



## 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.



### 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



## Long distance swimming today

SPORTS REPORTER

The 9th National Long Distance Swimming Championships will be held today at the River Shitalakhya. 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, Mamtaj 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 Jahanara netting eight goals.

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

# Batting blues curtail Tigers



BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

If the words from the opponent camp are to be believed than 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 Lanka 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

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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 1-0 in the first leg for their only win against one of the pre-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 Muktiyoddha.

Previous two seasons' top team from the capital, defending two-time Premiership champions Brothers have already crashed out of contention but the Gopibagh outfit would certainly look forward to finish the season with at least one victory against any local giants.

Despite being guided by wily Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin, who takes over the Bangladesh national team next month, they have only sparked momentarily.

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

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.

# Totti shuts door on Azzurri



AFP, Rome

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

The 30-year-old Roma striker, who had not represented the Azzurri since they won the World Cup last July after taking a sabbatical from international duty, finally called it quits due to the physical demands of playing so many matches.

"My main problem is physical," he told a news conference at Roma's Trigoria training ground.

"I came to the conclusion that I cannot play in so many matches in a year. I had to give up something and unfortunately it's the national team because I can't give up Roma. They are my priority."

Last September Totti, the Roma captain who was top scorer in Serie A last season with 26 goals, announced he was ready to return to the international set-up but only for important matches.

But his offer to play part-time for his country did not go down well with Italy coach Roberto Donadoni -- who took charge of the national team after the World Cup -- and several of his fellow internationals.

Totti said it was better to quit altogether rather than create animosity within the national team.

"I didn't want to create problems with the group and the staff," he added.

"I'm sorry, but my health is the most important thing."

Totti, who made his Italy debut in October 1998, broke his left ankle in February 2006 but managed to

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 sensationally dropped for the second round match against

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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FRANCESCO TOTTI

## 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, 4-150, 5-190, 6-206.

**BOWLER**  
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  
Fernando 11  
Tushar lbw b Fernando 0  
Shakib c Sangakkara b Maharof 0  
Ashraful c Maharof b Fernando 4  
Aftab lbw b Malinga 16  
Rahim c Tharanga b Bandara 28  
Farhad c Tharanga b Jayasuriya 28  
Mashrafe c and 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**  
Maharof 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 de 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.

# Wickets tumble on Day 2



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 among the victims, caught behind shortly after the third umpire gave him a reprieve when Mahendra Dhoni claimed a catch behind.

Ryan Sidebottom trapped Dinesh Karthik lbw and James Anderson had Rahul Dravid caught behind to leave India 36-2 tea.

There was no hint of the drama to come when the dark skies led to torrential rain and thunder in St John's Wood a few hours previously.

The groundstaff somehow ensured play could start in the afternoon and India, who fought back with late wickets on Thursday, were well and truly in the game after England resumed on 268 for four with Kevin Pietersen on 34 and Ryan Sidebottom on nought.

RP Singh bowled nightwatchman Sidebottom with the new ball and Pietersen edged to keeper Dhoni off Zaheer Khan and umpire Simon Taufel raised his finger.

The Hampshire batsman started to make his way back to the pavilion only to stop and return to the middle after his teammates told him the ball

had not carried.

However, minutes after the third umpire ruled in his favour, he produced a repeat edge and this time the Indians' celebrations were not curtailed.

The crowd and England balcony had little time to digest that turbulent period when Sreesanth (3-67) struck Matt Prior high on the pad but Steve Bucknor sent the batsman packing.

There was no doubt when Sreesanth pinned debutant Chris Tremlett in his crease for a third-ball duck and swung one in to Monty Panesar to win his third lbw verdict.

In the meantime, Ian Bell produced several fine drives and top-edged Sreesanth for a six.

But his dismissal, getting an inside edge onto his stumps, completed and summed up a remarkable passage of play which saw six wickets fall in an hour.

The exaggerated swing movement that Sreesanth, Zaheer and Singh had found was there for England's opening bowlers too and life was tricky for Karthik and Jaffer.

Jaffer had a lifeline in the third over when Prior missed a regulation chance after Sidebottom found his edge and recovered to play an elegant straight drive and flick through square-leg for the first two boundaries.

Sidebottom eventually had his reward when he swung one in to trapped Karthik plumb lbw and Anderson struck an even bigger blow when he got some late swing to induce an edge from Dravid.

In walked Tendulkar -- with more than 10,000 Test runs but a top score of only 31 at Lord's to his name.

He had few alarms early on but England knew removing him cheaply was the key to continuing their repair job.

Earlier, England, 247 for two when play resumed after a second bad light stoppage on the opening day, lost two wickets for three runs in nine balls as they declined to 255 for four.

Michael Vaughan, the England captain, was out for 79 when he edged left-arm quick Rudra Pratap Singh through to wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

All-rounder Paul Collingwood then went for nought, plumb lbw to leg-spinner Anil Kumble. It was his first Test duck in his 46th innings at this level.

India would have been better placed had not Andrew Strauss, who made 96, been dropped on 43. Together with Vaughan he put on 142 in 50 overs for the second wicket.

But the left-handed opener should have been out when Dinesh Karthik dropped a straightforward catch.

India's novice pace attack initially struggled after Vaughan won the toss and it was left to the experienced pair of Sourav Ganguly and

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India fast bowler S Sreesanth (2nd R) favours England tail-enders Monty Panesar (R) with a stare after dismissing him for a duck during the second day of the first Test match at Lord's on Friday.