



Kings XI Punjab captain Adam Gilchrist (R) pulls one on way to scoring his century against the Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Gilly carnage sinks B'lure

SPORT DESK

An astonishing exhibition of hitting from Kings XI Punjab, particularly captain Adam Gilchrist, carried them to a whopping 111-run victory over high-flying Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala yesterday.

Chasing the huge total of 233, the rot started early for the league leaders when their big-hitting West Indian Chris Gayle fell to Harris in the second over. Only AB de Villiers provided some substance with 34 as Bangalore folded for 121.

Earlier, Gilchrist won the toss and chose to bat, and after opener Paul Valthay's dismissal, built a T20 record partnership of 206 with fellow Australian Shaun Marsh.

After a quiet start, Gilchrist let loose from the seventh over onwards and with Marsh, lay the Bangalore bowling to waste, hitting eight 4s and nine 6s in his 55-ball 106.

Marsh was not to be left behind, smashing 30 runs in the fifteenth over bowled by Johan van der Wath.

SCORES IN BRIEF
KINGS XI PUNJAB: 232 for 2 in 20 overs (Gilchrist 106, Marsh 79 not out; Langeveldt 2-48)
ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 121 all out in 17 overs (de Villiers 34, Kaif 15; Chawla 4-17, Harris 3-28)

Abahani

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squad is scheduled to leave here for Cambodia on the early hours of Thursday where they will play against Don Bosco Sports Club of Sri Lanka, Nefchi Kochkor-Ata of Kyrgyzstan and Phnom Penh Crown FC Cambodia in Group A.

"The first match against Nefchi Kochkor is a crucial one. We will play for a win even though they are considered a strong side," Rupu said. "We know more or less about the clubs from Sri Lanka and Cambodia and they are expected to be somewhat similar in strength to us since Cambodia's ranks lower than Bangladesh in FIFA rankings."

However, Abahani's hopes of qualifying for the finals may be more difficult than it seems since their domestic form this season has been not as good as the last few seasons. After winning the Federation Cup earlier in the season, the Sky Blues were eliminated from the quarterfinals of the Independence Cup and they are currently trailing league leaders Mukti Jiddha by six points in the ongoing professional league.

Besides, key players like Ghanaian Awudu Ibrahim and midfielder Mehdi Hasan Ujjal have been suffering from injuries though both of them will travel with the squad. Apart from injuries, Abahani have a weak midfield to worry about.

Captain Prantosh Kumar said that their Iranian coach Ali Akbar may adopt a five-man backline in the AFC President's Cup like they did against Brothers Union in Independence Cup and Farashganj SC in the Bangladesh League.

Winning start for SL

Cricket

AFP, London

Sri Lanka enjoyed a successful warm-up ahead of their Test series against England with a four-wicket win over Middlesex on the third and final day of their tour opener at Uxbridge on Monday.

Several batsmen spent time in the middle, Thilan Samaraweera leading the way with 49, as Sri Lanka chased down a target of 213 with five overs to spare.

As Sri Lanka captain Tilakaratne Dilshan (123) and fellow opener Tharanga Paranavita (103) both made first innings hundreds, the tourists decided to alter their batting line-up second time around.

Both century-makers had retired and on Monday off-spinner Jamie Dalrymple became the first bowler from county side Middlesex to take a wicket in the match when he had Lahiru Thirimanne and Samaraweera caught at slip.

Sri Lanka lost two wickets on 181 but

Farveez Maharoof (17) and Rangana Herath (11) saw the islanders to victory.

Middlesex, 26 for one overnight, were dismissed for 161 with seam bowler Chanaka Welegedara (three for 39) and spinner Ajantha Mendis (three for 28) doing the bulk of the damage.

Sri Lanka now play the England Lions, the national A side, in a four-day match starting at Derby on Thursday before facing England in the first of a three-Test series that gets underway in Cardiff on May 26.

Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara is now set to join the tour party after completing his stint in the domestic Twenty20 Indian Premier League by leading the Deccan Chargers to a six-wicket win over Pune Warriors on Monday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MIDDLESEX: First innings 360-8 (Strauss 151, Housego 104) and second innings 161 (Welegedara 3-39)

SRI LANKA: First innings 309-2 declared (Dilshan 123, Paranavita 103) and second innings 216-6

Result: Sri Lanka beat Middlesex by 4 wickets.

Sports that cripple

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hold them on time and professionally, is something admitted by all, though the reasons are widely debated. According to Jamiluddin, lack of interest from sponsors i.e. financial constraint is the major reason behind the crippling state of hockey.

"Most of the members including vice president and joint secretary do not come regularly and certainly I don't want to waste my time coming here only to have a cup of tea," said the hockey federation general alleging that none of the members were able to manage a sponsor and tie relations with them."

Judo federation's general secretary Muhammad Nurun Nabi came up with a different argument. "To be honest, most of our organisers do not have proper knowledge of sports management. Besides, the sub-standard coaching and refereeing are also hindrances towards taking sports forward," said Nabi also suggesting that BOA and NSC should arrange seminars and workshops on sports management for federations regularly. Nabi also suggested that BKSP has available resource personnel to conduct such semi-

nars for sports organisers.

"Like Japan and Italy, our local governments such as Union Parisad, Upazilla Parisad, Pourasava and City Corporations should come forward to appoint community-based coaches considering the prospective disciplines of those areas," suggested former boxer Syed Mohiuddin, who has experience of working with community-based sports in Japan and Italy.

"Until government comes with full support, disciplines like athletics will not make any headway since athletes feel insecure about their future and don't want to spend their prime years in such an occupation," said Shah Alam, the general secretary of athletics federation.

Apart from these, many have also argued that the huge number of members in executive committees of different sports federations turn out to be a hindrance rather than good.

The general secretary of the table tennis federation Shamsul Alam Anu had a different view as he underlined the role of sponsors: "It is true that a federation like table tennis has been suffering from financial crisis but we know pretty well how to approach a sponsor and tie relations with them."

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M'singh triumph

FROM PAGE 16
the district's sports and club organisers. Cricketers were frustrated as the organisers have been refrained from arranging 2010-2011 cricket league following a tussle between Players' Welfare Association and the organisers.

"We are trying our best in the tournament because we want to protest against the misdeeds of the cricket and club organisers by playing good cricket in the tournament," said Uttam.

It was learnt that the tournament committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) also failed to convince the organisers to hold the league, which normally takes place in the

early months of the year. BCB's tournament committee chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain however was hopeful that the problem will be solved very soon.

"We hope that the misunderstanding will be removed and the district committee will find a suitable solution regarding this issue to start the league. I think rain is not a factor if they want to arrange the league because some other districts are arranging the league in this rainy season.

We don't think about any tough action right at this moment but we will definitely go for it if they fail to organize the league," said Ashraf adding that they are ready to help them.

Thakurgaon cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Agomoni Sporting Club clinched the Thakurgaon Cricket League title with a 41-run victory in the last league match against Uttaran Krira Chakra at the local stadium yesterday.

Agomoni Sporting Club were all out for 159 in their stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Uttaran Krira Chakra were bundled out for 118 runs in 29.3 overs.

Sumon of Agomoni Sporting Club was adjudged best batsman while Bappa of Uttaran Krira Chakra became best bowler of the league.

A total of nine teams took part in the league.

Raza says he was 'set up'

AFP, Lahore

Former Pakistan off-spinner Akram Raza said on Tuesday that he had been set up after he was arrested over betting on lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL) matches.

The 46-year-old was arrested at the weekend in a police raid on a gang of bookmakers reportedly illegally taking bets on IPL matches.

Raza, who played nine Tests and 49 one-dayers for Pakistan between 1989 and 1995, was released on bail on Monday but will have to appear in a Lahore court later this week.

"It was a set-up against me," Raza told AFP. "I have nothing to do with the illegal betting in IPL and visited a friend's office where police came and arrested us."

Police said they acted on a tip-off and recovered telephones, computers, televisions and a large amount of money.

"I will appear in the court and fight out my innocence and will not allow my umpiring career to suffer," said Raza, who officiates domestic matches in Pakistan.

Kumar to give Cowdrey Lecture

AFP, London

Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara will become the first active international cricketer to deliver the MCC Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture at Lord's on July 4, it was announced on Tuesday.

Top-order batsman Sangakkara, also the first Sri Lankan invited to speak in the 11-year history of the event, is due to give his address the day after he is set to play against England in a one-day international at Lord's.

The 33-year-old Sangakkara will become the youngest speaker to give the lecture, following 2009 lecturer Adam Gilchrist, and follows the likes of Geoffrey Boycott, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Imran Khan.

MCC President Christopher Martin-Jenkins said: "Sri Lanka have been so consistently successful in world cricket that it is very appropriate that a distinguished cricketer from this beautiful country should be giving the MCC Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture.

Argentina

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play a friendly in Dhaka. This will be first such high profile match to be held in Bangladesh and fans are expectant and are set to queue up in droves to catch a glimpse of Lionel Messi and company.

Beximco will sponsor the event while the BFF used a firm, Celebrity Management Group (CMG) to broker the deal for the game.

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Greig an anti-Indian

Cricket

AFP, London

Former England captain Tony Greig has called for an end to India's "domination" of the International Cricket Council (ICC), saying it was the first thing he'd change if in charge of the governing body.

"Number one, we have got to try and get the ICC right," Greig told the BBC in an interview.

"We have a situation at the moment where the ICC is dominated by India.

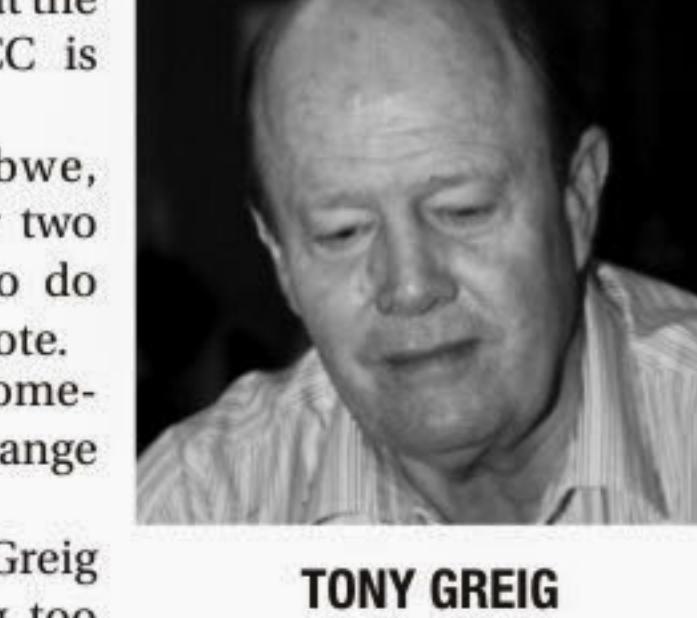
"They tell Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and one or two other countries what to do and they always get the vote.

"It's very hard, but somehow we have got to change things at that level."

South Africa-born Greig added: "We are playing too much cricket. I would be getting all the countries from the world and saying hey listen, what is this nonsense of giving Indian domestic cricket an open window?

"To give the IPL [Indian Premier League, a domestic Twenty20 competition] an open window, and reduce by two months the time available for cricketers to play around the world, in the current environment is just ridiculous.

"We have got to look very, very closely and



TONY GREIG

English Cricket's Most Controversial Captain,' by David Tossell.

"It was the first time I really felt as if we were entertaining people, as the people there loved the game so much -- to go to those stadiums and find them packed full," explained Greig, who made his name in England with south coast county Sussex.

"To this day [Kolkata's] Eden Gardens remains one of my top three grounds, just because of the incredible atmosphere."

Barisal: Sowing seeds

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the youngster's height.

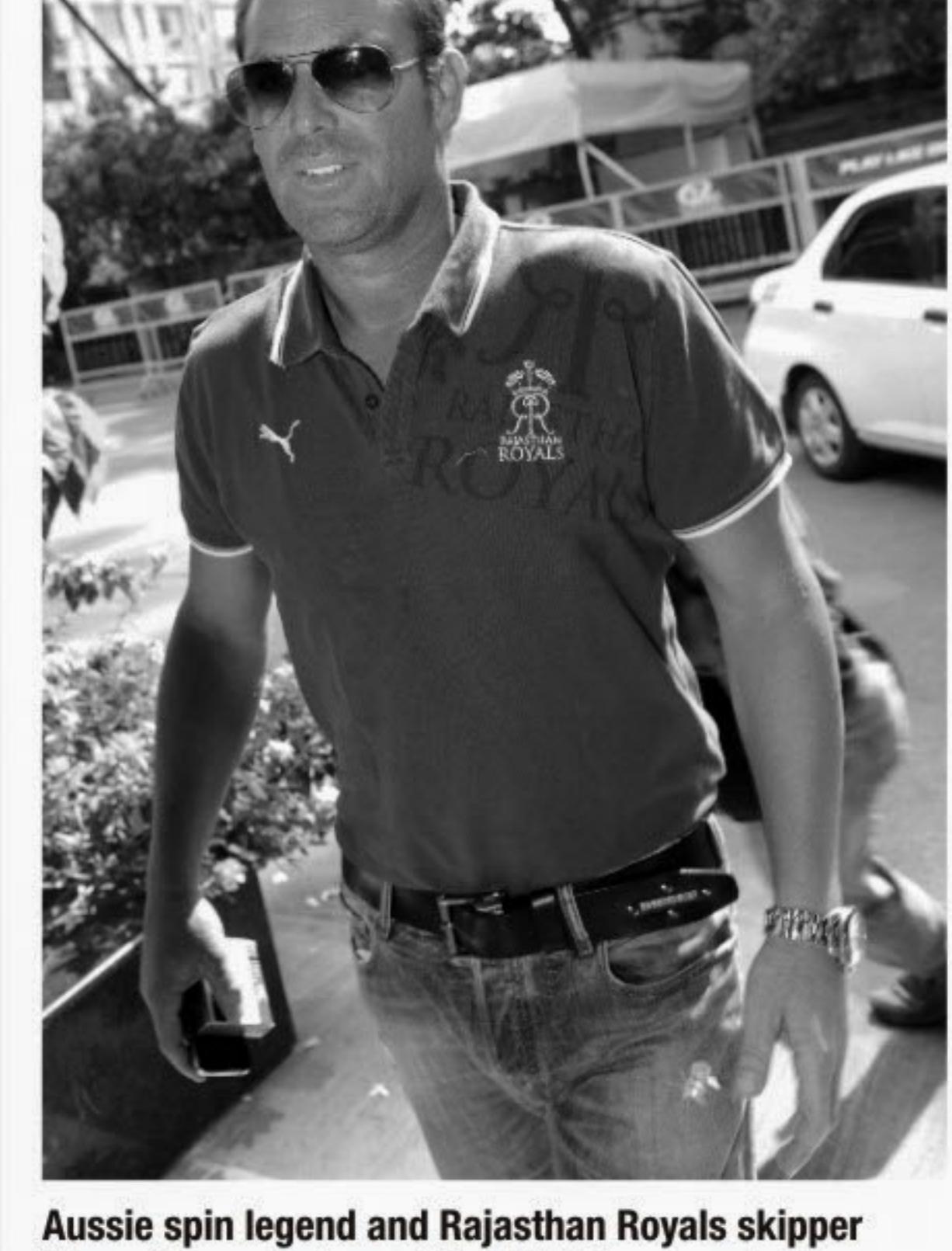
According to some in the cricket circle, his discipline and use of variations sets him apart from the rest. He took four five-wicket hauls including 5-91 against Rajshahi and 5-32 against Dhaka.

"I must especially mention Sohag Gazi and Nasiruddin Faruque," said Ratan. "Sohag is from

Patuakhali and he has done very well with the ball."

Though Gazi received the accolades, Barisal has produced Kamrul Islam Rabbi, the under-19 pace-man as well as Fazle Rabbi, who batted very well during the NCL's one-day competition.

Ratan lamented the lack of longer-version cricket being played in Bangladesh, a hindrance that is most



Aussie spin legend and Rajasthan Royals skipper Shane Warne arrives at the BCCI headquarters yesterday to attend a hearing regarding his bust-up with a Rajasthan official.

PHOTO: AFP

Sabina slams 10

SPORTS REPORTER

National striker Sabina Khutun struck 10 goals as Sathkira thrashed Sirajganj 12-0 in the regional phase of National Women's Football Championship at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessor yesterday.

Hasiba Siddiqua put Sathkira ahead in the 12th minute before Tumpa doubled the margin two minutes later. Afterwards it was all about Sabina who scored 10 goals in a row.

In the day's other match, Noagaon defeated Magura 3-1 after taking a lead in the first half. Bonna and Ratnabina struck for Noagaon while Salma Khutun netted the only goal for Magura.

At the Dinajpur Stadium, Sudha slammed five goals to power hosts Dinajpur to a 5-0 win over Bogura.

NAT'L WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

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