



Did U Know?

Mohammad Yousuf scored 102 and 124 in the final Test against the West Indies at the National Cricket Stadium in Karachi. It was the first time that he scored a century in each innings, and the sixth time by a Pakistan player.



Pele
(Brazilian football legend)
"He's an excellent trainer who led Germany to an incredible World Cup this year. He didn't quite have the fortune he needed to win the title. I think he'd be the right man for the job."
On Juergen Klinsmann's proposition of becoming coach of USA.



ESPN
Australia v England
2nd Ashes Test, Day Four
Live at 6:30 am
Sportscenter India
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Man City v Watford
Live at 1:55 am (Tuesday)

Bravo out of ODIs

REUTERS, Rawalpindi
West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has left the tour of Pakistan before the one-day series for personal reasons, the team management said on Sunday.

"Bravo sought and received the permission of the selectors to return home to be with persons close to him who are unwell," media manager Imran Khan told reporters.

Bravo's place in the five-match series has been taken by paceman Corey Collymore, who was drafted in from the Test side.

West Indies lost the Test series 2-0 but will be hoping for a change of fortunes in the one-dayers, starting with the first match on Tuesday.

"Bravo travelled back to the Caribbean on Friday evening and will miss the entire five match series. We ask that Bravo's privacy is respected at this time," Khan added.

The 23-year-old Bravo, who has played 56 one-dayers, did not have an outstanding Test series but managed to contribute with bat and ball.

Experienced batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan will also miss the series after he fractured his right foot in the final Test on Friday.

Dilip hits out at pitches

PTI, Kolkata
Indian selection panel chief Dilip Vengsarkar on Sunday said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) should consider punitive measures like imposing fines on host associations if the pitches in domestic matches were below par.
"The standard of pitches is bad throughout the country. Something should be done. The BCCI should consider steps, like introducing fines on the hosting associations or the curator," Vengsarkar told newsmen here.
The former Indian captain's comments came in the wake of the criticism of the lifeless track at the Eden Gardens where Bengal and

Lefties rule in Bogra



BISHWAJIT ROY from Bogra

It is too early to say whether the two southpaws Shahriar Nafees and Mehrab Hossain will keep their opening positions, but both batsmen said they have a good understanding to be a successful pair, solving the long-standing headache of the team.

The pair shared a 104-run stand yesterday as Bangladesh posted a six-wicket victory against Zimbabwe in the day-night one-day international at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

"This was nothing new for me to open the innings with him (Nafees) because we have had experiences at different levels. We have a very good understanding, so we enjoyed the batting," said a delighted Mehrab, who made his maiden half-century with a 111-ball 54 in his third Bangladesh appearance.

"My partner was in a good form and easily played the strokes and that's why I had a different role in the match. I played a slow game but this is not my natural innings. I love to play according to the team's demand," added the young left-hander when asked whether he consumed too many balls to make

his first half-century.
On the other hand, Nafees was a little frustrated as he failed to score another hundred against the Southern African nation to put his name in the record books as a batsman to make three consecutive hundreds.

"I learnt about the record before the match and it would have been nice for me if I could score another hundred today. But at the end I am happy that my team won the battle and it came quite convincingly," said Nafees, who scored three hundreds in a row against Zimbabwe.

"It is not true that we scored runs because of weak bowling attack rather I must say we played good cricket. I really enjoyed today's batting under lights because the ball came quite nicely on to the bat," he added.

Despite the two huge victories, the Bangladesh vice-captain said that they still stuck to their plan to win match by match.

"We are only thinking about our next game and not about a series whitewash," he added.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on Sunday:
ZIMBABWE
Matsikeriye c Mashud b Mortuza25
Taylor c Mortuza b Shahadat 1
Chibhabha lbw b Saqibul 31
Masakadza st Mashud b Saqibul41
SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Zimbabwe skipper Prosper Utseya fends off a bouncer from Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortuza during the second one-day international at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on Sunday.

More woes for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

15th ASIAN GAMES DOHA 2006
Bangladesh's chances to retain the Asian silver medal in kabaddi were heavily dashed when they crashed to their second successive defeat in the competition in Qatar capital Doha yesterday.

After losing their 15th Asian Games opener to India, Bangladesh failed to hold on to a brilliant first-half performance and a 24-17 lead as Pakistan snatched a come-back from behind 42-35 win at the Aspire Hall.

Bangladesh also lost to Pakistan to settle for the South Asian Games bronze medal in Colombo last August. Both the teams earned four lonas.

Bangladesh will play Iran today while favourites India lock horns with Pakistan. The top two finishers

from the 5-team league will meet for the gold medal match.

Meanwhile, South Asian Games gold medalist swimmer Shahjahan Ali Rony found life tough in a faster lane.

The 50m breaststroke gold winner in Colombo last August, Rony finished seventh among eight competitors in Heat 3 in his pet event yesterday.

His timing at the Hamad Aquatic Centre was 31.18s, poorer than his SA Games performance of 30.43s and 2.42s behind Japanese swimmer Hiromasa Sahimoto who finished ahead with 28.76s.

Jewel Ahmed did better in Heat 1, finishing third in 100m butterfly. Overall 27th among 32, Jewel took 1:00:89s, behind Syrian swimmer Ramy Anis (58.31s) and Pakistan's Nasir Ali (1:00:22s).

Performance in chess, however, was bright although there were ups and downs in the three rounds of men's rapid chess. Bangladeshi

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib had four points after six rounds while Grandmaster Reefat Bin Sattar trailed his junior one point behind.

Reefat drew with Indian number three GM Pentala Harikrishna while Rajib lost to Kazakhstan GM Murtas Kazhgaleyev in the fourth round. In the fifth round, Rajib beat Turkmenistan's Mesgen Amanov but Reefat went down to Vietnam's GM Anh Dung Nguyen. In the day's final round, Rajib held Nguyen while Reefat drew with Uzbek GM Rustam Kasimdzhanov.

Shamima Akhter Liza won both her fourth and fifth round ties, upsetting UAE WIM Saleh Noura and Jordan's WIM Jamaliah Natalie, to take her collection to 3.5 points with the wins. She lost her way in the sixth round, losing to
SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Narayanganj post big win

SPORTS REPORTER

Narayanganj rode on a brilliant hundred from Rony Talukdar to crush Gopalganj by 119 runs in the National Cricket Championship at the Faridpur Stadium yesterday.

Rony struck 124 runs as Narayanganj notched up 221 for nine in 50 overs. In reply, Gopalganj were bowled out for 102 runs, with Faruq picking up three wickets for the winners.

At the Barguna Stadium, Barisal squeaked past Pirojpur by two wickets, thanks to Ariful Islam who struck 61 runs as they chased 146 runs scored by Pirojpur batting first.

Tangail eased past Kishoreganj by seven wickets at the Mymensingh Stadium while Chandpur beat Brahmanbaria by 29 runs at the Chittagong Stadium.
Away at Dinajpur, Nilphamari had a comfortable 74 runs win over Gaibandha.

Transfer, to be or not to be...

SPORTS REPORTER

The transfer of the inaugural Professional Football League is due to begin tomorrow but footballers of the country had no faith on the governing body of football and feared whether it would really start or not.

"Delayed for the umpteenth time, the transfers might again be deferred", feared the booters who attended their sit-in programme for the third successive day at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

The programme has been given in demand of rolling the game after more than a year's gap and the start of the transfer after almost two years.

Although the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is willing to begin the transfer tomorrow, a few clubs have suddenly expressed reservation over the decision though they have repeatedly said they have had prepared.

The BFF has no control over the participating clubs and should be held responsible if they cannot start it on its latest schedule.

Joining the current players fighting for their rights, former national captain Badal Roy blamed the BFF for creating the deadlock.

"They brought the game on the verge of destruction. In the past, football might have been irregular. But now with a ground available, why they can't get the game going I don't understand," said Badal.

Seikh Mohammad Aslam termed the executive committee worst in his 30-year involvement with football.

"They should resign because of their failure to hold the league," said the ex-national striker.

"The scene here is frustrating. The booters are anxious. They are supposed to play, not staging protests. The BFF now has an exclusive venue and even a separate establishment. But where is football heading?" he questioned.

Kapali, Rajin hit tons

SPORTS REPORTER



Discarded national batsmen Alok Kapali and Rajin Saleh cracked hundreds for Sylhet on the opening day of the four-day Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League encounter against Dhaka at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The two batsmen shared a big middle-order stand of 192 runs giving Sylhet an early advantage. Skipper Rajin struck 100 while Kapali hit an unbeaten 128 as Sylhet batted out the entire first day to score 313 for 6 in the first innings.

Rajshahi pair Mohammad Shahjada and Suhawardi Shuvo shared all 10 Barisal wickets to give their side a huge early advantage at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

The paceman and the spinner took five wickets each as they skittled visiting Barisal for only 93 runs in their first innings. In reply, the hosts were leading by one run with two wickets down at stumps.
Khulna skipper Manzarul Islam

scalped six wickets to bowl out Chittagong for a modest 241 in the first innings at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

RAJSHAHI v BARISAL
Fast bowler Shahjada ripped open the Barisal top-order, taking his side's first five wickets with only 7 runs on board for the visitors. As many as four Barisal top-order batsmen fell for ducks with only Hannan Sarkar scoring four runs, early in the morning.

In form all-rounder Arafat Salahuddin then salvaged some pride for Barisal as he added 43 runs for the sixth wicket with Abul Bashar, who scored 22 runs. Salahuddin, man-of-the-match in the previous match against Chittagong, hit six boundaries to score 37 runs but when he fell to left-arm spinner Suhawardi Shuvo with the score on 65 runs, it was all over for Barisal.

Rajshahi opener Jahurul Islam started off fine but saw his partner Farhad Hossain falling to the pace of Ishraq Sonnet at 21 runs. Naem Islam remained unbeaten with opener Jahurul who scored 44 runs.

KHULNA v CHITTAGONG
Winning the toss on a foggy morning, the local openers Tamim Iqbal and Gazi Salahuddin got their side off to a promising start but Tamim fell at the first-hour mark. He played a typically maverick knock of 34 runs, stroking six boundaries but Salahuddin was around for a little longer. He completed his fifty but was soon dismissed by all-rounder Ziaur Rahman.

But it was left-arm spinner Manzarul Islam who took care of the rest of the wickets as he produced his first bowling performance in the season. Fresh from his match-saving hundred against Sylhet, Manzarul picked up wickets regularly in the Chittagong first innings, restricting them to only 241 runs. Only Faisal Hossain stuck around for the hosts, scoring 66 runs in over three hours time.

Khulna opens Nazmus Sadat and Sajjadul Hasan were both unbeaten with the score on 17 as stumps were drawn in Chittagong.
DHAKA v SYLHET
Sylhet's start was nothing short of a disaster on a cold morning as they
SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



India batsman Sachin Tendulkar (L) trudges off disconsolate as the South Africa team celebrate his dismissal during the fifth and final ODI at the Supersport Park in Centurion on Sunday.

Proteas pound India



AFP, Centurion

South Africa captain Graeme Smith returned to form as South Africa gained a fourth successive crushing win over India in the fifth and final one-day international against South Africa at Centurion Park Sunday.

Sachin Tendulkar top-scored with 55 as India struggled to 200 for nine after being sent in to bat.

The Indian total proved hopelessly inadequate as South Africa raced to a nine-wicket win with 18.4 overs to spare. They won the series 4-0 with one match rained off.

Smith and new opening partner AB de Villiers hammered the bowling all around the ground in an opening stand of 173 in 28.1 overs.

Smith, who made only one run in his first three innings in the series, batted with increasing confidence to make 79 off 85 balls. The South African captain bludgeoned three sixes and seven fours before he was caught on the long-on boundary trying to hit a fourth six.

De Villiers, who was in fluent touch from the start of his innings, made a career-best 92 not out. Playing on his home ground he faced only 98 balls and hit 12 fours and a six to stake a big claim for the opening batsman role going

through to the World Cup in the West Indies next year.

De Villiers dominated the scoring early in the innings, taking some of the pressure off Smith before the South African captain went on a full-blooded attack.

The South African batting was in complete contrast to that of India, who were under pressure for most of their innings.

Sent in on a pitch which gave the South African pace bowlers some early help, India were pinned down by immaculate bowling by Shaun Pollock, who dismissed Indian captain Virender Sehwag and VVS Laxman with successive balls when the total was 18.
SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Ponting leads fightback



AFP, Adelaide

Ricky Ponting became Australia's pinnacle Test centurion with his 33rd hundred and Mike Hussey narrowly missed a ton to lead a home recovery on the third day of the second Ashes Test at the Adelaide Oval Sunday.

The skipper cashed in after being dropped on 35 to reach 142 as the Australians moved within 40 runs of the 352-run follow-on target in reply to England's imposing first innings of 551 for six declared.

At the close, Australia were 312 for five with Michael Clarke on 30 and Adam Gilchrist on 13.

It was 31-year-old Ponting's 10th century in his last 13 Tests -- he has played in 107 in all -- and took him past previous captain Steve Waugh's 32 centuries off 168 Tests.

"We were clawing our way back into the game and for me to get out when I did was disappointing, but I think Michael Clarke has looked terrific and Gilly's (Gilchrist) started off really well so the first hour tomorrow is going to be crucial for us," Ponting said.

"If they can get a good partnership then we're going to be right back in the game."

"We just have to keep batting and get a little way in front and try to bowl them out is the best way (to win) at the moment. If we can get somewhere near their total or maybe a little bit in front that would be great."



Australia captain Ricky Ponting raises his arms in celebration after reaching his 33rd Test century during the third day of the second Ashes Test against England at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday.