



## Did U Know?

Frenchman Lucien Laurent fired the first goal of the World Cup in Montevideo on July 13, 1930. Sweden's Marcus Allback headed home the tournament's 2,000th goal in his team's 2-2 draw with England on June 20, 2006.

## What to WATCH

ESPN

England v Pakistan  
First Test, Day Five  
Live at 4:00 pm



## Gennaro Gattuso

(Italy midfielder)  
"Without the football scandal we would have not won the World Cup. It gave us extra will-power."

## Imran backs Freddie

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan legend Imran Khan believes Andrew Flintoff has what it takes to become a "great captain" for England.

Lancashire star Flintoff has led the team in six Tests and been tipped as Michael Vaughan's long-term successor.

World Cup-winning captain Imran told BBC Five Live: "I've always believed an all-rounder has an extra advantage.

"He can see things from a batsman's and bowler's point of view. A captain who understands bowlers is important -- the main captaincy is done in the field."

Flintoff took charge of the team in India when Vaughan returned home early because of a knee problem.

He continued in the role in the home Test series against Sri Lanka and will take it on again when he returns to action following an ankle injury.

Imran feels the 28-year-old is the ideal man for the job.

"I used to get frustrated as a bowler when dealing with a batting captain, especially in Pakistan, when they didn't understand the concept of reverse swing.

"We would be reverse swinging the ball and I would tell the captain don't take the new ball and they wouldn't understand that."

With Vaughan ruled out of action until next year, Flintoff will lead England in this winter's Ashes series but Imran believes they are in for a tough time.

"I think Australia will have the advantage in those conditions -- they will be very hard to beat," he added on the Sportsweek programme.

"The best chance of beating Australia is on sub-continental wickets or in English seaming conditions but in Australian and South African conditions it is not easy to beat them."

## Hockey transfers from July 27

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The three-day inter-club players' transfer for the Premier Hockey League will begin on July 27 and it will be followed by the First Division transfers.

The first Division League will kick off from August 16.

The Club Cup tournament will start in the first week of September while the Premier League will begin three days after the Club Cup final.

# Tigers in tune for Zimbabwe

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Aftab Ahmed looked set to reach prime form ahead of the Zimbabwe tour after he hammered a run-a-ball 116 as the national outfit picked up a 37-run victory over the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) National Academy at the under construction Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla Stadium yesterday.

The diminutive batsman was elegant in his strokeplay, taking both forms of bowling to the cleaners in his no-nonsense style. He dominated from the beginning, hit over the top at times as well as milking the bowlers when required. The Chittagong right-hander looked in great touch before embarking on the

tour to Africa on July 23.

Rajin Saleh also spent quality time in the middle as he struck a patient 55 off 82 balls. His knock was complementary to the smashing innings played by Aftab, as they shared a considerable partnership in the middle.

The senior Tigers completed a 3-0 route against the Academy players. They won the first match by 26 runs and also chased down a paltry total in the second match to win by four wickets.

The Tigers batted first and played out the stipulated 50 overs to score 249 for the loss of six wickets.

When the Academy team replied, the three Tigers pacemen -- Mashrafe Mortuza, Shahadat Hossain and Syed Rasel -- bowled admirably and duly shared four wickets between them. Aftab and

Mohammad Ashraf also took a wicket each for the seniors.

Overall, there was an air of professionalism which seemed to be rooted in their newfound optimism towards playing international cricket. The Tigers should know, and surely they do, that Zimbabwe should be a successful sojourn. The skipper was relaxed but focussed and this was true for most of his charges. Opener Shahriar Nafees struck a couple of fifties and there was also some good form for veteran Javed Omar who stroked a fifty in the first practice match.

But one sour note was the condition of the stadium. It was tough to find an entry point and furthermore, the construction has not transformed or gone ahead as was hoped.

# Youngsters' delight

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Among the young prospects Mehrab Hossain Jr undoubtedly hogged the spotlight during Bangladesh A team's recent tour of Zimbabwe, but there were reasons for Sakib Al Hasan and Forhad Reza to be elated.

The second string Bangladesh side returned home yesterday after spending just over a month in Zimbabwe where they drew the three-match Test (four-day) series 1-1 before clinching the one-day series 4-1.

Unpredictable but talented Alok Kapali showed signs of returning to form while out-of-favour Tushar Imran led the side from the front in the series besides Mehrab's encouraging performance as the young all-rounder scored 297 runs in three longer version games including hundreds in both innings

of the second match. He also made a useful contribution in the limited overs matches.

But the other two all-rounders, Sakib and Forhad, received the most exciting news from home during their stay in Africa as they got the national call-up for the upcoming Zimbabwe and Kenya tours.

Both players said that they were really surprised when selector Athar Ali informed them during the team meeting after the last four-day match that they have been included in the national team.

"It's simply dream came true for me. It was not unexpected but no doubt it came my way little earlier than my expectation. I think it is a reward of my performance at different levels in last one year," said 19-year old Sakib, who hails from Magura.

His Rajshahi teammate Forhad also echoed with the same sentiment.

"I know that Test cricket is the ultimate goal for a cricketer but honestly speaking, I want to be a good and useful one-day player for

the national side. I'm not satisfied with my performance with the A team because I firmly believe that I have the ability to play better," said seaming all-rounder Forhad, who many believe could be a good replacement for Khaled Mahmud.

Sakib was also not satisfied with his overall performance in the series, especially his batting, as he has only one fifty to his credit.

"My bowling was not unsatisfactory as I bagged seven wickets in the four-day series and eleven in the one-day matches. But I returned with a sigh of relief as only in my last match I batted well, scoring an unbeaten 55.

"Actually Mehrab (bhai) was the real hero in the series. I played with him at different levels but never seen him in such a good form," said Sakib, who believes that spinners will dominate during the national team's trip.

Both Sakib and Forhad said that they are very much aware of the fact that it is very difficult to

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# Disgraced clubs will appeal

Football

INTERNET, Rome

Juventus president Giovanni Cobolli Gigli has announced his club will appeal against the punishment

handed out following the investigation into match-fixing.

The Italian Federal Appeal Commission on Friday evening found Juve, Lazio, Fiorentina and AC Milan guilty of match-fixing with the Turin side hit hardest by the verdict.

Juve have been relegated to Serie B and will start next season with a 30-point deficit, as well as being stripped of the league titles they won in the past two seasons.

Fiorentina and Lazio were also relegated and will start the campaign with 12- and seven-point deficits respectively, while AC Milan retain their Serie A status but will start next season with a 15-point deficit.

Milan have also been docked 44 points from their tally last season.

However, Cobolli Gigli has reacted angrily to the news and vowed to fight the punishment.

"This verdict is unheard of," he said. "We expected a balanced sentence not only in form but in substance, our expectations were different ones."

"We could have expected relegation to the second division but to be also handed a 30 point deduction is almost like relegation to the third division. We will appeal."

Fiorentina also immediately announced their intentions to appeal against the punishment.

"Fiorentina take note of the verdict given by the Federal Appeal Commission but retains it profoundly unjust," said a statement on the club's official website.

"Fiorentina wishes to reiterate the absolute correctness of the club and of their own executives. Fiorentina will fight with every means possible so that the truth of the facts are revealed."

Milan managed to avoid the drop to Serie B but were also unhappy with the verdict, which means they will not be able to play in the Champions League next season.

"AC Milan retains the decision by the CAF of extraordinary injustice," said a statement. "We will appeal once the documents of the verdict will be available, with the

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Juventus president Giovanni Cobolli Gigli jokes at the Mombarne sports centre in Acqui Terme, Italy as the team's summer camp opens on Saturday.



Aftab Ahmed flicks on his way to an aggressive 116 in the final practice match against BCB National Academy at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

# Colombia to bid for 2014 WC

AFP, Cartagena

Colombia is to launch an official bid to host the World Cup finals in 2014, the country's president Alvaro Uribe announced on Saturday.

"Vice-president Francisco Santos has already taken the first steps internationally to obtain the hosting of the 2014 World Cup for Colombia," he said at the opening of the Central American and Caribbean Games.

Colombia was previously a candidate to host the 1986 finals but withdrew due to an economic crisis in the country. The finals, the last to be held in Latin America, were then hosted by Mexico and won by Argentina.

Under FIFA's rotation process, the 2014 finals should be awarded to a South American country following the 2010 finals in South Africa.

# Mahela to continue

BBC ONLINE, undated

Mahela Jayawardene will continue as Sri Lanka captain for the home Test series against South Africa because of the continuing absence of Marvan Atapattu.

The two-match series begins on 27 July and they are hoping to repeat the form which earned a 1-1 draw in England.

Atapattu underwent surgery on his lower back in May, but his recovery is taking longer than expected.

"He is very eager but we do not want to rush him back until he is 100 per cent fit," said chief selector Asantha de Mel.

"Marvan needs time to rehabilitate and strengthen his back."

"We had a chat together and have decided to target the ICC Champions Trophy in October," de Mel added.

The Sri Lanka players will start a training camp on Thursday after being given time off following their return home from Europe.

The two-Test series will be followed by a triangular one-day tournament, also involving India, and Jayawardene will also lead the team in that format following a 5-0 whitewash win in England.

The selectors, meanwhile, are due to name provisional 20-man Test and one-day squads in the next couple of days.

# Advantage England

Cricket

AFP, London

Leg-spinners Shahid Afridi and Danish Kaneria both took key wickets as Pakistan checked England's progress in the first Test at Lord's here Sunday.

England, at tea on the fourth day of this four-match series, were 154 for four in their second innings - a far from impregnable lead of 237 - with acting captain Andrew Strauss 74 not out and Ian Bell, one of three first innings century-makers, unbeaten on four.

But both Kevin Pietersen (41) and Paul Collingwood, whose Test-best 186 was the centrepiece of England's first innings 528 for nine declared, had been undone by spin on a wearing pitch.

Earlier, England wrapped up Pakistan's first innings after Mohammad Yousuf completed a

superb double century.

Yousuf was last man out for 202 as Pakistan finished on 445 - a deficit of 83 runs.

England, 51 for one at lunch after Marcus Trescothick played on to Umar Gul, saw the fast bowler strike again when Alastair Cook (four), who scored a Test-best 105 first time around, mistimed a pull and gave Yousuf a simple catch at mid-on.

Pietersen took a watchful 14 deliveries to get off the mark but did so with a cover-driven boundary off Gul. Next ball he played an even better shot to drive the bowler straight.

Strauss, on his Middlesex home ground and leading England in a Test for the first time, was equally assured with a square cut four off Kaneria taking the left-hander to a 69-ball fifty.

But Pakistan then struck twice in 11 balls to reduce England to 146 for four.

First Afridi, the quicker of the two

# Kenya tour confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has agreed to play the three-match one-day series against Kenya on a fresh schedule in August.

As per the new programme, the Tigers will take on the ICC associate members on August 12, 13 and 15 in Nairobi after their Zimbabwe tour.

Bangladesh were scheduled to play the series before the Zimbabwe trip but it had been cancelled following a request from the Kenya Cricket.

Habibul Bashar's men will leave Dhaka on July 23 to play five one-day internationals against Zimbabwe.

# Revenge in Murali's mind

PTI, Chennai

Sri Lankan spin wizard Muttiah Muralidaran today said his team was keen to avenge its drubbing on Indian soil last year in the upcoming one-day cricket tri-series in Colombo.

Sri Lanka were outplayed 6-1 by India in the one-day series in September-October last year and the tri-series would be their first meeting since then. South Africa is the third team in fray for the August 14 to 29 one-day competition.

"We have shown our strength by winning the series against England last month. We had played extremely well against them. We are also keen to take revenge for our loss on Indian soil last season," he told reporters after flagging off the MyTVS Heritage Car Rally here.

Sri Lanka, rejuvenated by the return of veteran Sanath Jayasuriya, blanked England 5-0 in a recent one-day series.

Sounding upbeat about continuing their winning spree, Muralidaran said, "we will be able to win the tri-series since we enjoy

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Pakistan batsman Mohammad Yousuf celebrates his double century on the fourth day of the first Test against England at Lord's on Sunday.