



Abahani winger Zahed Parvez (not in picture) scores the opening goal against Shuktara during their Citicell Bangladesh League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Lee can bowl next week

PTI, Melbourne

Injury-ravaged Australia heaved a sigh of relief with pacer Brett Lee expected to resume bowling next week and wicketkeeper Tim Paine escaping a surgery on his fractured ring finger.

Cricket Australia Wednesday said that Lee's elbow injury, sustained during the first ODI against India at Vadodara, was not serious and he can be back to the groove next week.

Paine, who fractured his ring finger, is expected to start his training in three weeks time, just before the West Indies tour of Australia.

"Brett has seen a specialist and CA medical staff in Melbourne. He had a scan that confirmed the cause of the pain as being a long standing bone spur near the elbow joint," Cricket Australia physiotherapist Alex Kountouris said.

School h'ball

Earlier in the semifinals, Scholastica thrashed Viquarunnisa Noon School & College to set their final clash with Sunnydale, who beat BIS 3-0 in the first semi.

In the boy's semifinals, Shaheen School won against BIS 13-11 while St Gregory's defeated Narinda High School 18-13.

In the place-deciding matches, Viquarunnisa finished third beating BIS 5-1 in the girl's section while Narinda School became third handing a 14-20 defeat to BIS in the boy's section.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker distributed prizes among the winners while Bangladesh Sports Association president Rafia Akhter Dolly, BHF president AKM Nurul Fazle Bulbul and general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinoor were among others present.

Chelsea, MU

"All in all, I am very satisfied," said Blanc, who is fast building a reputation as one of the best young coaches in European football.

"I think that this evening Bordeaux achieved something special in beating Bayern here in Munich and qualifying for the knockout stages."

Van Gaal, victorious in this competition with Ajax in 1995, refused to accept that elimination was inevitable.

"It wasn't our best performance but we are not gone yet," said the Dutchman.

"We still have a small chance to qualify."

Bayern's position is even more precarious given that Juventus beat Maccabi Haifa 1-0 in Israel -- World Cup winner Mauro Camoranesi scoring in the first half.

Juve coach Ciro Ferrara admitted that his side had struggled to put the game away.

"We suffered, but we deserved the win," he said.



Did U Know?

The world's first international rugby game was played in 1871 between Scotland and England. Scotland won it.

Abahani imperious

enter the Shuktara box and released a fine minus for a free Zahed, who headed past the onrushing goalkeeper Rashed to give Abahani a lead in the 16th minute.

Young playmaker Shahedul Alam was the loveliest player on the pitch and led the attack with Sheriff twice going close to doubling the advantage, but both his headers went wide before left-back Atiqur Rahman Mishu struck the woodwork of the Narayanjanj outfit in the stoppage time of the first half.

After resumption, Ghanaian Sheriff missed two easy chances as he failed to find the target despite beating substitute goalkeeper Al Amin before doubling the Abahani margin through a penalty shot.

Robin Hasan brought Shahed down inside the box and referee Abdul Hannan Miron awarded a penalty shot and Sheriff converted the 12-yard shot with an extremely powerful blast in the 53rd minute.

After going 2-0 up, Abahani brought change with Motinur Munna replacing Shahedul, who sustained an ankle injury and then Shuktara established

a brief supremacy over their mighty opponents through controlling the midfield before conceding a third goal in the game.

From a counter attack, defender Samad Yousuf sent a long-ball to his compatriot Sheriff, who ran past two defenders to advance into the danger zone and finally beat the goalkeeper to set Enamul in front of an open net and the national striker did not waste any time to find the back of the Shuktara Jubo Sangsad net.

Sheriff then should have made the margin 4-0, but the lanky striker despite getting goalkeeper Al Amin alone unbelievably sent the ball straight to the hands of the goalkeeper.

**TEAMS**

**ABAHANI:** Biplob (Zia), Rajanai, Mishu, Siraji, Zahed, Pranotosh (Nazrul), Ujjal, Shahed (Munna), Enamul, Samad and Sheriff.

**SHUKTARA:** Rashed (Al Amin), Sohiful, Koyser, Kashem, Robin, Biplob, Liton, Jahidul, Rizvi (Dalim), Tapu and Apu.

**Yellow cards:** Jahidul and Robin (Shuktara).

**Referee:** Abdul Hannan Miron.

Jamie eyeing a fitting

"We have been resting him (Shakib) like yesterday we didn't send him out to bat. In the game before we held him back and let the other guys go and bat. He is still not a hundred percent fit. His rehabilitation would probably take another six months. I don't think we'll rest him tomorrow but probably get him to do a little bit less work," informed Siddons.

Siddons' charges have great chance to finish the memorable year on a winning note.

Apart from their heart-breaking early exit from the ICC T20 World Cup in England, the Tigers passed a memorable year as they won four one-day series and a Test series in this year.

This year winning success however didn't surprise Siddons too much as he has belief in his boys.

"This is not really a surprise. I have said all along that this team is getting better but no one believed me. We're yet to play the world's best teams

this year. We played what was probably a West Indies A team and Zimbabwe who are ranked below us. We were expected to do well against those sides but the hard part is doing that," he said, "Zimbabwe are a good team and the West Indies team we played against was a good team as well. We had to play really good cricket to win those games. We've done that. I predict that we will get better. We still have a lot of improvement to do over the next two months and the next two years," he continued.

It seemed that Bangladesh coach would not mind if the behaviour of the wicket remained the same for the last match.

"Probably it spun a bit too much. No one predicted that it would do that. I think the 9:30 start had a lot to do with it because there was still a lot of moisture in the wicket. But it suits us and anything that spins would suit us against Zimbabwe."

Zim seeking some

said that their batsmen failed to tackle the Bangladesh spinners throughout the series.

"The wicket did offer assistance to the spinners but our batsmen also contributed to the collapse. There were too many soft dismissals. I think we have not done well here because we played spin poorly. Shakib and Razzak (Abdur) are obviously class spinners but our application was not good. In the earlier matches we got ourselves into good positions and then faltered," he opined.

Stand-in skipper Hamilton Masakadza was also not interested to focus on the pitch ahead of the fifth and final game.

"I think the pitch will be more or less same tomorrow. Actually the pitch is same for both teams. We are looking forward to finish the series with a win. We definitely try hard to come back from our disappointing performance in the last match," said Masakadza.

Zimbabwe wicket-keeper

Tatenda Taibu reminded while talking with the reporters during practice in the morning that his side's has the previous record of bouncing back from this kind of situation.

"Obviously the guys have to bounce back from the last match. I think we battled poorly but I have been situation like this before where we have been bowled out for a very low score. Back in Harare (against Sri Lanka in 2004) we got bowled out for 35 and we came back in the next match. In Sri Lanka (in 2001-02) we were bowled out by Sri Lanka for 38 and our team had the likes of Heath Streak and Andy Flower and I was also playing in that game. We bounced back to beat the West Indies in the next match. We need to do the same tomorrow and give Bangladesh a fight," said Taibu.

But it would be a tough challenge for the tourists when they are going to miss the services of Prosper Utseya and as well Taibu due to injury for the last match also.

Chinese cricket team arrive

SPORTS REPORTER

An 18-member Chinese cricket team arrived in the capital yesterday for a month-long training in Bangladesh.

The China Under 19s will be receiving training at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) and also be staying there. The tour has been arranged by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) in collaboration with the BKSP as well as the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Inter-district football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Khustia recorded a 2-0 win over Gopalganj Abahani Krira Chakra in the Inter-District Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup tournament at Magura Stadium yesterday.

Milon put Khustia ahead in the first half before Abahani conceded an own goal in the second half.

Hosts Magura take on Jessore Sonali Otit today.

Winning start for Novak

AFP, Basel

Novak Djokovic made a winning debut on Tuesday at the Swiss Indoors as the Serbian claimed a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Andreas Beck in the tennis stronghold of Roger Federer.

Djokovic took just under 90 minutes to move into the second round at the St Jakobshalle, where top seed Federer got his start in the game a decade and a half ago as a ball boy at the indoor event.

Djokovic, who leads the ATP with 67 wins, said he feels the presence of Federer around the grounds.

Contrasting

cause a probable upset. And Old DOHS looked on course for it throughout the match as their upper-order batsmen contributed with useful runs.

Mohammedan's Sri Lankan all-rounder Farveez Maharoo took four wickets to keep the giants in the game. But it was down to a few unnecessary run-outs, rather than any miraculous bowling effort, that saw Old DOHS get bowled out to fall short by two runs, thwarting their hopes of a memorable upset.

In the other match of the day, Surjo Torun rode on a fine 71-run unbeaten knock from their skipper Habibul Bashar to run comfortably home against BKSP by five wickets at Fatullah. It was however thanks to an invigorating spell from paceman Mahbulul Alam who caused most of the damages to restrict BKSP for a modest 182 for 7 in their 50-over innings. Mahbulul took four wickets for 36. The only batsman who stood out was Tanveer Haider at the middle-order who scored match's best 78 off 118 deliveries.

Chasing this seemingly easy target, Surjo Torun found themselves on the wrong foot as they lost four quick wickets to Mubarak Islam, but Bashar came in and eased the tension in the Surjo Torun camp with his assuring batting. He found suitable company in Anisur Rahman (53 not out), and the two guided them to a comfortable victory with 11 overs of the innings unused.

Afridi blows NZ away

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Shahid Afridi hit an aggressive half-century and took two wickets to cap Pakistan's 138-run win over New Zealand in the first day-night international here on Tuesday.

Afridi's 50-ball 71 supplemented by Kamran Akmal's undefeated 43-ball 67 and Khalid Latif's steady maiden fifty lifted Pakistan to an imposing 287-9 before they shot New Zealand out for 149 in the 40th over.

The victory, which gave Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the three-match one-day series, was also sweet revenge for the winners who lost to New Zealand in the Champions Trophy semifinal last month.

The remaining two matches will be played here on Friday and Monday, before the two teams move to Dubai for two Twenty20 internationals on November 12 and 13.

Chasing a daunting target, New Zealand were never on course as Gul shook them by bowling Brendon McCullum (21) and Martin Guptill (four) by the tenth over.

Teenager Mohammad

Aamir accounted for Ross Taylor (nought) and Abdul Razzaq sent Scot Styris (five) back as New Zealand reeled at 50-4.

Aaron Redmond (52) and Daniel Vettori (38) provided the only resistance during a 69-run fifth wicket stand before five wickets fell for 10 runs.

Pakistan captain Younus Khan praised Afridi and Akmal.

"It was a complete professional performance led by the fantastic Afridi and Akmal, and they changed the game after we were in trouble in the first ten overs," said Younus.

Vettori agreed Akmal and Afridi took the game away.

"We were on our way to restrict them to 220-230 but Afridi and Akmal batted very well and we stayed in the last 12-15 overs and in the batting power-play," said Vettori of the five overs where Pakistan scored 55.

Akmal gave Pakistan's innings the final touches with a belligerent 43-ball 67 laced with four sixes and five boundaries as Pakistan ran rampant, making 107 in the last ten overs.

He built on vice-captain Afridi's innings, who was instrumental in initially stepping up the run-rate with his

bold hitting as he smashed three sixes and four boundaries during his 30th half-century.

Afridi added 101 runs for the fifth wicket with Latif after New Zealand paceman Shane Bond dismissed opener Salman Butt and Younus -- both without scoring -- in his incisive five-over spell.

Latif, who scored 19 in his only previous one-day match in January last year, was also involved in a 57-run stand for the third wicket with Mohammad Yousuf, who shaped well for his 30 before being run out.

Afridi hit Vettori for a six before smashing two off successive deliveries off Nathan McCullum. He hit Bond for a straight drive to reach his half-century off 36 deliveries, his first in 33 matches.

Afridi's last ODI fifty came against Zimbabwe at Multan last year.

Latif hit only two boundaries during his 112-ball knock. Kamran's innings was special as he made full use of the power-play, and added 86 off just 37 balls for the seventh wicket with Abdul Razzaq, who made a 20-ball 26.

The limited over series was relocated to Abu Dhabi after

New Zealand refused to tour Pakistan over security fears.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Pakistan and New Zealand at Abu Dhabi Stadium on Tuesday:

**PAKISTAN:** 287 for 9 in 50 overs (Latif 64, Yousuf 30, Afridi 70, K Akmal 67 not out; Bond 2-61, Vettori 2-34)

**NEW ZEALAND**

McCullum b Gul	21
Redmond lbw b Ajmal	52
Guptill b Gul	4
Mohammad b Aamir	0
Styris c sub (Farhat) b Razzaq	5
Vettori b Afridi	38
Oram b Razzaq	9
McCullum lbw b Afridi	0
Butler run out	4
Bond not out	4
Southwell b b Ajmal	1
Extras: (lb-8, nb-1, w-2)	11
Total: (All out in 39.2 overs)	149

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-34, 3-35, 4-50, 5-119, 6-139, 7-139, 8-139, 9-144.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Aamir	7	1	15	1
Gul	6	3	24	2
Razzaq	9	1	38	2
Afridi	10	0	46	2
Ajmal	7.2	0	18	2

Result: Pakistan won by 138 runs

Man-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi.

Younus hails hero

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan captain Younus Khan praised Shahid Afridi as a "fantastic performer" after the all-rounder starred with both bat and ball in their side's convincing win over New Zealand in the first one-day.

Afridi hit a fiery 50-ball 71 to help Pakistan post 287-9 in their allotted 50 overs before taking two wickets to restrict their rivals to 149, helping Pakistan win the match by 138 runs at Abu Dhabi Stadium.

"Afridi is a fantastic performer and it's wonderful to see him perform like this," said Younus after the win on Tuesday. "He batted like he always does, aggressive, and when he has the ball in his hands he aims to take wickets."

The victory gave Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the three-match one-day series, relocated to the United Arab Emirates after New Zealand refused to tour Pakistan over security fears.

The remaining two matches will be played here on Friday and Monday. After the one-day series the two teams move to Dubai, where they

play two Twenty20 internationals on November 12 and 13.

Afridi was well supported by wicketkeeper batsman Kamran Akmal, who hit an equally aggressive 43-ball 67, while opener Khalid Latif laid the foundations with a sedate 64.

Latif slowly built the innings through a third-wicket stand of 57 with veteran Mohammad Yousuf (30), after Pakistan lost Salman Butt and Younus Khan -- both without scoring to New Zealand paceman Shane Bond.

Younus admitted his not scoring runs was worrying.

"Winning the first match is always important for us because we have faced problems in the opening games of the series, but the only thing is that my own form is worrying because as a captain I want to perform," said Younus.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori said Afridi and Akmal were the difference.

"Obviously we couldn't execute as well as we could, Afridi and Akmal played some aggressive cricket and we conceded far too many runs in the last 12 overs, and that was the real reason we lost the game," said Vettori.

Pakistan mustered 107 runs in the last ten overs, including 55 in the batting powerplay -- runs Vettori thinks lost his side the game.

Wickmayer beats Date

AFP, Bali

Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer won a battle of the generations Wednesday over 39-year-old Kimiko Date Krumm 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 in opening group play at the Bali Tournament of Champions.

Aravane Rezai earned an opening win for France as she upset fourth seed Sabine Lisicki 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 despite eight aces from the German.

The field at the 600,000-dollar tournament comprises the 10 highest ranking players who have won a WTA International title this year but who did not compete in the season ending WTA Championships in Qatar, which finished Sunday.

France are aiming for an opening day double later when top seed Marion Bartoli faces Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia. Australian fourth seed Samantha Stosur was beginning her campaign with a match against Hungary's Agnes Szavay.

Wickmayer, 20, a surprise US Open semi-finalist two months ago, gave away nearly two decades to her evergreen opponent, who is renewing her career after a decade-long pause.

The veteran Japanese, who returned to the WTA in 2008 and claimed lower-level ITF titles in Tokyo and Monzon, Spain last season, capped her comeback by winning Seoul in September to qualify into the Ballfield.

Asia's only entry in the 12-woman event now has it all to do for a possible place in Saturday's semi-finals at the event played inside a huge hotel ballroom on the Indonesian resort island.

Date Krumm lost serve five times as her younger European opponent took charge, never allowing the veteran a chance to turn the tide.

Wickmayer's victory in just over 90 minutes was her 55th of a breakthrough season in which she won both of her career titles.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Chinese Under-19 cricket team pose for photographs on their arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday. The 18-member side will be staying at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) during their month-long training trip arranged by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) with support from the country's lone sport institute and Bangladesh Cricket Board.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>36</b> April follower	<b>2</b> Sore	<b>22</b> Pi
<b>1</b> Sail support	<b>37</b> Adversary	<b>3</b> Oxford, for one	<b>23</b> Cards at the door
<b>5</b> Suitcase	<b>38</b> Curtain material	<b>4</b> Rocky peak	<b>24</b> Morning moisture
<b>8</b> Cooling devices	<b>41</b> Hawaiian garland	<b>5</b> Pancetta, e.g.	<b>25</b> Parisian pal
<b>12</b> Reverberate	<b>42</b> TV watchdog org.	<b>6</b> Touch	<b>26</b> Place-kicker's pride
<b>13</b> Lawyers' org.	<b>45</b> Press	<b>7</b> Gangster's gun	<b>27</b> Canape topping
<b>14</b> Out of the storm	<b>46</b> Whopper	<b>8</b> 'Yeah, that'll happen!'	<b>28</b> Hosiery shade
<b>15</b> Time-saver	<b>48</b> Foolish one	<b>9</b> Actress Jessica	<b>29</b> That woman
<b>17</b> Ski-lift type	<b>49</b> Lennon's lady	<b>10</b> Approach	<b>31</b> Aviate
<b>18</b> Nay opposite	<b>50</b> Micro-wave, e.g.	<b>11</b> Helot	<b>34</b> River blocker
<b>19</b> Deteriorate	<b>51</b> Lambs' mothers	<b>16</b> Small combo	<b>35</b> Earth
<b>20</b> Muffler	<b>52</b> Sawbuck	<b>20</b> Wit-nessed	<b>37</b> Criminal
<b>21</b> Container for cookies	<b>53</b> Warp crosser	<b>21</b> One kind of Girl Scout cookies	<b>38</b> Faction
<b>22</b> 8-Across' shout			<b>39</b> Boast
<b>23</b> Poca-tello's state			<b>40</b> Por-trayal
<b>26</b> Frustrates			<b>41</b> Diane or Nathan
<b>30</b> Ms. Moore			<b>42</b> Most popular, briefly
<b>31</b> Egg-yung			<b>43</b> Staff loader?
<b>32</b> Ark builder			<b>44</b> Minimal change
<b>33</b> Con			<b>46</b> Young one
<b>35</b> Act segment			<b>47</b> AAA job

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

PAL	OFF	HASH
ERIC	FLU	OVUM
AMMO	TAR	TEEM
SYND	GO	LO
LO	GO	LO
NOWHERE	WORRY	
AGRA	ARC	STONE
BRENT	ARBITER	
SENDUP	YON	
	LEST	OGLER
THOU	ARE	IOTA
TOINK	LUG	TUCK
EPEE	MEG	THE

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12					13			14		
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CRYPTOQUIP

WRCTU QVOCIIRV IX ISR  
SXGFCIQZ, GSXPZV ISR AXOQT  
ZXMR UXVVRGG WR UCMRT  
QT CTIAQ - MRTPG VACF?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT HUGE LAND MAMMAL LIKES DRINKING CHAMPAGNE SO MUCH, PEOPLE WERE CALLING IT A RHINO WINO.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T