



England spinner Graeme Swann appeals successfully for an lbw against Australia's Phillip Hughes during the fourth day's play in the second Ashes Test at Lord's in London on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

Human chain for Cox's stadium

MUHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT, Cox's Bazar Correspondent

People of all walks of life in Cox's Bazar formed a human chain in front of the District Commissioner's office yesterday, demanding a permanent cricket stadium in the city. The human chain, organised by Cox's Bazar Sangbadik Sangstha (CSS) and assisted by the district sports association, demanded a permanent stadium, not a temporary one, at the site of the golf course.

"An international standard cricket stadium has been a long-cherished dream of the people of the city which has not been realised due to conspiracies of a certain quarter. They are still conspiring and want the to-be-built stadium to be a temporary one. The people of city will not bow down and will fight against it," said speakers at the meeting which was held after forming the human chain.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First innings 361 (Bell 109, Bairstow 67, Trott 58, Harris 5-72, Smith 3-18)
AUSTRALIA: First innings 128 (Watson 30, Clarke 28, Swann 5-44, Bresnan 2-28)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 333-5)
Cook b Siddle 8
Root c Smith b Harris 180
Trott b Siddle 0
Pietersen c Rogers b Siddle 5
Bresnan c Rogers b Pattinson 38
Bell c Rogers b Smith 74
Bairstow c Haddin b Harris 20
Prior not out 23
Extras: (lb-15, lb-8) 1
Total: (For 7 wickets dead in 114.1 overs) 349
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-22, 3-30, 4-129, 5-282, 6-344, 7-349

Did not bat: Broad, Swann, Anderson

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harris	18.1	4	31	2
Watson	12	5	25	0
Siddle	21	6	65	3
Pattinson	20	8	42	1
Smith	14	0	65	1
Agar	29	5	98	0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings

Watson lbw b Anderson	20
Rogers b Swann	6
Khawaja c Anderson b Root	54
Hughes lbw b Swann	51
Clarke c Cook b Root	1
Smith c Prior b Bresnan	1
Haddin lbw b Swann	7
Agar c Prior b Bresnan	16
Siddle b Anderson	18
Pattinson lbw b Swann	35
Harris not out	16
Extras: (lb-4, lb-5, w-1)	10
Total: (All out in 90.3 overs)	235
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-32, 3-36, 4-134, 5-135, 6-136, 7-154, 8-162, 9-192	

Result: England won by 347 runs

Series: England lead five-match series 2-0

Player-of-the-match: Joe Root

Eng 2-0 up strongly

AFP, London

England thrashed Australia by 347 runs to win the second Test at Lord's with more than a day to spare on Sunday as the Ashes-holders went 2-0 up in this five-match series.

Only once in Ashes history has a team come from 2-0 down to win when Australia, inspired by Don Bradman, cricket's greatest batsman, did just that to triumph 3-2 on home soil in 1936/37.

And given batting remains this Australia side's Achilles heel, they will do well from this position to stop England retaining the urn.

Australia, set a mammoth 583 for an improbable victory, were dismissed for 235 on the fourth day.

The tourists' last-wicket pair of James Pattinson and Ryan Harris held firm for more than an hour, with England claiming the extra half hour.

But with just three balls left in the day's play, off-spinner Graeme Swann had Pattinson, who had frustrated England with the bat in their 14-run first Test win at Trent Bridge, lbw for 35 to the acclaim of a capacity and sun-drenched crowd.

Swann finished with innings figures of four wickets for 78 runs for a match haul of nine for 122.

The scale of Australia's task was clear from the fact that no side have made more to win in the fourth innings of a Test than the West Indies' 418 for seven against Australia at St John's in 2002/03.

Joe Root started with both bat and ball, making 180 in England's second innings 347 for nine declared before the occasional off-spinner took two wickets shortly before tea to spark an Australia middle-order collapse.

England had resumed Sunday on 333 for five, already a lead of 566, with Root, attacked by now sidelined Australia batsman David Warner in a Birmingham bar in June, hitting the tourists where it hurt.

There was no immediate declaration with Root given the chance to turn his second Test century into 200.

But when he holed out off Harris, to end a 338-ball innings including 18 fours and two sixes spanning nearly eight hours, England captain Alastair Cook called a halt.

SHOOTING CAMP

Favourites upstaged in evaluation

SPORTS REPORTER

Rabbi Hasan, gold medal winner in the 10m air rifle event of the Bangladesh Games, faltered badly in the performance evaluation competition for shooters following seven weeks of training across three different venues which concluded yesterday.

Rabbi, who improved his qualification mark to 587 from 582, finished fifth in the qualification while Bangladesh Games' silver medallist Abdullaah Hel Baki topped the qualification mark with 593 points, one less than his score in the Bangladesh Games.

Commonwealth gold medallist Asif Hossain Khan showed his worst ever performance as he failed to secure a place in the eight-shooter shoot-off round.

Jesimuddin, who scored 588 in qualification, finished first in the shoot-off followed by Baki and Mahmudul Hasan Sajib. Like Rabbi, Bangladesh Games' gold medallist Sadia Sultana failed to continue her performance and finished fifth in the women's 10m air rifle but South Asian Games and Commonwealth Shooting gold medallist Sharmin Akter Ratna emerged first in both qualification and shoot-off.

Ratna took her qualification mark to an impressive 397 points while South Asian gold medallist Sharim Akter (Sr) showed improvement in both qualification (395) and shoot-off (203.7) to finish second. Sadia Sultana improved her qualification mark from 388 to 392 but failed to do well in the shoot-off to finish fifth while Sharmin

Akter (Jr), silver medallist in the Bangladesh Games, scored lowly 355 in the qualification to finish eighth.

Ishfaq Ahmed, joint secretary of National Shooting Federation, informed that they would cut down the 44-member squad on the basis of performance evaluation test, indicating a good number of promising shooters might be excluded from the training camp, which will resume again on August 18.

Ahmed however said that they have a plan to run another camp for those shooters who would be dropped but have potential as well as those picked from the talent hunt programme in January.

The camp started on June 2, with 44 shooters training in 10 different disciplines.

Hockey players' Aug 2 deadline

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's premier hockey players, under the banner of Hockey Players Welfare Association (HPWA), has threatened to boycott all hockey activities including the ongoing national camp if the crisis regarding inter-club players' transfer is not resolved by August 2.

The intention of the players was learnt yesterday afternoon after some 10 players including national team skipper Zahid Hossain, striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy and midfielder Sheikh Mohammad Nannu met with the state minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarker at his office for a meeting that lasted one and a half hours.

"The minister heard everything from us and discussed a way out of the crisis and asked us to wait till August 2 for a solution," said HPWA president and former national goalkeeper Rasel Khan Bappi.

Bappi added that the players would take a hard line if the crisis is not resolved by August 2. Bappi also informed that the minister said he would sit with six clubs that decided not to take part in any hockey activities under the current executive committee of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), before meeting with BHF president Air Marshal Enamul Bari on August 1.

Meanwhile, talismanic national forward Jimmy claimed he was threatened through SMS from an unidentified mobile number over the issue. Five BKSP players, who are in the ongoing camp, were also reportedly threatened not to say anything regarding players' transfers.

Meanwhile, the four-member special committee, which was given the responsibility to convince six premier division clubs, will sit today to resolve the crisis.

ONGC to play 3 matches

SPORTS REPORTER

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) of India has agreed to send its hockey team to play three practice matches instead of proposed four against Bangladesh, as part of Bangladesh national team's preparation for the upcoming Asia Cup.

According to the schedule finalised yesterday, ONGC will be coming to Dhaka on July 27 and play the three practice matches on July 29, 30 and August 1. The Bangladesh Hockey Federation is also trying to bring Singapore national team for a few practice matches before the Asia Cup, which is scheduled to be held from August 24 to Sept 1 in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, International Hockey Federation's high-profile coach Michael Keenan is scheduled to arrive on August 31 for his second visit to Bangladesh, to train the U-18 and U-21 hockey teams for seven days. Keenan, during his first visit, worked with the national team in February.

Planning system the key: Dwyer

SPORTS REPORTER

If you happened to make your way to one of the Tigers training sessions in the last six weeks, you would have seen a well-built trainer tirelessly shouting out instructions and encouragement at the national players while they ran around with weights.

Six months into his job, David Dwyer-- the head strength and conditioning coach of Bangladesh-- has had a lot on his plate. The series of injuries that recently hit the national team compelled Dwyer to design a fitness programme, which many players described as one of the tougher training camps that they attended.

"The strength and conditioning coach is never the most favourite person in the party because they always make the players work hard," Dwyer admits. "But so far things have been going well and the response from the players have been good. They rarely complained at all," he added.

The results of the hard work, according to the Australian-born trainer, would be visible in a year's time when the players have a go at the camp again. "In 12 months time when we reach here again, we really want to hope that when we look at the results then that we can say that we are so much fitter than before," he said.

Perhaps the more interesting aspect about Dwyer is the fact that he has spent more time with rugby than in cricket. The idea of coaching in cricket first arrived when he wanted to get out of his comfort

zone instead of being stuck as a trainer for one sport.

It's a feature, he says, that has its advantages. "It's been very good in a lot ways because the things that I have found really valuable in rugby, I can bring here. We don't have contact in cricket so we don't use that here. I analyse the sport, understand its requirements in a way that I can put them in to the gym and then into our training," said Dwyer.

While Dwyer doesn't necessarily need to ask his players to put on weight as would have been the case in rugby, he did however, feel the need for a change in the fitness training programmes for the players. "There's no doubt that some players weren't fit enough to cope with the schedule. Some guys were used in the competitions too much, some not at all, and that's when they get injured. So we are really trying to put together a training management system, where we can monitor the players playing system whether they are with us or not and try to eliminate the injury," he said.

Having worked with Pakistan in between 2007 to 2010, Dwyer believes that the amount of cricket played in Pakistan gave its players the edge in terms fitness levels. "In Pakistan we really played a lot of cricket both domestically and internationally. I think that both the countries have the desire to want to be fit. Bangladesh are probably starting from a step lower, but in one to two years that will change.

Fed eyes home lift

AFP, Gstaad

Roger Federer will seek to resurrect his disappointing season in front of expectant home fans as the 17-time Grand Slam winner returns to next week's claycourt Swiss Open for the first time in nine years.

Federer, 31, with his world ranking down to fifth for the first time in a decade, lost 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (7/4) in the weekend semifinals at Hamburg to Argentine qualifier Federico Delbonis as the slumping Swiss struggles to try and get adjusted to a new, larger racquet.

"I've been very close on numerous occasions to changing racquets in a bigger way," Federer was quoted as saying on the ATP website while in Germany.

"But then very often, time was the issue. Maybe also just the records of grand slams -- I was always keeping on playing quarters and semis -- so then it was also a bit more difficult to change it

because of the time.

"After I lost at Wimbledon, I thought this is a good time to go and test the racquets, to take a bit of time off and then add some tournaments and see was there enough time to change or not," said the Swiss.

At his last appearance in the elite alpine community of Gstaad in 2004, Federer won the title a year after reaching the final against Jiri Novak on the back of a first career trophy at Wimbledon.

Federer, whose only title this season came on the grass of Halle in June, added the two summer clay events to his schedule after losing in a Wimbledon second-round surprise to Sergiy Stakhovsky, also into the field in the Swiss Alps.

Federer admits he is aiming to reclaim top form.

"I'm just still looking for the timing and the rhythm," he said in Hamburg.

"I tried everything I could [in Hamburg]. It's been a difficult week throughout. But I'm happy I fought through many matches. It gives me the matches I was looking for.

"Unfortunately, I couldn't make it to the final, but nevertheless, I did have four good matches and these are the kind of matches I need."



Argentina's Federico Delbonis celebrates his semifinal victory over Switzerland's Roger Federer in the German Open at Am Rothenbaum in Hamburg on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP