



Did U Know?

The first players elected to Baseball Hall of Fame were Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson in 1936.



Peter Willey
(English umpire)
"There might be some clubs who will be reluctant to employ security guards, but how expensive is a life?"
Bemoaning the lack of security at some Twenty20 matches.



ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live from 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Wimbledon Championship
Women's and Men's
Singles Quarterfinals
Live from 4:30 pm
TEN Sports
Copa America
Mexico v Chile
Live at 4:35 am (Thursday)
Brazil v Ecuador
Live at 6:50 am (Thursday)

Indo-Pak ODI rained off

BBC ONLINE, *undated*

The lone one-day international between India and Pakistan in Glasgow was abandoned without a ball being bowled yesterday.

Play was due to start at 0945 GMT, but with the outfield soaked by the recent downpours, the umpires ruled out any action just before 1345 GMT.

It meant the anticipated sell-out crowd of 5,000 was left disappointed.

The match, set up by the Prince of Wales Charles, had been expected to raise over 2.5 million pounds for charities in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the UK.

Organisers said the India and Pakistan cricket boards hoped to reschedule the match.

"I have spoken to both boards and they have committed to explore a way in which this match could take place at some point in

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LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Athletics Federation president Didarul Anwar yesterday visited critically ill athlete Shamim Ara Tolly at a local hospital. He handed over a cheque of Tk 50,000 to Shamim, the fastest woman of the country in 1972-73, who has been suffering from kidney ailments.

JUNIORATHLETICS

The 23rd National Junior Athletics Championships will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on July 6 and 7. The athletes have been asked to report at the federation office tomorrow afternoon for age test.

There will be no B. League football matches during the meet.

SCHOOL CHESS

The ninth Standard Chartered School Chess competition will begin in Dhaka on July 12. There will be no entry fee for the tournament open for all school students. Indian students are also expected to take part.

Report or obituary?

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

"You can only write an obituary on this scorecard but not a report," reacted a veteran journalist furiously at the P Sara press box after Bangladesh were dismissed for their lowest Test total of 62 on the first day of the second Test here yesterday.

One could not have said more when a scoreboard shows the numbers 8, 0, 21, 5, 0, 6, 9, 0, 2, 4, 1. It was painful to see a Test's fate all but decided in the very first session of the game. Facilities at the P Sara press box were horrible but it was more pathetic experience for the journalists to watch Bangladesh's batting.

The local media has already come down heavily after the first Test performance when one of the leading local newspapers branded Bangladesh's efforts in the first game as 'kid's stuff' and yesterday's show just added more fuel to the non-ending criticism.

But Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful was not ready to consider it as the saddest day in

his career.

"As a captain, it's a painful day for me as we scored our lowest total but I am not ready to say it is the saddest day in my career because I was dismissed twice in a day for ducks against New Zealand in 2004 at Chittagong," said Ashraful.

"You see we didn't bat like one-day cricket. I think none of our batsmen threw their wickets in this innings. The reality is we could not survive against such a quality attack.

"I don't want to give any excuses but what I want to say is that we need more time to cope with world class attacks. I think you can compare this bowling with the Australian attack comprising of Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne," he said adding that he was also unlucky to be dismissed without scoring.

Many were surprised by the dismissal of the 22-year old batter who flicked Lasith Malinga in his third ball despite Sri Lankan skipper Mahela Jayawardene had brought Malinda Warnapura at forward short-leg.

Interestingly, Malinga also echoed with the Bangladesh skipper's sentiments.

"I don't think it was because of Bangladesh's poor batting. I must say we bowled brilliantly in the morning. Our attack is now the best in the world and it's not easy for any team to handle us. Our bowling is definitely better than Australia right at the moment," said the confident pacer, who made the initial damage by taking four wickets including the scalps of Ashraful and former Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar in a single over.

Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who came to face the heat in the official press conference also defended his captain's views.

"I think Sri Lankan bowling is too good for us. Nobody was dismissed by playing a bad shot. I think we have the ability to survive against this kind of attack but we need some favour of luck. I think there a number of reasons behind the failure," said the Narail Express.

"If we had been all out for 150 odd runs, it would have been a painful experience for me. So, just think how I feel after being dismissed this cheap," said a frustrated Mashrafe, who gave the only breakthrough for his side.

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Rahul fine without coach

Cricket

AFP, Belfast

India may be without a coach but as far as captain Rahul Dravid is concerned that is not a major handicap as they prepare for a lengthy tour of England.

India won their first one-day series outside the sub-continent since 2002 when a six-wicket victory against South Africa at Stormont here Sunday sealed a 2-1 come-from-behind success.

It was a fine opening to a campaign that later this month sees the start of a tour of England, featuring three Tests and seven one-day internationals (ODIs), which runs

until September 8.

India have been without a coach since Greg Chappell, the former Australia captain and one of cricket's greatest batsmen, decided against seeking an extension to his contract after the team's shock first round World Cup exit in the Caribbean in March.

They then saw former South Africa coach Graham Ford, now in charge of English county Kent, turn down the opportunity to fill the vacancy.

So India decided to come to England minus a figure now considered indispensable to most leading international sides.

Instead they opted for a set-up where former Test batsman Chandu Borde, 73 later this month,

was appointed team manager.

Meanwhile ex-internationals Venkatesh Prasad (bowling coach) and Robin Singh (fielding coach) were brought in to assist Borde.

India boast some of the most experienced batsmen currently in world cricket in Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar -- who made back-to-back 90s in the first two games of the South Africa series -- and Sourav Ganguly.

Dravid, speaking ahead of Tuesday's lone one-day international against Pakistan in Glasgow, said senior players could act as mentors to their junior colleagues and so compensate for the absence of a head coach.

"I've had to take a little more

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Emily does it again



SPORTS REPORTER

Two-goal Zahid Hasan Emily inspired Abahani to their second consecutive come-from-behind win in a five-goal thriller yesterday and retain pole position in the B. League.

The inform striker, who returned among goals with a hatrick against Rahmatganj two weeks earlier, made a couple of clinical finishes as Abahani came from 2-1 down to edge Farashganj 3-2 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Emily also scored the equaliser in Abahani's last match, which they won 2-1 also coming from behind.

Robin and Arup found the net for the riversiders while Emily opened the scoring early and also struck the second-half match winner for Abahani after centre-back Nazrul had cancelled Farashganj's lead

from a penalty to make it 2-2 at the break.

Under overcast conditions, the sky-blues who climbed to 32 points after their ninth victory, took just four minutes to go ahead when Emily dodged past rival defender Mamun Mia with a diagonal ball from leftback Wali and placed an angled shot in off the base of the far post.

Rain intervened seconds later and Abahani, playing in their away strip of yellow, were caught napping as Robin broke an offside trap to equalise in the eighth minute.

POINTS TABLE

| Teams | M | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|----------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Abahani | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 24 | 7 | 32 |
| Muktijoddha | 16 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 24 | 11 | 30 |
| Mohammedan | 15 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 33 | 9 | 29 |
| Russel | 16 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 19 | 10 | 28 |
| Brothers | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 25 | 13 | 23 |
| Arambagh | 15 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 16 | 19 |
| Ctg MSC | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 19 | 19 |
| Farashganj | 16 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 18 | 18 |
| Khulna Abahani | 15 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 14 | 30 | 12 |
| Ctg Abahani | 16 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 31 | 12 |
| Rahmatganj | 16 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 41 | 9 |

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PHOTO: STAR

Abahani striker Emily celebrates his first goal as his teammate Abul (L) is all smiles during their B. League clash against Farashganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

THAT'S LIKE A LION: Sri Lanka fast bowler Lasith Malinga roars for joy after winning an appeal for an lbw decision against Bangladesh opener Shahriar Nafees on the opening day of the second Test in Colombo yesterday.

"Sorry boss, I'm quitting"

AL-AMIN

It was at around 12-noon yesterday when my cellphone barked only to confirm that a message has just arrived. I opened it immediately and it read: Tigers fighting fantastic. Enjoy 'kriket'.

An hour later it rang again and a familiar voice from the other end said: "Sorry boss, I'm quitting."

Both expressions were quite understandable and it definitely epitomised the sentiment of the whole nation after watching in disgust the first day's farce of the second Test between the "mock" Tigers and the Lankan Lions.

The so-called Tigers were bundled out for 62, their lowest ever score in a Test innings.

And those who took the trouble of watching the first two hours' proceedings must have felt ashamed and disgraced at the way Mohammad Ashraful's men perished one after another on a wicket a two-Test old batsman from the rival camp completed a half-century at the end of Day One.

One Palash from Mirpur called during the lunch break and placed his demand.

"The ICC (International Cricket Council) must modify the rules now. After Bangladesh were bundled out for 62 that too in only 25 something overs, they should have been asked (by Sri Lanka) to start their second innings immediately.

"Because that would have saved some of our time. Had they batted for the second time and scored another 62 runs that would have paved the way for the Lankans to finish the Test on the opening day itself. I guess if that happened then the "Tigers" might have become part of a history (although an unwanted one)."

It might sound very harsh. But the harsh truth is that the Bangladesh cricketers, after their debacle in the first Test, not only showed that they seriously lacked the temperament needed in the more demanding five-day game but also the techniques of school cricket.

Former Indian Test cricketer-turned-commentator Sanjay Manjrekar however tried his best to shower some inspiring words on the visitors.

"Mohammad Ashraful must still be positive. One or two Lankan wickets like the first Test might give his side the belief that they could still fight," said Manjeker while commenting for TEN Sports.

But he surely knows like all others do Bangladesh are heading for another disgrace sooner or later.

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