

Jubair puts U19s on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Leg-spinner Jubair Hossain's four-wicket haul led Bangladesh U-19 to a strong position against their Sri Lankan counterparts in the second four-day game at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday. The visitors were bowled out for 185 on the second day. In reply the hosts reached stumps with the score on 18 for no loss.

Continuing from an overnight score of 23 for no loss, the Sri Lankans began the day well courtesy of a 78-run partnership between openers Kusal Mendis (54) and Hashan Dumindu (23). However, disaster struck after Kusal was sent back to the pavilion in the 22nd over. Hashan was caught with the score on 92 and the visitors lost their next eight wickets for just 93 runs.

Jubair, followed his five-wicket haul in the first game with impressive figures of four for 35. Mosaddek Hossain and Mehedy Hassan chipped in with two wickets each.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SL U19: First innings: 185 all out in 68 overs. (Kusal 54;Jubair 4-35,Mehedy 2-1) v BD U19: First innings: 19 for no loss in 8 overs (Nazmul 12, Sadman 6).

Top seeds in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

The four top seeds -- Amol Roy, Alamgir Hossain, Anwar Hossain and Dipu Lal -- made it to the semifinals of the men's singles of the 8th Bangladesh Games Tennis at the Ramna National Tennis complex yesterday.

Top seed Amol Roy beat Rustam Ali 6-0, 6-2; second seed Alamgir Hossain defeated Mamun Bepari 6-3, 6-0; third seed Anwar Hossain outplayed Tinku 6-0, 6-2 and fourth seed Dipu Lal defeated Asmat Ullah 6-2,6-3.

In the men's doubles, Mofazzal and Milon, Kanchan and Munir Hossain, Alamgir and Biplab Ram, and Asmat Ullah and Salim Sadman pairs reached the event's quarterfinals.

Manikganj in football finals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Manikganj qualified for the final round of the football event of the defeated 8th Bangladesh Games after defeating Tangail 1-0 in the regional final at the Shahid Miraz-Tapan Stadium yesterday. Sumon Das scored the decisive goal in the first minute of the second half.

Manikganj were joined in the final round by regional champions Barisal, Rangpur, Maulvi Bazar, Naogaon, Jhenaidah, Noakhali and BKSP, who qualified from the services and institution group. The eight qualifiers will be in the final round at two different venues of Dhaka from April 19 to 27.

Bolt to run in London

AFP, London

Six-time Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt will compete at the Anniversary Games at London's Olympic Park in July, organisers confirmed on Wednesday.

The Jamaican powered to gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay in London last year to replicate his extraordinary achievements at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Amit Mishra drives the ball during his side's IPL match against Pune Warriors in Pune yesterday. Later the spinner took a hattrick to lead his side to an 11-run victory.

PHOTO: CRICINFO

Sunrisers, Royals win

AGENCIES



Leg-spinner Amit Mishra produced a stunning performance taking four wickets in five deliveries, including a hattrick, as Sunrisers Hyderabad pulled off an incredible 11-run victory over Pune Warriors in the Pepsi Indian Premier League at the Subrata Roy Sahara Stadium on Wednesday.

Mishra (4 for 19) took the wickets with his second, fourth, fifth and sixth deliveries off his final over as Warriors were bowled out for 108 in 19 overs while chasing a mediocre target of 120 runs.

In the second match of the day, Rajasthan Royals thrashed Mumbai Indians by 87 runs at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

Batting first, the hosts set up 179 for the loss of only three wickets, thanks to Ajinkya Rahane's 54-ball 68 and a few supporting knocks from the other top order batsmen.

African adventures

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pervaded the national character.

When it was suggested to a taxi driver that life must be harsh under current economic and political conditions, he just shrugged and half-smilingly said, "It's okay".

Those two words could sum up the general attitude in Harare. A call was placed to the reception of a reputed hotel from one of its rooms to complain about the wireless internet connection that kept dropping. "It's okay sir," came the deadpan but unfliningly courteous reply from the other end.

"When will it come back on?"

"It will be back soon, sir." And so it was, after an hour.

FAIR FARE

Four journalists decided to try a restaurant near the Zanu PF building in Harare. Taxis line the parking lot of hotels and an eager man came up to the party advertising his taxi availability. We got in and a three-dollar fare was agreed upon. 100 metres into the journey, a meek voice queried, "You can direct me?"

That left us wrong-footed. The Zanu PF building is the headquarters of the most important political entity of the country, and more relevantly, a landmark building in Harare. But four tourists were asked by a taxi driver to locate a landmark in a city he drove a taxi in. The irony, however, was completely lost on him.

The landmark was fortunately not hard to spot as it is one of the tallest buildings in the city, and with the help of sight and phone top-up card sellers at traffic stops (the Harare equivalent of booksellers at Dhaka's traffic stops, but much more useful), our clueless guide took us to our destination. In the final analysis, the man was fair, as the fare is usually five dollars. The discount was because he moved the car while we did the driving.

Bowlers take the stage

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got to it but could not hold on. Even his earlier drop, which may not seem to have caused much damage as Maruma was out after adding just 10, was in fact costly. As Rubel's strike late in the day with the second new ball to remove Malcolm Waller proved, it is imperative that the pacers get every little benefit while the shine stays. If that catch was taken, there was a chance of Taylor coming in earlier, which would have exposed Zimbabwe's best player to the moving ball while he was still vulnerable.

Waller was dropped when on 21, by Ashrafu who spilled a looping, low chance off Enamul Haque Jr at point. That drop proved costly too as Waller formed a 127-run fourth wicket partnership with his skipper.

The bowlers bowled admirably on the first day, sticking to their lines even as Taylor played a classy hand. But as has happened so often in the past, the fielders failed to support their colleagues which saw Bangladesh finish on even terms with the hosts, instead of in the ascendancy. The old malaise remains, and it is one that Bangladesh will have to manage well if they are to register their first win in Harare.

PAK TOUR TO ENG PCB sending spy?

IANS, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) planned to send a group of secret monitors to keep an eye on its cricketers during their May-June tour to England in an effort to stop players from getting involved in any scandal.

Official sources said the PCB had devised a strategy to avoid any scandal or controversy during the upcoming tough tour, reports Xinhua.

"The decision came after seeing the history of our team's tours to England. Whenever our team went on tour, the players were dragged into some controversy by the media," the sources said.

Pakistan will start their tour to England on May 17 where they will play two one-day international matches each against Scotland and Ireland before participating in the eight-nation ICC Champions Trophy scheduled to start on June 7.

The main job of the undercover observers will be to watch the players' activities inside and outside the hotel and at grounds.

According to the sources, the PCB has also finalised a list of rules and regulations for the tour and all the players will have to sign on a specific agreement.

Under the agreement, a strict observation will be on the usage of phone and Internet by the players during their official stay in England.

BANGLADESH GAMES Cricket still uncertain

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket's participation in the upcoming Bangladesh Games remains uncertain as it is still not clear who will bear the expenses of the T20 event.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will take the final decision after the return of its president Nazmul Hassan Papon from ICC meeting today.

BCB received a letter from the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) where the latter cited the BCB president's willingness to bear the entire expenses of the cricket event, which is going to make its debut in the Games.

"They [BOA] are reluctant to spend a single penny. They mentioned that our president agreed to bear the entire expenditure but we are not aware of it. The president [Papon] returns home today and then we will take the final decision," said Jalal Yunus, BCB's ad-hoc committee member and chairman of the media committee, yesterday.

The cricket event is scheduled to start from April 21 with eight teams at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Hockey, squash from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The 8th Bangladesh Games events of hockey and squash get underway today, two days before the official opening of the Games.

Hockey will feature 12 teams, who will be playing in four groups, before the group champions will make it to the semifinals. Four matches will take place today at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

The event of squash will start at the Gulshan Club where top eight players of national team will participate in singles while twelve teams will be competing in the team events.

U-17s coast

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wickets each for the hosts.

The teams will play two more limited over games.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BD U17: 271 for 4 in 39 overs. (Adnan 97, Shariar 69; Pradipta 1-44) v CAB-U17: 204 all out in 36.2 overs (Agniv 69; Sifat 2-25, Santu 2-26) Result: BD U17 won by 67 runs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hindu prince
5 Persian leader
9 Bigshot, for short
12 Verve
13 Horseback game
14 Tokyo's old name
15 Chamber of the heart
17 Born king
18 Good-looking guy
19 Band-leader
21 Lucky roll of the dice
24 Arrived
25 Thing
26 Pots and pans and such
30 Chignon
31 Yours
32 Neither mate
33 Pavement

35 Cicatrix

36 Always
37 Swerves
38 "Monopoly" buy
40 Desert-like
42 Superlative ending
43 South American nation
48 Chicken —
49 Cupid's alias
50 Family
51 — and don'ts
52 Transmitted
53 TV award

Solution time: 21 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 3-12

Poor planning excludes many athletes

SPORTS REPORTER



A great number of athletes from different disciplines will be deprived from any national level participation due to the hasty arrangement of the eighth Bangladesh Games which will be held from April 20 to 28.

Generally the federations do not hold their respective national championships in the year Bangladesh Games is held as the national championships of different disciplines are incorporated into the Games while giving opportunities to all the athletes to compete, but this time a big number of athletes will not get the opportunity due to the pattern of the Games.

Instead of ensuring participation of all athletes from across the country, the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), organiser of the Bangladesh Games, put the ball to the respective federations' courts to decide the pattern of their games and most of the federations prepared the participants list on the basis of the standings of their last national championships citing the limited budget allotted by Organising Committee of Bangladesh Games.

The Bangladesh Handball Federation held their last national meet with 36 men's and 30 women's teams, but the handball event of the 8th Bangladesh Games will see only 12 teams each in men's and women's section, resulting in majority of players missing out on national level participation.

Like handball, the hockey federation

Day ends on even keel

FROM PAGE 16

That set the stage for Masakadza and Taylor, the duo who constructed the definitive partnership at the same ground against the same opponents in the hosts' 130-run win in 2011. They saw off the initial push by the Tigers' pacers, of whom Nasir Hossain proved a surprisingly effective component.

Taylor's intentions of domination were clear early on as he refused to let Enamul settle, hitting a six off his first over. Enamul struggled early on, dropping short on a few occasions to be punished by Zimbabwe's two best batsmen. Even so, the pressure was kept on as Zimbabwe scored only 50 runs in the 29 overs before lunch.

There was joy for the Tigers in the 11th over of the afternoon session when Masakadza was victim of a tighter line from Enamul, edging one that turned sharply to first slip. Waller looked distinctly uncomfortable early on, but Taylor took the heat off his partner with assured batting. The Zimbabwe

DAY ENDS ON EVEN KEEL

captain rarely looked in trouble against any of the bowlers and when Bangladesh muffed the only opportunity from Taylor's bat, the writing was on the wall. He progressed serenely to his century, which he brought up in the 85th over with his fifth four, a forceful shot through the covers.

Bangladesh bowled creditably on a true pitch, evidenced by Zimbabwe's conservative run rate. Much however will depend on what Taylor does today.

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has chosen top 12 teams of the last national championship where 21 teams had taken part while the volleyball federation decided to hold their men's event for the Bangladesh Games with 10 teams from among 31 teams that participated in the last national championship.

Disciplines like kabaddi, table tennis, basketball, cycling and chess have also cut down the number of participants, depriving majority of athletes from taking part in the country's biggest sporting extravaganza whereas pre-planned measures from BOA could have ensured their participation in all disciplines.

"It is not possible to ensure the participation of all affiliated bodies in the Bangladesh Games with the budget that the BOA allotted for us," said a hockey official yesterday, seeking anonymity.

He however believes that ensuring mass participation could have been ensured if BOA had instructed respective federations to manage their own sponsors to carry out a part of the expenditure.

An organiser informed that he was forced to keep four to five teams out of his discipline due to budget constraint even though those teams had a great enthusiasm to take part in the Bangladesh Games which is being held after 11 years.

The newly-elected committee of BOA, which has been in place for only two and a half months in office, has hurriedly arranged the Bangladesh Games, giving different federations little time to react which ultimately turned the games into an academic affair.

CAS rejects Butt, Asif's ban appeals

AFP, Geneva

The Court of Arbitration for Sport on Wednesday said that it had rejected appeals against spot-fixing bans filed by disgraced former Pakistan cricket captain Salman Butt and fast bowler Mohammad Asif.

"The Court of Arbitration for Sport [CAS] has dismissed the appeals filed by the Pakistani cricket players Mohammad Asif and Salman Butt against the decisions taken by the International Cricket Council Tribunal on 5 February 2011," it said in a statement. The two players had turned to the Swiss-based CAS in a last-ditch attempt to have their bans voided, saying they were desperate to return to the game they love.

Butt and two of his fast bowlers, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer, were all banned by the ICC in 2011.

CRYPTOQUIP

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