



Did U Know?

The world's biggest badminton shuttlecock is located at the Kansas City Museum. It is 18 feet tall and weighs 5,000 pounds. In comparison, a typical shuttlecock weighs between 4.74 and 5.50 grams.



Josep Guardiola
(Barcelona soccer coach)
"I'm very happy for Andres Iniesta. He is a player who represents what Barca stands. He gets a lot of stick for not scoring enough goals but hopefully that will stop now because he has scored one of the most important in the club's history."

On Andres Iniesta's goal against Chelsea in the UEFA Champions League semifinal on Wednesday.



ATN Bangla
Port-city Cricket League (Semifinals)
Dada Warriors v Brothers Union
Live from 10:30am
Abahani v Dhaka Sports
Live from 2:30pm

STAR Cricket
England v West Indies
First Test, Day Four
Live from 4:00pm

SET Max
Indian Premier League
Deccan Chargers v Kings XI Punjab
Live from 4:30pm
Chennai Super Kings v
Rajasthan Royals
Live from 8:30pm

ESPN
English Premier League
Hull City v Stoke City
Live from 7:55pm

STAR Sports
English Premier League
Everton Tottenham
Live from 7:55pm
West Ham v Liverpool
Live from 10:25pm
Primera Liga
Sevilla v Mallorca
Live from 12:30am (Sunday)



DAY'S EVENT
Port-city Cricket League (Semifinals)
Dada Warriors v Brothers Union
Time: 10:30am
Abahani v Dhaka Sports
Time: 2:30pm
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

Kumble still not giving up hope

PTI, Centurion

His side is placed at a precarious fifth spot at the midway stage of the on-going IPL, but Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Anil Kumble is not one to throw in the towel and feels his team has formidable chances of making the semi-finals of the Twenty20 event.

After three consecutive victories, the Vijay Mallya-owned team got a setback yesterday when defending champions Rajasthan Royals humiliated them by seven

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Dada last into semis

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong



Zunaed Siddiqui got back to form in the right time to take Dada Warriors to the semifinal of Habib Group PCL Twenty20 tournament at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday.

Riding on the left-handed opener's fine half-century and the best opening partnership of the tournament, Dada, who made 158-7 in 20 overs, beat Pirates of Chittagong by 10 runs in the last of the league matches, finishing as group runners-up.

They will now face group A champion Brothers Union in the first semifinal today at 10:30am while Group B champions Dhaka Sports will take on Chittagong Abahani in the second semifinal to be played at 2:30pm. Private satellite channel ATN Bangla will telecast the matches live.

Winning the toss, Dada openers Zunaed and Saeed Anwar Jr laid the foundation of the innings in style, adding 108 before being separated in the 14th over. Despite a brief hiccup that followed after Zunaed's departure, Dada managed to get past the 150-mark.

Zunaed hit three huge sixes and five sweetly-timed boundaries during his 56-minute stay at the crease to score 61 off 39 deliveries. Anwar also played well, giving good support to Zunaed and picking runs regularly to score 44 off 46 balls.

Arafat Sunny remained not out 20 off 13 balls.

In reply the Pirates were bowled out 148 in the final over. Although they started the chase promisingly with three boundaries in the very first over, they lost their way due to some reckless batting and wrong choice of shots from the first over. Openers Gazi Salahuddin smashed two boundaries from first three balls and got out the next ball for 8 runs.

Pirates' Pakistani buy Waqqas Ahmed hit the third boundary of the first over but fell soon after for six. Pirates thus lost first three batsmen cheaply by the third over.

Sharifullah's departure after the right-hander made 13 runs off 11 balls in the fifth over made the situation even more pitiable for them.

Tigers batsman Nayeem Islam held the innings together with a well-made half-century of 51 balls that had four boundaries and a six. The right-hander stayed till the end but due to poor batting from the others, he never could finish the job for his side.

Requiring 16 runs off the last over, Pirates could only manage five runs from first two balls but lost Biswanath Haldar in the third and Nayeem in the last ball of the day, finishing the innings at 148. Nayeem had a good day in the early part of the match too when he took two wickets conceding 25 runs.

But it was the century partnership between Zunaed and Dada's Pakistani recruit Anwar that sealed the fate of match.

"I am personally also delighted to have runs finally at a crucial time. I was looking forward to this sort of innings and I'm happy my contribution with the bat had helped my team to reach the semifinal," said an ecstatic Zunaed, after receiving the man-of-the-match prize.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DADA WARRIORS: 158 for 7 in 20 overs (Anwar 44, Zunaed 61, Naveed 1, Faisal 2, Imran 1, Sunny 20*, Pankaj 12, Sajjad 8; Nayeem 2-25, Sharif 2-32, Shuvo 1-28).

PIRATES OF CHITTAGONG: 148 all out in 20 overs (Salahuddin 8, Waqqas 6, Sirajullah 4, Nayeem 52, Sharif 13, Shuvo 17, Noman 1, Tariq 22, Pallab 2, Biswanath 10; Rubel 1-40, Anwar 2-34, Naveed 3-16, Sunny 2-24).

Result: Dada Warriors won by 10 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Zunaed Siddiqui.



PHOTO: STAR

Dada Warriors and national opener Zunaed Siddiqui hammers one through mid-wicket during his enthralling 61 in their PCL match against the Pirates of Chittagong at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Eng thrash Windies

Cricket

AFP, London

innings 377.

At tea the West Indies were 225 for six. That meant the scores were level and England would have to bat again.

Nash was 67 not out after wicket-keeper Ramdin had been bowled by Stuart Broad shortly before the break.

But West Indies who'd lost

wickets in clusters throughout the match, saw their next three batsmen depart in the space of 19 balls.

Ramdin should have been out for 46 when Onions dropped a one-handed catch and bowled chance.

It was a dose of reality for the

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PHOTO: AFP

England seamer Graham Onions (L) appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of West Indies batsman Denesh Ramdin during the third day of the first Test at Lord's in London yesterday.

'Unforgettable day'

Cricket

AFP, London

England quick Graham Onions said his five-wicket haul on his Test debut against the West Indies in the series opener here at Lord's was a reward for the hard work he'd put in during the off-season.

The 26-year-old Durham paceman enjoyed a dramatic start to his international career here on Thursday when, after being dismissed for a duck, he took five wickets for 38 runs in 9.3 overs as West Indies were made to follow-on.

At stumps on the second day the tourists were 39 for two in their second innings, still 186 runs behind, after Onions - whose first four wickets came in just seven balls - had helped dismiss them for 152 in reply to England's first innings 377.

"It's been a day I'll never forget. It's a cliché but it is a dream come true," said Onions, who took three wickets in his sixth over to dismiss Lendl Simmons, Jerome Taylor and Suliman Benn.

Onions said of being left out of county champions Durham's title-clinching match away to Kent last season had spurred him into action.

"I've been through a lot of ups and downs. It hurt me when I didn't travel down to Kent when

Durham won the Championship, I could have taken it one of two ways. I spent a lot of time in the gym and I felt fit and strong."

Onions wasn't alone in having a day to remember. Ravi Bopara extended his Test-best score to 143 and Graeme Swann starred with both bat and ball.

The off-spinner made a Test-best 63 that belied his position as a No 9 and then sparked the West Indies' collapse with two wickets in two balls, including the prize scalp of Shivaraj Chanderpaul for a golden duck.

"There are a lot of people in the changing rooms who need a pat on the back as well," Onions added.

"Graeme Swann set the tone with bat, Ravi Bopara getting 100 plus, the foundations are there. Graeme chipped in with a few wickets and it was a day when the team shone through," Onions insisted.

Injured England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff was on hand to watch Onions's performance.

"Just before I was going to bat he came over, shook my hand and said 'congratulations'. That worked. Cheers Fredi," joked Onions.

"But I really do feel part of this team and I'm sure I've got a lot to offer."

West Indies coach John Dyson admitted his side faced a massive task if they were not to go

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Ctg MSC clears air

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club (MSC) has clarified their payment dispute over their three Guinean players calling the claims of the players untrue.

In an official press release, team manager of Chittagong MSC, Mohammad Yousef explained that the players' claims against the club are wrong and they were promised return tickets only if the club reached the Super Cup finals.

"Camara Saifullah, Raphael Sagnio and Musa Camara have given wrong statements to newspapers. We have cleared their payments during the season and we promised return tickets to them only if we reached the Super Cup final. Hence they are claiming something that they have not been promised," said Yousef.

The Guinean trio has earlier submitted a letter to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) this week complaining about payment issues which have prevented them from returning to Guinea.

After winning he urged all

sides to come together and work for the future.

"Both sides have to come together and heal and look to the future of Asian football," he said.

To those who supported

Hammam retains FIFA seat

Football

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Asian Football Confederation president Mohamed bin Hammam narrowly retained his FIFA executive committee seat Friday after one of the most vitriolic battles regional football has known.

The 60-year-old Qatar, seen as a potential future FIFA president, survived a challenge from Bahrain's Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa by winning a tense vote at the AFC congress here 23 to 21. Two ballots were spoiled.

It was the culmination of a bitter fight for power in which Bin Hammam, who has held the FIFA position since 1996, had threatened to step down as Asia's most powerful football figure if he was defeated.

After winning he urged all

sides to come together and work for the future.

"Both sides have to come together and heal and look to the future of Asian football," he said.

"I congratulated the president. We need to turn the page

and move forward," he said.

"But my message is clear, we have 21 countries unhappy. We have to ask why they are unhappy and the president needs to win back their confidence."

Either man needed a simple majority to win a vote that was taken after an impassioned speech by FIFA president Sepp Blatter urging fair play.

"I expect discipline, respect, and a fighting spirit, but all in the spirit of fair play," said Blatter.

Despite his victory, Bin Hammam, whose AFC term runs until 2011, faces a difficult few years with the organisation riven by animosity.

But he refused to change his style of leadership, which has led to claims that he is a dictator and that there is no transparency in the organisation's financial affairs.

"I am definitely not going to change my style," he said.

"I have full democracy and transparency in the way I act as president. I respect the rules."

The campaign to oust him was led by heavyweights

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Daredevils coast

INTERNET, undated

Deli Daredevils roared back to the top of the IPL with an overwhelming win over Mumbai Indians.

Mumbai opted to bat first



PHOTO: INTERNET

Mumbai Indians' Dwayne Bravo (R) lofts one over extra-cover while top scoring with 35 in their IPL match against the Delhi Daredevils at East London on Friday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Abishek Nayar and Dwayne Bravo set about rebuilding the innings and the latter played some good shots in his 35, but he fell when trying to accelerate and the innings fell apart following his departure.

Rajat Bhatia the pick of the bowlers with 3-15.

Delhi made a circumspect start to their chase and Gautam Gambhir and David Warner

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ASIA CUP HOCKEY Bangladesh's first match today

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh National Hockey team will start their 8th Asia Cup Men's Hockey campaign today against Japan at Kuantan, Malaysia.

The Bangladesh team, led by Russell Mahmud Jimmy, reached Malaysia on Thursday to take part in the Asia Cup Hockey to be held May 9-15.

Bangladesh, placed in tough Pool A with Japan, Korea and hosts Malaysia will play their second match against Malaysia on May 11 and their third and last match is against Korea on May 12.

Pakistan, India and China are placed in Group B.

Bangladesh finished eighth in the last Asia Cup Hockey in Chennai in 2007.