



Did U Know?

When Mohammad Sharif made his debut in 2001 against Zimbabwe, he became the 50th Bangladeshi to play for Bangladesh in ODIs.



Javed Miandad

(Pakistan batting great)

"I was and am always available whenever Pakistan cricket would need me."

While replying to new Pakistan coach Geoff Lawson's invitation.

What to WATCH

ZEE Sports

Asian Cup Quarterfinal

Iraq v Vietnam

Live at 4:00 pm

Asian Cup Quarterfinal

Japan v Australia

Live at 7:00 pm

ATN Bangla

Mohammedan v Brothers Union

Live at 4:15 pm



B.League

Mohammedan v Brothers Union

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Time: 4:15 pm

Long distance swimming today

SPORTS REPORTER

The 9th National Long Distance Swimming Championships will be held today at the River Shitalakha. The competition will begin at 10am at the Narayanganj BIWTA terminal and end at the Munshiganj launch terminal.

This is the first time the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) is risking to stage the event during monsoon when rivers are usually unfriendly for swimmers.

Qualifiers Karar Samedul Islam, Abdul Hamid Ripon, Monirul Islam, Zakir Ullah, Shahe Alam, Abdul Malek will compete in the men's group along with wild card entries Aslam Hossain and Khalilur Rahman while four female swimmers to take part are Sabura Khatun, Lovely Khatun, Mamta Shirin and Aduri Khatun.

BSF president and Naval Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, who will declare the meet open, will also distribute prizes as chief guest.

Second win for Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka recorded their second consecutive win in the BASIC Bank 18th National Women's Handball Championship when they beat Naogaon 10-2 at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Maradipur won their first match with a 15-9 defeat of Joypurhat while BJMC crushed Dinajpur 25-7 with Janahana netting eight goals.

In other matches, Ansar and VDP defeated Panchagarh 26-13 and Rajshahi outplayed Narail 13-0.

Batting blues curtail Tigers

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

If the words from the opponent camp are to be believed then Bangladesh can be said to have missed a golden opportunity to yesterday add another feather on their one-day cap.

It was a good Friday morning for Bangladesh team not only because Mohammad Ashraful won his first toss but also in the way his bowlers responded to vindicate his decision against a formidable batting line-up.

Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene all failing simultaneously is not a common scene for the Lankans but Bangladesh's new ball pair Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Syed Rasel made it possible yesterday to give their side an upper-hand.

But everything went in vain in the end for the Tigers and the reason was as usual: senseless batting.

"It was a competitive score but not a winning total," was the honest confession from Sri Lankan skipper Mahela Jayawardene, who praised Dilhara Fernando for winning the match single-handedly, after his side's 234-run total batting first at the P Sara Stadium.

The wicket was very flat in the second session, so it was not easy for the bowlers," said man of the match Fernando, the well-built pacer who demolished the

Bangladesh top order by taking four wickets, and made it clear that it was actually the Bangladesh batsmen who gifted them the emphatic 70-run victory in the end.

Understandably Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraful also admitted that they lost a very good chance to win the match against the world's second-ranked side at their own den.

"No doubt we had a very good chance," said a fuming Ashraful, who never looked in such a devastating mood in the tour even after his side had suffered humiliating defeats in the Test series when he appeared yesterday during the post-match briefing.

But was there any valid reason for the new Bangladesh captain to claim that they missed an opportunity after the way he himself and his other top order batsmen threw away their wickets to show yet again that they have hardly learnt from mistakes?

If sending Shakib Al Hasan, who has a lack of confidence, to the number four position was his first mistake than the right-hander made a serious offence in the way he tried to pull a short pitch delivery from Dilhara when he was supposed to be leading his side from the front.

That's why it sounded ridiculous when he demanded that his side had the plan of completing fifty overs to win the game.

"I must agree that it was not an impossible task to achieve. We were

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PHOTO: AFP

STARTING THE ROT: Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal (L) watches in despair as his outside edge is about to be snapped up by Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene (C) at slip off the bowling of Dilhara Fernando (not in the picture) during their first ODI at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo on Friday.

Crucial match for Mohammedan



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan will look to maintain their hundred percent record against Brothers Union this season when the two heavyweights meet in a crucial Dhaka derby today.

The B. League match, which kicks off at a revised schedule of 4.15pm, will be telecast live by ATN Bangla from the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan are at second place, three points behind leaders Abahani, and a win today will not only remove their last hurdle but also keep them alive for the cham-

pionship.

The mid-table Oranges are the last big name in the roster of Mohammedan, who edged Brothers in the first leg for their only win against one of the tournament favourites so far.

The black and whites, unbeaten in the last 13 encounters since losing 1-0 to Abahani in last March, will play lesser sides like Khulna Abahani and Arambagh in the last two rounds.

Still, Shafiqul Islam Manik's side

-- who have suffered just one defeat in the professional league -- cannot afford even a draw at this stage as a slip will take their archrivals Abahani closer to the title.

Abahani have 38 points to Mohammedan's 35 after 17 games.

Abahani play Arambagh tomorrow but have tricky opponents in the last two games when they face two amongst the top four, Sheikh Russel and Mukti Joddha.

They have also slumped to their worst form this season, losing consecutive matches to Mukti Joddha, Abahani and Chittagong Mohammedan after a draw with Russell.

On 23 points from 17 matches, a victory will enhance Brothers' chances for a fifth place finish. They are currently at sixth place, one point behind Chittagong Mohammedan.

Australia, but came off the bench to score the winning penalty in stoppage time.

Totti showed nerves of steel to slam home the spot-kick and wasted no time in hitting back at

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BD-SL 1ST ODI SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Colombo on Friday:

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Rahim b Reza 57

Jayasuriya b Rasel 21

Sangakkara c Rahim b Mashrafe 16

Jayawardene c Shakib b Rasel 2

Silva lbw b Razzak 65

Dilshan c Ashraful b Mashrafe 24

Mubarak not out 22

Maharof not out 16

Extras (lb4, w6, nb1) 11

Total (for six wickets, 50 overs) 234

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-58, 3-67, 4-

52, 5-190, 6-206.

BOWLER

O M R W

Mashrafe 10 1 31 2

Rasel 10 2 43 2

Razzak 10 0 48 1

Reza 10 0 42 1

Shakib 8 0 50 0

Aftab 2 0 16 0

BANGLADESH

Nafees c Silva b Fernando 33

Tamim c Jayawardene b Fernando 11

Tushar lbw b Fernando 0

Shakib c Sangakkara b Maharoof 4

Ashraful c Maharoof b Fernando 4

Aftab lbw b Malinga 16

Rahim c Tharanga b Bandara 28

Farhad c Tharanga b Jayasuriya 28

Mashrafe c b Bandara 6

Razzak run out 28

Rasel not out 1

Extras (lb3, w5, nb1) 9

Total (all out, 40.3 overs) 164

Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-46, 3-47, 4-

52, 5-56, 6-76, 7-118, 8-131, 9-148,

10-164.

BOWLER

O M R W

Maharoof 10 3 32 1

Malinga 7 0 17 1

Fernando 9 1 24 4

Bandara 9 0 64 2

Jayasuriya 4 0 23 1

Dilshan 1 1 0 0

Mubarak 0.3 0 1 0

Result: Sri Lanka win by 70 runs

Toss: Bangladesh

Umpires: Asoka da Silva (SRI) and Rudi Koertzen (RSA)

U-19 TRI-NATION

Bangladesh play India tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will face India in their second match of the tri-nation Under-19 Cricket Tournament tomorrow at the PSS Ground in Colombo.

On Monday, the Bangladesh U-19s will play hosts Sri Lanka at the same venue before playing the last league match against India on July 26.

Earlier on Thursday, the tournament opener between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka was washed out.

The tri-nation meet is being held as part of the three teams' preparations for next year's Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Malaysia.



FRANCESCO TOTTI

Football

Football

AFP, Rome

Italy's Francesco Totti announced his retirement from international football on Friday.

He was sensational dropped for the second round match against

recover in time for the World Cup.

The talismanic Roman struggled for fitness in the early matches and was heavily criticised by the Italian media for his lacklustre performances.

He was sensational dropped for the second round match against

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Wickets tumble on Day 2

Cricket

BBC, AFP, London

England took two early India wickets after collapsing in spectacular fashion on the second day of the first Test at Lord's here yesterday.

After heavy rain wiped out the morning, the home side lost their remaining six wickets for 26 to be all out for 298.

Kevin Pietersen was