



Did U Know?

Clarence Seedorf is the only player to win the UEFA Champions League titles with three different teams - Ajax Amsterdam in 1995, Real Madrid in 1998 and AC Milan in 2003 and 2007.



Jurgen Klinsmann
(Bayern Munich coach)
"That was a black day. Bremen were better, more spirited and more aggressive than us. From this we can only learn, we can't bury our heads in the sand, we have to improve." After his team's 5-2 defeat at home to Werder Bremen on Saturday.



ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live from 8:30pm
STAR Sports
Primera Liga
Real Madrid v Sporting
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)



Citycell B. League
Abahani v Digha Mohammod (3:30pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Skipper role for Yuvraj

AFP, New Delhi

Test discard Yuvraj Singh gets a chance to return to the Indian team after being picked on Tuesday to lead the hosts in a warm-up match for the touring Australians.

The elegant left-hander will captain the Indian board president's XI in the four-day match beginning in Hyderabad on October 2, said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Singh, a regular in India's one-day and Twenty20 side, has played only 23 Tests since his debut in 2003, scoring 1,050 runs at an average of 32.81 with three centuries.

He was dropped for the recent Test series in Sri Lanka and was not considered for the five-day Irani Cup domestic tie, regarded as a trial match for the Australian series, which begins in Vadodara on Wednesday.

The board president's squad of 15 includes 12 current or former India internationals like Wasim Jaffer, Aakash Chopra, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Parthiv Patel, Irfan Pathan and Shanthakumar Sreesanth.

The match will be Australia's lone first-class match before the four-Test series opens in Bangalore on October 9. The remaining back-to-back Tests will be played in Mohali, New Delhi and Nagpur.

Mashrafe rejected ICL offer

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

The embargo continued on captain Mohammad Ashraf but his deputy Mashrafe Bin Mortaza made up for his absence at least for the day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

And the obvious question the pace spearhead faced was none other than about the exodus of the national players, who have joined the unauthorised Indian Cricket League (ICL) to receive ten-year bans from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

"I turned down an offer of Rs 10 crore from the ICL authority. I had been initially offered Rs 8 crore before it was raised to Rs. 10 crore (around Tk 15 crore)," a dazzling discloser came from Bangladesh vice-captain during the second day training at the 'Home of Cricket'.

The first reason was: "I didn't feel like it and I am sure no member of my family would speak to me if I had joined the ICL."

And then there was another logic for the bravehearted cricketer: "Money is important and no

doubt all professional players play for money. But in my opinion for a player first priority should be his country."

"They (ICL authorities) rang me up several times offering to build a team before the Australia tour, but I showed no interest in the ICL. I didn't inform anybody because my mind did not spontaneously respond to the proposal," said Mashrafe.

The 'Narail Express' also said that it was a question of whether one has the self-confidence about playing for the national side.

"The main thing is whether you have the confidence about your own place in the national side. They (the rebel cricketers) took their own decision and I believe time and tide wait for none," he said.

"If I also leave the team, it will create a void but a backup would definitely be there in my place. Besides, say, if one of those (of who joined the ICL) was injured supposing that he was still in the side, we'd still have to play without him. It's very simple," Mashrafe added.

He however believes that still there is a scope for some to return to the squad.

"I don't think the departure of some players will have too much

impact on the team and the future of Bangladesh cricket, but I believe a few of those cricketers who retired still has a lot to offer to the country. I urged them to reconsider their decision and come back to the national fold."

Bangladesh vice-captain was upbeat with his team ahead of the upcoming home series against New Zealand, which will arrive in the capital on September 30 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

"I can't explain, why but I believe we will play better cricket this time compared with what we had played in the Australia tour. It may be that we will play at our familiar condition," said Mashrafe.

"It seems the players are very much eager to show better performance in the coming series. We should now think about the players who already left us. We should think positively about those who are now in the squad," Mashrafe opined.

On top of everything, the country's leading paceman however was more excited with the confirmation of his Australian surgeon Dr David Young.

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Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza speaks to the media after a training session yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Enamul lifts visitors

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Striker Enamul Haque returned to goals with a brace to inspire Farashganj's first victory in the Citycell B. League yesterday.

Having lost both their first two games, 3-2 to Sheikh Russel and 1-0 to Abahani, Farashganj defeated their old-Dhaka rivals Rahmatganj 2-1 in the opening game of the third round at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Enamul, whose five goals took Farashganj to the last four of the Federation Cup, had not found the opposition net in his last three matches including the Fed Cup semifinal but struck either side of the break as the league returned to the capital after five days.

Home side Rahmatganj, who stunned defending champions

Abahani 2-1 in the opener and had a break in the second round, briefly came back when Ugandan forward Idris Kasiryre had cancelled Enamul's opening goal to take the score to 1-1 at half-time.

The match was only ten minutes old when Farashganj skipper Kabir sent a through to Mamun who helped on Enamul to fire a right-footed drive past Rahmatganj goalie Ali.

Rahmatganj, otherwise off-colour in the rest of the game, levelled 12 minutes later when Idris slammed a first-time volley into the net off the sidebar for his second league goal after meeting a cross by Hirok Joarder.

Enamul forced a fine save by Ali in the 37th minute while Rahmatganj wasted a great chance to go ahead four minutes later when Idris, getting the ball in a handshaking distance after hard work by Imrose and Hirok, miskicked his chance.

Visiting Farashganj should have killed the game early into the second half but substitute Chanchal rattled the crossbar from distance just five minutes after resumption. And Mamun should have done better in the 73rd minute than missing a sitter when he failed to nod a Khokon Das centre with Ali at his mercy under the bar.

Enamul finally sealed three points for the riversiders just eight minutes from time when he raced ahead of two rival defenders to stab home a cross by Kenyan midfielder Dominic with a powerful header.

TEAMS
FARASHGANJ: Al Amin, Rajib, Uttam, Emeka Lucky Uti, Ramjan, Rasel (Shahed and Yusuf), Mamun, Dominic, Kabir, Khokon (Amirul) and Enamul.
RAHMATGANJ: Ali, Jahangir, Shipon, Ashraf, Imrose, Francis, Kabir, Hanif (Konate), Ripon (Zakir), Idris (Apu) and Hirok.
Referee: Tayeb Hasan.



Enamul (R) takes flight after his second goal against Rahmatganj as his Farashganj teammates join in celebration during their Citycell B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

India to brave bombs Dates of Pakistan tour announced

Cricket
AFP, Karachi

India will play a Test and a one-day international in Rawalpindi on their tour of Pakistan early next year despite the latest bombing in adjoining Islamabad, official said Tuesday.

The blast on Saturday evening devastated the five-star Marriott hotel and killed at least 60 people, including at least four foreigners.

"India will play a Test and a one-day international in Rawalpindi because the itinerary was approved by India before the Islamabad blast," Pakistan Cricket Board chief operating officer Shafiqat Naghmi told AFP.

Marriott on their last two visits in 2004 and 2006. They also played a Test and a one-day in Rawalpindi in 2004 and a one-day in 2006.

Naghmi said Rawalpindi is one of the most important venues in Pakistan.

"We have recently renovated the stadium in Rawalpindi and hope when India tours us all will be well," said Naghmi.

The Indian team will arrive in Karachi on January 4 to play three Tests, five one-day internationals

and a Twenty20 on their 47-day tour. The tour begins with a three-day side match at Hyderabad starting January 6, while Karachi will host the first Test from January 13 to 17.

The teams will play the second Test in Rawalpindi from January 21 to 25 and the third in Lahore from January 29 to February 2.

The one-day series will start from February 6 in Faisalabad. The remaining matches will be played in Lahore (February 8), Rawalpindi (February 11), Multan (February 14) and Karachi (February 17). Karachi will host the only Twenty20 match on February 19.

This will be India's third tour of Pakistan since the two countries revived bilateral cricket series in 2004.

India stalled the ties on political grounds in 2004. India's first Test in Pakistan was their first to Pakistan since 1990.

Pakistan also toured India in 2005 - their first since 1999 - and then in 2007.

ITINERARY	
Jan 4	arrival in Karachi
Jan 6-8	3-day, Hyderabad
Jan 13-17	First Test, Karachi
Jan 21-25	Second Test, Rawalpindi
Jan 29-Feb 2	Third Test, Lahore
Feb 6	First ODI, Faisalabad
Feb 8	Second ODI, Lahore
Feb 11	Third ODI, Rawalpindi
Feb 14	Fourth ODI, Multan
Feb 17	Fifth ODI, Karachi
Feb 19	Twenty20 match, Karachi

Academy lose by four wickets

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka Development XI made it 1-1 after they beat touring GP-BCB National Cricket Academy by four wickets in the second one-day match at the SSC ground yesterday.

Sent to bat first, the Academy team scored 233-9 with Imrul Kayes missing a century by just two runs, falling for 98 while skipper Nayeem Islam made 52.

In reply, the hosts easily reached their victory target in 48.5 overs for the loss of six wickets.

Mahbubul Alam and Arafat Sunny captured two wickets each for the visitors.

GP-BCB Academy team will play the third and final one-day match on Thursday at the NCC ground.

Olympic Day Run Nov 22

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will organise the Olympic Day Run on November 22 this year.

In a bid to spread the ideals of Olympic movement across the country, the BOA has decided to hold the programme at all divisions and districts simultaneously for the first time. A total of nine sub-committees and a coordination committee including all member secretaries of those committees have been formed on Tuesday at an organising committee meeting.

It has also been decided that Divisional and District Sports Associations will take responsibilities of holding the Run at their end.

Programmes like blood donation, children's art competition and essay writing will also be held.

The Day Run organising committee has requested all sports federations, divisional and district sports associations and women sports associations to take necessary preparations to make the programme a success.

Asif on way to ICL?

INTERNET, undated

Suspended from the national team, embattled pacer Mohammad Asif is keeping himself busy training with the Pakistani 'rebels' of the Indian Cricket League (ICL) as they prepare for the new season that gets underway next month.

Asif has been suspended by the Pakistan Cricket Board for testing positive for a banned substance in the Indian Premier League and the ICL rebels are also banned by the PCB.

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Chappell joins Aussies

Cricket
AFP, Jaipur

Ricky Ponting's Australia are looking for inside knowledge from former India coach Greg Chappell to help the tourists win the upcoming four-Test series on Indian soil.

Chappell, an ex-Australian captain and batting legend, coached India from 2005-2007 before taking over as head of Cricket Australia's Centre of Excellence in Brisbane this year.

He returns to India as assistant coach of the 15-man Australian squad with the primary aim of guiding the young squad on what is widely regarded as one of the toughest cricketing tours.

Australian pace bowler Brett Lee said he was delighted that the tourists can use Chappell's knowledge of Indian conditions for the series starting in Bangalore on October 9.

"We will definitely be picking his brains for every little bit of knowl-

edge and experience he's gained," Lee told reporters on Tuesday.

"Being a former India coach is one of the reasons he's here, but also for his experience as a past Australian captain and player and what he's achieved."

"Just to have him around is great. We are looking forward to having Greg Chappell help us and the guys with their batting and

fielding.

"I think he'll be a very key member of the Australian team."

"He's here and he's wearing Australian colours. What he has done for the Indian players has been brilliant, but he's moved on, taken up a new challenge and that's great for us."

Chappell helped organise the Australian team's week-long training camp in Jaipur, where he spent the past year as coach of Rajasthan state's cricket academy.

Chappell had a difficult two-year reign as India's coach, now remembered mostly for his public spat with Sourav Ganguly that led to the sacking of the country's most successful Test captain.

The Australian resigned from the post after India's unceremonious first-round exit from the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean.

Chappell's experience will benefit the tourists - only skipper Ponting and batsmen Matthew Hayden, Michael Clarke and Simon Katich have played a Test in India before.



GREG CHAPPELL

A new era: Lee

Cricket
AFP, Jaipur

Paceman Brett Lee said on Tuesday ahead of the upcoming Test series that Australia would not be intimidated in cricket-mad India despite the lack of experience in the touring squad.

Skipper Ricky Ponting and batsmen Matthew Hayden, Michael Clarke and Simon Katich are the only players in the 15-man squad to have played a Test in India before.

But Lee, who missed the previous tour of India in 2004 due to injury, believes the four-Test series starting on October 9 is the perfect platform for the world champions' younger players to announce their arrival.

"Yeah, we've lost the likes of Glenn (McGrath), Shane Warne, Damien Martyn, Justin Langer and Adam Gilchrist, but it's a new era for Australian cricket," Lee told reporters at the team's training camp here.

"The younger guys have to start somewhere and what better stage

than to play here in India?"

"It's a wonderful place to tour - the country, the people, the culture, the cricket's pretty hard work, so we have to make sure our plans are in place."

Australia arrived on Monday, a week ahead of schedule following the postponement of the Champions Trophy in Pakistan, and will train in Jaipur for a week before the official part of the tour starts.

Lee, 31, who is expected to spearhead the pace attack, hopes his team will repeat the 2-1 success the Australians achieved on the previous tour of India, and believes the spirit in the squad will be key.

"The reason why over the past couple of decades the team has done pretty well is the fact everyone gets along on and off the field and gels as a group -- (and there is) no difference here to 2004," he said.

Lee said he expected an incident-free series, unlike the last time the two teams met, in Australia earlier this year, when India threatened to abandon the tour over umpiring and on-field

issues.

Bhaji to let ball do the talking

INTERNET, undated

Controversial spinner Harbhajan Singh has promised to let his bowling do the talking in the upcoming Test series against Australia.

Harbhajan was accused of racially abusing Queensland all-rounder Andrew Symonds during the Sydney Test in January, but was found not guilty at an ICC disciplinary hearing.

Earlier this year, Harbhajan was banned for five one-day international matches for slapping team-mate Sreesanth during an Indian Premier League match.

The off-spinner said he had learnt from his past misdemeanours and was looking to focus on the game.

"I aim to let the ball do the talking this time," he said.

"It's better to focus on the game and avoid all the drama."

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'We do not need Roy'

INTERNET, undated

Australia captain Ricky Ponting has ruled out calling on exiled all-rounder Andrew Symonds at any stage of his side's four-Test tour of India.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Australia fast bowler Brett Lee speaks to the media in Jaipur yesterday.

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