

Lauwai win 2-0

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Lauwai Sporting Club beat Sylhet Sporting Club 2-0 in the First Division Football League match at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

Mintu netted the first goal on the 44th minute while Rahul tipped in the other at the 61st minute, although the goal was a debatable one in an easy paced game.

NSW to host eves' WC in 2009

AFP, Sydney

The Australian state of New South Wales will host the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in 2009, Cricket Australia said Tuesday.

Chairman Creagh O'Connor said CA's Board confirmed the NSW bid as Australia's winning submission to host the event.

CA said it will work with the International Cricket Council over the coming months to identify the detail around the staging of the tournament.

It will also explore the opportunities for other Australian states to host pre-tournament warm-up matches.

Tigers winning

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1-14, Zia 1-19, Shakib 3-12, Forhad 1-16, Kapali 1-6, Razzak 2-5, Riyad 1-6).

Result: Bangladesh won by 60 runs.

NCA: 103-6 in 20 overs (Mehrab 39, Nayeem 33, extras 8; Mashrafe 2-13, Zia 1-8, Razzak 2-25, Kapali 1-14).

BANGLADESH: 104-5 in 17.2 overs (Tamim 6, Zunaed 7, Nazimuddin 8, Ashrafuul 45, Shakib 15, Nadiif 8 not out, Kapali 6 not out, extras 9; Dollar 2-16, Nazmul 1-8, Talha 1-19).

Result: Bangladesh won by five wickets.

Women's

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many potential women footballers. Although we are not in continuous practice, we will try to play good," hoped Yusuf.

"What we have learnt from our coach we will try to implement. Moreover, we will try to learn from the match," said Bangladesh captain Daliya Akhtar.

Orissa Coach Mohammed Shahid Jabbar said, "We prepared for this tour for 15 days. We have seven Indian national players in the side and hope to play competitive football here.

He added that Orissa are the National Games and U-17 national champions in India.

BFF president SA Sultan, women football committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bachchu, Orissa team leader Ayub Khan, manager Parmita Rishta and captain Pinki Bimpal Magar also spoke on the occasion.

The visitors will at Narshingdi tomorrow, in Chittagong (August 25), at Narayanjanj (Aug 26) and in Dhaka (Aug 27) during their nine-day trip.

Bangladesh

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Aful in both Bangladesh's previous matches despite having Titi and Mishu -- both specialist fullbacks -- in the side.

The centre-back, who looked uncomfortable in his adapted role, failed to mark his man timely as Bangladesh conceded all three goals in two matches due to gap created at the right side of their penalty area.

The fact that Bangladesh have the two sides' only head-to-record in their favour, could be inspirational. The two met in a group match of the AFC Challenge Cup in April 2006 in Dhaka with the hosts winning 2-1.

Bangladesh will play their last match of the robin league against Kyrgyzstan on Friday.

The top two teams will play in the August 29 final.

BCCI removes

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Deep Dasgupta and Jai Prakash Yadav.

No member of the Indian team currently touring England has been linked with the cash-rich ICL which plans to hold the inaugural event later this year.

Dev, one of the game's finest all-rounders, retired in 1994 with a then world record tally of 434 Test wickets and 5,248 runs from 131 matches.

He also played 225 one-dayers, scoring 3,783 runs and claiming 253 wickets.

Quartet can

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they get on the pitch. "The only thing I know is that I do everything to achieve this," he said.

Barcelona's Portuguese international Deco has complained that he does not play enough since the arrival of Yaya Toure after the end of the last term.



PHOTO: STAR

Former national football captain Badal Roy addressing a press conference yesterday at the NSC conference room in connection with tomorrow's exhibition football match to raise fund for flood victims.

PCB takes hardline



AFP, Lahore

Pakistan reacted sharply on Monday to four of its players joining the breakaway Indian cricket league, saying they will not be considered for future selection in the national team.

"We don't know about our players signing for the Indian league but we affirm our policy of not selecting players in future in case they join the league," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief operating officer Shafqat Naghmi told reporters.

The Indian Cricket League (ICL), bankrolled by country's largest media group which owns the Zee television channel, confirmed it has signed former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul Haq, Mohammad Yousuf, Abdul Razzaq and Imran Farhat.

Their signing could end their international careers.

Naghmi said the case would be put before PCB's ad-hoc committee in its forthcoming meeting before taking a final decision.

"This is not a recognised league so we are not going to accept it. We hope that Yousuf will not join the league as he is a great player and

Pakistan need his services," said Naghmi.

Inzamam, who retired from one-day cricket after Pakistan's first-round exit from the World Cup in the Caribbean earlier this year, joins retired West Indian captain Brian Lara as the star overseas cricketers in the ICL.

Inzamam, who last week flew to England to play for Yorkshire county on a short term contract, confirmed he was offered a lucrative deal.

Razzaq also announced his retirement from international cricket on Monday, saying he was upset over his omission from the national team.

Three other current players -- pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif and all-rounder Shahid Afridi had snubbed initial offers but were said to be considering enhanced offers from the rebel league.

Yousuf when contacted also confirmed his signing.

"Yes I have signed for league cricket in India," he told AFP.

The 32-year-old batsman, who set a new world record of 1788 runs in a calendar year in 2006, was omitted from Pakistan's squad for next month's inaugural Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa.

But he said the signing had

nothing to do with his omission from the team.

"So many Pakistani players play county cricket in England and skip national duties so what if I am playing for the Indian league. It is not due to my omission," said Yousuf, regarded as the world's top batsman.

Yousuf's joining the league could hurt Pakistan who host South Africa in October and then tour India in November-December this year.

They also host world champions Australia in March next year.

Meanwhile, Farhat said his decision to join the league was prompted by his exclusion from the team.

"Look what the selectors have done to me. Despite my performances I have been treated unfairly on and off the field," said Farhat who was fined for phoning a national selector to protest an earlier omission in May this year.

"Not being given chances is just like a life ban and I hope to play for my country again because my well-wishers believe I have been mistreated and my decision to join the league was backed by all of them."

Gibson's golden summer



BBC ONLINE, undated

Not many players come back from three years out of the game to win the man of the match award in a Lord's final.

None in fact, until now.

But then the career of Otis Gibson has taken more twists and turns than most in its 17 years.

In 2001 the all-rounder had all but ended his playing days and was devoted to becoming a coach.

He was convinced his time at the top level was over after playing only two Tests for the West Indies.

His debut came at Lord's in 1995, when he dismissed Alec Stewart, while the other appearance was when he was hastily drafted in on the controversial tour of South Africa almost four years later.

The call-up in South Africa was largely out of convenience for the West Indies Cricket Board, as Gibson, who began his county career with Glamorgan, was there playing provincial cricket.

Quite why a player with undoubted match-winning capabilities was afforded only two matches and 15 one-day internationals (in which he took two five-wicket hauls) during one of the most difficult periods in West Indian cricketing history is baffling.

"I stopped playing cricket because you get to a point when you're not playing for West Indies any more and you just fall out of love with it a little bit," he said.

He gained his coaching qualifica-

tions and was employed by the England and Wales Cricket Board, assisting at the National Academy.

But in 2004, ECB financial restrictions ensured that his contract as the north-west regional scout would not be renewed.

However, at the age of 35 he was recruited by Leicestershire as player/coach and was the club's leading wicket-taker in his two seasons at Grace Road, taking 104 wickets and scoring 829 runs in the Championship.

"It was a little bit strange," he says of his return to first-class cricket. "I suppose I didn't think I would ever be doing it again."

Durham were convinced he could keep producing the goods as he neared 40 and secured his services on a two-year contract in 2006.

He duly played a prominent role in keeping Durham in the top flight, capturing 48 wickets and recording his highest first-class score with 155 in the final match of the season against Yorkshire.

"Every time I played against Durham, whether they won or not, the Durham lads always seemed to enjoy themselves and have good banter between them," he recalled.

"When I went up there last year, it was exactly the way I expected it to be. The success we've had might surprise a few people, but it's certainly no surprise to me."

This season he has achieved even greater heights, becoming the first player for 13 years to take all 10 wickets in a Championship innings when he destroyed Hampshire at the Riverside.

His exuberant influence was a key factor in the club's first Lord's final,

he had been sent off.

The Ghana midfielder, who played at right back due to Chelsea's injury crisis, found himself booked after just 12 minutes for a foul on Liverpool's Alvaro Arbeloa.

But in a match that produced nine yellow cards from Styles, Essien thought he had received a second caution as Styles waved a yellow card over his head.

"Michael was honestly very frightened, he thought he had been booked again," Mourinho said.

"The referee then explained that he had only booked one player, John Terry, but Essien stood there for a long time and he said afterwards that he believed he had been cautioned again."

Schuster wants

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the arrival of a new striker because he was not happy with the performances of Raul, Roberto Soldado and Javier Saviola, the paper said.

Real Zaragoza's Diego Milito is the striker whose name has been linked most strongly to a move to Real Madrid.

Real will make a final offer to Chelsea for Arjen Robben and could turn to Ricardo Quaresma of Portugal's FC Porto if the talks with the English club stumble, the newspaper reported.

The Spanish giants have meanwhile stopped the transfer of its Brazilian right-back Cicinho to Italian side AS Roma, it said.

Heavy rain ruins final

AFP, Nairobi

Torrential rain forced the abandonment of the decisive match in the one-day triangular series tournament between Kenya and Sri Lanka A at the Nairobi Gymkhana club on Monday.

The Sri Lankans had bowled only four balls after winning the toss and opting to field when the heavens opened and the match was abandoned with Kenya having one run on the board.

The match umpires ruled that Nairobi Gymkhana outfield was too waterlogged, and Sri Lanka A were awarded victory to play India A in Wednesday's final.

Although both Kenya and Sri Lanka A had each lost two previous matches, the islanders finished second to the series leaders India A on the strength of the bonus point they earned from their four-wicket victory over India in the preliminaries.

Heavy rains and floods that have displaced hundreds of thousands of people have hit several regions of East Africa, including large swathes of eastern Kenya.

Army clinch kabaddi title

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army emerged champions in the Services Kabaddi League beating Bangladesh Rifles 26-24 in a nail biting final at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Mohammad Rabiul of Army was adjudged the best player of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Police player Mohammad Abdul Quaiyum Shikder announced his retirement from the game.

Chief operating officer of Bangladesh Olympic Association Col (ret'd) Wali Ullah witnessed the final and distributed prizes.

Akhtar fine shelved

AFP, Lahore

The Pakistan Cricket Board set aside a 5,000-dollar fine on controversial paceman Shoaib Akhtar on Monday and ordered a fresh inquiry into alleged breach of discipline by the bowler.

"Akhtar's appeal has been accepted and the fine is set aside as Akhtar was not properly served the notice on the right address," Moin Afzal, a member of the appeals committee, told reporters.

"The case has been remanded back to manager Talat Ali for a fresh inquiry," he said.

The fast bowler was earlier fined 100,000 rupees (1,650 dollars) for leaving a training camp in Karachi earlier this month, and 200,000 rupees for snubbing a subsequent disciplinary hearing.

But Akhtar said he had not been given advance notice of the hearing, having only been told after the fine was imposed. He also pleaded that he had told captain Shoaib Malik that he was leaving the camp.

Malik accepted Akhtar's assertion but said he had informed the paceman to also tell Ali, who was the senior official in charge.

Afzal said Ali will hold a fresh inquiry and a final decision will then be taken on the charges Akhtar faces.

Div 3 soccer

UNB, Dhaka

Spandan KC registered a 2-0 victory over Jurcin Janata in the Metropolis Third Division Football League at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Sadi and Tushar scored either side of the break for Spandan.

Newcomers Euro Famous Club managed a 1-0 goal victory over City United Club at the same venue.

At Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, Gazirchat SC blanked Shantinagar Club 3-0 while Rainbow SC defeated PWD SC 2-0.

Jol under

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"Some players could be available again as we still had a lot of players out but, for me, this is no excuse.

"We need the points, we have to play well and we have to entertain the crowd. That is what we are there for."

"It is Old Trafford for us next and Manchester United, like us, have not got off to the best of starts and we are now a point ahead of them. They are probably the biggest club in the country and everybody knows Sir Alex Ferguson will get them winning again soon."

"They have some new players that need to be bedded in and, along with the injuries, this can create a problem. Alex is strong though, he will get them playing better, but hopefully not against us."

Geovanni comes

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crack at the big time.

And as one of Sven's video stars, he's pressed the fast forward to make his Manchester City spell no replay of his previous disappointments.

ICL makes a point



CRICINFO, undated

After more than four months of acting coy, the Indian Cricket League (ICL) has made as bold a statement as possible, parading the 48 Indian cricketers and naming the six overseas players who will form the backbone of its inaugural season. It is as much a statement of intent as a challenge to the Indian board, with which it has been shadow-boxing since the gauntlet was first thrown in April.

The matter is now out in the open; the ICL is an entity the BCCI -- nor, indeed, the ICC, which is yet to take a clear stand -- cannot wish away. It is faced with a situation it must deal with, and swiftly. It must size up the pros and cons of its current hard line with one eye on the longer term, something it is not always adept at doing.

Conventional wisdom says it will not shift from that stand yet this may be the time for some unconventional thinking. At stake is not just the future of 48 Indian cricketers, though that is weighty enough; an entire domestic season could be held hostage to the simmering feud. Four top Ranji sides -- Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Hyderabad -- have each lost at least half a dozen players, some of whom have the potential to go beyond domestic cricket. More will join the new league, because it still needs another 40-odd players to make up the numbers. If all these players are subsequently unable to play domestic cricket in India, the effect could be crippling.

And that will be the BCCI's greatest challenge: Playing out its role as the custodian of all Indian cricket

and ignoring its more natural instinct to protect a smaller piece of turf, precisely the attitude that has given the ICL enough fertile ground to sow the seeds of secession.

If you want one reason why the ICL exists today, here it is: The BCCI is a monopolistic institution that has not modernised and has, till very recently, focused its attentions on international cricket. The public was obsessed with the identity of stars who would or wouldn't, had or hadn't signed up with the league. However, not a thought was spared for those who keep the wheels of Indian cricket moving -- the journeymen first-class players, the umpires, the scorers, the faceless people who perform thankless tasks so that, every season, a Karthik or a Sreesanth or a Chawla comes along.

There is no evidence at hand that the ICL will address the problems of these people. It is, after all, a stated commercial venture. But it has entered a vacuum created by the board's inability -- unwillingness, even -- to see cricket in terms of a sport to be nurtured and see it instead as a cash cow to be milked. This fight, stripped of all ideological posturing, may be about TV ratings and the advertising revenue they bring in but the ICL is likely to tap into the feelings of insecurity and neglect among those who live in the shadows, feelings that prompted the likes of Abhishek Jhunjhunwala, 24, one of the architects of Bengal's road to the Ranji final last season, to sign up and sign away his India cap.

All this invests in the ICL a greater responsibility to safeguard the future of those who have, as Kapil Dev emotionally put it, had the courage to take their own decisions. If the BCCI remains truculent and slaps the ban it has threatened, the

ICL must ensure that the players -- not exactly the cream of India but honest practitioners of the game -- are not left in limbo. In other words, the Zee group, the ICL's parent company, must not pull the rug from under its feet if the whole venture stops making business sense.

Much of that, in turn, will depend on the quality of cricket the ICL will offer, and the jury is out on that. Suffice to say that few of the players named on Monday are Twenty20 experts; most have made their name in longer versions of the game and some, like Inzamam-ul Haq, are patently unsuited to the whirlwind pace of cricket's newest avatar. The problem can be partially offset, though, by smart packaging, for which the presence on board of Tony Greig and Dean Jones will come in handy.

Yet if the ICL has to establish its credibility -- and at the moment the meter reading is set to zero -- it can only do so with credible cricket. In many ways the easy bit is over. It is one thing to sign up players, quite another to motivate them when they joined for the money. What will they play for: Pride? Nationality? Regional affiliation?

Monday was a day when Indian cricket could have celebrated the emergence, in keeping with trends in other spheres, of a money-spinning league promising more opportunities for its players. Instead there is concern over how it will impact the game in India. The problem is largely of the BCCI's own making; so, too, can be the solution.

Aanensen quits WICB



CRICINFO, undated

Bruce Aanensen has handed in his resignation as West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) chief executive. The board will now meet to discuss whether or not to accept the decision, potentially bringing to a close a turbulent six months in the Caribbean.

Tony Deyal, the WICB's corporate services manager, told CMC Sports the board had received Aanensen's resignation. "He has submitted his resignation and it now goes to the board and the board will make a decision (on whether to accept it). They are meeting in Barbados on Wednesday," Deyal said.

Barry Thomas, the WICB's chief financial officer, is expected to act as CEO in the interim. Aanensen is currently on vacation. Aanensen took up the position in February this year, replacing Roger Brathwaite,

who stepped down the previous year.

The decision will, no doubt be a popular one with the West Indies Players Association (WIPA), who have called for him to step down after a series of disputes. WIPA's stance came about initially after comments attributed to Aanensen in which he referred to the West Indies team as 'incompetent'. But since February, Aanensen has been involved in a number of clashes with the players' body.

There were disagreements over players' contracts in the run-in to the World Cup and he was also involved in the dispute surrounding the summer tour to England and whether it was a part of the ICC's Future Tours Programme.

Dinanath Ramnarine, President WIPA, subsequently wrote in a letter to the board that he found it difficult to work with Aanensen and that his management style was "unfortunate and surprising for a CEO who has only recently assumed his position". Ramnarine denied writing the letter,

however.

Ramnarine's subsequent appointment as a director with the board is thought to have made Aanensen's position untenable. But the decision by the new president of the WICB, Julian Hunte, to work with WIPA in resolving all outstanding issues, is thought to have played a determining role in Aanensen's decision.

Hunte is keen to improve the board's relationship with WIPA and, according to the respected CaribbeanCricet.com "has been working behind the scenes to get the players paid but Aanensen has been firm in his belief that issuing the payments will put him in legal hot water."

The website further reports that in his resignation, Aanensen cited being caught between a rock and a hard place -- likely to be pushed out if he refused Hunte's directive or facing legal problems if he went ahead and issued payments.

A shadow contest

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England captain could cope with the strains of both jetlag and his problem ankle.

"I understand everyone's concern about that -- but the proof will be not just in his performances but also in training," he said.

"When we brought him back (last time) in the Monday training session, there was a lot of pressure on him and a lot of people looking."

"His performance in training got rid of the doubts."

Loew is also unable to field his strongest side due to a long injury list.

Already without his captain, Chelsea midfielder Michael Ballack, Bayern Munich striker Miroslav Klose and midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger, succumbed to injury over the weekend.

Loew had already lost forwards

Mario Gomez, Lukas Podolski and Jan Schlaudraff, midfielders Torsten Frings and Tim Borowski and full-backs Marcell Jansen and Clemens Fritz.

Jens Lehmann will keep goal despite making dreadful blunders that cost Arsenal two goals in the space of a week.

"Looking ahead to Euro 2008 he is and remains our number one," Loew said.

"We will approach the game with optimism and make the most of the situation."

"It would be fatal if we approach the game in a defensive mind-set and try to stop them scoring."

"We will play fast and open football and try to score goals, we only have a chance of beating England if we play this way."

Football for aid

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while Abahani said they were relieved to get the call from Babul who confirmed to turn out in blue.

Badal Roy, Joshi, Salam, Chunnun, Aslam, Johnny, Sabbir and Panir were also present and the former national footballers, who once enthralled the local fans, urged the people to come to the ground and support the cause.

The crowd, who will have to spend Tk 30 for a gallery ticket and Tk 200 for VIP, would be able to talk with their favourite stars from football, cricket and cinema from the stands. The whole fund will go to the relief fund.

The night would be rounded off with a cultural programme.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bear lair

5 Book-keeper (Abbr.)

8 Pocket bread

12 "Yeah, right"

13 Part of UCLA

14 From the beginning

15 Seasoned beef

17 Luminary

18 Hot tub

19 Work with

20 Tale

21 Spot on a domino

22 Resume

23 Macho type

26 Takes temporarily

30 Love god

31 Remiss

32 Met

33 Dangerous snake

35 Use a Cuisinart

36 Mex. neighbor

37 Pub order

38 Fragment of glass

41 Country club

53 Necklace fastener

6 Apple or pear

7 Spanish word for "so"

8 Rural composition

9 Busy with

10 Wardrobe malfunction

11 Distorted letters

16 Destructive

20 Round address

21 Grazing land

22 Carton

DOWN

1 Upper-case

2 Round table

3 Master-card rival

4 Small salamander

5 Necklace fastener

6 Apple or pear

7 Spanish word for "so"

8 Rural composition

9 Busy with

10 Wardrobe malfunction

11 Distorted letters

16 Destructive

20 Round table

21 Grazing land

22 Carton

SOLUTION time: 21 mins.

C O P Y W I N F I E L D
H U E Y A C E R O T