



Did U Know?

Steffi Graf won a minimum of seven tournaments a year for eleven straight years 1986-96.



Ashley Giles
(England spinner)
"I am in the process of changing the angle of my run-up. Bowling from closer to the stumps gives me a lot more angles and more chances of picking up wickets."



BTV
Bangladesh vs England
Second ODI
Live at 1:30 pm
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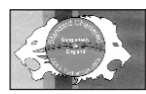
Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 200
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.
Competition closes at 8 pm Nov 14, 2003 and draw

- What was Nafis Iqbal's score against England in the first innings of the second practice match?
120 118 122
- What was Matthew Hayden's world record score in Test cricket?
379 380 381
- Who won the Women's World Cup football title?
USA Germany Sweden
- Who became nat'l kabaddi champions?
Army BDR Navy

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
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Forget Chittagong

SPORTS REPORTER



It remains to be seen whether Bangladesh can overcome their batting deficiency for once when Khaled Mahmud's men play their second one-day international at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Victory will be a secondary issue on Dav Whatmore's mind. The Bangladesh coach will be more concerned at his team's inability to occupy the crease for full fifty overs after what happened in Chittagong last Friday, where his boys capitulated after a decent start in the first one-dayer.

The fall of six wickets in that match was so shocking that it still haunts the 49-year-old.

"We will have to try and prevent similar things happening again. Our target must be to bat fifty overs and not lose wickets like that again. We will have to show all-round improvement if we are to stay in the series," said Whatmore before the squad's final training at the BNS.

When asked if he had found the reason behind six wickets falling so cheaply Whatmore said that maybe the team was still feeling the effects of the huge loss in the second Test that they lost by 329 runs.

"The loss in the second Test may have been a contributing factor. But one thing is for sure we can't repeat that again," he said. He also admitted that after that defeat confidence was at a low.

However the Sri Lankan-born Australian wanted his team to forget about what had happened in Chittagong and concentrate on the game ahead.

He also observed that his boys played better cricket a month before. And he wants to see them like they were before.

"Form can change and they just need to reverse it now," he said.

Whatmore said that he had talked a lot with the players after that defeat in Chittagong.

"The players also spoke about what happened. And I am sure that they are very keen not to repeat those mistakes again."

About injured Mohammad Rafique, Whatmore said he was confident that the experienced left-arm spinner would return to action.

"We will do a little bit of work with him this evening. If he is fully fit then no problem," said Whatmore adding that he won't mind playing with two left-arm spinners since England's one-day side is predominately made up of right-handed batsmen.

Whatmore also hinted that there might be another change in the batting order. He might consider Moniruzzaman for today's match. But he did not mention in that case who would get the chop.

"We will decide that tomorrow," he said.

Captain Khaled Mahmud was equally concerned about the batting failures. But he termed the Chittagong debacle accidental than anything else.

"Nobody tries to throw his wicket. We all agree that these sorts of performances are unacceptable. But we are working hard to eliminate the flaws and hopefully we put up a better show tomorrow," said Mahmud.

India to tour Pakistan in March-April

REUTERS, Calcutta

India will travel to Pakistan for their first Test tour for more than 14 years early next year, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Sunday.

"After the team comes back from Australia around end of February, India will be visiting Pakistan," the BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya told a news conference.

"India will go to Pakistan around March-April and will play a full series." India have not gone on a full tour of Pakistan since a drawn four-match series in 1989-90 owing to political tensions.

The Indian government blocked cricket ties with Pakistan three years ago but have relented as relations between the two nations have improved.

"We have had initial discussions on the tour with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)," Dalmiya added.

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I'M WATCHING YOU: Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore discusses something with batsman Rajin Saleh while new member Nafees Iqbal looks on during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Ganguly to come back

REUTERS, Guwahati

Captain Saurav Ganguly has recovered from a thigh injury and will return to lead India in their next TVS Cup one-day tri-series game against Australia.

"He (Ganguly) has resumed training and will be back for the Bangalore game on Wednesday," Karunakaran Nair, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), told reporters on Sunday.

"It should be subject to fitness but I don't see any problems and he has already joined the side."

Nair also said experienced leg spinner Anil Kumble, who missed Thursday's four-wicket defeat by New Zealand following the death of his father, would return for the Bangalore match.

The 30-year-old Ganguly has been sidelined for almost a month.

The India skipper shrugged off the pain to hit 100 not out in the first test against New Zealand in Ahmedabad in the second week of October but missed the next game in Mohali. Both tests were drawn.

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CHEER UP, YOU'LL BE BACK: Pacer Anwar Hossain Munir (L) tries to lift the spirit of a sombre Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza at the BNS yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Nahid ton goes awry



SPORTS REPORTER

Nasirul Alam Nahid scored a century, but his effort was not enough to stop Mymensingh from defeating his side Sylhet by 40 runs in the Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a commanding Mymensingh total of 241 in 50 overs, Sylhet kept losing wickets at regular intervals, excepting a 107-run association between Nahid and Takrimul Hadi for the fifth-wicket, as they were bowled out for 201 in 45.5 overs.

Nahid, the elder brother of national cricketer Rajin Saleh, scored 121 runs off 129 balls with 13 fours and three over boundaries while Hadi contributed 32 off 74 balls with the help of three fours.

Shahriar Hasan was the most successful bowler claiming four wickets for 34 runs in 8.5 overs while Zakir Hasan took two wickets conceding 29 runs in 8 overs.

Earlier, a 73-run knock by Harun-ur-Rashid guided Mymensingh to 214 before being all out in stipulated 50 overs after they decided to bat.

Harun hammered six boundaries and three sixes in his 86-ball innings while veteran Saiful Islam scored a stormy 42 off just 27 deliveries featuring

three fours and two sixes.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haq captured four wickets for 34 runs in 10 overs.

However, the day's outcome was also not enough for Mymensingh to ensure them a place in the semifinals. Since they lost their first match to Jessore, they now have to depend on the result of the last group match between Jessore and Sylhet on November 11.

In the other match at the Mymensingh Stadium, Chittagong earned a comfortable 61-run victory over Kushtia to taste their first win in the round. The port city team lost their first match against Nilphamari.

Electing to bat, Chittagong scored 177 runs for eight wickets in 48 overs.

Opener Masum was the top scorer making 78 off 132 balls that was illustrated by four boundaries while Azam Iqbal contributed 49 off 69 balls.

Ahmed Kamal bagged four wickets conceding 24 runs in 10 overs.

In reply, Kushtia suffered a batting collapse and were bundled out for 116 runs in 41.1 overs. Ali Nishan was the lone man to make any impact for the losers with 43 off 88 balls.

Sumon Saha took three wickets for 14 runs in his 10 miserly overs.

Chittagong will play their last group match against American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB), who won their previous two matches.

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All local MSC

Fed Cup final round from today



SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of the Tibet Federation Cup Football Tournament begins at two different city venues today.

In first day's action, defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, boosted by the arrival of five Cameroon booters, kick off their challenge in the season's curtain-rising competition by taking on Dhaka Wanderers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The game will start at 2:15pm.

At the same time, Dhanmondi Club will face Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Mohammedan however will have to do without the foreign recruits for this game at least as their International Transfer Certificates (ITC) were yet to reach Dhaka. That means they will have to rely on their local resources in the first game. The Africans had their first training with the club yesterday.

"We are very pleased with what we have seen of them in practice. The team management has decided to sign them.

But they will miss tomorrow's match as we are yet to receive their ITC," said Moha-mmedan manager Amirul Islam Babu while talking to the Daily Star Sport yesterday.

Babu also informed that three players -- Monju, Kaiser and Khokon Das, who were fined by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for taking advance payment from two different clubs before the players transfers, have sorted out the problem and were eligible for selection.

Eight teams split into two groups will play in the round robin league final phase.

Group A features Mohammed-dan, Dhanmondi, Sheikh Russel and Dhaka Wanderers.

Group B has the tougher draw with Mukti-jodha Sangsad Krira Chakra, Abahani Krira Chakra, Arambagh Krira Sangsad and Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society.

Champions of Group A will take on the Group B runners-up in the first semifinal on November 17 while Group B champions meets Group A runners-up in the second semifinal. Both matches are at Mirpur.

The final will take place at the same venue on November 20.

Target Test spot



REUTERS, Dhaka

Paul Collingwood, a regular member of England's one-day team for the last two years, believes he is close to making his test debut after being awarded a central contract from his country's cricket board in September.

"That's a motivator," he said on Sunday. "The board always want players who can play in both forms of the game and, by getting a central contract, I feel nearer to a test place."

The 27-year-old, regarded mainly as a one-day specialist, was picked for the recent test series in Bangladesh but the all-rounder's slot in the team went to Rizki Clarke.

"I know I have to get into the test team by whatever way possible," Collingwood said. "I'll just go about my business and work harder."

The all rounder has an opportunity to impress the selectors in the one-day series in Bangladesh, and scored an unbeaten 36 in the opening game at Chittagong on Friday to help England to a comfortable seven-wicket win.



PAUL COLLINGWOOD

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"I know I've got a chance in the one-dayers," he said. "But I don't think it's a guarantee that, if I play well, I'll be automatically given a place in the test team."

"But it's great to be a part of this one-day team because we're a good fielding unit and everyone has an assigned batting role," he added.

"My job is to keep the scoreboard ticking over with ones and twos. Andrew Flintoff, on the other hand, comes in and just bangs the bowlers around."

However the Durham player, who represented England at the World Cup in South Africa during February and March, has struggled with injury this year, missing nearly four months due to a shoulder injury suffered in April.

"It was devastating to get the injury at that time," he said. "I was in good form, had runs under my belt and then suddenly I was out for a long time."