

NCA dump Tasmania

SPORTS REPORTER

BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) inflicted a heavy 132-run defeat on Tasmania in the Crocodile Cup three-day match at the University ground in Darwin yesterday.

Test spinner Enamul Haque and his fellow left-arm spinners Mosharrif Hossain and captain Mehrab Hossain folded the Tasmanian second innings for 185 runs in 66 overs to ensure the comfortable win.

NCA set a daunting target of 318 runs on the final day when the visitors declared their second innings on 161-8 after resuming the day on 139-6 but Tasmania just got better than their first innings total of 152.

Enamul grabbed four wickets for 39 runs while Mosharrif took 2-20 and Mehrab 2-50. Pacer Mahbubul Alami Robin claimed the remaining two wickets by conceding only 14 runs.

The resistances only came from their four limited-over games, will meet Northern Territory Strike in a limited-overs match on Friday before getting involved in a four-day game against the same opponents from September 10.



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza hands over his man-of-the-match's cheque to Uganda captain Joel Olwenyi on behalf of the Bangladesh team. Mashrafe was voted the player-of-the-match for his unbeaten 40 and 2 for 29 in the final Twenty20 warm-up game at the Gymkhana ground in Nairobi yesterday.

PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

Chappell is a Tigers fan

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Australian great Ian Chappell has backed Bangladesh to make it to the last eight of the first-ever ICC Twenty20 World Championship to be held in South Africa from September 11.

"It won't surprise me if Bangladesh do make the final eight," said the former Australia captain.

In his appraisal of the Tigers in a Cricinfo column, Chappell said that Bangladesh are a dangerous proposition for their more illustrious teams in the group.

"Bangladesh is far and away the best of the non-seeded sides and South Africa and West Indies both need to be on their mettle when they face Bangladesh as they are the major teams who are most likely to be unceremoniously dumped by a less-fancied side," he said.

Chappell also praised the make-up of the squad, particularly the

selectors who he thought were brave in picking a very young squad.

He said, "The inclusion of three teenagers in the squad and no player older than 25 is a brave move. These cricketers will be able to express themselves in a slightly relaxed international atmosphere. I hope the selectors are rewarded for their foresight."

But he will be surprised to know that the selectors who picked this team have been replaced a new panel.

"The Bangladesh selectors have been wise in making their 15 choices. They seem to be saying, 'if we can't win this tournament, at least let us gain something for the future.' But we still cast doubts over the non-selection of some of the experienced players, most notably, he thought that Mohammad Rafique could have come in handy.

"The selectors' desire to encourage youth may have robbed them of some experience in spin bowling, which would be a pity because that has been one of their great strengths in the past," he added.

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Chappell, who visited Bangladesh as a commentator over the past decade, had particular admiration for captain Mohammad Ashraful, vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and young opener Tamim Iqbal. He has firm belief that the 23-year-old could well make it big in this competition but he cautioned that the weight of leading the young side could prove decisive in his performance.

"The batting will be built around their young captain Mohammad Ashraful. He has the skill to be one of the stars of the tournament, if the responsibility doesn't prove to be too much of a burden," said Chappell, while adding that the format could suit Tamim's cavalier batting.

"Tamim Iqbal's audacious innings against India in the World Cup displayed talent and nerve, and he'll be hoping to build on that in a format that will suit his style," added Chappell.

Mashrafe also caught his eye as someone who can provide every

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Flintoff only worry

Eng-Ind 6th ODI today

AFP, London

England coach Peter Moores said Monday he was hopeful Andrew Flintoff would be fit to face India at The Oval here on Wednesday.

Flintoff, 29, missed Sunday's rain-affected defeat to India at Headingley, which clawed England's NatWest Series advantage back to 3-2, with more discomfort in his left ankle.

Having already missed last week's victory at Edgbaston with an unrelated knee niggle, Flintoff jarred his ankle, which has been operated on three times in the past couple of years, in a foot hole at Old Trafford last Thursday.

He will be reassessed at practice at The Oval on Tuesday -- fellow all-rounder Ravi Bopara (dislocated thumb) and fast bowler Chris Tremlett (foot) are also under current observation.

Moores, reflecting on Flintoff's spate of injuries, said: "Yes, I feel for him."

"He has been great since he has been back. He has had a real buzz about him, a real energy and people have seen that when he has been on the field."

"You could see he had his passion back which is what he is like when he plays his best cricket. He

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India put half-dozen past Bangladesh

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh crashed 6-0 to defending champions and hosts India in their Pool B match of the 7th Asia Cup hockey tournament yesterday in Chennai but the defeat could have been worse had not goalkeeper Zahid Hossain made a series of spectacular saves.

Bangladesh were ultra defensive from the word go at the Radhakrishnan Memorial Stadium and managed to handcuff the mighty Indians to a slim 1-0 lead at the break but the visitors lost their composure in the second half under mounting pressure.

India, who edged South Korea 3-2 on the previous day ensured a semifinal berth with their fourth straight win and look like finishing

Kenya by two wickets, for 124-9 to secure the Tigers' second win in the meet after a five-wicket victory against hosts Kenya.

Left-arm seamer Syed Rasel, however, made the initial damage by picking up two wickets while Ashraful, whose atypical 23-13 slowed down the team run rate in the middle, provided vital breakthroughs with his leg-breaks, sending back dangerman Olwenyi (46) and Nandi Patel (21).

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak was also successful by returning with two hits to the fence.

Bangladesh will leave Nairobi tomorrow for Johannesburg to play the ICC Twenty20 World Championship where they will be joined by hosts South Africa and West Indies in Group A.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Twenty20 match between Bangladesh and Uganda at the Gymkhana Club Ground in Nairobi yesterday:

BANGLADESH

Iqbal Ibw lsaneez 27

Nazimuddin Olwenyi lsaneez 16

Aftab c Kamyuka b Olwenyi 23

Ashraful run out 13

Kapali c Sematimba b Olwenyi 12

Mortaza not out 40

Nadi not out 8

Extras: (b-2, lb-1, w-3) 6

Total: (For 5 wkt in 20 overs) 145

Did not bat: Reza, Rahim, Rasel, Razzak.

Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-44, 3-73, 4-91, 5-106.

Bowler O M R W

Kamyuka 4 0 43 0

Waiswa 4 0 21 0

Isaneez 4 0 21 2

Arinaitwe 4 0 28 0

Olwenyi 4 0 29 2

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Spandan, Matuail win big

SPORTS REPORTER

Spandan earned a 3-0 victory over Dhaka Junior in the Third Division football league at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheen Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Liton, Ripon and Sadi scored for the winners, who dominated the first half-2-0.

In another match, City United played out a one-all draw with Muslim Institute at the same venue in the afternoon.

Mujibur put City United Club ahead in the 3rd minute while Tausif equalised for Muslim Institute in the 12 minutes in the second half.

In the day's other match at the Outer Stadium, Wahid and Biplob scored in the first half to give Matuail Udayan Sangsad a 2-0 win over Lalbagh.

Federer-Roddick quarter

AP, New York



Asked if he realized Roger Federer had won 35 straight points -- yes, 35 -- on his serve, Feliciano Lopez blinked his green eyes.

"On his serve?" he repeated.

Maybe he was clarifying the stat, maybe he was in disbelief. No matter Monday night, Federer was off to play Andy Roddick in the quarterfinals at the US Open.

The streak came out of nowhere. The match was tied going into the third set, and Federer was down 0-40. Then, over a span of nine games, he won every point he served.

Think about it: All it would have taken was one strong return by

Lopez. One slightly off shot by Federer. One double-fault.

Nothing. Not until was too late, right as Federer closed out the final game.

Told the remarkable number, Federer was curious -- and impressed.

"What are you talking about?" he said. "That's awesome."

"Oh, come on. What have I done?" he said, playfully. "I should have broken him to win 6-3 so I wouldn't have to serve it out."

Federer wound up winning 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 in the fourth round, rallying after the Spanish left-hander caused him some early trouble.

"I was under a lot of pressure tonight," Federer said.

Hard to tell, especially when he

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PHOTO: AFP

Russian sixth seed Anna Chakvetadze stretches to make a backhand return in her fourth round match against Austrian Tamira Paszek at the US Open in Flushing Meadows on Monday.

BCCI looking for 'right man'

PTI, Mumbai

Once bitten ever shy seems to be the policy of the Cricket Board vis-à-vis its selection of the national coach in the aftermath of the disastrous Graham Ford episode a few months ago.

"We have been receiving applications from candidates and the deadline is September 15 after which they will be scrutinised, a short resume of each candidate prepared and sent to the members of the special committee formed to select the coach," BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah told PTI on Tuesday.

"We will then convene a meeting of the committee. All these are subject to us getting applications from the right candidates," the BCCI official said.

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Our ideal game: Sarwan

AFP, Johannesburg

The West Indies are in a perfect frame of mind to make their mark on their ideal tournament when they launch the inaugural Twenty20 world championship, skipper Ramnaresh Sarwan said Tuesday.

Sarwan, captaining the Windies in their first major tournament since the legendary Brian Lara stood down, said the team was for once able to concentrate solely on cricketing matters after build-ups for previous competitions were marred by pay dispute run-ins and was already feeling the difference.

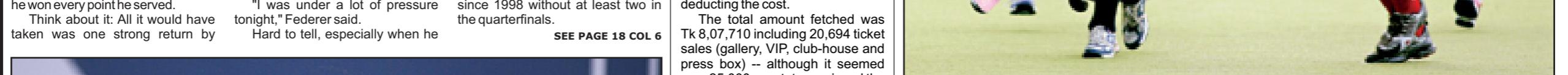
"It's been very easy. In the past there have been too many negative things going on in the background. This time we are very comfortable," he told AFP, a week before his team line up against South Africa in the tournament opener.

The West Indies' poor Test form means that only Bangladesh are below them in the Test rankings but it has been a different story with one-day cricket.

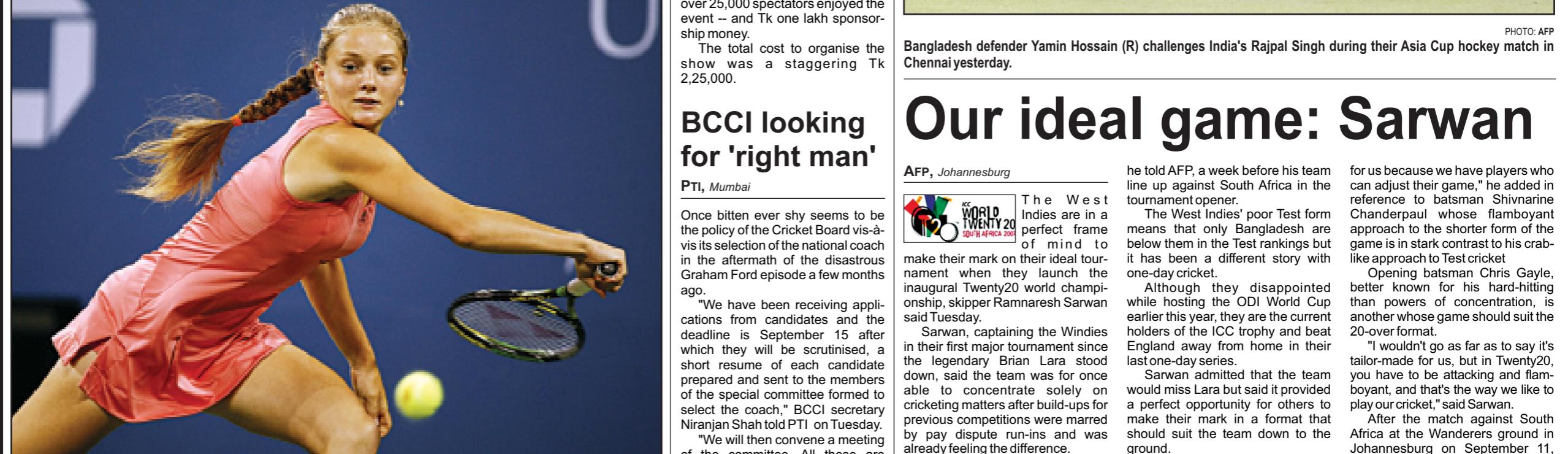
Although they disappointed while hosting the ODI World Cup earlier this year, they are the current holders of the ICC trophy and beat England away from home in their last one-day series.

Sarwan admitted that the team would miss Lara but said it provided a perfect opportunity for others to make their mark in a format that should suit the team down to the ground.

"Any team would miss Brian Lara but it's a matter of realising that there's more than just Brian. It (the tournament) sets itself up



Bangladesh defender Yamin Hossain (R) challenges India's Rajpal Singh during their Asia Cup hockey match in Chennai yesterday.



Russian sixth seed Anna Chakvetadze stretches to make a backhand return in her fourth round match against Austrian Tamira Paszek at the US Open in Flushing Meadows on Monday.