

Uttar Baridhara Div II champs

SPORTS REPORTER

With a 3-1 win over Sadharan Bima yesterday, Uttar Baridhara Club became unbeaten champions in the Second Division Football League.

The win gave them promotion to the First Division alongside Motijheel T&T Club. Shapla, Mahub and Dulal scored a goal each for the Baridhara side well before Zafar netted the consolation goal for Bima at the Kamalapur Stadium.

With the day's win, Uttar Baridhara clinched the top slot comfortably securing 42 points while the Motijheel club finished distant runners-up with 36 points, both having completed sixteen matches.

In the day's other match, East End Club defeated Dhanmendi Club by the same margin.



Participants line up before the start of the golf tournament, a part of the UCB-Dhaka Sporting Carnival, at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. Fifty golfers involving 13 clubs from home and abroad took part in the meet.

Hussey the rock

Cricket

CRICINFO, Adelaide

Michael Hussey is probably the world's most organised cricketer and in an Australia team so unsettled that they haven't picked the same XI in consecutive Tests for 11 matches, his reliability is invaluable. Hussey has become so good at stabilising potentially worrying situations that he could get a job straightening the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Australia's circumstances here were far from dire, although when he came to the crease at 2 for 49 on a pitch where scores of 500-plus are commonplace, solidity was required. Ricky Ponting currently features in a television ad where he calls his bat "the rock of Gibraltar" but in most situations the term would be more appropriate for Hussey. His calmness and dependability allowed Ponting to lead Australia in strengthening their position with a terrifically fluent half-century.

When their hundred partnership came up, Hussey's contribution had been 27. Ponting was drawing applause for his frequent boundaries while Hussey was disciplined but no less important. It is a role that has become Hussey's niche in the past year. When he burst onto the Test scene with a Bradmanesque first couple of seasons he was coming in after Matthew Hayden and Justin Langer, arguably the most in-form opening pair in the world, and Ponting at the height of his powers.

Langer has gone, Hayden is struggling and Ponting is still a menace to opponents but with bigger gaps between peaks. The batting line-up remains relatively strong -- 3 for 241 is an excellent position at stumps on day two in Adelaide

replying to 270 -- but it is less intimidating than it was. As a result, Hussey's role has been tweaked: he is the No. 4, the anchor and usually the trickiest man to get out. A self-described traditionalist, Hussey is a throwback to Test batsmen of old and he stubbornly protected his wicket on a benign Adelaide surface where the likes of Bradman and Clem Hill played much of their cricket.

"It's still not easy you know," Hussey said after finishing the day unbeaten on 69 from 178 balls. "Test cricket's hard. You have to do a lot of hard work to reap the rewards at the end of the day. I think we've just got to get back into that mode of being patient, working hard over long periods."

If Australia lose Hayden over the next year an in-form and confident Hussey will become even more important. In Hussey's short Test career he has constructed more purple patches than Barney the Dinosaur's tail, so it's tempting to view his 2008 average of 46.78 as below par. But that is an unfair assessment and although Hussey felt scratchy earlier this year, he is sure that his best form is not far away.

"I felt pretty good in India to be honest," Hussey said. "But I've felt like since being back in Australia I've had to work very hard for my runs again. I have been working on a couple of technical things since the start of the season, since we were up in Darwin and I've continued to work on those. It feels pretty good."

Hussey has so many plans and set thought processes in his head it's a wonder it doesn't explode. He is an obsessive list-maker and is constantly thinking through the way he should construct an innings. When he batted with the brilliant Ponting, he knew his task was simply to turn over the strike and watch the boundaries tick over at the other end. But when

Ponting pulled to midwicket, Hussey's role changed. At the time he had 28 from 105 deliveries; his tally from that moment onwards was 41 from 73.

"I felt more comfortable after tea because I had been in for a while and I was sort of used to the conditions a lot more," he said. "I felt I was trying to get some scoring options against (Daniel) Vettori. But you do feel probably a little bit of added pressure when the man that's set gets out, you feel like right now it's my responsibility to go on and bat throughout the day and try and build a big score."

Hussey would be a good poker player. He is an excellent judge of situations and doesn't gamble with what he can't afford to lose. He is a frustrating man to deal to because whatever he is handed he can make work to his advantage and most importantly, he plays the percentages to a fault.

He is no cross-bat slogger but at the Adelaide Oval, where the square boundaries are so short that fans on opposite sides can wave hello to each other, Hussey slowly started to use the venue's dimensions for his own purpose. His eight boundaries all went more or less square of the wicket and he was able to sweep against Vettori, whose 28 miserly overs cost 54, and clubbed him over midwicket to reach his half-century.

The fans cheered, although they had more reason to roar for Ponting earlier in the day. Ponting's 79 from 124 balls featured 13 fours and it is the innings that the spectators on this Saturday at Adelaide Oval will remember. But for a team that will in the next year face one of the world's best pace attacks in home-and-away Tests against South Africa and then proceed to England, where they lost the Ashes in 2005, Hussey's consistent contributions might get the attention they deserve.

Windies hire rugby coach

CRICINFO, undated

West Indies have appointed Steve Folkes, a former Australian rugby league player and coach, as their strength and conditioning coach ahead of the series in New Zealand.

Folkes joined the team in Christchurch and coordinated the fitness and net session on Friday. The players will have a similar session on Saturday before they head to Auckland for a three-day warm-up.

Folkes said he wanted to push West Indies up the rankings and bring in a winning attitude along with positive drive. "I can remember going to the cricket ground in Australia and watching Sir Garry Sobers, Wes Hall, Rohan Kanhai, Roy Fredericks and other great West Indies players," Folkes said. "Naturally I got autographs from them all, so I understand that West Indies have a very proud and successful heritage. I will do my part to have a positive environment, good team atmosphere and good team culture."

Folkes said though there was a significant difference between training for rugby league and cricket, the players had welcomed his ideas. "My background is in strength and conditioning and then I went to coaching. The sports are different and the needs are different so I just need to adjust. I will learn by watching and I have spoken to (head coach) John Dyson and sought his advice."

West Indies are scheduled to play two Tests, two Twenty20s and five ODIs against New Zealand between December and January.

Under-17s post

FROM PAGE 17
out of their dismal score of 75. Mohammad Sentu and Asif Hossain took three wickets each for the visitors.

In the second, it was the same old story of poor batting for the hosts who collapsed to 120 all out. Apart from Sumit's 42-run, Dewan Sabbir took two wickets for just eight runs.

More progress needed

FROM PAGE 17
criticised the approach of the visitors in the match.

Then it had the mission to prove their worth in the five-day game but there were no answers for the Tigers mainly because of the poor batting. In the record books they might have lost the first game on the fourth day but they actually lost both the games inside three days as rain delayed the South African win in the first Test.

The scores of 153, 159, 250 and 131 hardly reflected any team's capability in Test cricket and as a result the new look Bangladesh side

experienced the same fate their predecessors had in 2002 under the leadership of Khaled Mashud.

Despite all the gloomy features one can't fully blame this team because it's first trip for all the players and in true sense it's an inexperienced side following the exodus of the national players who joined the rebel Indian Cricket League to receive a ten-year ban.

One can understand the reality when a coach himself declared publicly that some of his players are not ready to play in this level but he is

helpless with the lack of quality players in the pipeline. And that was the reason he is seeking two more years to get the result from his young charges.

Another thing that was mostly discussed during the series was that the facilities should be improved at home if we want to survive against this kind of quality bowling attacks in different conditions. Each and everybody in the team echoed the sentiment.

So without any doubt challenge lies both off and on the field for Bangladesh.

Kiwis hang on

FROM PAGE 17
of strong pulls from Vettori to bring up his half-century from 146 balls. Even during Hussey's struggles there was no concern and he achieved his aim of reaching stumps. He will hope for more freedom on the third day and will start with Michael Clarke, who eased to 43, for company.

Matthew Hayden started the innings in an intimidating manner in his 100th Test, but his hopes of a long stay were upset when he was run-out for 24 in a mix-up with Simon Katich. After struggling for consistency since returning from a heel injury in India, Hayden was untroubled until he pushed Vettori to mid-on, called for a single and turned around too late when Katich wasn't interested.

It was Hayden's second run-out in the past three Tests. Katich quickly joined his partner when squiring a bat-patch to Jesse Ryder off Vettori, who found a bit of rough, and departed with 23.

New Zealand, who started the second morning at 6 for 262, added only eight runs and lasted another 8.3 overs, with

Brett Lee picking up four wickets. Any hope of a long partnership between McCullum and Vettori was ended in the third over when McCullum pushed away from his body on 30 and edged to Brad Haddin, who took a smart catch low to the ground.

Johnson's bouncer forced Tim Southee (2) into a fend to Katich at leg gully before Lee added his second and third wickets of the morning. Lee's figures of 4 for 66 were his best since May and it was a timely haul following his struggles in India. Johnson finished with 2 for 56 from 25 overs to follow Nathan Hauritz's two wickets on the opening day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between Australia and New Zealand at Adelaide Oval on Saturday:
NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 262 for 6)
Redmond c Symonds b Hauritz 83
Howe c Haddin b Johnson 16
Ryder c Clarke b Hauritz 13
Taylor lbw b Clark 44
Fulton c Katich b Symonds 29
Flynn b Lee 11

McCullum c Haddin b Lee 30
Vettori not out 18
Southee c Katich b Johnson 2
O'Brien c Haddin b Lee 0
Martin b Lee 0
Extras: (b-5, lb-7, w-1, nb-11) 24

Total: (All out in 98.3 overs) 270
Fall of wickets: 1-46, 2-101, 3-130, 4-194, 5-200, 6-228, 7-266, 8-269, 9-270, 10-270.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	25.3	8	66	4
Clark	20	6	56	1
Johnson	25	5	56	2
Hauritz	16	2	63	2
Symonds	12	2	17	1

AUSTRALIA: First innings
Hayden run out 24
Katich c Ryder b Vettori 23
Ponting c Fulton b O'Brien 79
Hussey not out 43
Clarke not out 43
Extras: (lb-3) 3

Total: (For 3 wks in 79 overs) 241

To bat: Symonds, Haddin, Clark, Lee, Johnson, Hauritz.
Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-49, 3-155.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Martin	13	3	50	0
Southee	18	1	62	0
Vettori	28	12	54	1
O'Brien	16	3	63	1
Ryder	4	1	9	0

SPORTS CARNIVAL '08

Kolkata win cricket title

SPORTS REPORTER

Calcutta Cricket & Football Club clinched the six-a-side cricket tournament of the Dhaka Sports Carnival at the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

They defeated Uttara Club by four wickets, chasing down 58 runs in the final of the competition. CC&FC scored 61-1 to post a comfortable victory.

In the semifinal, they defeated Khulna Club by nine runs.

Taekwon-do

team off to

Kathmandu

SPORTS REPORTER

A seven-member Bangladesh team will take part in the first-ever South Asian Taekwon-do Championship in Kathmandu from December 1.

Noor Islam Munna, Anwar Hossain, Ershad Ali, MS Sikder, Zakir Uddin and Rina Akhtar will participate in the seven weight groups.

President of Bangladesh Taekwon-do Federation Mohammad Solaiman Sikder will accompany the team as coach and manager while Mohammad Taher Ali will assist Solaiman Sikder.

The competition ends on December 3.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE T20

Teams count cost of delay

CRICINFO, undated

Cricket Australia has lost "millions of dollars" from the postponement of the Champions League Twenty20 and the teams involved in the tournament are also worried about what they have missed out on as a result of the Mumbai terrorist attacks. Victoria and Western Australia are not guaranteed of taking part in the next event, which offers 2 million dollars to the winner, unless they reach the final of the local competition again in January.

Victoria, who have won the trophy three years in a row, have the right to be most upset at the implications of the delay and may look to the governing body of the Champions League for compensation. "Certainly we have incurred some costs with respect to the competition this time around," Tony Dodemaide, Cricket Victoria's chief executive, told News Limited papers. "Obviously we are right on the verge of going over and had put everything in place. It's also fair to say having confirmed the Champions League and expectations of revenue, we adjusted the alterations accordingly."

MU look

FROM PAGE 17
Hughes is likely to recall Robinho, Elano and Pablo Zabaleta after they missed the 2-0 UEFA Cup win in Schalke on Thursday.

Having beaten Arsenal 3-0 in their last Premier League game before recording the win in Germany, midfielder Vincent Kompany believes City are in great shape as they head into the derby.

"The two wins were very important," he said. "In the last two games we did not have as much possession as we usually have - but we got rewarded because we were organised, concentrated and played like a very experienced team."

Hughes also believes that this week has been an opportunity for City, who have lacked consistency this season, to show what they are capable of.

Modi fears isolation

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Lalit Modi, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) vice-president, has said India could go Pakistan's way in losing out on international series if terrorist attacks continue. In 2008 India has witnessed blasts in Jaipur (during the Indian Premier League), Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Guwahati (during Australia's tour), and now Wednesday's terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

"It [India's chances of holding international cricket] is something we need to think about seriously because becoming sidelined like Pakistan due to security threats is something that is logical," Modi told the Times of India. "We have to ensure that the security measures we take are the best. As I said, we shouldn't allow such attacks

to disrupt our determination."

Modi, who is also the Champions League chairman, felt the terrorist attacks should not discourage India. "At the end of the day we have a problem and it is of a magnitude never seen before. To deal with it, the government and the Indian Army are working together. On the other hand, we cannot allow anybody to deter us," he said. "The safety of players is paramount and keeping that in mind, the England team left. In the past we have had a blast in Jaipur during the IPL but cricket continued. That's because the security forces understood the situation and gave us the go-ahead."

The BCCI has shifted the second Test between India and England to Chennai, following the Mumbai strikes, with Modi firm the series would go ahead. "In a conversation with our board secretary they (the England and Wales Cricket Board) dis-

cussed the issue and themselves said they would like to come back. Again, the memories of the Taj Mahal Hotel for an English cricketer can make them sentimental but let's keep sentimental issues aside here," he said.

"In fact, we spoke about rescheduling the remaining two one-dayers because now the Champions League has been postponed. Their only request was to move the Test match out of Mumbai. We said we would examine that and as chairman of tournament and fixtures committee, I was given the task of looking at another venue. They asked us if it could be somewhere down south. Looking into the interest of the ECB, keeping in mind what is logistically possible, we moved the game to Chennai."

However, Kevin Pietersen, England's captain, refused to place pressure on any player who wants to opt out of the series.

'Trust our top-order'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Adelaide

The Test has started to slip away from New Zealand but Brendon McCullum hopes that at least their inexperienced line-up has learnt from the series so far. Things started to go wrong when New Zealand added only eight runs on Saturday morning for the loss of their last four wickets and a score of 270 was insufficient at a venue where first-innings totals are often double that.

McCullum's own batting effort was uncharacteristically restrained -- he said his approach had changed since moving back down to No. 7 -- and he was the first to depart when he edged behind off Brett Lee for 30 off 101 deliveries. The finish came quickly and Daniel Vettori was stranded on 18.

"Whilst we haven't got the sort of strength at the bottom of the order to lose 4 for 8 at any stage on a flat wicket is very disappointing," McCullum said. "I was disappointed myself to get out so early at the start of the day. It was a missed opportunity that Dan and I could have got some sort of momentum early on."

The final three batsmen added a sum total of 2 and the long tail is beginning to be an issue for New Zealand. It would be less of a problem if the top order was posting big scores but after only Ross Taylor registered a half-century at the Gabba, Aaron Redmond was the only man to

do so in Adelaide. But McCullum said it was important not to expect too much from men like Jesse Ryder, Daniel Flynn, Peter Fulton and Redmond, all of whom have played fewer than ten Tests.

"The guys in our top six, if we can continue with guys for a period of time and get 10, 20, 30 Tests into our top order then it gives us our best opportunity," McCullum said. "These guys are the best players in the country, there's no doubting that, and with experience hopefully you'll be able to see some better results from all of us."

"You're trying to look at guys like Ricky Ponting, Sachin Tendulkar and Michael Hussey. At some point in their careers they had to start off as well. That's the one bit of confidence that hopefully we're trying to glean from a series like this."

They were given a demonstration in Test batting by Hussey, who was the silent partner in his 106-run stand with Ponting. Hussey gradually increased his tempo and finished the day unbeaten on 69 from 178 deliveries.

"I thought the way he played was pretty much the perfect innings," McCullum said of Hussey. "It was something we can take a lot of knowledge out of and hopefully add a bit of experience to our inexperienced line-up."

Hussey said he found the innings tough work but rarely he was seriously troubled on a pitch whose bite was as dangerous as that of a Chihuahua. Seam and swing bowling is usually a thankless task at

Adelaide so Vettori became the main weapon and Australia handled him well; his 28 overs for 54 were cost-effective but he could only squeeze out one wicket.

"Dan bowled really well, he's a class bowler," McCullum said. "He's been our best bowler for a long time now. It would be nice if he was able to bowl from well in front in the game rather than constantly having to mix between the defensive tack just to make sure that we limit the damage."

The only breakthrough that came from the seamers occurred when Ponting pulled Iain O'Brien to midwicket and was well snared by Peter Fulton. Ponting exchanged words with the New Zealanders but McCullum said it was simply a matter of being happy to see the end of a hugely dangerous innings.

"I didn't really hear too much," he said. "I was a bit further away from the back at that point. But I guess the excitement from our lads at getting such a class player out as well -- three wickets throughout the whole day for us -- it's one of the few times you could savour."

Australia finished the day at 3 for 241 and while McCullum conceded New Zealand were "behind the eight-ball", he hoped their spirits would remain high. "You've always got to be positive," he said. "Whilst we're a long way behind in the game at the moment you've still got to have that confidence and positiveness within your unit or you might as well not even roll up."

Doping culture in Milan

Football

AFP, Rome

A former AC Milan player has admitted he and other players in the Italian club were "victims" of doping in the 1960s and 70s.

Carlo Petrini, now 60, says he and others were "victims" of a culture of doping at the Italian club, who won the first of their seven European Cup/Champions League titles in 1963.

"As well as being given medicine, I was also a victim of doping. I say victim, because to me that's what I am," Petrini, who notably also played for Genoa, Torino and Roma, told the Sky Sport 24 on

Friday. "The first time, the doctor, masseur and coach came into the dressing room. The doctor had a vial in his hands which looked like a bottle of Orangina with a soft stopper."

"At that time disposable syringes didn't exist so big glass syringes that were boiled up along with the needles were used. That day, the needle went into the vial five times before being injected into five different thighs."

"It was only afterwards that we realised what we'd been given because whether it was running, jumping, falling, or going for goal we had energy to burn. We felt fresh and just didn't turn out of energy."

"Every day there were injections going around."

Some (players) injected themselves because they didn't trust the masseurs."

Petrini, who in 2001 published a book in which he slammed past doping practices in the game, said some of the side effects of the unknown products he claims were administered was producing "light green saliva".

"Sometimes your tongue was so swollen it filled the entire mouth. We had to run about with our mouths open," he added.

"At the end of the match we thought it would end there, but you had so much energy left you couldn't sit still. At three or four (o'clock) in the morning, when fatigue started to set in, you'd fall asleep on the spot."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Ballroom partner	1 Reveille, assent
2 dance	2 Cineplex choice
3 Transfer	3 Com-motion
4 Pretext	4 DiFranco
5 George	5 Cattle call?
6 Washing-ton, often	6 Talk on
7 Dawn	7 on and on
8 Man's	8 State of
9 hat	9 Mexico
10 GIs'	10 Sweater
11 entertain-ment grp.	11 More
12 Dish	12 nervous
13 N.E.	13 Julia of
14 school	14 The Boston
15 Line of	15 Bourne
16 fashion?	16 Ultima-tum
17 Caustic solution	17 Did a
18 Heart of the matter	18 cobbler's job
19 Clutch or	19 Carreras
20 Art lover	20 Domingo
21 Evening hour, on a sundial	21 finish
22 Teeter-totter	22 Solution time: 27 mins.
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