



Did U Know?

West Indian great Clive Lloyd led his team to successive World Cup wins in 1975 and 1979.



Andrew Flintoff
(Top England all-rounder)
"I think everyone in the side has got aspirations of captaining their country, if it ever came up I'd jump at the chance."
While expressing his desire to lead England.



- ESPN**
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Arsenal vs Sparta
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)
- STAR Sports**
UEFA Champions League
Lille vs Man United
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)
Australia vs West Indies
First Test, Day One
Live at 6:00 am (Thursday)

INDO-LANKA 4TH ODI Security drill at Nehru Stadium

A security drill was conducted on Monday at the Nehru Stadium, the venue of the fourth one-day international between India and Sri Lanka on November 3.

The drill was conducted by police and bomb disposal squad, Ajay Shirke, president of Maha-rashtra Cricket Association, told reporters, adding a mobile control would also be set up for the match.

Besides the police, personnel from a private security agency would also be deployed at the stadium during the match, he said.

Mission Myanmar today



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Arif Khan Joy will be the happiest man if he can lead the Bangladesh Football Federation XI to glory in the final of the Grand Royal Challenge Cup. They lock horns with the Myanmar Under-23 team today.

The final, which kicks off at 3.30 pm (Bangladesh time) in Yangon, will certainly revive memories of Bangladesh's last triumph here in 1995.

Beaten 5-1 in the league stage, Bangladesh stunned the hosts 2-1 in the final under leadership of late Monem Munna and guidance of German coach Otto Pfister.

Ten years later, the national team, preparing for Asian Cup pre-qualifiers and the SAFF Championship, are rightly feeling a sense of *deja vu*.

"Munna is not with us anymore but we still feel his love for us and the game. Taking inspiration from him, we want convert the grief of losing a great footballer into our strength and win the

final," said new captain Joy, whose side went down 2-1 to Myanmar in the league phase.

Defensive midfielder Joy, who will have to be at his best in the absence of suspended playmaker Arman Mia, added that it would be difficult to make up the loss of the ace midfielder.

Bangladesh, who began the meet with a 3-1 win over China Under-23s and confirmed a place in the final blanked the India U-19s 2-0, will be at full strength after resting seven key players in their last match against the Indians.

Striker Rokonuzzaman Kanchan partner prolific marksman Ariful Kabir Farhad, whose Midas touch has seen him in the net in every match and had seven goals in three games to his credit. Alfaz Ahmed will fill Arman's place on the right side of the midfield.

Argentine coach Diego Cruciani is expected to retain the 4-3-1-2 formation with Ujjal playing behind the strikers as a roaming midfielder.

"We will have to play against the home team and the home crowd which is very difficult. But I am hopeful my team will be impressive and

win the title in spite of these obstacles," said Cruciani, who is in his first assignment.

"We have to utilise the chances and must be mentally strong to cross the barriers. We cannot give up before the game starts," the Argentine added.

Although Myanmar will start as favourites, their Bulgarian coach Ivan Colev played down the tag.

"The two best teams have reached the final. I am more concerned about our preparation than the result. The trophy is not a factor," said Colev, who has been preparing the under-23 side for the last 18 months for the SEA Games.

"Bangladesh are a rich and matured team. So it will be an exciting contest," added Colev, whose side thrashed India 11-0 in the opener and drew goalless with China in the last match.

The winners will pocket 15,000 dollars as prize money and the runners-up 8,000.

BFF XI probable line-up: Aminul, Hassan Al Mamun, Sujun, Nazrul, Titu, Alfaz, Joy, Matur Munna, Ujjal, Kanchan and Farhad.

Koreas unite

REUTERS, Seoul

North and South Korea agreed on Tuesday to compete as a single team for the first time at the 2006 Asian Games, and at the 2008 Olympic Games, a South Korean official said.

North and South Korea have been bitter ideological -- and sporting -- rivals for more than 50 years and are gradually building closer relations across the Demilitarised Zone.

"We had discussed making a single team since we jointly marched in such international events six times," Baek Sung-il, a spokesman for South Korea's Olympic Committee, said by telephone from Macau.

"As exchanges between South and North Korea have been progressing, the mood was ripe for reaching such an agreement."

Both Koreas are taking part in the East Asia Games in Macau. They marched together at that opening ceremony and more notably at the Sydney and Athens Olympics, but have not competed as one team at such major events.

Baek said the two sides would meet again in Kaesong, a city just north of the Demilitarised Zone, on December 7 to discuss the details of how to form a joint team.

The communist North and capitalist South formed a single table tennis team and a soccer team in the 1990s but the experiment did not continue.

'Barmy Army' arriving in Pakistan

AFP, Rawalpindi

England's "Barmy Army" of cricket supporters started to arrive in Pakistan Tuesday, hoping their bawdy chants can help the team keep up its Ashes-winning form.

"We're the first batch," said veteran supporter Phil Long as he and three of his colleagues crammed into a taxi bound for Pindi stadium, where England are playing their tour opener against the Pakistan Cricket Board Patron's XI.

"It's as important a tour as the Ashes for England, and beating Pakistan in their den could be even tougher than beating the Australians," said Long.

The "Barmy Army" are famous for their raucous cheers and humorous songs and travel across the globe to cheer England, who are still on a high from last month's 2-1 Ashes series win against Australia, their first in 18 years.

Pakistan cricket officials are

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PHOTO: AFP

PCB Patron's XI paceman Mohammad Irshad celebrates taking the prize wicket of England captain Michael Vaughan on the second day of the three-day tour match at the Pindi Stadium on Tuesday.

England in ignominy



AFP, Rawalpindi

England's Ashes heroes face ignominious defeat in their Pakistan tour opener after collapsing for the second time against the Pakistan Cricket Board Patron's XI on Tuesday.

England were reeling at 39-6 at stumps on the second day of the three-day match, an overall lead of 84 runs, and need a Herculean effort to fight back in their first outing since their series win against Australia in September.

The Patron's XI pacemen yet again exposed the England batting, as Mohammad Irshad skittled Matt Prior (16), Alex Loudon (1) and captain Michael Vaughan (0) in a devastating spell of fast bowling which brought him 3-22.

Left arm paceman Najaf Shah started the slide by dismissing opener Andrew Strauss for six in the fifth over, while Yasir Arafat completed the destruction with the scalps of Kevin Pietersen (10) and Geraint Jones (0).

Paul Collingwood (1) and Ian Bell (0) were left at the crease, with first innings century-maker Marcus Trescothick England's last hope of saving the game at Pindi Stadium.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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As The Daily Star approaches its 15th anniversary, the Star Sport team would like to know your feedback on how to make the pages more attractive. So, for the next two weeks send us your suggestions, comments and even criticisms within 200-250 words to sports@thedailystar.net. We intend to publish them and wish your valuable views will enrich your favourite pages. The last date for submission of your comments is November 15.

-- Sports Editor

England'll miss Jones, Nawaz

AFP, Rawalpindi

Former Pakistani fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz, the pioneer of reverse swing, said Tuesday that the touring England team would miss seamer Simon Jones in their upcoming Test series.

Jones, whose own mastery of the craft technique gave him 18 wickets in England's hard fought 2-1 win over Australia in the Ashes two months ago, is missing from the Pakistan tour after suffering a knee injury.

"Without Jones, England's attack is half strength because he was the man who gave England both spirit and reverse swing in the Ashes," said Nawaz, who played 55 Tests and 45 one-day internationals for Pakistan.

Nawaz -- known here as the sultan of swing for his ability to reverse-swing the old ball -- had backed England to win before Jones was injured but now he is less sure.

"It will be tough. I had said that England would win because I felt their seamers had learnt the art of reverse swing and I thought Jones was the best, but England will miss him now," said Nawaz, 56.

England captain Michael Vaughan also admitted the loss of Jones was a blow, although he still has a strong pace attack in Steve Harmison, Matthew Hoggard and, of course, Andrew Flintoff -- another reverse swinger.

"Jones will be sorely missed because he was the one who fetched us wickets in the middle order when an old ball was thrown at him," Vaughan said last week on arrival in Pakistan.

However, Jones is likely to be available for the second leg of the subcontinent tour when England tour India in March next year -- another series England must win if they are to displace Australia as the world's top team.

"England struggled against seamers in the tour opener and

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'BCB doesn't need a broker'



SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Syed Ashraf Haque expressed his utter dismay at him being linked with a 'secret' deal that the present board president Ali Asghar struck with Malaysia-based agent Aston Moore for negotiating future sponsorship deals and TV rights.

"I am surprised seeing my name involved in this. I only came to know about the agency (Aston Moore) last October when two of their representatives, an Indian and an Englishman, visited the ACC office," Ashraf told reporters yesterday.

Ashraf, the chief executive officer of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), is now in Dhaka to spend his Eid holidays.

The former national cricketer and the kingpin of the first-ever TV deal between of BCB and WorldTel that expires next April also expressed his discontent about the Asghar-Aston Moore deal that The Daily Star broke last week.

He admitted that two representatives of Aston Moore met him in October and tried to give him the impression that they were maintaining a wonderful relationship with the BCB.

"The two young men visited me sometime last month to talk about the

sponsorship issues. They tried to give an impression that they have a very good relation with the BCB and did an excellent job as their media service provider during Bangladesh's tour of



SYED ASHRAFUL HAQUE

England. But I still have no idea why they came to me.

"Actually I can't understand why the board would need the help of such a little known company. If they want to make any deal, they should go to well known agents like TWI or Nimbus who have good track records," he opined.

Ashraf also felt that no organisation needs any marketing agency as negotiator for a TV deal.

"You don't need any mediator even for evaluation of the market. It is not a big issue and pretty simple. Any member of this board can do this on his own. The main thing is to deter-

mine a floor-rate that is how much the board expects from a deal. Then you go for open bid and accept the best one," he said adding that the ACC's floor-rate for the next Asia Cup was 12 million dollars.

"We are getting much more than that," he informed.

"Moreover, why should someone start talking about this before the FTP (Future Tour Programme) is finalised? When the FTP is finalised, one would know about their international commitment and then it would be easier to do the evaluation. I think that Bangladesh would get a better deal if India, Australia or England make more trips to the country.

"I also do not support short-period deals because in that case, when teams like Zimbabwe or West Indies will be touring, no one would be interested. To get more money, the key is to play more home series. It would also be more profitable if the Indian team is involved because they attract the sponsors most."

Ashraf also thought that the BCB should appoint a CEO as soon as possible because 'handling these matters are difficult for amateurs'.

"Nowadays one country has to play nearly eight Tests and 15 ODIs a year. So, the job is demanding. I think the CEO should be local. If I can successfully hold a post at the ACC, why wouldn't a Bangladeshi be able to do it here? Instantly, I can give ten names who are capable of doing this job."

Woolmer prefers same openers



REUTERS, Rawalpindi

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer plans to stick with the same opening pair in the home series against England in an attempt to resolve the team's chronic problem at the top of the order.

In the last five years, Pakistani selectors have shown little patience with openers, using 25 different pairings since the successful partnership between Saeed Anwar and Aamer Sohail broke up in 2000.

"We don't want to confuse this issue in this series. We will not experiment in this series. We want to go with two openers and give them a

proper run," Woolmer told Reuters.

Pakistan have tried out eight pairings in as many tests and have had just one opening partnership of more than 100 in their last 15 -- when Salman Butt and Yasir Hameed had a stand of 102 against Australia in Sydney in January.

By comparison, England have enjoyed five partnerships of 100 or more between Marcus Trescothick and Andrew Strauss in their last 12 tests, with a highest of 273 against South Africa in Durban last December.

"We want to give a decent run to the openers. We want to give them confidence. Because it is toughest facing the new ball," Woolmer said.

"If we can find a stable partnership in this series than we are on the road to overcoming this problem," he added.

Butt is the only specialist opener in Pakistan's 16-man squad for the first two tests against England but all rounders Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Malik have opened for Pakistan.

"Definitely we need a stable pair in this series because they have a good new ball attack," Woolmer added.

Pakistan's most successful opening pair were Anwar and Sohail.

Anwar scored 4,052 runs in 55 Tests, including 11 centuries, while Sohail made 2,823 runs in 47 appearances.

First Test tomorrow

Bowling greats at odds over WI's chances



AFP, Brisbane

Bowling greats Courtney Walsh and Michael Holding differ on the chances of the West Indies making a fist of their three-Test cricket series against Australia, getting underway here Thursday.

One-time wicket-taking world record-holder Walsh believes the West Indies can surprise by winning a Test in Australia, something they haven't done since February 1997.

"Definitely, I think the way they've started (the tour) would have given them a lot of confidence," Walsh said Tuesday.

"It's the first time this team has played together in about two or three tours because of politics (over sponsorship).

"These guys have a chance to get here, and I'm sure that they're going

to play some good consistent cricket. They're up against the best team. It's going to be hard but if you want to make a mark you've got to play against the best."

Holding, another former West Indies great, disagrees and forecasts the Caribbean tourists will be drubbed 3-0 by Ricky Ponting's side, determined to prove they are still world cricket's top team after losing the Ashes to England last September.

"People don't like to hear the truth, but this group does not possess the right attitude to win Test matches," Holding said this week.

"I'm concerned about their general focus. They aren't focused on their game enough. They aren't focused on representing the Windies enough."

The Windies are the last touring team to win a series in Australia, winning 2-1 in 1992-93, but they were spanked 5-0 by the Australians on their last visit down under in 2000-01.

The one-time powerhouses of world cricket have fallen on hard times and are looking to recapture lost glories under the coaching of Australian Bennett King, who went to the Caribbean last year with the pedigree of coaching Queensland and the Australian Cricket Academy.

"I think you'll see a change in their fortunes sometime, but certainly it's quite young in their development," King said this week.

The Windies had the better of Queensland in the warm-up four-day tour match here last weekend.

Marlon Samuels was the stand-out with his highest first-class score of 257 and best return of five wickets with his off-spinners.

The Caribbean tourists have brought along an armory of hostile quicks, led by Jermaine Lawson (50 wickets in 12 Tests at 27.84), Fidel Edwards (45 wickets in 17 Tests) and Tino Best (26 wickets in 12 Tests).

Walsh likes what he sees in 23-

year-old Edwards from Barbados.

"He could be a handful if he can get things right," Walsh said. "He swings the ball away and he's got some good pace."

Australia will have a Test debutant this week when Mike Hussey opens the innings with Matthew Hayden, after Justin Langer succumbed to a broken rib.

No Australian has made more first-class runs (15,313 runs at 52.8) before making their Test debut.

The 30-year-old left-hander has also scored 494 runs at 123.50 in 18 one-day internationals, and averaged 55.46 in Australia's Sheffield Shield last season.

"I've been through heaps and all the enjoyable hard work is worth it in the long run," Hussey said Tuesday.

"I've been dreaming about this since I was a little kid and hopefully it will all sink in once I've been presented with that baggy green cap."

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West Indies cricket team members go through a practice session at the Gabba on Tuesday ahead of their first Test against Australia here from Thursday.

PHOTO: INTERNET