



Bangladesh booters tried their hardest against Australia, a team ranked 112 places higher, and for that they deserve plaudits. However, while the visitors held their own in the second-half at the Nib Stadium in Perth, their nerves in the first proved to be their undoing.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 'Gap is around hundred years'

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh football team may have a bigger margin of defeat -- a 9-0 reverse against South Korea in 1979 -- than what they conceded against reigning Asian Cup champions Australia in Perth yesterday, but the talking point from yesterday's game was the difference between the two sides.

The gulf between the sides was visible in every aspect of the game, where the Socceroos scored four goals within half-an-hour and it seemed destined to be a long night for the visitors, but they valiantly restricted the hosts to a five-nil margin in the end.

Bangladesh captain Mamunul Islam believed that his side gave their best effort on the pitch, despite the odds being stacked against them.

"Truth be told, we probably need another 100 years to perform on the pitch where we played today. It was tough for us to cope with the environment, surface of the ground and the spectators, but we tried our best to overcome those odds," said Mamunul over phone after the game.

"The margin could have been smaller had we not conceded four goals at the start," said the dejected captain. However, he still believed that his side would be able to perform against Jordan on home soil on September 8 and urged supporters to rally round them.

"We all were upset after the match, but the coach told us the result was a very good one and praised us for fighting till the end."

Assistant coach Masud Parvez Kaiser believed that playing against Australia was a big experience for this generation of footballers.

Kaiser said that the technique, speed, skill, physical advantages and approach were the major differences between the two sides.

Speaking about the extremely difficult transitional periods, Kaiser said, "Our players enjoy having a lot of time during transitions in the domestic league, but Australia had two, sometimes three players to snatch the ball from us. Initially, they looked a bit scared of Australia's attitude, but they recovered and played comparatively better in the second half."

## Defeated, not disgraced

AL-AMIN



So it's a 5-0 defeat for Bangladesh against a rampant Australia in their joint World Cup-Asian Cup qualifiers on Thursday.

Looking at the scoreline it was not as bad as feared at the Nib Stadium in Perth in front of a capacity Socceroos fans.

Bangladesh went into the break with 4-0 arrears that even five times World champions Brazil can envy especially after what had happened at the Estadio Mineirao against Germany last year.

The reference of that game that Germany won 7-1 -- a result that will haunt every Brazilian fan across the globe for the rest of their lives -- fits here for a completely different reason. While Brazil's annihilation was beyond anybody's imagination, a similar or more punishing defeat was a reality for Bangladesh against an Australian team that belonged to a different class.

Ironically, the scoreline did not reflect how dominant the Socceroos were and to be

honest it could have been an 8-0 victory had three of their attempts not been denied by the woodwork.

Leckie gave the Socceroos the lead as early as the sixth minute, before Rogic's double strike gave the home side a 3-0 cushion by the end of the 20th minute. Burns made it 4-0 nine minutes later.

After the break it was Mooy's spectacular volley that sealed a comprehensive win for the four-time World Cuppers.

And for Bangladesh it was truly a baptism by fire in their first venture beyond the Asian landscape. There was fear that it would be a total embarrassment for Bangladesh in their first-ever competitive game against Australia.

It was embarrassing. For the entire 90 odd minutes the Bangladesh booters were chasing the shadows of an opponent who were miles ahead in terms of skill, speed and excellence. Parking a bus is now a common phrase for a team playing with a packed defence. Bangladesh also tried to park a bus at the Nib Stadium. But they actually required two busses if they were to stop the Socceroos from scoring.

Playing with 11 men deep inside their own half, the effort of the players were bel-

### STATISTICS

AUSTRALIA		BANGLADESH
5	Goals	0
25	Shots	2
10	On Target	1
81%	Possession	19%
787	Passes	192
90%	Pass Accuracy	22.2%
6	Tackles	14
17	Fouls	7

lowing like an accordion against a constant wave of attack. In the first half they resembled a fish out of water gasping for air. But they fared better in the second half when they were better in man marking and appeared more comfortable back peddling against those sleek feet.

Unfortunately they did not get a single chance to attack on the break. Bangladesh actually took two shots at the target, one from defender Topu Barman from mid-pitch and the other, a free-kick by Bangladesh captain Mamunul Islam straight to the goalkeeper.

Bangladeshi players, who are accustomed to playing against slow-paced opponents, were awestruck watching how fast the Australian players wrested back the possession of the ball whenever they lost it. It was so scary for them that nobody even tried to hold the ball even once.

Bangladesh goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel was expected to play a good part in the match and despite conceding five he saved as many under the bar. The defence also played exceedingly well after the break, winning more aerial balls against those towering Australians. They were also successful for not allowing Australian captain Tim Cahill, who came off the bench after the break, to put his name on the scoresheet.

Besides, Bangladesh players even in defeat deserved the fair play award for committing less fouls than their decorated opponents.

However, the most remarkable achievement of Mamunul and co was that they stood their ground in 90-plus minutes against one of the most aggressive teams in the world. And this will surely auger well for them in the future.

## Warne tips to Kyrgios

AFP, Sydney

Australian cricket great Shane Warne told tennis bad boy Nick Kyrgios Thursday respect was more important than being liked and warned him "you're testing our patience mate".

Showman Kyrgios has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons, with his sex slur at Stan Wawrinka last month sparking stinging criticism from fellow players.

He lost at the US Open Tuesday to Andy Murray before jousting with the media over his reputation and behaviour, which some see as petulant and disrespectful while others view as good for a sport in need of characters.

Warne offered his fellow Australian some attitude tips, and urged him not to waste his talent.

"We all realise you're only 20 & have a lot to learn buddy. But please don't waste your talent, everyone in the world, especially us Australians want to respect u," Warne wrote.

"Remember respect is way more important than being liked, u need to respect the game of tennis & yourself."

## IN A NUTSHELL

### Sanga's twitter hacked

Sri Lankan cricket legend Kumar Sangakkara said yesterday that his Twitter account was hacked after an obscene photo was posted on his account.

"Guys my twitter account has been hacked. I need to reset my account. It's unbelievable. Apologies. In the middle of a county game," Sangakkara tweeted shortly after the obscene photo was deleted.

### Tendulkar buying luxury villa

Sachin Tendulkar plans to own a luxury waterfront villa in 'God's own country.' The master blaster has shortlisted one of the villas being developed on the bank of a backwater area in Kochi.

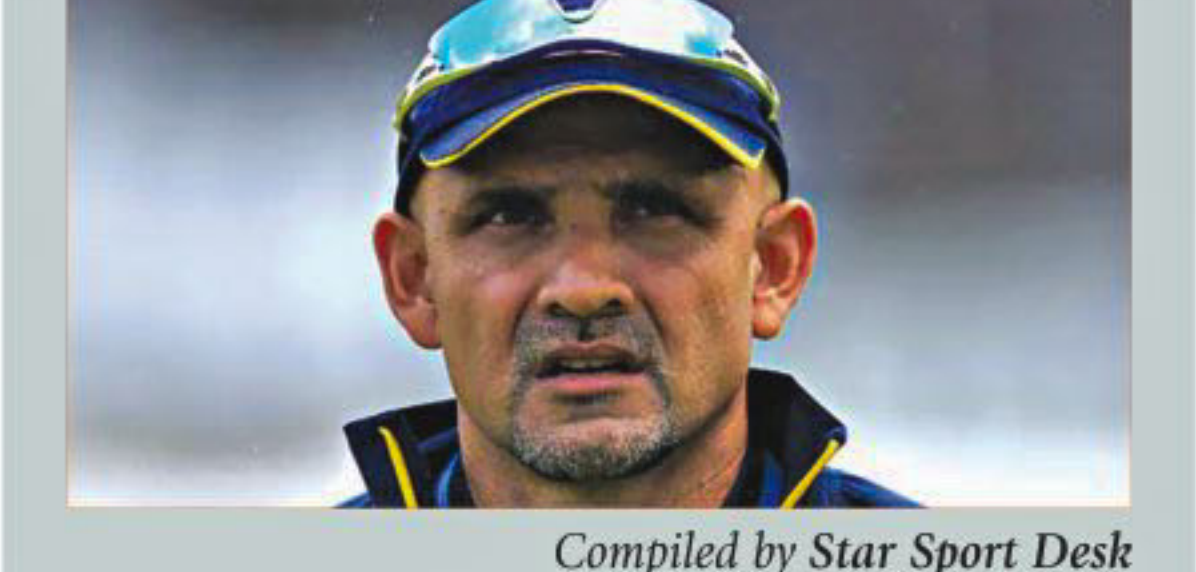
An official said that in addition to the water body in all the villas, there are two swimming pools -- one on the rooftop and an infinity pool in the waterfront.

### Atapattu steps down

Marvan Atapattu has resigned as head coach of the Sri Lankan national side after their 2-1 Test series defeat against India.

Atapattu joined the Sri Lankan team as a batting coach in 2011. The 45-year-old was elevated to the position of head coach in October 2014 after Paul Farbrace resigned.

The high point of Atapattu's coaching career was the series victory against England in England in May-June 2014.



Compiled by Star Sport Desk

## Ajmal aims to keep playing

CRICINFO, Lahore

Pakistan off-spinner Saeed Ajmal has dismissed speculations of retirement, insisting he's still a "good limited-overs bowler", even as chief selector Haroon Siddiqui said he was looking forward to "judge him" in the national T20 main round beginning next week.

Ajmal felt he had "two years of competitive cricket" left in him. "I never wanted to retire in obscurity as I have done enough for Pakistan to win matches singlehandedly," Ajmal told ESPNcricinfo. "I want to retire with respect and honour. I will definitely sit with the selectors and discuss my future plan with them."

Ajmal has seen his career nosedive ever since he was banned from international bowling in September last year. He remodelled his action -- it was cleared five months after he was banned -- but his bowling was shorn of its earlier menace.

"Obviously I needed some time to settle down with my bowling action," Ajmal said.



Three pacers of the Bangladesh cricket team (from L) Mustafizur Rahman, Mohammad Shahid and Taskin Ahmed had plenty of fun yesterday, but hopefully they will enjoy more when they face Australia in the upcoming Test series.

## Waugh too for 'no more tosses'

AFP, Sydney

Steve Waugh has backed calls from fellow former Australia captain Ricky Ponting and West Indies great Michael Holding for cricket chiefs to rid Test cricket of the toss.

Under Ponting's proposal, suggested during the recent Ashes series in England, the away side would choose

who bats first in order to counteract any advantage the hosts may gain from preparing a pitch that suits them best.

Waugh said he was open to the radical idea.

"I don't mind that, I think that's not such a bad thing," Australian Associated Press quoted him as saying late Wednesday.

"At the end of the day I think there's probably too much emphasis placed on the toss and the conditions away

from home. I don't mind the authorities looking at some other options."

Holding also favours change after suggestions during the Ashes that groundsmen had been told to prepare deliberately flat pitches in order to neuter Australia's pace attack.

"The concerned authorities must look at what Ricky Ponting suggested -- no more tosses," he said in a column for Wisden India last week.