



Graeme Swann (L) leads the victorious England side off the field after his exploits with the ball helped his side to an innings victory over South Africa at Kingsmead in Durban on Wednesday. Swann took five wickets in the second innings and nine in all in the match.

Private sector to help fund SA Games

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's financial intermediaries have decided to come forward to help the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) financially in a bid to making the 11th South Asian Games a success after Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith urged them to extend their helping hands during a dinner at a city hotel Tuesday.

The regional extravaganza will be held in Bangladesh between January 29 and February 9 next year with about 1,800 athletes from eight nations taking part in record 23 disciplines.

On behalf of the financial intermediaries, chairman of Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB) Nazrul Islam Mazumder assured the minister that the financial organisations in the private sector would contribute about Tk 20 crore to partner the government which has allocated Tk 122 crore out of Tk 170 crore.

On Sunday, BOA hosted the dinner for the private sector financial intermediaries with members of BAB, Bangladesh Leasing and Finance Companies Association (BLFCA) and Bangladesh Insurance Association (BIA) attending.

Nazrul Islam, who is also the chairman of EXIM Bank and Aziz Al Kaiser Tito, chairman of City Bank, have already handed over cheques of Tk 1 crore each to the finance minister and BOA general secretary Kutubuddin Ahmed.

BOA president General Abdul Mubeen thanked the members of BAB, BLFCA and BIA for their support.

Crisis deepens

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The first-class cricketers asked the board to increase their match fees as well as reinstate the previous format of country's lone first-class cricket and they have also demanded to defer the competition by four five days.

It was learnt that the board officials tried unofficially to convince the players to join the camp so that the board can take a positive step regarding their demand in the emergency meeting, but the players were reluctant.

Mashrafe

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All-rounder Alok Kapali is the other ICL-returnee in the short list but two spin all-rounders Mahmudul Islam and Nayeem Islam have been performing well for the last few series and had valuable contributions in the team's recent wins.

The tournament will kick off with the match between hosts Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on January 4 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.



Did U Know?

West Indies cricket legend Brian Lara is the only batsman to have ever scored a hundred, a double century, a triple century, a quadruple century and a quintuple century in first class games over the course of a senior career.

No change in Australia

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting has declared himself a certain starter for the Sydney Test beginning on Sunday despite suffering more pain than he expected in his hurt elbow during the win at the MCG on Wednesday.

Australia have named an unchanged 12-man squad for the second Test, resisting the urge to add Steven Smith as a

second spinner following Pakistan's struggles against Nathan Hauritz in Melbourne.

Clint McKay was retained in the group but is expected to be 12th man again, following a bowling performance Ponting described as the best from an Australian Test team in a couple of years. It included Hauritz's first five-wicket haul in first-class cricket, and though Ponting said a second spinner would be an option for Sydney, the selectors decided against naming

Smith.

Smith was added at the MCG as cover for Hauritz, who had a groin injury in the lead-up to the Test. Smith had enjoyed a net session with Shane Warne which Ponting described as the best from his development. "I know he would have got a lot out of the session the other day," Ponting said. "Any time any young spinner can spend some quality time with Warne one on one is going to be of great benefit to them."

Ponting will lead Australia as they aim to take the series 2-0 in Sydney, despite his injury troubling him through the Boxing Day Test. He said he was not in any doubt at all for the second Test.

"I've had a bit of pain in both innings to tell you the truth," Ponting said. "It probably flared up more than I was hoping it would halfway through my first innings but I declared myself fit to play and I've just got to put up with it and get on with it from there. That's all I could do. I've continued to have treatment through this game and will the next few days give myself every opportunity to recover as well as I can for the next Test."

SQUAD

Shane Watson, Simon Katich, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke, Marcus North, Brad Haddin, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Hauritz, Peter Siddle, Doug Bollinger, Clint McKay.

Swann on song

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On that occasion, too, off-spin destroyed the South African batting with David Allen and Fred Titmus taking 13 wickets between them.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second Test between South Africa and England at Kingsmead in Durban on Wednesday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 343 all out in 108.3 overs (Smith 75, Kallis 75, De Villiers 50, Steyn 47, Boucher 39; Swann 4-110, Broad 2-44, Anderson 2-75)

ENGLAND: First innings 575 for 9 declared in 170 overs (Bell 119 not out, Cook 118, Collingwood 91, Prior 60, Strauss 54, Pietersen 31; Morkel 3-78, Duminy 3-89, Steyn 2-94)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second

innings (overnight 76-6)

Prince c Bell b Swann 16

Smith lbw b Swann 22

Amla b Swann 6

Kallis b Broad 3

De Villiers lbw b Broad 2

Duminy b Broad 0

Boucher c Prior b Broad 29

Morkel lbw b Swann 15

Harris c Broad b Anderson 36

Steyn lbw b Swann 3

Ntini not out 1

Total: (All out in 50 overs) 133

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-37, 3-40, 4-44, 5-44, 6-50, 7-86, 8-108, 9-129

Bowler O M R W

Anderson 8 2 24 1

Onions 4 1 12 0

Swann 21 3 54 5

Broad 17 3 43 4

Result: England won by an

innings and 98 runs and take

1-0 lead in the four-Test

series.

Man-of-the-match: Graeme

Swann.

Toss: South Africa.

Umpires: Aleem Dar and

Amish Saheba.

No Sanath, no Mahela

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rate of 99.77. Having last played an ODI in August last year, and his last appearance for Sri Lanka being in the 2009 World Twenty20 final against Pakistan, he will keen to make the most of the opportunity.

"We think that Silva has a role to play in the World Cup. He is a fast accumulator of runs and he is a brilliant fielder," selection sources told Cricinfo.

Thirimanne, 20, finished as Ragama Cricket Club's leading run-getter this season, with 709

runs in eight matches at 59.08, including two centuries and five fifties.

Selection panel sources said Thirimanne was an exciting prospect and his ability to finish a game would be extremely handy.

His Ragama teammate Bandara was also rewarded for his perseverance and was handed another opportunity to seal his place in the national side as a spinner. In fact, the uncertainty surrounding Muralitharan's availability for the 2011 World Cup has prompted the selectors to

look elsewhere for spinning options.

Left-arm fast bowler Thushara also made a return to the side after a freak shoulder injury which forced him to return from India. All-rounder Muthumudalige Pushpakumara, Suranga Lakmal and Suraj Randiv, who were replacements to India, have been retained.

The tournament will be played from January 4-13 with Sri Lanka taking on the hosts in the first match in Mirpur.

An Aussie final day

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In a gloved catch to Simon Katich at short leg.

Abdur Rauf survived Hauritz's hat-trick delivery -- which featured the rare sight of nine fielders around the bat -- but fell soon after to Doug Bollinger. Rounding out a forgettable match, Rauf played onto his stumps to expose the Pakistan tail shortly before lunch. Hauritz completed the rout after the break by removing Yusuf to another bat-pad catch, and Saeed Ajmal to a wild swipe that was accepted by Shane Watson, who was later named Man of the Match.

The breakthroughs ensured Johnson and Hauritz a positive end to a 2009 campaign that has proved testing in the extreme. Both bowlers have been subjected to criticism -- Johnson for his erratic ways during the Ashes series, Hauritz for his lack of penetration on deteriorating tracks -- but have emerged better for the experience. Though not quite back to his wrecking ball ways of South Africa, Johnson is nonetheless a bowler far improved from that which struggled for much of the Ashes series. Hauritz, meanwhile, has continued his steady evolution as an international spinner, as demon-

strated by his subtle changes of flight and angle on Wednesday.

For Pakistan, there is much to ponder before the Sydney Test. The selection of Rauf over the experienced and versatile Umar Gul was flawed, and the catching at the MCG largely lamentable. The likely return of Danish Kaneria and the possible reintroduction of Younis Khan could prove a significant boost for the tourists, but on the evidence of the past five days, there remains much work to do.

If nothing else, Pakistan have at least closed the chapter on the annus horribilis that was 2009. In a year that witnessed the Lahore terrorist attack, and the subsequent stripping of host venue status, the Pakistanis can look ahead to the New Year's Test with hope for healing and renewal.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Wednesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 454 for 5 declared in 128 overs (Katich 98, Watson 93, Hussey 82, Hauritz 75, Ponting 57; Asif 2-86)

PAKISTAN: First innings 258 all out in 99 overs (Misbah 65 not out, Umar 51, Butt 45, Yusuf 22; Johnson 3-36, Bollinger 3-50, Siddle 2-77)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 225 for 8 declared in 73.1 overs (Watson 120, Clarke 37, Johnson 22; Aamer 5-79)

PAKISTAN: Second innings

Farhat lbw b Bollinger 12

Butt lbw b Johnson 33

Iqbal b Hauritz 48

Yousuf c Katich b Hauritz 61

Umar c Haddin b Johnson 27

Misbah c Haddin b Johnson 0

Kamran st Haddin b Hauritz 30

Aamer c Katich b Hauritz 0

Rauf b Bollinger 5

Ajmal c Watson b Hauritz 10

Asif not out 1

Extras: (b-13, lb-4, w-2, nb-5) 24

Total: (All out in 72 overs) 251

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-80, 3-116, 4-171, 5-171, 6-214, 7-214, 8-221, 9-250

Bowler O M R W

Bollinger 15 5 42 2

Siddle 13 5 32 0

Hauritz 24 4 101 5

Johnson 18 6 46 3

Katich 2 0 13 0

Result: Australia won by 170

runs and take 1-0 lead in the

three-Test series.

Man-of-the-match: Shane

Watson.

Toss: Australia.

Umpires: Billy Doctrove and

Rudi Koertzen.

Emphatic win: Strauss

2009 has been a downslide: Smith

Cricket

AFP, Durban

England captain Andrew Strauss said on Wednesday that his team's win by an innings and 98 runs in the second Test against South Africa at Kingsmead had been outstanding.

"It's not far off the best performance I've seen by an England team," said Strauss.

"Away from home that's as emphatic as we have been. Pretty much the whole match we've done what we wanted to do."

England's comprehensive triumph completed a year of success under Strauss's captaincy, which included an Ashes series win over Australia.

"We've come a long way in the last 12 months," said Strauss. "But we've still got a lot of hard work to do."

Strauss said one of the keys to the team's success was "not getting carried away when we've done well."

He said Wednesday's win would count for nothing when the teams square up in the third Test in Cape Town on Sunday.

"But we're in a good position in the

series, one up with two to play, and the way we've won today gives us a lot of confidence going into Cape Town."

While Strauss could reflect on a year of success, South Africa captain Graeme Smith admitted that 2009 had been a let-down after his team won away series against Australia and England in 2008.

They lost a home series against Australia and won only one Test out of six during the year.

"We reached a point but we haven't been able to go to the next level. We need to look at why we haven't been able to take that step," he said.

Smith said the scale of the Durban defeat was "massively disappointing" and indicated unhappiness with the way the team had prepared.

"We need to be quite precise in terms of the things we need to improve on in terms of training sessions and coaching," he said.

Smith was critical of his team's bowling. "From ball one we were poor," he said. "We never found our areas and we weren't precise enough."

Asked about the form of fast bowler Makhaya Ntini, who has taken two wick-

ets for 233 runs in the first two Tests, Smith said: "Makhaya would be the first to put his hand up and say he's disappointed with the way he's bowled."

"He comes with a lot of experience and he's performed really well for us over a period of time. We have given him all the support we can behind the scenes. He's an important cog in our line-up, so we need to look at all those aspects."

Although South Africa named a 14-man squad for the second and third Tests, Smith said he did not believe there would be major changes.

"It's important to take the emotion out of decisions. We need to get to Cape Town, have a look at the squad and see what the selectors give us."

The match was effectively lost on Tuesday when South Africa collapsed to 76 for six but Smith said the team's top six batting line-up had generally been solid over a sustained period.

"It was disappointing. It was a creation of pressure and England being able to attack. They ran in and they bowled well. Maybe we were a bit tentative but we need to give credit to England. We were outplayed."

SA Games live on TV

SPORTS REPORTER

Viewers will be able to watch live telecast of all 23 disciplines of the 11th South Asian Games that will be held in Bangladesh from January 29 to February 9 next year.

After a meeting with the high-ups of different TV channels yesterday, Bangladesh Olympic Association's media committee for the Games distributed disciplines among the state-run television and the private channels.

State-run BTV will broadcast the opening and closing ceremonies, football and athletics events from Bangabandhu National Stadium and swimming competition from the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur.

ATN Bangla will telecast cricket, cycling and wushu, BanglaVision will beam hockey, archery and judo while wrestling and badminton events have been awarded to Rtv.

Handball, golf and karate

will be telecast on Desh TV;

boxing, table tennis and bas-

ketball to be broadcast by ETV;

volleyball, weightlifting and

taekwondo to be beamed by

Channel i and Baishakhi TV

will show the games of

kabaddi, shooting and squash,

said a BOA press release.

School cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Parerhat RL High School of Pirojpur, Rahmatullah Model High School of Dhaka and GK Pilot High School won their respective matches in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers U-16 National Cricket Tournament yesterday.

At Pirojpur Stadium, Parerhat RL High beat Hularhat High School by 116 runs. Batting first, Parerhat scored 214 before being all out in 42 overs. Hularhat High got bowled out for 48 in 19.5 overs. Belayet Hossain took five for 15 for Parerhat.

At Gulshan Youth Club Ground, Rahmatullah Model beat Fairy's Fair International School by seven wickets. In the other match, GK Pilot High School beat Ideal Preparatory and High School by 10 runs.

Pak players up for grabs

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

At least 12 players from Pakistan have applied to the Indian Premier League (IPL) requesting to be placed in next season's auction. Though the identities of all the applicants is not yet clear, one player said most of the touring squad currently in Australia has been in touch with the IPL.

The IPL had earlier this month set a December 31 deadline for players from Pakistan to put themselves into the auction pool for IPL 3. Four players -- Kamran Akmal, Sohail Tanvir, Misbah-ul-Haq and Umar Gul -- already have contracts with franchises from the first season, though they stand currently suspended. The only way they can now participate is if their franchises free

up a spot in their squads by offloading a foreign player.

"All the players here have sent emails to Lalit Modi expressing their interest for Ricky Ponting knows the winning feeling better than any other player in the history of Test cricket. But on a day when he broke the records for the most wins by any Test player and the most victories for any Test captain, Ponting called the 170-run triumph over Pakistan one of the team's best in a long while, and praised his young attack for as good a bowling effort as the side had displayed in the last two years."

When he came in to the team as a young man in the mid 1990s, Australia were just embarking on a decade of dominance. The list of men to have played in the most Test victories is revealing, as the top eight are all Australians of that brilliant era.

Mohammedan winning

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enough to get the deceive goal as a harmless lob from Mamunul Islam found the back of Rahmatganj net in the 34th minute. From the right flank, Mamunul lobbed the ball for Emily, who rose high but failed to connect and the ball went on to kiss the net with Rahmatganj goalkeeper Arifuzzaman Himel standing at the middle under the post.

Five minutes from half-time, Rahmatganj came close to equalising, but Ugandan striker Idris Kasirye headed Jahangir Patwary corker straight to goalkeeper Aminul, who returned to the game after missing the match against Chittagong Abahani due to fever.

After resumption, Rahmatganj looked more aggressive to equalise the margin and pressed hard but they could hardly split

Mohammedan's backline marshalled by national strikers Wali Faisal, Ariful Islam, Mofazzal Hossain Saikat and Hasan Al Mamun.

Mohammedan, however, chose to go on counter attack and yielded a few good chances, but could not defeat national team's number three goalkeeper Himel, who foiled all the efforts of the Black and Whites.

From a counter attack, Mohammedan almost doubled the margin eight minutes into the second half when Mamunul Islam drove a minus from Abdul Baten from outside the box, but goalkeeper Himel fisted it to rescue Rahmatganj before Rahmatganj's Kabir Hossain let loose a 40 yarder that just flew over the crossbar in the 68th minute.

With 15 minutes remaining, Mohammedan wasted at least

three sitters, but it was again goalkeeper Himel, who easily gripped a shot from Komol, who later squandered two sitters to disappoint the Motijheel-based outfit.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: Aminul Haq, Hasan Al Mamun, Mofazzal Hossain Saikat, Ariful Islam, Wali Faisal, Mamunul Islam (Shakil Ahmed), Arman Aziz, Enamul Haq Sharif, Alamu Bukola Olatekan (Zahid Hossain) and Zahid Hasan Emily.

RAHMATGANJ: Arifuzzaman Himel, Jahangir Patwary, Arif Hossain, Ddumba Michael, Moshfiqur Uddin Shimul, Anisur Alam Sweet, Onyokoro Felix, Kabir Hossain (Rashed Hossain), Choummin Rakhine (Sabbir Mahmud Pritom), Idris Kasirye and Pushbon Mollah (Mamun).

Referee: Tayeb Hasan.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Urban

sunning

sites