



Arambagh goalkeeper Mitul palms away the ball during a corner as his teammates Akram (R) and Shahjada (second from L) look on during their Citycell B. League match against Chittagong Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PWD blank Rainbow

SPORTS REPORTER

Farhad and Kader scored either side of half-time to give PWD a 2-0 win over Rainbow SC in yesterday's Citycell 3rd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

The other match between Government Printing Press and Rahmatganj SC ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Indo-Lankan

FROM PAGE 17

India will have a distinct edge over the depleted hosts when the sides lock horns in the first Twenty20 international cricket match on Lankan soil.

Sri Lanka will hope to carry forward some of the confidence regained after winning the fifth and final match but Sunday's defeat was just a blip on the Indian team's radar after Dhoni and his men dictated terms for the most part of the series.

With Sri Lanka deciding to rest key players, including regular captain Mahela Jayawardene, deputy Kumar Sangakkara and the spin twins of Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis, Tillakaratne Dilshan will have an unenviable task at hand when he walks out for the toss.

Having achieved the primary target of clinching the ODI series, the Indian team would be in a relaxed state of mind and tomorrow's match would be an ideal opportunity for the stroke players to light up the stadium with batting pyrotechnics.

A victim of serial umpiring blunders, Sachin Tendulkar has already returned home but going by the kind of form Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir are in, the Lankans bowlers will have tough time taming the Delhi duo.

IPL in Dhaka

FROM PAGE 17

The CAB, organising the team's home matches at the Eden Gardens, has expressed dissatisfaction over the sum of Rs.35 million that the Knight Riders are scheduled to give them for the seven matches, like the inaugural edition of the high-profile league last year.

CAB has demanded more money saying it spent over Rs.80 million for making various arrangements, but Knight Riders have refused to increase the money. Chawla, however, confirmed that five of the matches would be staged at the Eden Gardens, which would be the "home for the Knight Riders".

When asked whether they were considering Cuttack as a second centre, Chawla said: "We haven't decided it yet. It is still fluid. Very soon we will come to a decision. We just had a meeting with CAB president Jagmohan Dalmiya". On the rationale for choosing Mashrafe, she said: "We have selected him because he can play for the entire season. It will give us many more returns." Chawla also said that the team will miss Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar, who will not be part of the side this year. "But life has to go on," she said.

The actress said team co-owner Shahrukh Khan has taken a month-long leave from all other commitments to be with the team during the coming IPL. "He will be very much present during the matches, especially in Kolkata."

Yes 'WI' can!

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

West Indies' sensational innings and 23-run victory over England was a front page splash for most of the major Caribbean daily newspapers on Sunday.

The Jamaica Observer called it "Sweet Revenge", following the home side's humiliation five years ago, when they were dismissed at the same Sabina Park ground for 47 and Steve Harmison claimed seven for 12.

"It may sound mean, but the one regret for West Indians (on Saturday) was that England beat the infamous 47," Garfield Myers, the Observer's Editor-At-Large and main cricket correspondent, observed.

"But you can't have it all." England were bowled out for just 51, their third lowest total in Tests, with only Andrew Flintoff getting into double figures.

The Jamaica Gleaner called it a "Stunning Victory and highlighted the performance of hometown boy Jerome Taylor, whose five wickets for 11 runs in nine overs, gutted England's batting. "A number of fans were still filing in through the turnstiles for what was expected to be an enthralling second half of the day's play," correspondent Jermaine Lannaman wrote.

In Barbados, where the two sides play the third Test and two of the five subsequent one-day internationals, the Nation newspaper coined Barack Obama's successful slogan from his United States presidential campaign, Yes "WI" can!, the front-page headline screamed. "Neither Charles Dickens nor Enid Blyton could have written a better fairy tale," cricket

'Eng failed for pressure'

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

Coach Andy Flower admitted England buckled under West Indies pressure as they slumped to a humiliating defeat in the first Test where they were skittled out for their third lowest total in history.

England were dismissed for just 51 at Sabina Park to lose by an innings and 23 runs on Saturday with a day and a session to spare.

"I think the bottom line is that the players have to take responsibility for not handling the pressure situation very well and not getting through it," said Flower.

"From this, we can learn that playing international cricket is about dealing with pressure, and batting in the second innings was pressure. What you have to be able to do in international cricket is handle the pressure, and we did not do that on Saturday."

Flower acknowledged this was not the first time that this

has happened to England, nor does he believe it would not be the last time.

"Things like this happen in international sport, and it has happened too often to us," he said. "I do not believe for one moment that the players are not learning anything. I think the contrary is the case, and they are learning."

"But it is not like this is happening every innings, so I do not think you can label the players as totally unable to handle pressure."

Flower acknowledged that his role would be to help the players process what they would have learned from the match and help them come out stronger for it in Antigua where the second Test begins on Friday.

"As a coach, when you are working with players all the time, you are talking cricket, the psychology of cricket, the techniques used - both physical and mental, and you try to have an influence in that way," he said.

"Everyone is very different.

correspondent Haydn Gill wrote.

"Five years after West Indies' cricketers were woefully capitulating to England for their lowest total in Test history, the tables turned dramatically here."

In Trinidad, the venue for the fourth and final Test of the series, and the only Twenty20 International of the tour, the Express newspaper called it, "Taylor-made."

"You had to see it to believe it. Some of those who watched it still remained in disbelief, however," T&T's biggest selling daily noted.

"It all happened so quickly. It all happened so spectacularly. It was awesome. It was like magic."

"Jerome Taylor, the most promising West Indian fast bowler of this era, brought back fond memories of yesteryear, with a magnificent post-lunch spell that transformed a match that was set up for a nice second innings contest into a memorable win for the home team in the first Test against England.

"Sabina Park was like the wild, wild west when the impressive Taylor was sweeping through brittle England for 51, their third lowest score in 880 Test matches dating back to 1887.

"It was a scoreboard of shame for the inventors of the game, but it was West Indies' finest moment on Caribbean soil for a long, long time and erased memories of the debacle at Sabina Park five years ago when West Indies were rolled away for 47 against the same opponents."

The competing Newsday carried the headline, "West Indies demolish England", and the T&T Guardian was to the point, "51 all out!"

In Antigua, where the two sides head next for the second Test at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground, starting on Friday, the Sun newspaper, owned by American business tycoon Sir Allen Stanford, missed the trick. It does not publish on Sunday.

Hockey players

FROM PAGE 17

training in protest at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium. They have also demanded to BHF general secretary Khondokar Jamil Uddin to increase their travel and dining allowances.

It was learned that Jamil, also a vice-president of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) which is convey the message to BOA.

Super Cup in March

FROM PAGE 17

The club championship will be held in March-April and the BFF will find time before July to organise the Independence Cup with Senior Division clubs and the services teams.

The next professional transfer window is to open in July and run till August, the two months when football will rest due to the rainy season. The teams will get preparation time in September before the 2009-10 season kicks off in October with the Federation Cup, which will be followed up by the third B. League.

"We are planning an international tournament in December," informed Salahuddin.

"It depends on the foreign federations whether they would send national teams or clubs,"

replied Salahuddin to a query.

The BFF president also said he wants a team of non-professionals to represent Bangladesh in the Prime Minister's Cup in Nepal next month.

"We want to give the young players exposure as much as we can. It would be the core of our 2011 national team and even if two or three players make the top ranks, I would be happy. Losing matches in this tournament would not matter," he added.

It is expected that national coach Shaiful Islam Manik and technical director Shahidur Rahman Shantoo would be in charge of the Nepal-bound team and the under-18 camp now at Dinajpur would be the base of it.

"We are determined to kick

to this calendar and the two local heavyweights, Abahani and Mohammedan, have already assured me that they would release the players for national interest. We will sit with the other clubs soon and don't think it would be a problem."

The BFF, which finalised the calendar in its emergency committee meeting earlier on the day, is likely to come out with specific announcement about the Super Cup within a few days.

BFF vice-president and National Team Management Committee chairman Badal Roy said that BFF's focus would be to take the Super Cup to event.

"We the support of media, sponsors and fans to make it a big success," told Badal.

5 share lead in chess qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER

Five players collected maximum points after the second round of the 30th National Women's Chess Championship at the federation hall-room yesterday.

Sharmin Sultana Shirin, Masuda Begum, Farjana Hossain Anne, Mimi Arjuman and Methila Ahmed were sharing the lead with two points while four players trailed the pack with 1.5 points.

Bichel gives in to injury

AFP, Brisbane

Former Australia Test fast bowler Andy Bichel on Monday announced his retirement from first-class cricket after 17 seasons.

Bichel, 38, who played 19 Tests and 67 one-day internationals for Australia, said he had been forced to quit because of an ongoing shoulder problem since having reconstructive surgery 14 months ago.

"I don't want to let anyone down," Bichel told a press conference here Monday. "It (the shoulder) is good enough for grade (club) cricket, but I didn't want to get out there (for Queensland) and not do what I used to do."

Bichel captured 58 Test wickets at 32.24 and hit 355 runs with a highest score of 71.

He finished two games short of 100 first-class matches for Queensland, but still chalked up an impressive list of milestones and achievements.

He is the second-highest first-class wicket-taker in Queensland history with 463 wickets, behind only Michael Kasprovic (505) and is the third-highest wicket-taker in Australian first-class domestic cricket, behind leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett and Kasprovic.

Bichel played 176 matches for Queensland (98 first-class and 78 one-day) and was a member of four first-class championship teams and three one-day title-winning sides for his state.

Partex win

FROM PAGE 17

bered three sixes. Victoria finally were all out for 168 in 47.3 overs.

DOHS-CITY CLUB

Pacer Abul Hasan started the carnage and then left-arm spinner Mehrab Hossain made the damage in the middle to shoot City Club out for 125 runs in 41.5 overs.

Hasan claimed five wickets for 25 runs while skipper Mehrab captured three wickets for 29 runs.

Hamdul Islam top scored 23 off 38 balls.

In reply, DOHS rode on Pakistani Wasim Naem's unbeaten 70 to reach the target with 127 for 5 in 32 overs.

Wasim smote 12 fours and six during his 87-ball essay.

Rashedul Islam claimed three wickets for 22 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

BKSP: 217-6 in 50 overs) Saikat 40, Mustaqim 17, Zabid 47, Tanveer 67, extras 19; Azim 2-56).

PARTEX: 221-9 in 49.3 overs (Mehrab 33, Wasim 32, Mushfiq 28, Tariq 13, Rashid 31, Rezaul 44 not out, extras 22; Mustaqim 2-40, Mominul 3-31).

Result: Partex won by one wicket.

SURJO TORUN: 196 all out in 49.5 overs (Sandeep 55, Hannan 52, Rajin 25, extras 10; Arafat 2-25, Akil 3-45, Tariqul 2-20, Sharifullah 2-41).

VICTORIA: 168 all out in 47.3 overs (Arman 21, Raihan 29, Arafat 42, extras 6; Sajib 2-39, Sanjamul 2-29, Sabbir 2-17).

Result: Surjo Torun won by 28 runs.

CITY: 125 all out in 41.5 overs (Robiul 20, Hamdul 23, extras 9; Abul 5-25, Mehrab 3-29, Riyad 2-22).

DOHS: 127-5 in 32 overs (Golam Rahman 17, Wasim 70 not out, extras 9; Rashedul 3-22).

Result: Old DOHS won by five wickets.

IPL leeway

FROM PAGE 17

Bangladeshi cricketers who were up in last Friday's IPL auction but much to the surprise of many in-form left-hander failed to entice a buyer along with dashing opener Tamim Iqbal.

Ashrafui was purchased by Mumbai Indians at his base price of US\$ 75,000 but it was Mashrafe who took the center-stage with a whopping cheque of 6,00,000 dollars.

NZ can claim it back Fourth ODI against Aussies today

Cricket

CRICINFO, Adelaide

Australia avoided handing back the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy in Sydney on Sunday, but a New Zealand win in Adelaide today would be enough for the prize to change hands, while Australia could level at 2-2. Ricky Ponting's impassioned plea to the selectors to allow him to return to the side instead of resting indicated how seriously he takes the series and after Australia lost the prize in 2006-07 when he also sat out, he was desperate for the situation not to repeat itself.

The batting began to click at the SCG, where Brad Haddin and Michael Clarke were thrust together as a makeshift opening pair and put on 135 for the first wicket. It was Australia's best opening partnership since the World Cup final in 2007, when Adam Gilchrist destroyed Sri Lanka's hopes of winning the title and took Matthew Hayden along for the ride.

New Zealand have relied on their spinners Daniel Vettori and Jeetan Patel to dry up the runs in the middle overs but the plan didn't work in Sydney and there will be no margin for error in Adelaide, where the short boundaries attract hungry batsmen. At that venue three months ago they were soundly beaten in a Test but the memories will be quickly forgotten if they wrap up a series win and take back the trophy.

After a few more misses than hits in his short international career, David Warner has been left out of the squad and will return to New South Wales, where he has still not made his

first-class debut. The success of Haddin and Clarke as an opening pair has hardened the top order and the main batting question is how long David Hussey and Cameron White will be given to justify their positions while Adam Voges remains in the squad. Peter Siddle has joined the group and after taking a one-day career-best of 4 for 27 for Victoria on Saturday he is a strong chance to make his ODI debut.

Brendon McCullum was scheduled to have scans on Monday on his right shoulder after being struck by a rearing Kyle Mills delivery while standing up to the stumps. McCullum had pain-killing injections and dropped down to No. 9 but he was still able to strike a quick 36, giving the New Zealanders hope that he might be fit for Tuesday. The back-up wicketkeeper Gareth Hopkins has been flown in as cover and McCullum said that while he was desperate to play, he would leave the decision until his injury had been assessed. "I always want to play and take the aggressive attitude and take the field," McCullum told NZPA on Monday. "But you've also got to do the sensible thing, and until such time as we get the actual information about what is going on, it's hard to make any sort of judgment."

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (possible): Michael Clarke, Brad Haddin, Ricky Ponting (captain), David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Cameron White, Callum Ferguson, James Hopes, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken, Ben Hillenhaus or Peter Siddle. NEW ZEALAND (possible): Brendon McCullum, Martin Guppill, Peter Fulton, Ross Taylor, Grant Elliott, Neil Broom, Kyle Mills, Daniel Vettori (captain), Tim Southee, Jeetan Patel, Iain O'Brien.

Mahela foresees tougher T20 WC

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene on Monday predicted a more competitive Twenty20 World Championship in England this year, saying teams were getting used to the new format.

"We have learnt how to approach this game, so it will be much tougher this time," said Jayawardene after launching a worldwide tour of the tournament's trophy here.

Mahendra Dhoni's India won the inaugural edition of the World Twenty20 in South Africa in 2007 after beating Pakistan in the final. Jayawardene, whose Sri Lankan team failed to reach the semi-finals, said he looked forward to the second edition, to be staged in England from June 5-21.

"Not every team knew how to approach the game in South Africa," he said.

"But playing some Twenty20 cricket over the last two years has given us more experience. We have seen different tactics and how different people approach the game."

Jayawardene said the swinging ball in English conditions will change the way the big-scoring format is played.

"Teams have scored 180 to 200 in a Twenty20 game, but it will not be easy in England as even 120 or 130 might be a winning total in those conditions," he said.

Jayawardene said the T20 format had improved cricketing skills.

"The batsmen need to be more innovative and bowlers have to find different options," he said.

"I think the skill has improved after Twenty20 cricket. It is more aggressive. Big totals are being chased in one-dayers because batsmen have found different ways of scoring."

"It is a different challenge and cricketers like to challenge themselves differently."

The trophy, designed in Australia and manufactured in England, will travel across the cricketing world in the lead-up to the tournament.

Sehwag India's

FROM PAGE 17

Sehwag was also part of India's World Cup-winning Twenty20 squad in South Africa in September, 2007.

Cheteshwar Pujara, a 21-year-old from Saurashtra, was named the best batsman in domestic cricket for scoring 807 runs at an average of 73.36 runs in the country's premier first-class tournament for the Ranji Trophy.

Uttar Pradesh seamer Sudeep Tyagi, who picked up 41 wickets at 21.63 in the Ranji Trophy, was named the best bowler in domestic cricket.

Former Test batsman Gundappa Viswanath will receive the CK Nayudu award, named after the legendary

India captain, for his lifetime contribution to the game.

The stylish middle-order batsman, who scored a Test century on debut against Australia in 1969, has served as India's chairman of selectors in the past.

India stars Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Harbhajan Singh, recipients of the country's fourth-highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri, last month, will also receive special awards from the BCCI.

Dhoni led India to victory in the World Twenty20 championships, while Harbhajan surpassed 300 wickets during the home series against Australia last October-November.

FIFA Elite

FROM PAGE 17

more talented referees from Bangladesh," said the Iranian. Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin, who attended the concluding ceremony as chief guest, urged the local clubs to respect all decision of match officials.

"Referee is the main authority during a match. No player or club official supersedes him. So referees also have high responsibilities of establishing their power on the field and conduct the matches properly," said Salahuddin, who distributed certificates among the participants.

It was Arambagh's fourth win in 20 matches and they finished on 18 points, three behind Chittagong Abahani who have a match in hand at home against Dhaka Mohammedan.

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