



Did U Know?

Paul Collingwood of England scored 111 runs from 209 balls in the first innings of the first Test against West Indies at Lord's on May 17. It was his fourth century, first against the Caribbeans.



Rahul Dravid
(India cricket captain)
"Mashrafe is a terrific cricketer. I think Bangladesh is lucky to have a cricketer like him. He really bowls well and his contribution with the bat lower down the order has been terrific for Bangladesh over the years. In the World Cup and in this match especially his performance was wonderful."

Praising the Bangladesh fast bowler's match-saving 79 in the first innings of the first Test against India on Monday.



TEN Sports
UEFA Champions League Final
AC Milan v Liverpool
Repeat at 9:00 am



Kai-Altech Super League Cricket
Abahani v Victoria
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Mohammedan v Old DOHS
Venue: BKSP
Sonargaon v Biman
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

LOCAL SNIPPES

SPORTS REPORTER

Shamima Akhtar earned a deserving victory over International Women Master Rani Hamid in the Prime Bank second Women International Rating Chess tournament at the federation hall room yesterday.

Akhtar is in the lead with five points while Arifa Khatun, who beat Masuda Begum, is in second position with 3.5 points.

Meanwhile, the eighth United Insurance and Leasing Grandmasters Chess tournament will begin on May 27.

BKSP SWIMMING MEET

Hosts BKSP became champion in the first BKSP Cup Swimming competition at the institution swimming pool.

The winners clinched 14 gold medals while Ansar & VDP, who ended second, collected 13 gold medals.

Alamgir Swimming Pool from Rajshahi finished third with 19 medals in all.

SCHOOL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Dhaka Metropolitan School Football League, a pilot project under the project Vision Bangladesh by AFC, will begin on June 21.

The schools are Motijheel Government Boys' High School, Ideal School & College, Khilgaon High School, Khilgaon Model High School, Ali Ahmed High School, Motijheel Government Primary School, Shaheed Nabi High School, Segun Bagicha High School, Nidhu Smriti Government Primary School, Jatrabari Ideal High School, Haider Ali High School.

Teams watch a day go by

SPORTS REPORTER



After a frustrating half Test-match in Chittagong due to rain interruption, Bangladesh and visiting Indian teams opted to relax on their return to Dhaka yesterday.

The home side, who salvaged a draw with some unlike and dazzling all-round performances from fast bowlers Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shahadat Hossain, landed in Dhaka on Tuesday night.

The Tigers stayed inside their hotel, having a bit of swim to wear off the heat and stretching to gear up for this morning's final training session for the second and last Test, which starts tomorrow at the Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium.

The mood was upbeat after a never-say-die effort in the port city that saw Bangladesh hold India at bay for the first time in a Test match although over two days' play was wasted due to persistent inclement weather.

"In the end, the result matters and we are really inspired by the way the match went in Chittagong. It would be our motivation to do well in the Dhaka Test," told Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar, who has yet to fully recover

from the cold that kept him away from the ground for one session.

The latest victim of cold was Shahadat but sources said his condition was nothing serious.

There is hardly any chance to see any change in the local side although in-form Tushar Imran, having recovered from flu, will be a strong contender to make the playing eleven.

The Indians arrived in the capital in the morning and only three players -- VVS Laxman, Ishant Sharma and Rajesh Pawar -- who spent the entire first Test at the dressing room, settled outdoor training.

Accompanied by their bowling and fielding coaches Venkatesh Prasad and Robin Singh, the trio practised at the Test venue in the afternoon.

One of the most stylish batsmen of this era, Laxman was dropped from the first Test as India decided to take five bowlers into the game on a docile batting pitch in a bid to get result.

The Hyderabad batsman concentrated on long batting at the nets while Delhi-based quick Ishant, a replacement of Munaf Patel, bowled under Prasad's close watch. Left-arm spinner Rajesh Pawar, yet to make international debut like Ishant, had stints with both bat and ball.

Both the teams attended the official dinner at Hotel Sheraton to round off the day.



Bangladesh vice-captain Mohammed Ashraful (C) shows a photo to Indian batsmen Sachin Tendulkar (R) and Yuvraj Singh during an official dinner at a local hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Moody gifted with a win



AFP, Abu Dhabi

World Cup finalists Sri Lanka gave their Australian coach Tom Moody an ideal goodbye here on Tuesday as they beat Pakistan by 115 runs in their third and final one day international.

Sri Lanka -- whom Moody has been coach of since 2005 -- made 296-9 off 50 overs while Pakistan could only muster 181 all out off 42.5 overs.

Pakistan -- who crashed out of the World Cup in the first stage and whose coach Bob Woolmer died mysteriously shortly after they were sensationally beaten by minnows Ireland -- still won the series 2-1.

Sri Lanka's innings was based round a 124 run partnership between skipper Mahela Jayawardene -- who made 83 -- and Chamara Silva (64) until Jayawardene was bowled by Mohammed Hafeez with the score on 225.

Pakistan -- who arrived for the series without a new coach and with a new captain in Shoaib Malik -- had the upper hand before that thanks to Iftikhar Anjum skittling out the top three Sri Lankan batsmen -- including veteran opener Sanath Jayasuriya for 19 -- to leave them in trouble at 101-3.

The Pakistanis, however, never got any momentum going in their innings with just Shoaib producing any resistance of note as he stroked a superb unbeaten captain's innings of 79.

However, he was always facing an uphill battle once the Pakistanis were reduced to 70-6, not helping their cause with two of those being run outs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third and final one-day international between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday:

SRI LANKA
Tharanga c Akmal b Anjum 40
Jayasuriya b Anjum 19
Kapugedera c Akmal b Anjum 15
Jayawardene b Hafeez 83
Silva b Rehman 64
Maharoor c and b Hafeez 10
Lokuarachchi c Butt b Asif 2
Dilshan not out 28
Jayawardene run out 2
Malinga run out 11
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-9, nb-4) 22
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 296
Did not bat: Dilhara Fernando

Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-73, 3-101, 4-225, 5-240, 6-244, 7-252, 8-258, 9-296.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Asif	10	1	76	1
Shah	10	1	59	0
Anjum	10	0	53	3

Rehman	10	0	44	1
Hafeez	10	0	55	2

PAKISTAN

Butt b Maharoor	2
Hafeez run out	34
Hameed c Kapugedera b Fernando	22
Yousuf lbw b Fernando	5
Malik not out	79
Alam c and b Fernando	0
Akmal run out	2
Rehman b Lokuarachchi	10
Anjum c Jayawardene	18
b Lokuarachchi	3
Asif run out	0
Shah lbw b Maharoor	0
Extras: (lb-1, w-1, nb-4)	6
Total: (All out in 42.5 overs)	181

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-61, 3-66, 4-68, 5-68, 6-70, 7-114, 8-166, 9-180.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Maharoor	8.5	0	43	2
Malinga	8	0	33	0
Fernando	7	1	20	3
Dilshan	4	0	19	0
Lokuarachchi	10	1	32	2
Jayasuriya	5	0	33	0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 115 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Dilhara Fernando.

Man-of-the-series: Mahela Jayawardene and Shahid Afridi.

Toss: Sri Lanka

Umpires: M. Benson (ENG), R. Tiffin (ZIM)

TV umpire: S. Shastri (IND)

Match referee: J Srinath (IND)

Abahani to play sans Tushar

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's bid to have Tushar Imran for today's crucial Kai-Altech Premier Cricket Super League match against Victoria Sporting Club was turned down by the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Tushar is in the Bangladesh Test squad for the second and final match against India to start in Dhaka tomorrow.

Abahani have been suffering from injury and absence of leading cricketers like Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Khaled Mashud and Tushar who are all on national duty.

It was learned yesterday that the BCB officially informed Abahani that the middle-order batsman will not be released on the eve of the Test match.

Abahani, who had appealed to the board president to relieve Tushar for today's game, are one win away from regaining the title after five seasons. Even in the case of losing their remaining two games, they will secure the trophy if contenders Mohammedan lose to Old DOHS today at the BKSP.

In the other match, third-placed Sonargaon will meet Biman at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Abahani and Mohammedan will be pitted against each other in the final round on May 27.

Vaughan back for 2nd Test



AFP, London

Captain Michael Vaughan has been recalled to England's squad for the second Test against West Indies at Headingley starting on Friday.

Vaughan missed the drawn series opener at Lord's with a broken finger.

All-rounder Andrew Flintoff has returned following an ankle injury but his fitness will be monitored. Bowlers James Anderson and Ryan Sidebottom have also been called up into what is now a 13-man squad.

Left-arm pace bowler Sidebottom, who played his lone Test for England six years ago against Pakistan, has been given another chance after Matthew Hoggard was ruled out with a thigh strain he sustained at Lord's.

Sidebottom, the son of former England seamer Arnie, is set to be competing with Anderson for the third pace bowling slot vacated by Hoggard, who is optimistic he will

regain fitness in time for the third Test of a four-match series which starts at Old Trafford on June 7.

Vaughan is set to replace Owais Shah, twice out for single figures at Lord's, and will take over the captaincy from Andrew Strauss.

England's chairman of selectors, David Graveney, said: "The inclusion of James Anderson and Ryan Sidebottom in the squad is designed to provide us with different options within our pace bowling unit."

"With Jon Lewis and Stuart Broad unavailable through injury, we were keen to identify a bowler who could add variety to the attack."

"Ryan has been a consistent performer for Nottinghamshire over the last two seasons, is familiar with the Headingley pitch through his time with Yorkshire and deserves a further opportunity at this level."

England delayed naming their squad while Hoggard, Flintoff and Vaughan all underwent fitness tests on Tuesday.

Hoggard was regarded as doubtful for the second Test from the moment he limped off at Lord's

where he bowled just 10.1 overs.

However, England were confident that Vaughan -- out of Test cricket for 18 months with knee and hamstring problems -- would be fit for this match on his Yorkshire home ground after having his finger broken batting against Hampshire's Australia quick Stuart Clark on May 3.

Vaughan hasn't played a match since but Graveney said: "Michael Vaughan came through his net session today (Tuesday) without any adverse reaction while Andrew Flintoff practised earlier today, but did not bowl as a precaution."

"We will need to reassess Andrew's fitness over the next 48 hours and our plan is for him to bowl in practice on consecutive days to see if there is any further reaction to his ankle injury."

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Ian Bell, Michael Vaughan (capt), Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Matt Prior (wkt), Liam Plunkett, Stephen Harmison, Monty Panesar, James Anderson, Ryan Sidebottom.

Moore challenges Windies



AFP, Leeds

West Indies coach David Moore has said drawing the first Test against England will count for little if they go down to defeat in the second game of a four-match series starting at Headingley here Friday.

West Indies, ranked a lowly eighth in the world Test rankings, emerged with credit from the series opener at Lord's completed Monday where, despite having had just a day's cricket in England since their arrival and no time in the field, they fought particularly hard with the bat to secure a draw.

But Moore knows better than anyone it is seven years since West Indies last won an away Test against major opposition - something they must now try to achieve during their first series since the retirement of former captain and batting great Brian Lara.

"That's something we're working on - and we are looking forward to being challenged again by England and rising to it," Moore, who succeeded fellow Australian Bennett King as West Indies coach after the hosts' disappointing showing at the World Cup, told reporters at Headingley on Wednesday.

"It's history. We have to put it behind us as we work in a new era with a new generation of cricketers."

"The key is our consistency and ability to back up a good performance in Test after Test."

But he was heartened by West Indies' resilience at Lord's. I don't think they (England) under-

estimated us. They were in very good shape with 553 for five and us 187 for five.

"The bottom line is we came out and showed some good effort, good

fight - and got to a position where we could be there on the last day.

"We did some good work there,

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Pakistan players pose for photographs at the prize distribution ceremony after winning the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP



Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble (R) boards a flight with his family on the way to Dhaka from Chittagong on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP