

Masseur as a sub!

AGENCIES, Adelaide

Australia's decision to hand substitute fielding duties to Grant Baldwin, the team's massage therapist, has been a subject of criticism over the first two days of the day-night Test in Adelaide. His performance was scrutinised by television commentators after a couple of fumbles in the field.

At the end of the second day, Australia said they would not use Baldwin as a fielder anymore and had drafted in South Australia's Sam Raphael for substitute duties.

Baldwin, 28, is also the assistant to the Australian team manager, Gavin Dovey, and replaced the injured Mitchell Starc midway through the second session on the opening day of the Test. Baldwin had played for Victoria's second XI between 2006 and 2008, and is a regular participant in Australia's fielding sessions at the nets.

The decision to use Baldwin was made after both James Pattinson and



Steven O'Keefe were released from the Test squad to play for their respective states.

"I feel for Grant Baldwin, it's not his fault. He's probably petrified out there," former Australian batsman Mike Hussey said on the Channel Nine telecast.

"It does seem a bit unprofessional really, doesn't it?"

Former great Matthew Hayden suggested in a tweet CA had shown a lack of respect.



Anamul Haque (L), Taskin Ahmed and their Chittagong Vikings teammates wasted little time to get to work after reaching the port city yesterday ahead of Bangladesh Premier League's Chittagong leg starting from tomorrow.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

A week of mixed emotions

SPORTS REPORTER



As the first leg of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) comes to an end and teams get set for the next few matches in Chittagong, The Daily Star Sport looks back at some of the highlights from the first week of the competition.

While it has just been seven days since the beginning of the tournament, the BPL's technical committee has been kept quite busy for there have been a number of incidents that they have had to pass their judgment on.

THE ENTRANCE THAT WENT WRONG

What was supposed to be a grand entrance ended up being a nightmare of sorts for the security personnel at the stadium. The Dhaka Dynamites team bus had arrived at the stadium prior to their opening match along with hundreds of fans. When the gates were opened, the supporters had thronged inside the stadium. It compelled the security in charge to direct most of their security personnel to that particular gate. While the situation was handled soon after, the other franchises were given a warning against trying to host a similar act in the future.

A CHANGE IN THE RULE AND TAMIM'S OUTBURST
The BPL's technical committee was compelled to take a

major decision on the very second day of the competition when they allowed the Sylhet Superstars to field a team with just two foreign players as opposed to the required four, due to an issue with no-objection certificates. While there were only two foreign players in Sylhet's team in the list that was exchanged between the captains, Sylhet decided to field four after the toss. Having seen that Tamim refused to play and stormed off the field. There were heated arguments after which Tamim claimed that an owner of the Superstars had insulted his family and relatives. The left-hander even made a remark stating that the franchises 'cannot treat cricketers like beggars'.

The series of events made that particular day by far the most enthralling of the week.

MASH'S FIFTY AND AL-AMIN'S HAT-TRICK

Oddly enough, the most exciting knock of the tournament so far came from the bat of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. It might have been because of the fact that the dull pitches discouraged batsmen, but nevertheless, Mashrafe's cautious and timely 56 off 32 balls left many on the edge of their seats. He had promoted himself in the game against Chittagong and along with Marlon Samuels turned the game around. His 50-meter sprint after scoring the winnings runs was worth watching.

The very day saw a brilliant bowling spell from Al-Amin Hossain absolutely destroy the Sylhet Superstars. His fast and furious in-swinging delivery that went through Mushfiqur Rahim's defense – Al-Amin's hatrick wicket -- suggested just what the lanky bowler is capable of.

THE MYSTERIOUS PITCHES

While the first few matches did witness a few high-scoring games, as the tournament progressed runs dried up. According to the players the wicket had become two-paced towards the end and batters just didn't know what to expect. It was as a result of this dilemma that scores such as 109 and 108 were defended successfully. The BPL technical committee admitted that it was disappointing with the way wickets behaved and hoped for a better show after the Chittagong leg.

SHAKIB AL HASAN'S SUSPENSION

Just as the all-rounder had begun getting his groove back, he received a major setback. An excited Shakib couldn't control his emotions during Rangpur's game against Sylhet when his appeal against Mushfiqur Rahim was turned down. Match referee and the world watching, did not like Shakib's behavior with the on-field umpire and he was suspended for the next game, which his side Rangpur lost badly.

AUS-NZ DAY-NIGHT TEST

Batting struggle goes on

AFP, Adelaide



New Zealand's held a tenuous 94-run lead in the absorbing day-night third Test after a second day of tumbling wickets at the

Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

The Kiwis, trailing 1-0 in the series, struggled to build a defendable total to present Australia in the fourth innings after another fast-paced day's cricket of 13 wickets before 42,372 fans.

At the close, the Black Caps were finding batting difficult under lights and were 116 for five with a result looming on Sunday's third day in the scheduled five-day Test.

New Zealand had lost their top batsmen and still at the crease were BJ Watling on seven with debutant Mitchell Santner not out 13.

Josh Hazlewood led the Australian attack in the absence of injured spearhead Mitchell Starc as the pink ball again dominated the bat.

Hazlewood removed both openers with mesmerising ball movement under lights. Martin Gupthill sliced to Mitch Marsh in the gully for 17 and Tom Latham was tempted by a wider delivery and was caught behind for 10.

Hazlewood had Kane Williamson dropped on one by Adam Voges in the slips but the star Kiwi batsman soon feathered a catch to

Nevill off Mitch Marsh for nine to complete a low-scoring match. Captain Brendon McCullum followed for 20, leg before wicket to Marsh and Perth Test double century-maker Ross Taylor fell the same way to Hazlewood for 32.

The second day turned on a contentious challenge decision in Australia's favour before dinner, enabling them to go on and grab a 22-run innings lead.

Nathan Lyon survived a review in which 'Hot Spot' revealed a mark on the back of his bat before he had scored.

The review was churned over for minutes before the TV umpire Nigel Llong decided there was not enough to go on despite the Hot Spot evidence to give Lyon out, caught off spinner Santner, with Australia reeling at 118 for eight and trailing the Kiwis by 84 runs.

Lyon walked three-quarters of the way off the ground believing he was out before he returned to continue batting and join in a record Australian trans-Tasman series 74-run ninth-wicket stand with Peter Nevill.

Lyon was eventually out for 34 as the Australians hit back to take an innings lead with incapacitated Mitchell Starc smashing two massive sixes off spinner Mark Craig. Starc, who came into bat at No.11 after being diagnosed with a stress foot fracture on Friday, thrilled the home crowd with his prodigious hitting.



HARSH CALL: Kane Williamson completes a catch while Ross Taylor appeals, believing they had claimed the wicket of Nathan Lyon.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Llong in a 'hot-spot'

AGENCIES, Adelaide



New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor says the video umpire made a mistake to reprieve Nathan Lyon as the decision review system came under fire on Saturday.

The contentious call by Nigel Llong halted the Black Caps' charge in the third Test, allowing Australia to turn what appeared to be a sizeable first-innings deficit into a handy lead.

The verdict left the Black Caps bemused and there were loud jeers from the Adelaide Oval crowd after play was stopped for more than five minutes to review a catch which New Zealand had referred to the video umpire.

Taylor was shocked how a video umpire could make a mistake despite having access to technology. "You've got to ask Nigel that," Taylorsaid. He later joked that his match fee was in jeopardy, as his comments are likely to come under scrutiny from the match referee.

There was widespread condemnation of the decision.

"I don't believe what I just saw," former Australian Test captain Ian Chappell said on the Channel Nine telecast.

New Zealand all-rounder Jimmy Neesham said it was worse than the howler which cost Usman Khawaja his wicket at Old Trafford in the 2013 Ashes.

Former Test opener Chris Rogers was stunned Lyon could be given not out despite Hot Spot's finding, saying it defied common sense.

"So we're not using Hot Spot? There was a mark on the bat. What else could it be?" Rogers said on ABC Grandstand.

"He assumed he was out, so he walked off. All the NZ players assumed he was out.

"That's when players get disillusioned – when everyone on the field thinks it's out and it's given not out; it almost seems like there's no common sense."

"Horrible 5 mins of cricket & a terrible decision by 3rd umpire Nigel Long, clearly Lyon was out & not to mention the fact Lyon walked off," Shane Warne tweeted.

"Obvious mark on hot-spot, Lyon clearly hit the ball on to his shoulder & he walked off the ground. Ridiculous waste

AFRIDI HEROICS IN VAIN

Eng seal series in a thriller

AFP, Dubai



Paceman Chris Woakes held his nerve in the final over to give England a hard-fought three-run win in the second Twenty20 international over Pakistan in Dubai on Friday.

Woakes conceded just seven runs in the 20th over to restrict Pakistan to 169-8 and help England defend a 173-run target to give his team an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series at Dubai stadium.

The 24,000 fans, mostly expats from Pakistan, had expected their team to pull off a sensational win after skipper Shahid Afridi smashed a blistering eight-ball 24 with three sixes and a boundary.

But Anwar Ali failed to connect on the last delivery off which Pakistan had needed four for victory.

Afridi took 22 off the 18th over by Woakes but his dismissal on the last ball left Pakistan to score 25 off the last two overs.

Pakistan's batsmen were once again reckless as most of them got good starts but failed to capitalise.

England were lifted to 172-8 by a quickfire 24-ball 38 by James Vince and 22-ball-33 by skipper Jos Buttler as they upped the tempo by notching 58 in the last five overs.

Leg-spinner Shahid Afridi, who took 3-15 in his four overs, derailed the England batting after they looked well-set at 32-0 in the fourth over.

Afridi trapped Alex Hales leg before for 11 and then had Jason Roy caught behind for 22-ball 29 (two sixes and a four) to leave England at 47-2. He then returned for his last over to have Vince caught in the deep for his 86th wicket in as many matches, beating countryman Saeed Ajmal (85 wickets in 64 matches) as the highest wicket-taker in all Twenty20 cricket.

After the game Afridi said his team have plenty of work to do.

"First I want to congratulate England as they are playing really well," said Afridi.

"But we have to improve our fitness and fielding before the World Twenty20 (next year in India).

"I had a good opportunity to win the game but I missed it."

The final match is in Sharjah on Monday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND:172-8 in 20 overs (James Vince-38; Jos Buttler-33; Jason Roy-29)

PAKISTAN: 169-8 in 20 overs (Ahmed Shehzad-28; Shoaib Malik-26; Afridi 3/15)

Result: England won by three runs.

WORLD T20 QUALIFIERS

Big win for BD women

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh got off to a flying start in the Women's World T20 Qualifier handing a 73-run defeat to hosts Thailand in the opening match at the Thailand Cricket Ground in Bangkok yesterday.

Batting first, Bangladesh posted 105 for six in 20 overs, with opener Ayesha Rahman scoring 30 off 32 deliveries and Farzana Haque scoring an unbeaten 21-ball 23. Ayesha, who was later adjudged player-of-the-match, laid the foundation with a 38-run opening partnership with Sharmin Akter.

The Thailand innings never got going and was ended in 14.4 overs with only 32 runs on the board. Two-down batter Chandia Sutthiruang was the only player to reach double figures (13) while six Thai players were dismissed without opening their accounts. Ritu Moni, Fahima Khatun and Rumana Ahmed grabbed two wickets each for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh will play their next group match against Scotland today.

Kool-BSJA Media Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Dainik Samakal and Alokito Bangladesh reached the quarterfinals of the Kool BSJA Media Cup Football Tournament at the BFF Artificial Turf in Motijheel yesterday.

Samakal emerged Group H champions after outplaying Naya Diganta by 4-1 while Alokito Bangladesh topped Group G beating SA TV 2-1.

Meanwhile, ATN Bangla, ATN News, Boishakhi TV, GTV and Channel i won their winning their respective matches on the second day of the meet.