

Shaky end to preparations

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh finished their preparations for the SAFF Championships on a subdued note as interim coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo's charges slumped to a 3-1 defeat to the visiting Ulsan Hyundai at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The home side was played off the park by the visiting South Korean's, whose speed and skill was far too much for the Bangladesh team.

The visitors dominated from the off and after squandering few good chances Kim Seong Min found the target with a fierce right-footer. Lee Jin Ho then produced a wonderful back volley to double the margin. Bangladesh striker Zahid Hasan Emily pulled one back in the first half but Kim Seong Min scored his second goal in the second half to make sure that they left the hosts with much to ponder.

The result was however immaterial for Bangladesh coach, rather he was happy with the way his boys played against a professional side.

"The boys played according my plan with 3-5-2 format against an Asian professional

side and that's why I am happy. The squad took shape gradually playing the warm-up matches and we hope we will be able to field a right combination," said Shantoo.

The national booters lost their first warm-up against Sheikh Russel KC and won the second game against a BFF XI and Shantoo had a target on rectifying the mistakes of the first two preparation games through the match against Hyundai, a two-time champions of the K. League.

"I think the boys improved a lot and they rectified the mistakes they made in the first two games," Shantoo, who was assigned to guide the national squad following the termination of Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido's contract over his youthful selection.

Hyundai coach Lee Sang Chul was also impressed by the Bangladesh teams performance in the match.

"They looked good and played good football but you know we recently played against Maldives and I must say they are a much better side," said Lee Sang Chul.

Bangladesh have been drafted in Group B along with Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bhutan and they launch the SAFF Championship campaign against Bhutan on December 4. The group A comprises of Maldives, India, Afghanistan and Nepal.



Bangladesh striker Zahid Hasan Emily (L) stabs the ball past Ulsan Hyundai custodian Lee Dong Won for the home side's only goal in a 3-1 defeat against the South Korean giants at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

SL follow-on

Cricket

AFF, Kanpur

Sri Lanka were staring at a massive defeat after India's Shanthakumaran Sreesanth grabbed 6-85 on the third day of the second cricket Test here on Thursday.

Sreesanth, 26, took the second five-wicket haul of his career to bowl out Sri Lanka for 229 in their first innings and rocked them again in their second knock by dismissing in-form opener Tillakaratne Dilshan (11).

The fast bowler's efforts helped India take a 413-run lead on the first innings and enforce a follow-on.

At close, Sri Lanka were reeling on 57-4 in their second innings, trailing India by 356 runs.

India, who amassed 642 in their first innings, need six more Sri Lankan wickets to claim an innings victory and go 1-0 up in the three-Test series. The first match in Ahmedabad ended in a draw.

Thilan Samaraweera was batting on one while Angelo Mathews was on two when stumps were drawn for the day, five overs before scheduled close due to bad light.

Sreesanth, who took three wickets in the morning session, added two more to his tally to return impressive first-innings

figures of 5-75 in 22 overs at the Green Park stadium.

Spinners Pragnan Ojha (2-37) and Harbhajan Singh (2-54) wiped off the tail to wrap up the Sri Lankan innings shortly after tea.

India tasted early success again in the second innings when Dilshan edged an outswinger from Sreesanth on 11, failing to make amends for his golden duck in the first knock.

Part-time spinner Virender Sehwag trapped the other

opener Tharanga Paranavitana leg before wicket before Mahela Jayawardene and Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara lost their wickets cheaply.

Mahela was run out while Sangakkara inside-edged onto his stumps off Harbhajan.

Sreesanth earlier broke a fighting 60-run partnership between Mahela (47) and Prasanna Jayawardene to ensure there was no repeat of their heroics at Ahmedabad.

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YOU ARE OUT: India paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth is ecstatic after dismissing Sri Lankan batsman Prasanna Jayawardena (not in picture) on the third day of the second Test in Kanpur yesterday.

21-member side for SAFF declared

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) announced a 21-member final squad for the SAFF Championship to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from December 4 to December 13.

Interim coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo picked up the team from the 26-member side as Mustaq, Alamgir, Rezaul Karim Reza, Manik and Chabin Rakhain failed to get their places in the final list.

Bangladesh have been drafted in Group B along with Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bhutan while Group B comprises Maldives, India, Afghanistan and Nepal.

Bangladesh will play their first match against Bhutan on December 4. They play their second group match against Pakistan on December 6 and take on Sri Lanka on December 8.

The final is scheduled for December 13.

SQUAD

Aminul Haque (captain), Biplob Bhattacharya, Mazharul Islam Himel (goalkeepers), Nasir Hossain, Mahiuddin Ibnul Siraji, Ariful Islam Arif, Rajani Kanta Barman, Mamun Miah, Wali Faisal, Atiqur Rahman Mishu (defenders), Mamunul Islam, Sahedul Shahed, Pranotosh Kumar Das, Zahed Parvez Chowdhury, Mehedi Hasan Ujjal, Arman Aziz, Zahid Hossain (mid fielders), Enamul Haque, Abdul Baten Komal, Zahid Hasan Emily and Mithun Chowdhury.

Besiktas stun Man Utd Bayern Munich stay alive

AFF, Paris



Manchester United's proud 23 match Champions League unbeaten run came to an end on Wednesday as they lost 1-0 to Turkish side Besiktas.

United had already qualified for the knockout stages but they still need a point from their visit to Wolfsburg - who lost 2-1 to CSKA Moscow - in a fortnight to wrap up top spot.

Germany's ailing four-time champions Bayern Munich kept their hopes alive and handed a much needed lifeline to coach Louis van Gaal with a 1-0 win at home to bottom-placed Maccabi Haifa.

Bordeaux did them a favour by beating Juventus 2-0 to ensure they finish top of their group while Chelsea also ensured they finished top with an efficient 1-0 win away at Porto.

Nine-time champions Real Madrid took a huge step towards securing their place in the last 16 with a 1-0 victory over FC Zurich.

AC Milan failed to keep pace with Real

in the same group as they were held 1-1 by Marseille in what has been a bad week in general for Italian clubs in the competition.

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson fielded a largely young side and was proud of the way they played even if it meant the undefeated home run came to an end.

"I think we were a bit anxious but its not a bad thing - they're young and you expect that," said the Scot.

It was a stellar performance in terms of the flow of the game and we've shown some really good things," added Ferguson, who said he might yet field a similar side against Wolfsburg.

Despite Real Madrid's victory coach Manuel Pellegrini was far from satisfied.

"Of course we are anxious because the team is not playing as was expected," said Pellegrini.

"The results are good but is not the type of football that please me nor the football that the team are looking to play."

Marseille coach Didier Deschamps, who was a member of the Marseille side that beat Milan in the 1993 Champions League final, was not happy as his side

could easily have won the match.

"It is not a very good result, because we needed to win," said Deschamps, who guided Monaco to the 2004 Champions League final.

"Seeing what my team did here, there was every chance we should have won."

"However, the dream is still possible. We have a small chance."

Bayern Munich took a long time to take the lead over Haifa side but Ivica Olic finally calmed the restive supporters when he scored in the second-half to keep their hopes alive.

Van Gaal, who won the trophy with Ajax in 1995, breathed a sigh of relief.

"Of course, we are all very relieved to get the win," said van Gaal.

"The team played well and we are pleased to have got our destiny back into our own hands."

Despite being beaten by Bordeaux Juventus' coach Ciro Ferrara remained optimistic that they would progress.

"We weren't good tonight - but our destiny is still in our own hands," insisted Ferrara.

"The defeat does not compromise our

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Kiwis enjoy slight edge

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

A 34-year-old fast bowler, returning to Test cricket after two years, and a 19-year-old debutant lit up Dunedin's University Oval on a windy day, at the end of which New Zealand were better placed in the first Test. Finally back in New Zealand whites, hurling that red thing in anger on a flat pitch, Shane Bond -- with pure pace -- rattled the Pakistan middle order during a seven-over spell of 3 for 25. In reply, Umar Akmal launched a counter-attack after Pakistan were 85 for 5, impressing with his dazzling strokeplay and clear head, scoring a 160-ball 129 to help his team avoid the follow-on.

It took Bond his first spell to graduate from the early 140 km to close to 150, but during that time Chris Martin dismissed the openers, and Iain O'Brien -- bowling into a stiff wind -- troubled the batsmen enough to not let them settle. Umar, who nearly scored a century in boundaries alone, found support in his elder brother. Kamran Akmal was the quieter partner in the 176-run sixth-wicket stand, and missed his century by 18 runs. Nonetheless he stayed for long enough to be the first person to congratulate his younger brother on reaching a special century.

Unlike their Pakistan counterparts, New Zealand's new-ball bowlers found neither seam movement nor swing. They were helped, though, by the ordinary techniques of the top three batsmen. Martin, who had earlier got his 26th duck as New Zealand were dismissed for 429, was at the

right place at the right time with the ball. First when Khuram Manzoor -- his guard outside leg stump -- went to cut him, ended up playing away from the body, and chopped it on. And then when Imran Farhat moved across his stumps and played down the wrong line. Nice payback for being dismissed for a sixth duck in six innings against Pakistan.

In his third over of the second session, Bond gave Mohammad Yousuf a bouncer at 151 kmph that just missed the edge, followed by a yorker at 149 and a legcutter at 144 just outside off, again just avoiding the edge. It seemed it would take something more special to dismiss Yousuf and

Bond pulled that out too: diving low and forward during his follow through to take a return catch. Two balls later he gave Fawad Alam the perfect lifter, not wide of off, high enough to have him jumping, and too fast for the batsman to pull his glove out of the way.

Another short ball came in the next over. Shoaib Malik, semi-backing away, guided it onto his stumps: 74 for 2 had become 85 for 5. In the interim, though, Umar had cut his first ball in Tests, from Bond, for four. Then came the shot of the day. Umar would have been forgiven had he played a forward defense to this ball from Daniel Vettori, but he rocked back and pulled it over wide long-on, so clean

that it almost carried for a six.

Before Bond finished his spell, he induced an edge from Umar, but it went low and fast to the left of Daniel Flynn at gully. Another sharp Bond bouncer got a top edge that fell short of the slip cordon. Those were the only blotches on Umar's innings. Kamran, duly took the back seat as Umar cut, drove, pulled, slog-swept, and punched his way to 50 off 57 balls, and consequently forced more defensive fields. Bond had rattled Pakistan during that hour, and it was Umar's turn now.

Vettori, who gave O'Brien a deserved breather after 11 consecutive and tight overs for 28 runs, appeared to be the

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Pakistan middle-order batsman Umar Akmal looks up to the heavens after scoring a century on debut on the second day of the first Test against New Zealand in Dunedin yesterday.

Nadal knocked out

Tennis

AFF, London

Rafael Nadal was sent crashing out of the ATP World Tour Finals in a straight sets defeat to last year's finalist Nikolay Davydenko on Wednesday.

The Russian won 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) in an hour and 47 minutes at London's O2 Arena to send the Spanish world number two tumbling out of the season-ending championships at the group stage.

Davydenko's powerful, accurate ground strokes tore Nadal's game apart in the opening set, and though the Australian Open champion recovered some form in the 80-minute second set, it was too late to stop the world number seven from claiming victory.

Nadal went into the match with a 4-3 lead over Davydenko,

though the Russian had won their previous three meetings on hard courts like the O2 Arena -- including a 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 win in the Shanghai final last month.

The first set saw Nadal's game destroyed by his opponent, who dominated the play with his impressive shot-making, sending the left-hander scurrying round the court.

Nadal, 23, won the toss, chose to receive and was swiftly 3-0 down.

Davydenko, 28, kicked off the match with an ace and took the first game, then converted a break point on Nadal's serve when the Spaniard misfired.

Davydenko then held serve before Nadal won the fourth game to love.

After the Russian held serve, he broke Nadal to love as the Mallorcan's serve crumbled.

Davydenko held three set

points and sealed it with an ace to wrap up the first set in 27 minutes.

Nadal was break point down in the first game of the second set but recovered to win it on the deuce.

Davydenko held serve and held break point again on Nadal's serve but the Spaniard finally won the game thanks to a rare Davydenko error.

The Russian held serve again and had two break points on the Spaniard's serve next game. Though Nadal pulled it back to deuce, Davydenko won the game for a 3-2 lead.

The Australian Open champion took a 15-40 lead next game but the serving Russian pulled it back to deuce and won it. Nadal served the next game to love as he revived his hopes.

He then held a key break point in the eighth game.

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Neo Cricket & SuperSport2

India v Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day 4
Live from 11:00am

TEN Sports

New Zealand v Pakistan
First Test, Day 4
Live from 6:00am
South Africa v England
Third ODI
Live from 7:30pm

STAR Cricket & SuperSport6

Australia v West Indies
First Test, Day 2
Live from 7:00am

ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm

SATURDAY

English Premier League
Portsmouth v Man United
Live from 10:00pm

SUNDAY

English Premier League
Arsenal v Chelsea
Live from 11:00pm

STAR Sports

ATP World Tour Finals
Round Robin
Live from 9:15pm

SATURDAY

English Premier League
Man City v Hull City
Live from 10:00pm

SuperSport3

SUNDAY

Primera Liga
Barcelona v Real Madrid
Live from 1:00am (Monday)