



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.

What to WATCH

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)

TALK TURKEY



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

CRICKINFO, 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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FIFA WORLD CUP GERMANY 2006

BITS AND BOBS

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.

PHOTO: AFP

Dream come true: Mahbub

We should ask for the opener or final: Saber

Cricket

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 2014 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

"During our time we had first

Lara calls for better show

AFP, St. John's

Brian Lara began his third spell in charge of the West Indies by hitting the winning six to beat Zimbabwe on Saturday but called for a drastic improvement from his team.

"It was a reasonable result," said Lara who led his team past Zimbabwe's modest total of 151.

Lara indicated he wanted to win the match in a much more authoritative fashion, and for the remainder of the seven-match series his side will have to get better.

"The new ball bowlers have to get more wickets early," said Lara who scored an unbeaten 40.

"I don't think it was as comfortable as it looked. Zimbabwe must be commended for fighting."

For Zimbabwe, they had the privilege of producing the top scorer and the most successful bowler in the match.

"We'll take a lot of positives out of this match," Zimbabwe captain Terrence Duffin said.

"Where we went wrong in the batting was that we lost too many wickets at one stage."

West Indies will be going for a 2-0 lead in the series, when the two sides contest the second match on Sunday at the same venue.

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Crocked stars leave England sweating

REUTERS, London

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

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Warne must decide soon

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Spin wizard Shane Warne needs to make a decision quickly if he plans to return to one-day cricket in time for next year's World Cup, Australian captain Ricky Ponting said on Sunday.

Warne, who retired from the short form of the game to concentrate on Tests, would always be welcome in the one-day team, Ponting told reporters as he arrived in Sydney after a tour of Bangladesh.

But Ponting also predicted that off-spinner Daniel Cullen, who made his debut in Bangladesh, would have a long international career.

"Dan bowled beautifully, but he probably didn't bowl as much as I would have liked in the Test match that he played," Ponting said.

"He had to work really hard in the one-dayers to get his first wicket and didn't get his first wicket until his

second spell in the third one-dayer.

"But he's going to be a good bowler for Australia for a long period of time, there's no doubt."

Cullen is now second in line in the spin department for one-day games behind Brad Hogg, although that could change if Warne decides to return.

The record-breaking spinner, who retired from limited-overs cricket with the aim of prolonging his Test career, indicated earlier this year that he was tempted by next year's World Cup in the Caribbean.

"It would be nice I suppose to play in the World Cup, but it depends on what I want to do with my Test future," said Warne, who turns 37 in September.

"At the moment I'm retired (from one-day cricket) and I think my Test cricket's proven to be as good as it's ever been, so that means I can't play one-day cricket any more and it will extend my Test career then maybe that's the way it has to stay. But you never say never."

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

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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.

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Cricket

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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PHOTO: AFP

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.

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