



Did U Know?

Tiger Woods was 11-months old when he first started swinging a sawed off golf club in his garage.



Sir Alex Ferguson

(Man United manager)
"The lad has a real chance. His movement is very good and he does well when he gets onto the shoulder of the last defender." On Italian teenage star Federico Macheda.



What to WATCH

BTV & TEN Sports
West Indies v Bangladesh
Second ODI
Live from 8:30pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm

Cricket terrorised

UNB, Dhaka

The 2nd phase super league match of the Metropolis 3rd Division Cricket qualifiers between Sheikh Russell KC and Fear Fighters SC was abandoned terming unplayable ground although the venue, City Club ground in Mirpur, was in good condition on Monday.

A Fear Fighter official told UNB that they were waiting for the match at the venue. Suddenly they saw a terror group of 10-12 youths entered the ground at about 11:30 am and forced the match officials to abandon the match terming "unplayable field" due to overmight rain.

The terror group said no match will be held today and forced the Fear Fighters team to leave the field.

The worried players and officials of Fear Fighters team left the field and later umpires declared the match abandoned giving one point each to both the teams.

In the day's other matches, Mohammedan Cricket Academy (106/4 in 16.2) beat Mirpur Friends Club (105/10 in 19.4) by six wickets in a 20-over match at the Dhaka University ground while Sunamganj Ragib Rabeya Cricketers (112/10 in 20) defeated Cricket of Pirates (107/9 in 20) at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Massa able to communicate

AFP, Budapest

Seriously injured Brazilian Formula One driver Felipe Massa can communicate with movements when woken up, a Hungarian defence ministry spokesman revealed on Monday.

"Massa is now woken up increasingly often and is capable of active communication, giving feedback by moving his legs and hands. This is certainly a good sign." Istvan Bocskai said on state television channel m1.

The 28-year-old -- winner of 11 Grand Prix and the world championship runner-up in 2008 -- suffered skull and eye

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New ball nothing new for Razzak

Top-order worries Reifer

CRICINFO, undated

Floyd Reifer, the West Indies captain, has said while he is happy with the balance of the team, the top-order batting remains a concern following a 52-run defeat to Bangladesh in the first ODI in Dominica on Sunday.

West Indies, who lost the Test series 2-0, were chasing 247 and lost their first four wickets for 42 runs in 12 overs before Devon Smith's 65 took them past 100. "We didn't get the start we wanted from the top, and this is something that is worrying us at the moment," Reifer said. "We are not getting enough partnerships at the top of the innings."

After the spinners had been successful in the Test series, it was expected the pitches for the ODIs would favour bounce and pace. The Windsor Park curator had said he would comply with West Indies coach John Dyson's request

for faster tracks. However Bangladesh opened with left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak, who took 4 for 39 -- including two of the first four wickets.

Razzak, who was suspended by the ICC for a suspect bowling action in November and cleared four months ago, said the pitches in the Caribbean favoured spin bowling and he was not surprised when his captain handed him the new ball.

"When I played in the Caribbean in the 2007 World Cup, I also used the new ball, so it's normal," Razzak said. "But this was important for me. I was out of the team for eight months, and now I am back in the side, I am looking to do well."

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan, who scored a half-century, said the team had been confident of the total on the board since the pitch was playing slow and there were four spinners in the XI. "I have been surprised by the nature of the pitches in the Caribbean," Shakib said. "I

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Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak (2nd from R) is greeted by captain Shakib Al Hasan (R) after he bowled West Indies batsman Travis Dowlin (2nd from L) for 10 in the first ODI at Windsor Park on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Akhtar's int'l career all but over: Akram

CRICINFO, undated

Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram believes fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's international career is virtually over. Akram said the warning bells had been sounded with Akhtar's omission from Pakistan's list of probabilities for the forthcoming Champions Trophy, to be held in South Africa.

"I don't think he has got a chance, unless and until some miracles happen," Akram said. "Even though it depends on the captain and selectors, I think Shoaib has fallen out with the selectors and the board itself. The board still supported him and he went to Abu Dhabi and played two of the five games (against Australia) before getting injured again. We all saw that."

Akram also said the emergence of young fast bowlers like Mohammad Aamer had made

Akhtar's comeback tougher. "I think Pakistan's bowling unit is doing well and they have to look ahead and think about the future," he said. "They have to back the youngsters who will do the job for them, even if you look at the 2011 World Cup. Also in this year's Champions Trophy and the next Twenty20 World Cup, the team would have to rely on the youngsters. I don't know where you can place Shoaib Akhtar in the current picture of Pakistan cricket."

Akram predicted a difficult future for Mohammad Asif as well. The 26-year-old fast bowler, however, made the cut for the probabilities for the Champions Trophy, following a tumultuous two-and-a-half years in which he failed dope tests and was embroiled in a detention case in Dubai.

"My advice to Asif would be -- learn from your mistakes. I sincerely hope he learns from the 300 mistakes that he has made in the last two years," said Akram. "He's young, talented

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Contador conquers France

AFP, Paris

A jubilant Alberto Contador claimed his second Tour de France yellow jersey here Sunday to hand Spain their fourth consecutive victory in the world's biggest bike race.

Astana team leader Contador, the 2007 champion, finished the 21-stage race with a significant winning margin to add to the victories of Oscar Pireiro in 2006 and Carlos Sastre last year.

Luxembourg's Andy Schleck was the run-

ner-up at 4min 11sec while seven-time champion Lance Armstrong, returning to the Tour for the first time since 2005, was third at 5:24.

Contador, 26, finished the 21st and final stage into Paris wearing the yellow jersey he claimed back on stage 15 at Verbier in the Swiss Alps.

He also won the 18th stage time trial, a victory which gave him an unassailable lead before the penultimate stage to the legendary Mont Ventoux where his rivals failed to loosen his grip on the lead.

As Britain's Mark Cavendish claimed a remarkable sixth stage win, his first on the

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Astana's Spanish rider Alberto Contador and winner of 2007 Tour de France flies the Spanish national flag as he rides through the Champs-Elysees on Sunday during an honour lap to celebrate his triumph at this year's tour.

PHOTO: AFP

Grenada chief disappointed

CRICINFO, undated

Grenada's cricket chief, Cecil Greenidge, has called the low turnout for the second Test between West Indies and Bangladesh at the National Cricket Stadium a "great disappointment" and a "disaster".

Greenidge said the organisers had tried their best to attract crowds for the match, which was only the second Test to be held at the ground, including low-priced tickets and getting local musicians to perform during lunch.

"It was a great disappointment. In fact it was a disaster," Greenidge told CMC Sport. "The GCA and the organising committee deeply regret the lack of support by the local sporting public."

"I don't know what the issues were, whether it was carnival, whether it was Bangladesh, whether it was the fact that the so call big players on the West Indies team did not make themselves available or perhaps a combination of those things," he said.

West Indies were forced to field a weakened side in the game because many of their leading players boycotted the Test series. The inexperienced side went down by four wickets to Bangladesh, handing the visitors their first overseas Test series victory.

U-19s take on English youth in T20 today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 team will play the England Under-19 side in the first of the two-match Twenty20 cricket series today at the Seaford Cricket Club ground in England.

The Youth Tigers will play the second and last Twenty20 match with their English counterparts at the same venue on Wednesday before leaving England for home on Thursday.

Earlier, the touring Bangladesh Under-19 team won the five-match Youth ODI series 2-1 beating hosts England Under-19 side by one wicket in the 5th and final match at the Hove County ground last Friday.

Hosts England took 1-0 lead in the five-match Youth ODI series beating Bangladesh by huge 84 runs in the first ODI while Bangladesh levelled the series 1-1 beating England by 53 runs in the 4th ODI last Thursday.

The 2nd Youth ODI match between the two teams was abandoned halfway due to rain while the 3rd ODI match had to be abandoned for the same reason without a single ball being bowled.

But the young Tigers lost the two-match four-day Youth Test series 0-1 conceding a huge 10-wicket defeat against England in the first match while the second Test ended in a draw.

The Bangladesh national cricket team is yet to earn any victory against England, either in Test or ODI cricket.

Crisis averted

Salahuddin meeting solves deadlock

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Order and calm was restored at the national football camp after Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin settled a peace-deal between the coach and the eight rebel players yesterday.

After returning home from abroad, the BFF boss met with the players, fuming coach Edson Silva Dido and the members of the national team management committee (NTMC) at his office to solve the crisis.

The camp will resume today after two days break along with the players who had walked out on the camp last Thursday at BKSP terming Dido's training as 'unbearable' which forced the Brazilian taking a hard stand against the players.

Dido was not ready to take back these players to the camp but he changed his heart after a half an hour meeting with the BFF's charismatic leader.

"It is enough to say that we found a solution together. I came here to submit my resignation letter but after a discussion with the president (Salahuddin) what I felt is that I should honour him because there was logic in his words," said Dido.

"There was a misunderstanding but now all problem is solved. The players made a mistake and coach accepted it. The camp will be resumed tomorrow and I hope this kind of incident will not happen in the future as I believe the players learn from their mistake. They have been given enough warning," said Salahuddin.

"I had an open discussion with everybody and I am satisfied with the way it is solved. But one thing is that nobody is bigger than the head coach no matter how big a player he is. I was a player as well as a coach and I know, the coach is boss and everybody in the team must comply with his decision," said the yesteryear star footballer.

"On the other hand no coach in the world wants to lose his best players

The BFF officials believed that these eight players would work hard to regain the confidence of the coach.

The players shook hands with the coach after the meeting and repeatedly apologised for their actions.

The BFF however stuck to the national team management committee decision which fined the eight rebel players (one month salary) for violating the discipline in the camp and also warned coach Edson Silva Dido for his reaction towards these players.



Bangladesh national team coach Dido (2nd from L) shakes hands with midfielder Arman Aziz while the other 'rebel' players look on at the BFF House on Monday. The striking footballers made peace with the coach and restored normalcy to local football.

PHOTO: STAR

India safe for WC

Hockey

AFP, New Delhi

Field hockey's world chief on Monday dismissed security concerns over the 2010 World Cup in New Delhi, saying the Indian capital will put on a good show.

"We are very happy with the arrangements," International Hockey Federation (FIH) president Leandro Negre told reporters after motorcycle company Hero Honda was unveiled as the main sponsor of the March 7-20 tournament.

"Security will always be an issue at a major sporting event but I have learnt from Indian police officers that everything has been taken care of."

"The security of the players from the airport to the hotel, and to the grounds, will be very tight. We do not see any problem there."

Security concerns in South Asia have

increased after the terror attack on Mumbai in November last year which left 166 people dead and the attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in the Pakistani city of Lahore in March.

Sports officials have in recent months been forced to defend New Delhi as a venue for the Commonwealth Games next October after some countries, notably Australia, expressed fears about security.

Australia, one of the world's top field hockey nations, refused to send tennis team for the Davis Cup tie against India in the southern city of Chennai due to security worries.

Negre said the federation was not looking beyond New Delhi as the World Cup host city and hoped the successful conduct of the 12-nation tournament would revive interest in the sport in India.

"There is no standby venue as far as FIH is concerned," the Spaniard said.

"India is one of the most valuable and

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