



Did U Know?

Reggie Jackson holds the major league baseball record for most strikeouts with 2,597.



Shane Warne

(Australian cricket legend)
"It was a waste of time. The boot camp was a different way to reinforce the same things. My way would have been to lock us all up in a pub."

While giving his alternative to Australia's controversial boot camp last year.



BTV & TEN Sports

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
 Third One-day International
 Live at 10:30 am

ATN Bangla

Brothers v Rahmatganj
 B.League
 Live at 4:15 pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India
 Sports News
 Live at 8:30 pm

DAY'S EVENT

B.League

Brothers v Rahmatganj
 Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
 Time: 4:15 pm

Hoggard out of 2nd Test

AFP, London

Matthew Hoggard was ruled out of the second Test against India on Monday with the back injury that saw him miss the drawn series opener here at Lord's.

England, with the next match in this three-Test series starting at Nottingham's Trent Bridge ground on Friday, do not believe there is enough time for the experienced swing bowler to regain full fitness following the back spasms that saw him ruled him out before play at Lord's started last Thursday.

Instead the selectors have kept faith with the same starting XI that featured in the first Test as well as Stuart Broad, released last week after debutant Chris Tremlett won the race to fill England's last pace bowling spot.

Broad returned to Grace Road for Leicestershire's clash with Middlesex and took a wicket in the five overs he was allowed in a rain-marred match.

England's chairman of selectors, David Graveney, said: "We did not consider Matthew Hoggard for this (second) Test match on cricketing grounds.

"He is making progress in his recovery from a back injury and came through a preliminary fitness test at the ECB National Cricket Centre today (Monday).

"He will be reassessed tomorrow (Tuesday) to see if there is any response to Monday's test and no decision has yet been made as to whether he will be available for domestic cricket later this week."

Graveney praised the performance of an England bowling attack that, despite missing the injured trio of Hoggard, Andrew

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More scary than bomb



BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

The Sri Lankan capital may have been gripped by panic after yesterday's police announcement that LTTE has send two bomb-laden vehicles to Colombo, but Mohammad Ashraful's men have their own anxiety for another humiliation on the card.

With hardly any self-confidence left among the Tigers ahead of today's third and final one-dayer at the R Premadasa Stadium, it would be a miracle if they can finally pull their socks in their last game of a very disappointing tour.

From the very beginning of the tour, even the Bangladeshi cricketers accepted that the formidable Lankans are too good for them in their own den.

The repeated failures understandably dented the confidence of Bangladesh captain Ashraful, who surprised everybody by commenting that Javed Omar is the best opener to deal the new ball.

Although the thin-tank's sentiment was to go for the same opening pair for the third match in succession, Ashraful was desperate to bring Javed in place of Shahriar Nafees, who stayed with the team following the Test series because of the skipper's interest.

"Nafees was the highest scorer (33) in the first one-day to give us a good start but still, I prefer Javed

because I believe he has the ability to survive against the new ball. Yes, Tamim also failed in both matches but I have the confidence on this guy," explained the 23-year-old yesterday.

Everyone was convinced about Tushar Imran's fate after the right-hander's failure in five innings but no one was in favour of Javed except Ashraful.

"I think Javed was picked up because the planning is to keep as many wickets as possible in the first twenty overs and that might be the reason for the captain's preferring

Javed," said selector Akram Khan, who believes that Nafees is the future of the team.

Ashraful, however, said that they made the two changes for the final match with hopes to win at least one game in the series.

"We have to bat well if we want to return home with some solace. And we made the changes to boost our batting. We wanted to see someone like Riyad because Tushar failed to deliver in the last five innings although we had very high hopes on him," said Ashraful.

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Name: Mohammad Mahmudullah Riyad
Born: January 1, 1986, Mymensingh
Major teams Bangladesh A, Bangladesh Under-19s
Batting style: Right-hand bat
Bowling style: Right-arm off-spinner

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s	50s
First Class	20	35	3	911	70	28.5	0	5
List A	19	19	3	391	49	24.4	0	0

	M	W	Best	Avg.	Eco.	SR	4wkt	5wkt
First-class	20	20	4-64	37.3	3.18	70.45	1	0
List A	19	9	3-27	37.4	4.32	51.88	0	0



Chittagong Abahani's Abraham Bobby (R) struggles to control the ball on a waterlogged pitch as Farashganj defender Mamun Mia keeps a close watch during their B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Cricket adds to gloom

MOHAMMAD ISAM

A pall of gloom grips everything. Look outside and it's raining. So, the thought of venturing out is quite impossible, as water has swelled every city street and boulevard. It is better to watch some television and as soon as you do that, you will get more depressed if you are watching our cricketers in action in Sri Lanka. Because the same boys who made us smile just a few months ago, are getting beaten and out-thought in every way possible. Regardless of which team they are playing against, a performance like this can only make one feel worse, given the current situation in the country.

Over the past few weeks, nothing

has gone right for the people of Bangladesh. Rain and floods have already begun to ravage our cities and villages. There is a process of national 'reforms' (unfortunately the country's sport has so far not been included in it) going on. Still, life of the masses has not getting any better. A spate of murders and muggings; Price of almost everything, except that of peoples' lives, have gone up. Nobody looks comfortable regardless of whether one fall in the 'haves' or 'have nots' of the society.

Cricket however more often than not played the role of a healer of real life sufferings.

A good performance in Sri Lanka would have fitted in nice amidst all

this because it is a feel-good factor for us Bangladeshis. One can say our warm relationship with the national team and its exploits is something that we cherish. But one needs to understand that if cricket is a feel-good factor, then it must have delivered something when the country needed it to.

"Definitely a good performance by the national team brings the people a lot of joy," said former national cricketer Rafiqul Alam at the picturesque Dhanmondi Cricket Academy ground during yesterday's mid-afternoon downpour.

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Dhoni, rain deny England



AFP, London

The weather came to India's rescue as they drew the first Test at Lord's here on Monday with England just a wicket away from going 1-0 up in the three-match series.

Bad light, which forced an early tea, with India, at 282 for nine, still 98 runs shy of their imposing victory target of 380, initially gave the tourists a dramatic reprieve.

The umpires had hoped to restart the match at 4:40pm local time (1540GMT) but, just as the covers were being removed, rain fell and ended play.

India captain Rahul Dravid admitted that outside elements had saved

the day for his side.

"It was very stressful out there and we just got out of jail," said Dravid, who was victim of a doubtful decision in the second innings.

"I think it was a good effort by the boys but I truly think we got saved by the weather today (Monday)."

Dravid added that right from the start India had been chasing the match.

"They (England) were on the front foot and we didn't start well losing the toss and giving away 75 runs in first fifteen overs and that pushed us back," he admitted.

"We fought hard and stayed in touch with them and at various stages in the game I think our seamers got us back in it but we stayed in touch but we were lucky to get away with it in the end."

England captain Michael Vaughan was philosophical in his usual understated way about the outcome.

"That's the English weather," said Vaughan.

"We're really pleased though, right from that first morning we batted well and the young guys bowled well.

"We had the conditions that helped our style of bowling and we can take a lot of positives from the game.

"We have three days now to recuperate both in body and mind and go out at Trent Bridge and do it all again."

However, it wasn't just the weather alone that saved India.

Wicket-keeper Mahendra Singh

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Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza plays video games in his hotel room as he rests his sprained right ankle in Colombo on Tuesday.

PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

Ctg Abahani edge F'ganj again

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj ended their inaugural professional football league campaign yesterday with a solitary goal defeat to visiting Chittagong Abahani at the rain-soaked Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Centre-back Narayan headed home a freekick in the 83rd minute to give Abahani their fourth win -- second against Farashganj in as many matches -- in 19 games.

The riversiders, who had lost their away game in Chittagong 2-0, finished their 20 matches on 22 points. With a 5-7-8 record, Farashganj ensured eighth place in the 11-team B. League.

The port city sky-blues, meanwhile, climbed to ninth place with a match in hand, increasing their tally to 15, two points above Rahmatganj and three ahead of bottom-table Khulna Abahani.

Chittagong Abahani will conclude their mission on July 29 when they host Dhaka giants Brothers Union in first match of the last week.

Mahbub resigns

SPORTS REPORTER

Months of speculations over, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Mahbub Anam yesterday tendered his resignation to board president MAbdul Aziz.

After repeated talks that the caretaker government would disband the BCB executive committee any time in July, the rumours intensified last week that the board members would resign en masse following its meeting on last Saturday.

Mahbub Anam's stepping down came as no surprise. The long-time board general secretary told The Daily Star last night that he submitted his resignation personally to the president in the afternoon.

"The government wants to reform the board. I am also in favour of the reform. So I decided to pave the way for change," told Mahbub.

"The other members of the board are also quitting and they are expected to send their resignation letters individually," he added.

The final number of the resignations, however, could not be confirmed last night.

It was learned that Mahbub had a

meeting with Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury before meeting the BCB chief to hand over his letter.

Afterwards, he had a long meeting with the other board members at Dhaka Club.

The executive committee was elected two years back but virtually, the same faces have been running the show since the BNP-led coalition government came to power in 2001 and replaced then president Saber Hossain Chowdhury with Ali Asghar Lobi, who dispersed the board of directors.

Immediately after the polls in 2005, the elected body was heavily criticised for politicisation and alleged manipulation in the election.

Meanwhile, the government will name an ad-hoc committee as soon as possible.

"The BCB president informed me that he has accepted Mahbub Anam's resignation," told National Sports Council secretary Aminul Islam Khan.

"We will try to avoid a vacuum and name a new committee within the next two days. It might be even tomorrow," said Aminul adding that the ad-hoc committee would not exceed 12 members.

Dhaka clubs seek help from Tapan

SPORTS REPORTER

A delegation of six Dhaka-based clubs yesterday met Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury with a plea to help them recover from the current stagnant situation in sports.

Officials of Abahani, Mohammedan, Brothers, Muktioddha, Farashganj and Rahmatganj requested the sports adviser to take steps to enhance their economic condition, informed former national football captain Badal Roy, who was in the delegation.

"Financially, most of the clubs are not well off now. It is a reason behind the lack of sporting activities and we wanted the help of the adviser to change this situation," said Badal.

"Most of the clubs' regular income source has been stopped due to drive against gambling and most of the donors have stopped giving fund. The federations are not also helping much. We tried to convince the adviser that it would be difficult for us to continue activities if this spell goes on," Badal said.

It was learned that the delegation also sought financial help from Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury, who assured them to find a way out.

Harry comes to Lord's

BBC ONLINE, undated

Even Harry Potter couldn't conjure up an England Test match victory as the rain fell at Lord's -- but I'm sure he tried. The actor who plays Harry, Daniel Radcliffe spent his 18th birthday at the home of cricket and joined Jonathan Agnew at lunch for a very special View from the Boundary.

It was his first live cricket match after getting into the game over the last year.

"Most people got into cricket when we won the Ashes; I got into it when we were beaten 5-0!"

Daniel was in Australia working when the 2006/2007 Ashes took place down under and he told Aggers it was Paul Collingwood's double century in Adelaide that got him hooked. "It was the celebration when he got to his 200, it was so impassioned. He gave a cry out when he did it -- so emotional, almost primeval and a bit scary but really inspirational".

Daniel said he was stirred into patriotism by the constant Australian gloating about the series -- as an Englishman down under he thought it was his duty to get behind the England side no matter how badly they were doing.

The 18-year-old is mostly used to giving out autographs -- but he admitted he queued with other cricket fans to get signatures from Andrew Strauss and Sachin Tendulkar.

It was ironic that when Strauss found out Daniel was going to be joining us at lunch he asked Aggers to get a Harry Potter book signed for his child.

Strauss has also featured in a

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PHOTO: AFP

India wicketkeeper-batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni spans a boundary off England captain Michael Vaughan during the final day of the first Test at Lord's on Monday.