Day finds Pakistan ok

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan coach Dav Whatmore Sunday expressed satisfaction over his team's performance during their winning Asia Cup campaign, saying it would have been the icing on the cake to beat archrivals India.

Pakistan beat Bangladesh in a thrilling final by two runs in Dhaka on Thursday, lifting the Asia Cup for the second time.

It was Whatmore's first assignment since taking over earlier this month.

The former Australian batsman -- who guided Sri Lanka to the World Cup title in 1996 -- said his team had been consistent and competitive in all matches.

"It would have been the icing on the cake to have beaten India and go on to win the cup. We made some mistakes but were in the game late in the second 50-over block," Whatmore told AFP.

"It was just one of those games that makes you analyse more."

India's Virat Kohli smashed a career-best 183 to help India chase down a daunting 330-run target but India failed to make it to the

Whatmore, who also helped Bangladesh reach the latter stages of the 2007 World Cup held in the Caribbean, praised the Asia Cup

"Bangladesh had a really good Asia Cup. On the evidence of this tournament, everyone would agree they have improved. They need to be consistent now," he said.

Whatmore backed Misbah-ul-Haq after the Pakistan captain came under pressure over the team's 4-0 whitewash against England in a one-day series last month.

An uncalled

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of the fielding side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain and player or players concerned." Neither Steve Davis nor Ian Gould thought the incident worth reporting and in truth the 'misdemean-

our' itself was so minor, that reporting this seems distinctly un-gentlemanly from the Bangladesh Cricket

Board (BCB). The Tigers played well, exceptionally so, but it is the nature of the game, and life itself, that some days you maybe better but still will not

come out on top. That is the beauty of cricket and also its flaw but that is why we watch and follow it as well. Nitpicking infinitesimal incidents and fixating on them as a means of projecting blame

seems, forgive the adjective, a

classless thing to do.

At the end, there is also to consider the consequences of what might happen if Bangladesh do get awarded these five runs and hence are announced as belated victors of the Asia Cup. What would the reaction be like then? The truth of the matter is that it would be at best a Pyrrhic victory for the Tigers, won in

terms of 'legality' in paper and not out on the field of play. No one wants that.

At worst, it will gravitate into a slinging match of disrepute with Pakistan, who have already expressed their 'disappointment' at this action of the BCB. Such acts of mud-slinging will serve to do nothing but taint the efforts of the Bangladesh team in a tournament where they finally came of age. As the saying goes, why ruin a beautiful memory? The BCB should learn that at times, it is best to let sleeping dogs lie.

Tamim

FROM PAGE 16 franchise, he will be the fifth Bangladeshi to play in the IPL after Abdur Razzak, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mohammad Ashraful and Shakib Al Hasan, who will play this season for the Kolkata Knight Riders.

Retirement? No.

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Sachin Tendulkar said Sunday he was focused on helping India fight their way back to the top of cricket rather than on personal records after recently achieving his 100th international century.

The 38-year-old brushed aside speculation about his retirement and said the Indian team had work to do if they were to regain the number one spot in the Test rankings that they lost to England last year.

"If you lose that then someone is playing better than you," Tendulkar told a press conference in his home city of Mumbai. "There's no doubt that yes, we have to perform better as a team and win because that is what we go out for."

With an extraordinary two-decade career behind him, Tendulkar said it was important during this "rough patch" for his side not to lose hope. "We can overcome this obstacle and for that it's going to require hard work."

He insisted that he just wanted to "enjoy the game"

SPORTS REPORTER

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Div-II Football

back for BG Press.

SPORTS REPORTER

for BKSP.

each for the winners.

Biddya Niketan School 3-0.

Plan School Football



India batsman Sachin Tendulkar speaks during a press conference in Mumbai yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

after setting a new record during the recent Asia Cup by completing an unprecedented century of centuries.

"I don't think I need to prove anything right now," said the world's leading scorer in Test and one-day cricket, when asked about his next milestone.

"The dream was to play for India and win the World Cup, and I've achieved them

Tendulkar admitted to testing times as the hype built over his 100th century, which took more than a year to achieve and finally came on March 16 against Bangla-

onippets

Bangladesh Police defeated Bangladesh Prisons by 28-

25 points in their match of the Independence and

National Day Kabaddi Tournament at the Kabaddi

Stadium yesterday. There are two matches to be played

tomorrow, as BGB will take on Bangladesh Police and

Bithi Rani slotted a hattrick to power BRAC School to a

massive 7-0 win over Heed International School in the

Plan Metropolis Women's School Football Tourna-

while Ashamoni and Jahanara Koli netted one goal

beat Rajdhani High School 1-0 with Elham scoring the

winning goal in the 20th minute while BAF Shahin

English Medium School defeated Dawn Grammar

School 2-0 and Aga Khan School thrashed Banani

Bangladesh Navy registered a 56-40 point win over

BKSP in the Citycell Independence Cup Basketball

Tournament at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymna-

was Navy's top scorer with 28 followed by Sagar's 10.

Mehdi and Bashar caged 12 and 10 points respectively

point victory over Bangladesh Police while Bangla-

Bashabo Tarun Sangha recorded a 2-1 win over BG

Press S & R Club in the Destiny Group Second Division

Football League at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal

Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Bashir and Selim

struck for Bashabo while Jewel Rana pulled one goal

BFF elections likely

The election of the Bangladesh Football Federation is likely to be

deferred by a few months as the executive committee yesterday

failed to settle the issue regarding candidature of upcoming polls.

at the BFF polls due to the ambiguity of the BFF statute. To make

the matter clear, we will sit again tomorrow," said BFF's senior

vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy after a five-hour mara-

is not a councillor of the BFF, can compete in the BFF election

but must be proposed and supported by two separate by BFF

affiliated bodies. The BFF executive committee had earlier been

divided into two groups over this issue before coming to a con-

sensus to oppose the candidates outside of BFF councillors,

fearing that countless outsiders may announce their candida-

declared though we have not still settled some constitutional

issues. To settle those issues, we may take help from lawyer and

in that case we will need some time before the election can be,

and that may lead to deferment of the election," said Murshedy.

members is that only councillors should contest in the election.

To make this subject more clear in the statute, the football's

governing body is going to hold an Extraordinary General

informed at least 15 days prior to holding the EGM and 30 days

In line with constitution, the affiliated bodies of BFF must be

However, it has been learnt that the general sentiment of BFF

"Our plan is to hold the election in line with schedule

tures in the upcoming polls, which is scheduled for April 28.

An issue was recently raised which says that a candidate who

"We have not yet been able to settle the matter of candidature

to be deferred

thon meeting at the BFF House yesterday.

desh Navy thrashed Bakshi Bazar by 111-41 points.

Bangladesh Navy led the first half 31-24. Mithun

On Sunday, Rangers recorded a nail-biting 63-62

Independence Cup Basketball

Apart from Bithi's treble, Lakshmi scored twice

In the day's other matches, B.A.F. Shahin School

Bangladesh Army to play against Bangladesh Prisons.

desh in Dhaka.

His 99th international ton came against South Africa in the World Cup at Nagpur on March 12 last year.

"I asked God what wrong did I do, why did it take so long?" he said.

Tendulkar, a god-like figure himself to Indian cricket fans, told a young man in the audience to "chase your dreams" when asked for a few tips.

"Don't find shortcuts, there will be difficult phases also, don't worry about that. Just enjoy the game, have a big heart and look at life positively."

Losses for top

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it wasn't enough and despite a late try by Shakib Al Hasan, who made 33 off 29 balls at No 7, they ended up losing.

For the Dhanmondi outfit, Arafat Sunny and the newlymarried Shamsur Rahman took three wickets each.

GAZI-ABAHANI Batting first, Gazi Tank rode on

a 111-run fourth wicket stand between skipper Alok Kapali and Usman Salahuddin, both of whom hammered halfcenturies. From 43 for three the pair took the total to a solid base in the 38th over. Another 45 runs were added between the 21-year-old Pakistani international and Mominul Haque, who then provided the final flourish with Nazmul Hossain.

Abahani were on track through an 82-run fourth wicket stand between Farhad Hossain and Mahmudullah Riyad but they failed to capitalise and it was a late-order collapse, mostly inflicted by four-wicket hero Alauddin Babu, that sealed the deal.

SCORES IN BRIEF

OLD DOHS: 254-7 in 50 overs (Anwar Jr 52, Ziaur 51, Adnan 51; Noor 2-40, Wahid 2-21, Naeem 2-57).

MOHAMMEDAN: 257-5 in 48.5 overs (Babar 72, Naeem 63; Shuvogoto 2-39). Result: Mohammedan won by

five wickets. SHEIKH JAMAL: 287-6 in 50 overs (Mushfigur 114, Mahmudul 74; Mosharraf 2-48). VICTORIA: 278 all out in 49 overs (Sajid 50, Jahurul 44; Shamsur 3-42, Arafat 3-40).

nine runs. GAZI TANK: 239-5 in 50 overs (Kapali 77, Usman 65; Mominul

Result: Sheikh Jamal won by

31 not out; Hasan 3-69). ABAHANI: 234 all out in 50 overs (Riyad 78, Farhad 51; Alauddin 4-61, Haldar 2-26, Asif 2-26).

Result: Abahani won by five

runs. PCB unhappy

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and everyone praised Bangladesh for their fight and their decision to appeal is just an afterthought after the result.

"The fact of the matter is that no match umpire or referee complained about this to Pakistan management and Bangladesh's complain will spoil a wonderful final which everyone enjoyed," said Alam.

BCB said it would seek five penalty runs for deliberate obstruction and a reversal of the result in their favour.

"We have seen video footage of the incident repeatedly. It is clear that Cheema blocked Riyad deliberately," Enayet Hossain Siraj, chairman of the BCB operations committee, told reporters.

"We will lodge a written appeal to the ACC very soon and will also give a copy to the International Cricket Council."

Squad named for AHF Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation picked 16 players for the upcoming AHF Cup Hockey Competition which gets underway in Bangkok on April 16. Mohammedan striker Russel Mahmud Jimmy was retained as captain while Mamunur Rahman Chayan was made his deputy. The travelling team includes six officials including the coach Mahbub Harun. Four palyers have been kept in the stand-by list.

SQUAD

Zahid Hossain (GK), Rafiqul Islam, Moshiur Rahman, Mamunur Rahman, Imran Hassan, Tapash Barman, Issa Mia, Assaduzzaman Chandan, Kamruzzaman, Shahidullah Titu, Sheikh Nannu, Jahid Bin Taleb, Russel Mahmud Jimmy (C), Hasan Jubaer, Iqbal Nadirm, Krishno Kumar.

Young Tigers Cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Rajshahi and Barisal won the two-day matches of the Young Tigers U-16 Cricket Tournament in Rangpur yesterday. Rajshahi defeated Khulna

by 105 runs at the Carmichael College Ground while Chittagong defeated Barisal by six wickets at the Rangpur Cricket Garden Mitul of Rajshahi and Shaif of Chittagong were declared man of the match in their respective matches.

Malaysian **GP Alonso's**

AFP, Sepang

Ferrari's Fernando Alonso claimed his first victory in eight months in thrilling style at the rain-interrupted Malaysian Grand Prix on Sunday. Alonso survived a lengthy

rain suspension, a rash of spins and mishaps and a strong challenge from Sauber's Sergio Perez to finish ahead of the Mexican driver, with McLaren's Lewis Hamilton third.

Spain's Alonso, a twotime world champion, was no one's pre-race favourite in the clunky F2012, but he emerged from the chaos caused by torrential rains at the head of the pack and doggedly clung on for victory.

Perez pushed hard for his first win and looked set to steal victory from Alonso until he overshot a turn on lap 50. However, he still managed his maiden trip to the podium.

Alviro, JP hit tons

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

Centuries from Alviro Petersen and JP Duminy gave South Africa an iron grip on the weather-affected third Test against New Zealand on SundayinWellington. South Africa declared their

first innings at 474 for nine in the final session at Basin Reserve and at stumps New Zealand were 65 without loss with Daniel Flynn on 35 and Martin Guptill on 28. It was a sound start by New Zealand, who face an

series, which South Africa lead 1-0. The first two days were both hit by rain delays. South Africa resumed Sunday at 246-2 and moved to

uphill battle to win the Test

and level the three-match

362-3 at lunch but the dis-

missal of Petersen for a career-high 156 started a collapse that saw six wickets fall before skipper Graeme Smith declared.

But the tourists' hopes of claiming at least one wicket before stumps against an untried New Zealand opening pairing failed to materialise despite the hostile approach of the bowlers.

Middle-order batsman Flynn, recalled after two years in the wilderness and thrust in as a novice opener, took several hits to the body before deciding the best defence was attack.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 246-2) Smith cVan Wyk b Bracewell Petersen Ibw Martin Amla cvan Wyk b Gillespie Duminy cTaylor b Gillespie De Villiers b Martin Rudolph cVan Wyk b Gillespie Boucher c Williamson b Gillespie

Steyn c Guptill b Gillespie Philander c Flynn b Gillespie Morkel not out

Extras: (b-6, lb-1, w-3, nb-3) Total: (For 9 wkts decl in 148.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-106, 3-306, 4-362, 5-381, 6-388, 7-404, 8-459, 9-474 Did not bat: De Lange

NEW ZEALAND: First innings Flynn not out

Guptill not out Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) Total: (For no loss in 25 overs) To bat: McCullum, Taylor, Williamson, Vettori,

Van Wyk, Brownlie, Bracewell, Gillespie, De Lange

35

Eng have a point to prove

First Test against Sri Lanka starts today

Cricket

AFP, Galle

England captain Andrew Strauss on Sunday urged his world number one Test side to bounce back against Sri Lanka after the morale-sapping loss to Pakistan.

England, who took over the top mantle after a 4-0 rout of India at home last summer, crashed to an embarrassing 3-0 series whitewash by Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates in January and February. The failure of Strauss's men to adjust to

spin-friendly wickets in Dubai and Abu Dhabi raised questions about their ability to win away from the seaming conditions at home. Sri Lanka will offer little respite for the tour-

ists, whose challenge to master the slow, turning wickets will be compounded by the oppressive heat and humidity prevailing on the island. Strauss, asked if the number one ranking was justified, insisted he preferred to concentrate on

the job at hand -- that of beating Sri Lanka. England have not won a series in Sri Lanka since 2001, when Nasser Hussain's men fought back after losing the first Test to win the remaining two matches for a creditable 2-1 scoreline. The tourists drew a blank on their last two

visits to Sri Lanka, in 2003 and 2007, as the hosts won both three-Test series by 1-0 margins. Strauss's men began the current tour well by winning both practice matches in the capi-

tal Colombo, the first by an innings and 15 runs and the second after chasing down a target of 359 in 60.4 overs. The second and final Test will be played at

the P Sara Oval in Colombo from April 3. TEAMS

SRI LANKA (likely): Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Tillakaratne Dilshan, Lahiru Thirimanne, Kumar Sangakkara, Thilan Samaraweera, Dinesh Chandimal, Prasanna Jayawardene, Suranga Lakmal, Chanaka Welegedara, Suraj Randiv, Rangana Herath.

ENGLAND (from): Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen, Ravi Bopara, Samit Patel, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, James Anderson, Tim Bresnan, Steven Finn, Monty Panesar, Graeme Swann.

Cricket before Liberation

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two decades saw very few games each year.

It began on December 14, 1970 with the Under-19 tournament match between Dacca Under-19s and the Dacca Education Board Under-19s. Jahangir Shah Badshah, the most talented of all-rounders from that first generation of Bangladesh cricketers, scored 36 runs and took three wickets in the first innings.

In the final, the match is said to have been a draw between East Pakistan Sports Federation and Lahore Under-19s with such luminaries as Imran Khan, who scored 116 in the first innings though he was given two lives early in his innings, and Wasim Raja for the Punjabi side.

Between January 15 and 30, 1971, the matches of the BCCP Trophy were also held with many Pakistani top stars; and several of the local boys who went on to play for Bangladesh in the next few years took part.

Roquibul was also selected for the match between the Pakistani cricket board and an International XI. But there was a day of amazement for him in the BCCP Trophy games during that season.

"It was the first time I saw Hanif Mohammad bat. I was fielding at third slip and I noticed everything that he did beginning from his footwork while playing strokes. I am sure I would have dropped him if it came my way," he said.

But on the first day of March, Pakistani president Yahya Khan indefinitely postponed the pending National Assembly session. Two Quaid-e-Azam Trophy games were scheduled to be played in Dhaka but they were lost in the ensuing chaos and were given to the West Pakistani sides (PIA-B given points on both occasions). "I don't remember any such matches but it could have been scheduled,' said Roquibul.

As if nothing was going wrong in the country, the tournament continued in West Pakistan with home side Punjab University taking on Lahore in a first-class that began on March 25.

It sounds cruel, but on this day 41 years ago the other part of the country was up in flames and the cricketers here were fending for their lives; the oppressors up in the West had to look normal, no matter how abnormal they were.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

UQSE CKKNTLZZ PHMH OKQE

USEN KE QDG CDMGN-SFSM

ULG QDG ILRRSE FKXLPS.

NQLN

OKHMESX, ILXTS

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A COMPUTER

PROGRAM ONLY RUNS IN VERY CHILLY WEATHER, I GUESS THAT'S WINTER-ACTIVE SOFTWARE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals U

before holding AGM and the councillors have also right to extend the time of existing executive committee, whose tenure will expire on April 30.

Meeting for amendment of the statute.