

Riyad, Kapali hitting fine

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad made the most of the two Twenty20 practice matches held at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The young right-hander smashed an unbeaten 39 off 35 balls in the first game with the help of two sixes and a four and then remained unbeaten on 33 that also contained a four and a couple of sixes in the second game as Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Green overhauled Mohammed Ashraf's Red side by 3 runs and 5 wickets respectively.

The Tigers returned to action after a 2-day break to play the matches, split into two groups, along with some other players and they are expected to play more matches in the next two days before leaving for Kenya to participate in a four-nation Twenty20 tourney.

Alok Kapali also returned among the runs making 42 and 23 respectively for the Red team but it was newcomer Ziaur Rahman who lived up to his big-hitting ability as he smote four over boundaries and two fours during his 29-ball 48 to ensure Green side's five-wicket victory in the first match.

Zia also contributed 10-ball 18 that featured two fours and a six in his team's three-run win in the second match.

Captain Mohammad Ashrafal was satisfied with his team's preparation for the upcoming Twenty20 World Championship but he wants more runs from his top order to

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



AFTER THE GOOGLY: Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla (R) is over the moon after taking the wicket of England superstar Kevin Pietersen (L) during India's 9-run win in the second one-day international at the Nevil Road ground in Bristol on Friday.

India bounce back

Cricket

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Sachin Tendulkar's 99 and a blistering unbeaten 92 from captain Rahul Dravid set up a 9-run victory against England at Nevil Road on Friday night which saw them level the seven-match one-day international series at 1-1.

After India posted a massive 329 for seven, the hosts got close with 320 for eight — England's highest total batting second.

Dravid, the man-of-the-match, followed up in style facing a mere 63 balls with one six and 11 fours.

Ian Bell top-scored with 64 and all-rounder Dimitri Mascarenhas, whose previous best score was five, later kept England in the hunt when it seemed they were out of the game with a 36-ball fifty featuring five sixes and a four before he holed out for 52.

Teenage leg-spinner Piyush Chawla took three for 60 and pace bowler Munaf Patel three for 70.

Tendulkar was in dominating form, facing just 112 balls with one six and 15 fours as India surpassed their previous best against England of 326 for eight at Lord's in 2002.

Fast bowler Andrew Flintoff led England's attack with five for 56 — the first time he'd taken five wickets in a one-day international.

Comeback man Patel, in for flu victim Zaheer Khan, checked England's progress with two wickets in two balls when he got rid of openers Alastair Cook (36) and Matt Prior (33).

Then young leg-spinner Chawla and portly off-spinner Ramesh Powar came into their own.

Chawla got a wicket off his second ball when his googly cleaned up Kevin Pietersen for 25. And he bowled captain Collingwood in similar style for 27.

Flintoff went for nine when he hoisted off-spinner Powar to Ajit Agarkar at deep square leg.

England had dropped their lone specialist spinner Monty Panesar but India's decision to bring in Powar alongside Chawla looked a wise move.

Bell, who like Cook had made his maiden one-day international century in England's 104-run win at the Rose Bowl on Tuesday, completed a 76-ball fifty with six fours before he skied Chawla to Patel.

It was a controversial exit for Tendulkar as a Flintoff high ball coming off his elbow before wicketkeeper Prior spectacularly caught the ball down the legside.

Tendulkar had been particularly severe on Chris Tremlett with the fast bowler's nine overs costing 73 runs.

Dravid, who won the toss, kept the runs coming with his best shot a cut six off James Anderson.

The series continues at Edgbaston on Monday.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Ganguly c Collingwood b Flintoff 39

Tendulkar c Prior b Flintoff 99

Yuvraj Singh c Collingwood b Broad 49

Dravid not out 92

Dhoni c Tremlett b Anderson 21

Karthik lbw b Flintoff 1

Agarkar c Prior b Flintoff 1

Powar c Prior b Flintoff 1

Chawla not out 1

Extras: (lb-8, w-9, nb-8) 25

Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 329

Fall of wickets: 1-113, 2-180, 3-243, 4-302, 5-310, 6-324, 7-326.

Did not bat: RP Singh, M Patel.

Bowler O M R W

Broad 9 0 54 1

Anderson 10 1 56 1

Flintoff 10 0 56 5

Tremlett 9 0 73 0

Mascarenhas 4 0 31 0

Collingwood 4 0 24 0

Bopara 4 0 27 0

ENGLAND

Cook c Dhoni b Patel 36

Prior c Dravid b Patel 33

Bell c Patel b Chawla 64

Pietersen b Chawla 25

Collingwood b Chawla 27

Flintoff c Agarkar b Powar 9

Bopara lbw b Patel 17

Mascarenhas c Agarkar b RP Singh 52

Broad not out 29

Tremlett not out 0

Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-15, nb-6) 28

Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs) 320

Fall of wickets: 1-76, 2-76, 3-134, 4-176, 5-185, 6-220, 7-240, 8-299.

Did not bat: J Anderson.

Bowler O M R W

Agarkar 9 1 67 0

RP Singh 10 0 56 1

Patel 8 0 70 3

Ganguly 3 0 17 0

Chawla 10 0 60 3

Powar 10 0 43 1

Result: India won by 9 runs and level the seven-match series 1-1.

Man-of-the-match: Rahul Dravid.

Reds dispatch Sunderland

AFP, Sunderland



Liverpool maintained their impressive start to the season as Momo Sissoko and Andriy Voronin ensured a comfortable 2-0 victory at newly-promoted Sunderland on Saturday.

An energetic home team could never match their illustrious rivals for quality and had Liverpool striker Fernando Torres not missed four clear chances this could have been another embarrassing lesson in top flight management for a disappointed Roy Keane.

Liverpool arrived at the Stadium of Light without influential captain Steven Gerrard as manager Rafael Benitez chose to rest his England international midfielder ahead of Tuesday's Champions League clash with Toulouse.

Voronin, signed from Bundesliga club Bayern Leverkusen during the close-season, almost took full advantage of his place alongside Torres when he burst clear of the Sunderland defence within 20 seconds.

Keane must have feared the worst after the previous weekend's 3-0 defeat at Wigan. However, Scotland goalkeeper Craig Gordon demonstrated just why he commanded a British record nine million pounds fee earlier this month with a point-blank save to deny Voronin the perfect start.

Liverpool were in control against last season's Championship title winners but the 2007 Champions League finalists suffered an unexpected blow in the 16th minute when Sami Hyypia was forced from the field with a suspected broken nose, following an innocuous clash with Sunderland's Daryl Murphy.

Daniel Agger slotted into central defence alongside Jamie Carragher but the switch briefly unsettled Benitez's

men. Sunderland forced a first corner and Michael Chopra beat the offside trap only for Liverpool goalkeeper Jose Reina to reach the loose ball first.

In the 24th minute Chopra sidled the ball into the path of Murphy but the Irishman saw his weak right foot shot cleared by the retreating Agger. In protecting Gerrard's broken toe, Benitez had denied Liverpool their driving force and, in his absence, Sunderland were beginning to dominate a congested midfield.

However, if form is temporary then class is permanent and eight minutes before the break the visitors' quality shone through. Jermaine Pennant headed a fine Xabi Alonso pass into the path of Voronin and the busy forward touched the ball towards Sissoko, 22 yards from goal.

The Mali international spotted Gordon moving to his right and struck a fierce shot to the goalkeeper's left to

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

AB Bank Tigers' new sponsors

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed AB Bank as the national team's official sponsor for the ICC Twenty20 World Championship to be held in South Africa in September.

Three bidders dropped their bids on August 15 and the private bank won the rights to sponsor the South Africa-bound national team as the highest bidder but BCB didn't want to disclose the amount.

"The sponsor company will disclose the amount within a short period of time. This bank won the right as the highest bidder. They also got the ICC approval," said media committee chairman Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby.

He also informed that they would also disclose the name of the sponsor for clothing rights for the Tigers for this tournament.

Bangladesh has been pitted in Group A along with hosts South Africa and West Indies in the competition.

Chawla makes Dravid happy

Cricket

AFP, Bristol

Teenage leg-spinner Piyush Chawla received a glowing endorsement from captain Rahul Dravid after taking three key wickets in India's nine-run win against England in the second one-day international here at Nevil Road.

India piled up 329 for seven, their record score at this level against England, with Sachin Tendulkar making 99 and man-of-the-match Dravid, a blistering 92 not out.

But England were up with the run-rate only for Chawla to check their progress with three for 60, including the top-order wickets of Kevin Pietersen, home captain Paul Collingwood and Ian Bell.

"He's a young kid, he's only 18-years-old. He has a long way to go. But there are great signs," Dravid told reporters after stumps on Friday.

"He's played all his (one-day) cricket outside of India in conditions that don't really suit his sort of spin bowling. He's got a great attitude, terrific for an 18-year-old.

"He's not scared, even if he gets hit.

He played a Test match against England in Mohali (in 2006) and if you look at the way he's bowling now and the way he was bowling then, there has been an improvement."

India, as well as playing Chawla, also recalled off-spinner Ramesh Powar, who took one for 43.

"We took a bit of a gamble there, we knew it was a small boundary but I guess one of the areas we suffered from at the Rose Bowl was that we just didn't take wickets in the middle overs," Dravid said.

"Our spinners bowled really well considering the boundaries. They got the crucial wickets and we needed all of them to even defend a score like 329 on this ground."

Dravid also paid tribute to Tendulkar who together with Sourav Ganguly, put on 113 for the first wicket.

"Sachin and Sourav got us off to a great start and set the tempo."

But Dravid's innings was an extraordinary effort, considering he didn't come in until the 32nd over.

"It came off for me today (Friday), I had a bit of luck," a modest Dravid said. "I was timing the ball well."

Zimbabwe beat Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

The second-string Bangladesh football team completed their Merdeka Cup campaign with a 2-1 defeat against Zimbabwe at the Shah Alam Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Bangladesh will return home today with empty-handed as they lost their two previous group matches against Indonesia 1-0 and against Singapore 2-1.

Zimbabwe, who brought their select team, took a 1-0 lead in the first half with a 36th minute strike and then doubled the margin in the 57th minute following a Bangladesh defense lapse, according to a message received here from the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Bangladesh pulled back a goal with three minutes to go before the final whistle when striker Saifur Rahman Moni headed home a Sharif ball.

Meanwhile, the senior side returned home yesterday after a disappointing performance in the Nehru Cup in India where they suffered a 0-2 defeat to top-ranked Syria, 0-1 defeat to hosts India and 0-3 defeat to Kyrgyzstan and managed only a 1-1 draw with Cambodia.

SA take winning lead

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

South Africa, fuelled by robust innings from Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs, cruised to the easiest of victories at the Harare Sports Club yesterday and with it took an unassailable 2-0 series lead.

Smith fell for 96 but Gibbs clobbered the bowling for his 17th one-day international hundred, a 100-ball 111 with 16 fours and a pair of sixes.

Tatenda Taibu, Sean Williams and Stuart Matsikenyeri were the architects of Zimbabwe's much-improved total of 247, but the bowlers failed to produce even a fraction of their innovativeness as the tourists cantered home by eight wickets.

Smith and Gibbs enjoyed their batting practice and didn't break a sweat as they led South Africa's pursuit. Neither batsman appeared

in any hurry initially yet still found the boundary ropes. Smith was fluent off the pads, flicking and pulling boundaries whenever the bowlers erred, but left alone outside off regularly.

Gibbs, who opened in the absence of a hospitalised Loots Bosman, played second fiddle initially but toyed with the bowling after crossing fifty. He raised the team's 50 in the 10th over with a powerful back-foot cut through the covers but the first aggressive shot was a dismissive front-foot smash over midwicket for four soon after.

Utseya, Zimbabwe's captain, brought himself on for some spin in the 16th over. Gibbs liked what he saw, and pulled the second ball to the boundary. Keith Dabengwa, who replaced Timycen Maruma from the first match, was easily picked for runs as well. Gibbs needed 58 balls for his fifty and hit three back-to-back fours in the 25th over.

Earlier South Africa's bowlers were far from penetrative after Smith elected to field, allowing Zimbabwe to turn in a much better performance and set a competitive total for the tourists. Taibu injected some much-needed comph into what had been a lacklustre start with a 39-ball 43 and Williams and Matsikenyeri added 84 in 12.5 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Zimbabwe and South Africa at the Harare Sports Club on Saturday:

ZIMBABWE

Sibanda c De Villiers b Ntini 5

Masakadza c De Villiers b M Morkel 29

Taylor c Gibbs b Steyn 44

Taibu c Philander b J Morkel 43

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Dhiman still to leave

SPORTS REPORTER

Young wicketkeeper Dhiman Gosh failed to accompany the BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) team due to a problem with his passport.

The NCA side left Dhaka on Thursday for Australia to play five one-day, one three-day and a four-day matches in Darwin during the 20-day trip.

"Dhiman is yet to receive his passport as his papers are still in Delhi for visa processing as he was picked in the Twenty20 probables. He is likely to fly to Australia within a short time," informed Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, chairman of the BCB's cricket operations committee, yesterday.

On the other hand chief selector Faruque Ahmed said that the selection panel has decided to send left-arm spinner Enamul Haque for the longer-version matches.

Collingwood fined heavily

AFP, Bristol

England captain Paul Collingwood has been fined 50 percent of his match fee for a slow over-rate during India's nine-run win in the second one-day international here at Nevil Road.

Match referee Roshan Mahanama ruled that England had been three overs short of its target of bowling 50 overs in the permitted three-and-a-half hours when time allowances were taken into consideration.

The England team was also fined.

And with the shortfall being more than two overs, Collingwood, as captain, was automatically charged with a Level Two breach of the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct, clause 2.11.

Collingwood pleaded guilty to that charge in the hearing that took place after Friday's floodlit match where Peter Moores, the England coach, and team manager Phil Neale, accompanied him.



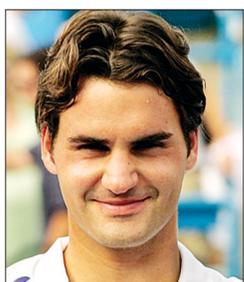
Players of Bangladesh and Orissa are in pursuit of the ball during a women's football exhibition match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Did U Know?

Pentathlon made its debut as an Olympic sport in the Stockholm Games in 1912.



Roger Federer

(World No. 1 tennis star) "It was a great week. I was very happy and I'm obviously very excited going into the US Open." After winning the Cincinnati Masters last week.

What to WATCH

ZEE Sports

Nehru Cup Football

India v Kyrgyzstan

Live from 7:30 pm

ESPN

English Premier League

Middlesbrough v Newcastle United

Live from 6:25 pm

Man United v Tottenham Hotspur

Live from 8:55 pm

STAR Sports

Primera Liga

Racing v Barcelona

Live from 10:55 pm

Valencia v Villareal

Live from 1:00 am (Monday)

Orissa down hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting Orissa women's football team registered a 2-0 victory over their local counterparts in the second exhibition match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

The BFF women's eleven played out a goalless draw in the first encounter at the Dhanmndi Women Sports Complex last Tuesday.

The two teams will meet again today in Fatullah and will play the last game on Monday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Ad