

Rain ruins
1st ODI

AFP, Colombo

West Indies' Adrian Barath cracked a maiden century before the first one-day international against Sri Lanka was abandoned due to heavy rain in Colombo.

The 20-year-old opener limbered up for the World Cup with an impressive 113, which included two sixes and eight fours, to help the West Indies post a competitive 245-5.

But a downpour during the interval drenched the Sinhalese Sports Club and prevented Sri Lanka from coming out to bat.

Barath stabilised the innings after the tourists lost two wickets for 42 runs, including that of hard-hitting Chris Gayle, adding 165 for the third wicket with Ramnaresh Sarwan, who hit a solid 75.

The West Indies were well set for a final onslaught after reaching 206-2 in 43 overs, but paceman Lasith Malinga (3-51) restricted the tourists with three quick wickets, including those of Sarwan and Barath in the same over.

The World Cup, co-hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, starts on February 19.

The West Indies made a poor start after winning the toss as Gayle (four) was caught behind off paceman Nuwan Kulasekara in the day's fourth over. Darren Bravo also did not last long, making eight before being run out.

Barath, playing only his sixth one-dayer, went for big shots after completing his half-century as he hauled part-time spinner Tillakaratne Dilshan and seamer Angelo Mathews over mid-wicket for sixes.

Sri Lanka had to wait for more than 30 overs to claim another wicket as Barath and Sarwan dug in.

Usha to make
hockey return

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra are set to return to hockey after nine months as the Old Dhaka outfit take part in the Chowdhury Group Shaheed Smriti Hockey tournament, beginning on February 5 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

Usha Krira Chakra, who finished behind Mohammedan in the controversial final of the Club Cup early April last year, were suspended from the Premier League after failing to appear for the league opener and since then they remained out of the game for nine months before they reestablished their right to play at the top flight through court ruling.

Some six teams four services and two clubs are taking part in the round-robin matches of Shaheed Smriti Hockey with Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Police playing the opening match on Feb 5, informed the speakers at a press conference at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday.

Sponsor Chowdhury Group will provide taka two lakh out of total budget of 2.35 lakh.

"I have been included at the different sub-committees of the hockey federation and it has inspired me to work for hockey and I promise to be with hockey in the future," said Chowdhury Group chairman NI Chowdhury, who was also made the vice president of the development committee.

Chowdhury Group would also bear all expenditure to organise a talent hunt programme in Chittagong and will conduct a women's umpires course, informed tournament committee secretary Hasan Uddin Ahmed Shimul.



PHOTO: AFP

West Indies opener Adrian Barath celebrates after reaching his century in the first one-day international against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo yesterday.

Ganguly may be back

CRICINFO, Mumbai



Sourav Ganguly might find himself back on the field for the 2011 Indian Premier League (IPL) after all, even though he failed to attract any bids from franchises during the auction on January 8 and 9.

ESPNcricinfo has learnt that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has sent a letter to the franchises asking if they have any objections to teams signing Indian players who were unsold in the auction.

The letter specifically mentions Ganguly as one of the players the franchises are interested in, along with Wasim Jaffer and VRV Singh, who were the other two Indian players that weren't bought. IPL rules presently do not permit unsold players to be signed after the auction.

The Kochi franchise is reported to have shown interest in signing Ganguly, and had apparently contacted the BCCI, leading to the sending of the letter. However, Mehlul Shah, one of the co-owners of the franchise, told ESPNcricinfo that was not the case and

they had not asked the board for permission to sign Ganguly.

The franchises have until February 3 to respond to the letter, with the BCCI expected to decide on the matter during the IPL governing council meeting on February 4. "There are two conditions to the proposal," a franchise official said. Teams will have to pay the minimum base price set for the player in the auction and the cost of the player will come out of the team's salary cap.

Ganguly had raised eyebrows when he doubled his base price to 400,000 dollars just before the auction, and officials from a number of franchises were sceptical that he would find any takers. At the time Ganguly expressed incredulity at finding no buyers.

"I don't know what happened," he said. "It's up to the teams to decide on the players but I didn't expect to go unsold. It's hard to believe that I don't figure among the 100-odd cricketers."

Subsequently, Ganguly's original franchise, Kolkata Knight Riders, said that it would be open to having him on board in some capacity.

Morning shows the day

FROM PAGE 16

wrong during the World Cup, captain Shakib Al Hasan will continue to have faith in this pair.

Their only failing seems to be not carrying the partnership further than 80, their highest partnership till date. It is directly related to Tamim's inability to convert starts into big ones in one-day cricket and the inexperience of Imlul and the fact that frequently the Meherpur lad follows his opening partner to the shed.

But the Tamim-Imlul pair has the huge accolade of being a symbol of progress for Bangladesh cricket, turning a long-time weakness into a veritable strength in the space of two seasons. "Let's go back to the days when we first played one-

day internationals and the ICC Trophy days. During that time, the initial philosophy was not to get bundled out before the 50 overs."

"Nowadays, the generation of Tamim, Shakib, Naeem and Mushfiqur, they play to win the game. They have adjusted and adapted well so far," said Athar.

In the last World Cup, Tamim was the one-shot wonder with the in-form Shahriar Nafees opening the batting. After the youngster's initial venom fizzled out, Nafees too failed with the bat and lost his place. This tournament is a litmus test for both Tamim and Imlul and to hold their own. The pair surely know that continuation will be the best solution to give Bangladesh the best starts.

Young Society into 2nd round

SPORTS REPORTER

Young Society Club cruised to the second round of the Club Cup with a win at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday. The Comilla side defeated Haji Sirajul Islam Smriti Sangsads from Brahminbaria by seven wickets and moved ahead as the group champion.

Other teams who qualified for the second round are Mukti Shangha (Rajshahi), Pragatishil Shadashi Shanga (Tangail), Samsuzzoha Smriti (Narayanganj), Shaheed Sufi Samaj Kalyan Samity (Faridpur) and KKSP (Khulna).

Rising Star Club (Jessore), Bir Bikram Yamin Krira Chakra (Sylhet), Abahani (Barisal), Saidpur Cricket Club (Nilphamari), Eidgah Sporting Club (Dinajpur) and Borthers Union (Chittagong) have also progressed.

U-15s win two-dayer

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh under-15 cricket team defeated hosts Cricket Association of Bengal Under-15s by an innings and 52 runs in the two-day match at the CAB Academy ground yesterday.

Put into bat first, the visitors piled up a huge total on the first day (Saturday) before declaring their innings at 300 for five. Three half-centuries by Shanto (62), Emon (68) and Rahman (64) helped them reach the 300-run mark.

Sujat, the Bangladesh strike bowler, proved too much for the Bengal batsmen as he picked up four wickets in the first innings stopping the score at 128.

Following on, the hosts were all out again for just 120 runs and once again it was Sujat who repeated his first innings performance by claiming four more wickets.

Rubel in no

FROM PAGE 16

He however has no qualms of the pressures of playing at home during the World Cup, saying, "It is an inspiration that we are playing at home. Spin is our strength and we have some good ones in Shakib [Al Hasan], [Abdur] Razzaq and [Sohrawardi] Shuvo. I can add to that and make sure it remains our strength."

The Tigers travel to Chittagong this morning to begin a three-day training camp in the port city. Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who was part of the Tigers' training over the last week, will not be joining the 15-man squad.

Upset everywhere

SPORTS REPORTER



Nasir Hossain continued his rich vein of form in a scintillating hundred as Gazi Tank thrashed Abahani by five wickets in the Premier Cricket Super League at BKSP yesterday.

With their winning streak in the Super League intact, the youthful Gazi Tank, who beat defending champions Mohammedan in the previous round, brightened their title hopes as they are now leading the table along with Abahani on 22 points.

On the other hand Pakistan batsman Shoaib Malik's blazing hundred went in vain as Mohammedan's hopes all but dried up after their 12-run defeat to Old DOHS in the third round of the Super League at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, thanks to a six-wicket haul from off-spinner Tanvir Haider.

Mohammedan stayed on 19 points while DOHS improved their tally to 18 points.

In fact upset was the order of the day as giants Biman also lost their third round match at the hands of Cricket Coaching School (CCS) by 83 runs despite Jahurul Islam's 84 at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

GAZI - ABAHANI

Nasir once again stood tall during his 122-ball unbeaten 102 that contained seven fours and two sixes as Gazi Tank reached 219 runs for five in 46.3 overs in reply to Abahani's 218-9 to avenge their heavy defeat in the first round.

"Nasir has remained unbeaten in four consecutive matches and was exceptional during his chanceless innings today. We have a very good

chance of clinching the title as we have two matches in hand now, against Biman and CCS," said an excited Gazi Tank coach Mohammad Salauddin.

Gazi lost three early wickets for 35 runs but Nasir joined promoted Sanjamul Islam (29) to repair the damages by associating 60 runs for the fourth wicket and then Alok Kapali shared a 82-run partnership with Nasir in the fifth wicket stand to confirm the victory.

Kapali hit 34 off 49 balls that featured three boundaries.

Earlier Abahani's innings was built around Marshal Ayub's 69 and Indian Rajat Bhatia's 70 after Gazi put them in to bat.

Nasir, Sanjamul and Sabbir Rahman picked up two wickets each.

DOHS - MOHAMMEDAN

Old DOHS got off to a terrible start when Gazi Salauddin was removed by Muktadir Ali in the very first ball but Aftab Ahmed led from the front with a 83-ball 84 as DOHS set up a challenging total of 279 for 8.

Aftab smashed six fours and two sixes while Javed Omar was the other notable contributor with a 71-ball 55 that saw six fours and a six.

Nasir Hossain claimed four wickets conceding 75 runs.

Mohammedan started their reply fluently as Nazimuddin and Malik contributed 83 runs in the opening stand.

Nazimuddin scored run-a-ball 47 that featured seven fours and a six while Malik clobbered twelve fours and two sixes during his 103-ball 111.

Mohammedan were well placed at 213 for five in 38.3 overs when Malik was dismissed, but their tail failed to carry on as they finished the 50-over quota on 267 for nine.

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CCS - BIMAN

The game was all but over for Biman when CCS amassed 323 runs for five wickets after being put in to bat.

Amit Majumder (84) and Shuvagoto Hom (79) gave the foundation by associating 106 runs for the second wicket and after that Suleman Khan and Nazmul Hossain took the charge to set up the daunting task for their opponents.

Suleman hammered six fours and three sixes during his unbeaten 31-ball 56 and Nazmul smote five sixes and three fours during his unbeaten 61 off 36-balls.

In reply, Biman were bowled out for 240. Out-of-favour Jahurul Islam, who made a hundred in the previous round, kept his good form with a 65-ball 84 that featured seven fours and two sixes while Avishek Mitra added 62.

Nazmul took four wickets.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ABAHANI: 218-9 in 50 overs (Sahagir 24, Marshal 69, Rajat 70, extras 9; Nasir 22-28, Sanjamul 2-37, Sabbir 2-49)

GAZI TANK: 219 for five in 46.3 overs (Sanjamul 29, Nasir 102 not out, Kapali 34, extras 6; Abul 2-32)

Result: Gazi Tank won by five wickets.

OLD DOHS: 279-8 in 50 overs (Javed 55, Aftab 84, Forhad 29 not out, extras 30; Nur 4-75)

Result: Old DOHS won by 12 runs.

CCS: 323-5 in 50 overs (Amit 84, Hom 79, Suleman 56 not out, Nazmul 61 not out, extras 13; Sharifullah 2-55, Mosharraf 2-55)

BIMAN: 240 all out in 45.3 overs (Avishek 62, Tushar 47, Jahurul 84, extras 9; Nazmul 4-27, Saikat 2-41, Taposh 2-31)

Result: CCS won by 83 runs.

The BMW that never took off

FROM PAGE 16

infamous loss to the minnows. In the next game, against Sri Lanka, Shahriar stood at the other end as Chaminda Vaas took four wickets off in the first over.

He made only ten in that game, falling to Martin Sujit in the third over of the chase.

Subsequently, he toured Australia and played two ODIs there before he was

and against the hosts South Africa, Shahriar was out to Shaun Pollock for a duck.

In the last game against Kenya, he made a run-a-ball 14 with the help of a six and two boundaries, before falling to Martin Sujit in the third over of the chase.

He made five in the match

against West Indies in Benoni

and never again considered among the Tigers.

Now residing in New Zealand and playing for Havelock Cricket Club, Shahriar will forever be remembered for some of the most exquisite on-side shots by any batsman in this country. Though his runs and big knocks were always hard to come by.



Winners of the Prime Bank Pallima Badminton Tournament are seen with guests during the prize giving ceremony at the Pallima Sangsads premises recently.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Urban	DOWN	21	Floral garland
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