



Did U Know?

FIFA was established at a meeting in Paris on May 21, 1904 by delegates from France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.



- DD Sports**
India vs Sri Lanka
First Test, Day Five
Live at 10:00 am
- ESPN**
UEFA Champions League
Chelsea vs Liverpool
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)
- STAR Sports**
UEFA Champions League
Rangers vs Internazionale
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)
- SuperSport-3**
UEFA Champions League
AC Milan vs Schalke
Live at 12:15 am (Wednesday)



Edwin Moses

(Laureus World Sports Academy chief)
"Steve (Vaughan) was a tremendous competitor at the highest level who established a team which has virtually dominated cricket for a generation, a remarkable achievement in any sport."



- National Cricket League (Four-Day) (Day Three)**
Dhaka vs Chittagong
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
- Rajshahi vs Sylhet
Venue: Bogra District Stadium
- Khulna vs Barisal
Venue: Khulna Div Stadium
- U-19 Tri-Series Cricket**
Sri Lanka vs England
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

VAUGHAN IN DOUBT Strauss coming back for ODIs

REUTERS, Lahore

Batsman Andrew Strauss will rejoin his England teammates in Pakistan on Tuesday for the five match one-day series after returning home for the birth of his son.

However captain Michael Vaughan remains doubtful after he also flew home for the birth of his second child and to consult specialists about the knee injury that kept him out of the first Test in Multan that Pakistan won by 22 runs.

Stand-in skipper Marcus Trescothick said there was still no word from Vaughan.

"I have not prepared for the captaincy and have not started thinking about it. But we will know in next few days and judge from the situation," he said.

England have kept batsman Ian Bell on standby if Vaughan is not available.

Strauss, the left handed opener, missed the third Test in Lahore which Pakistan won by an innings and 100 runs to take the Test series 2-0.

In the two Tests he played, Strauss scored nine, 23, 12 and a duck and averaged just 11 runs.

Mission retain title

SAFF champions leave for Pakistan today



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football team leaves for Pakistan today with a mission to retain the SAFF Championship trophy away from home after their glorious triumph in the regional tournament in Dhaka nearly three years ago.

The eight-team event, which will mark the debut of Afghanistan, kicks off in Karachi on Wednesday.

Although Pakistan has never been a favourite place for Bangladesh to excel in the sport, the boys of new Argentine coach Diego Cruciani are upbeat about conquering the Karachi frontier overturning the threat of Baichung Bhutia-led India.

"I think the team has taken best possible preparation within a short time. It's now time for the players to show their mettle. I believe and hope they will play their best to bring home the glory again," said country's football great Kazi Salahuddin ahead of the team's departure.

Salahuddin, who is the chairman of the National Team Management committee, also termed the two-month preparation and the participation in the four-nation invitational tournament in Myanmar in between as inspiring during a press briefing at the BFF Bhawan yesterday.

Placed in Group A along with Bhutan, Nepal and India, Bangladesh will launch their title defence against underdogs Bhutan on December 8.

Cruciani, who impressed on his first assignment in Myanmar finish-

ing second behind the hosts, was also satisfied with the preparation and said that he didn't feel any pressure with the tag of defending champions.

"I am happy with the preparation. Fitness was my main concern and I think we have achieved seventy per cent in this area. I am satisfied with the level of fitness considering the time we have had," said the

Argentine, who picked his final 20 on Friday from a list of 24 probables.

The Bangladesh national coach, who expressed his disappointment over the non-existence of videos of the previous event in the Bangladesh Football Federation archive, was however little bothered with his lack of knowledge about the opponents.

"I have no idea about the oppo-

nents but have learnt that India and Pakistan are very good sides. But I am not concerned with the opponents' strength right at the moment. I will set my strategy once we arrive in Pakistan. What I want is the best from my boys," said a confident Cruciani.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3



WE CAN DO IT AGAIN: Kazi Salahuddin (2nd from R), chairman of BFF's National Team Management Committee, briefs the press at the BFF Bhawan on Monday.

Premier Cricket League now from Dec 12

SPORTS REPORTER

The Premier Division Cricket League has been deferred by three days as the most coveted domestic competition will now start from December 12 at the six different venues across the country.

The organisers finally realised that it would be difficult for the players to shift their focus on the competition after only a day's break.

The league was scheduled to start on December 9, the day after the completion of the third round of the ongoing National Cricket League.

"We finally deferred the League due to hectic schedule and both club officials and players also expressed their disappointment over the date," said Khondokar Jamiluddin, chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM).

Jamil however was excited with the fact that national players will be able to play even in the super-six stage after postponement of the Asia Cup.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Deposed selector blasts Chappell



AFP, New Delhi

Former India player and deposed national selector Yashpal Sharma on Monday blasted coach Greg Chappell for targeting players he did not like.

"Chappell wants (Sourav) Ganguly out while (Virender) Sehwag, Harbhajan (Singh) and Zaheer (Khan) are the other targets in his mind," said Yashpal, who was ousted from the selection committee last week.

Yashpal, who reportedly pushed for former captain Ganguly in the Test team for the ongoing series against Sri Lanka, said the coach had even doubted his integrity.

"Chappell questioned my integrity and his behaviour shocked me," said Yashpal, a member of the team that won the 1983 World Cup in England.

Ganguly was earlier dropped from the one-day side due to poor

form, an elbow injury and a damaging public spat with Chappell, who termed him unfit to lead India in a leaked e-mail to the Indian cricket board.

Yashpal, Pranob Roy and Gopal Sharma were last week removed from the national selection panel after political heavyweight Sharad Pawar wrested control of the board.

They were replaced by Bhupinder Singh, Ranjib Biswal and Sanjay Jagdale, none of whom have played Test cricket.

Pawar became president of the board as his panel defeated the faction backed by former International Cricket Council (ICC) chief Jagmohan Dalmiya.

"Chappell also alleged that I was Dalmiya's man. I felt very bad because I have played with honour for my country and he has no right to question my credentials," said Yashpal.

Yashpal played 37 Tests for India during the 1970s and 1980s, scoring 1,606 runs with two centuries. He also figured in 42 one-dayers in which he aggregated 883 runs.

NFL moves to Cox's Bazar

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Brothers Union face Kacharipara Sporting Club of Jamalpur in their second round match of the Nitol-Tata National Football League (NFL) at the Cox's Bazar Stadium today.

Samabesh Club of Munshiganj will meet Town Club of Khulna in the second match at the same venue on Wednesday while Mohammedan Sporting Club will take their Rangamat namesake the next day.

The big match between giants Muktijoddha Krira Chakra and Abahani will take place on Friday.

After completion of the round, the remaining second round matches will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from next Sunday.

Muktijoddha stay on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad maintained their solo lead in the Dutch-Bangla Bank First Division Chess League after the end of the ninth round at the federation hall room yesterday.

Title aspirants Muktijoddha beat Narayanang City Chess Club 3.5-0.5 to extend their tally to 30.5 points.

On the other hand defending champions Leonine Chess Club and Bangladesh Biman narrowed the gap with the leader as both secured a 4-0 victory over their respective rivals in the ninth round boards. They secured 30 points each.

Leonine beat Dolphin Chess Club and Biman beat Faith Chess Club.

In the day's other matches, Destiny 2000 beat Mohakhali PS 3-1, BJMC beat Farashganj 2.5-1.5, Titas Club beat Shahid Mufi Kashed Daba Dal 4-0, Sonali Bank beat Anushillan DKC 2.5-1.5 and Friends Chess Power beat Dhaka University Chess Team 3.5-0.5.

India remain unchanged

REUTERS, Chennai

Indian selectors on Monday retained the 15-player squad chosen for the rain-hit first Test against Sri Lanka for the second match in Delhi.

The second game in the three-Test series starts on Saturday.

SQUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Vangipurappu Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Sourav Ganguly, Moha-mmad Kaif, Mahendra Dhoni, Anil Kumble, Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Ajit Agarkar, Rudra Pratap Singh, Murali Kartik, Gautam Gambhir.

Riyad stops the slide



SPORTS REPORTER

Young batsman Mahmudullah Riyad kept his nerve to salvage Dhaka from total embarrassment against Chittagong on the second day of the four-day National Cricket League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Riyad struck an unbeaten 62 after star-studded Dhaka stumbled to 75-4 chasing an impressive Chittagong first innings total of 377. The hosts and defending champions finished the day on 190-5.

At the Khulna Divisional Stadium, whipping boys Barisal were also in trouble chasing Habibul Bashar's men's mammoth 379. The tourists finished the day on 167-5 in 70 overs.

In Bogra, opener Moniruzzaman hit 86 to help Sylhet score 232-6 by stumps in reply to Rajshahi's 242 at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium.

DHAKA-CHITTAGONG Dhaka without their inform opener Javed Omar, who almost single-handedly drove his side to victories in the previous two rounds, were

heading to concede a first-innings lead if not getting the bitter taste of a defeat. Javed was rested due to back pain.

Pacer Rashed Khan started the Dhaka rot when he clean bowled former national opener Mehrab Hossain for a duck after Chittagong added 33 runs to their overnight score of 334-6.

Dhaka lost two quick wickets after the lunch break with Al-Shahriar (10) and Mosharrar Hossain (6) back to the dressing room, leaving the hosts at 3-51.

Chittagong served a decisive blow in Dhaka's recovery effort when spinner Yasin Arafat trapped Mohammad Ashraf ul Bw just after the Tea break.

Ashraf continued his bad-patch in the tournament with 60-ball 33. Riyad (62) and wicketkeeper Sajjad Kadir (23) however gave Dhaka some respectability putting on 78 runs for the unbroken sixth wicket.

Yasin was most successful Chittagong bowler with 2-49.

Earlier, Faisal Hossain fell nine runs short to his hundred as Chittagong lost their last four wickets in the first hour of the morning session.

Left-hander Faisal, starting on 77, made 91 off 175 balls with eight

fours and a six.

Mohammad Rafique took another scalp yesterday to finish with 4-72.

KHULNA-BARISAL

Spinner Jamaluddin claimed four wickets for 40 runs as Barisal suffered a stunning middle-order collapse after a solid start.

Imran Ahmed and captain Shahriar Nafees produced 90 runs for the first wicket to give the visitors a perfect start in reply to Khulna's mammoth 379.

But once national opener Nafees, who hammered 81-ball 64, was dismissed Barisal lost their way.

Imran scored a fighting 41 from 154 balls.

Earlier, Khulna added 74 runs to the overnight score of 305-8.

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

Moniruzzaman and Imtiaz Hossain put on 66 runs for the opening stand and then some small but effective knocks in the middle took Sylhet close to Rajshahi's first innings total.

Moniruzzaman smote nine boundaries in his 142-ball 86 while

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Play finally at Chepauk



AFP, Chennai

Sachin Tendulkar was handed a chance to score a world-record 35th century as play finally began in the rain-ravaged first Test between India and Sri Lanka here on Monday.

The Test began after tea on the fourth day after the first three days were abandoned without a ball being bowled due to incessant rains caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal.

India defied a wicket of low bounce to score 90-2 in the 32.3 overs possible in the day after captain Rahul Dravid won the toss and elected to take first strike at the

Chepauk. Tendulkar, level with fellow-Indian Sunil Gavaskar's world record of 34 Test centuries, plodded for 90 minutes to remain unbeaten on 11 when bad light stopped play early.

If the rains stay away on the final day on Tuesday -- the forecast is for light showers -- Tendulkar will get the opportunity to go for the record on his favourite hunting ground where he has scored four centuries in six previous Tests.

Dravid was the other batsman at the crease on 30, having put on 45 for the unbroken third wicket with Tendulkar after Sri Lankan seamer Chaminda Vaas grabbed two quick wickets.

Vaas clean bowled Gautam Gambhir in his second over and

then ended Virender Sehwag's swashbuckling stay at the crease through a catch by captain Marvan Atapattu.

Sehwag lit up the dreary day with seven boundaries in his 36 off 28 balls when Atapattu leapt in the air to hold a lofted drive in the covers.

With a result unlikely in the match, both teams will use the final day's play to gain useful practice ahead of the remaining two Tests in Sri Lanka's first Test tour of India in eight years.

"Wish we had got a full match, it would have been very interesting," said Sehwag.

"The wicket is keeping very low because the ground staff did not get enough time to roll it. The ball is

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



India captain Rahul Dravid goes on the defensive during the fourth day's play of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Chepauk in Chennai on Monday.

A new lease of life



AFP, Lahore

Rejuvenated Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar Monday hailed former fast bowling great Imran Khan as the inspiration behind his success against England in the recent Test series.

"I always take inspiration from Imran and before the series he told me that only match-winning performance can help me silence my critics," said Akhtar, whose 17 wickets played a key role in Pakistan's 2-0 series win over England.

Imran, who played 82 Tests as an all-rounder before retiring in 1992, is also widely regarded as the mentor for retired pace duo Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis.

Akhtar said Imran's words inspired him to show his best against England.

"I was very skeptical but Imran inspired me and told me that I can make the difference in the series. He told me that I should play my part," said Akhtar, who had not played for Pakistan since January

this year because of injury.

Imran had also criticised the Pakistan Cricket Board for holding a medical inquiry into Akhtar, who was accused of feigning injury after his team's defeat against India last year.

"In my tough times, Imran backed me and I owe a lot to him," said Akhtar, who was cleared of all the charges but was criticised for his lack of commitment.

The enigmatic 30-year-old paceman, under pressure to prove

his mettle against England, capped a remarkable comeback with 5-71 to help Pakistan win the third and final Test by an innings and 100 runs on Saturday.

Akhtar said captain Inzamam-ul-Haq also gave him much-needed confidence.

"He (Inzamam) made my heart bigger. It all boils down to confidence of the captain and coach and both Inzamam and Woolmer encouraged me a lot," said Akhtar, who had a love-hate relationship with his coach.

"Inzamam was positive and told everyone we will win. The way Inzamam batted in the series encouraged others to give their best," said Akhtar, described by England captain Michael Vaughan as the "man difference" between the two teams.

"He (Akhtar) was a surprise. His consistency and discipline to bowl at 90-plus speed with the variation of a mystery slow ball was the difference between the two teams," Vaughan had said after the final Test.

Woolmer described Akhtar as an "asset".

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Davis Cup glory for Croatia



REUTERS/AFP, Bratislava

Croatia lifted the Davis Cup for the first time on Sunday when Mario Ancic beat Slovakia's Michal Mertinak 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 to clinch a 3-2 victory in a rollercoaster final.

Ancic delivered the victory on his second match point, sparking wild celebrations on the court and in the packed Sibamac Arena where chanting Croatian fans went berserk, lighting red flares and unfurling huge flags.

"The Davis Cup is one of the greatest competitions in the world and I'm so proud that my team is number one in 2005," said captain Niki Pilic, who is the first captain to win the Davis Cup with two different nations having triumphed three times in charge of Germany.

The 21-year-old Ancic chose the perfect time to win his first live singles rubber of the year, rescuing his country's hopes after Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty earlier beat Ivan Ljubicic in a five-set thriller to make it 2-2.

Ljubicic, who woke up with a stiff neck and was sick during his 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 defeat, fell one win short of matching John McEnroe's 1982 feat of 12 straight wins in a Davis Cup year, although the team's debt to him is huge.

At least he could still celebrate along with the hundreds of Croatian fans and former Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic, the fourth member of the team,

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8



JOY KNOWS NO BOUND: Croatians Mario Ancic (L) Ivan Ljubicic are over the moon after winning the Davis Cup in Bratislava on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP