



Did U Know?

England's John Briggs in his 25th Test became the first bowler to reach the landmark of 100 wickets.



Shahriar Nafees

(Bangladesh cricket vice-captain) "For me the ultimate (challenge) is Test cricket but there are no Test matches in 14 months for Bangladesh, which is very unfortunate for Bangladesh cricket as well as its cricketers."



ESPN

Australia v England
Third Ashes Test, Day Four
Live at 8:15 am
FIFA Club World Cup Final
Internacional v Barcelona
Live at 4:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Everton v Chelsea
Live at 7:40 pm
West Ham v Man United
Live at 9:55 pm
STAR Sports
South Africa v India
First Test, Day Three
Live at 2:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Man City v Tottenham
Live at 10:00 pm
New Zealand v Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day Four
Live at 3:30 am (Monday)

Duncan hoping against hope!

BBC ONLINE, undated

Coach Duncan Fletcher is still hoping that England can attain the mammoth 557 needed to win the third Ashes Test.

Australia have set England the task of achieving the highest-ever run chase but Fletcher feels his side can reach the total and keep the Ashes alive.

"It's an incredible challenge that we have to undertake," he said.

"But at the end of the day sometimes you're there to make some history -- the first four batters have got to bat well and see how it goes from there."

Australia took control of the third Test on Day Three -- Adam Gilchrist leading the way with the second fastest Test century -- but Fletcher said he was not unhappy with England's performance.

"I thought the bowlers bowled very well in the first two sessions," he said.

"But then you get a guy like Gilchrist who comes out and just takes it away from you."

"The game got difficult for us in that last session when Gilchrist went out and batted magnificently."

Even though England are staring at a third straight Ashes defeat, Fletcher backed captain Andrew Flintoff to rally his side. It might be better for English cricket in the long term if we were thumped 5-0.

"It's difficult at any time captaining an international side in a situation like this," said the England coach.

"It's very difficult for him but he's still up for it. He's still got a smile on his face."

"We realised that at times it could be pretty tough out here and you accept that when you take the job as captain of England."

Tigers eye winning end



SPORTS REPORTER

Fresh from a six-wicket rout of Scotland, Bangladesh go into the second and final one-day match today in a bid to finish this year in style at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

The match commences at 9am and the good news for the fans is that state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast the match live from the big bowl after the first match blackout at Chittagong on Friday.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar rated his team's performance in this calendar year as a significant improvement and he was looking forward to stretching their winning tally to 18 games, eight in a row.

"I think we are going to finish a very significant year tomorrow (Sunday) because there were many achievements this year. I repeatedly told my boys not to take any team or match lightly and we will not show any mercy to our opponents in the second game as well," said a delighted Tigers skipper after training at the venue yesterday.

There was a valid reason for the home team captain to bring this year's performance to the spotlight as they so far won 17 matches in 27 games, eleven at home besides six away successes, and it would be worth mentioning that before this, Bangladesh won 10 out of 115 games.

"Many might think that we played too many matches against the weaker opponents but winning is always important. We at least set our standard against those opponents which was very important," Bashar defended when asked about whether their engagement with the lowly opponents enabled them to improve their winning graph.

The Tigers achieved their first victory in this year against Sri Lanka at Bogra in February and then won

eight games against Zimbabwe, seven against Kenya besides the last one against ICC associate member Scotland.

The 33-year-old Bangladesh captain showered praise on his deputy Shahriar Nafees and leading paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortuza, both achieving milestones during the first match against Scotland, to

set a standard in the team.

The 'Narail Express' is now just three wickets shy from a haul of 50 wickets in a calendar year.

"I think Nafees is a poster of Bangladesh cricket in the international arena. It was not a joke to score one thousand runs in a calendar year with three hundreds and the way he batted simply was exem-

plary. On the other hand Mashrafe delighted the country after becoming the highest wicket-taker of the world in this year," he observed.

"I was really delighted when match referee Mike Procter expressed his joy over Bangladesh's recent success after the first match and he said that he will not be surprised if we pull off

Bangladesh Television will telecast today's second one-day international between Bangladesh and Scotland live from 9:00am.

anything special in next year's World Cup. I think it was a great compliment from the South African legend," informed Bashar.

He said that his boys were hungry to do something even against a team like Scotland that impressed him most in recent time.

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Javed back in business



SPORTS REPORTER

Forgotten man Javed Omar turned back the clock as he scored a hundred to put Bangladesh A on top on the second day of the four-day match against visiting Zimbabwe A at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

At stumps, the hosts were just five runs away from the tourists' total of 293 all out, scoring 288 for 3 in 78 overs.

Javed, who was dropped from the one-day national fold last September, remained unbeaten on 133 runs off 228 balls, hitting 21 boundaries. He was well supported by his opening partner Jahurul Islam (59) and Marshall Ayub (53 not out) as Bangladesh A dominated the match.

Earlier at the Narayanganj ground, Zimbabwe lost six wickets

in only 9 overs, being all out for 291 runs in 96.3 overs. Paceman Mohammad Shahjada was the wrecker-in-chief, taking five for 45 while fellow seamer Mohammad Sharif took the final wicket of Chris Mpofu.

Tourists skipper Stuart Matsikenyeri added five runs to his overnight score of 68 before falling to Sharif who took three wickets.

BRIEF SCORES
ZIMBABWE A: First Innings: 291 all out in 96.3 overs (Mawoyo 16, Hove 23, Chibhaba 36, Williams 82, Matsikenyeri 73, Chigumbura 39, Dabengwa 3, Higgins 4, Garwe 1 not out, Cremer 0, Mpofu 0; Shahjada 5-45, Enamul 2-100, Sharif 3-43)
BANGLADESH A: First Innings: 288 for three in 78 overs (Javed 133 not out, Jahurul 59, Rajin 10, Tushar 7, Marshall 53 not out; Mpofu 1-50, Garwe 1-72, Chigumbura 1-27)

Victory Day match held

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudullah Riyad of Shaheed Mushtaque XI played a captain's innings, propelling his side to a three-wicket win over Shaheed Jewel XI in the Victory Day exhibition match here at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Right-handed batsman Riyad struck 66 runs and took his side out of a rot while they chased 188 runs set by Shaheed Jewel XI who chose to bat first. Riyad's side reached the target in 33.5 overs, losing seven wickets.

Suharwardi Shuvo who scored 30 while wicketkeeper-batsman Dhiman Ghosh chipped in with 25 aided him.

But it was tail-enders Ishraq Sonnet and Mosharraf Hossain who managed to take their side through, sharing a 15-run stand in the end. The match drew little crowd even though it was a holiday but lack of star players, most of whom were busy, contributed to the low turn-out at the Dhanmondi ground.

Earlier, Shaheed Jewel XI rode

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Inzamam to stay skipper

PTI, Karachi

Inzamamul Haq was expected to be retained as captain when the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Ad-Hoc committee meets tomorrow to announce the captain, manager and a media manager for the tour as well as the World Cup.

Sources said the committee was expected to repose faith in Inzamam although they were question marks about his fitness and form in the home series against the West Indies.

"The PCB is very clear that if he is playing in the team than he has to be the captain. It is as simple as that," one official said.

However they are question marks on who will be named manager as sources said Talat Ali who went to the Champions Trophy might be replaced by a new face.



ONLY THREE MORE: Bangladesh paceman Mashrafe-Bin Mortuza (L) shares a light moment with fellow seamer Syed Rasel during a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Saturday.

Pakistan win in style



AFP, Karachi

Openers Mohammad Hafeez and Kamran Akmal hit half-centuries to power Pakistan to a comfortable seven-wicket win in the fifth and final one-day international against the West Indies here on Saturday to take the series 3-1.

Hafeez scored a career-best 92 while Akmal made 56 as the home team successfully chased the 239-run target with 3.1 overs to spare at the National stadium.

Shivnarine Chanderepaul hit 101 to help the tourists post 238-7 in 50 overs.

Pakistan, who won the second match at Faisalabad by two wickets and the third in Lahore by seven wickets, raced to 87 by the 17th over, with Akmal severe on the West Indian bowlers.

The 24-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman took 15 off one Daren Powell over, with two fours and a six, and then ten off Corey Collymore. He reached his fifty off just 47 balls.

Akmal holed out to Collymore in the 17th over but Yasir Hameed joined Hafeez and ensured that Pakistan remained on course for a victory with an 89-run second-wicket stand. Hameed gave a catch in the deep off Chris Gayle.

Hafeez and Shoaib Malik (34 not out) added another 48 runs.

Hafeez, whose previous best of 69 was against England at Old Trafford in 2003, hit five fours and two sixes during his 111-ball knock,

before falling leg-before to Dave Mohammed when the win was just 15 runs away.

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq was delighted with the series win.

"The credit goes to the players and they did very well to help us achieve the series win. It would help boost our confidence ahead of the South Africa tour and the World Cup next year," said Inzamam.

West Indian captain Brian Lara praised his young team for their good performance over the past three months.

"We have lost the series to a better team and Inzamam and his boys deserve the credit but I am proud of the boys, who did well on a long three-month tour in which we finished second in two tournaments," said Lara.

The West Indian total was built around a solid 142-ball knock by Chanderepaul, who added 96 runs for the fourth wicket with Lara (44) before paceman Navedul Hasan halted their progress with 4-43.

Chanderepaul helped the tourists recover from the early loss of opener Chris Gayle, who was trapped leg-before by Naved for nine.

Chanderepaul, who missed the second and third matches due to a knee injury, batted with a runner in the latter stages of his innings before completing his fourth one-day century.

A catch in the deep ended his innings, which had boosted the tourists' chances of a series-leveling win.

Chanderepaul put on 34 for the second wicket with Lendl Simmons (21) and another 51 for the third wicket with Marlon Samuels (22) before bolstering the innings in the company of his captain.

Lara, while on 25, became the fifth batsman in one-day international cricket to score 10,000 or more runs. He achieved the milestone in his 287th match.

Lara's 55-ball knock was ended when he was bowled by Naved in the 44th over. Naved also dismissed Dwayne Smith (one) to finish with three wickets in his last four overs.

Pakistan were boosted by the return of Inzamam, Mohammad Yousuf, Umar Gul and Abdul Rehman as they made four changes from their line-up for the fourth match. The tourists brought in paceman Collymore in place of Ian Bradshaw.

The West Indies won the fourth match of the series by seven wickets. The first match was cancelled due to rain.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between Pakistan and the West Indies at the National Stadium in Karachi on Saturday:

WEST INDIES	
Gayle lbw b Naved	7
Chanderepaul c Hameed b Naved	101
Simmons b Sami	21
Samuels st Akmal b Rehman	22
Lara b Naved	44
Ramdin c and b Rehman	3
Morton not out	14

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INDIAN HEROES: Comeback man Sourav Ganguly (L) shapes to play a shot during his fighting 51 not out in the first innings while fast bowler S Sreesanth celebrates his wicket of South African batsman Jacques Kallis during the second day of the first Test at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Saturday.



PHOTO: AFP

Sreesanth fells Proteas

Sourav shines on return



AFP, Johannesburg

Indian opening bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth claimed his first Test five-wicket haul as South Africa crashed to 84 all out on the second day of the first Test at the Wanderers Stadium Saturday.

Replying to a modest Indian total of 249, South Africa were bowled out shortly before the tea break to give India a first innings lead of 165.

Sreesanth, 23, took five for 40 with a fine display of attacking

seam and swing bowling.

Sreesanth, playing in his sixth Test, at one stage had five for 19 after dismissing five of the first seven batsmen.

It was the lowest total made by South Africa in any Test since the country was re-admitted to the International Cricket Council in 1991.

It was a dramatic change of fortune after South Africa had appeared on target to take control of the match on a pitch which offered bounce and some movement to the fast bowlers.

But the Indians used the conditions better as they sent the home

side tumbling and gave themselves the chance to become the first Indian team to win a Test match in South Africa.

Whereas the South Africans peppered the Indian batsmen with short-pitched bowling, Sreesanth and new ball partner Zaheer Khan bowled a fuller length and made the batsmen play at more deliveries.

South Africa's first three wickets fell with the total on five.

Captain Graeme Smith was out leg before to Sreesanth for five and Herschelle Gibbs was out without scoring in the next over when he edged a drive off Khan to

backward point.

Hashim Amla was also out for nought, edging an out-swing from Sreesanth to VVS Laxman at second slip.

Jacques Kallis survived a close appeal for leg before by Khan before relieving the pressure slightly by hitting two boundaries in the same over. But Kallis was out soon after lunch for 12 when he edged Sreesanth to provide Laxman with a second catch.

Left-hander Ashwell Prince, who top-scored with 24, staged a brief fightback as he and Andre Nel put on 39 for the eighth wicket

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World Cup safe from malaria in Jamaica

AFP, Kingston

A senior officer in the Jamaican ministry of health said the Jamaican leg of the ICC World Cup Cricket would not be affected by the malaria outbreak in the Caribbean island.

Dr Marion Bullock-Ducasse, of the Ministry of Health, told the Jamaica Observer newspaper, "In terms of the control measures that we have outlined, we do anticipate that the situation will be controlled long before that."

Dr Bullock-Ducasse also chairs the International Cricket Council

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Malaysian high commissioner HA Dato Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Aziz (3rd from right) releases balloons to inaugurate the AKTEL Victory Day Golf Tournament at the Bhatiari Golf Club in Chittagong on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR