



Did U Know?

The first goalkeeper ever to be sent off from a World Cup was Gianluca Pagliuca of Italy. He faced the ignominy in the 1994 World Cup in the USA against Norway.



Graham Gooch
(Former England cricket captain)
"It's a well deserved honour. He's been England's foremost cricketer of the past 30 years and he's put in all that hard work and all those miles for a fantastic cause."
After Ian Botham was awarded knighthood.



STAR Sports
England v West Indies
Fourth Test, Day Four
Live from 3:58 pm
ESPN
Sportscentre India
Live from 8:30 pm



PCB talks to Done

AFP, Bhurban

Pakistan shortlisted three Australian candidates on Sunday and interviewed one of them in the final phase of selecting a successor to coach Bob Woolmer who died three months ago.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Nasim Ashraf said Richard Done was interviewed on Sunday while two Dav Whatmore and Geoff Lawson would be interviewed during the coming week.

"Done has been interviewed and in the final phase Whatmore and Lawson will be interviewed before making the final announcement shortly," Ashraf told reporters.

Former Bangladesh and Sri Lanka coach Whatmore is the main contender for Pakistan coach after the post was advertised following Woolmer's death in Jamaica in March during the World Cup.

Lawson was due to arrive here for interview in the next couple of days, said Ashraf, who praised the Australian system for providing good coaches.

Done, who succeeded Woolmer as the International Cricket Council high performance manager in 2004, had shown interest in the job.

"Done has worked with Rodney Marsh in the highly praised Australian cricket academy," said Ashraf.

Except for England and South Africa, all 10 Test-playing countries have had Australian coaches in the past decade.

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Tigers arrive in Colombo

AFP, Colombo

Bangladesh's national cricket team arrived in Sri Lanka on Sunday for three Test matches and three one-day internationals despite heightened fears of Tamil Tiger bomb attacks, officials said.

The Sri Lankan government immediately hailed the visit as a sign of confidence in the island's security arrangements.

"The Bangladeshi government has accepted our security guarantees making the tour possible," Sri Lankan Sports Minister Gamini Lokuge told AFP, adding that Colombo would provide security for the team during its five-week stay.

"This shows that Sri Lanka is safe for anyone to travel," he said.

Bangladesh's government has warned its nationals not to travel via the troubled island, and cricket officials said the authorities in Dhaka would have the final say on whether the tour could go ahead.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have carried out two separate air raids in the Sri Lankan capital since the end of March, the first of which targeted an air force base adjoining the island's only international airport.

At least nine people have died and more than 40 civilians were injured in two roadside bombs targeting troops in the city and its suburbs since then.

South Africa abandoned their tour of Sri Lanka in August last year after a bombing in Colombo blamed on the Tamil Tigers, which targeted the Pakistani ambassador.

The three-match Test series begins on June 25, while the three-match ODI series starts on July 20.



Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful (C) takes a sip of drink as he stands with batsmen Javed Omar and Habibul Bashar (R) at the lobby of their team hotel in Colombo on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Atapattu opts out of series

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's former captain and opening batsman Marvan Atapattu has opted out of the Test series against Bangladesh, a top Sri Lanka Cricket official said Sunday.

SLC secretary Kangadaran Mathivanan said the former skipper had told them he would not be available for the Bangladesh tournament despite being chosen for the Test matches.

"We have received an e-mail from Marvan announcing his non-availability citing personal commitments," Mathivanan told AFP.

He said the former opener, who has scored more than 5,300 runs in Tests and 8,500 runs in one-dayers, had said he would, however, be available for selections in future.

Atapattu is currently in England preparing for Lashings World XI.

Mathivanan said the SLC need to look at Atapattu's contract to see if the former Sri Lankan captain could be allowed to be absent from national selections.

Atapattu was overlooked by the Sri Lankan selectors throughout the World Cup in the West Indies and for the three-match series with Pakistan in Abu Dhabi.

He has not played a Test match since December 2005 and a one dayer since February this year.

The former Sri Lanka captain was drafted in the Test team last week in place of Sanath Jayasuriya who is considered only for one dayers under the new selection policy.

Prep starts for WC 2011

AFP, Bhurban

Top cricket officials from across South Asia will meet here Monday to launch preparations for the 2011 World Cup, which will mark the third time the tournament has been played in the region.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and

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Russel pip a thriller



SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel survived a late scare to secure a 4-3 victory over Chittagong Abahani in an eventful B League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With their sixth win, Russel improved their tally to 23 points from 13 matches to jointly lead the table along with two perennial rivals Mohammedan and Abahani, who have played one match less while Chittagong Abahani remained at 10 points from 13 outings.

Both the teams had to play the last twenty minutes with one player short as Russel's Moroccan striker Touati Youness and Abahani's Nigerian defender Othello Bonei were involved in an off the ball brawl to receive the marching order from Mizanur Rahman.

After a high voltage encounter in the previous day between the

two archivals the big bowl was almost empty and the first half in the rain-soaked pitch hardly produced anything.

But the match came to life in the second half when giants Russel rode on their Moroccan recruits to take a 4-0 lead before their port city rivals, who lost their first-leg match against the same opponents by 3-0 margin, brought a short excitement after scoring three goals in the space of eight minutes.

Lanky Youness drew the first blood in favour of Russel when his 30-yard right-footer reached the target in the 53rd minute after his compatriot midfielder Nouredine Zaim set him up.

Nouredine then doubled the lead after four minutes from close range availing a defensive lapse of Abahani's while another Moroccan recruit Ighir Mohammad made it 3-0 with a low-curving shot inside the box after receiving a back-heel of substitute Maksudul Amin Bulbul in the 63rd minute.

Mashud Parvez Kaiser struck the fourth goal in the 77th minute with a shot from long range leaving Abahani's substitute goalie Khokon helpless.

But Chittagong Abahani suddenly bounced back with Khokon

Das reducing the margin in the 80th minute by a right-footed angular from the right side of the danger zone capitalizing on an Abraham pass while Abraham himself converted a penalty in the 85th minute after opponent defender Pradip fouled Chittagong Abahani's left winger Anisur Rahman inside the danger zone.

Two minutes from time, Sheikh Russel conceded a suicidal goal by Moroccan Rida Saadane, who sent the ball home trying to clear a fierce-cross by Abahani's Jahangir Alam.

Red cards: Youness (Russel) and Bonei (Chittagong Abahani)
Yellow cards - Pradip (Russel KC), Abraham (Chittagong Abahani)

TEAMS
SHEIKH RUSSEL: Zia, Hasan, Pradip, Aminul, Yousof, Ighir, Saadane, Tanveer (Bulbul), Pappu (Kaiser), Youness and Nouredine.

CHITTAGONG ABAHANI: Narayan, Sohel, Dhiman (Mintu), Monir, Jitu (Anisur), Khokon, Jahangir, Abraham, Othello, Santosh and Surendra (Khokon)
Referee - Mizanur Rahman

Bedi lashes out at Gavaskar

CRICINFO, undated

Former Indian captain Bishan Singh Bedi has delivered a scathing salvo against another, Sunil Gavaskar, in the wake of recent happenings in Indian cricket.

Bedi termed Gavaskar a "destructive" influence and felt he "always liked power without accountability". These comments come in the wake of Gavaskar criticising Dav Whatmore in one of his columns, despite being part of the committee that was to decide the next coach.

"Cricket circles had immense and blind respect for him (as a cricketer) and he successfully used this to ensure that board officials remained in awe of him," Bedi told Outlook, a weekly Indian magazine. "He wants the glamour, the position and if there are any financial gains so much the better... but he does not want any accountability. He's always liked power without accountability."

Bedi was critical of Gavaskar's role at the National Cricket Academy, where he was the director from 2001 to 2006. "I had a lot of time for his batting but never as a thought leader," said Bedi. "You tell me what his contribution has been. He is destructive, there is nothing

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C'paul defies Eng again

Cricket

AFP, Chester-Le-Street

Shivnarine Chandernaul, with his second successive hundred, was the cornerstone of West Indies' first innings recovery against England in the fourth Test at Riverside here Sunday.

West Indies, who had been 55 for four, were bowled out for 287 at tea on the third day with Chandernaul 136 not out.

Corey Collymore, who helped the left-hander add 58 for the last wicket, was the last man out falling lbw to left-arm spinner Monty Panesar for 13.

Left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom took five for 88, his first five-wicket haul in Test cricket, before England were frustrated by the final pair.

Chandernaul, who batted for 393 minutes, has now spent more than 19-and-a-half hours at the crease this series.

His 16th Test hundred, and second in as many innings after his 116 not out in England's 60-run third Test victory at Old Trafford, was the centrepiece of a total where the next best score was Dwayne Bravo's 44.

Sidebottom took three wickets Sunday after dismissing West Indies captain Daren Ganga with the first ball of the match.

He struck again soon after lunch.

Denesh Ramdin had added just six to his interval total of seven when he edged Sidebottom to Paul Collingwood at second slip.

Then, with Chandernaul - dropped on nine Saturday by Ian Bell - still six short of a hundred, Daren Powell irresponsibly tried to hook fast bowler Stephen Harmison and skied a catch to wicketkeeper Matthew Prior.

A rare loose shot from left-hander Chandernaul, an edged drive over the slips for four against Harmison, took him to 98.

But next ball, trying to pull Harmison, Chandernaul was hit on his unprotected left arm and required on-field treatment.

The 32-year-old was still on 98 when Fidel Edwards was bowled by a swinging Sidebottom delivery that clipped his off-stump, leaving West Indies 229 for nine.

But having survived some testing deliveries from Harmison, Guyana's Chandernaul out a loose delivery for four to complete a 176-ball hundred in nearly five hours with 14 boundaries.

And with Collymore proving resolute at the other end, Chandernaul's swept six off Panesar saw the last-wicket pair complete a fifty stand.

West Indies resumed Sunday on 132 for four with Chandernaul unbeaten on 44 and Bravo 43 not out after rain had washed out Friday's first day before bad weather meant only three hours play was possible on

Saturday. Chandernaul, who scored 74 in the drawn series opener at Lord's and 50 in the first innings at Old Trafford in the third Test, completed a fifth consecutive Test fifty with a single off Hoggard.

Bravo, not for the first time, gave his innings away when well set.

The all-rounder had added just one to his overnight score when he inside-edged an attempted pull off Hoggard into his off-stump, adding 86 with Chandernaul.

Panesar, who'd taken 10 wickets at Old Trafford, was repelled as Marlon Samuels played his part in a fifty stand compiled in 84 balls. However, their partnership ended when Sidebottom bowled Samuels round his legs.

England already have an unassailable 2-0 lead in the four-match series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the fourth Test between England and the West Indies at Riverside on Sunday:

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 132-4)

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Referee Mizanur Rahman (2nd from R) shows red card to both Touati Youness of Sheikh Russel (R) and Chittagong Abahani's Othello Bonei (L), who is being stretchered off by two medical attendants, during their B.League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman overpowered Brothers Union 3-0 in the AB Bank Senior Division Table Tennis League at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

All three matches that the title-contenders Biman won were with straight sets as Rochi and Pappu stood out in their wins against Jaynal and Anup.

Defending champions Sheikh Russel also kept their winning streak on as they beat Mariners Club 3-0. In the other matches, Wari Club beat Engineers Club 3-0 and Ajax Sporting Club defeated Mohammadpur Boys 3-0 as well.

GAIBANDHA TABLE TENNIS

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha adds: Shibli and Drishti won the boys and girls events respectively in the Naheed Cotton Table Tennis League held at the local public library hall yesterday.

UNO Club's Drishti beat Mishti of Anirban 3-2 while Shibli of Sunrise crushed Raktim 3-0 in the boys' event.

Rahat and Zobaid won in the doubles competition.

Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Kazi Mohammad

Anwarul Hakim gave away trophies among the winners.

FRIENDLY MATCH

BKSP beat Canary Wharf 3-1 in a friendly match held at the BKSP football ground in Savar on Saturday.

In the first half of a 70-minute match, BKSP were ahead by a goal. After the end of a thrilling encounter, senior official of Canary Wharf Howard Dobar presented a trophy to the winners.

GP PACER HUNT

Bangladesh Cricket Board on Sunday picked sixteen pace bowlers to join the third phase of the GrameenPhone Pacer Hunt at the BKSP in Savar from June 20.

The selected bowlers have been asked to report to BCB officer Shahidul Islam with their gears on Tuesday in BKSP at 5 pm.

The selected bowlers are: Salahuddin Muhammad (Sathkira), Rubel Hossain (Bagerhat), Shahjahan Tipu (Dhaka), Sirajur Rahman (Khulna), Mushfiqul Alam (Panchagarh), Abdullah Al Mamun (Dhaka), Iqbal Hossain (Noakhali), Mohammad Shathil (Narayanganj), Kamrul Islam (Barisal), Shamim

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West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chandernaul kisses the pitch in his customary style after reaching his century against England during the third day's play of the fourth Test at the Riverside Stadium in Durham on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP