

Star SPORT

Stankovic quits int'l football

Serbia captain Dejan Stankovic said on Wednesday he is retiring from international football at the age of 33 following his country's failure to reach the Euro 2012 finals. Sportski Zurnal newspaper quoted the Inter Milan midfielder as saying Tuesday's 1-0 loss to Slovenia heralded the end of the road for him. "For me it was my last competitive match for the national side. I'll still have a farewell match, but then it's goodbye," the paper quoted the veteran as saying.



Tigers' chance at hand

First ODI against West Indies today

BISHWAJIT ROY



Fresh from a morale-boosting victory in the lone T20 match, the Tigers take on West Indies in the first one-day of the three-match series today.

The day-night affair will kick off from 1.30pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Victories always work as a tonic and Bangladesh got it -- courtesy of new skipper Mushfiqur Rahim's magnificent batting -- when they desperately needed it. It won't matter much that it came in a T20 affair, because after the disastrous tour of Zimbabwe, Bangladesh needed something like that to regain their confidence and set the tone for a demanding series against West Indies. The boost is especially important as the Tigers have a good chance to impress the fans against this current Caribbean team if they can play to their potential in home conditions.

The change in outlook was refreshingly visible during the practice session yesterday. The Tigers were not overjoyed with their success in the first match of the series; rather it appeared that they were very much focused on the one-day series, which the skippers of both teams expected to be a "competitive" one.

Experienced left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak gave the same impression while he was speaking to the media prior to the one-day series, but said that they were slightly ahead following the victory in the T20 match.

"It is a plus point (winning the first match of a series) that has kept us slightly ahead. We are mentally in front as a win is great for everyone. A win is always important," said Razzak.

The new regime of Bangladesh cricket under the leadership of Mushfiqur Rahim and coach Stuart Law got off to a perfect start, result-wise, on Tuesday night but everything was not ideal in the dramatic three-wicket victory. If Mushfiqur's men want to embody their coach's new mantra of "smart cricket" then they should have put up a better batting performance -- a long-standing headache for Bangladesh cricket, the batting was again not 'smart' in the T20 match. It will be a different ball game in the three-match one-day series where the Tigers' batters must not fall prey to their old bad habits of throwing wickets away at crucial times if they want to keep the momentum going.

Speaking for the West Indies, Kieron Pollard made it clear that they will come back strongly in the series, so the

Tigers must ensure that they will play smart cricket in all departments unlike in the T20 match.

"It could be a combination of different things. It could be experience or situations when you look back at the post mortem you see exactly what went wrong. I think we have done that and the guys know where they had made the errors. Hopefully we can correct it and come back stronger in the tournament," warned Pollard.

After the way the Bangladesh middle-order lost its way on Tuesday, one cannot say like Razzak did that there were not many problems in the batting department; the batting performance should be a cause for concern for coach Law.

As Razzak said they love to play on the same kind of wicket as the one used for the T20 because it suited them most. It is commonly believed that it would be a big challenge for the inexperienced West Indies batting line-up to handle the Bangladesh slow bowlers on that wicket, especially former skipper Shakib Al Hasan who caused the visitors problems during the T20.

Bangladesh's bowling was good during the T20 triumph, but still there was room for the pace bowlers to improve. The question however was not with the bowling; many believe that the batsmen should shoulder the brunt of the responsibility to win matches, as captain Mushfiqur Rahim had emphasised during the pre-series press conference.

The common belief is that this Bangladesh team has the potential to produce much better performances,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

ATF U-14 TENNIS

Bad day for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi girls had a bad day at the BKSP Tennis Complex yesterday as three out of the five participants lost their matches against their foreign competitors in the second round of the 6th BKSP Asian U-14 Tennis Tournament yesterday.

Eshita Afroze lost to the top seed Delizavernne Kaur of Malaysia 6-0, 6-1; Shah Safina lost to Sri Lanka's Tasha Fernando by the same margin and Afrana Prity lost to Chan Chak Lam of Hong Kong by 6-2, 6-2. However, Ayesha Sultana moved to the next round beating compatriot Rebeka Sultana in 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 sets.

In the boys' group, top seed Mohammed Vali of India outplayed Pranav Kayastha of Nepal 6-0, 6-0; Christopher Kralik of Hong

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

ODIs get a makeover

SPORTS REPORTER

International Cricket Council's revised playing conditions for international cricket was effective from October 1, but the new rules have come into effect from the Bangladesh-West Indies series. Since most of the rules are about ODIs, we outline the rules briefly.

No runners

New balls from both ends in ODIs

Batting and bowling Powerplays to be taken between overs 16 and 40

Captains to be suspended after only two over-rate breaches in a year, as opposed to the existing three

Batsmen can be dismissed obstructing the field if they change their course while running to prevent a run-out chance

Bowlers will be allowed to run out a non-

Time to forget '58 all out'

MOHAMMAD ISAM



One wouldn't be at fault for believing that Bangladesh's fantastic come-from-behind Twenty20 win against the West Indies in Mirpur on Tuesday would be enough to remove bitter memories of a disaster that took place at the same venue seven months ago against the same opponents.

The impact of "58 all out" has far reaching consequences, much of which were suffered by the Tigers; they are still facing curt reminders, especially these days when the West Indies are touring the country.

For the pessimist, the electronic scoreboard displaying the final score was symbolic as Darren Sammy's men laughed all the way to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium dressing room on that outrageous March 4 afternoon. What really stood out during the earth-shattering defeat was the boss's confusion; Shakib Al Hasan's hesitancy between a drive and a sweep that resulted in his dismissal showed just how baffling that day was for the overconfident hosts.

The sea of change (as much as it is possible in seven months) since that day have intensified the call to bury the ghost once and for all.

According to Abdur Razzak, who was unbeaten on two and bowled a single over that day, the Tigers haven't forgotten, or in his words, haven't been let to do so.

"We forget the wins but we can't seem to forget the 58," said the left-arm spinner yesterday.

"The more we try to put it out of our mind, the more we are reminded of it. I personally think that it is not right."

Razzak's candour gave away his teammates' urge to even the score, a state of mind West Indies had when they travelled to the city to play that World Cup match.

Kieron Pollard too believes "58 all out" has a mental hold on the Tigers, though he tried to play it down for the sake of humility.

"Obviously there is a slight psychological advantage for us, but having said that it was in the World Cup and in that pressure anything can happen," said the West Indies all-rounder.

"It's a new series and it's eleven against eleven. Hopefully we see how it progresses. Once we do the basics right we have a good enough team to beat Bangladesh," added the man whose only contribution in that game was a fine catch at point.

In early 2009, West Indies did a similar demolition job at Sabina Park in Kingston by bowling out England for 51 runs. Though it was the nadir of the Andrew Strauss-Andy Flower reign, the calamity was overturned into an inspiration and in the space of two years, their rise as the No 1 Test team in the world is marvelled.

Whether 58 all out is an equally stirring instance is a question Bangladesh will answer today.



FORGET TUESDAY: West Indies skipper Darren Sammy (L) explains a point to paceman Ravi Rampaul during their training session at the Cricket Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

NAT'L YOUTH HOCKEY

Chittagong's goal fest

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong flooded Panchagar with 17 goals in their South East Bank 22nd National Youth Hockey Competition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Shahidul Islam scored five goals while Nizamuddin and Nayan Das scored three goals each for Chittagong. Azimuddin scored a brace while Yaseer Shuvas, Saleh and Saikat scored one goal apiece to complete the goal rout.

In the other matches of the day, Sylhet thrashed Kushtia by 8-2 goals, thanks to three goals each from Hasan and Sami while Joypurhat sneaked past Comilla by a solitary goal.

PVT-VARSITY FOOTBALL

11 injured as students clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 11 persons were injured in a clash between teams of North South University (NSU) and ASA University Bangladesh (ASAUB) during a football match at the Army Museum Ground in Bijoy Sarani yesterday.

Assistant Commissioner Anisur Rahman of Tejgaon Division said the clash started at around 4:45pm when NSU started celebrating their second goal.

Witnesses said sticks, flagpoles and other objects were used during the clash that left 11 persons injured from both sides, including the match referee.

The inter-private university football tournament titled Global Newway University Premier League, started on October 8 with 13 private universities from Dhaka city taking part and is scheduled to run for three weeks.

Academy plaque on menu tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Tommy Miah, the Bangladesh-born British celebrity chef, will unveil the plaque to begin construction of his cricket academy tomorrow.

The Tommy Miah Cricket Academy will be built on a two-acre land in Moulavibazar, Sylhet. The phase-by-phase work will be completed in two years as the renowned chef serves up a cricketing institute in his home district.

It will have the usual outdoor pitches, indoor facilities, schools, hostels and an entertainment centre where there will be activities all year round. They will have the academy running from the end of 2012 or early 2013. It will also have a women's wing, informed Tommy Miah in an event at his restaurant yesterday.



TOMMY MIAH

Former national captains Khaled Mahmud and Khaled Mashud and national cricketer Tapash Baisya will be present during the ceremony on October 14.

Tommy Miah informed The Daily Star last month that he is in discussion with Bradford College, City and Guild in UK to be affiliated with the academy.

He contacted Farokh Engineer and also talked to Cricket Scotland for their possible involvement.

It will certainly not be the first in the country as Dhaka has a large number of cricket academies while Akij Group's Clemon Cricket Academies across the country are turning out to be a huge source of support for cricket's development in the country.

But to have an international celebrity chef like Tommy Miah getting directly involved in

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1