

CCDM Cup might be Twenty20

SPORTS REPORTER

The burn out of the national players has forced the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to re-think about the format of the CCDM Cup.

It is all but confirmed that the six top clubs, which are scheduled to play the tournament soon after completion of the Premier Division Cricket League, will miss the services of national players if the tournament is played in a 3-day format.

It was learnt that national coach Jamie Siddons has cautioned about the participation of his charges in another longer-version competition after a hectic international and domestic schedule ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup in June this year.

"I have had a long chat with our national coach (Siddons) today and the board has also advised us to make it a Twenty20 tournament especially when we are going to play the Twenty20 World Cup in June. But the clubs have prepared everything with the three-day game in mind, so we have to take all into account. I will meet with the clubs again

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PHOTO: STAR

GO BLITZKRIEG: Abahani captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza hoists a six over mid-off during his whirlwind knock of unbeaten 69 off 33 balls against Mohammadan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Mashrafe plunders Mohammadan

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

There was consolation for Abahani fans at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, a day after a shocking defeat in the richest football final as they continued their supremacy in the cricket field over archrival Mohammadan.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza led from the front with yet another dazzling all-round performance as Abahani buried Mohammadan under a pile of runs to secure a 122-run victory in the Premier Division Super League encounter to take big steps forward on way to a hatrick of titles as well as keeping their season's unbeaten record over their traditional rivals.

With the victory, the defending champions maintained their four points advantage over their nearest rival Surjo Torun, who won their encounter against Partex by five wickets to keep their hopes alive.

Pride was only at stake for Mohammadan in this match as they were already out of the title race but what was more disappointing was Mohammadan's body language. Their performance showed that they were not into the match at any stage.

An under-strength Abahani attack posted an imposing total of 305-5 after being sent into bat first thanks to some explosive fireworks from Mashrafe who made the most before his departure for the Indian Premier League (IPL) to be held in South Africa.

The batting of the Bangladesh vice-captain produced sheer entertainment for the sparse crowd under the immense heat as the right-hander clobbered seven towering sixes and four boundaries during his unbeaten knock of 69 in 33 balls.

Then the country's leading paceman turned 'off-spinner' contributed with two wickets including the one of Shamsur Rahman, who missed his deserved hundred by three runs offering a simple return catch, as Mohammadan were bundled out for 183 runs in 36.4 overs.

Earlier a 132-run third wicket stand between Imran Ahmed (89 off 123 balls) and Indian Rashmi Ranjan Parida (77 off 81 balls) laid the foundation for Mashrafe to put the opponent bowlers to the sword during his whirlwind innings.

Mashrafe's mesmerizing knock powered Abahani to scoring 113 runs from the last ten overs and Mohammadan skipper and left-arm

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India against one Ryder

Cricket

AFP, Napier

Jesse Ryder continued to command centre stage as India crashed in the second Test against New Zealand and

were forced to follow on 314 runs in arrears on the third day here Saturday.

India's first innings folded at 305 after a withering bowling spell in which they lost their last six wickets for 59 runs inside 16 overs.

At stumps India were 47-1

in their second innings, requiring a further 267 runs to make New Zealand bat again.

Gautam Gambhir was not out 14 with Rahul Dravid on 11, and New Zealand held the firm prospect of saving the three-Test series after being whipped in the first Test by 10 wickets.

On a wicket that offered the bowlers no encouragement and on which New Zealand managed 619-9, including two centuries and a double ton, none of the galaxy of Indian stars was able to perform to their vintage standards.

Central to the proceedings was the golden touch of Ryder, the batsman who top scored for New Zealand with 201.

When New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori had exhausted his recognised bowling options to break up the Indian fifth-wicket partnership of Dravid and VVS Laxman he asked the burly batsman to reprise his part-time, medium-pacer role.

Ryder duly obliged and dismissed Dravid for 83 with the last ball of his first over.

He then snapped up two catches in the slips as Chris Martin and Iain O'Brien took the new ball and ripped out the Indian tail.

Martin, who finished with the best New Zealand figures of three for 89, described the burly Ryder as a special talent.

"To look at him you wouldn't think he can do half the things that he does, but he can," Martin said.

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PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand fast bowler Chris Martin celebrates taking the wicket of VVS Laxman (not in picture) on the third day of the second Test against India at the McLean Park in Napier yesterday.

Kumar likes the 'idea'

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara believes John Buchanan's idea of having multiple captains in a team is an interesting concept that opens endless possibilities for the game's future. Sangakkara said that Twenty20, which he called cricket's maverick form, was a good testing ground for such "maverick ideas", which need to be tried and tested for the game to evolve.

Sangakkara, who will be making his debut as the full-time captain of Sri Lanka

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Match of many facets

SPORTS REPORTER



It was not a game that people will remember for its standard or lack thereof. But Friday's Super Cup final between Mohammadan and Abahani in all probability will be fondly recalled for resurfacing that unbridled emotion and a peculiar hangover so common with the great global game but was sorely missing for a long time in the country.

A full house, a full ninety-minute test of nerve on and off the field, joy and despair, sweet dreams, sleepless night and then an endless debate the following day about what could have or not have been among the rival fans. The final on holiday night provided exactly that atmosphere, which was once very much a part of the daily life when the game was in full bloom in the 80s and early 90s.

Kazi Salahuddin, once the chief entertainer of the game and now the humble chief of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), rightly said after the final: "It's the beginning of a dream."

The final culminated a year of tireless effort of an enlightened Salahuddin, whose promise to keep football on the field for at least ten months brought rich dividends.

But the mercurial striker was not ready to sit on his just achieved targets.

"No doubt the crowd was marvellous, amazing and scintillating but the quality of the game could have been lot better. The people love football, that's why they come to the field. But to keep them in the stands we need to raise the standard of the game," Salahuddin told reporters at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

While talking to the reporters he also revealed a little secret about how an Abahani-Mohammedan match that has often been violence-prone ended so peacefully.

"Before the match started I went to both team's dressing rooms and I spoke to players. I told them to follow the rules of the game, I asked the players to uphold the spirit of the game because if a player reacts to the crowd reacts ten folds. I asked them not to excite the crowds in a negative way and I'm very happy that they kept their words."

Salahuddin is certainly the central figure of a successful year. But it also fitting to salute the effort of our coaches, who have often been treated as mere trainers. Mohammedan coach Maruf Ahmed started his first assignment in the Premier League with a tag as "a bits and pieces coach." But he took it on his stride and at the end of the year he had racked up two trophies -- the Federation Cup and the 1-crore Super Cup.

He was hardly in the limelight after Mohammedan's 1-0 win over Abahani in Friday's final. But he was the man whose tactic and game plan brought success for an ill-managed Mohammedan.

His contract with the Black and Whites ends tomorrow. However his parting shots would not be as sweet as the trophies for Mohammedan officials.

"My contract with Mohammedan ends on Monday. I'm not sure whether it will be renewed. But it will be very tough for Mohammedan officials to comply with a few conditions that I'm going to give if I'm asked to continue," said Maruf, who was understandably disappointed with the players' payment.

Mohammedan however announced Tk 25 lac bonus for the players for win-

ning the Super Cup.

"Before the final I accepted Abahani as favourite and first time started with three central defenders. After we scored in the 21st minute I packed my defence with more players. It was not that I have wished it before but was compelled to do that studying the mentality of the players. I have seen them inclined to hold a lead rather than playing their natural game. They did exactly that in the final, which was definitely one-side especially in the second half," Maruf total the Daily Star over phone yesterday.

He however said too many injuries of his key players up front also forced him to play defensively.

"We said before the match Bukola (Nigerian striker) was 90% fit. But actually he was not even 50% fit. Besides, Nasir and Robin have also not recovered."

Maruf's meditation formula has already provided food for thought for other coaches. He made breathing control, relaxation and imagination exercises mandatory before the warm up session.

He also praised his senior players for supporting him in the tournament. Asked to tell the secret of his success against heavy odds, Maruf said: "When we beat Chittagong Mohammedan in the tie-breaker, I told them that the trophy is ours and before the final I told them now it's you people to decide where to keep it."

He also said that it was more than just money that kept them going.

His Abahani counterpart Amaleen Sen was so upset that he was not available to make comments even a day after his side's heart-breaking 1-0 defeat.

Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu however said that they desperately

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Dido demands devotion

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Brazilian coach Edson 'Dido' Silva said that he wanted total devotion from the players when he launches his assignment for the AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers in Dhaka next month.

"I want only devotion from my players. I sat with them today (Saturday) in the morning and spoke to them. I have fixed a 4-week training program and I want discipline and a good relationship between the senior and junior players," said the Brazilian after his meeting with his primarily selected 25 players at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

He also spoke about Friday's Super Cup final that Mohammedan against bitter rivals Abahani which finished 1-0 to the Black and Whites.

"I will say that it was not a

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Torun, Gazi win

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Surjo Torun kept their hopes alive with a five-wicket victory over Partex while Bangladesh Biman's chances faded away following 18-run defeat to Gazi Tank in two high-scoring matches of the Premier Division Cricket Super League at different venues yesterday.

Hannan Sarker and Anisur Rahman slammed half centuries after Sabbir Rahman's five wicket haul as Surjo Torun coasted to 258-5 in 47.5 overs in reply to Partex's 257-9 at BKSP.

Surjo Torun improved their tally to 20 points from 13 matches, four points behind the leaders Abahani while Partex remained on 14 points from the same number of outings.

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, a 103-run fourth wicket stand between Mohammad Ashraful and Nayeem Islam helped Gazi Tank to bounce back into the winning track as they dismissed Biman for 283 runs after amassing 301-9.

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National football team coach Dido (2nd from L) makes a point during a meeting with 25 players primarily selected for the AFC Challenge Cup at Bangladesh Football Federation Bhaban in the city yesterday.

DIV I CRICKET Bima, Badda relegated

SPORTS REPORTER

Sadharan Bima and Badda SKS dropped down to the Second Division Cricket League for the next season when they lost their respective matches in the First Division Cricket League yesterday.

Rupali Bank and Uttara SC, who were the other two teams in the relegation zone of the league, are now safe and have retained their places in the confederation.

Sadharan Bima lost to Rupali Bank by 93 runs at the

WI humble Eng

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

England had their egos battered further Friday, when West Indies captain Chris Gayle struck 80 from 43 balls to carry his side to an eight-wicket victory in their rain-affected third One-day International at Kensington Oval.

England suffered another major batting failure and were dismissed for 117 in 41.3 overs after they were sent in to bat on a helpful pitch in a match reduced to 44 overs-a-side because of rain.

England's bowlers were then demoralised, as Gayle blasted five fours and eight sixes to hasten West Indies to victory with 176 balls to spare.

The visitors now trail in the five-match

series 1-2 with the fourth match to be staged at the same venue on Sunday.

Andrew Flintoff was the only England bowler that spared punishment from Gayle before James Anderson bowled the West Indies captain.

Dimitri Mascarenhas suffered the most at the hands of Gayle, when 24 came from his only over comprising a four, three sixes, and a double.

Earlier, Mascarenhas, batting at eight, led the way with the bat for the tourists with 36 from 76 balls, after they plunged to 55 for six in the 25th over.

Mascarenhas added a valuable 48 for the ninth wicket with Gareth Batty to limp England over the 100-run threshold, but West Indies never eased their grip on the match.

Dwayne Bravo was the pick of the West

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TEN Sports

West Indies v England
Fourth ODI
Live from 7:30pm

South Africa v Australia
Second Twenty20 int'l

Live from 10:00pm

Channel i

Brazil v Ecuador

WC 2010 Qualifier

Live from 4:00am (Monday)

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PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand fast bowler Chris Martin celebrates taking