



Did U Know?

The only two Test cricketers to play Davis Cup tennis were Cota Ramaswami of India and West Indies wicketkeeper Ralph Legall.



Wasim Akram

(Former Pakistan cricket captain) "There is no doubt that Sourav Ganguly is passing through the worst batting form which leaves his career in doldrums. I also fear that his career might be reaching dead-end but I would still back him and advise the Indian selectors to be extremely careful and watchful while deciding his future."

What to WATCH

- TEN Sports**
 - West Indies vs South Africa
 - Fourth Test, Day Three
 - Live at 8:00 pm
- ESPN**
 - Primera Liga
 - Real Sociedad vs Real Madrid
 - Same Day Delay at 3:30 pm
 - English Premier Football League
 - Tottenham Hotspur vs Aston Villa
 - Live at 5:55 pm
 - Charlton Athletic vs Man United
 - Live at 9:00 pm
 - West Bromwich vs Arsenal
 - Live at 12:55 am (Tuesday)
- STAR Sports**
 - Football Extra
 - Live at 9:00 am
 - Brazilian Football
 - Figueirense vs Flamengo

Flintoff back among runs

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff smashed a breathtaking 83 off 101 balls to mark his return to first-class cricket in style on Friday. The Lancashire star, playing a first-class match for the first time since undergoing an ankle operation in January, hammered his quick-fire 83 at New Road against Worcestershire after suffering a first innings duck. Australian teammate Stuart Law matched his score as Lancashire reached 377 in their second innings, setting Worcestershire 268 to win. And at stumps on day three, the hosts were 58-2 with Graeme Hick on 36. Flintoff struck 10 boundaries and four sixes. England Test contender Ian Bell hit a double century as Warwickshire took command of their clash with Middlesex. Bell reached 231 on the third day as the defending champions amassed a first-innings 430 in reply to Middlesex's 298. Resuming in the morning on 143, with England spin bowler Ashley Giles at the other end on 30, Bell carried on where he had left off while his batting partner doubled his score to reach 62. Alan Richardson took four wickets for 87 with the ball. In response, opener Andrew Strauss hit 37 before being caught by Jon Trott off the bowling of Alex Loudon. Middlesex finished the day on 137 for three in their second innings, just five runs ahead. New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming scored a ton on his home debut for Nottinghamshire in their match with Sussex -- as the home side built a massive first-innings total at Trent Bridge. Fleming sped to 111, hitting 17 fours and a six as Notts continued

Red-Orange again

SPORTS REPORTER



A late strike by Monwar Hossain ensured a second Red-Orange final in a month after Brothers Union defeated Abahani 1-0 in the second semifinal of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup football tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Coming in as a substitute for Moroccan Inani with ten minutes to go, Monwar made an immediate impact, heading home the all-important goal in the 83rd minute and with it confirming a repeat final clash with Muktiyoddha on Tuesday. The two sides met in the Independence Day Gold Cup final on April 16, which Muktiyoddha won 2-0. The result on Saturday also meant another disappointment for two popular giants Abahani and Mohammedan, who both were eliminated from the semifinal stage of the Independence Cup. Muktiyoddha won the first semifinal on Friday against Mohammedan by an identical margin. Expectations were high when Abahani, fresh after their 5-1 demolition of Mohammedan, took to the field, with nearly ten thousand loyal Sky Blue supporters cheering from the stands. But an ultra defensive approach by

both sides turned the match into spectators' plight. The jejune affair was almost heading into extra time before Monwar broke the evening's duck. The national midfielder was quick to pounce on a rebounder after Abahani goalkeeper Nizam could only partially parry off an Emily header from a Liton flag kick. Abahani, who suffered an embarrassing 4-0 defeat against Brothers in the Independence Day Gold Cup semifinal, had an opportunity to turn the table around, but their striking pair of Ujjal and Farhad were totally off colour. The Dhanmondi-based club controlled the proceedings in the first-half despite missing their hard-working captain and midfielder Joy and created the best chance in the 37th minute. But Brothers' young custodian Tareq foiled a brilliant combined attack, fisting away a Ndem right-footed salvo from the top of the box. After the barren first-half both teams ran aimlessly from one end to the other and the match only came to life once Brothers winger Parvez Babu set two defence-splitting passes for Edwards and Emily, but both the strikers failed to connect in front of an open net. After that Abahani launched some quick counterattacks and created three good chances to break the deadlock. But Farhad, Ghanaian Ibrahim and Ndem wasted those chances shooting

wide off the mark. Brothers coach Wajed Gazi was a relieved man after the victory but said that Abahani played better football. "I must say Abahani played better football than us. We got some rhythm after midfielder Liton came to the field in the second-half. We even failed to create too many chances, but finally one was good enough for us," said the veteran coach adding that Russian striker Edwards was not up to his mark. On the other hand his Abahani counterpart Amalesh Sen blamed his defence for the goal and said that they badly felt the absence of Joy in the midfield. "Both Monwar and Emily were unmarked. We got some good chances but failed to capitalise and I believe the absence of Joy cost us the match," said Amalesh. Yellow cards: Abul, Inani and Monwar (Brothers), Nizam, Prodip, Ujjal, Selim and Farhad (Abahani). **TEAMS** **BROTHERS:** Tareq, Sujon, Jewel, Masud Rana, Siraji, Parvez Babu, Pranatosh (Liton), Abul, Inani (Monwar), Edward and Emily (Shuvro). **ABAHANI:** Nizam, Obaidur, Prodip, Shipon, Lajuk, Ujjal, Selim, Ndem, Zahed (Abdullah), Farhad and Ibrahim. **Referee:** Tayeeb Hasan.



IT'S TOO LATE: Abahani defender Lajuk (R) tries in vain to clear the ball as a Monwar (not in picture) header has already found the net during their Tibet 20th Federation Cup semifinal against Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

Malik might be banned

Cricket

REUTERS/BBC, Karachi Pakistan all-rounder Shoaib Malik faces a ban of one Test or two one-day internationals after admitting he threw a Twenty20 Cup match. The 23-year-old Malik attended on Saturday a hearing of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) inquiry commission in Lahore, which lasted for about two and a half hours. PCB sources said the three-member commission had recommended that Malik be penalised under clauses 2.9 and 2.11 of a level two offence of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) code of conduct. The two clauses carry a ban of one Test match or two one-day internationals and a fine of full match fees. A statement from the PCB on Saturday said: "Shoaib Malik's action has tarnished Pakistan's cricket image internationally and at

home. "It has also shown disrespect to the sponsors and to the substantial crowd that had gathered to watch a fair contest. "Disciplinary action will be taken in consonance with the serious implications of the offence." Malik, who has played eight Tests and 99 one-day internationals, admitted throwing a match on Thursday to knock rivals Lahore Eagles out of the Twenty20 competition. After leading his Sialkot Stallions team to a four-run defeat by Karachi Zebras, Malik said his team did not chase a modest victory target because they wanted to knock Lahore Eagles out. Sources said the inquiry commission, headed by former Test player Haroon Rasheed, had shown Malik video tapes of the match and he had admitted his mistake. "He said he was sorry for what had happened and he had reacted in the heat of the moment and would not repeat such a thing again," the source said. The PCB had taken serious notice of the incident and warned that Malik's selection for the West Indies tour could be in jeopardy. The PCB is expected to announce Malik's penalty later on Saturday. Pakistani selectors are due to announce the touring squad on Monday.



SHOAIB MALIK

DAVIS CUP Bangladesh almost thru'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh almost confirmed group championship to qualify for the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-3 with their third consecutive victory in the meet in Yangon yesterday. In their Group 4 match, they beat Turkmenistan 2-1. Bangladesh, who earlier beat Syria and UAE in the previous encounters by same margins, now meet Kyrgyzstan in the last group match today. They are leading the Group-A table with maximum three points while Syria followed them with two points. Shibu Lal gave Bangladesh a good start against the Central Asian side when he won the first singles against Stanislav Naydyonov 6-1, 6-0 while Amol Roy clinched the second singles against Myalikkul Mamedkulyev 6-1, 6-2 to confirm the win. But Kyrgyzstan reduced the margin when Alamgir Hossain and Dipu Lal lost to Dovran Chaglyov and Myalikkul Mamedkulyev in the doubles 3-6, 4-6. Oman and Singapore were jointly leading the Group B table with three points each in the 10-team competition. In the day's other matches, Syria blanked Kyrgyzstan 3-0, Singapore beat Jordan 2-1 and hosts Myanmar beat Iraq 3-0.

Shoaib fails to make Windies tour party?

Cricket

PTI/CRICINFO, Karachi

Not satisfied with the fitness level of fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, Pakistan cricket selectors have decided to rest him for next month's West Indies tour while including former captain Moin Khan in a 17-member squad, which would be officially announced on Monday. Selectors also left out unfit pacer Mohammad Sami and included another seamer Shabbir Ahmed in the squad which was finalised Friday evening. The list of players has been submitted to Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan, who will announce the squad after getting clearance from an ad-hoc committee, PCB spokesman said. The ad-hoc committee, as per PCB constitution, has the powers to make changes in the team.

The selectors have also dropped Mohammad Hafeez who toured India earlier this month as a one-day specialist. He has been replaced by Yasir Hameed who was dropped after the Bangalore Test for the six-match one-day series. The Pakistan team has been selected basically for the one-day matches to be played on May 18 (at St. Vincent) and for St. Lucia's double-header on May 21 and 22. If required, changes would be made in the team for the two Tests to be played between May 26 and 30 at Barbados and between June 3 and 7 at Jamaica. Shoaib and Sami have been overlooked purely on medical grounds. Sami is likely to join the team for the first Test. In a surprise move, the selectors decided to bring back Moin, the wicketkeeper, after his blistering form in the in the Twenty20 domestic competition.

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DIVISIONAL U-17 CRICKET

Rajshahi rout Chittagong

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi outplayed Chittagong by 131 runs in the Divisional U-17 Cricket Development tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. Opting to bat, Rajshahi scored 224 for 9 in stipulated 50 overs while Chittagong were bundled out for 93 in 28.5 overs. In the day's other match, Sylhet (170) managed a 17-run victory over Khulna (153) at the Dhanmondi Club ground. **StanChart cricket** **SPORTS REPORTER** West Zone-4 defeated North Zone-1 by four wickets in the second round of the Standard Chartered Under-13 Young Tigers National School Cricket Tournament at the Jagannath Hall Ground of Dhaka University yesterday. West Zone reached 154 for six in 39 overs after bowling out North Zone for 153.

SA openers all day

Cricket

AFP, St. John's

Graeme Smith and AB de Villiers piled on the agony for the West Indies as both openers completed hundreds that helped South Africa reach 214-0 on a rain-affected opening day of the fourth and final Test on Friday. Smith was undefeated on 106 and de Villiers was unbeaten on 103, as South Africa, choosing to bat, dominated the first day before rain and bad light stopped play early. Smith reached his 11th Test hundred and third of the series, when he drove a delivery from Chris Gayle straight for the 16th of 17 boundaries in an innings that has spanned 3-1/2 hours and 151 balls. De Villiers reached his third Test hundred and second of the series, when he glanced a ball from Gayle to deep fine leg for two in a knock that has occupied 145 balls. He has struck 12 fours and one six. The two South African opening batsmen kept their composure through three stoppages for rain that amounted to 2-1/2 hours of time lost. In between the showers, the two South African opening batsmen made hay while the sun shone as the tourists, with the series already wrapped up, went hunting a third successive win. They jammed their feet down hard on the accelerator to eclipse the 191-run stand they shared in the previous Test at Bridgetown. Smith and de Villiers blessed South Africa with a flying start, after the visitors chose to bat on the hard and notoriously docile Antigua Recreation Ground pitch, but had to battle through the rain breaks. Rain had taken the players off the field 15 minutes prior to lunch, and after the interval, they were sent scampering after just a couple of minutes. They returned to the field about 10 minutes later and got

through a few more balls before the heaviest of the three showers of the day soaked the ARG. The West Indies came close several times during the day, but could not find that extra sparkle to transform the complexion of the game. Twice they came close to running Smith out. In the second over of the match,

the South Africa captain was on one and looking for a single off Tino Best, but he was left stranded in mid-pitch when de Villiers sent him back, and Wavell Hinds failed to hit the stumps with an under-arm throw from cover-point. After lunch, West Indies had another chance to make the breakthrough. **SEE PAGE 13 COL 4**



PHOTO: AP South Africa captain Graeme Smith (L) embraces teammate AB de Villiers, who also scored a century, after he reached his hundred on the first day of the fourth and final Test against West Indies at Antigua on Friday.

SA 295-4

STAR SPORT DESK

Chris Gayle struck on the last ball before lunch as South Africa were 295 for 4 at the interval on the second day of the fourth and final Test against West Indies at Antigua on Saturday. Herschelle Gibbs was the last man to go after making 23. Jacques Kallis was at the other end with 21. Earlier, overnight centurions Graeme Smith and AB de Villiers fell on the same score of 245 after making 126 and 114 respectively. Daren Powell and Tino Best were the other successful Caribbean bowlers.

Warne stands his ground

AFP, London

Australian spin king Shane Warne launched a passionate defence of himself and his Hampshire team on Friday as the English county cricket sledging row showed no signs of slipping quietly away. Warne insisted his conduct in the controversial clash with Sussex stands up to the closest scrutiny and wants to see the matter brought to a close. The world's leading Test wicket-taker came in for severe criticism from Sussex skipper Chris Adams who accused the leg-spinner of being overly aggressive in his verbal sparring with batsman Matt Prior. But on Friday Warne hit back at Adams. "We conducted ourselves in a good manner and the umpires took their hat off to us for the way we clapped their players off when they made a good score," Warne told Sky Sports News. **SEE PAGE 13 COL 1**