

NZ need to win big

PTI, Pallekele

Aware that one more defeat will ensure their exit from the tournament, New Zealand need nothing less than a big win against the West Indies in their make-or-break Super Eights match of the ICC World Twenty20 here on Monday.

Two defeats in a row have brought New Zealand to this position, where there is not scope for error.

However, a mere win will not help the cause of the Kiwis and they will have to win with a big margin and hope that England lose their last match on Monday.

With that result, Sri Lanka will be through to the semifinals and the other three teams - New Zealand, West Indies and England -- will be equal on two points each.

The net-run-rate then will come into play and the team with better run-rate will advance along with the hosts.

West Indies have a cushion of one win under their belt and one more victory would keep them in the semifinal hunt.

A West Indies victory today and England defeat later in the day will push the Caribbean side and the hosts to the semifinals.

The Kiwi batsmen have performed consistently but their bowling has been a cause of concern. Despite making some competitive scores they failed to defend those totals.

WEST INDIES NEW ZEALAND Played: 42 Played: 57 Won: 17 Won: 26 In 2012 In 2012 Played: 8 Played: 11 Won: 4 Won: 6 HEAD TO HEAD 3: 2 KEY PLAYERS

J CHARLES DANIEL VETTORI Matches: 10 Matches: 33 Runs: 290 Wickets: 37 Average: 32.22 Economy Rate: 5.61

The defeat via eliminator against Sri Lanka in the first Super Eights match came after scoring a very challenging 174 for seven.

West Indies too rely heavily on their batting and it has been a roller-coaster ride for the Caribbean side in the tournament so far. They had done exceedingly well before suffering a crushing nine-wicket defeat on Saturday.

Key for the Kiwis here would be to target the West Indies top-order. It happened against Sri Lanka when the explosive Chris Gayle failed to get going and all of West Indies struggled.

Kiwi spinners will also have to play an important role if they aspire to remain alive in the competition.

Brendon McCullum and Gayle are the batsmen to watch out for and their performance will play a crucial role in the

fortunes of the two teams.

TEAMS NEW ZEALAND (probable): Martin Guptill, Rob Nicol, Brendon McCullum, Ross Taylor (captain), James Franklin, Kane Williamson, Jacob Oram or Doug Bracewell, Daniel Vettori, Nathan McCullum, Tim Southee, Kyle Mills.

WEST INDIES (probable): Chris Gayle, Johnson Charles, Marlon Samuels, Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard, Darren Sammy (captain), Andre Russell or Fidel Edwards, Denesh Ramdin, Sunil Narine, Ravi Rampaul, Samuel Badree.

Easy passage for big guns

FROM PAGE 16 Sheikh Russel versus Bangladesh Police at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on October 5. The third match of the day will be held at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium where Team BJMC will take on Khulna Abahani.

Sixteen teams -- ten from the Bangladesh Premier League and six teams from the qualifying round of Federation Shield -- have been split into four groups and top two teams from each group will advance to the quarterfinals which means that the early elimination for one of the favourites is highly unlikely.

Considering the groupings, the two perennial foes Abahani and Mohammedan have no chance of facing each other before the final of the season's curtain-raising tournament.

For the first the qualifying round of the Federation Cup was held outside Dhaka in an effort to encourage the minnows to compete against the top-tier clubs. However, the qualifiers will be facing discrimination in terms of fielding foreign footballers as only ten clubs of the professional football league are eligible to field four foreign players in each match while the qualifiers will have to bank on the local players.

"The qualifying teams have not been allowed to field foreign players because they

generally are not allowed to play foreign players whichever level they play," explained BFF's senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy adding that they were hoping to find some quality players from those clubs coming through the qualifying round.

The fact is the football's governing body did not respond to the demand by local players of reducing the number of foreign players in the professional football league while not allowing foreigners in the lower league teams, thus an inequality amongst the participating teams of the Federation Cup.

BFF vice presidents Badal Roy, Tabith M Awal, league committee vice president Abdur Rahim and Grameenphone's head of corporate communications Tahmid Azizul Haque were among others present on the occasion.

Group A : Mohammedan, Sheikh Russel KC, Bangladesh Police and Rampur Boys Club, Feni. Group B : Muktijoddha Sangsad KC, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Cox City FC and Noakhali FA.

Group C : Abahani, Brothers Union, Rahmatganj MFS and Jessore DFA Eleven.

Group D : Team BJMC, Arambagh KS, Feni Soccer Club and Khulna Abahani.

Indo-Pak clash stirs Lankan

FROM PAGE 16 but there has also been huge interest surrounding the battle of the two fierce subcontinent rivals.

In the stands there was a wide cross-section of fans.

"There is huge interest about India-Pakistan match and people are always divided in their support when these two teams play in Sri Lanka. My first choice is Sri Lanka and then I like Pakistan. I don't like the Indian cricket team and Indians also (laughs)," said Prabhu, a college student who came here to watch the traditional rivals clash with his friends wearing a Sri Lankan jersey.

"I am supporting the whole Sri Lankan team and definitely want them to lift the trophy," he added.

Mohammad Rawshan however supports the India team mainly because of Indian new batting sensation Virat Kohli. "It's (Khattarama) a Muslim-dominated area but still there are a huge number of Indian supporters. Basically we love cricket and always love to watch the game from the stands and if

it is a match between India and Pakistan then nobody wants to miss it," said Rawshan, an IT expert, adding: "I mainly love to watch Kohli. Sri Lanka is a cricket-crazy country, so almost anyone you meet will be interested in the game."

For many it is a chance for them to watch their heroes from up close while some are at the ground only because they are passionate about the game and there are many who see it as an outing to be enjoyed with the family.

Businessman Mohammad Amdan had come to the match with his three sons, one of whom is an Indian supporter while the others support Pakistan. "I always try to come to the stadium whenever I get the chance. I like India and my elder son (Mohammad Ayub) also, as his mother came here from India but my other two sons support Pakistan. Actually we always love to watch cricket and we are great fans of the Sri Lanka cricket team," said a smiling Amdan.

And most importantly, the overwhelming impression was that the ICC World Twenty20 2012 is great fun for cricket fans in Sri Lanka.

Robbery?

FROM PAGE 18 referee for not allowing adequate injury time after his team's defeat against Tottenham Hotspur on the same night.

Sevilla coach Jose Miguel Gonzalez 'Michel did not complain.

But his statement after the game was more heartening.

"Sometimes things are just crystal clear but still rules are about interpretation and I never talk about referees."

Cesc it could easily win him an Oscar after he bumped chests with Medel and then staggered away holding his face as if he'd been punched in the nose.

The second incident was crueler. With three minutes remaining and Barcelona pushing hard, the ball struck a good part of Cristian Tello's arm as he was trying to control the ball just outside the Sevilla box. The Sevilla players appealed but the ref who was standing in close vicinity ignored it and the result was catastrophic for a team that fought in a battle of unequals like men possessed.

After two touches the ball landed on the feet of Cesc who got the equalizer. True, Villa's goal was a class finish and Barcelona will now go on to win many more matches in the days to come. But this particular one could have been a rare success story of a 'Third World' team had they not been robbed by two erroneous refereeing decisions.

BCB looking for women cricketers

SPORTS REPORTER

The Women's Wing of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will carry out a registration programme for talented women cricketers. The registration is open to all and will take place on October 2 at the SAHARA-BCB National Cricket Academy Ground in Mirpur from 11am to 3pm. There is no age restriction.

The BCB welcomes prospective youngsters who believe they have the talent to excel in cricket and to take advantage of this opportunity. Interested players need to bring two recent passport-sized photographs and playing clothes.

DC GOLD CUP Netrokona champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Netrokona emerged champions in the Walton Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament beating Gopalganj 4-0 in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Toklis scored a hat-trick while Ronny netted the other goal for the winning side.

Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka AN Shamsuddin Azad Chowdhury distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest.

Champion Netrokona received prize money of Tk 50,000 while runners-up Gopalganj got Tk 30,000. Toklis was adjudged the best player of the tournament.

Seventeen teams, split into four groups, took part in the first phase of the meet.

Wanderers beat Jurain Janata

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers Club earned a 47-18 point win over Jurain Janata Club with three lonas in their super four match of the Walton Refrigerator Women's Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

Earlier, Jatrabari KC beat Azad SC by 34-20 points with four lonas at the same venue.

Siddikur

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He racked up scores of 72, 72, and 73, let himself down on the last day with a score of 78. The title was claimed by Tsai Chi-huang of Chinese Taipei who aggregated four-under-par (284). This was the second victory at this event for the 41-year old.

Watto alone

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"We have played really good cricket in these conditions in the past. So it is very disappointing. They [Australia] adapted to the situation better than us."

Australia have now won both their Super Eights games while South Africa are on the brink of elimination having lost both their matches.

AUS v SA SCOREBOARD SOUTH AFRICA R B 4 6 Levi b Doherty 0 3 0 0 Amla c Wade b Watson 17 15 1 1 Kallis c Wade b Doherty 6 7 1 0 Duminy st Wade b Doherty 30 25 4 0 De Villiers c Bailey b Watson 21 24 0 0 Behardien not out 31 27 2 1 Peterson not out 32 19 6 0 Extras: (b-1, w-8) 9 Total: (For 5 wickets in 20 overs) 146 Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-8, 3-33, 4-64, 5-86

Bowler O M R W Doherty 4 0 20 3 Starc 4 0 30 0 Cummins 4 0 33 0 Watson 4 0 29 2 Hogg 3 0 26 0 Maxwell 1 0 7 0

AUSTRALIA R B 4 6 Warner b Morkel 5 9 0 0 Watson c Parnell b Peterson 70 47 8 2 Hussey not out 45 37 2 2 White not out 21 13 3 2 Extras: (b-1, w-5) 6 Total: (For 2 wickets in 17.4 overs) 147 Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-109

Bowler O M R W Steyn 3 0 15 0 Morkel 3 0 23 1 Kallis 1 0 8 0 Botha 3.4 0 31 0 Peterson 4 0 41 1 Parnell 2 0 24 0 Duminy 1 0 4 0



PHOTO: REUTERS

England's Jonny Bairstow is honing his batting skills in the nets in Pallekele yesterday.

Do-or-die for champs

PTI, Pallekele



Their semifinal chances hanging by the thread, defending champions England are faced with a must-win situation as they take on unbeaten hosts Sri Lanka in a crucial Super Eights match of the ICC World Twenty20 here on Monday.

England, after a win and a loss, have to clinch it against Sri Lanka to have any chance of making the last-four stage. If Stuart Broad's men lose this match, it would be certain elimination as Sri Lanka and West Indies, if they beat New Zealand also today, would go through at their expense.

England beat New Zealand in their previous match with Steven Finn and Luke Wright playing important roles. Finn achieved his as well as England's best figures in the ICC World Twenty20 -- three for 16 -- before Wright hit a 43-ball 76.

But Sri Lanka is no New Zealand and Broad acknowledged that his team have a tough task at hand. "It will be an electric atmosphere for us on Monday and it will be important for us to keep our composure," said Broad after the win on Saturday.

"It will be loud, it will be hectic and there will be a lot of fans shouting for Sri Lanka but

that will be exciting for us."

Even though the batting clicked against New Zealand, the English still seem to be missing that one aggressor who can rescue them in tight situations.

The bowlers have finally got a grip of the

ENGLAND SRI LANKA Played: 53 Played: 45 Won: 27 Won: 26 In 2012 In 2012 Played: 10 Played: 7 Won: 6 Won: 4 HEAD TO HEAD 1: 2 KEY PLAYERS

LUKE WRIGHT AJANTHA MENDIS Matches: 36 Matches: 24 Runs: 556 Wickets: 49 Highest Score: 99* Economy Rate: 5.63 Average: 19.85 Bowling Average: 10.46

conditions even though spinner Graeme Swann hasn't quite delivered for the team.

The England team is pinning its hope on its bowlers who are yet to deliver their true potential. Any big performance can certainly turn the table in their favour.

BD A suffer 53-run loss

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skipper Rokibul Hasan shared a 57-run partnership for the third wicket to steady the innings for a brief period. The introduction of spin had an immediate effect as Rokibul was caught in front off Permaul after the skipper failed to read the arm ball. Wickets continued to tumble for the Bangladeshis and a majority of them, oddly, got out to slow-left armers, the kind of bowling that one would expect them to have mastered by now.

Nafees, who scored a well-composed 69, was the only batsman who read the ball well. However, with the required run-rate increasing, he too perished at the end, as the West Indian bowlers set their sights on the tailenders. They were eventually bowled out in the 43rd over.

Earlier, a string of partnerships between the middle order batsmen and some late hitting by

the tailenders took the visitors to a competitive 234 all out. Jahmar Hamilton top scored for the visitors with a 50-ball 49. The innings witnessed three huge sixes and two fours. The West Indian batsmen were struggling at 155 for 6 in the 37th over before a partnership between Permaul and Hamilton took them past 200.

The last 50-over game will be played on Tuesday, after which the teams will play two Twenty20 games.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WIHP: 234 all out in 49.5 overs (Hamilton 49, Lesporis 44; Naem 3-47, Enamul 2-30) BANGLADESH A: 181 all out in 43 overs (Nafees 69, Naem 34; Permaul 4-33, Sheldon 4-40) Result: WIHP won by 53 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Verasammy Permaul.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Tooth-paste type 4 Pom-pom 8 Decisive defeat 12 Foreman opponent 13 Frizzy coiffure 14 Therefore 15 Titanic aid 17 Dropped 18 Right angle 19 Type of newspaper 21 Star-bucks supply 24 Caustic solution 25 In times past 26 Tariff 28 Brilliance 32 Make 21-Across, in a way 34 Cage component 36 Ocean motion 37 Big rigs 39 Dine DOWN 1 "My — Sal" 2 Quarter-back Manning 3 Mature organism 4 Pad 5 Venusian vessel? 6 "Animal House" group 7 Sum 8 Mirror 9 Dunkable treat 10 Wrinkly fruit 11 Snitched 16 Sprite 20 "See ya" Solution time: 25 mins.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

CRYPTOQUIP

O U B O C F W J X W M M S J L C B R Q D A K L S O V L M U L Z D J R, O I D X W M O Z W Q D A R S P D A M I R L Q " B P L C F Q D A U L O J Q K A V P ! " 46 Crony, in the old West 47 Garfield's pal 48 Record-ing 49 Carriage 53 Obese 54 Cut the grass 55 Before

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A BURGUNDY WINE IS GOOD, BUT TOO RED, IT PROBABLY SPENT WAY TOO LONG IN THE TANNIN BOOTH. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals Y