

Superb start by Satkhira

SPORTS REPORTER

Fatema slammed a double-hatrick and Jannat three goals as Satkhira got off to an explosive start in the Buriganga zone opener of the Citycell Women's Football Championship in Dhaka yesterday.

Satkhira brushed aside Thakurgaon 14-0 with the other goals for the winners coming from Khadeja (2), Sonia, Sabina and Shamsunnahar at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Earlier, Bangladesh Football Federation senior vice-president Abdus Salam Moshedi declared the Dhaka zone meet open.

In Teesta zone, Jessorah by a solitary goal in the zonal final at the Dinajpur Stadium with Shahinur separating the two sides after 65 minutes. Both the teams have already qualified for the final round.

Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

STS Club defeated UNNS Club by ten wickets while Russel Smriti Sangsad beat Thanapara Cricket Club by a single wicket in the Gaibandha Second Division Cricket League at local stadium yesterday.

In the first match, UNNS managed only 99 runs losing all their wickets in exactly 20 overs. In reply, STS accumulated the winning target without losing any of their wickets in 14.5 overs.

In the other match, Thanapara were bowled out for 125 in their twenty overs which was successfully chased by Russel Sangsad in 19.5 overs losing nine wickets.

Ganguly to play one-dayers of Ranji Trophy

CRICINFO, undated

Sourav Ganguly will play for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy one-dayers which begin on February 15. Jagmohan Dalmiya, the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal, confirmed that Ganguly had agreed to play for his state side.

However Dalmiya was not certain if Ganguly would play all the matches of the tournament. Earlier in the season he helped Bengal earn a promotion to the Ranji Super League.

The Bengal selectors are expected to name the squad later today. Bengal's first game is against Jharkhand in Kolkata on the opening day.

This tournament could serve as a warm-up for Ganguly, who is scheduled to play the Indian Premier League in April. He last played competitive cricket in December during the four-day Ranji Trophy. Ganguly retired from international cricket in November after India's home series against Australia.

Hair urges them to quit

CRICINFO, undated

Darrell Hair, the former international umpire at the centre of the furore surrounding the 2006 Oval Test, has called on all the International Cricket Council (ICC) board members involved in the original decision to change the result of the match to resign. Last weekend the ICC executive voted to overturn its ruling altering the result of the game from an England win to a draw.

"All the board members who were involved in the earlier decision should resign now," Hair said. "And this should also include the present ICC president David Morgan. The first to go should be David Richardson (the ICC's general manager -- cricket) and Doug Cowie (the ICC's manager for umpires).

"I felt the gun was loaded by the ICC board, and Richardson and (the chief executive) Malcolm Speed were only too happy to pull the trigger."



Did U Know?
India batsman Virender Sehwag scored his tenth one-day century in the third match against Sri Lanka on Tuesday.



PHOTO: COURTESY
National Stadium.

Pakistan's home ODIs at Abu Dhabi, Dubai?

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Australia are unlikely to tour Pakistan to play a five-match one-day series and a Twenty20 game because of lingering fears over security in the troubled nation, a top official said Wednesday.

The latest blow to Pakistan cricket follows decision by the International Cricket Council (ICC) Sunday to relocate the 2009 Champions Trophy away from the country.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt told AFP by telephone that the Australia series was unlikely to take place in Pakistan in April after a meeting with Cricket Australia officials in Melbourne.

"It (the series) is unlikely to be played in Pakistan," Butt said. "We are discussing dates and venues, which I will let the

media know when I return on Friday," he said.

Australia have not toured Pakistan since 1998, concerned about players' safety in a nation beset by continuing militant violence.

They postponed a tour of the country in March last year after a spate of suicide bombings but agreed to reschedule the tour into two separate visits -- a one-day series in 2009 and Tests in 2010.

Australia earlier refused to tour Pakistan in 2002 in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. Matches were instead played in Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In anticipation of Australia's latest refusal, the PCB had offered various venues to Australia -- the UAE, Malaysia, Ireland and England.

Sources close to the board said Pakistan would likely play three one-day matches in Abu

Dhabi and two one-dayers and the Twenty20 match in Dubai.

The games will be played after Australia finish their tour of South Africa in mid-April.

Following a meeting of the ICC board in Perth, Australia, on Sunday, ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat said the "safety and security environment" in Pakistan had forced a relocation of the eight-nation Champions Trophy.

The second-biggest one-day tournament in world cricket behind the World Cup, the Champions Trophy had already been delayed 12 months to September this year because of concerns over player safety.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in militant attacks across Pakistan in the past 19 months and more than 1,500 troops have been killed at the hands of extremists since 2002, after Islamabad joined the US-led "war on terror."

called war on terror soon after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Pakistan joined up, providing logistical support to US forces who led an invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan and deploying its troops to fight Taliban and Al-Qaeda extremists hunkered down in the northwest of the country.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in militant attacks across Pakistan in the past 19 months and more than 1,500 troops have been killed at the hands of extremists since 2002.

Imran, who went into politics after retiring from cricket and heads his Tehrik-e-Insaf (Movement for Justice) party, said tour cancellations have left Pakistan cricket poorer.

"Cricket is suffering financially," said Imran. "The sooner Pakistan pulls out of the war on terror the better and it will

quickly recover from all sorts of problems," he said.

Australia and the West Indies forced Pakistan to play in the neutral venues of Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates in 2002.

In the years that followed,

New Zealand, Australia again and India all refused to tour Pakistan or cut short tours over security fears.

Imran accused the cricket world and the ICC of double standards when it came to Pakistan.

"Of course there are double standards when it comes to Pakistan. England only toured India because of their financial clout, while Pakistan is left isolated," said Imran.

England returned to India to play two Tests last December after abandoning the last two one-days in a seven-match series following the Mumbai attacks.

Cricket legend Imran Khan warned Wednesday that Pakistan's national game was being damaged by the government's involvement in the US-led "war on terror".

Imran, who was responding to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision on Sunday to relocate the elite eight-nation Trophy from Pakistan to an undecided venue, said association with conflict was hugely damaging.

"From economy to daily life to cricket, everything is hurt in Pakistan only because of our unnecessary involvement in war. Teams are refusing to come to Pakistan because of that," Imran told AFP.

Former US President George Bush launched his so-

called war on terror soon after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Pakistan joined up, providing logistical support to US forces who led an invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan and deploying its troops to fight Taliban and Al-Qaeda extremists hunkered down in the northwest of the country.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in militant attacks across Pakistan in the past 19 months and more than 1,500 troops have been killed at the hands of extremists since 2002.

Imran accused the cricket world and the ICC of double standards when it came to Pakistan.

"Of course there are double standards when it comes to Pakistan. England only toured India because of their financial clout, while Pakistan is left isolated," said Imran.

England returned to India to play two Tests last December after abandoning the last two one-days in a seven-match series following the Mumbai attacks.

Cricket legend Imran Khan warned Wednesday that Pakistan's national game was being damaged by the government's involvement in the US-led "war on terror".

Imran, who was responding to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision on Sunday to relocate the elite eight-nation Trophy from Pakistan to an undecided venue, said association with conflict was hugely damaging.

"From economy to daily life to cricket, everything is hurt in Pakistan only because of our unnecessary involvement in war. Teams are refusing to come to Pakistan because of that," Imran told AFP.

Former US President George Bush launched his so-

called war on terror soon after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Pakistan joined up, providing logistical support to US forces who led an invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan and deploying its troops to fight Taliban and Al-Qaeda extremists hunkered down in the northwest of the country.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in militant attacks across Pakistan in the past 19 months and more than 1,500 troops have been killed at the hands of extremists since 2002.

Imran accused the cricket world and the ICC of double standards when it came to Pakistan.

"Of course there are double standards when it comes to Pakistan. England only toured India because of their financial clout, while Pakistan is left isolated," said Imran.

England returned to India to play two Tests last December after abandoning the last two one-days in a seven-match series following the Mumbai attacks.

Cricket legend Imran Khan warned Wednesday that Pakistan's national game was being damaged by the government's involvement in the US-led "war on terror".

Imran, who was responding to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision on Sunday to relocate the elite eight-nation Trophy from Pakistan to an undecided venue, said association with conflict was hugely damaging.

"From economy to daily life to cricket, everything is hurt in Pakistan only because of our unnecessary involvement in war. Teams are refusing to come to Pakistan because of that," Imran told AFP.

Former US President George Bush launched his so-

'War costs Pakistan'

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Cricket legend Imran Khan warned Wednesday that Pakistan's national game was being damaged by the government's involvement in the US-led "war on terror".

Imran, who was responding to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision on Sunday to relocate the elite eight-nation Trophy from Pakistan to an undecided venue, said association with conflict was hugely damaging.

"From economy to daily life to cricket, everything is hurt in Pakistan only because of our unnecessary involvement in war. Teams are refusing to come to Pakistan because of that," Imran told AFP.

Former US President George Bush launched his so-

called war on terror soon after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Pakistan joined up, providing logistical support to US forces who led an invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan and deploying its troops to fight Taliban and Al-Qaeda extremists hunkered down in the northwest of the country.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in militant attacks across Pakistan in the past 19 months and more than 1,500 troops have been killed at the hands of extremists since 2002.

Imran accused the cricket world and the ICC of double standards when it came to Pakistan.

"Of course there are double standards when it comes to Pakistan. England only toured India because of their financial clout, while Pakistan is left isolated," said Imran.

England returned to India to play two Tests last December after abandoning the last two one-days in a seven-match series following the Mumbai attacks.

Cricket legend Imran Khan warned Wednesday that Pakistan's national game was being damaged by the government's involvement in the US-led "war on terror".

Imran, who was responding to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision on Sunday to relocate the elite eight-nation Trophy from Pakistan to an undecided venue, said association with conflict was hugely damaging.

"From economy to daily life to cricket, everything is hurt in Pakistan only because of our unnecessary involvement in war. Teams are refusing to come to Pakistan because of that," Imran told AFP.

Former US President George Bush launched his so-

called war on terror soon after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Pakistan joined up, providing logistical support to US forces who led an invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan and deploying its troops to fight Taliban and Al-Qaeda extremists hunkered down in the northwest of the country.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in militant attacks across Pakistan in the past 19 months and more than 1,500 troops have been killed at the hands of extremists since 2002.

Imran accused the cricket world and the ICC of double standards when it came to Pakistan.

"Of course there are double standards when it comes to Pakistan. England only toured India because of their financial clout, while Pakistan is left isolated," said Imran.

England returned to India to play two Tests last December after abandoning the last two one-days in a seven-match series following the Mumbai attacks.

Cricket legend Imran Khan warned Wednesday that Pakistan's national game was being damaged by the government's involvement in the US-led "war on terror".

Imran, who was responding to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision on Sunday to relocate the elite eight-nation Trophy from Pakistan to an undecided venue, said association with conflict was hugely damaging.

"From economy to daily life to cricket, everything is hurt in Pakistan only because of our unnecessary involvement in war. Teams are refusing to come to Pakistan because of that," Imran told AFP.

Former US President George Bush launched his so-

called war on terror soon after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Pakistan joined up, providing logistical support to US forces who led an invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan and deploying its troops to fight Taliban and Al-Qaeda extremists hunkered down in the northwest of the country.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in militant attacks across Pakistan in the past 19 months and more than 1,500 troops have been killed at the hands of extremists since 2002.

Imran accused the cricket world and the ICC of double standards when it came to Pakistan.

"Of course there are double standards when it comes to Pakistan. England only toured India because of their financial clout, while Pakistan is left isolated," said Imran.

England returned to India to play two Tests last December after abandoning the last two one-days in a seven-match series following the Mumbai attacks.

Cricket legend Imran Khan warned Wednesday that Pakistan's national game was being damaged by the government's involvement in the US-led "war on terror".

Imran, who was responding to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision on Sunday to relocate the elite eight-nation Trophy from Pakistan to an undecided venue, said association with conflict was hugely damaging.

"From economy to daily life to cricket, everything is hurt in Pakistan only because of our unnecessary involvement in war. Teams are refusing to come to Pakistan because of that," Imran told AFP.

Former US President George Bush launched his so-

called war on terror soon after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Pakistan joined up, providing logistical support to US forces who led an invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan and deploying its troops to fight Taliban and Al-Qaeda extremists hunkered down in the northwest of the country.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in militant attacks across Pakistan in the past 19 months and more than 1,500 troops have been killed at the hands of extremists since 2002.

Imran accused the cricket world and the ICC of double standards when it came to Pakistan.