



Did U Know?

Volleyball was invented by William George Morgan of Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1895.



Bob Woolmer

(Pakistan cricket coach)

"Confidence is high and although I don't like to make predictions, with the team spirit we can achieve the best in the Caribbean as well."



TEN Sports

West Indies vs South Africa

Third Test, Day One

Live at 8:00 pm

ESPN

Football Crazy

Live at 5:00 pm

English Premier Football League

Norwich City vs Newcastle United

Same day Delay at 6:30 pm

Sportscentre

Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League

Man City vs Birmingham City

Same Day Delay at 12:30 pm

Sportsline

Live at 8:00 pm



Federation Cup Football

Mohammedan vs Wanderers (4:00 pm)

Abahani vs Arambagh (6:00 pm)

Venue: BNS

Ispahani Nat'l Cricket League

(Four-day, Day One)

Rajshahi vs Sylhet

Venue: Sylhet Stadium

Khulna vs Dhaka

Venue: KDVS

Chittagong vs Barisal

Venue: Barisal Stadium

Muktis' fatal loss

SPORTS REPORTER



FC of Turkmenistan in a crucial Group A match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Vitaliy Alikperov scored both the goals in the first half for the Turkmenistan league champions who overcame the stifling heat to take perfect revenge for their 1-0 home defeat two weeks ago against the Reds.

Inside an almost barren Bangabandhu National Stadium, Muktiyoddha's consolation came halfway through the second half courtesy of an own goal by Nebitchi defender Yagmyrmyrat.

Both the teams started the fourth

round game on equal four points.

The visitors got off to a dream start when Turkmenistan international Vitaliy rose above the Reds defence to head home a corner with just three minutes on the clock.

The Muktis took time to settle down with only Arman Miah impressing in the first half. The mercurial playmaker tested Reje Pberdi in the Nebitchi goal with three long range strikes. The best was a solo dash when he cut in from the left and unleashed a rasping left footer which Pberdi parried for a corner.

The Muktis were served the sucker punch six minutes before half time when an attempted offside trap went badly wrong. Nebitchi Arazov Hojaahmet found acres of space on the left and raced into the box after being set free by Vitaliy and was tripped by Muktiyoddha goalkeeper Aminul Islam. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Vitaliy converted the penalty.

With Nebitchi content on sitting on their two-goal cushion in the

second half, the Reds pressed hard but with no forward with the ability to take advantage of Belal's famous long throws, scoring was always going to be a tough ask. Ghanaian defender Charles Ghansah who played in the midfield, muffed a nice chance when he received a loose ball but his weak shot from seven yards went straight to the goalkeeper in the 56th minute.

The home side got a lifeline in the 72nd minute when Yagmyrmyrat headed the ball into his own post while trying to clear a centre by Muktiyoddha rightback Firoze Mahmud Titu.

Muktis came close to snatching at least a point but Enamul, hero of their away win, spoiled two sitters inside five minutes after coming on as a substitute in the 80th minute. Moni set up the rookie striker but the goalkeeper foiled his left-footed

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Surprise relief behind the stumps?

Test squad to be named today

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket lovers could be in for a surprise when the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announces the 16-member Test squad for the tour of England at Chittagong today.

Although the focus for the last few days has been on all-rounder Khaled Mahmud, the selection panel led by Faruque Ahmed is most likely to call for a backup for wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud from outside the preliminary 20.

It was learnt that the four selectors are going to include young stumper Sahagir Hossain in an effort to minimise the workload Mashud during the practice matches leading up to the first Test.

The Tigers will play three three-day matches before the first Test begins at Lord's on May 26.

Sahagir had impressed coach Dav Whatmore in India during the

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U-19 cricketers' fifth in a row

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh under-19 cricket team continued their winning spree in their tour down under when they registered a massive 130-run victory over QAS squad in a limited-overs game at Meryborouzh yesterday.

Forhad Hossain scored 42 and captain Mushfiqur Rahim contributed an unbeaten 39 as the tourists scored 203 for 4 in stipulated 50 overs.

Nazmul Hossain, Suhrawardy Shuvo and Rezaul Islam then picked up two wickets each to wrap up QAS for a paltry 72.

It was the Mushfiq and company's fifth victory in a row.

Sylhet secure 2nd spot



SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi failed to celebrate their one-day title in the Ispahani Sixth National Cricket League when they suffered a seven-wicket defeat to Sylhet in a low-scoring last round game at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

On the other hand, the victory enabled the hosts finish runners-up in the abridged version as they ended up one point adrift of Rajshahi, who confirmed the championship in the previous round securing 16 points.

In other tenth round matches,

Khulna handed first-class champions Dhaka a six-wicket defeat to finish third and outgoing champions Chittagong managed a two-wicket victory against table-bottomers Barisal.

SYLHET v RAJSHAH

Part-time spinner Parvez Ahmed tore the top order apart while pace-man Hasibul Hossain mopped up the tail as Rajshahi were bundled out for a meagre 112 after deciding to bat.

Parvez picked up three wickets for 33 in 10 overs but Hasibul was the most successful, claiming 4-15 from 7.4 overs.

Chasing the paltry target, Sylhet recovered from early hiccup as Golam Mabud and his younger brother Golam Mawla associated in

an unbeaten 92-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Sylhet raced to 113-3 in just 29.5 overs with Mabud hitting a 74-ball 43 with the help of three fours and a six while Mawla contributed 47 off 86 deliveries that produced five boundaries and one six.

KHULNA v DHAKA

An unbeaten 56 by Asadullah Khan helped Khulna to an impressive win against Dhaka at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

Khulna reached 191-4 with more than seven overs to spare in reply to Dhaka's 190.

Left-arm pacer Manjurul Islam and spinner Shafiul Alam evenly shared six wickets to wrap up the Dhaka innings cheaply.

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PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

HURRY UP, I HAVE A CONTRACT TO SIGN: Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore (C) looks at his watch while paceman Mashrafe-Bin-Mortuza (L) and opener Javed Omar prepare for a game of football as part of their practice at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Wednesday.

A wonderful experience



SPORTS REPORTER

Habibul Bashar said that it was a wonderful experience for him to play in a charity match for Univer-sity of the West Indies' Vice-Chancellor's XI against South Africa at St Augustine earlier this week.

"I was tired after a long journey but I forgot everything as the local crowd chanted 'Bashar' and 'Bangladesh' during my innings. It was fascinating that the people of the Caribbeans remembered me. I'm happy that I was able to lift my country's name," said the Bangladesh captain upon his return yesterday.

The dashing right-hander scored a fluent 77, the highest score for the West Indies selection in the drawn match.

The country's premier batsman said the he enjoyed this short visit.

"I enjoyed my batting at the bouncy pitch where I could play my favourite pull shots and I hit a few of those against fast bowler Monde Zondeki and left-arm spinner Nicky Boje," said Bashar.

He scored a dazzling 100 in the first Test at St. Lucia during their tour of the West Indies in May-June last year.

Bashar was also delighted to come across West Indian great Brian Lara.

"We had a long chat about our cricket. He expressed his optimism about Bangladesh's cricket, especially the way people responded to the game," said Bashar.

"He also talked about my batting style and technique. Actually it is always special to meet a player like Lara," he added.

Bashar joins the national team camp today in Chittagong.

Fed Cup final round from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The final phase of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup football tournament starts today with popular giants Abahani and Mohammedan looking forward to put an end to their wretched start to the season.

After unimpressive shows in the recently concluded Independence Day Gold Cup, where both were knocked out of the semifinal stage, both Mohammedan and Abahani will take the field in the opening day's two matches at the Banga-bandhu National Stadium.

Last year's runners-up Mohammedan take on Dhaka Wanderers Club at 4pm while Abahani meet Arambagh Krira Sangha at 6pm in Group B matches.

Holders Muktiyoddha Sangsad and fellow title contenders Brothers Union, who made it to the Independence Cup final, are scheduled to

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PHOTO: STAR

IT'S NOT MY FAULT: Nebitchi FC goalkeeper Reje Pberdi is dumbfounded after his fellow defender headed the ball into their own net during their AFC Cup match against Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Sachin to play Oval game



AFP, London

Indian star batsman Sachin Tendulkar has agreed to play in the Asia XI against the International XI here at The Oval on June 20 in a charity game largely to help rebuild lives devastated by the Tsunami in Sri Lanka it was announced on Wednesday.

Several of the biggest names in world cricket had already confirmed their participation in the match.

Also playing for the Asia team will be Tendulkar's teammate Rahul Dravid, Sri Lanka left-arm quick Chaminda Vaas, Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Sami, Lankan spin great Muttiah Muralitharan India spinners Harbhajan Singh and Anil Kumble and Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood, who knows The Oval well from his time there as a Surrey player.

The International XI will include such names as Australia leg-spin legend Shane Warne, West Indies batting great Brian Lara, South Africa stars Shaun Pollock and

skipper Graeme Smith, Kiwi duo Stephen Fleming and Chris Cairns, as well as Surrey and England batsmen Graham Thorpe and Mark Butcher.

However, Tendulkar's decision to play should add even more interest to the match and delighted Paul Sheldon, chief executive of Surrey County Cricket Club.

"Sachin Tendulkar is the biggest name in world cricket and we are delighted to have him playing in the Twenty20 game at the Oval. This provides a rare opportunity for

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