



38 DAYS TO GO

The Daily Star's countdown to the FIFA World Cup 2010 begins today. We take a trip down memory lane to start where it all began... URUGUAY 1930.

La Celeste prove pioneers

The Americans were a team made up of English and Scottish émigrés and had easily brushed past Paraguay and Belgium in the groups, going further than any USA team has since, but there the romance was to end. The Argentinians, for whom centre-forward Guillermo Stabile was in great form, thrashed them 6-1. The Yugoslavs were put to the sword by Uruguay by the same score. The hosts were living up to their billing as tournament favourites with winger Jose Andrade, reckoned by many to be the first great black player, tearing the defence apart.

The final saw a battle of two long-standing rivals who face each other across the River Plate. And despite Stabile notching up his eighth goal of the tournament and putting the Argentinians into a 2-1 lead, Uruguay scored three unanswered goals to make them winners of the inaugural Mundial. A 25-yard shot from Santos Iriarte put them into the lead and, after Stabile had hit the post, the clincher was scored in the last minute by Hector Castro, a centre-forward who had lost his left arm in a childhood accident.

The partisan capacity crowd at the Estadio Centenario could now call their heroes world champions.



Members question Super Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation is determined to hold the second edition of Super Cup keeping the prize money as of its initial edition despite a few of the members of executive committee having difference of opinion on the issue.

The BFF executive committee meeting, however, failed to reach a consensus on participation of two foreign clubs alongside six local clubs. The executive committee or an emergency executive committee will sit again within the next ten days to decide all the matters regarding Super Cup.

"Few of the members asked the meeting to redesign the allotment of prize money of the Super Cup as well as to find a way out to include the district teams in the tournament," said BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi adding that the BFF is committed to the sponsors to hold the Super Cup this year keeping the same prize money.

It was however learnt that the meeting assumed a chaotic environment and the members advised the BFF president to spend the money of Super Cup at the district level football.

Apart from the Super Cup, the meeting discussed on the 'fixed matches' in the ongoing Bangladesh League and decided to punish the teams once proved. The meeting also directed the authority concerned to provide all necessary documents to police, who



BTV, Star Cricket & SuperSport2

ICC World Twenty20
New Zealand v Zimbabwe
Live from 7:30pm
England v Ireland
Live from 11:30pm

SuperSport3

Primera Liga
Barcelona v Tenerife
Live from 12:00am (Wednesday)
Valencia v Xerez
Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

SuperSport7

Primera Liga
Getafe v Sporting
Live from 12:00am (Wednesday)

ESPN

English Premier League
Man City v Tottenham
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

STAR Sports

English Premier League
Fulham v Stoke City
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)



GP-BCB Academy v South Africa Academy

First One-Day Match
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium,
Bogra

Bangladesh League

Mohammedan v Brothers Union
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Ashraful back in the loop

BCB names 15-member Test team



SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors were prepared to change their policy, regarding the selection of Mohammed Ashraful, when they considered the right-hander's experience before earmarking him for the two-Test series against England in May/June.

The Rafiqul Alam-led selection panel announced a 15-member team on Monday recalling Ashraful and paceman Mahbubul Alam while 23-year-old paceman Robiul Islam is the only uncapped player in the series.

The first Test will start from May 27 at Lord's while the second Test will take place at Manchester from June 4.

Ashraful was ignored for the recently concluded home series against England due to poor form whereby the selectors made it explicitly clear that it was form and not experience that would come into consideration when selecting the team.

"It's true Ashraful has been going through a bad patch but we considered his experience in English conditions and he has some sweet memories there. He didn't do well in the last few innings but we hope he will come back to form and it was encouraging to see him playing a good knock against Pakistan in the Twenty20 World Cup," Rafiqul said explaining the reason behind the inclusion of Ashraful, who came in the side in place of Aftab Ahmed.

"And most importantly he was not dropped rather he had opted for a rest," added Rafiqul.

"Aftab is not at his best right at the moment and on the other hand we have to pick five pace bowlers considering the English conditions. What we felt is that the team required an experi-

enced campaigner and that's why we chose Ashraful," Rafiqul continued.

Pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is not considered for the Test squad as the bowler himself said that he is not yet to ready to play the five-day game.

Rafiqul informed that left-arm spinner Enamul Haque was left out from the team due to injury while they believe that the out swing of Mahbubul Alam will be useful in English conditions.

The chief selector also heaved praises on uncapped pace bowler Robiul, who has been a prolific wicket-taker in domestic cricket and has represented the GP-BCB National Cricket

Academy and the Bangladesh A team.

"He brings in a lot of energy and has brisk pace. Robiul is strong and aggressive and we feel he can be a handy option in English conditions. What we felt is that the English condition will be a good platform for the young pace bowler to show his potential," he hoped.

Robiul will head to England along with fellow seamers Shahadat Hossain, Mahbubul Alam and opening batsman

Junaed Siddiqui. The other members of the squad will fly directly to England at the end of Bangladesh's campaign in the ICC World T20 in the West Indies.

The players returning home are Mashrafe, Syed Rassel, Aftab Ahmed and Sohravordi Shuvo.

SQUAD

Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Mohammad Ashraful, Junaed Siddiqui, Jahirul Islam, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mushfiqur Rahim (vice-captain/wicketkeeper), Naem Islam, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain, Rubel Hossain, Shafiul Islam, Mahbubul Alam, Robiul Islam.

FACTFILE					
	Full name: SK Robiul Islam	Born: October 20, 1986, Satkhira	Major teams: Bangladesh A, Khulna, Australian Institute of Sports	Nickname: Shiplu	Batting style: Right-hand bat
	Bowling style: Right-arm fast-medium	FC debut: Rajshahi v Khulna in Rajshahi, Nov 27-29, 2005	Bowling averages		
	M	Wkts	BBI	Ave	SR
First-class	30	102	5/30	29.09	49.7
Batting averages			M	Runs	HS
First-class	30	185	21	5.96	49.1

Five-wicket maiden!

STAR SPORT DESK

Pakistan's Mohammed Aamer has bowled his way into the record books, ripping through Australia's tail-end at St Lucia in the World T20s on Sunday.

Aamer took five wickets off the final over of the match to stop the dominating batsmen at 191 all out.

However, only three of the wickets were credited to Aamer as two of them were run-outs. The astonishing over read: WWWWW.

Aamer's superb performance however did little to take the gloss off a commanding batting and bowling display by the Australians, who won the match by 44 runs.

The 18-year-old left-arm paceman was impressive but he still has some work to do if he wants to join the four-consecutive-wickets club which only has two other members.

Shaun Pollock took four wickets from four balls for Warwickshire against Leicestershire in 1996 and Chaminda Vaas did the same in the 2003 World Cup against Bangladesh.

But what seemed to matter more was Mohammad Sami's 28-run over, the fourth highest number of runs given away in an over in Twenty20 internationals.

ASIAN GAMES QUALIFYING Hockey team announced

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehrab Hossain Kiron, national hockey team's goalkeeper who stood under the bar in the last tournament for Bangladesh in SA Games, was the only notable absentee in 18-member squad that was announced for the upcoming Asian Games Qualifying Tournament at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) conference hall yesterday.

"Kiron made very many mistakes in the SA Games which cost us dearly. He is also very undisciplined. So, he was never in my plan for this tournament," observed Bangladesh's German coach Gerhard Peter Rach.

Rach was understandably disappointed at the vanishing act of Kiron, who has reportedly left the country after playing for Mohammedan in the Club Cup last month.

"I don't know where he is. But he is surely not playing in any European League because for that one has to register long before the league. And without my assistance he won't get a club there," said the German academy.

The man who will replace Kiron under the bar is Zahid Hossain with Monwar Hossain Rassel the second choice keeper. As an experienced player exits, another one makes a comeback. Veteran forward Maksudul Alam Habul, who skipped the SA Games citing personal reason, returned to the national fold.

Another forward Pushkor Khisha Mimo, who is currently plying his trade in Germany, has been included and is expected to return prior to the start of the tournament.

Moshiur Rahman Biplob will don the captain's armband while Mamunur Rahman Chayan will be his deputy as they were during the SA Games where Bangladesh finished third.

The coach said his team are in very good shape and they are only concentrating on themselves rather than worrying about the other teams.

"We are only concentrating on ourselves. If we can't play according to our plans, we will be in trouble," said the German coach.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



RUNNING FOR THE GOLDEN BOOT: Abahani's prolific marksman Enamul Haque blowing kisses to the fans after completing his hatrick against Chittagong Mohammedan in Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Enamul is now the leading scorer in the professional football league with 17 goals.

PHOTO: STAR

No trouble for Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Mercurial striker Enamul Haque slammed the league's ninth hatrick to power holders Abahani to another easy 4-0 win over Chittagong Mohammedan

SC in their Bangladesh League home match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Enamul's treble, winger Zahed Parvez Chowdhury netted the other in a one-way affair where the visitors offered no challenge of what they put on against Sheikh Russel at home to hold them to a 2-2 draw.

The Black and Whites of the port city ran behind the Sky Blues throughout the game and their backline was exposed especially in the second half after they were trailing by a single goal in the first half.

Many tried to pick out trouble in the game but Mohammedan coach Abu Sarwar Chowdhury rejected all accusations. Captain Saikat Khan claimed that they were the victim of poor refereeing and could not come back in the game after conceding an early goal from an offside position.

Capitalizing on a cross from Zahed, Abahani's national striker Enamul broke the offside trap to advance into the danger zone and chipped the ball over the advancing goalkeeper James Paul to give Abahani a deserved lead in the seventh minute. The leaders, from the word go, pressed hard to pick up three successive corners within the first five minutes.

Chittagong Mohammedan mustered their first shot on target in 14th minute, but it was too weak to trouble Abahani goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharya. Afterwards, Abahani yielded one after another chance, but their Ghanaian duo Sheriff Deen Mohammedan and Awudu

Ibrahim astonishingly squandered all of them and had to be content with a lone goal lead in the first half.

After resumption, midfielder Shahedul Alam was sent in place of Sheriff to establish the sole control and the young playmaker outside the box pushed for Enamul, who shrugged off defender Alauddin to flick the ball home giving the goalkeeper no chance in the 55th minute.

Abahani were deprived of a certain goal in the 65th minute when defender Mohammed Sujan headed a Zahed corner into the woodwork, but Enamul did not disappoint his side after completing his hatrick five minutes from time.

Substitute Abul Hossain put a corner from the right and Enamul rose highest to head it in. His initial attempt was blocked by goalkeeper Paul but the long-haired striker found the back of the net in his second attempt with a side volley to take him top of the scorers chart with 17 goals, three more than his teammate Sheriff, Mohammedan's Zahid Hasan Emily and Sheikh Russel's Samad Omari.

Zahed Parvez sealed the fate of the game in stoppage time with a grounder taken from outside of the box.

Abahani consolidated their lead with 58 from 20 games, nine points clear of archrivals Mohammedan, who take on Brothers Union in their 20th match today.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplob, Sujan, Mishu, Siraji, Zahed, Pranotosh (Shaheen), Motiur Munna, Enamul, Sheriff (Shahedul), Samad Yousuf and Awudu (Abul Hossain).

CTG MSC: Paul, Shawkat, Sanwar (Nazir), Manzurul, Pavel (Murshed), Touhidul, Ridon, Shariful (Sabur), Alauddin, Lamine and Gray. Referee: Tayeb Hasan



Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene (L) sweeps as Tatenda Taibu of Zimbabwe looks on during their World Twenty20 match at the Providence Stadium in Guyana yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mahela shines before rain

AFP, Guyana



Mahela Jayawardene's classy century and Guyanese rains combined to give Sri Lanka a 14-run win over Zimbabwe on the Duckworth/Lewis method in their World Twenty20 Group B match here on Monday.

This was a match Sri Lanka, beaten first up by New Zealand, had to win to stay in the tournament.

But it was a close run thing for last year's losing finalists with the five overs needed in Zimbabwe's reply to constitute a match only just completed before rain ended the game.

Veteran batsman Jayawardene's innings was the cornerstone of Sri Lanka's 173 for seven, made after captain Kumar Sangakkara won the toss.

Zimbabwe, playing their first match of the tournament after encouraging warm-ups over defending champions Pakistan and Australia, saw their innings halted by rain in the first over.

That left them with a revised target of 104 off

11 overs before rain halted the match at the five-over mark with Zimbabwe on 29 for one, rather than the 43 for one they needed for victory, following the early loss of Hamilton Masakadza to a farcical run-out.

Unless Zimbabwe beat New Zealand by a huge margin here on Tuesday, Sri Lanka should go through to the Super Eights with the Kiwis. Former captain Jayawardene, who made 81 in Sri Lanka's two-wicket loss to New Zealand, scored exactly 100.

Jayawardene's hundred was only the fourth in all Twenty20 internationals but the second in this competition in as many days after India's Suresh Raina scored 101 against South Africa in Saint Lucia on Sunday.

Stylish right-hander Jayawardene faced 63 balls with four sixes and 10 fours, concentrating mainly on classical cricket shots. Zimbabwe kept taking wickets at the other end but could do little about opening batsman Jayawardene.

Tillakaratne Dilshan, player of the tournament at last year's World Twenty20 in England, has not looked anything like the same player at

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1