

BD A-Surrey 3-dayer starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A play Surrey in their fourth three-day match that begins today at the Brit Oval in London.

Fresh from a 86-run victory against Durham, the second-string national side are understandably full of confidence going into this match.

However, performances in their previous longer-version games have hardly been inspiring especially when it comes to batting in the second innings.

They suffered emphatic 130-run and 126-run defeats against Gloucestershire and Yorkshire respectively while another match against Glamorgan ended in rain-hit draw.

Bangladesh will play their final three-day against Kent that will begin from August 16.

Abahani councilor in dispute

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Abahani's cricket committee chairman AHM Mostafa Kamal yesterday objected against Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby as the club's councilor in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Kamal earlier sent a letter with his signature faxed to the BCB naming Jalal Yunus as Abahani councilor, but Abahani director-in-charge Kazi Shahed Ahmed proposed the name of Bobby as Abahani councilor on the club pad.

Kamal in his objection said that during the two previous elections, he nominated both the Abahani councilors.

This time, he had to send a faxed copy as he was abroad.

Besides, another 10 objections were filed to returning officer Abul Kalam Azad, director (sports) of National Sports Council (NSC).

The objection came from general secretaries of Manikganj, Rangpur, Sylhet, Khulna and Madaripur (two objections) DSAs and an executive committee member of the Chittagong DSA apart from Dhaka clubs Gopibagh Friends Association (two objections) and Cricket Coaching School (CCS).

A hearing will be held at the NSC today.



Did U Know?

The only players to have scored in every World Cup finals match including the final are Jairzinho of Brazil, who did this in the 1970 edition and Alcide Ghiggia of Uruguay in 1950. The latter only played four games whereas Jairzinho played six.



Ian Botham
(legendary England all-rounder)

"The highest compliment I can pay 'Freddie' Flintoff is that it was like watching a throwback to the good old days of 1981."

While comparing Andrew Flintoff to himself.



Premier Football League
Muktijoddha v Abahani (5pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

'Friendly' Farashganj for Brothers

BU-4, FARASHGANJ-2

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union opened up a three-point lead in the Premier-ship table with four rounds remaining when the defending champions recorded a comfortable 4-2 win over a 'friendly' Farashganj Sporting Club yesterday.

The men in orange, who now have 35 points after 14 rounds, however, did not work hard for their 11th win.

Farashganj missed six regular players – goalkeeper Zia, full-backs Arup and Khaled, midfielders Kabir and Nigerian Adataf and skipper Walid – in the starting line-up and the mid-table side never tried to push their rivals after the match was level at 2-2 early in the second half.

The Oranges, on the other hand, fielded Nigerian forward Puma for the first time in the season ahead of prolific Russian striker Victor.

Brothers, who needed a late penalty to win their first-leg meeting

by a solitary goal, went ahead only after eight minutes. Parvez Babu seized the ball from a quickly taken corner by Liton before racing past two defenders and then fired an angled drive into the far corner from the first move of the game.

Young winger Rony then levelled scores ten minutes later when he outpaced the slow defensive trio of Brothers to kick a through by Pavel past the onrushing keeper Tarek.

Liton, who was denied by wood-work earlier, made sure Brothers went into the half-time break 2-1 ahead with his eighth league goal in the 36th minute. Joint top-scorer with Mohammedan's Manju, Liton tapped the ball into an empty net after Emily played a square pass to him on a rebound from goalkeeper Piru who lost a cross by Hicham Inani.

Farashganj, on 18 points, hit back two minutes into the second half when Nigerian forward Felix headed home a left-flank centre by Palash. But instead of trying to up the tempo, the old-Dhaka outfit made three changes including relieving Felix of his duties, which definitely weakened their strength.

And Brothers sealed victory with

two goals inside five minutes.

Tapu, who replaced Pranotosh, set up the third goal on the hour with his first touch on the ball. Dashing down the left wing, Tapu picked Monwar with a fine crossfield chip toward the far post and the national midfielder, who came on the pitch just five minutes earlier, nodded the ball in effortlessly.

Emily then made it 4-2 five minutes later with a low drive outside from the box, his fifth goal in the championship, which went into the right hand post of Piru who made an unconvincing effort to stop the weak shot.

Surprisingly, this was the same result that had been predicted before the start of the game.

Yellow card: Scylla (Farashganj)

TEAMS

BROTHERS UNION: Tarek, Sujun, Jewel, Masud Rana, Siraji, Parvez Babu, Inani, Pranotosh (Tapu), Liton (Monwar), Puma (Khokon) and Emily.

FARASHGANJ: Piru, Apu, Liton, Scylla, Faisal, Mamun, Pavel, Amirul Shah Alam), Rony, Felix (Biru) and Palash (Ripon).

Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.



PHOTO: STAR

G---O---A---L: A curling shot by Brothers Union's Pervez Babu (not in picture) is goal-bound during their Premier Bank Premier Football League encounter against Farashganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

Now Lee scares Aussies

AFP, Birmingham

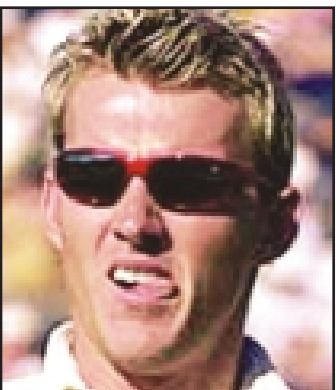
Brett Lee's chances of playing in the third Test against England suffered a setback after team officials said he would be spending a second night in a Birmingham hospital where he is receiving treatment for a left knee infection.

With fellow quick Glenn McGrath set to be ruled out by the ankle injury that kept him out of the second Test at Edgbaston, Lee is facing a race against time to be fit for the third match of the Ashes series which starts at Manchester's Old Trafford ground on Thursday.

"Brett was seen by doctors this (Tuesday) morning and they are happy with the progress of the treatment that has been administered so far," said Australia team physiotherapist Errol Alcott.

"The problem areas around his left knee appear to have improved, however the doctors are still keen for him to remain in hospital overnight.

"We are hopeful that he will be discharged at some stage tomorrow morning before travelling to Manchester where his fitness will be



BRETT LEE

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further assessed ahead of the third Test."

The remainder of the Australian squad left for Manchester earlier Tuesday.

Lee, 28, was taken into hospital late Monday afternoon after experiencing swelling and discomfort.

Alcott added that the injury to Lee's left knee may have been related to a grazed knee he sustained while fielding during last month's first Test at Lord's where Australia won by 239 runs.

Lee's gutsy unbeaten 43 almost guided Australia to a stunning victory at Edgbaston, a match England won by two runs to level the series at 1-1.

Pace bowler Stuart Clark, currently at English county Middlesex, was added to Australia's squad on Tuesday.

"We consider Stuart to be a similar-style bowler to Glenn McGrath. He is already in England and showing some good form, so we h

Sri Lanka score 281

AFP, Colombo

Sanath Jayasuriya completed 10,000 runs in one-day cricket during a solid half-century as Sri Lanka posted a challenging 281-9 against India in the Indian Oil Cup triangular series final here on Tuesday.

The left-handed opener, who was 10 runs short of the landmark before the match, scored 67 to join India's Sachin Tendulkar (13,642) and Sourav Ganguly (10,020) and Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq (10,933) in the 10,000-club.

Mahela Jayawardene (83) and left-handed Russel Arnold (64) then built on Jayasuriya's effort to help their team set a stiff target. The pair put on 125 for the fourth wicket.

Sri Lanka looked in trouble for a brief spell when they lost three wickets in the space of seven overs and 35 runs. Left-arm seamer Ashish Nehra took all the scalps and went on to finish with 6-59, his second-best haul.

The hosts survived Nehra's early triple-strike as Jayasuriya, Jayawardene and Arnold batted confidently against both seamers and spinners.

India went into the day-night match with five specialist bowlers for the first time in the series but failed to put pressure on the Sri Lanka batting trio.

Their catching also left much to be desired as wicket-keeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni dropped both Jayasuriya and Jayawardene off left-arm fast bowler Irfan Pathan. Jayasuriya was on 19 and Jayawardene on 20 when let off.

Jayasuriya went on to dominate the Indian attack during his 58th half-century in 337 matches. He was caught short of the crease while coming back for a second run.

The opener, who struck nine fours in his 77-ball knock, helped his team maintain an impressive run-rate despite the fall of the three early wickets.

Skipper Marvan Atapattu (11) became Nehra's first victim when he was bowled playing a wrong line. Nehra struck in his next over when he trapped pinch-hitter Dilhara Lokuhettige (nine) leg-before and then had Kumar Sangakkara (eight) caught by Virender Sehwag in the covers.

Jayawardene then held centre-stage, hitting five fours in his 23rd half-century before being caught by Mohammad Kaif at short fine-leg to become Nehra's fourth victim.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after Sri Lanka's innings against India in the day-night final of the Indian Oil Cup triangular one-day series at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Tuesday:

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Team for Lanka to be submitted today

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors will submit the team for the tour of Sri Lanka to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) today.

The list will consist of 15 players for the three-match one-day international series. The names of cricketers who would join the team for the two Tests later will also be mentioned.

Tigers captain Habibul Bashar is scheduled to meet with selector Athar Ali Khan and coach Dav Whatmore for a last discussion today morning before finalising the side. However, it is understood that there will not be too many changes from the squad that had toured England.

"The conditions will not be too different from what we have here. So we may add an extra spinner sacrificing a pacer," said coach Dav Whatmore yesterday during practice at the indoors in Mirpur.

The Australian said that it would be special for him to return to the land of his birth as the Tigers' coach since it was Sri Lanka who he had coached to World Cup triumph in 1996.

"This is a very special tour for me personally. I want to do well in that country."

Whatmore also touched on the subject of the ICC's new innovations like the 'super-sub' and 'power-play' which will be applicable in the one-day series.

"That is something we have given a lot of attention to. These things are still very new and we have to see how best we can utilise them. So far I think the sides batting second have enjoyed the innovations more."

Injured wicketkeeper Mushfiqu Rahim, who was nursing a fractured left index finger, joined the camp yesterday and expressed his optimism of starting full training in two days. But the youngsters prospects of making the Sri Lankan tour party looks slim.

"We don't think that there is any need for a back-up wicketkeeper in Sri Lanka because of the distance and duration of the tour," said Athar Ali.



PHOTO: AFP

10,000 RUN MAN: Sri Lanka superbat Sanath Jayasuriya sweeps one on way to scoring a solid 67 against India in the Indian Oil Cup final in Colombo on Tuesday.

Jayasuriya across 10,000-run mark

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya became the fourth batsman to complete 10,000 runs in one-day

cricket, achieving the feat in the Indian Oil Cup triangular series final against India here on Tuesday.

The left-hander, 36, joined India's Sachin Tendulkar (13,642 runs in 348 matches), Sourav Ganguly (10,020/273) and Pakistan's

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LEADING ODI SCORERS

Batsman	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
S Tendulkar (Ind)	348	339	32	13642	186*	44.43	38	38
I Haq (Pak)	344	320	46	10933	137*	39.90	10	81
S Ganguly (Ind)	274	265	21	10020	183	41.23	+22	60
S Jayasuriya (S Lanka)	337	328	15	10057	189	32.04	+18	58
M Azharuddin (Ind)	334	308	54	9378	153*	36.92	7	58
B Lara (W Indies)	256	249	26	9354	169	41.94	19	57
A de Silva (S Lanka)	308	296	30	9284	145	34.90	11	64
S Anwar (Pak)	247	244	19	8823	194	39.21	20	43
D Haynes (W Indies)	238	237	28	8648	152*	41.37	17	57
M Waugh (Aus)	244	236	20	8500	173	39.35	18	50
R Ponting (Aus)	232	226	28	8290	145	41.86	18	45
R Dravid (Ind)	257	236	29	8250	153	40.04	+10	61

(Note: * denotes not out and + denotes match in progress, averages do not take into account current match figures)

Strauss ready for Warne

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

England opener Andrew Strauss says he has learned from the mistakes he made against Shane Warne at Edgbaston and will benefit from the experience.

Warne bowled Strauss in both innings of the second Test and has since said the batsman "didn't have much of a plan" when it came to playing against him.

But Strauss told BBC Radio Five Live: "You have to cover your stumps at all times and I didn't do that."

"Hopefully it's a lesson learned and I won't make the mistake this week."

Strauss admitted that facing Warne is a "great challenge" and the bowler will have taken confidence from his success against him so far in the series.

"I'll keep working on areas to score off him, but it's a big challenge and I can only hope for mini-victories," he said.

Australia will be relying on Warne even more in the third Test at Old Trafford with Glenn McGrath and Brett Lee almost certain to miss out



ANDREW STRAUSS

through injury.

Strauss hopes this will give England the edge but is taking nothing for granted: "I wouldn't go as far as to say they are in crisis. The Aussies are very resilient and showed that at Edgbaston."

"If you write them off, you will be rudely awakened."

However, Strauss believes England's greatest obstacle ahead of the third Test is not necessarily the opposition.

"We need to get emotionally back down to earth after one of the great Tests ever," he said.

"We need to hit them hard come Thursday morning."

Despite Strauss' optimism, Warne believes he has mastered the England opener and may be given the chance for an early crack at him at Old Trafford.

Warne wrote in his column in the Times: "If Strauss is still in after five

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Zim give ICC a headache

Cricket

AFP, Harare

The International Cricket Council (ICC) was under growing pressure on Tuesday to eject Zimbabwe from Test cricket after the debacle of their two day defeat by New Zealand.

The cry for Zimbabwe's removal from cricket's top level has now even spread to their own national and government controlled newspaper, The Herald.

For the first time in the long running debate about Zimbabwe cricket status as a Test nation, local demand for their removal from inside the country was vehemently expressed by the deputy sports editor of the government controlled The Herald newspaper, Lawrence Moyo.

Moyo wrote under a huge headline of Worst Cricket Team Ever -- "If

what was on display at Harare Sports Club is to be reviewed at the highest level then Zimbabwe should not be playing Test matches in the interests of the world's Test match standards.

"Those watching the match were given better value by the security guards marching to the wicket after the day's breaks."

Alongside his article was a photograph of Craig Wishart being bowled, above the caption" Hopeless, clueless, useless..."

New Zealand won the first of two scheduled Tests by an innings and 294 runs with more than three days to spare as the home side became just the second team ever to be bowled out twice on the same day.

Moyo added that the umpires and match officials should now order the second Test to be played immediately, "so that it could be finished any day after tomorrow."

"Then the New Zealand cricketers could go off and enjoy some of the

country's resorts."

New Zealand and Zimbabwe are not due to meet for the second Test in Bulawayo until next Monday.

India are due to arrive for a triangular ODI series on August 23, followed by their own two Tests series.

The chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket, Peter Chingoka, remained upbeat when approached for comment by AFP.

He had not yet seen the Moyo article but said: "It was a bad day, but we will battle on. We know we can do much better and I still have faith in the future."

Chingoka referred to the first session of the match, soon after which Zimbabwe had New Zealand in difficulties on 113-5.

"We can build on that first session," he said. "The potential is definitely there and we just need more time."