



Mohammad Ashraful
(Bangladesh batsman)
"This is the best innings of my life. My two Test hundreds also came in difficult situations but a century against the likes of McGrath, Gillespie and Kasproicz is very special."



BTV
Bangladesh vs England (D/N)
NatWest Series, 4th ODI
Live at 7:30 pm
ESPN
Bangladesh vs England (D/N)
NatWest Series, 4th ODI
Live at 7:30 pm
FIFA Confederation Cup
Argentina vs Germany
Live at 12:40 am (Wednesday)
STAR Sports
Wimbledon Championships
First Round
Live at 5:00 pm
FIFA Confederation Cup
Australia vs Tunisia
Live at 12:40 am (Wednesday)



Alamgir replaces Munir in A team

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Cricket League's leading wicket-taker Alamgir Kabir has replaced injured seamer Anwar Munir in the Bangladesh A team for their tour of England next month. Munir, who was sent back from the England touring national team after the Test series, suffered an injury on his hand during training at BKSP Savar. The second string Bangladesh team will leave Dhaka for England on July 15.

Whatmore there in body not in mind

AL-AMIN from Nottingham

When Bangladesh pulled off their greatest win against Australia at Cardiff on Thursday, cricketers were over the moon in the small dressing room at Sophia Gardens. They sprayed the champagne bottle presented to Mohammad Ashraful for his magnificent hundred and shouted till their vocal chords finally decided to give up.

But one person who would have liked to join the party was coach Dav Whatmore. He was very much involved in the never-ending celebration part but his mind was somewhere else.

And it only surfaced on Monday morning when Whatmore, a man with nerves of steel, said that his father was lying sick in bed in Melbourne for the last few days.

"He is now a bit better and responding to the treatment," said Whatmore after the press briefing at Trent Bridge, home of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club.

Dav Clifford, 91, has undergone surgery recently but remained unconscious until the good news came.

When asked was there any chance for him to see his father, the 50-year-old Whatmore did not rule out the possibility.

"I have communicated it with the Board and they are aware of the situation."

Sleepless at the Hilton



AL-AMIN from Nottingham

At the breakfast table of the Hilton Hotel Bangladesh team manager MA Latif was inquiring whether each and every member of the side had a table fan in their rooms.

It might sound very funny but the reality was that the Bangladesh cricket team required a small-size fan on Sunday night because most members of the national team passed a sleepless night with no air-conditioning system available in the rooms.

Although nobody complained, but there were whisperings about the not-so-good condition of the hotel where the Bangladesh team would be staying until June 22.

This is however not a thing of discomfort for the cricketers

during their first full series in England. Earlier, they were deprived of training at Cardiff where they pulled off the famous victory against Australia due to stiff hotel arrangement schedule.

The team has been travelling by an ECB allotted bus throughout the tour. However, after more than a month they have started to dislike the ride due to delay for jams in rush hours.

Once upon a time cricketers sailed from the Atlantic or from the Indian Ocean and took months to reach the destination to play. But in modern days and especially in England, any cricketer coming from the sub-continent could barely think of a situation like the one at Hilton.

Nottingham is the 11th destination for the Tigers since they landing at London's Heathrow over a month ago. But by the time

they play their final group league game at Leeds, they can easily claim that they have seen it all in England.

The England trip is no doubt in the most demanding both on and off the field for Habibul Bashar's men. They knew that it would be very tough on the field, but they never thought that it would be equally taxing even after a long day's workout.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has certainly taken a long look at the detailed tour schedule before signing the MoU with the English and Wales Board (ECB). But for those who have had first-hand experience, it seemed that everything was done in a rush.



A goalmouth action during Monday's Premier Bank Premier Football League encounter between Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool and Dipali Juba Sangha at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Million dollar question



AFP, Sydney

The recriminations continued at home Monday over Australia's alarming start to the Ashes cricket tour of England with some commentators questioning whether the wheels have fallen off the once-mighty Australian team.

Newspapers here for the first time carried commentary of Bangladesh's 'unthinkable' five-wicket victory on Saturday over the world champions in Cardiff with some cricket writers talking of a team in crisis.

Add to the mix all-rounder Andrew Symonds' two-match ban for staying out on a late night drinking binge before the Bangladesh humiliation and it proved a humbling weekend for the Aussies.

Australia went down again to England in Bristol on Sunday to suffer their fourth defeat in the opening week of the tour.

"Something is seriously out of joint in the Australian cricket team which endured perhaps its darkest day in Cardiff." Chloe Saltau wrote in the Sydney Morning Herald.

"Losses to England in a Twenty20 match and Somerset in a county game were one thing, but the unthinkable five-wicket loss to Bangladesh, the world's worst international one-day team, invited a different scale of embarrassment altogether."

The Australian's Andrew Ramsay wrote: "Having dismissed complacency and arrogance as the reason behind the catastrophic loss to Bangladesh, Australia captain Ricky Ponting is faced with the worrying reality his once-mighty team is in the middle of a mystifying form slump."

"Apart from the glaringly obvious embarrassment factor, the most worrying aspect of Australia's five-wicket loss to Bangladesh was the relative ease world cricket's least-equipped batting line-up chased down a total of 250."

News Limited's Jon Pierik said: "SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Australia's world champion cricketers were left embarrassed and shocked after suffering arguably the worst defeat in the sport's rich history, losing to Bangladesh.

"Unbackable at the start of the day, Australia was unable to stop a team considered by many to be not worthy of international status from posting a five-wicket win in the tri-series one-day match at Cardiff's Sophia Ground."

For the first time in his short reign as skipper, Ricky Ponting is taking most of the heat and was criticised for deciding to bat first on a conducive wicket and paying the price against Bangladesh.

Saltau said Ponting also had to find out why a bowling attack that only a few months ago struck fear into opposition batsmen now seemed distinctly docile, particularly without the injured Brett Lee.

"He would also review his own decision to bat first on a wicket that had been sweating beneath covers

Youngmen's end losing streak

SPORTS REPORTER

Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool won a seven-goal thriller against Dipali Juba Sangha in a battle of bottom-table teams in the Premier Bank Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The 4-3 victory gave Youngmen's their first points after four defeats while newcomers Dipali remained pointless after five losses in a row.

Youngmen's looked like the runaway victors after going 2-0 up by the 13th minute. Skipper Robin nodded home a cross by winger Rajan after 12 minutes while Baten fired the ball in off a deflection of a rival defender in the very next minute.

But Ugandan forward Idris' cool finish in the 28th-minute brought Dipali back in the game.

Robin's second goal of the match and fourth in the league put

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PHOTO: AFP

Brazilian superstars Ronaldinho (R) and Kaka react in disbelief after conceding a goal against Mexico on Sunday.

Borgetti baffles Brazil

AFP, Hannover



Mexico sealed a well-earned place in the Confederations Cup semi-finals after a 1-0 win over Brazil in an incident-packed Group B encounter in front of a sell-out crowd here on Sunday.

Jared Borgetti's second half goal put Ricardo Lavolpe's side on six points and with only one group game left the CONCACAF champions are assured a place in the last four against either Germany or Argentina.

Brazil must now beat Japan in Cologne on Wednesday to guarantee their semi-final spot and prevent an embarrassing first round exit for the second successive Confed Cup.

"Our top priority is to beat Japan and make it into the next round," said Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira who singled out Mexico's defence as the key to the defeat.

"It doesn't matter how much ability you have - how many Ronaldinhos and Robinhos are in your team, if your opponents can defend like that and penetrate it's going to be tough to get a result."

"Mexico were really strong on this body to body, hand to hand marking."

"It's not a disaster." This was Mexico's 20th game unbeaten - the last time they tasted defeat was ironically against Brazil in the Copa America last year.

For Ricardo Lavolpe it showed his team were coming of age 12 months before the World Cup.

"I've been coach now for three years and it's satisfying to see how we're growing and able to beat the good teams," said the Argentina-born manager.

"The physical effort from my players was immense and it all worked out."

Brazil, beaten by Mexico in the 1999 Confed Cup final, dominated early but the Mexican defence held strong before the match descended into a B-movie farce.

It all started on the half hour mark when Mexico, who next play under-performing Greece, were awarded a penalty after Borgetti was brought down by Brazil captain Roque Junior in the box.

Looking to the heavens Borgetti stepped up to place the spot kick in the back of Dida's net, but to his disgust Italian referee Roberto

Rosetti made him take it again having spotted an overly eager Jose Fonseca illegally enter the penalty area.

Borgetti's second attempt hit the cross bar but the 31-year-old Pachuca striker was handed a third attempt, this time after Brazil's Emerson went beyond the pale.

Another look skywards and Borgetti struck high and to the right only for Dida to save - one out of three in this case just wasn't good enough.

A sigh of relief rang out into the Hannover night from the drum-banging Samba supporters which must have reached the airship keeping watch on proceedings high over the stadium.

The capacity crowd which included German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder were treated to one further moment of high drama in first-half injury time when after a goalmouth scramble Adriano was handed a gilt-edged chance to put Brazil ahead at close range only for his shot to head high and wide.

It was seemingly a night for i l l e g a l

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WIMBLEDON

REUTERS, London

Champion Roger Federer made a winning return to Wimbledon's lush green lawns on Monday, reaching the second round of the grass court Grand Slam with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 win over Paul-Henri Mathieu.

The Swiss world number opened his campaign for a third consecutive All England Club title as early morning stormclouds cleared to leave Centre Court bathed in sunshine.

Federer, who clattered 18 aces past his French opponent, was joined in the second round by the man he considers a main rival for his crown, 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt.

The Australian baseliner wasted no time sweeping aside Belgium's Christophe Rochus 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 in 92 minutes.

While the leading men advanced with little fuss, women's ninth seed Anastasia Myskina was forced to survive a scare before finally scrambling over the first hurdle.

Russia's first women's Grand Slam winner when she triumphed at the French Open last year, Myskina was pressed all the way before beating Czech qualifier Katerina

Bohmova 5-7, 7-6, 6-4.

Myskina trailed 4-1 in the second set and 3-0 in the third before winning both to avert a second successive first round loss at a grand slam tournament.

Last month she became the first defending champion to lose in the opening round at Roland Garros when she lost to Spain's Maria Sanchez Lorenzo.

Teenager Sania Mirza became the first Indian woman to reach the second round of Wimbledon with a hard-fought 6-3, 3-6, 8-6 victory over Japan's Akiko Morigami.

The 18-year-old's victory set up an intriguing second-round showdown with US Open champion and fifth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova, who will be aiming to avenge her surprise defeat by the Indian in Dubai earlier this year.

Kuznetsova thrashed Britain's Rebecca Llewellyn 6-0, 6-1.

Another British hope fell by the wayside in round one when Anne Keothavong lost to Argentine Mariana Diaz-Oliva 6-3, 6-4.

Later on Monday, Russian fifth seed Marat Safin takes on Thai Paradorn Srichaphan. Former finalist Mark Philippoussis is also in

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PHOTO: AFP

India's tennis sensation Sania Mirza celebrates after winning a point against Akiko Morigami of Japan at the Wimbledon Championships on Monday.

Shame, Shane



AFP, London

Australia star Shane Warne was reported Monday to be fighting to save his marriage after new claims he cheated on his wife with a student.

The 35-year-old spin bowler, who has been involved in a series of scandals, allegedly stripped naked and begged Laura Sayers, 25, for sex before she gave in to his pleas, The Daily Mirror reports.

It could be the last straw for Warne's long-suffering wife Simone -- who moved from Melbourne to England with their three children just last week to be with her husband.

The Sunday Mirror revealed Warne's one-night stand with Laura who was not very complimentary about his style.

"It was all over very quickly. He wasn't very well endowed," she said.

Warne refused to comment on the claims, issuing a short statement on Monday saying he was sick of having to defend himself against publicity-seekers who try to gain

notoriety at his expense. Warne declined to respond directly to Sayers' claims.

"We have seen the story today in

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PHOTO: STAR FILE

Shane Warne ... looking for someone?

NATWEST SERIES Giles boost for hosts

AFP, London

Fit-again left-arm spinner Ashley Giles will join up with England's NatWest Series squad later on Monday after recovering from a hip problem which has allowed him to return to the international arena.

The 32-year-old has missed both the start of England's triangular tournament campaign, which has included victories over Bangladesh and Australia, and the recent Test series triumph over Bangladesh after getting injured playing for Warwickshire.

Giles, an integral part of both England sides, has been given a cortisone injection without success but made a successful return for Warwickshire's second team last week and claimed one for 44 on his comeback for the first team in Sunday's Totesport League match

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