



Did U Know?

Sailing made its debut as an Olympic sport at the Paris Games in 1900.



Habibul Bashar

(Former Bangladesh cricket captain)
"Don't try to explain Mohammad Ashraful because sometimes something strange plays inside him."
Commenting on the Bangladesh captain's stunning 61 against

What to WATCH

ESPN

ICC World Twenty20
 Sri Lanka v New Zealand
Live from 5:45pm
 Bangladesh v South Africa
Live from 9:45pm
STAR Sports
English Premier League
 Everton v Man United
Live from 4:45pm
 Tottenham v Arsenal
Live from 7:00pm
 Birmingham City v Bolton Wanderers
Live from 8:30pm
 Chelsea v Blackburn Rovers
Live from 10:10pm
Primera Liga
 Bilbao v Zaragoza
Live from 1:30am (Sunday)

SCHOOL LEAGUE

Yusuf inspires Sena Pally

SPORTS REPORTER

Sena Pally High School maintained their winning run in the Dhaka School Football League (Under-11) when they comfortably beat Motijheel Government High School 2-0 at the Motijheel Government High School ground yesterday.

Yusuf, who had scored five goals in their previous match, netted both the goals against the local boys who also lost their game last week.

Khilgaon Model High School also recorded consecutive wins when they brushed aside Ideal School 5-1 with a hat-trick from Akash while Haider Ali HS blanked Ali Ahmed HS 3-0 with a brace from Nayan.

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Indians take over Ramna

SPORTS REPORTER

It will be an all-Indian semifinal lineup after Rohit Bisht, Mohit Mayur, Rakshay Thakkar and Ronit Bisht all won their quarterfinals of the Prime Bank Asian Under-14 Tennis tournament at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Rohit beat compatriot Lakhotia Raghav 6-1, 6-2, Mohit defeated

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'Victory on mind'

SPORTS REPORTER



Fresh from a splendid six-wicket win over West Indies which confirmed them a spot in the second round of the ICC World Twenty20 Championships, Bangladesh face hosts South Africa with the glorious memory on their mind.

Bubbling with confidence, Tigers captain Mohammad Ashraful has nothing but win even though both teams have guaranteed their places in the Super Eights from Group A.

"We are capable of beating any team and in Twenty20, there are no favourites. We will go into the next match against South Africa with victory on mind. We defeated them in the World Cup (in West Indies) and we believe we can do that again," said Ashraful while talking to TigerCricet.com, who led from the front to script the first-ever victory against the Caribbean.

Bangladesh skipper's fastest half-century in their group opener enabled the Tigers to shoot the West Indies out of the tourna-

ment and it is nothing exceptional that the prolific right-hander was also the hero with a fabulous knock of 87 in Bangladesh's 67-run victory against South Africa in the one-day World Cup earlier this year.

The match will be held at Newlands under lights starting at 10pm Bangladesh Time (6pm local time) with ESPN beaming live coverage.

Bangladesh arrived in Cape Town yesterday morning from Johannesburg following a two-hour flight and is staying at the Southern Sun Newlands Hotel which is just about a five-minute drive to Newlands and sits at the foot of the famous Table Mountain, visible from every corner of this lush city.

The squad have had training yesterday at the Belville Cricket Club in the afternoon and expected to announce the team after that. The same eleven will play in the match.

Meanwhile, rival captain Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs are making progress following the injuries they picked up in their opening day victory against West Indies, but Gibbs may not be

risked.

The South African team arrived in Cape Town on Wednesday and are preparing for back-to-back matches at Newlands over the weekend. Smith, who picked up a soft tissue injury to his right hand after taking a blow from Daren Powell, didn't bat during the team's training session at Bellville.

Coach Mickey Arthur hopes he will have a hit on Friday and admitted losing both Smith and Gibbs would be a significant blow.

"They are two of our most experienced players and they are in good form at the moment so it is a little bit of a concern but we are confident of having them ready for Sunday," he said, adding that AB de Villiers is likely to remain at No. 3 with one of Gulam Bodi or JP Duminy replacing Gibbs as opener against Bangladesh.

After watching their neighbours Zimbabwe overcome Australia on Wednesday, Arthur is well aware that the gap between sides is narrowed in Twenty20.

"You can't take anyone lightly. It does become a little bit of a lottery and class-wise the teams coming a little closer together."

Australia bounce back Zimbabwe eliminated

AFP, Cape Town



Australia bounced back from the embarrassment of defeat against Zimbabwe to crush England by eight wickets in a World Twenty20 match at Newlands on Friday.

Needing a win to advance past the group stage Australia produced an emphatic performance, bowling out England for 135 and then racing to victory in 14.5 overs.

Left-arm pace bowlers Nathan Bracken and Mitch Johnson took three wickets each as Australia kept a tight clamp on the England batsmen.

Australian opening batsmen Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden, who both fell early to reckless shots in the five-wicket defeat by lowly Zimbabwe, were back in dominant form as they shared a stroke-filled opening stand of 78 in 8.1 overs before Gilchrist was caught at long-on off leg-spinner Chris Schofield.

Gilchrist made 45 off 27 balls. Hayden went on to make an unbeaten 67 off 43 balls.

The result meant that Australia topped the group, with England also going through to the Super Eights stage on net run rate ahead of Zimbabwe. All three teams won one match.

England were tied down early by the Australian bowlers, with Johnson bowling a tight first spell of two for 14 off three overs to put

pressure on the top order. He finished with three for 22.

Bracken was taken out of the attack after conceding eight runs in his first over but came back strongly to finish with three for 16 off four overs, earning the man of the match award.

Andrew Flintoff was England's top scorer with 31 off 19 balls but England were unable to put together any significant partnerships.

England were only able to score 52 runs in the first nine overs, losing three wickets.

Kevin Pietersen and captain Paul Collingwood briefly threatened to shift the balance towards England, putting on 25 in three overs before Collingwood was leg before to Brett Lee shortly after slogging a six from a free hit after Lee bowled a no-ball.

Flintoff and Owais Shah both hit sixes off off-spinner Andrew Symonds in the space of three balls but both fell in quick succession to Johnson and Stuart Clark.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Twenty20 World Championships match between Australia and England at Newlands on Friday:

ENGLAND	
Maddy c Hussey b Clark	20
Prior c Bracken b Johnson	17
Wright c Gilchrist b Johnson	3
Pietersen b Bracken	20
Collingwood lbw b Lee	19
Flintoff c Clark b Johnson	31
Shah c Clarke b Bracken	14

Mascarenhas run out (Clark)	4			
Schofield c Gilchrist b Clark	1			
Broad b Bracken	1			
Kirtley not out	2			
Extras: (nb-3)	3			
Total: (All out in 20 overs)	135			
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-37, 3-48, 4-73, 5-97, 6-127, 7-128, 8-132, 9-132.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	4	0	31	1
Bracken	4	0	16	3
Clark	4	0	24	2
Johnson	4	0	22	3
Symonds	2	0	28	0
Clarke	2	0	14	0

AUSTRALIA	
Gilchrist c Flintoff b Schofield	45
Hayden not out	67
Ponting c and b Flintoff	20
Symonds not out	2
Extras: (lb-2)	2
Total: (For 2 wkts in 14.5 overs)	136
Fall of wickets: 1-78, 2-120.	

Did not bat: Hussey, Hodge, Clarke, Lee, Johnson, Bracken, Clark
Result: Australia won by 8 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Nathan Bracken.
Umpires: I Howell (SA), Asad Rauf (Pak)
TV umpire: A Hill (NZ)
Match referee: R Madugalle (SL)



Australia left-arm Nathan Bracken (C) celebrates with wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist after removing England's mainstay Kevin Pietersen in the ICC Twenty20 World Championships at Newlands in Cape Town yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful (C) walks off with the rest of his teammates from the tarmac of Cape Town's airport after arriving from Johannesburg on Friday for their ICC Twenty20 World Championships match against hosts South Africa today.

Decision shocks all and sundry

PTI, New Delhi

Jolted by Rahul Dravid's out-of-the-blue decision to relinquish national team captaincy, the cricket fraternity on Friday reacted with shock and wondered what made him quit the job.

Former India opener Chetan Chauhan had no doubt in his mind that, for once, Dravid got his timing wrong.

"This would definitely affect the team. He's leaving at a time when the side was gradually settling under him," Chauhan told PTI.

"He was a decent captain who was improving with every game. He did well in the series against England and leading India to a Test series triumph after a 21-year gap is no mean achievement," he pointed out.

Chetan, however, still clings on to the faint hope that Dravid may still give it a second thought.

"I would request the selectors first to persuade Dravid to continue and in case he does not relent, only then you should explore other options." And in case Dravid is adamant, Chetan said, it would leave the selectors with no other options but to fall back on either Sachin Tendulkar or Sourav Ganguly.

"For the time being, I guess maybe another two years, you have no other options but go back and appoint either Sachin Tendulkar or Ganguly. Personally I would prefer

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Game before leadership



AFP, New Delhi

Prolific middle-order batsman Rahul Dravid has stepped down as India captain just a month after leading his team to a rare Test series victory in England, the country's cricket board said.

Dravid, who took over the captaincy from Sourav Ganguly in 2005, said he would continue playing for India, but wanted to concentrate on his batting.

"Rahul met (Indian cricket chief) Sharad Pawar on Thursday and expressed his desire to step down as captain of the Indian team," board secretary Niranjan Shah said in a statement on Friday.

"He requested that he should not be considered for the job for the ensuing Australia series. He further assured that he would extend his full co-operation to his successor and contribute as a batsman and a senior player."

"Rahul wanted to concentrate on his game." Australia will arrive in India for seven one-day internationals later this month.

Dravid, 34, is the second Indian after Sachin Tendulkar to quit captaincy for batting in the last seven years. Tendulkar stepped down after a two-Test home series against South Africa in 2000 and was replaced with Ganguly.

India won eight Tests under Dravid, including series victories in the West Indies, Pakistan, Bangladesh and England. The success in the Caribbean in 2006 was India's first in 35 years, and last month they won their first Test series in England in two decades.

Nicknamed "The Wall" for his solid defence, Dravid has scored 9,492 runs in 112 Tests with 24 centuries and 10,534 runs in 327 one-day internationals with 12 hundreds.

He is only the third Indian after Tendulkar and Ganguly to score more than 10,000 runs in the shorter version of the game.

"He has discussed the issue with me twice. I think we need to respect

his decision," said Pawar.

"He has recently told me that captaincy was affecting his game. He has said he would like to continue playing and improve upon his performance."

The Board of Control for Cricket in India was expected to discuss Dravid's resignation at a meeting next Tuesday.

"I think the reasons are personal. Every captain has his prerogatives. I think he was feeling the burden (of captaincy)," said Indian board vice-president Rajiv Shukla.

Dravid's most disappointing moment as one-day captain came in the World Cup in the Caribbean early this year when his team were

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RAHUL DRAVID

Lankan lesson for Kenya

AFP, Johannesburg



Power-packed Sri Lanka posted the biggest victory in Twenty20 cricket on Friday as they thrashed hapless Kenya by 172 runs in the world championships here.

The World Cup finalists earlier this year hit a new Twenty20 record total of 260-6 after being sent in to bat at the Wanderers and then dismissed Kenya for 88 runs in the group C match.

The margin of victory was a whopping 72 runs more than England's 100-run romp over Australia at Southampton in 2005 and firmly established Sri Lanka as a strong title contender in the inaugural world event.

Veteran Sanath Jayasuriya led the way with 88 off 44 balls and captain Mahela Jayawardene

blasted 65 off 28 before Jehan Mubarak smashed an unbeaten 46 from 13 balls at the end.

Left-handed Mubarak took 29 runs off the 19th over bowled by seamer Lameck Ngoche as Sri Lanka surpassed by 39 runs the previous highest total of 221-5 by Australia against England in Sydney earlier this year.

The heavy defeat sent Kenya home from the tournament after they had lost their first match against New Zealand.

Sri Lanka play the Kiwis here on Saturday with both teams assured of a place in the Super Eights round.

Jayasuriya, the oldest player in the 12-nation tournament at 38, was named man of the match with 11 boundaries and four sixes at the top of the order.

"We played smart cricket," said Jayawardene. "When Sanath starts like that we are bound to have a big

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TODAY'S MATCHES

Team	Time	Venue
Sri Lanka v New Zealand	5:45pm	Johannesburg
Bangladesh v South Africa	9:45pm	Cape Town