

Star

e-mail: sp@thedailystar.net
DHAKA SATURDAY JUNE 3, 2017
PRICE: TAKA 10
ISSUES: 100000
CIRCULATION: 100000
ADVERTISING: 100000
SUBSCRIPTION: 100000

IAISHTHA 20, 1424 BS

SPORT



Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood took three wickets from his last four deliveries, and six overall, as Australia restricted New Zealand to 291 all out in a rain-shortened innings after Kane Williamson's (INSET) century threatened a much bigger score in their Champions Trophy Group A game at Edgbaston yesterday. Australia started poorly in chase of a revised target of 235 in 33 overs and found themselves three down for 53, before rain came to their rescue.

PHOTOS: REUTERS

BERGER LUXURY

Silk

METALLIC FINISH

Painting Metallic Walls!



Unifram BGR 50671

SA hope to continue SL dominance

AFP, London



South Africa begin their Champions Trophy challenge at the Oval on Saturday by taking on a Sri Lanka side against whom they have already enjoyed overwhelming one-day international success this year.

The Proteas whitewashed Sri Lanka 5-0 in a bilateral series in South Africa in January.

Sri Lanka were not alone in being a touring side routed in 50-over cricket by South Africa, with the Proteas previously also hammering Australia 5-0.

Yet for all they are top of the one-day international rankings, South Africa have a reputation for under-performing in International Cricket Council tournaments.

The only ICC event they have won was the inaugural Champions Trophy in 1998.

South Africa also boast the world's number one-ranked ODI batsman and bowler in AB de Villiers and Kagiso Rabada respectively.

In all they have four batsmen and two bowlers in the respective top 10 ICC rankings, while seventh-placed Sri Lanka have none in either list.

"We're still ranked the No 1 team in the



HEAD TO HEAD

SOUTH AFRICA VS SRI LANKA

LAST MATCH: 10 FEBRUARY, 2017 AT CENTURION: SOUTH AFRICA WON BY 88 RUNS

TIE 1

NR 1

IN ALL ODIs

29

34


1

2

IN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

AB DE VILLIERS

ANGELO MATHEWS



ANWAR

INDUSTRIAL CEMENT SHEET

DURABLE ROOFING SOLUTIONS

01973091223, 01869339198, 01990408906

world going into the tournament, so there are quite a few reasons for us to be confident," said South Africa ODI captain de Villiers, whose side were beaten 2-1 away to Champions Trophy hosts England in a preceding three-match warm-up series.

"But we're still humble at the same time and know that we have to work hard and take it one step at a time to win this," he added.

Sri Lanka head into the tournament as underdogs and one of the key reasons they've struggled in recent months has been the absence of fast bowler Lasith Malinga, who hasn't

Side strain rules Woakes out of CT

AFP, London

England paceman Chris Woakes has been ruled out of the rest of the Champions Trophy one-day international competition with a side strain, it was announced Friday.

Woakes managed just two overs at the start of England's tournament-opening win over Bangladesh at the Oval before leaving the field.

"A scan has confirmed that Chris Woakes sustained a left side strain in yesterday's ICC Champions Trophy match against Bangladesh," said an England and Wales Cricket Board statement.

"The injury means Woakes will miss the rest of England's participation in the Champions Trophy."

Tension in India camp

AFP, New Delhi

Tension over the future of India's head coach Anil Kumble grew Friday after a top cricket administrator resigned slamming the Indian board for its handling of the controversy.

Amid a reported battle between team captain Virat Kohli and Kumble, a deadline for applications to become head coach passed this week without any announcement by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Top names like Virender Sehwag and Australia's Tom Moody have reportedly applied for the job which comes vacant when Kumble's one-year term expires after the Champions Trophy. Kumble is also in the running.

Ramachandra Guha, who quit a Supreme Court-appointed four-member committee overseeing the BCCI, backed Kumble to be given an extension.

Guha, in a letter written to the committee of administrators (COA) chair-

man Vinod Rai, criticised the BCCI as he gave reasons for quitting the post that he only took on January 30.

Guha confirmed to AFP the contents of the letter published by Indian website Scroll.in.

"The Indian team's record this past season has been excellent; and even if the players garner the bulk of the credit, surely the head coach and his support staff also get some," Guha wrote.

Kumble helped India win all five Test series since his appointment in June last year, but the BCCI has insisted it has followed routine procedure by inviting applicants for the coach's job.

"In a system based on justice and merit, the head coach's term would have been extended. Instead, Kumble was left hanging, and then told the post would be re-advertised afresh." Clearly, the issue has been handled in an extremely insensitive and unprofessional manner by the BCCI CEO and the BCCI office-bearers, with the COA, by its silence and inaction, unfortunately being complicit

in this regard," said Guha.

"Due process had to be followed since Kumble's original appointment was only for one year, why was this not done during April and May, when the IPL was on?," he added.

With India starting their defence of the Champions Trophy against Pakistan on Sunday, Guha's resignation has reinforced reports of a rift between Kumble and Kohli over tactics and training.

"If indeed the captain and the Head Coach were not getting along, why was this not attended to as soon as the Australia series was over in late March?."

"Why was it left until the last minute, when a major international tournament was imminent, and when the uncertainty would undermine the morale and ability to focus of the coach, the captain and the team?," said Guha.

The 59-year-old academic came down heavily on Indian stars including Sunil Gavaskar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni as well as the preferential treatment accorded to them by the BCCI.

Gazi eye summit as Nasir stars again

Title may be decided today through Mohammedan-Doleshwar match

SPORTS REPORTER



The indomitable Nasir Hossain took Gazi Group Cricketers inches from the Dhaka Premier League title as his all-round performance in yesterday's Super League clash shot Abahani out of the tile race. Nasir scored a half-century after a three-wicket haul as Gazi Group regained the lead with a six-wicket victory against Abahani at BKSP yesterday.

Gazi increased their tally to 24 points while Abahani stayed on 22 but as they lost both first-phase and Super League matches against the current leaders, it will not help the holders if they win the last match and Gazi lose theirs. Only Prime Doleshwar can challenge Gazi. With 20 points, Prime Doleshwar will play the penultimate round against Mohammedan today at Fatullah and a win will keep them alive till their last match against Gazi on June 5; a Doleshwar loss will hand Gazi the title with one match in hand. If prime Doleshwar win their remaining two games then the net run-rates will come into consideration as Gazi won their first-phase match.

The source of Gazi Group's continued success, however, remained the same -- the performance of Nasir as the batsman remained not out yesterday for the sixth occasion out of the last seven innings to maintain a season batting average of 477 and, most importantly, enabled Gazi to recover from a sudden slide only after the all-rounder joined the team upon returning from Ireland.

"Everybody can learn from him about how one should bat considering the circumstances. You know, I am searching for an answer; how is it possible that Nasir didn't

get a permanent place in the national team," said Gazi coach Mohammad Salahuddin.

Gazi Group's spinners justified their decision to bowl first as off-spinners Mahedi Hasan and Nasir claimed three wickets each after left-arm pacer Abu Hider trapped Saif Hassan in front in the first over of the game and Hossain Ali cleaned up Shadman Islam in the very next over. Abahani were bundled out for 156.

Among the Abahani batsmen, Mohammad Mithun, Liton Das, Afif Hossain and Shuvagata Hom got starts but failed to carry on.

In reply, Gazi Group were struggling at 84 for four by the 21st over but Nasir led from the front with a 92-ball 56 and put on a 73-run unbeaten fifth-wicket partnership with Nadif Chowdhury (26) to take his team home.

In another BKSP venue, Mehedi Maruf slammed 127 as Prime Bank defeated Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club by five wickets.

Opener Maruf hit 127 off 143 balls with 10 fours and four sixes as Prime Bank reached to 243 for five in reply to Jamal's 242.



Gazi Group Cricketers all-rounder Nasir Hossain continued a scarcely believable run of form with an unbeaten half-century against Abahani at the BKSP yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SCORES IN BRIEF

ABAHANI: 156-10 in 41.2 overs (Afif 32, Liton 30, Mithun 28; Mehadi 3-30, Nasir 3-36, Hider 2-24)

GAZI GROUP: 157-4 on 36.4 overs (Nasir 56 not out, Anamul 41, Nadif 26 not out; Manan 2-40)

Result: Gazi Group Cricketers won by 6 wickets.


Player-of-the-match: Nasir Hossain

SK. JAMAL: 242-7 in 50 overs (Sunny 58, Tanvir 57, Al Mamun 32; Al Amin Hossain 3-46, Taiabur 2-39)

PRIME BANK: 243-5 in 48 overs (Maruf 127, Zakir 49, Asif 26)

Result: Prime Bank Cricket Club won by 5 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Mehedi Maruf.



AN INDO-PAK RIVALRY TIED BY FRIENDSHIP

AFP, Paris

Rohan Bopanna and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi once famously pleaded for peace between India and Pakistan under the banner "Stop war, start tennis".

However, the childhood friends will be rivals for eight hours on Sunday when their two nations clash in the one sport which eternally unites and divides their countrymen -- cricket.

Bopanna, the son of an Indian coffee planter, and Qureshi, whose grandfather was once the All India tennis champion before the 1947 partition, have their eyes trained towards Birmingham when India and Pakistan meet in the Champions Trophy. Qureshi, who will be in England for a tennis tournament after being knocked out of the French Open this week, hopes to get to the big game.

Bopanna, 37, is so confident of India going all the way to the final at The Oval on June 18 that he has already bought tickets.

Whatever happens, the two men, born just two weeks apart in 1980, insist that their friendship will survive, just as it has done since they met when they were 16.

"Rohan is like a brother to me, on and off the court," Qureshi told AFP. "As countries, we have political differences but not me and him. We have respect for each other and each other's families. However, I don't expect him to cheer for Pakistan and he wouldn't expect me to cheer for India."

Both men played cricket as youngsters before turning to tennis full-time. Bopanna was an all-rounder who liked to open the batting in his home city of Bangalore. Qureshi also enjoyed the all-rounder role, but with ball in hand, he steamed in, right-arm fast. Their mutual love of cricket saw them suffer contrasting emotions in 2007 when they were playing doubles together at a tournament in Mumbai.

The event coincided with the first World Twenty20 championship being played in South Africa. India beat Pakistan in the final by five wickets.

"We watched that game together in Mumbai and an hour later we had to go and play a match together," Bopanna told AFP. "But once we were on the tennis court, we had to focus. We ended up winning our match."

The pair have always insisted that the political differences between their two nations do not impose on their tennis.

In 2010, they played at Wimbledon, arriving on the grounds wearing T-shirts bearing the slogan: "Stop war, start tennis".

NZ-AUS SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND	R/B	45/65		
Guptill c Maxwell				
b Hazlewood	26/22	5/0		
Ronchi c Maxwell				
b Hastings	65/43	9/3		
Williamson run out	100/97	8/3		
Taylor c Henriques				
b Hastings	46/58	6/0		
Broom c Maxwell				
b Hazlewood	14/19	1/0		
Neesham c Warner				
b Hazlewood	6/10	0/0		
Anderson c Henriques				
b Cummins	8/5	0/1		
Santer c Smith				
b Hazlewood	8/7	1/0		
Milne c Maxwell				
b Hazlewood	11/7	2/0		
Southee not out	0/0	0/0		
Boult c Wade				
b Hazlewood	0/2	0/0		
Extras: (lb-4, w-3)	7			
Total: (All out in 45 overs)	291			
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-117, 3-216, 4-254, 5-257, 6-267, 7-270, 8-291, 9-291, 10-291.				
BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Starc	9	0	52	0
Hazlewood	9	0	52	6
Cummins	9	0	67	1
Hastings	9	0	69	2
Head	4	0	22	0
Henriques	5	0	25	0
AUSTRALIA (TARGET): 235 runs from 33 overs	R/B	45/65		
Warner c Ronchi b Boult	18/16	1/1		
Finch c Taylor b Milne	8/18	0/0		
Smith not out	8/6	2/0		
Henriques c b Milne	18/14	4/0		
Extras: (lb-1)	1			
Total: (For 3 wickets in 9 overs)	53			
Did not bat: Maxwell, Head, Wade, Hastings, Starc, Cummins, Hazlewood				
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-35, 3-53.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Southee	3	0	15	0
Boult	4	0	28	1
Milne	2	0	9	2
Result: No result.				
Toss: New Zealand				
Points: Australia 1, New Zealand 1				
Umpires: RK Illingworth and RA Kettleborough				
TV umpire: NJ Long				
Match referee: AJ Pycroft				
Reserve umpire: HDPK Dharmasena				