

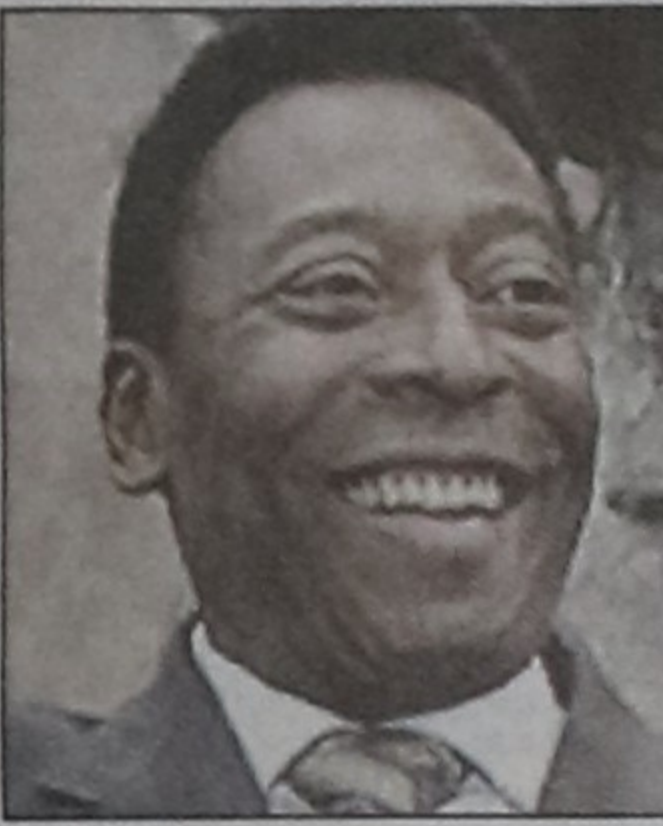


Did U Know?

Rodney Heath of Australia was the youngest Australian Open singles champion. He won the title at the age of 17 years in 1905.



Talk Turkey



Pele
(Brazilian soccer legend)
"I hope that everything goes well for him and that he'll be able to overcome what's happened in the past and that he'll know how to manage the Argentine players well."
While wishing Diego Maradona well in his new job as Argentina coach.



What to Watch

- Neo Cricket**
India v Australia
Third Test, Day Four
Live from 10:00am
ESPN
English Premier League
Everton v Fulham
Live from 6:40pm
Man United v Hull City
Live from 8:55pm
Primera Liga
Valencia v Racing
Live from 2:00am (Sunday)
STAR Sports
English Premier League
Chelsea v Sunderland
Live from 8:55pm
Tottenham v Liverpool
Live at 11:25pm
TEN Sports
ICL Twenty20
Hyderabad v Delhi
Live from 8:00pm

Bedi slams Ponting

INTERNET, undated

Former Indian spin legend Bishan Singh Bedi, who does not believe in taking things lying down, has hit out at the Aussie team skipper Ricky Ponting's lack of communication with his own team management stressing that he was an invited guest at the nets on Tuesday at the Ferozeshah Kotla.

"If Ponting says he was not aware that their team coach Tim Nielsen, manager Steve Bernard, bowling coach Troy Cooley had invited me to guide their young spinners Jason Krejza and Cameron White in the nets on Tuesday then it only shows utter lack of communication in their team," Bedi said on Thursday.

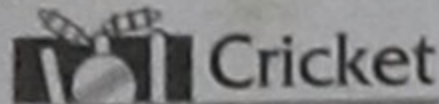
"I don't feel hurt or humiliated at Ponting's claims that I was an uninvited guest at the practice session because I was formally invited by his own team management. I sincerely think he (Ponting) should work more on his communication skills rather than loose talks," he added.

Bedi was reacting to Ponting's snub at the great Indian left arm spinner's gracious intentions of helping a struggling Aussie team with some inexperienced spinners.

Ponting had reportedly said that he was not aware of how Bedi had landed up at the nets.

"Bedi was at the Australian High Commission's party the previous day and the next morning I see him at the nets. I do not know how he landed up at the nets," Ponting had unnecessarily commented former India captain's presence.

Tigers off to SA today



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team will fly to South Africa tonight to play three one-day internationals and two Tests besides a Twenty20 international during a monthlong tour.

The Tigers will kick off their second trip to South Africa with the lone Twenty20 international at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on November 5 and then play a three-match one-day series and the two-match Test series.

Most of the current team players have had the experience of playing in South African conditions but it's for the first time that all the players led by Mohammad Ashraful are going to play a full series as not a single player have survived from that first tour in 2002-03.

After the first trip, Bangladesh toured the country to play the 2003 World Cup and the 2007 Twenty20

World Championships while rookie players like Nayeem Islam, Imrul Kayes and Mahbubul Alam have played in the country with the GP-BCB Cricket Academy.

"It is the first Test series for everybody in South Africa. We had the experience of playing in that condition but Tests are a different ball game," said Ashraful, who was in the team for both the World Cups along with deputy Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Bangladesh batting was terrible in the first trip when they suffered innings defeats in both matches

SQUAD

Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Imrul Kayes, Rokibul Hasan, Shakib Al Hasan, Mehrez Hossain, Nayeem Islam, Mushfiqur Rahim (wicketkeeper), Nazmul Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Syed Raseel, Shahadat Hossain and Mahbubul Alam.

under the leadership of Khaled Mashud and after six years, the challenge remains the same as they have to bat well to show any improvement.

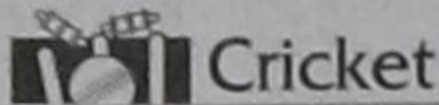
Ashraful's men were competitive in the just-concluded home series against New Zealand but there were reasons to worry with their batting performance in the series as the efforts from the lower order salvaged the Tigers.

Coach Jamie Siddons has issued a warning after the series that in South Africa if his top four batsmen fail like the home series against the Kiwis, they cannot expect the same service from the lower order batsmen all the time.

Ashraful was however very optimistic about a much improved batting performance in South Africa.

"It's a big challenge but I think the wicket will be good for batting because we are going to play the series in the middle of their season. We just need to stick to our basics," he said.

Aussies stay defiant



CRICINFO, New Delhi

Ricky Ponting and Matthew Hayden led a solid collective effort from Australia on the third day in Delhi, although by the close there was no guarantee they would avoid the follow-on. Virender Sehwag went from fifth bowling option to major striker with three wickets, including two key breakthroughs in the final session that left Australia needing 76 more runs to ensure India would bat again.

It was a difficult day for Australia and the stumps scorecard did not fully reflect the gripping nature of the contest. There were no mammoth individual efforts like those from Gautam Gambhir and VVS Laxman; the most impressive aspect of Australia's batting was simply their group fight.

Replying to 613 is a psychologically difficult task and India's bowlers did not make it any easier. Even without Anil Kumble for one and a half sessions -- he went to

hospital for treatment on a cut finger after getting his hands to a fierce Hayden stroke at short midwicket -- the attack was constantly threatening.

Sehwag, India's prime offspinner in the absence of Harbhajan Singh, was as dangerous as any of the specialists as he spun some deliveries sharply while others sailed straight on towards the stumps. He gave India momentum at key intervals and his removal of Michael Hussey and Ponting after tea sparked something in his teammates.

Hussey had worked incredibly hard for his 53, only to see his dead-straight bat beaten by a superb offbreak that clipped the off-stump. Ponting had already departed to a ball that pitched in the rough and turned back to rattle his stumps and the two blows came at just the right time for India.

They were frustrated that Ponting survived a super spell of reverse-swing bowling from Ishant Sharma and Zaheer Khan, who tested his focus more rigorously than a pair of optometrists. As

expected, Ishant troubled him with deliveries that bounced and jagged back in sharply. Zaheer's swing was also a challenge. Despite a couple of indecisive and almost fatal leave-play-leave moments, Ponting somehow survived.

There were some genuinely good strokes from Ponting, who was desperate not to stagnate. He drove Amit Mishra beautifully straight back down the ground for four and pounced on occasional full tosses and long-hops. But for a man who usually makes batting look so simple, this innings was as fluent as his Hindi.

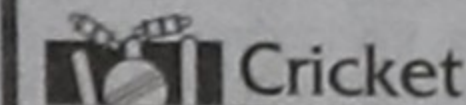
In many ways, that made it even more impressive that he reached 87. His 82-run partnership with Hussey continued to grind Australia towards avoiding the follow-on after the early work of Hayden and Simon Katich. Importantly for Australia, the stings throughout the day were well-spaced, although a swarm of bees that descended on the stadium just after lunch briefly provided a different sort of threat.

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Superstar Sachin Tendulkar and wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (R) celebrates with Virender Sehwag after he picked up three wickets on the third day of the third Test against Australia at the Feroz Shah Kotla in New Delhi yesterday.

Gambhir to appeal ban



AFP, New Delhi

Indian opener Gautam Gambhir was on Friday banned for one Test for his on-field clash with Australian all-rounder Shane Watson during the third Test here.

Gambhir, top scorer for the hosts with 206 in the first innings, will miss the fourth and final Test against Australia in Nagpur from Nov 6-10, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said in a statement.

However, the Indian cricket board said in a press release that Gambhir would lodge an appeal against the verdict.

Gambhir, 27, appeared to elbow Watson after the all-rounder seemed to utter something to the Indian batsman as he took a second run in the 51st over of Wednesday's play.

"The decision to find Gambhir guilty of a level two offence is indicative of the fact that any degree of physical contact is unacceptable," match referee Chris Broad said in the statement.

Broad said that the minimum penalty would usually be a two-Test ban but in this case there were mitigating factors. "In the view of the umpires, facts of this case -- the lightness of the physical contact and element of provocation -- would not justify such a penalty."

"I have also taken into account the previous offences of Gambhir and therefore I am satisfied that the penalty imposed is an appropriate outcome in the circumstances. I hope Mr. Gambhir will learn from this," he said.

Gambhir was informed of the decision by Broad on Friday morning before the start of the third day's play.

Watson was found guilty Thursday of verbally engaging with Gambhir "in a manner that was not in keeping with the spirit of cricket" and fined 10 percent of his match fees.

The players were cited by on-

field umpires Billy Bowden and Aleem Dar as well as TV umpire Suresh Shastri.

Watson had pleaded not guilty to a level one violation of the ICC Code of Conduct, which calls on players to respect the laws and spirit of the game.

Gambhir pleaded guilty to a level two offence of conduct contrary to the spirit of the game.

The Indian opener was fined 65 percent of his match fee during the Kanpur one-dayer against Pakistan in November 2007 for a run-in with Shahid Afridi.

India's paceman Zaheer Khan was docked 80 percent of his match fee after exchanging words with Matthew Hayden and pointing him to the pavilion when the Australian batsman was dismissed during the second Test of a tense series in Mohali.

The series, which the hosts lead 1-0 after a 320-run win in Mohali, comes on the heels of India's sacrimonious tour of Australia early this year.



Abahani striker Emily punches the air in celebration of his second goal against Chittagong Abahani in yesterday's Citycell B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Fletcher flays Middlesex

AFP, Coolidge, Antigua

Andre Fletcher sent out a warning to England by slamming the Middlesex attack for an unbeaten 90 as the Stanford Superstars cruised to a 58-run win in the Twenty20 Super Series here Thursday.

In the final warm-up match before Saturday's all-or-nothing clash between the Superstars and England, where members of the victorious XI will win a million dollars each, Fletcher struck the first fifty of the tournament.

The 20-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman smashed seven sixes in an innings lasting a mere 66 balls.

All-rounder Kieron Pollard weighed in with four sixes in 27 not out off nine balls faced as the Superstars piled up 173 for four in their maximum 20 overs.

English Twenty20 kings Middlesex had no answer to the assault.

Faced with such a daunting total to chase, they were never in the hunt and were bowled out with 15 balls left after spinner Dave Mohammed took two wickets with successive deliveries.

Pitches and the quality of floodlights at series benefactor Allen Stanford's ground in Antigua have come in for criticism.

But Fletcher's display suggested the ball was now coming on to the bat after a run of low-scoring games, while several catches were held in the deep in situations where players had previously struggled to pick-up the ball.

Texan-born billionaire Stanford, in an interview broadcast by BBC Radio Five Live before this match finished, said: "We are taking the grass right down so it will play much faster and we are putting in a hard pitch."

"The light issue will all be resolved for this game. There will not be any light issues whatsoever."

'Pietersen close to IPL deal'

CRICINFO, undated

Lalit Modi, the IPL commissioner, has said that only a No-Objection Certificate from the England board stands in the way of Kevin Pietersen participating in the Twenty20 tournament next season.

"I am very keen for Kevin to take part in the IPL. He has already agreed to be part of IPL," Modi said in an exclusive interview to Cricinfo. "We just need a NOC from the ECB."

The England board is believed to have made its players available for 14 days of the IPL as part of a deal in which 20 IPL players will be released for the ECB's proposed Twenty20 league.

"The ECB have agreed in principle to release the players for the next season. It has, of course, strings attached," he said. "We are evaluating those strings, whether we can agree to it or not. The good news is at least the ECB has moved from the position of not allowing their players in the IPL."

Modi also said that a trading window was introduced to provide teams "another opportunity" to a hire players. "There may be times when teams have too many players

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Warriors restrict Lions to 137-9

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Veteran left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique picked up three wickets as the Dhaka Warriors restricted Chittagong Lions to 137 for nine in their ICL 20-20 Indian Championship match at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula last night.

The Warriors were 42 without loss after six overs till filing of this report.

Earlier, Rafique took the wickets of Manish Sharma, Bipul Sharma and Daryl Tuffey in a four over spell, giving away just 28 runs. Fellow left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain picked up two for 17 while Mohammad Sharif, Tapash Baisya and Alok Kapali picked up one each and New Zealander Lou Vincent fell for a run-out without even facing a ball.

For the hosts, Bipul top-scored with 30 off 22 with four boundaries while another Sharma, Chetan, struck a run-a-ball 27 with three fours.

Easy win for Pragati

SPORTS REPORTER

First half goals by Palash, Shimul and Manju helped Karwan Bazar Pragati Sangha hand a 3-1 defeat to Gazirhot SC in the Second Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Didarul scored a consolation goal for the losers after the break.

Emily fires Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



Two-goal Zahid Hossain Emily took Abahani closer to the top with a 3-0 crushing of Chittagong

Abahani in the Citycell B. League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Emily, who wasted a lot of opportunities in the recently concluded Merdeka Cup in the national colours but scored a spectacular goal against Vietnam, returned to his habit with two magnificent strikes inside five minutes in the first half while substitute Zahed Parvez added the other in the bag end as the defending champions reached within two points of leaders Sheikh Russel with a match in hand.

After five matches, Abahani who began the league with a shocking 2-1 defeat to Rahmatganj, pushed their tally to 12 points with their fourth consecutive win while the visitors remained among the bottom half with six points after seven outings.

The hosts, who had Arif Khan

Joy playing for the first time in the league after a long injury lay-off, got off to a bright start but Emeka fluffed the easiest chance of the day in the 14th minute. The Nigerian midfielder was unmarked inside the Chittagong six-yard box when Emily picked him up from the right but Emeka's mistimed header went over the target.

Emily then failed to connect a low cross by Abul in the 22nd minute from handshaking distance as the ball ran across the face of goal but the national striker made amends three minutes later to put the Sky-blues ahead with a superb effort.

Emeka failed to reach Mamun's chip from the left but Emily's diving header gave port city goalkeeper Thuan no chance at the far post.

There was no respite for the tourists as Emily was on target on the half hour. Despite fielding five defenders, the Chittagong wingbacks constantly left wide gaps for their rivals to explore and Abahani's second goal was also created at the flank.

Skipper Nazrul, playing right-back, was sent racing by Abul and crossed the ball back to Emily, who fired a dazzling first-time

sidevolley into Thuan's left hand post from 15 yards.

Missing their three Nepalese booters, who are busy on national duty and are now playing in Sikkim, India after their Merdeka Cup campaign, Chittagong Abahani never looked to pose a threat but Rony came close to narrow the deficit.

The striker controlled a pass from Emon at the right side and had Biplab in his mercy but the Abahani goalkeeper had the faintest of touches to divert the angular shot for a corner shortly before half-time.

Abahani looked happy to sit on the two-goal cushion but created chances in spite of taking a slow approach after resumption.

Thuan made two fine saves, depriving Emeka and Emily from close range before the latter wasted a golden chance to complete his hat-trick.

Chasing a long and high cross from Abul, Emily was perhaps running faster and could not position himself well just two yards out of goal. Assuming he would miss a header, the striker used his shoulder but failed to keep the ball under the crosspiece.

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WAGs at fault?



AFP, London

Allen Stanford, the Texan billionaire behind the ongoing Twenty20 Super Series at his own ground in Antigua, apologised personally Thursday for having the wife of an England player sit on his lap.

During England's win over Middlesex last weekend Stanford was pictured sitting among the wives and girlfriends of the England team with wicketkeeper Matt Prior's wife, Emily, sitting on his lap.

Pictures of the incident were shown live on big screens at the ground and televised around the world.

For critics, the image was symbolic of everything wrong with a series, whose main focus centres around Saturday's climactic match between England and Stanford's

Caribbean Superstars, where members of the winning XI will receive a million dollars each, while the losers get nothing.

This means a player could, for example, drop a catch which costs him and his colleagues a life-changing sum of money -- a point repeatedly stressed in adverts for television coverage of the game.

Stanford told BBC Radio Five Live here Thursday: "When I saw these young ladies sitting there, the cameraman said it would be a great shot if I got in the middle of them."

"I had no idea who they were," the businessman explained. "If I knew they were related in any way, shape or form to the English cricket team I would have said a polite hello and left."

"The cameraman said we had 30 seconds, so I said, 'Where am I going to sit?' This young girl got up and said, 'Here take my seat'. So I sat in the middle," he added.

"The girl who was stood up plopped down on my knee. I didn't put her on my knee or sit here on my knee, she just plopped down."

"It was strictly an innocent thing. I apologised to Matt and to Kevin (Pietersen, the England captain)," said Stanford, who also funds the domestic Twenty20 tournament in the West Indies.

Former England captain Michael Atherton, writing in The Times on Wednesday, criticised Stanford's habit of walking into changing-rooms, saying no-one should be admitted to the England dressing room because of the "size of their bank account".

Stanford said he would not go into the England dressing room again but stressed he would continue to walk among the crowds.

"There may be some things I am used to doing here in my tournament like walking in the locker

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মুন্দের একটি দেশ
এসিমে নিম্নে যাম শার্কন্য

চোখ রাখুন
CHANNEL ১ এর পর্দায়
এর পর্দায়
আজ সন্ধ্যা ৬ টায়

১ম পর্ব: পরিবার ও বন্ধু

আলোচক: সৈয়দ মনজুুল ইসলাম
অধ্যাপক, ইংরেজি বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

অতিথি: অপী করিম
অভিনেত্রী

উপস্থাপক: সৈয়দ মুনীর বসক
অধ্যাপক, আইবিএ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

১ম পর্বের কুইজ
বিভাগীয় বা
স্বতন্ত্রে অংশগ্রহণ
সমর্থন পেতে

সংস্থা: NARDI

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