run the Bangladesh Cricket Board following en masse resignation of its EC members.

Bangladesh Football Federation also ran into crisis since general secretary Anwarul Huq Helal's resignation was accepted last week.

Taibu back to Zim fold

CRICINFO, undated

As expected, Tatenda Taibu has been recalled to the Zimbabwe squad for next month's Twenty20 World Championship almost two years after he quit international cricket following threats against his family.

Brendan Taylor, who also fell out with the board after ignoring its demand that he should not play cricket abroad this summer, also made a return, as did Sean Williams who had been in South Africa undergoing treatment for a back injury.

There were some new faces. Timocyn Maruma, an offspinner, was rewarded for a good domestic season in which he took 36 wickets at 17.62.

Johnson Marumisa, a veteran by Zimbabwe standards at 24, is an opening batsman whose form has been solid rather than spectacular. He edged out Tino Mawoyo who has failed despite being given a long run in the side, and the other established opening batsman, Terry Duffin, was considered far too pedestrian with bat and in the field for Twenty20.

Slow left-amer Keith Dabengwa elbowed his way into the squad with an outstanding domestic season in which he took 34 wickets at 12.88, and his style should be well suited to the format.

Killing time

FROM PAGE 17 In our hand right at the moment. There is no national team coach and that's why we have to depend on our development manager and we also lack coaches in other sectors," he added.

Lipu said that he will discuss the matter with the interim national coach Shaun Williams today.

"I will talk with him for the first time and it would be one of issues in our discussion," he informed.

NSC appoints

FROM PAGE 17 way for former athlete and now BJMC deputy general manager Mosharraf Hossain Shamim.

Lt commander (ret'd) Avijit Sarkar, member secretary of the training and facilities committee of the Bangladesh Olympic Federation, has been named BBF general secretary in place of Selim Chowdhury, who has failed to hold a single basketball league during his tenure.

Naval chief vice admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, M Didarul Anwar and Kazi M Aminul Islam will continue as presidents of the BSF, BAAF and BBF respectively.

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India take 3rd

FROM PAGE 17 This was India's first Test series win in England since a 2-0 victory in 1986 and only third overall following their 1-0 triumph in 1971 with Dravid lifting the newly minted Pataudi Trophy after a draw at Lord's and seven-wicket win in Nottingham preceded the match at The Oval.

ICC Test Championship table on August 14 after England v India series (rank, team, rating):

Table with columns: Rank, Team, Rating. Rows: 1 Australia 141, 2 England 111, 3 India 107, 4 Sri Lanka 107, 5 South Africa 102, 6 Pakistan 99, 7 New Zealand 99, 8 West Indies 72, 9 Bangladesh 04

Kallis quits

FROM PAGE 17 is the only man in world cricket to have scored 8000 runs and take 200 wickets in both forms of the game.

Kallis was the most notable omission in a 15-man squad for the Twenty20 tournament, to be played at three venues in South Africa from September 11 to 24.

He told the Cape Times: "I have been thinking long and hard over the weekend and there is still a lot of emotion involved because I am extremely disappointed. I was very excited about the tournament and hoping to make a huge contribution.

"I feel I have a lot of good cricket left and my best years might even be ahead of me. Ideally I would like to play many more years for my country but this weekend caused me to question my future for the first time."

Newly-appointed selection convenor Joubert Strydom said after announcing the squad Saturday that it had been decided not to "sacrifice" Kallis in the short-term of the international game.

"It is a long season and he is a key player for us in Tests and one-day internationals," said Strydom. Kallis could not immediately be contacted for a response to the Cricket SA statement but his agent, former international player Dave Rundle, said: "We've got to sort it out."

"We need to sit down with Cricket SA. Jacques wants to find out what his future is. Other options are available but his heart is in South Africa."

Dravid's proud moment

Cricket

AFP, London

India captain Rahul Dravid said winning a Test series in England ranked as one of his career highlights after his side completed a 1-0 success with a draw in the third and final Test at The Oval here on Monday.

England, set 500 to win, a target way in excess of the Test record fourth innings winning score of 418 for seven made by the West Indies against Australia in Antigua in 2003, finished on 369 for six and were never really in the hunt for an upset despite a century from Kevin Pietersen.

India, who clung on for a draw in the series opener at Lord's, where bad weather came to their aid when they had just one wicket standing, won the second Test at Trent Bridge by seven wickets and were in control at The Oval after a first innings 664 - their record Test score against England.

Dravid became the first India captain since Kapil Dev in 1986 and only the third overall following Ajit

Wadekar in 1971, to lead his country to a Test series win in England.

He said: "It's just the third time in all the years we've toured this country we've managed to pull off a Test series win. I couldn't have been prouder as a captain of having led a very fine team.

"I think it's a fair result: England dominated the first Test match, we dominated the next two.

"We played some better cricket in the critical moments. To beat England at home, where they've been traditionally so strong over the last six years, gives us a lot of satisfaction."

Dravid was likely to be making his last tour of England, along with Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Sourav Ganguly and man-of-the-match Anil Kumble, whose first innings 110 not was his maiden Test hundred.

Opens Dinesh Karthik and Wasim Jaffer repeatedly saw the team off to solid starts while left-arm quicks Zaheer Khan and RP Singh consistently troubled England's batsmen.

"The contributions from everyone, that's what really pleased me right through the series," said

Dravid. "Everyone's chipped in, everyone's played a part. The bowlers have really come through for us and the batsmen have come through in critical moments."

England captain Michael Vaughan, without the injured pace bowling trio of Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison and Andrew Flintoff, had no complaints as his team surrendered a six-year unbeaten run in home Test series.

"In a three-match series, it is the team that plays the better cricket which usually wins -- and I guess the way India played over the last two games meant they were worth it," he said.

Pietersen's hundred, his 10th in 30 Tests, was his second of the series and the South Africa born batsman was happy to have reached another landmark in his soaring career.

"Someone needed to come out today (Monday) and bat for a long time," said Pietersen.

"A few of us did that; it was a great team effort. To get to double figures in hundreds is pretty satisfying. But I want a lot more, so I will keep working hard," the South Africa-born Pietersen added.

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Rahul Dravid's triumphant Indians were on Tuesday rewarded with a 250,000-dollar bonus by the country's cricket chiefs for a rare Test series win in England.

India won the three-match series 1-0 after the final Test ended in a draw at the Oval on Monday. The tourists had won the second Test at Trent Bridge after being saved by rain in the drawn first Test at Lord's.

It was only the third series win by India in England following the 1-0 win by Ajit Wadekar's team in 1971 and the 2-0 victory by Kapil Dev's men in 1986.

Indian cricket board chief Sharad Pawar hailed the win and announced a bonus of 10 million rupees (250,000 dollars) for the 16 players, interim manager Chandu Borde and assistant coaches Robin Singh and Venkatesh Prasad.

"I would like to congratulate the Indian contingent for their excellent teamwork and performance against England in the Test series," Pawar said in a cricketboard statement.

"I am sure every Indian will feel proud of our players, who have won

On strike

FROM PAGE 20 Indeed there reports on Tuesday morning that he was ready to go on strike in a bid to secure his move to Stamford Bridge.

Playing against AEK Athens would have made him cup-tied for European competition and he claimed the decision would be his.

He told The Sun: "The decision to play or not on Wednesday is mine - and I don't have to think very hard about it because if I do then a lot of doors will close for me.

"I want to grow as a player and if I have to do that at a new club then so be it."

Ancelotti

FROM PAGE 20 Ronaldinho at the Nou Camp, and want him to extend his current contract.

But it appears Milan are hopeful they can prise the toothy genius away from Catalonia.

Ancelotti confirmed this by telling a press conference: "Let's wait. We're here with arms wide open."

Milan have also been linked with two midfielders currently plying their trade in La Liga - Real Madrid's Emerson and Barca's Thiago Motta. But Ancelotti said a move for either is unlikely.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 21 mins and a small grid for the solution.



Superstar Brian Lara donates 10,000 dollars and computers to a charity home in Barbados on Saturday.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Below the grid is the text: HA DEZ M W V R Q W V P P H S N L M L V W R H S M F W M Y D A W V S Y D, R E C V L V E L K V C H N Q U F K M H C D E Z ' W V E S M U V M W . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN VICE PRESIDENT AARON BECAME HUNGRY, YOU MIGHT SUPPOSE HIS FAVORITE FOOD WAS A BURR-ITO. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals R