

Mushfiquir, Nasir tons power Bangladeshis

SPORTS REPORTER

Centuries from captain Mushfiquir Rahim and Nasir Hossain helped Bangladeshis put up a strong first innings score of 377 for 7 in the three-day practice match against St Kitts and Nevis at Warner Park in St Kitts yesterday.

In reply, St Kitts and Nevis were 144-2 in 37 overs with Jeffers hitting an unbeaten 110 and Chanderpaul 14 not out. Medium pacer Rubel Hussain with figure of 11-0-65-1 is the lone successful bowler. He had Martina (9) smartly caught by Mushfiquir Rahim when the score was 77.

The Mushfiquir-Nasir pair shared a 191-run stand for the seventh wicket which helped the Tigers recover from early hiccups. The partnership ended with Nasir getting bowled in the 104th over. That is when Mushfiquir decided to declare. Earlier the Tigers had finished the first day on 330 for 6 on Saturday.

The match, being played with 13 members-per-side, saw Bangladesh field all their available batsmen. However the Bangladeshis only got a move on after the arrival of Mushfiquir and Nasir, who came in at seven and eight respectively. Mushfiquir finished on an unbeaten 106, while Nasir was bowled immediately after reaching his century yesterday.

After electing to bat in rainy conditions, Bangladesh's top-order stumbled quickly. It was a much needed partnership for the visitors who were struggling at 186 for 6. Both players batted at a similar pace. While Mushfiquir scored three sixes and seven fours, Nasir hit nine fours and two sixes.

Despite ending the first innings on a positive note, Bangladesh's batting display depicted plenty of concerns.

Shamsur Rahman was the first to go for 10 after he was caught behind off Quinton Boatswain in the fourth over. Tamim Iqbal followed next after scoring 20 runs, in similar fashion and the Tigers were reduced to 45 for 2 at the end of 15 overs.

Mominul Haque's torrid time with the bat continued as he edged one to second slip and was sent back to the pavilion for just 10 runs. Perhaps the frustrating aspect

about the left-hander's departure was that he was dropped in the slips just an over before his eventual dismissal.

Imrul Kayes and Shuvagata Hom lost their wickets in the forties after settling in. Imrul became Boatswain's second victim and was sent back to the pavilion after a 60-ball 44. Shuvagata, who is hoping to make his Test debut in this series, played a similarly aggressive innings. He scored eight boundaries in his 55-ball 48

before being run out in the 54th over. Anamul Haque was the only specialist batsman not to get a chance to bat in the first innings. A traditional opener, the team management may play Anamul down the order in a move that was never tried before.

Pacer Al-Amin Hossain is the only member in the squad not taking part in this three-day game. Pacers Rubel Hossain, Shafiu Islam and Robiul Islam have been included in the side and will have their first go in this three-dayer. Slow-left armer Taijul Islam is the only specialist spinner in the side.

The first Test between the two sides will begin on September 5 at St Vincent.



Bangladesh skipper Mushfiquir Rahim hits one over the top during the first day's play of the three-day practice match against St Kitts and Nevis at St Kitts on Saturday.

PHOTO: WTCB

Ansar sweep boxing titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar emerged champions in both the men's and women's category of the Walton Refrigerator 13th Intermediate Men's and 1st Junior Women's Boxing Championship which concluded at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium in Paltan yesterday.

In the men's group, Ansar won four gold and one silver medal to emerge champions while BKSP won two gold and one silver medal to finish as runners-up.

In the women's group, Ansar became champions by winning four gold and one bronze medal while Golabaria Jubo Sangsad became second by dint of winning one gold medal.

Ansar's Shamima Akter was adjudged best female boxer while BKSP's Azharul Islam was adjudged best male boxer of the championship.

Zimbabwe end 31-year wait

AGENCIES, Harare



Captain Elton Chigumbura hit a fluent half-century as Zimbabwe secured a famous three-wicket win over Australia, only their second ever victory over the four-times world champions, in the triangular series on Sunday.

After electing to bat, Australia were restricted to 209 for nine in their 50 overs, a target Zimbabwe reached with two overs to spare as Chigumbura

finished unbeaten on 52.

Zimbabwe's only previous win over the Australians was at Trent Bridge in the 1983 World Cup.

In the 30th ODI meeting between these sides, Zimbabwe did what they had not for 31 years and beat Australia. The captain Elton Chigumbura engineered the chase that changed 11,406 days of history, after his spinners had applied a stranglehold that kept Australia to their lowest total against Zimbabwe, and achieved only their second win against them.

Chigumbura's opposite number, Michael Clarke, battled a hamstring niggle to hold his side together on a spin-friendly surface, on which none of the other Australian batsmen settled. But Zimbabwe's challenge was always going to be chasing a total over 200 - they were dismissed for less in their last four ODIs - and when Nathan Lyon picked up career-best figures and they were reduced to 156 for 7, another collapse seemed likely. A 55-run stand between Chigumbura and Prosper Utseya for the eighth

wicket ensured Zimbabwe did not fold and sent Harare Sports Club into frenzied celebration.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 209 for 9 in 50 overs (Clarke 68 not out, Marsh 15, Haddin 49, Cutting 26; Utseya 2-45, Tiripano 2-34, Williams 2-21) ZIMBABWE: 211 for 7 in 48 overs (Raza 22, Masakadza 18, Taylor 32, Chigumbura 52 not out, Utseya 30 not out; Starc 2-41, Lyon 4-44) Result: Zimbabwe won by 3 wickets. Player-of-the-match: Elton Chigumbura.

Clarke ruled out of tri-series

REUTERS, Harare

Australia's dismal day got worse when captain Michael Clarke revealed on Sunday that he would take no further part in the triangular series against Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Clarke will head back to Australia after a recurrence of a hamstring injury that ruled him out of the first two games and which will raise questions over his selection for the third.

As it turned out he was the mainstay of his side's batting effort in the shock three-wicket loss to Zimbabwe, scoring an unbeaten 68 in a paltry total 209 for nine.

That score may have been boosted had he not retired hurt in the 43rd over, no longer able to bear the pain. He returned with two balls left in the innings at the fall of the ninth wicket to ensure his side could complete their overs.

"The hamstring is not great, I've done it again," Clarke said at the post-match presentation. "I will be on a plane back to Australia in the next 24 hours to try and get it sorted out."

Rajasthan & BCCI at loggerheads

CRICINFO, Mumbai

The stand-off between the Indian cricket board and the Rajasthan Cricket Association has left players from the state unsure about their future. When publishing their domestic programme, the board had omitted Rajasthan from Ranji Trophy, women's tournaments and all age categories.

Robin Bist, the 26-year-old who was top-scorer for Rajasthan last season, had been contemplating a promotion to the national squad and was surprised with the developments.



Zimbabwe captain Elton Chigumbura is mobbed by his teammates after their famous three-wicket win against Australia at the Harare Sports Club yesterday. It was Zimbabwe's first ODI victory against the Aussies after 31 years.

PHOTO: AFP

Defeat sparks Pak World Cup worry

AFP, Karachi



Former cricket greats said Sunday they fear Pakistan's one-day defeat in Sri Lanka will hurt preparations for the World Cup just five months away.

Pakistan were beaten by seven wickets in the third and final one-day international against Sri Lanka in Dambulla on Saturday after being bowled for a mere 102, losing the three-match series 2-1.

They also lost the preceding two-match Test series 2-0.

Rameez Raja, who took the catch that won Pakistan the 1992 World Cup, criticised preparations for next year's tournament.

"I don't think team's preparations for the World Cup are in the right direction," the former skipper said. "We need to find new talent if we want to succeed."

"It seems our batsmen have forgotten how to stay at the wicket and no one has consistency in his performance."

Former captain Rashid Latif said the one-day defeat would hurt World Cup

preparations.

"The Pakistan cricket board relied on old players for the last two years in their preparations for the World Cup and they simply don't trust young players -- and that's why our [performance] graph is going down with every series," he told AFP.

Latif said he feared Misbahul Haq, appointed captain until the World Cup, would come under pressure.

"I think Misbah's future is in doubt. He didn't perform in seven innings of the tour and his captaincy was defensive," said Latif of the one-day and Test captain.

Misbah managed just 67 in two Tests and as many runs in three one-day matches.

Pakistan next play a Twenty20 International, two Tests and three one-day internationals against Australia in the United Arab Emirates in October, before taking on New Zealand in three Tests, five one-dayers and two T20s.

"Maybe Shahid Afridi will replace Misbah as one-day captain," said Latif, who thought four to five players may be changed for the next series.

Another former captain, Mohammad Yousuf, also criticised Misbah's captaincy.

INDIA T20I England call up Roy

AFP, Nottingham

Uncapped South African-born batsman Jason Roy was included in the 14-man England squad announced Sunday for next weekend's one-off Twenty20 International against India at Edgbaston.

The 24-year-old rising star was selected after topping the run-charts in this season's domestic T20 competition with 677 runs at an average of 48.35 and a strike rate of nearly 160.

The Surrey batsman was joined in the squad for next Sunday's match at Edgbaston by three other players not yet involved in the ongoing one-day series with India.

All-rounder Ravi Bopara, surprisingly omitted from the ODI squad, was included with experienced Yorkshire seamer Tim Bresnan and Nottinghamshire batsman James Taylor also selected.

Novak, Andy could collide

AFP, New York



Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray stayed on course for a mouth-watering US Open quarter-final showdown Saturday as five-time women's champion Serena Williams stood alone as America's last singles title hope.

But as the heavyweights of the sport eased into the fourth round, the women's draw was blown open again when Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova became the fifth top 10 seed to exit in the first week.

Kvitova's misery was shared by American tennis after John Isner and Sam Querrey were both knocked out in the third round leaving the hosts still without a men's Grand Slam champion since Andy Roddick triumphed in New York in 2003.

Djokovic, the 2011 champion, brushed aside Querrey for the eighth time in nine meetings, with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 win taking the world number one into the fourth round at a major for the 22nd consecutive time.

"Sam is big server, very powerful. But he doesn't move that well so I wanted to keep him moving around the court, mix up the pace and get as many returns as possible back," said Djokovic after an 85-minute win which was never in doubt from the time he raced into a 5-0 lead in the first set.

Wimbledon champion and seven-time major winner Djokovic will next face Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber who ended US hopes with a 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/4) win over Isner despite the American 13th seed firing 42 aces and 77 winners.

It was the third successive year that Kohlschreiber had defeated Isner in the third round.

"It's a disappointment for me personally, not the United States as a whole," said Isner.

Williams racked up her 75th victory at the US Open when she eased past her third successive American compatriot, Uzbekistan-born left-hander Varvara Lepchenko, 6-3, 6-3 and will tackle tough Estonian Kaia Kanepi for a quarterfinal berth.

"I had to make some adjustments because of the wind but I got some excellent advice from my coach," said 32-year-old Williams, playing in her 15th US Open and aiming to become just the second woman after Chris Evert in the 1970s to win three New York titles in succession.

"My opponent played at an unbelievable level but I tried to hang in there and do what I needed to do."

Murray, the 2012 champion, hit 47 winners in a 6-1, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Russia's Andrey Kuznetsov, the world 96, to book a seventh appearance in the fourth round and goes on to face French ninth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga who beat Pablo Carreno-Busta of Spain, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Third seeded Stan Wawrinka, the Australian Open champion, reached the fourth round without hitting a ball when Slovenian opponent Blaz Kavcic withdrew with a right foot injury.

That took the number of retirements and walkovers at this year's US Open to 10 in the men's event and two in the women's.

Wawrinka next faces 16th-seeded Spaniard Tommy Robredo, a 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 winner over Australian Nick Kyrgios, who had shocked Rafael Nadal in the fourth round at Wimbledon.

Simon sends Ferrer crashing

AFP, New York

Gilles Simon send Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer crashing to his earliest US Open defeat in five years on Sunday with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 win achieved in crushing New York humidity.

The 26th seeded Simon capitalised on the 52 unforced errors of the 32-year-old Ferrer, a semi-finalist in 2007 and 2012, who appeared to struggle physically towards the end of their third-round clash, which was just 10 minutes short of three hours.

Simon, who goes on to face either Marin Cilic of Croatia or South Africa's Kevin Anderson for a place in the quarter-finals, admitted he was delighted to have got the better of Ferrer against whom he had lost five times in six meetings.

"He destroyed me five times before," said Simon, the 26th seed, one of five Frenchmen to reach the third round.

"So I just tried to stay loose and relaxed and enjoy myself on court. But I am tired. The weather forecast said it would be cooler today but it didn't feel like it."

"We ran so much and I am happy to finish in four sets because I knew that against David it would be really hard in the fifth."

Roger Federer, bidding to become the first man to win six US Open titles, takes a 2-0 career lead over Spain's Marcel Granollers into their third-round clash.

A win for the 33-year-old Swiss over the world number 42 would put him into a 14th successive fourth round at Flushing Meadows. Victory would also give him a 70th win at the tournament.

Granollers made the last-16 in 2013 where he was demolished by Novak Djokovic, winning just three games.