

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Fifties from Nahidul Islam and Sumon Kumar guided Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club to a convincing 75-run win over Orient Sporting Club in the First Division Cricket League at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Nahidul struck a 101-ball 88 while Sumon remained unbeaten on 80 to power Doleshwar to a massive total of 283 for five in their stipulated 47 over after being put in to bat first.

Later, Salahuddin (2/35), Apurbo (2/41) and Abdur Rahman (2/44) shared six wickets to bowl Orient SC out for 208 in 42.1 overs.

In the day's other match, Lalmatia Club recorded a seven-wicket win over Rupali Bank Kria Parisad in the curtailed-over game at Jahangirnagar University ground. Lalmatia easily reached 92 for 3 in 19.1 overs after restricting Rupali Bank to 91 for nine in the stipulated 20 overs.

At the City Club ground, Kathal Bagan GCC (148/5) registered a five-wicket victory over Motijheel T & T club (146/10).

Akhter had a secret surgery

PTI, Karachi

Controversial fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has again rubbed Pakistan Cricket Board the wrong way by opting to have liposuction surgery without consulting or informing the authorities.

The "News" daily newspaper reported that Akhtar had undergone the liposuction surgery to have extra fat removed from his body in Islamabad shortly after he returned from London after undergoing a knee surgery.

"After the liposuction to remove fat from his body and trimmed down his weight, Shoaib will require at least three to four months to make a complete recovery and be available to play competitive cricket once again," the newspaper quoted a well-known sports medicine specialist, Dr Waqar Ahmed as saying in its report.

Changes

FROM PAGE 17 office time. We recommended that the national selectors will report to their designated office at the BCB regularly and their area of work would be based on the domestic and international calendar. An exclusive office for the national selectors has been also recommended," said BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus, who is also member of the committee.

"They will be contractually appointed. Their contract period will be up to 30 June 2010. The period has been determined to facilitate the process for all local contractual appointments of the BCB," he added.

It has been also recommended that the Under-14 and Under-16 age Group selection will be monitored and overviewed by national selector Naimur Rahman while the Under-18 and Under-21 Age Group selection will be monitored and overviewed by national selector Akram Khan.

The committee has recommended the introduction of medical insurance for the national selectors.

The meeting was attended by Enayet Husain Siraj, Aminul Huq Moni, Jalal Yunus, Gazi Ashraf Hossain and Dewan Shafiqul Arefin.

Real, Barca

FROM PAGE 20

"My future? I'm focussed on the short term and don't look beyond that. I have a great responsibility to my club and now is not the time to think beyond that," he added.

Fabregas is set to play for Spain in a friendly against Austria on Wednesday in Vienna, the scene of their Euro 2008 triumph.

Lahm will lead

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And while Lahm says although the year has gone well, the Germans are keen to see off the Ivory Coast in style and end the year on a high.

"It's been a positive year, we achieved qualification for the 2010 World Cup which we set out to do," said Lahm in Tuesday's press conference.

"We know we have to improve, but we achieved our targets for this year and we need a win to finish off the year."

Last week's tragic suicide of squad member Robert Enke has cast a dark cloud over the game, but Lahm said both the cancellation of Saturday's friendly with Chile and Sunday's memorial service for Enke in Hanover have helped the squad.



Victoria's Arslan Mir drives on the back foot during their Premier Division Cricket League match against Old DOHS at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Lee weighs options

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian paceman Brett Lee said Tuesday he was keen to return to the Test team but was weighing his options after being sidelined for much of the summer by recurrent injuries.

The latest injury, sustained Sunday during a one-day match in Sydney, forced the 33-year-old to withdraw from this week's Sheffield Shield match between New South Wales and Tasmania and will keep him out of action for six weeks.

"I need to get away from the game, get this (elbow) right and then I'll make a call on my future," he told a press conference in Sydney.

Sunday's injury is a flare up of one sustained during a one-day match against India in September, and follows repeated surgeries on his ankle, and elbow surgery in 2001.

Lee said he had not considered retiring from the Test cricket.

"At this point I'm comfortable with the fact that I'm not going to be playing Test cricket for a

period of time, but on the positive side I want to get my elbow right.

"I'm getting a second and third opinion over the next 24 to 48 hours to find out exactly what the problem is and then I'll reassess after that."

Lee, who has not played a Test match since December 2008, said he still wanted to play the longer form of the game but admitted the sport was hard on his body.

"I play very hard, I play very fair but when you try to bowl 155 (kilometres per hour) for over 16, 17 years there's a lot of wear and tear on the body," he said.

"I always give it my best, always give 100 percent, always try my hardest and that's the reason and the way I play my game."

Lee, who has played 76 Tests and claimed 310 wickets at 30.81, said if it happened that he did not play cricket again for Australia, he could "walk away knowing I've given it my best."

"I still want to play cricket for Australia, definitely," he said earlier Tuesday.

"The love is definitely still there, I've still got that burning ambition and desire to keep actually doing things for Australia."

WI stuck a decade behind: Ganga

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Daren Ganga, the Trinidad & Tobago captain, has termed West Indian cricket as being stuck a decade behind. Ganga has called for officials in the Caribbean region to professionalise the game in order to lift the side back to a competitive level in global cricket.

"I know that there is a new board [in T&T] and they are still settling down, but I would like to make a call to [for them] to assist local clubs and help them to become more professional," he said. "When clubs operate in an amateurish manner, the players cannot advance quickly. It was mentioned that Adrian Barath played for this club at age 14. Maybe, he would have been able to do it earlier if the circumstances were different."

Ganga, whose influence has been a major factor in bringing T&T from near-bottom to the top in regional cricket within a few years, said

the West Indies Cricket Board had plenty of catching up to do. "What we have been doing for training and in camps seven years ago, we are still doing today," he said. "There has been no change in our approach to preparation and this is keeping us way behind. We are at least ten years behind in terms of technology and this must change."

"I remember when Ramnaresh Sarwan, Chris Gayle, and myself went to Australia as young players on the West Indies team, we felt really bad, when we saw what guys like Michael Clarke and Shane Watson were exposed to," he said. "The training they were putting down was something we have never done before and we were amazed. What was even more amazing was the fact that Watson and Clarke had not even made the Australian national team up until that time."

West Indies cricket is on the verge of recovering from the contracts crisis which led to many senior players going on strike. A full-strength squad, however, was named for the tour of Australia.

Dilshan dictates Day 2

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Zaheer, indicating the ball had slipped from his sweaty hand.

Zaheer and Harbhajan Singh carried the total to 414 when left-arm spinner Rangana Herath broke the partnership by earning a leg-before verdict against Zaheer.

Television replays indicated umpire Daryl Harper had misjudged the direction of the ball, which appeared to miss the leg stump.

Harbhajan made 22 with the help of two boundaries when he was bowled while

attempting a reverse sweep off the prolific Muttiah Muralidaran.

Muralidaran, the world's most successful Test bowler, had last man Ishant Sharma stumped four balls later to finish with three wickets in the innings and take his overall tally to 786.

Welegedara, playing only his second Test, returned with the wickets of India's first four batsmen -- Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Tendulkar and Dravid -- against his name.

IPL revises terms

FROM PAGE 17

Zealand) were available for the multi-nation club tournament. "Given that this was also the founding principle of the Champions League Twenty20, it was agreed that in the event any of the member boards not issuing an NOC to their players for participation in the IPL, on the pretext of domestic engagements, IPL could make a representation to the governing council of the Champions League for taking appropriate action against the members boards' participation in the League," the IPL release stated.

The BCCI, Cricket Australia and Cricket South Africa are founding partners of the Champions League and its governing council comprises Lalit Modi, its chairman, Niranjan Shah, its vice-chairman, N Srinivasan, the BCCI secretary, James

Sutherland, the CA chief executive, Dean Kino, CA's business and legal affairs head, and Gerald Majola, CSA's chief executive.

The IPL press release added that the measures discussed at the workshop in case of a no-show by the players include "termination of player contracts and barring from future participation in the IPL, of players that have signed contracts, but fail to make themselves available for playing in the IPL."

"This will exclude any instances wherein players would have international and FTP commitments and was aimed at ensuring that players make themselves available for the IPL post their FTP commitments, especially, since such players would have already received a player release to play in the IPL from their respective boards."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday:

INDIA: First innings (over-ning 385-6)
Gambhir b Welegedara 1
Sehwag lbw b Welegedara 16
Dravid b Welegedara 177
Tendulkar b Welegedara 4
Laxman b Prasad 0
Yuvraj c Dilshan b Muralidaran 68
Dhoni c P Jayawardene b Prasad 110
Harbhajan b Muralidaran 22
Zaheer lbw b Herath 12
Mishra not out 7
Sharma st P Jayawardene b Muralidaran 0
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, nb-4, w-1) 9
Total: (All out in 104.5 overs) 426
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-27, 3-31, 4-32, 5-157, 6-381, 7-389, 8-414, 9-426, 10-426.

Bowler O M R W
Welegedara 22 4 87 4
Prasad 22 1 106 2
Mathews 12 1 50 0
Muralidaran 25 5 4 97 3
Herath 22 2 79 1
Dilshan 1 0 3 0

SRI LANKA: First innings
Dilshan c Dravid b Zaheer 112
Paranavitana c Dhoni b Sharma 35
Sangakkara c Tendulkar b Zaheer 31
Jayawardene not out 36
Samaraweera not out 45
Extras: (lb-5, w-2, nb-9) 16
Total: (For 3 wks in 70 overs) 275
To bat: Mathews, P Jayawardene, Welegedara, Muralidaran, Prasad, Herath.
Fall of wickets: 1-74, 2-189, 3-194.

Bowler O M R W
Zaheer 15 2 45 2
Sharma 14 0 53 1
Harbhajan 20 2 72 0
Mishra 18 0 89 0
Yuvraj 3 0 11 0

SAFF to hold more tourneys

SPORTS REPORTER

The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) is going to venture into holding more regional competitions rather than being confined to just one tournament.

Since its establishment in 1997, the organisation holds the SAFF championship in every two years with the national team of the member countries participating, but it will see a change after Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin was elected SAFF president last month.

Apart from SAFF Championship, the regional football body will also hold club cup competition, women's tournament, women's Under-17 competition and youth competition (Under-16 and Under-18) where teams from Central, West and Asian regions will also compete.

SAFF president Salahuddin and general secretary Albert Colaco, who is also general secretary of All Indian Football Federation, together have drafted the future planning and it is expected to be approved in the next SAFF executive committee meeting in December before the start of 6th SAFF Championship in Dhaka.

Thushara's India tour over

AFP, Ahmedabad

Sri Lanka's left-arm seamer Thilan Thushara will return home from the Indian tour with a shoulder injury and will be replaced by Dilhara Fernando, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said on Tuesday.

Thushara injured his left shoulder after colliding with the team's reserve wicketkeeper Kaushal Silva during practice ahead of the ongoing first Test here.

"Thilan Thushara will return to Sri Lanka due to a shoulder injury and will not be match fit for approximately two to four weeks," an SLC statement said.

Young defender

FROM PAGE 17

it during the national team's conditioning camp a few months ago.

"He is improving slowly, but he is yet to be fit for the match," said Rahman adding that both the players underwent tests at the Apollo Hospital yesterday under the supervision of Prashanto Agarwal.

Speedy winger Zahid Hossain was also given a one-week rest following quadriceps contusion and the physio could not tell the real condition of the Mohammedan winger.

Striker Mohammad Rony is also suffering from groin injury, said the physio.

However, there was good news for the national team that goalkeeper Aminul Haq being cured from his shoulder injury returned to practice.

Bangladesh will start the SAFF Championship campaign taking on Bhutan on December 4.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 One of the Bears
- 5 Sample from a snifter
- 8 First victim
- 12 Lift por-
- 14 Hayseed
- 15 Christmas wreath
- 16 Press clothes
- 17 Fresh distance
- 18 Rose protectors
- 20 Photographer
- 23 Jailer's janglers
- 24 Traditional stories
- 25 Regard as forgivable
- 28 Sch. org.
- 29 Aspect
- 30 A Gershwin brother
- 32 Tornado
- 34 Paper holder
- 35 Hawaiian neckwear

DOWN

- 1 Energy
- 2 — Baba
- 3 Writing implement
- 4 Fifth or Madison
- 5 Pack cargo
- 6 Charged bit
- 7 Sham
- 8 Melodious
- 9 "Ironsides" star
- 10 Black, in verse
- 11 Contact, e.g.
- 13 "Bullets," to a poker player
- 19 Jekyll's alter ego
- 20 Matter-horn, for one
- 21 Mil. training grp.
- 22 Heehaw
- 23 Zen
- 24 Para-doxes
- 25 Certain church singer
- 26 Cleopatra's river
- 27 A Great Lake
- 29 Entreaty
- 31 Spring mo.
- 33 Customer
- 34 Para-troopers' gear
- 36 Slender
- 37 Superhero costume
- 38 Winged
- 39 Promises
- 40 Gift tag word
- 43 Oklahoma city
- 44 Mel of baseball
- 45 Ultra-modernist
- 46 Historic time

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Dave still confident

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Dave Richardson, the ICC's general manager of cricket, has launched a last-ditch attempt to salvage the Umpire Decision Review System. Richardson has spent much of the week locked in discussions with boards and broadcasters from South Africa, Australia and New Zealand to convince them to carry the cost of a programme designed to assist umpires in the decision-making process.

India has already stated it will not use the controversial and costly system for the home Test series against Sri Lanka, and Gerald Majola, the chief executive of Cricket South Africa, told Cricinfo last week his board was not prepared to foot the implementation bill for the UDRS. Richardson is not confident of changing the minds of the South Africans prior to their home Test series against England, but is more optimistic of convincing Australia and New Zealand to proceed with the system.

"In South Africa we are still talking to the

broadcaster, so it's not definitely off but I would have to say it is unlikely at this stage," Richardson told Cricinfo. "India say they don't want to have it, but I'm not sure whether that's come from an issue between the BCCI and Nimbus or elsewhere. I am slightly more confident that it will be implemented in Australia, and I am more hopeful that it will be in New Zealand."

The major stumbling block for the referrals system has been the ICC's insistence that national boards and/or broadcasters meet the implementation costs. Richardson concedes the global recession is a "very big factor" in deterring broadcasters from absorbing the additional costs, but is adamant the UDRS stands to benefit the game.

"If the ICC pays then all members will be sharing the cost to provide someone else's series," he said. "We're in a difficult interim period at the moment where boards have existing deals with broadcasters. We're going to have to fight through it. We have to rely on members to persuade their broadcast partners of the merits of this. It is good for the game, and broadcasters have an opportunity to commercialise the technology."

Button set for McLaren

THE GUARDIAN



Jenson Button has agreed

terms to join McLaren on a £6m-a-year deal and could sign his formal three-year contract to partner Lewis Hamilton in an all-British line-up within the next few days.

The Guardian understands that the world champion has turned his back on Brawn following protracted negotiations and will almost double his salary with the Woking-based team. The 29-year-old was given a guided tour of McLaren's factory last Friday and, although neither the team nor Button's management confirmed the deal last night, sources close to McLaren hinted: "I think Jenson liked what he saw and they liked him too."

In switching to McLaren Button will be going against advice from Formula One grandees including Sir Stirling Moss, Sir Jackie Stewart, Niki Lauda and

Martin Brundle, all of whom feel he might be biting off more than he can chew taking on Hamilton on his home turf in equal cars.

But for Button the prospect of going head-to-head with a close friend and the man regarded by many in the pit lane as possibly the fastest of all will just be part of the challenge of defending his title. It is unlikely either Hamilton, who earns about £12m a year at McLaren, or his father Anthony, who has managed the 2008 world champion since his days as a teenage kart racer, will have been consulted on this beyond the normal deployment of good manners. McLaren have always had the resources and philosophy required to field two fully competitive cars and have always sought the strongest possible driver line-ups they could engage.

The decision by the newly crowned world champion to leave the team built from the ashes of Honda by Ross Brawn came on the day it was offi-

cially announced that Mercedes-Benz had switched allegiances from McLaren and purchased a controlling interest in Brawn GP. They will field their cars under the Mercedes banner in 2010.

Premiership

FROM PAGE 17

AFC president Mohamed Bin Hammam introduced him to Richards and Salahuddin termed the English league the finest one in the world.

Salahuddin also sought help from him and he has agreed to come to Bangladesh to see the existing competitions as well as the infrastructure.

Salahuddin also requested him to search for a good coach, who is more or less known, for the Bangladesh national team and that he is ready to spend whatever amount of money is needed.

Richards assured him of searching for a good coach for Bangladesh and promised to disclose the names of coaches during his travel to Bangladesh, said Salahuddin.



PHOTO: AFP

Portuguese and Real Madrid star Chistiano Ronaldo balances a ball during a training session in Madrid on Monday. The injured forward will miss Portugal's all-important World Cup qualifying match against Bosnia and Herzegovina today. But he is expected to be back for the Spanish giants in a Champions League tie against Zurich next week.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Q O J D P Z D Z O T I B Y Z D I E Y Z T P M
U P P V M J I W P I ? O W O I W D Z O K
Saturday's Cryptoquip: NEW FORMULATION OF TALC THAT SEEMS GOOD AT TURNING PEOPLE INTO TATTLETALES: SNITCHING POWDER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals H