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Did U Know?

Enamul Haque's 6/45 are now the best by any bowler at Chittagong, bettering Daniel Vettori's 6 for 70 for New Zealand against Bangladesh in 2004-05.



What to Watch

BTV & ESPN

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day One
Live at 9:20 am

ESPN

South Africa vs England
Fourth Test, Day Two
Live at 2:30 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 9:30 pm

STAR Sports

VB Series
Australia v West Indies
First ODI
Live at 8:10 am
Sportsline
Live at 7:30 pm



Talk Turkey



Alok Kapali

(Bangladesh batsman)
"The fact that they remembered my name was amazing enough for me." On meeting his teammates and opponents for the tsunami appeal match.

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day One
Venue: BNS
Green Delta Premier Cricket League
Victoria vs City Club (FCS)
Mohammedan vs Agrani Bank (DCS)
Abahani vs DOHS (BKSP)

Inzamam all for it

AFP, Adelaide
Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq predicted here Thursday that the Twenty20 version of cricket would become the most popular form of the sport within a few years.
"I think after four or five years this will be the most popular game, (compared to) 50-over games and Test matches," he said.
"Now it's very popular. After one or two years it will be the most popular game."
Inzamam had just captained Pakistan to a 56-run loss against Australia A in the first Twenty20 international to be played in Australia.
Twenty20 cricket, as the name suggests, allows for just 20 overs a side and imposes a number of rules to keep play flowing quickly.

New Test, new target

AL MUSABBIR SADI

When the boys of Dav Whatmore prepared for the second Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, the mood was refreshingly different. It was not one of those mornings when the players were just going through the motion, knowing that another defeat was staring in their face and thinking how many days the opposition would take to wrap up a victory.
For a change, the Tigers trained with an aura of confidence after the maiden Test victory in the first Test at Chittagong on Monday.

With the historic 226-run success over Zimbabwe still burning like an Olympic flame, the Tigers walked tall on to the ground, ran like spring chickens, batted in the nets with new vigour and visibly displaying all ingredients to go for the kill against an inexperienced Zimbabwe, which is going through a rebuilding period.
The power of that momentous win was evident when Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar spoke to reporters after the training at the country's premier venue.

"I am confident of now winning the series after the success in the first Test. Our job is only half done and we are eager to start from where we had left off in Chittagong. We are ready for another five days of hard cricket," said Bashar, who scored back-to-back fifties in the port city.
Asked whether the Tigers were concerned more about securing the series by playing for a draw here in Dhaka, the premier batsman ruled out any defensive thinking.
"We are definitely going for a victory."

"The wicket looks fine but batting here would be difficult at some stage. It is expected to turn more than it did in Chittagong," remarked Bashar smilingly, knowing that he has two quality spinners in Mohammad Rafique and Enamul

Haque, who turned the Chittagong Test on its head with a career-best 6-45.

"It looks like a wicket where the ball will turn from the second or third day."

There was a concern over Mashrafe-Bin-Mortuza's new ball partner Tapash Baisya, who hurt his palm during the first Test. But Tapash, who made vital breakthroughs in both innings of the first Test, was declared fit after practice on Thursday.

"Tapash is okay. We have seen his X-ray report and he is not feeling any discomfort. He is fit to play. So we are going to retain the same eleven barring any last minute injury," said the 32-year-old Bashar.

"Psychologically we are confident but we are constantly reminding ourselves that the first Test is a part of history now. Tomorrow is just another Test match. I have said before that they (Zimbabwe) are a good side and we can't be complacent or take them lightly," he added.

Tatenda Taibu, the courageous Zimbabwe captain who scored 92 in the first innings in Chittagong, looked unfazed even after losing by such a big margin.

"We are looking forward to this Test and every match is important. It is more important as we have to win here," said the 21-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman.

"Our batting has to be much better (than Chittagong). If our top-order can do their job it would be easier for the rest of us. If we can hold our catches, we will definitely win."

Talking about the wicket, he said it was a typical Bangladesh wicket. "It's another fat wicket and I never expected grassy wickets here. So obviously we have to do well when we bat."

Leading a young team is pressure but Taibu, who has been in charge of a team that lost so many top-class cricketers, made no fuss about it.

"Like I said before, pressure is



AT HIS BASHING BEST! Habibul Bashar, the Bangladesh captain drives during net practice yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Ashraful wants to make amends

SPORTS REPORTER

Only a couple of players missed out in that unique team effort in Chittagong which enabled Bangladesh to register their maiden Test victory four days ago.

One of them is Mohammad Ashraful, the country's own 'little master' who got the starts and promised a lot in his two innings' before giving it all away prematurely.

Expectation on Ashraful has risen since his epic 158 not out against India in Chittagong last month. The 20-year-old has scored at least one half century in the last six Test series and many feel the Bangabandhu National Stadium will witness another classic from the gifted young man who holds the world record for being the youngest Test centurion on debut.

"The first Test was a great victory for us. Now everybody is focussing on the second match. Most of us have already forgotten what we did in Chittagong because it's another match from tomorrow. I want to see it as our 36th Test which we have to win. Everybody wants to perform and we want to repeat the team effort again. If we can combine our ability with effort, we will win the Test," said the fast maturing strokemaker.

Admitting that he had missed out in the Chittagong Test, Ashraful said that he was determined to do his best in Dhaka.

"All the players can not click at the same time. I will try my best and it is very much possible to get a big innings as we will be batting against the weakest bowling side I have faced in my Test career. Although I have not scored many runs in the first Test, I can say they have the most inexperienced and weakest attack."

Ashraful had adopted a cautious

approach in the Chittagong Test and took his time before getting dismissed for 19 and 22 respectively. But he thought that was the way to go about against weak attacks.

"Usually, one gets many loose deliveries against such attacks and I had planned to wait. My target was to bat long and I was trying to adjust to the pace of the wicket. I just forgot that it was the last over before tea when I got out in the first innings. Also, it was a very good catch," he explained.

When asked, he denied that there was any pressure of expectation on him, especially after making his second Test century against India.

"I don't feel any extra pressure. I just play on the merit of the ball. It will be great to get one big score in Dhaka after Chittagong. As I did not contribute much in the first Test, I would be happy if I do something here and help in winning the series. Still, my target is to bat for as long as possible," said a confident Ashraful.

Sonargaon and Gazi Tank win

SPORTS REPORTER

Gazi Tank collected full points by virtue of losing lesser wickets when their First Division Cricket League match against Dhammondi Club ended in a tie at the BKSP ground yesterday.

Chasing Dhammondi's 196 all out (49.4 overs), Gazi Tank reached 196-9 in 50 overs in an exciting finish.

In the day's other match, Azam Iqbal Babu smashed 105 off 135 balls to help title aspirants Sonargaon Cricketers defeat Surjo Torun by 42 runs at the Dhammondi Cricket Stadium.

Opener Ranim's 123 from 126 balls went down the drains as Surjo Torun, in reply to Sonargaon's 217-5, were all out for 229 in 47 overs.

England 263-4 at close

STAR SPORT DESK

England were 263 for four when bad light stopped play on the opening day of the fourth Test against South Africa in Johannesburg last night.

Opener Andrew Strauss topped with a career-best 147 while Robert Key made 83. Strauss' hundred was his third of the series. He was out just before close when Jacques Kallis took a catch at slip off Shaun Pollock.

Pace man Makhaya Ntini grabbed two wickets for 51 runs.

Earlier, the left-handed Strauss and Key added 182 for the second wicket.

Sensational Strauss

AFP, Johannesburg

Andrew Strauss hit his third century of the series as England built up a strong position on the first day of the fourth Test at the Wanderers Stadium Thursday.

England were 187 for one at tea with Strauss unbeaten on 107. He and Robert Key (57 not out) shared an unbroken second wicket stand of 142.

Strauss, 27, who was born in Johannesburg and lived in the country before his family emigrated when he was seven years old, took advantage of a good batting pitch

after England captain Michael Vaughan won the toss for the first time in the series.

Recalled wicketkeeper Mark Boucher and fast bowler Dale Steyn combined in South Africa's only breakthrough when Marcus Trescothick was caught behind for 16 when the total was on 45.

With the five-match series locked at 1-1, Boucher was recalled to add experience to the South African team. He was dropped following a tour of Sri Lanka last year after making a South African record 75 consecutive Test appearances.

Steyn returned to the side after Charl Langeveldt failed a late fitness test on an injured left hand.

Vaughan decided to bat on a pitch which was drier and had less grass than usual despite the Wanderers having a reputation as a pitch which helps the bowlers on the first day, particularly in overcast conditions.

It was a brave move for the England captain who made his debut on the same ground five years ago when England crashed to two for four wickets on the way to an innings defeat after being sent in.

The sky was partly cloudy Thursday but clouded over during the morning. Although there was good bounce and carry, there was no notable movement off the seam.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

Amol crashes out

BSS, Dhaka

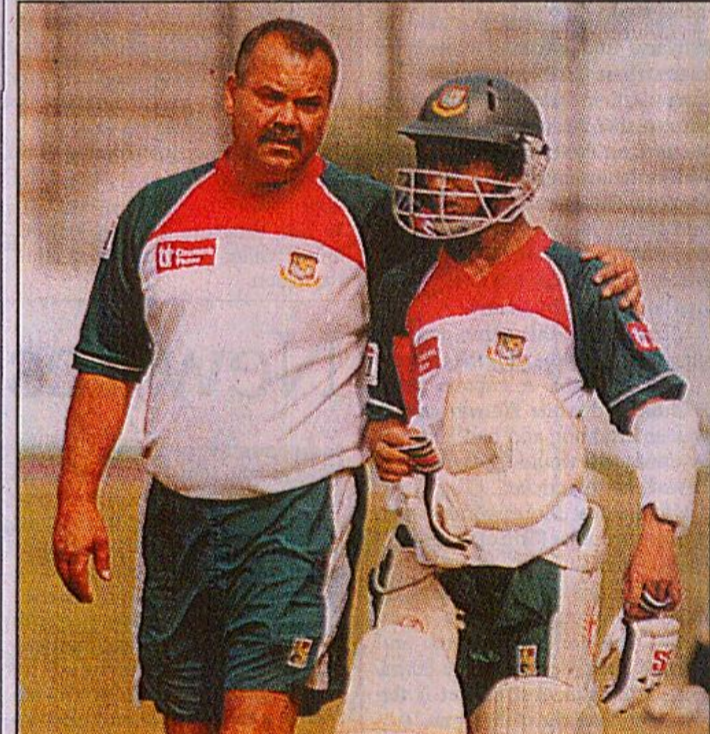
Bangladesh number one Amol Roy found Chinese Taipei's Chang Hui too hot to handle as the local boy crashed out from the quarterfinals of the New-Way International Junior Tennis Championships (under-18) at Rajshahi Zafar Imam Tennis Complex yesterday.

Amol, whose world junior ranking is placed 782, lost to top seed Chang Hui, ranked 76th, by 6-4, 6-1 sets.

Oshada of Sri Lanka, Agung Bagus of Indonesia and Somit Prakash of India confirmed their semifinal places in the boys' singles beating Hsin-Han Lee of Chinese Taipei, Chia Chiehlin of Chinese Taipei and Tetaoyama of Japan respectively in the quarterfinals.

In the girls' singles Elina Hasnova of Azerbaijan, Rachays Chai Chanacha of Thailand, Warachaya of Thailand and Elena of Russia moved into the semifinals.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



I NEED A BIG ONE FROM YOU! Coach Dav Whatmore talks to Mohammad Ashraful during practice yesterday.



A teammate shows his defence to Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu (R) during yesterday's practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Football's best to play tsunami match

AFP, Paris

Football governing bodies FIFA and UEFA will next month stage a fund-raising match between the 'cream of world football' to raise money for the victims of the Asian tsunami disaster.

The "Football for Hope" match will take place at Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium on February 15, the world and European football bodies said in a joint statement Thursday.

One side will be led by FIFA world player of 2004, Ronaldinho, and coached by Brazil's World Cup winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira and Frank Rijkaard of the Netherlands.

The other will be headed by European football of the 2004, Andriy Shevchenko, and coached by the bosses of Juventus and Arsenal, Marcello Lippi and Arsene Wenger.

The remaining players will be announced at a later date, FIFA and UEFA said.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Aus-WI VB Series opener

AFP, Melbourne

West Indian skipper Brian Lara warned his team to look to the future rather than the past when they take on Australia in the opening tri-series limited-overs match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.

Lara said the Windies should avoid dwelling on their surprise win in the ICC Champions Trophy in England last September if they wanted to upset the world titleholders.

"We've got to put that behind us," Lara said here Thursday.

"I'm almost sure that Australia is not living on their past and we can't as well."

"We are going to be working hard to get on top early and stay on top and win the game."

Lara, who made a brilliant hundred in the West Indies' only victory in their three warm-up games against Victoria and Australia A, also paid tribute to new coach, Australian Bennett King.

"It's good to have young players, having their talent and ability to work hard," he said.

"We have a new coaching staff which is getting the work ethic up. It's an exciting time, not just for me, but for West Indies cricket."

The Australians were still tinkering with their final batting line-up Thursday, although it now seems likely that young up-and-comer Michael Clarke will open. Clarke had been suffering from a

mystery foot injury but passed a fitness test on Thursday and may now take the place of regular opener Matthew Hayden, who is being rested.

But a lingering injury is likely to rule out fellow batsman Simon Katich, who was originally drafted to take over Hayden's role.

If Katich does not play, either Clarke or Damien Martyn will open with run-scoring machine Adam Gilchrist.

"Clarke wants to open and he's done it before -- he got a hundred in Zimbabwe doing that so we've got a couple of options there," Australian captain Ricky Ponting said.

"Damien's also done extremely well when he's had a chance to open before."

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

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