



Did U Know?

No nation has ever lost its first league match and won the soccer World Cup.

What to WATCH

ESPN
English Premier Football League
Norwich City vs Everton
Live at 5:40 pm
Chelsea vs Blackburn Rovers
Live at 7:55 pm
Liverpool vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 10:10 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Valencia
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)
TEN Sports
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
First Test, Day Four
Live at 10:45 am
STAR Sports
Madrid Tennis Masters Series
Live at 5:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Tottenham Hotspur vs Bolton Wanderers
Live at 7:55 pm



Ruud van Nistelrooy
(Manchester United striker)
"He showed amazing character. If I were to praise one thing, it was his attitude. To do that at his young age is fantastic."
On club-mate Wayne Rooney.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 29, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

- West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:
2 wickets 50 runs 33 runs
- Who won the China Open tennis title?
Serena Sharapova Hingis
- How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?
83 84 81
- Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?
Sarwan Flintoff Lara

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

Afridi to lead Pakistan in HK Sixes

AFP, Faisalabad

Explosive all-rounder Shahid Afridi will lead Pakistan in next month's Super Sixes tournament in Hong Kong, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Friday.

The 24-year-old, left out of the on-going Test series against Sri

Bashar misses Chittagong Test

SPORTS REPORTER



Habibul Bashar has been ruled out of the second Test against New Zealand after selectors announced a 13-member squad for the Chittagong match yesterday.

The Bangladesh captain had to sit out the first Test that saw the home team crash to an innings and 99-run defeat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday. The 32-year-old premier batsman is yet to recover from an injured right thumb, which he recently underwent surgery on in Australia.

This is the first time that Bashar, who has scored five of Bangladesh's eight centuries in the five-day contest, will miss an entire Test series since the country played its first Test against India in November 2000.

The absence of Bashar means wicketkeeper-batsman Khaled Mashud will lead a side that makes three changes for the second Test starting in the port city on October 26.

The selectors dropped opener Hannan Sarker, who scored just one in two innings at Dhaka. Right-arm seamer Alamgir Kabir was axed without being played in the first Test.

Aftab Ahmed and Enamul Haq are the two new inclusions in the side.

After making his one-day debut in the ICC Champions Trophy in

England, Aftab gets a real opportunity to make a debut in the longer version in his backyard. The young right-hander, regarded as a fine stroke-maker, is expected to join his under-19 mate Nafees Iqbal.

Aftab came into the reckoning with Bashar expressing his inability to play in the second and final Test at the MA Aziz Stadium.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haq received a welcome call-up after recovering from an injury. He played his last Test against England at Chittagong exactly a year ago.

The selection panel was tempted to take an extra spinner after slow bowlers dominated the Dhaka Test.

Enamul has played only two Tests so far despite travelling with the team to Zimbabwe and West Indies.

However selectors' faith in pace

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SQUAD
Khaled Mashud (captain), Rajin Saleh, Javed Omar, Mohammad Ashraf, Manzarul Islam, Tapash Baisya, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique, Tariq Aziz, Nafees Iqbal, Alok Kapali, Aftab Ahmed and Enamul Haq.

SERIES SALAD

AL MUSSABIR SADI

While Bangladesh continued to be miserable on the field for most of the first Test against the Kiwis, their fans still turned up in numbers even though the writing was all the wall for the Tigers on the fourth morning at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The 10, 000-strong holiday crowd witnessed a familiar batting collapse that saw the home side slip to 122-9 but umpires decided not to extend play beyond lunch.

During the interval while frustrated supporters took stock of yet another horror show, there was a brief entertainment show.

Suddenly men and women dressed in black performed mimes near in one corner of the Big Bowl.

At first, spectators thought it was an advertisement shoot or a 'package programme' but it was later understood that a multinational company in collaboration with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was performing the show to promote a product. The theme of the show was sport with cricket and football being the highlights.

While the fans kept coming, it was sorry that the Board advisors were mostly invisible during the first Test.

BCB president Ali Asghar made brief appearances earlier but he was nowhere to be seen on Friday. In fact only two advisors were seen when the home team were heading towards a 17th innings defeat in 31 Tests.

Perhaps they should have taken a leaf out of Sonny Shaw's book. If he could fly all the way from New Zealand to follow every ball from Day One why could not the Board officials do so?

If they did then they would have heard the enthusiastic Kiwi globe trotter's last remark: "The tiger is really a pussy cat!"

IMPATIENT NAFEEES!

Patience is a virtue that Nafees Iqbal sadly does not possess. Playing in his first Test, the talented 20-year-old may have had a forgettable debut against New Zealand scoring just one, but in the second innings the Chittagonian was all set for a maiden half-century when he unnecessarily ran himself out.

Later the right-hander admitted he should not have attempted that fatal second run.

"The second innings could have

been a lot different had I only shown more patience. I was responsible for the run out because I was so eager to get to fifty," said Nafees, the nephew of former national skipper Akram Khan.

He defended the top-order's policy of trying to hit the spinners out of the attack.

"Daniel Vettori was causing us many headaches and that's why we decided to launch an attack on the spinners to break the shackles. And I think it was a right decision considering the state of the pitch. But our aggressive play all went wrong with my misjudged call," he added.

"Still I've learned a lot from my first Test appearance, especially I understand the importance of being patient when you are on the verge of completing a landmark."

BETTER LEAVE IT TO

HIM

It is customary to ask a captain after a match about his target for the next game. And Khaled Mashud, who led Bangladesh in the absence of Habibul Bashar, was asked that exact question following the side's defeat.

But the wicketkeeper had a valid reason for not saying about the Tigers' target in the second Test starting in Chittagong on October 26.

"I was appointed captain for one match, so it is not wise to say anything because Bashar will return to take charge," Mashud said.

But later in the evening it was revealed that Habibul Bashar was not going to lead the side when selectors announced the 13-member squad. And so that means Mashud will have to carry on.



PHOTO: STAR

Grant Gaskin (L), general manager of sponsor Pan Pacific Sonargoan Hotel, hands over the player-of-the-match cheque to Brendon McCullum of New Zealand after the first Test yesterday.

Sanath puts SL in control



AFP, Faisalabad

Veteran Sanath Jayasuriya steered Sri Lanka into a commanding position over Pakistan with an unbeaten century on the third day of the first Test at the Iqbal Stadium here on Friday.

With the match evenly poised at the start of the day, Jayasuriya scored 131 to lift the tourists to 285-3 in their second innings for an overall lead of 264 runs.

The 35-year-old former captain brought up his century in the final session by smashing leg-spinner Danish Kaneria for six over mid-wicket, and continued to pound Pakistan's tiring attack to finish the day with 13 boundaries.

He will return on day four looking to extend his fourth wicket 69-run partnership with first innings century maker Thilan Samaraweera, who provided solid support with 15 runs.

After Sri Lanka made 243 in their

first innings, Pakistan resumed on Friday at 256-8 but the tail made just eight extra runs to give the hosts a lead of 21.

Paceman Shoaib Akhtar, who took 5-60 in the first innings, then got Pakistan off to a great start when he trapped Sri Lankan skipper Marvan Atapattu without scoring for the second time in the match.

For Atapattu, the rare pair added to a similar inglorious performance on his Test debut against India at Chandigarh in 1992.

Akhtar's fine form continued when he had Jayasuriya caught behind for nine, only to see New Zealand umpire Billy Bowden signal a no-ball.

Kumar Sangakkara weathered the Akhtar storm and steadied Sri Lanka's innings with a polished 59, his 18th Test half century.

He and Jayasuriya guided Sri Lanka to lunch at 98-1 but, with the first ball after the interval, Akhtar had Sangakkara caught behind by Moin Khan. Jayasuriya and Sangakkara put on 98 for the second wicket.

Jayasuriya and Mahela Jayawardene then combined for an 118-run partnership, with the pair seeing off Akhtar's third spell in the post-tea session.

Jayawardene made 57, his 22nd Test half century, before top-edging a Kaneria delivery to Moin behind the stumps.

Pakistan will have to take the final seven wickets on Saturday for 50 runs or less to avoid setting themselves a history-making chase. Pakistan's biggest total to win a Test was 314 against Australia in Karachi 10 years ago.

In the morning, Pakistan's innings ended with the run out of number 11 Kaneria for one.

Before that, Akhtar was trapped leg before wicket for nine by left arm spinner Rangana Herath, who was pick of the Sri Lankan bowlers with 3-68.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

THAT WAS UNLUCKY: New Zealand wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum and captain Stephen Fleming successfully appeal for a caught behind decision against Bangladesh vice-captain Rajin Saleh during the hosts' second innings on the fourth day of the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Television replays later showed that the ball did not touch Saleh's bat.

BANGLADESH-NZ SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard on the fourth day of the first Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on Friday.

BANGLADESH: First innings 177 (Ashraf 67, Saleh 41, Mashud 23 not out; Franklin 5-28, Oram 3-36, Vettori 2-26)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 402 (McCullum 143, Sinclair 76; Rafique 6-122, Manzarul 3-84)

BANGLADESH: Second innings (overnight 41-2)

Iqbal run out	49
Omar c McCullum b Vettori	14
Hannan c and b Vettori	1
Saleh c McCullum b Vettori	0
Ashraf c Styris b Vettori	26
Kapali c McCullum b Wiseman	0
Mashud c Styris b Wiseman	2
Manzarul c Richardson b Vettori	1
Rafique c Fleming b Wiseman	24
Aziz lbw b Vettori	0
Baisya not out	0
Extras: (b-6, nb-3)	9

Total: (All out in 54.5 overs) 126

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-33, 3-41, 4-87, 5-88, 6-92, 7-101, 8-112, 9-122

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Oram	7	4	6	0
Franklin	5	1	14	0
Butler	4	1	8	0
Vettori	22	13	28	6
Wiseman	16.5	1	64	3

Result: New Zealand won by an innings and 99 runs and take 1-0 lead in the two-Test series.

Man-of-the-match: Brendon McCullum.

Nagpur promises sporting pitch

CRICINFO, undated

Kishore Pradhan, the curator of the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium in Nagpur, where the third Test between India and Australia begins on October 26, has said that he is preparing a sporting pitch for the encounter.

Speaking to the Indian Express, Pradhan said that the surface would "offer bowlers and batsmen an even chance".

"There is some grass but we can't remove that as the wicket surface may get spoilt," he continued. "We have stopped watering it since Wednesday."

Meanwhile, Shashank Manohar, the president of the VCA, is hosting the match, affirmed that he would go out of his way to ensure that the nature of the pitch was not dictated by anyone.

"I have got no instructions from either the BCCI or the Indian team management. Even if I do, I am not going to oblige them," he said, speaking to the Times of India.

He said that he was acting according to a circular issued by the BCCI earlier in the year, which c a l l e d

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Int'l cricket to stay at SCG

AFP, Sydney

Test and international one-day cricket matches will stay at the Sydney Cricket Ground after efforts to seek a move to the bigger Olympic Stadium, Cricket NSW said here Friday.

The future of elite-level cricket at the SCG had been in doubt after the state cricket body announced last July it was putting to tender the venue for major cricket matches in New South Wales between the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust and Ogden IFC, which operates the Olympic Stadium, in Sydney's west.

The trust has been the custodian of the traditional cricket venue in Australia's largest city for 128 years.

But cricket traditionalists were breathing a collective sigh of relief on Friday when Cricket NSW said it had decided to stick with the tried and tested ground in Sydney's east until 2010.

Cricket NSW said the SCG had offered improved facilities and a

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Zim convince ECB safety Team

REUTERS, Durban

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) delegation visiting Zimbabwe to assess safety and security ahead of England's tour next month are satisfied they have been well briefed on the issues.

"We've seen various embassies, the police in Bulawayo and Harare, opposition MPs and government ministers," Richard Bevan, the chief executive of the Professional Cricketers' Association, told this news agency from Harare on Thursday.

"We met with the minister for

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Same old story

BISHWAJIT ROY



Even after a crushing innings defeat with a day and a half to spare, the Bangladesh team's think-tank was still trying to find some sort of inspiration for the second Test that starts in three days' time.

It was the perennial handicap -- batting -- that let the home team down for the umpteenth time but chief selector Faruque Ahmed was unwilling to come down hard on the batters.

"We batted poorly in the first innings. But I won't blame them for the second innings debacle because it was difficult as the ball was turning and there was bounce also," said Faruque.

"If we consider the condition of the pitch, I must say that Nafees (Iqbal) and (Mohammad) Ashraf played exceptionally well," Faruque added.

Whatmore was his usual philosophical self.

"This is a disappointing finish. I just felt that the first innings failure was the start of the demise. I thought this wicket showed much more spin today compared to the last three days and the New Zealand spinners made brilliant use of the conditions," said Whatmore

who believed the match was lost after Bangladesh had made just 177 in their first innings having batted first.

"When you make a score which is probably half of what it should be on a wicket like this, it is difficult to keep fighting your way back into the game. It was difficult to come back on the fourth day with the deficit of over two hundred runs and two days to go especially after losing those two wickets yesterday."

Whatmore said it was not fair to be critical of specialist batting coach Owen Mottau for the non-performance of the batsmen.

"Technique takes time and we've seen evidence of some of the work that's being done coming through."

"I think the batsmen showed good technique against the pacers although they lost some wickets against them in the first innings. But we need to have a good thought about how we are going to come back against spin."

The coach picked out the bowling effort as one of the positives from this Test.

"There have been some encouraging signs. They bowled out their opponents in one innings on a really good batting surface. I saw some committed effort from the boys in the match."

Stand-in captain Khaled Mashud said that it could have been a differ-

ent story had they managed at least 300 in the first essay.

"We had a very poor total in the first innings. I think we made another mistake in the second innings by becoming ultra-defensive against their spinners. It would have been better if we were more aggressive," said the 28-year old.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming branded the win as a special one.

"This was our first win in over six years in the sub-continent. So, it was special," said the 31-year old Kiwi captain.

The left-hander said that Bangladesh had wasted an opportunity to put more pressure on the tourists on the first day.

"They had a chance to take control after winning the toss in familiar conditions and one partnership did put some pressure on us on the first day. But from then on it was pretty much under our control," said Fleming.

"There were obviously times during the Test when we were under pressure. I think Bangladesh came back well through their spinners but they didn't get the partnerships they needed from the top order to get a big score."

Fleming was expecting a clean

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PHOTO: STAR

WELL PLAYED: Habibul Bashar (L), the injured Bangladesh captain who is sitting out the Test series, congratulates New Zealand spinner Daniel Vettori at the end of the first Test yesterday.