



Babita Khatun of Ansar powers her way to winning the 100-metre butterfly gold in the girls' 18-20 group on the second day of the National Age Group Swimming Championships at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Eagles eliminate Somerset

CRICINFO, undated

The Eagles aren't going to make many friends in English county cricket. The South African side, who progressed this far after a thrilling win over Sussex, showed excellent control in sealing a five-wicket win in Hyderabad, one that pushed the other county team to the brink of elimination. Morne van Wyk and Ryan Bailey played crucial roles with the bat after CJ de Villiers starred with the ball in the afternoon and the team picked up two points from this win.

The tone was set after Justin Langer opted to bat. De Villiers, who sealed the Eagles' promotion in the one-over eliminator against Sussex, raced through two wickets in his first over. Somerset slumped to 52 for 5 in nine overs and relied on their club's record sixth-wicket partnership of 77 charged by Wes Durston, but a target of 133 proved easy for Eagles.

Marcus Trescothick's sudden return to England forced Craig Kieswetter to open, but he didn't go much further than two streaky boundaries. In a double-wicket opening over, de Villiers began by trapping Kieswetter right in front and a wide later Arul Suppiah, stuck on the crease, missed the ball and was done in by the angle.

That over brought Zander de Bruyn to the middle with the need to add some solidity to the innings. It was not to be, as he swatted an ugly heave straight to mid-off to gift de Villiers a third, and Thandi Tshabalala spun one past Langer's bat first ball to add to Somerset's woes. When Peter Trego was stunningly held by Alan Kruger

in his first over, diving to his left to pluck a return catch, Somerset were staring down a tunnel.

Step up Durston. From the get-go he ticked along nicely, just dabbing and deflecting until he clobbered Ryan McLaren for three fours in a row in the 15th over and repeated the feat when de Villiers returned for the 17th, racing past fifty in just 26 balls. The arc between point and third man proved a profitable area for James Hildreth, who slashed and edged with perfection for 33 runs in that region. Apart from one edge, Durston's shots were crisp and calculated; when the fast bowlers offered room he was keen to steer and run the ball fine. It was a controlled yet rapid innings, and the spark the innings desperately needed.

After bowling the most expensive over of the innings, de Villiers hit back, bowling a maiden in the 19th over - a rarity in Twenty20 format - to finish with 4 for 17, the best figures of the tournament. The last two overs yielded just two leg byes and a single, as the Eagles limited the damage, and that ultimately proved crucial.

Chasing 133 proved easy enough in the end, but Somerset made inroads early. Rilee Roussow, whose splendid half-century was pivotal against Sussex, looked intent on showing his aggressive side but miscued to mid-on off Charl Willoughby, and Adrian McLaren's poor run was extended when he top-edged to short fine leg. Two ugly dismissals were followed by a soft offering from Boeta Dippenaar, sashaying down to the spin of Max Waller and picking out long-off.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Eagles 133 for 5 (van Wyk 47, Bailey 29) beat Somerset 132 for 8 (Durston 57, Hildreth 31, de Villiers 3-17) by five wickets.

Rating Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

A total of forty-five players shared the lead with maximum two points each after the end of the second round of the Pexatech Limited Open International Rating Chess Tournament-2009 yesterday. Matches of the second and third round were held on Friday at Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room.

Third round matches were in progress when this report was last updated. Games of the fourth round will start at 10:30 am today at the same venue.

DCA elects new president, GS

SPORTS REPORTER

Abu Mohammad Sabur was elected as the new president while Arman Islam became the general secretary of the Dhanmondi Cricket Academy (DCA), said a press release.

The executive committee of DCA approved the unanimous election during a meeting held at the club's headquarters on October 5.

The Dhanmondi-based club is a Second Division team in the Dhaka Metropolitan League.

Sumita blazes

FROM PAGE 17

Sumita's coach Mabuba Iqbal Belly said that Sumita had been improving day by day in the training to brighten her chance of clinching a gold medal from the SA Games.

Apart from Sumita, Sajib Hossain from BKPS also set a new national record in the high jump clearing 2.04 metre that eclipsed the previous best of 2.02 metre. Junaed Biswas from Bangladesh Army jumped 1.90 metre to finish second while Masudul Kaiser Mukul of BKSP took bronze medal by also clearing 1.90 metre.

But, the organisers think Bangladesh have a good chance to clinch the Long Jump gold as Al Amin, now staying in Malaysia, has a record of jumping 7.81 metre in practice.

"No one can guarantee that one can clinch the gold, but Al Amin has a good opportunity in long jump and I think if he can jump 7.70 metre, he expects a gold," said coach Nazrul Islam Rummy.

Rummy also thinks Firoz Sarkar has a chance to win a medal though he has been nursing a injury. Firoz yesterday jumped 7.01 metre to win the long jump gold medal in the meet. The coach also believes Sajib may bring a laurel.

Meanwhile, Golam Mortaza and Shamsun Nahar Chumki became the fastest man and woman respectively in the meet.

Mortaza from Daffodils University put the fastest man of the last national championship, Masudul Karim, behind to finish the 100m distance with a time of 10.70 seconds. Masudul took 10.80 seconds.

With the absence of fastest women Nazmun Nahar Beauty, Chumki took 12 seconds to finish the 100m distance, putting behind Sumita Rani, who took 12.10 seconds though the event was not her favourite one.

Kenya fight back

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Kenya clawed their way back into contention in their five-match series against Zimbabwe, winning the third match of the rubber by 20 runs in Harare on Thursday. Batting first, they posted a competitive 266 for 9 in their fifty overs after winning their first toss of the series, and maintained their grip on the contest despite a 142-run stand for Zimbabwe's fourth wicket between Brendan Taylor and Stuart Matsikenyeri.

Trailing 2-0 after heavy defeats in the first two games, Kenya's batting fired at the third attempt, as David Obuya and Alex Obanda produced a pair of half-centuries in a first-wicket stand of 119, before Collins Obuya and Thomas Odoyo provided the innings with vital late momentum.

Graeme Cremer, who claimed a career-best 6 for 46 in the second match, was this time dispatched at a run a ball in nine wicketless overs, although he was involved in two of Kenya's three run-outs, including Collins Obuya for 52 from the final ball of the innings.

Instead it was the left-arm

spinner Ray Price who kept Zimbabwe in the reckoning with 2 for 22 in nine immaculate overs. His wickets included Steve Tikolo for 1 and the dangerous Odoyo, who had made 28 from 22 balls when he fell to a return catch. The seldom-used medium pace of Hamilton Masakadza also proved useful to Zimbabwe, as he picked up the wickets of both openers to finish with 2 for 22 in six overs.

Zimbabwe's reply got off to an inauspicious start when the dangerous Mark Vermeulen was trapped lbw for 7 by Odoyo, who then followed up in his next over by bowling Charles Coventry for 1. Zimbabwe's batsman of the series, Masakadza, responded with eight fours in a feisty 42, but Nehemiah Odhiambo bagged him early in his spell -- the first of his four wickets.

From 62 for 3, however, Zimbabwe responded through a responsible partnership between Taylor and Matsikenyeri, who rotated the strike well and rebuilt their innings to such an extent that, with ten overs remaining, they were marginal favourites, needing seven an over with three wickets standing.

But Hiren Varaiya ended the stand with his left-arm spin, first by bowling Matsikenyeri

for 58 from 85 balls, and he then repeated the dose in the following over to leave the more aggressive Taylor eight runs short of his maiden ODI hundred. He had produced a fine innings, with seven fours and two sixes in 109 balls, but his dismissal would prove decisive.

Elton Chigumbura tried to keep the momentum going, striking a four and a six in a 24-ball 21, but his colleagues in the lower-order couldn't cope with Odhiambo's accuracy. With Sean Williams unable to bat through injury, the pressure was too great, and Zimbabwe were eventually dismissed with one ball of the match remaining, the contest already well out of their reach.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Zimbabwe and Kenya at the Harare Sports Club on Thursday:

KENYA				
Obuya c Chigumbura b Masakadza	56			
Obanda b Masakadza	65			
Tikolo c Vermeulen b Price	1			
Patel c Taylor b Jarvis	20			
Oumarun run out	17			
Obuyarun out	52			
Kamanderun out	5			
Odoyo c b Price	28			
Odhiambo b Jarvis	1			
Onyango not out	1			

Extras: (b-3, w-16, nb-1) 20
Total (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 266
Did not bat: Varaiya.
Fall of wickets: 1-119, 2-120, 3-133, 4-160, 5-178, 6-185, 7-243, 8-244, 9-266.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Chigumbura	6	0	62	0
Utseya	9	2	35	0
Jarvis	9	0	60	2
Price	9	2	22	2
Cremer	9	0	54	0
Masakadza	6	0	22	2
Matsikenyeri	2	0	8	0

ZIMBABWE
Vermeulen lbw b Odoyo 6
Masakadza c Obuya b Odhiambo 44
Coventry b Odoyo 1
Taylor b Varaiya 92
Matsikenyeri b Varaiya 58
Chigumbura c Patel b Odhiambo 21
Utseya c Patel b Odhiambo 4
Cremer run out 9
Price c sub (Obeno) b Odhiambo 0
Jarvis not out 6
Extras: (lb-1, w-4) 5
Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) 246
Did not bat: Williams (injured).
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-19, 3-62, 4-204, 5-207, 6-214, 7-227, 8-228, 9-246.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Odoyo	9	0	54	2
Onyango	6	0	27	0
Kamande	8	1	27	0
Odhiambo	9.5	0	61	4
Varaiya	7	0	40	2
Tikolo	10	1	36	0

Result: Kenya won by 20 runs.

Man-of-the-match: N Odhiambo.

Victoria stroll past Bangalore

CRICINFO, undated



Victoria might have changed venues going into the second phase of the Champions League, but the conditions on offer for them on Thursday night in the match against Royal Challengers Bangalore were uncannily similar to what they faced in Delhi. It was their medium-pacers, particularly Andrew McDonald, who set up their comprehensive victory after Royal Challengers Bangalore had threatened to continue the trend of high scores at the Chinnaswamy Stadium. Rob Quiney then ensured they remained dominant, combating the tricky surface with a determined innings to seal victory for Victoria, boosting their semi-final chances and delivering a serious setback to Bangalore.

Victoria's seamers had thrived on a Delhi pitch that was sluggish, kept low, played slow and catered more to a game of patience than power. The track in Bangalore, on the other hand, initially appeared more suited to the demands of the Twenty20 format. The extra yards of pace from Shane Harwood and Peter Siddle were evident from the bounce and movement they were able to extract early on. But it also meant that they were countered with aggression, for the Bangalore openers, who fancied the ball meeting the bat at the desired pace, took advantage of any scoring opportunity.

Harwood, among the most frugal bowlers in this competition, was struck for two boundaries in his first over, Manish Pandey smashing one over his head and slapping one past mid-off. Robin Uthappa, not one to restrain himself too often, deferred to the belligerence of his junior partner, who displayed shades of his IPL brilliance with two delectable on-drives off Siddle, followed up by an audacious late-cut in his next over.

But the introduction of the other two seamers, and spinner Jon Holland, wrecked the solid foundation laid by the openers. Clint McKay shrugged off two boundaries off successive deliveries to bowl Uthappa with an offcutter; Pandey's aggression prompted him to slap a catch back to McDonald off a ball that didn't come on quickly and Virat Kohli holed out in the deep after failing to get the desired elevation.

Though the bounce remained true, the pitch proved highly conducive to spin and eventually slowed down. Holland, showing glimpses of what he could offer on the subsequent ODI tour of India, kept one end quiet. McDonald, in the meantime, maintained a tight line and his sly cutters, backed up by a frustrating length, earned him two significant breakthroughs. Ross Taylor, a nemesis for bowlers at the death, was caught plumb, and Rahul Dravid, whose exclusion from the ODI squad against

Australia was the talking point of the day, was also trapped in front while trying to force the pace. Dravid had anchored the innings amid a flurry of wickets - Bangalore lost three for 19 in under four overs - and kept one end protected from a dismal slide.

Suddenly, the medium pacers made the conditions appear reminiscent of the Kotla, bowling slower deliveries with consistency and chipping away with wickets as the batsmen succumbed to frustration. Only 55 runs were scored in the last ten overs, incredibly for the loss of just four wickets. Though Bangalore had their own share of bowlers capable of replicating the Victorian effort, they were up against a side more experienced batting in such conditions.

SCORES IN BRIEF
Victoria 133 for 3 (Hussey 31*, Quiney 29) beat Royal Challengers Bangalore (Pandey 39, Dravid 33, McDonald 4-21) by seven wickets

BD Under-19

FROM PAGE 17
close of the first day after the 68th over.

Azeem and Best were not out with 11 and 16 respectively.

Noor Hossain took three wickets for the hosts conceding 25 runs in 15 overs.

Skipper Mahmudul Hasan, and Sabbir Rahman took one wicket each conceding 33 runs in 17 overs and 12 runs in 8 overs respectively.

The match started at 11:00am and closed at 4:26pm due to rain.

Dravid axe

FROM PAGE 17

On the ICC Champions Trophy debacle, the south-paw said, "It's sport and there will be ups and downs. It's important to support them (the team) when they are not doing well. I hope they will be back to their winning ways against Australia."

Having made a comeback to the One-day fold recently in the September tri-series in Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy in South Africa, Dravid failed to find favour with the selectors. Dravid had a decent show since his return with 180 runs from five matches at an average of 36.

The seven-match series against Australia is beginning from October 25.



Did U Know?

Badminton is an Olympic sport played first in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Davydenko in last four

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

Nikolay Davydenko on Friday moved closer to a spot in next month's season-ending showpiece in London with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-1 defeat of Radek Stepanek for a semifinal place at the Shanghai Masters.

The Russian sixth seed, who missed three months of the season with injuries but has still reached a dozen quarterfinals in 2009, leapfrogged Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Chile's Fernando Gonzalez to currently stand a provisional ninth in the race to the World Tour Finals.

Three places remain up for grabs in the eight-man field with a month of the regular ATP season to go.

Younus decision

FROM PAGE 17

Younus had asked for a guarantee of his captaincy tenure till the 2011 World Cup, but both the official and sources close to Younus have denied such a demand was made. "He is realistic enough to know that such a long-term assurance is not possible in Pakistan," the official said. "But he does want the board to announce him captain for longer than just on a series-by-series basis. Maybe for the next six months or so, but more than a specific time he just wants some stability so he can plan how his team will be and how it should play."

The other matter supposedly discussed at Younus' meeting with Butt is possibly more telling. Younus, it is believed, wants to streamline the process of selecting the final XI; during the Champions Trophy, as many as five players were often involved in selection, including the captain, vice-captain, coach, manager and associate manager. Younus wants the panel to be reduced: captain, coach and a member

Davydenko, aged 28, next faces either second seed Novak Djokovic or French eighth seed Gilles Simon, winner last month in Bangkok.

Spain's unseeded Feliciano Lopez continued his winning streak of the season, producing his best showing of 2009 for a place in the final four with an upset of ninth seed Robin Soderling 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

The Swede, who played the Roland Garros final against Roger Federer, led 4-2 in the opening set before Lopez, 28 and ranked 41st, seized the momentum for the win in 94 minutes with three breaks of serve and 30 unforced errors by Soderling.

Lopez could next face fellow Spaniard Rafael Nadal if the top seed goes past Ivan Ljubicic later.

Though he managed only 17

runs in two innings, he nevertheless played his part in the thrilling one-wicket win over the IPL champions, Deccan Chargers, and appeared happy and settled in the squad. His wife Hayley accompanied him on the trip, after plans for him to commute in and out of India from a base in Dubai had fallen through for logistical reasons.

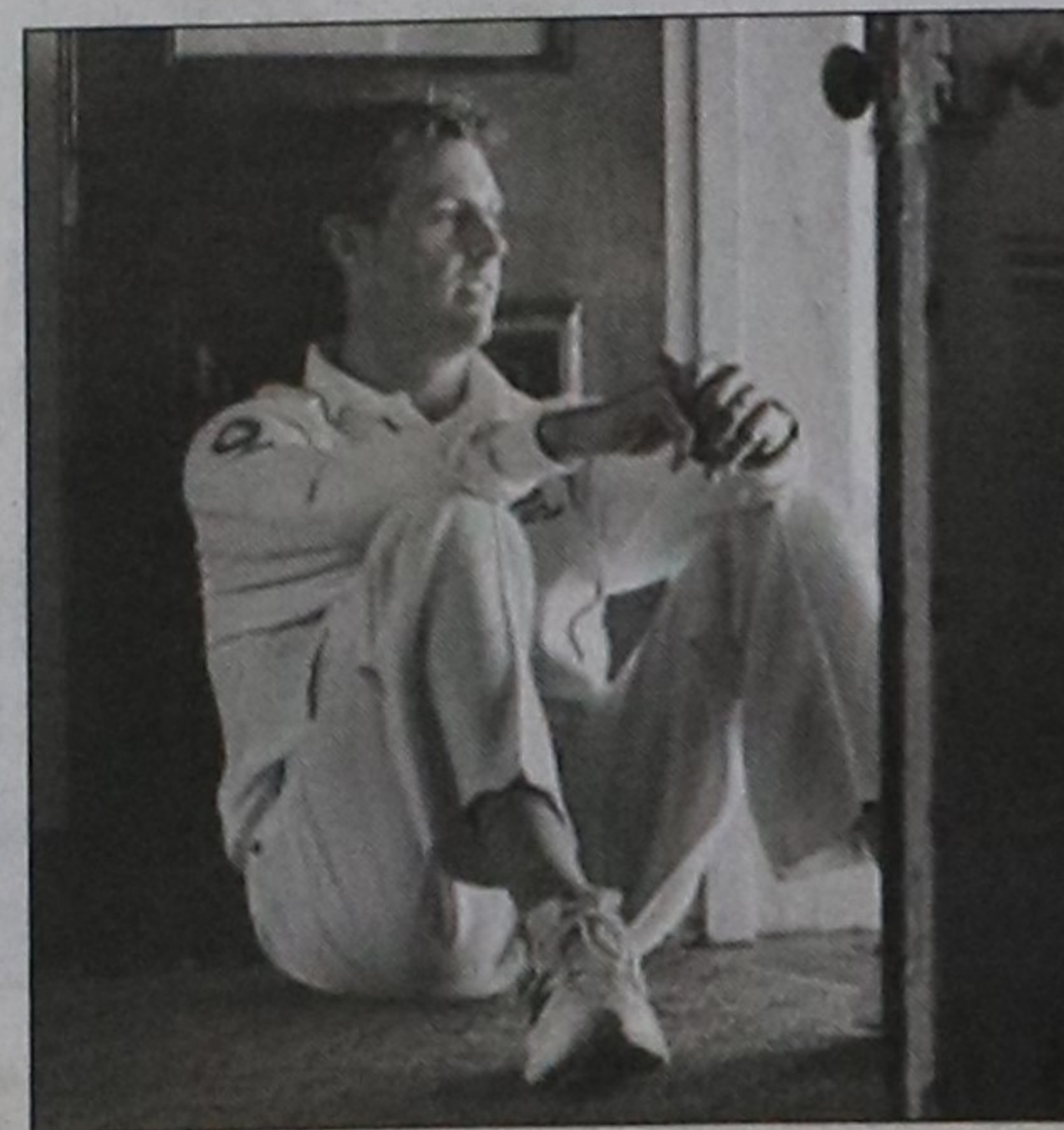
All the same, Rose said the club had prepared themselves for the possibility of a pull-out in case the symptoms recurred. "Actually I accompanied Marcus and Hayley on the plane coming out to India and he was absolutely fine," Rose said. "We came out four days after the team arrived and we had a good time and a very good chat. I think with a past history you always get the feeling that yes, it might happen."

Trescothick has been named as Justin Langer's successor as Somerset campaign next season, and was named as the PCA Player of the Year for 2009 after racking up 1817 first-class runs at 75 for the season, to help Somerset to a third-place finish in the First Division.

In total he scored eight hundreds during the Championship season and produced the best innings of Twenty20 Finals day, a 27-ball half-century in Somerset's semi-final victory over Kent at Edgbaston - the match that guaranteed their participation in this competition.

His illness first occurred during England's tour of India in February 2006, then re-occurred at the start of the Ashes campaign in Australia in November. In early 2008 he pulled out of a pre-season tour to Dubai after breaking down at Heathrow Airport, after which he formally announced his retirement from international cricket in March 2008.

Prior to the Champions League, Trescothick had spoken of his pride at taking part in an unprecedented venture alongside his Somerset teammates, but nevertheless warned of the dangers. "I know the risk and I know what happens when it goes wrong," he told BBC World Service. "I can only try. It's a big competition for the players and for the club. I have got to try and make it happen."



MARCUS TRESKOTHICK