



Did U Know?

Every team Celtic played in the UEFA Cup of 2002-03, had the letter 'V' in its name except the team they played in the final. Celtic beat six teams en route to losing 3-2 in the final to Portugal's FC Porto. However, the teams they knocked out in the earlier rounds were FK Suduva, Blackburn Rovers, Celtic Vigo, VfB Stuttgart, Liverpool and Boavista.



What to WATCH

SuperSport 2

South Africa v Bangladesh
Second Test, Day 3
Live from 2:30pm

TEN Sports

Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka
Fourth ODI
Live from 1:30pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live from 8:30pm

Star Cricket

Australia v New Zealand
Second Test, Day 2
Live from 6:00am (Saturday)



TALK TURKEY



Ijaz Butt

(Pakistan Cricket Board chairman)
"I am hopeful that India will tour and we are preparing for it." While expressing his optimism that India's upcoming tour will go ahead as schedule.



Citycell B. League
Muktijoddha v Abahani
Time: 4:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Barisal first into semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Masud spun Barisal to a five-wicket win over Chandpur in the first quarterfinal of the 29th National Cricket Championship at the Shamsur Rahman Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

The left-arm spinner took five wickets as Chandpur were skittled out for 138 runs in 46 overs. In reply, Barisal reached the target in 39.5 overs with five wickets in hand.

Masud destroyed the Chandpur middle-order in his 10-overs spell in which he gave away just 39 runs. Manik and Javed took two wickets each.

Barisal opener Rabbi took little time to knock off the

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Shakib proves his worth

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Centurion

Many might have raised their eyebrows when coach Jamie Siddons branded Shakib Al Hasan as a world-class cricketer but the young all-rounder continued his stirring performances to enhance the reputation.

On the second day of the second Test at the SuperSport Park on Thursday, the Magar lad once again proved why he is rated the number one spinner in the team. The left-arm spinner, who claimed five wickets in the first Test, picked up three quick wickets as South Africa were reduced to 192-5 at tea.

Tigers had set a target to play good cricket in each session and if they were impressive in the first, then they won the second session thanks to brilliant bowling by Shakib, who dismissed Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers in one over to silence the exuberant Centurion crowd.

Bangladesh were desperately looking for a breakthrough after the lunch break as Jacques Kallis and Amla looked well set to take away their 'disciplined' bowling effort and Shakib gave it in the right time by removing the former.

Kallis however was struggling against the left-arm spinner and finally saw his off-stumps uprooted. The big man, who scored 24 off 72 balls with two boundaries,

added 65 runs with Amla for the third wicket.

South Africa however were further damaged when the steady Amla went for the forward defence only to get an edge to reach short cover where Imrul Kayes made no mistake to ensure the damage. There was however a huge appeal that came from Bangladesh for a leg-before decision but Amla, who smashed a hundred in the first Test, took a walk before the umpire's decision.

Amla scored 71 off 140 balls that contained sweetly timed ten boundaries.

The home team got the real jolt as de Villiers was dismissed after one delivery. The right-hander went down the track on his second ball only to become the first stumping victim of Mushfiqur Rahim in his 12th Test appearance.

In the first session it was however a story of Bangladesh's disciplined bowling and it seemed that the bowlers have listened to their coach's (Chompaka Ramanayake) words: "Don't go for wicket rather concentrate to bowl in right area".

Following the instruction Mahbulul Alam got the day's first success by removing dangerous Graeme Smith (27) who made a big hundred in the first Test against his favourite team.

The South African skipper went across the line only to be trapped leg-before by an excellent delivery of Alam as

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Bangladesh left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan (L) swaps high-five with teammates after dismissing South Africa batsman AB de Villiers (not in picture) for a duck on the second day of the second Test in Centurion yesterday. Shakib took three wickets in quick succession to reduce the home side to 134-5 in the second session.

PHOTO: AFP

Hail little Mushfiq

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Centurion

"Which one, short or tall?" was the response from Makhaya Ntini when asked to comment on Mushfiqur Rahim's fine knock after the first day's play of the second and final Test at SuperSport Park on Wednesday.

The lanky South Africa paceman, who always loves to crack a joke, was understandably confused as he could not identify a diminutive Mushfiq or a lanky Zunaed Siddiqui, both of whom have scored half-centuries to give Bangladesh a good first innings total, by name. But he was quick to praise the effort of the wicketkeeper-batsman upon confirmation that it was the innings of the little man.

"Oh, the little man! He batted brilliantly. We bowled good lines but he left the good balls and punished the bad ones perfectly," said Ntini, who grabbed four wickets for 32 runs.

Mushfiq also got the attention of local crowds and media. But most importantly his 'brave' battle against the deadly Dale Steyn provided the much-needed self-confidence for his teammates. Coming in to bat at number seven, Mushfiq struck a superb 65 and added a valuable 56 runs with number eleven batsman Mahbulul Alam.

"This innings inspired everybody in the team. He showed that we have got the ability to play good attacking cricket against this kind of fiery pace attack," said Zunaed, who himself scored a fine 67, opening the innings with Tamim Iqbal.

For Mushfiq it was like a dream come true for not just scoring a fifty but for fighting the Steyn fire with fire.

"It was certainly satisfying to punch a few off a bowler like Steyn and it came off timely. I picked the bad balls to smash and I must thank my partner Robin [Mahub] who gave me good support to add a few runs on the board," said Mushfiq.

"Actually there were no options left for me but scoring some quick runs because we had only one wicket in hand. I batted as per demand of the situation, nothing else," he added.

The Bogra cricketer also showed his calibre against the class South African pace attack in the first Test where he scored 48 in the first innings and was run out for nought in the second.

Asked whether batting at number eight hurts him, he replied diplomatically.

"I have no complaint about my batting position but no doubt it could have been nice if I got more time to bat. But once again I want to say that I always try to fulfil my team demands," said Mushfiq.

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Idris stings MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahmatganj lived up to their reputation as giant killers of the season when Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Citycell B. League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The win also helped the old town outfit to leapfrog the Motijheel giants in the points table. They replaced Mohammedan in fourth place with 13 points from seven games as the giants remained in 12 points from the same number of outings. This was their fourth win, the first of which was against reigning B. League champions Abahani in the inaugural match of this season's competition.

Back to the day's match and it was the giant-killers who took full control of the first-half, culminating in a goal not too far into the match.

In the 26th minute, Ugandan striker Idris Kasirye

headed home a Jahangir Patwari's right-side corner that left Mohammedan goalkeeper Aminul Haque with no chance.

Rahmatganj however got two lifelines when Mohammedan's Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola first failed to properly connect a low cross from Nasir and then,

skied a contentious penalty in the 68th minute.

But after Robin was felled on the edge of the box by Ashraf, the Rahmatganj players staged a protest that lasted nearly eight minutes and stopped play unnecessarily. The stoppage had its ill effects

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PHOTO: STAR

A GOAL WORTH MORE THAN A HUNDRED: Rahmatganj's Ugandan striker Idris Kasirye does a somersault after scoring the all-important goal against giants Mohammedan Sporting Club during their Citycell B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Citi Cup golf tees off

SPORTS REPORTER

The 3rd Citi Cup golf tournament began today at the Kurmitola Golf Club. About 400 competitors, including diplomats, leading business persons and well-known personalities are taking part in the two-day meet.

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam inaugurated the tournament and is expected to distribute trophies at the prize giving ceremony today.

Bangladesh end with one bronze

SPORTS REPORTER

Shahriar Towfique Khan, Ramzan Ali and Saiful Islam ensured Bangladesh had some success on the final day of the 4th South Asian Shooting Championship in Islamabad yesterday.

The Bangladesh men's 50m rifle three team won bronze on the final day of competition to bring the tally to a gold, a silver and eight bronze medals.

Shahriar scored 1123, Ramzan 1112 and Saiful 1110 to earn the third place. In the shoot-off, Shahriar finished 7th scoring 1219.

The Bangladesh shooting team is due to return home on Sunday.

Motijheel earn promotion

SPORTS REPORTER

Two goals from Minar helped Motijheel T&T Club sink Little Friends Club 4-0 and get promotion from Second Division Football League at the Kamalapur Stadium yesterday.

The twin strikes came in the 35th and 77th minutes interjecting goals from Mintu

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Mumbai attacks stop cricket in India

CRICINFO, undated

England have cut short the ongoing one-day series against India following Wednesday's terrorist strikes in Mumbai but Lalit Modi, the head of the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) fixtures committee, said the two-Test series would go ahead.

The England and Wales cricket Board (ECB), he said, had agreed to this decision.

"The Test series will go ahead, and there is no problem with that," Lalit Modi, also the BCCI vice-president, told Cricinfo. "We are sure the first Test will go ahead as scheduled in Ahmedabad [from December 11]. But there is a problem over hosting the second Test in Mumbai [from December 19]. The ECB wants the Test to be shifted to southern India, we are exploring all options."

The decision to abandon

the remaining two one-day internationals of the seven-match series was taken during a meeting between BCCI secretary N Srinivasan, England's managing director Hugh Morris, and the Indian team management in Bhubaneswar.

England did not travel to Guwahati yesterday afternoon as scheduled and remained in Bhubaneswar overnight, while further discussions with the BCCI were taking place.

"The safety and security of the England team is of the utmost importance to ECB," Morris said. "We have reviewed all our security arrangements in the light of these attacks and will be taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of the team."

The Indian team, which had a meeting mid-day, was informed by the BCCI about England's position. "We have been told England are going

back home. So we are going to our homes," Venkatesh Prasad, India's bowling coach, told Cricinfo. As of now, the Indian team has been asked to assemble in Ahmedabad on December 8, three days before the scheduled start of the first Test against England.

Morris briefed the England team and management after the meeting with Srinivasan. "We are urgently seeking information from expert sources regarding last night's attacks and will continue to hold further discussions with our colleagues from the BCCI over the next 24 hours," Morris said. He added that the ECB will wait on their own security report before deciding on their next move regarding the Test series.

The ICC said they had "no role to play in the current situation" regarding the England tour of India. "The arrangements for the tour

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Star India batsman Tendulkar (L) checks his cell phone as he is about to board a bus in front of the team hotel in Bhubaneswar yesterday. India were forced to abandon England's remaining two one-day internationals following the deadly Mumbai attacks on Wednesday night.

PHOTO: AFP

All about Cricket

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