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Did U Know?

American Johnny Weissmuller was a swimming Olympian who starred in 12 Tarzan pictures.



Talk Turkey



Amauri

(Juventus's newly signed Brazilian striker)
"To play in a big team is a dream I've held for eight years, since I arrived in Italy. I chose Juventus because they wanted me more than the others."



What to Watch

- STAR Sports**
French Open Tennis
Fourth Round
Live from 3:00pm
- TEN Sports**
West Indies v Australia
Second Test, Day Four
Live from 8:00pm
- ESPN**
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

Tendulkar all for IPL

PTI, New Delhi

Purists may dismiss the Indian Premier League (IPL) as dumber than dumber than dumber, but Sachin Tendulkar feels instead of being criticised, the glamorous twenty20 series should be lauded for globalising the game.

"I don't personally feel that you know, (IPL) is dumber than dumber than dumber. It's just another version of cricket," Tendulkar said.

"Test cricket is there and then they started one-day cricket many years ago and one-day cricket has been a tremendous success and if the game is gonna get globalised in the form of IPL, then why not? It's better for cricket," he added in defence of the league that has been criticised for being too glamorous.

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Bolt from the blue

AFP, New York

Jamaica's Usain Bolt clocked a 100m world record of 9.72sec Saturday to electrify the Reebok Grand Prix athletics meeting.

The 21-year-old broke the previous record of 9.74 set by compatriot Asafa Powell in Rieti, Italy, on September 9, 2007.



USAIN BOLT

With a favourable wind of 1.7m/sec, Bolt finished ahead of 100m and 200m World Champion Tyson Gay of the United States (9.85) and American Darvis Patton (10.07).

On a night when thunderstorms and the threat of lightning

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Chance again for Kapali

Aftab ruled out, needs surgery

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Alok Kapali was recalled to the national side nearly after two years for the upcoming tri-series at home and the Asia Cup in Pakistan as a replacement of middle-order batsman Aftab Ahmed, who has been ruled out for six weeks due to a finger injury.

Aftab suffered the injury during practice on Saturday, which resulted in a dislocation and fracture of one of the bones in his finger, and the X-ray report finally confirmed that he has a comminuted fracture of the right ring finger.

The Chittagonian has been advised rest of around six weeks and will need to be surgically repaired immediately.

"As per the board's medical committee and national team physio (Darryn Lifson), Aftab will need a surgery within twenty four hours otherwise it could be career threatening for him as there is a vacuum in his finger," informed chief selector Rafiqul Alam yesterday.

There was, however, hardly any possibility to send the Tigers batsman abroad for operation.

"We have yet to take any decision but we will definitely prefer doing it at home if it is possible. And the time is also a factor as he needs immediate surgery," said Ahmed Sajjadul Alam, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)'s media committee chairman.

The announcement came in the evening but it looked certain that Kapali would make the team for the upcoming international assignments when the right-hander from Sylhet was called up to join practice in the morning at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

There was no other choice for the selectors as the stylish right-hander was included in the reserve bench for both tournaments as well as part of the A team for tours of Ireland and England.

The Rafiq-led selection panel, however, initially did not consider Alok as a replacement of Shakib Al Hasan by citing his long absence from international cricket.

"In current situation he is the best choice as he has international experience behind him and played some good cricket in the domestic competitions. Most importantly, Alok is a suitable candidate for the position of Aftab," Rafiq defended their decision.

Alok Kapali is an enigma in Bangladesh cricket as the talented batsman-cum-leg spinner, who became the first Bangladesh bowler to take a hat-trick in Test cricket against Pakistan in Peshawar in 2003, never justified his sheer potential whenever the opportunity came his way.

His unbeaten 89 against West Indies in 2002 is still considered as one of the best one-day innings a Bangladeshi batsman but the 24-year-old, who played his last international match against Zimbabwe at Harare on August 2006, stuck agonisingly below an average of twenty in 17 Tests and 55 ODIs.

But now another opportunity has come to the talented player to cement his place in the side but the question is: Can he do it this time?

"Yes, it's an opportunity for me though no one wants to come back in such a way because I know how painful it is to be ruled out from the team for injury. I will try my best to keep my place in the national side," promised Alok.

He also said that he became a bit upset when the selectors ignored him in the first time as he believes that his performance in the domestic competitions has been commendable.

"I expected a recall in the first time because I have had a good

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



ALUCKY BREAK: Alok Kapali enjoys a rare recall in the national team proper with some batting practice in the nets as Tigers coach Jamie Siddons (R) gives a close look at him during training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Kapali was drafted in the 14-member Bangladesh squad for next week's tri-series as a replacement for injured Aftab Ahmed.

League race wide open

Mohammedan spoil Usha's party

Hockey
SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club did a great favour to their archrivals Abahani when the black and whites snapped Usha Krira Chakra's 11-match winning streak in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Hockey League yesterday.

Syed Al Masum, who sat for the HSC examinations in the morning, slotted a hat-trick in the afternoon as Mohammedan defeated Usha 3-2 in the crucial Super 5 match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Even before the match started, the Usha fans -- clad in green T-shirts -- were partying with a noisy band blowing music at the stands,

in hope for a win that would have sealed their championship.

However, it were Mohammedan who were celebrating in the end as the team officials immediately handed over a handsome bonus for their first big-match victory of the season.

Mohammedan have already crashed out of the title race but Usha's maiden loss after 11 straight wins threw Abahani a lifeline as the latter need to beat Mohammedan and Usha in their remaining matches to clinch the title.

If Abahani can defeat Mohammedan tomorrow, the title will be decided in Friday's league final when defending-joint champions Abahani and Usha face off.

Usha, eyeing their third consecutive league trophy, have 33 points with just one match in hand while Abahani are trailing by five points with Mohammedan following on 26.

Usha showed no signs of the confidence they had shown throughout the league and the side who crushed Mohammedan 5-3 and Abahani 4-2 in the first-leg, exposed tired legs of a strenuous campaign.

Mohammedan, who omitted captain Ariful Haque Prince even from the starting line-up, started brightly with Pakistani forward Mohammed Sabbari running through the rival defence now and again.

The Pakistani Olympic star's hard work paid dividends after 16 minutes when he ran past two opposition players before squaring the ball to Masum, whose reverse-

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Mohammedan forward Syed Al Masum (L) is the toast of his teammates after scoring a hat-trick against Usha in the Premier Hockey League yesterday.

Djokovic cruise along

French Open
AFP, Paris

Serbian third seed Novak Djokovic reached the French Open quarterfinals for the third successive year on Sunday and will now face childhood training rival Ernests Gulbis for a place in the semi-finals.

Djokovic, the Australian Open champion saw off French 18th seed Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Gulbis, the youngest player left in the tournament at 19, ended the hopes of another Frenchman Michael Llodra 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 to reach his first ever Grand Slam quarter-final.

"I served really well today and in the three previous matches here,"

a two-set lead.

The Serb wrapped up victory when Mathieu buried another running forehand into the net in the 10th game of the third set.

Gulbis, who trained with Djokovic when they were youngsters at the Munich academy owned by former Germany and Croatia Davis Cup captain Niki Pilic, would not have started as favourite on Sunday having lost both his previous matches to the left-handed Llodra, his senior by nine years.

"Michael is a tough opponent because he plays a strange kind of tennis. He serves and volleys and it's tough to break him," said Gulbis.

"I knew I had to attack and try to play to his legs otherwise he would just volley it back. I also knew that I had to come forward and not stay two metres behind the baseline."

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BCB calls up replacements

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors yesterday called two cricketers for Bangladesh A team's tour of Ireland this month.

Out-of-favour Rajin Saleh has been asked to join the A team for the tour of Ireland as a replacement of Alok Kapali, who has been included in the national side for injured Aftab Ahmed.

Initially, Kapali was named in the A team's tour of England in July but his replacement for the trip will be named later.

On the other hand, all-rounder Farhad Hossain will replace Jahurul Islam in Ireland as the opening batsman has requested Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) not to consider him for appearing in the honours final examinations.

Teams named for practice matches

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Zunaed Siddiqui has been named captain of the Bangladesh A team yesterday for the two day-night practice matches against the Mohammad Ashraf-led national side at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The matches will be held on June 3 and 5 in a bid to accustom the Tigers under floodlights which were recently installed at the home of cricket ahead of the tri-series involving India and Pakistan.

Zunaed was dropped from the national side for his poor performance but included in the A team for the tour of Ireland and England.

- TEAMS FOR JUNE 3 MATCH**
BANGLADESH: Mohammad Ashraf (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees, Rokibul Hasan, Mehrez Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mashrafe bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain, Dollar Mahmud, Sajedul Islam and Arafat Sunny.
- BANGLADESH A: Zunaed Siddiqui (captain), Nazimuddin, Shamsur Rahman, Alok Kapali, Naeem Islam, Dhiman Ghosh, Nadif Chowdhury, Mosharraf Hossain, Mahbubul Alam, Rubel Hossain, Forhad Reza, Suhrawardi Shuvo and Farhad Hossain.
- TEAMS FOR JUNE 5 MATCH**
BANGLADESH: Mohammad Ashraf (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees, Rokibul Hasan,
- SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

MacGill calls it a day

CRICINFO, Undated

Stuart MacGill has announced his retirement from international cricket, to take effect from the end of the current Test against West Indies in Antigua. MacGill, 37, has struggled to have much impact in the Caribbean, where he is playing his first Tests since having surgery on his right wrist in December to deal with carpal-tunnel syndrome.

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Rajasthan IPL Royal

CRICINFO, undated

A galaxy of international stars might have added fizz to the IPL but it was India's most improved domestic player who sparked in the tense final. Few outside India might have heard of Yusuf Pathan before this tournament but he imposed himself on the grand stage, snaffling three wickets before smashing a scintillating 56, setting the stage for the inspirational Shane Warne to pull off the last-ball thriller.

It was fitting that the most consistent side in the tournament held their nerve to clinch a nailbiter. Chennai summoned every ounce of their reserves to take the match to the last ball but a calm swat from Sohail Tanvir, when one was needed off the last ball, sparked some heady celebrations in the Rajasthan dug-out. The least expensive side in the league had completed the coup that had them

winning 13 of their 16 matches.

It was a cat-and-mouse battle at the DY Patil Stadium. Unlike in the two semifinals, neither team held a clear advantage at the end of the first innings. The Chennai Super Kings paced their innings well, not trying anything too rash, and a collective effort took them to a fighting 163.

Rajasthan Royals, who chose to field after winning their 11th toss, weren't as dominant with the ball as they've usually been but Yusuf Pathan's three strikes ensured that the game never really got away. The surface was expected to help the faster men but it was bowlers with variety who prospered as the ball occasionally stopped on the bat. A slow outfield hindered the batting side early on but Suresh Raina's meaty hitting rendered it redundant by the end.

A glittering closing ceremony preceded the game but neither team dazzled early on. The game was played out on an elastic band with both sides vying for the advantage - just as Chennai's batsmen appeared to have sized up the conditions, Rajasthan would strike back with a wicket. Parthiv Patel went about laying the platform sensibly, interspersing judicious glides with clean slaps, before Raina and Mahendra Singh Dhoni took them to a competitive total.

Dhoni had offered a cautionary warning to his batsmen: "The previous games here have not produced too many big totals," he said at the toss, "so it's important that the batsmen realise that and play accordingly." Chennai accordingly ensured they didn't lose the plot - as Punjab had done last night - and did their bit to thwart a sharp bowling attack.

Rajasthan tried to use the short ball against S Vidyut but he backed away and slashed over the third-man region instead, a shot that brought the first six of the match. It was clear that Vidyut was going to get after the bowling as Parthiv playing a steady hand. But his attempt to smash Yusuf out of the ground didn't come off - charging down the track, he wasn't to the pitch of the ball and holed out to deep midwicket, where Ravindra

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Malik upbeat ahead of Bangladesh tri-series

Cricket
CRICINFO, undated

Shoaib Malik, the Pakistan captain, has said he wanted to put his poor Indian Premier League (IPL) performances behind and gear up for the tri-series in Dhaka, starting on June 8.

Talat Ali, the manager of the side, is also confident that Pakistan can get the better of India in the tournament, also involving Bangladesh.

"The IPL is over for us and now I'm completely focused on the three-nation tournament in Bangladesh," Malik said. "In the IPL I didn't get much opportunity. That is probably the reason behind

my record. But it hasn't affected my morale and I'm looking forward to playing in the triangular tournament in Bangladesh."

Malik sat out more than half of Delhi Daredevils' games, including the important semifinal against Rajasthan Royals. He managed only 52 runs in seven games and could muster just two wickets at an average of 42.5.

Shahid Afridi, Malik's Pakistan teammate, also struggled in a tournament where most Pakistanis struggled for consistency -- except for Sohail Tanvir, who's been the stand-out bowler. However, Malik didn't offer any excuse. "We are all professional cricketers and I don't think there was any extraordinary

pressure on us in the IPL," he said.

Alli too was upbeat about Pakistan's prospects, especially after stringing together 11 one-day wins in a row. "I believe that the performances of Sohail Tanvir and Umar Gul are really heartening," he told The News. "And also Salman Butt, who played a few very good knocks in the tournament. For Afridi it was just a bad patch and I'm sure he would make a strong comeback soon."

Alli said the Pakistan board may arrange for a brief training camp in Lahore before the team's departure on June 5. The 15-man squad is set to be announced on June 2 following a round of meetings between the national selectors, Malik and Geoff Lawson, the coach.

Clarke's all-round show

Cricket
AFP, St. John's

Michael Clarke followed up his seventh Test hundred with two late wickets to give Australia a firm advantage in the second Test against West Indies on Saturday.

Clarke cracked a purposeful 110 to allow Australia to declare on 479 for seven in their first innings on the second day of the Test at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground.

The Australia vice-captain then returned in the final hour to snare the scalps of opener Xavier Marshall and Runako Morton to leave West Indies wobbling on 125 for three when stumps were drawn.

Clarke took two wickets for seven runs off seven overs. Australia were put on the back foot when Marshall and fellow opener Devon Smith put on 55 for the first

wicket.

But Mitchell Johnson made the breakthrough, when Smith was caught at square cover for 16, cutting hard at a short, wide delivery, but straight to the perfectly positioned Andrew Symonds, who nonchalantly grabbed the ball over his head.

Australia continued to bleed runs, and Marshall coasted to his half-century, reaching the landmark when he swung a full toss from leg-spin bowler Stuart MacGill to the fielder on the mid-wicket boundary for a single.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting turned to Clarke for a bit of inspiration, and he deceived Marshall with a well-flighted delivery and the West Indies opener was adjudged lbw for 53 offering no stroke.

Clarke was still celebrating Marshall's scalp, when Runako Morton heaved at another well-flighted ball and was caught at mid-wicket for a five-ball duck to leave West Indies on 105 for three, and captain Ramnaresh Sarwan and Shivnarine Chanderpaul to carry the home team through until the close.

Clarke's fluent batting had propelled Australia into making a declaration at tea, after he reached his landmark, when he drove Daren Powell straight down the ground for the last of his 12 boundaries.

His hundred followed a similar resolute innings of 113 from left-handed opener Simon Katich which had dominated the opening day.

Clarke spent close to four hours 45 minutes at the crease. He shared 72 for the fourth wicket with Katich, added 64 for the sixth wicket with Brad Haddin, and 54 for the seventh wicket with Brett Lee before he was caught at forward square leg off Powell, when he misused a hook at a short, rising delivery.

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