

Brothers follow MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier Bank
Senior Division Football League
Victor Edward slammed a hat-trick as Brothers Union launched their second-leg of the Premier Division Football League with a 3-1 thrashing of Dhaka Wanderers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The result offset the feat of leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club, who also recorded an identical scoreline against Dipali Juba Sangha when the return-leg started at the Big Bowl on Friday.

The Russian striker scored in the 10th, 22nd, and 23rd, minute to become the fourth player in the competition to notch a treble after his teammate Liton, Sheikh Russel's Yousef and Mohammedan's Monju did it in the first leg.

The outcome pushed the Gopibagh outfit's tally to 23 points from 10 matches. The defending champions continued to breathe down the neck of Mohammedan, who have 26 points from same number of outings in the 10-team fray.

Brothers started the match against relegation-threatened Wanderers at great pace and they did not have to wait long to take the lead.

Parvez Babu floated a cross from the left flank that two Wanderers defenders Narayan and Samir failed to clear and a lurking Edward made no mistake to stab in a left-footed placing shot.

The joy of the giants however lasted only four minutes as Wanderers' Nigerian striker Henry executed a spectacular diving header

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THAT'S NUMBER THREE: Brothers Union's Russian striker Victor Edward gestures to the fans after completing his hat-trick against Dhaka Wanderers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

Did U Know?
Australian speedster, Glenn McGrath became the second Australian and the fourth bowler to capture 500 Test wickets.

TALK TURKEY



Anil Kumble
(Ace Indian leg-spinner)
"It is good to be part of the team. It is a good sign at the start of the season. I am looking forward to playing one-dayers and am hoping to contribute to the team."
On his prospects in the upcoming triangular series in Sri Lanka.

What to WATCH

ESPN
Ashes Test Series
England vs Australia
First Test, Day Four
Live at 3:30 pm

TEN Sports
West Indies vs Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day Three
Live at 10:15 am

DAY'S EVENT

Premier Football League
Muktijoddha vs YMC Club (5:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Tigers start training tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

After a 21-day break, the Bangladesh cricket team will get back to business tomorrow to prepare for their next assignment against Sri Lanka in August-September.

The Tigers, who returned from England on July 3, will start training at the Bangladesh Army Stadium with coach Dav Whatmore in sight of an acid test at a place where he was born.

But Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar and opener Javed Omar are unlikely to join the camp on the first day as both are scheduled to return home from the United States on the same day after enjoying holidays with their families.

Bashar's family informed that he would be returning on July 25 although the Bangladesh Cricket

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Badda bag runners-up spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Jagarani finished runners-up in the First Division Football League when they drew 1-1 with Victoria Sporting Club in the last match at the Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Badda completed their campaign securing 26 points from 14 matches. On Friday champions Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society bagged 33 points from same number of outings.

Victoria, the other side to earn promotion, finished third with 25 points.

In the day's match, Apu put Badda ahead in the 84th minute while Mithun equalised for Victoria two minutes later.

SL batting sanity returns

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's batting finally blossomed to leave the hosts in command of the second cricket Test against the West Indies here on Saturday.

Kumar Sangakkara hit an unbeaten 46 and Mahela Jayawardena was on 38 not out as the Sri Lankans closed the rain-hit second day's play at 146-2 in their second knock, an overall lead of 148 with eight wickets in hand.

The pair have so far put on 89 for the third wicket and may have already given their bowlers a winning total to defend on an Asgiriya Stadium wicket expected to deteriorate.

Only 61.1 of the stipulated 90 overs were bowled during the day as rain delayed the start by 25 minutes and forced play to be called off soon after tea.

The hosts, leading by two runs on the first innings, were given a fluent start of 55 runs by openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu.

It was the best opening stand in the series by either side, surpassing the 34 by the same pair in the first Test in Colombo last week which Sri Lanka won by six wickets.

But just when Jayasuriya and Atapattu appeared to be finding form, the West Indians dismissed both batsmen in successive overs.

Skipper Atapattu made 19 when he cut Daren Powell to Omar Banks at point.

Left-handed Jayasuriya, who managed just 20 runs in three previous innings of the series, made 36 with the help of seven boundaries when he edged Jermaine Lawson to second slip.

Sangakkara, with scores of 34, zero and six behind him, broke loose to strike seven boundaries against the West Indian fast bowlers before bad weather halted his innings.

Jayawardena, the more circumspect of the two, has so far hit five fours.

"It will not be an easy wicket to bat on later so we must try and get the Sri Lankans out early," said West Indian captain Shivnarine Chanderepaul.

"We are not out of it yet."
Earlier, left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas claimed six for 22 as Sri Lanka, bowled out for 150 on the first day, hit back to dismiss the tourists for 148 in the morning session.

West Indies slumped from their overnight 92-5 to 101-8 before tail-enders Banks (17) and Tino Best (26 not out) almost secured their team the lead.

Vaas, who scalped seven in the first Test, was once again his team's chief destroyer.

He added two more wickets to the four he took on Friday before going off the field after two overs due to a side strain.

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West Indian Daren Powell walks back to the dressing room as Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas (R) celebrates his 6th wicket in Kandy on Saturday.

Eng after stiff target

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Simon Katich struck a composed 67 to enable Australia to set England an imposing victory target of 420 on the third day of the first Ashes Test at Lord's on Saturday.

At tea England had made a heartening start, reaching 65 for no wicket, but with a long way to go if they are to become only the fourth Test team ever to reach a winning target in excess of 400.

Katich, 10 not out when Australia resumed at 279 for seven, played with calm authority in the morning session.

He lost Brett Lee for eight when Ashley Giles struck the stumps at the bowler's end with a direct hit as the batsman dived in vain to make his ground.

However, Jason Gillespie, using a minimal backlift and watching the ball closely, proved a perfectly adequate replacement.

The left-handed Katich square cut Andy Flintoff to the boundary to bring up the 300, repeated the shot for another four then added to the bowler's misery with a deft leg glance which also raced to the boundary.

Gillespie, who had survived a caught behind chance, gloved Simon Jones to the fine leg boundary to bring up the 50 partnership but was then comprehensively bowled leg stump for 13.

Katich glanced Flintoff for a single to bring up his seventh Test half-century from 81 balls with eight

fours. With Glenn McGrath (20 not out) batting with the calm authority of a number one rather than a number 11, the pair added 43 for the final wicket before Katich was caught off Steve Harmison.

Harmison was again the pick of the bowlers with three for 54 from 27 overs to finish with eight wickets in the match.

The demons in the pitch appeared to have disappeared when England batted again. Marcus Trescothick and Andrew Strauss carefully negotiated McGrath and Lee's opening overs and, when Gillespie was introduced to the attack, Strauss rocked back on his heels and pulled him for an emphatic four.

Captain Ricky Ponting introduced Shane Warne 10 minutes before tea and the leg spinner appealed loudly twice for lbw when Trescothick kicked consecutive deliveries away.

Australia, who have controlled the match since McGrath's sensational five-wicket spell on Thursday, were assisted by some unacceptably sloppy England fielding.

After Kevin Pietersen had spilled three catches on the first two days, the virus spread to wicketkeeper Geraint Jones.

Jones gave further ammunition to his critics by dropping Gillespie with the score at 333 for eight. Gillespie edged the impressive Simon Jones only for his namesake to floor a straightforward chance diving one-handed to his right.

McGrath was also given a reprieve when a flier from Jones caught his right glove and lobbed

into the air. Geraint Jones made ground and threw himself forward but this time the ball popped out of both gloves.

McGrath had another escape when Flintoff dropped the simplest of chances at second slip off the luckless Jones, who then showed his team mates how it should be done with a well-judged catch at third man to dismiss Katich.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the first Test against England at Lord's here Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 190 (Harmison 5-43)
ENGLAND: First innings 155 (Pietersen 57; McGrath 5-53, Lee 3-47)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 279-7)

Langer run out	6
Hayden b Flintoff	34
Ponting c sub b Hoggard	42
Martyn lbw b Harmison	65
Clarke b Hoggard	91
Katich c S Jones b Harmison	67
Gilchrist b Flintoff	10
Warne c Giles b Harmison	2
Lee run out	8
Gillespie b S Jones	13
McGrath not out	20
Extras: (b-10, lb-8, nb-8)	26
Total: (All out in 100.4 overs)	384
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-54, 3-100, 4-255, 5-255, 6-274, 7-279, 8-289, 9-341	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harmison	27.4	6	54	3
Hoggard	16	1	56	2

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India arrive in SL

Dravid confident of winning

Cricket

AFP/PTI, undated

India arrived here on Saturday with a new cricket captain and coach confident of winning an upcoming triangular one-day series despite the absence of star batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly.

Tendulkar, the world's leading scorer in one-dayers with 13,642 runs, has been ruled out of the tournament following an elbow surgery.

Regular captain Ganguly, provisionally included in the squad, is doubtful as he is serving a six-match ban for his team's slow over-rate in a home one-day series against Pakistan in April.

A decision on his suspension is expected to be announced next week.

Dravid, leading India in his first full series, said his team had the resources to succeed even without the experienced duo.

"There is still a lot of quality in our batting," Dravid said before the team's departure from Chennai.

"Both Sourav and Sachin are experienced players. It (their non-availability) gives an opportunity to some of the other guys to show they can play at this level."

All-rounder Suresh Raina and middle-order batsman Venugopal Rao are the uncapped players in the team.

"The composition of the side gives us the option to play whatever combination we like," said Dravid, whose team meet the hosts at Dambulla on July 30 and the West

Indies the following day.

"We do have two specialist spinners in Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh. If the conditions permit, we might play both of them or it will be three pacemen and one spinner."

The stylish Karnataka batsman said he had devised a few strategies for the tournament but was reluctant to discuss it with the media.

"I do not want to reveal about what the side will be and which pair will open the batting for us. We have more or less set our ideas but I am not going to give it out to the media right away," he said.

"At the same time, the players will not be told one hour before the match (whether they have been selected), all these would be decided in our team meeting on the previous evening of the matches," he explained.

New Indian coach Greg Chappell said his team needed to show consistency if they aimed to begin the fresh season on a bright note.

"Our aim in the series is to play consistent cricket," said Chappell, former Australian Test captain. "The players will have to do the basics right day in, day out. If they can do that, the outcome will look after itself."

SQUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag (vice-captain), Venkatesai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Jai Prakash Yadav, Suresh Raina, Venugopal Rao, Mahender Dhoni, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Irfan Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Laxmipathy Balaji, Sourav Ganguly.



Australia's Simon Katich pulls on way to scoring 67 on the third day of the first Ashes Test at Lord's on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

BD A PLAY HANTS TODAY

Stumper Mushfiq coming home

SPORTS REPORTER

Wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim will return home from England after he suffered an injury during the three-day game against Gloucestershire at Bristol on Thursday.

Tour operations manager Golam Nowsher Prince informed that Shahin Hossain, the stand-by wicketkeeper who had a successful National League for Barisal this season, will join the team within a couple of days.

The X-ray report showed Mushfiq had fractured his index finger on his left hand. He has been advised to rest for four weeks.

During the senior tour, the young stumper twisted his ankle before the second Test against England at Durham.

Bangladesh A team will play their second one-day game against Hampshire today at the Rose Bowl. Earlier they opened the tour with a two-wicket limited-overs defeat against British Universities before going down against Gloucestershire by 130 runs in a three-day game.

For 50-over match Alok Kapali will fill the gloves. There are likely to be two more changes as opener Nafees iqbal is suffering from fever since Friday.

McGrath key man: Clarke

Cricket

AFP, London

Australia fast bowler Glenn McGrath holds the key to the outcome of the first Test against England here at Lord's, according to teammate Michael Clarke.

McGrath returned figures of five for 53 in England's meagre first innings 155 and in the process became only the fourth bowler to take 500 Test wickets.

The 35-year-old quick was then able to put his feet up in the dressing room and watch fellow New South Welshman Clarke make 91 as Australia finished the second day on 279 for seven in their second innings, a lead of 314.

That's likely to be more than enough runs for the accurate McGrath to bowl at given only one team has ever successfully chased more than 300 in a fourth innings to win a Test at Lord's.

In 1984, the West Indies made 344 for one chasing 3454 on the back of opener Gordon

Greenidge's 214 not out.

"I don't think England put enough balls in that Glenn McGrath area," Clarke told reporters after stumps Friday.

"He showed by just bowling in that corridor some balls were taking off, some were staying low."

"Fortunately for us, we didn't get enough balls there. Glenn bowled in a very consistent area, he kept it in that spot."

"I think they are playing great cricket but more than anything else Glenn McGrath showed his class again."

"He's an unbelievable bowler and has been for a long time and that's why he is the best in the world," Clarke, 24, said. "I just hope he can come out and show it again tomorrow (Saturday) when we get a bowl."

But Test debutant Kevin Pietersen, who after the 'high' of top-scoring with 57 in England's first innings 155 suffered the low of dropping Clarke on 21, insisted his side were still in the game.

"If we get them out by lunch, there are still two-and-a-half days

left in the game. That's a minimum of 180 overs and that's a lot of cricket," the Hampshire batsman said.

"They are only 314 ahead and we are in a good position to win this game."

Many had questioned whether Pietersen, called into the Test side following dashing innings of 91 not out and 74 against world champions Australia in the recent one-day internationals, had the grit to succeed at Test level.

He took the place of Graham Thorpe in the line-up, a move which prompted the Surrey left-hander to announce his retirement from Test cricket on Friday.

"There's been a lot of talk, a lot of hype about how I'm going to bat," said the 25-year-old South African-born Pietersen.

"At my pre-match press conference there was a lot of chat about what happens if England are 50 for three or 60 for three, how am I going to play, what am I going to do, and is my technique good enough."

"We were 21 for five, weren't we and I got through that."

England 144-5

STAR SPORTS MONITOR

England were staring at defeat when they slumped to 144-5 with 12 more overs to go after Australia set them a stiff 420 to win on the third day of the first Ashes Test at Lord's yesterday.

The home side wobbled after opener Marcus Trescothick (44) and Andrew Strauss (37) put on 80 runs for the first wicket. The rot started when Brett Lee spectacularly caught Strauss off his own bowling and leg-spinner Shane Warne earned an edge from Trescothick at slip to Matthew Hayden.

England captain Michael Vaughan (4), Ian Bell (8) and Andrew Flintoff (3) failed to do any better than what they did in the first innings.

Any hopes to salvage the hosts now hinges on first innings half-century Kevin Pietersen and wicketkeeper batsman Geraint Jones.

School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Five players secured maximum points in the Class VI-X group of the Seventh Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament to share the lead after the fourth round of the federation hall-room yesterday.

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