



Did U Know?

The first time a chess tournament game was played by teletype was on August 25, 1965 when Bobby Fischer played in the Capablanca Memorial tournament. He played his games by teletype from New York to his opponents in Havana, Cuba.



ESPN

New Zealand vs Australia

Second ODI

Live at 7:00 am

FA Cup

Newcastle United vs Chelsea

Taped version at 3:00 pm

Football Focus

Live at 6:30 pm

Sportscentre

Live at 8:30 pm

UEFA Champions League

Bayern Munich vs Arsenal

Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)

STAR Sports

Sportline

Live at 8:00 pm

UEFA Champions League

Real Madrid vs Juventus

Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)



Mohammad Ashraful

(Bangladesh batsman)

"I did not expect the job (captaincy) to come my way so early but I'm ready to accept the challenge. I've never captained any side at any level in my career but I'm lucky that I'm going to lead a very strong side in an important tournament."

On being named BCB XI skipper for the Duleep Trophy.

RETURN OF WILSON

2nd Aus-NZ ODI today

AFP, Christchurch

Former rugby All Black Jeff Wilson will return to international cricket for the first time in 12 years Tuesday when he takes the field against Australia.

Wilson gets his chance in the second of five one-day internationals against the world's top side after New Zealand all-rounder Scott Styris was ruled out with a knee injury.

Styris has suffered in recent

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Shahadat after Mushfiqu



SPORTS REPORTER

Fast bowler Shahadat Hossain Rajib started from where he had left off in the first Test as his second five-for in consecutive innings put Bangladesh A in control on Day Two of the second Test against Zimbabwe at Bulawayo on Sunday.

Coming off his match-winning effort (five for 63) in the second innings of the first Test, Shahadat's bagged five for 53 this time to send the home side's innings stumbling to 201 all out from 90 without loss. That gave the tourists a healthy first innings lead of 110 but it would not have been possible without the heroics of wicket-keeper Mushfiqu Rahim whose unbeaten 111 saved his side from embarrassment. Bangladesh were precariously placed on 142 for six when Mushfiqu came in on Day One and single-handedly guided the A side to 311.

After Shahadat's demolition act,

Bangladesh finished on 78 without loss by stumps in their second innings stretching the lead to 188.

The second string Bangladesh side lead the three-match series 1-0.

Shahadat got into the act after Saqib Al Hasan had trapped Vusi Sibanda lbw on 42 as Zimbabwe A lost ten wickets in the space of 111

LATEST

Bangladesh A set an improbable 388-run winning target for Zimbabwe A in the second Test at Bulawayo yesterday, according to a message received in Dhaka.

The home side crashed to 34-2 with nine overs remaining on the third day. Left-arm pacer Sheikh Russell grabbed both the wickets of Vusi Sibanda and Terrence Duffin.

Zimbabwe A, trailing 1-0 in the three-match series, will need a further 354 runs to win on the final day today.

runs. Dion Ebrahim (5) became his first victim after when he edged the ball to Mushfiqu.

Opener Terrence Duffin had moved on to his third half-century of the series but Shahadat clean bowled him on 59. Only Tafadzwa Mufambisi (31) put some resistance towards the end.

Part-time bowler Tushar Imran chipped in with 3-22 from 4.5 overs while left-arm spinner Saqib al-Hasan bagged 2-43.

Earlier, batting at number eight, wicketkeeper Mushfiqu completed his maiden first-class century on the first day. The 16-year-old right-hander hit ten boundaries in 187 balls. Shahadat had also caused Zimbabwe problems with the bat on the first day, helping Mushfiqu put on 47 for the ninth wicket.

Vice-captain Shahriar Nafees Ahmed, who was deputising for Enamul Haque Jr. who had been rested, made 35 while Raqib Al Hasan (40) as they negotiated the 2

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PHOTO: STAR

SKY BLUE LATINOS: Abahani's foreign recruits (L-R) Felix of Chile and Argentines Ariel and Jose pose in front of the clubhouse at Dhanmondi yesterday.

Foreigner spree for Fed Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

With the Federation Cup Football Tournament just around the corner big teams continued their frantic search for quality foreign recruits.

Defending champions Muktijoddha Sangsad, who banked on African players last year, flew in a Brazilian midfielder Rafael on Friday. Rafael, who once trained alongside Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho, is the third foreign player for the Reds joining up with Ghanaian Charles Ghansha and Rwandan striker Harry who are already in the city.

But it was Mohammedan, who brought in two South Korean booters three months ago after a forgettable last season.

Mohammedan's bitter rivals Abahani, still mourning the untimely death of their manager and country's legendary defender Monem Munna, brought in three Latin American players -- striker

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'I'm fully fit'



AFP/REUTERS, Hyderabad

Indian batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar Monday said he was looking forward to Pakistan's upcoming tour of India after regaining fitness.

"I'm fully fit and preparing for the big series against Pakistan," Tendulkar said ahead of a domestic fixture, having recovered from a tennis elbow that troubled him over the past season.

"I'm here to prepare myself in a particular way," he told a news conference in the southern city on Monday.

"At this moment I'm fit to play, that's why I'm here. I have to see how I go in the match. Nobody knows what's going to happen but right now I feel fully fit."

Tendulkar, 31, has been in and out of the team since August due to the injury, missing one-day tournaments in the Netherlands and England before playing the last two home Tests against Australia in October.

He also played two Tests in Bangladesh, scoring a double-century that helped him equal

compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's world record of 34 Test centuries, before aggravating the injury.

The Mumbai player will test his fitness in a match situation when he leads West Zone in a four-day Duleep Trophy tie against South Zone starting on Tuesday.

India paceman Irfan Pathan, who missed several domestic games this month due to a side strain, will also make his comeback in the same game.

"I have done whatever doctors and physios have asked me to do and I am playing this match because I think I'm fit," said Tendulkar, who wore an elbow strap during practice.

"I have to wait and see how things go and can't predict what is in store as regards fitness, but I am preparing for the international matches ahead of us," Tendulkar said.

The master batsman did not read too much into Pakistan's recent tour of Australia where they lost a Test series 3-0 and went down to the home side in the finals of a tri-series competition with the West Indies.

"You can't judge a team by past performances. This is a fresh series and they must be very keen to do well here," said Tendulkar.

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PHOTO: AP

Sachin Tendulkar bowls in the nets at Hyderabad yesterday.

MAKING ODIs EXCITING

Whatmore for an active 12th man

INTERNET, undated

The man who presided over a remarkable redefinition of the way one-day cricket is played says the game doesn't need rule changes to make it more exciting.

Dav Whatmore, Sri Lanka's coach when Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharana revolutionised how teams used the first 15 overs, on Sunday suggested that captains must be more inventive in their approach rather than follow tried and tested methods.

After a somewhat lacklustre domestic summer when Australia dominated Test series against New

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DULEEP TROPHY

BCB XI open campaign today



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nagpur

As the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI team warmed up yesterday to begin their maiden campaign in India's premier domestic competition, the Duleep Trophy, coach Dav Whatmore was surprised seeing a green pitch.

"It is special and rare to see in India. The pitch will certainly help us," Whatmore told reporters after his boys spent time in the nets ahead of their match against East Zone starting at the Vidarbha Cricket Association ground today.

Asked about his team's prospects, he said, "We are looking

forward to positive results. It is a wonderful opportunity to play in this

TEAMS

BCB XI (from): Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Nafees Iqbal, Al Shahriar, Rajin Saleh, Alok Kapali, Aftab Ahmed, Gazi Sagor Hossain (wicketkeeper), Manzarul Islam, Abdur Razzak, Sabir Khan, Nazmul Hossain, Mohammad Shahajda, Talha Jubair and Anwar Hossain Monir. Coach: Dav Whatmore.

EAST ZONE (from): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Laxmi Ratan Shukla (vice-captain), Rohan Gavaskar, Arindam Das, Sanjib Sanyal, Shib Sunder Paul, Ranadeb Bose, SS Das, Sanjay Satpathi, Dipak Mangaraj, P Jayachandra, MS Dhoni (wicketkeeper), Shahid Khan, R Satish and Sujit Roy. Coach-cum-manager: V Venkataram.

type of tournament."

The Bangladesh coach believed young batsmen Aftab Ahmed, Alok Kapali, Rajin Saleh and Al Shahriar would benefit from the experience of playing in the Duleep Trophy.

Commenting on the debate on the two-tier system in Test cricket, Whatmore said it was a 'shallow view' and weaker teams needed to play quality cricket to improve their standard.

Meanwhile, captain Mohammad Ashraful was pleased with his team's participation for such an important tournament. He said it could also benefit the national team that will be making its first official tour of England in May.

"The wicket is ideal for our prep

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Indo-Pak battle lines drawn

Now additional ODI in Ahmedabad



AFP, New Delhi

The riot-hit Indian city of Ahmedabad will host the fourth one-day international against Pakistan, according to the itinerary announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Sunday.

Pakistan's first tour of India in six years was scheduled to begin on February 25, but was delayed by three days following a dispute over Ahmedabad where at least 2,000 people -- mostly Muslims -- were killed in communal riots in 2002.

The tourists will now arrive on February 28 to play three Tests and six one-day internationals, BCCI secretary Karunakaran Nair said, adding Pakistan had confirmed the tour programme.

The Indian board last week accepted Pakistan's demand to avoid Ahmedabad as a Test venue, but proposed the city host a one-dayer.

Pakistan agreed to play a one-dayer there, now scheduled to be held on April 12.

Only five one-dayers had been

originally scheduled but a sixth was added to accommodate Ahmedabad.

Pakistan will start the tour with a three-day game against a Board President's team on March 3 in Dharamsala, a northern Indian town which is also the headquarters of the Dalai Lama and his Tibetan government-in-exile.

The opening Test begins at Mohali on March 8, the second at Kolkata on March 16 and the third at Bangalore on March 24.

The Tests will be followed by six one-dayers at Cochin, Vishakapatnam, Jamshedpur, Ahmedabad, Kanpur and Delhi.

Pakistan's first full tour of India since 1999 follows India's visit in March-April last year to resume cricket ties that had been stalled since 2000 due to political tensions.

India won both the Test and one-day series on that tour, their first to Pakistan for Test matches in 15 years.

ITINERARY

Feb 28	Arrival	
Mar 3-5	v BCCI XI	Dharamsala
Mar 6-12	1st Test	Mohali
Mar 16-20	2nd Test	Kolkata
Mar 24-28	3rd Test	Bangalore
Mar 30	1-day warm-up	Hyderabad
Apr 2	1st ODI	Cochin
Apr 5	2nd ODI	Vishakapatnam
Apr 9	3rd ODI	Jamshedpur
Apr 12	4th ODI	Ahmedabad
Apr 15	5th ODI	Kanpur
Apr 17	6th ODI	Delhi
Apr 18	Departure	

Beckhams 'Cruz' to third

REUTERS, Madrid

British pop singer Victoria Beckham, wife of England soccer captain David Beckham, gave birth on Sunday to their third son, Cruz.

The boy was born by caesarean section a week early at a hospital in Madrid, where David Beckham plays for Real Madrid.

"We've got a baby boy. His name is Cruz," a beaming David Beckham told reporters. "He is beautiful. He is in there with his brothers now and he is very happy."

The Beckhams, Britain's highest-profile celebrity couple, already have two children, Brooklyn, 5, and Romeo, 2.

A statement from the hospital said Cruz -- Spanish for "cross" -- was delivered after a 30-minute operation with no complications, weighing 7 pounds.

"It's just a name we liked. We found it hard this time but we came up with a name that we both loved and stuck to it," Beckham said. "He's

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PHOTO: AFP

I'VE BEEN BLESSED! David Beckham points towards something while jogging with Real Madrid teammates Zidane, Figo, Ronaldo and Carlos in Madrid on February 21. Beckham's wife Victoria gave birth to their third child on the day.