

Indian boos fired up England

AFF, London

England captain Paul Collingwood said the boos of Indian supporters helped fire his team to victory on Sunday and send the defending champions crashing out.

England beat India by three runs at Lord's to keep alive their hopes of making the semifinals, but a second successive Super Eight defeat meant India's campaign was over.

"When we were practising at the nursery ground today, we were booed by the Indian fans. It was hard to believe we were playing at home. So we used those boos as motivation."

Tigers begin

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The Tigers will leave Dhaka on June 29 to play two Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international against the hosts. The team's first stop is in Barbados where they play a tour game before moving on to Kingstown in St. Vincent for the first Test from July 9.

Pakistan

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ugly slog sweep against New Zealand born left-arm spinner Regan West.

Akmal, looking to press on, was dismissed by a Johnston yorker as he went down the pitch.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 159-5 in 20 overs (Akmal 57, Shahzaib 23, Afridi 24, Younis 10, Misbah 20, Razaq 15 not out, Malik 4 not out, extras 6; Johnston 1-45, Cusack 1-41, West 1-33, McCallan 2-26)

IRELAND: 120-9 in 20 overs (W. Porterfield 40, K. O'Brien 26, extras 13; Aamir 1-19, Afridi 1-26, Ajmal 4-19, Gul 2-19)

Result: Pakistan won by 39 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Kamran Akmal.

Battle for

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will now face Madaripur on Wednesday to decide the semifinals.

At the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore, Dinajpur Football Academy refused to play just five minutes before the final whistle citing unfair play by host district's team Shaheed Mukti Jodha Sangsad Moeen Smriti Sangsad.

Tournament committee coordinator Fazlur Rahman Babul told reporters that Dinajpur left the field five minutes before the final whistle after Shaheed Mukti Jodha Sangsad Moeen Smriti Sangsad.

The local side was leading 3-2 when Dinajpur came off the field.

Babul said that they were waiting for reports from the match commissioner as well as the referees before a decision can be taken.

BCB lifts ban

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avail the board's amnesty and are hence eligible to take part in all forms of domestic cricket with effect from today (Monday), said a BCB statement.

The cricketers are Habibul Bashar, Alok Kapali, Aftab Ahmed, Shahriar Nafees, Nazimuddin, Mohammad Rafique, Forhad Reza, Tapash Baisya, Mohammad Sharif, Dhiman Ghosh, Musharraf Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Mahbubul Karim and Golam Mabud.

Tired Kewell

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also been ruled out of the Melbourne game for the same reason, the coach said.

"Both Harry and Chris played two tough games in a very short period of time," Verbeek said after a training session.

"Besides Mark Schwarzer and Jason Culina, Harry and Chris were the only other two players to play (almost all) of the 180 minutes of the Qatar and Bahrain matches."

"Both players are disappointed that they are unable to play in the big match on Wednesday night, but physically it's best if we don't take any risks with them."

Tevez's no

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afford to pay Tevez the higher salary and have informed the consortium that owns the player's economic rights they will pay the £25.5m fee in one sum whereas Liverpool's proposal is to drag it out with instalments over the course of his contract.



England fast bowler Ryan Sidebottom celebrates after beating India by three runs during the Super 8s match of the ICC World Twenty20 at Lord's on Sunday.

Irish hold heads high

AFF, London



Ireland captain William Porterfield said his side had "given everything" after they came within a whisker of adding to their country's record of shock cricket wins against Sri Lanka.

The only non-Test team left in the World Twenty20, Ireland performed brilliantly in the field to restrict Sri Lanka to 144 for nine in their Super Eight clash at Lord's here on Sunday.

But having been 87 for one they crumbled in the face of pressure bowling from spinners Ajantha Mendis and Muttiah Muralidaran, as well as unorthodox quick Lasith Malinga.

In the end they finished agonisingly in sight of their target at 135 for seven and went down by nine runs to a Sri Lanka team still to lose a match at this tournament.

"The lads gave everything," said Porterfield. "That's what I asked for before the game and they left nothing out there."

"We are obviously a bit disappointed we lost the game but if you went around every lad in the changing room and asked them 'could you have given any more?', they couldn't have."

"To restrict a side like Sri Lanka to 140-odd was a fantastic effort."

"I thought we were really good in the field and

we batted pretty well before just coming up short in the end," added Porterfield, a member of the Ireland squad that beat Bangladesh and Pakistan at the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean.

Ireland's Niall O'Brien had a fine all-round match. The Northamptonshire wicketkeeper starred in the field with three catches and a stumping before making 31 despite being restricted in his running by an ankle injury.

It was a display appreciated by Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara, well caught by opposing gloveman O'Brien when the keeper was stood up to the stumps.

"I think it was a great performance," said Sangakkara. "The way he kept was absolutely brilliant and he backed that up with some very good batting. It was fortunate for us he was struck with an injury."

"But I think the way the Irish team played, I am sure it was very encouraging for them and for Ireland as a cricketing nation."

"They are going to get stronger and stronger as long as they get some good young cricketers taking up the game."

Sri Lanka were indebted to an innings of 78 from Mahela Jayawardene, their former captain.

He too was impressed by Ireland, saying: "Especially in Twenty20, you can't underestimate any team. If you make a couple of mistakes it's quite difficult to come back into the game."

Smith sorry for Dhoni

AFF, Nottingham



South Africa captain Graeme Smith offered his support to under-fire India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Monday after the defending champions crashed out of the World Twenty20.

India's three-run defeat to England at Lord's on Sunday sparked an avalanche of criticism aimed at Dhoni with his tactical thinking coming under fire from the country's demanding fans.

"Mahendra is a very composed person but a few tactical decisions of theirs have come under scrutiny and that's always difficult to deal with as a leader," said Smith whose team face India in their final Super Eight match at Trent Bridge here on Tuesday.

"If you've captained for long enough, you've been through those phases of your career. As a leader, when things aren't going to plan, they will turn on you. How you handle yourself and handle those situations is a sign of the type of character you are and where you're going in your career."

"I certainly had a few moments like that but

hopefully we won't be facing that in this competition. Maybe it's someone else's turn."

Smith added: "We all know India, on paper, are a supremely talented team with lots of options so it was a surprise to see them not perform to that standard in Super Eights."

South Africa have already sealed their place in the semi-finals are almost certain to play their last-four match here on Thursday as Group E winners.

"(Tuesday's match) is not important to the competition but we still want to go out and play well," said Smith.

"In terms of the levels which you are playing and in terms of your combinations it is important for our semi-final."

"It is about challenging ourselves to play at the levels we have been. The challenge for us is to maintain our level of play; it's a very difficult competition if you don't do that."

"It's important, no matter what the result, that we play at the level we are comfortable with."

"Twenty20 is all about adapting to situations, committing to your skills and being well-prepared tactically."

No decision yet on Pakistan



AFF, London

The International Cricket Council said on Monday no agreement had been reached on where Pakistan will hold its World Cup matches in February-March 2011.

"No decision has been made yet," ICC president David Morgan told a media briefing after a meeting with officials from the four co-hosts nations, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Pakistan had served legal notices on the ICC after being stripped of hosting rights in the wake of the militant attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore on March 3 and the deteriorating security situation in the volatile nation.

Morgan clarified that while Pakistan were removed as a host location, the Pakistan Cricket Board remained a co-host and expected a final decision to be made "in the next two weeks."

The ICC clarification was viewed as an attempt to open doors to a negotiated settlement, but that appeared to have failed at Monday's meeting on the sidelines of the World Twenty20.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt told reporters as he left the three-hour meeting that he wanted Pakistan's share of 14 matches to be held on home soil.

Morgan and ICC chief

executive Haroon Lorgat said that while the PCB had put the legal proceedings on hold, it had already been decided that World Cup matches will not be played in Pakistan.

"This meeting was the first occasion to settle misunderstandings," Lorgat told reporters.

"All we did today was to clarify to the PCB that there will be no matches in Pakistan."

Morgan added: "We want to ensure Pakistan remains a host nation and we stress the importance of Pakistan as a cricketing nation."

The ICC officials did not rule out the possibility of Pakistan holding its matches in the United Arab Emirates, where it hosted a one-day series against Australia in May-June in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

"There are already four host nations," said Morgan. "There could be a fifth country hosting matches."

Morgan declined to comment on the response of India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to the current impasse.

Morgan, however, ruled out switching the 2011 World Cup to Australia and New Zealand, the designated hosts of the 2015 event.

"We did discuss the possibility of giving the 2011 World Cup to Australia and New Zealand, but that is not an option," he said. "Those two countries will hold the tournament in 2015."

Morgan said in a statement that he was "pleased we were able to come together today in a spirit of co-operation to

further the process of finding a resolution to the matter."

"We had constructive discussions and I will look to follow them through with Mr Pawar (ICC vice president Sharad Pawar of India) and Mr Butt in the coming days so we can identify the best means of coming up with a recommendation on where the matches originally scheduled to take place in Pakistan can be held."

"What we need to do is settle this matter as quickly as possible within the ICC family as we need to press on with our preparations for the World Cup which is less than two years away."

Iraq stifle

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action again, rising above the Iraq defence to head Siboniso Gaxa's corner just over the crossbar.

Katlego Mashogo then came on for Fanteni and the Orlando Pirates striker quickly found himself with only Kassi to beat in the box, but the Iraqi keeper did well to snuff out the danger.

With five minutes left on the clock, Parker will never know how he failed to tap the ball home when faced with an open goal.

Santana introduced Pienaar in a last-ditch effort to grab the points but to no avail.

South Africa are next up against New Zealand on Wednesday with Iraq facing the Spaniards.

2nd women's school football from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Scholastica will play the opening match of the second edition of the Citycell Dhaka Metropolis Women's School Football Championship against Rahmatullah Model High School at the Sultana Kamal Sports Complex at Dhanmondi, Dhaka at 2pm today.

The second game will be contested between Sir John Wilson School and Azimpur Agrani School at 3pm while Aga Khan School will take on Siddheshwari Girls' High School at 4:30 pm in the closing game.

14 schools, split into four groups, are taking part in the championship out of which five are English medium schools and nine are Bengali medium.

The semifinal matches will be held on June 23 while the final on June 25 both at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

BFF's women football committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bacchu disclosed the details at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday afternoon. Tournament committee convenor Mahfuza Akhter Kiron and BFF general secretary Al-Musabbir Sadi were also present.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker will open the event as chief guest at 4pm.

Curtains on Pepsi First Ball-er Captain

SPORTS REPORTER

The closing ceremony of the groundbreaking "Pepsi First Ball-er Captain" and the award giving ceremony of "Pepsi Display" promotion was held on Sunday at the Transcom Beverages Ltd. headquarters.

The two-month long supplementary retail promotion of the "Pepsi First Ball-er Captain" activation came to a closing through prize distribution among the top 200 retailers.

Through the promotion and the activation, Pepsi once again proved its continuous attempt to present the consumers and at the same time the retailers with something exciting all the time.

Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, general manager of Transcom Beverages Ltd, Asrar Ahmed, sales operation manager, Pradip Kumar Halder, unit sales manager and Arif Hossain, market development manager, were present during the occasion.

Dhoni offers no excuse

AFF, London



hands of England.

Defeat by three runs at Lord's on Sunday meant India, who won the inaugural 2007 World Twenty20 in South Africa, no longer had any chance of reaching the semifinals ahead of their final Super Eight match against South Africa at Trent Bridge on Tuesday.

Leading Indian players such as wicketkeeper/batsman Dhoni have been on a virtual non-stop carousel of cricket for the past two years, their international commitments and the Indian Premier League leaving them with little time for a break.

But Dhoni said: "If a cricketer says he didn't perform well because he was tired, it's a bad excuse. The more cricket you play the better it is. We can't say we didn't do well because we are playing too much cricket, we just didn't play well."

As for the IPL, which this year was staged in South Africa because of security concerns, Dhoni said: "It is a demanding event but it is not an excuse. If you can see I looked tired, I should be the one responsible for it."

India held England to 153 for seven but could only manage 150 for five as they struggled against short-pitched bowling from England's pace attack at a packed Lord's.

Big-hitting Yuvraj Singh, who famously smashed six sixes in an over off Stuart Broad at the 2007 tournament, only appeared at the fall of the fourth wicket despite the sluggish prog-

ress made by the top order. "I am very disappointed," said Dhoni. "We were not up to the mark. Hopefully, this will be a good learning lesson."

"It's not the first time in Twenty20 that the bouncer was used. When you are out of the sub-continent bouncers will be bowled and they bowled them well."

Asked about Yuvraj's place in the batting order, Dhoni replied: "Maybe next time I will send in Yuvraj."

"If I knew Yuvraj would do it for the team, I would have promoted him. What we hoped is that Ravindra Jadeja would stabilise for a few overs. I didn't want Yuvraj to bat under pressure as early as the third or fourth over."

India's build up to this tournament was overshadowed by reports of a bust-up between Dhoni and star opening batsman Virender Sehwag, who in the end didn't play at the World Twenty20 because of a shoulder injury.

"We know what really happened," said Dhoni as he again tried to defuse talk of a major row. "In the dressing room the atmosphere was great."

"Sehwag, when he starts off, the bowler is under pressure. We missed him but that was because of an injury."

He added: "We are more upset than the fans but we understand their emotion."

However, Dhoni stressed he did not feel as low now as when India made an early exit from the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean.

"Cricket never tests your character when you are doing well but as a player and a team when you are not doing well."

"We were never up to the mark but we will improve, most of the guys are youngsters and they will play for another eight years or so. This loss is disappointing but it doesn't come close to the 2007 World Cup."

AFC U-19 C'ship in November



SPORTS REPORTER

The Group E matches of AFC Under-19 Championship qualifiers 2010 will be held from November 1 to 11 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Bangladesh, South Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Macao and hosts Thailand will take part in the championship.

Bangladesh will play their opening match against South Korea on November 1, the second against Vietnam on November 3, the third against Thailand on November 6, the fourth against Macao on November 8, and the fifth and last match against Laos

on November 11, all at the Rajamangala Stadium at Bang Kapi in the Thai capital.

FIXTURES

Nov 1	SKorea v Bangladesh
	Thailand v Macao
	Laos v Vietnam
Nov 3	Thailand v Laos
	Vietnam v Bangladesh
	Macao v South Korea
Nov 6	Macao v Laos
	SKorea v Vietnam
	Bangladesh v Thailand
Nov 8	Vietnam v Thailand
	Bangladesh v Macao
	Laos v South Korea
Nov 11	SKorea v Thailand
	Bangladesh v Laos
	Macao v Vietnam

Rafiq

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Since he took over the helm of affairs from former national skipper Faruque Ahmed in August 2007, Rafiq could hardly add anything for which he can be credited rather there is a popular saying that "their main job is to bring two new players in every series and thus drop two".

The cynic even whispered that the team is made elsewhere in which this three-member committee just put their pens.

If you are a selector you definitely can't satisfy everybody but for Rafiq the question is not like that because there is hardly anything provided by his men which even can make even an interesting debate.

So, the time has come to evaluate the performance of Rafiqul & Co. But then the question is: Who will carry it out?



Chairman of women's wing of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Sirajul Islam Bacchu (C) addresses a press conference in connection with the Citycell Dhaka Metropolis Women's School Tournament at the BFF House yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 From square one	1 Rudiments
5 Orsk's river	2 Spruce
9 Bumped into	3 Sicilian spouter
12 — noire	4 Shoe with a triangular sole
13 Narc's measure	5 Mandolins
14 Skilled fighter	29 One or more
15 February 2	6 Edge
17 That lass	7 Carte intro
18 Puts on a show	8 Also-ran
19 Salts town	9 "Le Cid" composer
21 Ego	10 Musical come-back
22 Binge	11 Abound
24 Base runner's goal	16 Opened
27 "I — Camera"	20 Cribbage scorer
28 Rodents do it	22 Huge hit
31 Playwright	
32 Folk song	
33 Bambi's aunt	
34 Network	

Solution time: 25 mins.

OMNI	BLT	AJAR
ROAD	LEE	PANE
BAILLOUTS	PITA	
STREW	TILLER	
RED	STAR	
POT	DEN	SUITE
ERAS	REV	DRAG
AGITA	OAK	DVO
LAMB	REB	
COWBOY	SEESAW	
AXIL	FAILSAFE	
GENE	ANT	OGRE
ENDS	RAY	TOOK

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