



Did U Know?

Fred Perry of Great Britain, the famous Wimbledon champion of the 1930s, was also a world champion at table tennis.



Kaka

(AC Milan's Brazilian star) "I know it is the best league in the world. So one day, maybe (I can play there). I don't know when - but it would be great to play in the Premier League."



STAR Cricket
Australia v New Zealand
Second Test, Day 3
Live from 6:00am (Sunday)

ESPN
English Premier League
Middlesbrough v Newcastle
Live from 8:55pm

STAR Sports
English Premier League
Aston Villa v Fulham
Live from 8:55pm
Primera Liga
Getafe v Real Madrid
Live from 12:55am (Sunday)
Sevilla v Barcelona
Live from 3:00am (Sunday)

Carnival kicks off

SPORTS REPORTER

The UCB-Dhaka Sports Carnival got under way at different venues of the five host clubs in Dhaka yesterday.

Five events out of seven kicked off with Balisera Valley Club, Calcutta Cricket and Football Club and Uttara Club qualifying for the quarterfinals in cricket.

Dalhousie Institute of Kolkata and Dhaka Club reached the semifinals of snooker single while Dhaka Club won their singles and doubles matches against Raowa Club in tennis.

Squash and bridge competitions also began on the day.

Taylor nears Kiwi record

INTERNET, undated

Ross Taylor is on the brink of breaking a New Zealand batting record that has stood for more than four decades.

The young Black Cap star needs a mere 164 runs to surpass the record for most Test runs in a calendar year, currently held by John Reid, who scored 871 runs in 13 Tests in 1965.

Currently playing in the second Test against the Australians in Adelaide, Taylor's run tally for 2008 sits at 708 in nine Tests for the time being. Should he not beat

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Run-outs mark defeat

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Centurion

Running between the wickets has now emerged as a major headache for the Bangladesh team with three batsmen falling prey to unnecessary dismissals as South Africa cruised to an innings and 48-run win in the second Test at Centurion on Friday.

Mehrab Hossain, captain Mohammad Ashraful and Rokibul Hasan were all culpable as they fell to shocking run-outs during the second innings on the third day of the final Test at the SuperSport Park.

Another defeat inside three days was not entirely unexpected but the stupidity of the aforementioned three only added to the woes of an already brittle batting line-up.

The win meant, that despite some hiccups during their batting, South Africa kept up their one hundred percent record against the Tigers after they had swept the first Test by an innings and 129 runs.

Trailing by 179 runs, Bangladesh started their innings a few minutes ahead

of the lunch break and were bundled out with nearly two hours of the day's play remaining for a paltry 131.

It put paid to a strong bowling effort from Shakib Al Hasan who took six wickets to nail the Proteas down for 429.

The hesitation in running has been a salient feature in this series but while only Mushfiqur Rahim had fallen victim to it in the first Test, this time it exploded out of proportion.

The value that the Tigers put on their wickets while playing a top side like South Africa was laughable at times and their display of running only validated this fact.

Ashraful unnecessarily turned for second run after pushing Morne Morkel but Hashim Amla's direct hit down at the bowler's end saw Mehrab Hossain (0) fall short of his ground as Bangladesh were reduced to 57 for four.

On the second occasion the captain made another blunder, this time accounting for himself.

Looking well settled in the middle Ashraful yet again erred when a more resolute approach was required. Though it was an excellent direct hit from Dale Steyn down at long-leg, the right-hander could have easily avoided the debacle.

Finally it was Rokibul Hasan who went

for a frankly idiotic single and saw Ashwell Prince make no mistake to send him back for 28.

"It's really disappointing. I think we don't anticipate very well. The outfields here are very quick and ball travels faster to the fielder, so what can be an easy two on our grounds can get you run out over here," said a frustrated Mohammad Salahuddin, the team's fielding coach.

"Generally we are not fast runners between wickets but we also have to know the fielders because someone like Dale Steyn has one of the most powerful throws in world cricket," he added.

On the other hand it seemed that Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan hardly learnt anything from their previous mistakes as the left-handers once again went to chase balls well outside the off-stumps to throw away their wickets.

Tamim failed to carry on despite scoring 20, as the Chittagongian tried to cut Morkel to backward where Neil McKenzie, who had dropped the same batsman on 16 off Jacques Kallis, took an excellent diving catch.

Bowling hero Shakib continued his poor showing with the bat as the left-hander chased a short and very wide

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Smith sees no progress

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER in Centurion

It was hard to believe for Bangladesh team as they lost the second and final Test against South Africa inside three days on Friday.

The team apparently were not disappointed with the outcome. They were rather upset because they could not

push their opponents finally despite having a chance after some impressive batting, which was followed up by Shakib Al Hasan's bowling.

"It's really hard to believe that we lost the match inside three days. We were in a very good position to push South Africa more in the Test but three bad runs outs spoiled everything," said a dejected Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraful reflect-

ing on his side's an innings and 48-run defeat.

Understandably, coach Jamie Siddons was also disappointed by his charges' second-innings batting where they were bundled out for 131 after an impressive 250 in the first innings.

"At least we should have given them some runs to score. It could have been fine if we could managed 250 to 270 on the board. But there were three unnecessary run outs which is totally irresponsible," said Siddons.

"Falling victims to run outs in Test match is really a crime. Things could have been much better if three batsmen had not fall for run outs. It's very difficult to fight against such a good attack if three top order batsmen get out in this way," echoed Ashraful.

Bangladesh coach and captain both said that in the match, a couple of decisions went against them and pointed to some positive outcomes in a tough series ahead of their next home assignment against Sri Lanka.

"I must praise the effort in the first innings where we scored 250 against a very good bowling attack and I am happy the way the guys defended the captain's decision of batting first on this kind of track.

"Then our bowling was good, especially Shakib was excellent. There were, however, some bad decisions," said Siddons.

On the other hand, South African skipper Graeme Smith reiterated his claim that he has hardly seen any improvement in the performance of the Bangladesh team.

"It's a difficult question for me to answer because it's not my job. My job is to see South Africa playing good cricket,"

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PHOTO: CRICINFO

South Africa batsman Ashwell Prince is delighted after scoring 150 runs for the first time on the third day of the second and final Test against Bangladesh at Centurion Park on Friday.

Tipu ignites Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Shahajuddin Tipu renewed his super-sub status with a late strike to inspire Abahani record a hard-fought 2-0 win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad in yesterday's Citycell B.

Abahani, whose winning streak was broken with a 2-2 draw against archrivals Mohammedan in the previous game, showed

the hangover from a big match four days earlier and almost fluffed the chance to reclaim lead due to lack of concentration.

But the Sky Blues were rescued with late acts in the eighth round encounter that pushed their collection to 19 points, two ahead of Sheikh Russel while Muktiyoddha remained second from bottom with four points following their sixth loss.

Despite enjoying superior ball possession, Abahani failed to make an impact on an eight-pack Reds backline, which defended doggedly against swelling Blue tide.

There was no clear cut chances in the first half hour but Abul drove a freekick just over Nizam's crossbar before Ibrahim's close-range shot found a defensive wall.

The Abahani forwards finally began to keep their efforts on target but veteran Nizam made

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PHOTO: STAR

THIS BALL IS MINE: Abahani striker Tipu grabs the ball in celebration of his opening goal against Muktiyoddha during yesterday's Citycell B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Test moved from Mumbai

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India on Friday took the first step towards resuming international cricket after the deadly Mumbai blasts by removing the terror-hit city from England's Test schedule.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shifted the second Test from Mumbai to the southern city of Chennai in the only change for next month's two-match series.

The first Test will be played as scheduled in the western city of Ahmedabad from December 11-15, while Chennai will host the second Test from December 19-23.

The series will be preceded by a three-day practice match

in Vadodara from December 5-7, the statement from BCCI secretary N. Srinivasan added.

The statement did not say if England, who are due to fly home later on Friday after cancelling the last two matches of a one-day series, had accepted the revised itinerary.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) official Hugh Morris, who held talks with Indian officials until late Thursday, had said earlier he expected the Test series to go ahead.

"The players are keen to play international cricket," Morris said.

"The Test matches are in place as it stands and at the moment our plan is to come back. If our security report says it is safe and secure to do

so, that is what we will do."

However, England captain Kevin Pietersen, speaking to Sky Sports ahead of the team's departure, said no player could be forced to play.

"We need to make sure the security is right -- but if it is not safe then we won't be coming back," he said.

"People are their own people. I will never force anyone to do anything or tell them to do anything against their will."

"On the field I may ask people to do things in a certain way but people run their own lives. We will have to see how the security is."

India, cricket's commercial powerhouse which contributes an estimated 70 per cent of the sport's revenues, is determined to put the sport

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Imran lifts Khulna

SPORTS REPORTER

An unbeaten 58 by Al Imran helped Khulna survive a top-order collapse on way to a four-wicket win against Faridpur in the 29th National Cricket Championship final round yesterday.

Chasing Faridpur's 153 all out (47.3 overs) at the Jessore Stadium, Khulna were tottering at 48-4 with Sabbir and Sharif sharing the wickets evenly.

But No. 6 batsman Imran swung the match Khulna's way hitting six fours and two

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Shakib admits lost chance

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Centurion

What confident Shakib Al Hasan said after the second day's play that it could have been a different story if he had not left the field in a crucial time when the South African batsmen were in a spot of bother against his left-arm spin.

On the third morning yesterday the young spinner proved that he had every right to say like this as the Magura lad picked up three more wickets to finish with figures of 6-99, his third five-wicket haul and second against the Proteas, who were bowled out for 429 just half an hour before the lunch break.

Shakib, who also claimed five wickets in the first Test to enhance his reputation as a spinner and became the second bowler after Enamul Haque to take consecutive five-wicket hauls in Tests, was unlucky not to become second bowler for Bangladesh to make a hat-trick after Alok Kapali.

The young left-arm spinner left the field before tea on the second day to treat a cut in his finger that gave Ashwell Prince and Mark Boucher, who made a record South African sixth wicket partnership,

some room to settle in the middle to take away the initiative.

"It was a very crucial stage of the match as we kept them under pressure. Another wicket could have changed everything but unfortunately I had to leave the field to treat my cut. If I could have continued the bowling with another paceman from the other side then you never know what could have happened," observed a positive Shakib.

But his next observation was more significant when he said that their opponents were lucky to ease the pressure.

"No doubt they batted well but I think they were a bit lucky also," said the all-rounder without elaborating.

But without any doubt he has raised the questions against the poor umpiring which apparently upset the whole Bangladesh team as they believe that they were just one wicket away to take the first innings lead against Graeme Smith's men for the second time.

The TV replays clearly showed that Mark Boucher, who hit 117, survived at least twice against confident leg-before appeals from the Bangladeshis while Prince, who made his career best 162 not out, had one reprieve.

The two overnight batsmen were on top against the pacers before Shakib

stopped their surge by removing Boucher, who pushed at the ball only to give a catch at short cover to Imrul Kayes.

It just opened the gate for Shakib as Morne Morkel got an inside edge onto his pads to see his off-stump dismantled in the very first ball. The left-arm spinner was on a hat-trick but Monde Zondeki frustrated him but in the next ball he got rid of him.

Shahadat Hossain picked up the remaining two wickets to warp up the South African innings but before that the home side confirmed a 179-run lead thanks to a good knock from Prince.

The Kingsmead is his favourite ground but the left-hander definitely considered SuperSport as a lucky ground as he got his first hundred against Zimbabwe at the same ground and also made another century against Pakistan last year before making this, his highest score in Tests.

"Bangladesh were bullish when Mark (Boucher) and I started batting. They said they needed just one wicket to get to the tail. However, batting became easier as the ball got older and softer," said Prince.

"In previous Tests I went to bat against them (Bangladesh) when we had accumulated around 500 runs and I did not find that stimulating," he added.

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Boys, Prantik win easy

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Boys and Prantik KC recorded identical wins in the Second Division Football League at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Shafiqul, Nabi and Nayan scored one goal each in Bangladesh Boys' 3-1 defeat of Friends Social Welfare, who reduced the arrears through Javed.

In the other match, Riad scored one and Sabuj struck a brace for Prantik while Rubel netted the consolation goal for Euro Famous.

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