



Did U Know?

Portugal's quarterfinal draw after extra time with England in this year's World Cup ended Luis Felipe Scolari's streak of 11 consecutive World Cup wins as coach. However, his 12-match unbeaten stretch is a record.



Didier Deschamps

(Juventus coach)
"No one is going anywhere. The club's directors have decided that those under contract will stay at Juve, even in Serie B."

What to WATCH

BTV, Star Sports

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe

1st ODI

Live from 1:30 pm

ESPN

England v Pakistan

2nd Test, Day 3

Live from 4:00 pm

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v South Africa

1st Test, Day 3

Live from 11:00 am

India finish 'secret training'

PTI, Bangalore

The Indian cricket team today returned after completing its grueling three-day training at the Pegasus Institute of Excellence in Kallukottai village near here.

The team reached here in the evening after completion of 'Outward Bound Learning programme' aimed at increasing the tolerance levels in a fun filled environment.

The programme, involving dynamic obstacle course like rappelling, water activities and building a tent blindfold, is popular among corporates but was a first-of-its-kind for cricketers.

The gruelling training session would be followed by a recovery session --yoga, swimming and tai chi -- for the cricketers in the evening tomorrow.

The training was conducted by Surjit Singh, a retired Indian Air Force official who also runs the academy.

After the recovery session, the media will be briefed tomorrow on the activities at the camp.

On July 30, there will be closed door fitness assessment session at NCA followed by outside activity in the afternoon. The team will have a trip to the defence sports unit close to the city the next day.

The conditioning camp will conclude on August 1 with outside activity.

Liza crowned FIDE champ

SPORTS REPORTER

BJMC's Shamima Akter Liza clinched the title of the Prime Bank First Women

FIDE Rating Chess tournament with one round in hand when she beat Kishwara Shajrin Evena in the sixth round game at the National Sports Council's conference room yesterday.

Liza improved her collection to maximum six points, one point clear from second-placed IWM Rani Hamid who won her board against Tanima Parveen.

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SL plunder Proteas

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene pulverised South Africa's bowling with double-centuries during Test cricket's second-highest partnership of 471 here on Friday.

The overnight pair batted through the entire second day's play of the first Test as Sri Lanka amassed 485-2 in their first innings by stumps, a lead of 316 over South Africa's meagre first innings total of 169.

Left-handed Sangakkara ended the day at 229 not out, his fourth Test double-century and the second in successive matches against South Africa.

Skipper Jayawardene walked off the Sinhalese sports club (SSC) with an unbeaten 224, his third double hundred, and ensured the hosts were well-placed to take the lead in the short two-match series.

The duo are in line to surpass the biggest stand in the history of Test cricket -- 576 by Sri Lankans Sanath Jayasuriya and Roshan Mahanama against India at the Premadasa stadium here in 1997.

"In the context of the match, we want to go on and bat South Africa out of the game," said Jayawardene.

"We had no idea that our stand is near a record. We just want to continue and give ourselves a good lead. I enjoy batting with Kumar and the left-right combination helps to unsettle the bowlers."

Sangakkara said it was important to play a long innings once settled in.

"It's a good wicket for batting, but we have always tried to be positive and score runs," he said.

"There is some rough on the wicket now which should help our bowlers in the second innings. Except, that (Muttiah) Muralitharan can get wickets on any surface."

Sangakkara, 28, who was freed of his dual role as wicket-keeper after Sri Lanka opted to play a specialist keeper in Prasanna Jayawardene, batted fluently to strike 31 boundaries.

His 29-year-old captain also produced glorious stroke-play at the other end, helping himself to 27 fours and a six that brought up his double-century.

When South Africa last played Sri Lanka two years ago, Jayawardene scored 237 in the first Test in Galle and Sangakkara hammered 232 in the second Test at the SSC.

Memories of that assault returned to haunt the South Africans as the duo flayed the bowlers at will, scoring 99 runs in the morning session, 93 in the post-lunch period and 165 after tea.

The pair had come together on the first evening with Sri Lanka on a shaky 14-2 after seamer Dale Steyn removed openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Upul Tharanga in his first two overs.

South Africa, already without regular captain Graeme Smith and Jacques Kallis, missed veteran all-rounder Shaun Pollock, who opted out of the first Test following the birth of his second child.

Pollock, who arrived here late Thursday, will be available for the

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Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (R) listens intently to Khaled Mashud during a training session in Harare on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP



Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara (R) embraces captain Mahela Jayawardene after reaching his double century during the second day of the first Test against South Africa at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Dhaka, Navy go through

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka DSA and Bangladesh Navy booked their places into the final round of the Jubok Phone 23rd National Football Championship as they became zonal champions beating their respective rivals at the different venues across the country yesterday.

Dhaka emerged as Padma zone champions, crushing Rajbari by 8-1 scoreline at Shariatpur Stadium while Bangladesh Navy handed a 3-1 defeat on Bangladesh Police at the Bangladesh Army Stadium to become Service zone champions.

In the day's other zonal semifinal matches, Khulna, Moulavibazar and Gazipur DSAs advanced to the zonal finals, beating their respective opponents at different venues.

The day was marked by four hat-tricks -- two from Opel and Apel of Rangpur and one each from Mohammad Mamun of Bandarban and Tutul of Bangladesh Army.

Tutul at the Shariatpur Stadium, Sajjad Hossain Babu and Malay struck twice for the Dhaka DSA while Mahub Mostafa Angur, Mahub Hossain Polo, Mahmudul Hasan and Shahjahan added one each in their 8-1 demolition of Rajbari.

Dilip Kumar Roy netted the consolation goal for Rajbari.

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Utseya new Zim captain

CRICINFO, undated

Zimbabwe's selectors have sacked Terry Duffin and appointed Prosper Utseya as captain for the five-match one-day series against Bangladesh which starts at Harare Sports Club on Saturday. Utseya has only been appointed on an interim basis pending further discussions among the selectors.

Duffin only arrived in Zimbabwe on Thursday from England where he is playing club cricket, and there was no indication of what awaited him. His dismissal would seem to hint at a behind-the-scenes power struggle between some selectors and others closer to the team. The official reason for the decision was for Duffin's leadership in the Caribbean.

The selectors named a 17-man squad, including seam bowlers Ed Rainsford and Anthony Ireland, who also arrived from England where they have been playing. Until recently, Rainsford had indicated he was not going to return for the series. Tafadzwa Mufambisi and Friday Kasten, both uncapped, were included but were not expected to play in any of the games.

There was no place for Sean Williams, the Under-19 captain, even though he was recently persuaded to make himself available

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Sultan is a liar: Salahuddin

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Terming president SA Sultan 'a complete liar', Kazi Salahuddin declared that he would not continue his job in the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) under Sultan's leadership.

"Liar president (Sultan)... He is unethical... morally corrupt. It is simply impossible for me to work under the same roof with a complete liar like him," said a visibly angered Salahuddin, BFF's vice-president and chairman of the National Team Management Committee (NTMC), at a press conference yesterday.

The former star footballer came down heavily on Sultan, a ruling party lawmaker, in a reaction of BFF president's decision of naming its vice-president Abdur Rahim and member Amirul Islam Babu as team leader and manager of the national team for the upcoming SA Games, ignoring NTMC's advice.

Salahuddin was also not bothered to follow the normal procedure about his decision to resign from his posts as he deemed his public announcement was good enough.

"The moment this press conference is completed I will leave the building (BFF Bhaban) and I will

never come back here to live with a liar. The announcement is good enough, so there is no need to tender my resignation. I can assure everybody that there is no possibility of returning like the previous occasion," assured Salahuddin.

Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnun expressed his solidarity declaring that he will also resign from the post of the assistant general secretary while BFF vice-president Monir Hossain, Syeed Hassan Kanan, Golam Rabbani Helal and Imtiaz Ahmed Jonny also tendered their resignation en masse from the NTMC but expressed their desires to hold BFF executive committee posts.

"I returned home yesterday, just for a day, leaving my seriously ailing mother alone in a hospital in Bangkok to resolve the issue. But I suddenly learnt that the president has called a press conference to announce the officials. You all know I had backed the federation last October after the president had made a commitment not to interfere our activities. I request you to read his statement to understand the man," said Salahuddin.

The former national captain also explained how the BFF president, who had once agreed that the manager post should go to an ex-player and announced that the BFF would regard the NTMC's recommendation as a 'decision', took a complete U-turn during the press

conference on Thursday.

"There had been no voting about the selection of the four officials during the BFF executive meeting. You can check the minutes of the meeting to understand his false statement. If NTMC's choice of Abu Noman Nannu as manager is unacceptable then they can talk to us. Why was he so hurried in declaring the name of the officials via a press conference? It is an unprecedented event if I remember right," questioned the finest striker the country has ever produced.

"If he has the honesty and courage he could dissolve the NTMC and make a new one to fulfil his desires," he added.

Salahuddin also criticised Abdur Rahim, who was partially responsible for the chaotic situation last October by raising Babu's name as manager for SAF Championship.

"Now I can understand that I have been trapped into this situation. Can you imagine that this man (Rahim) told me over telephone that Babu has a long-cherished dream to tour with the national team as a manager but I requested him to sacrifice his position but it is impossible to make a non-technical man the manager," he informed.

Salahuddin not only expressed his sheer frustration over the BFF

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Former star footballer Kazi Salahuddin gestures with his finger during a press conference at the BFF Bhaban in the city on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR