



Did U Know?

Football became an official Olympic sport at the London Games in 1908.



Abdul Razzaq
(Just-retired Pakistan all-rounder)
"I have taken this decision under protest because I am mentally disturbed over the treatment meted out by the selectors who dropped me like a new player."
After announcing his retirement from international cricket on Monday.



ZEE Sports
Nehru Cup Football
India v Syria
Live from 7:30 pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live from 8:30 pm

Exhibition matches postponed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Abahani-Mohammedan and football-cricket stars versus film artists exhibition football matches scheduled for today have been cancelled due to yesterday's student unrest and daylong violence in the city.

Organisers of the charity matches for raising fund for the flood victims told at a press conference at the BFF Bhahan yesterday that they will organise the matches as soon as the situation permits.

The two friendlies, originally scheduled for August 16, was first postponed for inclement weather.

"We had taken all preparations but the situation has forced us to postpone the show," told Mostakur Rahman, a Mohammedan official and coordinator of the event.

"In this situation, crowd cannot come and it is an event for them. We also have to guarantee the security of the players, especially the cine stars. But we will hold the event to raise fund for the noble cause to keep our commitment," Mostakur added.

"It is an unavoidable situation. We were ready to play. Whenever the organisers call us, we will be here to play," said former national football captain Badal Roy on behalf of the footballers.

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Lalbagh, Jirabo win 1-0

SPORTS REPORTER

Lalbagh Sporting Club's Shujon struck the only goal as they won 1-0 against Mirpur Chalanika in Third Division Football League at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Shujon scored the winner in the 39th minute.

In the next match, Gulistan played out a 2-2 with Rahmatganj.

Mofuallah and Bablu scored for Gulistan while Aung and Faisal netted for the old Dhaka side.

At the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium in Kamalapur, Jirabo beat Muslim Institute 1-0 after Ronny scored in the 36th minute.

In the day's other match at the same venue, Dhaka Junior drew goalless with Mirpur Ekadash.

Cambodia defy Bangladesh

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Substitute Keo Kosal's 90th minute equaliser denied Bangladesh from a certain win in the Nehru Cup as they drew 1-1 with Cambodia at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi yesterday.

The Cambodian striker, who almost scored level in the 82nd minute but saw his drive from 20 yards curl just out of the sidebar, stabbed the ball home from eight yards after the tired Bangladesh backline failed to stop a darting low cross by another substitute Sam Al Nesa from the right flank.

Abul Hossain had given Bangladesh a deserved lead on the half hour when his glancing header on a corner by Alfaz Ahmed gave Cambodian goalkeeper Oum Veasna no chance.

Bangladesh's Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin made one change in the line-up from the sides that lost 2-0 to Syria and 1-0 to India by bringing in veteran Alfaz for Robin.

The striking duo, Alfaz and Emily, generated enough attacks but Bangladesh failed to capitalise on

their superior ball possession.

Their first real chance came after 15 minutes when Emily played superb overhead pass for Alfaz who miskicked under pressure from a defender as Veasnapicke dup the ball comfortably.

Abul, adjudged man-of-the-match, then released Emily with a through from the midfield seven minutes later but the striker's first touch took the ball out of his control and allowed Veasna to clear for a corner.

Ariful, whose defensive errors cost Bangladesh three goals in the tournament in the first two games, then forced a superb save when his 40-yard lob was palmed over for a corner by Veasna.

The resulting corner put Bangladesh ahead as Abul, unmarked by the rival defence, put a free header into the far corner.

Veasna fumbled on two occasions in the last five minutes before the break but Bangladeshi forwards failed to take the rebounds.

Playing their third match inside five days, Bangladeshi booters showed tired legs immediately after the interval but Cambodia, who lost 4-3 to Kyrgyzstan in their opener, hardly threatened to score despite

good runs on the break.

Bangladesh again picked up the tempo and Ariful's another long-range effort was spectacularly punched out by Veasna in the 71st minute.

Sam El Nasa took the first shot on the rival goal but Biplab was not disturbed at all but he had little to do when Kosal put a right-footer into the far corner on the brink of the final whistle.

Nayeemuddin admitted after the match that he was disappointed not to win the game.

"We made one mistake and paid for it. The defenders should have covered after going up but they failed. Anyway, I am proud of my players because they have played tremendously well," said Nayeem, whose boys take on Kyrgyzstan in their last match tomorrow.

"The players came ere just after a long league and here also, they are playing with the shortest possible gap," he added.

Syria and hosts India, who meet today, lead the round-robin league with six points after two outings each.

Kyrgyzstan have three points while Bangladesh, the only team

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A FIRST OF MANY: Ian Bell (R) flicks the ball majestically while opener Alastair Cook appreciates a standing ovation as both reached their maiden one-day centuries during the first match against India at the Rose Bowl in Southampton on Tuesday.

Bangladesh's fight for survival

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh make a last-gasp effort today to stay in contention for a place in the Merdeka Cup semifinal from Group B when they take on Singapore in Kuala Lumpur.

The match will kick off at the Shah Alam Stadium in the Malaysian capital at 4.30pm Bangladesh time.

The group has come alive after Singapore's stunning 4-2 victory over the Zimbabwe Select team -- the 96th FIFA ranked Africans who are top-ranked of this tournament have not brought their national team -- with all four goals for the south-east Asians coming inside the first 33 minutes on Tuesday.

Bangladesh lost to Indonesia 1-0 also on Tuesday with Cornelius Map firing home a 25th minute freekick but Hasanuzzaman Babloo's boys impressed by pushing the opponents to the defensive.

It would be the third time the

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BCCI's Plan B

CRICINFO, undated

While much of the attention was focussed on the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) crackdown on players who have aligned with the Indian Cricket League (ICL) there was another significant development that took place.

In order to ensure continuity the BCCI has announced a president-elect to succeed Sharad Pawar. That office will most likely be held by Chirayu Amin, president of the Baroda Cricket Association, for three months, and then, probably, by Shashank Manohar for three years through to 2011.

Pawar will become vice-

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England win big

Cricket

AFP, Southampton

Ian Bell and Alastair Cook both scored their maiden one-day international hundreds as England beat India by 104 runs at the Rose Bowl here Tuesday in the first match of a seven-game series.

Bell made 126 not out and Cook 102 in England's total of 288 for two after India captain Rahul Dravid won the toss and elected to field.

They were the first England batsmen to score a century at this level since Kevin Pietersen made 100 against the West Indies in Barbados in April in the team's final match of the World Cup.

India then collapsed to 34 for four inside 12 overs, with James Anderson taking two wickets in five balls, and there was no way back from that position.

They eventually finished on 184 with Dravid top-scoring with 46. Monty Panesar bowled RP Singh for

nought off the last ball of the innings.

Dinesh Karthik was 44 not out. "Let's not get too carried away," stressed England captain Paul Collingwood. "We've got six games left in the series."

"Alastair Cook and Ian Bell played fantastically well... and the bowlers came out and hit India hard."

"It was a near-perfect performance."

Dravid admitted that his side had been "outbatted and outbowled... We have to play a lot better if we want to stay in the series."

"Losing four early wickets in a chase puts you under a lot of pressure."

India gifted England an early wicket when Sourav Ganguly, turning blind, was run out by a throw from Panesar, much mocked for his fielding, at mid-off to wicket-keeper Matt Prior for two.

Then 15 for one became 19 for two when Gautam Gambhir was caught behind off pace bowler Anderson, who finished with a career-best four for 23 in 10 overs.

Sachin Tendulkar, out for 17, also fell to Anderson after a clip off the star batsman's legs went straight to Ravinder Bopara at short mid-wicket.

And four balls later Yuvraj Singh was dismissed by Anderson for nought following Cook's brilliant diving one-handed catch to his right in the gully.

Anderson took three for 19 in his first eight overs.

Andrew Flintoff, making his first England appearance since the World Cup after renewed ankle trouble, dismissed Mahendra Singh Dhoni, whom he'd previously seen caught off a no-ball, when the batsman gloved a hook on 19 (made off 60 balls) to opposing wicket-keeper Prior.

Dravid fell soon afterwards, well caught down the legside by Prior, standing up, off Dimitri Mascarenhas on the medium-pace's Hampshire home ground.

Bell, in his 48th one-day inter

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Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national team maintained their supremacy against the BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) as they won the limited overs practice match by 16 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

But like the two Twenty20 matches on Tuesday, the Tigers again failed to come out of their shells as they could not maximise while batting against the Australia-bound players.

But captain Mohammad Ashraful continued his good form with a 55-ball 51 that contained four boundaries and a huge six before falling victim to a run out, for a second successive occasion.

The senior team managed a decent

188 in their stipulated 40 overs, thanks to cameos from vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and newcomer Ziaur Rahman when they smashed five sixes in the last two overs.

Mashrafe smote three consecutive sixes against occasional off-spinner Nayeem Islam in the penultimate over during his 11-ball 22 while Zia, who scored 12 off only 4 balls, clobbered two sixes against Academy skipper Mehrab Hossain.

"We have to bat much better than we batted today," said Ashraful, whose side lost four wickets for 64 runs in the first 20 overs. The innings was divided into 20 overs each.

Mehrab and Rokibul Hasan both scored 41 but the Academy side were bundled out for 172 runs in 39.4 overs.

Once again, it was the bowlers who did their part to ensure the national team's victory. Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak claimed four

wickets for 38 runs while left-arm seamer Syed Rasel, who recovered from an ankle injury, took 2-26.

Aftab Ahmed missed the match due to fever.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: 188 all out in 40 overs (Tamim 11, Junaed 24, Nazimuddin 12, Ashraful 51, Shakib 3, Kapali 18, Mushfiqur 2, Nadif 13 not out, Forhad 10, Mashrafe 22, Ziaur 12, extras 10; Dollar 1-16, Talha 1-13, Robin 2-13, Mosharraf 1-28, Mehrab 2-41, Nayeem 2-48).

NCA: 172 all out in 39.4 overs (Sahagir 22, Nasiruddin 1, Rokibul 41, Mehrab 46, Nayeem 4, Dhiman 25, Dollar 16, Nazmul 2, Mosharraf 3, Mahbub 1 not out, Talha 0, extras 11; Mashrafe 2-29, Rasel 2-26, Shakib 1-26, Razzak 4-38).

Result: Bangladesh won by 16 runs.



PHOTO: STAR

Academy fast bowler Mahbubul Alam (C) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Bangladesh batsman Shakib Al Hasan during the second warm-up match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Proteas zap Zimbabwe

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

A lower-order fightback from Gary Brent and Elton Chigumbura wasn't enough to prevent South Africa from coasting to a five-wicket victory in the first one-dayer at Bulawayo on Wednesday.

Zimbabwe recovered from a disastrous 72 for 7 to post 206 but the target was hardly challenging for the South Africans as Gulam Bodi, Graeme Smith and AB de Villiers helped themselves to half-centuries, polishing off the target with nearly three overs to spare.

After losing Loots Bosman in the first over to Christopher Mpofu, Bodi and Smith added 72, ensuring Zimbabwe could take no advantage of the early dismissal. To their credit, the Zimbabwean bowlers didn't allow the batsmen to blitz away to

the modest target, and the fielders too impressed with their commitment.

Smith, playing his first match since the World Cup semi-final, got into his groove with boundaries on either side of the pitch. He used his feet against the gentle medium-pace of Elton Chigumbura and brought up his fifty with a boundary, an upish drive off the same bowler. However, Chigumbura won the battle two balls later when he held on to a one-handed return catch. At this stage, the South Africans upped the tempo and pushed the run-rate above four.

Bodi had the most to gain, impressing in his debut game. He fetched his first boundary with an innovative flick across the line from off stump and kept the runs coming. He impressed with his range of strokes, caressing half-volleys past mid-off and, then took on the spinners, sweeping and stepping down the track. Zimbabwe used as

many as six bowlers by the 25th over but none looked like troubling the batsmen as Bodi and de Villiers milked the attack with minimum fuss.

Bodi eventually fell just after reaching his fifty, beaten for turn from the offbreak bowler Prosper Utseya and edging to wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu. de Villiers then took charge of the chase, stating his intent with three boundaries in an over off Mpofu, and even the loss of two more wickets - that of Jean-Paul Duminy and de Villiers - couldn't bring the home side back into the game.

Earlier, the Zimbabwe top and middle order were exposed in their inept display, after Utseya chose to bat under sunny skies. Vusi Sibanda set the pace with some

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A photo of the Banani DOHS ground taken yesterday shows pedestrians walking on a distorted pitch. It was alleged that some unidentified people of this locality damaged the pitch while venting their anger against the erstwhile club authorities who wrested control for the past 5 years.