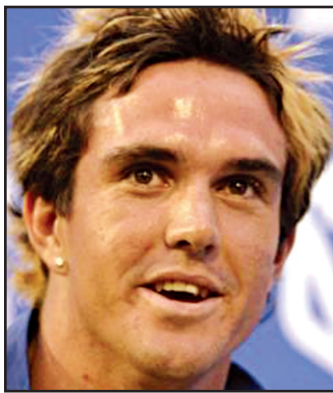




Did U Know?

Shahadat Hossain Rajib became the first Bangladeshi bowler to claim a hat-trick in one-day international cricket. Overall, he became the 19th bowler in the world to have achieved this feat.



Kevin Pietersen

(England batsman)
"I think Monty (Panesar) can be a fantastic bowler. I fancy my chances against most spinners and I honestly think that he is up there."

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v South Africa
Second Test, Day 2
Live at 11:00 am

ESPN

England v Pakistan
Third Test, Day 2
Live at 4:00 pm

Bashar coming back

SPORTS REPORTER

Injured Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar left Harare yesterday morning on his way to Dhaka. The skipper, who stayed back in Zimbabwe as a non-playing member for the third ODI to encourage his side, is expected to arrive home on board a Qatar Airways flight on Sunday after a grueling journey which will take him to Nairobi on his way to the transit destination Doha.

Bashar injured his left fifth metacarpal while trying to catch Zimbabwe opener Vusumusi Sibanda in the second ODI last Sunday and an X-ray revealed that there was a small fracture which would require four to six weeks to heal.

In Bashar's absence, former captain Khaled Mashud is leading the side in Africa.

Tushar Imran has been kept prepared by Bangladesh Cricket Board to replace the long-serving captain.

Dalmiya resumes BCCI battle

PTI, Kolkata

Former Indian Cricket Board president Jagmohan Dalmiya on Friday moved a city court challenging the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) summons to him for appearing before its Disciplinary Committee on August 15 in connection with the PILCOM accounts issue.

City Civil Court chief judge P K Sarkar fixed the matter for hearing on August 10.

Dalmiya challenged the BCCI's notice to appear before its Disciplinary Committee claiming that the Board's previous summons to appear on July 26 was challenged by him before the court and during pendency of the petition, the board could not issue fresh summons.

The BCCI had earlier asked Dalmiya to appear before its Disciplinary Committee on July 26 in connection with the PILCOM accounts issue, but as Dalmiya had moved court challenging the summons, it had deferred the notice.

The chief judge of the City Civil Court, P K Sarkar had on July 26 refused to stay the summons issued to Dalmiya by the BCCI Disciplinary Committee to appear

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Dreams die fast

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

What was supposed to be a dream simply turned into a nightmare for Bangladesh.

One more game still to go in the five-match series but it could hardly mean anything for the Tigers as they were dealt with the cruel reality of losing the series after Zimbabwe had taken an unassailable 3-1 lead, winning the fourth match by seven wickets in Harare yesterday.

It had been long buzzing in the Bangladesh cricket team's tent that the series against Zimbabwe provided the Tigers an opportunity to taste the first-ever series victory abroad, even if it was against a dwindling side.

And even nobody doubted the skipper's (Habibul Bashar) wish of a 'series whitewash' of the southern African nation before leaving home and most importantly coach Dav Whatmore, who always loves to play safe, was vocal by bracketing his side as 'favourites' in the contest, a comment that made international headlines.

And they had a decent start winning the lone practice game by five wickets. But all went wrong once the main battle started against a team, which had learnt just a day before the first match that they will play under a new captain (Prosper Utseya) in the series.

Now just think that an unfancied Zimbabwe with a bunch of young and inexperienced cricketers have secured the series with one match to spare, leaving an 'improving' Bangladesh to answer a hundreds of questions.

There were many who hoped that Bangladesh would bounce back from their third-match nightmare to script another 'fightback' that they had showed against the same opponents at home to clinch their first-ever series victory. In January 2005, Bangladesh came back from 2-0 down to remarkably win the series 3-2 at home.

But it just proved to be an illusion as the Zimbabweans simply outclassed the self-proclaimed favourites in the fourth game to clinch the series following their two-wicket wins in the first and third matches. Bangladesh won the second match by 62 runs.

Yet another series of poor applications by the batsmen dashed the

Tigers' hope to make comeback in the series. Stand-in skipper Khaled Mashud won the toss after Bangladesh's three abortive efforts but it could not bring anything positive for them as they hit their lowest total in the series with 206-9 in stipulated 50 overs.

Believe it or not, Bangladesh batsmen looked helpless against off-spinner Prosper Utseya and part-timer Hamilton Masakadza and there were two senseless run-outs (Mohammad Ashraf and Forhad Raza), which virtually killed Bangladesh's chances of salvation.

On the other hand, Zimbabwe enhanced their performance with a decent batting to overhaul the total with 8.2 overs to spare and reach cloud nine.

Bangladesh, in every department, failed to serve the purpose in the series although they had promised before the tour that they would use the 'easy' trip to gain confidence before the ICC Champions Trophy to be held in India in October-November.

But the fact is that Bangladesh will definitely try to erase the memory of the tour as early as possible.

One might have been raised a valid question whether there was any need of a renowned and expensive coach and the large number of supporting staff the team carry for this kind of amateurish cricket played by the national cricketers.

If anybody is still ignorant about what has been happening, he or she can go through the scorecards of the last four matches to find how badly they have played in the series of high aspirations.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club ground on Friday:

BANGLADESH		Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saleh c Matsikenyeri b Rainsford	11	Mortuza	6	0	24	0
Nafees b Masakadza	45	Shahadat	5	0	44	0
Aftab c Utseya b Masakadza	27	Razzak	10	0	42	1
Ashraf run out	6	Rafique	10	3	30	1
Kapali c Sibanda b Utseya	10	Reza	4	0	19	1
Reza run out	30	Kapali	3.4	0	30	0
Mashud c Rainsford b Ireland	20	Saleh	3	0	17	0
Rafique c Sibanda b Utseya	0	Result Zimbabwe won by 7 wickets and clinched the series 3-1.				
Mortuza b Rainsford	23	Man-of-the-match: P Utseya.				
Razzak not out	3	Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-91, 3-159				
Shahadat not out	5	Extras: (lb-6, w-5, nb-2) 26				
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-19, nb-2)	26	Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs) 206				
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)	206	Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-73, 3-82, 4-102,				

5-137, 6-157, 7-160, 8-190, 9-197

Bowler O M R W

Rainsford 10 1 46 2

Ireland 9 1 37 1

Mahwire 5 0 30 0

Strydom 1 0 9 0

Masakadza 10 1 36 2

Utseya 10 0 25 2

Matsikenyeri 5 0 18 0

ZIMBABWE

Duffin c Mashud b Rafique 24

Sibanda b Reza 46

Strydom c Ashraf b Razzak 58

Masakadza retired hurt 19

Matsikenyeri not out 26

Taylor not out 27

Extras: (lb-6, w-5, nb-1) 12

Total: (For 3 wks in 41.4 overs) 212

Did not bat: Chigumbura, Utseya, Mahwire, Rainsford, Ireland

Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-91, 3-159

Bowler O M R W

Mortuza 6 0 24 0

Shahadat 5 0 44 0

Razzak 10 0 42 1

Rafique 10 3 30 1

Reza 4 0 19 1

Kapali 3.4 0 30 0

Saleh 3 0 17 0

Result Zimbabwe won by 7 wickets and clinched the series 3-1.

Man-of-the-match: P Utseya.

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-73, 3-82, 4-102,

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Bangladesh batsman Shahriar Nafees plays on the off-side against Zimbabwe during the fourth one-day international at the Harare Sports Club ground on Friday.

Pietersen plunders unlucky Pakistan

Cricket

AFP, Headingly

Kevin Pietersen rode his luck on the way to 101 not out as England rebuilt their innings on the first day of the third Test against Pakistan at Headingly here Friday.

Shortly after tea, England were 247 for four with Pietersen completing his fifth Test hundred with a single. Ian Bell, going for his third hundred in as many Tests, was unbeaten on 13.

At tea, England were 224 for four after Pietersen, given not out on two when caught behind and caught off a no-ball on 29, had found his form.

Together with Paul Collingwood (31), Pietersen had put on 82 in 23 overs as England recovered after lunch.

Pakistan, beaten inside three days during England's innings and 120-run victory in the second Test at Old Trafford, which put the hosts 1-0 up in the four-match series, had fought back well to reduce

their opponents to 110 for three at the interval.

Pietersen resumed on 17 not out after Alastair Cook (23), off the last ball before the break, was caught and bowled low down by pace bowler Umar Gul after the left-hander - who'd scored centuries in the first two Tests - got a leading edge.

Collingwood got off the mark in style by pulling Gul for six. Pace bowler Shahid Nazir, playing his first Test in seven years, thought he'd had Pietersen caught behind off the inside edge but Australian umpire Darrell Hair signalled a no-ball.

To make matters worse for Nazir, who'd earlier marked his return by taking one for 19 off eight overs, the batsmen ran after wicket