



Did U Know?

The youngest golfer to shoot a hole-in-one was Coby Orr, who was five years old at the time. It happened in Littleton, Colorado in 1975.



Sachin Tendulkar

(Star Indian batsman)
"Twenty20 cricket is the dessert and you can't survive on that. Who wants to eat only desserts?"



STAR Cricket

England v Australia
4th Ashes Test, Day 2
Live from 5:00pm

Hockey makes way for IPL

AFP, New Delhi

Field hockey's World Cup in India next year will start a week earlier, officials said on Friday, avoiding a clash with cricket's popular Indian Premier League (IPL).

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) said in a statement that the 12-nation tournament will now be played in New Delhi from February 28-March 13 "to get an even better worldwide promotion of the showcase event".

The World Cup was originally scheduled to be held from March 7-20, overlapping for at least six days with the third edition of the IPL Twenty20 competition.

The IPL, featuring the world's top players, is tentatively due to begin across cricket-mad India on March 14, although the exact dates have not been finalised.

FIH president Leandro Negre said last month the governing body had not looked beyond New Delhi as the World Cup host city and hoped the tournament would revive interest in the sport in India.

"India is one of the most valuable and important members of the FIH family," he said. "For the global development of hockey, it is important that Indian hockey should come up and play to its true potential."

India to send six athletes to World C'ships

PTI, New Delhi

India will be represented by six athletes, including three women, in the World Athletics Championships to be held in Berlin from August 15-23.

Among the three men, Joseph Abraham (400m hurdles) and Babubhai Panocha (20km walk) attained the qualifying norm this year while Surendra Kumar (10,000m) achieved it last year.

Women discus throwers Krishna Poonia and Seema Antil also crossed the qualifying standard this season. The only surprise in the team was that of heptathlete Susmita Singha Roy who has not been at her best this season after touching the qualifying standard last year. But Susmita apparently got the selectors' nod since she is considered a good prospect for next year's Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Weary Tigers fall to Zimbabwe A

SPORTS REPORTER

A jaded Bangladesh team suffered a seven-wicket defeat to the Zimbabwe A team in the lone warm-up game on Friday before the five-match ODI series which kicks off tomorrow at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo.

Middle-order batsman Rokibul Hasan slammed a half-century (55) while vice-captain Mushfiqur Rahim added 33 after the visitors decided to bat first but their efforts were not good enough to put up a decent total on the board as the Tigers were bundled out for 180 in 49.3 overs at the Bulawayo Athletic Club.

After an early hiccup, Forster Mutizwa and captain Tarenda Taibu fashioned the home side's easy victory as Zimbabwe A coasted to the

victory target of 181 in 38.1 overs for the loss of only three wickets.

Mutizwa smashed unbeaten 78 while former Zimbabwe skipper and wicketkeeper Taibu, who has been banned for ten matches after an internal Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) hearing found him guilty of an offence, contributed with an unbeaten 66.

Pacer Nazmul Hossain caused the early damage by taking two wickets while Syed Rasel picked up one wicket.

Pacers Rubel Hossain and Mahbulul Alam and left-handed batsman Mehrab Hossain were left out of the lone practice game.

Buoyed by their historic

success in West Indies, Shakib Al Hasan's men reached Bulawayo on Thursday after a gruelling 40 hours journey via London, Dubai, Johannesburg and Harare with a mission to carry on their good form despite their five-wicket loss to West Indies in the T20 match in the last match in the Caribbean.

It was however a tough task for the Tigers to come out in the field after such an exhausting journey. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) however had somehow settled on such a hectic schedule.

"Yes, it was really a tough task for the boys to come out in the field after such a gruelling travel and that might have affected their batting. The people concerned should have looked at the schedule. It's inhuman to play cricket the very next day after journeying over 40 hours," said BCB's media committee

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Alfaz back to Arambagh MSC to register players today

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Alfaz Ahmed returned to his roots after 15 years when the veteran striker signed for Arambagh KS on Thursday for the 3rd B. League, scheduled to start in October.

Despite being at his fag end of his career, the ace striker struck 18 goals, one goal less than highest scorer of Mohammedan's Nigerian recruit Alamu Bukola Olalekan, in last year's league to help Sheikh Russel KC finish third in the 11-team professional football league.

"After having performed better in the last season, I was expecting to get a better team this time, but no one, not even Sheikh Russel showed interest in me," said a disappointed Alfaz.

"Though I got a better offer from newcomer Bianbaz SC of Sylhet, but I chose to play in my old outfit Arambagh, who gave me much honour this time and there is my mentor (Wazed Gazi)," said the former national striker adding that coach Wazed Gazi had a big role of bringing me to Arambagh.

It was the same coach, who picked Alfaz for Arambagh from Rahmatganj in 1994 and the same year the marksman got a national call and then went on to represent

Bangladesh till 2008 in the Royal Challenge Cup in Myanmar.

After being selected for the national team, Alfaz joined Mohammedan SC the next season and played for the Black and Whites from 1995 to 2001 before joining Muktiyoddha Sangsad in 2002. Afterwards, he joined Gopibagh-based Brothers Union in 2003 and then returned to the All Reds again in 2005 and last season he joined Sheikh Russel KC.

Once the number national striker Alfaz, however, never played for Abahani, although he was hired by the popular Sky Blues for an Indian tournament in 1995.

Mohammedan SC are all set to complete their players' registration formalities today with as many as 12 national players, who are in the ongoing camp, joining the Black and Whites. The Motijheel-based outfit reportedly confirmed the services of star striker Zahid Hasan Emily, defender Wali Faisal and playmaker Mamunul Islam from their old foes Abahani, who all but decked up their squad on Wednesday.

Besides, they are going to sign Brothers Union winger Zahid Hossain, defender Ariful Islam, defender Nasir, goalkeeper MN Shakil, retired army striker Nasir, Farashganj's defender Mamun Mia, Chittagong Mohammedan's Shawkat and Rana along with retaining the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: AFP
Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara (R) watches as Pakistan's young batsman Umar Akmal celebrates his maiden hundred during the fourth ODI at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Umar turns up the heat

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan chipped away to reduce a determined Sri Lanka to 137 for 3 by the halfway mark of their chase under lights at the Premadasa. The visitors did well to dismiss the experienced pair of Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara but Upul Tharanga's presence on a cool 61 was a nagging indication that it would take a lot to notch their first win of the tour.

The chase was launched with a 36-run stand in 5.5 overs, of which Mahela Jayawardene contributed 19 before he top-edged to fine leg. But with Naved-ul-Hasan letting down his team by bowling too short and the rest of the attack not up to scratch, Upul Tharanga and Kumar Sangakkara batted briskly without undue risk to forge a 65-run stand.

Tharanga played an extension of his half-century in the previous game, accumulating most of his runs through soft-handed steers through the arc between cover and gully. Third man proved a productive area for Tharanga, who didn't take the aerial route much. Sangakkara kept the asking rate within reach as Sri Lanka frustrated Pakistan. The ninth over

went for 17, Sangakkara pasting the last three deliveries for fours. He sped away to 39 from 33 balls before was early into a drive against a slower ball from Rao Iftikhar Anjum and scooped a catch to point.

Thilina Kandamby went next, slashing Saeed Ajmal to slip, and Pakistan had done well to chip away a solid start from the hosts.

You can argue the pressure of winning the series wasn't there, but maiden ODI centuries don't come cleaner than this. Walking to the crease with Pakistan 130 for 4, with a struggling captain searching for a partner and only Shahid Afridi to follow, young Umar Akmal took the opportunity to prove that not all is as made to believe about Pakistan's domestic set-up with an amazing 72-ball 102.

Batting wasn't easy early on a slow surface and Sri Lanka's spinners had struck thrice in succession to leave Pakistan struggling. Umar's effervescence complimented Younis Khan's first half-century as Pakistan captain and their 176-run stand paved the way for a competitive 321 in the first of three fixtures at the Premadasa.

Where Imran Nazir, Mohammad Yousuf and Misbah-ul-Haq struggled against a combination of tidy bowling and a slow track, Umar

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP
Australia paceman Peter Siddle (R) is ecstatic as he dismisses England captain and in-form batsman Andrew Strauss (L) on the first day of the fourth Ashes Test at Headingley in Leeds yesterday.

Fire alarm for England team

AFP, Leeds

The England cricket team's hotel was evacuated in the early hours Friday following a fire alarm, forcing the players to stand outside in heavy rain.

The players and staff were forced to wait outside the Radisson SAS Hotel in Leeds, northern England, hours ahead of the planned start of the fourth Ashes Test against Australia at Headingley.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said the England team's preparations for the five-day match were "disrupted" by the incident.

"It was a fire alarm. There was an evacuation at about 4:50am and then a nice little 20 minutes standing outside with the rain falling," an ECB spokesman said.

"Two fire engines came to the hotel and then we were all allowed back in."

The toss was due to take place, weather permitting, at 10:30am. Hosts England are 1-0 up in the five-match series.

A spokeswoman for the hotel refused to divulge what caused the fire alarm to go off but said it was "definitely not a prank".

She confirmed an internal

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Butcher calls it quits

AFP, London

Former England opening batsman Mark Butcher on Thursday announced his retirement from cricket with immediate effect after failing to recover fully from an ongoing knee problem.

Surrey captain Butcher, 36, played 71 Tests between 1997 and 2004, and will be remembered for his match-winning 173 not out against Australia at Headingley in 2001.

Butcher, who played just five county championship matches this season, captained England on one occasion, standing in for Nasser Hussain against New Zealand in 1999, but was never selected for a one-day international.

He last played for England in 2005 after making 4,288 Test runs at an average of 34.58.

Butcher said: "Headingley was certainly the high point of my England career."

"It pushed me into being a proper England player, someone who was renowned for that and who was England's number three for that period."

"But I still think that my favourite moment was winning that first championship with Surrey in 1999, with a team of guys who were pretty much my mates from when I was going to school."

England routed

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Australia seized total control of the fourth Test at Headingley on a day of unremitting drama, as Ricky Ponting and Shane Watson combined in a second-wicket stand of 55 to heap an extra layer of humiliation onto an England line-up that had earlier been rolled over for 102 in 33.5 overs. Shorn of the services of Andrew Flintoff, and handed a late fitness scare when Matt Prior suffered a pre-toss back spasm, England's slender advantage in the Ashes had all but evaporated in the space of two sessions, as Australia's decision to recall Stuart Clark as part of a four-man seam attack paid handsome dividends.

Clark marked his comeback with a pre-lunch spell of 3 for 7 in 6.5 overs, while Peter Siddle followed up after the break with 4 for 3 in 14 balls, to finish with the standout figures of 5 for 21. Watson then climbed into James Anderson's first two deliveries of the reply,

clattering them through point for a brace of fours in a style reminiscent of Michael Slater. By tea, however, Ponting had taken it upon himself to put his personal seal with a smouldering cameo of 39 not out from 49 balls.

Once again, Ponting came to the crease to a chorus of boos, after Steve Harmison had marked his England comeback by dismissing Simon Katich with his fourth ball of the match, and true to form, he turned the animosity to his advantage. Latching onto the slightest error in length, he pulled Graham Onions' first ball through midwicket for six, in an over that eventually went for 17 runs as Australia's fifty was brought up in just 39 deliveries. Ponting's only let-off came on 32, when Ian Bell missed a shy from the covers that would have run him out by five yards.

It was a stunning performance with bat and ball, rarely bettered even in the days of routine Ashes dominance that Australia has enjoyed in the past 20 years. If England looked disorientated after winning the toss, it was little wonder after a crazy morning's build-up, which began

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Sachin targets 15000

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Sachin Tendulkar has said he is not satisfied with his achievements and hopes to accumulate 15,000 runs and win the World Cup in 2011.

"I am not pleased yet with what I have done," Tendulkar, who has scored a record 12,773 Test runs at an average of 54.58 from 159 matches, said in an interview with the Wisden Cricketer. "Sumit Gavaskar has told me that I have to get to 15,000 runs. He said he would be angry with me and would come and catch me if I didn't. I admire him so much and to score that many would be a terrific achievement, but that is not the only aim." His other big cricketing ambition is to "win the World Cup in 2011".

Tendulkar, 36, also spoke about how he has been consistently playing with pain. "I always play in pain, all the time. I played with a broken

finger for the last three months, but you know when pain is manageable or not, and most of the time I can do it," he said. "I can still do what I did when I was 25 but the body is changing, so your thought process has to change too. I have had to change how I think, which is about taking less risk."

Tendulkar also disagreed with John Buchanan, former Australia coach, who felt Tendulkar had become susceptible to the short ball early in his innings because of a lack of footwork. "It is only his opinion; John Buchanan doesn't have to be right all the time. If I couldn't handle short deliveries, then I wouldn't still be scoring runs," he said. "Maybe he needs to change his opinion. There must be something very wrong with all the bowlers around the world that they have allowed me to score so many runs."

Don Bradman had said Tendulkar reminded him of himself and the Indian batsman was the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: AFP
The most successful tennis player of all time Roger Federer (R) and his wife Mirka pose for photographs as they hold their twin girls at their home near Zurich on Friday. Mirka gave birth to the twins Charlene Riva and Myla Rose at a local hospital on July 24, 2009.