



Did U Know?

For the first time North and South Korea entered the main Olympic stadium as one nation at the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Games.



Samuel Eto'o

(Cameroon football star)
"It is very hard to have had everything in your own hands and throw it all away in the final seconds. I am sad for my country, my colleagues and for myself."
After failing to qualify for the FIFA World Cup finals.



TEN Sports

FIFA WC Qualifier
Brazil vs Venezuela
Live at 6:30 am (Thursday)
ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
FIFA WC Qualifier
England vs Poland
Live at 12:40 am (Thursday)

England will tour Pakistan

AFP, London

England will go ahead with their tour of Pakistan despite the earthquake which has killed around 30,000 people in the south Asian country.

The quake struck the Kashmir region of northern Pakistan, India and Afghanistan on Saturday and has left many homeless with houses, public buildings and communication links badly affected.

However, the England and Wales Cricket Board are satisfied that on the advice they have as things stand, the team will tour as planned.

"Our position is that we take our lead from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Pakistani government and the Pakistan Cricket Board," ECB director of communications Colin Gibson said.

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Plunkett called up for Tests

AFP, London

Durham's Liam Plunkett has been called up to replace Simon Jones in England's Test squad for the tour of Pakistan.

The 20-year-old fast bowler, who had already been named in the one-day squad, earns his call-up after Jones was ruled out with an ankle injury.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney said: "This is an excellent opportunity and underlines his potential."

"I've tried to perform well this year and to now be in the England Test squad is fantastic," said Plunkett.

"Just to be a part of the Test squad is massive for me."

"Even if I don't get to play in a Test match while I'm in Pakistan I'll learn so much from being around such a quality group of players," he added.

Meanwhile, Chris Tremlett's fitness will continue to be assessed as he seeks to overcome a knee injury.

Smooth going on Day 2

SPORTS REPORTER



The Corporate Cricket League made its nationwide debut on Tuesday and apart from rain intervention at Khu-Ina the other two games at Chit-tagong and Bogra were played under glorious sunshine.

There was however no upset on the second day of the season's curtain-raiser with favourites Beximco and MM Ispahani posting comfortable victories against Acme Laboratories and Security Express respectively.

Jamuna Bank won the clash of the newcomers against Orion Group in a match decided by D/L method after rain stopped play in a low-scoring affair.

But there was no firework on any national cricketer as it was seen on the opening day of the 12-team competi-

tion.

A five-wicket haul from unheralded Jamuna Bank paceman Ainul Kabir was the only highlight of the day.

BEXIMCO-ACME

Discarded national opener Hannan Sarkar's 63 off 90 balls went in vain as Acme Laboratories, in absence of national captain Habibul Bashar, suffered a 42-run defeat to the star-studded Beximco at the Bogra Shaheed Chandu Stadium.

Chasing 250 for victory, Acme were dismissed for 207 in their final over with Mohammad Rafique contributing a usual run-a-ball 27 with three fours and a six. Javed Omar, batting at number four, made 20.

Super-sub Mahbub Alam was the pick of Beximco attack with three wickets for 25 while his new ball partner Mohammad Shahzad chipped in with 2-42.

Earlier, Beximco skipper Akram

Khan elected to bat but lost both openers Shahriar Hossain (1) and Rashedul Haque (23) with only 38 runs on board.

Al Shahriar's patient 43 off 69 balls in association with a blazing 37-ball 42 by country's top batsman Mohammad Ashraful took the score to 109 and inspired an imposing total of 249-9 in their share of 50 overs. Rafique also shone with his left-arm spin, taking 3-33.

ISPAHANI-SECURITY EXPRESS

At Chittagong, local side Ispahani stormed to an eight-wicket win over debutant Security Express with Mohibul Karim and Kamrul Islam setting it up at the Divisional Stadium.

Although skipper and national star Nafees Iqbal was a disappoint

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THEIR INSPIRATIONS: (L) South Africa's Jacques Kallis with his partner Cindy Nel and England's Andrew Flintoff and his wife Rachel arrive at the ICC awards dinner in Sydney on Tuesday.



PHOTOS: BBC

Kallis, Flintoff share it



REUTERS, Sydney

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff and South African batsman Jacques Kallis were named joint winners of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for international cricketer-of-the-year on Tuesday.

The pair finished level in the vote count after being short-listed with Shane Warne, his Australian teammate Glenn McGrath and Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq to share the sport's most prestigious individual award.

Kallis was also named international Test player-of-the-year ahead of McGrath while Flintoff finished runner-up to his England teammate Kevin Pietersen in the one-day category.

"It's been an amazing 12 months...an amazing summer," Flintoff said.

"It's just been such a roller-coaster ride that I can't remember too much before that."

Kallis scored 1,497 runs at an average of 71.28, with six hundreds and eight half-centuries, during the 12-month voting period which ended on

July 31.

At the peak of his powers, he scored five centuries in as many Tests.

"When I look back at my career I didn't start off that well so to win something like this is huge," Kallis said.

Flintoff, last year's one-day player of the year, averaged 30 with the bat in

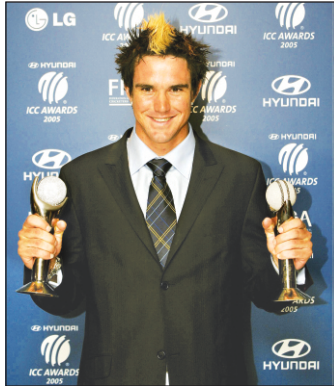


PHOTO: AFP

England's Kevin Pietersen with his trophies.

Tests and 38 in one-day internationals. He also took 44 wickets in Tests and 25 in one-dayers.

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India happy that Sachin's playing



AFP, Mohali

Sachin Tendulkar returned to competitive cricket on Monday night after a five-month absence due to elbow surgery, providing a ray of hope to the crisis-ridden Indian team.

Tendulkar, cricket's most prolific batsman with 23,776 international runs and 72 centuries, missed tours to Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe this season and also opted out of the ongoing Super Series in Australia because of the surgery in May to repair a tennis elbow.

The 32-year-old turned out for India Seniors in the domestic Challenger one-day series here on Monday night, making 12 off 15 balls in an eagerly-awaited comeback.

It did not worry coach Greg Chappell that Tendulkar failed to get

a big score. It was the master batsman's inspiring presence in the dressing room that mattered more.

The former Australian captain, fresh from a highly-publicised and damaging spat with captain Sourav Ganguly, was delighted to see Tendulkar back in action.

"Players like Sachin don't grow on trees. They are a rare breed," said Chappell, himself one of batting's all-time greats.

"So it is really good to have him back. The Indian team has really missed Sachin in the last few months, both on and off the field."

"Young players look up to him. He is like a mentor to them. His presence will make a difference in any team."

Tendulkar declined to dwell at length on his comeback, saying: "I think I have already spoken a lot. Now it is time for me to play."

That should be good news for an Indian team lacking in confidence

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Zia back on song

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman returned to winning ways in the Fifth Asian Individual Chess Championship in Hyderabad, India but International Master Reefat bin Sattar suffered defeat in consecutive rounds.

In the fifth round on Monday, Zia beat India's Shibandanand while Reefat lost to Chinese Grand Master Ju Jun at the Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Indoor Stadium.

The Bangladesh's two other contestants also had contrasting fortunes with IM Abdullah Al Rakib defeating Indian IM Deepsen Gupta and Enamul Islam Rajib going down to Iranian GM Ehsan Maghami.

Chinese GMs Zhang Zhong and Lee Shilong were jointly leading the 9-round Swiss League table with 4.5 points.

Zia is now one point adrift of the joint leaders while Rakib pushed his collection to three. Reefat and Rajib were both on 2.5 points.

2011 WC host to be named next year



AFP, Sydney

The International Cricket Council (ICC) said Tuesday a decision on the host country for the Cricket World Cup 2011 will be made next year.

Australia was considered a front-runner to stage the game's showpiece tournament, but reports Tuesday said a push has come from the sub-continent's four cricketing nations -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- because they generate more funds for world cricket than Australia.

Under cricket's unofficial rotation system, Australia has been expected to host the tournament in six years'

time, having last hosted it, along with New Zealand, in 1992.

The ICC discussed the issues at its two-day board meeting which ended here Tuesday and said the final decision on the host would be taken at its annual conference at Lords next June.

"No decision was made on awarding any event to any country or countries post-2007 and no submissions to stage any such events were received," the ICC said in a statement after the meeting.

"It was agreed that any country or countries wishing to be awarded an ICC event would have to provide evidence of compliance in four key areas related to holding such an event -- tax, facilities, visas and venues."

The ICC Board also discussed an

invitation from the Organising Committee for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi for cricket to take part in the Games.

There was an update on the potential role of 20/Twenty cricket in international cricket and a discussion on the feasibility of changing from the current five-year playing calendar to a six-year calendar.

The ICC Board said it had asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to meet with the local Organising Committee for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi to discuss cricket's participation in the event and the appropriate format.

The BCCI was asked to come back to the ICC Board with its recommendations concerning

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PHOTO: STAR

MM Ispahani opener Mohibul Karim off-drives on way to scoring a match-winning 83 not out against Security Express during their Corporate Cricket League fixture at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Tuesday.

Flemo awaits tough SA



AFP, Johannesburg

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming believes his side will find South Africa a tough nut to crack when the two sides clash in a one-day series starting next week.

The New Zealanders touched down in Johannesburg Tuesday, to prepare for their three-week tour which includes a five-match one-day international series.

The two teams will also meet in the

first international 20-overs-a-side match to be played in South Africa at the Wanderers next Friday.

Fleming, who was in charge when New Zealand achieved their first series win against South Africa, a 5-1 thrashing in a one-day series in New Zealand last year, is expecting the South Africans to "come hard" at his team as they seek retribution for that defeat.

"I know we beat them heavily when they came to New Zealand last year, but that does not make us favourites for this series," said Fleming.

"You're never favourites when you come to South Africa, they are very

tough nut to crack at home. By saying that though we are not playing down our own abilities."

The absence from the touring party of experienced all-rounder Chris Cairns caused great surprise in South Africa, but Fleming said he was satisfied his side had the resources to deal with Cairns' absence.

"It was a very tough winter for him and he now gets the opportunity to go and work on his form in the first class game at home," Fleming explained.

Nevertheless the Black Caps will

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