



Horse driven carriages are being used to promote the upcoming Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Cup in the capital yesterday. Myanmar, Macao, Cambodia along with hosts Bangladesh will take part in the tournament starting April 26.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

Sagar picking up four for 24 from his seven overs for the Mohammadpur-based club.

Prantik Krira Chakra (176-6) beat Farashganj (172 all out) by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Kakral Boys Club (174 all out) outclassed Al Rashid Cricket Club (114 all out) by 60 runs at the Jahangirnagar University Ground.

DIVIII CRICKET

Tasin-Hasin Cricket Academy and Young Pegasus A were promoted to next season's Second Division Cricket League from the lowest tier of domestic cricket.

Both sides played the Third Division final match at the Jagannath Hall ground where Tasin-Hasin won by eight wickets.

Chasing 141 for victory, Tasin-Hasin reached their target in 28.4 overs with Rubel slamming an unbeaten 59.

UNDER-15 CRICKET

Four half-centuries from BCB Under-15 batsmen were not enough to take the lead from visiting CAB Under-15 side on the second and final day of the drawn two-day game at the Mymensingh Stadium.

Mohammad Jahid (62), Yasin Ali (72), Omar Faruque (63) and Shahriar Islam (71) all stroked half-centuries as the local side propped up their first innings total to 356 for eight from 80 overs, a lead of 53 runs. CAB Under-15's Sumon Debnath took three wickets.

In their second innings, the tourists were 57 for three when the umpires called off play. Taskin Ahmed took two while Yasin took the other wicket to fall.

The first two-day match of CAB's tour was also drawn but with the home side keeping the lead.

Afridi hits

Table with 5 columns: Name, Runs, Wickets, Overs, etc. Includes players like Ikhbar, Afridi, Ajmal, Malik, and PAKISTAN players.

PAKISTAN: Salman Butt, Nasir Jamshed, Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Misbahul Haq, Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal, Shoaib Akhtar, Umar Gul, Rao Iftikhar, Saad Ajmal

Toss: Australia; Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZL), Nadeem Ghouri (PAK); Match-referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

IPL warns

FROM PAGE 17 spared any fine and was given a 'severe warning'.

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Did U Know?

The longest chess game ever recorded was between Nikolic and Arsovic, held in Yugoslavia in 1989. This game involved 269 moves and took over 20 hours and no one won.

Botha pays heavy price



CRICINFO, undated

The move by umpires to report Johan Botha for a suspect action in the fourth one-day international against Australia has cost the spinner a lucrative IPL contract. Cricinfo understands the Rajasthan Royals had approached the South African limited overs vice-captain in the weeks prior to the IPL, but were deterred after Botha was cited by umpires Rudi Koertzen, Brian Jerling and Asoka de Silva in Port Elizabeth.

ICC guidelines stipulate that bowlers reported for suspicious actions are eligible to continue playing until tests prove their elbow flexion exceeds 15 degrees. Botha, though, has already been stood down from the South African side for the final ODI against Australia in Johannesburg - a move aimed at shielding him from the public spotlight - and has now been denied the chance to compete in the IPL on home soil.

Rajasthan was believed to have been the franchise most interested in procuring Botha's services for the 2009 tournament. The defending IPL champions are currently without the services of 2009 stars Shane Watson (international duty) and Sohail Tanvir (suspended contract), while Shaun Tait was recently withheld by Cricket Australia medical staff.

"I am aware that there had been a sniff from an IPL franchise, but the focus now is to get him tested and cleared," Tony Irish, chief executive

of the South African Cricketers' Association, told Cricinfo. "I am sure that if he is cleared, there will be a lot of (IPL) interest in him."

"I was actually surprised that he wasn't picked up earlier, because he is without doubt one of the best Twenty20 bowlers in international cricket. But the most important thing is to get to Perth and hopefully get the all-clear to resume his international career."

Botha is due to fly to Perth early next week to undergo tests at the University of Western Australia - the same facility at which he was examined last reported in 2006. He had been in strong form prior to the match in Port Elizabeth, leading the South African one-day side to a rare series victory in Australia in Graeme Smith's absence, and bowling with tremendous control in the corresponding series at home.

Botha told Cricinfo last week that the work required to rectify his action was "pretty simple", and his coach, Mickey Arthur, expressed confidence the spinner would test below the 15-degree level of tolerance. But even if Botha passes the UWA test, the opportunity to play in the IPL this year appears to have passed him by, given that the window for player recruitment closed after the first game of the tournament.

"There were two or three teams interested in my services, but they could not offer me a contract because of this issue," Botha told SuperSport website. "Mutiah Muralitharan and Harbhajan Singh passed the test twice and their actions are no longer under suspicion. Hopefully the same will happen with me."

Ageless Udal expects



CRICINFO, undated

Shaun Udal is at the age when some men consider buying a Harley-Davidson to cure a mid-life crisis, but the Middlesex captain is reinventing himself in a different way after finding a new lease of life with Middlesex and believes he is still good enough for England.

It's a view shared by the England selectors who have included him in their preliminary 30-man squad for the ICC World Twenty20 in June. Udal isn't a stranger to late England calls after making his Test debut in 2005, 11 years after his ODI debut, and famously played a key role in England's victory against India in Mumbai. But if he makes the final cut this time it will be the most extraordinary chapter in Udal's career and even the man himself says the last 18 months have been "crazy and ridiculous."

Udal retired from professional cricket after he ended his Hampshire career in 2007, but a few months later Middlesex came along with an offer. After some thought Udal dusted off the kit to give it another and finished by captaining

through the final month of the season. At the end of October the job was offered to him full-time.

"It's all remarkable and I can't believe what has happened," he told Cricinfo. "I still have absolute faith and trust in my ability. I genuinely think I could do a good job for England especially in the Twenty20 format of the game because experience is absolutely key in that format."

"It's no coincidence that we won it with a bowling attack that was experienced and you know how to cope in pressure situations. It's vital to be able to trust your ability. If I get picked in a couple of week's time I'll be the proudest man in the world. Even more than a place in England's Twenty29 squad, the captaincy is still up for grabs and Udal's name has even been linked to that role. However, despite his Twenty20 success it's an idea he finds hard to take seriously.

"I gather there were a couple of papers last week that ran with headlines of 'Udal to skipper England' or something like that," he said. "I've heard nothing, there are numerous candidates, and I'm sure I'm not top of the list despite what has been said that it's between me or (Paul) Collingwood. But it was offered to me it would be a hugely proud moment."

History not arranged

FROM PAGE 17

Marlar known as "Whither Bangladesh?" prompted him to seek International Cricket Council's (ICC) membership. The famous article which is also absent from our cricketer's abode was a detailed description of Bangladesh cricket's state of affairs at that time and included a yearning to see Bangladesh at the international stage.

"It is a tragedy indeed that in the Mirpur stadium, no reference has been made to the board's first constitution which I drafted or the first Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) visit to Bangladesh in 1976, which eventually earned us the ICC associate membership the following year. I worked very hard to convince

MCC to pay us a visit, because the ICC would not give us its membership unless the MCC made recommendations. It was also the first international match that the Bangladesh team played. After that visit there were two more MCC visits but none of those are preserved now, there was a whole file which I used to interact with the ICC and MCC

and it has just vanished into thin air it seems. I think if the board tries they can retrieve some of the historical pieces because after all, our cricket is only a few decades old," revealed Karim.

Not only is there any space for the constitution or detail of the MCC visits, the very first bat used by a Bangladesh player to open the innings for the country, the first Bangladesh cricket cap, the sweater, the jacket or any other tangible cricketing particulars are also absent to the point of astonishment from Mirpur. What is most alarming is the non-existence of a framed photograph of our first Test captain Naimur Rahman tossing the coin with his Indian counterpart Sourav Ganguly during the country's inaugural Test match. Criticisms of the venue are not new but there is no doubt that we have great potential in our country but maybe not in our board to showcase our cricket at the national cricket stadium the right way ahead of the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup.

With the ICC Cricket World Cup on it's way in less than two years time when the whole cricket world will be flocking at the SBNS, it is perhaps not too bad an idea to find those vital pieces and put them in the rightful place.

At least we can tell the whole world and the generations to come that we have arranged the history of our cricket.

Morkel guards SA secrets

CRICINFO, undated

South African allrounder Albie Morkel will be pushing hard to reveal secrets with the World Twenty20 around the corner. Graeme Smith, JP Duminy, AB de Villiers, Jacques Kallis, Mark Boucher, Herschelle Gibbs, Dale Steyn and Roelof van der Merwe are some of the South Africans who play for other teams in the IPL and Morkel said they had been given instructions not to reveal secrets with the World Twenty20 coming up in June.

"We've been given specific instructions by our boards not to reveal all our secrets, especially with the World Twenty20 coming up in a couple of months' time," Albie told Times of India. "It's not that we don't talk, but we don't reveal all our strategies. That is as per instructions from our boards. We cannot show off all our secret weapons and there's not much we can do about it. It's true not just for me, but for the others as well."

However, Morkel did not feel that it affected the competitiveness of the game. "Not quite. We try and innovate and find new facets to our game. That only helps us develop as cricketers," he said. "For me, the last IPL was such a big help in my growth as a cricketer. I learnt a lot about playing in India, which in turn added something more to my game, especially the bowling."

Steve Tikolo says he has stepped down as Kenya's captain after helping the team qualify for the 2011 World Cup. He will, however, play with the national team for the next two years before retiring from the game.

Tikolo quits captaincy

CRICINFO, undated

Steve Tikolo says he has stepped down as Kenya's captain after helping the team qualify for the 2011 World Cup. He will, however, play with the national team for the next two years before retiring from the game.

Tikolo, 37, said he told his teammates four days ago, before the last qualifying match against the Netherlands, that that would be his last game as captain. "It has been a privilege being captain for the last seven years," Tikolo told AFP. "I believe this is the right time to give a younger player the chance of leading Kenya into the fifth successive World Cup. I will be 40 at the time and I will not be in the right frame to play."

BCB happy

FROM PAGE 17

coaches are working for 64 districts and they are the under guidance of game development. BCB is also going to follow their own coaching manual from July," he said.

The frustrating part of the programme was that most were reluctant to take the job of coaching rather they showed their interest in umpiring because there is a lack of money for the coaches. BCB got service on this purpose from the then Australian Cricket Board (ACB) without any fee for five years but have spent a considerable sum of money for a two-year programme and many believe that one can only count the success of this programme after spotting how many people continue in the future.

Anamul gets

FROM PAGE 17

severn boundaries. Captain Mahmudul Hasan was also in the runs, scoring 43.

Rushal Jaleel was the pick of the Sri Lankan bowlers, taking three wickets for 80 while Lahiru Jayarathne and Chathura Peries had two to their name.

School soccer

FROM PAGE 17

the school championship is back again and is being participated by the champions and runners-up schools of 55 districts across the nation.

BFF has meanwhile urged the Ministry of Education, the Youth and Sports Ministry and all the district and school authorities to extend their full support and encouragement to the school competition to lay a strong foundation for the country's football.

PCB lodges complaint



AFP, Dubai

Pakistan has lodged a protest with cricket's governing body over the shifting of World Cup 2011 matches due to be staged in the country to other nations, an official said Wednesday.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) last week stripped Pakistan of 14 matches it was scheduled to host, citing the "uncertain security situation" in the troubled country.

The fixtures will go ahead in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Pakistan team manager Yawar Saeed said a delegate of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) lodged the protest on the sidelines of ICC meeting here on Tuesday.

"We have registered our protest during the ICC meeting and our stance was that all four co-hosts of the World Cup were not treated equally by the ICC and they should have waited for six months before taking this decision," Saeed told AFP.

The ICC had cast serious doubts over Pakistan's chances of hosting World Cup matches after last month's terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team, which left seven players and their assistant coach injured and eight policemen dead.

Sri Lanka were forced to abandon the tour mid-way through the second Test.

Even before the Lahore attacks, several national sides who refused to tour the country, where the army has been fighting an increasingly trenchant insurgency by Taliban militants and Al-Qaeda.

In February this year the ICC was forced to shift the eight-nation Champions trophy from Pakistan after several teams refused to tour. The event will now be held in South Africa in September and October.

Australia, who have not been to Pakistan since 1998, refused to tour over security fears and forced their host to play a five one-day and one Twenty20 match series in the neutral venues of Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

But Saeed raised questions about the security situation in its neighbouring countries.

"India shifted their cricket league to South Africa over security fears," he said of the Indian Premier League's move which followed New Delhi's refusal to provide security due to the event overlapping with the general elections.

"We could not tour Bangladesh because there were security fears in March," said Saeed, referring to a postponement over February's mutiny at a military camp there that left 56 officers dead.

"The situation in Sri Lanka was not good either, so from the PCB chairman Ijaz Butt (to) our director general Javed Miandad, everyone has said that ICC must reconsider the decision," said Saeed.

Royals' time to turnaround

PTI, Durban/Cape Town



Defending champions Rajasthan Royals will look for a quick turnaround in their fortunes, while a rejuvenated Kolkata Knight Riders would

aim to carry on the winning momentum when the two sides clash in an Indian Premier League match here today.

Without big stars in their ranks, the Royals have a tough task at hand after the thrashing in their campaign opener and second game against Mumbai Indians being washed out.

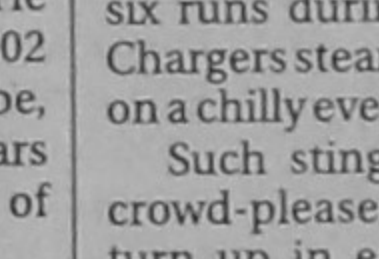
Shane Warne's side started its campaign by restricting Bangalore Royal Challengers to just 133 with the legendary spinner leading from the front but that total proved to be a mountain for the Royals as they were bundled out for just 58, the second lowest IPL total.

The Rajasthan youngsters failed to get the measure of another legendary figure in Anil Kumble who throttled them with a five-wicket haul.

In that match, the highest score by any Rajasthan batsman was 11 and they would be itching to leave behind that nightmare by coming good against Knight Riders who have also not done anything exceptional as yet.

Fidel's warning

INTERNET, undated



Often accused of being too erratic, Fidel Edwards reminded the cricketing world that there is more to his bowling than buffet-balls and raw pace, with a superb example of controlled fast bowling in the Deccan Chargers opening IPL clash.

The West Indian fast bowler conceded just six runs during his allotted four overs as the Chargers steamrolled the Kolkata Knight Riders on a chilly evening in Cape Town on Sunday.

Such stinginess from bowlers is hardly a crowd-pleaser, given that the masses generally turn up in eager anticipation of run-fuelled thrills, but it was notable that Edwards' spell drew great appreciation from a crowd that had been frozen by the day's autumn wind.

Not one to wax lyrical about his successes, Edwards credits a maintained focus on doing the basics right as the reason for his success on Sunday.

"My spell was pretty simple, the coach gave me simple instructions, to bowl fast and get the team off to a good start. And I did my best and I got the results I wanted," he said after a training session in the Mother City on Tuesday.

The Chargers struggled in last year's inaugural IPL, but Edwards is confident that the team will deliver a much-improved performance this year, even suggesting that the Chargers could be title contenders.

"I would say we've got a pretty good chance," said the 27-year-old.

"Last year wasn't that good for us and the guys have been working really hard for this and

we've had a good start, and hopefully we can build on it and win the tournament."

He may speak in the plural, but Edwards will only be in South Africa for the first two weeks of the season before jetting off to join the West Indies squad as they embark on a tour of England.

Whilst he admits that the idea of creating a firm window in the international cricket calendar for the IPL, and therefore ensuring all players can partake in the showcase event for its full duration, is appealing, international cricket remains the pinnacle for most players.

"I think most of the guys would love that, but you know to play for your country, the guys love to do that. The IPL is a big tournament and a good opportunity to earn a living, but you can't get better than playing for your country."

Having defeated the English during the recent Test series in the Caribbean, the fast bowler is wary of a wounded outfit.

"I think what we did in the Caribbean was pretty exciting for us, the way the guys played," he reflected. "And coming to this tour in England it's going to be a lot different now in that we won the trophy and now England want to get it back!"

"Hopefully we can go there and sneak another win from there and hopefully come out with the trophy again."

With many variables to consider as they look to achieve back-to-back victories over England, Edwards admits that one of the keys to the series will be retaining focus on the task at hand.

"Playing as a team and staying focused, just getting used to the cold because it's going to be really cold out there. Just playing your own game and going out there and being positive."

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes categories like 'Snoopy', 'Dog's genre', 'Vaudeville family', etc.

CRYPTOQUIP

Cryptoquip puzzle with a grid of letters and a key: WIARA SADTP ZNSR XDYA WN BNN NMXQ LW MDUIW QNK BDUIW ZLXX WIAB XNS- DM-WIA-PLTY ZTALWKTRAR- Yesterdays Cryptiquip: IF A CONSPICUOUSLY COLORFUL FELLOW WERE FLOATING IN WATER, I SUPPOSE HE MIGHT BE FLAM-BOUYANT.