

Bangladesh crash to China

Japan bring down Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh hockey team's joy of their record-breaking win was short-lived as they were brought down to earth by China with a 6-0 thumping in the 7th Men's Asia Cup Hockey in Chennai yesterday.

Bangladesh had a dream start to their campaign after they annihilated Thailand 13-0 on Friday. And yesterday, the Thais went down to a staggering 16-0 loss at the hands of South Korea.

Bangladesh will now meet Sri Lanka tomorrow in their third match of the Group B and then meet giants India on September 4 and South Korea on September 6.

With the resounding victory, China bounced back after their solitary goal defeat at the hands of India in the group opener to keep their hopes alive for a semifinal spot.

Bangladesh conceded three goals in the first half when Hu Hui Ren opened the floodgates for his side with a sixth minute strike from a penalty corner and hat-trick hero Na Yu Bo doubled the margin, converting another penalty corner in the 11th minute and scored his second goal three minutes later.

After the break Lu Feng Hui extended the tally with a field goal in the 39th minute while Yu Yang scored the fifth goal in the 49th minute.

Na Yu Bo sealed the margin when he converted another penalty corner in the 66th minute.

It was however Japan who hogged the spotlight in the day as the emerging Asian force pulled off a massive victory by slaying giants Pakistan 3-1 to record their first-ever win over the former world and Olympic champions.

One could blame the debacle on Pakistan's penalty corner misses and wayward strikes in the circle but the fact remains that Japan had a better plan and used the counter-attack to continuously

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Did U Know?

Diving made its debut as an Olympic sport in the St. Louis Games in 1904.



Marco Materazzi

(Italy's World Cup winning defender)

"Six stupid words. I made a mistake but Zidane also made a mistake in reacting the way he did."

While admitting his mistake in sledging French icon Zinedine Zidane during last year's World Cup final.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

US Open Tennis

Day Seven

Live from 9:00 pm

ESPN

England v India

Fifth ODI

Live from 3:15 pm

Primera Liga

Villareal v Real Madrid

Live from 12:55 am (Monday)

STAR Sports

English Premier League

Arsenal v Portsmouth

Live from 7:00 pm

Aston Villa v Chelsea

Live from 8:55 pm



ROUND A ROUNDA GARDEN: Youngsters take part in dance routines during the opening ceremony of the Dhaka School Football League at the Kamalapur Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Coach quandary for BCB



SPORTS REPORTER

To put an end to the long lay-off of some contracted cricketers who are now out of national side, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) arranged a training programme with a view to keeping them in touch ahead of the demanding tour of New Zealand in December-January.

It is undoubtedly a good initiative taken by the cricket operations committee as many believe that the long absence from training may affect the fitness levels of many players because the Tigers have hardly proved having personal drive to improve their skill and fitness during vacations.

But the main problem faced by the authorities has been the lack of available coaches to run the camp as most of them are now abroad with the two different squads. And not only this camp, which will start today at Mirpur, the whole development trainings and programs has been all but stuck with the absence of the board employed local and

foreign coaches including national game development manager Shaun Williams, who has to spend time with the national team as an interim coach.

Sarwar Imran, mainly a specialist pace bowling coach at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), is now accompanying the national team for the four-nation Twenty20 tourney in Kenya and ICC Twenty20 World Championship while two other academy coaches Wahidul Gani and Minhajul Abedin are in Australia with the NCA side.

There might have been reason to involve Imran in the national side as an assistant coach for a long trip in Sri Lanka but many was surprised by his present visit. It could be well mentioned that Bangladesh cricket have been struggling with pace bowlers in the pipeline.

And most importantly, Imran had even hardly any visible involvement in the last trip in Sri Lanka during the training sessions.

On the other hand many got surprised by the board decision to send three coaches with an academy team which ultimately forced the cricket operations committee to bring two divisional

coaches-- Golam Faruque Suru and Nurul Abedin Nobel, for conducting the camp for the national players.

Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, chairman of the cricket operations committee, was also concerned about the lack of coaches and said that they have to re-think about sending too many coaches abroad.

"You can't call someone to work with the national players. We have to re-think about whether they are any scope for us to send too many coaches with the team in the future at a cost of hampering the development programs," responded Lipu adding that it was not easy for him to make the arrangement for the national players.

"We have to suffer heavily if we maintain this kind of stop-gap process in development activities. Actually, right at the moment we have a desperate need of appointing a national coach as well as a development coach if it is possible," added the former national skipper.

School football starts with draw

SPORTS REPORTER

The opening day's match of the Dhaka School Football League between Khilgaon Model High School and Motijheel Government Boys' High School ended in 1-1 draw at the Kamalapur Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Raihanuddin Robin put the Motijheel boys ahead in the 46th minute but Shumon Rahat scored the equalizer for Khilgaon Model in the 59th minute.

Information secretary Didarul Anwar inaugurated the meet.

DC GOLD CUP

Dighinala blank Matiranga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Dighinala Upazila recorded a comfortable 3-0 win over Matiranga Upazila in the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Gold Cup Football Tournament at the Khagrachhari Stadium on Saturday.

Dighinala took the lead in the 17th minute before a double striker from their forward Shohel Rana sealed the fate of the lop-sided affair.

The victory confirmed Dighinala's passage into the last four of the popular tournament in the hilly district.

Flintoff worry remains

Vital fifth ODI today



AFP, Leeds

England were left waiting on the fitness of Andrew Flintoff once again after the star all-rounder suffered a fresh injury to his troublesome left ankle ahead of Sunday's fifth one-day international against India here at Headingley.

Flintoff didn't bowl in the nets at Yorkshire's headquarters on Saturday, although he did bat.

England captain Paul Collingwood told reporters at the ground after practice: "Freddie's got a little bit of soreness in his ankle again."

"We'll have to wait and see about him in the next few hours. He's icing it up as usual but he has got a little bit of tenderness there. I'm sure he'll seek advice from the medical team."

Collingwood added that if Flintoff was ruled out, fast bowler Chris Tremlett would be likely to take his place.

"It looks a pretty typical Headingley pitch and it looks as if

Tigers tame Lions

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh launch their build-up for this month's Twenty20 World Championship in style when they thrashed Kenya by five wickets at the Nairobi Gymkhana ground yesterday.

Set to score 139 to win, the Tigers raced to victory in 17.4 overs with young opener Nazimuddin hitting highest 43 off 37 balls.

Although Pakistani ball basher Shahid Afridi hogged the spotlight with a mind-boggling 57 off 15 balls against Uganda in the opening game of the four-nation tournament, Bangladesh also produced plenty of fireworks after hosts Kenya put up a challenging 138-7 in their allotted 20 overs.

Bangladesh's spectacular chase was a tale of 12 fours and five sixes, two less than Afridi's seven against hapless Uganda.

Left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal struck two disdainful boundaries during his brief stay while his senior partner from Chittagong Aftab Ahmed tried to be a la Afridi. The pocket-sized dynamo was partially successful, smashing 17 off 6 deliveries that contained a couple of fours and a massive six. Bangladesh crossed the 50-run mark inside six overs.

Making his national team debut, Nazimuddin preferred to sit back and watch how his senior colleagues react at the world stage. His wait paid off and once the right-

hander started to hit the ball, runs flowed thick and fast. He struck four sweetly-timed hits across the rope and two sixes.

Ashraful played a captain's knock of a 20-ball 36. The exciting stroke-maker struck four fours and a six before being caught at fine leg. But by that time, Bangladesh reached 100-3 in only 12 overs.

It was then left to comeback man Alok Kapali to finish the job. The talented right-hander scored an unbeaten 17 off 19 balls to guide the Tigers home. Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza batted up the order and his wish for hitting the last six in the Bangladesh innings was granted.

Mashrafe also took two early wickets to keep the Kenyans in check after Ashraful won the toss and decided to field.

Kenya's next generation leader Tanmay Mishra scored highest 38 before being bowled by seamer Forhad Reza, who also dismissed a menacing Thomas Odoyo for 22.

Kenyan captain Steve Tikolo scored 24 before becoming the lone victim of his counterpart Ashraful.

Meanwhile, chief selector Rafiqul Alam discussed with visiting selector Akram Khan and manager Tanjib Ahsan Saad regarding the situation with Shakib Al Hasan's injury. It was learned that the management will decide tomorrow on a replacement. A contracted player is reported to be

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made following further assessment."

An England spokesman added a final decision on Flintoff's fitness would be made on Sunday.

Flintoff felt some soreness in his ankle after the team's three-wicket win against India at the player's Old Trafford home ground on Thursday.

The 29-year-old has had three operations on his left ankle during the past three seasons.

He hadn't played any international cricket at all this season until returning for the start of the ongoing seven match one-day series with India.

In the second match of the series, at Bristol a week last Friday, he took career-best figures of five for 56.

However, he missed the third match of the campaign, at Edgbaston, with a right knee injury.

England are 3-1 up in the series and a win at Headingley will give them an unbeatable lead ahead of next week's matches in London at The Oval and Lord's.

Harmer trains nat'l cricketers

SPORTS REPORTER

Aspirant John Harmer's interview stint was completed yesterday after a training session in charge of some national cricketers at the indoors of the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The five-member panel of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) arranged this programme to watch over his batting tips after an extensive discussion on the first day at the board's management office.

"We are happy with his presentations and no doubt he has adequate knowledge about the game. We can only compare him after the end of the interview process of the other candidates. Our main target is to select the best one from the probables," said local coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, a member of the five-member panel.

Harmer worked with six national cricketers-- Habibul Bashar, Javed Omar, Shahriar Nafees, Tushar Imran, Tapash Baisya and Shahadat Hossain, during a two-hour session and gave some tips to the players.

"It's not wise to make comments on a coach after working with him only few minutes. He talked with us about some finer points," said former national captain Bashar.

In the end, the cheerful Australian coach however made one thing clear that his age would not be a factor if he ultimately got the demanding job.

"I am fit enough both mentally and physically to do the job," said Harmer, who will stay here for another day, with a smile.

Hall ends career



CRICINFO, undated

Andrew Hall, the South African allrounder, has quit international cricket. He could become the latest prominent player to join the Indian Cricket League (ICL) in the wake of his sudden decision. He played 21 Tests and 88 ODIs since his debut in 1999.

Hall, 32, has told Cricket South Africa (CSA) in writing that he is no longer interested in playing for the country. Hall's abrupt move was probably prompted by his omission from South Africa's squad for the Twenty20 Championship later this month.

"He has handed in his resignation, as he calls it, to CSA," said Tony Irish, the South African Cricketers' Association chief executive. "This has taken everybody by complete surprise, including me."

Irish felt Hall had not made his decision wisely. "The way he has gone about this is wrong. We expect administrators to honour the terms of players' contracts, and the same



ANDREW HALL

CAREER STATISTICS

BATTING							
	M	I	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s	50s
Tests	21	33	760	163	26.20	1	3
ODIs	88	56	905	81	21.04	0	3
BOWLING							
	M	W	Best	Avg.	SR		
Tests	21	45	3/1	35.93	66.68		
ODIs	88	95	5/18	26.47	35.16		



PHOTO: STAR

Australian coach-in-running John Harmer watches as the Bangladesh batsmen play keepy-uppy during a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.