



Did U Know?

By taking 26 wickets, Glenn McGrath of Australia was the highest wicket-taker in the 2007 Cricket World Cup.



Pele

(Football legend)
"David Beckham is more of a pop star than a player. From my experience with New York Cosmos, I would advise him to be very well prepared for the matches."



ATN Bangla

Mohammedan v Arambagh
B.League
Live from 4:15 pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm



B.League
Mohammedan v Arambagh
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Time: 4:15 pm
Ctg Mohammedan v Sk Russel
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong
Time: 4:15 pm

Abir-Rabbi final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi's Abir will face Rabbi from Jessore in the final of the unde-14 group of National Junior and Sub-junior Badminton competition at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium today.

Abir beat Almas 21-15, 21-14 while Rabbi defeated Arifat 15-21, 21-17, 21-15 in their respective semifinals yesterday.

In the girls' under-18 semifinal, Shoaib of Bogra beat Pabna's Ashraful 26-24, 21-13 to reach the final.

In the girls' under-14 group, the pair of Rozina and Nabila, who both played in the final on Monday, beat Mawasing and Hi Chi 21-8, 21-2 in the doubles semifinal.

'Booze adds to SA misery'

PTI, Durban

Alcohol abuse by some of the South African cricketers was a cause of their poor performance during the recent ICC World Cup in the West Indies, observes Adrian le Roux, the former fitness trainer of the team.

"In my opinion, the use of alcohol within the national team is a problem. This does not include all the players, but it does include players who play a vital role within the team," said Le Roux in the latest issue of 'The Wisden Cricketer'.

Drinking alcohol inside the 72-hour period before a match "would not allow the body to function in its normal capacity ... (and would be) a contributing factor to muscle cramping," he said.

Captain Graeme Smith and AB de Villiers suffered from crippling cramping during World Cup matches and the team came in for

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Khulna Abahani depart with future uncertain



SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Abahani finished ninth in the B.League when the visitors crushed Rahmatganj 3-0 on the penultimate day of the inaugural professional football league at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Needing a win to avoid a last-place finish, Rahmatganj showed signs of determination early in their league finale but failed to continue with the same spirit after captain Sony conceded an own goal five minutes from break.

Pikul and substitute Nazmul added the rest in the second half to ensure Khulna's third win in Dhaka after upsetting giants Brothers Union 4-2 and champions Abahani 2-1.

The home side, who had lost 2-0 to the Khulna sky-blues in their first leg match -- the opening round of the competition back in March -- ended bottom-of-the-table with 13 points while Khulna Abahani increased their collection to 16 points with their overall fourth victory.

The league ends today with runners-up Mohammedan facing neigh-

bours and sixth-placed Arambagh and Sheikh Russel targeting a win against Chittagong Mohammedan in the port city in a bid to clinch third place.

Mamun fluffed a great chance after 12 minutes when the Rahmatganj forward took a headed pass from Rony on the edge of the six-yard box but screwed his shot wide.

Francis had only the last defender to beat from a melee on the half hour but the Nigerian striker failed to keep in chip under the bar as Rahmatganj's domination began to fizzle out.

A freekick by Abahani leftback Kabir broke the deadlock when his centre from the left side took a wicked deflection off Sony's chest, giving Anwarul no chance at the Rahmatganj goal.

Hemyaet Ullah's boys, the most

POINTS TABLE							
Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Abahani	20	14	5	1	36	8	47
MSC	19	11	6	1	39	12	39
Muktijoddha	20	9	6	5	29	19	33
Russel	19	8	8	3	22	12	32
Brothers	20	8	5	7	32	19	29
Arambagh	19	8	2	9	21	22	26
Ctg MSC	19	7	4	8	19	25	25
Farashganj	20	5	7	8	17	22	22
Kin Abahani	20	4	4	12	21	43	16
Ctg Abahani	20	4	3	13	18	39	15
Rahmatganj	20	3	4	13	15	48	13

Zaheer's sweet revenge



AFP, Nottingham

India's Zaheer Khan said he'd been inspired to produce his best Test match bowling figure by a bizarre England prank involving jellybeans.

Left-arm quick Khan took five for 75 in 27 overs as England were bowled out for 355 in their second innings before India closed on 10 without loss, needing just 63 more runs on Tuesday's final day to go 1-0 up in the three-match series with just The Oval finale to come.

That gave the 28-year-old pace bowler match figures of nine for 134 after his first innings return of four for 59.

But in between those stints the left-arm quick had been fired up by the sight of jellybeans being left on the

crease when he came out to bat on Sunday during India's first innings 481.

After he'd got off the mark, an angry Khan brandished his bat in the direction of the England slip cordon and at the end of the over the umpires spoke to him and Andrew Strauss, captaining England with Michael Vaughan on the field, in a bid to calm the situation.

"There was an incident that happened on the field while I was batting. On the crease there were some jellybeans so I just tapped one off the wicket to start with," Khan told reporters after stumps on Monday, having taken his fifth five-wicket innings return in his 49 Tests.

"Then I played the next ball, there were again some jellybeans on there on the wicket so someone was chucking them from behind, which I didn't like.

"So I just went up to them (the England fielders) and said 'guys what is this all about?' I'm here to play cricket."

"They came at me and I was upset about it. I just reacted accordingly. I didn't know from where it was coming. I just felt it was insulting... We are here to play cricket. Personally for me, it definitely inspired me to do well.

"When I go on the cricket field I'm serious, I'm there to play good cricket, nice hard quality cricket. This is Test match cricket we are playing here."

Last season Khan was the second most successful bowler in English test-first-class cricket, taking 78 wickets for Midlands county Worcestershire.

"I bowled very waywardly in Bangladesh about three or four years back. After that I worked hard

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New tests for pace duo



AFP, Karachi

Doping-tainted pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif featured in Pakistan's latest drug tests for the first time since they tested positive last year, an official said Tuesday.

"We are conducting tests on all the 30 probables announced for the Twenty20 World Cup and these tests are conducted on Pakistan Cricket Board regulations, which are now WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) compliant," PCB director of communications Ahsan Malik told AFP.

Three of the players -- Younis

Khan, Danish Kaneria and Yasir Arafat -- are currently in England playing county cricket and their tests may be conducted abroad, Malik said.

The focus of these latest tests remains Akhtar and Asif, who tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone in tests conducted internally in Pakistan before the ICC Champions Trophy last year. They were withdrawn from the Pakistan team for the tournament.

A PCB doping tribunal banned Akhtar for two years and Asif for one year, but an internal tribunal on appeal controversially overturned the bans.

Pakistan also conducted pre-

World Cup tests in February in which Akhtar and Asif did not appear. The duo was then pulled out of the World Cup due to injuries on the day the team left for the West Indies.

Pakistan suffered a humiliating exit from the World Cup after a three-wicket loss to first-timers Ireland.

Malik said he hoped the team would be announced once the results of the latest tests were received from a Malaysian laboratory.

"We hope to get the results of these tests in time to announce the squad on August 11," said Malik, who denied that the tests are being done to avoid any embarrassment in the Twenty20 event.

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PHOTO: STAR

Khulna Abahani's Kabir (L) tackles Rahmatganj forward Mamun during the B.League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



PHOTO: INTERNET

India captain Rahul Dravid (L) salutes as he walks off with Sourav Ganguly (R) after they won the second Test by seven wickets at Trent Bridge on Tuesday.

BCB ad-hoc committee sits today

SPORTS REPORTER

The first meeting of the newly appointed ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will take place this afternoon at the board's management office in Gulshan.

Chief of General Staff Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali will preside over the emergency meeting. Although it would be an introductory get-together, a number of pressing issues are expected to be discussed.

However, any major decision is unlikely to come out as there had been hardly any interactions among the members of the 12-member committee since it was declared on Sunday.

But still, issues like appointments of a national coach and physiotherapist, tour management members for the ICC Twenty20 World Championship and the Academy tour of Australia require immediate attention.

Most of the members, however, are eagerly waiting to know whether there is any government course of action about the running the country's most affluent sport body.

It is unlikely to see all the members attending the first meeting as two members are in abroad now.

'We didn't throw jellybeans'

BBC ONLINE, undated

England captain Michael Vaughan said his players had not dropped jelly beans about the crease on Sunday while India were batting in the second Test.

Vaughan's team lost by seven wickets at Trent Bridge to fall 1-0 down in the series with just one match left.

India's Zaheer Khan, man of the match for his nine wickets, said he "felt insulted" by the jellybean incident.

But Vaughan said: "The guys promised me they weren't throwing them. They were just left there at a drinks interval."

The skipper said that if he could be provided with "some footage that might prove me wrong" then he would be happy to re-evaluate the incident.

The jellybean row was just one of a number of ill-tempered exchanges between both teams.

India pace bowler Sreesanth lost half his match fee for a shoulder-charge against Vaughan, and the same man also bowled an accidental beamer at Kevin Pietersen.

England wicketkeeper Matt Prior indulged in frequent sledging when India were batting. Vaughan said: "There might have been times when we might have gone over the line but I want players playing it tough in Test cricket."

England's scores of 198 and 355 were "about 60 to 70 runs short" on each occasion, said the captain.

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India go one up



AFP, Nottingham

India beat England by seven wickets to win the second Test on the fifth and final day at Trent Bridge here on Tuesday and so go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

Resuming on 10 without loss, India needed just a further 63 to achieve their victory target of 73 and England required an astonishing fightback.

As it was, India took just 95 minutes Monday to seal what was only their fifth win in 47 Tests in England, finishing on 73 for three.

India captain Rahul Dravid, reflecting on his side's triumph, said: "We got together after Lords and knew we needed a better performance. You have to get the basics right and that's what we did. It was a great effort."

Dravid was 11 not out and Sourav Ganguly two not out on a sunlit day seemingly ideal for batting with the winning runs coming when wicketkeeper Matt Prior conceded four byes.

This victory was set up by left-arm quick Zaheer Khan who led the India attack with a superb display of swing bowling on his way to Test-best match figures of nine for 134.

Dravid reflected: "He was brilliant, you need players who can take the game by the scruff of the neck and that's what he did Monday afternoon. He really changed the game for us."

Chris Tremlett took all the wickets to fall on Monday in a spell of three wickets for three runs in 27 balls.

Wasim Jaffer was caught off a top-edged hook by the fast bowler's

Hampshire teammate Kevin Pietersen in the gully for 22.

Jaffer's fellow opener Dinesh Karthik fell for the same score when he was caught behind by Prior.

Sachin Tendulkar went for just one, well caught at backward short leg by Alastair Cook after he fended at a rising ball.

It had been a good toss for Dravid to win, his bowlers exploiting the helpful conditions to dismiss England for 198.

In reply India piled up 481, a lead of 283, with Tendulkar making 91 as he became only the third batsman in history to score 11,000 Test runs.

England captain Michael Vaughan made the only individual century of the match, 124 when his side batted again before becoming one of Khan's five second innings wickets.

Paying tribute to the visitors Vaughan said: "Full credit to India, they deserved to win the test match throughout the five days."

"It seemed to have been a good toss to win but all credit to the Indian attack. We were probably 60 to 70 runs light in the second innings but India played some good cricket."

This Test, which followed an opener at Lord's where India clung on for a draw with one wicket standing was marred by several unpleasant incidents.

India fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth was fined 50 percent of his match fee for shoulder barging Vaughan on Monday.

Previously, Khan had been angered by the extraordinary sight of jellybeans, left by England fielders, littering the crease when he batted on Sunday.

Vaughan, asked if the line of accepted sporting behaviour had been crossed, replied: "What's been great about these two Tests is they've been tough but I don't think the line's been crossed yet. You've got two sides wanting to win for their country."

Dravid added: "We've had two tough Test matches with both teams trying to win, it got quite tough out there."

Match referee Ranjan Madugalle later told reporters: "The important thing is to remind the captains they are responsible for the behaviour of their sides and that it cascades down to the rest of team."

The third and final Test starts at The Oval on August 9 with England needing a win to extend their record of 11 unbeaten series at home since losing the 2001 Ashes.

Looking ahead, Dravid said: "England are not going to lie down, we'll be expecting a tough encounter."

Vaughan added: "It's going to test our characters being 1-0 down but hopefully we can produce a performance at The Oval to get the series back level."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fifth and final day of the second Test between England and India at Trent Bridge on Tuesday:

ENGLAND: First innings 198 (Zaheer Khan 4-59, Kumble 3-32)

INDIA: First innings 481 (Tendulkar 91, Ganguly 79, Karthik 77, Jaffer 62, Laxman 54; Panesar 4-101, Tremlett 3-80)

ENGLAND: Second innings 355 (Vaughan 124, Collingwood 63,
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'Follow your mate'



AFP, Nottingham

India captain Rahul Dravid said fiery fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth ought to learn from the example of teammate Zaheer Khan if he didn't want to get into further trouble with cricket officials.

Sreesanth was fined 50 percent of his match fee during India's seven-wicket second Test win, completed at Trent Bridge here Tuesday, for shoulder barging England captain Michael Vaughan.

He also let loose a dangerous 'beamer' at England batsman Kevin Pietersen, for which he immediately raised his hand in apology, and bowled a bouncer at Paul Collingwood off a no-ball called after he'd overstepped the crease by several feet.

Khan, by contrast, largely kept his cool when India were in the field and the left-arm quick was rewarded with Test best figures of nine for 134 as his side went 1-0 up in the three-match series with just The Oval finale starting on August 9 to come.

"I think he has a great example in Zaheer Khan and, if he needs to learn from anyone, he just needs look at what Zaheer's done in this Test match for us," Dravid said of the 24-year-old Sreesanth after India had completed

only their fifth win in 47 Tests in England spanning 75 years.

"He has had controlled aggression. Zaheer has been as aggressive as anyone else without going over the top and just sticking to performing and getting wickets," the India captain, in at the finish on 11 not out as his side reached their victory target of 73 for the loss of three wickets, added.

"Sree is a talented bowler, young and a bit excitable. He is going to learn along the way," Dravid also told reporters. "It's part of our responsibility to try to ensure he learns."

Asked if his fastest bowler's huge no ball had been a mistake, Dravid replied: "He says it was one. Any issues like that we will deal with internally and he will be spoken to."

Vaughan said: "A beamer was bowled and he (Sreesanth) said it was an accident and we take his word for that. I guess more of a concern is a huge no ball."

"I have spoken to Rahul this (Monday) morning. Sreesanth is young and a real good talent but I hope he didn't bowl a two foot over the line no-ball to try to intimidate the batsman because it's a tactic which could be used in most games and it's not what we want to see."

But there were aspects of England's conduct that were less than impressive as well.

When Khan came out to bat in India's first innings he found his crease littered with jelly beans and angrily waved his bat in the direction of England's slips when, having brushed the beans away, he found they had been replaced when he was about to take guard again after getting off the mark.

"It's an incident that has been blown out of proportion," said Vaughan.

"I guess one of the guys might have left one (jelly bean) by the crease just as a prank for the new batsman. If it offended Zaheer in any way we apologise for that."

He added: "It's not the reason why we've lost a game of cricket, because of some jelly beans."

For all the talk, particularly from England players this season, of how talk on the field can create an atmosphere where batsmen are intimidated, it was left to Dravid to put the issue into perspective by saying what mattered was how players played.

"What really shows mental strength for me is what Zaheer Khan has done with his performances, what our openers (who shared a first inning stand of 147) have done."

"That for me is mental strength, that for me is toughness. That is the kind of toughness I expect from my team."