



BKSP players celebrate a goal in their 3-1 win against Bangladesh Air Force during a Victory Day Hockey competition clash at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Exhibition cricket for U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s under the banner of Shaheed Jewel XI will play an exhibition match against Shaheed Mustaque XI to mark the victory day today.

The match will get underway at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium from 10:30am as the Bangladesh Cricket Board has regularly arranged this traditional exhibition match since 1972 in memory of liberation war martyrs Shaheed Abdul Halim Chowdhury Jewel and Shaheed Mustaque XI.

Bangladesh Under-19s have been given an opportunity to test their skills against the all club selection ahead of their ICC Under-19 World Cup in February next.

Mahmudul Hasan will captain the Shaheed Jewel XI while Alok Kapali will guide the Shaheed Mushtaque XI.

TEAMS

**SHAHEED JEWEL XI:** Mahmudul Hasan (captain), Amit Majumder, Saikat Ali, Tasamul Haque, Shabbir Rahaman, Mominul Haque, Soumya Sarker, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Alauddin Babu, Arman Badshah, Shaker Ahmed, Noor Hossain, Enamul Haque and Quazi Nurul Hasan, **Officials:** Tanjeeb Ahsan (manager), Minhazul Abedeen (coach) and Azmal Ahmed (Physio). **SHAHEED MUSHTAQUE XI:** Alok Kopali (captain), Nazim Uddin, Nasiruddin Faruque, Farhad Hossain, Shahriar Nafees, Md Mithun, Farhad Reza, Qazi Kamrul Islam, Dollar Mahmud, Ziaur Rahman, Nazmul Hossain Apu, Tanvir Haider and Rumman Ahmed. **Officials:** Mohammad Salim (manager), Sarwar Imran (coach) and Enamul Haque (Physio).

Siddle ruled out Aus-WI third Test from today

CRICKET

CRICINFO, undated

Australia and West Indies have both been hit by a series of injuries the day before the third Test in Perth, with Peter Siddle ruled out, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Adrian Barath unlikely, and Nathan Hauritz also in doubt.

The problems have left Australia with one confirmed debutant, the Victoria fast bowler Clint McKay, who will replace his state teammate Siddle. And Steven Smith, the 20-year-old batsman-legspinner, has been put on standby for Hauritz and will fly from Sydney to Perth on Tuesday night.

Hauritz took a blow to his spinning finger while fielding at training on Tuesday and although he did bowl afterwards, he suffered some soreness and will not know his fate until the morning of the match. Smith has starred with the bat for New South Wales this week, scoring a century against Queensland, but not with the ball.

Ricky Ponting said the replacement spinner would not necessarily step straight into the starting line-up if Hauritz missed out. The Tasmania fast bowler Brett Govees joined the squad on Monday night and will be considered along with Smith if Hauritz wakes up with a swollen finger.

"There'll be a chance of that," Ponting said of a four-man pace attack. "Geeves flew in last night and trained with us this morning. There'll be that possibility but I've said for a while it's always my preference to go into a Test match with a specialist spin bowler but we'll wait and see what happens."

West Indies are likely to have two changes with the key

batsmen Chanderpaul and Barath both in serious doubt. Chanderpaul is still struggling with a finger problem after being struck on the hand in Adelaide, while Barath hurt his hamstring during the second Test.

"It's not looking too good but we'll see what happens tomorrow," the captain Chris Gayle said. "Those two guys are the worry for us right now. It's a big blow going into the final Test match but having said that whoever gets that opportunity, hopefully they will make the best use of it."

Travis Dowlin is expected to come in and open with Gayle in place of Barath, while Chanderpaul's spot is likely to be taken by Narsingh Deonarine. Ponting said the injuries to Chanderpaul, who Australia found almost impossible to dismiss last year in the Caribbean, and Barath, who made a hundred on debut in Brisbane, would be a major blow for West Indies.

"That's not ideal for them," Ponting said. "Barath's looked pretty good most times he's come to the crease and we all know how much of a run scorer Chanderpaul is for them, so that's two of the better players out of their batting so that'll leave a couple of big holes. It'll be nice for Clint to be bowling to some of their younger guys, in a way."

The opportunity for McKay opened up because Siddle, who was under a cloud during the week after suffering a strain to his left hamstring in Adelaide, woke up on Tuesday with some soreness following a lengthy spell in the WACA nets the previous day. It was enough for the Australians to err on the side of caution and Siddle, who will fly home to Melbourne, will aim to be available for the Boxing Day Test against Pakistan.

Victory Day hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) made a winning start in the Victory Day Hockey Competition when they handed a 3-1 defeat to Bangladesh Air Force on the opening day at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Jamil Bin Talib struck twice while Hasan Jubair netted one for winners. Zahidul Islam netted the consolation goal for the losers.

The organisers, however, saw Sonali Bank give a walk-over against Bangladesh Police, leaving the meet to a five-team competition.

Mashirul Kabir Ritu, joint secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation, said that Sonali Bank withdrew their name because they were not permitted to play those national players, who were a part of them in the last season. He informed that some 19 national players have not been permitted to play for any club because of their commitment in the upcoming SA Games.

Yousuf's rain-relief

CRICKET, undated

A combination of resilience for two days and rain on the last enabled Pakistan to escape with a draw in the third Test in Napier. Chasing 208 in a minimum of 43 overs, New Zealand's openers, BJ Watling and Tim McIntosh, added 90 in 19 overs before it began to rain and play was abandoned. Mohammad Yousuf, the Pakistan captain, was a relieved man and admitted the rain had helped Pakistan avoid defeat and secure a 1-1 draw in the series.

"We were lucky. Allah helped us because of rain, otherwise it would be difficult to defend 208 on this track," he said. "In the first innings we made 223 on this track which was very less. After that we saved the game, I think it is a good performance."

PM gives

FROM PAGE 17 before being sent to the academy," said Salahuddin.

Apart from the academy's players, different age-group teams would also receive training in the academy, he added.

Talking about the possible appointment of a national coach, Salahuddin said, "There is no chance to appoint a foreign coach for the national side before SA Games as well as Bangladesh's commitment in AFC Challenge Cup finals because I will not take such a decision, soon I will have to regret. However, I have been in discussion with four to five foreign coaches and the coach will be appointed in 2010."

For the frustrating performance of the Bangladesh national team in the Bangladeshu SAFF Championship, Salahuddin sought apology from the people for the failure of the national side.

"For the failure of the national team, I apologise to the spectators who turned up to watch Bangladesh's match," Salahuddin said. "But, I promise we will perform better to reward all of you who turned up."

He also stated that what Bangladesh played in the SAFF Championship was the actual standard of Bangladesh's football.

SA-Eng weighing options First Test starts today

CRICKET

AFP, Centurion

South Africa and England both face tricky decisions ahead of the first Test of a four-match series, starting at SuperSport Park on Wednesday.

South Africa have to decide whether to play star all-rounder Jacques Kallis, who is recovering from a rib injury. If he plays it will almost certainly be as a batsman only, which would probably mean South Africa going into the Test with only four recognised bowlers.

England, too, must decide whether they can afford to pick only four bowlers, especially as two of the likely attack, James Anderson and Ryan Sidebottom, have only bowled in one innings after recovering from injuries.

If England want to ensure back-up for the specialist bowlers, they will have to hand a first cap to all-rounder Luke Wright at the expense of a specialist batsman.

The preparation of both teams, and the opportunity to provide a workout for players whose places are up for debate, was frustrated by heavy rain on Monday which cut short England's net practice

and prevented the South Africans from going outdoors.

Rain has been a major factor in all three Test matches between South Africa and England at Centurion, with two matches drawn, with the only exception coming in 1999-2000 after then-South African captain Hansie Cronje engineered a contrived result in dubious circumstances after three days of play were washed out.

The three matches against England - who won after Cronje's controversial agreement to forego a second innings and set England a generous target - are the only Tests at Centurion not won by South Africa, who have achieved 11 victories at the ground.

The weather forecast for the days of the coming Test is largely favourable, however.

Pace bowlers usually get some assistance at Centurion, while spin bowlers can rely on reasonable bounce.

England will go into the Tests with confidence high after winning a one-day series and performing well in warm-up matches, while South Africa have been jolted by some sub-standard performances.

Both teams have reasonably solid top order batting but potentially vulnerable

tails, so the bowlers will have a vital role.

South African fast bowlers Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel are potential match-winners but Steyn has been struggling with a hamstring injury, while Morkel was dropped last season after bowling inconsistently. Morkel, however, has shown good form in the current season.

England's key bowler is likely to be Anderson, who has been outstanding for his country recently, while Stuart Broad is a potential match-winner who has yet to hit top form on tour.

SQUADS

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Graeme Smith (captain), Ashwell Prince, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Mark Boucher, Paul Harris, Morne Morkel, Dale Steyn, Makhaya Ntini, Ryan McLaren, Wayne Parnell, Alviro Petersen, Friedel de Wet.

**ENGLAND:** Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Ian Bell, Luke Wright, Matt Prior, Graeme Swann, Stuart Broad, James Anderson, Ryan Sidebottom, Graham Onions, Liam Plunkett, Steven Davies, Adil Rashid.

**Umpires:** Aleem Dar (PAK), Steve Davis (AUS).

Rapid chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The Victory Day Rapid Chess tournament will be held today at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hall Room. The Swiss-League system event is an open one and the interested players can enrol their names before the start of the game. The games will start at 11:00pm, said a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release yesterday.

Biman thump

FROM PAGE 17

ABAHANI-KALABAGAN

Venue: FATULLAH

**ABAHANI:** 254 all out in 49.3 overs (Kayes 129, Razaq 59, Nasir 25, extras 5; Ariful 2-49, Enamul 2-43, Sadat 2-43).

**KALABAGAN:** 190 all out in 49.5 overs (Zahid 31, Javed 54 not out, Masud 36, Jabir 26, extras 17; Shakib 3-30, Rafique 2-29).

**Result:** Abahani won by 64 runs.

India win

FROM PAGE 17

India had won the preceding Test series 2-0 and both teams won one Twenty20 international each.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between India and Sri Lanka at the Madhav Rao Scindia Stadium in Rajkot on Tuesday:

INDIA

Sehwag c Dilshan b Welegedara 146  
Tendulkar b Fernando 69  
Dhoni c Mathews b Fernando 72  
Raina c Jayasuriya b Kulasekara 16  
Gambhir c Sangakkara b Kulasekara 11  
Harbhajan c Kulasekara b Mathews 11  
Kohli b Welegedara 27  
Jadeja not out 30  
Kumar not out 5  
Extras: (b-5, lb-4, w-12, nb-6) 27  
Total: (For 7 wts in 50 overs) 414  
Fall of wickets: 1-153, 2-309, 3-311, 4-325, 5-347, 6-352, 7-386.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Kumar 9 0 67 1  
Nehra 10 0 81 1  
Zaheer 10 0 88 0  
Jadeja 8 0 73 0  
Harbhajan 10 0 58 2  
Raina 3 0 37 1

**Result:** India won by three runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Virender Sehwag.

Jayasuriya 7 0 76 0  
Kandamby 5 0 49 0  
Dilshan 2 0 26 0

SRI LANKA

Tharanga st Dhoni b Raina 67  
Dilshan b Harbhajan 160  
Sangakkara c Jadeja b Kumar 90  
Jayasuriya st Dhoni b Harbhajan 5  
Mahela run out 3  
Kandamby run out 24  
Mathews c Tendulkar b Nehra 38  
Samaraweera run out 0  
Kulasekara not out 2  
Welegedara not out 1  
Extras: (lb-7, w-13, nb-1) 21  
Total: (For 8 wts in 50 overs) 411  
Fall of wickets: 1-188, 2-316, 3-328, 4-339, 5-345, 6-401, 7-404, 8-409.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Kumar 9 0 67 1  
Nehra 10 0 81 1  
Zaheer 10 0 88 0  
Jadeja 8 0 73 0  
Harbhajan 10 0 58 2  
Raina 3 0 37 1

**Result:** India won by three runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Virender Sehwag.

Follow India's

FROM PAGE 17

Dido also scoffed at the tag 'experienced.'

"If we are talking about successful experienced players who have a winning streak, it would have made sense. But these old players have experienced only losses. When I arrived there was three years without a single win, so we are talking about players used to losing."

"To change it, you must renew totally the group keeping only those you can rely on, like Aminul for example."

Dido restated his comments made during his exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

"The result in the tournament is because of bad administration of the national team affairs, unprepared coaches and the fact that no one ever tells you what they really think. A lot of the players are unhappy but they can never tell you that for fear of the club officials"

The Brazilian ended by saying that Bangladesh would do well to learn from the example of India.

"The BFF kept saying that the SAFF tournament is like the World Cup. Well it looks like India was thinking just like me, planning for a much more important thing the future."

Naimur no

FROM PAGE 17

When asked about the matter, acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury first got surprised by the disclosure that Naimur quit his job and later said that the new contract "is under process."

"I have had a communication with Durjoy (Naimur Rahman) and what he told me is that he can't continue the job right at the moment. You know everything will be okay by next June," was the explanation of BCB's cricket operations committee chairman Enayet Hossain Siraj.



Did U Know?

Weightlifting was first introduced to the Olympic Games in 1896 as a part of track and field.

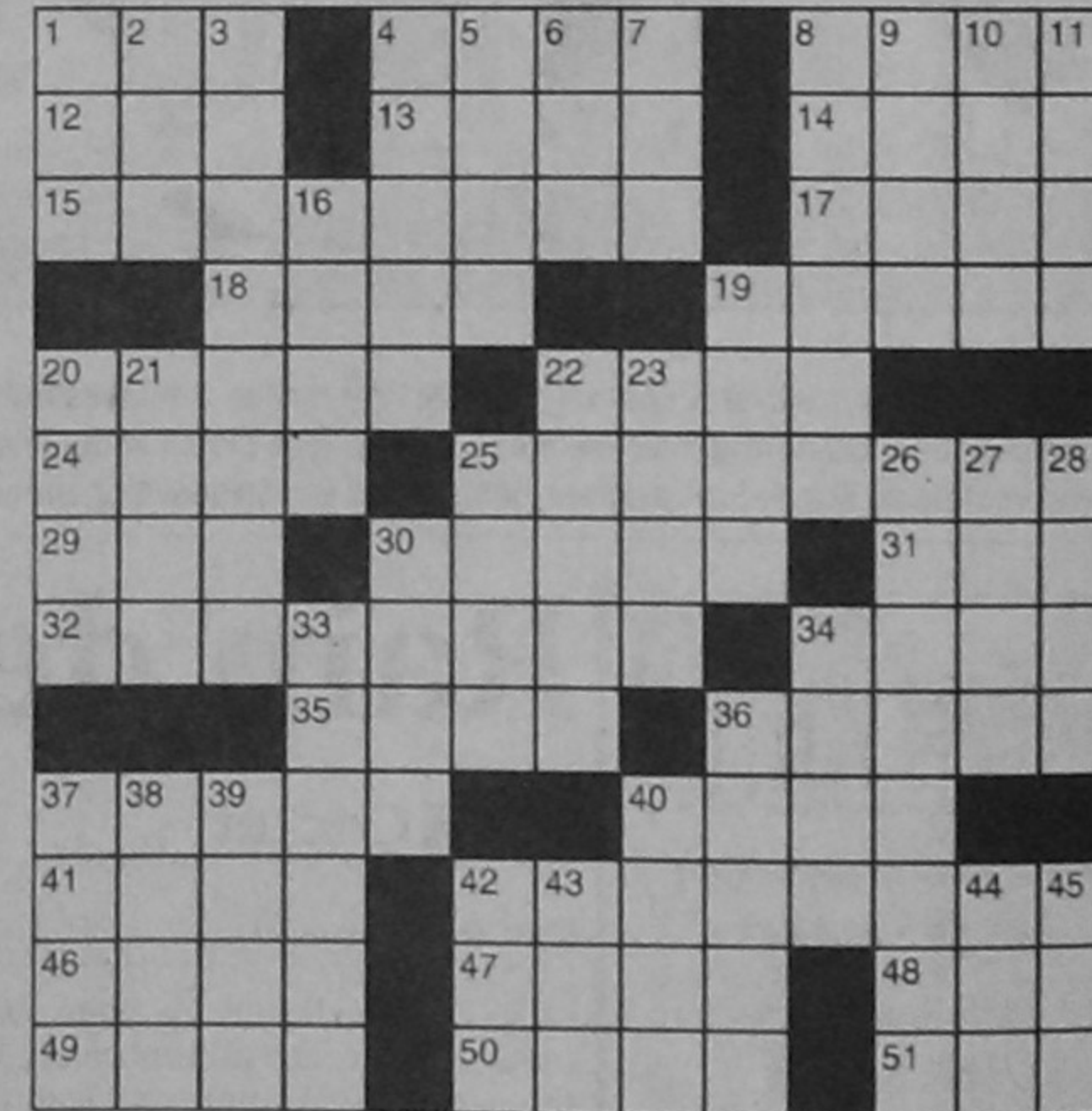


Ryan Giggs

(Manchester United winger) "Honestly this is unbelievable. I have been lucky enough to win a lot of things in my career, playing with great players and under the greatest manager (Sir Alex Ferguson) that ever lived, and playing for the greatest club." After being named the BBC Sports Personality of the Year on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.



CRYPTOQUIP

B F S G P E S M G D S R S V X  
S M O B G S L H S S V B E F P C T J G Z T R S  
N P E F B E F H V T U S D Z . O T J V L  
B G C S U B Z G S D B P N X Z G S D B P ?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN PEOPLE SING SEVERAL NOTES IN HARMONY, YOU MIGHT SAY THEY WILL PRODUCE A VOCAL CHORD.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals E