

Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 16, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Rooney devastated

Sir Alex Ferguson dropped Wayne Rooney for Manchester United's clash with Liverpool here Saturday, revealing the England striker had been "devastated" by his Euro 2012 ban.

Rooney, suspended for three Euro 2012 matches this week following his red card against Montenegro, was omitted as Ferguson opted to play Danny Welbeck as the visiting team's lone striker. "(Rooney) was devastated by the suspension," Ferguson told Sky Sports. "He's had a bad week. I just felt that under the circumstances he was better starting on the bench. He's had a bad blow this week with the suspension."



1/1

IMRUL KAYES

2/1

TAMIM IQBAL

3/1

MOHAMMAD ASHRAFUL

4/18

SHAKIB AL HASAN

WALK OF SHAME: (From L-R) Imrul Kayes, Tamim Iqbal, Mohammad Ashraful and Shakib Al Hasan, the cornerstones of Bangladesh batting, take an inglorious walk back to the pavilion in the second ODI against the West Indies at Mirpur SBNGS yesterday. The top four left with only 18 on the board leaving the team in a hopeless situation.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

DISASTER AVOIDED, humiliation not

WI take unbeatable 2-0 lead

BISHWAJIT ROY



The Tigers threatened a repeat of their dismal World Cup show in the early stages, losing three wickets for one run, but the home team rode on two half centuries from captain Mushfiquur Rahim and Nasir Hossain to put up a decent total of 220 runs on the board. In the end, however, the total proved insufficient on a good batting track as West Indies clinched the three-match one-day series with a comfortable eight-wicket victory in the second match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

There had been a lot of talk about the inexperienced batting of the new-look Caribbean team prior to the series but in both matches they applied themselves brilliantly to outclass the home side's ordinary bowling attack. The much talked about Bangladesh slow bowlers hardly made any impact so far, though some deliveries from left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan troubled the West Indies batsmen. It was evident that the Caribbean cricketers had done some good homework before taking them on in the series.

After an easy sail in the first game where the visitors won by 40 runs, Darren Sammy's boys put in another clinical performance in the day-night affair against the reckless

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The one-legged climb

MOHAMMAD ISAM



When Bangladesh reached 200 in the 47th over yesterday after having slipped to 1/3 by the first ten minutes, it was akin to a highly strung mountaineer having climbed Mount Everest on one leg and with a busted oxygen tank, but in favourable overhead conditions.

The proverbial leg came off when the openers Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes fell very early, both off poor, wide deliveries that ought to be blasted but found safe hands behind the wicket instead. The oxygen tank leaked when Mohammad Ashraful, the one who hasn't hit an ODI half-century since January last year, gave Darren Sammy a catch at second slip. It had officially broken when Shakib Al Hasan's head-rush of an innings -- three bound-

aries in his 12 -- ended with a terrible waft.

It was threatening to be a "58" like tumble but the recovery was orchestrated by skipper Mushfiquur Rahim and Nasir Hossain. Both hit patient half-centuries, equivalent to the hapless climber finally being patient, hitting his stride and holding on for dear life.

But how it became such a difficult climb, especially with no venom in the path, is worth another look.

The idea should have been for the other batsmen to mimic Shakib and not the other way around. Tamim and Imrul might have the excuse of getting out trying to hit bad balls but it still sounds like a poorly thought pretext. Ashraful through his duck has again gone into the borrowed time zone, something he had earned since that Test half-century against Zimbabwe last month.

The skipper Mushfiquur Rahim had

already been at the crease for a while and only found Alok Kapali in the mood to stage a recovery as Darren Sammy continued with pace for 24 overs. Though it wasn't pleasing to the eye, the fifth-wicket pair added 40 before Kapali surrendered to the short ball after being hit once on the chest and found handling anything around his throat quite troubling.

Mushfiquur then had Naeem Islam for company and the two added 57 and was almost turning a lost cause into a decent fight. Naeem's discomfort at the short ball was once again evident but he fought through to score 30, but like Kapali, the Gaibandha-born all-rounder was dismissed when he was getting used to the opposition's length.

But the skipper stayed firm and again confirmed how adept he's to the short ball. Again, it was his common sense that

worked as his advantage. The wicketkeeper-batsman hit 43 singles and cruised to his tenth half-century before opening up.

His innings came to life with his pulled six off Kemar Roach but ended with the same shot, another batsman falling to a pull, a shot that is turning into the theme of the series.

Nasir took over from Mushfiquur after they added 35 for the seventh wicket as he gave Abdur Razzak's big hitting the most room in his 41-run stand with the surprisingly able tail-ender before launching into his half-century. Nasir moved from 26 to 50 in twelve balls, hammering three fours and a six.

On previous occasions, a disastrous start would have amounted to a calamitous end, but with brave climbers you get a heroic story, a script wholeheartedly written by Mushfiquur and Nasir.



West Indies fast bowler Ravi Rampaul celebrated his 28th birthday in style as he took two early wickets to leave the Tigers in disarray.

PHOTO: STAR

Pay raised, not where it matters

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has increased the prize monies for this year's National Cricket League, but improved the players' travel and daily allowance by just Tk 50.

The winners of this season's NCL will receive Tk 20 lakh, a boost from the Tk 12 lakh given last season. The runners-up will also get Tk 10 lakh, two more than what the second best team received in the previous season. Winner in every first round match will now get Tk 75,000 while in the second round, teams will get Tk 1 lakh per game when they win.

With all this upgrading, the board has decided to slightly increase the amount that matters most to players -- from Tk 1,750 to Tk 1,800.

Meanwhile, the eight divisional teams have each been given Tk 5 lakh for preparation in the first and second round.

Mushfiquur blames careless approach

SPORTS REPORTER



it as an instance when he even forgot it was his 100th ODI yesterday.

Imrul Kayes, Tamim Iqbal, Mohammad Ashraful and after three boundaries, Shakib Al Hasan all fell in a heap as the Tigers crumpled to 18 for four by the fifth over. The slippery slope was prevented thanks to a fightback staged by Mushfiquur Rahim, Naeem Islam and Nasir Hossain, eventually helping the Tigers to 220 all out in 48.5 overs.

Mushfiquur, who struck 69 off 109 balls, said that instructions to be wary of a collapse is always given to the batsmen but in such a crucial game, the men who matter didn't deliver in front of another capacity crowd at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"Everyone knows that they have to be careful after a wicket falls, to stop a collapse. In a Test or ODI, it is quite difficult to come back from this sort of situation. Everyone is told these things but today the ones who played shots, I think some of us played irresponsibly," said Mushfiquur at the post-game briefing.

"Now it seems that even I don't have that answer. After winning the toss on this flat wicket, as you must have seen there wasn't any sideways movement. It wasn't such a wicket that we could have gone and started

hitting. I think if they had taken some time, like Simmons, Samuels who caught up later after starting off slowly. If any of the top-order did something similar, the scenario would have been different.

"It was a do-or-die match for us; we had to be more responsible. We depended on our top-order, but unfortunately, they couldn't deliver," he added.

On yet another slow surface, the initial

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All-rounder Nasir Hossain played a cameo innings of fifty runs to salvage some respectability to the Tigers total as they put on 220 in the end.

PHOTO: STAR

National Youth Hockey Dhaka crush Rangpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Dinajpur, Dhaka and Joypurhat won their respective matches in the Super League stage of the National Youth Hockey Competition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Dinajpur beat Rajshahi Division 4-0 in the first match of the day. Rista scored twice while Rabbi and Saddam scored one each for the winners.

The biggest win of the day came to Dhaka who blanked Rangpur 10-0. In the other match, Joypurhat beat Narail by 6-1 goals.

Volleyball League Azad beat East End

SPORTS REPORTER

Azad Sporting Club earned a 3-0 sets victory over East End Club (25-23, 25-21, 25-12) in the National Bank Limited Dhaka Metropolis Premier Division Volleyball League at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

PDB will take on Border Guard Bangladesh while Bangladesh Jail will face Nabajagarani Sangha in today's matches.

Ilievski happy with his teams



SPORTS REPORTER

Head coach Nikola Ilievski expressed his satisfaction over the performance of both national team and the U19s as the seniors won the latest practice matches over the juniors at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Macedonian coach, who has been in charge of the national side for the last four months, said he was pleased with the 'seriousness and purpose' shown by the national players.

"The second match between the A sides was a good match. The national team played with seriousness and played with purpose today (Saturday)," said the Macedonian who had earlier expressed his dissatisfaction over the lacklustre attitude of a few of the players during the practice matches.

Ilievski, who has also been overseeing the U-19 training camp for a month ahead of this month's AFC U-19 Qualifiers at home, expected good results from the side in the qualifying campaign where Bangladesh will face Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iraq in a strong group.

"I am optimistic. Though I know, Saudis are strong favourites and Oman and Iraq are also very good sides, our boys can put up a good fight," said Ilievski.

Ilievski singled out a few of the U-19 players like Emon Babu, Malek, Mubarak, Rana as very good prospects and with a realistic chance of making it to the national side soon.

In the second of the two practice matches, the A side of the national team came from a goal down to beat the A side of the U-19s. The juniors applied pressure in the 35-minute first half and took a deserving lead in the 18th minute through a long-range effort from Wahed Ahmed. However, the seniors hit back seven minutes later as veteran Mohammad Sujjan converted an expert penalty kick. The seniors dominated the second half and confirmed the

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Siddikur remains steady

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman improved his standing hitting a 3-under-par 69 in the third round as David Gleeson of Australia assumed the lead in the Hero Indian Open yesterday. Siddikur's three-round aggregate of 7-under-par (209) seated him seven shots adrift of the leader and in joint 11th position at the end of day three at the Delhi Golf Club.

David Gleeson, who was

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Tommy lays academy foundation

SPORTS REPORTER

The foundation of Tommy Miah's Cricket Academy was laid at a ceremony in Moulvibazar, Sylhet on Friday where former cricketers and government officials of the city were present. Tommy Miah, the Bangladesh-born British celebrity chef, unveiled the plaque of the academy. Former Bangladesh captain

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