

Lanka crush England

SPORT DESK

A classy 72 from Sri Lanka opener Mahela Jayawardene and his unbeaten 97-run stand with stand-in skipper Kumar Sangakkara helped the tourists to an easy 9-wicket victory over England in their only T20 International at Bristol yesterday.

Though Jayawardene stole the show in the end, the first-half of the match belonged to the ageing Sanath Jayasuriya who is playing his last two international matches in Sri Lankan colours -- the last being the first ODI against England on June 28. Jayasuriya took the wickets of Kevin Pietersen and Ravi Bopara in a spell of 3 overs for 18 runs. His bowling was part of a disciplined effort from the Lankans that saw only three English batsmen -- Pietersen, Eoin Morgan and Bopara -- reach double figures in a disappointing total of 136 for 9.

In reply, the tourists lost only one wicket as they successfully eclipsed England's total with 16 balls to spare. Jayawardene hit eight 4s and one 6 in his 57-ball knock, while Sangakkara provided good support with a 39-ball 42. Jayasuriya could not match his heroics with the ball, however, and was the only wicket to fall for 8.

Shakib stars

FROM PAGE 16
Shakib was far and away Worcestershire's best bowler, combining economy and penetration to finish with outstanding figures of 11 runs from 4 overs and the wickets of James Taylor and Andrew McDonald. He was also involved in the run out of Jacques du Toit.

In the chase, Worcestershire's innings was blighted by regular fall of wickets, with Shakib (13-ball 9) coming in at number four, the third wicket to fall. Thereafter James Cameron (23-ball 36) and Daryl Mitchell (14-ball 33) fought to turn the tide, but the climbing run-rate proved too hot to handle as Worcestershire finished on 132 for 7. For Leicestershire, Pakistan's Abdur Razzak shone with the ball with 2 for 16 off his four.

Big guns all

FROM PAGE 16
She fired down 10 aces and 32 winners past the outclassed 27th-seeded Kirilenko, wrapping up victory on her third match point.

Williams needs to make the semifinals to ensure that she doesn't drop out of the world's top 100. Former champion Maria Sharapova eased into the last 16, thriving on the same Court Two which was so bitterly criticised by title rival Serena Williams.

Fifth seed Sharapova, the 2004 champion, saw off Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-3 and will tackle China's Peng Shuai for a place in the quarterfinals.

"I haven't been past the fourth round for a few years so I am happy to get where I am. I hope to go one step further and even more," said Sharapova.

Peng, the only Chinese player left in the draw after the second round exits of French Open winner Li Na and Zheng Jie, reached the fourth round for the first time with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/5) win over unseeded Hungarian Melinda Czink.

Top seed Caroline Wozniacki was as untroubled as Sharapova with the Danish world number one reaching the fourth round for the third successive year with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Australia's Jarmila Gajdosova on Centre Court.



Muktijodha Sangsad striker James Moga jostles for the ball with a Rahmatganj defender during their Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Muktis finish a point shy We are the real champions, claims Maruf

SPORTS REPORTER

James Moga and Mithun Chowdhury scored a brace each as Muktijodha Sangsad thrashed Rahmatganj MFS 5-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to finish the Grameenphone Bangladesh League in second position. With fifty points from 22 matches, Muktijodha fell one point short of the eventual champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club. However, Muktijodha, who led the league table for more than half the season, were far from convinced with the league table, as they felt that they should have been the champions.

"We are the real champions. You all know that the game was played both on the field and off it," indignantly exclaimed Muktijodha coach Maruf Haque.

Alluding to the alleged Sheikh Jamal-Rahmatganj match on June 11 that Sheikh Jamal won 5-2 after trailing 0-2 at one stage, Maruf said: "A Rahmatganj official named Salahuddin Kala mistakenly called me during that match and said, 'Score as many as you please now. The foreign defender (Dumba Michel) who was not heeding to our directions has been taken off.'"

The match came under fire from all corners and has since been brought

under investigation by the game's governing body, though both sides have denied any wrongdoing and the verdict is still out on that issue.

Apart from finishing a creditable second, Muktijodha also have the satisfaction of having the two top scorers in their ranks, Moga and Mithun. The duo scored 35 between them, with Moga scoring 19 and Mithun 16. They scored two each in yesterday's match and provided the other for Nigerian Alamu Bukola.

In yesterday's match, the Reds threatened the Rahmatganj goal from the very beginning, and it was as much the lack of bite in their finish as some ill luck that kept them at bay till the 34th minute. But the lead was eventually taken when Mithun wrestled control of the ball from Dumba Michel to place it past goalkeeper Arifuzzaman Hemel.

The lead was doubled in the 55th minute when the league's top scorer James Moga broke free down the middle before slotting home with a clinical finish.

The third goal came in the 63rd minute when Nigerian forward Bukola collected a pass from Moga on the right and coolly slotted it past the goalie. Five minutes later, Mithun scored his second of the game with a delicate chip over the advancing keeper.

Rahmatganj pulled a goal back in the 75th minute through Pushbon

Molla who took advantage of a fumble from substitute keeper Nehal, but the margin was restored nine minutes later by Moga who danced past the goalie and dodged a defender to fire home his 19th of the campaign.

Away at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, Guinean forward Bangoura Ismael scored a hat-trick to record a 3-2 win over Chittagong Mohammedan to confine the latter to relegation.

Jerry Odesco had given Mohammedan a 34th minute lead, before conceding two in the next five minutes. Jahangir equalised from a spot-kick in the 80th minute, but there were no celebrations for the port city club as Bangoura killed the game off with his third from the spot in the stoppage time. Both teams ended the match with ten men.

The win saw Arambagh finish on seventh position with 27 points while Chittagong Mohammedan ended with 17 points and joined the other club from the port city Chittagong Abahani in relegation. The win for Arambagh also ensured an extension in the top-tier for Independence Cup winners Farashganj who avoided the drop by two points. The fourth edition of the professional league wraps up with the match between Abahani and Brothers Union tomorrow which will also decide third, fourth, fifth and sixth positions.

Ilievski chapter begins

FROM PAGE 16
coach and am very impressed with the depth of knowledge he possesses, I hope his presence will lift the players and the standards," hoped the BFF president.

The coach himself was pleased to be at the helm of a national side, for the second time in his 21-year coaching career, and 8 years after a year-long stint in charge of his native Macedonia. The Macedonian who represented Yugoslavia in the 1982 World Cup has been contracted for one year initially at a monthly remuneration of six thousand dollars.

"I am very happy to be the

coach of Bangladesh. I believe in teamwork and firmly believe that I can take Bangladesh to a new height, I will work step by step," said the new coach.

But as much as there is a long-term goal to be achieved, there is a task at hand just round the corner for the Bangladesh team; taking on Pakistan in pre-World Cup qualifiers at home and away next week.

Ilievski said that even though he did not have much knowledge about football in these two nations, he watched a video tape of a match between the two sides which was played 2 years ago that

ended 0-0.

From the BFF House, the Macedonian went straight to the national footballers' camp in BKSJ, Savar where the 15-member squad have been preparing themselves. The first match of the double-legged qualifier will be played on June 29 in Dhaka and the second leg on July 3 in Lahore. The schedule was officially confirmed by FIFA on Friday, after they were satisfied with security arrangements made in Pakistan. BFF had earlier applied to FIFA to hold the 2nd leg at Dhaka for security fears.

The 15-member squad of Bangladesh:

Mamun Khan, Md. Ariful Islam, Uttam Kumar Banik, Yusuf Ali Khan, Rezaul Karim, Nasirul Islam Nasir, Mamunul Islam Mamun, Munayem Khan Raju, Zahid Hossain, Shakil Ahmed, Abdul Baten Mazumder Komol, Atikur Rahan Mishu, Zahid Hossain Ameli, Mohammad Yusuf, Jamal Bhuyan

Bolt a fan of Sachin

PTI, Kingston

Sachin Tendulkar's long list of admirers keeps on growing with world and Olympic champion sprinter Usain Bolt today saying he was one of "greatest cricketer" and he dreams of watching the Indian champion play on the cricket field.

Bolt, one of the most celebrated modern sporting icons, also said that he would one day run in India, despite the fact that had pulled out of the Commonwealth Games held here last year.

"For me he [Tendulkar] is one of the greatest cricketers I have seen. He has done extremely well and he is a very aggressive cricketer. I look forward to the day when I can see him play live," said the Jamaican 100m world record holder (9.58secs) about Tendulkar who opted out of India's ongoing West Indies tour to take rest.

Bolt also said that he loved the aggressive attitude of Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni during the first Test in Kingston.

Bolt's favourite West Indies player is swashbuckling batsman Chris Gayle, who was axed from the squad due to a stand-off with his cricket board.

"I want to watch Chris Gayle play. I have never met him and he is my favourite," said Bolt about his compatriot.

BCB squander

FROM PAGE 16

board but it has been the opposite so far. "When we asked them [the BCCI] to mediate and solve our financial troubles with Nimbus, with whom they also have a contract, they refused to do so," he added.

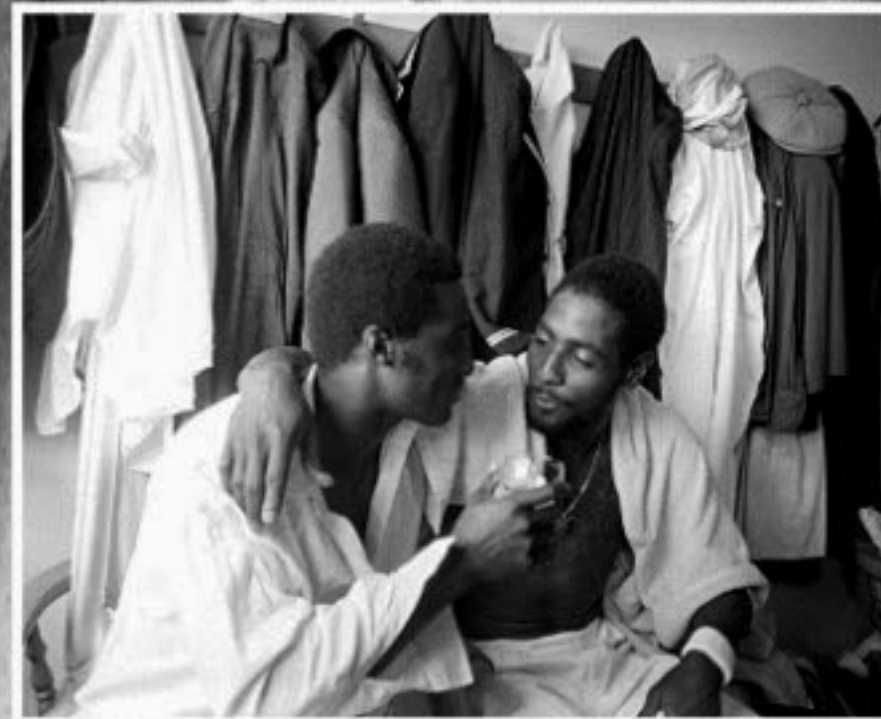
BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal however yesterday said that he would discuss the issue as it is still a "prospective ruling" and could be implemented after the last rotation is completed.

"We would like to see fair chance for all. They should complete the rotation and then implement the new policy," he told reporters at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur.

Kamal also said that he would hold talks with the BCCI for their support as they prepare to hold the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), a Twenty20 competition that will be styled after the IPL. "It will slowly grow into a big event but we'll start with six franchises but definitely we would like to have India with us in this," he said.

He however supported the agenda on possible amendments to the ICC's constitution aimed at ensuring free elections of member boards and avoiding undue government interference in administration. "Definitely I'm in support of having an election for BCB president. It is really important from our country's perspective," he added.

TESTS THROUGH TIME



The island giants

The Soweto Uprising ripped an already divided world into two very distinct schools of thought. On the one side were old-world values that turned the other way when talking about the Apartheid in South Africa, while the rest vehemently opposed it.

Also known as "June 16", it was a series of student-led protests in South Africa that began on the morning of June 16, 1976. Students from numerous Sowetan schools began to protest in the streets of Soweto, in response to the introduction of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in local schools. An estimated 20,000 students took part in the protests, and roughly 176 people were killed.

And the fire was further stoked by Tony Greig, England's South Africa-born captain, who intended to make the West Indies team grovel during the summer series.

The outcry was immediate as the word 'grovel' had a sinister undertone for West Indian people, many of whom have slave ancestry. Moreover a white South African emitting the word 'grovel' heavily accentuated the faux pas.

But rarely has a premonition in sports failed so badly.

The legendary West Indies side, who had won the inaugural World Cup exactly a year before, were beginning to take control of world cricket and that summer, they decided to give Greig an answer: they began to systematically take England apart.

After the first two Tests were drawn, Gordon Greenidge's century in both innings and the combination of Andy Roberts, Michael Holding and Wayne Daniel stormed England to bowl them out for 71 and 126 in the third Test. They never recovered, losing the game by a whopping 425 runs after which it was a matter of time before someone else stepped up.

At the Oval, Viv Richards roused a large Caribbean expatriate contingent to their feet almost every minute during his epic 291. Though England replied with a double of their own (by Dennis Amiss), it was never enough and it was down to Holding to put the finishing touch. The man who is famously known as Whispering Death took eight wickets to make sure someone had to grovel (which Tony Greig did to the West Indians in the stands after the game).

Not that they weren't a great team before this series but the 2-0 win gave them venom and stoked a spirit that had a political edge.

And the cricket was fabulous. Led by the inspirational Clive Lloyd, West Indies had a batting line-up to die for. After Roy Fredericks retired, Gordon Greenidge was joined by Desmond Haynes and the two were as lethal as their fast bowlers -- Holding, Roberts, Joel Garner, Malcolm Marshall and Colin Croft.

Viv Richards added muscle and a swagger to the middle-order while the likes of Collis King, Alvin Kallicharan, Larry Gomes and later Richie Richardson shepherded the batting with Richards during his captaincy.

The best part of the West Indies dynasty that ran into the 1990s was their commitment to the cause and their discipline. They were the first team in the world to appoint a trainer (Dennis Waight) who transformed a physically brilliant team into a force that took two decades to wane.

The fire that rose at The Oval in 1976 caught the world's attention and the men from the tiny Caribbean islands gave world cricket a reason to be inspired and smile.

-- Mohammad Islam

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Teen's woe
5 "El —"
8 Hand warmer
12 Haul behind
13 Modern-day evidence
14 Norway's capital
15 Deep sound from a bell
16 "Swiss Family —"
18 Big name in TV dinners
20 Exposed
21 Resistance measure
22 Energy
23 Canyon
26 Noted NYC avenue
30 Lawyers' org.
31 Lustrous black
32 Exist

33 Spring-field surname
36 Moolah
38 Choose
39 Baby food
40 Flight component
43 State capital on the Pearl River
47 "Locksley Hall" poet
49 Beige
50 Oodles
51 — out a living
52 Right on the map?
53 Longings
54 Slithery fish
55 Experts

DOWN
1 Tosses in
2 Cornfield invader
3 "Peter Pan"
4 One full of Christ-mas spirit?
5 PC insert
6 Privy to
7 Slight touch
8 Address for a French friend
9 Cold War abbr.
10 Iceberg chunk
11 Loving
17 Footnote abbr.

19 That woman
22 Cistern
23 Petrol
24 Kimono closer
25 Aries
26 Chaps
27 Pouch
28 Bobby of hockey
29 Born
31 Make marginalia
34 "1,000 — of light"
35 Agile
36 Fond du —, Wis.
37 Maintenance
39 "What's My Line?" group
40 Remain
41 Far (Pref.)
42 Unsigned (Abbr.)
43 Gag
44 Cicatrix
45 Approximately
46 Crazy
48 Witness

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	L	O	D	B	A	B	E	E	F
L	A	V	E	A	G	E	A	X	L
E	V	I	L	D	O	G	H	O	U
B	A	D	E	G	G	O	B	L	E
T	O	E	D	P	A	T			
D	O	G	E	A	R	E	D	B	A
D	N	A	T	E	P	E	E	N	O
T	E	S	T	D	O	G	M	A	T
	L	A	G	T	A	I	L		
O	P	I	N	E	D	U	T	O	P
D	O	G	G	E	R	E	L	H	U
E	C	H	O	A	L	L	A	L	T
S	O	T	S	B	Y	E	S	L	O

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					54			55		

CRYPTOQUIP

AGET CDTXNI BEUDPJPWTD
AIP RBFT QDTFGNUGPXE
BHPZU EPRT PQTGXWE CPD
HDTBUIGXW: XPEUDGJ-FBRZE.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN ORDER TO PICK THEIR NEW PRESIDENT, THE SCARECROW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ARE TAKING A STRAW VOTE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals O