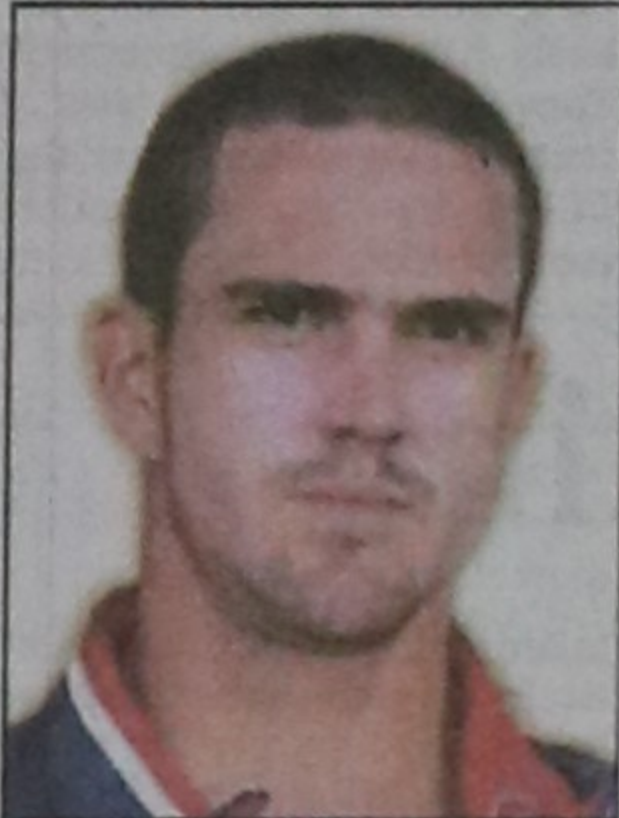




Did U Know?

An hour of vigorous swimming will burn up to 650 calories. It burns off more calories than walking or biking.



Kevin Pietersen
(Former England cricket skipper)

"I'm not angry. I'm just hurt, disappointed and upset that a childhood dream has been taken away from me." After being removed as captain.



STAR Cricket

Australia v South Africa
Second Twenty20 Int'l
Live from 2:35pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm



National Cricket League
(One-day match)
Dhaka v Sylhet
Venue: BKSP
Chittagong v Rajshahi
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Khulna v Barisal
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Citycell B. League
Mohammedan v Brothers Union
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Time: 4:00pm

Proteas call up rookie Parnell 2nd T20 Int'l today

BBC ONLINE, undated

South Africa will hand seamer Wayne Parnell his Twenty20 debut in the second and last game against Australia in Brisbane on Tuesday.

The left-arm seamer replaces Lonwabo Tsotsobe while Hashim Amla comes in for Jacques Kallis and Morne Morkel takes the place of Makhaya Ntini.

Batsman AB de Villiers remains a doubt with a hip injury sustained in the 52-run defeat in Melbourne.

Australia look set to name an unchanged team, with rookie David Warner once again opening the innings.

The 22-year-old smashed a sensational 89 from just 43 balls at the MCG on Sunday - despite never having made a first-class appearance for New South Wales.

Australia also have the option of promoting Ryan Harris from their 13-man squad, with Cameron White the most likely to make way should the selectors call for the Queensland all-rounder.

South Africa coach Mickey Arthur revealed Parnell's call-up to the starting XI was part of a selection strategy ahead of the five one-day international series, which begins on 16 January.

The teenager captained South Africa at the Under-19 World Cup in Malaysia last

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Magical Mendis

SPORTS REPORTER



Ajantha Mendis contributed with three wickets as Sri Lanka demolished Zimbabwe by 130 runs in the second match of the Grameenphone tri-nation tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

It was a match to remember for the mystery spinner as he became the fastest bowler to take 50 one-day international wickets achieving the milestone in just 19 matches.

The 23-year-old Sri Lanka Army officer, who already hogged the spotlight in international cricket with his 'carrom ball' to flummox the batsmen, had Ray Price stumped by Kumar Sangakkara to beat Indian pacer Ajit Agarkar's record in 23 games.

"We are quite happy and no doubt it's a good achievement. Ajantha is something special and we definitely celebrate his success," said an excited Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene, who also reached a milestone as he took two catches yesterday to secure most one-day catches (156) as a fielder. Jayawardene achieved it in 289 matches while former Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin has same number of catches to his belt in 334 games.

Understandably the Lankan skipper also heaped praises on Angelo Mathews who slammed his maiden half-century to give his side a decent total after a middle order wobble. The 21-year-old batsman hit an unbeaten 52 off 96 balls with the help of a boundary and two sixes as Sri Lanka recovered from 97 for 5 to 210-6 in 50 overs.

"It was really impressive the way he (Angelo Mathews) handled the situation. He was brilliant with the A team and the Under-19 team and he has got the talent, now what we want is for him to continue his good showing," said Jayawardene.

"When I went out to bat the wicket was doing a bit. I've played on these types of wickets before. I'm thankful to the seniors. I was positive in my approach and you know one has to be tough in this level," said Mathews when asked about his game plan after the middle order hiccup.

Sri Lanka stormed home as Zimbabwe had no answer against their opponents versatile bowling attack, being bundled out for 80 runs.

But still there was a question about whether the Sri Lanka skipper was happy with his team's batting performance in the match.

"Given the conditions it was a challenge for us and we really fought well. The wicket surprises us everyday. It played differently in the morning but it doesn't necessarily mean you always get an ideal one-day wicket everywhere. Angelo (Mathews), Jehan Mubarak and Tharanga (Upul) guided us through the difficult period," Jayawardene defended.

On the other hand Zimbabwe skipper Prosper Utseya was disappointed with the outcome after an impressive 38-run victory over the Tigers.

"I am disappointed as we didn't put up a fight. No excuses for the way we played. The bowling has been good. The batsmen should apply themselves a bit more. We have had the wrong mind set as one batsman was required to stay at the crease," said Utseya adding that it

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Sri Lanka spinner Ajantha Mendis (R) celebrates bowling Zimbabwe batsman Stuart Matsikenyeri during their Grameenphone tri-nation ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

Abahani's 10th win

CU CORRESPONDENT



Abahani banked on a 45th minute 'suicidal goal' to stay atop the Citycell B. League table when the defending champions edged their Chittagong namesakes in an away match 1-0 here yesterday.

Visiting fullback Waly Faisal was credited with the lone goal of the match although Chittagong Abahani defender Mintu had a hand in it.

An overlapping Waly crossed the ball from the left side and Mintu, in a bid to clear it, stunned his own goalkeeper Thuan on stroke of half-time at the MA Aziz Stadium.

The Dhaka giants, who had beaten Chittagong Abahani 3-0 in the first leg, pushed their collection to 32 points with their tenth win in 14 matches.

Amalash Sen's Sky-Blues have also maintained hundred percent record in the away matches this season.

A small but lively crowd was bored by unattractive football in the first half, which saw Abahani top scorer Emily win a penalty and fail to convert it. The 10-goal striker was felled inside the area by Nazir in the 24th minute but his spotkick was saved by port city custodian Thuan.

The hosts could have gone ahead early but Mithun shot the ball wide even after going goalkeeper Biplab with a pass from Emon.

After fluffing the penalty, Abahani got their first real field chance in the 41st minute but Abul failed to keep the ball on an open target.

Abahani had only one foreign player in the side as Emeka and Ibrahim - apart from local boy Pranotosh -- were all suspended for three yellow cards.

Tipu started for the first time this season but when picked up by his striking partner Emily, the veteran squandered a sitter in the 71st minute.

Substitute Zahed Parvez also came close ten minutes from time but hit the woodwork inside form the box.

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Sandwiched between two Chittagong Abahani players, Abahani striker Emily (C) tries to win possession during their Citycell B. League match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

NZ-WI 'final' today

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

The fate of the rain-disrupted one-day international series between New Zealand and the West Indies rests on the fifth and final match in Napier on Tuesday and neither team is lacking motivation.

Two of the first four matches had to be abandoned because of bad weather and the teams are locked at one each going into the decider, with the momentum appearing to favour the home team.

The West Indies have not won a one-day series in New Zealand since 1995 and the visitors see Tuesday as a chance to turn their fortunes around.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori has an additional motivation in wanting the team to end the series on a high note before travelling to Australia at the end of the month for a five match one-day series.

"Winning makes such a difference to the side, whatever format it is the team feels good about itself, they feel comfortable and confident about their game," Vettori told reporters.

"If we win this game then the guys will take that away to Aussie. If we don't there probably will be some doubts lingering when we go into one of the hardest places in the world to play."

He described the match as the "real decider" for the entire tour after the two Tests were drawn and the honours were shared in two Twenty/20 matches.

West Indies captain Chris Gayle is one of the main potential spoilers for New Zealand, showing flashes of his best in an unbeaten 46 on Saturday's fourth game before rain stopped the match.

"The last innings is the one that's going to count," he said of Tuesday's looming match after declaring he was happy with his form.

"It's a great opportunity for us to win a series in New Zealand and it will be an honour to actually do that."

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Ashrafal signs for Gazi Tank

SPORTS REPORTER

National cricket captain Mohammad Ashrafal signed for his third club in as many years when the country's premier batsman joined Premier League newcomers Gazi Tank yesterday.

The three-day cricketers' transfers for the Premier and First Division cricket leagues concluded with Gazi Tank, expectedly, roping in a number of big shots.

The other national pool cricketers for the promotees are all-rounder Nayeem Islam, left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr and opening batsman Imrul Kayes.

Gazi Tank also signed former national opener Nafees Iqbal, rookie fast bowler Rubel Hossain who has got his first national call for the ongoing ODI tri-series in Dhaka, and batsman Wasel Uddin.

Ashrafal, who played for Mohammedan last year and another newcomers Sonargaon in the season before

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MSC, Brothers eye 2nd spot

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union and Mohammedan face off today in a crucial B. League match with their eyes set on the second place ahead of Sheikh Russel.

The Dhaka derby between the two heavyweights will kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 4pm.

A win for Maruful Haque's in-form Mohammedan, one point adrift of third-placed Brothers (26 points), will take them within four points of leaders Abahani with one match in hand.

The Black and Whites come to the game on the back of three consecutive victories, their best run so far in the competition after an inconsistent start.

Wasim Iqbal's boys, however, have wounded their spirit after a 1-1 draw against Arambagh in the previous round. The Oranges, who had won five matches in a row, wasted numerous opportunities against Arambagh and their forwards must make most of the chances today in a bid to stay alive in the race.

"We are a bit on the backfoot after the draw against Arambagh but if we beat Mohammedan, we will be back on track," said Brothers manager Amer Khan.

"One can't afford so many mistakes in a match," remarked the former Brothers midfielder referring to his strikers' failure.

Admitting the lack of a quality striker, Amer added that Kenyan forward NICODEMUS, who came as a substitute against Arambagh, is likely to start beside Ghanaian Henry Quay, who has so far scored six goals.

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Niaz, Debaraj in winning spree

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed and fellow Bangladeshi player Debaraj Chatterjee both won their first two matches of the 7th Parsvnath International Open Chess Tournament in Delhi, India.

However, Mohammad Ali earned 1.5 points and FM Mohammad Javed one point

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Sub-jr nat'l chess starts

SPORTS REPORTER

Reigning sub-junior champion Abdullah Al Saif won his opening round match of the 29th National Sub-Junior (Under-16 boys and girls) Chess Championships yesterday.

Saif defeated Galib at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room, where 112 boys and girls are competing in the 9-round Swiss League.

MU outclass Chelsea

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United's grip on the Premier League trophy tightened significantly on Sunday as Sir Alex Ferguson's side put Chelsea to the sword in front of a jubilant Old Trafford.

Nemanja Vidic's header on the stroke of half-time was followed by second-half goals for Wayne Rooney and Dimitar Berbatov as the champions ran out 3-0 winners in what had been billed as one of the season's pivotal encounters.

It was a performance which suggested that Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez may come to deeply regret his claim that United had been unsettled by the resilience of his side's challenge, particularly when it is set against the disjointed display that Benitez's men produced in

Saturday's goalless draw at Stoke.

In terms of territory and possession, Chelsea's best spell was the opening half-hour, a period in which referee Howard Webb brandished four yellow cards yet was surprisingly lacking in intensity.

It was United however who generated the first real chance of the match courtesy of the positive running of Patrice Evra. Collecting the ball deep in his own half, the French left back surged forward before finding Rooney on the edge of the box.

The England forward's flick found Berbatov and the cutest of sidesteps left Ricardo Carvalho sprawling but, with only Petr Cech to beat, the Bulgarian scuffed his shot and the Chelsea goalkeeper was able to make a comfortable save.

With Didier Drogba cutting a lonely figure up front, the best Chelsea had mustered by that stage were a couple of freekicks on the edge of United's area, neither of

which troubled Edwin van der Sar.

Ashley Cole's domination of Cristiano Ronaldo in their personal battle helped to ensure United were equally uninspired until the approach of half-time finally prompted them into the phase of sustained pressure that was to yield their opening goal.

It began with Park Ji-Sung forcing John Terry into last-ditch block. The ensuing corner resulted in United appealing furiously for a penalty as Darren Fletcher's mishit shot appeared to strike Terry's outstretched arm just inside the box.

There followed another corner, to which United applied what appeared to be a cleverly conceived training ground play with Rooney tapping the ball off the corner before walking away as if he had decided to leave it for someone else.

Chelsea's defence bought the bluff

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Manchester United midfielder Park Ji-Sung's (L) shot is blocked by Chelsea defender John Terry (C) during their Premier League match at Old Trafford on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP