



India's little master Sachin Tendulkar celebrates his hundred against Sri Lanka on the fifth and final day of the first Test at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

BOA reinstates swimming event

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday reinstated the men's 200m breaststroke in swimming for the South Asian Games to be held in Bangladesh from January 29 to February 9 next year.

The South Asian Olympic Committee on Wednesday included the women's 400m freestyle event, scrapping men's 200m breaststroke in its 40th executive committee meeting and the BOA yesterday reinstated the dropped

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ESPN

English Premier League

Liverpool v Man City

Live from 7:40pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League

Chelsea v Wolves

Live from 10:00pm

Man United v Everton

Live from 12:30 am (Sunday)

SuperSport3

English Premier League

Sunderland v Arsenal

Live from 9:45pm

Primera Liga

Barcelona v Valencia

Live from 4:00am (Sunday)

SuperSport7

Primera Liga

Real Madrid v Racing

Live from 2:00am (Sunday)



David O'Leary

(Irish football veteran)
"Thierry Henry is a lovely lad and he likes to be liked and he'll be in a very embarrassing position now because he wants to play the game in a certain way." On French captain Thierry Henry's controversial role in the victory over Ireland in the FIFA World Cup playoff match on Wednesday.

India force draw

Cricket

AFP, Ahmedabad

Gautam Gambhir made 114 and Sachin Tendulkar hit an unbeaten 100 as India batted out the final day to draw the first cricket Test against Sri Lanka here on Friday.

India easily wiped out a huge first innings deficit of 334 runs as they scored 412-4 in their second knock before the high-scoring Test was called off with six overs remaining on the fifth day.

Tendulkar, 36, set a new benchmark of 30,000 international runs at the start of his third decade in the game to frustrate Sri Lanka's bid to win their first Test on Indian soil.

Tendulkar, who smashed his 43rd Test century, put on 66 for the fourth wicket with Gambhir and 137 for the unbroken fifth with Venkatesh Laxman, who made 51 not out.

Sri Lanka's bowlers struggled to cope with the batsman-friendly pitch on which 1,598 runs were scored at the cost of just 21 wickets over the five days.

World bowling record holder Muttiah Muralidaran failed to take a wicket in 38 overs which cost 124 runs and left-arm spinner Rangana Herath went for 2-97 in 40 overs.

Tendulkar, the world's leading Test and one-day scorer, completed 30,000 runs on the world stage when he turned Chanaka Welegedara to square-leg for a single to reach 35 after lunch.

He ended the match with a Test career tally of 12,877 runs, building on the 17,188 one-day and 10 Twenty20 runs he has scored since making his debut on November 15, 1989 against Pakistan in Karachi.

Gambhir's seventh Test century was the third in successive matches this year after making 137 in Napier and 167 in Wellington on India's tour of New Zealand in March-April.

The Delhi opener kept vigil for six hours and 37 minutes when he attempted to loft Herath soon after lunch and holed out to mid-off.

Nightwatchman Amit Mishra, who came in at the fall of Rahul Dravid's wicket on Thursday evening, batted for 45 minutes in the morning session before falling to a brilliant catch by Tillakaratne Dilshan.

Dilshan, who had floored a sharp chance off Mishra in the slips earlier in the day, dived to his right at leg-gully to pick up a low catch as the batsman flicked seamer Angelo Mathews.

Mishra made 24 in a 40-run stand for the third wicket with Gambhir.

Tendulkar, who was dismissed for four in the first innings as India slipped to 32-4 within the first hour of the Test, appeared determined to play a big knock when he hit four boundaries in his first 17 runs.

He punched Mathews through the covers, took two boundaries in the same region in one over from Muttiah Muralidaran, before smashing Mathews to the point fence.

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Foreign legion get extra rest

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

The indecision on the German-returnee players has apparently held up the national hockey team's camp allowing the players to lose fitness ahead of the SA (South Asian) Games.

With two weeks gone since the players' arrival in the first week of November playing the German Hockey League as well as some friendly matches against Italy and Netherlands, the national players are yet to turn up at the residential camp though local coach Barkatullah Chapal has been training some five to six players, who were not part of the 19-member squad that travelled to Europe in September and October.

"At present, I am working with a few players at the camp as the German-returnees are yet to join the camp and the federation can let you know details why they did not join the camp," said Chapal.

"The players, who returned from Germany, are supposed to join the camp from today (Friday) as head coach Gerhard Peter Rach gave them rest up to November 19, but the players requested us not to start the camp before Eid-ul-Azha and we accepted their demands because they were out of touch with their family for almost three months because of their travel to Europe," said Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Khondoker Jamiluddin.

He informed that the camp would resume on November 2.

Many think that the players would lose fitness if they remain out of practice for almost one month as they returned home in the first week of November.

"In our country, the players gain huge

weight if they are out of action for one week and then it needs 20 to 25 days to make those players fit," said a former national player requesting not to be quoted.

National striker Russel Mahmud Jimmy, however, denying the notion said. "We all have been following a schedule prepared by the head coach [Gerhard], who asked us to rest for one week after returning from Germany."

The national players are seemingly not willing to join the camp until the league committee takes a decision on whether they would be kept free or bracketed (pool) in the special window for the players' transfers as the scheduled inter-club players' transfer had already been completed 20 days back.

The games governing body had earlier decided not to allow the national players in the domestic league and sent them to German to play as a part of the preparation for the SA Games at home next year. This has also resulted in an unexpected impasse to start the new season.

The federation, however, retreated from their decision to allow the national players in the domestic league (which is likely to begin next year after the completion of the SA Games in January-February), in the face of the clubs' demand, triggering a new stalemate on whether the players would be brought under a 'pool' system.

With all clubs already completing their players' registration formalities, it is learnt that a few clubs including giants Abahani, Mariners and Sonali Bank are likely to go against the notion of 'keeping the players free' because they are not willing to give an advantage to their rivals Mohammedan, who have almost confirmed the services of national stars Jimmy, Chandan, Rajan, Rana, Kiron and Pintu.

Young tigers whitewash Zimbabwe

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 completed a 5-0 whitewash of Zimbabwe Under-19 with a thumping 121-run victory in the fifth and final one-day at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

This was the most comprehensive victory of the series and bodes well for the young tigers ahead of the upcoming World Cup. They have also beaten their English counterparts 5-2 in a 7-match series last month.

Yesterday's match at Bogra was a one-sided affair as the home sides openers put on a splendid display with the bat. Anamul Haque and Amit Majumdar, who had a lean patch so far with the bat,

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JOBS EVENT

Premier Div Cricket League
Partex v Khelaghar
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium
Old DOHS v BKSP
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Cricket Coaching School v Victoria
Venue: BKSP-2

Abahani ride on Rony

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Rony Talukdar was dismissed in the nervous nineties to miss out on his third hundred but his stroke-filled knock guided Abahani to overcome the Gazi Tank hurdle with a comfortable six-wicket victory at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The victory maintained their all-win record in the Premier Division Cricket League.

The holders made a desperate effort to bring in Abdul Razzaq before the vital clash but the Pakistani all-rounder did not manage to catch the flight due to a mysterious phone call from Dhaka.

Abahani however got their big-money star Shakib Al Hasan back after one game and the number one all-rounder in ODI rankings had his contribution as he took two wickets and then finished his team's impressive chase with a mid-wicket six against left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak during his unbeaten 32 off 37 balls.

It was however not Shakib rather his young team mate Rony who hogged the spotlight as the right-hander smote nine boundaries all over the park and clobbered two big sixes against spinner Forhad Hossain during his 84-ball 90 as Abahani overhauled the Gazi's 240 with four overs to spare. The fourth defeat and one tied match in eight games has made new powerhouses Gazi's task difficult to book a place in the Super League.

It looked like another close contest was

progressing after Gazi Tank put up a decent total on the board riding on a well-composed half-century from Alok Kapali, but the opening pair of Rony and national batsman Imrul Kayes came up with another hundred run partnership after their 164-run stand against Partex in the previous game to make the 241-run chase a easy target.

The right-left combination gave no chance to the Gazi bowlers during a 134-run association and without any doubt their impressive effort will enthuse the national selectors most of when they are in search of finding the right opening combination.

Kayes was bowled by spinner Nayeem Islam for a 76-ball 55 and Abahani lost two more wickets within 36 runs. Gazi could put more pressure had young wicketkeeper Mohammad Mithun not missed an easy stumping against Shakib, when the left-hander was on 9.

Nadif Chowdhury was the other notable scorer with 40 off 59 balls that contained two boundaries.

Earlier in the first session, Kapali dictated the terms after his side lost four wickets for 69 runs as he joined Pakistani Misbahul Haq to repair the damage with an 82-run association in the fifth wicket stand.

The right-hander's 94-ball 66, that saw two fours and a six, came to an end when he got a top edge trying to pull against Shakib but only reached at the safe hands of Kayes at mid on. Misbahul Haq contributed 43 off 75 balls.

Shakib also took another important wicket

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MSC see off Kalabagan

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan SC kept their hundred per cent record intact winning their eighth round match against an in-form Kalabagan by five wickets at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday. This was a relatively easy victory for the Motijheel-based powerhouse after their hard fought 1-run win over Biman in the last round.

A disciplined effort from the Mohammedan bowlers kept the Kalabagan batsmen under a tight leash as their innings never prospered for the lack of big contributions from top order batsmen.

However, a fighting knock of 76 off 72 deliveries from the bat of Ariful Haque ensured that Kalabagan posted a decent total of 225 for seven in their share of fifty overs. Spinner Nabil Samad was the most successful bowler for Mohammedan with three wickets in his ten.

Mohammedan were given a blistering start

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Bond returns to Tests

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

Star fast bowler Shane Bond has been recalled to the New Zealand Test squad to play Pakistan in the first two Tests of a three-match series.

Bond's selection Friday follows a two-year absence from the New Zealand Test team due to injury and his participation last year in the rebel Indian Cricket League (ICL).

The injury-prone 34-year-old has played only 17 Tests since his debut in 2001 but he has taken an impressive 79 wickets at an average of 22.39.

He returned to the New Zealand one-day and Twenty/20 team against Sri Lanka in September and played Pakistan in the one-dayers in the United Arab Emirates this month.

"Shane has shown a lot of energy in the UAE and in domestic cricket, and has bowled a good number of overs," selector Mark Greatbatch said.

"It will be exciting to have him back."

Also returning is pace bowler Daryl Tuffey, who played his last Test in 2004 before losing

form and signing for the ICL.

Greatbatch said Tuffey had a good record at Test level and had made a positive return to domestic first class cricket.

"Significantly, of the 66 Test wickets he's taken, 24 have been against Pakistan -- it's a team he's done very well against," Greatbatch said.

Tuffey and Bond have been joined in the squad by Test seamers Iain O'Brien and Chris Martin.

Batsmen Grant Elliott and Peter Fulton have returned to the Test side after last playing against Australia last year. Gaps have opened in the line-up with Jesse Ryder injured and allrounder Jacob Oram announcing his retirement from Tests.

"Grant Elliott's inclusion is based on his excellent form in the short version of the game -- we're keen to give him an opportunity to perform in Tests," Greatbatch said.

Peter Fulton has been in and out of the Test side and makes his return based on excellent performances on winter tours with emerging players and New Zealand A teams as well as a strong start to the domestic competition, he said.

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Abahani's Rony Talukdar hoists one over mid-off during their Premier Division Cricket League match against Gazi Tank at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR