

U-19 football team lose again

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh suffered third consecutive defeat in the AFC U-19 Championship qualifiers when they conceded a 3-0 defeat to Thailand at the Thai-Japanese Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

With third defeat in as many matches, Bangladesh's hopes of qualifying for the finals as group runners-up are all gone. They will play their penultimate game against Macao on Sunday at the Royal Thai Army Stadium.

Bangladesh lost to South Korea 5-0 in their first match and conceded a 1-0 loss against Vietnam in their second match.

DC Gold Cup starts today

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Khagrachhari

The 3rd Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament begins today at Khagrachhari Stadium in the hill district.

Matiranga Upazila football team will be facing Manikchhari Upazila football team in the very first match, scheduled to be held at 3 pm at Khagrachhari Stadium.

Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong M.A.N Siddiq is expected to inaugurate the tournament.

The rest 6 upazila team Khagrachhari Sadar, Panchhari, Dighinala, Mohalchhari, Ramghor, and Laxmichhari upazila football team would participate in the competition.



Rafael Benitez

(Liverpool manager) "Ryan Babel has the ability to change a game. He is a good player for us. But I want to see the best of him more often."



ESPN

English Premier League
Tottenham v Sunderland
Live from 9:55pm
Wolves v Arsenal
Live from 11:55pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League
Man City v Burnley
Live from 9:55pm

SuperSport7

Primera Liga
Barcelona v Mallorca
Live from 2:00am (Sunday)
Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid
Live from 4:00am (Sunday)



Premier Div Cricket League
Abahani v BKSP
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium
Mohammedan v Cricket Coaching School
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Surjo Torun v Old DOHS
Venue: BKSP-2
Citycell Bangladesh League
Brothers Union v Ctg Abahani
(5:30pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



Sheikh Russel's Ghanaian striker Moro Mohammad (R) is tackled by Arambagh's Maloy Barmon during their Bangladesh League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Feisty draw at BNS

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yesterday.

Kenyan Nicodemus Anunda and Nigerian Subair Mohammad Omobolaji struck one goal each for Arambagh while Mohammad Rony and Moro Mohammad netted for Sheikh Russel in the entertaining match.

But the game finished in acrimonious circumstances after Sheikh Russel thought they had scored in the last seconds of the game. A controversial decision by referee Tayeb Hasan saw him rule out the goal for an earlier impeachment. It was a decision that prompted much chagrin amongst the crowd at players alike with play having to be halted for about twenty minutes before the game petered out to a draw.

Away at MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong Mohammedan tasted their first victory with a 2-0 win over visiting Rahmatganj MFS with Touhidul Islam slamming both goals.

The first draw in three matches means Sheikh Russel slip to the second position with seven, two points less than joint leaders Abahani and Mohammedan.

Minnows Arambagh, on the other hand, still remained unbeaten with five points and stay at the third place after three outings.

With two straight wins against Shuktara

Jubo Sangsad and Muktijoddha Sangsad, Sheikh Russel took the field high on confidence, but they faced a tough challenge from a bogey side, who had earlier thrashed Chittagong Mohammedan 6-1 and played a goalless draw against Brothers Union.

The game was packed with attacking football and simply no side could establish their supremacy throughout the game though Sheikh Russel yielded the first opportunity when Omari mustered his shot on the target inside the box, but goalkeeper Mitul Hasan denied the Moroccan striker 10 minutes after the play started.

Arambagh, however, went ahead in the 39th minute through a combined attack when Ugandan Kabuye Dominic and Nicodemus played a fine one-two to enter the danger zone before the latter hammered a low drive past Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel.

However, Arambagh's enjoyment did not last long as Sheikh Russel just one minute later pulled the goal back to shock Arambagh and went for a break with a 1-1 lock. Omari whipped a cross from left and Mohammad Rony rose highest to find the back of Arambagh net.

After the lemon break, Sheikh Russel started to control the match and Ghanaian Moro Mohammad gave them a 2-1 lead when the Ghanaian striker headed a Mobarrak Hossain cross from close range in the 57th minute.

Then Arambagh bit back six minutes later with another attack to level the margin when a

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Asif raring to go

CRICINFO, undated

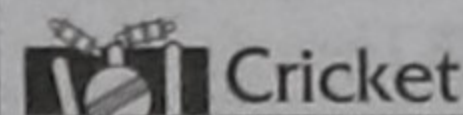
Mohammad Asif, the Pakistan fast bowler, who is hoping to play his first Test in more than two years later this month has vowed to make up for lost time due to several drug-related controversies. Asif, 26, has been named in Pakistan's squad for the three-Test series against New Zealand, which starts November 24.

"I have not played in New Zealand but have heard a lot about the pitches and conditions there and hopefully if I can get a chance I will make an impact," Asif said. "The key is to focus on just cricket and try to make up for lost time."

He has already made his limited-overs comeback during the ICC Champions Trophy after a year-long suspension for testing positive for the banned substance nandrolone. He showed off his ability in his first game on return by grabbing two wickets as Pakistan nearly scripted a sensational turnaround against Australia.

Originally named in the one-day side and Twenty20s to take on New Zealand in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, he was left out since he is banned from entering the UAE after being stopped with a small quantity of opium at Dubai airport last year (criminal charges were not pressed).

Khelaghar allege foul play



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Newcomers Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Samity have brought a serious allegation against the match officials and threatened to boycott the ongoing Premier Cricket League if they get no justice from the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) regarding to their Duckworth-Lewis loss against Kalabagan KC.

On Thursday at Fatullah Cricket Stadium, umpires Jahangir Alam and Mizanur Rahman declared that Kalabagan KC won the match by five runs in line with D/L

method after play was called off due to bad light at one stage when Kalabagan needed 16 runs from 18 balls with three wickets in hand.

The Khalaghar officials at a press conference yesterday claimed neither batsmen nor the fielders complained about the bad light and the match officials including match commissioner Obayedul Haque Azam were influenced by the Kalabagan officials to take such decision.

"Even umpires did not show their light meter to our captain as well as provide the D/L sheet before the start of the second innings. The umpires were forced by the opponent

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Prem Chand (L), CEO of Nokia, is seen above.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Div I cricket

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Young Pegasus beat Motijheel T&T Club by 12 runs in an exciting match of the First Division Cricket at the Jahangirnagar University Ground yesterday.

Batting first, Yoieng Pegasus scored 206 runs before being all out in 49 overs, highest 38 coming from the bat of Rezaul Karim, while Faysal Bin Mostaq starred with the ball for T&T as he took 4 wickets for 36 runs. T&T came agonisingly close to their target, but fell short by 12 runs as they folded for 194 in 48.1 overs. In the other match of the day, Orient Sporting Club comfortably chased down 225 posted by Baridhara Dazzlers to win by 5 wickets, thanks to a 72-run knock from Shohag Gazi.

'Ryder Cup' in Dhaka

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Bangladesh's equivalent of the Ryder Cup tees-off at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Banani today with a team of Europeans up against a team from the Rest of the World.

Organized by the Dhaka Oddball Golf Society (The "DOGS") the annual tournament is played between teams representing Europe and the Rest of the World. The format consists of three rounds of nine holes, two of which are conducted in pairings (four balls and greensomes), with the third nine holes being a head-to-head singles match.

Prem Chand, the CEO of Nokia Emerging Asia will captain the Rest of the World team who are tipped as strong favourites. While Chand was unavailable for comment, a spokesperson confirmed that Rest of the World would look to reassert their role of favourites with a comprehensive win.

Steve Wilson, President of Chevron, is the captain of Team Europe and he admits that his team are up against it today.

"We have had unbelievable difficulty managing to find a full team of twelve players to represent Europe," he bemoaned.

"And when I look at strength of the Rest of the World team, which is littered with capable low handicappers. I fear that we are really up against it". Wilson added "Despite being the clear underdogs, the European team will do its level best, in the true spirit of the game, as it's the taking part and not the winning that counts."

Questions remain

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Bangladesh maintained their supremacy over Zimbabwe as they came from behind to seal the five-match series 4-1 thanks to their slow bowlers who played the key role behind the success.

It is also evident from the statistics that Zimbabwe batsmen are yet to come to term negotiating Bangladesh spinners as they captured 37 wickets in five matches. Experienced left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak made a brilliant comeback to the Tigers fold, who missed the last series against the same opponents through injury, by taking 15 wickets in 5 matches. He got good support from captain Shakib Al Hasan, the second best wicket-taker in the series with seven wickets, and third best wicket-taker Enamul Haque who ended with 6 wickets in three matches.

Playing without their leading paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and experienced left-arm seamer Syed Rasel, Bangladesh attack with the new ball was found wanting in the first two games which led to them opting for only one pacer in the remaining matches. This decision, cou-

pled with the fact that the selectors had taken four pacers in the squad, raised a few eyebrows.

Nazmul Hossain tried his best to utilise the new ball and took five wickets in four matches and he also got the man-of-the-match award in the low-scoring fourth game where the visitors were dismissed for 44 runs to ignite criticism over the track at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

As in the previous two successful tours in West Indies and Zimbabwe, Tigers' young skipper Shakib led the team from the front and his splendid hundred in the second match produced real entertainment for the crowd. The number one all-rounder in

one-day ranking was also the highest scorer in the series with 143 runs at an average of 71.50.

The point of concern however remains with the Tigers batting, especially top order who hardly showed consistency in the series. It was a great opportunity for the batsmen to tune up well ahead of the tough challenge against India and Sri Lanka in the tri-nation one-day tournament at home in January next year but they made some mistakes for which they are always blamed.

And that prompted Shakib Al Hasan to hope that his top order batsmen rectify their mistakes during the Premier League, so that they can compete well in the next international assignment.

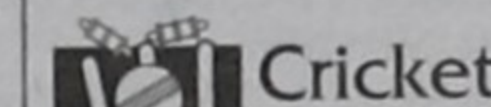
TOP FIVE BATSMEN

Player	M	Inn	NO	R	HS	Ave	SR	100	50
Shakib	5	4	2	143	105*	71.50	109.16	1	0
Taylor	5	5	1	141	118*	35.25	81.50	1	0
Masakadza	5	5	0	140	84	28.00	83.33	0	1
Tamim	5	5	0	135	80	27.00	101.50	0	1
Chigumbura	5	5	1	130	60*	32.50	88.43	0	1

TOP FIVE BOWLERS

Player	M	O	M	R	Wkts	BBI	Ave	Econ
Razzak	5	41.0	2	172	15	5/29	11.46	4.19
Shakib	5	42.5	4	142	7	3/8	20.28	3.31
Enamul	3	27.0	2	102	6	3/16	17.00	3.77
Cremer	5	33.3	2	154	6	2/11	25.66	4.59

McCullum powers Kiwis



CRICINFO, undated

Brendon McCullum played an immaculately constructed 131 to lead New Zealand to 303 for 8 at the Sheikh Zayed stadium in Abu Dhabi, and gave them a serious chance to level the series in the second one-dayer against Pakistan yesterday.

Momentum changed several times over his innings, but McCullum stood through it all, commandeering what may have been the decisive shift, for his first hundred since June 2008. But it wasn't until Martin Gupthill arrived, that McCullum really settled in.

Gupthill didn't come in blazing, instead simply implementing the time-honoured truism that the easiest singles in international cricket are found in Pakistan's 30-yard circle. It was selfless stuff, for the real beneficiary was McCullum, Gupthill's harrying allowing him to pick up the pace. A length ball was also pulled and McCullum, soon, was celebrating a fifty.

Gupthill had, until then, been charming company. Spin threatened circumspection but not for long as Gupthill danced down to loft Ajmal for six in the 20th over. McCullum, ever more confident, coolly deposited Afridi for six over midwicket and within a trice, the century stand was up. By then Gupthill had decided that boundaries were more value in the heat: twice more he glided down the track to loft the spinners, once to bring up his fifty. But in a sense,

McCullum's real work began after a needless slog from Gupthill began a mini-collapse, at the end of which three wickets had gone for not much, and Pakistan were sniffing. As in the first game, New Zealand's huff was running out at the halfway mark. McCullum now needed to shepherd. His captain helped, for so obdurately does Daniel Vettori stick around that he could be the crease's chalk: he gave McCullum key support in a fifty-run partnership which stemmed the collapse and stealthily stole momentum back.

McCullum reined himself in. The singles he kept picking and neither did he let go of his basic intent. As further wickets fell - the threat of wickets in Pakistan's attack just as sudden and sharp - and he neared his hundred, the significance of the Powerplay grew. Jacob Oram stole handy runs and, on McCullum's broad back, New Zealand had their best chance to win their first ODI against Pakistan in the UAE.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the New Zealand innings in the second one-day international against

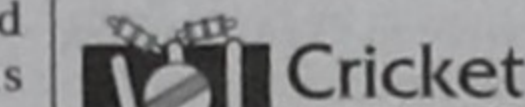
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New Zealand opener Brendon McCullum plays one off his hips during his brilliant century against Pakistan in their second one-dayer in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Dav takes charge of KKR



CRICINFO, undated

Dav Whatmore has been confirmed as the new coach of Kolkata Knight Riders, filling in the vacancy left by the sacking of John Buchanan after IPL 2009. His appointment was part of a team management overhaul: the franchise also recalled Sourav Ganguly as captain, named Wasim Akram as their mentor, signed on Vijay Dahiya, the former India wicketkeeper and Delhi coach, to assist Whatmore, while retaining Andrew Leupus as physiotherapist and Adrian Le Roux as physical trainer.

Ganguly said in a press release issued by the team management yesterday that he was keen to bring a turnaround in Kolkata's fortune after a nightmarish 2009 season, in which they finished last. "I am excited at the prospect of working with Dav and the entire team closely in addition to playing at our home ground once again," he said. Ganguly would be responsible for all cricket-related decisions for the next season.

Speaking to Cricinfo, Whatmore said his main objective as coach would be to ensure that his players gel as a unit and start thinking positively after two bad IPL seasons -- in which Kolkata finished sixth and eighth -- and, to that end, he would bank on Ganguly's wealth of knowledge and Akram's exceptional game-

reading skills to turn the team around. He also said he was confident his experience in the region -- he coached the 1996 World Cup-winning Sri Lankan team and later, Bangladesh -- would help him develop a "decent relationship" with Ganguly, who has had a controversial history with foreign coaches including Greg Chappell for the Indian team and Buchanan. "I have a fair idea and a fair understanding of the importance of Sourav in Kolkata and it's about getting the best out of him as it is with everyone else."

Significantly, Whatmore said he would not employ the multi-captaincy theory that was mooted by Buchanan and sparked a debate in world cricket before Ganguly was replaced by Brendon McCullum as team captain for the previous season.

Whatmore, however, declined to elaborate on what he felt had been going wrong with the team over the last two years -- apart from poor batting, there were reports of a rift between players and the team management -- but said he would bank on his experience with the National Cricket Academy, of which he was director for the last two years, to spot new talent and act as a bridge between them and the team's top international players.

Asked where Kolkata would reach in the next IPL starting in March, he said: "Sometimes, I think it's good to have a goal like that, but other times I feel you don't want to limit yourself too

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