

Muffat breaks world record

AFP, Angers

France's Olympic gold medallist Camille Muffat set a new world record in the short course women's 800m freestyle event at the French championships on Friday. Muffat timed 8min 01.06sec, smashing the previous mark of 8:04.53 set by Italian Alesia Filippi in Rijeka, Croatia, in December 2008.

At the London Games this summer, the 23-year-old Muffat claimed gold in the 400m individual freestyle with a new Olympic record, as well as silver in the 200m freestyle and a bronze as part of the 4x200m freestyle team.

ITF Junior Tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

The first round of qualifying for the Focal Point 26th International Junior Tennis Championship started at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. The two Bangladeshi competitors on the opening day, Abrar Shahriar and Rafikul Islam, lost their respective matches. The second round of qualification will be held today from where a total of eight players will go through to the championship proper.

Isaac for

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prepared to go, what is likely to happen is the ICC will allow Pakistan officials to stand. That was an arrangement we had agreed upon previously as a special exception to facilitate cricket returning to Pakistan."

Apart from sharing his views regarding the possible tour, the president also commented on the ICC Future Tours Programme, according to which Bangladesh will be playing very few Test matches in the coming years.

"Test match schedules are negotiated between two countries so the FTP is facilitated by the ICC staff. I was in New Zealand before I got the post (of the ICC presidency). One of the challenges in New Zealand cricket was to get as many Test matches against all other members," said Isaac.

"The reality is that it's a little bit of a chicken and egg, and we recognised that we needed to perform more often against the better Test playing nations to get more matches. That's the opportunity. The better you can perform the more you can achieve and the more matches you will get," he added.

Fire in Babylon

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His pace and bounce troubled the majority of the top order batsmen. It was a short of length delivery that sent Junaid Siddique back to the pavilion. His pace had the better of Shahriar Nafess as well, who skied the ball while attempting to play the pull. It also troubled Mahmudullah Riyad, who was hit on the body twice by Best before eventually being bowled by the bowler.

"Bouncers on this sort of a wicket always help. I have been watching 'Fire in Babylon' (a documentary based on West Indian cricketers legends) a lot and that's where I get my energy from," said an enthusiastic Best.

Best hopes to continue his good run in the next Test match scheduled to begin in Khulna on November 21.



PHOTO: AFP
Sri Lanka spinner Rangana Herath (R) celebrates one of his five wickets on the first day of the first Test against New Zealand in Galle yesterday.

Herath has hosts atop

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Rangana Herath bagged a five-wicket haul to put Sri Lanka in a strong position on the opening day of the first Test against New Zealand in Galle on Saturday.

The left-arm spinner finished with 5-65, his 11th haul of five or more wickets in a Test innings, as Sri Lanka dismissed New Zealand for 221 in the first innings before reaching 9-1 in reply at stumps.

Nightwatchman Suraj Randiv was unbeaten on three while opener Tharanga Paranavitana had yet to open his account. Debutant opener Dimuth Karunaratne was trapped leg-before by fast bowler Tim Southee for no score.

Sri Lankan paceman Shaminda Eranga, playing only his second Test, was the other bowler to impress as he took two wickets off three balls in a lively opening spell to eventually finish with 3-51.

New Zealand squandered the advantage of batting first on a good wicket at the Galle International Stadium

after winning the toss as they faltered against pace in the morning and then against spin.

Opener Brendon McCullum (68) and middle-order batsman Daniel Flynn (53) were the only batsmen to apply themselves well on a slow turning track before both fell to Herath in the afternoon session.

New Zealand were struggling at 40-3 following Eranga's double-strike in the morning before McCullum and left-handed Flynn steadied the innings with a 90-run stand for the fourth wicket.

McCullum played some aggressive shots in the afternoon, hitting off-spinner Suraj Randiv and Herath for sixes. He fell immediately after hitting his second six, bowled by Herath.

Herath got his third wicket when he had Flynn caught behind after the batsman had hit seven fours in his 152-ball knock.

Sri Lanka's fast bowlers did the early damage when they took three wickets in the first session, with Eranga striking twice and Nuwan Kulasekara once. Eranga had opener

Martin Guptill (11) and Kane Williamson caught in the slips, while Kulasekara bowled skipper Ross Taylor (nine) in his fifth over.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

Guptill c Mathews b Eranga	11
McCullum b Herath	68
Williamson c Paranavitana b Eranga	0
Taylor b Kulasekara	9
Flynn c P Jayawardene b Herath	53
Franklin lbw b Herath	3
Van Wyk b Herath	28
Bracewell c M Jayawardene b Herath	12
Southee c Mathews b Eranga	16
Patel not out	12
Boult b Kulasekara	7
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1)	2
Total: (All out in 82.5 overs)	221
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-29, 3-40, 4-130, 5-142, 6-155, 7-181, 8-196, 9-207	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekara	12.5	5	31	2
Eranga	16	5	51	3
Mathews	3	0	11	0
Herath	30	5	65	5
Randiv	21	1	62	0

SRI LANKA: First innings

Paranavitana not out	0
Karunaratne lbw b Southee	0
Randiv not out	3
Extras: (lb-4, nb-2)	6
Total: (For 1 wkt in 5 overs)	9
Fall of wicket: 1-2	

To bat: M Jayawardene, Sangakkara, Samaraweera, Mathews, P Jayawardene, Kulasekara, Eranga, Herath

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Boult	3	2	2	0
Southee	2	1	1	1

Toss: New Zealand.

Lot better than a mere defeat

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Hossain was outstanding after returning from injury on a pitch that had nothing for the bowlers -- there were no demons in the pitch even on the final day. Naeem Islam exhibited real Test batsmanship during his maiden hundred in the first innings and the collective batting effort gave them their highest total of 556 runs; an achievement barely conceivable before the series.

These positives were the reason that Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim was dejected but not downtrodden while talking at the post-match press conference as he said that they hardly had any experience of the situation they faced on the fifth day.

"Everyone doubted whether we could compete with them before this Test. Overall we are satisfied because we took the lead and all the players contributed whenever they could. So at the end if we could have played a little better we could have possibly won it. And one must consider the fact that this kind of situation has not happened regularly for us," said Mushfiqur.

"Apart from the last two sessions, we consistently played good Test cricket which was a positive. But when we lost 5-6 wickets in the [afternoon] session, that's when the game went away from us. If we had wickets we could have gone for an all-out win in the final session," he added.

The wicketkeeper batsman however admitted that the batsmen let them down

in the match.

"Our plan was to dismiss them early so that we would find a way to chase it. In that way our bowling was awesome, but it was our batsmen who let us down. But it was a combination of both good bowling and the wicket. For instance Shakib's delivery was unplayable. And some of the shots played by our top order batsmen weren't that good," he explained, adding: "We have very little experience of chasing targets in the fourth innings, so we crumbled. If we play more we'll get more experience."

The Bangladesh skipper also gave credit to his bowlers, especially praising the performance of Shohag Gazi, the off-spinner who showed how important it is to play first-class cricket with due attention like he did for the last couple of years.

"I thought on this flat wicket bowling them out once is a very good achievement when they had many in-form batsmen. Shohag Gazi bowled really well and got wickets. Rubel also bowled well and got wickets. Our bowlers gave 100 percent. But still there is room for the bowlers to improve as we gave them too many boundaries and there were some slip ups from our side," he opined.

Refreshingly, the Tigers skipper admitted that they had a few mistakes in the application part and that they will work on it before the second and final Test of the series which will start from November 21 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna.

Mahbubul ton lifts CTG

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong opener Mahbubul Karim constructed an accomplished 154 to grind down holders Rajshahi on the second day of the fourth round of the National Cricket League at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium in Sylhet yesterday. His century carried his team to 299 for three and a lead of 60 by the close. Mominul Haque was batting on 54 and Chittagong will want him to score big today to bat Rajshahi out of the match.

The match between Dhaka and Rangpur at the BKSP saw a similarly bat-dominated day as Dhaka ended the day on 271 for four, just 12 behind Rangpur's first innings 283 all out. Opener Abdul Majid scored 90 to anchor the innings and was ably supported by number three batsman Saikat Ali who scored 52.

Away at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium at Bogra, Khulna did not add to their overnight 355 for nine as their last wicket fell on the second ball of the day when Murad Khan fell to Dhaka Metro's Arafat Sunny. Metro's reply saw Marshal Ayub lead his team towards the target, but too many wickets were falling at the other end as Abdur Razzak picked six wickets. Metro finished the day on 305 for nine with Marshal still batting on 87.

The match moving fastest towards a result was the one between Sylhet and Barisal at the Abdur Rab Serniabad Stadium in Barisal. Sylhet lost their last two wickets for the addition of 13 runs to their overnight score of 193 for eight, but struck back by bundling out Barisal for 131. Enamul Haque Jr. caused the major damage, taking 7 for 54. By stumps Sylhet were batting on 60 for one, with a lead of 135.

Sammy

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moment, saying that there were several pivotal junctures.

Despite being bowled out early in the day, Sammy stated that he always backed his bowlers. "The pitch we saw from the last session (4th day) and the way it played today morning (5th day), there was something in it for the spinners. We saw how Gazi and Rubel bowled yesterday and this morning, so I was confident that my bowlers could do the job for us."

With four specialist bowlers in the side, the 16-year-old captain changed his attacking approach frequently, varying it from spin to pace accordingly. Tino Best, who picked up a five-for, did inflict the main damage, but Sammy was of the opinion that it was an all-round bowling effort that helped them bowl the hosts out for a small total, while reserving special praise for Best.

"The effort from Tino this afternoon -- putting the ball consistently in the right areas, was brilliant. Ravi Rampaul, for the last two years has been in good form. He has got a habit of picking up the wickets. He is the one man I can count on to come and make something happen," he added.

NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, we could not print the CROSSWORD today. We regret any inconvenience.

-Sports Editor

FRIENDLY AGAINST THAILAND

Booters lose badly

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were thrashed by 5-0 by Thailand in their FIFA International Friendly match at the Rajmangala Stadium in Bangkok yesterday. Thailand striker Teerasil Dangda scored a hat-trick while striker Pichitpong Choeichiu netted one and midfielder Naphat Thamrongsupakon netted one each for the hosts.

Bangladesh were on the backfoot right from the word go as they conceded three goals within the first 20 minutes. Pichitpong scored the opening goal in the 5th minute before

Teerasil doubled the lead 12th and made it 3-0 in the 20th minute. The striker completed his hat-trick in the 52nd minute before midfielder Tamrongsupakon

sealed a comfortable victory for hosts in the 74th minute.

This is the worst defeat for Bangladesh against these opposition, whom Bangladesh only managed to beat twice in their 14 meetings so far, the last of which came way back in 1989. Bangladesh coach Saiful Bari Titu said that Bangladesh were silly to concede the first two goals which demoralised his side, adding that the opponents were far stronger than his side.

Bangladesh played their best eleven in the side while Thailand, once getting to a comfortable lead, started to make substitutions and made as many as 10 changes in the match.

This was the second ever FIFA friendly match for Bangladesh after their 1-1 draw away to Nepal in September. As part of ascertaining the standard of the national side, Bangladesh will play one more friendly against Malaysia on Tuesday.

Eng better in 2nd essay

Cricket

PTI, Ahmedabad

Pragyan Ojha snapped up five wickets to give India a mammoth 330-run lead before England staged a spirited fightback in the second innings to give themselves a slight hope of saving the first cricket Test here on Saturday.

England were bundled out for 191 in the first innings with Ojha taking five for 45 while Ravichandran Ashwin took three wickets, prompting India to enforce the follow-on.

But the script changed remarkably in the second innings as skipper Alastair Cook (74 batting) and Nick Compton (34 batting) steered England to 111 for no loss at close on an eventual third day with the visitors still trailing by 219 runs.

With two full days left in

the match, India still hold the advantage of going 1-0 up in the four-match series.

England will have to bat out of their skin to save the game on a Sardar Patel track that appears to be getting slower.

The visitors showed better application in the second innings, after India, who scored a massive 521 for eight declared, asked them to follow-on.

Left-arm spinner Ojha claimed his career's fourth five-wicket haul with figures of five for 45 in 22.2 overs in his 17th Test while Ashwin grabbed three for 80 in 27 overs.

Cook and debutant Compton put on an unbeaten century stand to give England a fine start in their quest for avoiding an innings defeat.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings 521 for 8 declared (Pujara 206 not out, Sehwag 117, Yuvraj

74, Gambhir 45; Swann 5-144)

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 41-3)

Cook c Sehwag b Ashwin	41
Compton b Ashwin	9
Anderson c Gambhir b Ojha	2
Trott c Pujara b Ashwin	0
Prietersen b Ojha	17
Bell c Tendulkar b Ojha	0
Patel lbw b Yadav	10
Prior b Ojha	48
Bresnan c Kohli b Ojha	19
Broad lbw b Zaheer	25
Swann not out	3
Extras: (b-5, lb-12)	17
Total: (All out in 74.2 overs)	191
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-29, 3-30, 4-69, 5-69, 6-80, 7-97, 8-144, 9-187	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ashwin	27	9	80	3
Zaheer	15	7	23	1
Ojha	22.2	8	45	5
Yuvraj	3	0	12	0
Yadav	7	2	14	1

ENGLAND: Second innings (following on)

Cook not out	74
Compton not out	33
Extras: (lb-3)	3
Total: (For no loss in 38 overs)	111

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Yadav	7	1	15	0
Ojha	14	3	34	0
Ashwin	14	3	49	0

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Border Guard Bangladesh thrashed Bangladesh Prison by 43-13 points in the opening fixture of the Walton Motorcycle Super Seven Services Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. Earlier, Minister for Textile and Jute Abdul Latif Siddiqui inaugurated the meet as the chief guest.

Div I football

Mahakhali Ekadash and Jatrabari Kira Chakra played out a 1-1 draw in their match of the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Bishreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Mohammad Ali put Jatrabari in front in the 45th minute while Mohammad Golap equalised for Mahakhali in the 77th minute. Dhaka Wanders Club will take on T&T Club in today's match at the same venue.

Debaraj in lead

FM Debaraj Chatterjee maintained his solo lead with 7.5 points after ninth round of the Healthcare

Pharmaceuticals Limited 38th National 'A' Chess Championship yesterday. Debaraj drew with FM Nasir Ahmed in the ninth round at the media centre of Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday. GM Niaz Murshed is in second position with 7 point while GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Reefat Bin Sattar and IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar share the third position with 6.5 points each.

DRU-Media cricket

Independent TV, Banglavision, Financial Express, Maasranga TV, Channel I, Ittefaq, Destiny and Sakaler Khabar won their respective matches of the Walton-DRU Media Cricket Tournament matches at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Independent TV beat Ajkaler Khabar by five wickets, Banglavision defeated New Edge by 16 runs, Financial Express defeated RTV by three wickets, Maasranga Tv outplayed Manabzamin by 83 runs, Channel I beat Amader Orthoniti by five wickets, Ittefaq eat BSS by four wickets. Destiny defeated Prime News by five wickets and Sakaler Khabar edged out against GTV

Would have been happier

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remaining four West Indian wickets in the morning yesterday to give the hosts a shot at winning the game. "To be honest, the wicket had a bit in it for everyone in the last few sessions. It turned, helped the pacers, and the batsmen as well. But all I tried to do was to put the ball in the right areas. That's all I did and I was rewarded," said Gazi.

The spinner, who hit the timber four times in the match, identified the arm-ball as his main strength. Shohag's all-round performance in this year's National Cricket League (NCL) was one of the main reasons that he was drafted into the national squad. Apart from taking a hat-trick and a seven wicket haul in a match against Khulna, he also scored an aggressive century. A long apprenticeship playing first-class cricket must have also hone

his skills and built patience, qualities he displayed in the first Test during which he maintained a probing line that rarely allowed batsmen to settle.

"I have worked very hard to get into the national team. There's a lot of competition and my next aim will be to try and hold a position in the squad," said Gazi.

Gazi, who came to the crease after the seventh Bangladesh wicket had fallen, made an attempt to counter the West Indian bowling yesterday. "When I came down to bat my main aim was not to get bogged down. Mahmudullah (Riyad) and I had a chat and since we were already 7 wickets down, I thought it was best to play my natural game. But unfortunately I skied one and got caught," said Gazi. "I only hope that I can carry the momentum to Khulna and help Bangladesh draw the series," he added.