



Did U Know?

Billie Jean King was the first player in the Open era to win back-to-back US Opens (1971-1972).



Zinedine Zidane

(Real Madrid's French star)

"I'll certainly retire in 2007, but I don't rule out it could maybe be earlier. I will take the decision when I believe the appropriate time has come."

Tigers struggle at Hove

Bashar hit on head



SPORTS REPORTER

Sussex's bowlers pushed Bangladesh firmly on the back foot after their batsmen had amassed a mountainous score on the second day of the three-day game at Hove on Monday.

To compound the tourists' miserable time so far in this match, captain Habibul Bashar had to go for three stitches after being hit on the forehead by a Jason Lewry bouncer.

And when rain stopped play in the afternoon they were 97-4 in reply to Sussex's handsome first innings score of 549-7 declared. The match restarted after about an hour and Rajin Saleh and 16-year-old wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim had taken the total past 100 when fast bowler JJ van der Wath dismissed Rahim for 18 with Bangladesh 102-5. When this report was being prepared Saleh was on 19 and had been joined by Masrafe Mortuza.

Bashar was struck when the delivery snapped his visor, with the plastic cutting his face - he was forced to retire having made 22 off 25 balls with four fours.

The Tigers' skipper and leading batsman in Tests is however, not expected to be in any doubt for the first Test on 26 May at Lord's and should bat later on in this innings also.

Openers Shahriar Nafees Ahmed and Nafis Iqbal had given Bangladesh a brisk start by getting 32 in five overs before Iqbal (12) was lbw to left-arm paceman Lewry. Shahriar Nafees followed him to the pavilion ten runs later for 16 when Luke Wright had him caught by wicketkeeper Timothy Ambrose.

Aftab Ahmed and Mohammad Ashraf departed on the same score of 59 before Rahim put their heads down to share 43.

Earlier left-handed opener Michael Yardy had time to convert his overnight 180 into a career-best 257 before Matt Prior called his batsmen in after they had faced 116.5 overs. Yardy has been in outstanding form in the ongoing county championship and was coming off three hundreds. Ambrose hit 78.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haque (Jr.) was Bangladesh's most successful bowler with three for 174 from 34 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the three-day match between Bangladesh and Sussex at Hove on Monday:

SUSSEX: First innings (overnight 412 for 3)	
Montgomery c Saleh b Jubair	49
Hopkinson run out	64
Yardy c Ashraf b Aftab	257
Prior c Saleh b Aftab	51
Ambrose c Rahim b Enamul	78
Heather b Enamul	7

Van der Wath not out	16
Wright lbw b Enamul	1
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, w-1, nb-16)	26
Total: (For 7 wickets declared, 116.5 overs)	549

Did not bat: Nash, Davis, Lewry.
Fall of wickets: 1-71, 2-204, 3-299, 4-475, 5-513, 6-539, 7-549.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mortuza	27	5	96	0
Shahadat	22	3	84	0
Jubair	22	1	136	1
Enamul	33.5	2	174	3
Aftab	12	1	50	2

BANGLADESH: First innings

Nafees lbw b Wright	16
Iqbal c Ambrose b Lewry	12
Bashar retired hurt	22
Aftab c Ambrose b Van der Wath	1
Ashraf lbw b Wright	2
Saleh not out	14
Rahim not out	12
Extras: (b-1, lb-9, nb-1)	11
Total: (For 4 wickets in 30 overs)	90

To bat: Talha Jubair, Mashrafe Mortuza, Enamul Haque, Shahadat Hossain.

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-42, 3-59, 4-59.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lewry	7	0	40	1
Wright	9	4	18	2
Van der Wath	7	3	11	1
Hopkinson	3	0	6	0
Davis	3	1	3	0
Yardy	1	0	2	0



School children (from R-L) Saif, Liza and Arifa during their second round engagements of the Open FIDE Rating chess tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall on Monday.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Team watch: Russel KC



SPORTS REPORTER

Many a newcomer have pulled off upsets on their arrival in the top flight of domestic football, but none had made a lasting impression like Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra did.

Having crossed the barriers of Division Three, Two and One in successive years, the Russel boys finished runners-up on their premiership debut last season. More than that the youthful footballers of Sheikh Russel earned the enviable tag as the best entertaining side under coach Wajed Gazi.

True that Gazi has switched to Brothers Union, who won the Premier League title last year finishing just one point above Russel, but the new boys are desperate to prove that their success last year was not a flash in the pan.

This year the Blues might have an almost entirely new look side with only three players -- goalkeepers Apel and Biplab and forward Bulbul - surviving from the previous season, but with Abu Yusuf, who is considered as the most innovative coach, taking over from Gazi, Russel have already promised yet another exciting season despite enjoying mixed bags in the three warm-up tournaments ahead of the League.

The only thing they are missing is

the cutting edge when it mattered most but Yusuf believes that the success of his team will depend on how quickly his inexperienced local boys gel as a unit with his four Moroccan including star striker Younis.



ABU YUSUF: Master tactician

"We have picked young players who will give long service to the team. It is a team for the future," told Yusuf yesterday.

"I do not believe in result oriented success. This is the face of our football now but to me, the standard of the game is more important. We are on a different type of mission this time, 'bring spectators to the ground'. We want to create a fan base for us," said the former national defender who is known for

his straight talking.

"Now the clubs have forgotten the beauty of the game and put pressure to get the championship at any cost. The big teams get involved in fixed-matches and the smaller clubs form syndicate for survival. I have even seen the champions of a tournament not even celebrating after winning a final this year," Yusuf complained.

Yusuf feels that his boys fought bravely against the local giants in the three tournaments before eventually giving up.

They lost 3-4 to Mohammedan and 1-2 to Muktiyoddha in the Independence Day Gold Cup and drew with both Muktiyoddha and Brothers in the Federation Cup before losing the Independence Day final in Rajshahi 2-0 to Abahani in extra-period.

"Yes, we have lost close matches but you have to lose or win in a tournament. But a League is different where you will have to go through a lot of patches and I think those tournaments have been very good preparation for us," said Yusuf, who also has coached the national team.

"I am satisfied with the boys so far and they have proved that they will be in the championship race if they can be at their best in the long run. In Rajshahi, over 40,000 people witnessed our match against Abahani and 90 per cent supported

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BFF ruling over foreigners stands

SPORTS REPORTER

The difference over the fielding of three foreign players per match in the Premier League this year has been sorted out after a meeting between the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and club officials yesterday.

Some clubs including defending champions Brothers Union protested the BFF ruling to allow three foreigners in a match but finally they accepted it after the meeting.

"We have discussed the matter and finally all ten participating clubs expressed their solidarity with the federation decision," said BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal.

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Williams named A team coach

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has named its game development manager Shaun Williams as the coach of Bangladesh A team for the upcoming tour of England.

The second string Bangladesh side will play five three-day games and four limited-overs matches during their month long tour in July-August.

Bangladesh A team is scheduled to leave Dhaka on July 15.

SA win '20-20' ODI too

WI suffer maiden home whitewash



AFP, Port of Spain

South Africa completed a seven-wicket victory in the rain-marred fifth and final one-day international against West Indies here.

South Africa won the five-match series 5-0 on Sunday and have completed an unprecedented clean sweep of an international cricket series in the Caribbean.

South Africa scored 141-3 in reply to the West Indies' total of 138-7 in a reduced 20-overs-a-side game.

Sent in to bat after play started almost five hours late because of rain, West Indies lost wickets at regular intervals and were indebted to Dwayne Bravo's spunky, unbeaten 41 from 40 balls that contained three boundaries.

Andrew Hall with two wickets for 21 runs from four overs, and Andre Nel with two for 32 from four overs were the most successful bowlers for South Africa.

Chris Gayle blasted five fours and one six in 28 from 20 balls before he was caught at third man off Nel in the fifth over.

Two wickets -- Sarwan caught at short fine leg for 15 and West Indies captain Shivnarine Chandrapaul run out for one -- fell in the next two overs to leave West Indies 48 for three in the seventh over.

West Indies continued to bleed wickets, and every time it looked like one of the batsmen were just about to get into the swing of things, they would be dismissed.

Bravo however, kept the score-

board ticking over with circumspect batting mixed with some youthful exuberance and ended with the top score.

West Indies are playing an unchanged side, but South Africa have made one change to their line-

up with Justin Ontong replacing Makhaya Ntini.

The match has been reduced to 20 overs-a-side because of the rain delay.

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MAN-OF-THE-SERIES: South Africa opener Boeta Dippenaar follows through on an improvised sweep on way to scoring 61 not out against West Indies in the fifth and final one-day international at Port of Spain on Sunday.

PREMIERSHIP

West Brom's last day delight



AFP, London

West Brom preserved their Premiership status in dramatic style on the final day of the 2004-05 season.

The Baggies started 'Survival Sunday' bottom of the table but beat Portsmouth 2-0 and then saw all three sides above them fail to win, Bryan Robson's men staying up by a point and in the process becoming the first club to be bottom of the Premiership at Christmas but not go down.

Southampton's 2-1 defeat at home to Manchester United helped end their 27-year stay in English football's top-flight.

They were joined in the drop zone by Norwich and Crystal Palace, like West Brom, promoted last season.

West Brom striker Geoff Horsfield, on as a substitute, became a Baggies hero in the 58th minute when he

volleyed home and Kieron Richardson made it 2-0, 15 minutes from time against already safe Pompey.

Norwich, who knew a win would keep them up regardless of other results were thrashed 6-0 by Fulham while Palace's 2-2 draw away to London rivals Charlton

failed to maintain their Premiership status.

"We always felt we had a chance," Robson told Sky Sports, "and things have turned out great for us."

"We said before the game that everyone is involved. It got us to where we are today. We've all pulled together and worked hard since the turn of the year," said former West Brom star Robson, who later went on to captain Manchester United and England.

At the top of the table champions Chelsea's 1-1 draw away to Newcastle saw Jose Mourinho's men set a new top flight record of just 15 league goals conceded. That beat Liverpool's 1979 mark of 16 although that came in a 42-game as

opposed to 38-game season.

In the only other outstanding issue, Middlesbrough claimed the final direct UEFA Cup place with a 1-1 draw away to Manchester City.

Had City won they would have been in the UEFA Cup but striker Robbie Fowler saw an injury-time penalty saved by Boro's Australian keeper Mark Schwarzer.

Elsewhere Liverpool warmed up for their Champions League final against Milan with a 2-1 win against Aston Villa, FA Cup finalists Arsenal were beaten 2-1 by Birmingham, Bolton edged Everton 3-2 and Tottenham drew 0-0 with Blackburn.

In an unprecedented finish to the Premiership, all the bottom four

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EVEN MERE SURVIVAL COULD MEAN THIS MUCH: West Bromwich Albion fans invaded the pitch after beating Portsmouth 2-0 in their Premiership match to escape relegation in West Bromwich on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP