



New Zealand batsman Jesse Ryder pulls during his century against Pakistan in the sixth ODI at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Lifetime award for Roquibul

SPORTS REPORTER

Los Angeles-based Friends Club gave the lifetime achievement award to former national captain Roquibul Hassan during an award-giving ceremony on January 29.

A cultural programme was also held during the event, hosted by Shafiul Alam and Muhammad Hamid, the Friends Club president.

Gen Enayet Hossain, the consul at LA's Bangladesh consulate, was present as the chief guest.

Mash catches

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Mashrafe bowled six overs in the first spell and gave away 32 runs and then he bowled three overs in the second spell conceding 16 runs and one over in the third spell for six runs.

"I'm really delighted that I could play the full match without any trouble. I gave hundred per cent and there was no pain in my knee. I'm now more confident about my fitness," said a confident Mashrafe.

He also dismissed the notion that he had lack of pace in his first spell. "I don't think so. I was a bit rusty initially but there were no short of pace. The pace was same as it was against Zimbabwe which was around 127-130kmp/h," explained Mashrafe.

The leading paceman also said that everything would be okay if he can play one or two matches.

"It's not easy to bowl at ease after returning from injury but I felt comfortable today. I need some more matches. I concentrated on line and length today and only gave a few bouncers.

"In this kind of wicket I could try something different but I didn't do it as it was my first match after the injury," he added.

Mashrafe was not ready to comment on the World Cup selection or his chances to play in the showpiece event.

"Now my main focus is to get fully fit," he said with a smile.

Siddikur

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six-iron on the 177-yard sixth hole. He returned with a five-under-par 67 for a 214 total to lie in tied seventh place.

Siddikur mixed his card with eight birdies against five bogeys and despite his distant lead, he said there are kinks in his game which has to be straightened out.

"I had only five pars because I couldn't make many up-and-downs. I need to work on my short game which was a letdown," said Siddikur.

17th time for Abahani

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decent total thanks to Farhad Hossain's 41-ball 32 and Sahagir Hossain's unbeaten 24-ball 21.

"The tied match against Prime Dowlashar and the defeat to Old DOHS in the Super League cost us heavily. Actually our performance was not consistent all through the league which is really frustrating," said Mohammedan skipper Mashud.

In the day's other vital match, Biman rode on Jahurul Islam's 86-ball 57 that saw five boundaries to put up 213 for nine in stipulated 50 overs.

In reply, Gazi Tank lost wickets at regular interval before they were bundled out for 198 runs with 13 balls to spare.

Most of the Gazi's top-order including in-form Nasir Hossain (34) and Alok Kapali (33) got starts but none of them could finish the game.

BRIEF SCORES
ABAHANI: 230-8 in 50 overs (Anamul 46, Rony 38, Rajat 45, Forhad 32, Sahagir 21 not out; Tareq 2-43, Enamul 2-33, Malik 2-36).
MOHAMMEDAN: 231-9 in 49.3 overs (Shamsur 65, Mashud 27, Faisal 65, Azhar 34 not out; Abul 6-31).
Result: Mohammedan won by one wicket.
BIMAN: 213-9 in 50 overs

(Jahurul 57, Latif 25, Tushar 34, Mosharraf 23; Nasir 3-41, Ali 2-22).
GAZI TANK: 198 all out in 47.5 overs (Mithun 27, Ali 24, Nasir 34, Kapali 33, Amer 32; Sharifullah 2-38, Sanwar 2-20).
Result: Biman won by 15 runs.

PREMIER LEAGUE ROLL OF HONOUR		
Season	Champions	Runners-up
1974-75	Abahani	Shantinagar
1975-76	Victoria	Abahani
1976-77	Abahani	Victoria
1977-78	Mohammedan	Abahani
1978-79	Mohammedan	Abahani
1979-80	Biman	Azad Boys
1980-81	Biman	Mohammedan
1981-82	Mohammedan	Abahani
1982-83	Abahani	Mohammedan
1983-84	Biman	Mohammedan
1984-85	Abahani	Mohammedan
1985-86	Abahani	Mohammedan
1986-87	Abahani	Mohammedan
1987-88	Mohammedan	Abahani
1988-89	Biman	Abahani
1989-90	Abahani	Rupali Bank
1990-91	Brothers Union	Biman
1991-92	Mohammedan	Abahani
1992-93	Abahani	Mohammedan & Biman
1993-94	Abahani & Biman	Mohammedan
1994-95	Mohammedan & Abahani	Kalabagan
1995-96	Mohammedan	Brothers Union
1996-97	Abahani	Kalabagan
1997-98	Abahani	Brothers
1998-99	Biman	Abahani
1999-00	Abahani	Kalabagan
2000-01	Mohammedan	Abahani
2001-02	Victoria	Mohammedan
2002-03	Victoria	Mohammedan & City Club
2003-04	NOT HELD	
2004-05	Old DOHS	City Club
2005-06	Old DOHS	Sonargaon Cricketers
2006-07	Abahani	Mohammedan
2007-08	Abahani	Biman
2008-09	Abahani	Surjo Tarun
2009-10	Mohammedan	Biman
2010-11	Abahani	Mohammedan
This is Abahani's 17th Premier League crown		

3rd SL-WI ODI today

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first match was washed out after West Indies' innings. Three matches, with the lurking rain, is not adequate preparation, but both teams can take positives from the little cricket that has been played. Upul Tharanga's century, and disciplined bowling performances in each of the two games have been the positives for Sri Lanka, while West Indies will be relieved with Adrian Barath and Ramnaresh Sarwan striking form. Barath scored his first ODI century in the first match, while Sarwan got his first half-century since April last year in that game.

With just a game left, the visitors would be aiming for more consistency in their batting. Chris Gayle and the Bravo brothers got starts in the second ODI but didn't push on, while for Sri Lanka, their middle order still hasn't been tested this series. The hosts remain favourites, but West Indies have shown spirit on this tour. To end it even, against a team formidable in home conditions, and under a new captain, would mark a significant first step ahead of the World Cup.

Chris Gayle sizzled in the Test series, scoring 333 in

Galle, but has yet to take off in the ODIs. He warmed up with a fluent but brief innings in the second ODI, smacking four fours and a six, but he hasn't got an ODI century since January 2009, and will want to prove he's capable of playing a match-winning knock.

Sri Lanka's middle order: Thilan Samaraweera, Chamara Kapugedera, Angelo Mathews and Chamara Silva haven't had a go this series, with the bat. It would be worth tweaking the batting line-up with Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene perhaps dropping down to give the others a shot in the middle.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul had missed the second game due to illness. If he's back to strengthen the batting, West Indies could be forced to leave out a bowler.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES: Chris Gayle, Adrian Barath, Darren Bravo, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard, Darren Sammy (captain), Carlton Baugh, Sulieman Benn, Kemar Roach.

SRI LANKA: Upul Tharanga, Tillakaratne Dilshan,

Chamara Kapugedera, Thilan Samaraweera, Angelo Mathews, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Rangana Herath, Nuwan Kulasekara, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralidaran.

Russel, Jamal

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match at a brisk pace as they found the back of the net when Raju nudged in a cross from Mohammad Yusuf, but it was disallowed due to off-side.

But they were to take the lead three minutes later when Charles beat the Feni keeper with a fierce shot and three minutes after that made it 2-0 from the penalty spot. Sheikh Russel eased off a bit after taking a two-goal advantage, but their opponents hardly ever took the advantage through the first half.

And the scenario changed little as Sheikh Russel found a third in the 73rd minute, this time Raju headed in a fumbled catch from the hapless keeper Piaruzzaman.

Feni should have got a consolation goal late, but substitute Saifuddin failed to beat the keeper from a one-on-one position as the Feni club failed to lift themselves from the second from bottom of the table.

Ryder dazzles in dead rubber

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

A Jesse Ryder century drove New Zealand to a consolation 57-run win in the final one-day cricket international against Pakistan in Auckland on Saturday.

With only pride at stake after Pakistan had already wrapped up the series, New Zealand posted 311-7 and then rolled the tourists over for 254 in the 45th over.

Ryder, who had five ducks in nine previous Test and ODI innings against Pakistan, including two first-ball dismissals, found his touch to make 107 as New Zealand wrapped up their preparations for the World Cup.

After being put in to bat New Zealand produced their most impressive innings of the series, with Ryder's performance their best individual score.

He came in at number three after Brendon McCullum, restored as an opener, was out early for 12 and set about the Pakistan bowling in belligerent fashion.

After being dropped by Abdul Razzaq on 13, Ryder offered no further

chances in his batting blitz until his eventual dismissal, when he mishit spinner Mohammad Hafeez and was caught by Sohail Tanvir at long on.

His 107 came from 93 deliveries and included six sixes and seven fours, and a 123-run stand for the second wicket with Martin Guptill.

Guptill made a sound start, as he has done throughout the series, before throwing his wicket away with a rash shot on 44 when caught by Umar Gul at long on off the bowling of Abdul Razzaq.

It started a New Zealand slide that saw them slump from 141-1 to 190-5 when Ryder was dismissed. Scott Styris (58 not out) and Nathan McCullum (65) picked up the pace for New Zealand in the closing overs as they produced a 120-run stand for the sixth wicket in 14 overs.

Pakistan's run chase hit an early hurdle when Ahmed Shehzad, a century-maker in the last game, was removed in the third over by Kyle Mills for six with Hafeez (21) and Younis Khan (16) following soon after.

Kamran Akmal and Asad Shafiq set about repairing the innings with a 74-run stand for the fourth wicket until a lack of clear calling saw Asad run out for 26 and Pakistan were 132-4 in the

24th over.

At that stage they required a demanding albeit achievable target of nearly seven an over, but when James Franklin removed Umar Akmal (8) and Pakistan's top scorer Kamran Akmal (89) in quick succession the writing was on the wall.

Shahid Afridi attempted to keep the innings alive and reached 44 off a watchful 70 deliveries before he fell to New Zealand's leading wicket-taker Hamish Bennett, who finished with the figures of 46-4 off 8.1 overs.

Abdul Razzaq was the pick of the Pakistan bowlers with 2-23 off seven overs, while Hafeez, who was surprisingly called upon to bowl at the end, took 2-57 off nine overs. Pakistan won the six match series 3-2 with one game abandoned.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 311 for 7 (Ryder 107, N.McCullum 65, Styris 58 not out, Guptill 44; Razzaq 2-23, Hafeez 2-57, Akhtar 1-38)

PAKISTAN: 254 all out in 44.1 overs (K. Akmal 89, Afridi 44, Tanvir 30; Bennett 4-46, Franklin 3-50, Mills 1-30)

Result: New Zealand won by 57 runs and Pakistan won the 6-ODI series 3-2.
Man-of-the-match: Jesse Ryder.

7th Aus-Eng ODI today

CRICINFO, Perth

It's a hundred days since England landed in Perth ahead of a long tour that would result in them smashing Australia by an innings in three Tests and winning the Ashes away for the first time in 24 years. They're back in Western Australia now, to end the trip with the seventh one-day international today.

It's a dead rubber, as Australia lead the series 5-1, but England fans will be thrilled with what has been achieved regardless of these limited-overs results. For Andrew Strauss, though, it has been a disappointing end to the trip, if only because the World Cup is rapidly approaching and one-day form would be valuable.

So, here is one last opportunity for the England players (those who haven't already been crocked by injury) to enjoy success before a fleeting visit home ahead of the World Cup.

Lot depends

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with wickets.

It comes down to Mehrab's quip that it doesn't matter who opens the bowling, as long as they can bowl well. This is because the Tigers will be ready to dominate through the spinners if the paceman can set it up nicely but the first ten overs, like the last five, will be crucial to the Tigers' fortunes during the World Cup.

Shameful day in Dhanmondi

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uncovered from the night before and there was no communication between the powers-that-be and the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium staff. The senior groundsman, who didn't want to be named, said that he got no message from anyone in the grounds committee.

"I didn't know there would be a game today (Saturday). I was at home and I rushed to the ground to see the DOHS and CCS players. Now I have to make something out of this wicket," he said while rolling and spraying water on the wicket. Clearly, the groundsmen were not to blame.

At around noon, match referee Hemayet Siddiky took the two captains -- Mehrab Hossain of Old DOHS and Nazmul Hossain Milon of CCS -- to the centre and it was decided then that since there is no provision in the by-laws for such an occurrence, the match can be called off. "It is not an act of God, so we cannot actually find any ambiguity to hold a game. There is no rain or anything as you can see," said the bemused official, requesting anonymity.

When asked about the incident, CCDM member secretary Iqbal Yousuf Chowdhury

Niku said that the grounds committee was aware of the schedule.

"We gave the fixture to the grounds committee on January 31. They knew it very well. Two other matches were being played, so they are supposed to know that the third match will also be held," said Niku, who was reportedly seen threatening different officials from Fatullah.

CCDM coordinator spoke in the same tune that they let the grounds committee know in advance. "I went a bit late but the umpires looked at the pitch. They said it is fine now, but DOHS said they wouldn't play. We schedule the matches after consent from the grounds committee. We cannot decide where the matches will be played," he said, adding that the game will be held today in Fatullah.

But when contacted, the grounds manager did not receive the phone despite repeated attempts.

There are too many examples to pick from, if someone were to draw it as symbolic of Bangladesh cricket. But in a season marred by poor behaviour from players and team officials and below-average umpiring, it is perhaps an unprecedented conclusion.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Shamsun Nahar Wadud (C) presents a trophy to a Bangladesh International School student during their annual athletics meet at the school premises yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actress Turner
5 Pos-sessed
8 Heart of the matter
12 Chopping tools
13 Have a debt
14 Poi base
15 A Great Lake
17 Quite some time
18 Request
19 Comic Romano
20 Penniless
21 Martini ingredient
22 Belushi of "The Defenders"
23 Book of maps
26 Least inclined to do anything
30 Slay
31 Howl at the moon
32 Profit
33 Los Angeles team
35 Intimidate
36 Meadow

37 Coop occupant
38 Raise trivial objections
41 Gullet
42 Chaps
45 Sandwich cookie
46 Olympian cupbearer
48 Property claim
49 Conclusion
50 One
51 Reveille's opposite
52 Myrna of Hollywood
53 Courage

DOWN

1 Tibetan monk
2 Line of symmetry
21 Masses of nerve tissue

Solution time: 21 mins.

CBS	ARM	EASE
ERAS	LEI	IDES
LOKI	LAX	GOAT
TWIXT	MUCH	
	TAG	POTTER
PLAYBOY	WHOLE	
LOOM	OAF	OUSE
ANNIE	MATURED	
TEENSY	BAR	
	UPON	IDEAL
SOFT	KID	ALFA
KNEE	EKE	YARN
YAWS	SEW	NOD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16				17		
18					19				20			
				21				22				
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30						31				32		
33					34				35			
					36				37			
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

CRYPTOQUIP

F G Q X L S T F J G X Y T D X M F J
E I S F J S N X F L P E X J F J R
E P M X L W S T M X W, F Y F R N S
Q T D D S N P W X T I J S F X W' T J S X W.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A SHIP'S CREWMATES CONGREGATE TO EAT BREAKFAST, DO YOU THINK THEY SHOULD PREFER BOATMEAL?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals I