

Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 14, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Ribery's fresh bid to ban book

French international footballer Franck Ribery on Wednesday launched a fresh bid to try and ban an unauthorised biography titled "The Hidden Face of Franck Ribery". The Bayern Munich star claims the book's publishers and authors divulged confidential information relating to an ongoing judicial investigation into his alleged involvement in an under-age call-girl scandal. Ribery's lawyer Carlo Alberto Brusa explained: "Under the guise of a biography this contentious publication's only purpose was the exclusive revelation of a current legal process." A date for the hearing has been set for November 29.



- AFP

Splendid Simmons keeps Tigers at bay

MOHAMMAD ISAM



Expectations got the better of the Tigers yesterday in the first one-dayer against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. A defeat of 40 runs was a justifiable result as

Bangladesh was erratic with the ball, field while ultimately the batsmen flattered to deceive.

The energy and smartness of Tuesday's Twenty20 win was missing even after Lendl Simmons and Adrian Barath made a sluggish start. Instead of waiting for a breakthrough, the Tigers' prematurely pressed for wickets and it resulted in some poor bowling to Simmons, who struck his maiden ODI century, and later against Marlon Samuels (71) and Kieron Pollard (41).

As West Indies ended on 298-4, the Tigers were always facing an uphill battle that ended with them getting 258 for 7 in 50 overs with only Shakib Al Hasan showing purpose, hammering an unbeaten 67 off 58 balls with two boundaries and a six. But by then it was already too late as the start and the uneasy middle overs had failed the chase.

Tamim Iqbal's crash-and-bang start amounted to little as

makeshift opener Naeem Islam (replacing Imrul Kayes who had to pay for staying off the field during the West Indies innings) missed more than he touched. Devender Bishoo's first delivery, a rank long-hop, found Tamim's edge as the left-hander fell for 22 off 38 balls.

Naeem and Imrul added 78 with the right-hander securing a half-century after two years. Danza Hyatt ran back 20 meters from mid-off to take a stunning catch to dismiss Naeem 2.5 overs into the batting Powerplay. Mohammad Ashraful gloved a pull-shot to replacement skipper Denesh Ramdin and when Imrul Kayes followed him to the pavilion moments later, the Tigers had slipped to familiar territory 130 for four.

Mushfiquar threatened momentarily but his top-edge off found Darren Bravo at short fine-leg and an early

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Wicket's faulty: Mushfiq

BISHWAJIT ROY



Smart cricket was found nowhere in Bangladesh's approach as West Indies bounced back in the series with a comfortable 40-run victory in the first ODI of the three-match series at the

Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

On a batting track, the home side's bowling attack that included the slow bowlers, the main weapon of the Tigers in these conditions, was pretty ordinary. The fielding was sluggish too which helped the visitors take the game away from Mushfiquar Rahim's men as they amassed 298 runs for four wickets after being sent into bat.

In response to the mammoth target, the Tigers' batting lacked intent and only the immediate-past captain Shakib Al Hasan showed some character and came up with the only smart effort in the entire match during his unbeaten 58-ball 67.

Captain Mushfiquar however virtually put aside all the shortcomings in the match, expressing his disappointment over the unfavourable pitch.

"Our main strength is our slow bowlers, especially in our home conditions, but unfortunately the pitch was not like the T20 match. The spinners didn't get any turn on it. It was a bat-

ting paradise. Our spinners always get extra advantage here but it was not the case today," he said in the post-match briefing.

This kind of conditions desperately called for a disciplined bowling effort but the local bowlers lacked the sting and they also failed to bowl in the right channel and their fielding was also disappointing.

"We made a lot of mistakes in our fielding too but you know it was very hot out there. Our spinners didn't get any assistance from the wicket. On the other hand as per our expectation we also didn't get any early breakthrough from the pacers which made the things difficult for us and our slow bowlers also got frustrated as they didn't get any help from it," he added.

The young Bangladesh skipper however praised the West Indies batting. Lendl Simmons, who led the Caribbean innings with his maiden hundred, along with Adrian Barath made a slow but steady start to give their team a solid foundation. They took time to adjust with the condition which helped them to put up a challenging total on the board. Simmons slammed a 124-ball 122 while Marlon Samuels continued his good form with yet another well-paced half-century (71 off 78 balls) and the dashing Kieron Pollard hit a quickfire 25-ball 41 that saw three sixes and two fours.

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West Indies opener Lendl Simmons (above) takes a flight to the heavens after his maiden ODI hundred while Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan (R) tries in vain to match his brilliance in the first one-dayer at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Shakib scored an unbeaten 67 but ran out of both partners and overs in a high-scoring match that the West Indies won by 40 runs.

A long wait ends

SPORTS REPORTER



The first ODI against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium was a special occasion for West Indies opener Lendl Simmons who notched up his maiden ODI century, ending a nearly five-year wait. The crucial partnerships he strung together at the top of the innings -- first with fellow opener Adrian Barath who retired hurt after pulling a hamstring with the score on 67, and then a 150-run stand with number three batsman Marlon Samuels -- were the main factors behind Bangladesh being all but shut out of the match at the halfway stage.

"It was a special knock today," said a satisfied though weary Simmons at the post-match press conference.

"I've been getting starts against Pakistan and India before and I couldn't convert them into hundreds. Today I scored my first ODI hundred which I would like to dedicate to my mum and daughter," said the right-hander.

He had to work hard for his 124-ball 122 as the West Indies got off to a sedate start, with only eleven coming from the first five overs. Thereafter, Simmons got used to the pace of the wicket and the sapping heat and humidity, mixing aggression and common sense perfectly to produce a fine innings.

"I was trying to get the pace of the wicket as fast as possible. We didn't get the start we wanted in the first five overs but at the end of the first Powerplay, we got to our target. Then we just went on with the momentum," said Simmons.

The Trinidad and Tobago player felt that playing in the Champions League in India before coming here had helped him acclimatise to subcontinental conditions.

"The pitch was nice, the ball came on to the bat. Before coming to Bangladesh I was in India playing the Champions League. The bowlers did a good job but we made a score that was quite defendable," Simmons said.

Simmons also felt that he was the senior partner in his opening association with Barath, and hoped that they were beginning to form a solid partnership. "I am now stepping into being a senior player in the team. I was batting with Adrian Barath, he's a junior guy from T&T and we played a lot of cricket back home and we have a good understanding. I hope we can blossom as an opening pair. If we can give good starts in the rest of the series, we can get into match-winning positions."

Samuels was the other batting star in West Indies' innings, hitting a 78-ball 71 to continue his red-hot form, and Simmons

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BD women lose again in Lanka

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's cricket team suffered their second successive defeat against Sri Lanka when the visitors conceded a two-wicket defeat in the second of three ODIs at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium yesterday.

Sri Lanka reached 191 for eight with more than eight overs to spare after bowling Bangladesh out for 188 in 49.1 overs.

It was again all-rounder Shashikala Siriwardene who, like the first match, did the damage with ball and then made a significant contribution to help the hosts win the match.

Siriwardene, who scored 53 and grabbed two wickets in the first game, took three scalps including Bangladesh's top scorer Salma Khatun and then scored a 55-ball 47 to steer her side home.

After being put into bat, Bangladesh made a good start with openers Shathira Jakir and Ayesha Akhter making 18 and 24 respectively before suffering a collapse in top and middle orders.

However, captain Salma along with Lata Mondal provided some resistance to take Bangladesh to 154 for seven from 83 for six before

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Series of revenge?

First India-England ODI today



PTI, Hyderabad

India will aim to bury the ghosts of their humiliating English summer when they take on a confident England side in the first of what is being touted as a revenge five-match ODI series starting on Friday.

It's redemption time for Mahendra Singh Dhoni and his men as they will be itching to settle scores having failed to secure a single victory in international matches in England, having lost four Tests, three ODIs and one Twenty20 international during their recent tour.

His opposite number Alastair Cook will certainly hope that his side can carry on from where they left in the last series although they would be missing the services of the formidable new ball duo of James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

On paper and based on current form, England are certainly favourites but in home conditions, Indians have always been formidable opponents.

The series also gives Dhoni as well as the national selectors a chance to have a clear idea about the fringe players as they get an ideal opportunity to test the bench strength in the absence of senior players such as Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Zaheer Khan to name a few.

While Mumbai youngster Ajinkya Rahane -- the lone bright spot during India's disastrous ODI campaign -- can consolidate his position in the team, rookie leggie Rahul Sharma, Bengal captain Manoj Tiwary, Karnataka seamer Sreenath Aravind will be hoping to get a chance at some point in the series to prove their mettle.

The series will also be an acid test for

skipper Dhoni who would be under immense pressure to do well. It doubles up when one looks at the bowling line-up which is severely short on experience with Praveen Kumar the most experienced -- having played the most 56 ODIs.

If one goes by the performance of the players during recent matches and also net sessions, Karnataka seamer Sreenath Aravind and Jharkhand speedster Varun Aaron don't look like making the cut.

For the time being, Aaron looks like having been pipped by Vidarbha pacer Umesh Yadav who bowled with a lot of control and at a brisk pace during the recent Irani Trophy.

On the other hand, Sreenath Aravind was consistently hammered by all and sundry during the recent Champions League Twenty20 and can prove to be easy meat for top English players like Kevin Pietersen and skipper Cook.

While Praveen, Umesh and Ashwin look to have booked the three bowling slots, it will be tussle between R Vinay Kumar and Rahul Sharma for the fourth bowler's slot in the playing XI.

While Vinay with his variations can prove to be an ideal bowler at the death, Rahul can prove to be a restrictive option during middle overs.

The Rajiv Gandhi stadium strip promises to be a good one for the batsmen. In fact, during the last ODI which India lost by only three runs chasing a target of 351 saw Tendulkar hit a magnificent 175.

India's top six is more or less settled with Gautam Gambhir back at the top and is likely to be partnered by Parthiv Patel. Ajinkya Rahane who now bats at number three for Mumbai may get a chance to bat at his preferred slot while Virat Kohli, Suresh Raina and skipper himself complete the top-six.

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WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Jamal take on MSC in final today

SPORTS REPORTER

The star-studded Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club will be having the upper hand against popular Mohammedan SC in today's final of the Walton First Women's Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The game gets underway at 3:30pm.

Sheikh Jamal, virtually the national women's team, stormed into the final with a massive 16-0 win over Farashganj SC after the Dhanmondi outfit had scored 43 goals in three group matches.

On the other hand, Mohammedan toiled hard to manage a 3-0 win over Dipali Jubo Sangha in the semifinal to set up the final against a side that has been practising together for the last one year.

National striker Sabina Khatun is considered Sheikh Jamal's main weapon, netting 24 goals in four matches and playing the role of provider for many other goals for her side.

"Team spirit is our main strength and Sabina is our main inspirational player who can score as well as feed balls to others," said Sheikh Jamal coach Mosharraf Badal, adding that Mohammedan would not be able to break their mighty defence-line, which would make the difference in the final.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) arranged a pre-match press briefing for both finalists but Sheikh Jamal did not turn up for the official press briefing forcing the game's governing body to start the briefing with Mohammedan.

Mohammedan coach Poniruzzaman said that they reached the final after playing only two matches that did not help them to gel the team and the lack of group matches was their only disadvantage before facing Sheikh Jamal.

Meanwhile, Brothers Union and Dhaka Wanderers Club pulled out of the league due to a failure to form squads.

"Despite the lack of cohesiveness, we are optimistic about winning the league as I believe the girls will give their best to be part of history," said Ponir.