

Jayed swings out Metro

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Cricket League went into picnic mode suddenly as the two second phase games saw 13 and 15 batsmen dismissed respectively yesterday.

It was a field day for the bowlers, especially Sylhet's Abu Jayed who took a six-wicket haul against Dhaka Metropolis while the Khulna trio of Murad Khan, Al-Amin Hossain and Dollar Mahmud took just over two sessions to bowl out Rajshahi.

DHAKA METRO-SYLHET

Sylhet skipper Alok Kapali predictably decided to field first on a wicket that encouraged some swing bowling.

Jayed's long first spell worked wonders for Sylhet as the medium pacer removed Arman Hossain, tournament top-scorer Asif Ahmed (for a duck) and Shamsur Rahman by the 13th over at the Sylhet Stadium.

It wasn't exaggerated movement that did the Dhaka Metro batsmen in but poor footwork.

Jayed returned to remove Mohammad Sharifullah for a 21-ball duck before cleaning up Tariq Aziz and Marshall Ayub to pick up his third five-for of the season.

Marshall top-scored with 58 off 123 balls with eight fours, a fighting effort as he made sure Dhaka Metro had crossed the three-figure mark.

Sylhet replied poorly as well, losing Intiaz Hossain in the fourth over by Taskin Ahmed while Arafat Sunny and Sharifullah also took one each as the wicket eased up in the last session.

RAJSHAHI-KHULNA

Khulna similarly put Rajshahi in at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium and the defending champions duly capitulated to seam and spin.

After Dollar Mahmud and the impressive Al-Amin Hossain removed the top-order by the 18th over, left-arm spinner Murad Khan took the key wicket of Farhad Hossain to reduce Rajshahi to 84-4.

Soon, the trio skittled out the lower half as Rajshahi batted for only 42.5 overs.

Khulna had a poor start as well, losing Nazmus Sadat off the first ball of the innings. Left-arm spinner Saqlain Sajib then took three quick wickets to trigger a collapse as Khulna finished the day on 98 for five.

BRIEF SCORES

DHAKA METRO: First innings 129 all out in 52.4 overs (Marshall 58, Furkan 22; Jayed 6-25, Enamul 2-36).

SYLHET: First innings 53-3 in 31 overs (Rahman 23; Sharifullah 1-11, Sunny 1-12).

RAJSHAHI: First innings 149 all out in 42.5 overs (Junaed 27, Jahurul 20; Murad 4-37, Al-Amin 3-35, Dollar 3-41).

KHULNA: First innings 98-5 in 30 overs (Tushar 31 not out, Anamul 25; Saqlain 3-9).

Big win for Boys Club

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Boys Club clinched a good 10-wicket win in their First Division match against Partex at the BKSP-2 ground yesterday.

After Partex were bowled out for 112 runs, Bangladesh Boys wrapped up the match in just 23rd over.

At the neighboring BKSP-3 ground, Indira Road lost to Orient Sporting Club by three wickets. Indira Road batted first to put up a score of 139-8 in the 34 overs-a-side game. Orient lost seven wickets to reach the winning target.

In the day's other matches, Young Cricketers beat Uttara Sporting Club by three runs while Khelaghar squeaked past Rupali Bank by just one run.

Lavish batting

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added 54 runs for the unbeaten fifth wicket. Shakib also remained not out on 41 as the left-hander played his shots during his 44-ball stay.

In the end, there was only question that remained. How long can Bangladesh can bat in their second innings?

SCOREBOARD				
Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan in Chittagong on Sunday:				
BANGLADESH: First innings 135 (Nasir 41, Nazimuddin 31, Rehman 3-9, Ajmal 3-40)				
PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 415-4)				
Hafeez lbw b Sunny	143			
Taufiq lbw b Mahmudullah	61			
Azhar c Rahim b Shahadat	26			
Younis not out	200			
Misbah lbw b Sunny	20			
Shafiq c Nafees b Sunny	104			
Akmal not out	6			
Extras: (lb-21, nb-12, w-1)	34			
Total: (For 5 wickets declared in 176.5 overs) 594				
Did not bat: Rehman, Gul, Ajmal, Cheema				
Fall of wickets: 1-164, 2-220, 3-265, 4-311, 5-570				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahadat	27	3	113	1
Rubel	25	1	97	0
Mahmudullah	30	7	94	1
Shakib	41.5	7	121	0
Sunny	47	7	123	3
Nasir	2	0	5	0
Ashraf	4	0	20	0
BANGLADESH: Second innings				
Tamim b Hafeez	15			
Nazimuddin not out	41			
Nafees lbw b Ajmal	28			
Ashraf c Hafeez b Rehman	0			
Nasir c Hafeez b Cheema	3			
Shakib not out	41			
Extras: (lb-4, nb-2)	6			
Total: (For 4 wickets in 39 overs) 134				
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-74, 3-75, 4-80				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gul	9	1	37	0
Cheema	7	1	40	1

India take it 4-1

Cricket

AFP, Chennai

India overcame an aggressive century by Kieron Pollard to defeat the West Indies by 34 runs in the fifth and final one-day in Chennai on Sunday to take the series 4-1.

Pollard smashed 10 sixes and four boundaries in his 110-ball knock before the tourists were bowled out for 233 in reply to India's 267-6 in the day-night match at the Chidambaram Stadium.

Pollard was last man out, caught in the deep off Suresh Raina, to deny his team a win in the last match of the Indian tour, where the West Indies also lost the Test series 2-0.

The West Indies were reduced to 78-5 by the 16th over before Pollard and Andre Russell turned the game around by smashing 89 off 79 balls for the sixth wicket.

The pair pounded the Indian bowling with a flurry of fours and sixes before the hosts earned a lucky break when Russell was run out by a direct throw from Gambhir.

Russell hit 53 off 42 balls with five boundaries and three sixes. Three more wickets fell in quick succession to leave the West Indies tottering at 213-9, but Pollard reached his maiden one-day century in the company of last man Anthony Martin.

Earlier, Manoj Tiwary smashed 104 as India recovered from a shaky start to post a challenging total.

The 26-year-old from Bengal, making his first appearance in the series, registered his first international century after India had lost two wickets in the first over of the innings.

Tiwary put on 83 for the third wicket with stand-in captain Gautam Gambhir and 117 for the fourth with Virat Kohli before retiring hurt in the 38th over due to cramps.

Kohli went on to make 80 off 85 balls.

India, already assured of a series win, rested three players, including skipper Virender Sehwag, who had compiled a world record one-day score of 219 in the previous match in

Indore. Sehwag, Ravichandran Ashwin and Vinay Kumar, who leave for Australia on Monday for the Test series starting later this month, made way for Tiwary, Irfan Pathan and Ajinkya Rahane.

The right-handed Tiwary, who had scored only 61 runs in five previous one-day internationals, seized his opportunity, hitting 10 boundaries and a six in his 126-ball knock.

Tiwary prevented a hat-trick when he came to the crease in the first over after Kemar Roach had trapped Rahane leg-before with his second delivery and bowled Parthiv Patel with his third.



West Indies star Kieron Pollard roars for joy on reaching his maiden century during the fifth and final ODI against India at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA				
Gambhir lbw b Martin	31			
Rahane lbw b Roach	0			
Patel b Roach	0			
Tiwary retired hurt	104			
Kohli c Samuels b Martin	80			
R Sharma b Narine	21			
Raina not out	16			
Pathan run out	4			
Extras: (lb-6, w-3, nb-2)	1			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	267			
Did not bat: Jadeja, Mithun, RG Sharma				
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-1, 3-84, 4-241, 5-250, 6-267				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Roach	8	0	46	2
Russell	6	0	31	0
Narine	10	1	41	1
Sammy	5	0	28	0
Martin	10	0	47	2
Samuels	9	0	54	0
Pollard	2	0	14	0
WEST INDIES				
Simmons lbw b Pathan	0			
Powell b Pathan	15			
Samuels c Patel b Mithun	6			
Mohammed lbw b Mithun	2			
Ramdin lbw b Jadeja	14			
Pollard c Rahane b Raina	119			
Russell run out	53			
Sammy c Rahane b Jadeja	3			
Narine b R Sharma	8			
Roach b Jadeja	0			
Martin not out	0			
Extras: (lb-2, w-11)	13			
Total: (All out in 44.1 overs)	233			
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-23, 3-29, 4-36, 5-78, 6-167, 7-181, 8-195, 9-213, 10-233.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	9	1	42	2
Mithun	7	1	32	2
Raina	6.1	0	24	1
Jadeja	10	0	62	3
R Sharma	10	0	45	1
Tiwary	1	0	15	0
Kohli	1	0	11	0
Result: India won by 34 runs and clinched				

LOCAL snippets

Glossless Victory Day Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

This year's Victory Day hockey competition will be played without defending champions Mukta Bihanga, runnersup Sonali Bank and giants Mohammedan taking part in it. A press conference was organised at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation conference room yesterday, to give out details of the competition. When asked why Mohammedan are not fielding a side, tournament director Sajed AA Adel, who is also the hockey secretary of the club said; "Mohammedan are not taking part due to accommodation problems as there is renovation work going on in the club headquarters."

The first tournament under the newly formed ad-hoc committee is likely to generate very little enthusiasm due to the absence of these clubs. The six teams to participate in the competition are: Abahani, BKSP, Army, Air Force, Navy and Police.

V-Day tennis

Runner Group Victory Day Tennis Competition will be held from December 27 to January 1 at the Ramna Tennis Complex. Competitors from across the country in both age group and senior level will compete in eleven events over the five days of the competition, said a press release from the Bangladesh Tennis Federation yesterday.

Prize money of 1.68 lakh taka has been allotted for the senior group.

National chess from today

Walton 37th National Chess Competition starts at the Bangladesh Olympic Association media room today. Top 14 chess players of the country including GM Niaz Murshed, GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Rifat Bin Sattar will take part in the competition. The top five ranked players will get automatic qualification, while the rest nine will be going through the qualification stage of the tournament. The competition will end on December 25. The draw ceremony was held at the BOA yesterday where Golam

Hockeyroos' 4th in a row

Hockey

AFP, Auckland

Australia maintained its stranglehold on hockey's Champions Trophy with a 1-0 win over Spain on Sunday, claiming a record fourth straight title through a disputed goal to Eddie Ockenden.

The reigning world champions went into the decider overwhelming favourites but were forced to work hard for their victory by a Spanish side determined to make amends for a disappointing sixth place at the European Championships.

The win at the last major tournament for men's hockey before the London Olympics gave the Kookaburras their 12th Champions Trophy title overall and confirmed their status as the sport's top-ranked team.

"I'm very proud to win again and create history with four times in a row," said Australia captain Jamie Dwyer, who finished the tournament as top scorer with seven goals and was named world player of the year for the fifth time.

The final, played in blustery conditions in Auckland, was a defensive affair that only sparked to life when Ockenden netted his winner in the 59th minute.

The Spanish argued the goal came from a dangerous Liam De Young high pass and should have been disallowed, but Korean umpire Kim Hong-Lae waved aside the protest to give Australia the decisive lead.

Spain surged forward looking for an equaliser but the Australian defence was up to

the challenge and the Kookaburras held on for the win.

Spain coach Daniel Martin said through an interpreter that he did not understand the umpire's ruling and felt the ball could have hit a Spanish player.

But Spanish skipper Santi Freixa brushed aside the controversy, saying he was pleased his side had re-established its international credentials after their Euro flop.

"We don't have any excuse, we feel proud of ourselves," he said. "It's not important what happened during the match."

In the third-place playoff at the eight-nation tournament, the Netherlands held off a dogged challenge from hosts New Zealand to win 5-3.

While the Dutch held the

lead throughout the match after Jeroen Hertzberger's opener in the fifth minute, the New Zealanders, spurred on by a vocal hometown crowd, matched them goal for goal until late in the second half.

With the scores locked at 3-3 with three minutes to go, extra time was looming before Bob de Voogd directed in Sander de Wijn's long-range shot.

As the Black Sticks poured forward frantically chasing an equaliser, hauling off keeper Kyle Pontifax to gain another outfield player, Billy Bakker capitalised for the Netherlands and sent the ball into the open goal.

In the bottom-half of the tournament, Pakistan narrowly avoided the wooden

spoon, needing an extra-time golden goal from Muhammad Rizwan senior to snatch a 5-4 win over South Korea, while Germany defeated Great Britain 1-0.

The win put Germany in fifth place, guaranteeing a spot at next year's Champions Trophy in Argentina, while Pakistan manager Khawaja Junaid said the Green Shirts had benefited from exposure to top teams at the tournament.

He said Pakistan, making their first Champions Trophy appearance since 2007, had performed well but needed to improve their consistency.

"That's our major problem and we'll be working very hard on that before the Olympics," he said.

A double for those not here

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do anything good, I'll do it for myself and for them as well," he continued.

The seasoned right-hander resumed the day four runs short of his hundred and said that his first target was to complete the ton. The double hundred was not in his mind at the start of the day.

"I was planning for the first four runs this morning. I was just lucky to have it maybe in the second or third ball. And then suddenly we changed the plan with the captain and the coach. They told me to go for the two-hundred and it changed my mind," he admitted.

Younis had a record of missing double hundreds thrice in his career for just a few runs but he was sure about his third one once he completed the hundred.

"I think I missed a double hundred against India in Pakistan, once on 194 and another time on 197 but this time I was sure that I will get my 200," he said.

The experienced campaigner is one of the players who made a bridge between the senior and junior players in the Pakistan team and has

been playing a pivotal role in the turmoil of Pakistan cricket, praising his captain Misbah-ul-Haq highly.

"I will give Misbah hundred per cent mark because he is an educated person and has respect in the team. Everybody is listening to him. If you want to give him advice, he takes it with an open heart," said Younis.

It was Younis's 19th Test hundred in 72 Test matches and he is now five centuries shy of achieving the feat of Javed Miandad, but the 34-year-old was not thinking about this record. Rather he was looking to play 100 Test matches for Pakistan.

"It's a dream to play 100 Test matches. If I am lucky enough to play 100 Test match may be I will be close to him or may be past him. My main target is to play 100 Test matches," Younis said about his future target.

When asked about Bangladesh's pathetic batting in the series, Younis suggested that the Tigers need more international cricket, especially more Test matches to improve their performance.

Now Australia on top

Cricket

AFP, Hobart

Openers David Warner and Phillip Hughes gave Australia a strong platform for victory over New Zealand before rain ended play early on the third day of the second Test on Sunday.

The two left-handers put on 72 without loss off 19 overs to give the Australians a flying start as they chase 241 at Hobart's Bellerive Oval to wrap up a two-nil series win over the Black Caps.

Australia thrashed New Zealand by nine wickets in the first Test in Brisbane last weekend.

No play was possible after tea, with Warner on 47 off 50 balls with eight boundaries and a concentrated Hughes not out 20 from 64 deliveries.

Australia will push for victory on Monday's fourth day, needing 169 more runs with all 10 wickets intact.

A total of 30 wickets have fallen in the eight of sessions play in a Hobart Test where the ball has dominated the bat.

Neither opener had too many troubles, although "Hot Spot" replays suggested Hughes may have gloved a leg-side catch to wicketkeeper Reece Young in the third over before he had scored, but the Kiwis did not seek a review.

Hughes is seeking a big innings to ease pressure on his Test spot after falling cheaply

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 150 (Brownlie 56; Pattinson 5-51, Siddle 3-42)				
AUSTRALIA: First innings 136 (Siddle 36; Bracewell 3-20, Boult 3-29, Martin 3-46)				
NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 139-3)				
Guptill c Haddin b Siddle	16			
McCullum c Hughes b Pattinson	12			
Ryder stpd Haddin b Hussey	16			
Taylor c Clarke b Pattinson	56			
Williamson c Ponting b Siddle	34			
Brownlie c Haddin b Pattinson	21			
Young lbw b Siddle	9			
Bracewell b Lyon	4			
Southee c Hussey b Lyon	13			
Boult c Hussey b Lyon	21			
Martin not out	2			
Extras: (lb-4, lb-11, w-5, nb-2)	22			
Total: (All out in 78.3 overs)	226			
Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-36, 3-73, 4-139, 5-171, 6-178, 7-190, 8-203, 9-203				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pattinson	25	7	54	3
Siddle	21	11	66	3
Starc	19	6	47	0
Hussey	5	0	15	1
Lyon	7.3	1	25	3
Ponting	1	0	4	0
AUSTRALIA: Second innings				
Hughes not out	20			