



Mumbai Indians captain Sachin Tendulkar plays the ball down the ground while Pune Warriors India wicketkeeper Tim Paine looks on during their IPL match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Independence Day T20

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar



Bonobithi-Bonosri Tigers emerged champions in the Independence Day T-20 cricket tournament with a four-wicket win over Moulvibazar Mohammmedan Club in the final at the Moulvibazar Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Mohammmedan made a moderate 87 losing all wickets in the face of superb bowling from Ashif, who claimed five scalps for 24. Rony topscored with 32 runs.

In reply, Bonobithi-Bonosri Tigers reached the target making 88 runs at the cost of six wickets as Farhad led from the front to score 25.

BKSP celebrates silver jubilee

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan, the country's lone sports institution, is marking its silver jubilee year in 2011.

On this occasion, the Alumni Association of BKSP (AAB) has arranged a "celebration day" on Monday, April 25.

AAB has invited all former students and officials of the BKSP and members of the sports media to become a part of the celebrations.

WC winners desired more cash

AFP, New Delhi

India's World Cup-winning cricket team expected five times more cash than they received as a reward for their efforts from their governing body, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

India won the April 2 final, beating Sri Lanka at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, in a result that unleashed more than a week of celebrations across the country.

After the stunning win, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) awarded each member of the 15-man squad a bonus of 10 million rupees (\$225,300).

But according to the Indian Express some players requested 50 million rupees (\$1,126,600) on the grounds that they deserved more.

"We are not greedy for the money," one anonymous player told the newspaper. "But these (junior) players have made the BCCI rich and famous."

"There is no harm in asking for more especially since the Board will earn (millions) after India's victory. A player's life is very uncertain. Who knows what will happen next?"

Big win for Mumbai

AFP, Mumbai

Mumbai Indians rode on a clinical effort by their bowlers to hand a seven-wicket thrashing to Pune Warriors in the Indian Premier League on Wednesday.

Munaf Patel grabbed three wickets for eight runs while Ali Murtaza and Abu Nechim took two apiece to bowl out Pune for a paltry 118 in 17.2 overs before Mumbai overhauled the target off the last ball at the Wankhede Stadium.

Skipper Sachin Tendulkar scored a fine 35 off 39 balls and shared 74 runs for the second wicket with Ambati Rayudu (37) to set the platform for the chase.

Australian all-rounder Andre Symonds (16 not out) hit two fours in the 18th over and Rohit Sharma (20 not out) brought off the winning runs with a six to give Mumbai their third victory in four matches.

Pune suffered their second defeat from the same number of games.

IPL debutants Pune failed to last their 20 overs despite a 45-run knock by middle-order batsman Robin Uthappa.

Pune were rocked by early dismissals

after skipper Yuvraj Singh won the toss and elected to bat, losing four wickets in eight balls with just 17 runs on board.

Nechim had opener Jesse Ryder of New Zealand caught by Tendulkar for 12 before Mithun Manhas edged one behind the wicket to Rayudu in the same over.

Patel picked two wickets in three balls in the next over, clipping the off-stump of Australian Tim Paine and inducing a fine edge off India's World Cup hero Yuvraj before he could even open his account.

Left-arm spinner Murtaza removed Mohnish Mishra as he tried to play a reckless shot over the long-on fence, Pune slumping to 52-5 in the ninth over.

Uthappa perished to a blinder of a catch by burly West Indian Kieron Pollard, who swooped down to pluck the ball from the air inches above the ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PUNE WARRIORS: 118 all out in 17.2 overs (Uthappa 45; Patel 3-8, Nechim 2-13, Murtaza 2-18, Rayudu 2-28)

MUMBAI INDIANS: 124-3 in 20 overs (Rayudu 37, Tendulkar 35)

Result: Mumbai Indians won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Munaf Patel.

WI-Pak lone T20 today

Cricket

AFP, Gros-Islet

Old foes West Indies and Pakistan face each other in a Twenty20 International for the first time on Thursday.

The Beausejour Cricket Ground in this coastal town on the northern circumference of this volcanic island of St Lucia forms a picturesque backdrop for the occasion.

It is hard to believe that though Twenty20 matches have become popular in the modern game that the two sides have not been fortunate enough to cross each other's paths in this version before now.

Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam said there were great expectations of his side, following a strong, if not successful show in the World Cup.

"We've brought some youngsters with us, and I think it's a golden opportunity for them to make a name for themselves, and to make a career in the sport," said Alam.

"It was a long journey from Pakistan to the Caribbean, but we travelled well, and the boys are all happy and they're well."

"The people in Pakistan are very happy with us [following the World Cup]. Now the expectations are even higher for this tour of the West Indies because we have never won a [Test] series out here before."

West Indies manager Richie Richardson said there have been enough good individual performances from his side in the last few months to make him feel confident, but they would have to put it all together to overcome the Pakistanis.

"We're about to head into this series, which is very important - it's a home series," he said.

"As a region, it's always very important, and for our home fans, who look forward to excitement and to us doing well."

"It's easier for us to do well with our home crowd and their support, and it gives an opportunity to bring ourselves back up the ladder - to dig deep, work hard, prove ourselves, and give back to our fans."

He added: "People across the World have been accustomed to the West Indies providing exciting cricket and we must work harder to give that to them."

Both sides have made significant changes in personnel since the World Cup, and have invested heavily in a number of unproven players for the limited-overs portion of the series, which includes this T20I.

Pakistan have dropped wicketkeeper/batsman Kamran Akmal and all-rounder Abdul Razzaq, while fast bowler Umar Gul and experienced batsman Younis Khan were dropped from the team.

Wicketkeeper Muhammad Salman has been given a chance, while batsmen Hammad Azam and Usman Salahuddin, as well as left-arm fast-medium bowler Sadaf Hussain have been included in the team for the first time.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Chris Gayle, Ramnaresh Sarwan, and Sulieman Benn - four high-profile members of the West Indies World Cup squad - have all been sidelined by the selectors for this match, and the first two one-day internationals that follow.

For this T20I, the home team have brought in the uncapped quartet of batsman Danza Hyatt, all-rounder Christopher Barnwell, off-spinner Ashley Nurse, and left-arm fast

bowler Krishmar Santokie.

West Indies have also been fortified with the inclusion of stylish batsman Marlon Samuels, who is once again eligible for selection, after serving a two-year ban for his alleged involvement with illegal bookmakers.

Utility player Lendl Simmons, the nephew of Ireland coach Phil Simmons, the former West Indies all-rounder, is also back in the squad, along with batsman Andre Fletcher, who will handle duties behind the stumps.

Shakib, Pathan

FROM PAGE 16

Kumar off the fourth ball of the 19th over to leave Kochi reeling at 127 for 7. The last over bowled by Lakshmi Balaji conceded only four runs.

"I thought I bowled better in the last game, though the figures did not show that," said the Bangladesh captain during the innings break. "It was a turning track, and Younus (Pathan) bowled well. We should be able to chase the total."

Big guns

FROM PAGE 16

to revive the country's athletics programme and that they had no plans to take athletics ahead.

"The events have become boring as there is no one to challenge me," Beauty said. "If quality athletes came out to compete then my timing would have been improved."

A disappointed Putul said, "The federation always focuses on sprint events and they take no heed of long-distance races. Then why will the new generation be interested in long-distance runs?"

Malinga, Mathews dropped

SL name Test team for England tour

Cricket

CRICINFO

Lasith Malinga and Angelo Mathews are not part of the Sri Lanka Test squad announced on Wednesday for the tour of England. Mathews is still recovering from a quad muscle injury that kept him out of the World Cup final and also the ongoing IPL.

Malinga's ability to last for a five-day match has been doubtful for some time now. He last played a Test against India in the three-match home series last year, and even then, he was rested for the second match. He has played only 30 Tests in a seven-year span, and has been sparingly used by Sri Lanka to keep him fresh for the shorter formats where he has proved far more effective.

The 16-member squad has four fast bowlers in Dilhara Fernando, Chanaka Welegedara, Suranga Lakmal

and Nuwan Pradeep. Seamer Nuwan Kulasekara, who played in Sri Lanka's previous Test series, against West Indies, is not part of the squad. While Lakmal impressed in his debut Test series against West Indies, uncapped Pradeep is known to have a slinging action resembling Malinga's.

Lahiru Thirimanne and Dinesh Chandimal have also received call-ups. Both are considered to be among the most promising young Sri Lankan batsmen, and have already played ODIs. Chandimal debuted in the ODI tri-series in Zimbabwe last year as a wicket-keeper-batsman.

Thisara Perera is the bowling all-rounder in the squad to be led by new captain Tillakaratne Dilshan. A vice-captain to Dilshan is yet to be announced. This will be Dilshan's first assignment as captain and will also be Sri Lanka's first overseas Test tour since the retirement of Muttiah Muralidaran.

The timing of the team's departure for the tour has been a subject of controversy as eleven Sri Lankan players, including former captains Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene, are currently playing in the IPL and seven of them are in the squad for England. They were earlier asked by Sri Lanka Cricket to report to Colombo by May 5 as the team is due to depart for England on May 10. The move was criticised by Muralidaran who said that the players had earlier been expected to play in the IPL till May 20.

SQUAD

Tillakaratne Dilshan (captain), Tharanga Paranavita, Lahiru Thirimanne, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Dinesh Chandimal, Prasanna Jayawardene, Thisara Perera, Suraj Randiv, Ajantha Mendis, Rangana Herath, Dilhara Fernando, Chanaka Welegedara, Suranga Lakmal, Nuwan Pradeep.

SL IPL-ers to return home early

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan cricketers currently playing in the Indian Premier League will return home early to prepare for the upcoming England tour, new skipper Tillakaratne Dilshan said Wednesday.

Dilshan is among 11 players who have been asked by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) to return home by May 5, more than three weeks before the lucrative Twenty20 tournament ends.

"Personally, I am not unhappy to return early," Dilshan told reporters. "Playing for my country is more important than playing for IPL. I think everybody selected for England tour will be happy to come early."

The Board of Control for Cricket India (BCCI) had earlier written to SLC asking them to allow their cricketers to stay on till May 15.

"We did sign a no-objection agreement with the players to play in the IPL. But there was no date to return. I am sure the BCCI will understand country must come first before IPL," SLC secretary Nishanth Ranatunga said.

Sri Lanka will play three Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international during the England tour starting May 14.

Ranatunga said training for the tour will start on May 5 and the team will leave for London on May 11.

Gayle shuns Windies for IPL

AFP, New Delhi

West Indies opener Chris Gayle has chosen the lucrative Indian Premier League over his country, officials said Wednesday, prompting a damning reaction from his cricket board back home.

The attacking batsman will turn out for Royal Challengers Bangalore, owned by Indian billionaire Vijay Mallya, as a replacement for the injured Dirk Nannes.

Gayle had been under a treatment programme run during the World Cup, but he signed up for the Bangalore outfit on Tuesday for the remainder of the IPL event.

Gayle had earlier refused a West Indies' central contract but was still in contention for games during Pakistan's tour, which starts on Thursday.

He was not bought at the IPL player auction in January because franchises feared he would be unavailable because the IPL clashed with the Pakistan tour.

"It's official now. The explosive Chris Gayle is now a part of the RCB squad," Mallya wrote on his Twitter page.

Pakistan will play one Twenty20, five ODIs and two Tests against West Indies during their tour.

The WICB said it had reluctantly cleared Gayle, a former national captain, to play in the IPL but that it was "most disappointed" at his conduct.

"The WICB does not accept Gayle's reason for making himself unavailable but as he has already clearly made his choice and has travelled to India, the WICB does not wish to stand in his way," it said in a press release.

Gayle played for the Kolkata Knight Riders in the first three editions of the IPL.

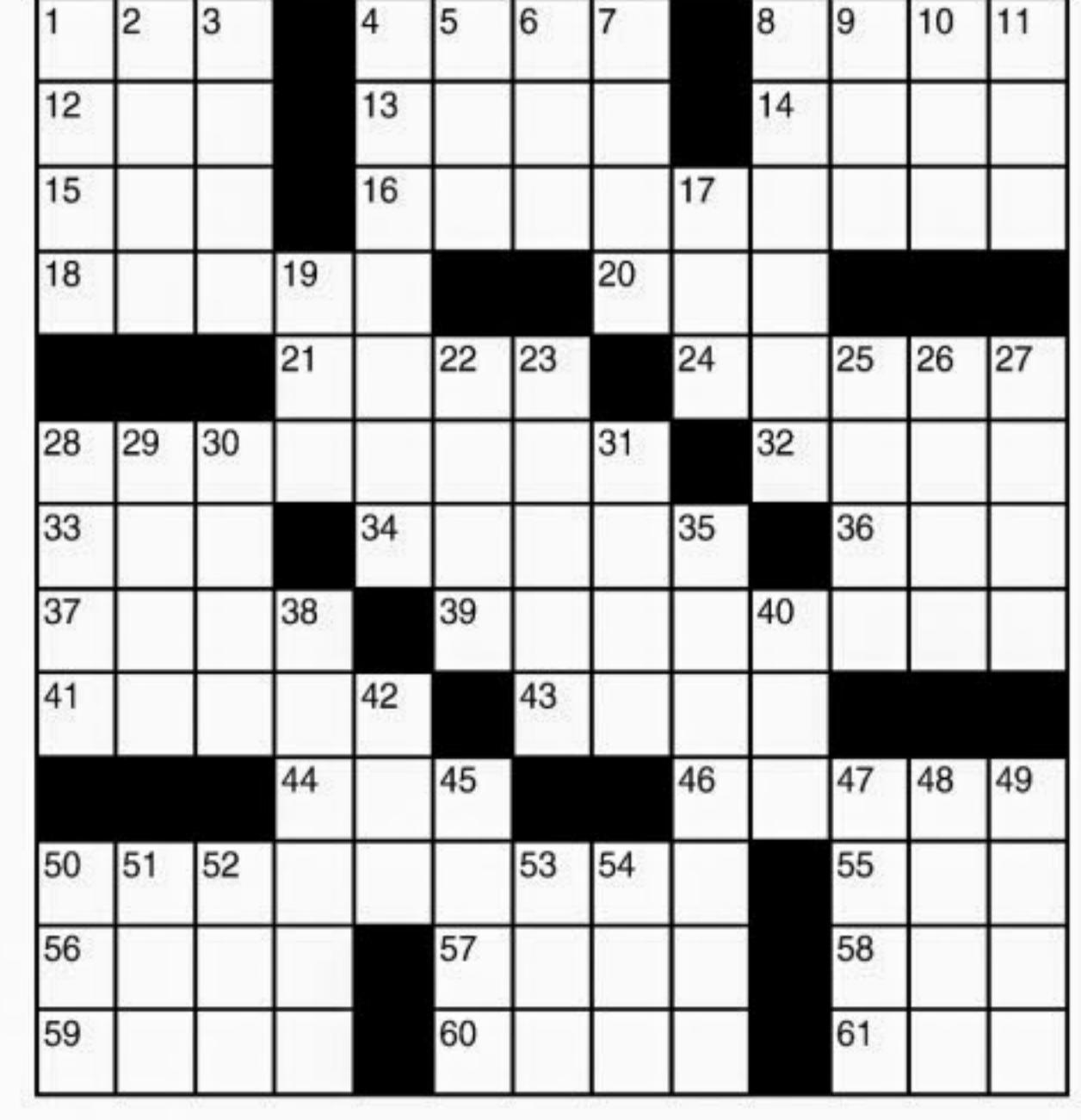
Farashganj

FROM PAGE 16

"The boys are in good shape after the morale-boosting win against Abahani. We are looking to play some attacking football."

Kamal Babu said he was thinking about making a couple of changes to his starting eleven, but is certain to start with his successful striking duo of Sohel Rana and Congolese Siyo Zunapio. Rana, the young striker has been a very good find in the ongoing Bangladesh League while Zunapio has been a revelation for the club scoring in almost every game in the Independence Cup.

In the second semifinal tomorrow, an inexperienced and unfancied Mohammedan Sporting, who stunned defending champions and pre-tournament favourites Mukti Jodha Sangsad, will play against Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra. But such has been the way with this tournament when the formbook has rarely been followed and tradition has taken a beating.



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