



Did U Know?

After losing two Tests to West Indies at Kingston – by an innings and 174 runs in February/March 1958 and by 140 runs in April 1977, Pakistan won their first ever Test at this venue.



Edwin van der Sar

(Dutch international)
"I am that man and I am still a player with big ambitions. I believe I am now back at a level where I belong. A lot has been said about replacing Peter Schmeichel. I will do my best to copy what he did. I know I have the experience and the ability to help the club push for all prizes next season."
After joining Manchester United from Fulham.



TEN Sports

WC Soccer Qualifier
 Brazil vs Argentina
Live at 7:00 am
 Repeat at 12:30 pm & 9:00 pm

ESPN
 Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
 Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm



Premier Football League
 Abahani vs Arambagh (5:00 pm)
 Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Wright wishes Tendulkar well

PTI, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar cheer-up. The batting star, struggling with injuries of late, has got a vote of confidence from none other than the former Indian coach John Wright who believes that Tendulkar has it in him to score 100 international centuries.

With many doubting the 32-year-old player's ability to reach the dizzy heights of the past in the wake of a career-threatening injury, Wright said the cricketer was capable of reaching the milestone.

"I am convinced there's another level waiting for Sachin. I thought it was going to be this season but the elbow was a real problem. I believe he is capable of scoring 100 international hundreds," Wright said.

Tendulkar, who has so far 72 international hundreds to his credit including 34 in Tests and 38 in one-dayers, recently underwent a surgery on the elbow which is expected to keep him out of action for another 14 to 16 weeks.

Wright, who had a four and half-year stint with the Indian team before calling it quits just after the series against Pakistan this April, also paid rich tributes to the "great sporting icon".

"He is the first truly great sportsperson I've worked with... His humility and friendship have been very special," he told the Wisden Asia magazine in an interview.

The former New Zealand captain also hailed the "fearless" opener Virender Sehwag and Anil Kumble, who has stood the test of time.

India want WC independentl y

PTI, Chandigarh

Just days after the Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary SK Nair had favoured a joint bid for the 2011 World Cup, its president Ranbir Singh Mahendra Tuesday said the BCCI was keen to hold the event independently.

"We will definitely bid for World Cup 2011. Our choice will be to go independently," Mahendra told reporters here.

He, however, did not rule out the possibility of bidding for the event with any other Asian country. "We are open to holding the tournament independently or jointly with other Asian cricket playing countries," he added.

Mahendra said the decision to bid for the World Cup was taken after the central government decided to amend the income tax act to give tax exemptions to sporting events in the country.

Aussies due in Dhaka April 6



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Wednesday revealed the itinerary of Australia's tour of Bangladesh next year.

The world champions will arrive in Dhaka on April 6 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals during their 23-day stay in the country.

The first Test will start from April 9 at Dhaka and then the teams will travel to Chittagong to play the second and final Test from April 16-20.

The first game of the three-match one-day series will also take place at the port city.

The invincible Aussies will play

the last two one-day games against the home side in Dhaka on April 26 and April 28 before their departure on April 29. The last two limited-over matches will be day-night affairs.

The matches in Dhaka are expected to be played at BCB's new home in Mirpur. The board is now preparing the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur as a Test venue after they quit the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The two teams have so far played two Tests, both during the Tigers' visit to down under back in 2003.

ITINERARY

April 9-13: First Test at Dhaka.
April 16-20: Second Test at Chittagong.
 April 23: First ODI at Chittagong.
 April 26: Second ODI at Dhaka (D/N).
 April 28: Third ODI at Dhaka (D/N).

Farashganj ride on Felix double



SPORTS REPORTER

Nigerian striker Felix struck twice in the first half to help Farashganj Sporting Club edge newcomers Dipali Juba Sangha 2-1 in the Premier Bank Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Farashganj's second win in three matches pushed the old Dhaka club's collection to six points while Dipali stuck to the bottom of the table without any point.

Both sides fulfilled their quotas of three foreign players but it was Felix who shone. The Nigerian, who scored Farashganj's match-winner in their stunning 1-0 win over last year's

runners-up Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra in the opening round, separated the two sides after 16 minutes when he bisected two defenders with a through from compatriot midfielder Adafa before neatly placing the ball past goalkeeper Titu.

Felix was again on target in the 32nd minute. This time, the Nigerian placed the ball into the right-hand post of Titu after skipper Walid's pass came to him inside the box off a deflection from rival defender Tarek.

Dipali, however, maintained their record of scoring in each of the three games when veteran striker Jalal slotted the ball home in the 37th minute after Farashganj custodian Zia misread the flight on a corner by Tarek from the left.

Two minutes later, Ugandan forward Idris almost equalised for

Dipali but his close-range shot was cleared by Farashganj's bald defender Khaled from the goalmouth.

Farashganj dominated the early part of the second half but only Kabir came close to increase the margin. But the midfielder, who lobbed from 40 yards after seeing the goalkeeper not in position, saw the ball land just wide.

Dipali mounted heavy pressure in search of an equaliser but Idris alone squandered three sitters inside ten minutes.

The Ugandan, who scored against Mohammedan in their previous encounter, chipped the ball over the unguarded post before being denied twice by goalkeeper Zia's reflex in the last two minutes on one-on-one.

Yellow cards: Scylla, Arup
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PHOTO: STAR

DOUBLE UP FELIX: Farashganj striker Felix (C), who struck twice, is in control against Dipali Sangha's Domba (R) during their Premier Bank Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Pak greats hail team



AFP, Karachi

Former cricket greats Wednesday praised Pakistan for their series-leveilling win against the West Indies at Jamaica but said the team missed a golden opportunity to seize a first-ever series win in the Caribbean.

"Winning a Test after coming from behind is always great," said former captain and top batsman Zaheer Abbas, referring to Pakistan's 136-run win in the second West Indies Test on Tuesday.

"The West Indies team is now a shadow of the team which ruled the world. Their fast bowlers are not as venomous as they were when we toured there in 1976, so for me it's a chance of lifetime lost," said Abbas.

The tourists shared the two-match series 1-1 after losing the first Test by a whopping margin of 276 runs at Barbados.

However it means Pakistan have still not won a series in the

West Indies in six attempts.

"Everyone had said Pakistan was the clear favourite to win the series against a weakened West Indies side and, for me, the blame falls on us for not doing so," said Abbas.

Abbas, who played 78 Tests for Pakistan, said the three key players missing from the side in the first Test had been a major factor in their downfall.

"Pakistan played the first Test without captain Inzamamul Haq, Shoaib Malik and Yousuf Youhana which proved a great setback and played a part in the poor batting," said Abbas.

Inzamam and Malik sat on the sidelines during the Barbados Test due to bans, while Youhana returned home to be with his ailing father.

The tourists also missed bowling spearheads Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Sami, who were deemed unfit.

Abbas said the Pakistan team must settle down in its batting order and not make so many experimen-

tal changes in the line up.

"Bob Woolmer is now the coach for one year and his work can be described as 'so far so good', but there are too many experiments in the batting order," said Abbas, who rated the West Indies as among the lower ranked teams.

Another former great, bowler Sarfraz Nawaz, said Pakistan should have "whitewashed" the West Indians.

"Inzamam's loss from the first Test was the major reason we did not win the series. We should have players to fill the void," said Nawaz, who played 55 Tests for Pakistan.

However he praised leg-spinner Danish Kaneria, saying he was "outstanding" in the second Test. "Had we scored more runs in the first Test, Kaneria would have been more effective," he added.

Legendary former Pakistan players Imran Khan and Wasim Akram last week blamed selectors for the first Test defeat against West Indies saying that a lack of good bowlers lost them the chance of a series win.

DATE WITH SACHIN, SHANE

Chance of a lifetime for cricket fan

AFP, London

Sachin Tendulkar and Shane Warne will both be involved in giving one lucky cricket fan the opportunity of a lifetime during next Tuesday's Tsunami appeal match between MCC and an International XI at Lord's.

During the interval between innings, the highest on-line bidder in an on-line auction will receive 15 minutes of one-to-one coaching from India batting great Tendulkar before walking out to the middle at Lord's to face an over from Australia leg-spin legend Warne, the world's leading Test wicket-taker.

Tendulkar will remain at the non-striker's end to offer advice and Lord's owners MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) will commission a commemorative photograph of the event, which will also be televised.

MCC president Tom Graveney, the former England batsman, said: "This is an incredible opportunity for one cricket fan to live a dream -- to walk out to bat against the world's leading Test wicket-taker at the home of cricket in front of the Lord's crowd and a worldwide television audience."

"In addition, they will be able to prepare for the experience by receiving personal coaching from one of the world's greatest ever batsmen."

"We hope that this amazing opportunity, which has been made possible by the generosity and co-operation of Shane and Sachin, will raise a significant additional sum for the Tsunami appeal."

The auction will begin at 1400GMT on Wednesday, June 8 and close at 1400GMT on Saturday, June 11.

Bids can be placed online at <www.cricketreleief.org> with the winner also receiving two tickets to

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Badda, Agrani split points

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Badda Jagarani dropped valuable points in the sixth and penultimate round when they drew goalless with Agrani Bank in yesterday's First Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Badda now have 11 points with three wins and two draws while the bankers moved to six points following their third consecutive draw.

Pepsi volleyball semis today

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinals of the Pepsi inter-district women's volleyball competition will take place today at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Rajbari face Tangail in the first semifinal and Rajshahi meet Pabna in the second semis.

Tangail beat Gazipur 3-0 and Rajbari beat Pabna 3-2 in the last group matches yesterday at the same venue.

Mini basketball from June 3

SPORTS REPORTER

The Sunnydale Mini girl's basketball tournament will begin on June 23 at the Dhanmondi Basketball gymnasium.

Interested schools have been asked to send their entries to the Bangladesh Basketball Federation office by June 12.

Youhana needs shoulder op

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan batsman Yousuf Youhana is to undergo surgery on a chronic problem in his right shoulder which has troubled him for two years.

"I underwent MRI and ultrasound tests last week and they showed ruptures in muscle tissues in the shoulder," Youhana told Reuters after Pakistan earned a 1-1 series draw by beating West Indies by 136 runs in the second test in Jamaica on Tuesday.

"It has been bothering me for two years now and of late it has become difficult to hold the bat properly. I am now looking for permanent treatment," said the 30-year-old batsman.

Pakistan have a three and a half month break from international cricket before they play England at home in three tests and five one-dayers.



PHOTO: COURTESY

TIME TO MOVE ON: Bangladesh paceman Nazmul Hossain (L) and all-rounder Manjarul Islam Rana leave the Redworth Hall Hotel in Durham to board the team bus on their way to Derby on Wednesday.

Warne the 3rd Australian Portrait at Lord's Pavilion unveiled



AFP, London

Shane Warne joined a select band of cricketers when he unveiled a portrait of himself at Lord's here Tuesday.

The oil on linen painting of the leg-spinner will be hung in the ground's famous Pavilion where it will be only the third portrait of an Australia player -- late cricket greats Sir Donald Bradman and Keith Miller are the two others -- to go on display.

"It's taken a lot of sittings with Fanny. It's a privilege for me. I feel very proud of the achievement. It (Lord's) is a fantastic ground," said Warne, after unveiling the portrait by London-based artist Fanny Rush.

The portrait will initially be hung in the Pavilion's Long Room, meaning Warne, the world's leading Test wicket-taker, is set to walk past it when he takes the field for the first Ashes Test against England at Lord's starting on July 21.

Ever since bowling the 'ball of the century' to dismiss Mike Gatting at Old Trafford in 1993, Warne has tormented England batsmen.

"Some of the members might want to throw darts at it," he joked.

"But seriously, I think they have respect for what I've achieved."
 Warne was more concerned about the reaction of his Australian teammates.

"I hope they don't let Brett Lee anywhere near it with a black pen because I might end up with a moustache like Merv's (Hughes's)."

Former Australia batsman Mark Waugh recently suggested his old team-mate's powers were waning.

"I don't think Warney is quite the bowler he was five to 10 years ago," Waugh wrote in the Melbourne Age.

"He's still very good but he relies more on accuracy, subtle variation and reputation these days than on vicious ripping leg-breaks and unplayable flippers."

But Warne, 35, countered by saying that he was still at the top of his game.

"Mark's a great friend of mine and he's got to make a few quid somehow, even by joining you blokes (the media)."

"He's got a great cricket brain and he's entitled to his opinion. But the way I look at it, the last 25-30 Tests, I've played some of the best cricket of my career and I haven't played against Bangladesh."

"My role in the team has changed, bowling behind Lee, (Jason) Gillespie, (Glenn) McGrath

and (Michael) Kasprovicz."
 "We've been bowling first a lot lately and that means I've been bowling on day one, two and three wickets."

"Under Mark Taylor we'd always bat first and so I'd be bowling on day four of five when it turns more."

Warne has been in England since the start of the season, captaining Hampshire, currently top of the First Division of the County Cham-pionship.

He is the county's joint leading bowler so far this season alongside Chris Tremlett.

The young seamer also has 35 wickets including a hat-trick against Nottinghamshire that sealed an improbable win last weekend.

"Chris Tremlett is dynamite at the moment and it wouldn't surprise me if he played against Australia at some stage this season," said Warne.

He has also repeatedly called for Hampshire teammate Kevin Pietersen to be given a Test debut.

But the South African-born batsman was left out of England's recent 2-0 series win against Bangladesh and Warne, while refusing to talk up his county colleague's chances further, said that he should

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PHOTO: AFP

THANKS FOR THE TIMES YOU DIDN'T RULE ME OUT: Revered English cricket umpire David Shepherd (L), who retired after officiating in 92 Tests at the end of the second Pakistan-West Indies Test in Jamaica on Tuesday, is being presented with an autographed bat of West Indies superstar Brian Lara after the match.