



Did U Know?

Basketball is the only major sport entirely of American origin.



Vivian Richards

(West Indies cricket great)
"It was nasty ... nasty ... complete nastiness. We're watching something that is just totally ludicrous. Anybody who thinks that is a cricket shot, come and see me after."

On Darren Powell who played poor shots to get out in both innings of the fourth and final Test against England on June 19.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

First Test, Day Two

Live at 11:00 am

ATN Bangla

Brothers Union v Sk Russel

B League

Live at 4:30 pm

STAR Sports

Wimbledon Championships

First Round

Live from 4:30 pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 8:30 pm

TEN Sports

Copa America

Uruguay v Peru

Live at 3:55 am (Wednesday)

Venezuela v Bolivia

Live at 6:50 am (Wednesday)



DAY'S EVENT

B League

Brothers Union v Sk Russel

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Time: 4:30 pm

Federer starts smoothly

AGENCIES, undated

Roger Federer's bid for a fifth straight Wimbledon title got off to a smooth start with the Swiss maestro easing past Russia's Teimuraz Gabashvili in straight sets.

Federer won 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to advance to a second round meeting with either Juan Martin del Porta of Argentina or Italian Davide Sanguinetti, after the start of play had been delayed by almost two and half hours.

Federer's 49th consecutive victory on grass was wrapped up one hour and 32 minutes after he had begun his bid to emulate Bjorn Borg's five-in-a-row with an immaculate service winner.

Also through to the second round is Andy Roddick, the third seed, who beat fellow American Justin Gimelstob 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) on Monday.

Roddick now plays either Thailand's Danai Udomchoke or Carlos Berlocq of Argentina for a place in the third round.

There was also a little piece of history made in the third game of the third set in the Federer match when Gabashvili, believing a Federer forehand down the line to have been out, registered the first appeal to Hawkeye, the computerised replay system being used at Wimbledon for the first time this year.

Federer, unbeaten in his last 48 matches on grass, was due to face

Shahadat or Sharapova?

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo

Young Bangladesh paceman Shahadat Hossain has a habit of irritating opponent batsmen. And on Monday at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground the right-arm quick did enough grunting to evoke sharp reaction from Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene.

"It is unacceptable, you can't do that in international cricket," said the Lankan skipper while reacting to Shahadat's grunting.

A visibly disturbed Jayawardene even turned to the umpires to ask the paceman, who at times does it in domestic matches too, to stop grunting.

Shahadat indeed grunts while bowling, but it may not be as loud as Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova does. His teammates however thought that it was a ploy of the Sri Lankan captain to distract the right-arm, who bowled with aggression with the new ball. Shahadat took two wickets in his first two overs and had Mahela caught off a no-ball.

"I think Mahela reacted heavily because his side at that point was struggling at 14-2 and the aggressive fast bowler produced some fiery short balls at him," said a Bangladeshi player.

But on the day what was exceptional was the Bangladesh think-tank's idea about Shahadat's capability of handling champion off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran better than Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Although everybody was guessing about the injury of Mashrafe, the team sources confirmed that they sent Shahadat ahead of Mashrafe because they thought he might have been successful against Muralidaran.



The combo picture shows Sri Lanka's champion off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan on his delivery stride during a mesmerising spell; Bangladesh's young paceman Shahadat Hossain celebrates the fall of Kumar Sangakkara while Sri Lanka's opener Michael Vandrot sweeps left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak during his unbeaten knock of 87 on the eventful opening day of the first Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) ground in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Where has Mithu gone?

Athletics

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday officially confirmed that SA Games gold medalist hurdler Mahfuzur Rahman Mithu has gone missing from Italy.

Mithu, who won the 110m hurdles gold in the Colombo SA Games last year, was in Italy as part of his training at the Malaysia High Performance Sports Centre in a bid to get exposure and build competitive spirit.

A nine-member team including two Bangladeshi hurdlers -- Mithu and Sumita Rani -- from the Malaysian sport centre went to Italy and were due to travel to France.

BOA, he earned about Tk 65,000 per month. After the Europe tour, the team were expected to return to Malaysia on July 5.

"It is a disgrace. We wanted him to become a top athlete of Asia but he has downed us heavily."

Bangladesh has a long history of athletes defecting in abroad, especially in affluent countries, during competitions. The long list includes star athletes like Saidur Rahman Dawn, Bimal Chandra Tarafder and swimming champion Karar Mizanur Rahman.

In 2002, swimmer Karar Samedul Islam showed some good judgment by returning after he had fled with four athletes from the Manchester Commonwealth Games.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Change imminent in BCB

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Mahbub Anam yesterday told that he had no idea about the news of disbanding the executive committee of the board.

Sources confirmed that Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury had a meeting at the ministry on Sunday, where the issue of the BCB was discussed along with reforms of the National Sports Council and other foundations.

The Sports Adviser also told a local TV channel on Sunday that steps have been taken to reform sport bodies including the BCB and all corruptions will be looked into.

After a meeting of BCB's budget committee at the Dhaka Club yesterday, Mahbub Anam told that he was not informed about this.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

1ST BD-SL TEST SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo on Monday:

BANGLADESH: First innings

Omarr C Jayawardene b Vaas 8

Nafees c P Jayawardene b Malina 15

Saleh lbw b Muralidaran 3

Bashar lbw b Fernando 2

Ashrafal c Warnapura b Fernando 7

Shakib lbw b Muralidaran 16

Mashud not out 12

Shahadat c Muralidaran 1

b Mafando 1

Mashraf st P Jayawardene 1

b Muralidaran 1

Razzak lbw b Jayawardene 11

b Muralidaran 4

Extras: (lb-2, nb-7) 9

Total: (All out in 32.3 overs) 89

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-32, 4-

43, 5-50, 6-61, 7-64, 8-69, 9-85

Bowler O M R W

Vaas 7 3 8 1

Malina 7 0 31 1

Fernando 11 2 33 3

Muralidaran 7.3 3 15 5

SRI LANKA: First innings

Vandort not out 87

Warnapura lbw b Shahadat 0

Sangakkara c Mashud b Shahadat 6

M.Jayawardene retired hurt 93

Silva c Mashraf b Razzak 1

Dilshan not out 27

Extras: (lb-2, nb-5, w-2) 13

Total: (For 3 wkts in 51 overs) 227

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-14, 3-187

To bat: P Jayawardene, Vaas,

Muralidaran, Malina, Fernando

Bowler O M R W

Mashraf 6 0 27 0

Shahadat 8 0 53 2

Razzak 14 1 47 1

Rafique 11 1 46 0

Shakib 5 0 19 0

Ashrafal 7 0 29 0

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Asad Rauf and Suresh Shastri.

A disappointing start

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

When Mohammad Ashraful walked into the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) ground on Monday for the toss of the first Test against Sri Lanka, he started a demanding assignment.

A new captain but there was nothing new in his helm because of the Tigers' same old pathetic batting display on the opening day.

It has been repeatedly told in the last few days that this time the Bangladeshi batsmen felt more confident to face the rich Sri Lankan attack as they went through special batting sessions during preparation under the guidance of interim coach Shaun Williams.

But after being dismissed for their third lowest score (89) in 47 Test appearances, it proved that anything has hardly changed in their approach to the longer-version of the game.

"It's really disappointing the way I started my captaincy. We have had high hopes of making something good this time after we worked hard in the nets but ultimately, we failed to translate our efforts into form," the right-hander, who has a memorable record of becoming the youngest test centurion on debut at this very venue, came to bat with his side struggling at 32-3 and the situation demanded to play carefully and halt the disaster. But he was adventurous enough to pull Dilhara

new Bangladesh captain said while expressing his frustration after the day's play.

"We just did the same old things," he admitted.

There seemed to be no ghost in the pitch although home skipper Mahela Jayawardene invited the Tigers to bat first under brilliant sunshine in a calm and quite atmosphere at the city's prestigious ground.

As expected, there was bounce but hardly any movement of the pitch. And interestingly, the bounce at SSC is always being considered as supportive of batting. Staying for only one and a half hour in the middle actually made no sense in a five-day game.

The Bangladeshi batsmen agonisingly failed to apply the basics and common sense, which saw them take a lead at a precarious 64-7.

Ashraful himself was most vocal about his side's realisation about shot selections but it was hard to believe, especially after what he did.

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Fernando only to sky the ball to backward square-leg for a simple catch by debutant Malinda Warnapura.

"I was the only batsman who threw away the wicket but I think most of the guys were dismissed by good deliveries. I don't want to give any excuses because the wicket was perfect for batting and we should have survived against a quality bowling at this level," he said.

The talented batsman was not sure after spending six years at the highest level about where the problem actually lies after his side's painful batting in the first innings.

"This innings definitely reflected that we are not skilled