



Did U Know?

Abdul Rahman Fawzi the Egyptian was the first Arabian player to score 2 goals in the soccer World Cup finals and that was in 1934.



Mark Waugh
(Former Australia batting superstar)
"I'm not getting any younger, I'm not saying this is it for sure, but I've got to be realistic. I'm probably nearly done. There are young players on the fringe at the moment who will be ready next year and I don't want to stand in their way."
While signalling that this will be his last season in first-class cricket.



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English Premier Football League
Highlights
Repeat at 7:30 pm
Sportscentre India
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

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Repeat at 9:00 am
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Man United vs Fulham
Repeat at 12:30 pm
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Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

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- Who became the Pepsi 16th national men's handball champions?
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Navy
- Who are the European Champions League holders?
Man United AC Milan Real

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Class

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Ganguly might miss more action

REUTERS, Calcutta

India captain Saurav Ganguly could miss two more games of the one-day TVS Cup triangular series with Australia and New Zealand because of his groin injury.

Ganguly has already missed the first two games, including Sunday's game against Australia, due to the

Tigers promise better things

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team flew into Chittagong last night vowing to do better than they did in the first Test. Khaled Mahmud's men lost the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium by seven wickets but not before putting up a brave fight over the first four days.

The home team flew to the port city ahead of the tourists so that they could avail early morning practice at the MA Aziz Stadium. England will reach Chittagong today. The second and final Test begins on Wednesday.

Before leaving for Chittagong Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud said that they would be a different side on their second visit to the busy city after seven months.

"We played our last Test in Chittagong against South Africa nearly seven months ago. We were a different side then. But now we have made real progress in the last five months. So, hopefully it will be

another competitive game like Dhaka," said a confident Mahmud.

Mahmud's men fought tooth and nail in the first Test at Dhaka before tumbling on the fifth and final day. The ending was disappointing because the home side lost their last four wickets rapidly and in doing so opened the door for Michael Vaughan's side to reach the victory with plenty to spare.

"Our primary aim is to improve our performance graph. We won't try not to repeat the same mistakes we committed in Dhaka," said the Bangladesh captain.

Mahmud was expecting the wicket at Chittagong to be flat as it was in April.

Although Mahmud was talking from prior experience, his coach Dav Whatmore was guarded about the nature of the pitch since it would be his first Chittagong experience.

"I have never been to Chittagong before. So, unless I go there and see the pitch, I can't say anything," said Whatmore while talking to The Daily Star Sport over his cell phone on Sunday afternoon.

He, however, hoped that his team would continue to show improvement in the next few days at Chittagong.

All-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman, who scored the highest 80 in two innings of the first Test and also captured the wickets of experienced Nasser Hussain and Mark Butcher, assured that he would build on his Dhaka performances.

Returning to the Test fold after two and a half years, the jovial cricketer from Rajshahi impressed everybody.

"I want to cement my place in the Test team. I got the chance after two and a half years. I did a lot of hard work to get into the senior team. So, I don't want to lose it again," said the 23-year-old.

The committed cricketer said that he wasn't unhappy at missing his first Test half-century but was clearly disappointed with the way the innings folded on the fifth morning.

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AWAITING THE ENGLISHMEN: A partial view of the MA Aziz Stadium of Chittagong which is ready to stage the second and final Test between Bangladesh and England that starts on Wednesday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Tendulkar, Laxman tons



AFP, Gwalior

Sachin Tendulkar and Venkatesai Laxman slammed impressive centuries to help India post 284-5 against Australia in a triangular one-day series match here on Sunday.

Laxman scored 102 and Tendulkar 100 as India made the most of a depleted Australian attack after electing to bat on a good pitch in the day-night game.

World champions Australia, missing key fast bowlers Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Brett Lee due to injuries, failed to keep pressure on Tendulkar and Laxman who put on 191 for the second wicket.

Tendulkar cracked one six and nine fours in his 119-ball knock for his 35th hundred in 316 matches and Laxman nine boundaries in his second century in 53 one-dayers.

Yuvraj Singh then built on their efforts, scoring 44 off just 33 balls with one six and six fours in the closing overs.

The hosts plundered 90 in the last 10 overs after making a shaky start.

Opener Virender Sehwag fell in the first over of the match, caught by a diving Matthew Hayden in the slips off left-arm seamer Nathan Bracken.

Australia then had to wait for nearly 39 overs for their next success as Tendulkar and Laxman exploded with a flurry of shots to put their team on course for a challenging total.

Tendulkar, who managed just 71 runs in four Test innings against New Zealand recently, returned to his big-scoring ways as he raced to a half-century off 50 deliveries.

Laxman matched his senior partner shot for shot, gathering runs comfortably off both pace and spin during his 134-ball knock.

Tendulkar fell immediately after completing his seventh one-day century against Australia, edging Bracken to wicket-keeper Adam

Gilchrist in the 40th over. Bracken was the most successful bowler with three wickets for 53 runs off 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after the India innings in their TVS Cup triangular series day-night one-day international against Australia at Gwalior on Sunday:

INDIA
Sehwag c Hayden b Bracken 0

Tendulkar c Gilchrist b Bracken 100
Laxman run out 102
Yuvraj c Symonds b Williams 44
Agarkar c Symonds b Bracken 22
Kaif not out 1
Extras: (lb-8, nb-1, w-6) 15
Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs) 284
Did not bat: David, Patel, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Kumble
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-192, 3-256, 4-264, 5-284

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TON-DULKAR: Sachin Tendulkar of India hoists one over long-on for six on way to scoring a century against Australia in the TVS Cup triangular series at Gwalior yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Pollock puts SA on track



REUTERS, Faisalabad

South Africa's cricketers were battling to save the second Test and series against Pakistan at close of play on the third day on Sunday.

Having conceded a first innings lead of 70 to Pakistan, South Africa lost the key wicket of skipper Graeme Smith 65 (115 balls, 6 fours) three overs before close to finish on 140 for three just 70 runs ahead.

Play ended six overs before scheduled time due to bad light. South Africa started their second innings 36 minutes after lunch after bowling out Pakistan for 348 with Shaun Pollock finishing with impressive figures of 6-78, his 16th five-wickets-in-an-innings haul in 76 matches.

Smith then took over scoring his first fifty since his 257 against England at Lord's in July and the fourth of his career.

But he saw Herschelle Gibbs and Boeta Dippenaar fall before being

dismissed himself adjudged leg before to pacer Shabbir Ahmed at the total of 128.

The big left-hander found his form at the right moment but was fortunate to have survived two missed chances.

He appeared to have edged the ball down the leg-side after facing just three balls but wicketkeeper Moin Khan couldn't hold on to the difficult chance.

Moin also missed a chance to stump him out when he was 21 off Danish Kaneria.

Gary Kirsten who came into bat after the fall of Dippenaar at 93 for two stood firm with another solid innings of 27 from 55 balls striking four fours till close.

For Pakistan Shabbir Ahmed, who took four wickets in the first innings, was again hard working but Abdul Razaq and Mushtaq Ahmed were disappointing.

Razaq went for 25 in three overs and Mushtaq conceded 22 in his first two overs before settling down.

Pakistan won the first Test in Lahore by eight wickets and are

searching for their first series win over South Africa.

Earlier Pollock played an instrumental role in bringing his team back into the match after Pakistan resumed on a strong 237 for 2 looking for a big lead with centurion Imran Farhat 128 and Inzamam at the crease.

But Pollock with figures of 5 for 46 in the day supported well by Makhaya Ntini 2-64 ensured Pakistan's lead was not a big one.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of the third day of the second and final Test between Pakistan and South Africa being played at Iqbal Stadium on Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA: 278 all out in 99.1 overs (H Gibbs 98, G Kirsten 54; S Ahmed 4-74)

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 237-2)

Umar c Gibbs b Adams 68
Farhat c Peterson b Pollock 128
Hameed c Gibbs b Pollock 21
Inzamam lbw b Pollock 23
Kamal c Pollock b Ntini 1
Malik c Smith b Pollock 9
Razaq c sub (Rudolph) b Ntini 37

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Ashrafal gets another chance

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh batsman Mohammad Ashrafal has been called up for the BCB Development Squad that will play in a limited-overs practice match against England at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 5.

The teenage right-hander was ignored for the home series against Michael Vaughan's men after poor performances in Pakistan.

Another discarded national opener Ehsanul Haq will lead the local selection, which also includes Test pacer Talha Jubair.

The selected players have been asked to report on November 1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 10 am.

BCB DEVELOPMENT SQUAD: Ehsanul Haq (captain), Mohammad Ashrafal (vice-captain), Humayun Kabir, Dhiman Gosh (wicket-keeper), Nasiruddin Faruque, Kafi Khan, Ashiqur Rahman, Monjurul Islam Rana, Ali Arman, Nazmul Hossain, Safiq Al Jabir, Talha Jubair, Arif Hossain and Gazi Alamgir. Minhaj Ahmed Shafiq (manager), Sarwar Imran (coach).

BCB names U-17 side

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced a 16-member under-17 squad to play against CAB under-17 side in Dhaka on October 31.

Mehrab Hossain will lead the side.

SQUAD

Mehrab Hossain (captain), Iliyas Sunny (vice-captain), Zubair Hossain, Arif Reza, Zishan Abedin, Farhad Hossain, Robiul Karim (wicketkeeper), Golam Mustafa, Raqibur Rahman, Raihanuddin Arafat, Rezaul Hasan, Fariduddin Masud, Ishaq Sonet, Nazmul Hasan, Arif Newaz and Kairul Islam. **Coach:** Carlton Bernardus, Masud Hasan (trainer) and Shahidul Islam (coordinator).

Chittagong upbeat

Second Test starts on Wednesday

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Ctg

For a change the Chattagram Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS) is happy to host an international cricket match when the second Test against England gets underway at the MA Aziz Stadium here on Wednesday.

The teenage right-hander was ignored for the home series against Michael Vaughan's men after poor performances in Pakistan.

Another discarded national opener Ehsanul Haq will lead the local selection, which also includes Test pacer Talha Jubair.

The selected players have been asked to report on November 1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 10 am.

The BCB officials are definitely upbeat having been promised adequate funds from the sponsors for the Test and the first one-day international on November 7. The last time the port city staged a Test match seven months ago it was not a very successful one as far as the financial rewards were concerned.

But with the Tigers' recent signs of improvement the CJKS is expecting a bonanza. They are also expecting a good response from the local cricket fans. Besides, at least

70 members of the Barmy Army will add further colour by their presence.

AZM Nasir, chairman of the marketing committee, has reportedly been assured of Tk.27 lakh from different sponsors.

It was learnt that the CJKS is expecting to make a profit of Tk 30 lakh after meeting all expenses.

As funds are not a problem, the CJKS has gone into overdrive to smarten up the 82nd Test venue.

Preparations are almost complete except for a few finishing touches.

The CJKS has refurbished the venue, which includes extension of the media centre to accommodate the foreign press and media, putting up another scoreboard for the convenience of journalists and a VIP Box atop the pavilion.

The organisers have also fixed rates of tickets for different galleries and the pavilion.

For a Test match, it's Tk 20 for Eastern gallery, Tk 50 for Western gallery and Tk 200 for pavilion while the prices are Tk 100, Tk 200 and Tk 1000 respectively for the ODI. A hospitality box will cost Tk 50,000.

Tickets will go on sale at stadium counters tomorrow.

The CJKS held a press conference at its auditorium on Sunday where they revealed details of their preparations.

CJKS president Md Shafiqul Islam, who is also the deputy commissioner (DC) of Chittagong, spoke on the occasion. But he was not properly equipped to satisfy the inquisitive journalists.

CJKS general secretary Shahed Asgar Chowdhury, vice-president Dastagir Chowdhury and media committee secretary Ali Abbas also attended the briefing.

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Tajikistan first up for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh will take on Tajikistan in the Asian zone qualifying round for the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals to be held in Germany.

The matches of the Asian qualifying round will be played on a home and away basis by 14 member associations of the Asian Football Confederation with the 7 winners over both legs going through to join the top 25 Asian national associations in the Preliminary Draw proper, which will take place in Frankfurt, Germany on

December 5.

The matches are to be completed by November 29. Bangladesh's first leg game is at home.

Going by FIFA's latest world rankings, Bangladesh should sail past their central Asian opponents. Bangladesh are ranked 147th while Tajikistan are a distant 180th.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)'s team management committee led by Kazi Salahuddin will meet today to discuss about when to start the national team's training camp for the World Cup qualifiers.

"We don't have enough time to prepare. The team management committee will decide when the national camp will be called," said

BFF general secretary Anwarul Haq Helal yesterday.

He also informed that a local coach will be appointed for the two matches.

"We are trying to bring a foreign coach for the national side but it will not be possible within this short time," Helal said.

The qualifying engagement of the national team is bound to effect the season's major domestic competition, the Dhaka Premier League, which was scheduled to start from mid-November.

However, with top players of the country joining the national camp soon, the clubs won't be too pleased

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(L) Bangladesh's (L-R) Alok Kapali, Mohammad Rafique and Mushfiqur Rahman leave the hotel for Chittagong. (R) England coach Duncan Fletcher (L) tells captain Michael Vaughan something at the corridor of Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Brothers' Fed Cup test

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union will face their first test since their pre-season coup when the glamorous Gopibagh outfit

take on Dipali Jubo Sangha in the opening match of the Federation Cup qualifiers at the Bir Shrestha Shaheed Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur on Thursday.

Tibet, a popular brand of a cosmetic company, is the official title of the traditional football tournament. Brothers hogged the spotlight in the inter-club players' transfer this season by roping a galaxy of national stars. Although they have to go through the qualification because of their poor finish last year, they will be team to beat.

A total of 21 teams, split into two groups, are taking part in the knock-out first phase.

Top two finishers from each group will advance into the final round and join the four semifinalists of last year -- Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krira Chakra, Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira

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