



Did U Know?

When the German Bundesliga was formed in 1963, Bayern Munich were not allowed to compete because they had not won enough honours during that time.



Sheri-Ann Brooks

(Jamaican athlete)
"I am so happy to have won a title that Merlene (Ottey) won and hopefully it will be the launchpad for me."
After winning the women's 100m sprint gold in the 18th Commonwealth Games.



DD National
India vs England
3rd Test, Day Five
Live at 10:30 am

TEN Sports
Sri Lanka vs Pakistan
3rd ODI
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
FA Cup
Chelsea vs Newcastle United
Live at 1:55 am (Wednesday)

Bond back for 3rd Test

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand bowling spearhead Shane Bond has been declared fit for the third cricket Test against the West Indies beginning in Napier on Saturday.

Bond, suffering from a stomach virus, pulled out of the second Test just before play began and was replaced by Kyle Mills, who took 10 wickets in the match won by New Zealand inside four days.

New Zealand lead the three-Test series 2-0.

SQUAD

Nathan Astle, Shane Bond, Stephen Fleming (captain), Peter Fulton, James Franklin, Jamie How, Brendon McCullum, Hamish Marshall, Chris Martin, Kyle Mills, Jeetan Patel, Scott Styris and Daniel Vettori.

School b'ball

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Green Herald beat Scholastica 30-17 in the Shabab Mursid Memorial School Basketball Tournament at Dhanmondi wooden floor gymnasium on Tuesday.

Navid scored 14 for Green Herald while Syed Ashiq Shihab netted eight points for Scholastica.

In the day's other match, Maple Leaf defeated Aga Khan School 43-33 after leading the first half 18-7. Zisan scored 14 points for Maple Leaf while Amit scored 15 points for Aga Khan.

Inter-varsity athletics

RU CORRESPONDENT

The 12th Bangladesh inter-university athletic competition began at the Rajshahi University campus stadium on Tuesday amidst a sea of colour.

120 participants from eight universities are taking part in 39 events during the three-day meet.

A fighting draw

Brothers 2: Mahindra 2

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union surrendered the lead twice to draw their AFC Cup home match against Mahindra United of Mumbai 2-2 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After a dull first-half half, attacking midfielder Abul Hossain put Brothers in front with a seventh minute strike before a sparse crowd at the big bowl. Ghanaian striker Yusif Yakubu equalized for the visitors in the 68th minute in a frantic second half that saw the men in Orange taking the lead again with promising national striker Zahid Hasan Emily blasting home the second a minute later.

Brothers lived dangerously with the slender lead before Mahindra's Brazilian marksman Jose Barreto Ramiro leveled the score again in the 72nd minute.

The draw the Premier League champions their first point in the competition after a 2-0 defeat against Al Muharraq of Bahrain in the opening match.

The Mumbai football giants on the other hand picked up their second point after two games. Ironically, they also drew their first game at home 2-2 to Lebanese Al Ahed.

Back in the day's match, chances were few and far between in a boring first-half. Brothers midfielder Parvez Babu wasted a golden chance as early in the ninth minute when he headed over the bar while Yusif and Barreto missed two distinct chances for Mahindra.

The game came alive after the break with Emily tantalizingly close to putting his side ahead in the 49th minute after his right footer missed the mark by a whisker.

Brothers however broke the evening's duck after three minutes when Abul brilliantly side-footed a low Siraji cross into the net. A second goal for Abul looked a reality when the nimble attacker got enough space to have a crack at the

goal after nine minutes but he drove the ball wide off the mark.

Mahindra showed great urgency after they were down by a goal and launched a series of

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Brothers forward Abul (C) is sandwiched by delighted teammates Emily (L) and Siraji (R) after scoring against Mahindra United in the AFC Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

ICC ends super-sub trial



AFP, Dubai

'Super subs' will no longer feature in one-day international matches after the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced an end of a trial on the first day of its board meeting here Monday.

The board also introduced the first formal pitch monitoring process for international cricket.

Introduced last year in a bid to liven up limited overs internationals, the super-sub rule allowed for a player to take over the batting or bowling duties of a team-mate during the course of a game.

Normally, a substitute is restricted to fielding alone and then only in place of an injured colleague. But it did not prove a popular move, with many arguing it gave an unfair advantage to the side that had already had the luck of winning the toss.

As for pitches, groundsmen around the world have often been accused of preparing wickets to suit the home side.

Although sanctions for poor surfaces exist in most domestic competitions, none currently apply

at international level.

But the new process, which has been adopted with immediate effect, includes potential sanctions ranging from a formal warning to a fine or even suspension of international status for venues that produce sub-standard pitches.

The process will be initiated by the match referee to be followed by a review by senior ICC officials. National boards will be allowed the right of appeal.

Meanwhile the 'powerplay' system, where the fielding side could use two additional five-over blocks of fielding restrictions following the mandatory 10 overs at the start of a one-day international innings, is to be referred to the ICC cricket committee for further consideration.

The board also announced the creation of what it said was a drugs policy "compliant" with that of the World Anti-Doping Agency, although this has to be adopted by the ICC's annual conference in July before it can take effect.

Also discussed were the continuing problems within Zimbabwe cricket, beset by allegations of racist selection policies and failure to pay players.

But any decision on whether

Zimbabwe can resume playing Test matches will not happen until 2007 at the earliest after Zimbabwe Cricket was told it would have to provide a report to the ICC board at its October 2006 and March 2007 meetings reviewing the on-field performances of its teams.

African minnows Kenya were also deemed to have gained a one-day international ranking after the qualifying period was now eight matches.

Kenya is currently ranked 11th on the table and needs to win both its remaining matches of its four-match series against Bangladesh to claim the tenth and last spot for this year's ICC Champions Trophy.

The board also said it had agreed to revert to full recognition of the United States Cricket Association, on certain conditions.

USACA has been at loggerheads with the ICC since a split last year challenged the existing association's right to administer the game.

However, the only condition specified in the ICC statement was that independently-monitored elections must take place before November 30.

Tigers target Champions Trophy

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will face a different kind of pressure when they meet Kenya in the third one-day international at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

The Tigers have taken an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the four-match series, but they must register at least a win, out of two remaining matches to ensure their 10th spot in the ICC ranking and qualify for the next ICC Champions Trophy to be held in India in October, under the new format.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) in its board meeting on Monday decided that the minimum number of matches needed by a side to qualify for a ranking should be eight.

Kenya have now played sufficient matches in the qualifying period. The two matches it played in the ICC Champions Trophy 2004 have a 50% weighting, while their recent four matches against Zimbabwe and the opening two matches of its series against Bangladesh take them to the eight-match threshold.

Kenya is ranked the 11th on the table with a rating of 18 points. They need to win both their remaining matches to clinch the tenth spot and claim the last qualifying place.

The fourth and final one-day between the sides will take place on March 25 at the same venue.

SL-Pak Test series rescheduled 3rd ODI today

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's upcoming two-Test series against visiting Pakistan has been pushed back by two days after reserve days were added for two one-dayers.

The first Test will now begin on March 26 at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground here while the second Test will be held in Kandy from April 3.

After the first one-day international of a three-match series had to be abandoned due to rain on Friday, reserve days were agreed upon for the remaining matches.

The last match had to be postponed by a day and will be held on Wednesday. Pakistan lead the series 1-0 after winning the second match here on Sunday.

Rajib, Rakib share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib won his first round board against Grand Master Niaz Mursheed in the Mercantile Bank 32nd National Chess Championship at the federation hall room yesterday.

The first round game of Rajib and Niaz was withheld due to unavoidable circumstances.

Rajib improved his tally to 9.5 points to join the table-topper and his fellow IM Abdullah Al Rakib.

IM Reefat Bin Sattar followed the leaders with seven points after the tenth round.

Dhoni downplays TV incident

AFP, Mumbai

Indian wicketkeeper Mahendra Dhoni played down his controversial run-out during the third and final Test against England here, saying the umpire's decision has to be respected.

"I have not seen the TV replays, so I cannot say much about that. It is a decision taken by the umpire and has to be respected," said Dhoni, who cracked an aggressive 64 on Monday.

The wicketkeeper was given "out" twice. First a giant television screen controlled by scorekeepers flashed him out and Dhoni walked. Then TV umpire Krishna Hariharan also gave him out after England fielder James Anderson's direct-hit from mid-on struck the stumps at the non-striker's end.

"The moment I passed the stumps I thought he (Anderson) had missed it, but when I turned and began to walk back to pick my bat I noticed that the balls were missing," said Dhoni.

The TV umpire declined to comment on the incident.

But a local daily quoted a source close to Hariharan as saying the umpire was not influenced by the giant screen.

"Even as Hariharan was asking for a replay from a third angle, the

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Towhid goes awol, Asif loses crown

AFP, Melbourne



The mysterious disappearance of a Bangladeshi athlete overshadowed slim pickings for Asian nations on the sixth day of action at the Commonwealth Games Tuesday.

Bangladesh 400m runner Towhidul Islam went missing from the athletes' village on Monday, and hasn't been heard from since.

One of just 19 Bangladeshi athletes competing here, he speaks little English and has no friends or family in Melbourne.

Police said a team official described his disappearance as "highly unusual."

The 23-year-old from Kishorgonj was last seen on Monday evening in the village dining hall and was reported missing by the Bangladesh team after he failed to sleep in his bed that night.

He told teammates he wanted to watch the men's 100m sprint final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground but it is not known if ever made it.

Islam's vanishing act overshadowed yet another gold medal for Indian sharp shooter Samaresh Jung, who moved closer to winning an unprecedented seven golds when he took his fourth title here to be neck and neck with Aussie swimmer Libby Lenton.

Australian swimmers Ian Thorpe and Susie O'Neill hold the record of six gold medals each at a Commonwealth Games.

Jung won the men's 50m Pistol individual event after relegating current Games record holder Michael Gault of England to second place at the Melbourne International Shooting Club by scoring 650.2

points.

"It was a good day out there because the wind was not as strong as in the past few days," said Jung. "I am enjoying every moment of it."

In the men's 10m Air Rifle, there was an all-Asia podium with India's Gagan Narang taking top honours in a new Games record of 698.9 points, beating the mark set four years ago by Bangladesh's Asif Hossain.

Zhang Jin of Singapore took the silver with 696.9 points ahead of India's Abhinav Bindra. Bangladesh's Anjan Kumer Singha and Asif Hossain Khan were fourth and fifth with scores of 691.7 and 687.8 respectively.

While the medals were few and far between Tuesday, Malaysia continued its stunning run in the men's field hockey, upsetting South Africa 2-1 in group B while Pakistan outplayed Trinidad 7-1.

Malaysia and Pakistan, with seven points each, clash in their last

league match on Wednesday with the winner assured of topping the group and escaping a semi-final clash against Australia.

India and South Africa, who have four points each and play each other on Wednesday, will also fancy their chances of going through as the second team if they win.

Only a draw between Malaysia and Pakistan will push both teams through and leave India and South Africa in the lurch.

While Malaysia turned it on at the hockey, their men missed out on a crack at the lawn bowls pairs medals, falling in the quarter-finals to Scotland to leave the region with no more representatives.

India meanwhile is in with a chance of a medal in the boxing with heavyweight Harpreet Singh beating Naveitalai Cagiloaloa of Fiji

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India's shooting sensation Samaresh Jung holds up the gold medal after winning the men's 50m pistol event at the 18th Commonwealth Games on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

India face stiff target



AFP, Mumbai

England set India a challenging 313-run target and followed up with an early wicket in the third and final Test on Tuesday to sustain their hopes of squaring the series.

India lost makeshift opener Irfan Pathan before reaching 18-1 at stumps on the fourth day in pursuit of what would be the highest-ever total to win a Test match in India.

Wasim Jaffer was unbeaten on four with nightwatchman Anil Kumble on eight.

The hosts, leading 1-0 in the series, now need 295 in 90 overs on the fifth and final day on Wednesday. The biggest target

chased by a team to win a Test in India is 276, by the West Indies at Delhi in 1987.

Pathan opened the innings in place of unfit Virender Sehwag, who was off the field for most of the day with back spasms. Sehwag can now bat only after the fall of the fifth wicket.

England, leading by 121 runs on first innings, were earlier dismissed for 191 in their second innings despite stand-in captain Andrew Flintoff's 50.

Leg-spinner Kumble finished with 4-49 and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh with 2-40.

Flintoff survived a stumping chance on 14 and two other close calls while playing a crucial knock under pressure. He stepped out to drive Harbhajan and misread the line, but wicket-keeper Mahendra

Dhoni failed to gather the ball.

When Dhoni finally stumped Flintoff off Kumble, the England skipper had completed his fourth successive half-century.

Flintoff, who made 70 and 51 in the second Test at Mohali and 50 in the first innings of this match, hoisted Harbhajan into the stands for a six and also hit six fours.

Debutant Owais Shah (38), Paul Collingwood (32) and nightwatchman Shaun Udal (14) all showed resolution at a time when England badly needed runs.

India held a pair of splendid return catches to try to stay in the match, with Kumble dismissing Ashes hero Kevin Pietersen and Harbhajan accounting for the well-

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Indian spin wizard Anil Kumble (R) celebrates with Yuvraj Singh after taking a return catch to dismiss England's Kevin Pietersen on the fourth day of the third Test in Mumbai on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP