

Batch 05 NSU champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Batch 05 were crowned Intra NSU Batch Champions 2007 after triumphing 3-1 in the final against Team MBA at the WAPDA Ground on Friday.

Striker Mushfiq scored two goals while Ravi Khan added the other for the winners.

Nafiz Momen replied for the runner-ups.

Ravi also bagged a personal accolade winning top goalscorer after scoring 5 goals.

The match kicked-off at a frenetic pace with Batch 05 grabbing the lead inside the first minute.

Mushfiq took full advantage of a defensive lapse down MBA's left to sneak inside and hammer a shot past the goalkeeper from a tight angle.

MBA regrouped, but were always on the back foot against their fitter and more agile opponents.

However they pulled the game back against the run of play courtesy a stunning goal from Nafiz Momen.

The midfielder got the ball 30 yards from goal and with no presentable passing opportunity proceeded to hammer a shot into the back of the net.

The game looked to be petering out at the end of the first half but Batch 05 regained the lead at a crucial moment. Mushfiq again showing superb composure to round the keeper and score a fine effort.

Early in the second half, Batch 05 put the game out of reach scoring a third goal.

Striker Ravi got ahead of the goalkeeper to prod the ball home from close range after a cross from the right.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

WI take winning

FROM PAGE 17

Samuels c. Chibhabhab Utseyea 62
Bravo not out 41
Deonarine c. Price b Utseyea 8
Ramdin not out 5
Extras: (lb-5, w-7, nb-2) 14
Total: (For 5 wkt in 47 overs) 234
Did not bat: Lewis, Powell, Rampaul, Taylor.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-62, 3-167, 4-176, 5-197.

Bowler O M R W
Chigumbura 6 0 39 1
Brent 10 0 46 0
Price 9 0 44 1
Chibhabhaba 2 0 16 0
Utseyea 10 1 40 3
Dabengwa 10 0 44 0
Result: West Indies won by 5 wickets and lead 5-match series 3-1.
Man-of-the-match: Jerome Taylor.
Toss: West Indies

All eyes on

FROM PAGE 17

Test due to injury.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Anil Kumble (captain), Wasim Jaffer, Dinesh Karthik, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Venkatesh Lakman, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Harbhajan Singh, Irfan Pathan, Ishant Sharma, Vikram Rajiv Singh, Yuvraj Singh, Murali Kartik.

PAKISTAN (from): Younis Khan (captain), Salman Butt, Yasir Hameed, Mohammad Yousuf, Misbahul Haq, Faisal Iqbal, Kamran Akmal, Sohail Tanvir, Mohammad Sami, Shoaib Akhtar, Danish Kaneria, Yasir Arafat, Rao Iftikhar, Abdur Rehman.

Khulna's big
FROM PAGE 17
an unbeaten 69 in 107 balls.

BRIEF SCORES

CHITTAGONG: First Innings 359 and 134-7 in 54 overs (Salahuddin 12, Nafis 9, Mahbubul 26, Nazimuddin 48*), Dhiman 5, Ehsanul 15, Faisal 0, Kamrul 11, Saj 2*, Ziaur 2-39, Robit 2-45, Murad 2-25, Nahidul 1-5).

KHULNA: First Innings 282 all out in 110.1 overs (Sadat 91, Imrul 15, Mostafiz 10, Bashir 35, Nahidul 37, Sanjaya 0, Salim 7, Ziaur 18, Farid 38, Murad 10*, Robit 0; Kamrul 1-100, Younis 3-37, Yasin 4-62).

BARISAL: First Innings 182 and second innings 169 all out in 70.4 overs (Hannan 23, Nafees 65, Imran 6, Rokibul 2, Tariqul 9, Raisul 27, Kamrul 0, Arifat 5, Shaheen 5, Sajid 8, Talha 4; Shahjada 1-48, Shahjada 3-45, Sajib 4-29, Mahbub 2-5).

RAJSHAHI: First Innings 204 and second innings 99-1 in 33 overs (Jahurul 65*, Rafiqul 6, Farhad 19*, Sajid 1-21).

SYLHET: First Innings 312 and second innings 142-2 in 44 overs (Rahman 23, Imtiaz 69*, Sadique 1, Rajib 43*, Rafique 1-40, Riyad 1-18).

DHAKA: First innings 273 all out in 109.1 overs (Uttam 0, Anwar 31, Riyad 8, Mehrab 36, Shahriar 2, Shamsur 36, Nadif 29, Mosharraf 65*, Sharif 24, Rafique 19, Mahbubul 0; Rashid 1-34, Golam 1-2, Nabil 4-60, Enamul 3-89).



PHOTO: COURTESY

India hope for series victory

Cricket

PTI, Bangalore

while playing football in Delhi after the first Test, ruled for the final match.

A draw would be suffice for the hosts to seal the series but Pakistan, to be led by Younis Khan, are in a do-or-die situation as they must win this match to draw the series.

Adding to the pressure is their internal crisis, which roared its head late last night when Younis refused to don the skipper's role protesting over Board's non-supportive stance on the selection matters.

Mohammad Yousuf was also reluctant to lead the side and it was only after PCB Chairman Nasim Ashraf's persuasion that Younis agreed to the captain's side.

The match will be played on a virgin track, which has been laid with virgin soil.

"It is a 'typical' Test wicket where there will be a lot of movement early on," said chief curator Narayan Raju.

Kirsten arrives in Bangalore

CRICINFO, undated

Gary Kirsten, the former South African batsman who was recently roped in as India's coach, landed in Bangalore on Friday and is expected to have his first meeting with the players.

Kirsten, who will join as a permanent coach in March, reached Bangalore on Friday evening. Brijesh Patel, secretary of the Karnataka State Cricket Association, said Kirsten was expected to meet the Indian players on the eve of the third Test that begins on Saturday.

"Kirsten will join as India's new coach on March 1, but he will be briefly involved with the Test team as a consultant during the tour to Australia," said Niranjan Shah, the Indian board secretary. "Kirsten will probably join the team after the second Test against Australia."

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

It'll be either Australia or Korea against Germany

Hockey

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

to beat Germany in our final round robin match even if other results mean we can't make Sunday's final. A win is very important because a defeat, may mean we even miss the third-fourth playoff tie," Dancer said.

Australia enter Saturday's decisive round of games one point behind second-place Korea on 11 points. A win for Korea would secure that second spot and a place in the final against Germany, who have 16 points from a possible 18 and an unassailable lead.

Korea on Saturday face Britain, who have not performed well and are still smarting from a 5-0 whipping by Spain on Wednesday.

Australia must now hope that Britain either draw or defeat the Koreans, and that they then beat Germany to book a place in Sunday's final.

With just three points separating second from fifth, Australia

Tendulkar, Dhoni scare

FROM PAGE 17

moment as he needs seven days' rest to be completely fit. We now need to wait till tomorrow morning," said Kumble.

The latest health problems come just a few days after fast bowlers Zaheer Khan and Munaf Patel were ruled out of the match due to injuries, forcing the hosts to name a new look pace attack.

Irfan Pathan, Ishant Sharma and Vikram Rajiv Singh were included in the squad after being ignored for the first two tests.

"Our pace attack is inexperienced, but it is also a great opportunity for youngsters to seal their places," said the Indian captain, leading the side for the first time on his home ground.

"It will be emotional going for

the toss as I have spent my last 20 years in this ground. The onus is now on us to ensure we win the series. Pakistan will come back strongly and we have to make sure we play to our potential."

Skipper Younis Khan said Pakistan needed to seek inspiration from their series-levelling win here two years ago.

"That win is a motivation, and positive thinking is the key to level the series. We have no option but to win and we have to play hard cricket," he said, a day after media reported he was unwilling to lead in this match.

"There is always pressure in India-Pakistan matches, but the key is how to handle it."

Pakistan trailed 1-0 in 2005 before squaring the three-Test

series with a victory at the Chinnaswamy Stadium here under Inzamamul Haq's captaincy.

Younis, leading the side in the absence of unfit Shoaib Malik, conceded he had never really enjoyed captaincy.

"I always run away from captaincy because I want to enjoy my cricket. It affects my batting, but it comes to me every time. The more I run away from it, the more it chases me," he said.

Younis was named captain for the 2006 Champions Trophy in India, but turned it down. He was reinstated just a few days before the tournament.

"I accepted vice-captaincy for this tour only on request and I want to do my best."

Boje ready to cooperate

CRICINFO, undated

Nicky Boje, the former South African left-arm spinner, has said he is prepared to help the Delhi police with the investigation into the match-fixing scandal of 2000.

"I will be more than happy to cooperate with them in whatever way I can as I have nothing to hide," Boje, currently playing for Hyderabad Heroes in the ICL in Panchkula, told PTI.

On Wednesday, the Delhi police sent a notice to Boje to make himself available for the probe. Boje reiterated that he was not found guilty by the King Commission in South Africa, which looked into the matter. "The fact is that Herschelle Gibbs was found guilty and fined for it," he said. "The Commission never found me guilty and that's why I was not banned."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I am not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

MSC bag charity series

FROM PAGE 17

made a couple of saves in the last five minutes, denying Abahani's regular penalty-taker Nazrul's shot from the spot. Aminul was beaten by Emily's drive to the top left corner but put the match all but beyond Abahani by tipping Abul's shot out of his left post.

Mintu also scored for Abahani but it was not enough as all four Mohammedan penalty takers -- Ariful, Hassan Al Mamun, Farhad and Ripon -- kept their cool to beat Biplab and snatch victory.

Organising committee co-chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed, also an Abahani director, and Lokman, Mohammedan's general secretary, handed over the champions and runners-up trophy respectively.

ABAHANI: Biplab, Waly, Nazrul, Dominic, Mintu, Abul, Pranotosh, Joy, Munni, Emily and Robin (Zahed).

Referee: Azad Rahman.

BFF president SA Sultan, acting

general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu and Teletalk general manager marketing Habibur Rahman were also present.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: Aminul, Ariful, Hassan Al Mamun, Biplab, Kamal, Ripon, Sharif (Manjum), Arman Aziz, Mithu (Mishu), Farhad and Figo (Rony).

ABAHANI: Biplab, Waly, Nazrul, Dominic, Mintu, Abul, Pranotosh, Joy, Munni, Emily and Robin (Zahed).

Referee: Azad Rahman.

Tharanga to open for Lanka

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka have not called up an extra batsman following the retirement of Sanath Jayasuriya for the second Test against England starting on Sunday.

"We have not added any additional players and Upul (Tharanga) will now open the batting with Michael Vandort," captain Mahela Jayawardene told Reuters on Friday.

There had been speculation that Jehan Mubarak's place in the middle-order was under threat after he contributed only nine runs to Sri Lanka's victory in the first Test.

"The middle order is a bit of concern but we have to be fair to the youngsters we have identified and give them a decent run," Jayawardene added.

Sri Lanka are unlikely to make changes to their bowling attack.

"The bowling combination will depend on the pitch but knowing the SSC it will probably be three seamers and Muralidaran," Jayawardene said.

Sri Lanka lead the three-match series 1-0 after beating England by 88 runs in Kandy.

"We have got to take forward the confidence we got with the win in Kandy," said Jayawardene.

"It was a confidence booster for us for the rest of the series and we should not lower our guard and allow England to come back."

SQUAD

Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Kumar Sangakkara, Michael Vandort, Upul Tharanga, Chamara Silva, Jehan Mubarak, Prasanna Jayawardene, Chaminda Vaas, Lasith Malinga, Dilhara Fernando, Malinga Bandara, Sujeeva de Silva, Muttiah Muralidaran.

India hope for series victory

CRICINFO, undated

Gary Kirsten, the former South African batsman who was recently roped in as India's coach, landed in Bangalore on Friday and is expected to have his first meeting with the players.

"It was a confidence booster for us for the rest of the series and we should not lower our guard and allow England to come back."

SQUAD

Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Kumar Sangakkara, Michael Vandort, Upul Tharanga, Chamara Silva, Jehan Mubarak, Prasanna Jayawardene, Chaminda Vaas, Lasith Malinga, Dilhara Fernando, Malinga Bandara, Sujeeva de Silva, Muttiah Muralidaran.

India hope for series victory

CRICINFO, undated

"We have got to take forward the confidence we got with the win in Kandy," said Jayawardene.

"It was a confidence booster for us for the rest of the series and we should not lower our guard