



Australian captain Allan Border pulls one to the fence to reach his 26th Test century on the second day of the fourth Ashes Test in Headingley on Friday. Border remained unconquered on 200, his second double century, when the innings was declared on 653 for four yesterday. — AFP photo

Abahani, MSC get first round byes

Abahani KC and Mohammedan SC will directly play in the second round of the Asian Club football tournaments as both the teams got byes in their first round encounters, reports UNB.

Defending Dhaka league champions Abahani Krira Chakra, in their first appearance in the 13th Asian Club championship, will take on the winners of Jawwiyah Club of Iraq and Victory Club of Maldives.

In the two-leg first phase, Iraq and Maldives will meet on September 4 in the first leg and on September 6 in the return leg.

Both the matches will be held in Male, the capital of Maldives, as no match is allowed to be played in Iraq because of existing embargo by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on the winners of Pakistani and Maldives clubs, to be finalised later, in the second round of the 4th Asian Cup Winners' championship.

The first round match between the two teams from Pakistan and Maldives will be held on August 6 in Maldives and August 13 in Pakistan.

In the second round, Mohammedan SC will play their home match on August 21 in Dhaka and the away match on August 28, either in Maldives or Pakistan.

First one-dayer at Colombo today

India seek for a glitzy start

COLOMBO, July 24: India will be seeking to bury a drab fortnight with a win over Sri Lanka in the first of three one-day internationals here Sunday as both teams prepare to flex their muscles ahead of the second Test, reports AFP.

On a rain-affected tour that has so far prevented India from producing the type of cricket that helped them trounce England in this year's home series, Sunday's one-dayer gives them the chance to grab a first win here.

But Sri Lanka, who have chalked up wins in their one-day series against Australia, New Zealand and England in the past year, will also be after a morale-boosting win before Tuesday's second Test.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga is confident of his team's chances and said the setback in the drawn first Test, when Sri Lanka lost three quick wickets before being saved by rain, would not dampen players' morale.

"Every batting side has its ups and downs. This had not affected our morale for the one-day," Ranatunga said.

India have dropped off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan from a 12-man squad and brought in reserve wicket-keeper Vijay Yadav for regular stumper Kiran More.

Both Chauhan and More were in the first Test team. Chauhan's place will be taken by either Ajay Sharma, a one-day batting specialist, or medium pacer Sali Ankola.

The 29-year-old Sharma is also able to play the role of a left-arm spinner on the slow Khetarama Stadium pitch.

"The wicket looked damp yesterday but now it has improved and looks hard. Both teams should score well," an optimistic Indian team manager Ajit Wadekar said.

The home side has picked their regular match-winning one-day side, including dashing all-rounders Sanath Jayasuriya, Ruwan Kalpage and medium pacer Pramodya Wickramasinghe.

The three replace off-spinners Jayananda Warnaweera, Muttiah Muralidharan and fast bowler Dulip Liyanage from the side that played in the first Test.

Jayasuriya, a dashing left-hand batsman and left-arm spinner, reinforced his claim as one of Sri Lanka's most promising middle-order batsmen with a sparkling 151 for a Board XI in the three-day tour opener against the Indians.

Going on statistics, India are favourites to clinch the limited overs game, having won 17 of 26 matches between the two sides. Sri Lanka won seven, while umpires ruled two other one-day games as no-decisions.

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SQUAD
INDIA: M Azharuddin (Cap), M Prabhakar, N S Sidhu, V G Kambli, S R Tendulkar, P K



AZHARUDDIN
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Hockey league now resumes on July 30

Sports Reporter

The Green Delta First Division hockey league will not resume today, according to a press release issued by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday.

Held in unabated since July 22 because of poor ground conditions owing to heavy monsoon showers, the league was scheduled for a restart today.

However unabated downpour in the last couple of days gobbled up the works of the league committee forcing them to revise its plan about resuming the league.

The committee yesterday decided to give another five days to the slabby ground to convalesce. So the league is rescheduled for a resumption on July 30, Friday with Mariner Youngs Club taking on Warl Club.

With the weeping welkin keeping the players indoors, league committee yesterday came up with some disciplinary measures at the recommendation of the disciplinary committee.

Abahani and Usha Krira Chakra, the two of the three top clubs in the Senior Division hockey league, have been fined Taka 5000 each for the involvement of the two teams in a pandemonium in the unfinished encounter of July 7. The match was abandoned after 39 minutes following clashes between the players of the sides. The match was played to its conclusion on July 11 with Abahani winning the tie 2-1.

The disciplinary committee found both teams equally responsible for July 7 flare-up that led to an abrupt halt in the league.

Kamrul Islam Kismat of Usha Krira Chakra, who stood out on that day for his temper, has been warned for his testy temperament.

Meanwhile two Pakistanis — Taslim Osmari of Usha Krira Chakra and Qamar Ibrahim of Abahani, have left Dhaka for Pakistan.

While Qamar is likely to return to bolster Abahani's campaign to regain the league title Osmari is learnt to have bidden bye with the Independence Cup champions.

COX'S BAZAR, July 24: Mohammedan Sporting Club defeated Pratsishruti Club 2-1 in the first semifinal of Junior Gold Cup tournament at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA.

The winners led 1-0 in the first half through a goal from Palash. In the second half, Bikash scored the other goal for Mohammedans. Wahid pulled one back for Pratsishruti minute before the final whistle.

Uttara will be up against Tarun Muslims in the second semifinal tomorrow.

US trounce Japan 3-0 in World League v'ball

TOKYO, July 24: The United States trounced Japan three sets to zero near here today for a total of seven wins and 12 setbacks in the World League men's volleyball Group A preliminary, reports AFP.

Set scores at the Chiba Port arena were 15-8, 15-4, 15-13.

It was Japan's 10th loss against nine wins in the preliminary competition.

Reiffel rocks England

LEEDS, England, July 24: England endured another bleak day in their dismal Ashes summer as their batting collapsed to medium pacer Paul Reiffel in the fourth Test at Headingley today, reports Reuter.

Reiffel, not selected for any of the three previous Tests, grabbed five for 65 as England slid to 195 for seven by the close in reply to Australia's first innings total of 653 for four declared.

Australia captain Allan Border completed an unbeaten double century, but England's hopes of similar batting riches were quickly dashed.

Apart from Graham Gooch and Mike Atherton, none of their top seven batsmen reached 24 as Reiffel enjoyed by far the best day of his Test career.

Playing his first Test in England, the Victorian seamer had only taken seven previous Test wickets in four appearances at the top of his country.

But almost from the moment Border tossed him the ball, he looked more likely to take wickets than any of the English seam quartet during the first two days.

The England innings had already started ominously when Mark Lathwell, whose form appears to have deserted him since he was thrust into the Test spotlight, was caught behind for a duck off Merv Hughes' third ball.

Robin Smith hammered his first ball from Hughes to the cover boundary, but the introduction of spin again brought his downfall for 23. Off-spinner Tim May tempted him into an injudicious drive and eagerly accepted the return catch.

When Alec Stewart departed for five, caught bat-pad at silly point off Reiffel, the score was 50 for three and only sensible batting from Gooch and Atherton guided England to tea without further loss.

Gooch, his position as England captain hanging by a thread, reached a positive 50 in 76 balls with a six over long-on off Shane Warne and put on

P REIFFEL ... 5 for 65

The Lancashire batsman, who had battled hard for 55, shouldered arms only to find the ball, cutting back to hit his unprotected off stump.

Thorpe went first ball, jabbing another catch to a diving Healy and Gooch's innings finally ended for 59 when Reiffel produced a good delivery which trapped the England captain lbw.

Nasser Hussain gave Reiffel his fifth victim when he chopped a ball on to his stumps and England looked in a sorry state at 184 for seven.

Andrew Caddick and Martin Bicknell survived until the close, but England now face a tough two days if they want to stave off another demoralising defeat.

"We want to win the Ashes in style," Border said. "We don't want to play for a draw."

108 for the fourth wicket with his younger partner.

But in the final session all their good work was undone after Atherton misjudged an off-cutter from Reiffel with the score on 158.

Border and his partner Steve Waugh had earlier taken their fifth wicket partnership to 332, Australia's seventh highest for any wicket.

Border finished unbeaten on 200, his second Test double hundred, having hit 26 fours and faced 399 balls.

Waugh, who scored 177 not out on the same ground in 1989, finished with 157 not out after more than six and a half hours at the crease. He struck 19 fours.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of the third day of the fourth Ashes Test in Headingley on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA:
M J Slater b Iltott 67
M A Taylor lbw b Bicknell 27
DC Boon lbw b Iltott 107
M E Waugh b Iltott 52
A R Border not out 200
S R Waugh not out 157
Extras: (b-8, lb-22, w-4, nb-9) 43
Total: (4 wickets dec) 653
Fall of wickets: 1-86; 2-110; 3-216; 4-321.

ENGLAND: First innings
M Lathwell c Healy b Hughes 0
M Atherton b Reiffel 55
R Smith c and b May 23
A Stewart c Slater b Reiffel 5
G Gooch lbw b Reiffel 59
O Thorpe c Healy b Reiffel 0
N Hussain b Reiffel 15
A Caddick not out 9
M Bicknell not out 7
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, nb-17) 22
Total: (for seven wickets) 195
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-43; 3-50; 4-158; 5-168; 6-169; 7-184;
To bat: M McCague, M Iltott

Bowling:
McCague 28 2 115 0
Iltott 51 11 161 3
Caddick 42 5 138 0
Bicknell 50 8 155 1
Gooch 16 5 40 0
Thorpe 6 1 14 0

Bowling:
M Lathwell c Healy b Hughes 0
Hughes 13 2 43 1
Reiffel 26 6 65 5
May 15 3 33 1
Warne 21 8 42 0
M Waugh 3 0 7 0

They were 55 for one at the close.

Leaders Middlesex were made to struggle for runs against Hampshire at Lord's.

Only Mike Gatting with 84 dominated the bowling as Middlesex finished on 231 for eight in reply to their opponents' 280.

South African fast bowler Allan Donald, playing his final championship match before leaving to join his country's tour to Sri Lanka, ripped through Leicestershire's top order at Grace Road.

Donald finished with four for 34 as the home side struggled to 103 for six, still 32 short of the follow-on.

John Morris hit 104 as Derbyshire amassed a lead of 340 over Sussex, while all-rounder Phil Bainbridge struck his first century since 1990 as Durham, who have gone 25 championship matches without a victory, continued to hold the upper hand against champions Essex.

Bainbridge struck 150, including 18 fours, to lift Durham to 483 in their first innings. Essex reached the close on 246 for five, still 86 short of avoiding the follow-on.

MUSHTAQ AHMED

201 in their second innings at Taunton, leaving Somerset a modest victory target of 135.

They were 55 for one at the close.

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Exhibition on 'Asian Stadium'

Sports Reporter

A three-day long photograph exhibition to commemorate Sheikh Fahad Al Ahmed Al Sabah will be held in Kuwait City from December 4 to 6 during the 12th general assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The subject of this exhibition will be 'Asian Stadium'.

Interested Bangladeshi photographers have been requested to submit their photographs (maximum ten) to the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) by September 15. Both colour and black and white photographs will be deemed fit for entry but the size of each photograph should not be more than 50x80cm in measurement.

Each photograph should be accompanied with detailed information like the capacity, building date of the stadium and the name and place of tournaments if the picture happens to be taken during a meet.

Lutz Henrique and Jorginho also were dropped from the starting lineup and were replaced by Muller, Valdo, Cafu and Leonardo.

Parreira called the moves necessary to get "more speed and physical preparedness" for Sunday's game in 12,000 foot (3,650-meter) high La Paz, where the thin air increases fatigue.

"It's important that I didn't change the backbone of the team," he said, downplaying the changes.

But soccer analysts said Parreira was worried about a repeat of last Sunday's poor showing against Ecuador, when Brazil struggled to a 0-0 draw.

"Parreira bowed to the facts — if Brazil loses to Bolivia, the team will plunge into a crisis without precedent," the newspaper O Estado de Sao Paulo said.

O Globo of Rio called the new lineup: "The emergency team."

Parreira had promised changes, but few expected him to go so far — or to make the substitutions he did.

The benching of Careca was no surprise. At 32, the center forward hasn't shown the speed and reflexes that made him a near-unanimous choice for the Brazilian team since 1982.

He will be replaced by Sao Paulo speedster Muller, a veteran of the 1986 and 1990 World Cups. Muller teamed up well with striker Bebeto, scoring both goals in his team's 2-1 victory in an intrasquad scrimmage Thursday.

Monaco midfielder Lutz Henrique also was expected to be yanked after his poor play against Ecuador.

Argentina, Canada top respective groups

VILLANOVA, Pa, July 24: Canada and Argentina lead their divisions and Germany remained undefeated after five rounds of competition at the women's intercontinental Cup field hockey competition, reports AP.

The United States, Scotland and New Zealand also posted victories in division games Wednesday at the tournament on Villanova University's campus.

Twelve countries competing for the Cup are divided into two groups for the competition. The two winners meet in the final July 25. The five best teams advance to the 1994 World Cup in Ireland.

Already qualified for the World Cup are the defending champion Netherlands, Ireland, Australia, Korea, England, Spain and China.

Canada beat Russia 2-0 on Wednesday with goals by Rochelle Row and team captain Sharon Creelman. It was Russia's first loss in six games.

Canada took a 1-0 lead in the first half on Row's goal. Creelman's came on a penalty corner conversion in the second half.

Franzisk Hentschel scored Germany's winning goal with a minute left to give her team a 1-0 victory over India. Germany finished undefeated in five rounds of competition.