



Russel goalkeeper Biplab jumps in vain as Liton's freekick crosses the line during their Premier Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. (R) Liton celebrates after scoring Brothers' first goal.



PHOTO: STAR

Tense loss for BD A

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A suffered a 126-run defeat to Yorkshire when they lost seven wickets with the addition of 75 runs in the final day of their three-day match at Headingley on Friday.

The Bangladesh second innings lasted just 51 overs as they lost seven wickets with the addition of 75 runs in the final day of their three-day match at Headingley on Friday.

The home team, who posted a 32-run first innings lead, rode on Michael Lumb's unbeaten 103 before declaring their second innings for 240-4 after lunch to set the second string Bangladesh side an improbable 273-run winning target.

The visitors, who batted boldly in the first essay scoring 325 in reply to their opponents' 357, once again looked uneasy in the second innings like their first three-day against Gloucestershire where they had suffered a 130-run defeat.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza (Bangladesh speedster)

"It is a surprise for me. I would have been happier if I had been included the first time. But still, it is an achievement. I am more interested in playing the matches rather than just being a part of the squad. If I get the chance, it would be great for the country. If I perform well, it will enhance our image."

After being selected to play in this month's Afro-Asia Cup.



STAR Sports

Ashes Test Series
England vs Australia
Second Test, Day Three
Live at 3:30 pm

TEN Sports

Indian Oil Cup Tri-Series
Sri Lanka vs West Indies
Live at 2:30 pm



Premier Football League

Muktijoddha vs Farashganj (5:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Brothers stymie Russel with subs

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union crossed a major hurdle in their bid to retain the Premier Division football league title and more importantly, regained solo lead when they blanked Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra 2-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Substitutes Liton and Tapu capitalised on two second-half freekicks as Brothers overcame some relentless first half assault from last year's runners-up team on a muddy pitch. It was their tenth win in 13 games.

The men in orange, who had conceded the lead to Mohammedan after the fifth round, are now one point ahead of the Black and Whites with 32. Russel are in sixth with 18 points.

Brothers were rewarded for their calculated gameplan that saw them content on thwarting the youthful Russel forward line for the 60 minutes. The also took the lead out of Russel's recent history that has seen them tire after that period. In

the end, the failure to find the back of the net proved fatal for Russel as Brothers made them pay dearly.

Things could have been totally different however as Brothers had no answers for the speedy passing game of Abu Yusuf's boys who came to the game on the back of a 4-0 drubbing of Muktijoddha Sangsad.

Despite missing their top scorer Moroccan Majid Burjuga, who was suspended, striking duo Bulbul and Yusuf put the experienced back trio of Jewel Rana, Masud Rana and Sujun under constant pressure.

The first real chance was muffed when Moroccan midfielder Rachid's superb centre from the left ran harmlessly across the face of goal as both Bulbul and Yusuf failed to nod home in the 14th minute.

Tarek, working overtime at the Brothers goal, lost Rachid's powerful drive from his grip six minutes later and once again Bulbul or Yusuf could not reach the rebound.

Hanif, who was unstoppable at the right wing, sent two more dangerous crosses but Bulbul placed a first-time left-footer wide of the open net from seven yards before Tarek and Jewel kept two more floaters

out for corner.

Tarek then pulled off two spectacular saves against Tanvir from a one-on-one situation to keep Brothers alive.

Liton's arrival on the pitch at the start of the break changed the whole scenario and the Brothers midfielder threatened to score with his first touch on the ball but his curling freekick was saved by a diving custodian Biplab.

Bulbul then wasted another chance. After dodging past Jewel and Sujun, he was left with only the goalkeeper to beat but lost control in the box just before taking the shot.

Russel, who gave up a 2-0 lead in the last ten minutes to share points with Brothers in the first-leg, soon ran out of steam. Liton won a freekick at the left flank and converted it spectacularly in the 52nd minute by curling the ball over the head of Biplab and into the far corner from an acute angle for his seventh league goal.

It was all over in the 77th minute

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Australia 308 all out

SPORTS REPORTER

England took a valuable 99-run lead after they dismissed Australia for 308 after tea on the second day of the second Ashes Test yesterday.

All-rounder Andrew Flintoff and left-arm spinner Ashley Giles shared six wickets to slow the Aussies' run-scoring, which was led by opener Justin Langer's solid 82, Ricky Ponting with a 76-ball 61 and Adam Gilchrist who remained 49 not out.

England, one-down in the five-Test series, were all out for 407 on Thursday.

BKSP Cup hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Local teams had a mixed bag on the opening day of the North Bengal-CA Third BKSP Cup Invitational International Under-18 Hockey Tournament at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

The BHF (Bangladesh Hockey Federation) Green won the opening match outplaying Sri Lanka 4-1 with Krishna slotting a hat-trick and Sumon adding the other for the home side. BKSP Red blanked Myanmar 4-0.

On the other hand, BKSP Green lost by the same margin to Punjab National Bank A total of seven teams, split into two groups, are taking part in the tournament.

Jessore, P'chagarh in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Jessore and Panchagarh were set to clash in the final of the Bengal Plastic Under-19 women's handball tournament today at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Jessore moved into the final with a 20-5 victory over Chaittagong Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) in the first semifinal while Panchagarh outplayed Rangpur 20-7 in the second semi at the same venue.

Earlier, Rangpur blanked Jamalpur 12-0 and Panchagarh defeated CMSA 32-5 in the last league matches at the Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex.

Chappell believes in his boys

AFP, Colombo

Indian coach Greg Chappell said Friday his team could strike back after performing below their potential in early matches of the ongoing triangular one-day cricket series. "Hopefully, we are saving our best for the last game of the series. That will be nice," Chappell said after India's two defeats in three matches.

"We have not played particularly well in this tournament, but we could have won all the three games. I am not concerned about it. We are still trying to put processes in place and work hard."

"I think it is a confidence thing," said Chappell.

"The boys have had a few losses and winning is a habit. We have to get back to the winning practice. Once the confidence and belief come back this side will turn around quite quickly."

"It (winning) is not going to happen overnight. We are talking about a process that will take time. Whether that will be one month, six months or twelve months only time will tell."

Langer dominates England



AFP, Birmingham

Justin Langer continued to defy the England attack as the hosts made inroads into the star-studded Australian batting line-up during the second Test at Edgbaston on Friday.

At tea on the second day Australia were 219 for five, 188 runs behind England's first innings 407, with Langer 72 not out after nearly four hours of resistance. Adam Gilchrist, in his 100th Test innings, was unbeaten on five.

Left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, playing on his Warwickshire home ground where earlier he got rid of Australia captain Ricky Ponting, dismissed Michael Clarke for 40 with the aid of a fine catch from Geraint Jones.

And the Kent wicketkeeper was involved again when Simon Katich (four) hung the bat out at an Andrew Flintoff delivery that cut away a fraction and edged behind. Giles ended the session with tidy figures of two for 49 off 15 overs.

But Katich's exit brought in the dangerous Gilchrist and he was, from an England point of view, ominously off the mark with a cover-driven four off paceman Flintoff.

However, he was then given a tough examination by Flintoff who, as he'd done successfully in the past against the left-hander, probed outside off-stump from around the wicket.

Australia resumed on 118 for three after Damien Martyn contributed to his own dismissal when he was out by being run out off the last ball before lunch when his reckless bid for a single off Flintoff saw him fail to beat England captain Michael Vaughan's direct hit from mid-on.

Langer was 27 not out and Clarke yet to face a ball.

But Clarke was soon into his stride, driving paceman Simon Jones for four.

Meanwhile left-hander Langer, who in the midst of Clarke's strokeplay was batting like the old-fashioned opener he is, after being hit on the helmet third ball and on the chest by fast bowler Stephen Harmison, confidently cover-drove Jones for four.

Giles, given a tough time by Clarke at Lord's during Australia's 239-run first Test win last month, removed the right-hander in clever fashion.

Bowling from over the wicket, a flatter, quicker delivery, took Clarke's outside edge and Jones, like Giles criticised for his performance at Lord's, held on.

Australia were now 194 for four as England slowed their scoring rate with some well-set defensive fields.

Ponting had looked in superb

touch in making 61 but fell tamely when his top-edged sweep off Giles lobbed gently to Vaughan at short fine leg.

It was a stroke in marked contrast to the bold shots Ponting played during a 51-ball fifty with 10 fours.

Together with Langer, Ponting had put on 88 in 118 balls after opener Matthew Hayden fell for his first Test match golden duck.

Pace bowler Matthew Hoggard's first delivery dismissed Hayden when the left-hander sliced a drive straight to Andrew Strauss at short cover.

It was the first time Hayden had fallen for nought in a Test since playing against South Africa in Durban in 2002.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the second Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings 407 (Trescothick 90, Pietersen 71, Flintoff 68; Warne 4-116,

Kasprovicz 3-80)

AUSTRALIA: First innings	72
Langer not out	0
Hayden c Strauss b Hoggard	61
Ponting c Vaughan b Giles	20
Martyn run out	40
Clarke c G Jones b Giles	4
Katich c G Jones b Flintoff	5
Gilchrist not out	17
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-1, nb-7)	219
Total: (For 5 wkts in 53 overs)	5-208.
Fall of wkts: 1-0, 2-88, 3-118, 4-194, 5-208.	
To bat: S Warne, B Lee, J Gillespie, M Kasprovicz.	
Bowler	O M R W
Harmison	11 1 48 0
Hoggard	8 0 41 1
S Jones	9 2 42 0
Flintoff	10 1 30 1
Giles	15 1 49 2

Toss: Australia

Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (RSA), Billy Bowden (NZL)

TV umpire: Jeremy Lloyds (ENG)

Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)

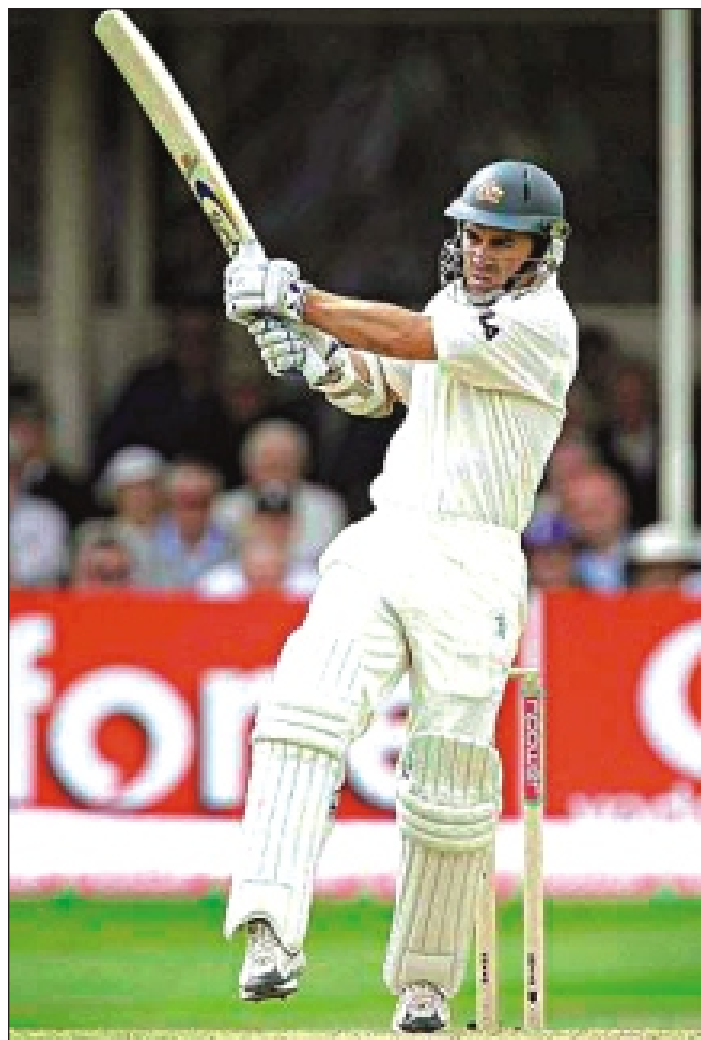


PHOTO: CRICINFO

Australian opener Justin Langer pulls during the second day's play of second Ashes Test at Edgbaston on Friday. He was out for 82.

Half their prayers answered



REUTERS, Birmingham

It has been an English bar-room debate for almost two decades. What would happen if England were allowed to play Australia minus Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne?

On Thursday, courtesy of a stray cricket ball during a playful game of rugby, half of that prayer came to pass.

Michael Kasprovicz, his stand-in at Edgbaston, is no mean competitor and took three wickets in his place as England were bowled out for 407. But he is no McGrath. Nobody is.

The 35-year-old McGrath says he relies on boredom to dismiss

batsmen, but there is a little more to it than that.

He bowls at a fair zip, with the accuracy of a spinner and with the stamina of a marathon man. To keep his opponents honest, he nips the ball off the seam, first one way, then the other.

At Lord's in the first Test, England bowled the Australians out for 190 on the first day but the jubilation did not last too long after McGrath was tossed the ball.

After 16.1 overs, England had been reduced to 21 for five. McGrath, mobbed by his teammates, boasted figures of 8.1-4-7-5. The fast bowler ended the game with nine wickets and England lost by 239 runs.

On Thursday, after 16.1 overs, England were 68 without loss and

Marcus Trescothick and Andrew Strauss were all smiles while McGrath sat things out.

At Lord's, England had made 155 in a first innings lasting 48.1 overs. On Edgbaston, they were 155 for one after 29.4 overs.

That, statistically, is the difference that McGrath makes.

Or, as Andrew Flintoff said: "He's a massive player for them. It was hard work against him at Lord's. I suppose it is a boost having him off their team sheet, in some ways, even though they still have a formidable attack."

Before the Ashes, McGrath had predicted a 5-0 Australian whitewash. His only concern, he said, was bad weather.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting's

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Zim aiming for creditability

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwe hope they can restore their cricketing credentials when they face New Zealand in a two-Test series from Sunday followed by a triangular ODI series when India arrive later this month.

The Indians will also play two Test matches.

Zimbabwe, torn apart by a boycott by 15 white players, were humiliated by Sri Lanka in two Tests before England and Australia refused to play them at Tests.

Zimbabwe now hope their rehabilitation will be sufficient to provide serious opposition for New Zealand, who have just been elevated to fifth place in the ICC rankings.

Heath Streak, Andy Blignaut, Craig Wishart and Stuart Carlisle have returned to the fold, though Zimbabwe will not again see the Flower brothers Andy and Grant, Sean Ervine and Ray Price.

McGrath targets 4th Test return



AFP, Birmingham

Australia fast bowler Glenn McGrath said he hoped to be fit in time for the fourth Test against England after a bizarre injury ruled him out of the second match of the series at Edgbaston.

After stumps Australia physiotherapist Errol Alcott refused to ruled McGrath out of the third Test, even though that starts at Old Trafford on Thursday.

He said: "How long is a piece of string? There is no normal time for this injury. It's too early to say. We have to see his reaction to the force that went through the ankle."

But the 35-year-old bowler

himself said his target was Trent Bridge, where the fourth Test is due to begin on August 25.

"I was just out there with Brad Haddin (reserve wicketkeeper) passing the ball rugby style," McGrath, told reporters at a post-play news conference where he came in on crutches.

"The ball skidded past me, I turned to run and pick it up and the first step just planted my foot straight on top of a cricket ball and straight down. It was as simple as that."

"I've done my left ankle quite a few times but it's never been that bad. At the time it felt like the sole of my foot was pointing to the sky when I went down so it was quite sore."

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Lankan trio fit

Must-win situation for WI today



BBC ONLINE, Colombo

Sri Lanka trio Sanath Jayasuriya, Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Zoysa have all passed fitness tests for Saturday's tri-series game against West Indies.

Jayasuriya (shoulder), Vaas (hamstring) and Zoysa (back) could all come into the side ahead of Tuesday's final.

"If he pulls up okay I can't see any reason why he won't play," said coach Tom Moody of Jayasuriya.

West Indies must win their first match of the tournament, and beat India on Sunday, to qualify for the final.

Jayasuriya dislocated his shoulder while fielding in a group match against India.

Sri Lanka will also have to decide whether to risk Vaas, their leading fast bowler, to gain some match practice or save him for three extra days.

"Vaas did a 20-minute fitness test, which he passed, and he is about 95 per cent now," said physio CJ Clarke.

"The issue is whether he wants to play in the West Indies game for match fitness or is confident enough of going straight into the final."

Zoysa missed Sri Lanka's three matches in Dambulla following fears that he may have sustained a stress fracture.

Clarke added: "Zoysa bowled

two sets of 20 minutes today at top pace and he will be fine. He had a back spasm and fears that it was a stress fracture have gone."

Although Sri Lanka have won their first three games, Moody has called for an all-round improvement.

"There will be no change of plans but I hope we can play a bit better as there are areas where we can improve," said the Australian.

"The game against the West Indies is a great opportunity to improve with the bat, the ball and in the field."

"If we want to be in good shape for the final then we have to make sure we play at our best on Saturday."

Flintoff rues lost runs



AFP, Birmingham

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff was in upbeat mood ahead of the start of the second day of the second Ashes Test but couldn't help thinking his side should have scored more than the 407 all out they managed after being sent in by Australia captain Ricky Ponting.

England's batting, at a rate of more than five runs per over, was a vast improvement on their performance in last month's first Test at Lord's where they were twice dismissed for under 200 in a 239-run defeat.

But this time Australia were without Glenn McGrath, after the spearhead fast bowler -- who took nine for 82 at Lord's -- was ruled out before play began with an ankle injury after treading on a cricket ball

during practice.

In his absence, England, who have lost the last eight series against Australia, recorded their biggest first day Ashes total since their 409 for five at Lord's in 1938.

But having been 164 for one, England were heading for a total of

over 500 and now the fear amongst home fans must be that anything their team can do, Australia's star-studded batting line-up can do better.

A fifth-wicket stand of 105 in 103 balls between Kevin Pietersen (71) and Flintoff (68) revived the innings after England had slumped to 187 for four following opener Marcus Trescothick's 90.

And the last two wickets then added 59 runs to get England past 400.

"We're pleased we got 400 on the board," said Flintoff, who managed a mere three runs in two innings at Lord's, but on Thursday struck five of England's 10 sixes.

"After the last match it gives the bowlers something to bowl at. It's probably a silly thing to say, but we could have got a few more. But 407 on any wicket is a decent total."

"It would have been nice may be

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



ANDREW FLINTOFF