

Of fun and celebration

AFP, Bridgetown



From the country that gave you Riverdance, Ireland can now boast The Chicken and The Ferret.

The Irish team's World Cup campaign, which has accounted for Pakistan and Bangladesh, has also spawned a couple of new moves which would definitely look out of place at all self-respecting night-clubs.

Captain Trent Johnston celebrates the fall of a wicket with a bizarre jig which involves leaping from one foot to the other while flapping his arms.

"The chicken dance came out of when I am out on the dancefloor, the guys say I look like a chicken so that's just a celebratory dance I've given to the guys," said Johnston.

"And we also have Dave Langford-Smith who does the ferret as well. It's just a bit of fun. We are out here having fun and enjoying ourselves."

Langford-Smith, who, like Johnston is Australian, pioneered the ferret at his wedding reception.

He then performed it at a party in Jamaica to celebrate the win over Pakistan last month. It came out again in the victory against Bangladesh.

The ferret looks a bit like the chicken except the arms do their flapping behind the back not at the sides.

Thankfully, some cricketers have more style than others when it comes to celebrating the downfall of an opponent.

Brett Lee is not just one of the world's fastest bowlers.

When the blond Aussie bomber knocked over a victim, it was greeted with a vigorous leap that a high-jumper would have been proud of before he would fall to his knees and perform his famous 'chainsaw' action.

It has been widely imitated even stretching to the Commonwealth

Games in Melbourne last year when Aussie weightlifter Simon Heffernan celebrated his silver medal with a combination of Brett Lee and a little Lleyton Hewitt.

His successful lift led to the chainsaw, a double windmill, a groin thrust and the Hewitt "c'mon" yell.

"The groin thrust was just wrong," said the 30-year-old.

"I wouldn't do that again. I think about Lleyton a bit. I don't like how he carries on but I respect that he lives here and he is a good husband. He doesn't live overseas and he pays his taxes. But Brett Lee is my favourite."

Back on the cricket pitch, England fast bowler Simon Jones was in hot water in the epic 2005 Ashes series after he was fined 1,000 pounds for the send-off he gave to Australian opener Matthew Hayden in the second Test.

Jones was sanctioned for pointing Hayden back to the pavilion.

"Things happen in the heat of the moment and sometimes you can't control what you're doing," said Jones.

"Someone else takes over and it's a great feeling but you may look back on it and think, 'what was I doing?'"

"In future I'm going to have to learn maybe to calm myself down a bit."

Stuart MacGill, the Australian leg-spinner who has spent his career in the shadow of Shane Warne, had the opposite problem to Jones.

His actions at the crease were too tame, so he decided to take a leaf out of Andrew Flintoff's book.

MacGill now raises his finger but insists it is not a 'send-off' gesture.

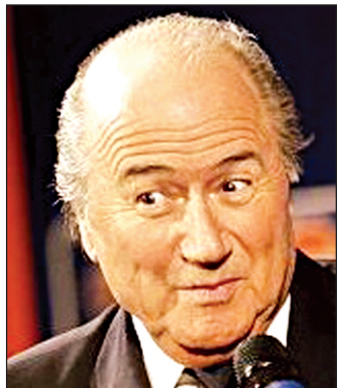
"I was bored seeing the same picture in the paper," he said.

"I've been trying to think of something else so I thought I'd try a Freddie and point to the sky."



South Africa paceman Andre Nel (L) appeals successfully for an lbw decision against England captain Michael Vaughan (R) during the World Cup Super Eights match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Sepp Blatter

(FIFA president)
"I admire the game called cricket and I don't want to change the most established sport in your country now. But I always campaign for football because in this game there is no difference between caste, culture and creed or rich and poor. It is the fascination of this game that attracts people all over the world."

While urging cricket-mad India to embrace football.



BTV & SET Max

ICC World Cup 2007
(Super Eights)
Ireland v Sri Lanka
Live at 7:30 pm
ESPN

English Premier Football League

West Ham v Chelsea
Live at 12:55 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Liverpool v Middlesbrough
Live at 12:55 am (Thursday)



B.League

Sk Russel v Khulna Abahani (4:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Bangladesh looking ahead

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Bridgetown

It was a bad, bad Bangladesh effort on Sunday and the players have felt the pain. If only they had taken the catches or had effected the run out chances that came their way and then if they had batted with common sense and purpose... a lot of 'ifs' but the cruel reality is one team they were favoured to brush aside have beaten them by 74 runs.

But one poor day does not spoil the achievements of this team from the World Cup and history would regard the Tigers as the gallant, fearless side that brought the 2007 event to life. But there are still some unfinished tasks and a solid performance in the last fixture against the West Indies would be the perfect way to sign off. With that in mind the Bangladesh team have decided to approach the days leading up to the game.

On Monday they had a recovery session in the morning that included walking and stretching on the beach and a bit of swimming in the sea later on. It was followed by a team meeting which concentrated on finding the root cause for Sunday's debacle with spontaneous feedback from team members.

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Pak Academy bounce back to draw series

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan Academy levelled the four-day series 1-1 against their Bangladesh counterparts in style when they routed the home side by an innings and 12 runs in the second and final game at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Trailing by 226 runs, Bangladesh Academy were dismissed for 214 in their second innings in 43.2 overs to suffer the heavy defeat inside three days.

The hosts won the first four-day by 77 runs at Mirpur.

Off-spinner Atif Magbool was the wrecker in chief with 5-56 while left-arm pacer Najaf Shah claimed four wickets for 63 runs from 13 overs to blow away the Bangladesh batting.

The only resistance came from Rokibul Hasan who hit 79 off 94 balls that contained 12 boundaries.

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Lanka may do it again

AFP, St George's



Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas and Muttiah Muralidaran, who were controversially omitted for the crushing

World Cup defeat by Australia, could also sit out Wednesday's clash against Ireland.

Their absence, and that of already injured quick Lasith Malinga, meant the 1996 World Cup winners went into Monday's loss to the defending champions without a trio of bowlers who have taken 41 wickets at this tournament.

Australia cruised to a seven-wicket win with 44 balls to spare after dismissing a full-strength Sri Lanka batting line-up for 226 at the Grenada National Stadium.

However, Sri Lanka, like Australia, had already qualified for the semifinals and skipper Mahela Jayawardene insisted he had no qualms about the decision to leave out Muralidaran and Vaas, two of the stars of the side that won the World Cup 11 years ago.

"Obviously those two guys had been playing throughout the World Cup. Murali had a problem with his groin as well -- he played with a strapping in the last two or three games."

"Once we realised we had the semifinal spot I thought we needed to give those guys a break," Jayawardene said after Monday's match.

"They have had injury problems in the last six to 12 months, and we've been giving them breaks."

"That is something the team management has been doing, and it was a decision we had to take for the best interests of the team."

"Lasith still was not fit, and we couldn't risk another injury. We had to give them a proper rest."

"We never devalued the game. Up to now we have taken every game very seriously, and this game too. We have brought 15 guys to play this tournament, and they are all quality players."

Looking ahead to the Ireland game, Sri Lanka's final Super Eights match, Jayawardene said of his rested bowlers: "If they want to have a go at Ireland -- maybe it won't be that tough a game -- they can easily come back into things."

"But if they feel they need another break we will give them one. We need them 100 percent going into the semifinals."

Ireland followed up their stunning defeat of 1992 champions Pakistan in the opening group stage with a 74-run thrashing of Bangladesh -- themselves conquerors of India and South Africa -- in Barbados on Sunday.

"Ireland are a very strong side," Jayawardene said. "You can't take any of these teams lightly. Bangladesh and Ireland have been upsetting a lot of the big names."

Australian-born Ireland captain Trent Johnston said he hoped his team had one more major performance left in them.

"We have a pretty big game against Sri Lanka. That will be the last game for (coach) Adrian Birrell, and it would be a fitting way for us to send him off by putting on another good display."

South Africa-born Birrell, who leaves the job after the World Cup, said of his side: "We have got a great squad of players and there is a wonderful team spirit."

"Five years ago we were ranked

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BCB discusses major issues today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dav Whatmore issue will get the priority in today's executive committee meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to be held at a local hotel.

The board will set its course of action whether they will renew the contract with coach Whatmore, who is nearing the end of his second two-year contract with Bangladesh, or going for a new one with a new vision.

The contract of the Sri Lankan-born Australian, who has irked the board high-ups by expressing his desire for the Indian job during the World Cup, will expire by the end of this month but the board is likely to retain the burly man at least for next month's home series against India.

The board will also discuss about captain and the vice-captain for the upcoming two-match Test and three-match one-day series against India. Habibul Bashir was named captain and Shahriar Nafees his deputy till the World Cup.

It was learnt that the high-ups are thinking about separate captains for the one-day and Test sides.

They will also decide the fate of team physio Paul Close, who got an extension during the World Cup.

Russel kept waiting

Match abandoned due to floodlight failure



SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel will have to wait for another day to regain lead in the B. League table after their yesterday's match against Khulna Abahani was abandoned ten minutes from time due to lack of floodlight.

The home side were leading 3-0 with first half goals from Moroccan midfielder Khoubache Mohamad and striker Maksudul Islam Bulbul and Mahmudul Hasan's second half strike as the last 15 minutes of the game was played in semi darkness at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, leading referee Abdul Hannan to stop the game after repeated requests from the Abahani booters.

The referee, however, had ignored earlier pleas of the visitors, who conceded the third goal under bad light due to lack of power supply for technical fault at the Bangabandhu Stadium sub-station.

After waiting regulation 40 minutes in vain, the match officials called off the day.

A fresh match will be held today

at 4pm according to the bylaws although the league committee, who sat last night, could have decided for a restart for the last ten minutes and relive the two teams from playing twice in as many days in the scorching summer heat. Representatives of both teams were present at the meeting, presided over by league committee chairman Abdur Rahim.

The bylaws say: "If a match is abandoned before the end of normal time or during any extra time because of unfit pitch, bad weather or force majeure, a 90 (ninety) minute replay must in principle be played the following day; if not otherwise decided by the B. League Committee."

The world over, matches abandoned due to inclement weather or similar technical problems usually resume from where play had stopped.

Russel, who started their seventh match on 12 points, will overtake Abahani (14 points from six games) in the table if they can win the game. Khulna Abahani, who pulled off a stunning 4-2 victory against Brothers Union in their last visit to Dhaka, are on six points from five outings.

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PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

Bangladesh players take to the sea as part of the recovery session on Monday, a day after the Tigers' stunning 74-run defeat against Ireland in their second last World Cup Super Eights match at Saint George's in Grenada.

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TODAY'S MATCH		
Team	Time	Venue
Ireland v Sri Lanka	7:30 pm	Grenada

Ad