

Title goes to India



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Virat Kohli's India juniors won cricket's Under-19 World Cup with a 12-run victory over unlucky South Africa in a rain-hit final here on Sunday.

The South Africans, who bowled India out for a modest 159, were left chasing a tricky 116 in 25 overs after heavy thunderstorms forced the players off the Kinrara Oval for two hours.

The Proteas, already struggling at 17-3 before the rain break, finished with 103-8, with Reeza Hendricks making 35 and captain Wayne Parnell contributing a valiant 29.

Ajitesh Argal, Siddarth Kaul and Ravindra Jadeja picked up two wickets each to hand India their second title after winning the premier junior event for the first time in Sri Lanka in 2000.

The excellent drainage system at the ground ensured the game was not put off until Monday, the scheduled reserve day, and South Africa were left to chase 99 runs from the remaining 98 deliveries after the rain break.

Before the enforced break, seamer Argal had removed the in-form Pieter Malan and Rilee Rossouw while Jon Smuts ran himself out in a mix-up with his partner Hendricks.

Left-arm spinner Jadeja struck in the second over when Jonathan Vandiar edged a faster delivery to wicketkeeper Sreevats Goswami, reducing South Africa to 22-4.

Hendricks and Parnell put on 50 for the fifth wicket to revive the Proteas, but the fired-up Indians kept the runs in check by picking up wickets at regular intervals.

The victory ceremony was disrupted when about 500 fans rushed on to the ground after the match, and as soon as security men stepped in to clear the field, heavy rain hit the ground for a second time.

Earlier, the South African bowlers skittled India for 159, setting an ideal platform for the Proteas to win their first junior World Cup after finishing runners-up to Australia in 2002.

Skipper Parnell, who gave India its first strike, led the way with 21 from 7.4 overs of accurate left-arm seam bowling that helped terminate their rivals' innings in the 46th over.

Matthew Arnold, Roy Adams and Mohammad Vallie also took two wickets each as Tanmay

Sunrise end with win

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunrise KC finished third in the Senior Division Football League table when they defeated Dhaka Wanderers 3-2 on the concluding day of the 13-team competition's first leg yesterday.

Despite the defeat, wanderers booked a place in the six-team super league, which will start March 7. The relegation league with the bottom seven will also start on the same day.

Wanderers twice took lead through Aminul and Titu at the Bangabandhu National Stadium but Sunrise took their tally to 23 points with goals from Atiq, Mahfuz and Rubel.

In another match, Purbachal beat bottom-table Dipali 2-1 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Standings: Youngmen's (27 points), Victoria (25), Sunrise (23), Jatrabari (20), Badda (19), Wanderers (15), Agrani Bank (14), Arambagh (14), Wari (12), Purbachal (11), City (9), Mohakhali (9) and Dipali (4).

BOA election this month

SPORTS REPORTER

The long due election of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is expected to be held this month, informed BOA chief operating officer Col (ret'd) M Waliullah yesterday.

An election commission headed by the DG of BKSP has already been formed but no final date has been announced so far.

A total of 78 councillors will vote for the prime sports body of the country.

Div 1 cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gorstanpara Krita Sangstha defeated Saptarshi Sporting Club by three wickets in the Naheed Cotton First Division Cricket League at the local stadium here yesterday.

Batting first, Saptarshi managed only 91 runs in 31.1 overs. In reply, Gorstanpara scored 95 runs conceding seven wickets in 41.2 overs with Sibuscoring 25.

Chagot Krita Chakra and Cricket Coaching Centre will meet today.



Jubilant members of the Indian team pose with the trophy after beating South Africa in the ICC U-19 World Cup final in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Srivastava played a lone hand for the Indians with 46.

The South African bowlers, who won their team a place in the final by restricting defending champions Pakistan to 153 in the semi-final, grabbed Indian wickets cheaply.

Parnell provided the early breakthrough when opener Taruwar Kohli (one) miscued an attempted hook off the seamer and skied a catch to Malan at square-leg.

Goswami, the other opener, made six before edging Arnold to second slip to leave India on 27-2 in the 10th over.

Left-handed Srivastava and skipper Virat Kohli carried the total to 74-2 by the 23rd over when both batsmen fell to catches by Sybrand Engelbrecht in the point region.

Virat Kohli had made 19 when he slashed at a ball from Malan, Engelbrecht leaping to produce an outstanding catch.

The fielder then took a similar catch off Adams to remove the

dangerous Srivastava, who hit four boundaries and a six in his fluent innings.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the ICC U-19 World Cup final match between India and South Africa at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday:

Table with columns: INDIA, Kohli c Malan b Parnell 1, Goswami c Hendricks b Arnold 6, Srivastava c Engelbrecht b Adams 46, Kohli c Engelbrecht b Malan 19, Arnold not out 1, Extras: (lb-2, w-10) 12, Total: (All out in 45.4 overs) 159, Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-27, 3-74, 4-83, 5-120, 6-122, 7-137, 8-150, 9-158, 10-159.

Table with columns: South Africa, Adams 8 0 38 2, Vallie 9 0 33 2, Engelbrecht 2 0 12 0

SOUTH AFRICA

Table with columns: Malan c Goswami b Argal 2, Smuts run out 5, Rossouw c Jadeja b Argal 0, Hendricks c Goswami b Jadeja 35, Vandiar c Goswami b Jadeja 3, Parnell c Pandey b Kaul 29, Adams lbw Abdullah 1, Barnes b Kaul 19, Arnold not out 1, Extras: (lb-5, w-3) 8, Total: (For eight wks in 25 overs) 103, Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-6, 3-11, 4-22, 5-72, 6-75, 7-102, 8-103.

Result: India won by 12 runs (Duckworth-Lewis method -- South Africa's target revised to 116 in 25 overs due to rain)

Man-of-the-match: Ajitesh Argal. Toss: South Africa

'We bounced them out'

FROM PAGE 17 more experience he is going to be a killer. He is going to be a great weapon for South Africa cricket."

"We have the cricketers who know that to be at this stage you have to adjust all the time. Sometimes you pick up the ball; and you get a wicket. There is a time you have to grind, you have to focus on one thing and that is doing the right thing. As a cricketer, especially as a bowler there is a time when you are not going to get a wicket. You can bowl brilliantly, but the wicket won't be coming your way," he said when asked what was the secret behind the fast bowlers success in this kind of batting surface.

"You have to dig deep. You can't say that the wicket didn't do anything. You have to be ready and bowl in the right area. We are looking forward in the morning tomorrow then can see what happen," he added.

Nafees however had his own explanation behind the dismissals as he said that the height of the deliveries was a major factor.

"I think the height was a factor because we didn't get what we expected that's why we had to receive the ball in our body quite a number of times," he explained adding that it could not be a good feeling for any batsman to bat twice in a day, as he did yesterday.

"But I must give credit to the South African fast bowlers as they bowled brilliantly in these conditions. Almost all their fast bowlers were quick," he added.

Ntini however was excited with the fact that he could cross Alan Donald in the sub-continent wicket.

"It was one of those big moments I was waiting for. You can't feel anything better if you bowl like this in the subcontinent and go past a legend (Donald), it's amazing. I played with Allan Donald. I watched him in television first and when I started playing he was already an icon. We were calling him White Lightning," Ntini, also became the first coloured player to achieve the mark.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: South Africa, Irfan Pathan c De Villiers b Steyn 14, Zunaed c Boucher b Steyn 18, Nafees c Smith b Steyn 69, Ashraf c Boucher b Steyn 0, Morkel 4 1 17 0, Peterson 6 3 13 0, Kallis 6 1 15 1, Note: Aftab Ahmed retired hurt and did not come to bat again.

Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-49, 3-49, 4-118, 5-176, 6-232, 7-241, 8-246, 9-259.

Bowler O M R W Steyn 22 8 36 4 Ntini 13.4 3 65 4 Morkel 13 0 71 0 Peterson 16 2 61 1 Kallis 6 1 15 0

Note: Aftab Ahmed retired hurt and did not come to bat again

Result: India won by 12 runs (Duckworth-Lewis method -- South Africa's target revised to 116 in 25 overs due to rain)

Man-of-the-match: Ajitesh Argal. Toss: South Africa

Ton-up Tendulkar takes India

FROM PAGE 17 We probably bowled as badly tonight as we have bowled through the series."

The match was in the balance when India were 87 for three after Yuvraj Singh again fell cheaply.

However, Tendulkar and Sharma put on 123 to take the game away from the Australians, who were beaten in last year's tri-series finals by England.

Tendulkar brought up his hundred with an easy single off James Hopes, having faced only 106 deliveries and hit eight boundaries.

Sharma fell the very next ball, bowled by Hopes (2-42) for a fine 66 from 87 balls, but it was academic, with captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Tendulkar guiding their side home.

Earlier, Hayden made 82 from 88 balls, but Harbhajan had the last laugh in his bitter rivalry with the Australian opener, claiming the wicket of the opener as one of two crucial scalps that turned the match India's way.

The Australians were again in early trouble after winning the toss and electing to bat, slumping to 24 for three, but Hayden led their fightback and Mike Hussey chipped in with 45.

Hayden struck a number of powerful boundaries, including six

in Irfan Pathan's wayward first two overs, as he raced to his half-century in just 43 balls despite the loss of wickets at the other end.

He and Symonds (31) revived the Australian innings by putting on 100, but both were caught near the boundary from the bowling of Harbhajan in quick succession.

Harbhajan had been struggling to get his line and pace right before the Symonds dismissal, but his confidence surged once he had a wicket and the rest of his spell was impressive as he finished with 2-38.

The second final is on Tuesday in Brisbane.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Australia, Gilchrist c Yuvraj b Kumar 7, Hayden c Chawla b Harbhajan 82, Ponting b Kumar 1, Clarke c Dhoni b I Sharma 4, Symonds c Kumar b Harbhajan 31, Hussey run out 45, Hopes c Dhoni b Yuvraj 15, Hogg not out 23, Lee c R Sharma b Pathan 17, Johnson not out 6, Extras: (lb-1, w-7) 8, Total: (For eight wks in 50 overs) 239, Did not bat: Bracken, Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-19, 3-24, 4-124, 5-135, 6-173, 7-212, 8-231.

Table with columns: India, Kumar 10 1 49 2, I Sharma 8 0 32 1, Pathan 7 0 63 1, Harbhajan 10 0 38 2, Chawla 10 0 33 0, Yuvraj 4 0 18 1, R Sharma 1 0 5 0

INDIA, Uthappa c Hussey b Hopes 17, Tendulkar not out 117, Gambhir run out 3, Yuvraj b Hogg 10, R Sharma b Hopes 66, Dhoni not out 15, Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-6, nb-2) 14, Total: (For four wks in 45.5 overs) 242, Did not bat: Kumar, Pathan, Harbhajan, I Sharma, Chawla, Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-56, 3-87, 4-210.

Bowler O M R W Lee 9 0 33 0 Bracken 8 0 42 0 Johnson 10 0 70 0 Hopes 8.5 0 42 2 Hogg 7 0 38 1 Clarke 3 0 11 0

Result: India won by six wickets. Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar. Toss: Australia. Umpires: Daryl Harper (AUS), Rudi Koertzen (RSA)

TV umpire: Bruce Oxenford (AUS) Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Cox's Bazar became the last qualifier for the 4th JFA Cup Under-15 Football Championship final rounds when they defeated Chittagong 6-5 in the tiebreakers yesterday.

The regulation time of the zonal final at the Cox's Bazar Stadium ended in a goalless draw.

On conclusion of the preliminary stages, Cox's Bazar join qualifiers Dinajpur, Narayanganj, Moulvibazar, BKSP, Khulna, Bhola, Kushtia and Cox's Bazar, hosts Rajshahi and defending champions Dhaka in the finals to be played in Rajshahi this month.

ARMANITOLA CHAMPIONS

Armanitola Government High School lifted the Dhaka Bank Shaheed Smriti school hockey title defeating Ahmed Bawani Academy 4-3 in the tiebreakers at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium. The match ended 1-1 in regulation time.

Mirpur Academy trounced Narayanganj High School 6-0 to clinch the third place.

Bangladesh Hockey Federation president and Air Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman distributed prizes after the final as chief guest.

RANI'S SOLO LEAD

IWM Rani Hamid took solo lead in the National Women's Chess Championship when the defending champion defeated Nazrana Khan Eva in the ninth round.

Rani has eight points and she is closely followed by WFM Shamima Akhter Liza, who has 7.5 points.

NAT'L BOXING

The Southeast Bank 24th National Senior Boxing Championship concluded with Bangladesh Army bagging eight gold, one silver and one bronze. Bangladesh Ansar won two gold and the remaining gold went to Bangladesh Rifles.

A total of 22 teams competed in 11 events of the three-day meet at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium.

UNB adds:

DIVICRICKET

CCS (88-1) earned an emphatic nine-wicket win over Uttara SC (87) in the First Division Cricket League at the City Club ground.

In other matches, Gazi Tank (171-4) notched a 6-wicket victory over Sadharan Bima (169) at the Jahangirnagar University ground and Jatrabari (224-5) beat Badda Ekata SS (222) by five wickets at the Dhaka University ground.

ATHLETICS

An 8-member Bangladesh athletics team will leave for India tomorrow to take part in the South Asian Athletics Championships to be held in Cochin from March 7-8.

The team: Shamsuddin, Selim Miah, Azharul Islam, Sajib Hossain, Nazmun Nahar Beauty, Asadul Islam and Afzal Hossain (athletes), Nazrul Islam Rumi (manager/coach).

HANDBALL

Jessore beat Madaripur 19-16 in one of the opening matches of Zone C in the EXIM Bank 18th National Handball Championship (men's) at the Jessore Stadium.

In the day's other matches, Faridpur beat Bagerhat 22-7, Madaripur defeated Khulna 21-18 and Patuakhali outplayed Khulna 14-10.

'Mumbai is Sachin's team'

PTI, Mumbai

The Reliance Industries-owned Mumbai franchisee had gone to last month's Indian Premier League (IPL) players auction armed with a strategy and wish-list outlined by master batsman Sachin Tendulkar and executed them to a large extent, according to the chief representative of the franchisee.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, the president and chief marketing officer of Reliance Retail Limited, R Balachandran said he would give a figure of 8 on a 1-10 scale about the outcome of the February 20 auction in which they trained their focus on roping in match-winning players.

"We went into the auction with a fairly clear idea of what we wanted. He (Tendulkar) thinks cricket from many angles and thinks continuously. We had a lot of dialogue. He had a wish-list and there was a strategy behind the players that we went out to pick and the players we got. We executed that strategy."

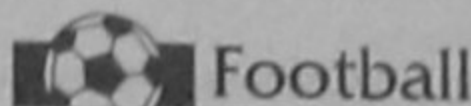
"He sought specific players. If you look at the players you will see we have selected people who by themselves are match-winners. That's a very important aspect."

"Yes, we came out of a happy lot. If you put it in a scale of 1-10, I would say it probably would be around 8," said Balachandran, who headed the Mumbai franchisee team at the auction held here.

"I believe it's not just possession but a question of choosing match winners. This is what is behind a good amount of our strategy. I know Sachin's mind has worked on all this a lot," he elaborated.

Sultan to work till polls

Apologises to media



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan wished to be active again and complete the election of the federation by the April 30 deadline. But he was unsure which way things would precede in the next two months.

"We have had enough complications so far (about the election) and if there is no further obstacles, it is possible to hold the polls by April," Sultan said at a press briefing at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Sultan, who said on December 30 he would not continue as president of the federation for personal reasons after his resignation was rejected by the FIFA, told he has decided to do his duties till the election.

The BFF chief, however, opened his lone briefing -- he had no BFF colleagues to accompany him -- apologising to the sports journalist community for his harsh remarks made on the media on December 12, 2007 in a letter to the chairman of National Sports Council and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed.

"The media cannot be controlled without 'exchange' and we haven't indulged in this," Sultan had commented in the written statement last year adding: "The politically motivated media and a certain government official have launched a propaganda blitz against us (BFF)."

Admitting it as an unforced error, Sultan told the press that as a member of a journalistic family, he regretted his remarks.

"To err is human and I am no

exception. I feel that I hurt the whole media and I had done it without realising then. I hope the community will see this with forgiveness."

He did not linger on the matter for very long and concentrated on what could be the future of Bangladesh football.

Sultan informed that he will lead the four-member delegation, which met AFC president Mohammad Bin Hammam last month, to Kuala Lumpur this week for another meeting.



SA SULTAN

"The AFC has invited us for another meeting with Hammam on March 7 and it has instructed us not to set a date for an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) before that."

He hoped this meeting would give a solution to make a way to remove the barriers around the election.

"In the last meeting, the AFC clarified that the district football associations (DFA) can't be members of the BFF but the divisions can. In fact, we had emphasised the

involvement of the districts on FIFA and AFC instructions. I think there is a gap between the thoughts of BFF and FIFA and the AFC," he opined.

When reminded that with only three divisional football associations being formed before the BFF set deadline, half the districts would not be able to be represented at the BFF, he said that it would be one of the things they would discuss.

"I have no idea what they (FIFA, AFC) are thinking, so it is difficult to predict what solution they will give us this time. If there is a new directive, we will face a tight schedule to complete the election in time."

Sultan said he had no wish to participate in the election and it was also what his family wants.

"I confess that I have failed to float a sinking federation. Money was a problem and we got just Tk 70 lakh from the National Sports Council in five years instead of Tk 3 crore. Before I go, I will draw a plan to build a total football academy where kids would be groomed properly. There is alternative but to go the roots to save football."

"It needs government support and I believe if we get a piece of land, which is almost at hand, with the help of the AFC's third 'Goal Project', we can build an academy where eight-year-old boys would be made footballers. But we have to give them education and incentive from the start so their families send them to play football."

"It will also need a regular fund to run this project. The government must find a way to solve this financial crisis. It would not do miracle though but in 10-15 years, we would be able to make football a golden product so sponsors find interest in the game."

Victoria, Biman cruise

FROM PAGE 17

third wicket while Alok Kapali blasted 23 off just 11 balls to take the game beyond Partex, who scored 234-9 in 50 overs with Tareq Ahmed making a run-a-ball 66.

Mosharraf was also instrumental with his left-arm spin, grabbing the man-of-the-match award for a spell of 10-2-48-4.

Victoria survived early scares to amass 275 for nine after being put into bat, thanks to Farhad and Ehsanul's 111-run partnership after being reduced to 50-3.

Man-of-the-match Farhad hammered half a dozen fours in his 74 off 109 balls while Ehsanul added 59 from 75 balls before tail scored steadily.

Kalabagan, despite a bright start, were bundled out for 186.

After losing their first wicket on 59, the chase further stumbled when Kalabagan lost three wickets in the space of 14 runs to reel at 98-4. From then on, it was a one-way traffic as Ehsanul and Pakistani spinner Jaffer Qureshi shared six wickets evenly between them.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PEGASUS: 217-6 in 50 overs (Anisur 61, Jamil 35, Sabbir 44, Ashraful 32, Rashedur 2-37)

OLD DOHS: 209 all out in 49.5 overs (Anisur 61, Hamdul 44, Shaiful 25, extras 21, Muktar 4-35)

Result: Pegasus win by 8 runs.

BIMAN: 260-8 in 50 overs (Javed 29, Mosharraf 86, Asif 65, Kapali 23, extras 18, Rezaul 3-28, Tariqul 3-60)

PARTEX: 234-9 in 50 overs (Shahin 28, Tareq 67, Raisul 29, Ariful 30, extras 6, Alamgir 2-22, Mosharraf 4-

48, Kapali 2-37).

Result: Biman win by 26 runs. Victoria: 275-9 in 50 overs (Enamul Jr 24, Farhad 74, Ehsanul 59, Kureshi 20, Dhiman 20, extras 12, Aslam 2-61, Rabiul 2-65, Sadat 4-57).

Kalabagan: 186 all out in 47.3 overs (Arif 30, Hannan 27, Shabbaz 26, Rasel 20, extras 14, Kureshi 3-28, Ehsanul 3-12).

Result: Victoria win by 89 runs.

Food tastes

FROM PAGE 17

the food supplier," said Ahmed. The Deputy Commissioner of CMP (north) Mostafa Kamal, while confirming Saturday's food poisoning incident, said that there might have been something stale or substandard substances in the meal supplied by the coppers.

"Fortunately, the supply escaped severe consequences," he said.

Risky ladder

FROM PAGE 17

"This grotesque but discriminatory arrangement for a section of sports reporters and journalists is unbelievable in an international Test venue," commented Tama Chowdhury, 60-year-old veteran sports journalist of the port city.

He said the arrangement is not only insulting for us but also very risky especially for veterans.

"Although the ladder was meant for the uses of staffs and employees, the local journalists are using it frequently because they feel it more convenient than to go for the long stride through the normal stairs," said Ali Abbas, eminent sports organiser and BCB's media coordinator for the second Test in Chittagong, told The Daily Star.

Admitting the probable risk the ladder poses, Abbas said they had a plan to build a normal stair on the second floor of the media centre to have a direct and hassle-free link with the rooftop in near future.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 25 mins.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP

OGSEB JRV