

U-19s kick off one-day series today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on host England today in the first of the five match U-19 limited over series in Leicester.

The second match between the two sides will be held on Sunday at the same venue while the third is slated for July 21 at Northampton County Club ground. The fourth and fifth matches will take place on July 23 and 24 at Hove County Club ground.

After the limited over series, Bangladesh will play two youth T20 matches against England on July 28 and 29 at the London Road in Seaford.

Earlier, the hosts clinched a 1-0 victory over the visitors in the two-match youth four-day test series.

Zim set to reveal annual awards

CRICINFO STAFF

The nominees for the 2009 Zimbabwe Cricket Awards have been announced, with captain Prosper Utseya, Ray Price, Tawanda Mupariwa and Hamilton Masakadza vying to be named Cricketer of the Year.

A panel of 15 judges, including ZC administrators, selectors and members of the media, met in Harare on July 15 to deliberate over the candidates in a variety of award categories. The awards recognize achievements attained during the 2008-09 season which ended in March.

"The annual awards were created to pay special tribute to the leading cricketers of the day and honor those who have played a significant role in administering and developing the sport in Zimbabwe," said a board spokesperson.

ZC will also use the ceremony to reveal the names and corporate identities of the recently-launched franchises. "There has been much anticipation about how the new franchises will be branded and invited guest will be the first to get a sneak peek at how each of the five franchises will be represented in the coming season," the spokesman added.



Did U Know?

Rowers were the third largest US delegation (48 athletes) to the Olympic Games in 2000.



Peter Kenyon

(Chelsea chief executive) "John Terry is the heart of Chelsea, he is our captain and has also become captain of England while he has been here. We are not going to sell John, so it is irrelevant what another club will offer."



TEN Sports
West Indies v Bangladesh
Second Test, Day 2
Live from 9:00pm
STAR Cricket
England v Australia
2nd Ashes Test, Day 3
Live from 5:00pm



England swing bowler James Anderson (C) appeals successfully for the wicket of Australia's Phillip Hughes on the second day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's in London yesterday.

Pride at stake for Pak

AFP, Colombo

Beleaguered Pakistan are gearing for one final fling at restoring their honour after being outclassed by rampant Sri Lanka in the first two Tests of the ongoing series.

Younus Khan's men were in disarray amid reports of dissension and infighting in the side, less than a month after they were crowned World Twenty20 champions in England by beating Sri Lanka in the final.

Three inexplicable Pakistani batting collapses in four innings have given Sri Lanka their first home series win over the South Asian rivals even before the final Test that begins on Monday.

Pakistan's performance so far in the series has only enhanced their reputation as one of the most unpredictable sides in modern cricket who can rise and fall in a span of a few days with equal ease.

The tourists dominated the initial three days of the first Test in Galle, only to falter on the fourth morning when needing 97 to win with eight wickets in hand, they managed to lose the match by 50 runs.

In the second Test at the P Sara Oval in Colombo, Pakistan crashed to a shocking 90 in the first innings and then lost nine wickets for 35 runs in the second innings after being 285-1 at one stage.

Pakistan lost the first Test inside four days and the second in three and must lift their batting if they are to avoid a similar fate in the third Test at the Sinhalese sports club here.

"The batting has let us down badly, but we can't afford another failure," Pakistan coach

Intikhab Alam told AFP. "There is a lot of pride to play for in the third Test."

Former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul Haq, like other ex-stars Abdul Qadir and Sarfraz Nawaz, has blamed the defeats on groupism in the team and Younus' inability to keep the flock together.

"I can smell factionalism within the team and Younus is not doing his best to keep the team united," Inzamam said earlier this week. "It does not augur well for our cricket."

The former players have been especially critical of Shoaib Malik, Younus' predecessor as captain, and other senior players like Misbah-ul Haq and Kamran Akmal for failing to make a mark.

Malik has managed just 83 runs in the series so far, Misbah only 66 and Akmal a disappointing 29, leaving a gaping hole in the middle order.

Younus said earlier this week he could not be blamed entirely for the team's losses or the failure of the senior players in the side.

"I can't bat for them," the captain said. "They have to learn from their mistakes. If a youngster like Fawad (Alam) can bat like a champion, there is no reason why the others can't."

Alam, a 23-year-old from Karachi, made a stunning debut in the second Test when he hammered 168 during a second-wicket stand of 200 with Younus (82) before the rest of the batting caved in.

Younus, however, expected Pakistan to lift themselves in the final Test, saying it was better to lose the series 1-2 than 0-3.

"We have to win this game," he said. "There is a one-day series after this, and if we finish the Test well it will boost our confidence for those matches."

Pakistan are due to play five one-day international against Sri Lanka after the Tests.

3rd Div cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Taj Property Cricket Club beat Amarjoyti Club by nine wickets to emerge as Group I champion in a qualifying round match of the Metropolis Third Division Cricket League at the Jagannath Hall ground on Friday.

Batting first, Amarjoyti Club were all out for 74 with Robin and Shamim scoring 15 runs each. Zillur claimed four wickets for 21 runs.

In reply, Taj Property Cricket Club reached the 75 run target with ease in just 15 overs for the loss of one wicket. Jasim scored an unbeaten 38 runs. Mesbah took the lone wicket for 15 runs.

In another match, Sheikh Jamal Smriti Cricketers (335/9) thrashed Friends Social Welfare Organization (147/10) with a 188 run victory to emerge group H champion at the City Club ground.

Nuru Mia of Sheikh Jamal Smriti Cricketers hammered an impressive 117 runs off 66 balls.

In the day's other match, Dhaka North (115/3) posted a seven-wicket victory over Udayan Cricket Academy (114/10) at the Dhaka University ground.

Shakib chooses to field first

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

In an attempt to win the first-ever away series, Bangladesh has decided to field first in the second and final Test against West Indies in St. George's, Grenada yesterday.

West Indies were 44-0 after 10 overs with Dale Richards (34) and Omar Phillips (9) batting till filing of this report.

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was given the responsibility to lead the team in the second Test after Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was ruled out with a knee injury, won the toss and decided to give his new ball bowlers a chance to exploit the conditions.

The match was delayed by half an hour due to a wet pitch and the report suggests that there is moisture on the surface and the pitch has something in it for the bowlers with generous grass on it.

Bangladesh made one change from their victorious team, which won the first Test in St. Vincent by 95 runs, as left-arm spinner Enamul Haque replaced injured pacer Mashrafe.

The Tigers strengthened their spin attack as in the first Test two spinners Mahmudullah Riyad and Shakib found the West Indies batsmen wanting, to script their first-ever away Test victory.

So, it will be interesting to watch how the local batsmen handle the spin trio this time around.

During the first Test, Tigers skipper Mashrafe injured the cartilage in his right knee and an MRI performed three days ago confirmed this. The leading pacer is seeking advice from a specialist knee surgeon to optimally manage the injury.

All-rounder Ryan Hinds came in to replace Nikita Miller in the only change for the West Indies.

SL recall Vaas

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka on Friday recalled seasoned left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas for the final cricket Test against Pakistan, but star spinner Muttiah Muralidaran was again left out.

Vaas, 35, was added as the 16th member of the squad for the Test starting at the Sinhalese sports club here on Monday with Sri Lanka already enjoying a decisive 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

The 110-Test veteran had been overlooked for the first two Tests amid media speculation that he was being eased out of the five-day game and would only play one-day and Twenty20 cricket.

Vaas, who made his Test debut against Pakistan at Kandy in 1994, has claimed 354 wickets at an average of 29.40 with 12 five-wicket hauls, and twice took 10 wickets in a match.

Muralidaran, the world's leading Test bowler with 770 wickets, was expected to return for the final Test after missing the first two matches due to a knee injury.

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Anderson leads Eng

Cricket

AFP, London

James Anderson starred with both bat and ball as England bounced back on the second morning of the second Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's here on Friday.

Anderson had opener Phillip Hughes caught behind and then Australia captain Ricky Ponting fell to him for just two.

That left Australia 10 for two in reply to England's first innings 425 - which owed much to swing bowler Anderson's 29.

Australia, unbeaten in Tests at Lord's for 75 years, were 22 for two at lunch - a deficit of 403.

Simon Katich, who scored a century in the drawn series opener in Cardiff, was eight not out and Michael Hussey four not out.

Hughes had made just four when glancing at Anderson he was given out caught down the legside by wicketkeeper Matt Prior.

Umpire Rudi Koertzen, standing in his 100th Test, is known for taking his time but, even by the South African's standards, this was a 'slow death'.

Ponting, who had made 150 in Cardiff, is vulnerable to the well-pitched up delivery early in his innings when hitting across the line.

Swing bowler Anderson produced such a delivery and appealed for what seemed lbw. But the ball carried to England captain Andrew Strauss at first slip.

The umpires referred the appeal to third umpire Nigel Llong, who was only empowered to rule on whether the ball had been caught cleanly.

He did that and Ponting had to go even though replays suggested he might not have hit the ball. However, those same replays also indicated he may have been out lbw.

Anderson, at lunch, had taken two wickets for 12 runs in six overs.

England's total owed much to Anderson's last-wicket stand of 47 with recalled quick Graham Onions (17 not out).

Left-hand bat but right-arm bowler Anderson had proved a thorn in Australia's side when batting in a defensive fashion alongside Monty Panesar to deny the Ashes holders the wicket they needed for victory last week in Cardiff.

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Beximco Pharma win title

Consolation prize for Brac Bank

SPORTS REPORTER

Beximco Pharma blew away the competition as they won the Ascent Group 5-a-side indoor soccer cup with an emphatic 8-2 win over Union Capital in the final at Scholastica's STM Hall in Uttara yesterday.

Brac Bank won the consolation Plate Championship with a hard-fought 3-2 win over IDFC at the same venue.

Favourites from the start for their high-octane style of football, Beximco Pharma have been dominant through-

out the tournament and peaked on the final day as they negotiated through the quarterfinal, semifinal and final on the same day.

Drawn against Nokia first up, the medicine trumped mobile as Beximco romped home 7-2. The cell phone giants had been playing well but stood no chance against the Beximco juggernaut.

Continuing with the communications theme next up for Beximco were Aktel who found themselves on the wrong end of a 5-2 drubbing.

With their spot secured, Beximco saw Union Capital

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School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Six players of Class VI to X Group are sharing the lead with four points each after the end of the 4th game of the 11th Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament held at N.S.C. Tower Auditorium Lounge on Friday.

They are Abdullah Al-Saif, Ikramul Haque Siam, Debotpal Dey (India), Rupesh Jaishwal (Nepal), Nurul Huda Sagar and Shubham Das.

Four players are also sharing lead with four points each in the Girls Section. They are Sabikun Nahar, Tanzina Akter Tani, Tahmina Akte Tisha and Sweta Saha (India). In the Class KG to V Group, three players are sharing lead with four points each. They are Hritik Prasad, Debdeep Das and Sayantan Chandra (India).

The 5th round games of all three groups will commence today in the same venue.

WI CONTRACTS ROW

WICB blames players

Cricket

CRICINFO STAFF

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has said the players who refused to join the Test squad last week, and the official ticket launch for the 2010 World Twenty20 on July 4, violated the board's code of conduct and, in some cases, retainer contracts. In its first formal communication with the players on this issue, it has written individually to each of them citing breaches of contract and seeking a reply within ten days.

The action precipitated an immediate response, with the West Indies Players Association (WIPA) disputing the charge, saying the players could not breach contractual obligations because they had not entered into an agreement with the WICB. It said the board lacked the standing to issue such letters.

The board claimed a breach of Rule 6 of the WICB Code of Conduct, which states: "Players and team officials must not at any time engage in behaviour unbecoming that could bring the game of cricket into disrepute or be harmful to the interests of cricket." The WICB release also said those players on retainer contracts have been informed that "their action breached that contract and therefore those payments have been suspended immediately until such time

as you [the players] indicate in writing to the WICB your resumption of obligations under the contract".

WICB media officer Phillip Spooner said the board had also told WIPA that the strike action breaches the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the two, and requested that the dispute be referred to immediate mediation.

WIPA, on the other hand, clarified the position of its players in its own press release. "They informed the WICB that they were unavailable for the first Test against Bangladesh," the WIPA statement read. "These players were under no contract with the WICB that imposed any terms, conditions and obligations with regard to the first Test against Bangladesh and have taken no strike action within this context."

On the "boycott" of the ticket launch, WIPA said though the players participated in the ODIs against India, "there was no contract setting out what the terms, conditions and obligations were with regard to this series and it was their understanding it was an optional event."

"In the normal circumstances the players may well have attended in any event without a contract but after a three-hour meeting at which it came to their attention that a large number of long outstanding issues had still not

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A victorious Beximco Pharma team celebrate with the trophy after lifting the Ascent Cup 5-a-side indoor soccer cup at Scholastica STM Hall in Uttara yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY