

India snub unethical

BISHWAJIT ROY

The news the other day that next-door neighbours India will not host Bangladesh till March 2017 has shocked the cricket fraternity in the country, if not saddened them at length. India are the only country among the ICC's elite members who are yet to invite the Tigers for a full-fledged series, even though they played the part of well-wishers when Bangladesh became the newest Test nation by playing the inaugural Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in November 2000.

It was a source of pain for many when an Indian newspaper quoted an official of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as saying: "Who will come to watch Bangladesh play in India?" The hurt is justified because the comment has been delivered at a time when Bangladesh, with its performances over the last three years, have shown genuine improvement.

It is hard to believe that ardent cricket followers in India will not love to watch batsmen like Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim, proven world-class all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and the young Mominul Haque. As a team the Tigers have achieved maturity through their recent good showings not only at home but also in Sri Lanka, where it is always a tough task for visitors to crack the Lanka nut, and have given the impression that they have moved far beyond the tag of the 'whipping boys' of international cricket.

At this stage it is natural to ask that if sides like West Indies and New Zealand -- who are not the biggest commercial draws -- have been invited, then why not Bangladesh? More importantly, one might question the fairness in a team being summarily dismissed without even being given an opportunity to prove their worth.

While it may seem from the sentiments expressed so far that Bangladesh are desperate for a tour of India; that is in fact not entirely true. It is not that it is India that the Tigers are being deprived of, but in the wider perspective they are being deprived of the right to exhibit their talent on every stage available -- a right that is inalienable as a full member of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

ICC is the custodian of the game and it is their duty to create a semblance of equality among the member countries. If a new team like Bangladesh are not allowed to play against top-ranked sides in different conditions then their development as a team will be stunted. It was not too long ago that each country had a right to play a home and away series on equal basis under the Future Tours Programme (FTP). India however, as the powerhouse of international cricket, flexed their muscles to amend the FTP to fit their own purpose, which in other words is a maximisation of profit. It might be understandable that India, as just one of the ICC members, prioritise the commercial aspect, but the ICC simply cannot follow suit if they honestly believe that each member board has equal rights.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon and his predecessor AHM Mustafa Kamal -- now vice-president of the ICC -- have expressed their optimism about the tour on several occasions. But the Indians' repeated refusal only shows that the Bangladesh duo does not have a voice powerful enough either to convince India of their responsibility as a fellow member or to impress upon the ICC the importance of the global governing body's intervention in the matter to prove that they are more than a rubber-stamp organisation.



PHOTO: STAR

Abahani's Ghanaian hattrick star Osei Morison (L) storms past Rahmatganj players in the opening match of the Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

India take 1-0 lead

PTI, Kochi

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma hit sparkling half-centuries as a clinical India continued their domination over West Indies by thrashing the visitors by six wickets in the opening ODI of the three-match series, here on Thursday.

Asked to bowl, spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Suresh Raina exploited the low and slow conditions of the Nehru Stadium wicket effectively to bundle out West Indies for a meagre 211 in 48.5 overs. Kohli then smashed 86 off 84 balls, while Rohit made 72 off 81 balls.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 211 all out in 48.5 overs (Charles 42, Samuels 24, Darren Bravo 59, Simmons 29, Dwayne Bravo 24, Holder 16 not out; Jadeja 3-37, Raina 3-34, Ashwin 2-42)

INDIA: 212 for 4 in 35.2 overs (Sharma 72, Kohli 86; Holder 2-48)

Result: India won by 6 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli.

Easy sailing for Abahani, Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



Title contenders Abahani and tournament-favourite Sheikh Jamal DC started their campaigns of the Walton Federation Cup in fashion after notching up comprehensive wins over their respective rivals on the opening day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A hattrick from Ghanaian hitman Osei Morison powered Abahani to an easy 3-0 win over Rahmatganj MFS before a brace from Haitian Sony Norde gave star-studded Sheikh Jamal a 2-0 win over promoted Uttar Baridhara Club under the floodlight.

Before the opening matches, the focus was on record-signing Norde, who arguably helped Sheikh Russel KC single-handedly win three trophies last season and the impact on Abahani following the sacking of Australian coach before their season's first match.

Sony justified Sheikh Jamal's record spending 75,000 USDs behind him after firing twice, while Abahani sailed over the minor hurdle of Rahmatganj without facing any trouble but truth be told, both of the giants could hardly look slow, possibly due to his bulky physique.

"It's a good game. The consequence is tough because I just came here five days ago and I'm not 100 percent fit. I only tried to suit in the game," said Morison. "The club didn't set any target for me but it is my duty to give the best to my team."

With a three-month preparation and three practice matches, Sheikh Jamal were expected to showcase their spirited performance against Baridhara, who despite the defeat managed to earn some praise from the spectators with their brave moves and crisp passing football.

Norde converted a spot kick in the 23rd minute after being bought down inside the danger area by Mahmudullah Dalim and two minutes later, Norde rounded off goalkeeper Osman Gani to double the lead after availing a nice through-pass from Shohel Rana, who was sent off after 73 minutes.

The second day of the Federation cup will see Team BJMC take on Police and later Sheikh Russel take on Chittagong Abahani today.

Brazilian, hardly faced any trouble from the opponents throughout the game but there was something lacking in Abahani's performance against the Rahmatganj side, playing without any foreign players.

However, Ghanaian forward Osei Morison, the highest scorer in last season's professional football league, proved why he was roped in by Abahani from archrivals Mohammedan after slotting a brilliant hattrick, scoring in the 17th, 42nd and 77th minutes respectively.

Abahani also fielded a Brazilian midfielder Luiz Rumolo De Castro along with their old guard Cameroonian Yoko Samnick and the Brazilian displayed his skill and sense in his first move sending a nice through-pass to the left-winger Towhid Alam who manager to spoil the sitter but Castro looked slow, possibly due to his bulky physique.

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FIFA World Cup Under the Crown

SPORTS REPORTER

With the 2014 FIFA World Cup less than a year away, soft drinks giant Coca-Cola is about to kick off the fever through their biggest marketing campaign in Bangladesh titled 'Under the Crown'.

Through the promotion, valid from November 1 to December 14, Coca-Cola is giving the country's football fans an exclusive opportunity to win tickets to the FIFA World Cup Trophy tour in Bangladesh scheduled to take place over December 17-19.

Consumers have to buy 200 ml, 250 ml, 400 ml, 500 ml and 600 ml Coca-Cola glass or PET bottles with FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour labels on them and SMS the unique code under the crown of the bottle to 9934 to participate.

4500 lucky winners will get the chance to be at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on December 18 to see the solid gold trophy on its first tour of Bangladesh. According to Coca-Cola Bangladesh's country manager, participating in the 'Under the Crown' campaign is the only way to get tickets to the sighting of the iconic trophy. Each winner will get two passes.

Proteas win rain-hit first T20I

AFP, Johannesburg

A surprise bowling change brought a key wicket and was a crucial factor as South Africa beat Pakistan in a rain-affected first Twenty20 international at the Wanderers Stadium on Wednesday.

Shortly before a storm broke over the stadium, South African captain Faf du Plessis called up JP Duminy to bowl his off-spinners, and Duminy caught Nasir Jamshed off his own bowling with his third delivery.

Only ten more deliveries were possible before play was halted. Pakistan were 60 for two after 9.1 overs, four runs short of a revised par score after South Africa made 153 for seven in their 20 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 153 for 7 in 20 overs (De Kock 43, Amla 31, Du Plessis 22, Miller 19 not out; Hafeez 2-25, Junaid 2-24)

PAKISTAN: 60 for 2 in 9.1 overs (Jamshed 18, Hafeez 13 not out; Tsotsobe 1-19, Morkel 1-10, Duminy 1-3)

Result: South Africa won by 4 runs (Duckworth



Broad puts Eng on top

AFP, Brisbane

England's Stuart Broad hit back at boozing fans with a devastating five-wicket haul Thursday but Brad Haddin's fighting knock kept Australian hopes alive in a compelling start to the Ashes Tests.

Wicketkeeper Haddin and Mitchell Johnson came to the rescue after Broad, loud boos ringing in his ears at Brisbane's Gabba ground, ripped through Australia's top order on day one.

The pair combined in a counter-punching 114-run stand for the seventh wicket before the outstanding Broad bowled Johnson (64) with the second new ball for his fifth wicket of the innings.

Just before stumps, Australia lost another wicket when Peter Siddle was caught in the slips for seven off James Anderson.

At the close, Australia were 273 for eight and well short of what skipper Michael Clarke would have expected after winning the toss, with Haddin unbeaten on 78 and Ryan Harris not out four.

Haddin made his 13th Test half-century as runs came easily in the last session. Johnson racked up his eighth Test 50 with a booming boundary before Broad had the last word.

Had it not been for Haddin and Johnson's fightback, Australia would have been in a parlous state after Broad struck twice in the morning session and twice more after lunch to have the home side teetering on 132 for six.

Broad, who was vilified in the build-up to the series for not walking at a key moment during the summer's Ashes Tests in England, was unconcerned at his bad-boy role.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Rogers c Bell b Broad 1

Warner c Pietersen b Broad 49

Watson c Swann b Broad 22

Clarke c Bell b Broad 1

Smith c Cook b Tremlett 31

Bailey c Cook b Anderson 3

Haddin not out 78

Johnson b Broad 64

Siddle c Cook b Anderson 7

Harris not out 4

Extras: (lb-11, w-1, nb-1) 13

Total: (For 8 wkts in 90 overs) 273

To bat: Lyon

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-71, 3-73, 4-83, 5-100, 6-132, 7-246, 8-265

Bowler O M R W

Anderson 22 5 61 2

Broad 20 3 65 5

Tremlett 19 3 51 1

Swann 26 4 80 0

Root 3 1 5 0

ENGLAND: Cook, Carberry, Trott, Pietersen, Bell, Root, Prior, Broad, Swann, Tremlett, Anderson.

Toss: Australia

Siddikur in mid-table

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's ace golfer Siddikur Rahman underwent a harsh initiation to the ISPS HANDA World Cup of Golf, but managed to keep his head above water by finishing the first round in joint 32nd position at the Royal Melbourne Club in Australia yesterday.

Siddikur is the first Bangladeshi to participate in the biennial event, becoming one of 13 Asian golfers and 60 from around the world to contest the 8-million-dollar global tournament.

As Siddikur wallowed in mid-table, the day was seized by Denmark's Thomas Bjorn and USA's Kevin Streelman who shared the clubhouse lead after the first round with a pair of five-under-par 66s. Stuart Manley of Wales, Martin Laird of Scotland and Choi K J of Korea -- tied for third place with four-under-par -- make up the top five. Bjorn had to overcome a double bogey in the fourth hole. He did that in style by playing consistently and sinking six birdies.

Siddikur, whose recent aggressive intent saw him win a second Asian Tour title at the Hero Indian Open, could not muster a similar recovery. After rounding off the front nine with two birdies in the first and sixth holes and a bogey in the ninth, things quickly went downhill for the 29-year-old. He hit a triple-bogey in the 12th and followed that with a double bogey in the 13th. He pulled things back a little after that with birdies in the 14th and 18th holes to finish on two-over-par 73, seven shots behind the leaders.

Looks like market on last day

SPORTS REPORTER

The week-long inter-club hockey players' transfer ended yesterday at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium with Mohammedan, Dhaka Mariner Youngs, Wari Club and Bangladesh Sporting Club staying off the market as per their stance of not taking part in any hockey activities under the existing committee.

However, Abahani, Usha KC, Sadharan Bima, Sonali Bank, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Azad Sporting Club

and Ajax Sporting Club completed their registration formalities on the concluding day, with a total of 55 players taking part in the transfers while 43 of them decided on the final day alone.

Usha signed up national players Mamanur Rahman Chayan, Krishna Kumar, Tapash Barman, Rimon Kumar along with national discard Habul, Jahid Bin Talib and seven players from BKSP while Abahani roped in Moshiur Rahman Biplob, Mohammad Nannu, Ashim Ghop, Hasan Jubair, Khorshedur Rahman, Shitul, Rummon Sarker, Musa Mia, Khandokar Hasan and Aduzzaman Chandan are serving different suspension terms while Moinul Islam Koushik, Sarwar Hossain and Pushkor Khisha Mino did not sign for any club.

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