



Did U Know?

Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene scored 374 runs in the first innings of the first Test against South Africa at the Sinhalese Sports Club on July 27. It was his first triple century. Also this is the fourth highest individual score in Test cricket.



Ruud van Nistelrooy
(Real Madrid's new Dutch signing)
"Real Madrid is a great club. It's got history, the greatest players ever have played here, so it's a great honour on my side."

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v South Africa
First Test, Day 5
Live from 11:00 am

Four to get the cut for SA Games

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh contingent for the SA Games, to be held in Colombo over August 18-27, is likely to be trimmed as four members -- three from karate and one from archery -- are not fit to take part in the meet, informed Bangladesh Karate Federation and Bangladesh Archery Federation on Sunday.

BOA chief operating officer Lt. Col. (ret'd) M Wali Ullah said karate federation dropped the three players from the Sri Lanka-bound squad as their performance was not satisfactory while one member from archery team was dropped on medical ground.

He said the contingent, proposed by the BOA Coaching and Training Committee (CTC), is likely to be approved by BOA president Lt. Gen. Moeen U Ahmed.

STANCHART SCHOOLS CHESS

Indians in the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Sandipan Chatterjee from Kolkata took solo lead in the Class VI-X group of the eighth Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament, securing six points after the sixth round matches yesterday.

In the Class KG-V group, two players from Kolkata -- Sayantan Das and Sayan Majumder -- share the top slot with 5.5 points each, also after sixth round.

In the women's group, Pallabi Roy of Kolkata enjoys solo lead securing five points after the fifth round.

In the day's matches, Sandipan, Kinjal, Saimon, Sharif, Satyajit, Sayan, Sayantan, Asif, Saiful, Pallabi, Mohona, Moni, Ridi and Jesmin won their respective matches in the fifth round.

Mahela on cloud nine

BBC ONLINE, undated

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene was in jubilant mood after eclipsing the world Test partnership record with his pal Kumar Sangakkara in Colombo.

"It was a fantastic feeling," he said of the phenomenal third-wicket stand of 624 against South Africa, spanning five sessions, 663

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Proteas force fifth day

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

South Africa captain Ashwell Prince hit an unbeaten 60 as the tourists waged a gutsy struggle to save the first cricket Test against Sri Lanka here on Sunday.

The South Africans, needing 588 runs to avoid an innings defeat, lost three top batsmen for 20 in the post-lunch session before ending the fourth day's play on 311-4 in their second innings.

The South Africans put on a better display in contrast to the opening day blues when they were shot out for 169, but still need to bat out a minimum of 90 overs on the final day Monday to save the game.

The hosts will need six wickets on the fifth-wicket track at the Sinhalese Sports Club to take the lead in the two-match series.

South Africa's hopes of extending Sri Lanka rest on Prince, who shared an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 77 with Mark Boucher (38 not out) after the tourists were reduced to 234-4.

Left-handed Prince, who took over the leadership from the injured Graeme Smith, hung on doggedly for three hours and 24 minutes to score his second Test half-century with the help of four boundaries.

Herschelle Gibbs, due to come in next after recovering from a stomach bug, is the last specialist batsman in the pavilion.

Andrew Hall, who put on 165 for the first wicket with Jacques Rudolph (90), was confident the Proteas can wriggle out of the tight situation.

"We are positive and have done well so far, I think it can be done," said Hall. "We are not a side to give

up easily. This game is not over yet."

Sri Lankan coach Tom Moody blamed the slow wicket for his side's inability to run through the opposition a second time.

"Ideally a wicket should help the spinners on the last three days, but this one is playing as true as ever," the Australian said. "The bowlers have to really work hard for the wickets."

"We knew South Africa would come back hard in the second innings, but we have the bowlers to do the job tomorrow."

The pace-spin duo of Dilhara Fernando and Muttiah Muralidaran, who bagged four wickets each in the first innings, once again shared the spoils after South Africa made a promising start.

Makeshift openers Rudolph and Hall put on South Africa's best ever stand for the first wicket against Sri Lanka. But Fernando struck 35 minutes after lunch.

The tall seamer, playing on his club ground, forced a well-set Rudolph to edge a catch to Chamara Kapugedera at third slip and then trapped new man Hashim Amla leg-before.

Off-spinner Muralidaran ended Hall's defiance by claiming him leg-before for 64 just before tea as South Africa lost three quick wickets in the afternoon session.

Muralidaran returned after tea to trap AB de Villiers leg-before for 24 as the batsman, who had publicly announced his intention before the series to attack the spinner, attempted to sweep a flighted ball.

Sri Lanka had piled up 756-5 declared in their first innings, with

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South Africa captain Ashwell Prince sways away from a bouncer during the fourth day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo on Monday.

Salahuddin saves BFF blushes

SPORTS REPORTER

Angry yet like a man possessed Kazi Salahuddin fulfilled the last wish of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) when he tendered his resignation to a spineless federation chief SA Sultan whom he publicly called a 'liar' only a couple of days ago.

"I did not feel like sending a resignation letter. But since it was very important for them I thought it was better to fulfill their desire," said Salahuddin, who announced his resignation from the post of BFF vice-president and chairman of the NTMC (National Team Management Committee) at a press briefing on Friday.

The former star footballer walked out of the BFF in disgust after the ruling body of country's football named a controversial Amirul Islam Babu the manager of the Bangladesh team for SA Games overturning NTMC's advice.

Salahuddin, a shining light in an otherwise stagnant federation dominated by a bunch of unimaginative part-timers, changed his mind after BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal told reporters on Saturday that everybody should follow official procedure.

Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnu also tendered his resignation from the post of the assistant general secretary while BFF vice-president Monir Hossain, Syeed Hassan Kanan, Golam Rabbani Helal and Imtiaz Ahmed Jonny resigned en masse from the NTMC.

"We have got their resignation letters but I don't want to make any comment because everything will discuss in Monday's emergency meeting," said Helal.

However, it remains to be seen how the BFF reacts in the so-called emergency meeting after all the allegations have been made against it.

Khulna, Comilla zonal champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna and Comilla emerged zonal champions to book their places in the final round of the Jubok Phone National Football Championship by beating their respective opponents at different venues of the country yesterday.

Earlier Dhaka, Magura, Dhaka University and Bangladesh Navy qualified to play in the 12-team fray along with automatic qualifiers Narayanganj, the defending champions, and final round hosts Sylhet.

Khulna blanked Barisal 2-0 to become Meghna zone champions at the Pirojpur Stadium. Manjarul Alam put Khulna ahead in the 35th minute while Aminul Islam doubled the margin two minutes before the lemon break.

At the Habiganj Stadium, a late strike by Humayun Kabir helped Comilla manage a solitary goal win over Moulavibazar in the Surma zone final.

Humayun netted the all-important goal in the 80th minute.

In Jamuna zone, hosts Joypurhat reached the zonal final beating Natore 3-1 at the Joypurhat Stadium.

Mahbub struck twice and Pashban added one for the winners while Tanveer netted the lone goal for the losing team.

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All's not lost yet: Bob

Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer insisted all was not lost after his side went down to a crushing innings and 120 run defeat against England in the second Test here at Old Trafford.

England's victory, achieved inside three days, left them 1-0 up in the four-match series with just two to play.

But with the third Test starting at Leeds's Headingley ground on Friday, Woolmer was adamant fortunes could still turn.

"This is a four match series and you always have a chance to stage a comeback. It is disappointing to lose inside three days. We did not do well with the bat and ball in both the innings and it cost us the match."

"We will come forcefully at Leeds, we have to because the Leeds Test will be very crucial and could decide the series."

Pakistan were skittled out for just 119 on a lively Old Trafford pitch

after captain Inzamamul Haq won the toss.

England fast bowler Stephen Harmison, who finished with 11 wickets overall, took six for 19 and from then on in Pakistan were fighting a rearguard action.

Home batsmen Alastair Cook (127) and Ian Bell (106 not out) then made centuries as England piled up 461 for nine declared.

Faced with a daunting task just to make their opponents bat again, Pakistan were bowled out for 222 in their second innings with England left-arm spinner Monty Panesar taking a Test-best five for 72.

"Harmison bowled very well in this Test and we couldn't cope with his bowling in both the innings," former England batsman Woolmer admitted.

"He was the difference and we did not handle his extra bounce," he added after Saturday's close.

But, as in the drawn series opener at Lord's, Pakistan were severely hampered by the loss of leading pace trio Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Asif and Naved-ul-

Hasan through injury.

Even so, leg-spinner Danish Kaneria (one for 106) was disappointing on a pitch, which as Panesar proved, had plenty in it for the slow bowlers.

"We have not been able to get 10 England wickets (in an innings) in either of the two Tests which shows a weakness in our bowling," Woolmer said.

"The guys have talent but they couldn't deliver. Kaneria had an off Test match but there is no need to panic as he can come back strongly. I am disappointed with the way the batting flopped because in the recent past we have shown we can fight back."

While Naved has already been ruled out of the tour with a groin problem, Pakistan hopes Akhtar and Asif can still play a role in the series.

But former South Africa coach Woolmer stressed: "We will not be hastening the return of any of our bowlers. I can't tell you when Shoaib and Asif will come back."



FINE START: Bangladesh debutant Forhad Reza tucks the ball to fine-leg during his knock of 50 against Zimbabwe in the second one-day international at the Harare Sports Club on Monday.

BANGLADESH-ZIM SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club on Sunday:

BANGLADESH

Omar c Utseya b Mupariwa 10
Nafees c Chibhabha b Rainsford 7
Aftab c Masakadza b Mahwire 40
Ashraf c Taylor b Mahwire 4
Bashar c Matsikenyeri b Rinke 5
Reza b Rainsford 50
Mashud not out 48
Rafique c Sibanda b Mahwire 32
Mortuza c Sibanda b Mupariwa 15
Razzak not out 8
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-14) 19
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs) 238
Did not bat: Shahadat Hossain
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-34, 3-68, 4-73, 5-76, 6-147, 7-195, 8-213

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rainsford	10	0	51	2
Mupariwa	9	1	44	2
Mahwire	8	1	29	3
Rinke	6	2	32	1
Utseya	10	1	40	0
Masakadza	3	0	13	0
Matsikenyeri	4	0	24	0

ZIMBABWE

Sibanda c Mashud b Razzak 33
Chibhabha c Mashud b Shahadat 4
Rinke run out (Aftab) 10
Masakadza run out (Bashar) 4
Taylor b Shahadat 14
Matsikenyeri c Mashud b Razzak 46
Chigumbura lbw b Rafique 15
Mupariwa c Reza b Rafique 1
Utseya run out (Nafees) 6
Mahwire c Razzak b Shahadat 13
Rainsford not out 9
Extras: (lb-9, w-12) 21
Total: (All out in 44.4 overs) 176
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-27, 3-52, 4-31, 5-83, 6-134, 7-146, 8-150, 9-160, 10-176

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mortuza	9	0	31	1
Shahadat	7.4	0	41	3
Reza	10	0	43	0
Razzak	8	1	28	2
Rafique	10	1	24	2

Result Bangladesh won by 62 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Rafique.

TOUR OF PAKISTAN BCB announces Academy team

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 14-member National Cricket Academy squad for next month's Pakistan tour.

Mehrab Hossain has been rewarded for his recent impressive performance with the Bangladesh A team as the left-hander was named captain for the trip.

The Academy side, which is scheduled to leave for Pakistan on August 15, will play two four-day and three one-day matches against their Pakistan counterparts during the tour.

Former national skipper Khaled Mahmud will accompany the team as manager operations while Australian Allister de Winter the coach.

SQUAD
Mehrab Hossain (captain), Nazmus Sadat, Zahirul Islam, Uttam Sarker, Marshall Ayub, Nadif Chowdhury, Sahagir Hossain, Mahmudullah Riyad, Musharraf Rubel, Suhrawardy Shuvo, Ziaur Rahman, Shafaq AJ Jabir, Dollar Mahmud and Nazmul Hossain.

Not a big issue: Mahbub

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary and chairman of the cricket operations committee Mahbubul Anam on Sunday denied to comment on the alleged involvement of the selectors in negotiating deals of different sponsorships of national cricketers.

"My colleagues and officials briefed me of the matter (allegation against the selectors) along with a lot of other issues. I will see the minutes of the last working committee meeting first before getting into the next course of action," said Mahbub, who returned home on Saturday after a month-long

vacation.

He however observed that the matter has unnecessarily got international attention. "I don't understand why has this become such a high-profile issue and even addressed in the international media," he said.

The selectors came under fire after it was alleged in media that they were involved in negotiating different sponsorship deals of national cricketers, which is not only unethical but also a violation of their contract with the board.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed was linked negotiating Mohammad Ashraf's Rainhill stint while Athar Ali Khan was labelled as a mediator for a sponsorship deal between skipper Habibur Bashar and Ashraf with

famous sportswear company Reebok

However both Athar and Faruque termed the allegations as baseless and concocted.

Replying to a question, Mahbub said that he found nothing wrong for not sending a selector in Zimbabwe where the Tigers are currently involved in five one-dayers. "Yes, there is a practice of sending one selector with the team, but I'm not sure whether the board have decided to send any selector for this particular short-trip," he said.

It was however reported in the media that Faruque was scheduled to fly to Zimbabwe on July 26, but never took flight following dispute with the board over a less financial package on offer for the trip.



WHIZZ KIDS: Tasmim Binte Noor (L) plans her next move during the fifth round of the eighth Standard Chartered National School Chess competition at the NSC conference room yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR