



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.

Eagles eliminate Somerset

CRICINFO, undated

Airtel CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TWENTY20

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-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 Roussouw, 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.

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 Sabir 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.

David axe

FROM PAGE 17
On the ICC Champions Trophy debacle, the south-paw said, "It's sports 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.

Davydenko in last four

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

Nikolay Davydenko on Friday moved closer to a spot in next month's season-ending show-piece 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, leapt frogged 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.

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.

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, as many as five people were often involved in selection, including the captain, vice-captain, coach, manager and associate manager. Younus wants the panel to be captain, coach and a member

of the selection committee at home and captain and coach on overseas tours.

Friday's meeting is believed to have discussed these conditions. Additionally, Qasim wants senior players in the team to have a meeting among themselves, to clear the air so to speak, over issues that have been floating around the team since Younus took over. Even though the board has denied it, speculation over the role of a lobby, led by Shaheen Malik, and Afridi's own desire to be captain, in trying to undermine Younus' authority is rife.

There are those close to Younus who believe, however, that the situation remains 50-50. "The conditions he has laid down at the meeting are things he has been requesting over the last 6-8 months. Not much has emerged about how the meeting with the chairman went but those two conditions were laid out. If the board doesn't agree to them, or compromises further on it, I can't see Younus changing his mind and coming back."

With the absence of fast women Nazmuna Nahar Beauty, Chumki took 12 seconds to finish the 100m distance with a time of 10.70 seconds. Masudul took 10.80 seconds.

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