



Did U Know?

Arthur Gore of Britain won the Wimbledon singles title in 1909 when he was 41 years and a 184 days old.



Yelena Isinbayeva
(Russian star athlete)

"Becoming a world champion was not a dream but the target. I always try to set a new world record whenever I vault. This season that might go to 5.02 or 5.03m but no higher." After winning the pole vault gold with a new world mark in the World Championships.

What to WATCH

ESPN

New Zealand vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 2:00 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 9:00 pm

Crucial BFF meeting today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is expected to form a probe committee at its executive committee meeting today to investigate match-fixing allegations against Brothers Union and four other Premier League clubs.

Archivals Abahani and Mohammedan for the first time came on the same platform to wage a war against a so-called syndicate, demanding punishment of the culprits. The strong protest voice of the country's two most popular clubs prompted the BFF's move.

Although BFF president SA Sultan has promised to solve the situation, many think it would difficult to find a guilty party because of lack of evidence. Also, the root of match fixing goes far too deep with big clubs like Mohammedan, Abahani and Mukti-joddha and their officials not off the suspicion list by any means.

Also in the agenda of today's meeting are the National Football League - which starts next month, the JFA Cup (U-16), start of the national camp for the Asia Cup pre-qualifying matches against Pakistan at home and away in November and preparation of the Under-17 and 19 football teams for the AFC Cup qualifiers.

The Premier League, which was halted for four days by the BFF to settle this issue, will resume tomorrow.

Viv's son makes the difference

SPORTS REPORTER

A six-wicket haul by Mali Richards, son of legendary West Indian cricketer Viv Richards, led Antigua to a 20-run win over Bangladesh A in a limited-overs match between the two visiting sides at Whitgift School, Croydon visitors on Sunday.

The paceman grabbed 6-24 as the second string Bangladesh side, chasing 181 to win, crashed to 160 in 40 overs.

Skipper Shahriar Nafees top scored with 36 while Mushfiqur Rahman (27), Mehrab Hossain Jr (23), Nazimuddin (19) and Alok Kapali (18) were the other noted contributors.

Bangladesh A will play their last match of the tour, a three-day match against Kent at Canterbury, from today before returning home on August 21.

Non-panelists ready to challenge



SPORTS REPORTER

A total of 62 councilors have collected 112 nomination papers for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) elections to be held on August 27.

Former BCB joint secretary Mahmudul Haque Manu was among the 20 councilors who bought nomination papers on the third and the final day for collecting yesterday.

Cricket organiser Gazi Golam Dastagir and his son took nomination papers apart from members of the recently dissolved committees of the BCB Zayedani Rabbi, Tareq Chowdhury, Ali Asif Khan, Adnan Rahman Dipon and Ali Hossain who are reportedly not part of the pro-establishment panel. However, these government-backed candidates are determined to contest the election.

With tension continuing between two candidates for the general secretary's position, former board advisors Mahbub Anam and Nurul Kabir Shaheen, tomorrow's submission deadline has sparked a lot of interest.

Shaheen, who had earlier told the press that he would compete for the general secretary's post, was yet to change his mind despite being assured of a vice-president's post.

Manu, who wants to contest for either the general secretary's or a member's post, was skeptical about the fairness of the election.

"The way the panel was finalised at the BCB president's house, it looks like everything has been settled already. The president has lost his credibility by involving himself in deciding the panel. That is not fair," said Manu while talking to reporters.

"I could all turn into a farce under political influence," said Manu adding that an AGM or EGM should have approved the BCB's new constitution.

"I have also not received a copy of the new constitution as a councilor," claimed Manu. Meanwhile, BCB's ex-advisor Aziz Al Kaiser Tito too was unhappy with the manner in which the panel had been fixed.

"I will not contest for a member's spot. Having served the board for over a decade, I deserve at least the post of a vice-president," said Tito, who was chairman of the BCB's marketing committee.

"If they recognise my works

and offer me the vice-president's post, only then I will submit my nomination papers. There is still time to reschedule the panel but if they do not consider my contribution, I will skip the election," said Tito.

Some young organisers are disgruntled with the nomination of Farhad Hossain in the panel that features almost all the same faces that had been running the board as part of an advisory committee.

"We have never even heard his name," said a furious organiser of a Dhaka club referring to the councilor candidate from Mirpur Hillol Club.

Members of the District Sports Forum, the so-called crucial vote bank which can heavily influence the results of the polls, are also showing signs of divisions within.

A number of forum members bought nomination papers after finding out that they had been ignored in the panel. The forum has been reportedly assured of one vice-president's slot and a dozen members in the 31-member executive committee.

The councilors will be able to withdraw their candidature on August 20 and the election commission will publish the final list of candidates the next day.

Zimbabwe dis-Bonded



REUTERS, Bulawayo

Shane Bond's devastating pace and Tatenda Taibu's defiance dominated the first day of the second Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand on Monday.

New Zealand reached stumps on 48 for two in reply to Zimbabwe's first innings of 231, which they scored after winning the toss and choosing to bat.

Fast bowler Bond took a career-best six for 51, his third five-wicket haul, while Taibu's 76 was the cornerstone of Zimbabwe's rebuilt innings.

Bond, who went into his 12th Test with 46 wickets, broke Chris Martin's New Zealand record of reaching 50 wickets in 13 matches. His previous career-best performance was the five for 78 he took against West Indies in Barbados in 2002.

The pitch was flat and true and there was no hint of swing, but Bond profited by bowling his express deliveries at a full length and extracting enough bounce to cause problems.

He struck with the second ball of the match when he trapped Dion Ebrahim in front without a run on the board. By the end of his third over he had also removed Stuart Carlisle and Hamilton Masakadza as Zimbabwe crashed to seven for three.

Brendan Taylor and Craig Wishart batted solidly in their stand to 58 before Wishart, who hit five fours in his 30, drove at a delivery from left-arm fast bowler James Franklin and was caught by Nathan

Astle diving low to his right in the gully.

Bond returned before lunch and had Taylor and Heath Streak caught behind by wicketkeeper Brendon



SHANE BOND... 56/6

McCullum with successive deliveries. Taylor showed composure in scoring his 37.

Debutant Keith Dabengwa, bowled by medium-pacer Martin for

17, comfortably kept out Bond's would be hat-trick delivery, and faced 15 balls before scoring his first test runs with a pull for six off the bowling of left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori.

Dabengwa helped Taibu add 49 for the seventh wicket, and the Zimbabwe captain and Blessing Mahwire then shared 88 in a gritty partnership for the eighth wicket.

The stand was ended after tea when Taibu, who hit 11 fours and a six, pulled a delivery from Bond and holed out to Vettori at mid-wicket. Mahwire was caught at mid-on by Astle off Vettori's bowling for 42, his career-best score.

New Zealand lost their first wicket eight balls before the close when James Marshall, who scored 10, cut a delivery from Streak and fell to a sharp head-high catch in the gully by Carlisle.

They were 48 for two with what became the last ball of the day's play when Hamish Marshall was run out for 13 in a mix-up that saw both him and Lou Vincent running towards the same end.

Vincent was 20 not out at stumps.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second and final Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Monday:
ZIMBABWE: First innings
Ebrahim lbw b Bond 0
Taylor c McCullum b Bond 37
Carlisle lbw b Bond 1
Masakadza c Martin b Bond 0

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STILL IT'S ANYBODY'S GAME: (L) England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff (L), who took 3-50 until tea to revitalise his team's chances, celebrates taking the wicket of Matthew Hayden while Australia captain Ricky Ponting, who stood tall by scoring an unbeaten 111 with 33 overs remaining for the Test, hoists one over mid-wicket at Old Trafford on Monday.

Old Trafford refuses fans

REUTERS, Manchester

Around 10,000 fans were turned away from Old Trafford as they tried to get hold of tickets for the final day of the third Ashes Test on Monday.

Geoff Durbin, the Lancashire County Cricket Club marketing manager, said 19,000 tickets had been available for the final day, prompting a huge rush.

"I estimate around 10,000 could not get in," he said.

Old Trafford capacity is 23,000.

Some of the England players got to the ground half an hour later than they had planned because of the crowds outside the venue, according to an England spokesman.

The fans who failed to get into the ground then had the indignity of being forced to queue up again, this time to get back on Manchester's metro service as they headed back into the city.

Metropolis 2nd Div chess from Aug 25

SPORTS REPORTER

The metropolis 2nd Division Chess League will begin from August 25 at the Chess Federation hall room.

Interested teams have been requested to enter their names for the open event by August 23.

Two top teams from the 9-round Swiss league will be promoted to next year's First Division League.

Ponting keeps Eng at bay



AFP, Manchester

Andrew Flintoff nudged England closer to victory, and a 2-1 Ashes series lead, on the final day of the third Test against Australia at Old Trafford here Monday.

At tea the tourists were 216 for five, still needing a further 207 to reach their record victory target of 423 after Flintoff had taken three for 50.

But Australia captain Ricky Ponting was still there with 91 not out and Michael Clarke, batting in spite of the back problem that had sidelined him for most of the match, was unbeaten on 20.

There were a minimum of 42 overs to be bowled in the final session, Australia needing to score at a rate of less than five an over with five wickets standing.

Just when the game was in danger of meandering towards stalemate pace bowling all-rounder Flintoff, in front of his Lancashire home crowd, struck twice to remove Simon Katich and Adam Gilchrist as England attempted to win back-to-back Ashes Tests for the first time in 20 years.

Australia began after lunch on 121 for two with Ponting 41 not out and Damien Martyn 17 not out after openers Justin Langer and Matthew Hayden had fallen in the morning.

Martyn though was lbw on the backfoot to fast bowler Stephen Harmison for 19. Replays suggested the batsman may have got an inside edge first but experienced West Indies umpire Steve Bucknor raised his finger and Australia were 129 for three.

Ponting then completed a 103-ball fifty with one six and four fours



PHOTOS: CRICINFO

and repeatedly punished left-arm spinner Ashley Giles when he dropped short.

But England saw the back of Katich for 12 when his drive off Flintoff was caught by Giles, above his head, at third slip.

And Flintoff made it a personal return of two wickets for six runs in 29 balls when he had the out-of-touch Gilchrist caught by Ian Bell in the gully for four as Australia declined to 182 for five.

Australia resumed Monday on 24 without loss in front of a 23,000 capacity crowd, knowing no side had made more to win in the fourth innings of a Test than the 418 for seven West Indies scored against Australia at St John's, Antigua in 2002-03.

Langer was 14 not out and fellow left-hander Hayden five not out after England had declared their second innings Sunday on 280 for six, an innings featuring Andrew Strauss's 106 - the left-handed opener's first Test hundred against Australia.

England only had to wait until the second over of the day to make a breakthrough, seamer Matthew Hoggard's first ball seeing Langer edge for his overnight score to wicket-keeper Geraint Jones.

Flintoff, bowling from around the wicket, had left-hander Hayden twice edging through the slip cordon.

But Hayden's luck ran out when Flintoff bowled him behind his legs for 36 to end a stand of 71 with Ponting that had taken Australia to 96 for two.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fifth and final day of the third Ashes Test between England and Australia at Old Trafford on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings 444 (Vaughan 166, Trescottick 63, Bell

59; Warne 4-99, Lee 4-100)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 302 (Warne 90; S Jones 6-53, Giles 3-100)

ENGLAND: Second innings 280-6 declared (Strauss 106, Bell 65; McGrath 5-115)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 24-0)

Langer c G Jones b Hoggard	14
Hayden b Flintoff	36
Ponting not out	91
Martyn lbw b Harmison	19
Katich c Giles b Flintoff	12
Gilchrist c Bell b Flintoff	4
Clarke not out	20
Extras: (b-4, w-1, nb-15)	20
Total: (For 5 wks in 66 overs)	216
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-96, 3-129, 4-165, 5-182	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harmison	12	3	27	1
Hoggard	6	0	26	1
Giles	21	3	68	0
Vaughan	5	0	21	0
Flintoff	15	3	50	3
S Jones	7	2	20	0

Crespo last action hero



AFP, Wigan

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho was apologetic after Hernan Crespo broke Wigan Athletic hearts with a stunning strike deep into stoppage time to snatch a 1-0 victory at the JJB stadium on Sunday.

Mourinho's men had spent the afternoon being frustrated by a Wigan side that rose to the occasion in what was their first ever game in the English Premiership and the biggest match in the club's history.

The promoted side looked to have done enough to earn a valuable point with a superb display and could have even won the contest themselves before second half substitute Crespo rifled an unstoppable drive into the top corner to complete his side's great escape and leave home supporters stunned.

"It's not fair - they (Wigan) did not deserve to lose the game," Mourinho told Sky Sports.

"I feel sorry for them - but that's football, sometimes you deserve but you don't get the points.

"You couldn't see who were the Premiership champions - we didn't

play well.

"Our defenders were brilliant in difficult circumstances because we kept losing the ball in midfield and attack. But in attacking areas we did not play well."

Wigan looked set to claim an unlikely victory 30 seconds before the winning goal when they broke swiftly from the edge of their own box but substitute Andreas Johansson spooned a first time volley high and wide when he had time to take the ball down and pick his spot with only Petr Cech to beat.

While Johansson missed a sitter Crespo produced the first wonder in the Premier League this year from not even a half chance. After receiving the ball well outside the Wigan box, the Argentine striker created a small space between two defenders before rifling a sublime left-footer

that sailed well past the outstretched hands of Mike Pollitt and into the upper left-hand corner of the net.

Latics manager Paul Jewell had fielded six of his summer signings, including former Liverpool defender Stephane Henchoz and Henri Camara from Wolves as Wigan looked to kick off their new campaign by causing one of the biggest upsets in Premiership history.

And he was proud of all his players for matching the record-breakers from last season.

"We didn't get maybe what we deserved for our effort and desire, but that's top-class football. We're sick as pigs," he said.

"We were quite happy for them to pass the ball and we had two good situations at the end which we

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PHOTO: AFP

BEHOLD! Chelsea's Hernan Crespo unleashes the left-footed stunner that brought the winning goal in the last minute of injury time against Wigan Athletic at The JJB Stadium in Wigan on Sunday.