



Did U Know?

For the inaugural season of the English Premier League, clubs were obliged to supply their own match balls, which were usually provided by the clubs' kit manufacturers. In 1993, the Premier League came to an agreement with Mitre for them to supply the league's teams with their match balls.



Didier Drogba
(Chelsea's Ivory Coast superstar)
"Luiz Felipe Scolari is one of those coaches who is very close to the players. His style is similar to (Jose) Mourinho's. I like this type of coach. I feel much more comfortable with this style of management."



TEN Sports
TUESDAY
UEFA Champions League
Arsenal v Porto
Live from 12:00am
(Wednesday)
Zenit v Real Madrid
Delayed from 2:45am
(Wednesday)
WEDNESDAY
UEFA Champions League
Liverpool v PSV
Live from 12:00am (Thursday)
Shaktar v Barcelona
Delayed from 2:45am
(Thursday)
ZEE Sports
TUESDAY
UEFA Champions League
AaB v Man United
Live from 12:30am
(Wednesday)
WEDNESDAY
UEFA Champions League
CFR Cluj v Barcelona
Live from 12:30am (Thursday)
ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live from 8:30pm

Friendly soccer tie on Eid Day

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has arranged a friendly match on the Eid Day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. BFF Eleven and National Sports Council Eleven will play the match that will start at 6pm at the big bowl.
The national camp players, who are preparing for this month's Merdeka Cup in Malaysia, and the B. League players will take part in the match.
BFF vice-president Badal Roy said that they would arrange the match to inspire the footballers.

Kiwis arrive tonight

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Things are all set for the New Zealand cricket team to make a quiet arrival in the capital tonight as a long holiday starts from today to celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr.

In their second visit to the country after a four years gap, the Black Caps, on a month-long tour, will play three one-day internationals and two Tests as well as a single warm-up game against a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) selection on October 7.

The New Zealand team is coming earlier than scheduled to accustom themselves to the prevalent conditions in the sub-continent.

The series will start with the first one-day match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on October 9.

Meanwhile the Tigers had their last practice session yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium before going on Eid holidays and they will return to business on October 4.

The national selectors will announce the 14-member squad from the 24 probabilities the day after the resumption of the camp and there is hardly any doubt that more than one uncapped players will be

included in the side.

The departure of some national players, who joined the rebel Indian Cricket League (ICL), to receive a ten-year ban by BCB, has paved the way for some young guns to make their international debut during the coming home series against the Kiwis.

Everybody is looking forward to seeing how Mohammad Ashraful's men respond on the field after the ICL-jolt.

"Understandably there is a fair chance to see some new guys in the side when we announce the final squad on October 5," said chief selector Rafiqul Alam yesterday.

"We will also announce a team for the warm-up match on the same day which will be a mixed team of national and upcoming players," he said.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was thinking of another practice match on October 4 but there was hardly any chance to see the additional match because the players will join on the same day

ITINERARY

Oct 7: Limited-over warm-up match.
Oct 9: 1st ODI at Mirpur.
Oct 11: 2nd ODI at Mirpur.
Oct 14: 3rd ODI at Chittagong.
Oct 17-21: 1st Test at Chittagong.
Oct 25-29: 2nd Test at Mirpur.

after the vacation.

At the moment the fitness of middle-order batsman Rokibul Hassan however is the bigger concern for the team management as the right-hander, who had injured his right thumb while batting in the first ODI against Australia at Darwin, is yet to recover from his injury.

"We hope he will be okay before the series. He will play the warm-up game if he is declared fully fit because he couldn't bat for the last few weeks," said Rafiqul.

The player himself however was not sure about his chances of playing the one-day series.

"I am still not comfortable with my injured thumb. I am not sure whether it would be possible for me to play the one-day series. Everything however will be clear after the vacation," expected Rokibul.

NEW ZEALAND

Daniel Vettori (captain), Grant Elliott, Daniel Flynn, Mark Gillespie, Gareth Hopkins, Jamie How, Chris Martin, Michael Mason, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Iain O'Brien, Jacob Oram, Jeetan Patel, Aaron Redmond, Jesse Ryder, Tim Southee, Scott Styris and Ross Taylor.

Mashud blames selectors

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national captain Khaled Mashud has observed that the selectors created the majority of problems for the players in Bangladesh cricket as they are not transparent enough in their work.

"Like me many other players do not get the opportunity to make a farewell appearance due to a lack of communication between the selectors and players. They never gave any signal to any player, rather they tried all the way to ignore the players especially the seniors ones in the team," said a disappointed Mashud yesterday.

During an official press conference at Mirpur the long-serving stumper, who retired from all forms of international cricket, was more critical of the current Rafiqul Alam-

led committee than the previous one headed by Faruque Ahmed,



Khaled Mashud speaks during a press briefing on Monday.

which had dropped him from the squad for the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.

"I was upset when dropped from the World Cup team but I had accepted the analysis of the then selection committee. The previous selection committee at least had the courtesy to let me know about the reasons behind my exclusion, but the current selectors did not even care for that," said an angry Mashud.

Mashud was not ready to belittle the Faruque Ahmed-led committee's bright side because of their alleged involvement with the Reebok scam.

"I still believe that it's unethical for any selector to play a role as an agent because they are judges. But I must praise their analysis regarding the selection of the team," he explained.

He said that his career could be much longer if he had got fair judgment from the selectors. "I am a victim of the wrath of the selectors,"

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Ronaldinho the difference

AFP, Rome



pulsating city derby at the San Siro on Sunday.

Inter Milan had two players sent off — although Marco Materazzi was dismissed after he'd been substituted — as Jose Mourinho tasted defeat as Inter coach for the first time.

It means that despite losing their first two matches, Milan are right back up in the thick of the title race having won their next three in a row.

Ronaldinho dedicated his goal

to the Milan fans and club president — and Italy prime minister — Silvio Berlusconi, who celebrates his 72nd birthday on Monday.

"I'm very happy, I was hoping to score a goal. This one is for the fans who've made me feel at home," said the Brazilian.

"It's a moment of great happiness, I know tomorrow is president Berlusconi's birthday, this goal is for him."

Previous leaders Inter drop down to fourth with the loss as the Serie A table takes on an unfamiliar look.

Lazio are the new Serie A leaders after they won 3-1 at Torino while Napoli, one of only two remaining unbeaten teams, are up to an unlikely second following their 1-0 success at Bologna.

Udinese are third having won 2-

1 at home to Siena while Catania, who beat Chievo 1-0, are fifth ahead of Milan and Juventus.

In Milan Inter had more of the ball but Milan were looking dangerous on the break and on 25 minutes Kaka beat Maicon down the left before crossing for Ronaldinho, whose left foot shot was blocked by goalkeeper Julio Cesar.

Milan went in front on 36 minutes on the counter as Ronaldinho fed Kaka wide on the right before charging into the penalty area to meet his countryman's cross with a bullet header into top corner from almost on the penalty spot.

Mourinho waited less than a quarter of an hour after the break before deciding he'd seen enough and he threw on two strikers.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



AC Milan's Brazilian star Ronaldinho is ecstatic after scoring the winner against cross-town rivals Inter Milan during their Serie A clash at the San Siro on Sunday. Ronaldinho, who has been poor on occasions this season, finally proved his class with a sparkling showing in a heated derby match that saw two sending-offs.

PHOTO: AFP



Bangladesh's premier pace bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza sends down a delivery during Tigers' last training session before a four-day Eid break at the Centre Wicket of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Nazimuddin joins Dhaka Warriors

PTI, New Delhi

The Indian Cricket League (ICL) has further strengthened its players base, roping in four overseas and a domestic cricketer for its new season starting October 10.

The international players, who have joined the rebel league, include a Bangladeshi and three Pakistani players.

22-year-old Tigers' top-order batsman Nazimuddin will turn out for the tournament's new team Dhaka Warriors while all-rounder Tahir Mughal, Shahid Yousuf and Hafeez Khaleel were the Pakistani domestic recruits to have joined the Inzamamul Haq-led Lahore Badshahs.

Nazimuddin became the fourteenth player from Bangladesh to join the breakaway event.

The most notable among the new recruits is former India international Madan Lal's son, Kunal who will play for Ahmedabad Rockets.

Apart from the players, the ICL has also recruited former Pakistan Test player Nadeem Khan as an assistant coach for the Lahore Badshahs side.

Kunal, the 24-year-old left-arm medium-pacer who has represented Delhi at the first-class level, adds to the list of second generation Indian cricketers to have chosen ICL platform to showcase their talent.

Kunal is presently debuting at the ICL 20-20 domestic tournament and has already given a good account of himself by consistently performing for the Ahmedabad Rockets.

Sachin scoffs at security worries

AFP, Bangalore

Top batsman Sachin Tendulkar on Monday played down security concerns for the Test series against Australia, saying cricketers will never be targeted in India.

Fears were raised after 25 people were killed and more than 100 wounded as bombs went off across New Delhi in recent weeks.

"I don't think it bothers us. We are confident nothing bad will happen," Tendulkar told reporters at a training camp ahead of the first Test starting here on October 9.

New Delhi is the venue of the third Test from October 29 and security has been increased around the Australian team, who play a four-day practice match in southern Hyderabad from Thursday.

Tendulkar declined to comment on Australia's security fears but insisted Indian players had nothing to worry about.

"This is our homeland. In our homeland I don't think anyone can harm us," said the 35-year-old father of two, one of India's most famous public figures.

"We should be free to move wherever and whenever we want." Cricket Australia (CA) have said they will go ahead with the tour after the Indian board asked local organisers to increase security at all four Test venues.

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'It's India v Australia'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Bangalore

Sachin Tendulkar has said the India-Australia series is about more than just how the Indian seniors play. "It's India versus Australia, it's not certain individuals versus certain individuals in their team," he said, responding to a question whether the seniors were under extra pressure, especially after Sourav Ganguly was not picked for the Irani Cup.

"It's about performing, and that is what the whole team should concentrate on doing," Tendulkar said. "We would just like to focus on our performance. It is both the countries competing against each other, so every little thing matters."

Tendulkar, however, avoided commenting on the Ganguly issue. "I would leave that to the captain, the coach, and the selectors. They have certain ideas in their minds and we have to abide by that."

Tendulkar, and the rest of the middle order, had an ordinary series in Sri Lanka, creating a debate over whether, and when, to phase out the Fab Four. Tendulkar

started the Sri Lanka series needing 172 to become the world's leading run-getter in Tests, and three matches later he still needed 77.

"I just have to go and play my best," Tendulkar said. "Records will

come if you keep playing well, and the focus will be on playing well. My mind is not on 76 runs, and it's not as if I can relax after getting 76 runs. For the four Tests, the team

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India superstar Sachin Tendulkar plays keepy-uppy with the bat during a training session at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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