



Did U Know?

India was among eight countries which took part in the first Women's World Volleyball Championships in Moscow in 1952.



Usain Bolt

(Star Jamaican sprinter)
"I'm happy it was a good race, I know people love me, so I try every time to be at my best." After winning the men's 100m event at the Paris IAAF Golden League meeting at the Stade de France on Friday.



TEN Sports
Sri Lanka v Pakistan
Third Test, Day 1
Live from 11:30am
West Indies v Bangladesh
Second Test, Day 4
Live from 9:00pm
STAR Cricket
England v Australia
2nd Ashes Test, Day 5
Live from 5:00pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm

KP's fear

CRICINFO, undated

Kevin Pietersen fears that the Achilles injury that has hampered his summer could end up ruling him out at some stage of the Ashes series. Pietersen, who made an unusually ponderous 44 from 101 balls on the third day of the second Test at Lord's, has undergone four injections to get him fit for the series, and wrote in his newspaper column that the injury has been playing on his mind "all day and every day".

"People who have had injuries know that it definitely does affect the way they play," Pietersen wrote in The News of the World. "It doesn't really affect my strokeplay but running between wickets and diving around is problematic. This is the first injury I have had and, mentally, they really do get to you. I've had two injections into my back -- a perineural and an epidural. And I've had a cortisone and a homeopathic injection into my Achilles."

Pietersen left the field for 11 overs to receive treatment during Australia's first innings on Friday, and admitted that it had been "a bad day". Nevertheless, after back-to-back matches at Cardiff and Lord's, the teams have a decent break before the third Test at Edgbaston at the end of the month, and Pietersen remains optimistic that the day-to-day management of the injury will get him fit in time for the start.

"Right now, it's just a case of getting through the match and making sure I get myself right because there's a 10-day break at the end which will give me a chance to rest up," he wrote. "I'm not ruling anything out in terms of the rest of the series. What I will say is I am doing everything I can to get myself right. I'll do anything I can do to play."

Siddons set to stay on

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is all set to extend the contract of Australian national team coach Jamie Siddons whose two-year tenure expires in November this year.

"We are looking forward to making a good team management with an eye on the next World Cup. And Jamie (Siddons) is very much a part of our plan. We want him to continue as the coach," said BCB's director and chairman of cricket operations committee Enayet Hossain Siraj after appearing in front of the parliamentary standing committee on Youth and Sports yesterday.

Bangladesh is a co-host of the 2011 ICC World Cup and Siraj said that they have no plans to change the national team coach ahead of the one-day championship despite questions being raised about the performance of the national team and its coach-

ing staff in the ICC World Twenty20 in England where Bangladesh made exit from the first round after conceding an embarrassing defeat against lightweights Ireland.

Jamie, who worked as a specialist batting coach in the mighty Australia team, however failed to show any noticeable improvement in Bangladesh's go-happy batting during his two-year tenure and there has been no exception in the ongoing series in West Indies.

The shock exit forced the board to change its captain while a couple of board officials lambasted Jamie for failing to inspire the team. The performance in England was also discussed in the parliament and the board was asked to report the reason behind the failure.

In that context, a BCB delegation led by president Lt Gen Sina Ibn Jamali met the parliamentary standing committee to appraise Bangladesh's performance in the T20 championship.

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West Indies pacer Kumar Roach (C) celebrates the dismissal of stand-in Bangladesh skipper Sakib Al Hasan (L) on the second day of the second Test at the Grenada National Stadium in St George's on Saturday.

Haques lift Under-19s

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s set a challenging target for their England counterparts in the second one-day match at Grace Road yesterday.

The visitors, who suffered an 84-run defeat in the first match, thrived on two half-centuries from Anamul Haque and Mominul Haque to score 269 for six in the stipulated 50 overs after deciding to bat.

Anamul hit 78 that featured eight boundaries while Mominul contributed 57 off 69 balls with five fours and a six.

And it was Alauddin Babu who helped his side cross the 250-run mark with a quickfire unbeaten 41 that came off 18 balls. Babu smashed two boundaries and three over boundaries during his cameo knock.

Nathan Buck and Hamza Riazuddin took two wickets each.

On Saturday, England Under-19s rode on Sam Northeast's brilliant hundred to ease to an emphatic victory to go 1-0 up in the five-match series.

Northeast hammered 123 off 129 balls and combined in a solid opening stand of 113 with Jake Manuel, who hit 54, as they raced to 282 for seven in 50 overs.

In reply, the visitors were bundled out for 198 runs in 49.5 overs with Asif Ahmed making team highest 51.

England sniff victory

Cricket

AFP, London

England saw the back of Australia captain Ricky Ponting as they moved closer to winning their first Ashes Test at Lord's in 75 years here on Sunday.

Australia were 178 for five at tea on the fourth day of the second Test of this five-match series - still needing a further 344 runs to reach their world record victory target of 522.

But England were now just five wickets away from wrapping up this match with more than a day to spare and so taking a 1-0 lead in the five-Test series.

Michael Clarke, who held firm with a typically stylish fifty in 58 balls, was 60 not out and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin 15 not out.

Ponting had added just one run to his lunch score, when 10 balls after the break, he tried to force the ball but played on to pace bowler Stuart Broad for 38.

His exit left Australia in dire straits at 78 for three and continued Ponting's poor run of Test scores at Lord's where his best is 42.

It was all a far cry from last week's drawn series opener in Cardiff where Ponting made a majestic 150 and Australia were only denied victory by a last-wicket stand between James Anderson and the now dropped Monty Panesar.

Off-spinner Graeme Swann then got in on the act with two wickets for two runs in 19 balls.

He removed left-hander Michael Hussey (27) with a ball that turned and bounce thanks to Paul Collingwood's sharp slip catch.

Hussey was given out by West Indies umpire

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Australia's Phillip Hughes avoids a bouncer from England's Andrew Flintoff on the fourth day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's in London yesterday.

Lanka eye clean sweep

Final Test against Pakistan from today

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Kumar Sangakkara hopes to complete a 3-0 sweep against Pakistan in his first Test series as Sri Lanka captain despite admitting his team had played "patchy" cricket so far.

"We have certainly not been at our best in this series," Sangakkara told reporters ahead of the third and final Test starting at the Sinhalese Sports Club here on Monday.

"It is always good to aim for a sweep, but you can't achieve that without playing your best cricket. We have been

patchy, and so has Pakistan."

Sri Lanka took a decisive 2-0 lead in the series despite failing to hit the 300-run mark in two Tests against a Pakistani attack lacking experience.

"The batting has to improve," said Sangakkara. "We have to buckle down and bat positively."

If Sri Lanka do succeed and win their first ever home series against Pakistan, it would be due mainly to three inexplicable batting collapses by the tourists in four innings.

Pakistan dominated the initial three days of the first Test in Galle, only to falter on the fourth morning when, needing 97 to win with eight wickets in hand, they

managed to lose the match by 50 runs.

In the second Test at the P Sara Oval in Colombo, Pakistan crashed to a timid 90 in the first innings and then lost nine wickets for 35 runs in the second innings after coasting on 285-1 at one stage.

Sangakkara however warned Pakistan would be looking to avenge defeat.

"Pakistan has always been a temperamental side, they can be self-destructive at times, but they are a dangerous team."

Sri Lanka, still without spin king Muttiah Muralidaran who is resting a knee injury, will look to give veteran seamer Chaminda Vaas a fitting farewell.

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Documentary on women's football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) in principle agreed to go ahead with the proposal of making a documentary on the women's football in the country.

FIFA's development officer Mohsin Gilani, who is now visiting Bangladesh, informed the BFF officials that a film company is interested to make a documentary on Bangladesh women's football so that the world can realise what is happening in the country with the women's football.

This documentary will be televised by BBC which they believe will make a positive image in the western countries and help get financial support from USA and UK.

The BFF, however, will hold the local rights.

To shoot the documentary, the interested company, the name of which was not disclosed by the FIFA official, has demanded air tickets and local hospitality from BFF and the game's governing body has agreed to provide the assistance.

The film is likely to be shot in November.

Gilani attended a meeting of the BFF's Women Football Committee on special invitation. Some decisions were taken regarding women's competitions in the meeting.

The Women's Super Championship with the participation of four teams -- semi-finalists of the recently concluded Women's National Football Championship Bangladesh Ansar, Jessore, Bangladesh VDP and Narayanganj -- will be held in the first week of August in the city.

The meeting also decided to organise the Women's Corporate Football League in the last week of October while a seminar on women's football in the first week of November.

The meeting congratulated women's football committee deputy chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron, who has been elected as a member on the AFC executive committee recently.

Day Two Roach's

Tigers fail to cross WI total

Cricket

AFP, St George's

A day that promised much for Bangladesh ended with West Indies 56 for one in their second innings and leading by 61, after impressive bowling from Kumar Roach kept the hosts in the second and final Test on Saturday.

Bangladesh were dismissed for 232, replying to West Indies first innings total of 237, with Roach finishing with the flattering figures of six wickets for 48 runs from 23.5 overs on the second day of the Test at the National Cricket

LATEST

West Indies were 123-5 after 46 overs in their second innings on the third day of the second Test with David Bernard 16 not out with him was Darren Sammy on 6. Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan led destruction with 3-40.

Stadium in St George's.

"It was a fine performance, a magical moment for me," said the 21-year-old Roach. "I have a passion for West Indies cricket. I wanted to play for West Indies. It was always my dream, and I am glad to have been given this chance, and to be here."

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Vaas quitting Tests

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's veteran seamer Chaminda Vaas said on Sunday he will retire from Test cricket after the ongoing Pakistan series, but will still play limited-overs internationals.

"I am officially retiring from Test cricket after the third Test against Pakistan, but will

continue playing one-day and Twenty20 matches till the 2011 World Cup," the 35-year-old told reporters.

The left-arm, however, declined to take questions, saying he would speak at the conclusion of the third Test which starts at the Sinhalese Sports Club here on Monday.

The 110-Test veteran, who had been overlooked for the first two Tests, was drafted in for the final match despite Sri Lanka having taken a decisive

2-0 lead in the series.

Vaas has claimed 354 wickets at an average of 29.40 since his Test debut against Pakistan at Kandy in 1994, with 12 five-wicket hauls, and twice took 10 wickets in a match.

The left-hander, who also scored 3,085 Test runs, is only the third Sri Lankan cricketer after Sanath Jayasuriya and Muttiah Muralidaran to play more than 100 Tests.

He has 400 wickets from 322 one-day internationals, including a hat-trick off the first three balls of the match against Bangladesh during the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

Local media had speculated over the last month that Vaas was being eased out of the five-day game and would only play one-day and Twenty20 cricket.

The selectors ignored him for first two Tests against Pakistan even after spin master Muralidaran was ruled out due to a knee injury, leaving the bowling attack short of experience.

Vaas had earlier this month refuted chief selector Asantha de Mel's claim that the seamer had told him he wanted to retire from Test cricket.

"I have not retired from Test cricket," he had told AFP ahead of the first Test in Galle. "I have not even spoken to de Mel or any other selector."

Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara paid glowing tributes to the bowler who has served Sri Lanka with distinction for 15 years.

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Sri Lanka paceman Chaminda Vaas bowls during a practice session at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo yesterday.