

BD A end tour on losing note

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A ended their disastrous tour of the West Indies on a losing note as they were thumped by eight wickets by the West Indies High Performance Squad in the second T20 at the Three Ws Oval yesterday.

The win helped the hosts level the two-match T20 series 1-1.

After being sent in to bat Bangladesh posted a below-par 125. After losing opener Nurul Hasan in the first over, the visitors fought back with a 54-run stand between Imrul Kayes (29) and Shuvagata Hom (25) in six overs. However, Kayes and Hom were sent back soon after the Powerplay and the second-string side could not recover from the double blow. Sheldon Cottrell, who finished with figures of three for 19, was the pick of the bowlers.

The hosts' chase was powered by a 31-ball 53 from Jonathan Carter who guided his side home easily in 15.3 overs. They lost two wickets, both two Shafiu Islam, who finished with decent figures of 2 for 19 in three.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BD A: 125 for 7 (Imrul 29; Cottrell 3-19)

WI HPS: 126 for 2 in 15.3 overs (Carter 53 not out, Fletcher 44; Shafiu 2-19)
Result: West Indies HPS won by eight wickets.

Schumacher out of coma

AFP, Lyon

Formula One champion Michael Schumacher is out of a coma and has left the French hospital treating him since a devastating ski accident in December, his spokeswoman said Monday.

"Michael has left the CHU Grenoble (hospital) to continue his long phase of rehabilitation. He is not in a coma anymore," Sabine Kehm said in a statement.



PHOTO: STAR

DEFLATED? Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan yet again finds himself in the eye of the disciplinary storm as he contemplates a difficult challenge ahead during a break in training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, ahead of today's second ODI against India.

SL hold on for thrilling draw

AFP, London



Sri Lanka tail-ender Nuwan Pradeep survived the final five balls of the match as the tourists clung on for a thrilling draw with England in the first Test at Lord's on Monday.

England thought they'd won when Stuart Broad had Pradeep given out lbw off the penultimate ball of the match. But the batsman reviewed Australian umpire Paul Reiffel's decision and, with technology showing an inside edge, he was reprieved.

Sri Lanka, set 390 to win after England captain Alastair Cook declared before the start of Monday's play, finished on 201 for nine.

The match was meandering towards a draw until James Anderson struck either side of tea on way to a remarkable return of four wickets for 25 runs

in 19 overs. The teams are all-square ahead of Friday's second and final Test of the series at Headingley.

Sri Lanka appeared in little danger at 159 for two until Anderson took three wickets in 14 balls either side of tea. First he had Mahela Jayawardene caught behind for 18, hanging out his bat.

And he then dismissed Kumar Sangakkara, who like Jayawardene was probably playing his last Test at Lord's, for 61 when the left-hander played on driving loosely outside off stump.

Lahiru Thirimanne fell for two, edging Anderson to second slip. Prasanna Jayawardene defied England for more than an hour-and-a-half until paceman Chris Jordan speared one into his pads, with Billy Bowden's decision overturned upon referral.

And there were just under seven overs remaining when seamer Broad had Nuwan Kulasekara lbw. Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews, who made

102 in the first innings, did his best to bat his side to safety. But after more than two hours of resistance he edged a full-length delivery from Anderson straight to first slip. England then needed two wickets in the final three overs to claim a dramatic victory.

To the very first ball of the last over Rangana Herath was caught behind off the glove by wicketkeeper Matt Prior.

Then came the fifth ball drama before Pradeep, who together with fellow tail-ender Shaminda Eranga finished on nought not out, edged the final ball short of the slips.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 575 for 9 dec and 267 for 8 dec. SRI LANKA: 453 all out and 201 for 9 (Sangakkara 61, Silva 57; Anderson 4-25, Broad 3-43, Jordan 2-34)

Result: Match drawn

Player-of-the-match: Joe Root

Feni holds Team BJMC

SPORTS REPORTER

Feni Soccer Club came from behind to play out a 1-1 draw against Team BJMC in the Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After the barren first half, Aminur provided BJMC a lead 8 minutes into the 2nd half only to be cancelled by Gambian Mathew Mendy 6 minutes from time.

With their fifth draw in 19 matches, seventh-placed BJMC raised their points tally to 20 while Feni Soccer topped Uttar Baridhara to grab the eighth position by virtue of goal difference although both teams have 12 points from 19 matches.

One more chance for Tigers

Second ODI against India today

BISHWAJIT ROY



It would be safe to say that the Tigers have provided ample food for thought for new mentor Chandika Hathurusingha during their seven-wicket defeat in the

rain-interrupted first ODI of the three-match series against an under-strength India on Sunday at Mirpur.

The immediate task for the Sri Lankan may be to motivate the team to bounce back when his boys play the do-or-die second match today at the same venue but he has to take a long look at the side -- both on and off the field -- if he wants to be successful in his first assignment as a head coach.

He will need to work hard, along with other members of the think-tank, on the top order and the ordinary bowling attack and may have to take some hard decisions ahead of next year's World Cup. As importantly, he must ensure strict discipline irrespective of name and fame, so that an unsavoury incident like the one involving Shakib Al Hasan during the first ODI is not repeated.

For today, the team management will look forward to see whether opener Tamim Iqbal regains his confidence as another failure from the left-hander will make the things difficult for them. It will come as a big relief if the Chittagonian can provide a good start in the crucial game because, as proven in the first game, the home side must put up a big total on the board if they want to challenge a batting line-up that is strong even without many of its first-choice players. The Bangladesh middle-order got runs in the first game but their effort was not good enough against an inexperienced Indian bowling attack.

To avoid the embarrassment of defeat against a second-string Indian side, the hosts' bowling unit has to perform well. The Bangladesh pace attack could hardly make any impact in defence of 272 runs, so there is a good chance to see young paceman Taskin Ahmed make his ODI debut today as the team think-tank has been considering bringing him in the side in place of all-rounder Ziaur Rahman.

But the bigger question remains over whether they will persist with struggling left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak, and if so then for how long.

Apparently the team seems to be suffering from a lack of confidence, so it may take only one win for them to turn things around. Apart from the threat from young Indian players desperate to prove their mettle, the weather may play spoilsport as the forecast is no different from that for the first ODI, with periodic downpours predicted.

Kiwis start strong

AFP, Port of Spain



Tom Latham's third consecutive half-century anchored New Zealand's promising start to the first day of the second Test against the West Indies at Queen's Park Oval on Monday.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, the tourists reached lunch on 86 for one.

Following innings of 83 and 73 in the 186-run victory in the first Test in Jamaica last week, the determined left-hander's unbeaten 51 effectively blunted the early new ball threat posed by the hosts' bowling attack.

The West Indies included one additional fast bowler as hometown paceman Shannon Gabriel replaced injured off-spinner Shane Shillingford. Latham lost his new opening partner, Hamish Rutherford when he edged a delivery from Jerome Taylor to Chris Gayle at first slip.

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