

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Shaheed Mintu Sangha defeated Bhitashayee Krira Chakra by two wickets in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium on Wednesday.

Winning the toss, Bhitashayee batted first and collected 95 all out in 32.5 overs.

In reply, Mintu Sangha reached the target of 96 runs for eight wickets in 15 overs.

Pak flounder

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experienced off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq from the line-up, including off-spinning allrounder Shoaib Malik with a four-pronged pace attack.

Sri Lanka included three seamers and two spinners.

India, who participated in the first edition, refused to send its team to Pakistan in September last year, saying it would continue to boycott cricket with Pakistan over their Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka thrashed Bangladesh in the championship league games last year and decided to abandon the meaningless league game and directly play the final.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the Asian Test Championship final between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings

Afridi run out	9
Umer c Samaraweera b Vaas	6
Younis b Muralitharan	46
Izamam c Jayasuriya b Fernando	29
Younha c Sangakkara b Fernando	6
Razzaq lbw b Vaas	24
Malik c Sangakkara b Fernando	13
Latif c Sangakkara b Muralitharan	36
Waqar b Muralitharan	19
Akhtar lbw b Muralitharan	15
Sami not out	0
Extras: (lb-5, nb-25, w-1)	31
Total: (All out in 67 overs)	234
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-18, 3-104, 4-108, 5-127, 6-147, 7-176, 8-216, 9-219.	

Bowler O M R W

Vaas	17	2	62	2
Zoya	9	2	29	0
Fernando	16	1	84	3
Muralitharan	25	10	55	4

SRI LANKA: First innings

Atapattu c Akhtar b Younis	0
Jayasuriya not out	47
Sangakkara not out	39
Extras: (b-1, nb-6, w-1)	8
Total: (For 1 wkt in 21 overs)	94

To bat: M Jayawardene, R Arnold, H Tillekeratne, T Samaraweera, C Vaas, N Zoya, B Fernando and M Muralitharan.

Fall of wicket: 1-0

Bowler O M R W

Waqar	7	0	27	1
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Akhtar	5	0	38	0
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Sami	6	0	23	0
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Razzaq	3	0	5	0
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Umpires: Daryl Harper (Aus) and Athar Zaidi (Pak).

Match referee: Justice Ahmed

Ebrahim (Zim).

No Pollock, yes Boucher



REUTERS/AFP, Cape Town

Wicketkeeper Mark Boucher has been confirmed as the South African captain for the second Test against Australia which begins at Newlands on Friday.

Vice-captain Boucher stood in for regular skipper Shaun Pollock in the first Test at the Wanderers, which South Africa lost by an innings and 360 runs.

Pollock pulled out of the side on Tuesday evening after failing to recover sufficiently from a side strain that threatens to keep him out of the third Test as well.

It was the second blow suffered by the South Africans on Tuesday as it followed the announcement that batsman Daryl Cullinan had pulled out of the match over a pay row, plunging the team's planning into turmoil.

Pollock joined the side for practice in Cape Town Tuesday, but the convenor of national selectors, Rushdi Magiet, said a side strain injury had not improved sufficiently for him to play.

Team physiotherapist Craig Smith said in a statement: "Shaun has not recovered to a point where he could bowl at full pace or for a sustained period.

"Shaun had a scan on Monday which showed he hasn't healed

enough and he tried to bowl in the nets this afternoon, but he still felt it.

Neil McKenzie was named as vice-captain, while 24 year-old batsman Loden Gamiet of Border will perform the 12th man duties.

Earlier in the day, Cullinan, 35, walked out of the squad when his demand for a contract until next year was refused by Gerald Majola, chief executive of the United Cricket Board.

SOUTH AFRICA: Mark Boucher (captain), Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Graeme Smith, Ashwell Prince, Andrew Hall, Paul Adams, Makhaya Ntini, Dewald Pretorius, 12th man: Loden Gamiet.

Razzaq must wait

AFP, Lahore

Flamboyant all-rounder Abdul Razzaq is unlikely to play the first few matches of the English season for Middlesex as Pakistan want him for the home series against New Zealand next month, an official said Wednesday.

"We are carefully looking at how and when to allow Razzaq to play in the English season but we need him for our home series against New Zealand," national coach Mudassar Nazar told AFP.

London county Middlesex have sought urgent clarification as to how much of the season Razzaq is available for after Pakistan's home series against New Zealand, which has been rescheduled to April-May.

New Zealand's tour was postponed last year after the September 11 attacks on the United States.

The 21-year-old Razzaq is a key member of Pakistan's Test and one-day squad.

"Razzaq's contract allows him 30-35 days away from county duties so we would sit down and work out how to utilise those days," Nazar said.

Pakistan will play two Tests and three one-day internationals against New Zealand between April 20 and May 12. The English county season begins in the third week of April.

Ind-Zim ODI

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"Sachin is a world class batsman and Sehwag was in tremendous form. It's unfortunate that they have to sit out, but it will certainly be to our advantage," he added.

But Carlisle said India still had enough firepower in the likes of Ganguly, Laxman, Dravid and the spin duo of leg-spinner Anil Kumble and off-break bowler Harbhajan Singh, to cause the visitors problems.

"It's not going to be easy, we will have to put our best foot forward. The Tests are over, it's a new game and if we try our best we could manage the unexpected."

SQUADS

INDIA: Saurav Ganguly (captain), Shiv Sundar Das, Rahul Dravid, Vangipurappu Laxman, Dinesh Mongia, Sanjay Bangar, Mohammad Kaif, Ajay Ratra (wk), Zaheer Khan, Ajit Agarkar, Tim Yohannan, Harbhajan Singh, Sharandeep Singh, Anil Kumble.

ZIMBABWE: Stuart Carlisle (captain), Heath Streak, Gary Brent, Alastair Campbell, Charles Coventry, Dion Ibrahim, Andrew Flower, Grant Flower, Travis Friend, Douglas Hondo, Douglas Marillier, Mpumelelo Mbangwa, Tatenda Taibu, Craig Wishart.



A Bangladesh Army paratrooper landing inside the Bangabandhu National Stadium during the rehearsals for the opening ceremony of the Bangladesh Games yesterday.

Gough needs surgery

AFP, London

England fast bowler Darren Gough said Wednesday he could need a knee operation which will keep him out of action for up to five weeks.

Yorkshire quick Gough has just over a month in order to be fit for the start of the English season in April after sustaining a cartilage injury during England's final one-day international against New Zealand.

However, the 31-year-old paceman who was not included in the Test squad after making himself unavailable for last year's tour to India, remains optimistic about making a swift recovery.

"Even if I do need an operation on my knee I don't see it as a major problem, and I reckon I'll be fit for the start of the season in April," he told www.teletext.co.uk.

Hogg ZCU's new chief executive

AFP, Harare

Former Rhodesia and Zimbabwe fast bowler Vincent Hogg has been appointed as the new chief executive of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU).

The 51-year-old Hogg, who played international cricket here from 1972 to 1984, takes over on April 1 from David Elman-Brown who quit in January this year.

Bedi upsets Lankans



AFP, Lahore

Cricket Council for allowing bowlers with suspect actions to play at international level.

"It is an attempt to trigger disturbance for a bowler who has been performing excellently," said the captain, here for the final of Asian Test championship against Pakistan.

The Kandy-born Muralitharan took 80 wickets in 12 Tests last year. He also became the fastest bowler to reach 400 wickets, achieving the milestone in 72 Tests.

Muralitharan has been repeatedly non-balled in his career by umpires who believe he is "chucking" -- delivering the ball without his arm being locked at the elbow.

Tests carried out at an Australian university however have shown that the impression is the result of a birth defect which makes Muralitharan's

arm appear bent even when he has locked his elbow.

Sri Lankan coach Dav Whatmore said Bedi's remarks were unwarranted.

"It disappointed us no end but Muralitharan is a great fighter and a great bowler so he would not be distracted by such remarks," Whatmore, an Australian, said.

Sri Lankan manager Chandra Schaffer criticised Bedi for creating controversies.

"Not very many people take Bedi seriously, I think he thrives on controversies and that's his style," Schaffer said.

"I don't see any problems for Muralitharan in future as far as his bowling action is concerned," he said.

Fletcher frustrated



AFP, Christchurch

England head coach Duncan Fletcher has admitted certain members of his squad are not fit enough with less than a week until the first Test against New Zealand.

Fletcher has been disappointed by the dedication of the six players recently arrived in New Zealand for the three match Test series.

The England management gave out training schedules for the players to follow while the one-day squad were busy in India and New Zealand, but Fletcher has said certain individuals failed to stick to the guidelines.

The squad was strengthened 11 days ago by the arrival of Mark Butcher, Mark Ramprakash,

not seem to have been the case.

"They can be supervised to some degree but these guys are individuals and they must realise that they have come out here to play a Test match," he said.

"I know which guys were not fit enough and we will have a chat and make a decision at the end of the tour."

England start their final three day warm-up match before the first Test tomorrow when they take on Canterbury at Hagley Oval, where England will need to improve on the performance in Queenstown against a weak Otago side.

"The Test match guys have not had much preparation and it's very important for them to play in this game," he said.

"Even the guys that were playing in the one-dayers need to play because they look as though they are in one-day mode."

Usman Afzaal, Jimmy Ormond, Warren Hegg and Richard Dawson.

Fletcher refused to name the players he felt were short of fitness but admitted it will be taken into account when end of tour reports are compiled.

"They have been caught out a little bit here and they have not been able to get up to match fitness as quickly as we would have liked," Fletcher said.

"It surprises me that they have not turned up as fit as they should be. Some of them did not adhere to their programmes as exactly as we would have liked," Fletcher said.

With England on a very tight itinerary that allows just two three-day warm-up games before the start of the first Test, it is vital that Fletcher's players follow instructions, but after their laboured draw against Otago last week that does

not seem to have been the case.

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TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



EKUSHEY: 8:05pm. *Bikita*. Shimu, a young woman comes to Dhaka for a job interview. She plans to stay at her only relative's place. But when she arrives in Dhaka she finds out they all went to India for treatment. She asks their neighbors to let her spend the night at their house and she was refused. Then she plans to stay in a hotel. But the hotel also refuses to give her a room. It was not over yet the biggest mishap was yet to happen.

STAR WORLD: 6:00 & 9:30pm. *Roswell*. July 3, 1947: The crash of a spaceship, an event officially but never effectively denied by the United States government, this is the story of Roswell. In tonight's episode Max and the others start following Tess, thinking she is Nasedo, the evil shape-shifter.

AXN: 10:30pm. *Ghost Story*. Four elderly men who gather once a week to thrill each other with tales of terror find one of their scarier stories coming to life as a woman they mistakenly left for dead fifty years earlier returns to life to gain revenge. A superior, chilling horror film. Based on a novel by Peter Straub.

STAR WORLD

6:00am *Happy Days*

6:30am *3rd Rock From The Sun*

7:00am *The Oprah Winfrey Show*

8:00am *MacGyver*

9:00am *The Drew Carey Show</*