



Did U Know?

West Indies did not lose even one of the twelve Test series in which Viv Richards was captain.



Sanjay Manjrekar
(Former Indian batsman)
"He is batting like he is in a trance. He is very calm and composed and his mental strength is great."
On Mohammad Yousof.



What to Watch

BTV & Channel i
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
Second ODI
Live at 1:30 pm

ESPN
Australia v England
2nd Ashes Test, Day Three
Live at 6:30 am

South Africa v India
Fifth ODI
Live at 2:00 pm

English Premier Football League
Everton v West Ham
Live at 11:00 pm

STAR Sports
South Africa v India
Fifth ODI
Live at 2:00 pm

Primera Liga
Real Madrid v Bilbao
Live at 11:55 pm

Zaragoza v Osasuna
Live at 2:00 am (Monday)

Bashar not complacent



BISHWAJIT ROY from Bogra

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar took guard against any complacency ahead of the second one-day of the five-match series against Zimbabwe to be held at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium here today.

Many might have thought that another big win was on the cards after the Tigers' emphatic nine-wicket success against their Southern African nation in the first one-day international in Khulna on Thursday, but the 33-year-old skipper yesterday said that nothing was taken for granted in the shorter-version of the game.

"Our morale is high after the convincing victory in the first game but we have to work hard to win every game because you cannot take anything for granted in the one-day game. We have the ability but we should apply it on the field like we did in the first game," said the experienced campaigner while talking to the press.

Bangladesh won their last two games against these opponents

by big margins after the heart-breaking 3-2 series defeat in Zimbabwe and the obvious question was whether it was their real standard against the visitors. But Bashar was diplomatic on the issue.

"I can only clear the issue whether it was our real standard or not after the completion of the series. Our objective is very clear; take the series match by match where the margin is immaterial. Our main target is to win the series and then we will think about the other issues," he explained.

He also heaped praise on his deputy, Shahriar Nafees, who continued his rich vein of form against the Zimbabweans with his third consecutive unbeaten hundred (105) in the first match at Khulna and said that he wanted same kind of effort from the other batters ahead of next year's World Cup in West Indies.

"Nafees played brilliantly and I would like some big scores from the other guys ahead of the World Cup. I think everything worked properly in the first match as we also bowled and fielded well," he said.

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore expressed his satisfaction at the way his boys won the first game.

"It was a strong victory and I think it was important at the start

of the series. There is always a need for a good start in any series and I think we achieved that," said the Sri Lankan-born Australian.

The Bangladesh coach wants to prove his team's strength on the field rather than on paper.

"Theoretically and on paper," he replied when he was asked whether he believed that his team was stronger than their opponents and that's why result should be better than the last occasions.

The team think-tank believed that the dew-factor would play a role in the match but said that they were not worried about it.

"It (dew) would be a factor but not sure to what degree. But you have to play two halves in a match and that's why you can't rely on one," observed Whatmore.

Bashar, on the other hand, explained why they have announced a 12-member team.

"Maybe we will play the match with same team but what we think is that the dew could be a big factor in the match. We will decide whether to go for three pacers or not after inspecting the ground tonight," he informed.

Despite the presence of grass on the pitch, Bashar said that the wicket was almost similar to the one at Khulna.



England batsman Paul Collingwood (R) is all smiles beside fellow centurion Kevin Pietersen as he raises his bat to acknowledge the crowd's applause following his double century on the second day of the second Ashes Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

Utseya confident of bouncing back

SPORTS REPORTER from Bogra

Shahriar Nafees's amazing batting form appears to be an additional headache to the Zimbabwe team following their admitted weakness against the left-arm spin attack as visiting skipper Prosper Utseya yesterday said that they had been working on the left-handed opener's limitations.

"We couldn't find any answers to his batting in the last few matches. But we should stop him if we want to win the match. We have worked on his batting in the last two days to find out his weakness," said the promising off-spinner.

Their weakness against the Bangladeshi left-arm spinners was also evident in the last match where Abdur Razzak led from the front with four wickets besides Mohammad Rafique and Sakib Al

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Bogra bored by Tigers' win!

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU from Bogra

Ongoing political turmoil and a 'lack of quality opponent' for Bangladesh contributed to the lack of enthusiasm for the second one-day international at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium here.

This lack of enthusiasm resulted in very low ticket sales, when compared to the previous occasions of international matches held here. Compared to the previous season, only 2,300 tickets were sold, a figure that has no place beside the incidents of the previous matches.

Police had to be brought on to control the large crowds that gathered when tickets were sold for the Sri Lanka matches, or even the Kenya game last season.

The empty stands in the 18000-capacity ground in Bogra could also be due to the exam timings but the locals feel that it is quite boring when the Tigers win so easily against the Zimbabweans.

England on top Collingwood makes history



AFP, Adelaide

Paul Collingwood became the first Englishman to score a Test double-century in Australia in 70 years as England struck late on the second day to take control of the second Ashes Test here Saturday.

Collingwood amassed 206 and with Kevin Pietersen (158) shared in resurgent England's highest fourth-wicket partnership in Ashes Tests of 310 to place the tourists in an impregnable position with three days left.

Andrew Flintoff declared England's marathon 11-hour 47-minute innings closed at 551 for six with nine overs left and cashed in with the wicket of Justin Langer for four to have the Australians on the back-foot.

Langer was caught by Pietersen in the gully after Flintoff elected to bowl with the new-ball in the second

over instead of Steve Harmison.

At stumps, Australia were 28 for one with Matthew Hayden not out 12 and Ricky Ponting on 11.

Pietersen earlier underlined his danger series value to the ageing Australian attack with his second dominating century in the last three Ashes Tests.

England's marathon innings kept the weary Australians in the field for close to two days in the search for enough runs to give their bowlers the chance of taking 20 wickets and levelling the series after the 277-run loss in Brisbane.

Collingwood's 516-minute epic put him alongside Reg Foster and Wally Hammond as the only Englishmen to have scored a double century in Australia.

The Durham right-hander, who wasn't sure of his place in the team until Marcus Trescothick returned home with depression, was out in the final over before tea, caught behind attempting to drive Stuart Clark.

Collingwood's restrained dou-

ble-century off 392 balls was the first by an England batsman in Australia since Hammond's 231 in Sydney in 1936.

The records kept tumbling with Collingwood-Pietersen's 354-minute stand bettering the 288 by Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe at Edgbaston in 1997 as the highest England fourth-wicket partnership in Ashes cricket.

It was Collingwood's third Test century and first against Australia and followed the heartbreak of getting dismissed for 96 in the second innings of the first Brisbane Test.

He scored 134 not out against India in the first Test at Nagpur last March and 186 against Pakistan at Lord's in July.

Pietersen equalled his 158 in the drawn-out 2005 fifth Ashes Test at The Oval before he was run out by Ponting at short mid-wicket going for a quick single.

The Hampshire dominator clouted a six off Shane Warne,

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Bangladesh's bad day Asif's quiet return; IM Enamul shines

SPORTS REPORTER



In his first shooting competition since being brutally assaulted by police in Dhaka two months to the day, Commonwealth and South Asian Games gold medalist Asif Hossain Khan finished fourteenth in the men's 10m air rifle qualification round of the 15th Asian Games at the Lusail Shooting Range in Qatar's capital of Doha yesterday.

He scored 588 points, 10 short of the top placed Tianyou Liu of China, but finished well in his final round of shots. His teammates Inamul Hossain and Anjan Kumar

Singha finished 24th and 44th respectively in the event, scoring 585 and 564 points each. Later, the 10m air rifle event was won by Tianyou with 700 points.

In the women's 10m air rifle, Sharmin Akhter ended in the 31st position with 388 points while Suraiya Akhter scored 385 points to finish at 41st place when they participated in the qualifiers at the same venue.

Bangladesh's only realistic hopes of a medal were in the kabaddi competition but that suffered a blow when they went down to India 40-21 in their opening match at the Aspire Hall.

The 2002 Busan Games silver medalists face Pakistan, who beat Japan 34-16 in their first game, today at the same venue. They

also play Iran and Japan on December 4 and 5 respectively.

But International Master Enamul Hossain gave the country some glimmer of hopes as he reached the fourth round of the Rapid Swiss League chess tournament of the Games at the Al Dana Indoor Hall.

He defeated Atta Taamra of Palestine by a single point in the opening round and Bu Xiangzhi of China by the same margin later on.

He then went on to draw with Indian Grand Master (GM) Harikrishna Pentala in round three. His more prolific teammate GM Reefat Bin Sattar was beaten by Kazakh GM Murtas Kazhgaleyev in the second round but bounced back with wins in the next two rounds.

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Runs bring Yousuf gifts



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's Mohammad Yousuf has been showered with cash and gifts worth 100,000 dollars by his sponsors and President Pervez Musharraf after his record-breaking run spree against the West Indies.

Devout Muslim Yousuf won two luxury cars from his sponsors for being the man-of-the-match in the third Test, in which he hit a century in each innings to help Pakistan win by 199 runs. He was also declared player-of-the-series.

Cricket fan Musharraf chipped in with a one-million-rupee (16,666-dollar) prize for breaking Viv Richards's 30-year record for the most Test runs scored in a year.

The president -- who is the chief patron of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and speaks of his love for cricket in his recent memoirs -- personally telephoned the Pakistani batsman to offer his congratulations.

Yousuf's 1,788 runs in 11 Tests this year beat the previous record of 1,710 runs set by West Indies great Richards in 1976.

Meanwhile the PCB and the Karachi City Cricket Association (KCCA) each presented Yousuf with gold medals while KCCA president Mohammad Ali Shah gave 5,000 rupees for each of 30 boundaries he hit in the Karachi Test.

Yousuf put his success down to his religious faith.

"It is my firm belief that whatever you get, runs or any other thing, it comes because of Allah's will," said Yousuf, who also equalled Australian great Don Bradman's record of six centuries in successive Tests -- although it took him only five matches compared with Bradman's six.

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said Yousuf deserved all the

accolades.

"His form was phenomenal in the series. The credit of the series goes to the team but Yousuf has a lion's share in it. He batted like a champion and supplemented Pakistan's batting admirably," said Inzamam.

West Indian captain Brian Lara, who before the Karachi Test had pledged he would come down hard on Yousuf to stop him from snatching Richards' record, said the Pakistani was the difference between the two sides in the series.

"It was a great achievement and especially disappointing for us that Yousuf made those 600 plus runs against us. You need to be in great form to hit nine hundreds in a year," said Lara.

NCL fifth round today

SPORTS REPORTER

League leaders Dhaka take on Sylhet in the fifth round encounter of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today.

Dhaka who drew their last game against fellow form team Rajshahi now have an easier home game against Sylhet. Rajshahi are also at their own den -- the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium -- against Barisal.

Away at the Khulna Divisional Stadium, scene of Bangladesh's nine-wicket triumph over visiting Zimbabwe on Thursday, hosts Khulna take on poor finishers Chittagong. The port city side has failed to dislodge most of the tail that they have encountered as well as being at the receiving end of Mohammad Ashraf's record-breaking 263.

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