



Did U Know?

The word 'checkmate' in chess comes from the Persian phrase 'Shah Mat,' which means 'the king is dead.'



Ian Chappell
(Former Australia cricket captain)
"I'm not surprised because (Rahul) Dravid is the kind of person who puts his heart and soul into any job he tackles."
While commenting on Dravid's decision to quit captaincy.



ESPN

ICC World Twenty20
New Zealand v England
Live from 1:45pm
Australia v Pakistan
Live from 5:45pm
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Live from 9:45pm

Gulistan ride on Mafiullah

SPORTS REPORTER

Prolific scorer Mafiullah slammed a hat-trick as Gulistan Club maintained their impressive run in the Thirds Division Football League with a 4-1 victory against Government Printing Press at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Mafiullah opened the account after nine minutes and added to his tally in the 71 and 74 minutes to complete the treble while his teammate Parvez scored the other goal for Gulistan.

Bulbul reduced the arrears for the losers.

Kasaituli Samaj Kalyan Parisad shared a 1-1 draw with Rainbow AC in another match at the same venue.

Ujjal's tenth minute goal helped Mirpur XI edge Euro Famous by a solitary goal at the Bir Shreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur while Muslim Institute and Spandan KC drew goalless in the day's other match at the same venue.

Wasim denies drugs-related problem

PTI, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram has rubbished reports that he had undergone a rehabilitation programme in a London hospital for a drugs related problem.

Akram on Sunday said he had been under treatment in a hospital but it was for an acute sugar related problem and had nothing to do with drugs.

"Diabetics is not a new illness for me. I have played years of international cricket with it. But it got a bit out of hand and I had to seek treatment," he said.

The legendary left-arm pacer, who remains Pakistan's highest Test and one-day wicket taker, also said he would be going to India on September 27 for his assignments with ESPN.

He also warned that the Twenty20 format of cricket would badly affect the future of one-day internationals.

"I fear for the future of 50-over internationals. Because people now don't have much time to watch cricket for a full-day. In Twenty20 cricket they get to watch a lot of exciting cricket in three to

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Tigers' last chance

SPORTS REPORTER



After back-to-back de-feats Bangladesh take on high-fly-ing Sri Lanka today in Johannesburg in their second Super Eights game of the ICC World Twenty20 Championship with slim hopes of staying alive for a semi-final race.

Bangladesh made a sensational start in the tournament at Johannesburg with a six-wicket victory to send the West Indies packing but the Tigers lost their way in Cape Town following a 7-wicket loss to South Africa in the last group match and a 9-wicket bashing at the hands of Australia in the first Super Eights encounter.

The Tigers' contrasting batting approach in the last two matches has baffled many and the batting of two openers -- Tamim Iqbal and Nazimuddin -- looks to be a real concern.

Young Nazimuddin simply failed

to carry on his brilliant show in the build-ups after scoring 1, 0 and 11 while dashing left-hander Tamim has yet to live up to his reputation with scores of 10, 8 and 32.

The team management, however, are bringing two changes in the middle-order as Alok Kapali, who scored 19 runs in three games and Forhad Reza, who made 23 in two innings, will be dropped to make way for all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad and Nadif Chowdhury.

Despite two frustrating defeats Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful still believed that his side have a chance to progress to the last four although games against giants like Sri Lanka and Pakistan (September 20) in hand.

"These are teams we know well and play a lot of matches against. We are confident of getting a good result against both teams. Also, at the Wanderers the wicket will be better to bat on," Ashraful was quoted by TigerCricket.com.

"Obviously winning. We have the players who can make it possible

and we expect to do well in the next two matches," he added in reply to a question about what is a good result against those teams.

The right-hander, who smashed a match winning 61 against West Indies, said that his side will be positive against the Lankans, who mesmerised Kenya and New Zealand on way to the second stage.

"The plan will be to stay positive. We have not gone down or anything. We can lift ourselves and finish very well in the next games. I have already said that the Wanderers is a better place to bat on," he said.

But the Bangladesh skipper would like to get the favour of luck for the second time in the meet as toss could prove crucial in the shortest form of the game.

"There is less pressure when you know your target and you can pace yourself accordingly," observed Ashraful, who lost the toss in the last two games to be inserted by their opponents.

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Vettori not impressed

AFP, Johannesburg



Twenty20 games may have taken the cricket world by storm, but New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori remains unimpressed by the slam-bang format.

"I hope Twenty20 cricket will only be part of the landscape and not the future of the game," the left-arm spinner said a day after masterminding his team's 10-run over India.

"I personally love the more traditional forms of the game, that is Test cricket and one-day internationals.

"But I suppose we guys have to take this game seriously too."

Vettori claimed 4-20, took a catch and effected a run out as New Zealand, bowled out for 190, hit back to restrict India to 180-9 in the Super Eights round at the

Wanderers on Sunday.

The 28-year-old, who was installed as Test captain this month replacing the long-serving Stephen



DANIEL VETTORI

Fleming, said it was not easy leading a side in the shortest version of the game.

"It is not easy being captain in this format because you don't know what you will run into," he said.

"You might have the best of plans but they may all have to be discarded at the spur of the moment.

"You have to be really thinking on your feet. There is very little time to take decisions with so much happening and it is not as if you have all the time in the world to formulate plans."

Vettori, who has taken 229 Test and 203 one-day wickets, said the best way out for bowlers in Twenty20 cricket was the same as in other formats -- grab as many wickets as you can.

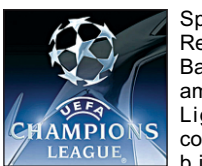
"The more wickets you take, better the chance for you to peg back the opposition," he said.

"A couple of sixes and you will suddenly run out of ideas. So, it always helps if you are able to bag some wickets."

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Work cut out for Spaniards

AFP, Paris



Spanish giants Real Madrid and Barcelona will be among four La Liga hopefuls counting on their big money summer transfers to put them back at the heart of Europe after last season's Champions League flop.

Real Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Sevilla line out in the Group stages of the elite European competition on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

No Spanish club made it to the final four last season with nine-time winners Real Madrid, Valencia and defending champions Barcelona all crashing out.

Sevilla had more European success when they won the UEFA Cup for a second straight year.

Spanish champions Real and runners-up Barcelona spent more than 100 million euros between them on summer transfers and Valencia were not far behind.

And they will be counting on their investments to pay off.

After crashing out last season to

Bayern Munich, Real Madrid are riding high in La Liga and open their European Group C campaign at home against another German side Werder Bremen at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Tuesday.

The match will be Real's 300th in Europe, and they are favourites against Bremen who have been struggling in the Bundesliga, losing 3-0 at Borussia Dortmund at the weekend.

By contrast Bernd Schuster's side

FIXTURES

AFP, Paris

Tuesday Group A
FC Porto (POR) v Liverpool (ENG)
Marseille (FRA) v Besiktas (TUR)
Group B
Chelsea (ENG) v Rosenborg (NOR)
Schalke 04 (GER) v Valencia (ESP)
Group C
Olympiakos (GRE) v Lazio (ITA)
Real Madrid (ESP) v Werder Bremen (GER)
Group D
AC Milan (ITA) v Benfica (POR)
Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR) v Celtic (SCO)

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Porto players have a knock-about during a training session at the Dragao Stadium in Lisbon on Monday, a day before they are set to take on defending runners-up Liverpool on the first match day of the Champions League.



PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

All-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad (L) stretching with Zunaed Siddique at Johannesburg on Monday. Riyad will make his Twenty20 World Championship debut in Bangladesh's second Super Eights match against Sri Lanka at the Wanderers today.

India may name new captain today

AFP, New Delhi

Veteran Sachin Tendulkar and young Mahendra Singh Dhoni have emerged as front-runners to lead India in an upcoming home one-day series against Australia, media reported on Monday.

The selectors will meet in Mumbai on Tuesday to name a replacement for Rahul Dravid, who surprisingly quit the captaincy last week to concentrate on his batting. The squad will also be named the same day.

The media also suggested the national selectors had already sounded out Tendulkar for a third stint as skipper and were awaiting a response from the champion batsman.

Tendulkar has already led India twice, his last stint coming to end in 2000 following a two-Test series against South Africa at home.

"Tendulkar has broken almost every record. He's the best for the job," former national selector Madal Lal was quoted as saying in

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Eng can't lose anymore

BBC ONLINE, undated



Paul Collingwood admitted that England were on the point of no return after losing by 19 runs to South Africa at Newlands in Cape Town on Sunday.

England are next in action against New Zealand in Durban on Tuesday in a Super Eights game they cannot afford to lose.

"We keep on losing early wickets but we'll learn and hopefully improve," said the England captain. "We've got two games to go now and must win both."

"We made mistakes in the field, with a few dropped catches, but we would have taken 154, we just had a bad start."

England put down several catches against South Africa but the biggest talking point was the run-out of Kevin Pietersen when he was on 15.

The South African-born batsman was chasing a quick single when he collided with Shaun Pollock and was sent packing by a direct throw from Makhaya Ntini.

Collingwood said: "He was

looking at the fielder and the ball and Pollock, whether he meant it or not, got in his way."

"It was just unfortunate. When you're running and looking at the fielder, sometimes you have to gauge whether you're going to make your ground or whether you're going to have to dive."

"He would have got in very easily and that was a bit of bad luck we had but, even with that, we still should have knocked those runs off."

South Africa captain Graeme Smith said he would have called Pietersen back had he believed Pollock obstructed him deliberately. "If I'd have felt he did it on purpose then I would have called KP back but Shaun was trying to get back to the stumps to get behind them," said Smith.

"There's a big pitch out there and Kevin ran straight at him in the middle of the wicket. It was a very fair dismissal and I had no problem with it at the time."

Collingwood was more upset by England's fielding problems than by Pietersen's dismissal.

"I thought the way we bowled was fantastic -- it really set the standards but unfortunately our

Siddons has no interest in Bangladesh!

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is all set to make a fresh start in their search of a national coach as hopes of another probable has seemingly dashed.

From a three-member short-list, only John Harmer of Australia has made his presentation before the board last month while Zimbabwean Dave Houghton has withdrawn from the race citing family problems.

In a recent development, it was learnt that the other Australian candidate Jamie Siddons who is currently touring with the Australian team as an assistant coach, hardly has any chance to stay in contention as he has come up with difficult terms and conditions.

"I don't think he has any chance because his terms and conditions do not match our limits," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, chairman of the cricket operations committee, yesterday.

The former national skipper did not want to elaborate but it seemed that Siddons was not even interested to get the job through an interview and his financial demand is also too high.

BCB's chief executive officer Mahmudur Rahman recently met

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Rajib off to Philippines

UNB, Dhaka

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib left Dhaka last night for the Philippines to participate in the VI Asian Individual Chess Championship 2007 to be held in Cebu city.

Top Grandmasters and International Masters from Asia and Australia will participate in the 11-day meet which begins tomorrow.

The top 10 players from the 11-round Swiss League will qualify for the first round of the World Chess Championship to be held in Russia this November.

Dravid wasn't enjoying the captaincy

AFP, New Delhi

Prolific Indian batsman Rahul Dravid has revealed that he quit as Indian skipper because he was no longer enjoying the captaincy, a report said on Monday.

The 34-year-old batsman took the cricketing world by surprise when he announced Friday that he was stepping down from the post.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) issued a statement which said Dravid had taken the step because he wanted to concentrate on his batting.

Dravid chose to remain mum but finally broke his silence on Monday.

"I had done the job for two years and they have been a pretty eventful couple of years. Obviously it takes a lot out of you and I felt that I was not enjoying it," Dravid was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India.

"The decision was personal and

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TODAY'S MATCHES		
Team	Time	Venue
New Zealand v England	1:45pm	Durban
Australia v Pakistan	5 : 4	5 p m
Johannesburg		

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