



Did U Know?

Cricket will be a demonstration sport at the 2007 Special Olympics in Shanghai, China, to be held over October 2-11.



Rahul Dravid

(India cricket captain)
"Tension is a good thing within a team, but it needs to be creative, not destructive. John Wright had similar problems at the start but unlike Greg Chappell he was prepared to adapt. By the end he (Wright) was more Indian than the Indians."



TEN Sports

US Open Tennis
Day Nine
Live from 9:00 pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live from 8:30 pm

Shakib getting better

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Nairobi

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's injured right index finger is showing signs of improvement.

Shakib, who is nursing an impact fracture, gripped a bat during the Tigers' training at the Nairobi Gymkhana without any discomfort and also took a few catches with a tennis ball yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Uganda team have won the heart of two full member countries in the tournament after their stunning two-wicket victory against Kenya.

During an official reception on Sunday, the Pakistan team declared that the man of the match prize won by Shahid Afridi and Imran Nazir in two matches will be given to the Ugandan side and Bangladesh also showed the same gesture by announcing that Nazimuddin's cheque of US \$500 would go to Uganda.

Tendulkar admits it!

PTI, London

Sachin Tendulkar has for the first time admitted that it is increasingly becoming difficult for him to play one-day cricket with long recovery time after matches taking toll on his body.

"I enjoy every moment I have on a cricket field, but the recovery times between games these days are difficult, especially for one-day internationals, and that's my major obstacle," he said.

"It does take its toll on the body. When you are 22 or 23, you recover a lot more quickly. But at 34, it's not so easy," he was quoted as saying by the Times on Monday.

Tendulkar recently opted out of the Twenty20 World Championship but refused to agree that he was old enough to call it quits.

"My body will tell me when I have played enough cricket, but I don't feel old just yet. I still think I'm a young boy at heart." He, however, confirmed that this was likely to be his last tour of England.

"Whatever cricket is left in me, I would like to make the most of it. I don't know what the future has in store, but I don't think I'll be touring England again, because that will be in four or five years," he said.

Tigers play Uganda today

All eyes on Nazimuddin



SPORTS REPORTER

When Bangladesh play their last game of the Quadrangular Twenty20 tournament against Uganda at the Gymkhana Club ground in Nairobi today, one batsman in the Tigers' rank will unwittingly walk in the middle to solve a riddle -- being consistent.

There were only a handful of instances when a Bangladeshi batsman performed consistently in an international meet. But young opening batsman Nazimuddin, who initially was not considered in the core group, suddenly comes to the fore.

The 22-year-old, who struck a match-winning 43 against Kenya and then played the likes of Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif for a scintillating 81 off 50 against Pakistan, now has a chance to finish the meet with flying colours provided he continues his rich vein of form against the lightweight Africans.

Included in the playing eleven in place of injured Shakib Al Hasan at the last moment, the right-hander so far grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

Although it is too early to say whether he would be able to solve the opening headache in the abridged version of the game, the way he paced his innings in the last two games gave the selectors ample food for thought.

Nazimuddin himself was quite confident to make a grade while recalling the contribution of former Bangladesh Under-19 coach Richard McInness behind his success.

"I was in the Bangladesh Under 19 team's pre-World Cup 2004 camp at the BKSP and it was like staying in hell. There was so much physical hardship for six months and I was close to breaking point," recalls Nazim, in an interview with TigerCricket.com, who is one of the four players in the present national side from that class of 2004 under hard taskmasters McInness and fitness trainer Justin Corder.

"One day we were taken for an ice-bath at 7 in the morning. It was winter and I had never experienced anything like standing inside a drum

with ice up to the neck. I thought why don't they kill me instead," Nazim says with a boyish smile.

"After the ice-bath there was another 40-minute ordeal at the swimming pool. When I got back to the dorm I called my mother on the phone and just asked her 'you want to see your son alive or you want a cricket player?' and she could hear me weeping. She paused for a few seconds and then said in a steely voice, 'a son who is a cricket player'. I was so upset I did not call home for the next four weeks. Looking back, I guess if she had played the typical mom and told me to come back home then I would never have gone on to play international cricket," the soft-spoken cricketer explained.

He admitted that the Australian coach changed his cricket philosophy. There is no doubt Nazimuddin is

set to perform in a bigger stage when Bangladesh head for ICC Twenty20 World Championship.

Mohammad Ashraf's men will leave the Kenyan capital on Thursday for Johannesburg to take part in the first-ever T20 World Championship where they have been pitted in Group A along with hosts South Africa and West Indies. Bangladesh recorded a five-wicket victory over Kenya in the first game before going down fighting against a formidable Pakistan in the second game by 30 runs. Uganda on the other hand pulled off a stunning two-wicket victory against the hosts after a humiliating defeat against Pakistan.

Bangladesh have made one change for today's game, bringing in Nadif Chowdhury for Mahmudullah Riyad.

ASIA CUP

Bangladesh take revenge



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh bounced back in the 7th Asia Cup hockey tournament with a 3-2 win against Sri Lanka in Chennai yesterday morning.

The victory came as sweet revenge for Bangladesh, who had lost to the Lankans in the 10th SA Games last year in Kandy to be dispossessed off the bronze medal of the regional Games they had won in the same south Indian city -- then known as Madras -- back in 1995.

Bangladesh came to the game, starting at 8am, on the back of a 6-0 defeat to China while Sri Lanka were smarting from a 20-0 thrashing at the hands of hosts India.

Russel Mahmud Jimmy, whose four-goal stint against Thailand gave Bangladesh a 13-0 win over Thailand on the opening day of the meet, opened the scoring after four minutes when the striker neatly completed a move following a

penalty corner.

Sri Lanka, looking for their first point in Pool B, managed to keep the Bangladesh attackers at bay and hit back from the 31st minute counter attack to equalise through Hettiarachchi with a fine hit.

Bangladesh, however, came vigorously after being held 1-1 at the break and setpiece specialist Mamunur Rahman Chayan, who struck thrice against the Thais, scored from a penalty stroke in the 46th minute.

Bangladesh got better on setpieces and playmaker Zahidul Islam Rajan sealed the victory from another penalty corner three minutes later.

Sri Lanka fought hard in a bid to come back but only managed to reduce the arrears from a 58-minute penalty corner.

Bangladesh, who have six points after two wins from three games,

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PHOTO: AFP

Spain's Rafael Nadal in action against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during their third round match of the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Sunday.

Nadal moves into qtrs

Henin, Serena set to renew rivalry

AFP, New York



Justine Henin and Serena Williams advanced to a U S O p e n quarterfinal showdown in impressive fashion Sunday while Wimbledon winner Venus Williams ousted one Serbian star only to be faced with another.

World number one Henin, who took her sixth Grand Slam title in June at the French Open, blasted Russian 15th seed Dinara Safina 6-0, 6-2, while Australian Open winner Serena Williams defeated French 10th seed Marion Bartoli 6-3, 6-4.

Henin already defeated US eighth seed Serena Williams, an eight-time Slam champion, in this year's quarterfinals of the French

Open and Wimbledon and is excited about Tuesday's rematch.

Venus Williams overwhelmed Serbian fifth seed Ana Ivanovic 6-4, 6-2 in a rematch of their Wimbledon semifinal to book a date with Serbian third seed Jelena Jankovic, who beat Austrian 19th seed Sybille Bammer 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

Jankovic is 3-2 against Venus, defeating her this year in a third-round match at the French Open and a semi-final on her way to a title at Charleston. Jankovic also eliminated Venus at Wimbledon in last year's third round.

French Open champion Rafael Nadal kept his US Open campaign on track on Sunday despite a painful knee as Spanish-speaking claycourters clamped a stranglehold on the bottom half of the draw.

The 21-year-old second-seeded Spaniard charged into the

last 16 by defeating big-hitting Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (7/3), 6-2, 6-1, winning 10 out of the last 11 games after a tough first set.

Following him into the fourth round were compatriots and close friends Carlos Moya and David Ferrer as well as Argentine pair Juan Monaco and Juan Ignacio Chela, all better know for their skills on clay rather than hardcourts.

American hopes of posting a third qualifier for the last 16 after Andy Roddick and James Blake were sunk when Robby Ginepri went down 5-7, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 to Switzerland's other top-100 player, Stanislas Wawrinka.

Nadal once again had strapping on both knees when he took on Tsonga, but he looked much more at ease than in the first two rounds

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NCA in driving seat against Tasmania

SPORTS REPORTER

The bowlers did an excellent job after impressive batting as BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) team continued their domination against Tasmania on the second day of the Crocodile Cup three-day match at the University ground in Darwin yesterday.

Promising pacer Dollar Mahmud and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque equally shared six wickets as the visiting side took a huge 156-run first innings lead after wrapping up the local side for 152 in 54.5 overs.

The NCA extended their lead to 295 runs when they reached 139 for six in the second essay before the bats were drawn for the day. Sahagir Hossain remained not out on 34 and Nayeem Islam accompanied him with 27.

Imrul Kayes (5), captain Mehrab Hossain (8), Suhrawardi Shuvo (0) and Dhiman Gosh (0), who made an unbeaten hundred in the first innings, failed to cross the double digit while Nasiruddin Faruque added 27 and Rokibul Hasan chipped in with 31.

Divin captured three wickets for 29 runs for Tasmania.

Earlier, Dollar conceded 21 runs to claim three wickets while Test spinner Enamul Haque took three for 25. Nazmul Hossain captured 2-40 and Mahbubul Alam Robin 2-38.

Harmer leaves Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Aspirant John Harmer left Dhaka yesterday after making his presentation for the position of Bangladesh national cricket coach.

The veteran Australian was the first hopeful from a three-member shortlist to have appeared before a five-member panel of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). However, the arrivals of the other candidates are still uncertain.

Former Zimbabwe captain David Houghton, now in the UK, is next in line but his arrival would be confirmed once he gets a British passport.

"We are in touch with our two remaining candidates. Houghton has yet to get his passport and it may take some time," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, chairman of the cricket operations committee.

Another Australian coach Jamie Siddons who is currently touring India with an Australian selection, will probably make his presentation after the ICC Twenty20 World Championship.

BCB has been also trying to communicate with some other coaches available.

"We are desperately trying to appoint a new national coach before the New Zealand tour," Lipu added.

Dhoni equals world record

PTI, Leeds

When Indians are under attack for their poor fielding, Mahendra Singh Dhoni provided a ray of hope by engineering six dismissals behind the stumps to equal the world record for maximum dismissals by a wicketkeeper in a one-dayer.

This was the eight instance of any wicketkeeper lending a hand in six dismissals and the first by an Indian.

Nayan Mongia with five dismissals held the Indian record previously.

"It wasn't so much the visibility but the wind that was the problem. The ball was swaying away from the fielders," Dhoni said.

Dhoni got into the act when England was going great guns at 97 for 1. He began by effecting a lightning quick stumping off o p e n e r

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Ponting in doubt for T20 WC

AFP, Brisbane

Australian cricket captain Ricky Ponting may miss the inaugural Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa because of undisclosed family reasons.

The Australian squad was due to leave for South Africa on Monday morning but Cricket Australia said Ponting would not make the flight.

Vice-captain Adam Gilchrist will lead the Australian squad and a decision on whether Ponting joins them for the tournament is expected later in the week.

All-rounder Shane Watson and paceman Stuart Clark will also

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PHOTO: AFP

India's Sourav Ganguly (L) runs for joy after taking England's Matt Prior's wicket during the fifth one-day international at Headingley on Sunday.

India keep series alive



AFP, Leeds

Sachin Tendulkar returned in style to the Headingley ground where he was Yorkshire's first overseas player as he set up India's 38-run win against England under the Duckworth/Lewis method in the fifth one-day international here Sunday.

India's victory reduced England's lead in the seven-match series to 3-2.

Tendulkar (71) and Sourav Ganguly (59) shared a rapid first-wicket partnership of 116 in 118 balls to lay the base for a total of 324 for six. Yuvraj Singh followed up with 72, including two sixes and 10 fours, in a match India had to win to keep the series alive.

Gautam Gambhir, in for left-arm pace bowler Rudra Pratap Singh as India strengthened their batting, made 51 after being dropped twice and helped Yuvraj add 94 for the third wicket.

England, ultimately chasing a

revised target of 311 in 45 overs after a rain break, lost three wickets for seven runs in 13 balls as they collapsed from 97 for one to 104 for four.

When rain finally stopped play, England were 242 for eight off 39 overs with captain Paul Collingwood 91 not out and James Anderson unbeaten on one.

Man-of-the-match Ganguly also proved a thorn in England's side with his medium-pace bowling, taking two for 26 in seven overs.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's six dismissals equalled the record for a wicketkeeper in a one-day international, achieved on seven previous occasions.

Fast bowler Stuart Broad, man-of-the-match in England's three-wicket win at Old Trafford on Thursday, where he compiled career-best figures with bat and ball, conceded 84 runs in 10 overs and was later dismissed for one.

"I thought we batted beautifully," said India captain Rahul Dravid.

"It was a good all-round batting

performance and a great start again from Sachin and Sourav.

"It's nice to go to London with a chance to win the series," he added ahead of next week's matches at The Oval and Lord's."

Collingwood, who won the toss and fielded, added: "When an opposition gets 320-odd you are always going to question it. It was overcast but the ball didn't do as much as I thought it would."

He added: "But give a lot of credit to Tendulkar and Ganguly, it was hard to stop them."

Ravi Bopara dislocated his right thumb and sustained a minor fracture after dropping Gambhir off his own bowling.

England had started the game without his fellow all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, out with a recurrence of his left ankle injury and Bopara's setback left them with a fresh worry ahead of their departure next Sunday for the inaugural World Twenty20 championships in South Africa.

"They are going to be assessed in the next couple of days and

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Proteas' chance at hand

AFP, Johannesburg



The inaugural Twenty20 World Championship will provide South Africa with the perfect opportunity to end their trophy hoodoo on their home soil, Proteas coach Mickey Arthur said on Monday.

The South Africans have garnered a reputation as chokers after failing to get beyond the semi-finals in 50-over World Cup tournaments since being ushered back into the international fold in 1992 and were knocked in the preliminary stages when they hosted the premier ODI competition in 2003.

But Arthur and skipper Graeme Smith believe that a chance of redemption is at hand when the two-week Twenty20 tournament begins with the Proteas taking on the West Indies in Johannesburg on September 11.

"It's a huge opportunity for us to win a world cup, to win a substantial event," Arthur told reporters in Johannesburg.

"We have not won a major ICC (International Cricket Council) event since unity. It's a challenge that the players have set themselves and something that's attainable if we play to our full potential."

South Africa's preparations have been marred by a row over the decision to drop star batsman Jacques Kallis from the team. When wicketkeeper Mark Boucher criticised the move, he was slapped with a heavy fine.

Smith said the team had not allowed themselves to be disrupted by the disputes and had remained

focused on the task ahead.

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PHOTO: AFP

South Africa skipper Graeme Smith takes questions at a press conference in Johannesburg in connection with the inaugural Twenty20 World Championship.