

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 Mosharraf 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 Mosharraf took 2-20 and Mehrab 2-50. Pacer Mahbubul Alam Robin claimed the remaining two wickets by conceding only 14 runs.

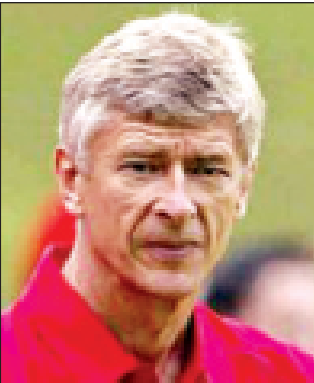
The resistances only came from Wells (118-ball 56) and Irvine (163-ball 42).

The tourists, who earlier won two of 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.



Did U Know?

Arthur Ashe, the first black man, won the US Open tennis singles title on August 25, 1968.



Arsene Wenger

(Arsenal manager)
"Money can always be enough or never enough. If you have 100 pounds and your opponent has 200, then you want 200. When you have 200 he has 400. Where does it stop?"

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

US Open Tennis
Day Ten
Live from 9:00 pm
ESPN
England v India
Sixth ODI
Live from 3:15 pm

PCB beckons Buchanan

PTI, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board is trying to secure the services of former Australian coach John Buchanan for improving the standard of its National Academy in Lahore.

"We want to use Buchanan's expertise as a consultant. He has opened up a consultancy firm and we want to utilise his expertise for the cricket academy and training our coaches," a board official said.

Buchanan stepped down as coach of the Australian team after the World Cup in March.

PCB chief executive is currently in Australia where he met Buchanan to discuss the planned appointment.

The PCB official said Buchanan had shown interest in working with Pakistan cricket and chances are that he would visit the country early next year for a couple of days to implement his ideas and system.

"We are keen to work with Buchanan because he is one of the best coaches right now and one of the brains behind the success of the Australian cricket system," the official said.



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza hands over his man-of-the-match's cheque to Uganda captain Joel Olweni 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: TIGERCRIKET.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 the 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.

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 believe 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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Stars raise nearly Tk 6 lakh for flood victims

SPORTS REPORTER

The joint effort of footballers and film stars of the country raised over Tk eight lakh from Sunday's exhibition football match for flood victims.

The Dhaka football clubs, who organised the event, however, will donate Tk 5,82,710 to the Chief Adviser's relief fund soon after deducting the cost.

The total amount fetched was Tk 8,07,710 including 20,694 ticket sales (gallery, VIP, club-house and press box) -- although it seemed over 25,000 spectators enjoyed the event -- and Tk one lakh sponsorship money.

The total cost to organise the show was a staggering Tk 2,25,000.

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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Marvellous Mashrafe

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza lived up to his reputation as a big-hitter as his rearguard action facilitated Bangladesh to sign off the Twenty20 quadrangular tournament in Nairobi with a 21-run victory over a spirited Uganda at the Gymkhana Club ground yesterday.

Inform Nazimuddin and his opening partner Tamim Iqbal got off to a flying start in the last warm-up game ahead of the ICC Twenty20 World Championship but the departure of Nazimuddin not only broke the 34-run association but also saw a middle-order slump which almost ruined Bangladesh's decision to bat first.

But a heroic 40 off undefeated 20 balls from Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe, who made seven against Kenya and 10 against Pakistan, gave the Tigers a decent total of 145-5 in the stipulated 20 overs.

The dashing right-hander pulled a short ball by pacer Joel Olwenyi over deep-midwicket before hitting a four and six off Kenneth Kamyuka to rattle 29 runs in the last two overs.

The leading paceman then also claimed two wickets for 29 runs as Bangladesh restricted their lightweight African opponents, the ICC associate members who stunned

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-ball 13 slowed down the team run rate in the middle, provided vital breakthroughs with his leg-breaks, sending back dangerous Olwenyi (46) and Nandi Patel (21).

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak was also successful by returning with 2-19.

The focus, however, was centered on whether young batsman Nazimuddin, who struck a match-winning 43 against Kenya before playing the rich Pakistan attack during a scintillating 61, could finish the meet with flying colours by showing a rare instance of consistency.

The 22-year-old Chittagonian made a bold start by smashing the first ball he faced to the point boundary and then hitting a Charles Waiswa delivery over long-on. He hinted at another big knock when the right-hander slashed pacer Emmanuel Isaneez -- who took two wickets for 21 -- to the point boundary but soon, he hopped out to Olwenyi near the long-on ropes off Isaneez after scoring 16 off for 13 balls.

Dashing left-handed opener Tamim scored second team highest

27 off 21 balls with the help of five boundaries before being trapped leg before by Isaneez while Aftab Ahmed chipped in with a 22-ball 23 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 lbw b Isaneez	27			
Nazimuddin c Olwenyi b Isaneez	16			
Aftab c Kamyuka b Olwenyi	23			
Ashraful run out	13			
Kapali c Sematimba b Olwenyi	12			
Mortaza not out	40			
Nadif not out	8			
Extras: (b-2, lb-1, w-3)	6			
Total: (For 5 wkts 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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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 handout 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

atop the group with a match against lowly Thailand in hand.

Bangladesh, who have won two and lost as many games, will play two-time champions South Korea tomorrow.

Although India proved superior in all compartments of the game, the home side were frustrated for their poor conversion rate in penalty corners having scored one from seven attempts.

Zahid, adjudged man-of-the-match for his heroics under the bar, made his first save after five minutes when he foiled out Raghunath's flick from a PC before padding out Shivender's push on one-on-one.

Bangladesh got the better of the rival midfield in the ninth minute but failed to make most of their first entry inside the striking circle in the ninth minute.

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PHOTO: AFP

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

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

for us because we have players who can adjust their game," he added in reference to batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul whose flamboyant approach to the shorter form of the game is in stark contrast to his crablike approach to Test cricket.

Opening batsman Chris Gayle, better known for his hard-hitting than powers of concentration, is another whose game should suit the 20-over format.

"I wouldn't go as far as to say it's tailor-made for us, but in Twenty20, you have to be attacking and flamboyant, and that's the way we like to play our cricket," said Sarwan.

After the match against South Africa at the Wanderers ground in Johannesburg on September 11, the West Indies are due to take on their other first round rivals Bangladesh on September 13.

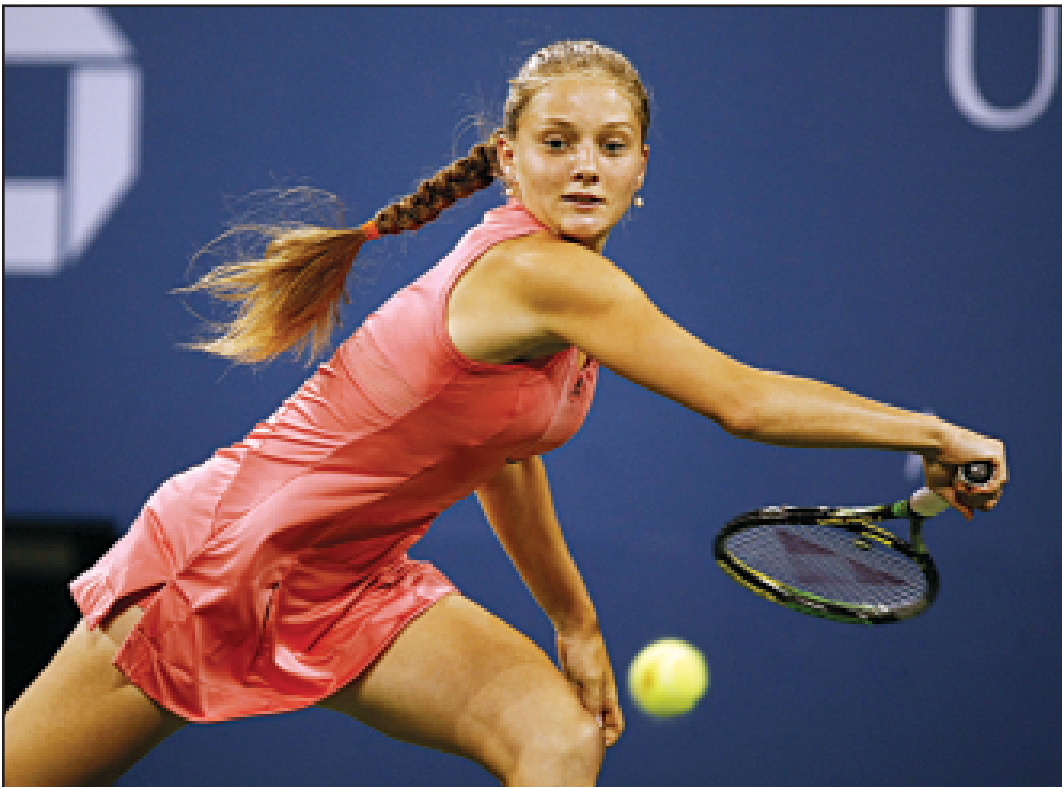


PHOTO: AFP

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.