

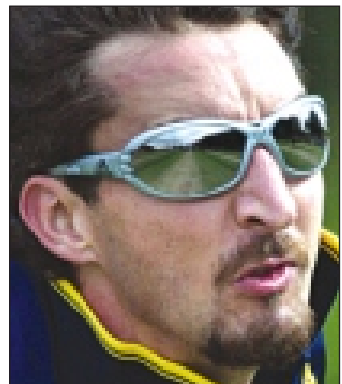


Did U Know?

The first laws of soccer were drawn up at Cambridge University in 1848. Since then they have been rewritten and amended.

What to WATCH

- Zee TV**
Afro-Asia Cup
Asia XI vs Africa XI
Third ODI
Live at 4:00 pm
- ESPN**
English Premier Football League
Bolton Wanderers vs Everton
Live at 6:25 pm
Chelsea vs Arsenal
Live at 8:55 pm
- STAR Sports**
Football Extra
Live at 9:00 am



Jason Gillespie
(Australia bowler)
"I don't know what's going to happen in the next game but if I don't play I will understand."
On the prospect of him being dropped from the 4th Ashes Test.

DAY'S EVENT

Premier Football League
Sheikh Russel vs Dhaka Wanderers
(5:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Australia leave out Gillespie for 2-dayer

Matthew Hayden helped himself to an unbeaten half-century as Australia reached 142-3 at lunch on the opening day of their two-day Test warm-up game against Northamptonshire.

With Hayden 61 not out, Michael Clarke was at the other end on 34.

But the main talking point was the decision to leave seam bowler Jason Gillespie out of the side.

Shaun Tait and Michael Kasprovicz were included.

Neither Tait nor Kasprovicz was needed at the start of the two-day fixture, however, as Northants skipper David Sales won the toss and chose to put the tourists in.

Hayden, returning to his former club, was pinned down by accurate bowling from Ben Phillips, who was rewarded with the wicket of partner Justin Langer for one.

Simon Katich, promoted to three from his usual middle-order slot in the Test side, struck three fours, but the introduction of Steffan Jones proved his undoing as Damien Wright claimed his second catch of the morning.

And Jones struck again by finding the edge of Damien Martyn's bat after he had raced to 26 off 12 balls, with wicketkeeper Riki Wessels taking the catch.

Hayden gathered momentum with sensible support from Clarke, reaching his fifty off 77 balls, and by lunch had collected 11 boundaries.

The two sides, meanwhile, agreed that each could use 12 players in the game, which meant that leg-spinner Stuart MacGill would be able to bowl for Australia, but not bat.

BCB POLLS Mahbub GS-elect



SPORTS REPORTER

The blueprint for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) election finally took the shape as predicted earlier when Mahbubul Anam claimed the top executive post on Saturday, the day earmarked for withdrawal of nomination papers for the August 27 polls.

The influential Mohammedan councilor was running for the post of general secretary along with three other candidates. But the drama for the last few days turned into a total anti-climax after Mahbub's three mock rivals forfeited their desire to contest for the most demanding post.

It was earlier anticipated that Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen, one of Mahbub's three main rivals, might withdraw his nomination for a successful bargain of the senior vice-president post. Kazi Tabarukul Islam was dubbed as a dummy just to give the pre-election build-up some meaning after it was widely regarded as a farce.

But the pullout of Mahmudul Haq Manu from the race was at least not in the game plan. Many considered the appearance of Manu in the election deldrums as a token representation from the deposed board of

directors. A cynic however quipped: "Money can buy everything". Understandably, there was little for Mahbub to celebrate his maiden victory as general secretary.

"I was always confident about my success. Maybe it would have been sweeter had I faced some competition, said the bearded former cricketer at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A member of board president Ali Asghar's now defunct advisory committee, Mahbub said that improvement of the domestic cricket was his top priority.

"It's my dream to make the National Cricket League the country's premier competition. Everybody knows that without a competitive domestic structure you can't survive at the international level. I want to create the stage where player can easily take it as a profession without any hesitation.

"My first job will be to publish a complete calendar for the next four years," he promised.

Asked about the election for the rest of the posts for the 31-member executive committee, Mahbub said that he was confident about the victory of his 'like-minded' panel.

"The election is not yet over. We gave a like-minded panel and we are hopeful to see them victories," he added.

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IT'S HARTAL DAY: Bangladesh cricketers (L-R) Rajin Saleh, Manzarul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Aftab Ahmed and Tapash Baisya wait for a vehicle on the Airport Road after having a practice session at the Army Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Practice as usual for Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

It was business as usual for the Sri Lanka-bound national cricketers. Despite a dawn-to-dusk hartal they practised at the Army Stadium on Saturday.

"We had to face some difficulties to complete the day's training but we could afford to waste a day as our fielding sessions had earlier been affected by the inclement weather," said Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar.

The Tigers will enjoy a two-day break after attending their last practice at the Mirpur indoor facilities today.

Bashar's men will fly to Sri Lanka on August 24 to play three one-day internationals and two Test matches against the islanders.

The players began training under the supervision of coach Dav Whatmore on July 25 after a 21-day break on return from England. During the national camp use of the new indoor facilities at Mirpur played a significant part.

Meanwhile, four Bangladesh A cricketers have been included in the one-day squad after returning with the team from England on Friday.

The four players -- Shahriar Nafees, Tushar Imran, Abdur Razzak Raj and newcomer Syed Rasel -- however have been excused from the final practice.

Tait believes he's ready



BBC ONLINE, undated

Uncapped Australia fast bowler Shaun Tait believes he is ready to face England in the fourth Ashes Test.

Tait has the ability to reverse swing the old ball -- a skill England's bowlers have used to effect during the series so far.

"Last year a good load of my victims were with reverse swing, either bowled or lbw," he commented.

"I can't be much readier. I've bowled a fair bit in the nets. My fitness is good and I'm absolutely raring to go," told Tait.

Seam bowler Jason Gillespie is the player whose place is most at risk, with Tait and Michael Kasprovicz waiting in the wings to replace him.

But skipper Ricky Ponting has

dropped a hint that Tait may be the man to benefit if a change is made.

"The hardest thing about facing reverse swing bowling is the pace it's delivered at because then it tends to swing a lot later.

"When it's swinging late at 145kph it's pretty difficult to play

and we've only got one guy -- Brett Lee -- who can do that for us," he commented.

Australia coach John Buchanan has, meanwhile, ruled out a safety-first approach in the two remaining Tests.

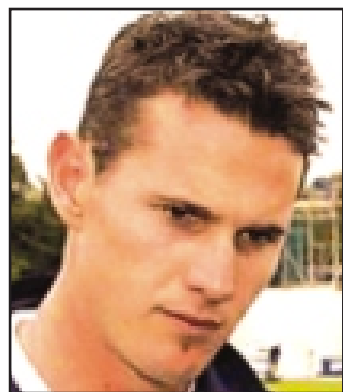
The series is currently tied at 1-1 and they only need to draw the series to hang onto the Ashes.

"We know two draws would be fine, but I would be disappointed if that was in the thinking of any of our players.

"I don't really want to go in with that sort of approach," said Buchanan, who promised Australia would go into the fourth Test with the aim of winning it.

"The win will only come from us doing the things we can do well.

"We haven't stuck all that together that -- well, so that is our major focus -- to put our game together and deliver throughout the whole Test."



SHAUN TAIT

Wright may coach Rest of the World

CRICINFO, undated

John Wright will be the coach of the Rest of the World in the forthcoming Super Series in Australia, it has been reliably learnt.

The series, to be held in October, will include one six-day Test and three one-day internationals between Australia and the Rest of the World. A formal announcement on the appointment is expected on Monday.

Wright was coach of the Indian team from 2000-01 to 2004-05, and helped them achieve some famous victories, including series wins against Australia and Pakistan, and a drawn Test series in Australia.

Wright's tenure ended in disappointing fashion, though, with a drawn Test series and defeat in the one-dayers at home against Pakistan, after which Greg Chappell took over as coach of the side.

Meanwhile, Mid Day reported that the players participating in the series would each get 100,000 dollars, a figure which includes appearance money.

Emirates sponsor ICC Super Series

Emirates has increased its support of international cricket by sponsoring the International Cricket Council (ICC) Super Series, which will take place in Australia in October this year.

Commenting on the confirmation of the partnership deal with the series Ghaith Al Ghaith, Emirates executive vice-president of commercial operations worldwide, said: "We are delighted to have signed up as an official partner of what promises to be one of the most exciting sporting events of the year.

"We have demonstrated our support for top-class cricket for over three years now, through our relationship with the ICC, and we are excited to have taken this a step further with the Super Series." Press Release.

Pak-Kashmir keen for Indian fixture



BBC ONLINE, undated

The government in Pakistan-administered Kashmir has suggested the inclusion of Muzaffarabad in the itinerary for Pakistan's home series against India early next year.

Minister for Sports And Culture Deewan Ali Khan Chughtai told the BBC that they hoped to stage a one-day international.

"We are waiting for the response but are hopeful of a positive one," the minister said.

Even if the Pakistan Cricket

Board (PCB) accepts the proposal, persuading India may not be straightforward.

India will tour Pakistan in February next year.

Kashmir is a disputed territory between the two countries, a fact which may stop either or both boards from giving a green light to the proposals.

Matches between Pakistan and India only resumed in 2004 after a six-year gap due to political tensions.

Next year's series in Pakistan will feature three Test matches and five one-day internationals.

The Muzaffarabad Stadium, being constructed at the cost of 147

million rupees (1.37 million pounds), is nearing completion.

Authorities predict the stadium will be finished by the end of December.

Work on the stadium, mostly funded by the regional government, began in 1986, and was only resumed in 2002 after a gap of more than a decade.

It is the second stadium in the region able to host Test matches and has a 12,000 capacity.

The stadium is located in an upmarket area on the outskirts of the town, where the Jhelum and Neelum rivers meet.

And snow-capped mountains

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Ashes ignites Miandad

REUTERS, Karachi

The Ashes series between England and Australia will be a catalyst for the revival of Test cricket, according to Pakistan's former captain Javed Miandad.

Miandad, who played 124 matches for his country, told this news agency on Friday: "The matches have been so close and tensely fought that people not only in England but in other cricket playing nations are totally involved in its outcome."

England and Australia are 1-1 in the five-match series with the last two matches producing gripping finishes.

Miandad said he had been concerned about the future of Test cricket due to the ill-planned international tours programme and the great increase in the number of one-day matches.

He added: "The way this series has brought in spectators, viewers and listeners, it gives me hope Test cricket is still not dead."



Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy (L) vies for the ball with an Aston Villa player during their Premiership clash at Old Trafford on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

SL pair shine for Asia



AFP, Durban

Sri Lankan batsmen Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene hit polished half-centuries for the Asia XI in the second Afro-Asia Cup match against an Africa XI at Kingsmead on Saturday.

The Asia XI, needing a victory to stay in with a chance of winning the three-match series, made 267 for seven after winning the toss.

The left-handed Sangakkara made a boundary-studded 61 off 70 balls, hitting nine fours and a six.

By contrast, the right-handed Jayawardene's 52 off 72 balls included only two boundaries, a four and a hooked six off Monde Zondeki which raised his half-century.

Thomas Oduyo of Kenya was the most successful African bowler, taking three for 45 with his medium-paced deliveries. He and Africa XI captain Shaun Pollock were the only bowlers to send down their full quota of ten overs.

Sangakkara and India's Virender Sehwag (38) put on 91 for the second wicket off 101 balls after Shahid Afridi had played a typical innings, hitting the first ball he faced from Heath Streak for six over cover then playing across the line to be leg before off the next delivery.

Pakistanis Yousuf Youhana and Asia XI captain Inzamam-ul-Haq made 42 and 38 not out respectively, but the Asia XI were unable to accelerate in the second half of their innings after reaching 140 for three after 25 overs.

Both teams showed changes because of injury. Star South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis was ruled out of the Africa XI team with a back muscle strain suffered when loading his luggage onto a van Friday, while Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble could not play because of a hamstring strain.

The Asia XI, beaten by two runs in the first of three matches at Centurion Wednesday, bolstered their batting by selecting Jayawardene in place of Kumble.



Asia XI's Kumar Sangakkara follows through on a glance during his knock of 61 against Africa XI in the Afro-Asia Cup at Kingsmead in Durban on Saturday.

PHOTO: AP

PREMIERSHIP

Ruud calls the shots



AFP, Manchester

Ruud van Nistelrooy's predatory instincts ensured Manchester United maintained their perfect start to the Premiership campaign with a 1-0 win over Aston Villa here on Saturday.

It was not until the 66th minute that a trademark poacher's effort from the revitalised Dutch striker wrapped up the three points and made it two wins out of two for Sir Alex Ferguson's side.

But there was never much doubt about the outcome of a lunchtime encounter that United dominated from start to finish under the watchful gaze of Joel and Bryan Glazer.

The brothers were able to take their seats in the Old Trafford directors' box with no signs of protest over their father Malcolm's 790-million-

pound takeover of the club.

Villa were without Peruvian midfielder Nolberto Solano, who was dropped to the bench by manager David O'Leary as punishment for admitting he would be interested in a move to Liverpool.

That left the Villa line-up with an even more defensive look than had been anticipated with O'Leary opting to play Colombian striker Juan Pablo Angel as a lone striker in front of a five-man midfield.

The tactic worked for a while, United taking nearly half an hour before forcing Villa goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen to make a save.

South Korean midfielder Park Ji-sung cut inside from the left of the area and unleashed a fierce drive that the Danish international just managed to tip onto the top of the bar.

The near miss spurred United on and Wayne Rooney tried his luck twice in quick succession. A low volley was cleared off the line by

Peter Whittingham and Gavin McCann did well to charge down a thunderous goalbound effort just minutes later.

Rooney then turned provider to tee up Paul Scholes for a long-range effort that whistled narrowly wide just before the interval. But there was also a flash of the less attractive side of Rooney's character when he earned a deserved booking for a rash challenge on Eric Djemba-Djemba, a former teammate at Old Trafford.

United picked up where they left off after the interval.

A neat one-two with Rooney presented Park with a sight of goal on the corner of the six-yard box.

The Korean opted for a cross when a shot might have been a wiser choice and his delivery eluded Van Nistelrooy as it skidded across the goalmouth.

That was to Park's last significant

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