



Did U Know?

Gymnastics, as an activity sport, has been around for over 2000 years but as a competitive sport it is a little more than 100 years old.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

French Open
Round of 16, Day 7
Live at 3:00 pm

West Indies vs Pakistan
First Test, Day Four
Live at 8:00 pm

ESPN

Azlan Shah Cup Hockey
India vs Malaysia
Live at 2:00 pm

Pakistan vs South Africa
Live at 4:00 pm

Primera Liga
Mallorca vs Real Betis
Live at 12:55 am (Monday)

STAR Sports

Formula One World GP
Live at 8:00 pm



Carlo Ancelotti

(AC Milan coach)
"We played a great final and we didn't deserve to lose. The players ought to feel proud and although I'm unhappy, we lost with honour."
After losing to Liverpool in the Champions League final.

Vaughan happy to avoid the 'banana-skin'

AFP, London

England captain Michael Vaughan was a relieved man after seeing his side thrash Bangladesh by an innings and 261 runs inside three days to win the first Test at Lord's here Saturday.

"It was a good performance," Vaughan told reporters after England completed the tenth biggest Test win in Test history.

"Before the game I mentioned the word banana-skin and it always is a banana-skin when you come into a game like this."

"But after our first 10 overs where we weren't quite at our best in the field I thought we were excellent throughout the whole of the match."

"It was nice to get it over with fast. I thought we were ruthless in the field and very dominant with the bat," said Vaughan ahead of an additional extra hour's fielding practice ordered by coach Duncan Fletcher.

DIV I SOCCER Ohidul nets first hattrick

SPORTS REPORTER

Ohidul Islam slammed five goals as Agrani Bank Sporting Club thumped Dhanmondi Club 6-1 in the First Division Football League at the Bir Sheshthra Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Sohag opened the floodgates in the tenth minute and then it was left to Ohidul to slam the league's first hattrick.

His goals came in the 11th, 40th, 55th minute and added two more five minutes before the end.

Anwar netted a consolation goal for the losers in the 80th minute.

'Lord's a letdown'

Cricket

AL-AMIN from Lord's

So, it was another Test match for Bangladesh and another defeat inside three days. The innings and 261 runs thrashing at the hands of England at Lord's is exactly the 21st Test defeat for Bangladesh in 37 Tests.

But the latest one brings more adverse reaction than anybody would have liked and the English section of international media seems to have found it as the best weapon to relegate the tenth Test nation in a lower tier if not strip them from the elite family.

Starting from the first day of the Lord's Test the persevering English reporters asked the same question either to Michael Vaughan or Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar but without getting any satisfactory reply.

True that the Lord's Test was a

Biggest Test innings wins

AFP, London

England's innings and 261-run victory over Bangladesh in the first Test at Lord's here on Saturday was the 10th biggest Test win in Test history. Here is how it fits into the list of record Test innings wins:

++Inns and 579 runs ENG (903-7 decl) v AUS (201/123) The Oval, 1938

Inns and 360 runs AUS (652-7 decl) v RSA (159/133) Johannesburg, 2001-02

Inns and 336 runs WIS (614-5 decl) v IND (124/154) Kolkata, 1958-59

Inns and 332 runs AUS (645) v ENG (141/172) Brisbane, 1946-47

Inns and 324 runs PAK (643) v NZL (73/246) Lahore, 2002

Inns and 322 runs WIS (660-5 decl) v NZL (218/122) Wellington, 1994-95

Inns and 310 runs WIS (536) v BAN (139/87) Dhaka, 2002-03

+Inns and 285 runs ENG (629) v IND (302/42) Lord's, 1974

Inns and 264 runs PAK (546-3 decl) v BAN (134/148) Multan, 2001-02

Inns and 261 runs ENG (528-3 decl) v BAN (108/159) Lord's, 2005

Inns and 259 runs AUS (549-7 decl) v RSA (158/132) Port Elizabeth, 1949-50

Inns and 254 runs SRI (713-3 decl) v ZIM (228/231) Bulawayo, 2003-04

(+ -- two men absent in both Australian innings; + -- one man absent in India's second innings)

Windies in driving seat

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

Though their batsmen did not capitalise on the hard work of their bowlers led by Fidel Edwards, West Indies were still holding all the aces in the opening Test against Pakistan on Friday.

Edwards collected five wickets for 38 runs from 14 overs, as Pakistan were dismissed for 145 to concede a first innings lead of 201.

The Pakistanis however, hit back to restrict West Indies to 168 for four in their second innings when stumps were drawn on the second day.

Shahid Afridi snared the important wickets of batting superstar Brian Lara and the silky Ramnaresh Sarwan to shake up the West Indies.

West Indies captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul was undefeated on 37 and has added 31 with fellow left-hander Wavell Hinds to consolidate their side's position.

Batting a second time, West Indies enjoyed their best opening stand of their international home season when Chris Gayle and Devon Smith put on 59.

The two opening batsman however, perished in the first hour after tea, when Smith was caught behind for 10 off Abdul Razzaq, and Gayle was caught at forward short leg for 50 off Danish Kaneria after striking six fours from 56 balls in 1-1/4 hours.

West Indies suffered a further setback when Sarwan was caught behind for one off Afridi to leave the home team on a precarious 65 for three.

Lara added 72 for the fourth wicket with fellow left-hander Chanderpaul and that eased some of West Indies' worries, but just when it looked like they were about to really cut loose, Afridi struck again.

Younis Khan, who is leading Pakistan in the absence of the suspended Inzamamul Haq, hit the top score of 31 for the visitors, and opening batsman Salman Butt scored 27, but the rest of the batting failed to come to terms with the West Indies bowling.

Before lunch, four wickets, two apiece to Edwards and Collymore, kept West Indies competitive and restricted Pakistan.

Edwards snared the wickets of

mismatch, but a pensive English media were not ready to take Bangladesh in the same breath like they always do after every demoralising defeat of their top tennis player Tim Henman.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar also admitted that he has not felt such media pressure anywhere in the world.

"I've faced the same question many times and also attended not as many press briefings like here in England. I had to attend a press briefing for two-and-a-half hours before the first day which was quite unusual and I had to answer a lot of questions," said Bashar after the match.

But the Bangladesh captain is happy that not many of his players read English newspapers where the comment of some of them goes nearly beyond the boundary. But he was not taking the media pressure as an excuse for the defeat.

"We wanted to do something special at Lord's so that we could

remember it for a long time. But it was the biggest letdown for me. I'm really unhappy with my own batting. I was out playing bad shots in both innings which I shouldn't have done," he said adding that Bangladesh failed in every department of the game.

"It's good to play shots but we did not play proper shots. The ball moved a bit in the first morning but when we batted a second time it was perfectly alright for batting as Khaled Mashud showed with a little bit of patience you can score runs," remarked Bashar.

"Generally we are a good fielding side. But I'm surprised at so many misfields and a few catches being dropped."

Asked whether it was wise to give young pacesman Shadat Hossain a debut in place of experienced Tapash Baisya, Bashar defended the decision.

"We didn't consider Tapash because he was not bowling well in

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SOME RESISTANCE: Bangladesh's wicketkeeper-batsman Khaled Mashud in action on way to scoring team highest 44 in the second innings of the first Test against England at Lord's on Saturday.



Brothers Union striker Khokon (R) is about to score his side's first goal against Dipali Juba Sangha in the opening match of the Premier Bank Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

Brothers off to winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union did not have to waste much energy or full strength to start defence of their Premier Bank Premier Football League title yesterday on with a 2-1 win over newcomers Dipali Juba Sangha.

The slim scoreline of the opening match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, was however, really deceptive as the holders, who dominated much of the show, looked satisfied with a 2-0 first half lead.

Dipali, who pulled one goal back seconds before the final whistle, made a bright start with Japanese recruit Yutaka Aihara's impressive runs down the left. But the full-back saw two of his defence splitting crosses wasted in the absence of a striker in proper position.

The Premier League debutants could have taken a shocking lead after 19 minutes. Rubel found the ball seven yards out of goal after a corner but the Dipali forward's shot was brilliantly saved by keeper Tareq for a corner.

Brothers reasserted themselves and went ahead from their first real attack in the 25th minute. Khokon, unmarked on the right side of the box, met a left-flank cross by Parvez Babu and neatly placed the ball into rival keeper Titu's right hand post to separate the two sides.

Edward spoilt a fine chance on the half hour but the Russian found the net two minutes later when he slid forward to connect a low cross by Abul from the right.

Edward and Khokon both failed to utilise easy second-half chances as Brothers could not increase the margin, letting their opponents steal an injury time goal through Taj. The diminutive midfielder took a through from the middle to get into the rival box unchallenged and neatly placed the ball into Tareq's near post to reduce the arrears.

Yellow cards: Parvez (Brothers) and Apu, Jalal (Dipali).

TEAMS

BROTHERS: Tareq, Sujan, Jewel, Masud Rana, Siraji, Monwar, Hicham, Abul (Liton), Parvez (Liton Khan), Khokon (Emily) and Edwards.
DIPALI: Titu, Abdullah, Apu, Shahin, Rajib, Chanchal, Farid (Daulat), Taj, Yutaka (Biplab), Jalal (Tareq) and Rubel.

Referee: Tayab Hassan.

Third day the best

Cricket

AL-AMIN from Lord's

Bangladesh briefly lived to fight a third day at Lord's on Saturday because they managed to keep their five second innings wickets intact at the close play on Day Two.

But the general observation was that England captain Michael Vaughan was not in a mood to finish off the game without having good match practice for his top-order batsmen, who were not among the runs in the county championship.

That's why the declaration came a bit later than expected despite the fact that the home side had put enough runs on the board at the lunch break on the second day.

But then there was another noble reason that the visitors would have to play for the crowd since the authorities had already sold 17,581 tickets for the third day.

The third morning started as disastrously as it was on the first day with Bangladesh losing three wick-

ets inside the first two overs.

But then the knowledgeable crowd enjoyed the best part of Bangladesh's innings with a vintage Khaled Mashud and number ten Anwar Hossain Monir batting together for more than an hour. Mashud scored 44 before becoming the last batsman out while Monir made 13.

The ninth wicket partnership of 51 between the pair was also the highest stand in the first Test for Bangladesh at Lord's.

Mashud and Monir also saved half the day's money for ECB after they were faced with the prospect of a full refund when Aftab, Rafique and Mashrafe returned to the dressing room with the day's play only 11 balls old.

According to ECB rules if a day's play is fewer than ten overs then they are bound to make a full refund of the ticket money.

The audience, however, was more interested to see Bangladesh surviving as long as possible. They cheered not only a good shot but also the discomfiting short-pitched

stuff that Monir had to take on his body.

Mashud hit five boundaries including two magnificent off-drives for four in one over from Matthew Hoggard. It was however not how many boundaries he struck but his approach against the quality English pace attack that withstood everything. His innings also gave a glimpse of hope that if our batsmen apply themselves properly then their next game at Durham won't be as heartbreaking as it was at Lord's.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and England at Lord's in London on Saturday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 108 (Omar 22, Aftab 20, Rahim 19; Hoggard 4-42, Flintoff 2-22, Harrison 2-38)

ENGLAND: First innings 528 for 3 declared (Trescothick 194, Vaughan 120, Strauss 69, Bell 65 not out)

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Sehwag Chappell's future captain

Cricket

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India's new cricket coach Greg Chappell has acknowledged that explosive opening batsman Virender Sehwag is the future captain.

According to sources in the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Chappell, during his interview before a six-member committee of experts earlier this month, rated Sehwag as the future leader of the team.

He also said, "With Sehwag expressing future captaincy aspirations, the learning process for future leadership roles needs to be viewed as critical."

Sehwag is considered by Chappell in the seven-member group of "core" Indian players which

also has in it Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, VVS Laxman, Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

The sources said Chappell

pointed out that while Sehwag's average in the first innings has been exceptional at 80 what was of concern was his showing in the second

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