



Did U Know?

In winter 1963, Halifax Town FC opened up its frozen ground to be used as an ice rink.



What to WATCH

TEN Sports
Sri Lanka v Pakistan
Second Test, Day 1
Live from 11:30am
West Indies v Bangladesh
First Test, Day 4
Live from 9:00pm
STAR Cricket
England v Australia
First Ashes Test, Day 5
Live from 5:00pm



Talk Turkey



Glenn McGrath
(Australian pace legend)
"My prediction is it will be 5-0 to Australia."
Foretelling a crushing defeat for England in the ongoing Ashes series.

Aussie heroes

AFP, Cardiff

Marcus North and Brad Haddin became the 15th and 16th Australia batsmen respectively to score a century in their first Test innings against England when they both reached three figures in the Ashes series opener here on Saturday.

They were the first Australians to achieve the feat since Damien Martyn and Adam Gilchrist at Edgbaston in 2001.

The Australia batsmen who have scored a century in their debut Test innings against England are as follows (season, player, score, venue):
1876-77 Charles Bannerman 165 no Melbourne
1893 Harry Graham 107 Lord's
1924-25 Bill Ponsford 110 Sydney
1928-29 Archie Jackson 164 Adelaide
1948 Neil Harvey 112 Headingley
1965-66 Doug Walters 155 Brisbane
1970-71 Greg Chappell 108 Perth
1982-83 Kepler Wessels 162 Brisbane
1989 Mark Taylor 136 Headingley
1990-91 Mark Waugh 138 Adelaide
1994-95 Greg Blewett 102 no Adelaide
1997 Ricky Ponting 127
SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

SLC announces Kiwi, tri-series programmes

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Friday announced the dates and venues for New Zealand's Test tour and a one-day tri-series also featuring India in August-September.

NZ ITINERARY
Aug 7-9 3-dayer Colombo
Aug 12-14 3-dayer Colombo
Aug 18-22 1st Test Galle
Aug 26-30 2nd Test SSC
Sept 2 1st T20I Colombo
Sept 4 2nd T20I Colombo

TRI-SERIES
Sept 8 S Lanka v N Zealand
Sept 10 India v S Lanka
Sept 12 India v N Zealand
Sept 14 Final

Shakib strikes late Tigers' tail wags to post 238

Cricket

AFP, Kingstown

Shakib Al Hasan claimed an early West Indies scalp, after solid batting from the tail-enders allowed Bangladesh to reach 238 in their first innings in the opening Test on Friday.

At the close, a depleted West Indies had reached 15 for one in reply, after the tourists were dismissed about half-hour before the scheduled close on the second day at the Arnos Vale Sports Complex.

Shakib then gave Bangladesh a boost, when he had opener Dale Richards, playing his first Test innings, lbw for 15.

This followed a fight-back from the Bangladesh tail, after a meltdown of the visitors' top-order batting.

New Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza hit the top score of 39, Mushfiqur Rahim made 36, and Shahadat Hossain got a career-best 33 to add some beef to Bangladesh's total.

Kemar Roach was the most successful West Indies bowler with three wickets for 46 runs from 23 overs.

Dave Bernard Jr captured two for 30 from 11 overs, and Tino Best took two for 58 from 17 overs.

"I thought we bowled well, particularly Kemar and Tino, who hit their lines and lengths aggressively," said Floyd Reifer, captain of a makeshift West Indies team which was hastily-assembled after a first-team boycott.

"I don't think we let them off the hook. The pitch is the kind that anyone who comes in and puts their head down, they can get runs. At 121 for six, you would still expect someone to put up a partnership, and it was just a matter of us sticking to the basics.

"We are now looking to bat for the entire third day. I have asked the guys to bat in partnerships, and this is what we are looking for consistent batting down the order."

After Bangladesh slid to 149 for seven at tea, Mushfiqur added 23 for the eighth wicket with Mortaza before he was run out in a mix-up with his captain.

Mortaza then added 35 for the ninth wicket with Shahadat before he was caught behind of Roach.

More frustration came for West Indies, when Shahadat started to play his strokes towards and put on 31 for the last wicket with Rubel Hossain before off-spinner Ryan Austin had him caught behind to claim his first Test wicket.

Before lunch, Bangladesh had crumbled to 121 for six, after they had continued from their overnight total of 42 without loss.

Bangladesh play two Tests, three One-day Internationals, and a Twenty20 International on their five-week tour of the Caribbean.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between West Indies and Bangladesh on Friday at the Arnos Vale Sports Complex in Kingstown:

BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight 42-0)

Tamim c Reifer b Best 14
Imrul lbw b Sammy 33
Junaid c Dowlin b Bernard 27
Rakibul c Sammy b Bernard 14
Ashraf c Walton b Best 6
Shakib c Richards b Roach 17
Mushfiq run out (Sammy) 36
Mahmudullah c Phillips b Roach 9
Mashrafe c Walton b Roach 39
Shahadat c Walton b Austin 33
Rubel not out 3
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-1, nb-2) 7
Total: (All out in 88.2 overs) 238
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-49, 3-79, 4-98, 5-100, 6-121, 7-149, 8-172, 9-207

Bowler O M R W
Best 17 4 58 2
Roach 23 11 46 3
Sammy 19 7 38 1

SEE PAGE 18 COL 7

North, Haddin hit tons

Cricket

AFP, Cardiff

Australia saw four of their batsmen score centuries in a Test innings against England for the first time as they took command of the Ashes series opener at Sophia Gardens

here on Saturday.

A stand of 200 between Ashes debutants Marcus North (125 not out) and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin (121), which followed Friday's efforts of 150 from captain Ricky Ponting and 122 from opener Simon Katich, saw Australia to a huge total of 674 for six declared before tea on

the fourth day.

Come the interval, England had collapsed to 20 for two - still needing a further 219 runs to make Australia bat again - after Alastair Cook was lbw to Mitchell Johnson and Ravi Bopara fell the same way to Ben Hilfenhaus.

The rain which swept across the ground as the players left the field now looked like England's best hope of saving the game.

Only once before in Ashes history had four batsmen scored centuries in an innings, during the course of England's 658 for eight declared at Trent Bridge in 1938.

And this was also the first time any side had scored four hundreds in a Test innings against England.

Australia are the co-holders, with Pakistan, of the world record of five hundreds in a Test innings, with their quintet coming in a total of 758 for eight declared against the West Indies at Kingston in 1955.

All five of England's frontline bowlers - James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, Andrew Flintoff and Monty Panesar - conceded more than 100 runs as Ashes-holders Australia ruthlessly punished England's lacklustre attack.

In the process Australia provided a masterclass in how to make a big score after three England batsmen had got to fifty without getting to a hundred.

North and Haddin became the 15th and 16th Australians to score hundreds in their first Test innings against England

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP

Australian Marcus North salutes the crowd upon reaching his first hundred against England on the fourth day of the first Ashes Test in Cardiff yesterday.

Pakistan cornered, again

Cricket

CRICINFO, Colombo

So they've done it again. Pakistan have pushed themselves into a corner from where they have to win every game if they are to win the series. At such times, for some reason not exactly known to even the best students of Pakistan cricket, it sort of clicks for Pakistan.

But even by Pakistan's standards, a comeback here is going to be a big task. For the kind of happenings on the fourth morning of the Galle Test haunt the best of them. It is not easy to forget a match you lost in two hours, after three days of having almost dominated the game.

"It's okay when the opposition beats you," Younus Khan, Pakistan's captain, told Cricinfo. "But this match we lost. There are youngsters in the team all right, but this kind of defeat hurts the most. You are in sight of victory, and you just have to take that one final step. We have been doing this forever. In ten years of my career I have seen that we fail to finish matches repeatedly. We just suddenly lose a won match. Bob Woolmer got tired of telling us, 'Finish the matches, finish the matches.' We still find ways to lose. So this loss will stay. It is very difficult to forget it."

That the Galle Test finished in four days means Pakistan had another day for the haunting memories of defeat to affect their prepara-

tions. But according to Younus, it was taken in a positive manner. "It has had a good impact on the preparations," he said. "Now we are determined to do way better than that. We don't have to just win, we have to win in a manner that washes away the previous defeat. After a match when we had a quarter of the trophy in our hands - and a beautiful trophy, mind you - only winning won't do. We have to win like we did in the World Twenty20, the way we beat New Zealand after losing to Sri Lanka, the way we won the semi-final and final. Only then are such losses forgotten."

The last four days have been spent well. Pakistan would have had enough time to mull over the problems at the top of the order, in facing left-arm spinners - who somehow seem to do well against them - in the fielding department, where two dropped catches on the first morning cost them dearly. They have practiced hard in the Colombo sun over the last three days, and seem to be enjoying the challenge of playing in hot and humid conditions.

"There has been nothing different in the preparations," said Younus. "I only try to get the boys to focus better. The same was the case after the losses in the World Twenty20. I can't give them the stick, especially after such a loss. You would have seen over the last four-five days, we have done the normal training routines. I just have to get them to focus better, for

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



PHOTO: AFP

New Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza plays one to the on-side during his fighting knock of 39 on the second day of the first Test against West Indies in Kingstown on Friday. All however did not go well for him as he had to withdraw from bowling yesterday morning after pulling hamstring. The hosts were 122 for 2 after 40 overs.

Once again it's Sheikh Nasser Stadium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

The Khulna Divisional Stadium at Mujgunni has once again been renamed since 1996, setting a burning instance of politicisation by both governments of Awami League and BNP-led four-party alliance.

In 1997 then Awami League government first renamed the venue as Sheikh Abu Nasser Stadium.

Nasser was the younger brother of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, uncle of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and father of lawmaker Sheikh Helaluddin.

Nasser was among others including Bangabandhu gunned down by misguided army men at the latter's house in Dhanmandi on the fateful night of August 15 in 1975.

Then came to power the four-party alliance which changed the name of the stadium for the second time as Birshreshtha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium in 2003.

Matiur Rahman, killed during War of Liberation, was a valiant freedom fighter.

But after the current Awami League came to power this year, it was again named as Sheikh Nasser Stadium, wiping out the name of Birshreshtha Matiur Rahman Thursday last.

When asked, the general secretary of Khulna Divisional Sports Association Syed Zahid Hossain told this correspondent yesterday that he had

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

LOCAL SNIPPETS

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khagrachhari

Rising Star secured a one-wicket victory over Bhaibonchhari Jubo Sangha in the first Tele-talk cricket tournament held at the Khagrachhari Government High School ground on Saturday.

Batting first, Bhaibonchhari Jubo Sangha scored a fighting 148-5 in their share of 25 overs with Abdul Kader notching highest 46. For Rising Star, Mustafizur Rahman took two wickets for 26 runs.

In reply, Rising Star reached 151 for the loss of nine wickets in 21.4 overs. Saddam Hossen top-scored with 38. Kader of Bhaibonchhari picked up three wickets for 26 runs but his all-round effort eventually went in vain. He however picked up the man-of-the-match award.

In the other match, Masterpara Cricket Club secured a massive 10-wicket victory over Young Star Club at the same ground.

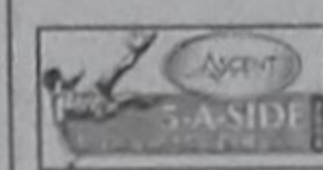
Batting first, Young Star Club was routed within 18.2 overs scoring just 71 runs with Jony masterminding the fall by picking up three wickets for 11 runs.

In reply, Masterpara reached the 72 runs target without any loss in just 10.4

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Banglalink hit Daily Star hard

SPORTS REPORTER



After a sound start on Friday, The Daily Star paid the penalty for fielding half fit players in their second fixture against Banglalink who ran away with a 4-1 win in the Ascent Group 5-a-side indoor soccer cup at the Scholastica STM Hall premises yesterday.

The Daily Star team knew that they were in for trouble when their captain Zafar Sobhan decided to stand under the bar instead of running the length because of recurring pain while star striker Ashfaq Wares Khan who scored the all-important goal in the opening game, suffered blurred vision for mysterious reason.

Understandably the fluid attacking football synonymous with The Daily Star was

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

'Galle-like' P Sara pitch Second Lankan-Pak Test starts today

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

A seaming wicket and steaming hot conditions have forced Pakistan and Sri Lanka to delay naming their teams for the crucial second Test starting on Sunday.

The hard, even-paced track at the P Sara Oval, livened up by the ongoing monsoon rains, was described by curator Aniruddha Polonowita as similar to the one at Galle where the first Test ended inside four days.

"It's a Galle-like wicket that will help the seamers at the start and then settle down in favour of the batsmen," Polonowita told reporters.

"It will be best for batting on the second and third day, and there could be a bit of help for the spinners towards the end."

Sri Lanka won the first Test by 50 runs after a dramatic fourth morning when Pakistan, needing 97 runs to reach the target of 168, lost their last eight wickets for 46 runs to be bowled out for 117.

Another win for a decisive 2-0 lead in the three-match series will hand Sri Lanka their first ever Test series success at home against Pakistan.

Both Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara and Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam said a further inspection of the wicket and the prevailing weather -- rain has been forecast during the match -- was needed before the teams were finalised.

"We have a couple of options, like playing an extra fast bowler or not, but we will have a look at the deck on Sunday morning and decide,"

said Sangakkara.

"You always choose the team based on how the wicket will play. It looks a good one which should help both the batsmen and bowlers."

Alam said the oppressively hot and humid weather would force fast bowlers to bowl in short bursts, meaning the combination had to be carefully finalised for the must-win game for Pakistan.

"It is premature to say what our line-up will be," said Alam. "All I will say is these are trying conditions. It is definitely hotter here than Galle."

Sangakkara said the victory in the first Test had given his team a psychological advantage going into the match, but warned team-mates against taking another win for granted.

"When you win one, you always have that edge for the next game, but it's a new Test and a new start," he said. "What happened a week ago will really not matter when the first ball is bowled."

Sangakkara wanted an improved batting performance by his team after totals of 292 and 217 in the Galle Test.

"It is vital to have a big first innings score and very important that all 11 players contribute towards that."

Alam hoped Pakistan's batsmen had learnt from the mistakes they made in Galle, but was confident the series would not be conceded easily.

"It hurt to lose a game we dominated on the first three days and then gave it away in one session," the Pakistan coach said. "It was bad batting and we have to get it right this time."

"I have enough confidence that this group has the ability to fight back. Pakistan is known to

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara (L) makes a point to teammates Ajantha Mendis (2nd from L), Suraj Kulahallamulla (2nd from R) and Rangana Herath during a practice session at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo yesterday.