

NZ set new world mark in hockey

AFP, Buderim

New Zealand's men created a new world record by destroying Papua New Guinea 39-0 in the Oceania field hockey Olympic qualifying tournament here Wednesday.

It broke the record set 24 hours before by Australia's 35-0 defeat of Papua New Guinea.

Shane McLeod, New Zealand's coach, set out to break the mark and send a message to the Aussies.

"We went for the record. In qualifying tournaments in the past, Australia has demoralized teams by putting teams away that we also put away, but not by the same margin.

"So it was nice to send a little bit of a message out there to Australia," McLeod said.

Australia squeezed past New Zealand 1-0 through Madonna Blyth's 63rd minute goal to lead the women's tournament.

Frank Murray, Australia's coach, complimented New Zealand.

Kevin Towns, New Zealand's coach, was disappointed with his team's effort in the second half.

"In the first half we played pretty well but in the second half we fell away quite badly, and the pace on the ball was really quite bad," Towns said.

Fiji eased past Papua New Guinea 5-1 in the second women's match Wednesday, with Emalina Semisi scoring three in the first 15 minutes of the first half. Hector Smith, Fiji's coach, was pleased with the way his team started each half but disappointed they let Papua New Guinea back into the match.

Wendy Evans scored Papua New Guinea's only goal, six minutes before the break.

Thursday is a rest day in the tournament with Australia and New Zealand men meeting on Friday and in the women's tournament, Fiji play New Zealand and Australia meet Papua New Guinea.

Gay skips clash with Powell

AFP, Brussels

Triple world champion Tyson Gay has pulled out of his showdown with Jamaican speed king Asafa Powell at the Golden League meet here on Friday.

Powell, who set a new 100m world record of 9.74sec in Italy on Sunday, was set to clash with his United States' rival in the sprint but Gay cried off Wednesday complaining of fatigue.

"Tyson Gay had everything to lose and nothing to gain," said race director Wilfried Meert.

"He hasn't totally recovered from his packed programme at the world championships," Meert added.

It would have been the pair's first meeting since Gay took gold in the 100m in Osaka with Powell back in third.

Despite Gay's absence over 50 medalists from the Osaka world championships will be shown at the King Baudouin stadium in Brussels.x

Smith cleared, Gibbs still doubtful

CRICINFO, undated

Graeme Smith will continue to take part in the ICC World Twenty20 after X-rays and a CT scan confirmed that he had not fractured his right hand.

Smith was struck by a Darren Powell bouncer from the first ball of South Africa's innings in the opening match of the tournament against West Indies, but continued to bat after taking painkillers. He was rushed to hospital after he was dismissed for 28.

Shane Jabaar, the team physiotherapist, said Smith's progress would be monitored.

"In spite of the fact that the results reveal no fracture, there is bound to be severe bruising of the soft tissue," Jabaar told Super Cricket.

Pakistan ride

FROM PAGE 17

McCallum c Asif b Afridi 0

Brown c Nazir b Afridi 1

Smith c Misbah b Afridi 11

Wright b Gul 14

Blain b Gul 0

Nel not out 13

Extras: (lb-7, w-5, nb-1) 13

Total: (All out in 19.5 overs) 120

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-28, 3-54, 4-55,

5-59, 6-60, 7-79, 8-102, 9-102.

Bowler O M R W

Asif 3.5 0 28 1

Gul 4 0 25 4

Hafeez 4 0 24 4

Afridi 4 0 19 4

Arafat 3 0 14 0

Malik 1 0 3 0

Result: Pakistan won by 51 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi.

Toss: Scotland

Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS) and

Simon Taufel (AUS)

TV umpire: Billy Doctrove (WIS)

Match referee: Mike Procter (RSA)



PHOTO: STAR

India's Ashman Gogohi makes a back hand return during his first round clash against Bangladesh's Maksudul Khan on the opening day of the Prime Bank ATF Under-14 Series Tennis tournament at the National Tennis Complex in Rourkela yesterday.

A deepening crack

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Despite Tuesday night's thrilling win in the inaugural Twenty20 World Championship, South African cricket furiously faced up to a deepening crisis that, if not addressed, threatens to destroy its standing as one of the most powerful cricketing countries in the world.

Cricket South Africa officials met before South Africa's opening match against the West Indies at The Wanderers to discuss a formal appeal by 30 leading players for them to scrap the selection quota system which has been at the centre of the transformation policy since the overthrow of the apartheid regime.

Now, 16 years after Nelson Mandela became the first president of a united South Africa, two players of colour — Makhaya Ntini and Ashwell Prince — are among those who have concluded that the quota system is both divisive and counter-productive and must be abandoned if a multi-racial side is ever to achieve true unity.

There will be no immediate response. The Cape Argus quoted one official as saying: "There are a number of role players who need to be canvassed. They include the government, who keep a close watch on what the sports bodies do at every turn, the people who fought the struggle (for independence) and cricket administrators. But we will debate the issue thoroughly."

What has become apparent, though, is that some black and coloured players now believe that their reputation as "quota selections" in a South Africa squad puts them under greater pressure, robs them of self-respect and hampers their career development.

South Africa's need to find a solution to a perennial problem has been made particularly urgent by the worrying drain of talented young players, of all colours, to the English county system. Kevin Pietersen

made a high-profile switch to England's international side after serving his qualification period, but it is the leue of county cricket — not just its financial rewards but its prospects of long-term security — which now makes many in South African cricket fear for its future.

Ryan McLaren, who was being groomed as the new Shaun Pollock, has thrown in his lot with Kent this season and with the loss of Vaughn van Jaarsveld, who has joined Warwickshire, and Keegan Afrifa, signed by Sussex, South Africa have lost two more young players of international quality. With their policy of "South African cricket or English county cricket" in tatters, they have now had to allow two "Kolpak" players in each of their first-class sides to stop the standard of their first-class cricket collapsing.

Calls for the scrapping of the quota system came during a players' workshop to consider South Africa's failure in the World Cup in the West Indies. The leaking of the players' memorandum to an Afrikaan newspaper has so enraged Prince, who is on tour with South Africa A in India, that any fleeting sense of unity has already collapsed.

Prince, who with Ntini now fears becoming a scapegoat, has resigned as president of the South African Cricketers' Union. He complained on Tuesday: "I trusted people and that confidentiality was betrayed and used. I cannot represent people who I cannot trust."

Even success for South Africa in Twenty20 would not remove the feeling that an aged side is growing old graciously. Jacques Kallis has resigned as South Africa's vice-captain after he was omitted from the Twenty20 squad and Mark Boucher was fined for criticizing his omission. Andrew Hall has announced his retirement and is heading for the breakaway Indian Cricket League. The ill feeling does not stop there.

Loots Bosman, who was dropped from South Africa's Twenty20 squad because of a back

injury, now faces a disciplinary hearing after claiming that he was fit and branding South Africa's coach Mickey Arthur "a liar."

And Garnett Kruger, the latest South African to join English county cricket under EU legislation which allows South Africans freedom of movement, marked his move to Leicestershire by supporting Bosman's attack on Arthur and accusing senior white players of self-interest. "You could see they were not just friends, they were running the team, all trying to keep each other there. In the past we didn't want to make a big fuss about it, but I don't want to keep quiet anymore. We're tired of stuff being swept under the carpet."

The ICC seemed oblivious to such tensions at their annual awards ceremony in Jo'burg on Monday night. They marked the arrival of Twenty20 in the Rainbow Nation by footage of great South African sides of yesteryear — when apartheid was at its height.

In the 15th minute and then produced two gems in the second half — 51st and 53rd minute respectively. Mehdi and Plaban scored earlier in the first half. Jahangir scored the consolation goal for the Mirpur-side.

In the day's other match at the same venue, Government Printing Press played out a one-all draw with Rahmatganj. After a goalless first half, Bhulu scored for the Printing Press while Moni netted the equalizer for Rahmatganj in the 65th minute.

OPEN TRIAL

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will arrange an open trial on Saturday to prepare the Under-19 women's team for the Second Indo-Bangla Games in Dhaka.

Interested players have been asked to appear at the Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex with two passport-sized photographs.

One can only be eligible to take part in the trial if they are born after January 1, 1989.

Vettori new

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For him to accept the selectors' decision graciously and to remain committed to New Zealand cricket is a true measure of his character," he said.

Fleming captained the Test team to 28 wins and 25 draws from 80 matches after becoming New Zealand's youngest ever captain at the age of 23 in 1997.

As a batsman, in 104 Tests, the elegant left-hander scored 6,620 runs at an average of 39.64.

Fleming led the one-day team to 98 wins from 218 games over the past 10 years. He played 279 one-dayers, scoring 8,007 runs — the highest total of any New Zealand batsman — at an average of 32.41.

Fleming is the only player to have been asked to appear at the Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex with two passport-sized photographs.

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Tigers ready

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and move their bodies to the beat of the boomerang music. They also saw West Indies score 205 batting first thanks to the first T20 century by a rampaging Chris Gayle and yet his team losing with nearly three overs to spare.

"Obviously Gayle is their key batsman. But we are not targeting any particular player. In T20 you may get a major player out early but then someone else might turn up the heat when you least expect. All the players in their side are good cricketers and we are a good team also. We just have to play our natural game and stay focused in all three departments. The outfield at The Wanderers is like a carpet so balls will come fast. So the fielders also have to be on their toes all the time," said Ashraf.

SQUAD

Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Nazimuddin, Aftab Ahmed, Shakib Al Hasan, Alok Kapali, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (Vice Captain), Farhad Reza, Mashruq Rahim (wicketkeeper), Abdur Razzak, Syed Rasel, 12th man: Nadir Chowdhury.

Man-of-the-match: Mark Gillespie.

Toss: New Zealand

Umpires: Billy Doctrove (WIS) and Simon Taufel (AUS)

TV umpire: Billy Doctrove (WIS)

Match referee: Mike Procter (RSA)

Touhidul steers Manikchhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

Manikchhari clinched the title of the second Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament with a comfortable 4-0 victory over Dighinala in the final at the local stadium yesterday.

Striker Touhidul Alam was the hero in the final as he scored all four goals in the 10th, 25th, 35th and 58th minutes in front of nearly four thousand spectators and was adjudged best player of the tournament.

Manikchhari's Sumon got the best goalkeeper award while Sujon Tripura of Ramgorh was the highest scorer of tournament.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Shahadat Hossain handed over the trophies after the final. Khagrachari Hill District Council Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura and Superintendent of Police Khandakar Lutful Kabir were also present.

LOCAL SNIPS

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Youth and Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury inaugurated the meet as a chief guest while Prime Bank chairman Azam J Chowdhury was also present.

Forty-one players from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Japan, Myanmar and hosts Bangladesh are taking part in three events — boys', girls' singles and doubles events.

PLAYERS BENEVOLENT TRUST

UNB adds: The government has nominated four renowned sports personalities and organisers as members of the Bangladesh Players Benevolent Trust.

They are national award-winning former national footballer Golam Sarwar Mostafa Tipu, Independence Day award winner former star footballer Kazi Salahuddin, national award recipient football star Sheikh Mohammad Aslam and national award-winning former shuttler Qamrunnahar Dana, said a Youth and Sports Ministry press release.

In another notification, the government withdrew nominations of the previous four members of the Trust — former lawmakers Dr. Ziaul Haque Mollah, Mohammad Abdul Mannan Talukder and Dr. Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin.

DIV 3 FOOTBALL

Faruq's hattrick steered Gazirchot to a thumping 5-1 victory over Mirpur Chalantika in the Third Division Football League at the Bir Shrestha Shaheen Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Faruq scored first in the 15th minute and then produced two gems in the second half — 51st and 53rd minute respectively. Mehdi and Plaban scored earlier in the first half. Jahangir scored the consolation goal for the Mirpur-side.

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Ferguson kicked

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for money, the court heard.

Instead Reynolds struck Sir Alex in the groin area, leaving him doubled up in pain.

The court was told today that Reynolds then said: "I'm sorry Fergie, I did not know it was you."