



Did U Know?

The youngest player to have played in Wimbledon Championships to date was Mita Klima of Austria. She participated in the ladies' singles competition of the 1907 edition at the age of 13 years.



Ranjan Madugalle

(ICC match referee)
"Cricket is a non-contact sport and any deviation from that fact is completely unacceptable."



ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh conceded a 25-20, 17-25, 18-25, 21-25 defeat to Sri Lanka in a keenly contested match of the Commonwealth Volleyball Championship in Kolkata yesterday. Earlier on Tuesday, Bangladesh earned a straight sets (30-28, 25-26, 25-23) victory over Nigeria at the same venue.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Twenty-two players were called as the visiting Orissa women's football team will play against the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) XI on August 21.

The players have been asked to report to Kamrun Nahar Dana at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex on August 3 at 5pm.

The players are: Dalia, Nila, Aysha, Kraching, Trishna, Bulu, Chingbai, Suinu, Farhana, Mainu, Maksuda, Champa, Nubang, Kemi, Rina, Kobina, Angmraching, Rupali, Shurovi, Khadija, Sheela and Rita.

AGE-GROUP SWIMMING

Keya Cosmetics 23rd National Age Group Swimming Championship will be held at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur today.

607 swimmers and 88 officials from 26 affiliated districts and 33 swimming clubs have registered to participate in the meet. 446 swimmers participated in last year's meet that featured 23 national records.

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Freddie likely for ODIs

AFP, London

England chairman of selectors David Graveney believes Andrew Flintoff will be fit in time to feature in the one-day series against India later this month.

Flintoff, also known as Freddie, stepped up his return from ankle surgery by playing in Lancashire's County Championship clash against Sussex this week and Graveney expects to see him in action against the Indians.

The all-rounder missed the entire Test and one-day series against the West Indies after his third operation to clear up the recurring ankle problem, but is on course to play in the first match against India on August 21 at the Rose Bowl.

"It's great that he's back playing," Graveney told BBC Radio Four on Wednesday.

"He's started to bowl in nets and there's nothing that I've heard to the contrary that would prevent him from playing in the one-dayers

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BCB's standing committees formed

SPORTS REPORTER

In its first meeting the ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has taken some important decisions like forming the standing committees and naming the tour management team for next month's ICC Twenty20 World Championship.

Syed Fahim Munaim has been named chairman of the working committee where Lt Col M Abdul Latif Khan (ret) is the vice-chairman and Shafiqur Rahman, Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, Mirza Salman Isphani and Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby are the members.

Former Bangladesh captain Lipu was named chairman of the most important committee, cricket operations, with Shafiqur Rahman as vice-chairman and Bobby member.

The new ad-hoc committee has also decided to retain national game development manager Shaun Williams as the interim coach for the Twenty20 meet in South Africa, but replaced Ali Asif Khan as the team operations

manager with Tanjib Ahsan Saad.

The new BCB body sat for more than four hours to form the committees and then it was a one-and-a-half hours' scheduled press conference where new media committee chairman Bobby disclosed the decisions of the meeting.

Bobby informed that they only focused on the pressing issues, which required immediate solution and that was why issues like reform and roadmap for the new committees' activities were not discussed in the meeting.

However what was noticeable was the absence of two members of the ad-hoc committee. And Bobby even had to face questions from the reporters that there were whisperings that one of the two members, who holds the post of chairman in two different committees, was absconding.

"First I want to apologise for the delay. Nine members attended the meeting today out of 11. What I can inform you is that one member is likely to return home

by August 10, but I don't know about the other member's plan. Also I am not in a position to reply your question about the whisperings," Bobby explained.

"We only discussed the pressing issues and believe that other issues like reforms or everything else would be discussed in due course of time," he added.

The press was eagerly waiting to hear something from the new president, Bangladesh Army's Chief of General Staff Major General Sina Ibn Jamali who presided over the emergency meeting, and Bobby ensured that he would convey the message to the president and try to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

Another burning issue that came up in the meeting was the appointment of a new national coach, but the committee decided to re-evaluate the whole process.

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President of Bangladesh Cricket Board's ad-hoc committee Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali chairs the emergency meeting of the board at its Gulshan office yesterday. Committee members (L-R) Ahmed Sajjadul Alam, Sahafiqur Rahman and Syed Fahim Munaim are also seen.

PHOTO: STAR

B.League ends

SPORTS REPORTER

The curtain fell on the country's inaugural professional football league yesterday with both matches resulting in identical 1-1 draws in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The results, however, made no impact on the points table of the 11-team B.League.

Playing with ten men for the last 15 minutes, runners-up Mohammedan trimmed the gap with league champions Abahani to seven points after Mohammed Rony cancelled the opener by Arambagh forward Nicodemus in the Dhaka derby.

Sheikh Russel made the trip to the port city with a hope to win and overtake Muktiyoddha for a third-place finish.

But the visitors had to remain satisfied with one point, thanks to Bulbul's second-half equaliser in the 59th minute after Chittagong Mohammedan, who clinched seventh place after a very impressive season,

had taken the lead through Dipu in the very first minute of their home match at the MA Aziz Stadium.

Mohammedan, whose title hopes were heavily dashed after last round's 1-1 draw away at Khulna Abahani, hardly looked like the team to win without their inspirational captain Paul.

The Nigerian, whose 14 goals including a double-hatrick brought a mediocre side this far in the competi-

tion, was injured and his three fellow countrymen failed to dominate against a tight Arambagh defence.

Despite an unplayable pitch at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, muddy and sluggish, Arambagh enjoyed superior ball possession and Kenyan striker Nicodemus sent a superb chip from the left after 21 minutes for Morshed, only to see the ball run harmlessly across the black and whites goal.

Sharif and Walid twice volleyed over the Arambagh goal while Zuku's powerful drive from 20 yards skimmed the Mohammedan upright before Nicodemus separated the two sides in the 32nd minute with a sublime shot.

The Kenyan picked up a loose ball near the centre circle and raced down the right flank before hammering an angled right-footer into the roof of the net from outside the area for his eighth goal, giving Mohammedan goalie Himel no chance.

Midfielder Sharif then spoiled a

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FINAL TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Abahani	20	14	5	1	36	8	47
Mohammedan	20	11	7	2	40	13	40
Muktiyoddha	20	9	6	5	29	19	33
Russel	20	8	9	3	23	13	33
Brothers	20	8	5	7	32	19	29
Arambagh	20	8	3	9	22	23	27
Ctg MSC	20	7	5	8	20	26	26
Farashganj	20	5	7	8	17	22	22
Khulna 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



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan midfielder Zahid (L) is under pressure from an Arambagh defender during their B.League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

CSA refutes booze claims



CRICINFO, undated

Cricket South Africa has responded to a report that says "the use of alcohol" was a problem within the team during the World Cup. The comments were made in a confidential document prepared by former fitness trainer Adrian le Roux and revealed in the latest edition of South Africa's The Wisden Cricketer.

le Roux's comments did not relate to all the players, but he said: "Some players are simply not mature and responsible enough". He recently left his role with the team, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family in Bloemfontein, but it is believed he became increasingly frustrated when the players wouldn't heed his advice.

"I felt confident (before the tournament) that, apart from Roger Telemachus, all players in the squad were physically ready for the challenge of a two-month tournament," wrote le Roux in the report. "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."

However, the South African board has been quick to respond. "CSA denies media reports that Adrian le Roux resigned as physical trainer because of alcohol abuse among some of the team."

"He stated clearly in his letter of resignation that he was leaving cricket to concentrate on a new career so that he could be with his family in Bloemfontein. We reluctantly accepted Adrian's resignation because he was a highly valued

member of the management team. However, we respected his reasons for leaving because he wanted to stop travelling and be with his family."

It went onto say that concerns raised after the World Cup have been dealt with. "CSA did hold an official inquiry following the match against New Zealand at the World Cup, and it was found that a number of players had been drinking into the early hours after the match."

"We viewed this in a serious light despite there being no curfew in place on an off day. We have now changed the curfew and other regulations regarding alcohol intake while on tour."

"The inquiry, our findings and recommendations took place well before Adrian submitted his routine report after the World Cup. It is a matter of grave concern, however,

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Bashar could play ICL

CRICINFO, undated

Former Bangladesh captains Habibul Bashar and Khaled Mahmud have expressed interest in participating in the Indian Cricket League (ICL) if they are offered contracts approved by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

"I have a contract with the BCB and I want to honour it," Bashar told a Dhaka-based daily. "If the ICL offer does not clash with it, I will definitely play. I think I am fit enough to compete at the highest level and I will play at least three more years."

However, Bashar -- who has a contract with the BCB till October -- said he had not got any offer to play in the ICL. He was replaced as the Bangladesh captain by Mohammad Ashraful for Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka and has not been picked for the Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa this September.

Mahmud, who retired from international cricket in February last year but continues to play in the domestic league, said: "Realistically, I don't expect any offer from any ICL team. But if there is any and the BCB permits me, yes, I can play." Mahmud had been manager of the Bangladesh side during the Champions Trophy last year.

When Mohammad Rafique, the left-arm spinner, was asked whether there was any possibility of his joining the ICL, he said, "Let them offer me (a contract), then I will think about it."

The ICL is a Twenty20 tournament proposed to be held in India around October. It plans to feature six teams, each including four international players and two Indian stars.

New coach next week

CRICINFO, undated

The Indian board has announced that a decision on the appointment of India's next coach will be taken on August 10 in New Delhi.

"The BCCI office bearers will meet and the modalities regarding the process for selecting the new coach will be worked out," Niranjan Shah, the Board secretary, told the Hindu. "Right now we have Venkatesh Prasad and Robin Singh as the bowling and fielding coaches (and they are doing a good job)."

Shah, who didn't rule out the possibility of an advertisement being placed for the post, said a panel comprising former India captains Sunil Gavaskar, S Venkataraghavan and Ravi Shastri, and a select BCCI committee headed by Sharad Pawar, the board president, would screen the candidates.

"We are in no great hurry and will look for the best possible candidate," Shah said. "I am not in favour of advertising for the post but we will reach a consensus in which the views of the other office-bearers will also count."

India have been without a coach since Greg Chappell's resignation after the World Cup, with various positions being filled on an interim basis. Shastri took over as the cricket manager for the Bangladesh tour while Prasad and Singh were appointed as specialist coaches.

Graham Ford, the former South African coach who is currently the director of cricket at Kent, rejected the board's offer to coach the national side shortly after the board announced his appointment in haste. Chandu Borde, the former Indian captain, was subsequently appointed manager for the tours of England and Ireland.

'No more poor tourists'



AFP, Nottingham

Rahul Dravid believes India are starting to shake off their tag as poor travellers after they went 1-0 up in a three-Test series against England here at Trent Bridge.

India's comprehensive seven-wicket win left them on the brink of only their third series victory in England since they first toured the country in 1932, with just the third Test at The Oval starting on August 9 to come.

Since the turn of the century they have enjoyed success on their travels, including a victory against world number ones Australia.

But where they have struggled is in stringing away wins together. For example, an impressive victory against Australia at Adelaide in 2003 was followed by defeat in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne.

And earlier this year in South Africa, India blew another 1-0 lead with a win at the Wanderers the prelude to defeats in both Durban and Cape Town.

"We've not won many games here in England or abroad so this is something to cherish," said India captain Dravid, whose side required just 73 for victory at Trent Bridge after a superb bowling display from Zaheer Khan saw the left-arm quick return Test-best

match figures of nine wickets for 134 runs.

The performance of Khan, who also bowled well in the series opener at Lord's where India clung on for a draw with one wicket standing before bad weather ended the match, evoked comparisons with now retired Pakistan left-arm quick great Wasim Akram such was the Indian's ability to swing the ball both ways.

Dravid, while praising Khan's display, said the efforts of India's other left-arm seamer, Rudra Pratap Singh, should not be ignored.

"Zaheer was the star of our bowling. He showed what a leading bowler must do. He was well-supported by RP Singh. I think his critical wickets in both innings made a big impact." Dravid also highlighted on Tuesday the role of India's unheralded opening batsmen, Dinesh Karthik and Wasim Jaffer, who put on 147 after a Khan-inspired attack bowled England out for 198.

"They set up the game for the middle-order."

Spin bowlers have tended to prosper at The Oval in recent years, which could see India leg-break bowler Anil Kumble come to the fore at the south London venue where the Test pitch has a reputation as a good cricket wicket.

"I've always felt we've done well when we've had the opportunity to take 20 wickets," Dravid said. "All it

needs then is one good batting performance from us and we set up the game."

England captain Michael Vaughan, now facing up to what would be his side's first defeat in 12 home Test series since they lost the 2001 Ashes, said the opening day at Trent Bridge had been pivotal.

"We could have shown more skill and application to maybe get to 250-260 but it was very tough batting conditions on that first day. All credit though to the way India bowled in both innings."

But while Vaughan was making a stylish second innings 124, the only individual century of a match where India's top score was Sachin Tendulkar's 91, England had hopes of subjecting their opponents to the same pressure they suffered at Trent Bridge two years ago.

Back then, England's top-order collapsed before they secured the 129 they needed to beat Australia for a three-wicket win that gave them an ultimately decisive 2-1 Ashes series lead.

"That game was in the back of my mind as I knew how hard it was chasing 120," added Vaughan, out in unlucky fashion when a Khan delivery bounced off his thigh pad before trickling onto the stumps.

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Let's move on: Moores



BBC ONLINE, undated

Coach Peter Moores wants to focus on preserving England's unbeaten home Test record rather than the poor behaviour which marred India's second-Test win.

England, facing their first home series defeat since 2001, go into the final match on 9 August 1-0 down after losing a bad-tempered Trent Bridge Test.

"It got out of hand. Everyone has learned from it and hopefully we won't see it again," he told Radio Five Live.

"Sport moves on, we've got to get ready for The Oval now."

The Nottingham Test was marred by several unsavoury incidents, with India paceman Sreesanth barging into England captain Michael Vaughan, firing a vicious but accidental beamer at Kevin Pietersen and bizarrely overstepping by fully a yard to bowl a no-ball.

Even more notably, Zaheer Khan was incensed by England scattering jellybeans around the playing area while he was batting.

The left-arm seamer channelled his anger to good effect by taking five wickets in England's second innings and condemning Moores to his first defeat since becoming coach.

Moores added: "There was aggression as there should be with two sides trying to win for their country."

"But we take the spirit of cricket very seriously because we know youngsters are watching."

"It's not a team tactic we talked about before the game," he added, referring to the much-fabled jelly-beans.

"England players are desperate to win but that wasn't done disrespectfully."

"I don't want the whole jelly bean thing to overshadow what was a very good Test match with excellent skill by

both sides."

Reflecting back to matters of a purely cricketing nature, Moores conceded that England's sub-standard first innings total in bowler-friendly conditions on the first afternoon proved decisive.

"Par was closer to 300 than 198, we

were put under pressure by some every good bowling," he said.

"If we'd got 300 in the first innings they would have chased 180 last so that was a big swing in the game."

One positive note from an England point of view as they seek

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PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan superstar Shoaib Akhtar gestures towards the ground as he stands in the National Cricket Stadium in Karachi on Wednesday. Akhtar walked off the field after going down with mild dehydration during a warm-up game the day before.