



Did U Know?

The first golf balls were made of thin leather stuffed with feathers. Tightly-packed feathers made balls that flew the farthest. Feather balls were used until 1843.



Jose Mourinho
(Inter Milan coach)

"Bobby Robson is one of those people who never dies, not because of what he did during his career, because of one more victory or one less, but for everything he transmitted to those who, like me, had the good fortune to know him and be by his side."

While paying tribute to the English football legend who died on July 31.



ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm

Ctg wants a WC match

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Different organisations and professionals brought out a protest procession here yesterday afternoon to press home their demand for awarding the port city a World Cup match.

The rally was brought out from in front of the Chittagong Press Club at around 5.30pm and paraded through the main thoroughfares of the city.

Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in a brief speech before the procession said that the demand was not placed from an individual, it was now the demand of all people of Chittagong.

"Chittagong is being deprived of in every sector since long and keeping it outside from hosting cricket matches is a part of the deprivation," observed Mohiuddin.

The mayor vowed to hold a rally at the historic Laidighi Maidan on August 07 if the demand was not met.

Chittagong Divisional Sports Association vice-president Ali Abbas, Chittagong Jilla Kriya Sangstha general secretary Hafizur Rahman, Ward Councillor MA Naser, Rehena Kabir Ranu and political leaders and professionals attended the procession to express their solidarity.

SAFF inspection committee in city

SPORTS REPORTER

A representative of Singapore-based World Sports Group, the marketing agent of the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Championship, inspected the possible venues of Bangladesh yesterday.

Brian Chao, senior operations executive of the company, visited Bangabandhu National Stadium, Kamapur Stadium and the grounds of the BUET and Dhaka University and is scheduled to meet the BFF president as well as study the facilities of different hotels at the capital today.

The BFF expects a report from Chao by August 15 and thinks that the official announcement of hosting the SAFF Championship will be made based on the report.

Tigers felled finally

Windies earn consolatory T20 win

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Finally, West Indies won a game. Bangladesh imploded spectacularly at the top but they kept playing like millionaires to be restricted to a below-par 118, which West Indies overhauled without breaking a sweat.

The only concern in the chase was whether West Indies would collapse against spin and Bangladesh didn't wait long to find out. They started with a double-spin attack and Shakib Al Hasan claimed the wicket of Dale Richards first ball, but Devon Smith thwarted them with his aggressive batting.

Smith started with a slog-swept six off the off-spinner Naeem Islam and followed it next ball with a skillful inside-out lofted drive over covers, before taking on Mahmudullah in the third over. Three pulls, one of them a six, helped him take 15 in that over and eased the pressure of the early wicket. Though Smith fell 50 short of the target, and West Indies lost a couple more cheaply towards the end, Travis Dowlin took over to lead the hosts past the line. Dowlin knew the required rate wasn't steep enough to warrant any risks and he played accordingly. He did hit four boundaries, with a lofted hit over extra cover off Mehrob Hossain being the highlight, but took care not to play many flashy shots. The same couldn't be said about Bangladesh, though.

Bangladesh charged ahead with a sense of fatal adventure, which was caught perfectly in

the run-out of Naeem, their highest scorer today. He missed a sweep against David Bernard and the ball went straight to the keeper but he nevertheless tried to steal a single, only to be found miles short of his ground. Till then, Naeem had been dispatching the ball to all parts of the ground. He walked down the track to smack Darren Sammy over deep midwicket, moved outside leg to thump Gavin Tonge over long-off before collecting more boundaries with sweeps and pulls.

Before Naeem, there was more frenetic drama. Bangladesh came out oozing so much intent that something had to give. And it did. Three wickets fell in the first 14 deliveries: Zunaed Siddiqui spooned a slower one to cover, Mohammad Ashraful played a weak lap shot for a first-ball duck, and Tamim Iqbal flicked to short midwicket. The score read 12 for 3 but Naeem was in no mood to buckle down. Shakib Al Hasan started a touch slowly but soon caught the Naeem spirit and unfurled slog-sweeps before he was cleaned up by Nikita Miller, bowled round his legs.

After Naeem, there was more chaos. Mushfiqur Rahim, who had moved cautiously to 3 in nine deliveries, ran himself out with some poor running. Responding to a push to point for a single, he jogged across and would have still made it had he not tried to plonk his bat lethargically inside the crease. Raqibul Hasan missed a straight ball and was trapped in front.

It was left to Mahmudullah, who had performed well with bat and ball through this tour,

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Top-scorer for Bangladesh Naeem Islam is undone by a direct hit during the lone T20 match against the West Indies at Warner Park in St Kitts on Sunday. Four Bangladesh batsmen were run out in the match that the home side won by five wickets.

Dido's policy worries NTMC

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is apparently worried over coach Edson Silva Dido's policy to train the eight 'rebel' footballers in a separate group. The national team management committee has now decided to visit BKSP today to help mitigate the gap between the coach and the footballers who had walked out of the team previously.

It seemed that the intervention of the BFF president Kazi Salahuddin put an end to the stalemate between the Brazilian coach and the eight footballers, but Dido's policy seemingly indicates that the problem is still alive.

"The full-committee will sit with the players and the coaching staff on Tuesday to solve a few problems that came out in different newspapers and we don't want to see any more disorder in the national camp," said NTMC chairman and BFF vice-president Badal Roy.

"Neither player nor coach is beyond discipline and everyone including me will have to have accountability in the greater interest of football and we want to look into his policy in the camp," Roy said. "The training may take place in two separate groups, but sometime it may create a problem and we will definitely not expect any deadlock"

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Mahela makes it 3-0

Cricket

AFP, Dambulla

Mahela Jayawardene hit his first one-day century in two years as Sri Lanka thumped Pakistan by six wickets on Monday to grab a winning 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

The former captain made 123 and shared an opening stand of 202 with Upul Tharanga (76) as the hosts cruised past Pakistan's challenging 288-8 in the 47th over of the high-scoring match.

Sri Lanka, who had won the preceding Test series 2-0, made light work of an improved batting display by Pakistan in which teenager Umar Akmal led the way with 66 off 65 balls.

The 19-year-old, whose elder brother Kamran Akmal is the team's wicket-keeper, propelled Pakistan to the highest total ever at the Rangiri International Stadium.

But Jayawardene, opening the batting in place of the indisposed Sanath Jayasuriya, and Tharanga gave Sri Lanka the perfect start in good batting conditions.

Jayawardene hit 14 boundaries and a six in his 11th one-day century and his first since

making 107 for Asia against Africa in the Afro-Asia Cup in Chennai in June, 2007.

Left-handed Tharanga helped himself to nine fours, before both batsmen fell in successive overs.

Sri Lanka lost a third wicket in the space of 10 runs as Thilan Samaraweera gave Saeed Ajmal a return catch, but Thilina Kandamby (32) and captain Kumar Sangakkara (37 not out) steered Sri Lanka home.

Pakistan lost despite putt-

ing up their best total in the series after Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to field.

Kamran Akmal made 45 during a 71-run stand for the second wicket with skipper Younus Khan (44) after opener Nasir Jamshed had fallen in the second over.

Pakistan suffered a middle-order slump when three wickets fell for 27 runs, before an aggressive Shahid Afridi helped Umar add 41 for the sixth wicket.

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Sri Lanka batsman Mahela Jayawardene celebrates after scoring a hundred during the third one-day international against Pakistan at the Rangiri Dambulla Stadium in Dambulla yesterday.

A record of records

Swimming

AFP, Rome

Michael Phelps ended on a golden note on Sunday as the United States rounded out the swimming World Championships' world record total at a staggering 43 with a medley relay triumph.

Phelps, whose campaign began with a shock defeat in the 200m freestyle, bounced back to win the 100m and 200m butterfly, and the United States won all three men's relays to give America's superstars a creditable cache of five gold after all.

"I think it's not how you start, it's how you finish," Phelps said. "For us to end on this note, going into next year, it's a great way to finish."

It was fitting that the meet concluded with the Americans' world record swim of 3min 27.28sec, an improvement on the mark set by the US in winning Olympic gold in Beijing.

After all, world records were what these championships, the fastest swimming competition in history, were all about.

Germany's Britta Steffen broke her third world record of the meet with her triumph in the women's 50m free - a win that saw her match her 50m-100m freestyle double of Beijing.

Liam Tancock of Britain lowered the men's 50m backstroke world record for the second time in as many days and Russia's Yulia Efimova clocked a world record to win the women's

50m breaststroke.

Tunisia's Oussama Mellouli added a world title to his Olympic 1,500m freestyle gold.

His 14:37.28 was the second-fastest ever, but shy of Grant Hackett's world record of 14:34.56 - leaving at least one sacrosanct mark on the books.

Nor did the records fall in

the demanding 400m individual medleys.

Hungary's Katinka Hosszu, winner of two bronze medals already, climbed the top step of the podium with a victory in the women's 400m medley, and American Ryan Lochte captured his fourth gold of the

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German swim queen Britta Steffen is all smiles as she displays the gold medal after winning the women's 50m freestyle in world record time at the World Championships in Rome on Sunday.

Mash leaves for Australia tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza will leave Dhaka tomorrow for Australia to check his knee injury with surgeon David Young in Melbourne.

"I will leave on Wednesday. After Young's opinion it can be only possible to know how long it will take for me to return to cricket. It will definitely take more time if there is needed any surgery in the injured knee," said Mashrafe yesterday.

The 25-year-old Bangladesh skipper has been out of action with a knee injury sustained during the first Test in St Vincent.

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, vice captain for the tour of West Indies and Zimbabwe, took over as captain after Mashrafe was ruled out for the remainder of the West Indies tour due to a knee injury sustained during the third day of the first Test and will also lead the team in five-match one-day series in Zimbabwe.

Registrations to be done tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Abahani Limited will complete official formalities of the players' registration for the 3rd B. League tomorrow after the third day of the players transfer failed to draw any attention at the BFF House yesterday.

Abahani had earlier requested the football governing body to release their players, who are in the national camp, to attend the club's founder Sheikh Kamal's birth anniversary at the club premises.

Abahani director Kazi Nabil Ahmed said that they would also complete the players' registration formalities on the same day and later the players will take part in the programme.

Last year's runners-up Mohammedan SC are also likely to complete the formalities on the same day as the federation decided to halt the Wednesday's second-half practice at BKSP to release players of Abahani and Mohammedan.

Mohammedan had earlier requested the committee concerned to release 13 players -- Aminul Haq, Arman Aziz, Wali Faisal, Mamun Mia, Ariful Islam, Mamunul Islam, Manik, Mofazzal Hossain Saikat, Nasiruddin, Jahid Hasan Emily, Abdul Baten Komol, Jahid Hossain and Rana.

Tigers depart for Zim

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

After a historic triumph the Bangladesh cricket team was scheduled to leave the Caribbean yesterday for Zimbabwe to play a five-match one-day series entitled the "Grameenphone Cup".

It would be a long journey for Shakib Al Hasan's men who will reach Zimbabwe via London and Dubai on August 6. The first match of the five-match series will take place at the Queens Sports Club, Bulawayo on August 9.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haque -- who was named as the replacement of injured Abdur Razzak, BCB's director

Gazi Ashraf Hossain -- who accompanies the team as a head of the team management during the tour, and selector Akram Khan will join the team in Dubai tomorrow.

It will be a huge challenge for the Tigers to carry on their good showing in the Caribbean as they whitewashed the weakened home team both in the three-match one-day and two-match Test series.

Bangladesh finished their month-long trip with a five-wicket defeat in the lone T20 international at Warner Park, St Kitts on Sunday but it was a memorable trip for the Tigers as for the first time they won the Test and one-day series against a major cricket nation.

World's number one all-rounder in one-day rankings Shakib led the team from the front in the absence of regular skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who has been ruled out of the tour due to a knee injury, and he will also lead the team in the five-match series in Zimbabwe.

One of the leading cellular companies in the country, Grameenphone, is the first Bangladeshi company to sponsor an overseas cricket series.

This was announced at a press conference at the Grameenphone head office in Gulshan yesterday.

Rubaba Dowla, chief communications officer of Grameenphone and Ferdousur Rahman, AGM, market communication, were present at the press conference.

The sponsorship is valued

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PHOTO COURTESY

Chief communication officer of Grameenphone Rubaba Dowla holds the Grameenphone Cup, which will be presented to the winners of the five-match one-day series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Grameenphone is the title sponsor of the series starting in Harare on August 9.

3rd Test heading for draw

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Michael Clarke and Marcus North took Australia closer to the safety of a draw on the final day of the third Ashes Test here at Edgbaston on Monday.

At tea, Australia were 293 for four in their second innings -- a lead of 180 -- with England still to bat again.

Australia vice-captain Clarke was 73 not out and left-hander North unbeaten on 64 after they'd batted through the second of the day's three sessions in a stand so far worth 132.

England, looking to go 2-0 up in the five-match series with two to play ahead of next week's fourth Test at Headingley, had a chance for victory after reducing Australia to 172 for four -- effectively 59 for four -- at lunch following the exit of Michael Hussey for 64, caught behind off Stuart Broad.

But the swing that had proved so potent for them earlier in the match was missing and, in good batting conditions, their attack struggled. That England had a shot at winning was remarkable given that two days' play had been lost to bad weather, including Saturday's complete wash-out.

But Clarke, whose footwork was a feature of

his innings, stiffened Australia's resistance with several driven boundaries off Graham Onions.

And with Australia 203 for four, 90 ahead, England captain Andrew Strauss turned to inspirational all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, who had already starred with the bat in this match.

However, there was a worrying moment for England when Flintoff, who has been struggling with a right knee injury, saw his left foot give way underneath him as he fell in his delivery stride.

Fortunately for England, Flintoff -- the bowling hero of England's 115-run second Test win at Lord's -- continued his spell.

Strauss brought on occasional medium-pacer Ravi Bopara and his second ball almost yielded a wicket when Clarke, on 38, pulled fiercely only for the captain to drop the tough chance at short mid-wicket with Australia 106 ahead.

And that was as close as England came to breaking the stand and reigniting their victory bid. They took the new ball as soon as it was available, after 80 overs, with Australia 136 in front.

But both North and Clarke completed fifties featuring seven fours each.

And North's single off James Anderson saw the duo post a century stand.

Left-hander Hussey (18 not out overnight)

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