

CRICKET HEALS wounds of partition

EKUSH TAPADER from Delhi

After six defeats in seven games, Bangladesh have become a non-factor in the ongoing ODI World Cup. The Tigers have two matches left in the competition, both of which have turned into dead rubbers. The Bangladesh team, weighed down by consecutive defeats, have already surrendered to reality and have further reverted into their shells.

Thursday was a rest day for the team after arriving in Delhi. At the team hotel, the cricketers had no interest in chatting. They did not even want to get photographed. So, this correspondent decided not to bother Shakib Al Hasan and his troops anymore and look elsewhere.

While trying to learn about the domestic cricket scene in Delhi, this correspondent came across Dronacharya Cricket Academy, which is run by a veteran cricket coach.

After calling in and ensuring that the academy was open for the day, this correspondent went there and was greeted by a 88-year-old man wearing a turban, who was none other than coach Gurcharan Singh.

As the sun was slowly setting down in Delhi, at least 60 cricketers were sweating it out at the academy ground under Gurcharan's supervision.

While watching the age-level cricketers practicing, this correspondent spoke with Salil Malhotra, who was part of the Delhi team in the last season of the Ranji Trophy. The 25-year-old has been with



the academy from the age of eight.

The main attraction of the academy is undoubtedly coach Gurcharan. He has been coaching cricket for 60 years and has been awarded with the Dronacharya Award – a national award for outstanding coaches – and India's fourth-highest civilian award, the Padma Shri.

He was the coach of the Indian team in 1986-87, when Kapil Dev was the captain. He has coached cricket greats like Sunil Gavaskar, Mohamud Azharuddin. He honed the talents of Kirti Azad, Ajay Jadeja and Murali Karthik and helped them make it to the Indian team.

Asked about how his association with cricket began, Gurcharan revealed the

blood-soaked start to his career in cricket and how cricket gave him a purpose in life after suffering the wounds of partition in 1947.

"I was born in Rawalpindi, which is now in Pakistan. In 1947, when the communal riots began, I fled to Punjab when I was just 12. But my father couldn't flee, and died in the conflict. My mother left behind my deceased father and took us to Patiala in Punjab."

16 years ago, he went to visit his homeland in Rawalpindi. With tears in his eyes he saw that everything had changed over there, except cricket.

Gurcharan had started playing cricket in Rawalpindi and after fleeing to India, he became a first-class cricketer for Punjab and played for them for 17 years.

He began coaching in the 70s and is still continuing to this day. With age, he has had to step back a bit from on-field coaching but his son and grandson, who have completed a level two coaching course, have taken over the reins at the academy.

Still, Gurcharan is an ever-present figure at the academy, "As long as I breathe, I will remain with cricket. I know nothing else but cricket. Cricket has kept me alive."

His love for cricket has spread to his family as his son and grandchildren are all involved with the academy in different capacities and while he was talking with the correspondent, they were busy doing their jobs.

There are six separate wickets at the academy, which also has floodlights, allowing the cricketers to carry on with their practice at night.

A total of 250 cricketers are enrolled in the academy. There are men and female cricketers and the training happens in separate batches. Everyone plays at least one match everywhere.

Delhi boasts a rich cricket history. Cricketers like Virender Sehwag and Shikhar Dhawan came from Delhi. But undoubtedly the biggest name that has come out from here is Virat Kohli. With such idols to look up to and the supervision of coach Gurcharan, the students have all the reasons to dream big.

Usually, veteran coaches are quite critical of the changes in cricket and are annoyed with shorter formats and franchise cricket. Gurcharan is the exact opposite, as he feels that change is inevitable.

"At every era, things change. Cricket is nothing different. I don't view it negatively. See, at the end of the day, the basics remain the same. Here, I'm teaching them the basics. Those who have the basics right, they can play in any form of cricket."

A coach verging on 90 can accept the changes in the game and has adapted accordingly. The cricket authorities in Bangladesh, however, are seemingly yet to grasp this basic reality.

Police edge Sheikh Jamal to top group

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police FC emerged Group A champions in the Independence Cup following a 1-0 win over Sheikh Jamal DC in Dhaka at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday.

Kyrgyz midfielder Manas Karipov scored the decider in the 26th minute with a brilliant curling shot from inside the box after defender Mahmudul Hasan Kiran made a feeble clearance off a long throw-in from Karipov.

Prior to the fixture, both teams had confirmed their quarterfinal berths after having thrashed Brothers Union. Thus, the Group A's final match became a place-deciding affair.

Come December, Police will face the runners-up of Group B while former champions Sheikh Jamal are set to take on the Group B champions in the quarterfinals.

Man Utd woes leave Ten Hag exposed

REUTERS, Manchester

Manchester United's beleaguered manager Erik ten Hag is coming under even more pressure after his lacklustre side were knocked out of the League Cup by Newcastle United at Old Trafford on Wednesday with the media headlines highlighting their plight.

"Ten Hag's total humiliation, United manager facing serious questions after cup horror show" was The Daily Telegraph's headline. The Star chimed in with: "Hag 'N Daze, Erik's sorry troops are given another big lickin'."

Three days after United's dispiriting 3-0 home defeat by Manchester City, the misery continued for Ten Hag's embattled side when they were humbled by the same scoreline in the League Cup fourth round and booed off the pitch at the final whistle. Newcastle's Miguel Almiron, Lewis Hall and Joe Willock scored for Eddie Howe's visiting Magpies to "turn the heat on Ten Hag's shambolic Reds," wrote the Daily Express.

The Daily Mail headline read: "Writing's On The Wall, Ten Hag fights for his future as abysmal United crash out of Cup."

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Southeast Bank Limited, a leading and prominent financial institution has cultivated an exceptional standing throughout the years. This achievement is attributed to its unwavering dedication to fostering consistent growth across all facets of banking operations and offering a diverse range of financial products while delivering superior services to its valued clients.

The Bank ardently aspires to champion and uphold a distinctive corporate culture striving to maintain a congenial and productive work environment. In alignment with its enduring commitment to nurturing an empowering workforce of excellence, the Bank is looking for some young, smart, proactive and forward-looking candidates for recruitment as Probationary Officer and Probationary Officer-IT.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Academic Qualifications for Probationary Officer: Must have Post graduation degree from any UGC approved recognized university preferably in Business Administration, Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, English, International Relations, Law and Public Administration with minimum GPA 4.00 in a scale of 5.00 in SSC & HSC and minimum CGPA 3.25 in a scale of 4.00 in Graduation & Post-graduation level.

Academic Qualifications for Probationary Officer-IT: Must have graduation degree from any UGC approved recognized university preferably in Computer Science, Computer Science & Engineering, Information Technology, Information & Communication Engineering, Software Engineering, Telecommunication Engineering & other IT related subjects with minimum GPA 4.00 in a scale of 5.00 in SSC & HSC and minimum CGPA 3.25 in a scale of 4.00 in Graduation level.

Competencies: Must demonstrate excellent interpersonal and communication skills with fluency in English and be well conversant in Computer Literacy and sound analytical proficiency.

Age: Not over 30 years of age as on October 31, 2023 and maximum 32 years for the children of Heroic Freedom Fighters.

Nationality: Applicant must be a Bangladeshi citizen.

Job Location: Anywhere in Bangladesh.

PLACEMENT POLICY & COMPENSATION PACKAGE

The selected Probationary Officer shall be on probation for a period of 2 years. Monthly consolidated salary will be of Tk.55,000/- for the 1st year and Tk.60,000/- for the 2nd year. After successful completion of probation period, he/she will be absorbed as Senior Officer with regular scale of the Bank of Tk.75,000/- per month with other admissible benefits.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Eligible and interested candidates are encouraged to apply online through www.southeastbank.com.bd along with a scanned photograph (maximum 20 KB) and all scanned copies of the educational certificates using online application platform no later than November 20, 2023.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

- The Bank is an equal opportunity employer and therefore, the selection procedure will be purely on merit.
- Only short-listed candidates will be communicated for competitive written test.
- Successful candidates in written test will be called for interview.

DISCLAIMER

- Incomplete application will not be considered for selection process.
- Any sort of canvassing in any stage of selection process will disqualify the candidature.
- SEBL reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

NOTES

- Only the published academic result to be uploaded while no appeared certificate is acceptable. However, if applied with appeared certificate, the candidates must produce the published one during the Viva-Voce.
- No TA/DA will be allowed for appearing at the written & Viva-Voce Test.

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