

BCB should think twice

SPORTS REPORTER



If you take public interest as the yardstick to market the sport of cricket, then the just-concluded three-match T20 Challenge Series between the Bangladesh national team and the A team could be a very good example.

It was simply a preparation tournament involving the country's top players but still got the attention of the fans, who came in numbers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, and got maximum coverage on the media as well.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) tried their best to give it a competitive mood as they even handed over a trophy to the winning team -- the Nasir Hossain-led A team -- after the third and final game yesterday, but what might not have been in the minds of the organisers was its commercial value.

Many were of the opinion that the board could have tried to negotiate with a TV channel for provide live coverage. But one has to be proactive rather than only performing the routines at the board to see this kind of an opportunity from a boarder perspective.

Kazi Inam Ahmed, the new chairman of the marketing and commercial committee, however pointed out the time factor behind the failure.

"The tournament was arranged at a short notice and you know you have to have enough time for brining any sponsor. Anyway, we are now discussing another T20 tournament with four teams and hopefully we can do something for this tournament," said Inam, a young organiser who has been handed the demanding job in his first go as a director.

"My main challenge however is to sign a long-term TV rights deal because it's one of our main sources of income. We have already decided to sale the TV rights for the coming Sri Lanka series separately, but after that we will make a long-term deal. I want to make sure that I do not make the same mistakes that we did in the past," he added.

Cricket is not only the leading sport in the country but also a lucrative commodity, but many have doubts whether the BCB can fully capitalise on it. Now everybody will be looking forward to seeing whether a newcomer like Inam can make a difference.



Bangladesh A team's Mominul Haque, who hammered 55 off 23 balls, pulls one on the onside during the third match of the T20 Challenge Series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

A whitewash for nationals

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Blazing innings from Mithun Ali and Mominul Haque helped Bangladesh A complete a 3-0 whitewash of the Bangladesh national team in the T20 Challenge Series after the second-string side comfortably chased down the nationals' total of 188 with eight wickets and 3.3 overs remaining in the final T20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday.

On a batting paradise at Mirpur, the A team began their chase with two new openers at the crease -- Mominul Haque (55 off 23) and Marshall Ayub. The pair raced to 50 runs in just 26 balls and scored 74 runs in the first six overs.

Ayub (25 off 20) was caught at mid-off soon after off Al Amin Hossain. Mominul though continued his onslaught and reached his 50 off just 19 balls with a thumping six over fine-leg. He hit nine fours and two sixes in his innings, which included an over where he elegantly dispatched Abdur Razzak for 20 runs. The left-hander got out in the ninth over.

Despite the fall of the openers, Mithun (67 off 30) and Sabbir Rahman (37 off 27) ensured that there were no further hiccups as the third wicket pair's 103-run stand off 51 balls completed the whitewash in style.

Mithun was in no mood to wait as he hammered six sixes and three fours in his

30-ball innings. Some of his sixes reached the stands and depicted the sheer power that the 23-year-old possesses. He finished the game in sublime fashion by lofting Al Amin for a six over long-on.

Earlier, the national team, after losing quick wickets were revived by some good hitting from Shamsur Rahman (37 off 12) and Mushfiquir Rahim (38 off 24) and ended up posting a healthy 77 for 3 at the end of the first power play. Shamsur hit three sixes and four fours in his short stint, whereas captain Mushfiquir smacked two sixes and four fours.

The pair scored 55 runs in 3.1 overs. However, both batsmen failed to carry on with their overtly aggressive technique and were sent back to the pavilion midway through the match.

In a similar trend to the previous matches the national team lost control of the game in the middle overs. In between overs 11 and 17, the main team lost six wickets -- almost all of which were gifted, courtesy of some ill-timed shots -- and were in a precarious 148 for 9.

However, a late blitz from Razzak, who hammered a 15-ball 36, saved the national team's blushes. He hit three sixes and three fours as the last wicket stand amounted to 40 runs off just 19 balls.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: 188 for 9 in 20 overs (Mushfiquir 38, Shamsur 37, Razzak 36 not out; Muktar 3-21, Elias 2-33)

BANGLADESH A: 190 for 2 16.3 overs (Mithun 67, Mominul 55, Sabbir 37; Al Amin 2-28)

Result: Bangladesh A won by 8 wickets and won the 3-game series 3-0.

V-DAY SPORTS

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PARADISE RULE

Ripon and Rahima won the men's and women's singles titles respectively of the Blazer BD Victory Day Open TT Champions, which concluded at the Indoor Stadium in Paltan yesterday. Ripon of the Paradise defeated his teammate Shahed by 4-0 sets in the final. Rahima won all her four matches . Paradise Club won the team event title beating Sreepur Club.

MUSHTAQE-JEWEL XI'S NAMED

The traditional Victory Day cricket match between Shaheed Jewel XI and Shaheed Mushtaque XI will take place at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium tomorrow.

SHAHEED JEWEL XI: Naeem (captain), Shamsur, Anamul, Enakibul, Soumya, Junaed Siddiqui, Forhad, Elias, Muktar Ali, Robiul, Sajedul, Arafat Sunny and Mehrab.

SHAHEED MUSHTAQE XI: Shahriar Nafees (captain), Imrul, Mominul, Marshall, Saikat, Sabbir, Mithun, Shohag Reza, Enamul, Alauddin Babu, Shuvashish, Shahadat and Sanjamul.

ARMY, PDB IN FINAL

Defending champions Bangladesh Army and Power Development Board moved into the final of the Walton LED TV Victory Day Volleyball tournament yesterday. Army defeated Titas Gas by 25-13, 25-13, 25-17 points in the first semifinal while PDB defeated Bangladesh Air Force by 25-22, 19-25, 25-16, 25-21 points, at the Paltan Volleyball Stadium, to book their berths for tomorrow's final.

USHA, AZAD WIN

Usha Kirra Chakra and Azad Sporting Club won their respective matches on the opening day of the Victory Day Hockey Competition at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. Usha defeated Bangladesh Police by 4-2 goals while Azad Sporting blanked Bangladesh Air Force 3-0.

T20s a cause for concern

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Bangladesh A were always expected to put up a fight against the national team in the 3-match T20 Challenge Series which ended yesterday. However, the final result -- which saw the second-string side amble to a 3-0 whitewash -- was something not many would have expected.

What the result of the practice series does indicate is that there are a number of issues in this format of the game that need to be addressed.

According to captain Mushfiquir Rahim, the national team's bowling was the most disappointing aspect of the series. Speaking to reporters at Mirpur yesterday, he said, "It was definitely disappointing to have lost the series. It was quite one-sided. On the whole I think the one major concern of the series was our bowling."

"We asked the management to prepare flat pitches to put more pressure on the bowlers. We wanted to see if they could minimise the run-flow in such conditions," he added.

While the national team got 150-plus scores in each of the three

games, their bowlers failed to perform accordingly.

"In such conditions the bowlers need to learn how to bowl the bouncers and yorkers to precision. We have enough time before the World Cup. So we need to practise and execute these things well," said Mushfiquir.

While Mushfiquir was concerned about his bowlers, newly-appointed

"I thought the players in the national team were a lot more relaxed in general, because this is just a practice series. But those who were playing for the A team gave their 100 per cent because they need to get into the team."

Nasir Hossain

chief selector Faruque Ahmed was critical of the team's batting planning. In each of the three matches, the national team made good starts but lost their way in the middle overs. It was something that Faruque was concerned about.

"The national team's batting plan was not up to the mark and still

needs to improve a lot more. In 50 overs there is a pattern followed, but in T20 cricket most of the teams tend to go with the motion and that's why you end up losing five to six wickets suddenly," said Faruque. "The only way we can understand that plan and improve on it is by playing more games," he added.

He however, was not perturbed by the 3-0 score-line as he felt that both teams were quite competitive. "It was like two national teams playing against each other, because there were a number of players in the A team who had only recently played in the national side. And also they had Nasir Hossain and Mominul Haque to support them. They played good hard cricket."

One of Faruque's most important assignments next year will be to form a well-balanced Twenty20 team for the World Cup, for which, according to Faruque, new players are in contention.

"There are definitely few new faces who will be in contention. Sabbir Rahman, for instance, played well in the last two BPLs and he is one of them. We don't have too many T20 specialists, he fields well, bowls leg-spinners apart from

Lanka win to remain atop

AFP, Dubai



Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal said his team were over the moon on keeping their world number one status intact with a win against Pakistan in the second Twenty20 in Dubai on Friday.

The 24-run win levelled the two-match series 1-1 and dashed Pakistan's hopes of replacing Sri Lanka as the number one team in the Twenty20 rankings.

Chandimal said his team showed great resolve in their comeback win after losing the first match, which was also in Dubai, by three wickets. Openers Kusal Perera (59-ball 84) and Tillakaratne Dilshan (33-ball 48) set the platform for a big 211-3 total, putting up 100 by the 12th over.

Seekkuge Prasanna, playing his first Twenty20, hit an aggressive eight-ball 21 while the experienced Kumar Sangakkara gave the final touches with a rapid 21-ball 44.

Pakistan were on course for achieving the target at 83-3 but lost Sharjeel Khan (50), Umar Akmal, Umar Amin and Bilawal Bhatti (all three without scoring) in the space of seven balls and two runs. They were eventually bowled out for 187 in 19.2 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 211 for 3 in 20 overs (K Perera 84, Dilshan 48, Sangakkara 44 not out; Prasanna 21; Ajmal 2-25)

PAKISTAN: 187 all out in 19.2 overs (Sharjeel 50, Tanvir 41, Afridi 28, Ajmal 20, Maqsood 15; Senanayake 3-27, Kulasekara 2-23, Thisara 2-36, Prasanna 2-45)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 24 runs and share the 2-match series 1-1.

Player-of-the-match: Kusal Perera.

Player-of-the-series: Shahid Afridi.

Int'l GM chess

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FM Debaraj Chatterjee became 62nd with 4.5 points while Sharif Hossain became 77th with 3.5 points in the SREI International Grandmaster Chess Tournament in Kolkata. Zoar Haque Prodhon became 88th while Saidul Islam Masum became 89th with 3 points each.

London Classic

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Grand Master Ziaur Rahman was sharing the third position along with 17 others with five points after the seventh round of the 5th London Chess Classic FIDE Open which is being held in London. Zia drew his seventh round game against French GM Tigran Gharamian.

Cup tour details revealed

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The FIFA World Cup trophy, which is making its journey around the world and is currently in United Arab Emirates, will be arriving in Dhaka on a special Coca Cola plane on December 17 before leaving for Bhutan on December 20.

To celebrate the arrival of the original coveted trophy, the Bangladesh Football Federation, which has formed three committees under the organizing committee to work closely with Coca Cola, yesterday announced the details of the trophy tour at a press conference at its Motijheel headquarters.

Coca Cola, the soft drink giant, is bringing the original World Cup for the first time in the country.

"The trophy will arrive approximately at 1:06pm on Tuesday by a special plane of Coca Cola and FIFA before being taken to Hotel Raddison for a session with the media and stakeholders. The trophy will be on show at the Bangabandhu National Stadium for the next two days. 15,000 ticket holders will be eligible to witness the event. Around 9000 of them will be selected from Coca Cola's campaign and another 6000

stakeholders will receive complementary tickets," said Debashish Deb, country head of Coca Cola Far East Limited.

Debashish also informed that a Bangla version of the World Cup theme song, 'The World is ours' by Brazilian singer David Correy, is being produced by musician Fuad Al Muqtadir and a competition in currently going on to find out a singer to sing the Bangla version. Debashish also said they are trying to insert a line of the Bangla song into the original song.

When asked why a former World Cup winner is not coming with the trophy as some of them are travelling elsewhere, Debashish said since this is the first time the trophy will arrive here, the trophy itself is the biggest icon here.

The organizing committee said they are working out whether President Abdul Hamid will receive the trophy at the airport or will the trophy be taken to the President's Banbhabhan office.

"We will be giving VVIP protocol for the trophy and Police, RAB, NSI, DGEI will be associated to ensure its security," informed security committee chairman Sheikh Mohammad Maruf Hasan.

Members of the organising committee, representatives of Coca Cola and partners Interspeed and Masthead PR were also present at the press conference.

'Sony pulled the crowd'

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A day after Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club won the Federation Cup its president Manzur Kader, who instantly announced Tk 10-lakh bonus after the final, said this success will encourage him to form better squads for future.

"I am happy as we built a team for success and my team delivered on the promise," said Kader whose side won the final 1-0 against Muktiyoddha.

He also observed it's not absolutely necessary to have a Mohammedan or an Abahani to draw a good crowd.

"We have a star in Sony Norde who pulled the crowd to the stadium," said kader.

Although both Mohammedan and Abahani departed before the semifinals of the competition, the star value of Sheikh Jamal did pull a decent crowd all through the tournament.

গভীর শ্রদ্ধায় স্মরণ করি

আজ ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৩ রোজ রবিবার বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ভাইস-চ্যান্সেলর এবং মোহাম্মদপুর প্রিপারেটরি উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান মরহুম কাজী আজহার আলীর চতুর্থ মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী। ২০০৯ সালে এই দিনে তিনি বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেন। তাঁর মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে আগামীকাল ১৬ ডিসেম্বর বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকায় বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি মিলনায়তনে (১৫/১ ইকবাল রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা) মরহুমের কর্মময় জীবনের উপর আলোচনা ও দোয়া মাহ্ফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। উক্ত আলোচনা ও দোয়া মাহ্ফিলে মরহুমের বন্ধু-বান্ধব, আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদের উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি-পরিবারবর্গ