



Did U Know?

When basketball was first invented the hoops were like a peach baskets with a bottom. Each time they made a basket the referee would climb on a ladder and get the ball. That was in the year 1891. They used a soccer ball.



What to Watch

BTV

BCB XI v MCA
Second Twenty20 Match
Live from 9:30am

SET Max

Indian Premier League
Chennai Super Kings v
Kolkata Knight Riders
Live from 8:30pm

STAR Cricket

England v West Indies
Second Test, Day Five
Live from 4:00pm

ESPN

Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

English Premier League
Portsmouth v Sunderland
Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)

BCB XI's huge win

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The England-bound national cricketers warmed up well with a comfortable 63-run victory against Maharashtra Cricket Association in the first T20 match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The most encouraging factor for the Tigers, who are scheduled to fly for England on May 23 to take part in the ICC Twenty20 World Cup, however was that they could finish the match despite heavy cloud hovering over during the match.

Shakib Al Hasan returned to full action as the left-hander took up the bat after a long break and made 16 off 12 balls including a massive mid-wicket six against Kiran Adhav before he was dismissed on the very next ball at long-off. The left-arm spinner later returned figures of 3-17.

"I batted after a long break and it takes a bit of time to get back the full confidence. I am hopeful everything will be okay because there are a number of practice matches before the start of the World Cup," said the world's number one all-rounder, who was out of action for the last few months due to groin injury.

It was however Mahmudullah Riyad who hogged the spotlight as the right-hander's

unbeaten 34-ball 40 enabled the local side, who played the match under the banner of BCB XI, post 150-8 in their share of 20 overs.

Southpaw opening pair of Tamim Iqbal and Zunaed Siddiqui made a solid start after being put in to bat as they added 37 runs in four overs before the latter was bowled by Srikanth Mundhe for a 13-ball 22 that contained three fours and six.

Tamim quickly followed his partner as the Chittagonian flicked Ranjit Chauhan only to reach the safe hands of Kedar Jadhav at square leg for 15 off 13 balls.

BCB XI were well placed at 72 for four in 10 overs, and Riyad and Nayeem Islam, who added a 10-ball 19 with a four and six, helped them reach a reasonable total.

In reply, Maharashtra were bundled out for 87 runs in 17.1 overs as Shakib and spinner Nayeem shared six wickets.

Nayeem took three for 20 runs in four overs.

The visitors however were not disappointed with the result.

"It's just our second foreign trip after we had played in Sri Lanka last year. We are happy that we got a good opponent to play," said 20-year-old skipper Harshad Khadiwale.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BCB XI: 150-8 in 20 overs (Tamim 15, Zunaed 22, Mithun 1, Shakib 16, Rokibul 21, Riyad 40)

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PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Cricket Board XI batsman Mahmudullah Riyad sweeps against Maharashtra Cricket Association in a Twenty20 match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

WI sinking fast

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Graham Onions took two wickets in three balls as England moved closer to winning the second and final Test against the West Indies here at the Riverside on Sunday.

The tourists, following on, were 115 for three in reply to England's first innings 569 for six declared at stumps on the fourth day.

That left them still needing a further 144 runs just to make England bat again on Monday's final day with the hosts now all but assured of regaining the Wisden Trophy they'd lost in the Caribbean earlier this year after their 10-wicket win in last week's series opener at Lord's.

Onions, who at Lord's took seven wickets on Test debut, removed first-innings century-maker Ramnaresh Sarwan for 22, the batsman plumb lbw as he shuffled across the crease.

Two balls later the Durham quick gave his home crowd something else to celebrate when he had West Indies captain Chris Gayle caught at first slip by England skipper Andrew Strauss for a blistering 54.

Left-handed opener Gayle, who in the build-up to this match made no secret of his preference for Twenty20 as opposed to Test cricket, had blazed away as if this were a one-day game, his fifty coming in just 39 balls with two

sixes and six fours. Key batsman Shivnarine Chandernaul was 18 not out when bad light forced an early close, having overtaken Vivian Richards's mark of 8,540 runs to become the West Indies'...

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PHOTO: INTERNET
West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan pulls during his century against England on the third day of the second Test in Chester-le-Street yesterday.

Delhi's ninth win

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Delhi Daredevils breezed past Rajasthan Royals as they won by 14 runs in their IPL encounter at the OHT Insurance Oval in Bloemfontein last night.

Batting first in chilly conditions, Delhi banked on AB de Villiers and Tillakaratne Dilshan to post 150 for three from their 20 overs, and went on to restrict Royals for 136-9 in 20 overs.

de Villiers struck eight boundaries and a six in a brilliant 55-ball unbeaten 79. He was well supported by Dilshan, who made 33 off 41 as they added 87 for the third wicket. Wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik then added an 11-ball 23. Karthik and de Villiers added 48 for the fourth wicket.

Out of the three wickets that fell, Munaf Patel took two and offspinner Johan Botha had one. Patel was the best bowler on show for the

Royals, also taking a stunning return catch to get rid of Gautam Gambhir who continued his ordinary run with the bat scoring just eight.

Royals were always struggling in the face of Delhi's four-pronged pace attack. Openers Rob Quiney (6) and Graeme Smith (0) both holed out to the third-man fence before Naman Ojha scratched around for his nine.

Ojha's departure saw Botha and Ravinder Jadeja add 45 for the fourth wicket but that didn't add impetus to the innings as both departed soon after.

The Royals almost gave up when their trump card Yusuf Pathan was out for one when he edged a Farveez Maharoof delivery.

Ashish Nehra, Dirk Nannes, Maharoof and Avishkar Salvi took advantage of the cold conditions while leggie Amit Mishra picked up three easy wickets when the run-rate reached twelve an over.

Patel smashed three boundaries in the final over from Nannes but it was too little too late for the defending champions.

PCB pitches 2 options

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan has put forward two options as it strives to retrieve what benefits it still can from the 2011 World Cup. In a meeting with Sri Lanka board counterparts, Ijaz Butt, the Pakistan board chairman, suggested a swap for World Cups or for the subcontinent boards to jointly ask the ICC to allow Pakistan to present alternate solutions.

The first option - swapping the 2011 World Cup, which is to be jointly hosted now by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, for the 2015 edition to be held in Australia and New Zealand - was put forth by former ICC president Ehsan Mani, who is advising the PCB on the World Cup. The ICC had stripped Pakistan of its rights to co-host the 2011 World Cup following the terrorist attack in Lahore when gunmen attacked the Sri Lankan team bus. The PCB responded by serving a legal notice to the ICC for its decision to move the World Cup headquarters from Lahore to Mumbai.

DS de Silva, the SLC chairman, said he would stand by any decision made at the ICC meeting in Dubai though he would discuss the PCB's options with the rest of the interim committee members and get back to the PCB accordingly. The SLC will also wait for feedback from India and Bangladesh, with whom Butt will also meet on this diplomatic tour before taking a final decision on the World Cup options.

Butt put forward the same argument that forms the basis of the PCB's legal notice to the ICC: that the uncertain security situation in the entire subcontinent, following the terror attacks in Mumbai and Lahore, poor political relations between India and Pakistan and the slow pace of preparations for the World Cup indicated the subcontinent was not prepared to host the tournament in another two years. It is believed that this option is unlikely to win backing among the co-hosts.

In the event of that option failing, Pakistan wants the Asian bloc to ask the ICC to provide them with an opportunity to provide alternate solutions to their internal security problems. This may, as some in the PCB have already

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Nurul Alam resigns

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Nurul Alam Chowdhury has resigned from his post as deputy chairman of the National Team Management Committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) following differences with the committee's chairman Badal Roy.

In a letter to BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, Alam expressed his disgruntlement with Badal Roy's transparency but stated that it was not the only reason for his sudden resignation.

"The chairman of the national team's committee (Badal Roy) is not transparent with his work and I don't see myself working under him in the foreseeable future. The committee is a very experienced one and it is certainly not being used to its full potential," said Alam.

He also pointed that too much power has been given to the national coach and that his selection process was a matter of dispute between him and Badal.

"I believe that the current coach of the national team has too much say over team selection," added Nurul Alam.

"He should be made one of the parties to team selection and we as experienced football administrators must have a role otherwise what is the

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2nd one-day abandoned

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Incessant rain played spoilsport in the second one-day match between GP-BCB National Cricket Academy and Sri Lanka Cricket Development Squad at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

The third one-dayer will be held at the same venue on Tuesday.

Earlier on Saturday, all-round brilliance from Nasir Hossain handed the National Cricket Academy a precious seven-run win.

Nasir picked up three wickets after scoring 47 in a low-scoring match through which the Academy took a 1-0 lead.

JU-Biman final today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Jahangirnagar University moved into the final of the Public University & Services cricket tournament after an easy 105-run win over Dhaka University at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

They take on Bangladesh Biman in the final today at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. After rain stopped the match on Saturday, DU needed 223 from 47 overs with eight wickets in hand but apart from Asadul Habib, none of the remaining batsmen had an answer.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Habib struck 60 off 85 balls with the help of four boundaries as DU were bowled out for just 127 runs in 35.2 overs.

Hasanul Banna picked up three wickets while there was two each for Abi Hossain and Foyaz Ahmed.

Bashar first at BCB's door

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Habibul Bashar was the first to come forward to take the opportunity of "amnesty" announced by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for the players who joined the unauthorised Indian Cricket League (ICL).

The former national skipper submitted a letter to BCB president Lt Gen Sina Ibn Jamali yesterday mentioning that he wanted to avail the "amnesty" to come back to the main stream.

"I gave a letter to the board president but I will disclose the details tomorrow [Monday]. What I can only say that I took my own decision," said Bashar without elaborating.

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus was however not only admitted that they

received a letter from Bashar but also revealed the details of the letter.

"He [Habibul Bashar] has given a letter to the board president today [Sunday] where he mentioned that he had also sent a letter to the ICL authority asking them to terminate his contract. He wants to avail the board's amnesty as the ICC [International Cricket Council] has imposed ban on all the players associated with the unapproved competition," said Yunus.

"He also said that he was available for Bangladesh cricket. We welcomed his decision and expect that others will follow his footsteps," he added.

It was learnt that Aftab Ahmed and Nazimuddin were likely to follow Bashar very soon.

BCB in its last board of directors meeting decided to allow the Bangladeshi cricketers

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Yuvraj leads Punjab

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Yuvraj Singh grabbed a hat-trick to bowl Kings XI Punjab to a vital one-run victory over Deccan Chargers in an Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

The left-arm spinner finished with 3-13 off four overs as Punjab restricted Deccan to 133-8 in a thrilling last-over finish after posting 134-7 to keep alive their hopes of qualifying for the semifinals.

Deccan needed 11 to win off the last over, but left-arm seamer Irfan Pathan conceded only nine to build on man-of-the-match Yuvraj's effort. Pathan also claimed two wickets, including that of Rohit Sharma.

Sharma sustained Deccan's hopes with a quickfire 42 before being bowled. He smashed

three sixes and as many fours in his 26-ball knock.

There was no hint of collapse after Deccan reached 73-2 chasing a modest target, but Yuvraj dismissed Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Symonds and Venugopal Rao off successive balls.

Yuvraj removed South African Gibbs (26) with the last ball of his second over, with Piyush Chawla taking a superb diving catch at point.

He had Australian Symonds (25) stumped with the first ball of his next over and then bowled Indian Venugopal Rao to complete his second hat-trick of the tournament, having earlier achieved the feat against Bangalore.

Delhi currently lead the eight-team competition with 16 points from 11 matches, followed by Chennai (15/12), Deccan (14/13), Punjab (14/13), Rajasthan (13/12), Bangalore (12/12), Mumbai (11/13) and Kolkata (3/12).

The top four sides advance to the semifinals.

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Talk Turkey



Shaun Tait

(Chelsea soccer coach)

"It's pretty easy for Cricket Australia to say get yourself ready for a tournament when they haven't given you a contract. I could quite easily duck off to the Greek Islands for a couple of months if I wanted to. But I'll keep myself fit." After his central contract was cut.



News

BCB XI v MCA
Second Twenty20 Match
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

Pepsi takes it further

Cricket

PepsiCo has extended their "Pepsi First Ball's Captain" contest up to May 31 due to its overwhelming success and popularity among the consumers.

The unique promotional campaign has surpassed all previous records of consumer participation and has attracted over 300,000 responses via text messages (SMS).

Through the Pepsi First Ball's Captain has already been chosen, people can still drink Pepsi and SMS till May 31 to get attractive prizes such as mobile phones, T-shirts, mugs and caps.

Zia continues to share lead

Cricket

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman continues to share the lead with four others in the 8th Asian Continental Chess Championship at Subic Freeport in Olongapo City yesterday.

Zia is sharing the lead with

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PHOTO: AFP
Punjab captain Yuvraj Singh celebrates taking a wicket during their IPL game against Deccan Chargers in Johannesburg yesterday.