



Did U Know?

The five rings in the Olympic flag symbolise the five inhabited continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and America. It is believed the colours were chosen because at least one of them can be found in the flag of every nation.



Julio Baptista
(Real Madrid's Brazilian midfielder)
"The league is a different competition because you can make a mistake and rectify it but in the Champions League there is no room for error."
While expressing his opinion on Primera Liga and Champions League.



BTV & TEN Sports
Pakistan v Bangladesh
Third ODI
Live from 4:00pm
Neo Sports
India v South Africa
Third Test, Day 3
Live from 10:00am
ESPN
English Premier League
Liverpool v Blackburn Rovers
Live from 6:25 pm
Man United v Arsenal
Live from 8:55pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid v Murcia
Live from 11:00pm
Almeria v Villarreal
Live from 1:00am (Monday)

Younis asks for a break

CRICINFO, undated
Younis Khan has pulled out of Pakistan's squad for the remaining three one-day internationals against Bangladesh, citing the need for rest. Younis asked the selectors to be omitted from the squad, a wish the committee granted.
"He asked us for rest and we agreed," Salahuddin Ahmed, chief selector, told Cricinfo. "It gives us a chance to give some other players a go as well, guys like Baid Khan and Fawad Alam in the batting."

Younis has seemed out of sorts in the first two matches, scoring 1 and 13. Before the first ODI in Lahore he had threatened to pull out of the match, apparently disturbed by an interview with officers from the ICC's Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) about a function he attended on the tour to India in 2007. There is bound to be speculation that the pull-out is related to that, though Salahuddin denied it, saying only that Younis had cited 'personal reasons.'

No other changes have been made to the squad ahead of the third ODI against, with Pakistan sticking to a reduced 15-man squad. If Pakistan wrap up the series on Sunday in Lahore, it is likely new faces will be inducted into the squad for the remaining games.

SQUAD
Shoaib Malik (captain), Salman Butt, Nasir Jamshed, Mohammad Yousuf, Misbahul Haq, Kamran Akmal, Shahid Afridi, Sarfraz Ahmed, Sohail Tanveer, Umar Gul, Rao Iftikhar, Baid Khan, Wahab Riaz, Sohail Khan, Fawad Alam.

Reality bites

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

It probably helps if you are coaching Bangladesh to be both grimly realistic and cautiously optimistic. You must accept that defeat will, at present, mostly be inevitable, but you must also be able to draw from it some solace, something to hold on to. Luckily for Bangladesh, Jamie Siddons is able to do both.

Defeat by seven wickets in Faisalabad, where they were defending a defendable, rain-affected target could easily be put aside as yet another dispiriting loss. Shoaib Malik, the Pakistan captain, later argued it wasn't an easy win, but you suspect he said it to please himself more than anything else, for Pakistan were never really pushed at any stage of the game.

But for Siddons, there was something to take from Faisalabad. This was, as he pointed out, the second-highest score Bangladesh had ever made against Pakistan. And no, it wasn't difficult to lift his side's spirits after another loss. "I don't find it hard at all to keep them up," he said. "There were things out there that I saw which were very exciting. We got some positives out of today's game. Tamim Iqbal's batting was one and I thought Mahmudullah Riyad played a fantastic knock towards the end."

Both were indeed accomplished hands, particularly Tamim's. He has a pleasant, erect left-handedness about him, which was most evident in a couple of punches to deliveries on the up through extra cover early in his

innings. On both occasions the bowler was Umar Gul, who may be rusty currently, but is never a slouch. Tamim's on-side game is similarly easy on the eye, the on-drive off Rao Iftikhar Anjum the one to note, and a steady clip through midwicket later not to be overlooked.

But then most of Bangladesh's batsmen have the shots. It is the nous that is absent, of knowing when to attack, when to settle, who to attack, who to see off. At just the wrong moment, to just the wrong shot, Tamim gave it up; he went for 60, but it should have been - and Bangladesh will hope in years to come, will often be - much more. At least a hint of that batting sense came in Mahmudullah's maiden fifty towards the end of the innings, a smart knock, built on angles, percentages and good running.

A couple more contributions from the top order would have been handy, as coach and captain both acknowledged. Mohammad Ashraful, who perished for 22, probably referred to himself as much as Tamim when he said the top-order batsmen got out at the wrong time.

But these reality checks help ensure that Siddons doesn't get carried away, which is just as well, because hard days will continue to come for now. "My job is to get guys to perform internationally and in Tamim and Riyad there are two guys who can do that, so that is exciting for me to see. If you didn't see anything exciting out there in Bangladesh's performance then your cricket sense isn't great."

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DISMISSED FROM HIS PRESENCE: India's saviour Sourav Ganguly pulls the ball during his stubborn 87 against South Africa during the second day's play of the third and final Test at the Green Park in Kanpur yesterday.

Last chance to save series

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

All eyes will be on the Tigers' response today in the third one-day international against Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, as they are on the brink of conceding the series.

Bangladesh lost the first ODI in Lahore by a massive margin of 152 runs and then had gone down by seven wickets in Faisalabad on Friday, although having shown some improvement in their batting.

Significantly, there was a lower-order revival in the second match, led by all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad, who hit his maiden ODI half-century.

The improved application was refreshing as they managed to bat out their quota of overs without being bowled out. Unfortunately, the bowlers failed to back that effort and apply any pressure when Pakistan were set a daunting revised target of 158 in 25 overs in the rain-hit match. Still, the talk would centre on the failure of the top-order, barring Tamim Iqbal who belted ten boundaries in his sparkling 60.

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful again promised that his batsmen would try to better their performance in the remaining matches.

"We need our top six to perform and not get out to rash shots at bad times. We will be better in the next three matches," said Ashraful while his counterpart was more concerned about the Lahore wicket,

which is expected to favour the batsmen just like the first game played last Tuesday.

Shoaib Malik said, "We are planning to try out six bowling options but we will decide once we see the pitch in Lahore."

Malik's words could mean an opportunity for Fawad Alam, the all-rounder who bowls left-arm spin. With Younis Khan pulling out of the remainder of the series, Pakistan will be forced to bring in right-hander Baid Khan, who is making a comeback after three years. Umar Gul could also be rested in favour of Sohail Khan, the promising right-arm seamer.



PHOTO: AFP

A SMALL CONSOLATION: Bangladesh all-rounder Forhad Reza takes off to celebrate the wicket of Pakistan batsman Younis Khan during the second one-day international at the Iqbal Stadium on Friday night.

NCA take series

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Academy Cup G P - B C B National Cricket

Academy (NCA) narrowly missed a chance to whitewash their South African counterparts in the two-match four-day series when the second game ended in a draw at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Motiur Rahman Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Despite the draw, the home side won the series 1-0 after their innings and 68-run victory in the first game at Jessore.

Rushdi Jappie shrugged off the second win with an unbeaten 121 as South Africa Academy team scored 230 for nine, in reply to a winning target of 392, before stumps were drawn on the final day.

The visitors lost wickets at regular intervals but Jappie occupied one end for more than five hours and got brilliant support from No 11 Mafink Serame who actually made it possible for his

team to avoid another defeat.

Jappie made 121 off 241 balls with the help of 15 boundaries while Serame was not out on 24. Serame struck five boundaries during his 53-ball stay at the crease. Mahbubul Alam Robin caused the first damage by removing Sammy-Joe Avontuur with the scoreboard reading 47 but it was left-arm spinner Suhrawardi Shuvo who gave the home team the upper hand by taking two quick wickets of first innings centurion Reeza Hendricks (14) and Dane Vilas (7).

Leg-spinner Raihanuddin Arafat wrapped up the tail with three wickets but his effort was not good enough to manage the victory.

Earlier, GP-BCB Academy declared their second innings at 326 for six after resuming the day on 274-4.

Nayeem Islam added eleven more runs to his overnight score of 150 before he was bowled by CJ de Villiers while Shamsur Rahman, who started the day on 25, completed his half-century with

unbeaten 50 off 91 balls that featured three fours and a six.

Mehrab Hossain, who contributed 155 runs and took three wickets, was adjudged man-of-the-match for his all-round performance while Nayeem Islam got the man-of-the-series award, having made 329 runs in four innings.

BRIEF SCORES

BCB ACADEMY: 324 and 326 for 6 in 87 overs (Jahurul 17, Kayes 21, Nasiruddin 0, Nayeem 161, Mehrab 53, Shamsur 50, Mushfiqur 2, Shuvo 8 not out, extras 14, Wagner 1-38, Shezi 2-60, das Neves 1-49, Villiers 1-65)

SA ACADEMY: 259 and 230 for 9 in 78 overs (Jappie 121 not out, Avontuur 12, Hendricks 14, Vilas 7, Schalkwyk 19, Arnold 0, CJ de Villiers 7, Wagner 6, Neves 0, Shezi 0, Serame 24 not out, extras 20, Mahbubul 2-44, Shuvo 2-60, Raihanuddin 3-61)

Result: Match drawn.
Man-of-the-match: Mehrab Hossain.
Man-of-the-series: Nayeem Islam.

Welcome win for Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union thrived on two half-centuries from Parvez and Monir to secure an important six-wicket win over Indira Road in a First Division Super League match at BKSP yesterday.

Brothers had almost gone out of the race to be promoted to Premier League with three consecutive losses in their last three outings but this win would give them some hope of going up.

Indira Road made 234 for 7 in their stipulated 50 overs after deciding to bat first with Maruf scoring team highest 60 runs. Sagar added 42.

Shukran claimed three wickets for 42 runs while Nuruzzaman took two for 28.

In reply, Brothers Union reached the target with 238 for four wickets in 47.5 overs.

Pervez slammed 87 and Monir chipped in with 61 runs.

Aminul Islam and Rakibul Hasan took two wickets each for 28 and 29 runs respectively.

In the day's other matches, Cricket Coaching School (198-4) handed a six-wicket defeat to Rupali Bank (197-10) at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Bangladesh Boys (243-9) managed a 28-run win over Azad Sporting Club (215-8) at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Gazi Tank (169-9) beat Orient Sporting Club (151-10) by 18 runs at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Bima draw with Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER

Sadharan Bima came from behind to hold Mohammedan Sporting Club in the opening match of the Brac Bank Club Cup Hockey at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Mizanur Rahman struck at the stroke of the final whistle to cancel out the Kamruzzaman Rana's 17th minute strike.

The popular Motijheel outfit was however lucky enough to draw the match 1-1 as they were poor all through the match. It was however not unexpected as the traditional side roped in most of BKSP players this season.

But coach Kazi Kawser Ali was still upbeat with his side's performance. "We want to finish top this season. Everybody should understand that it was our first match," said Kawser.

On the other hand his counterpart Jamal Haider expressed his satisfaction over his boys' performance in the match against the giants.

"I am happy with my boys' show because we could have even won the match," said Jamal.

It was however the first appearance of Bima in the Club Cup competition.

Abahani will meet Wari and Usha Krira Chakra take on Ajax Sporting in today's matches at the same venue.

Ganguly's gutsy knock

India overtake South Africa

Cricket

AFP, Kanpur

Sourav Ganguly cracked a gutsy 87 on a difficult pitch to help India gain a slender advantage on the second day of the third and final Test against South Africa here on Saturday.

India were struggling at 123-4 before reaching 288-9 in their first innings at stumps in reply to South Africa's 265 on a day of fluctuating fortunes, thanks to Ganguly's 34th Test half-century.

Ganguly counter-attacked brilliantly on a track of uneven bounce, smashing a six off left-arm spinner Paul Harris and nine fours during his 119-ball knock to pull his team out of trouble.

He put on 65 for the fifth wicket with Yuvraj Singh (32) and 60 for the next with stand-in captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (32).

South Africa succeeded in restricting the Indian lead when they grabbed three wickets in the space of 11 runs with the new ball.

Ganguly, who had tailenders to keep him company when nearing his 16th Test hundred, was the ninth out. He tried a big shot and was caught by Hashim Amla in the covers, but not before giving a superb display of stroke-making.

The left-hander, who also scored 87 in his previous innings in Ahmedabad, offered a difficult chance on 40 off paceman Morné Morkel but diving Neil McKenzie failed to latch on to it in the covers.

The Indian batsmen were involved in a fascinating duel with the South African bowlers before gaining the lead on a wicket steadily getting more tricky for batting.

Morkel (3-57) put India in trouble with two wickets in successive overs in the afternoon session, dismissing well-set Venkatesh Laxman (50) and Rahul Dravid (29).

Dravid not only lost his wicket to an unplayable delivery but also suffered a nasty blow on the left wrist.

Dravid, who added 78 for the third wicket with Laxman, was surprised by the awkward bounce off a good-length delivery and gave an easy catch to AB de Villiers in the gully.

Morkel, playing only his sixth Test, was sharp and unpredictable in his opening four-over spell after lunch as he troubled both Laxman and Dravid with clever variations.

Laxman kept the South African attack at bay for more than two hours, executing handsome drives on both sides of the wicket during his 33rd Test half-century containing seven fours.

He was lucky to survive on 43 when Jacques Kallis dropped a sharp chance at first slip off Harris (2-89) after getting his left hand to it. But the batsman could not cash in on the lifeline, falling seven runs later.

It was a clever piece of bowling that undid Laxman, who played early to a delivery that moved in to knock back the off-stump.

India struggled against pace in the morning, losing openers Virender Sehwag (eight) and Wasim Jaffer (15) in the first 11 overs.

Steyn (3-60), the most successful South African bowler in the series, provided the breakthrough in his third over when he trapped Sehwag leg-before.

Jaffer played a couple of attractive shots before falling leg-before in Morkel's opening over.

The hosts trail 1-0 in the series following their defeat by an innings and 90 runs in the second Test in Ahmedabad. The first match, in Chennai, was drawn.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third and final Test between India and South Africa at Green Park in Kanpur on Saturday:
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 265 (Smith 69, Amla 51; Harbhajan 3-52)
INDIA: First innings

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PHOTO: STAR

Sadharan Bima players celebrate their last-minute goal that gave them an unlikely draw with Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Club Cup hockey competition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.