



Did U Know?

India have won the first ODI series at home since beating Zimbabwe by 3-2 in March 2002.



Syed Ashraful Haque
(CEO of Asian Cricket Council)

"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."

While backing the idea of appointing a local CEO for Bangladesh Cricket Board.



ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Bolton Wanderers vs Tottenham
Hotspur
Live at 1:55 am (Tuesday)

India clinch Lanka ODIs

APP, Pune

India fought back from the brink to defeat Sri Lanka by four wickets in the fourth one-day international here on Thursday to take a decisive 4-0 lead in the seven-match series.

Chasing Sri Lanka's 261, India slumped to 180-6 before the seventh-wicket pair of Mahendra Dhoni and Suresh Raina steered the hosts home with an unbroken 82-run partnership.

Dhoni, India's new one-day wonder who smashed an unbeaten 183 in the previous match at Jaipur on Monday, sealed the impressive win in the 46th over with two consecutive sixes off Russell Arnold.

Arnold returned bat in hand with a 43-ball 45 and super-sub Suresh Raina justified his substitution at the expense of seamer Sri Sreesanth with an unbeaten 39 off 34 balls.

It was India's first one-day series win on home soil since

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Watson an injury worry

APP, Brisbane

A possible shoulder injury for Shane Watson has clouded selection issues for Australia ahead of the second cricket Test against the West Indies in Hobart later this month.

The all-rounder fell heavily on his left shoulder in stopping a boundary during Sunday's whopping 379-run Gabba win here over the tourists and was taken from the field for scans.

A decision on his injury will be made on Monday, but at this stage he is in doubt for the Hobart Test starting on November 17.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Dear Readers

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@thecitizenstar.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

Cruciani not unhappy

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh football team returned from Myanmar with the team management pleased with the outcome of the Grand Royal Challenge Cup four-nation football tournament.

Although the national team -- playing under the banner of BFF XI -- finished runners-up after their 2-1 defeat to hosts Myanmar in extra-time, coach Diego Cruciani's target to prepare his charges for next month's SAFF Football Championship in Pakistan was successful.

The team returned home on Eid Day and Argentine coach Cruciani expressed his satisfaction saying that he was impressed the way the boys had played in the four matches.

"I won't say I am unhappy because they played good football in Myanmar. Although the result does not matter at this stage, I would have been happier had we won the tournament," Cruciani told on Sunday at the BFF Bhaban.

"They got tired in the final and could not hold the strength in the end. But I can promise you that this team will start playing better before the SAFF Championship, which is my main target."

"Bangladesh have performed well against strong teams like Myanmar

"and China and I was looking forward to this match practice," added Cruciani, who trained the team for less than a month before the Myanmar trip.

"Now I have seen the boys play in matches and I will try to correct the mistakes they have made in the camp. We also need to take the fitness level higher," the Argentine said.

He will get another three weeks before the SAFF Championship kicks off in Karachi on December 7.

The team's 20-day final preparation begins on November 12 at BKSP and trainer Ariel Colman said he would set harder workouts for players.

"The boys need more fitness. In the first match against China they were excellent but looked tired in the second match. They played well in the final but little mistakes cost us the title," Colman told yesterday.

"Farhad found an open net and had he not missed the chance, we would have won the tournament."

"In the preliminary camp, we tried to build the strength in the players. Now, we will work on speed and skills. There would be more with-the-ball workouts. We are overall satisfied but there would be more hard work this time," said Chunnu.

Manager Sayeed Hassan Kanan also admitted that fitness is the area they need to work on now.

"The coach thinks the players need to change their food habit. We are going to introduce different menu in the camp," Kanan told.

"It seemed that they were not afraid of the opposition any more. Both the goalkeepers (Aminul and Biplob) were superb. Farhad was also a revelation. He missed so many goals in the league but became an instant hero after scoring four goals in the first three games. Now we are going to prepare the hard way for the SAFF Championship," he said.

"We did not expect the team to do



PHOTO: AFP

LEADING FROM THE FRONT: India captain Rahul Dravid, who struck an unbeaten 103, follows the path of the ball after guiding it to fine leg in the fifth ODI against Sri Lanka at Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Hectic cricket lies ahead

SPORTS REPORTER

All's set for an absorbing on and off the field cricket actions after the Eid vacation.

The cricket fraternity is especially looking forward to how the current board resolves its present crisis after joint-secretary and media committee chairman Reazuddin Al Mamun's resignation following a secret media deal struck by its president Ali Asghar.

On the other hand, the on the field affairs will come alive with the rain-interrupted Grameen Phone Corporate Cricket League resuming on November 9 after almost three weeks' break. On completion of the season's curtain-raiser, the National Cricket League will start on November 19.

But all eyes will be on the three-day players' transfer, which will start on November 14, for the most exciting Premier Division Cricket League, scheduled to kick off December 9.

The national pool cricketers have almost confirmed their clubs for the league and among them is ace Bangladesh batsman Mohamad Ashraful, who is likely to pull off a big surprise in this year's bourse.

It was learnt that the Bangla-desh Biman cricketer is all set to join new-comer Sonargaon Cricketers as the highest paid player.

While Sonargaon are looking forward to make their presence felt on debut in the top flight of local cricket and are in talks with another national cricketer Mohammad Rafique, defend-

ing champions Old DOHS, who have also made their mark on debut last season, made certain the services of former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud, Manjurul Islam and new pace sensation Shahadat Hossain Rajib from the 20-member pool.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar, his deputy Khaled Mashud and Aftab Ahmed are heading for title contenders Mohammad and while last year's runners-up City Club confirmed Tushar Imran, Rajin Saleh and Shahriar Nafees.

Opener Javed Omar and paceman Syed Russel will carry the Biman flag in the competition while Brothers have had a successful negotiation with Nafees

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PHOTO: AFP

South Africa's Andrew Hall jumps for joy after dismissing Scott Styris of New Zealand in the fifth and final ODI at Centurion on Sunday.

Hall checks New Zealand

Cricket

APP, Centurion

South African all-rounder Andrew Hall produced career-best figures as New Zealand failed to take advantage of a promising position in the fifth and final one-day international at Centurion Park on Sunday.

New Zealand, who were scoring better than six runs an over early in their

innings, were bowled out for 215 after being sent in.

Hall, in his first bowling stint of the series, took four for 23, while wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, playing in his 200th one-day international, equalled the South African record by holding five catches.

Boucher also threw down the stumps at the bowler's end to run out Daniel Vettori.

Nathan Astle (37) and Lou Vincent (66) put New Zealand in a strong position with a rain-interrupted second wicket stand of 75 but swing bowler Charl Langeveld took two wickets when play resumed before Hall started his destructive spell.

McMillan replaced all-rounder Andre Adams, who will not be able to bowl in the South African innings.

The match started in overcast conditions after heavy rain Saturday and a light shower early Sunday.

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before rain stopped play.

When the players returned, Astle hit two more boundaries before he was caught by Hall on the cover boundary off Langeveldt.

Hall, bowling at a brisk medium-pace and getting swing and seam movement in helpful conditions, troubled all the batsmen and his haul included the key wicket haul of Vincent, who was caught at short cover off a ball that lifted sharply as he pushed forward.

New Zealand were forced to bring in Craig McMillan, who had been named as a substitute, but he made only nine before being trapped leg before wicket by Hall.

McMillan replaced all-rounder Andre Adams, who will not be able to bowl in the South African innings.

The match started in overcast conditions after heavy rain Saturday and a light shower early Sunday.

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Sami fit for first Test

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan's fast bowler Mohammad Sami has shaken off a leg injury and been cleared to play in the first Test against England in Multan starting on November 12.

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer confirmed on Sunday that Sami would be available for the opener of the three Test series, dispelling fears that a groin problem might rule him out of the match.

The 24-year-old has taken 70 Test wickets and is certain to share the new ball with fellow paceman Shoaib Akhtar, who has returned to the Pakistan side after a 10-month absence due to fitness concerns.

"Samis is clear to play the Test, which is good for us as we will be without Abdul Razzaq," Woolmer said, referring to the experienced all-rounder who is recovering from an elbow problem and has been advised to rest for at least 10 days.

Woolmer said his participation in the remaining Tests and one-day series would be decided after the initial treatment period.

Pakistan has named a 16-man squad for the first two Tests including leg spinners Mushtaq Ahmed, Danish Kaneria and Shahid Afridi and off-spinner Arshad Khan.

Woolmer said Pakistan's preparations for the Tests were on target and that both teams could feel confident heading into the series.

Australia wallop Windies

Cricket

APP, Brisbane

Brett Lee and Nathan Bracken returned best Test figures to spearhead Australia to one of their biggest victories over the West Indies, winning the first cricket Test by 379 runs with a day to spare at the Gabba here.

The first Test starts at Multan on November 12.

Asif, who played one Test on Pakistan's tour of Australia earlier this year, bowled a superb line and swung the ball. None of the England batsmen could put up any significant resistance after Vaughan won the toss and decided to bat.

Asif's new ball partner Shahid Nazir removed opener Andrew Strauss with a sharp delivery, catching behind for five in the fifth over.

Strauss had managed five and

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threw down the stumps at the bowler's end to run out with a wicket.

England's second batting collapse, after their top order flopped in the tour opener at Rawalpindi last week, triggered alarm in the tourists' camp ahead of their three-match Test series against Pakistan.

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