

Div I cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Bandhu Ekadash got a massive 185-run victory over Victoria Club by in the Col (retired) Malek First Division Cricket League at the Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

Batting first, Bandhu Ekadash made 325 runs for 3 wickets in 40 overs with Jamil scoring 102.

In reply, Victoria Club runs were bundled out for only 140 runs in 23.3 overs.

Smith tweets vitriol at Wessels

CRICINFO

Graeme Smith has launched a scathing attack on former South Africa captain and selector Kepler Wessels on Twitter and hit back at the criticism his side have received after being dumped out of the World Twenty20 in the Super Eights stage.

"Find it amazing that Kepler can sit and say should have picked a younger squad when he was 1 of the selectors who chose it unbelievable!" Smith wrote on Twitter and followed it up with "Atleast we own up to playing poorly, but all these so called experts/ex players im not sure I see a winners medal hanging round their necks!"

South Africa lost heavily to England and Pakistan to finish bottom of the table in their Super Eights group and have won just a single global event - the ICC Knockout in Dhaka 12 years ago - since their reintroduction to world cricket in 1992.

Their recent failure prompted a clutch of former players to voice their concerns, with Graeme Pollock saying "The two run-chases, against England and Pakistan, were two of the most amateurish I've ever seen," and former selector Hugh Page saying: "In every other side, there's a young player - sometimes two - who will go after the bowling early in the innings, I'd like to see more young players to be given an opportunity."

Though nobody has as yet called for his head, Smith has been in charge for seven years and is under pressure to turn things around soon. South Africa play West Indies in three Tests, four ODIs and two Twenty20s beginning May 19.

Ashraful

FROM PAGE 17 on 83 for two in reply to Bangladesh's paceman 231.

Uncapped paceman Robiul Islam continued his impressive bowling with four for 77 runs while the experienced Shahadat Hossain captured four wickets for 72.

Maunder hit 126 off 188 balls that featured 16 fours and three sixes while the former Zimbabwe batsman Grant Flower scored 46 off 63 balls with seven boundaries.

Two most successful Bangladeshi pace bowlers however struggled with their run-up as they conceded 12 no balls while Bangladesh gave a total of 25 extras.

Get Kevin

FROM PAGE 17 opening partnership at this event of Craig Kieswetter and Michael Lumb, the way to play Clarke's quicks.

"I thought they were always going to go a little bit steady in the first six overs and try to keep wickets in hand, and I imagine England might do the same," Clarke said.

"If I was playing against our attack that's what I would try to do."

England, who may look to spin to stifle their old foes, have never won a major one-day title.

Australia, who lifted the last of their three successive World Cup trophies in Barbados three years ago, know all about playing in showpiece matches.

England beat Australia by 100 runs when they first met in a Twenty20 international, in Southampton in 2005.

Few expect a repeat on Sunday but in the fast-paced world of Twenty20, predictions can be over in an over.

Amalash

FROM PAGE 17 Alexander said after Friday's match that he was convinced with style of Abahani's play against Nepal. He also went on to say that the Nepalese side played more organised football despite the defeat.

"We will go out there to win and it won't make any difference that we are playing against the home side," said a confident Dordei coach.

Dordei, the team to beat in the meet, thrashed Hasus 5-0 in their first game and beat New Road 3-0 on Friday.



Essex opener John Maunder cuts the ball on way to his century as Bangladesh's makeshift wicketkeeper Jahurul Islam looks on during the second day of their three-day game at the County Ground in Chelmsford yesterday.

'Send them to NCA'

CRICINFO

Sunil Gavaskar has come down hard on India's shortcomings against the short ball during the World Twenty20 in the West Indies, suggesting they train at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore to rectify their difficulties. For the second time in succession, India bowed out of a World Twenty20 without registering a win in a single Super Eights game, making it six such losses in a row since England last year.

India won both their group games but lost to Australia, West Indies and Sri Lanka in the second stage. Besides their difficulties in tackling bouncers - a weakness exploited by their opponents - India were ordinary in terms of their fielding and running between the wickets.

"The guys who have been found to be uncomfortable against the short ball should be sent to the NCA, where they will be able to practice against the short ball, either through a bowling machine or maybe with some of the younger bowlers bowling to them from say 18 to 16 yards," Gavaskar told the news channel CNN-IBN. "They are under contract with the BCCI so nobody can actually claim that they need a break they don't need a break if they haven't performed, they need to go to the NCA and hone their skills against the short ball."

Several other former India players criticized the team's performance, saying it was not adequately prepared to succeed in a tournament where the quality of cricket was considerably higher than the IPL. MS Dhoni, the captain, said the constant traveling associated with the IPL and its after parties took a toll on the body.

There was just a five-day gap between the IPL

final and the start of the World Twenty20, giving the players barely enough rest, but Gavaskar, a member of the IPL's governing council, didn't blame the IPL for India's performance.

"If that was the case then Sri Lanka would not have been in the semi-final, or England and Australia. A lot of Australian players were in the IPL so I don't think that is an issue at all," he said. "It's just the fact that T20 is a format where you have got to be good on the day and if you are not good on your day, you lose. I don't think much should be read into the fact that the players were playing IPL, if anything playing in the IPL meant that they had lot more practice than the other teams."

Former players like Madan Lal and Mohammad Azharuddin felt Dhoni was making excuses by referring to the IPL parties and Gavaskar concurred. "I don't think that is an excuse at all. I think that is a very poor excuse used by people to say that IPL parties were the reason for the team not performing here. Tell me one thing, there were no parties here were they? So how can you say that the team performed badly in the Caribbean because of parties in India?"

Continuing on the fall-out of India's exit, Gavaskar chose not to comment on coach Gary Kirsten's alleged statement that he was fitter than some of the team members, saying he would rather wait for Kirsten to communicate his thoughts officially to the BCCI. However, Gavaskar threw his weight behind Dhoni, with the Indian media speculating on his future as captain of India in the limited-overs formats.

"MS Dhoni has done the best that he could. I still think he is the best bet as far as captaining the country is concerned. He has not quite had the luck he had when he had started with the India captaincy."

Modi files gigantic reply

CRICINFO

Lalit Modi, the suspended IPL chairman, has begun the process of filing his reply to the BCCI's show-cause notice served on him on April 26. Reports suggest the reply runs up to 15,000 pages and television channels showed footage of several large cardboard cartons being wheeled into the BCCI's office in Mumbai.

Modi is not expected to make a personal appearance - he is believed to be outside the country and the top level of the BCCI leadership is not in Mumbai.

In its notice to Modi, handed over shortly after the IPL final in Mumbai, the BCCI listed five principal charges. This includes doubts

over the bids for the Rajasthan Royals and Kings XI Punjab franchises, a "facilitation fee" for renegotiation of the IPL broadcast rights, rigging of the franchise bids in 2010 and Modi's "behavioural pattern."

The next significant step in this matter is likely to take a while. Modi's reply will now be taken up by the BCCI; if it is not satisfied with the reply, it will refer the case to its three-man disciplinary committee. On Friday, asked if there is any particular time frame for the board before it makes a final decision, Modi's lawyer Mehmood Abdi said he was optimistic about a speedy response. "Our reply has been clear. The board's president [Shashank Manohar] is an eminent lawyer, so it should not take him a long time, we hope, to make a decision."

Rach smells a rat

FROM PAGE 17

debacle. "There is too much pressure from outside. There must be someone from outside influencing the players to play badly. And a few key members of the team, Chayan and Krishna in particular, have clearly not performed according to my instruction."

Chayan was at hand to refute such allegation as he

thought it was sheer bad luck rather than any conspiracy behind the string of poor performances.

"The allegation of conspiracy is baseless. In fact I wasn't hundred per cent fit for the match. I had slight cold and I was feeling dizzy as well. That might have been a reason for my poor performance. Nothing is falling at the right place, whatever we do seems

to go wrong. It's just bad luck."

On a broader sense Rach felt the lack of experience and practice were to blame for this poor performance.

"Lack of experience and practice are also behind this failure. Maybe I will have to drop three or four players from this group who are not up to the standard. But one thing is for sure we tried our fullest. I still believe that our team is the best in the tournament," was the evaluation of an ultra-optimistic Rach.

Former star forward of the national team Rafiqul Islam Kamal could not hide his indignation after watching this performance of his beloved side.

"This is such a shame for our hockey team. Watching Bangladesh lose against Chinese Taipei was such a shame. We never lost against teams like Taipei or Singapore before. What happened to our hockey? Someone must stand up and take responsibility."

But it seems no one is yet prepared to take responsibility as the coach claimed that he was doing his best and he had a clear conscience about continuing with his job, unless he was fired.

'The best feeling'

CRICINFO

Michael Hussey was still taking deep breaths when he sat down shortly after the match to discuss what he had just achieved. It hadn't sunk in. Australia shouldn't have won this game, they really shouldn't have got close.

The fact they were victorious with a ball to spare was down to one man who produced something even he doubted was possible. Something like "freakish", "extraordinary" and "special" were thrown around after his 60 off 24 deliveries, but for once they weren't too far off the mark.

One impact of Twenty20 has been the number of innings that are acclaimed as out of the ordinary in their immediate aftermath. When there are so many boundaries, so many run chases and so much cricket in a condensed period, it can be hard to retain context.

After Yusuf Pathan clubbed 100 off 37 balls early in this year's IPL, Shane Warne called it "the greatest innings he had seen", seemingly forgetting a couple of epics by Brian Lara and Sachin Tendulkar to start with. Twenty20 is still such a young game that the true gauge of performances will be how they are recalled in 10 or 20 years.

Given that Hussey's display came in a world semi-final against a good bowling attack under immense pressure, it may just last the test of time. "I think that's probably the best feeling I have ever had on a cricket field," he said. "Particularly in such a big game when I was having so many doubts, I

had a feeling it wasn't going to be our day - when balls kept lobbing over us in field. Before today hitting the winning runs in the Adelaide Test against England was pretty special, but I think this tops it."

Whether Hussey retains that feeling when his career ends remains to be seen, and he may reflect that one of his many Test or ODI epics settles at the top. But it goes to highlight the seriousness with which Australia are now taking Twenty20 when a victory is rated higher than one of the greatest Test successes in history.

When Cameron White was caught at long-off for 43 Australia still needed 53 off 21 balls. Basically almost every delivery had to end up at the boundary and that isn't far off what happened. It was all down to Hussey. Steven Smith only managed 5 and in the 53-run stand that sealed the win Mitchell Johnson's contribution was 5 off three deliveries - although crucially he squeezed a single off the first ball of the last over.

"I can believe it because of the guy sitting beside me," Michael Clarke said after the game. "[Hussey] and White had an amazing day. I honestly felt Pakistan scored 15 runs too many. But you just can't write us off, with the class and experience we have in the team."

This was just a freakish performance from an unbelievable cricketer. When we lost a few wickets it was always going to be hard to chase that total. Then I just couldn't watch the last over after Mitchell got a single. I was in the dressing room and heard cheers so I knew it was a six, then another one and I thought: 'What's going on?'

Hussey's striking in the final over will be

what is recalled, but the way he played the penultimate six balls was a master class in limited-overs batting. The target began as 34 from 12 and Hussey collected all 16 that came from the 19th over with deft placement and hare-like running. No one could have done it better, not even the king of run-chases Michael Bevan, who used to keep his side in seemingly impossible pursuits.

Hussey has grabbed the mantle of Australia's finisher and has done it so effectively in the 50-over game that he still maintains an average over 50 after 140 matches. However, translating that into Twenty20 didn't quite come as easily. Brut force, such an important skill in the dying overs of a 20-over match, wasn't natural to him and even in this innings he used a few balls to get in.

"I'm not the kind of batsman who can go in and clear the ropes from the first ball so to start with I was just trying to give the strike to Cameron [White]," he said. "Then it came to the stage where every ball had to go and you just have to try. Even I wasn't that confident we could do it."

"It was all a bit of a blur and with last ball I just wanted to hit it out of the middle. I'm so happy and it's great to see the elation on the boys' faces."

His average has lifted by nearly 12 runs during this tournament as he has settled into the No. 7 position. He is Australia's safety valve, who has twice come in with his team in trouble against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to lead a recovery. When he launched Saeed Ajmal for the third six in the last over everything else looked tame by comparison.

USACA cancels T20 game

CRICINFO

New Zealand's Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka in Florida - the first international series between two full ICC members to take place in the USA - has been reduced from three matches to two following the cancellation of the opening match in Lauderdale on Thursday.

Hosts fall

FROM PAGE 17 incident never looked like in trouble with a goal lead.

In the first match of the day, Sri Lanka scored a hard-fought 4-3 victory over Thailand. Sri Lanka have played some high-scoring matches throughout the tournament and it was another of those which ended in their favour.

It was a topsy-turvy encounter that started with Sri Lanka taking the lead in the 22nd minute but falling behind twice to equalise. The final blow was executed on the last-minute of the game that ensured that Sri Lanka got their first win of the campaign. Mulafer Mohammed of Sri Lanka scored twice and was adjudged man-of-the-match.

However, the shock result of the day came late when Oman routed favourites Chinese Taipei 5-1 to take lead in the points table. Samir and Khalid scored twice and Hashim scored the other for Oman while Yang An scored the consolation goal for Taipei.

With one round of matches still left apart from Taipei who have played all six of their games, Oman led the table with 11 points followed by Singapore on 10 and Taipei on 9. Bangladesh are in joint fifth position along with Sri Lanka with five points from five matches.

Bangladesh will play against Oman in the last match of the qualifiers today which starts at 3pm.

Sara blasts NZ to final

CRICINFO

Sara McGlashan saw New Zealand into the final of the women's World Twenty20 against arch rivals Australia as her superb innings of 84 set up a 56-run over the West Indies here on Friday.

McGlashan's innings was the cornerstone of the White Ferns' 180 for five, the highest total of this tournament so far.

In reply, the West Indies chased gamely but were held to 124 for eight.

Now New Zealand, last year's losing finalists against England at Lord's will face Australia - a side they've beaten six times in a row - in Sunday's final at Barbados's Kensington Oval.

The destiny of the match was far from certain when New Zealand were 49 for two but a strand of 93 at nearly 11 an over between McGlashan and Sophie Devine took the game away from the home side.

McGlashan, whose brother Peter has played for the New Zealand men's team, faced just 55 balls with two superb straight sixes and six fours.

It seemed McGlashan might join West Indies' Deandra Dottin in scoring a century at this tournament until she was run out by Shakera Selman's direct hit from short third man.

West Indies, coached by former Test batsman Sherwin Campbell, made a bold start under the Beausejour floodlights with Stafanie Taylor in fine form as she struck two sixes off leg-spinner Erin Bermingham to the delight of home fans.

But Taylor was run out for 40 made at better than a run-a-ball by McGlashan.

The West Indies' collapse continued when teenage sensation Dottin fell for just one, caught by wicketkeeper Rachel Priest off Nicola Browne.

That left the home team 76 for four and there was no way back with Watkins finishing with figures of three wickets for 26 runs.



New Zealand batswoman Sara McGlashan goes for a slog sweep during the Women's World Twenty20 semifinal against West Indies at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in Gros Islet on Friday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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- 1 Disappear gradually
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  - 13 Carnival city
  - 14 Squared
  - 15 Screw-driver type
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  - 18 Conger, e.g.
  - 19 Donkey
  - 20 Mgmt.
  - 21 Historic boy king
  - 22 Suitable
  - 23 Calyx leaf
  - 26 Rum exporter
  - 30 Door handle
  - 31 Levy
  - 32 Lake vessel
  - 33 Lemon-colored
  - 35 Big feather
  - 36 Environmentally friendly
  - 37 Witness
  - 38 Explosion
  - 41 Fellow
  - 42 Time of your life?
  - 45 Latvia's capital
  - 46 Bonneville feature
  - 48 Exam format
  - 49 "6 Rms - Vu"
  - 50 Magnificent tale
  - 51 Frog kisser's growth
  - 52 Individual
  - 53 This and that
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  - 2 Competent
  - 3 Use a rotary phone
  - 4 Superlative ending
  - 5 Peak of a wave
  - 6 Prejudice
  - 7 Turf
  - 8 Place of honor, at dinner-time
  - 9 Egg, biologically suggested by
  - 10 Bigfoot's cousin
  - 11 In due time
  - 16 Burglar's booty
  - 20 Intention
  - 21 Sodium chloride
  - 22 Send electronically
  - 23 Firmament
  - 24 Away from WSW
  - 25 Rep. or Dem.
  - 26 - Leno
  - 27 Debtor's letters
  - 28 Rotating part
  - 29 Dined
  - 31 Number suggested by
  - 33 Forehead
  - 38 Old Italian money
  - 40 Gel in a petri dish
  - 41 Primary
  - 42 Dog food brand
  - 43 Pace
  - 44 Engrave
  - 46 "No seats" sign
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CRYPTOQUIP

W O V X L H O J P U H O W O D D C O H  
X D O K U J Q O J D C E O O K U L S P  
J U W O E G L V R O N , C S L O H H  
J P O Q ' D O N C H - E C V R X W G O .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD GAME SHOW IN WHICH A PLAYER WON BY CREATING THE BEST-TASTING PICKLE. "LET'S MAKE A DILL." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals R