



TOUGHEST
OF 'EM ALL



Pakistan crumble in chase

AFP, Hambantota

Sri Lanka defeated Pakistan by 165 runs in the fifth and final one-day international in Hambantota on Sunday, but lost the series 3-2.

The hosts piled up their highest total of 368-4 against Pakistan after electing to bat and then bowled their rivals out for 203.

Kusal Perera struck 116 off 109 balls and Tillakaratne Dilshan joined the 10,000-run ODI club. Left-hander Perera reached his century after a 164-run stand for the first wicket with Dilshan, who became only the 11th batsman and the fourth Sri Lankan to compile 10,000 one-day runs.

The flamboyant Dilshan reached the 10,000-run landmark in his 319th match when he took a single off Shoaib Malik to move to 55, before he was run out for 62.

Mathews and Siriwardana added a brisk 114 off just 55 deliveries to complete Sri Lanka's best batting display of the series.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SRI LANKA: 368 for 4 (Perera 116, Dilshan 62, Mathews 70 no; Rahat 2-74)
PAKISTAN: 203 all out (Azhar 35, Rizwan 29; Senanayake 3-39, Perera 2-38)

Misbah might retire by 2016

PTI, New Delhi

Well aware that he has reached the business end of his international cricket career, Pakistan Test captain Misbah ul Haq is planning to call time if the much-awaited series against arch-rivals India happens at the end of the year.

"I know very well that there is not much cricket left in me. Yes, I want to play a few more Test matches as I look forward to life beyond cricket. But there is a plan. If the series against India happens, I want to play that series and probably retire from international cricket. So India series can be my last one," the 41-year-old Misbah said.

"You can view this aspect from two sides. If I talk about the difficult part of it, it is the gaps that might affect a cricketer's form. Take a player, who plays all three international formats. That cricketer is playing round the year and is effortlessly switching from one format to other.

"But when you are just playing Test cricket, it becomes a challenge since there will be gaps. You straightaway cannot get into the groove but it's hard work as you don't have it easy in Test cricket. That's the difficult part," felt Misbah.

Worcs' tribute to Hughes

AGENCIES, Melbourne

Worcestershire has shown that the county keeps Australians close to its heart with a moving tribute to late Phillip Hughes.

Hughes visited the county with the national men's teams on each of his Ashes tours and spent a season playing county cricket with Worcester in 2012.

A memorial plaque was placed on April 8 prior to the start of the current county season and in addition to the tile, a portrait of Hughes is set to be erected in the Graeme Hick Pavilion alongside the club's greats of the past.

Hughes was a club favourite during his stint at Worcestershire in 2012.



ROWING IN THE RAINS

With the monsoon in full force, it's time for people across different parts of the country to participate in traditional boat races. And *Chalan beel* in Pabna is no different. Here people enjoy a boat-race competition at this famous 'beel' in the northwestern part of the country on Sunday. The three-week long festival that began the day before Eid, featuring over 200 boats, will continue till August 7.

PHOTO AND CAPTION:
AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

'Mustafiz can be as successful in Tests'

NAIMUL KARIM



Three wickets in an over, a player-of-the-match award on debut -- the first person to get the award on both Test and ODI debut -- and the best bowling figures by a Bangladesh pacer in the last two years; there were quite a few feats that Mustafizur Rahman achieved in his first Test.

While the 19-year-old has just stepped ashore and has a long way to go, the team management and the selectors are already excited with what they have seen.

"Mustafizur is a really good prospect for the future of Test cricket. The best thing about him is that his action is very smooth and that makes it unlikely for him to suffer from injuries frequently.

"But then again, his future will depend on how well he is managed. You can't say for sure whether a bowler is going to get injured or not, but if our management handles his workload properly he can work wonders and I am sure they will," BCB chief selector Faruque Ahmed told The Daily Star.

"We weren't nervous before selecting him for the Test squad. Our pace bowling attack in the longer format years hasn't been that promising in the last few.

"So in a way, we were pushed to take Mustafizur into the side because we wanted to do well against South Africa. Yes, it would have been good had we given him more time and taken him later, but we had to select him considering the circumstances," added Faruque.

Bangladesh's pace bowling coach Heath Streak was impressed with the way the left-arm learnt to adapt to various situations in the first Test.

Mustafizur didn't have the best of starts in the Test and he went wicketless in his first two spells on day one. It was an aspect that the left-arm admitted in the post-day press conference.

He later revealed that his discussion with Streak during lunch helped him bowl better in his third spell.

"We briefly discussed about the wicket and changed a little bit of our tactics in terms of the batsmen we were talking about it," Streak later told The Daily Star.

"If we can look after him, he has definitely got a very bright future in Test cricket. Someone like him, who has such exceptional wrist movement, is a prized asset in this form of the game.

"He is a left-arm pacer and bowls at nearly 140kph. If Bangladesh want to compete in Tests in the world arena, we have to take care of him properly," added the Zimbabwean.

Bangladesh skipper Mushfiquur Rahman described Mustafizur as a quick learner of the game during the post-

"The best thing about him is that his action is very smooth and that makes it unlikely for him to suffer from injuries frequently"

match press conference on Saturday. But he also warned against expecting too much from the bowler.

"If he bowls consistently then he will be as successful in Test cricket as in the ODIs. But you can't expect him to take five-fors in every Test. I believe

that he can at least maintain a good average and a good strike-rate," Mushfiquur had said.

While there's plenty of excitement in the air, Mustafizur and the team management will be the first ones to admit that the journey has just begun. As the number of Tests increase, so will the obstacles. And it was an aspect that South Africa skipper Hashim Amla reminded everyone during the post-match press conference.

"I think he bowled pretty well. He picked up a couple of wicket as well. Test cricket is a format that takes time to get used to. And it's very difficult to make an assessment too early in somebody's career, whether they are a batsman or a bowler. So I am sure time will tell as to how well he does in one-dayers as well as in the longer format."



Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman returned to Dhaka yesterday, where he will be looking to add a few more illustrious scalps to his growing collection during the second Test against South Africa.

PHOTO:
STAR

Teams return for final leg

SPORTS REPORTER



After an exciting couple of weeks in Chittagong, both the Bangladesh and South Africa contingents returned to Dhaka for the final leg of the tour, which will end with a Test match at Mirpur.

Incessant rainfall in Chittagong washed out the last two days of the first Test and, by doing so, prevented an exciting finish to a game that was open for both sides.

The second and final Test is scheduled to begin on Thursday. However, the Test may witness a similar finish to that of the one in the port city, as the weather forecast predicts heavy showers during the period when the Test will be played.

Regardless, if a Test does take place, it will be an opportunity for the two teams -- who have battled neck-and-neck so far in this tour -- to renew their rivalry.

The hosts, who defied the numbers and bundled the visitors out for just 248

in the first innings of the first Test and also managed to post their highest ever lead while batting second, will enter the second Test with plenty of confidence.

While Mushfiquur Rahman's men will be happy with their bowling effort, they will look to better their performance with the bat. There were three 50-plus scores in the first innings, but none of the scorers managed to continue and score a big knock.

Similarly, the visitors will hope that their middle order, which was taken aback by a Mustafizur Rahman special, joins the party. It will also be an opportunity for Dale Steyn to break the 400-wicket barrier, as he needs just one more wicket to reach that landmark.

The wicket in Mirpur may not be considerably different when compared to the track at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong, however bowlers tend to extract a lot more bounce in Mirpur and the South African pacers will hope that they can get more help in Dhaka.

The Test in Mirpur will be the tenth

PAKISTAN TOUR OF INDIA

PCB awaits government clearance

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shahryar Khan has said that they are waiting for a clearance from the BJP-led Indian Government to the MoU to host bi-lateral series between the two countries.

He said that the PCB has been talking consistently to the BCCI. He added that the PCB has never doubted the fact that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in which Pakistan play five series with India over the next eight years, Pak Passion reported.

Khan further said that the MoU was signed and approved by the former government, adding that they are waiting for a clearance with the new-elected government in India to play in UAE and the four other series thereafter.

He also said that politics, which has always been up and down between the two nations, should be kept aside and cricket should stand on its own.

He insisted that if they are able to remove all the hurdles and a series is organised in December, it would be very significant not just for both sides but for the cricketing world in general.



DILSHAN joins 10k club

AFP, Hambantota



Tillakaratne Dilshan Sunday became the 11th batsman and the fourth Sri Lankan to compile 10,000 runs in one-day cricket, achieving the feat against Pakistan in Hambantota.

The flamboyant 38-year-old reached the landmark in his 319th match when he took a single off Shoaib Malik to move to 55, before being run out on 63.

Dilshan now has 10,008 runs, joining compatriots Kumar Sangakkara, Sanath Jayasuriya and Mahela Jayawardene in a coveted list headed by Indian great Sachin Tendulkar's tally of 18,426 ODI runs.

BATSMAN	MATCHES	RUNS	CENTURIES
Sachin Tendulkar (IND)	463	18,426	49
Kumar Sangakkara (SRI)	404	14,234	25
Ricky Ponting (AUS)	375	13,704	30
Sanath Jayasuriya (SRI)	445	13,430	28
Mahela Jayawardene (SRI)	448	12,650	19
Inzamamul Haq (PAK)	378	11,739	10
Jacques Kallis (RSA)	328	11,579	17
Saurav Ganguly (IND)	311	11,363	22
Rahul Dravid (IND)	344	10,889	12
Brian Lara (WIS)	299	10,405	19
Tillakaratne Dilshan (SRI)	319	10,008	22