

Kumar likes

FROM PAGE 17 during the ICC Twenty20 World Cup in June, said he understands Buchanan's concept because he believes that leadership is always situational. However, the wicketkeeper-batsman's endorsement comes with a few lines of caution attached: a lot depends on team communication; it works better for a franchise rather than a national team; and hopefully, it's not a marketing gimmick by Kolkata Knight Riders ahead of April's Indian Premier League (IPL).

Asked whether he endorsed the multi-captain experiment, Sangakkara told Cricinfo: "If it's a way to go forward and it shows results, why not? Everyone is looking for the edge to win. If this is going to provide them that in the future, then it's well and good."

Buchanan, the former Australia coach, had publicly unveiled the concept last week in Kolkata to spark a furious debate in India, where fans fear that the power of Sourav Ganguly, the popular Kolkata captain, may be diluted. Buchanan has shortlisted Chris Gayle, Brendon McCullum, David Hussey and Brad Hodge to share the captaincy role with Ganguly.

Bima, Badda

FROM PAGE 17 Dhaka University Ground. Batting first, the bankers were bowled out for 213 in 50 overs with Bima's Mithun picking up four-wicket haul.

Bima's innings then folded for 120 with more than 10 overs to spare as Monirul picked up four wickets for 28 runs.

In the other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Uttara defeated Badda by 63 runs. The winners batted first and made 249-9 in the stipulated 50 overs, with Khairul and Shaiful chipping in with 74 each. Shaiful then picked up five wickets to wrap up Badda's innings at 186 in 47.3 overs.

Dido demands

FROM PAGE 17 good final. I have seen better matches in the Super Cup. But I would like to say that the crowd was amazing and it felt like a football stadium. It was good to see a full house," said the Brazilian coach.

Dido's squad included three surprises, which will be short-listed to 23 before the competition, where the hosts compete with Myanmar, Cambodia and Mongolia/Macau. The competition kicks off on April 26.

He dropped veterans like Alfaz, Nazrul and Abul, a part of the national team's last mission, in Myanmar, and included rookies like fullback Rashed and holding midfielder Manik -- both under-20 players from BKSP.

It was also unexpected to see players like Mamun Mia and Emon Babu, both from B. League side Farshganj, join the elite list but Dido defended all his choices.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Aminul, Himel (Mohammed), Biplob (Abahani); defenders: Rajani, Nasir, Saikat (Mohammed), Sujon, Waly (Abahani), Arif, Mishu (Brothers), Mamun Mia (Farshganj), Rashed (BKSP); midfielders: Arman Aziz, Sharif (Mohammed), Pranotosh, Zahed, Mamun (Abahani), Zahid, Munna (Brothers), Emon (Farshganj), Manik (BKSP), forwards: Robin (Mohammed), Emily (Abahani), Enamul (Farshganj), Mithun (Chittagong Abahani).

Domenech's

FROM PAGE 20 "The (FFF) board has made its decision, he was confirmed (in his role). And they said at the time that Raymond would stay until the end of this qualification process.

"We're not going to review that after the third, fourth, fifth match...no way! that would destabilise the team.

"Raymond's here until the end."

Escalettes added: "If we don't pick up six points we'll of course be disappointed, but we have to look around us at an extremely tight group without jumping to hasty conclusions.

"Let things run their course right to the end. It's going to mean extraordinary suspense for us. And if after all this drama we qualify then we'll be saying to ourselves how thrilling all that suspense was."

Domenech's job was firmly on the line after France crashed out of Euro 2008 but after an internal FFF inquiry he survived the sack albeit with a redefined role.



Maksuda Khondakar Sukhi (R) of Narayanganj tries to keep possession against Rahela of Bangladesh VDP during the second semifinal of the Citycell National Women's Football Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Four players are currently sharing the lead in the points table with 4 points each after the fourth round of the preliminary phase of the Mercantile Bank 35th National Chess Championship at the chess federation hall room yesterday.

They are FM Abu Sufian Shakil Biman, FM Kh. Aminul Islam, FM Mehdi Hasan of Biman and Aminul Islam Polash of Titas.

In the round, Shakil beat Debaraj Chatterjee, Amin outwitted Shafiq Ahmed, Taibur drew with Delwar, Palash outplayed FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon, Parag overcame Masum Hossain, Jamal drew with Mohammad Ali, Robin defeated Sirajul Kabir, Javed overwhelmed Samiun Basir and FM Yunus Hasan drew with Hasan Emon.

The fifth round starts today from 3:30 pm at the same venue.

DIV III CRICKET

Bangladesh Police defeated

Young Pegasus A by three wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Ground in the Third Division Cricket League. In another match, Pragati SS beat GMCC by seven wickets at the T&T ground in Mohakhali.

DIV II HOCKEY

Tejgaon Agrabani earned their second win in four matches of the Green Delta Metropolitan 2nd Division Hockey League beating Dhaka Young Star 3-2 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Sabbir Hossain Annie struck twice and Rahat Anwar netted one for the winners, who dominated the first-half 2-1. Ahsanuddin and Jabab Ahmed scored one each for the losers.

In today's matches, Dilkusha SC will play Rayer Bazar AC at 2pm and Combined SC meet Raktim Sangha at 4pm at the same venue.

INDEPENDENCE DAY BASKETBALL

Europa Youth Club moved into the semifinals of the

Independence Day Basketball Tournament eliminating Bangladesh Police 80-33 at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium.

Setu and Shawan of Europa Youth Club scored 25 and 14 points respectively.

INDEPENDENCE DAY TT

Manash of Bangladesh Biman became champion and Mostafa of Sheikh Russel finished runner-up in the men's singles of the Independence and National Day table tennis tournament.

On the other hand, Saleha of Abahani emerged champion and Sima of Wari Club finished runners-up in the women's singles.

In the team event, Sheikh Russel became champions and Bangladesh Biman took the runners-up trophy.

Bangladesh Biman emerged champions and Wari Club finished runners-up in the boys' team event while Asif of Biman clinched the boys' singles trophy and his teammate Palash finished runner-up.



Saleha (L) of Abahani and Manash of Bangladesh Biman, the women and men's singles champions in the Independence and National Day table tennis tournament respectively, pose with their trophies on the concluding day of the three-day meet yesterday.

India against one Ryder

FROM PAGE 17 "He feeds off having that golden touch, which is something that we all know he has and when he has the ball something can happen, and again today he lulled a guy who was batting nicely into a bad shot. That sums the guy up."

Laxman put a positive spin on the situation for India and said they had the opportunity to do something special.

India resumed the third day here at 79-3 and progressed to 165 when Sachin Tendulkar fell for 49 in the morning session, caught at slip by Ross Taylor off Jeetan Patel.

Dravid and Laxman attempted to consolidate the innings and compiled a steady 81-run partnership as they settled in for a marathon rescue operation before Ryder struck.

When Ryder's sixth delivery came down short and side, Dravid shaped to cut and edged the ball straight to wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum, ending his 206-ball innings which lasted 282 minutes and included 12 boundaries.

Martin followed with his 150th Test wicket on the last ball before tea when Yuvraj Singh had his feet wrongly planted for an intended cover drive and edged the ball to Tim McIntosh at second slip to be gone without scoring.

Ryder was back in the play, replacing McIntosh as the slip catch when Dinesh Karthik fell to Martin in similar fashion.

Karthik's departure brought a flurry of runs as Harbhajan Singh and Laxman cracked 21 in two overs, Harbhajan bringing up the Indian 300 with a six.

Martin ended their brief partnership when Laxman was caught by McIntosh for 76 and O'Brien polished off the innings with the wickets of Harbhajan (18) and Zaheer Khan (eight) in successive balls.

Vettori enforced the follow on, but O'Brien was denied the hat-trick by Virender Sehwag who, in his typically aggressive manner, dispatched the first ball he faced to the boundary.

But it was to be a brief bash by the Indian opener who raced to 22 in 21 deliveries, including four boundaries, when he was trapped plumb in front trying to sweep off-spinner Patel out of the ground.

SCOREBOARD

SCOREBOARD close on the third day of the second Test between New Zealand and India at McLean Park in Napier on Saturday:

INDIA: First innings (over-night 79-3) Gambhir c Vettori b Patel 16 Sehwaag c McCullum b Vettori 34 Dravid c McCullum b Ryder 83 Sharma lbw b Vettori 0 Tendulkar c Taylor b Patel 49 Laxman c McIntosh b Martin 76 Yuvraj c McIntosh b Martin 0 Karthik c Ryder b Martin 6 Harbhajan c Ryder b O'Brien 18 Zaheer c Ryder b O'Brien 8 Patel not out 0 Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-7) 15 Total: (All out in 93.5 overs) 305 Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-73, 3-78, 4-165, 5-246, 6-253, 7-270, 8-291, 9-305, 10-305.

Bowler O M R W Martin 24 5 89 3 Franklin 15 4 34 0 Vettori 19 5 45 2 O'Brien 13.5 4 66 2 Patel 19 2 60 2 Ryder 3 1 3 1

INDIA: Second innings 14 Gambhir not out 22 Sehwaag lbw b Patel 22 Dravid not out 11 Extras: 0 Total: (For 1 wkt in 17 overs) 47 Fall of wickets: 1-30.

To bat: Tendulkar, Laxman, Yuvraj, Karthik, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Sharma, Patel.

Bowler O M R W Martin 3 1 6 0 O'Brien 5 2 10 0 Franklin 3 0 11 0 Patel 3 1 14 1 Ryder 1 0 5 0 Vettori 2 1 1 0

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL Ansar, N'ganj to fight it out

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar and Narayanganj are set to contest in the final of the Citycell National Women's Football Championship as they ruled out their rivals in the semis at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the first semifinal, Ansar clamped a 2-0 victory over Jessore, with Roushan Ara Akhtar and Mainu Marmia scored one each for the winners.

Trishna Chakma of Ansar was adjudged player-of-the-match.

In the day's other semi, Narayanganj outplayed Bangladesh VDP 3-1 at the same venue. Maksuda Khondakar Sukhi struck twice and Surabi Akhter Etti netted one for Narayanganj while Tithi Rani Sarkar scored the lone goal for the losers.

Sukhi was named the player-of-the-match.

Commerce Minister col (ret) Faruk Khan will be the chief guest in today's final at 4:15 pm at the same venue. BTV World will telecast the match live.

Davis Cup ties over April 1-5

SPORTS REPORTER

The Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-IV will be held from April 1 to 5 at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna, Dhaka.

Ten countries including hosts Bangladesh will participate in the contest. Other participating countries are Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Myanmar, Qatar, Turkmenistan, UAE, Vietnam and Yemen.

Teams will be split into two groups and the tournament will be held in a round robin league format.

Foreign players, accompanied by officials, will arrive in the city on March 30 while the training, draw, managers' meeting and the opening ceremony will be held on March 31.

Grameenphone will be sponsoring this event along with Ispahani Group and Kuwait Airways as the local co-sponsors.

Moeen Tariq, head of market communications of Grameenphone, AMM Nasir uddin, president of Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) and Sanaul Haque, general secretary of BTF announced this in a press conference in the capital yesterday.

WI humble

FROM PAGE 17 Indies bowlers with four for 19 from seven overs, Fidel Edwards took three for 28 from 8.3 overs, and Kieron Pollard bagged two for 16 from six overs.

After the start was delayed by an hour-and-a-half, England lost Andrew Strauss to a fine catch by West Indies captain Chris Gayle running back from slip off Fidel Edwards, who also had Ravi Bopara caught at mid-on in the space of three balls in the seventh over.

England were then rocked, when they lost Kevin Pietersen, Owais Shah, and Andrew Flintoff in three successive overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between England and West Indies at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Friday:

ENGLAND

Strauss c Gayle b Edwards 2 Bopara c Sarwan b Edwards 10 Pietersen c Pollard b Bravo 3 Shah c Sammy b Baker 17 Collingwood lbw b Bravo 6 Flintoff c Chandepaul b Bravo 0 Prior c Sammy b Pollard 7 Mascarenhas c Bravo b Edwards 36 Broad c Ramdin b Pollard 0 Batty c Sammy b Bravo 17 Anderson not out 0 Extras: (b-8, lb-1, w-10) 19 Total: (All out in 41.3 overs) 117 Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-17, 3-41, 4-42, 5-43, 6-54, 7-68, 8-68, 9-116.

Bowler O M R W Edwards 8.3 1 28 3 Baker 9 5 21 4 Bravo 7 1 19 4 Sammy 9 2 19 0 Pollard 6 0 16 2 Miller 2 0 5 0

WEST INDIES

Gayle b Anderson 80 Simmons not out 14 Sarwan b Broad 10 Chandepaul not out 3 Extras: (b-4, nb-6) 10 Total: (For 2 wds in 14.4 overs) 117 Did not bat: Bravo, Pollard, Sammy, Ramdin, Miller, Edwards, Baker.

Fall of wickets: 1-98, 2-114.

Bowler O M R W Broad 3.4 1 31 0 Anderson 5 0 39 1 Flintoff 5 0 19 0 Mascarenhas 1 0 24 0 Result: West Indies won by eight wickets (D/L Method) and lead five-match series 2-1. Man-of-the-match: Dwayne Bravo. Toss: West Indies

Albie, Mark upstage David

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Albie Morkel and Mark Boucher trumped a virtuoso performance by David Hussey as South Africa scrambled a four-wicket win over Australia in the first Twenty20 international at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday.

Hussey cracked an unbeaten 88 off only 44 balls and took two for 21 with his off-spinners to earn the man-of-the-match award. But it was not enough to secure a win for his team in the opening encounter of a two-match series.

Hussey, younger brother of Test batsman Mike, dominated an Australian innings of 166 for seven and it looked as though it would be enough when South Africa slumped to 83 for five in the 13th over.

But Morkel and Boucher added 58 off 33 balls to swing the momentum in South Africa's favour.

The big-hitting Morkel slammed 36 off 22 balls before he mishit Mitchell Johnson high to mid-off where David Hussey held a good catch.

South Africa still needed 26 off 17 balls but Boucher saw

them home, finishing with 36 not out off 22 balls. Seven were needed off the final over, bowled by Brett Geves, and Boucher hit the first two balls to the midwicket boundary to clinch victory with four balls to spare.

"In this game you never really know," said Australian captain Ricky Ponting. "There was some very good hitting by the South Africans at the end. David Hussey was magnificent but we came up a bit short with the ball."

While Hussey enabled Australia to post a reasonably competitive total, his teammates assisted him in only two partnerships of any significance.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the first Twenty20 international between South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Friday:

AUSTRALIA Warner c & b Peterson 38 Clarke b Parnell 2 Ponting c Botha b Morkel 1 D Hussey not out 88 M Hussey run out 0 Haddin c Morkel b Peterson 0 White c Duminy b Peterson 16 Johnson b Parnell 10

Hopes not out 5 Extras: (lb-2, w-4) 6 Total: (For 7 wks in 20 overs) 166 Did not bat: Harwood, Geves, Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-16, 3-70, 4-70, 5-71, 6-116, 7-149.

Bowler O M R W Steyn 4 0 44 0 Parnell 4 0 29 2 Morkel 4 0 36 1 Botha 4 0 25 0 Peterson 4 0 30 3

SOUTH AFRICA

Amla b D Hussey 26 Gibbs c Ponting b Geves 19 De Villiers b Geves 7 Duminy b Hopes 21 Van Jaarsveld b D Hussey 3 Boucher not out 36 Morkel c D Hussey b Johnson 37 Botha not out 7 Extras: (lb-3, nb-1, w-8) 12 Total: (For 6 wks in 19.2 overs) 168 Did not bat: Peterson, Parnell, Steyn.

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-46, 3-64, 4-81, 5-83, 6-141.

Bowler O M R W Johnson 4 0 20 1 Harwood 4 0 48 0 Geves 3.2 0 35 2 D Hussey 4 0 21 2 Hopes 4 0 41 1

Result: South Africa won by 4 wickets. Man-of-the-match: David Hussey.

Torun, Gazi win

FROM PAGE 17 Mohammad Azim captured two wickets for 43 runs.

GAZI-BIMAN

A 76-run opening partnership between Imrul Kayes and Mohammad Mithun gave Gazi a solid foundation after deciding to bat first. Imrul made 32 off 59 balls with five boundaries and Mithun smashed 43 off 38 balls that featured six fours and a six.

Ashraf continued his good form with a 50-ball 61 that contained eight fours and a six while man of the match

Nayeem hit the team highest 83 off 82 deliveries that included eleven boundaries.

In reply, Zahurul Islam struck 79 off 81 balls with ten fours and a six while Mushfiqur Rahman contributed a 55-ball 57 but their efforts were not good enough to take over the huge target.

New ball bowler Robiul Islam picked up two wickets for 62 runs and Mukter Ali captured two for 49 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

PARTEX: 257-9 in 50 overs

(Shafiq 64, Mehrab 36, Fahad 32, Tariq 25, Mushfiqur 43, Rezaul 15, Razzak 36, extras 4; Sabbir 5-54).

SURJO TORUN: 258-5 in 47.5 overs (Saeed 32, Zunaed 30, Hannan 70, Rajin 23, Anisur 51 not out, Sabbir 35 not out, extras 14; Azim 2-43) Result: Surjo Torun won by five wickets.

GAZI TANK: 301-9 in 50 overs (Imrul 32, Mithun 43, Anwar 13, Ashraf 61, Nayeem 83, Hassan 20, extras 17; Mahbubul 2-77, Alamgir 2-34) BIMAN: 283 all out in 49.3 overs (Zahurul 79, Zahid 33, Sanwar 38, Mushfiqur 57, Mahbubul 29, Shahajida 14 not out, extras 19; Robiul 2-62, Mukter 2-49) Result: Gazi Tank won by 18 runs.

Match of many

FROM PAGE 17 missed their striker Zahid Hassan Emily, who left the ground with a hamstring injury in the 34th minute.

"I don't think we missed midfielder Joy (did not play due to bookings). We manned the midfield and created a lot of chances. Rather we missed Emily who could have easily scored from those chances that others shot wide," said Rupa adding that the players have been granted leave for seven days.

Abahani's next assignment is the AFP President Cup in Dhaka in May.

CCDM Cup

FROM PAGE 17 soon," said GS Hasan Tamim, chairman of the CCDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan).

The clubs may not agree as they will be financially benefited if it is a three-day tournament across the country.

Tamim however said that he will try to offer a handsome prize money if it is eventually a Twenty20 tournament. He also said that the board is planning to hold a Twenty20 tournament in May as part of the preparation for the next World Cup.

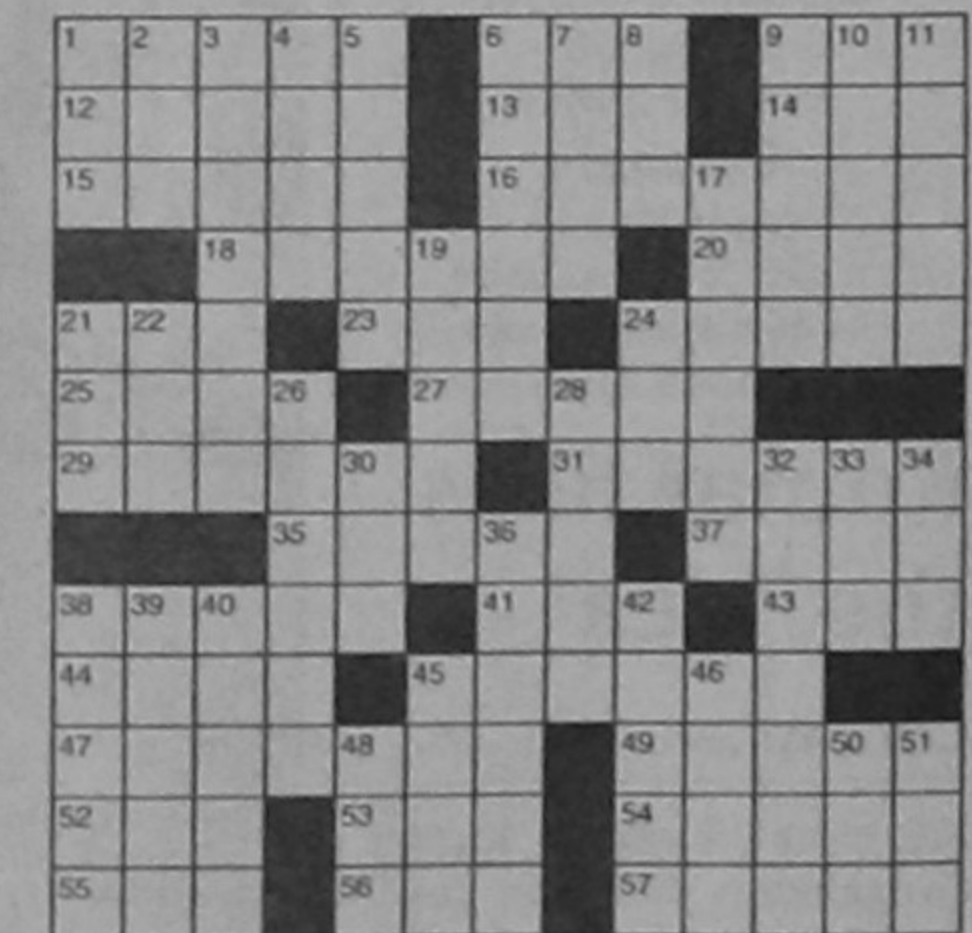
In that case there is three Twenty20 tournament in line as Chittagong is also preparing to arrange a Twenty20 tournament with the national players.



Sanaul Haque (R), general secretary of Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF), takes questions from reporters during a press conference organised in connection with the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group IV at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. BTF president Nasiruddin (2nd from R) and Grameenphone's head of market communications Moeen Tariq (2nd from L) were also present.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 Telling 1 "Ben—" bug 15 Quantities stolen brother 22 — relief 6 Boom 41 Scarlet collection 24 Without 9 Harvest 43 Wolfed down 3 Work with 4 Sax 26 Canine goddess 44 Carry on playing 28 Wicker 12 Up to 13 Enthusiast choice 30 Freddy's 14 Torched 47 Put on a pedestal 8 Pigs' digs 33 Examine 15 Mrs. Gorbachev 49 Out 9 Hedge-podges 34 — out a 16 Render untraditionally address 10 Fast food 36 Pleasant 18 Incision 53 La — 54 Bakery request 11 Bessemer 38 Mill 20 Leak slowly 55 Playing 17 Hammock 39 TV's 21 Mueller's org. 56 Raw rock 19 Raccoon's 40 Scrimshaw 42 Gary Cooper role 45 Despot 46 Declare 48 Wall St. debut 50 Bee 51 Patent stick



CRYPTOQUIP

IFBE US QPHBEC CXEDMB C D JHEC XQ GXUNLMBP FDPCIDPB GFHN, H VDHC "MFDEJV QXP MFB UBUXPS!" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECOMING SLIGHTLY OVERWEIGHT, HE APPARENTLY DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE THE PASTA BEHIND HIM. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals Y