



Did U Know?

Javelin throw became a part of the Olympic Games in 1908.



Kumar Sangakkara

(Sri Lanka vice-captain)
"He's a guy who enjoys his cricket. He's been away with an injury for about four weeks and he's really missed turning his arm over. We're just looking forward to getting him into the side, making us strong and helping us win Test matches. He's a guy who works really hard."
On Muttiah Muralidaran.



ESPN

English Premier League
Bolton Wanderers v Aston Villa
Live from 7:25pm
Liverpool v Arsenal
Live from 9:55pm
Primera Liga
Barcelona v Almeria
Live from 12:00am (Monday)

STAR Sports

English Premier League
Tottenham v Blackburn Rovers
Live from 8:55pm
Primera Liga
Sevilla v Valencia
Live from 2:00am (Monday)



DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
(Second Round, Day Three)
Sylhet v Dhaka
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra
Rajshahi v Barisal
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium
Khulna v Chittagong
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium

Noble gesture

SPORTS REPORTER

In a nice gesture, Khulna team has decided to donate all the prize money it will get from the ongoing 9th National Cricket League to the family of deceased cricketer Manjarul Islam Rana.

"We have decided to give all our prize money from the outright wins and advantage of first innings lead to the family of our beloved former teammate Rana," informed Khulna skipper Habibul Bashir yesterday.

Rana had been a leading performer for Khulna in the last few seasons before his tragic death in a road accident early this year.

U-23 booters not going to Myanmar

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will not send the under-23 team to Myanmar's Grand Royal Cup which is scheduled to start from November 1.

BFF dissolved their camp for the booters, who were preparing for the meet, at BKSP yesterday.

"We tried hard to communicate with the organisers but failed. That's why we suspended the camp," informed Monzoor Hossain Malu, acting general secretary of BFF.

Batting woes for Barisal, Sylhet

SPORTS REPORTER



Khaled Mashud missed his hundred but Rajshahi were still on top against Barisal at the end of the second day of the second round 9th National Cricket League four-day match at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium yesterday.

But it was not the veteran wicketkeeper's lost opportunity, he managed to add only three runs to his overnight score of 86, but rather the brittle batting of Barisal (77-9) and Sylhet (96 all out) that hogged the spotlights on the day.

National all-rounder Forhad Reza empowered Rajshahi to dictate terms as he scored a half-century and then picked up three wickets to ensure Barisal's batting woe. Barisal finished the day on 77-9 in reply to the home team's 301.

Away at Bogra, Dhaka's young pacer Mahbubul Alam combined with ace left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique to shoot Sylhet out for a meagre 96 runs in the first innings and get them batting again on the day.

In the other match, Khulna tightened their grip on Chittagong

as the visitors lost seven wickets for 231 runs in reply to 410.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Shahriar Nafees-led Barisal, who stunned Chittagong in the first round game, showed a pathetic batting and were forced to follow-on as only two batsmen managed double figures in their first innings.

Left-handed Nafees, who was fined thirty percent of his match fee after breaking the code of conduct by criticizing the umpiring, scored 19 runs and Iftekhar Nayeem added 13.

The carnage started with the run out dismissal of out-of-favour Hannan Sarker and then it was right-arm pacer Forhad, who previously hit 52 off 110 balls with the help of eight fours and six to ensure his side's three batting bonus points, who caused the top order collapse by snaring three wickets.

Off-spinner Nayeem Islam also claimed three wickets for 7 runs in five overs while Sohrwardi Shuvro picked up two for 24 runs.

Earlier, Rajshahi were all out for 301 runs after resuming the day on 187-5. Talha Jubair shattered Mashud's hope in the early morning by removing him for 89.

Forhad and Anisur Rahman's

contribution however gave them a respectable total. Anisur made 32 off 62 deliveries.

SYLHET-DHAKA

Sylhet added more woe to their poor batting in the tournament when they were bundled out for 96 runs in reply to Dhaka's 351.

With the first innings deficit of 255, Sylhet finished the day without any loss in their second innings when only two balls being bowled before stumps were drawn for the day.

Mahbubul Alam piled the misery on Sylhet by destroying the top order returning with figures of 4-14 in 11 overs while Rafique ensured that there would be no resistance from the middle order as he took three wickets for 36 runs.

Experienced Mohammad Sharif gave his young new ball partner Mahbubul perfect support by picking up two wickets.

National wicket keeper Mushfiqur Rahim top scored 36 off 97 balls.

Earlier, Mosharraf Hossain scored 35 off 84 balls and Rafique chipped in with 39 off 55 deliveries that featured six boundaries as Dhaka declared their first innings for 351-9 to ensure maximum four

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Young Dhaka pacer Mahabubul Alam Robin is about to send down a delivery on the second day of his side's four-day match of the National Cricket League against Sylhet at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday. He captured four wickets.

Tigers add tour fixture

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team is likely to play one more three-day game during their tour of New Zealand in December-January.

As per the earlier fixture the Tigers are scheduled to play a three-day warm-up game and a limited-overs practice match against Northern Districts but Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) asked their New Zealand counterparts to add another three-day.

"It is yet to be confirmed but hopefully it will be okay within a couple of days. We have expressed our desire to play one more three-day game to give our players enough opportunities to acclimatise with the tough New Zealand conditions," informed Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby, chairman of the BCB's media committee.

In that case Bangladesh will leave Dhaka for New Zealand on December 9 instead of 14.

The Tigers will play three one-day internationals and two Tests in their second visit to the country.

Dravid dropped



AFP, Ahmedabad

Former India captain Rahul Dravid was on Saturday dropped from a 15-man squad to play in the first two one-day internationals against archrivals Pakistan next month.

Dravid, 34, had a poor series against Australia, collecting just 51 runs from five outings and was dropped for the final game in Mumbai.

Flamboyant opener Virender Sehwag returns to the team after a gap of five months, having last played in the Afro-Asia Cup one-day series at home in June.

The selectors also included 21-year-old rookie all-rounder Praveen Kumar for the matches to be played in Guwahati (November 5) and Mohali (November 8).

Left-handed opener Gautam Gambhir, who missed the last four matches against Australia due to an injury but played a match-winning knock in a Twenty20 international at Mumbai, returns to the squad. Chief Selector Dilip Vengsarkar

said Dravid was only rested and the selectors had not lost faith in him.

"Dravid has been given a break. He is a great player and I am sure he will make a comeback very soon," Vengsarkar told reporters.

Vengsarkar also said the Test captain as well as the team for the remaining three one-dayers would be named during the second test at Mohali. The one-dayers will be followed by a three-Test series beginning November 22.

Dravid stepped down as Test and one-day captain after the tour of England in July-September, saying he wanted to concentrate on his batting. But his scores against Australia read 31, 0, 13, 0 and 7.

A prolific batsman, Dravid has scored 10,585 runs in 333 one-dayers.

SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Yuvraj Singh, Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Rohit Sharma, Virender Sehwag, Robin Uthappa, Gautam Gambhir, Irfan Pathan, Murali Kartik, Rudra Pratap Singh, Zaheer Khan, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar.

Poor showing by Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh played three games but managed only one win against Australia on the opening day of the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes tournament at the Kowloon Cricket Club yesterday.

The Tigers made a winning start with a three-wicket victory over Australia. Aftab Ahmed smashed 35 as Bangladesh scored 68 for three in 3.4 overs while chasing 64.

In the second match Zunaed, who added 10 runs in the first game, hit 35 and Aftab added 17 but it was not good enough to chase down South Africa's 115 for one in 5 overs. Bangladesh were restricted to 76-3 to suffer a 39-run defeat.

Bangladesh lost their third game against the All Stars by 45 runs when they managed only 75 runs for two wickets in reply to 120-1 with Dollar Mahmud making 31.

Ashraf managed 0 & 4 in the first two games.

Bangladesh finished third in the Sobers group and now will play against the loser of the match between Pakistan and Hong Kong today and a win will ensure their quarterfinal berth.

Bangladesh team will return tomorrow.

Bangladesh take on Tajikistan today

SPORTS REPORTER

With the threat of intense cold Bangladesh football team take on Tajikistan in their away match of the 2010 World Cup pre-qualifiers at the Dushanbe Stadium today.

The match will kick off at 3pm Bangladesh time.

Bangladesh, who played to a 1-1 draw against them in their home match in Dhaka on October 8, need at least a 2-2 draw in the away match to progress to the next round.

Bangladesh so far played four matches against Tajikistan managing only one draw as they suffered identical 0-2 goals defeat in the prior home and away basis Pre World Cup qualifier matches and conceded a humiliating 1-6 goals defeat in the AFC Challenge Cup in Dhaka last year.

An 18-member Bangladesh team reached Tajik capital Dushanbe on Thursday night.

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Nafees fined

SPORTS REPORTER

Barisal captain Shahriar Nafees was yesterday fined for making comments on umpiring after the first day's play of the second round four-day match of the 9th National Cricket League against Rajshahi on Friday.

The left-handed opener has been fined thirty per cent of his match fee for breaching the BCB's Code of Conduct.

The disciplinary action was taken after he made comments to the media about umpiring decision.

Shoaib earns Pak recall



AFP, Multan

Controversial paceman Shoaib Akhtar earned a recall for next month's five-match one-day series against India after ending a lengthy ban, Pakistan's chief selector announced here on Friday.

"We have chosen a 16-man squad which will be led by Shoaib Malik and Akhtar is included in the squad after he proved his fitness and completed his ban," Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters.

The paceman was banned for 13 international matches and fined 3.4 million rupees (\$6,000 dollars) for breaches of code of conduct, primarily for hitting a teammate with a bat.

He struck fellow fast bowler

Mohammad Asif on the thigh after a team practice in Johannesburg ahead of the inaugural ICC World Twenty20 Championship last month.

Akhtar said a fit and in-form Akhtar is an asset for Pakistan.

"We know that Akhtar, if fit and in form, is an asset for the team and we hope that he does well in the series against India," said Ahmed of the paceman who bowled 17 overs in a side match last week to earn a recall.

Akhtar will complete the ban and is set to play in the last one-day against South Africa in Lahore on October 29 -- his first match for Pakistan since playing in the Port Elizabeth Test in January this year.

He played the last of his 133 one-day internationals against England in September last year. He has also

played 43 Tests.

The maverick 32-year-old paceman was also involved in a doping scandal last year. He and fellow paceman Mohammad Asif tested positive for banned steroid 'nandrolone' and were expelled from Pakistan's Champions Trophy team for India.

Akhtar was banned for two years and Asif for one year. However, the bans were lifted on appeal.

Akhtar's career has also been plagued by injuries. He missed Pakistan's last tour of India in 2005 due to knee and ankle problems.

Pakistan beat India 4-2 in the one-day series and squared the three-Test series 1-1 two years ago.

"A new vice-captain will be announced before the team leaves for India," said Ahmed. Salman Butt was Malik's deputy since last

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Legends set HK afire



AFP, Hong Kong

Cricketing greats Shane Warne, Brian Lara and Glenn McGrath Saturday starred on the opening day of the Hong Kong Sixes -- one of the sport's most colourful tournaments.

They led an All-Stars team competing in a weekend of quick-fire matches with innings of only five overs-a-side -- a format that demands non-stop boundaries from the batsmen.

The six-a-side event pits nine national teams against the All-Stars, who also fielded Indian super spinner Anil Kumble, England's Gairton Jones and big-hitters Craig McMillan of New Zealand and Heath Streak of Zimbabwe.

After Saturday's group matches, all 10 teams remain in the running to lift the trophy, with England, New Zealand and Bangladesh tipped to provide the toughest challenge to the dominant All-Stars.

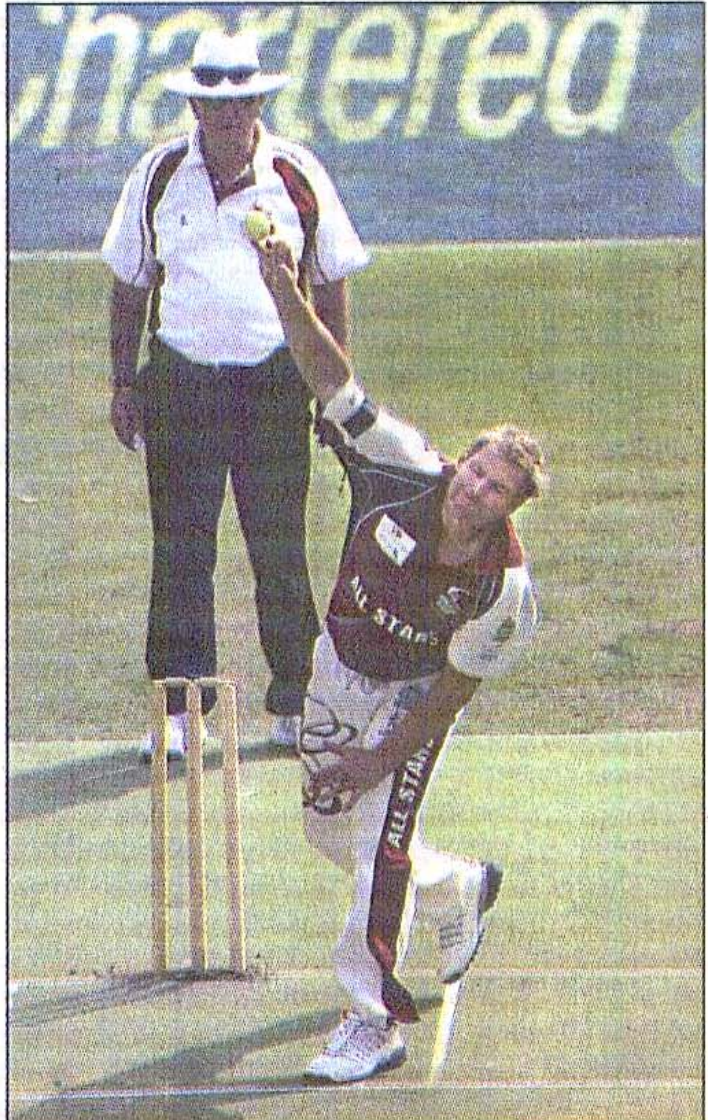
McMillan -- who hit the most sixes at the recent Twenty20 world championships -- and Streak were the top performers with crunching innings against Australia, Bangladesh and South Africa as the All-Stars cruised to three easy wins.

Against Bangladesh the All-Stars scored a bruising 120 runs for one wicket in their five overs.

Under the Sixes' unique rules, batsmen retire when they pass 31 and the whole team must bowl an over each, except for the wicketkeeper.

The packed crowd was kept on its toes as balls repeatedly crashed into the stands at the tiny Kowloon Cricket Club, set amid Hong Kong's skyscrapers.

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Leg-spin wizard Shane Warne bowls during the All-Stars team's game against Bangladesh in the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes yesterday. The tournament, first held in 1992, produces frenetic cricket in which six-a-side teams bat for only five overs each innings and every fielder has to bowl and a batsman retires when he reaches 31 runs and matches last no more than 45 minutes.

PHOTO: AFP



AFP, Lahore

Disgruntled Pakistan all-rounder Abdul Razzaq on Saturday reversed his decision to retire from international cricket, saying he will fight to get his place in the national team back.

"I reconsidered the decision after consultation with my club people, especially my coach Azhar Zaidi, who all advised me to continue playing. So I am back and available for Pakistan," Razzaq told AFP.

The 26-year-old announced his

retirement in August after being excluded from the Pakistan team for the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup held in South Africa.

"I took the decision in the heat of the moment and got a lot of calls from fans and supporters who asked me to change the decision," said Razzaq.

Selectors at the time said Razzaq and senior batsman Mohammad Yousuf were being rested -- a statement Razzaq said he believed was a pretext for him being dropped from the side.

"I was hurt when they dropped me, and on form and fitness and on my record as an international player, I deserved the benefit of

being treated as a senior player," said Razzaq.

Razzaq missed the 50-over World Cup in the Caribbean earlier this year because of a knee injury.

He has scored 1,146 runs and took 100 wickets in 46 Tests. He made 4,465 runs and took 240 wickets in 231 one-day internationals in a career which began in 1995.

Razzaq's lacklustre performance in his last 15 one-day internationals -- scoring just 173 at 10.73 with 12 wickets at 39 runs each -- led to his axing from the team.

Razzaq said he will play in

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Denim

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