



AFP PHOTO: AFP
Australia paceman Doug Bollinger (R) celebrates the dismissal of India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni during the sixth one-day international at the Nehru Stadium in Guwahati yesterday.

Aussies seal series early

Cricket

AFP, Guwahati

Doug Bollinger took 5-35 and Shane Watson hit 49 as Australia thrashed India by six wickets to win the sixth one-day international and the seven-match series 4-2 here on Sunday.

Bollinger combined with fellow left-arm quick Mitchell Johnson (3-39) to bowl out India for 170 in 48 overs before Watson's run-a-ball knock guided the world champions to 172-4 with 8.1 overs to spare.

Harbhajan Singh picked up 2-23 but the injury-hit Aussies, missing nine of their regular one-day players, did well on a tricky wicket at the Nehru stadium to clinch the series ahead of the final game in Mumbai on Wednesday.

"It has perhaps been the most satisfying series win I have been involved in," said Ponting. "To get 11 players on the field has been a challenge in some of the games."

"Our fielding has been

outstanding, in a couple of close games it has been the difference."

Watson smashed 10 fours and put on 61 runs for the second wicket with captain Ricky Ponting (25) after the early dismissal of Shaun Marsh, trapped leg before by paceman Munaf Patel.

Watson, who also chipped in with 2-27 in a fine all-round performance, fell in trying to slog sweep Harbhajan while Ponting inside-edged the off-spinner to be caught by Suresh Raina at leg-slip.

Cameron White added 25 and Michael Hussey struck 35 not out off 62 balls, the duo adding 53 runs for the fourth wicket to take the visitors home. Ravindra Jadeja earlier top-scored for the home team with a fighting 57 off 103 balls with six fours for his second half-century from nine one-day internationals.

The left-handed batsman also put on 48 runs with captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (24) and another 74 with Praveen Kumar, who hit an unbeaten 51-ball 54 with

seven fours and a six to lend respectability to India's total.

"I knew the first half-an-hour would be important but the first 15 minutes did all the damage today," said Dhoni.

"The Aussies did bowl well. There was swing there and they exploited it well. The way we lost in Mohali and Nagpur, as a team you don't want to lose like that. But full credit to Australia, they took the games away."

The Indians were off to a disastrous start after electing to bat with Johnson striking in the very first over to remove Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir in the space of two balls.

Sehwag's off-stump was pegged back by a sharp inswinging delivery from the new-ball bowler while Gambhir too lost his wicket in a similar fashion.

Bigger trouble was in store for India when Sachin Tendulkar, who struck a brilliant 175 off 141 balls in the fifth one-day at Hyderabad, was caught and bowled by Bollinger, named man of the match, for 10.

Yuvraj Singh (six) lost his wicket to the same bowler in a bizarre fashion, the left-hander playing the ball onto the stumps with his bat as he tried to hit it out of the way.

The Indians were reduced to a precarious 27-5 in the ninth over when Raina lobbed Johnson to mid-on but Jadeja and Kumar ensured India crossed the 100-run mark.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the sixth one-day international between India and Australia at the Nehru Stadium in Guwahati on Sunday:

INDIA	
Sehwag b Johnson	6
Tendulkar c & b Bollinger	10
Gambhir b Johnson	0
Yuvraj b Bollinger	6
Dhoni lbw b Bollinger	24
Raina c Hauritz b Johnson	0
Jadeja c White b Bollinger	57
Harbhajan b Bollinger	0
Praveen not out	54
Nehal b Watson	4
Patel b Watson	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-4, nb-3)	9
Total: (All out in 48 overs)	170

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Carlos Alberto Parreira (South Africa soccer coach)

"The greatest challenge is getting to the second phase. South Africa must work hard but I'm confident we will get there. I hope that with the backing of home fans we will reach the quarterfinals and after that the sky is the limit." His FIFA 2010 World Cup dreams.



TEN Sports & SuperSport2
Pakistan v New Zealand
Third ODI
Live from 8:00pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm
English Premier League
Liverpool v Birmingham City
Live from 3:00am (Tuesday)

Gazi keep losing

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Star-studded Gazi Tank Cricketers couldn't get out of the losing streak as they went down to Kalabagan by 87 runs in their Premier League clash yesterday. However, it was business as usual for Biman who earned their fourth win in four matches by beating Partex by 17 runs. In the other match of the day, Victoria also recorded an easy 22-run victory over Khelaghar.

Gazi Tank were boosted by the return of their national stars, all-rounder Nayeem Islam and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak, after the series against Zimbabwe. But their presence didn't seem to cheer up the hapless Gazi Tank who now have only one win and a draw under their belt from four rounds. It was once again their power-packed batting line-up that failed miserably to lead them to this drubbing at the hands of Kalabagan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Eng start with win

Cricket

AFP, Bloemfontein

England started their tour of South Africa with a crushing 185-run over the Diamond Eagles franchise team in a 50-overs match in Bloemfontein on Friday.

Captain Andrew Strauss hit one of three half-centuries as England piled up 294 for seven, taking advantage of good batting conditions after being sent in to bat.

Stuart Broad struck with the second ball of the Eagles' innings and the home team never recovered, crashing to 109 all out in 26.2 overs. Five England bowlers took two wickets each.

Strauss hit 72 and shared a second wicket stand of 123 with Jonathan Trott (85) before Eoin Morgan slammed a quick 67 not out off 52 balls as the innings ended with a flurry of scoring.

Batting first, Kalabagan put on a challenging total of 235 for the loss of eight wickets in their stipulated 50 overs, thanks to a few decent knocks in the middle-order. Former national opener Javed Omar (47) was the top-scorer for Kalabagan while dependable middle-order batsman Rokibul scored 32 runs. Razzak picked up three for Gazi with a miserly spell conceding 30 runs, while Forhad Reza chipped in with two.

Chasing 236 runs is always a tall order for any team, and it became even taller when Gazi found themselves in a precarious position with three of their top-order batsmen already back in the pavilion for nine runs.

And they were pushed almost out of the game when in-form batsman and last match's centurion Shahriar Nafees departed after scoring 19. Skipper Alok Kapali (56) found some form with the bat as he tried to resurrect the innings with support from Sohrwardi Shuvo (20), but soon after Kapali left and Forhad Reza followed one ball later, the Gazi innings lost its course and eventually stumbled to 148 all out in

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Eagles opening bowler CJ de Villiers took an early wicket when he bowled Joe Denly for three but Strauss and Trott put the tourists in command.

Strauss and Trott were content to play themselves in as they compiled their century partnership before lifting the tempo.

Strauss made his runs off 85 balls with seven fours and a six before holing out to square leg against the medium-paced Ryan Bailey.

Trott took 81 balls to reach his fifty but needed only another 23 deliveries to reach 85, with seven fours, before he was bowled by Bailey when he missed an attempted pull.

Morgan was mainly responsible for England scoring 57 runs in the batting Powerplay, which was taken from the 43rd to the 47th over. But he rode his luck, surviving two dropped catches.

Eagles opening batsman Morne van Wyk edged the second ball of the innings from Broad

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Dido gambles on youngsters

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido decided to gamble on novice players as he yesterday declared a 23-member squad for the SAFF Championship to be held in Dhaka from December 4 to 13.

Of eight players, who walked out of Dido's camp citing 'unbearable circumstances', six experienced players -- defenders Rajani Kanta Barman, Ariful Islam, Mofazzal Hossain Saikat, midfielders Zahid Hossain, Zahed Parvez Chowdhury and Arman Aziz -- found no place in Dido's SAFF squad, which, however, included star striker Zahid Hasan Emily and brilliant defender Wali Faisal although both were part of the rebellion.

Apart from those six, Dido also axed another six players, who were in his two-and-a-half month conditioning as well as residential training camp in Cox's Bazar and Savar respectively.

Surprising, country's second best goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee was also not considered in the squad though number one Aminul Haq is still nursing his back injury and has yet to play a single match for his club Mohammedan in the season.

Dido thought all of those six players were not fit for the SAFF Championship, but his explanation on Biplob's exclusion apparently indicated that still he has kept the walkout incidents in his mind.

"During the crisis, Biplob played a role to twist the crisis, something that Aminul did not. That's why Aminul is in the squad and Biplob was dropped and he failed to

gain my trust," Dido said. "Aminul is practicing with his team and I believe he will be fit for the match in the next 10 days and it is no matter whether he played in the last one and a half months."

Questions were mainly restricted to the exclusion of Biplob as well as his vulnerable central defenders, which consists of the shaven-headed Mamun Mia and youngster Rezaul Karim Reza and U-16 player Al Amin as veteran-but-still-appropriate defender Rajani and Federation Cup's best player Ariful was not considered in this position.

Mamun Mia was the man, who unnecessarily tackled a Myanmar winger to award the visitors a penalty before keeper Aminul rescued the home side foiling Myo Min Tun spot kick. Reza is playing in the top level competition for Farashganj for the first time and Al Amin was not even considered by any professional clubs for the current season.

"What do you mean by experience?" By the age, by the playing? The question is that whether he is capable of taking this positions and I think they will be able to keep their nerve during the SAFF Championship matches," explained Dido.

About the inclusion of those players who played as substitute during the Federation Cup as well as Bangladesh league, the Brazilian said, "Before the AFC Challenge Cup, Manik was nobody, Imon Babu was nobody when I picked them, but they justified their inclusion through their performance and those who have been picked have the quality to play in the national squad. It depends on the coach who will play in the starting eleven and if I was coach of those teams, I would

definitely choose them in the starting squad."

Brilliant winger Zahid Parvez was instrumental in achieving a lone-goal win over Cambodia in the opener of the AFC Challenge Cup, but the Brazilian coach thought Zahid is the kind of player who is not dynamic and is not able to switch positions effectively, which is why he is not considered.

Dido also hoped to clinch the SAFF Championship.

Meanwhile, before declaring the squad, the National Team Management Committee (NTMC) led by Bangladesh Football Federation vice president Badal Roy had a two-hour marathon meeting with coach Dido and Argentine trainer Ariel Coleman.

"We had a elaborate discussion with coach Dido about the squad though we had some observations about some players whom we still believe to be important players but are not in the squad. We did not want to interfere with the coach's choice and ultimately accepted his 23-member squad," said Roy.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Aminul Haq (Mohammedan), Mazharul Islam Himel (Sheikh Russel) and Mostaqur Rahman (Arambagh KS).

Central defenders: Mamun Mia (Mohammedan), Rezaul Karim Reza (Farashganj) and Al Amin (No club).

Right full backs: Nasir Hossain (Mohammedan) and Mohiuddin Ibnul Siraji (Abahani).

Left full backs: Wali Faisal (Mohammedan) and Atiqur Rahman Mishu (Abahani).

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BCB renews internet deal

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board renewed its contract with Aamra Networks Ltd, the Internet Service Providers, for three years yesterday as their official ISP partner.

During the international as well as domestic meets, Aamra has been providing internet services free of cost to the BCB for a few years.

Chairman of Amra Syed Faruque Ahmed and BCB director and chairman of BCB marketing and commercial committee Aziz-Al Kaiser signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations at the agreement signing ceremony held at the Sher-e-Bangla conference room.

The new deal would help the game's governing body receive comprehensive internet coverage, said the officials during the agreement signing ceremony.

Under the agreement, Aamra will allocate and guarantee full duplex and symmetric bandwidth of 1024kbps for the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium throughout the year.

Under-19s win at last

SPORTS REPORTER

After three consecutive defeats, Bangladesh came from behind to taste their first victory of the AFC Under-19 Championship qualifiers when they handed a 3-2 defeat to Macao in their fourth match at the Royal Thai Army Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

Bangladesh went a goal down in the nine minute with a Sio Ka Un strike and fell further behind when Leong Ka Hang, availing a fumble by Bangladeshi defenders and goalkeeper, doubled the margin for Macao.

But Bangladesh came back strongly when Javed converted a penalty in the 37th minute before Habibur Rahman levelled the margin through a free-kick three minutes into the second half. Then Rasel struck the winning goal with a long-range shot.

Bangladesh will take on Laos in their last match on Nov 11.

Russel's players, officials warned

SPORTS REPORTER

Players and officials of Sheikh Russel KC have been warned for their unacceptable behaviour during their Bangladesh League encounter against Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

After having analysed reports of the referee and the match commissioner, the BFF disciplinary committee suspended Sheikh Russel's team

Latif admits cheating at Multan

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif admitted that he faked the catch of Bangladesh batsman Alok Kapali during the third and final Test at Multan six years ago that the visitors lost by one wicket.

His confessional statement was aired on Desh TV, a local private television channel, on Saturday night where the former Pakistan wicketkeeper also explained what prompted him to resort to an act of cheating.

The 41-year-old Pakistani said that he did it intentionally keeping in mind that a defeat against Bangladesh would not be taken sportingly at home especially after the bitter memories of the

1999 loss in the World Cup.

He said that their one-day international loss against Bangladesh during the 1999 World Cup in England raised questions of match fixing and he feared that the defeat at Multan, which was always on the cards, might fuel that



RASHID LATIF

allegation again.

Now in Dhaka to attend the Level III coaches education course conducted by the Asian Cricket Council and Cricket Australia in collaboration with the Bangladesh Cricket Board, Latif also recalled the incident, which was widely criticised.

"I dived to my right to take a Kapali nick (off an Yasir Ali delivery). The ball dropped from my gloves as I rolled over but quickly picked it up from the ground before claiming it as a clean catch," said the stumper.

In that Test, Bangladesh were in a strong position to pull off a historic win. After scoring 281 in the first innings they bowled Pakistan out for 175. In their second knock Bangladesh wobbled after Kapali's dismissal on a difficult track. In their second

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Amla leads SA charge

Cricket

AFP, Benoni

A late run flourish lifted South Africa to 295-5 off 50 overs against Zimbabwe at Willowmoore Park Sunday in the first one-day international.

Warming up for Twenty20, ODI and Test matches against touring England, the Proteas began impressively, hit a mid-innings slump when they went 54 balls without a boundary, and tormented the visiting fielders at the death.

Opener Hashim Amla top scored for South Africa in hot conditions with a 131-minute 80 that included six fours before he mistimed a shot to a grateful Mark Vermeulen at

the deep wicket boundary.

Skipper Graeme Smith made 35 and AB de Villiers 51 to set South Africa up for a high total and Albie Morkel hit three sixes and three fours in an unbeaten 50 during a 39-minute spell at the crease.

Veteran left-arm orthodox bowler Ray Price was the most successful Zimbabwean, claiming 3-44 off 10 overs, but Chris Mpofu proved expensive, conceding 70 runs without reward.

South Africa begin three months of action against England Friday when they clash at the Wanderers in the first of two Twenty20 games and the other is at SuperSport Park in Centurion two days later.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the South Africa

innings in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe at the Willowmoore Park in Benoni on Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA

Amla c Vermeulen b Cremer	80
Smith c Mpofu b Price	35
De Villiers c Vermeulen b Price	51
Boucher c Vermeulen b Price	18
Petersen c Cremer b Chibhabha	39
Morkel not out	50
McLaren not out	6
Extras: (lb-3, w-13)	16
Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs)	295
Did not bat: Botha, Steyn, Tsotsobe, Langeveldt.	
Fall of wickets: 1-67, 2-157, 3-185, 4-202, 5-288.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mpofu	10	0	70	0
Chibhabha	9	0	64	1
Price	10	0	44	3
Utseya	10	0	59	0

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FINAL ODI TODAY McCullum eyes more big scores

INTERNET, undated

Brendon McCullum is determined to back up his century-making performance when New Zealand take on Pakistan in the one-day series decider in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

McCullum's position at the top of the order has been under scrutiny due to a lack of match-winning scores but the wicketkeeper put his critics on notice with an impressive 129-ball 131 in New Zealand's 64-run win on Friday and is hoping he can add to his second

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PHOTO: INTERNET
South Africa opener Hashim Amla sweeps fine for a boundary during the first one-day international against Zimbabwe at the Willowmoore Park in Benoni on Sunday.