



Did U Know?

The first woman to win the US Open was Virginia Wade. She defeated Billie Jean King 6-4, 6-4.



Mickey Arthur
(South Africa cricket coach)
"It's an incredible honour and privilege and I feel that I can really step up to the breach and make a difference. I am here to create a platform and an environment for our players to perform. My long-term goal is to ultimately become the best in the world."
After being appointed as new national coach.



TEN Sports

West Indies vs Pakistan
Third ODI
Live at 7:30 pm
ESPN
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Atletico Madrid
Same Day Delay at 2:30 pm
Barcelona vs Villareal
Live at 12:55 am (Monday)
STAR Sports
Brazilian Football
Santos vs Atletico
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)

Muktis fly to Jordan tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad will fly to Jordan tomorrow to play their last group match in the AFC Cup against Al Faysaly on May 25.

The Reds' slim hopes to reach the second round were buried when they suffered a heart-breaking 1-0 home defeat against Indian giants East Bengal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium earlier this month.

Muktijoddha and East Bengal both have so far collected four points in Group A with one win each.

"It's true the match has just an academic interest for us but we want to do something for the greater interest of our football. My wish is to perform better than our home clash against Faysaly," said Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik yesterday.

Muktijoddha lost their home game to Faysaly 3-0.

Meanwhile, Brothers Union will host Nejmah FC of Lebanon at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on the same day in their last match of AFC Cup.

WOMEN'S HANDBALL

Super 3 lineup completed

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra and Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club romped into the super three of the Tibet Women's Handball League with comfortable wins against their respective rivals at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Arambagh Krira Sangha earlier confirmed their berth as Jamalpur Handball Parisad did not turn up to play their game.

Usha registered a 22-2 victory over Narayanganj Handball Academy in the day's first match while Mariners outplayed Tetulia Handball Parishad 27-9 in the other match.

THREE-DAY MATCH Second day washed out

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladeshi cricketers had a frustrating day at Northampton as the second day's play of their third and final warm-up game against Northamptonshire was washed out at Wantage Road yesterday without a ball being bowled.

The first day of the three-day match was also interrupted by rain and allowed only 34.1 overs of play.

The Tigers, desperately looking forward to bury their wretched show against Sussex and shine before their first Test at Lord's from May 26, made a perfect start reducing the county side to 149-5.

Osman hospitalised

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national cricket coach Osman Khan was under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after falling critically ill.

The Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh offered prayers for the quick recovery of the veteran Brothers Union coach.



A freekick by Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp (L) is blocked by Manchester United defensive wall during their FA Cup final at the Millennium Dome in Cardiff on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

BCB to think over ZC's proposal

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) admitted that it has received a proposal from Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) to play a series that falls outside of the International Cricket Council (ICC) calendar.

"We have got the proposal but it has yet to be settled. We have to discuss everything with our team management before finalising the tour," said BCB advisor and media committee chairman Reazuddin Al-Mamun yesterday.

A media report told on Friday that the ZC is anxious to play the Tigers again at the beginning of the next year to prove that their recent series defeat against Bangladesh belied on their internal problems.

"We want to focus only on our game. They have sent a proposal to play in their country but we can consider a triangular series at home if we decide to play a Test series against them," Mamun added.

Jennings Moody's rival

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Undated

Ray Jennings has emerged as a rival to Tom Moody for the job of Sri Lanka's national team coach.

Moody was touted as the probable choice after Greg Chappell won the India post.

But Jayantha Dharmadasa, chairman of Sri Lanka's interim board, told BBC Sport: "We are also considering Jennings apart from Moody."

Jennings was released as coach of South Africa on Thursday, but there are doubts over his availability after he was retained in a development capacity.

Dharmadasa and his committee will meet early next week to discuss candidates, though despite Jennings' name entering the hat it is Moody who remains the warm favourite to succeed countryman John Dyson.

Dharmadasa also revealed that a

new cricket committee headed by former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga has been formed to oversee the development of cricket in Sri Lanka.

The nine-member committee includes former players Roshan Mahanama, Ranjan Madugalle, Duleep Mendis, Bandula Warnapura, Graeme Labrooy, Sidat Wettimuny, Michael Tissera and Anura Tennekoon.

Cricket in Sri Lanka is on the ropes after claims of financial mismanagement saw the existing board replaced with the interim committee.

"We are in a financial mess and the committee will look into ways to improve cricket in Sri Lanka," said Ranatunga, who is also the country's deputy tourism minister.

"Sri Lanka lost to Bangladesh in a junior cricket match recently and this shows that the standard has to be improved."

"The talent is not harnessed properly. There are several issues in Sri Lankan cricket which has to be

addressed including the domestic cricket which is suffering from a lack of proper direction."

Ranatunga, also the new Sri Lankan representative on the influential ICC Cricket Committee, said the national squad must be selected with one eye on the 2007 World Cup.

"We have to build a strong side including talented junior players and the process has to start now."

Ranatunga played in Sri Lanka's inaugural Test against England in 1982 aged 18, led the team to World Cup glory in 1996 and quit cricket five years ago.

He has not been involved in the game for the last five years, although he made an unsuccessful bid to win the post of the board president two years ago.

Sri Lanka will play against two Test matches against West Indies at home in July followed by a triangular one-day series also including India in August.

Mohakhali XI fined

SPORTS REPORTER

The disciplinary committee of the Senior Division Football League fined Mohakhali Ekadash and imposed a one match ban on BRTC footballers Alif Sheikh following their misbehaviour in separate league matches.

Mohakhali were fined Tk 10,000 as their manager Tofazzal Hossain Raju used abusive language against the referees during their match against Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society.

The committee also issued stern warning against BRTC trainer Ali Ashgar for his misconduct with the assistant referee during a match with Dhanmondi Club.

Youth volleyball qualifiers from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The zonal competitions of the National Youth Volleyball Championship will begin today at three different venues across the country.

The teams are: Comilla, Tangail, Sherpur, Kishoreganj, Faridpur, Gopalganj and Madaripur (A-division), Narail, Satkhira, Jehnada, Chuadanga, Jessore, Patuakhali, Khulna and Bagerhat (B-division), holders Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Pabna, Naoganon and Joypurhat (C-division).

Three teams from A-division and C-division and four teams from B-division will qualify to the final round.

Pakistan 152-4 after 35 overs

SPORTS REPORTER

A half-century by Shoaib Malik steered Pakistan to 152-4 after 35 over in their second one-day international against the West Indies at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in Gros Islet, St Lucia, yesterday.

One-down Malik, who made 51, was run out after adding 55 runs with captain Inzamamul Haque. Inzamam was batting on 33 with Younis at the other end on nine.

The tourists, who lead the three-match series 1-0, elected bat after Inzamam had won the toss.

Counties deny Saqlain claim

BBC ONLINE

Kent and Surrey have denied Pakistani spinner Saqlain Mushtaq's claim that they have offered him a contract.

Saqlain, recovering from a serious knee injury, wants a return to county cricket and is using facilities at The Oval as part of his rehabilitation.

"Kent and Surrey have made me offers but I've not accepted them yet as I'm not 100% fit," Saqlain said.

Both counties categorically denied the claims when contacted by BBC Sport on Saturday.

There is an overseas vacancy at Kent, but director of cricket Graham Ford said: "I am not aware of any

Kapil prefers an Indian

Cricket

INTERNET, New Delhi

Former Indian cricket captain and star allrounder Kapil Dev has questioned the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) decision to appoint former Australian captain Greg Chappell as the new coach of the Indian cricket team.

"Who is Greg Chappell?" Kapil Dev said in apparent dismay over the Board's decision, saying that it would have been much better had a coach of Indian origin been appointed.

"Is he an Indian? I really don't know how to say this, but I am wondering to myself if anyone other than an Indian can feel 100 per cent

for India in a cricket match. His blood won't boil if we lose badly. His heart will not throb if we win a thriller," Kapil said.

"Is Indian blood running in their veins? I don't think so," Dev said while struggling to come to terms with the appointment of a foreigner as the coach of the Indian cricket team once again.

When an attempt was made to show that Chappell had won hands down because of his impressive computerised presentation of what all he planned to do for Indian cricket in the next two years, Kapil rhetorically asked: "Did the committee understand the computer presentation? Let me go further and ask whether a presentation is everything. I believe coaching skills are far more important than gimmicks like presentations."

Kapil firmly said that an Indian should be at the helm of affairs.

"It's high time the Indian board starts picking the best Indian for the job," Kapil said authoritatively.

Dev was the coach of the Indian cricket team for nearly two years from 1999 to 2000. He opted out of the responsibility after being accused by fellow cricketer Manoj Prabhakar of being a match-fixer during his time in the game from 1978 to 1994. That decision was also taken because of a lack of support from the BCCI. In 2002, rumours were agog that he would take up the assignment again, but Kapil himself quashed it, saying that if youngsters needed his guidance, he would be available.

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PCB eyes Twenty20 internationals

BBC ONLINE, Undated

The Pakistan Cricket Board may be prepared to play Twenty20 matches against England and India when they host both sides in the near future.

England are scheduled to visit Pakistan from October 22, while India are set to play their neighbours early in 2006.

The Pakistan Cricket Board's Abbas Zaidi said: "If England or India want to play one-off Twenty20 matches on the coming tours, we might agree to it."

Both countries will also play three Tests and five one-day internationals.

When the English and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) originally proposed to include a Twenty20 match in the tour, the PCB Chairman Shaharyar Khan declined the offer.

He felt Twenty20 cricket was still not recognised or promoted by the International Cricket Council.

But after the tremendous success of the first Twenty20 Cup tournament held in Lahore last month, the PCB now appear to have had a change of heart.



Pakistan opener Salman Butt flicks the ball during their second one-day international against the West Indies at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in St Lucia on Saturday.

PHOTO: AP

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