



Did U Know?

Most popular player profiles on australianopen.com during Australian Open 2006 were Martina Hingis and Marcos Baghdatis.



Ian Botham
(England cricket legend)
"Chris Read's treatment has been scandalous. I've started calling him Lord Lucan because he has disappeared off the radar inexplicably."
His forthright opinion on England's permanent one-day reserve.

What to WATCH

ESPN

Australia v New Zealand
First ODI, Chappell-Hadlee Trophy
Live at 6:58 am
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30 pm

Dreams shattered, dreams realised

TIGERCRIKET.COM, undated

Contrasting emotions. On one side you see elation, the other side of the coin demonstrates bitter disappointment. That's what the World Cup squad means to them.

For Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim, Javed Omar, Rajin Saleh, Tapash Baishya and Syed Rasel this is the time to ride on cloud nine. On the other hand Khaled Mashud, Tushar Imran, Mehrab Hossain (Jr.) and Mohammad Sharif cannot be faulted for feeling that they have been served a raw deal. After all this is what selection or non-selection does to all of us.

The most astounding omission in the 15-member squad for the West Indies was that of veteran wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud. His dreams of playing in a third straight World Cup was shot down when Mushfiqur Rahim was picked as the specialist wicketkeeper.

We have carried part of this story of tigercricket.com on Thursday in the sports page under a different headline. We feel that we should publish the entire story along with its original title.

Mashud was difficult to reach on Tuesday. He had heard from Tigers coach Dav Whatmore about his fate just seconds before the team was officially announced and understandably preferred not to entertain the barrage of phone calls seeking his reaction.

He however told Bangla daily Amar Desh that the news came out of the blue.

"I never thought this would happen," said Mashud who was then greeted with the obvious supplementary question related to future plans and retirement.

"Right now I am not thinking in that line at all and not reassessing my future also," said the 30-year-old.

Tushar Imran was more forthright about what he thought regarding the views of the selectors that he has been given enough opportunities

"I agree that they gave me chances but those games were mostly against Australia and England in England. In the last series (in Zimbabwe) I got one match and was out first ball. But I went to the crease at number seven which is not my position."

"They (the selectors) did not want me in the team. I think it

SEE PAGE 22 COL 8

Rajshahi well placed

SPORTS REPORTER



Anisur Rahman Sanchay consolidated table toppers Rajshahi's position in the sixth round match of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League with a century against Chittagong yesterday.

Anisur scored 103 to repair the early damage as Rajshahi, struggling at 50-3 after being put into bat at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, reached 300 before being bundled out in their first innings on the second day. The visitors were 23-3 at stumps.

The first day's play was washed out at all three venues as the first-class competition resumed after more than two months.

Sylhet hit back at the Fatullah Stadium after being bowled out for 170, sending five Barisal batsmen back to the pavilion with 93 runs on board.

At Khulna, the hosts crawled to 104 for four against Dhaka after a delayed start due to wet ground left by the previous day's shower.

RAJSHAHI-CHITTAGONG
Inform Rabiul Karim, who hit two

hundreds in the Dhaka Premier Cricket League for Young Pegasus, shared 43 runs with fellow opener Rafiqul Islam before two quick wickets by Waskuruni Ahmed gave Chittagong the stranglehold.

Rajshahi lost three wickets in the space of seven runs and Rabiul, who made 40, became the fourth victim before Anisur took charge. The number five batsman, who hit eight fours and two sixes in 147 balls, led the middle order to give the total respectability.

Mahbub Alam provided a late flurry, cracking seven fours and two sixes in a rapidfire 55 off 59 balls.

Former national paceman Tareq Aziz, who scalped Rabiul, was the peak of Chittagong attack with four wickets for 71 from 22 overs.

The tourists never looked like settling after losing the two openers in successive deliveries. Mahbubul Karim was removed by Shafaq Al Jabir in the last ball of the first over while veteran Mushfiqur Rahman struck in his very first ball, dismissing Gazi Salahuddin before trapping Nazimuddin in front.

SYLHET-BARISAL
A four-wicket haul by Arafat Salahuddin helped bottom-table Barisal, who opted to field first,

dismiss Sylhet for a low 170. But the good works were spoiled when Barisal lost the first half of their batting in just 36 overs.

For Sylhet, who have a lead of 77 runs, Saif Mahmud topscored with 48, featuring eight boundaries in 107 balls. Skipper Alok Kapali hit five boundaries in a 53-ball 29.

KHULNA-DHAKA

Only 43 overs were bowled at the Khulna Divisional Stadium with the home side, after electing to bat, losing wickets at regular intervals.

Nahidul Haque was unbeaten on 43 while opener Imrul Kayes contributed 25 on an otherwise dull day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI FIRST INNINGS: 300 all out in 83 overs (Rabiul 40, Rafiqul 19, Farhad 0, Naeem 1, Anisur 103, Mushfiq 14, Hasanuzzaman 24, Mahbub 55, Saglain 17, Shafaq 2, Sumon 0, extras 25, Tareq 4-71, Kamrul 1-53, Waskuruni 2-44, Sabbir 2-58, Sunny 1-36).

CHITTAGONG FIRST INNINGS: 23-3 in 7 overs (Salahuddin 1, Mahbubul 2, Sunny 11 batting, SEE PAGE 22 COL 4



England A captain Michael Yardy (2nd from L) leads his team into the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday for their first practice session of their 28-day tour.

England A in city

SPORTS REPORTER

The practice match between visiting England A side and BCB National Cricket Academy will take place at BKP in Savar instead of Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on February 17.

The side led by Michael Yardy arrived in the capital yesterday and held a practice session with some net practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

They will play two four-day and three one-day matches against Bangladesh A during the tour.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Sher-e-Bangla House were crowned champions of the Engineering University High School at the BUET ground yesterday.

The winners grabbed 123 points while Rokeya House gained 121 points to finish second.

PETROBANGLA SPORTS
A total of sixteen companies will take part in the Central Sporting Meet, arranged by Petrobangla, on February 17.

The event, to be inaugurated by the secretary of energy and mineral resources AMM Nasiruddin, will take place at the Armed Police Battalion ground in Uttara.

CLUB CUP CRICKET

Asit Memorial won the inaugural match of the BCB Challenge Club Cup competition against Renaissance Club by 100 runs at the Circuit House ground.

Battling first, Asit reached 173-7 in 28 overs with Mahmud scoring 45 runs. Rahat and Morshed shared five wickets.

In reply, Renaissance were wrapped up for only 73 runs. Rakib, Mizan and Khorsheed took two wickets each.

PREMIER KABADDI

Fire Service and Civil Defence moved to the semifinals of the SEE PAGE 22 COL 4



Abahani's Argentine coach Diego Cruciani (C) is flanked by fellow countrymen Marino Caporale (L), Marino Sanchez (2nd from L), Hernan Parodi (2nd from R) and Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu upon arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

YOUR SAY ON TIGERS SELECTION

1. I am really disappointed with the team selection especially Khaled Mashud's exclusion without any valid reason. The selection panel should rethink about it. Mashud is a better player and more experienced than Javed Omar. I think the selectors have done injustice with a high profile player of country like Mashud. I hope active steps to be taken immediately by the selectors to bring Mashud back in the World Cup squad. Montasir

2. I was always confused about the selectors capability but after the selection of the World cup squad I am sure they are not capable to handle such major selection process. Mashud is not only experienced but also versatile in both batting and wicketkeeping. He is one of the best wicketkeepers in the world. So, I will urge to the board to select Mashud as soon as

possible and recruit new and experienced people for selection. Saikh Chowdhury

3. Oh Pilot! Just when selectors from all other countries are opting for experience, the selectors of Bangladesh national team opted for youth and successfully picked up a controversy out of thin air. Khaled Mashud a tested veteran of our cricket team was omitted from the world cup squad and young Mushfiqur Rahim was given a chance. Khaled Mashud, who was rested for the Scotland matches, was left out of the Zimbabwe tour because of injury. There should be no question about Khaled Mashud's ability as a wicket keeper batsman and no one can deny his contributions for the Bangladesh team. Those who follow Bangladesh cricket would agree that until recently Bangladesh batting started at number six or

seven with Khaled Mashud and Md. Rafique. I do not doubt the potential of Mushfiqur Rahim a bit as the next wicket keeper batsman. But he is too young and probably too inexperienced to shoulder the responsibility of a wicket keeper in the world cup. Although he did quite well with the bat in Zimbabwe, from what I have read in the papers, his keeping was not up to the mark.

BCB has become quite authoritarian in recent times. They want to instill fear to bring discipline into the team. Subservience, not the form, has become the prime criterion for selection for the national team. The accusation that Pilot was the whistleblower in the 'Reebok commission' scandal (which the selectors were able to bury successfully without proper investigation) has cost him dearly. Recently the board has penalized Khaled Mashud, Md. Ashraf, and Aftab Ahmed for trivial reasons. Those

who listened know that Ashraf and Aftab's comments were actually complements to their fellow teammates and was in no way disrespectful. It looks like, they were not done with Khaled Mashud and this omission from the team is just an extension of the punishment he received for being outspoken, although the selectors are saying otherwise. They said that they looked for experience, hence the inclusion of Javed Omar and Rajin Saleh; rightly so, then why not Khaled Mashud?? They said that they also looked at performance. If you look at performance in the national league, Tushar Imran and Al-Shahriar are ahead of many national players and if you look at the performance for the national team then why is Ashraf included?? He is the most inconsistent yet he is in the team!

SEE PAGE 22 COL 1

Lee scares Australia

Chappell-Hadlee Trophy begins today



AFP, Wellington

The depleted Australian cricket side suffered a further setback Thursday on the eve of the opening match of Chappell-Hadlee Trophy against New Zealand with the likely loss of an injured Brett Lee.

But the injury to the Australian bowling spearhead has done little to lift the hopes of a full-strength New Zealand side which has consistently authored its own downfall this year.

Lee was taken to hospital for scans on his left knee and ankle after catching his sprigs in the outfield during fielding practice.

But the results are not due until after the first match in the Chappell-Hadlee series begins Friday, making it unlikely Lee will play.

If he is ruled out, Lee will join resting captain Ricky Ponting and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist as well as the injured Andrew Symonds.

Batsman Michael Clarke is also in doubt after arriving in New Zealand on Wednesday with a hip problem.

This has produced an experimental Australian side with still unfamiliar names such as Adam Voges, Cameron White and Brad Haddin.

That Australia are on a two-match losing streak, after being whitewashed by England in the recent tri-series, offers the new blood the chance to engineer redemption.

Haddin, the heir apparent to Gilchrist, tops Australia's domestic one-day competition with 406 runs at 67.67, while Voges averages 40 at first-class level.

They are figures which offered little hope to New Zealand.

"We've taken a little bit from England beating them but we can't take too much," said rising New Zealand batting star Ross Taylor. "They'll be hurting from that and they've still got a strong team."

New Zealand have reason not to take anything for granted, having won just six of their last 16 one-day

internationals and only two of their last 22 against Australia.

In the recent tri-series in Australia, they consistently went close to winning and just as consistently came up short.

Sloppy fielding in one match and wayward bowling in another saw them lose to Australia by two wickets and then by eight runs.

Then timid batting after a rollicking start saw them fall by 14 runs to beat England for a place in the finals.

"We had a lot of close games over there and we should have won three of them," Taylor said.

"Hopefully we can rectify that in these next three games."

Much focus is on captain Stephen Fleming, so long the backbone of New Zealand cricket but this year struggling for form.

Even the century in his last outing against England was at a dour rate, which commentators here have blamed for New Zealand coming up short in the run chase.

While both teams need to find some momentum before heading

SEE PAGE 22 COL 1

Proteas win 3-1



AFP, Johannesburg

Shaun Pollock ensured South Africa would go to the World Cup high on confidence after a masterly bowling performance routed Pakistan in the fifth and final one-day international at the Wanderers stadium Wednesday.

Pollock took five for 23 as Pakistan were bowled out for 153. AB de Villiers and Jacques Kallis hit half-centuries as South Africa cruised to a nine-wicket victory with 21.4 overs to spare. South Africa won the series 3-1, with one match rained off.

"We finished on a high note," said Pollock. "We're going to head off to the World Cup with a lot of confidence."

Pollock was named man of the match and clinched his third man of the series award of the South African summer. He took the award for both the Test and one-day series against India earlier in the season.

"I don't take it for granted," he said. "I'll keep working on my game. All credit to the team. The bowlers have been superb throughout. If we can continue with that and the batting form we've shown it will be great."

Pollock bowled unchanged with the new ball and took the first five wickets with a superb exhibition of accurate seam and swing bowling.

Pakistan hopes were raised briefly when South African captain Graeme Smith was caught behind off Mohammad Asif for nought.

Asif and Rao Iftikhar Anjum bowled well and forced de Villiers and Kallis on to the defensive as the pitch seemed to gain extra life under the floodlights.

But then Kallis hit Iftikhar for six, four and four off successive balls

and followed up with two boundaries off the next two deliveries he faced, from Asif in the next over, as South Africa took control.

Both batsmen finished with 71 not out as they put on an unbeaten 155 off 175 balls for the second wicket.

It was the second successive crushing win for South Africa, who

won by ten wickets in the fourth match in Cape Town last Sunday. "The last two games were unbelievable," said Smith.

"Shaun has led us superbly with the ball and the guys have backed him up in the field."

Smith said: "Our confidence is high but the guys have worked hard

SEE PAGE 22 COL 6



South Africa opener Abraham de Villiers plays a delectable late cut off Pakistan off-spinner Shoaib Malik during the fifth and final one-day international at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday.