

Tigers' dismal show under probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh cricket team's dismal performance in the ICC World Twenty20 in England was discussed in the parliament yesterday and it was decided that necessary steps would be taken for an inquiry into the failure which broke the hearts of millions of fans.

On behalf of State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker, who is now in England, State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder informed the House about the inquiry in response to a query from Awami League lawmaker Mostaque Ahmed Ruhai.

A number of lawmakers expressed their disappointment over the heartbreaking performance of Mohammad Ashraful's men, who made an early exit from the showcase event following a six-wicket defeat to minnows Ireland.

Talukder however said that steps would be taken so that the team could perform better in the upcoming World Cup.

Reaching to another AL lawmaker Abdur Rahman, the minister said: "We all feel sad when our cricket team performs poorly."



Did U Know?

Robin Soderling became the first and only tennis player to defeat Rafael Nadal in the French Open.



BTW & STAR Cricket

ICC World T20 Cup (SUPER EIGHTS)
New Zealand v Ireland
Live from 6:30pm

England v South Africa
Live from 10:30pm



Younus Khan

(Pakistan cricket captain)
"It would be sad if we don't make it, but I have never attached too much importance to Twenty20 cricket, as it is fun cricket. I mean it is more for entertainment, even if it is international cricket. It is all for the crowd."

TODAY'S T20 MATCHES

(SUPER EIGHTS)
New Zealand v Ireland
Venue: Trent Bridge
Time: 6:30pm

England v South Africa
Venue: Trent Bridge
Time: 10:30pm

Conditioning camp delayed for booters

SPORTS REPORTER

The conditioning camp for the Bangladesh national football team has been delayed by five days due to the unavailability of accommodation at BKSP where the team will be headed after their camp in the resort city of Cox's Bazar.

BKSP hostel will be occupied by SAF shooters till July 9 which has deferred the camp.

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UP THEY WENT, DOWN THEY RETURN: A sombre Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (R) comes out of the Zia International Airport on Wednesday morning. Bangladesh made an early exit from the ICC World Twenty20 in England after conceding a stunning defeat against Ireland on Monday.

Tigers return sans Ash Captain avoids public wrath?

SPORTS REPORTER



The lacklustre Bangladesh cricket team returned home silently on Wednesday following their first round exit from the ICC World Twenty20 without Mohammad Ashraful, the under-fire Tigers captain.

The performance of the Tigers in the second version of the showcase event broke the hearts of millions of fans and fingers have already been pointed to the unnervered skipper Ashraful.

When all the wrath of the public is on the captain, it appears that he chose not to fly with his teammates to skip the heat: an uncourageous move indeed.

The job was then left to his deputy, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, to face the media at the Zia International Airport.

Coach Jamie Siddons went to Australia to be with his girlfriend Kim, who is expected to give birth to their first child next week, while Ashraful and all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan stayed back in England for treatment.

Shakib has a prior appointment with a doctor, but it was learnt that Ashraful suddenly informed the team management after the shocking six-wicket defeat against Ireland that

he needed to visit an eye specialist.

It was however not very hard for the Bangladesh skipper to get the permission to give the impression about how inept the cricket management.

"Siddons and Shakib took the permission beforehand, but Ashraful requested the team management about his treatment only after the Ireland loss. Actually we grant this kind of leave on team management's recommendation during the tour," said BCB's acting CEO Nizam Uddin Chowdhury.

Bangladesh were the first team to reach England to acclimatise to the condition and interestingly they were the first team to return home as well, as they had to board the first available flight after their meek surrender to the spirited Irish.

"We failed to qualify for the second round for simple mistakes that we made against Ireland. And we understand that we disappointed our supporters and we apologise for that. Hopefully in future we will not repeat our mistakes and come out stronger and we will try to make up for the shock," Mashrafe responded.

Like his coach Mashrafe also said that poor batting was the main reason behind the disastrous performance.

"The batsmen failed to do their jobs. Our

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SL keep WI in check

AFP, Nottingham



Sanath Jayasuriya and Tillakaratne Dilshan hammered an opening stand of 124 as Sri Lanka beat the West Indies by 15 runs in the World Twenty20 here on Wednesday.

The duo lifted Sri Lanka to 192-5, a total the West Indies chased bravely despite the absence of explosive opener and captain Chris Gayle, who missed the Group C match due to a knee injury.

The West Indians ended at 177-5, fired by a spectacular counter-attack by Dwayne Bravo and Ramnaresh Sarwan, who put on 77 off 59 balls for the fifth wicket.

Bravo hit a 38-ball 51 that included five fours and two sixes, while Sarwan remained unbeaten on 28.

The match, watched by a sell-out crowd at Trent Bridge, held only academic interest since both teams had already qualified for the Super Eights at Australia's expense.

Sri Lanka, who thumped Australia by six wickets in their first match, are hot favourites to make the semifinals from Super Eights Group F which includes Pakistan, Ireland and New Zealand.

The West Indies are drawn in the tougher Group E which also has defending champions India, South Africa and hosts England.

Two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals.

Left-handed Jayasuriya, at 39 the oldest player in the 12-nation tournament, smashed 81 off 47 balls that was studded with 10 boundaries and three sixes.

Dilshan, who contributed just 38 in the

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GETTING BETTER WITH AGE! A vintage Sri Lanka opener Sanath Jayasuriya plays one on the on-side during his blistering knock of 81 off 47 balls against the West Indies in their ICC World Twenty20 group game at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday.

Win it for fans: Younus

AFP, London



Pakistan captain Younus Khan challenged his side to win the World Twenty20 for their cricket-starved fans after they booked their place in the second round here on Tuesday.

Victory over the Netherlands - who stunnedly defeated England in the opening match of the tournament - by 82 runs at Lord's saw Pakistan bounce back from their 48-run loss last weekend to the hosts at the Oval.

Now Younus wants Pakistan, finalists at the inaugural World Twenty20 two years ago in South Africa, to go all the way and give their supporters something to celebrate after the Asian nation became a virtual no-go zone for international cricket following an armed attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore in March.

"We have no international cricket so if we reach the semifinal or win the tournament, the nation will stand up for us," Younus told reporters.

"I need a cup for Pakistan. If I bring one cup for Pakistan that will be an achievement for me."

The Dutch, who began the match with a better run-rate, needed to stop Pakistan winning by at least 25 runs to go through to the Super Eights.

But, after holding Pakistan to 175 for five and so needing to make at least 151 to get into the second round, the Dutch were dismissed for just 93. Leg-spinner Shahid Afridi did the bulk of the damage with four wickets for just 11 runs - the fourth best figures in all Twenty20 internationals.

"If we bowl like that in every game, we will go through to the semifinals," said Younus.

"Everybody knows we are slow starters, I just hope we have performances like this in every game."

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PHOTO: AFP
Wayne Parnell (L) and Dale Steyn of South Africa celebrate after beating New Zealand in their ICC World Twenty20 match at Lord's in London on Tuesday.

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