

BD-PAK SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan in Mirpur on Sunday:

BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight 234-5)

Tamim c Cheema b Gul 14
Nazimuddin lbw b Cheema 0
Nafees c Akmal b Gul 97
Mahmudullah b Cheema 0
Nasir c Akmal b Cheema 7
Shakib run out 144
Mushfiq c Akmal b Gul 40
Sunny lbw b Ajmal 12
Shahadat not out 21
Nazmul run out 0
Robuil lbw b Ajmal 0
Extras: (lb-3) 3
Total: (All out in 107.2 overs) 338
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-16, 3-21, 4-43, 5-223, 6-305, 7-305, 8-331, 9-332

Bowler O M R W
Gul 28 1 102 3
Cheema 26 4 73 3
Hafeez 9 3 27 0
Ajmal 24.2 3 64 2
Rehman 19 0 66 0
Younis 1 0 3 0

PAKISTAN: First innings
Hafeez c Mushfiq b Nazmul 14
Umar not out 44
Azhar not out 26
Extras: (nb-3) 3
Total: (For 1 wkt in 27 overs) 87
To bat: Younis, Misbah, Shafiq, Akmal, Rehman, Gul, Ajmal, Cheema
Fall of wicket: 1-23

Bowler O M R W
Shahadat 2 0 15 0
Robuil 7 1 24 0



Action from yesterday's UCB Victory Day Hockey Tournament match between Abahani and BKSP at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH

Pace could be decider



PTI, Canberra

The forthcoming Australia-India Test series could be decided by how the visiting batsmen fare against the young and enthusiastic host pacers, feels domestic opener Ed Cowan who is in the shortlist to make the team for the opening Test in Melbourne from December 26.

"I don't think the Indians have had a good look at the Aussie quicks. That's where the series would probably be decided on -- Indian batsmen vs Aussie quicks," said the Tasmanian, who is in the short mix of openers Australian selectors could be asking to open the innings with David Warner.

As opener Phil Hughes has regularly failed in Tests this summer, Australian selectors are looking for his replacement.

Shane Watson is a front-runner but if somehow the Australian vice-captain refuses to open the innings, then Cowan stands a chance to make his debut for Australia. Cowan has been the highest scorer in domestic competition this year.

"It would be a great Test series. India has some fantastic cricketers. But so does the Australian team. Ricky Ponting, Michael Clarke and Michael Hussey have all been world class performers for a number of years, forgetting the last month about which a lot of people to rely heavily upon.

"People are forgetting they have been world class performers for a number of years. They would be pretty pumped up, come Boxing Day. There is no occasion bigger than a boxing day Test."

However, Cowan feels that the Zaheer Khan-led Indian attack would be a far sterner test for the Australian batsmen than New Zealand -- a daunting remark given the Black Cap bowlers were quite a handful against the home batters in a recent series.

"Indians are proven to be better attack than New Zealanders who were inexperienced.

Dough Bracewell was in his third Test; Trevor Boult was playing his first Test; Daniel Vettori was missing.

"The big question for our batters would be if Zaheer could get the reverse swing -- if it is Sydney and Adelaide, then the answer probably is yes," Cowan said.

"We have seen in the sub-continent his skills with the reverse swing has been tremendous. It would be a big challenge as he would be with the new ball. I don't know much about the rest of the attack. I'm sure they would be strong one."

Former India coach Greg Chappell is slated to address the Australian players before the opening Test but Cowan wasn't sure if it could influence the thinking of Australian captain Michael Clarke.

"I'm not sure...I'm not on the same page in Australian set up, so I'm not sure how much Greg Chappell would influence people like Michael Clarke and their planning. I'm not sure if Clarke would take it [Greg's opinion] on board. But it would be silly not to, at the same time, given how much time Greg spent with India."

Even though Cowan is being spoken to as prospective opener for Australia, the Tasmanian has no doubt it would be Watson who would get the nod.

"It wouldn't come down to what I've done [recently]. It's more a question of how Shane Watson is and whether he wants to open the innings. If he is fit, he sends someone out. If he doesn't want to open, they have to call out for someone else.

"I'm in the form of my life but whether I'm chosen or no, it's not up to me. There is no communication that he isn't going to be there on the Boxing Day.

"I've learnt over the years not to look too far ahead of self. I'm a big believer that great expectations lead to great disappointments. This is the game I'm focused on.

"If so happens I get a chance to play in Boxing Day Test, the mind would start working. At the moment though, I don't feel close to being selected."

Waugh's tips to Aussies



PTI, Melbourne

Former Australia cricketer Mark Waugh has said that the next week's batting camp organised by Cricket Australia ahead of the four-match Test series against India must focus on the mental preparation of the players, besides addressing their problems with technique.

Waugh said there was no doubt that after a long run of batting collapses, the batsmen are short of confidence but felt that it was up to the individuals to develop self-belief.

"They've got to forget about the collapses, each batsman has just got to worry about his own game and if you do that then you'll score well as a team," Waugh said.

"It's up to each player to probably look over their career and look over their good times and know they're good enough to succeed at this level. Then make a few minor adjustments to their techniques."

"Batsmen in the squad normally help each other out as well. If there's technical problems they're normally the best players to talk to -- the other players in the side. There's no magic involved, just a bit of belief in your ability and a bit of hard work," Waugh was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press.

Waugh admitted that Australian batsmen are going through a bad patch at the moment but predicted that their experience would help them come out with flying colours.

"You don't lose your ability overnight and Ricky [Ponting] and all those guys are pretty good players. It doesn't matter what sport you play. If a few mental doubts start creeping into your mind, then the good players just manage to keep them out and worry about keeping it simple."

"That's just part of the whole make-up of the Test match batsman. You've got to be able to handle the low times and the high times and obviously believe in your own ability," he insisted.

'Have to do well in 2nd dig'

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Despite the sad end, Shakib expressed his satisfaction over his second Test hundred and bracketed it as his best knock, comparing it to his first hundred which he made against New Zealand in Hamilton in February last year.

"I think this century is better than the first one especially because of the time I spent in the middle. It was really satisfactory. The conditions were also altogether different," opined Shakib, who batted for almost six hours to make 144 runs off 242 balls including 15 sweetly-timed boundaries.

Initially, he was branded as a batting all-rounder but suddenly his impressive left-arm spin changed the tide. In

light of his latest innings, the question of whether he will now go back to his old brand was raised.

"You can say that I'm now a complete all-rounder," Shakib responded with a smile.

The innings from Shakib and his 180-run fifth wicket partnership came as a perfect riposte to those who question Bangladesh's Test status. Shakib opined that the gap in the Test matches is one of the reasons behind the inconsistent performance of the Tigers in the longer version of the game.

"I think long breaks in Test cricket made things difficult for us, so I think it will help us if we can play matches on a regular basis," suggested Shakib.

Many might have thought that the batsmen's "mental block" against the Pakistan bowling this series has vanished after the Tigers' impressive performance in the first innings, but Shakib believed that it will only stand true if they can bat well in the second innings also.

Thus the former skipper has made the Tigers' next target quite clear.

Shakib brings

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picked up two wickets. Bangladesh began in the right way, removing Mohammad Hafeez for just 14 runs. Nazmul Hossain, playing in his first Test match in seven years, took the wicket off his first ball in the game.

Abahani, Army win

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani and Bangladesh Army maintained their unbeaten run in the UCB Victory Day Hockey tournament when they recorded their fourth victory in their last groups matches at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Abahani, who were held to a 4-4 draw by Army on Saturday, defeated Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan 3-1 to emerge group champions by virtue of better goal difference than Army, who thrashed Bangladesh Police 6-1 in their fifth game yet finished behind Abahani despite having equal 13 points from five matches.

According to the bylaws, top two teams, Abahani and Bangladesh Army, will play the final tomorrow.

Bangladesh Navy finished third with nine points after beating Bangladesh Air Force 3-1 in the day's other match.

Ishant still

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Sharma later said the injury wasn't serious. It has now emerged that Ishant saw a specialist and has been prescribed strengthening exercises and rest.

There is a possibility that the Indian team management might ask for a cover, just in case Ishant can't make it for the Boxing Day Test. However, that decision is not expected until late on Sunday or Monday.

Ishant had originally hurt the ankle in England. It was earlier suggested that he would need surgery on the ankle, but found out that it healed with physiotherapy at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore.

India have had a horror run with fast bowlers' fitness on overseas tours. New Zealand 2008-09 was the last time they didn't have to deal with an injury to fast bowler. In Sri Lanka 2010, Zaheer was ruled out before the start, and Sreesanth was injured during training on the first day of the tour. Later that year, in South Africa, Zaheer missed the first Test.

LOCAL snippets

Wraiths win

SPORTS REPORTER

Wraiths recorded a 66-50 point win over Bangladesh Police in the Citycell Federation Cup Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The first half of the game was locked at 29-29 but Wraiths took the upper hand after the breather to emerge victorious. Ibrahim scored 19 points for Wraiths while Shahin caged match's highest 25 points for Police.

On Saturday, Gregarious defeated Rangers 62-34 after dominating the first half 29-17 as Nahid and Setu scored 15 and 13 points respectively for the winners while Barua scored 10 points for the losing side.

School football

Islami Bank National School Football Championship will begin from December 29 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Interested schools of Dhaka Metropolitan have been requested to send their entries with the official pad signed by the headmaster to the BFF office by December 20, said a BFF press release yesterday.

MSC accords women cricketers

Mohammedan Sporting Club on Saturday accorded a reception to the Bangladesh national women's cricket team at the office of club president Obaidul Kader.

The women's team, which have recently earned one-day international status through taking part in the World Cup qualifiers on home soil, have been given Tk 5 lakh, club crests and gifts from the Mohammedan SC Limited, said a press release yesterday.

National kabaddi

Meizan National Kabaddi Championship will begin from Thursday at six regional venues.

The venues are Barisal, Jessore, Tangail, Dinajpur, Moulvibazar and Dhaka though Dhaka will only host the matches of services teams from December 25.

A total of 30 district sports associations and seven services teams, split into six groups, are taking part in the national championship.

Chess League resumes today

Due to unavoidable circumstances the 37th Walton National Chess League's round seven games were postponed yesterday. The games are scheduled to resume today, the originally planned rest day, between Mahtab and Niaz, Monir and Mahfuzur, Reefat and Sohel, Javed and Mostafa, Mehedi and Zia, Shakil and Debaraj and Minhaz and Shafiq to make up for the games which were scheduled to take place yesterday at the

Pigeon ready to help 'em



PTI, Melbourne

Legendary Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath, is ready to act as a mentor to help navigate Australia's new generation of pacemen, and his first words of advice would be to maintain the rage.

After New Zealanders humbled Australia in Hobart, McGrath -- who favours being called in to address issues as a mentor rather than becoming a full-time coach -- found plenty to be excited about in the bowling attack, including its rawness.

"I think they're getting it right," he told the Age.

"They're hitting the right areas and keeping the pressure on the batsmen. If you look at the Test in Hobart, well, we missed a couple of catches that could've made a difference to the result, but that's the way it goes. The positive out of that is it shows the bowlers are creating opportunities, and there's not much more they can do than

that," the bowler who had 563 Test scalps to his name was quoted as saying.

He further added, "There was a lot of talk at the time that they were bowling a little bit short in the first innings, and maybe that was so, but it all comes with experience. You have to remember these guys have only played their first few Test matches and they're finding their feet."

He was impressed that the likes of James Pattinson and co have been hitting 140 kmph pretty consistently.

"It's amazing to see the way they've come through. Add to that the fact they're bowling at 140kmph plus and it is pretty special."

The 'Pigeon' as he was called during his playing days wants everyone to view national team's future with faith and high expectation.

"I have no doubt, it's an exciting time in Australian cricket," he said.

"You look at the young fast bowlers who are coming through ... 18-year-old Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc (21),

and James Pattinson (21) ... they have all been very impressive. Pattinson and Cummins have done especially well, and I hope (the injured) Cummins can get back on the paddock soon because he is a great prospect."

Bangladesh

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The BFF took the initiative of getting Sylhet BSKP in 2009 but the BFF rejected the BSKP proposal of using it partially. However, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina later instructed the authority concerned to allot the Sylhet BSKP to the BFF fully in early 2010.

Muktis sign

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aspect, rather setting up the relationship with a professional club of Mukti jodda Sangsad is very important for us," said Romeo.

Muktijodda Sangsad K general secretary Emdad Hossain Matin and Romeo signed the MoU for their respective sides.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS			DOWN		
1 Bath powder	35 Appear	1 Oom-pah instrument	19 Coaster	22 Madagascar primate	
5 Snip	37 Endorses	2 State with conviction	24 "Help!"	25 Suffix with press or fail	
8 Corned beef recipe	39 Dawn goddess	3 Lecherous look	26 Replaces in the TV lineup	27 Those with faulty logic	
12 Eye layer	41 Comic Caroline	4 Life's work	28 Pismire	29 "Of course"	
13 — shoe-string	42 Deodorant site	5 Halloween outfits	30 "Of course"	33 Detail, for short	
14 Inner (Pref.)	45 More gross	6 Burma's first prime minister	36 Youngster	38 "Annie Get Your Gun" role	
15 Super Bowl party quaff	49 Stuff you need	7 Reveille's opposite	40 Part of RSVP	42 Pronto, on a memo	
16 Western-most Great Lake	51 Money of Lesotho	8 Medal earners	43 Mysterious character	44 Fork prong	
18 Apprehend	52 Initial stake	9 Disney employee	46 Tittle	47 And others (Lat.)	
20 Puts one's foot down	53 "To be or — ..."	10 Halt	48 Go up	50 Eternity	
21 Hebrew month	54 Greek vowels	11 — d'oeuvre			
23 Vast expanse	55 Nuisance	17 Aliens, for short			
24 Diana Ross' backup	56 Type measures	49 Aliens, for short			
28 Remain	57 Harvard rival				
31 Bobby of hockey lore					
32 Sample recordings					
34 Individual					

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE HOPE THAT ALL YOUR ORDERS WILL BE SHIPPED TO YOU IN A WOODEN BOX: CRATE EXPECTATIONS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals F