

Amit's 107 propels Mushtaque XI

SPORTS REPORTER

Amit Majumder slammed a masterful 107 to give Shaheed Mushtaque Eleven a massive 94-run victory over Shaheed Jewel Eleven in the Victory Day friendly match at the Dharmadhi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, Shaheed Mushtaque piled 265-6 in their stipulated 50 overs and then proceeded to bowl out Shaheed Jewel for 171 runs in 42.5 overs.

Left-handed opener Amit, who played for champions North in the Challenging Cup last month, stuck eleven fours and two sixes in his 125-ball essay. He found good support from number three Shamsur Rahman.

The right-handed Dhaka batsman scored 74 runs as the two batsmen shared a 171-run second wicket stand that set up the big Shaheed Mushtaque score.

Leg-spinner Raihanuddin Arafat picked three wickets while veteran seamer Hasibul Hossain took two.

Only a 55-ball 42 from all-rounder Rubaiyat Haque gave Shaheed Jewel some late impetus as they collapsed at the face of a three-wicket haul from leggie Ariful Haque and two wickets each from Mukhtar Ali, Humayun Kabir and Tapash Ghosh.

BRIEFSCORES

Shahid Mushtaque Eleven: 265-6 in 50 overs (Amit 107, Shamsur 73; Raihan 3-36, Hasibul 2-47).

Shahid Jewel Eleven: 171 all out in 42.5 overs (Rubaiyat 42, Sanjay 29, Rashedul 20; Ariful 3-46, Mukhtar 2-20, Tapash 2-23).

Result: Shahid Mushtaque XI won by 94 runs.

Tigers' tame

FROM PAGE 17
middle and we could not have a crack in the last few overs. Also I guess we were a touch slow to start with and probably fell short by 30 runs," said Tigers coach Jamie Siddons. "The target for us is to improve every match and there were some good things today (Sunday) that we want to take into the game on Tuesday and we will try not to repeat the mistakes. In bowling we were too short on occasions and our spinners did not get the turn. Horsey also played brilliantly. He made good balls look bad," added Siddons.

Knight's coach Andy Mofes meanwhile believed the Tigers will come back hard at them in the next match.

"They are a young side and showed a lot of spirit. It will be foolish to look too much into Sunday's performance from them. Today (Sunday) was more a case of getting used to the conditions for Bangladesh. They will get better as the tour goes on and Tuesday could be a totally different ball game. No one in New Zealand think that they (Bangladesh) will be pushovers on this tour."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first warm-up match between Northern Districts and Bangladesh at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Sunday:

BANGLADESH

Iqbal c McGlashan b Arnel	12
Junaid c Horsley b Arnel	73
Imran c McGlashan b Orchard	8
Ashraf c McGlashan b Southen	30
Shakib c Watling b Martin	6
Aftab c McGlashan b Andrews	12
Rahim c Martin b Andrews	15
Reza c Flynn b Arnel	27
Mortaza not out	25
Razzak not out	0
Extras: (lb-8, w-6)	14
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	222

Did not bat: Raseel, Shahadat.

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-64, 3-121, 4-142, 5-143, 6-160, 7-177, 8-221.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Southen	10	0	43	1
Arnel	10	3	40	3
Andrews	10	0	45	2
Orchard	10	0	40	1
Martin	8	0	35	1
Flynn	2	0	11	0

NORTHERN DISTRICTS

Horsley c Iqbal b Reza	92
Watling c Rahim b Razzak	21
Flynn lbw b Mortaza	31
Marshall not out	55
Robinson not out	19
Extras: (lb-5, w-3, nb-2)	10
Total: (For 3 wickets in 42.3 overs)	228

Did not bat: Orchard, Andrews, McGlashan, Southen, Martin, Arnel.

Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-141, 3-181.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mortaza	9	0	48	1
Raseel	6	1	32	0
Razzak	10	1	51	1
Reza	7	0	22	1
Shakib	3.3	0	28	0
Shahadat	7	0	42	0

Result: Northern Districts won by 7 wickets.

Toss: Northern Districts

Umpires: AL Hill and DJ Walker

Selectors mull

FROM PAGE 17
and has done quite well for the under-19s too. But all-rounder Mahmudulhaq Riyad, with his batting abilities, could leapfrog the two and fly to New Zealand.

The selection committee, who will receive final news on Raseel's injury today afternoon, will have a look at Dollar during the fourth Bangladesh-Sri Lanka under-19 one-day match before making their decision.

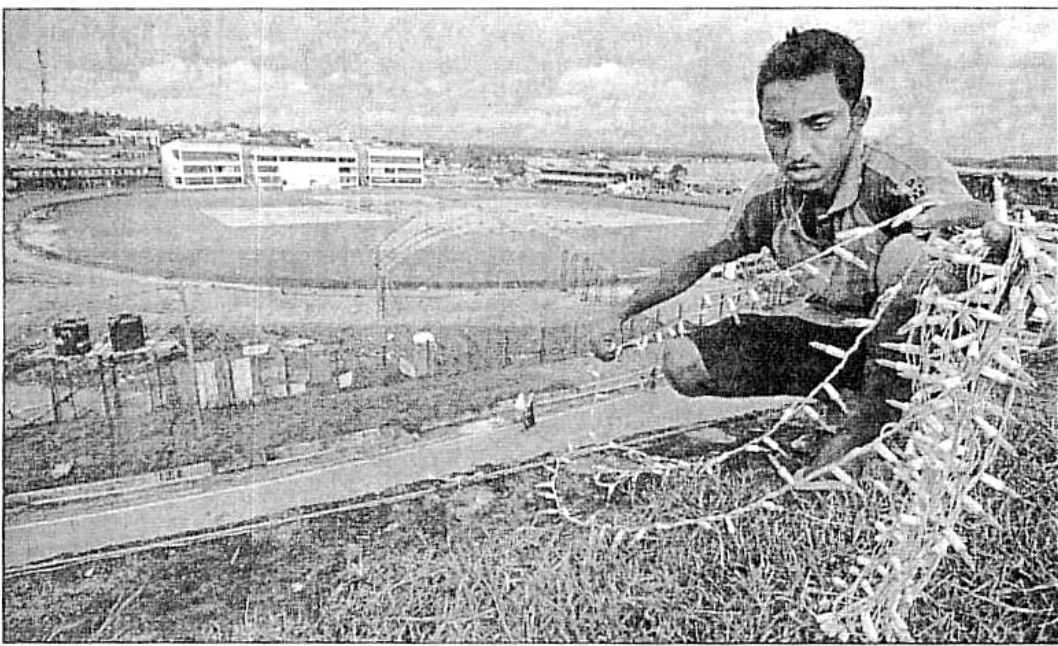


PHOTO: AFP

GEARING UP FOR THE BIG DAY: A labourer perched on the ramparts of the Dutch colonial-era fort overlooking the Galle International Cricket Stadium (background) sorts strings of decorative bulbs ahead of Tuesday's third Test between Sri Lanka and England. It will be the first Test since the 2004 tsunami that destroyed this stadium.

Dead 'Venue' Walking



AFP, Galle

England and Sri Lanka will mark one of cricket's most poignant moments when they contest the third Test at the previously tsunami-ravaged Galle International Stadium from Tuesday.

The stadium, situated close to the Indian Ocean in the country's coastal south, was destroyed by the Asian tsunami in 2004, which killed an estimated 300,000 people in a dozen countries.

Some 31,000 people in Sri Lanka alone perished in the December 26 disaster.

It was rebuilt from scratch with a 500,000-dollar funding package from Sri Lanka Cricket and, nearly three years to the day since it was decimated, is ready to host a Test match again.

When Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse inaugurates the new stadium on the eve of the match on Monday with both teams in attendance, one man in particular will struggle to hide his emotions.

Former Sri Lanka Test spinner Jayananda Warnaweera, the stadium's long-time manager, still finds it hard to believe that his ambition to bring cricket back to Galle has been realised.

"I can't tell you how I feel to be able to return this beautiful ground to Test cricket," Warnaweera, who played 10 Tests between 1986 and 1994, told AFP.

"I had promised myself that Test cricket will be played here again and I have lived up to that vow. It's a very emotional and exciting time for me."

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene said he was delighted to return to one of his favourite venues, which lies at the foot of the historic 17th century Galle Fort, a UNESCO world heritage site.

"It is one of my favourite venues."

Aussies' moral victory

FROM PAGE 17
Jamie How (4) tried to guide a short ball from left-arm Nathan Bracken (1-18) through slips and was snapped up by Matthew Hayden.

Lee struck again in his second over when opener Brendon McCullum, who made 96 in the first game in Adelaide, was caught at mid-off for five after failing to pick a slower ball.

Lee said Australia's quicks had struggled with their intensity in allowing New Zealand to put on 115 for their first two wickets in the Adelaide match.

"We lacked (in) that last game. We really wanted to turn that around, so we did that," he said.

"We only had a few overs to bowl and we got three wickets and had them right on the back foot. We were looking pretty good and then the rain came."

"Especially after our last (series) result."

Press dissect Capello

FROM PAGE 20
merits of appointing yet another foreign coach and its implications for the English game.

Elsewhere, much was made of his 100 per cent title-winning record as manager of AC Milan, Juventus, AS Roma and Real Madrid -- potentially setting up Capello for a fall if he fails to continue that streak with England.

Others speculated on which players are likely to find favour. Former England captain David Beckham, who played under Capello at Real Madrid, was widely tipped for a return, a game shy of his 100th cap.

Capello's imminent arrival also made it into the news pages, notably because of his contrasting off-field persona as a lover of fine art, philosophy and art-house films.

"Forget 4-4-2, lads -- let's talk

It's definitely going to be an emotional time for most of our guys. Lots of them in the team are from this part of the country," Jayawardene said.

Like many people around the world, Jayawardene remembers exactly where he was when news of the devastating tsunami began to filter through.

"We were playing in New Zealand when the tsunami struck and the first pictures we saw were that of Galle and we saw the ground under water."

"But we have moved forward as a nation and a team, we just need to concentrate on the cricket in hand."

At least four Sri Lankan cricketers were personally affected by the catastrophe.

Sanath Jayasuriya's mother was saved by clinging to the branches of a tree, three relatives of fast bowler Dilhara Fernando were drowned when their train to Galle was submerged, leg-spinner Upul Chandana's mother was rescued by a young man and Upul Tharanga's home was destroyed.

The record-breaking bowler Muttiah Muralidaran, who left Galle just before the tsunami struck, raised funds and distributed aid to the survivors as an ambassador for the UN World Food Programme.

The star, who surpassed retired Australian Shane Warne's world record tally of 708 wickets in the first Test in Kandy, also persuaded his spin rival to visit Galle and raise funds.

The stadium is a special place for both men. Muralidaran claimed his 400th wicket here and Warne took his 500th.

England vice-captain Paul Collingwood, who made his Test debut at the ground in 2003, hopes the Test will put smiles back on the faces of local fans.

"Emotional is a fitting word to use," said Collingwood. "The events that happened here three years ago means you have to put everything into perspective and give them a lot

outing with them, they beat us three-nil. We were looking to hopefully do the same and reverse that from last summer."

The Black Caps can retain the title with a win in the last game to square the series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second Chappell-Hadlee Trophy one-day international between New Zealand and Australia at the Sydney Cricket Oval on Sunday:

NEW ZEALAND	
Vincent c Ponting b Lee	0
McCullum c Hogg b Lee	5
Howe c Hayden b Bracken	4
Styris not out	12
Taylor not out	5
Extras: (nb-1, wd-3)	4
Total: (For 7 wickets in 60 overs)	30

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	3	0	12	2
Bracken	3	0	18	1

Result: Match abandoned.

Hurst, whose treble was the centrepiece of England's 1966 4-2 World Cup final win over West Germany at Wembley, the only time his country have won a major international tournament, said Capello's track record was impressive.

Capello has won nine national titles as a manager in both Italy and Spain with AC Milan, Roma, Juventus and Real Madrid.

He also guided Milan to the 1994 European Champions League trophy.

"You could not argue with his credentials as a manager, he has been very successful," Hurst told BBC Radio Five Live on Sunday.

"He seems to be quite a disciplinarian," Hurst also said of Capello, who has been appointed on a four-and-a-half-year contract, with his first task to make sure England qualify for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

"All the stars have to play for him and they have to earn their places."

"We had that in our time with the manager (Sir Alf Ramsey), the discipline with a group of super players. There was no individual star who felt they were bigger than anybody else."

"With Fabio Capello coming in, this maybe is the man we are looking for."

of credit for what they've done to the ground.

"It is going to be a very sad occasion in many ways but we have seen how the Sri Lankan people have reacted to such a disaster. They are trying to rebuild their lives and we will try to put some smiles back on their faces."

Controversy, however, threatens to mar Galle's moment of celebration.

The new pavilion housing the players' dressing rooms, media centre and VIP boxes may be demolished after the Test because any construction within 500 metres (a third of a mile) of the Dutch Fort is considered a violation of the country's antiquities ordinance.

Urban Development Minister Dinesh Gunawardena was quoted in media reports last week saying he had got "cabinet approval" to demolish the pavilion building once the Test was over.

India will fear

FROM PAGE 17
Hadlee series, could make the cut for the series against India if the selectors opt for an all-pace attack.

India take on Ricky Ponting's men in a four-Test series starting December 26 here and Akhtar felt the hosts will need to prepare quick and bouncy tracks to shake up the formidable batting line-up of the visiting side.

"If the Aussies make nice quick pitches, they will be jumping all over the place," he said.

Akhtar, who was rendered ineffective in the recently-concluded three-Test series against India due to ill-health and placid tracks, felt the game was loaded heavily in favour of the batsmen and called on the administrators to give a thought to the bowlers' plight.

"Cricket has become so boring. I don't like the regulations in the game. Too many rules. You can't bowl like the days of Bodyline," he said.

Jaffer knows

FROM PAGE 17
three hundreds and four fifties.

"Hopefully he'll turn it around in Australia. The opposition will be tougher and that will charge him a bit more."

On his first trip to Australia, Jaffer said he would call on the experience gained from the tour of South Africa, where he scored a century in the final Test in Cape Town in January.

"I have a fair idea of what to expect and their bowling attack. Until I get there, I don't want to think too much."

Hurst gives

FROM PAGE 20
McLaren, sacked last month after a home defeat against Croatia meant the side failed to qualify for Euro 2008.

Hurst, whose treble was the centrepiece of England's 1966 4-2 World Cup final win over West Germany at Wembley, the only time his country have won a major international tournament, said Capello's track record was impressive.

Capello has won nine national titles as a manager in both Italy and Spain with AC Milan, Roma, Juventus and Real Madrid.

He also guided Milan to the 1994 European Champions League trophy.

"You could not argue with his credentials as a manager, he has been very successful," Hurst told BBC Radio Five Live on Sunday.

"He seems to be quite a disciplinarian," Hurst also said of Capello, who has been appointed on a four-and-a-half-year contract, with his first task to make sure England qualify for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

"All the stars have to play for him and they have to earn their places."

"We had that in our time with the manager (Sir Alf Ramsey), the discipline with a group of super players. There was no individual star who felt they were bigger than anybody else."

"With Fabio Capello coming in, this maybe is the man we are looking for."

Leonine take solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Leonine Chess Club overtook Pritam Prijam as the First Division Chess League leaders after the sixth round yesterday.

Last year's runners-up Leonine, who lost their opening game against holders Birman, stretched their tally to 20 points after beating Pritam 2.5-1.5 at the Chess Federation hall room.

Indian International Master Sriram Jha was the lone Leonine player to win in this round when he beat Sohail Chowdhury but GM Neelotpal Das of India, local GM Niaz Murshed and FM Khondokar Aminul Islam all drew their boards against Rahul Sangma, Monir Hossain and Santu Mondal respectively.

Pritam, who were second in the 14-team table with 19.5 points, were closely followed by Destiny (18.5 points), Chittagong Mohammedan (18) and Birman (17.5).

In other sixth round games, Destiny beat Toyota Motors 3-1, Birman blanked 12 Soft Solution 4-0, Chittagong Mohammedan drubbed Faith 4-0, Sonali Bank edged Friends 2.5-1.5, Farashganj defeated Mohakkali 3-1 while Dhaka University split points with Sultana Kamal Smriti Pathagar.

Tevez sinks

FROM PAGE 20
the right, took the lead with the help of some uncharacteristically shoddy defending by their hosts.

With Liverpool's defence anticipating an inswinging delivery from Giggs, the Welshman instead drilled a low ball to Rooney, who was, inexplicably, completely unmarked on the edge of the area.

The England forward made the most of his freedom, unleashing a first-time shot was bound for the bottom corner to the right of Jose Reina before Tevez stuck out a boot to send the ball into the opposite corner of the net.

Liverpool's attempts to quickly get back on level terms after the restart were spearheaded by Gerrard, who thumped one drive into van der Sar's midriff before volleying Kewell's astute cross wide.

Kewell made way for Ryan Babel with 25 minutes left and the Dutch winger went close with a shot that flashed across van der Sar's goalmouth ten minutes later.

With United largely content to sit back and soak up the pressure, it was a counter-attack from the visitors that produced the best of the second-half chances.

With 13 minutes left and only Reina to beat, Rooney somehow managed to side-foot Ronaldo's curling low cross wide of the target.

Advantage

FROM PAGE 17
Nazimuddin made a 109-ball 52 that featured eight fours while Ehsanul Haque added 48 off 86 balls with seven boundaries, but the credit must go to Yasin Arafat who made an unbeaten 34 coming in at number nine.

BARISAL-DHAKA
New ball bowler Mahbubul Alam captured two wickets on the third morning to finish with figures of 3-47 as Dhaka secured a much-desired first-innings lead of 69 runs.

Resuming the day on 152 for seven, Barisal skidded out for 193. Dhaka made a poor start in their second innings by losing both openers -- Uttam Kumar and Anwar Hossain -- for 24 but Mehrab Hossain and Al-Shahriar swung away the fate by associating in a 120-run partnership for the third wicket.

Mehrab scored 35 off 145 deliveries that saw four boundaries while Al-Shahriar clobbered eight fours and a six during his 160-ball 92.

Mahmudulhaq Riyad was batting on 35 and Nadif Chowdhury on 15.

BRIEFSCORES

Chittagong: 198 and 301 all out in 98.3 overs (Salahuddin 49, Masum 28, Mahbubul 3, Nazimuddin 52, Farid 25, Ehsanul 48, Dhiman 39, Kamrul 2, Yasin 34*, Tareq 15, Younus 2; Saiful 2-56, Mahbub 2-44, Farhad 2-42, Shahjada 2-53).

Rajshahi: 118 and 115-1 in 24 overs (Halder 57*, Rabiul 4, Farhad 52*, Tareq 1-31).

Sylhet: 300 and 39-2 in 14 overs (Imtiaz 27*, Saif 3, Kuntal 8, Enamul 0); Aslam 1-15, Murad 1-3).

Khulna: First innings 421 all out in 130 overs (Sadat 47, Kayes 138, Mostafizur 43, Bashir 0, Nahidul 58, Sahagur 54, Farid 33, Ziaur 3, Murad 4*, Aslam 1, Rabiul 6; Enamul 5-126, Nabil 2-68, Kapali 2-37).

Dhaka: 262 and 205-4 in 67 overs (Uttam 10, Anwar 10, Mehrab 37, Al-Shahriar 92, Riyad 35*, Nadif 15*; Talha 1-25, Sajidul 1-32, Tariqul 2-81).

Barisal: First innings 193 all out in 82.5 overs (Nafees 48, Faruque 61, Imran 16, Raqibul 11, Raisal 3, Kamrul 0, Tariqul 6, Arafat 2, Shaheen 21, Sajidul 11, Talha 0; Mahbubul 3-47, Sharif 2-50, Mosharraf 1-26, Rafique 3-47, Riyad 1-14).

'Bigger than cricket'

BBC ONLINE, undated

Kevin Pietersen says England have a duty to ensure the final Test against Sri Lanka goes ahead on Tuesday despite concerns about the Galle ground.

Officials face a race against time to get the venue ready to host its first Test match since the ground was destroyed by the 2004 tsunami.

They are also battling to improve the pitch's condition following heavy rain.

"The wicket was under water three years ago and there's a bigger picture than cricket here," he told BBC Sport.

"What we have to do is realise that there was a huge disaster here three years ago.

"There are concerns over whether the wicket will be ready, there are concerns about the construction around the ground, but what we need to realise here is that there are bigger issues.

"We need to realise that we're out there to play a game, to hopefully bring cricket back to Galle and really enjoy the occasion because it will be a great occasion for the city."

Heavy rain left much of the playing area under water on Friday while there was thick mud on one of the boundaries.

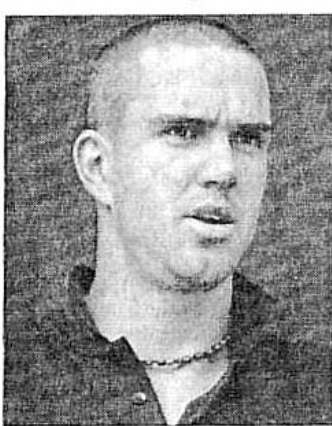
There was also no electricity or water inside the buildings but groundsmen Jayananda Warnaweera said: "It will be ready come what may."

The stadium had been due to host the first Test of the series but

that was changed because of delays in the reconstruction of the ground.

"It has been a long haul but for the people of Galle this is a celebration and we will make it happen," added Warnaweera.

BBC Sport cricket correspondent Jonathan Agnew said on



KEVIN PIETERSEN

Saturday: "It's a building site. People are working day and night here trying to get this sorted out and they'll be hard pressed; there isn't even a scoreboard on the ground at the moment."

"It's difficult to see where people are going to sit -- there's just areas of sand. The outfield is wet; it's very boggy -- there's been a lot of rain in these parts."

"The pitch is okay. It's green and grassy at the moment but I'm sure they'll take it off."

"This is a week for cricket to look

at the bigger picture and the terrible damage the tsunami did here three years ago and the scores of people who lost their lives, particularly those just behind the ground here.

"It will be a very poignant week and that's why people are absolutely desperate for this match to take place."

With a historic Dutch-built fort as its backdrop and views of the ocean, Galle has frequently been described as one of the most beautiful grounds in the world.

England need to win the match to draw the series after Sri Lanka won the first Test and drew the second.

"We're pretty much going to have to take the stance that whatever we have to play on, we'll go out there and play on it. It's as simple as that," said England batsman Paul Collingwood.

"It's obviously not finished at the moment but they are working very hard and progressing day by day so hopefully as the Test match comes around, it'll be playable out there and we can get on with it."

"It's a game we're all looking forward to. It's hard to believe the events that happened here three years ago."

"Driving down in the bus from Colombo, the further we got down, there was a real sickening feeling, seeing the destruction that was caused. That's why it's vital to put the smiles back on people's faces and get on with it."

Malik faces Khan

FROM PAGE 17

initially to send Shahid Afridi back after the ODIs, one Younis was unhappy