

Good start for Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

New ball pair Mahbubul Alam and Nazmul Hossain gave Bangladesh the perfect start in the third and final one-day in their mission to whitewash the West Indies at Warner Park, St Kitts yesterday.

Home team skipper Floyd Reifer won the toss for a successive third occasion and decided to bat first. But it was a bad start for his team as opener Kieran Powell and one down Devon Smith returned to the pavilion with the scoreboard reading 10-2.

Opener Andre Fletcher however came up with a counter-attack to repair the damage before left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak removed Fletcher to break the 76-run third wicket partnership with Travis Dowlin.

The attacking Fletcher went for another big one but only managed to reach the safe hands of Mohammad Ashraful at long-on. The right-hander smote eight boundaries and two sixes during his 42-ball 52.

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Did U Know?

The first soccer game was played at the Olympics in 1900. Professional players, however, were exempt from competition in the Olympic Games for more than 80 years.



Justin Langer

(Former Australia opener) "What a joke. Turn it up. I'd love to play [against Flintoff at Edgbaston], but so would about five million other Australians." On the rumour of his return to Test cricket.



TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v Pakistan

Second ODI

Live from 11:30am

STAR Cricket

England v Australia

Third Ashes Test, Day 3

Live from 5:00pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 9:30pm

Div III cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russell KC and Sunamganj Raghob Rabeya Cricketers emerged group D and B champions respectively after the qualifying round matches while Cricket of Pirates got walkover in another match in the Metropolis Third Division Cricket League yesterday.

Sheikh Russell Kira Chakra (72/1) earned an emphatic 9-wicket win over Young Talent Cricket Academy (70/10) at the Jagannath Hall ground. In another match, Cricket of Pirates got walkover against Mirpur Friends Club at the Dhaka University ground. In the third match of the day, Sunamganj Raghob Rabeya Cricketers shared points with Mohammad Cricket Academy after the match was abandoned due to unplayable condition at City Club ground.



England pacer James Anderson (R) celebrates after dismissing Australia's Michael Clarke on the second day of the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston in Birmingham yesterday.

England take control

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

England swing duo James Anderson and Graham Onions took nine wickets between them Friday as Australia were bowled out for 263 on the second day of the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston.

Although conditions were not especially overcast by English standards, they offered just enough late movement for the pace bowling pair, who exploited the Australian batsmen's unfamiliarity against the swinging ball.

Australia, who had been 126 for one overnight, collapsed in spectacular style with both Anderson (five wickets for 80 runs in 24 overs) and Onions (four for 58 in 16.4) taking their Ashes Test-best figures.

Then, after England lost opener Alastair Cook for nought, home captain Andrew Strauss, whose 161 helped propel the hosts to a 115-run second Test win at Lord's, and Ravi Bopara took the home side to 56 for one at tea.

Left-hander Strauss was 33 not out and Bopara 23 not out.

England, who are 1-0 up in the series,

enjoyed a spectacular start Friday with Onions taking two wickets with the day's first two balls.

Australia resumed with makeshift opener Shane Watson 62 not out.

Meanwhile Australia captain Ricky Ponting was unbeaten on 17, needing just eight more to surpass Allan Border as his country's leading Test run-scorer.

Watson could not add to his overnight score when he was lbw to Durham quick Onions. Next ball Michael Hussey was bowled off-stump after the left-hander deliberately played no stroke to a ball that swung in a touch.

Australia were now 126 for three and Onions, who looked decidedly unthreatening while bowling three overs for an expensive 21 runs on Thursday, was on a hat-trick.

The Edgbaston crowd cheered Onions in but new batsman Michael Clarke got out of the way of a short ball.

Meanwhile, Ponting's three off his legs against fast bowler Andrew Flintoff saw him surpass Border's record of 11,174 runs in 22 fewer matches than the 156 it had taken the retired former captain to compile his career total.

It also saw Ponting move up into third place in the all-time list of Test run-scorers behind

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Ponting overtakes Border

AFP, Birmingham

Australia captain Ricky Ponting overtook Allan Border as his country's leading run-scorer in Test cricket on the second day of the third Ashes Test against England here on Friday.

Ponting went into this match needing just 25 runs to surpass former captain Border's mark of 11,174 runs and move up into third place in the all-time list of Test run-scorers behind Sachin Tendulkar (12,773) and Brian Lara (11,953).

The Tasmanian, resuming on 17 not out here at Edgbaston, required just eight more runs Friday and an uncertain clip off his legs for three off fast bowler Andrew Flintoff saw him to the record in 22 fewer matches than the 156 it had taken Border to compile his career total.

However, on 38, he became Graham Onions's third wicket Friday when he mishooked a bouncer from the Durham quick through to wicket-keeper Matt Prior.

His exit left Australia struggling at 163 for four after Ponting himself had won the toss and elected to bat on Thursday.

Ponting, speaking before this match, had made it clear that, with Australia 1-0 down in the Ashes with three to play, his focus was on team success not individual glory.

"I know about it," Ponting said of the record to reporters here Wednesday. "I have known about it since the beginning of the series."

"I have bigger fish to fry than that right at the moment. But, look hopefully it comes. It would be nice to get it out of the way in the first innings of this

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Schumacher tests with Ferrari

AFP, Rome

Seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher was back testing a racing car just 48 hours after announcing his shock return to Formula One racing, Ansa said on Friday.

Schumacher, who retired in 2006, tested the Ferrari F2007 at the famous Mugello track near Florence.

The 40-year-old German is due to take part in the European Grand Prix in Valencia on August 23 as a replacement for Brazilian Felipe Massa, who was seriously injured in a freak accident during qualifying for last weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix in Budapest.

F1 testing practice do not allow a driver to practise in the car that will race at a Grand Prix before the beginning of practice at that GP.

It means Schumacher can not yet get behind the wheel of Ferrari's F60 and has instead been testing the car with which team-mate Kimi Raikkonen became world champion two years ago.

Transfer window opens today

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The transfer window for the 3rd B. League will be declared open today at the BFF House.

Defending champions Abahani and archrivals Mohammedan are all set to exchange blows during the month-long transfer period.

It is said that Mohammedan have confirmed some key players including Wali Faisal, the best player of the Second B. League, Mamunul Islam and Zahid Hasan Emily while Abahani are also trying to rope in seasoned defender Rajani Kanta Barman and young striker Mohammad Robin from the Motijheel tent.

Both the giants have almost confirmed their desired players one month earlier and now wait to complete the official formalities in the time frame of transfer.

With a mission to put an end to their traditional rival's dominance in the country's lone professional football competition, the popular black and whites are all set to sign a highest of 13 players out of 31 probables now training under the guidance of Edson Silva Dido in the national camp.

It was learnt that Muktiyoddha Sangsad are to make a big budget team after last year's dol-drum although there is hardly any chance for

them to register big names.

A team will be able to register five foreign players but can only field three and the foreign player registration will continue till the start of the League which is likely to kick off at the end of October after the season's curtain-raiser Federation Cup.

The number of participating teams has been increased to 13 for this year's competition with Shuktara Jubo Sangsad, Narayanganj, Feni Soccer Club and Bianibazar Sports Club, Sylhet the newcomers.

Three teams will be relegated this year and play in the second-tier league.

Many clubs however have been protesting against this decision and the bourse may face a hitch as teams like Brothers Union, Chittagong Mohammedan SC, Farashganj SC, Rahmatganj MFS, Muktiyoddha Sangsad want to see one team being relegated and they may hold up their transfers if the authorities don't change their decision.

The registration of players will be held daily from 4 pm to 7 pm.

During the registration period, participating clubs will have to submit four copies of passport size colour photographs of the player, copy of the players' contract with respective clubs, player's registration form, code and conduct form (BFF copy) and player registration fee of Tk 1000 (per player).

Sir Bobby passes away

Football

AFP, London

Former England and Newcastle manager Sir Bobby Robson died on Friday at the age of 76 after a long battle with cancer.

Robson, whose first brush with the disease that would ultimately claim him was in 1992, led England to the World Cup semi-finals in 1990 before leaving to manage a host of top European clubs including PSV Eindhoven, Sporting Lisbon, Porto, Barcelona and finally his boyhood team Newcastle.

A statement issued on behalf of his family said: "It is with great sadness that it has been announced today that Sir Bobby Robson has lost his long and courageous battle with cancer."

"He died very peacefully this morning (Friday) at his

home in County Durham with his wife and family beside him.

"Sir Bobby's funeral will be private and for family members only."

"A thanksgiving service in celebration of Sir Bobby's life will be held at a later date for his many friends and colleagues."

"Lady Robson and the family would very much appreciate it if their privacy could be respected at this difficult time."

As a youngster, Robson, born in County Durham, fell in love with football as he travelled with his father Philip and brother Ronnie 20 miles on the bus to watch the Newcastle team of the 1940s, which included the great Jackie Milburn.

Robson, whose father was a miner, had started to learn to be a pit engineer when he avoided a career underground by signing for Fulham, aged 17.

Through the 1950s and early 1960s he was a top midfielder

with the London club and with West Bromwich Albion.

Robson was the first player to negotiate an image rights deal and was paid a fee of three guineas for his photo to appear on cigarette cards.

He won 20 England caps, and took part in the 1958 World Cup in Sweden.

His first managerial role came at Fulham, but he made his name during a successful reign at Ipswich from 1969 to 1982.

Under Robson's astute leadership, Ipswich - an underdog provincial club - became one of the most feared teams in England and their boss earned a reputation as one of the gentlemen of British sport.

Ipswich won the FA Cup in 1978, beating Arsenal 1-0 in the final, and enjoyed European glory for the first time in 1981 with victory over Dutch side AZ 67 Alkmaar in the UEFA Cup final.

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SIR BOBBY ROBSON

Pakistan nears venue solution

AFP, Lahore



Pakistan moved closer to solving its World Cup 2011 dispute and a court Friday extended a stay order on relocating the event's headquarters out of the country, an official said.

Pakistan initiated a legal case against the International Cricket Council (ICC) after being stripped of its World Cup 2011 matches in April this year.

The ICC relocated abroad Pakistan's share of 14 matches because of security fears following attacks in its eastern city of Lahore on the Sri Lankan team on March 3.

The attacks, which left seven players and their assistant coach injured besides killing eight people, appeared to end any chance of hosting international cricket in Pakistan, where teams had already refused to tour over security fears.

But the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) launched a legal fight against the re-location and won a stay order against moving the World Cup secretariat from Lahore to arch rival

India's Mumbai.

Recent talks between the ICC President David Morgan and PCB chairman Ijaz Butt, however, raised hopes of an out-of-court truce.

PCB legal adviser Taffazul Rizvi said Friday's extension of the stay order until September 3, awarded in the Lahore civil court, was a step in the right direction.

"The ICC requested that the stay be extended so that negotiations continue, and it's a step in the right direction because is in the interest of all that the matter is solved out of court in accordance to law," Rizvi told AFP.

But last week said Pakistan was on the right track to solve the matter out of court.

"We are looking toward an out of court settlement with the ICC and I am hopeful that we will settle the issue some time next month," Butt told reporters in Islamabad.

The ICC ruled out relocating the matches to a neutral venue such as the United Arab Emirates, where Pakistan played their recent international matches.

The Central Organising Committee of the

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Action from yesterday's friendly football match between Chittagong Hill Tracts and plain land adibasis at the Dhaka University ground. Plain land won 4-3.