



Did U Know?

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming scored 262 runs from 423 balls in the first innings of the second Test against South Africa at Newlands on April 26. It was his third double century, first against South Africa.



ESPN
South Africa v New Zealand
2nd Test, Day Five
Live at 2:00 pm
STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
West Bromwich vs West Ham
Live at 12:55 am (Tuesday)



Wasim Akram

(Pakistan cricket great)
"Inzamamul Haq will not move from his chair. He will be sitting there for two weeks. What will Jonty do?"

While commenting on the appointment of Jonty Rhodes as Pakistan's fielding coach for two weeks.

Harbhajan on Greg's side

CRICINFO, undated

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has said that his relationship with Greg Chappell has improved considerably and has acknowledged the coach's role in India's recent success.

During the hyped public spat between Chappell and Sourav
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Dream come true: Mahbub

We should ask for the opener or final: Saber



SPORTS REPORTER

In whatever sport, hosting the World Cup is a dream opportunity for any country. People of Bangladesh will get to experience that dream as Bangladesh are going to be the co-hosts of the cricket World Cup 2011 after Asia won the right to host the event on Sunday.

Four subcontinent cricketing nations -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- made a joint bid and they won it by beating Australia and New Zealand by 10 votes to three in an International Cricket Council's (ICC) executive committee meeting in Dubai, the headquarters of the game's governing body.

For the other three countries in the region hosting the World Cup might not be anything new as they had co-hosted cricket's biggest extravaganza in 1996, but there is every reason for the sports loving community in Bangladesh to be delighted and excited with the news.

Bangladesh had previously had a bright record of hosting the nine-nation Mini World Cup, the Asia Cup and the Under 19 World Cup, but this will mark a whole new dawn in terms of event management.

"It's simply a dream come true. It's a milestone in our sports history because nothing is comparable with a big event

like a World Cup," said an excited Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Mahbubul Anam over the telephone.

"It's also a challenge for us but we want to surprise everybody. We have the ability to make a big event successful which we have already proved by hosting the Mini World Cup (now the Champions Trophy), Asia Cup and the Under 19 World Cup," said the bearded organiser, adding that Bangladesh would also host the 2014 Champions Trophy again.

Mahbub also informed that Bangladesh would get six matches in the meet, all of which will be held at one venue.

"We will host three first round matches involving Bangladesh and then three second round matches. All the matches will be held at the Mirpur Stadium. As per negotiations, in total 15 venues will be used for the tournament. India have eight, Pakistan four, Sri Lanka two and Bangladesh one," he said.

Former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury was also excited with the news and emphasised on the importance of hosting either the opening or final match in the country.

"No doubt, it's an outstanding achievement in our sports history and a recognition and tribute to our cricket," said an excited Saber, who had led the country to gaining Test status in 2000.

"During our time we had first

raised the issue in an ACC (Asian Cricket Council) meeting in 1999 or 2000 and we had desired to host either the opening or the final match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium and no one opposed our proposal."

"So, I think we can still negotiate this and it's not impossible. Our organisers should try to be successful," he added.

Understandably, joy knew no bounds for the cricketers alike when they learnt the news that Bangladesh were going to host the World Cup.

"I feel really proud as a player but I think it's a great achievement for the whole nation. I will not be member of the team but I will definitely be waiting for the moment," said Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar.

"Once it was our dream to play in the World Cup and now we are going to play in the biggest event on our own soil, I can't explain what a great feeling it is. Many might raise their eyebrows but I am confident that by that time Bangladesh would be a team to be counted in the event," he added.

For a young cricketer like Mehrab Hossain junior it brought a different feeling altogether as he stands a bright chance to be a part of the team at that time.

"For the whole day I was waiting for this news. I can't express my emotion right at the moment, but it's really something special for our generation," said the Under-19 all-rounder.

NAT'L SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Achmita reach zonal final

SPORTS REPORTER

Achmita George Institute reached the Mymensingh zone final when they defeated Hironpur High School by 3-2 margin in the bangalink tiger trophy National School Football tournament at the Mymensingh District Stadium yesterday.

In the other match at the same venue, Motijheel Boys High School beat Nazrul Academy by two goals to nil.

Away at the Patuakhali District Stadium, Kathalia Pilot School and Labukhali Habibullah School reached the final of the Patuakhali zonal finals. Both teams won their matches on the day as Kathalia beat Tajmuddin Chandpur Madrasa by margin of 2-0. Labukhali won big against Kashipur, as they won 4-1.

StanChart Nat'l School Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sourav Smriti High School won a thriller against National Bangla High School by just one run to move into the Dhaka Metro semifinals of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket tournament yesterday.

National Bank High restricted Sourav Smriti to 170, as Zakir took 5 for 32. In reply, National Bank were bowled out for 169, with Nazmul also grabbing five wickets for the winners.

Abhishek propelled BKSP with a blazing century to a massive 137-run victory over Residential Model School at the City Club ground. Abhishek hammered 21 boundaries and one six in his 114-ball knock as BKSP amassed 316 for 8 in 50 overs. Residential Model were bowled out for 179. Forkan and Anjum were among the wickets again, as they shared seven wickets among them.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, Mirpur Government High School recorded a convincing 76-run win over Karail Nurul Haq High School.

Arif bags 5

SPORTS REPORTER

Arif Hossain helped Maroon to a 96-run first innings lead against Navy Blue on the second day in the BCB BRAC Bank Academy Cup tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla cricket stadium at Mirpur yesterday.

The leg-spinner took five for 32 to dismiss Navy Blue to 163 runs in the first innings. Ziaur Rahman also took two wickets.

Opener Amit Majumder was the only batsman from Navy Blue to show some sort of resistance with a sedate 36. Earlier, Maroon were bowled out for 259 in their first innings.

At the end of the day, Maroon were 22 for 1.

Amla, Kallis' milestones



AFP, Cape Town

Hashim Amla hit a maiden Test century as South Africa made virtually certain of earning a draw on the fourth day of the second Test against New Zealand at Newlands Sunday.

Amla made 149 as South Africa reached 427 for five at the close of play in reply to New Zealand's first innings total of 593 for eight declared.

South Africa, who lead the three-match series 1-0, lost only three wickets Sunday to make a draw the only likely result with one day left to play on a batsman-friendly pitch which has yielded 1020 runs for the loss of only 13 wickets in four days.

Amla, 23, was playing in his fourth Test.

A tall right-hander and a Muslim with special dispensation not to wear the logo of the beer company that sponsors the South African team, he played a chanceless innings.

He reached his century shortly before lunch when he drove left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori through the covers for his 12th boundary. He had batted for 306 minutes and faced 242 balls.

Amla, playing in place of the dropped Herschelle Gibbs, batted on through most of the afternoon before Daniel Vettori won a leg before wicket decision when Amla stretched forward to a ball which straightened.

His innings lasted 408 minutes

and 317 balls. He hit 20 boundaries, driving fluently on the off-side and playing some wristy strokes to leg.

After playing in three Tests during the 2004-05 season, with a highest score of 25, Amla was recalled to the South African team after topping the run-scorers in the domestic first-class competition.

Jacques Kallis became the first South African and 17th player in history to score 8000 Test runs before he was dismissed for 71.

Kallis reached the 8000 mark when he was on 60. He was looking set for a big score before he played a cramped pull against medium-pacer Jacob Oram and spooned a catch to Chris Martin at mid-on.

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South Africa batsman Hashim Amla (R) drives the ball towards the cover boundary as New Zealand wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum looks on during the third day of the second Test at Newlands on Sunday.

WI struggle to victory



AFP, St. John's

West Indies made a mountain out of a molehill before prevailing by five wickets in the opening one-day international against Zimbabwe on Saturday at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

Chasing a modest target of 152 from 50 overs, West Indies lost five wickets before they achieved victory in the 39th over.

New West Indies captain Brian Lara had the privilege of hitting the winning runs, when he lofted a delivery from Ryan Higgins over wide long on for a six to give his side a 1-0 lead in the seven-match series.

Lara's unbeaten 40 from 43 balls that contained three fours and one six

was the top score for the home team. Prosper Utseya was the most successful Zimbabwe bowler with three wickets for 35 runs from his allotment of 10 overs.

Sent in to bat on a helpful pitch, Zimbabwe had been restricted to 151 for nine from their allocation of 50 overs. Justice Chibhabha scored 55 from 99 balls and featured in a vital stand of 64 for the second wicket with captain Terrence Duffin, who scored 26.

Four West Indies bowlers -- Taylor, Bravo, Smith and Gayle -- collected two wickets apiece.

West Indies suffered an early casualty, when Runako Morton, opening the batting, was caught at second slip for a duck off the last ball of the first over bowled by Edward Rainsford.

Opening batsman Chris Gayle was out for 35 off Prosper, and fellow left-

hander and former captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul was caught behind top-edging a cut at a delivery from Prosper to leave West Indies 77 for four.

The series continues on Sunday when the two teams contest the second match at the same venue before heading to Georgetown for back-to-back matches on May 6 and 7.

They will play the first limited-overs international under lights in the Caribbean at Gros Islet's Beausejour Stadium on May 10 before the series ends in Port of Spain on May 13 and 14.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between West Indies and Zimbabwe at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Saturday
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BITS AND BOBS

Crooked stars leave England sweating

REUTERS, London

England's World Cup attacking options were in disarray on Sunday with Wayne Rooney in danger of

missing the whole tournament after suffering a foot fracture and Michael Owen struggling to recover from a similar injury.

Rooney broke a bone in his right foot at Chelsea on Saturday and the gifted 20-year-old's club Manchester United said he would be out for six

weeks.

His strike partner Owen, who also broke a bone in his right foot in December, said he felt uncomfortable after making a 30-minute comeback for Newcastle United on Saturday.

The general consensus among pundits speaking to the British media on Sunday was that without Rooney, England's chances of World Cup victory were greatly reduced.

Without both players they were slimmer still.

"It's depressingly sad. Without Rooney, I think we have gone from possible World Cup winners to outsiders," former England manager Bobby Robson told BBC radio.

"We can't replace Rooney, I don't think there's another player like him in the country... there's hardly another player like him in Europe," added Robson, who steered England to the 1990 World Cup semifinals in Italy.

"The people who win World Cups are individuals, your top individuals." Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard also added his voice to the fray.

"It would be a disaster for England if we had to go to the World Cup finals without Wayne. He is idolised around the country and is our main man."

"I think it is impossible to have a successful World Cup without Wayne."

Trophy ends tour

REUTERS, Riyadh

The World Cup trophy ended its first global tour on Saturday with a public display in a Saudi Arabian shopping mall ahead of this year's
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PHOTO: AFP

The 2006 FIFA World Cup trophy is presented to the public in Riyadh on Saturday. This was the trophy's last stop in its tour of the world prior to the World Cup in Germany.

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