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Did U Know?

Gary Sobers, probably the greatest all rounder the world has ever seen, scored over 8000 runs in the 93 Test matches at almost an average of 60. But the West Indian great does not have a single run to his credit in one day cricket as he scored a duck in the only one day match that he played in.



What to WATCH

SET Max
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand
Sharjah Cup Tri-series
Live at 4:50 pm

ESPN
South Africa vs West Indies

Fourth Test, Day Two
Highlights at 10:30 am

Boycott's Best
Cricket Classics

England vs Australia
Second Test 1981
at 11:30 am

Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
at 5:30 pm

Boycott's Best
Cricket Classics

England vs Australia
Third Test 1981
at 7:00 pm

English Premiership
Highlights at 1:00 pm

Series A
at 3:00 pm

Star Sports
Cricket Magazine India's
Greatest Cricket Moments

India vs Pakistan
1998 B'desh Silver Jubilee
Second ODI Highlights
at 11:00 pm

Asian Football Show
8:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



Pete Sampras
(American tennis star)
"Definitely the future of American tennis is looking very good."
After losing to young compatriot Andy Roddick in the Masters Series.

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 147
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to Star Daily
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
April 20, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who became Active Chess champion?
Ziaur Rezaat Rakib
- What was the result of the Sri Lanka and England one-day series?
2-1 3-0 2-0
- Who clinched the ATP Masters Series?
Sampras Agassi Safin
- Who became Dhaka Reporters' Unity cricket champions?
Inqilab BanglarBani Sangbad
- How many one-day matches did Tendulkar play to score 10,000 runs?
238 266 283

Name.....
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
Phone: (if any).....

Tigers face Zim A today

Cricket

AL-AMIN, Bulawayo

The mood of the national team was upbeat after the good showing in the third one-day match against Zimbabwe at the Queen's Sports Club on Wednesday. But the boys of Australian coach Trevor Chappell will have to improve significantly in a limited time if they are to have a creditable outing in the second and most important phase of their month-long tour.

The visitors, who are making their maiden overseas tour since attaining the Test status last year, will play the first of their two Tests starting here on April 19.

Before going into the crucial match at the Queens Sports Club, Bangladesh will however play a three-day match against Zimbabwe.

The match will start at the Bulawayo Athletic Club today. Despite having lost the limited-overs series 0-3, Bangladesh put up a valiant fight in the third game, responding with their highest one-day score of 272 after the hosts piled up 308.

The performance on a batsman-friendly wicket also helped them get their confidence back which was at a low after two disappointing defeats at Harare, where the tourists scored 155 and 103.

"We can be pretty happy with the overall performance in the one-day series. We did not bat well in trying condition at Harare, but we did well here at Bulawayo. The bowlers did a tremendous job in the first two games, though it was bit off target in the last match. But then you will have to consider the condition and the opponents," said Trevor.

The introvert Australian, who has already become popular to his charges as 'shamla uncle,' said that he was impressed with the performance of opener Javed Omar and Habibul Bashar.

"Javed was the most consistent batsman. Bashar also played a good innings. I'm also happy with the way Sharif was bowling," said Trevor, adding that it would be inspiring if the wicket remains the same.

About the composition of the team for the three-day match Trevor said that they would be looking forward to giving a chance to experienced right-arm paceman Hasibul Hossain, who was not considered for the one-dayers.

"He was bowling quite well in the nets," Trevors said. He also added that they are going to field a team for the three-day match, which in all probabilities would play the first Test.

Replying to a query the youngest of three Chappell brothers said that his boys would aim at winning matches. "Obviously, we have come here to win all the matches. If you start thinking of a draw then your second option will be a defeat. So, it is better to start thinking of a win."

Skipper Naimur Rahman was of the opinion to give slow left-arm Enamul Haque his first break in the tour.

Manager Mahmabubul Anam however lamented the lack of practice matches before the Test series. "We have got only a three-day match before the first Test which, I think, is not good enough time for a touring team to get into the longer version matches."

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe have announced the team for the three-day match with fast bowler Henry Olonga returning after missing the one-dayers due to injury. Olonga returned from Zimbabwe's tour of New Zealand in December with a stress fracture of the back. He has not played since and has missed the tour to Australia, Zimbabwe's domestic season and the start of the Bangladesh tour.

Khaled amazes Abahani

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Khaled Mahmud led from the front as Bangladesh Victory over a thrilling two-run victory over holders Abahani in the Premier Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Thursday.

The victory opens up the title race. Biman's seventh win in 10 matches raised their tally to 14 points. It was only Abahani's second defeat in ten outings, which keeps them on equal 16 points with Mohammedan Sporting Club, but the latter have a game in hand.

The right-handed middle-order batsman, hammered a rapid fifty to help the national airtliner reach a respectable 250 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs after they were 115 for four in 35 overs. Middle-order Hasanuzzaman also played crucial role hitting a defiant 87-ball 93.

The out of favour national vice-captain also shone with the leather claiming three wickets with his right-arm seam.

The versatile Biman captain not only took a brilliant catch running all the way from mid-wicket to square leg, he showed his agility by running out two batsmen off his own bowling to restrict Abahani to 248 for nine in their quota.

Put into bat, Biman got off to a sluggish start making 28 runs in ten overs for the loss of opener Athar Ali (10) who was caught behind off right-arm medium-pacer Neeyamur Rashid. By the 30th over the scoreboard was 88 for three.

Things began to change however when Mahmud joined Hasan after the fall of the fourth wicket on 113 in the 35th over.

The pair took the Abahani bowlers apart amassing 100 runs off just 11.2 overs. Their stand was broken when Mahmud was brilliantly taken by Anisur Rahman at long-off when he tried to hit a six off left-arm seamer Morshed Ali Khan.

Mahmud scored exactly 50 off 35 balls which included five boundaries.

Hasan then single-handedly

Russell down with bad back

Cricket

REUTERS, Bristol

Former England wicketkeeper Jack Russell will miss the opening six weeks of the English season because of a back problem.

The 37-year-old Gloucestershire player was forced to return early from a pre-season tour of South Africa before a specialist diagnosed the injury as a slipped disc.

Gloucestershire coach John Bracewell said: "Jack will be out of action for about six weeks. He has a disc herniation."

The county season begins on April 20. Russell will miss several county championship matches as well as the group stage of the Benson and Hedges Cup, a limited-overs trophy won by Gloucestershire last year.

Biman Cup soccer

Cricket

UNB, Moulvibazar

Holders Joypurhat brightened their semifinal berth hopes in the Biman Cup Under-14 National Football Championship as they got walkover against Rangpur at the local stadium yesterday.

Joypurhat earned full three points in the third match as they play's opponent Rangpur refused to play the match despite the presence of eight players and team manager.

After the day's match, Joypurhat were dominating the Group A securing seven points from three matches. They beat Khulna 1-0 and drew goalless with BKSP in their previous two matches.

In the day's other match, Chandpur, came from behind, tasted the first victory in their second appearance of the league defeating Khulna 2-1 at the same venue.

Ripon and Parvez scored one each for Chandpur in the 32nd and 60th minutes while Mizan netted one for Khulna in the 27th minute.

Today's (Friday) matches: Narail vs Luxmipur at 2.30 pm and Narayanjanj vs Natore at 4 pm.

Sheetal h'ball begins today

Cricket

UNB, Dhaka

The Sheetal Women's Handball League, organised by Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF) begins at the Dhanmondi Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex today.

Jatrabari KC will meet Madaripur Handball Training Centre in the inaugural match at 3.30 pm while last year's runners-up Dilkusha SC will play Narsingdi Sheoly Kuri Ashar at 4 pm in the day's other match.

A total of seven teams are participating in the single league basis competition.

The teams are: Holders Arambagh KS, runners-up Dilkusha SC, Madaripur Handball Training Centre, Jatrabari KC, Usha KC, Rangamati Mukul Fouz and Narsingdi Sheoly Kuri Ashar.

Rajshahi cricket

Cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jagrata Sangha and Al-Rashid A won their respective matches of the Hasan Imam and Ali Imam Pintu Smriti cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Medical College Hostel playground yesterday.

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Bulawayo bubbles

Cricket

AL-AMIN, Bulawayo

Opener Javed Omar Belim and Habibul Bashar received cash reward for scoring half centuries in the third one-day match against Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club on Wednesday.

The manager of the team Mahabubul Anam after the game announced the award of 50 US dollars for each player.

Bashar scored a career-best 74 while Javed made 69. Their effort enabled Bangladesh to score 272, their highest total in one-day internationals till date.

But it was later confirmed that Grant rather than going past, have equalled Houghton's feat, which was made against New Zealand in the 1987-88 World Cup.

"I thought Grant has crossed me. But, then, it must be good news to learn that my record still remained intact", a smiling Houghton told this reporter at the breakfast table at Arizona Spurs resort today.

HOUGHTON CAUGHT BEHIND!

Dave Houghton is the most revered cricketer in Zimbabwe. He is also one of the few former stars to take on the challenge of building a new generation of cricketers for Zimbabwe.

Although his batting exploits remain a benchmark for aspiring youngsters of his country, Houghton's expertise as a statistician is not in the same level.

This was revealed when a modest Dave confused the reporters present by declaring that his highest ODI score was 141 and immediately congratulated Grant Flower for crossing his mark which was a Zimbabwean best also.

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QUICK TIME GRAND STAND

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QUICK TIME GRAND STAND

The imposing structure of the

Grand Stand at the Queens Sports Club gives you the feeling that it took a long time and lot of hard work to build it.

But believe it or not, the Metabelenda Cricket Association erected the four-storied stand in only four months last year.

Although the facilities inside are yet to meet the international standard, it is still more impressive than the Harare Sports Club.

OH GOSH!

Bulawayo is the most attractive tourist destination in Zimbabwe. This beautiful southern city will offer you brilliant sunshine round the year, a serene atmosphere and lush greenery all around.

But prepare for a shock if you want to know exactly from where the name 'Bulawayo' originated.

"A place of killing", uttered by who is working for Crinfo in Zimbabwe. It was named Bulawayo following a mass killings of Shona community by the Zulus from South Africa.

Marauding Masroor

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Masroor hit his second century in the Premier Division Cricket League to guide Brothers Union to an emphatic 94-run win over Agrani Bank at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Masroor, who struck 110 against Surjo Tarun at the BKSP ground last month, scored 103 as Brothers, opting to bat first after winning the toss, reached a commanding 261 for nine in the allotted 50 overs.

Masroor, who took 90 balls to reach fifty and another 47 to complete his hundred, hit four sixes and eleven boundaries in his 127-ball knock.

Lower-order Aslam Khan scored 34 while Jahangir Talukder chipped in with a quickfire 27.

In reply, the bankers were all out for 167 in 45.2 overs with opener Sohel Hossain hammering an 87-ball 51.

It was Brothers' third win in nine matches. On the other hand,

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between Brothers Union and Agrani Bank at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Thursday:

BROTHERS UNION
Farid c S Shaded b Ashrafal 2
Zia c Aslam b Sohel 16
Masroor c Imran b Russell 103
Jahangir c Malik b S Shaded 13
Zeeshan c Imran b S Shaded 7
Mahubub c Sajjad b Malik 16
Ahmed c Zia b Malik 4
Aslam run out 34
Sohel run out 24
Talukder not out 27

Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-1, w-4) 12
Total: (All out in 45.2 overs) 167
Fall of wickets: 1/46, 2/50, 3/60, 4/68, 5/124, 6/134, 7/137, 8/165, 9/167.

Bowler O M R W
Talukder 8 2 20 2
Zeeshan 4 0 21 0
Sohel 8 1 24 3
Imran 10 0 33 1
Aslam 6 0 28 2
Masroor 9 0 34 0
Ahmed 0 2 0 1
Result: Brothers Union won by 94 runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the new Zealand innings in their Sharjah Cup triseries match against Pakistan on Thursday:

NEW ZEALAND
Nevin c Inzamam b Sami 15
Sinclair c Malik b Razzak 117
Bell b Razzak 5
McMillan b Afridi 46
Vincent lbw b Afridi 15
Harris c sub (Farhat) b Waqar 29
Oram b Waqar 10
Adams not out 4
Bradburn not out 0
Extras: (lb-13, w-8, nb-4) 25
Total: (for 7 wks in 50 overs) 266
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-71, 3-151, 4-186, 5-251, 6-262, 7-263

Bowler O M R W
Waqar 8 0 37 2
Sami 6 0 42 1
Razzak 7 0 31 2
Saqlain 9 0 46 0
Malik 10 0 48 0
Afridi 10 0 49 2

Sizzling Sinclair

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

Matthew Sinclair hit 117 to steer New Zealand to 266-7 from 50 overs in the Sharjah tri-series match against Pakistan here on Thursday.

The right-handed opener, who has two Test double centuries to his credit, batted till the penultimate over during his maiden one-day hundred after 11 matches.

Sinclair, New Zealand's top scorer with 60 against Sri Lanka on Tuesday, once again carried the depleted Black Caps on his shoulder after they elected to take first strike in the day-night match.

Chris Harris chipped in with 29 off 35 balls towards the end in a match the Kiwis must win after losing to Sri Lanka by 106 runs.

A victory for the Kiwis, who are without eight top stars including captain Stephen Fleming, will leave all three teams with one win each in the first round of the double-leg tournament.

New Zealand made a flying start, reaching 71-2 by the 13th over.

Sinclair put on 45 for the first wicket with Chris Nevin in eight overs, before seamer Mohammad Sami had Nevin snapper up low at short cover by Inzamam-ul-Haq.

After Matthew Bell fell for five, skipper Craig McMillan helped Sinclair add a brisk 80 for the third wicket to lift New Zealand to 151-2 in the 30th over.

McMillan hit 46 off 52 balls when he played on to leg-spinner Shahid Afridi, the sixth bowler employed by Pakistan to contain the run flow.

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Afridi also trapped Lou Vincent leg-before to finish with two for 49 from his stipulated 10 overs.

Pakistan grabbed three wickets in the last two overs to leave themselves with a reasonable victory chase of 5.4 runs an over.

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Bowler O M R W
Waqar 8 0 37 2
Sami 6 0 42 1
Razzak 7 0 31 2
Saqlain 9 0 46 0
Malik 10 0 48 0
Afridi 10 0 49 2

Friendly cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Al-Helal AC recorded a 7-wicket victory over visiting Australian Melbourne Metropolitan Club (MMC) in a friendly cricket match at the local stadium yesterday.