

SPORT



England pacer James Anderson demolished the Sri Lanka batting attack and finished the first Test at Headingley with match figures of 10 for 45 to lead his side to a win.

PHOTO: AFP

ISSF WORLD CUP Baki, Shovon set new highs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi shooters Abdullah Hel Baki and Shovon Chowdhury surpassed their career records in the ISSF World Cup in the 10-metre air rifle event in Munich, Germany yesterday.

Baki scored 624.8 points to finish 28th among 114 participants while Shovon scored 621 points to finish with a share of the 61st position.

Even though the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games silver medallist Baki beat his previous best, it was not enough to see him qualify for the final round.

Baki, who has earned a wild-card entry for Rio Olympics, had set his previous best score [622.8 points] in the ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro last month.

Shovon, who missed out on the gold medal in the 12th South Asian Games in India by a whisker, surpassed his previous best score by 0.3 points.

Jimmy 10-for condemns SL to innings defeat

AFP, Leeds

England's Steven Finn and James Anderson cleaned up Sri Lanka's tail as England defeated their opponents by an innings and 88 runs at Headingley on Saturday.

Sri Lanka, following on, were 116 for seven at tea on a rain-interrupted third day - still 91 runs shy of making England bat again.

However, after resumption, they managed to put on just three more runs before being bowled out.

Finn picked up two wickets in an over, while Anderson took the final wicket of Nuwan Pradeep to wrap up the game.

Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, finished with figures of five for 29 to add to his return of five for 16 in Sri Lanka's meagre first innings 91.

His Saturday haul included Kusal Mendis, who rode his luck to make 53 -- an innings where he gave four chances.

At tea, Lahiru Thirimanne was 15 not out and Dushmantha Chameera nought not out, with more bad weather seemingly Sri Lanka's lone hope of avoiding going 1-0 down in this three-Test series.

Sri Lanka resumed Saturday on one without loss.

The overcast conditions that greeted Sri Lanka were similar to those in which they collapsed on Friday when they were undone by the new ball-pairing of Anderson and Stuart

Broad, ably supported by wicket-keeper Jonathan Bairstow, who held five catches to add to the 140 he made on his Yorkshire home ground in England's first innings 298.

Dimuth Karunaratne avoided a pair on Saturday but fell for seven when caught head-high by Bairstow after the left-hander got an outside edge to a near-unplayable Anderson ball that bounced and cut away off the seam. The same combination then accounted for Kaushal Silva.

Either side of the wickets, Mendis, who like Karunaratne made a first-innings duck, drove both Anderson and fast bowler Steven Finn for well-struck fours.

But he was fortunate on 23 when a hard edge off Anderson went through the hands of leaping third slip James Vince.

Mendis was reprieved again on 29 when he edged Finn only for a diving Bairstow, in a rare blemish this match, to drop the low one-handed catch.

And off what turned out to be the last ball before lunch, Mendis should have been out for 47 when he edged a seemingly comfortable chance off Broad to third slip only for Vince to again put him down.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First Innings 298

SRI LANKA: First Innings 91

SRI LANKA: Second Innings 119 all out (Mendis 53, Thirimanne 15 not out; Anderson 5-29, Finn 3-26)

Result: England won by an innings and 88 runs.

Player-of-the-match: J Anderson.

We've hated the place for nine years, so we thought we might as well change ends... That's how deeply we think about it!

- Anderson after his first-innings five-for that brought a change in Headingley fortunes for him and new-ball partner Stuart Broad.

Shakib, Fizz face off in crucial tie

SPORTS REPORTER



The two cricketers flying the Bangladesh flag in the Indian Premier League (IPL), Kolkata Knight Riders' Shakib Al Hasan and Sunrisers Hyderabad's Mustafizur Rahman, will face off today in what may be the last match for Kolkata if they fail to beat Hyderabad. The match will take place at the historic Eden Gardens in Kolkata and will start at 4:30 pm BDT.

While Hyderabad currently sit in pole position with 16 points from 13 matches as the league phase draws to a close with the match between Delhi Daredevils and Royal Challengers Bangalore later today, Kolkata -- on 14 points along with Delhi and Bangalore -- will need to win to be sure of finishing among the top four teams that will battle it out in the playoffs on their own steam, although they will have an outside chance if results in other games go their way.

Although Shakib and Kolkata will be desperate to win their last league match, there may be a silver lining if Shakib ends up on the losing side, especially if you are a fan of Abahani who are currently languishing in ninth position of the Dhaka Premier League (DPL). If an early return from the IPL does happen for Shakib, he is expected to join his Bangladesh teammate and friend Tamim Iqbal in Abahani colours for the remainder of the DPL.

The two Bangladeshis in the IPL have had

contrasting tournaments so far, mainly because one of them has taken it by storm in a manner few have before. Mustafizur has been a revelation so far, even with his two-match dip that saw him concede more runs than expected. He is currently the joint third-highest wicket-taker with 15 at an average of 21.6 while boasting the best economy rate (6.61) of bowlers who have bowled more than 10 overs.

On the other hand Shakib, who has long been the sole Bangladeshi ambassador in cricket's most lucrative franchise league, has had a middling tournament so far, taking only four wickets in nine matches at an economy rate of 7.74. Nonetheless, he remains a crucial cog in the Knight Riders' machine and is expected to play today as the Eden Gardens is suited to his left-arm spin.

In the first match between the two teams, at Hyderabad on 16 April, both players

performed well as Kolkata won the match through a fine innings from captain Gautam Gambhir. Shakib bowled well to concede just 18 runs from three overs, and was not needed with the bat as Kolkata cantered home, having dealt well with the threat of Mustafizur, who took one wicket for 29 in his four overs.

Today, while Shakib will be hoping to delay his season debut for Abahani by a few more days by putting in an overdue all-round display worthy of one of the best of the kind in the world, the Fizz will be looking to continue his resurgence from a minor blip by ensuring that he keeps Hyderabad on top of the table.



'Postponing Federation Cup was wrong'

SPORTS REPORTER



The recently re-elected president of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), Kazi Salahuddin, revealed yesterday that he felt that postponing the Federation Cup was the wrong decision.

The BFF boss expressed these thoughts as he replied to another question regarding the Professional Football League Committee's (PFLC) recent decision to postpone the tournament indefinitely after having set May 15 as the tentative starting date.

"I agree with you. It was the wrong decision," said Salahuddin.

The PFLC made the decision last week, allegedly at the request of different club's to

have the Federation Cup be deferred to a date after the completion of the Bangladesh National Team's Asian Cup Qualifying play-off against Tajikistan.

The decision will delay the start of the Bangladesh Premier League by at least three weeks, creating a logjam in schedules, contrary to the new committee's pledge of running various tournaments routinely.

Salahuddin also stated that the BFF has dissolved most of the previous committee, except for a few to continue day-to-day work, and those committees and sub-committees will be restructured within the next ten days.

Having earlier met with Lodewijk de Kruijf, who was brought back for next month's assignment, the BFF Boss said he was briefed by the Dutchman about the team's preparations and plans regarding the two matches.

Gayle invites more controversy

STAR SPORT DESK

West Indies' cricket superstar Chris Gayle may have placed himself in more hot water after an in-depth interview with UK magazine The Times came out yesterday that was replete with sexual innuendos fired at the female reporter, Charlotte

Edwards. The interview also carried Gayle's claims that the controversy he found himself embroiled in after his interview with an Australian female television reporter was caused more by his being a black man than anything he said.

The interview was conducted during his ongoing Indian Premier League stint and on the occasion of the publication of his autobiography 'Six Machine ... I don't like cricket, I love it'.

In the reporter's own words 'his pantomime bad boy is a bit of a buffer', his rambunctious utterances gave way to Gayle becoming serious, 'his voice changing from laid-back singsong into a deep, rapid-fire rat-a-tat, to tell me that I just don't get it'.

"If that had been a white footballer saying that, nothing would've happened. Rugby player, nothing would've happened. Hollywood actor? Tsk," he is quoted as saying in the interview, and continued: "They would cover for other people, but not for a black man."

He also went on to say that Jamaican Olympic gold-winner Usain Bolt also has to deal with 'racism', citing the story of a reporter going to Jamaica just to dig up dirt on a 'successful black man'.



Thakur sole candidate

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket board was set to announce its youngest ever president after it said Saturday that current secretary Anurag Thakur was the sole candidate for the post -- one of the most powerful in world sport.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement that Thakur, 41, was the "only" nomination and would be announced as its new chief following a meeting in Mumbai on Sunday.

"He will be officially declared elected as the President of the BCCI for the remaining term 2014-17, tomorrow at the Special General Meeting," said a statement issued Saturday.

Thakur succeeds Shashank Manohar who stepped down earlier this month to become the first independent chairman of the ICC.

The top post at the cash-rich BCCI is regarded by many as the most powerful in global cricket. The board benefits from huge TV deals that allow it to effectively run the ICC with its allies, Australia and England.



Usha KC striker Pushkor Khisha Mimo blows a kiss after scoring against Mariner Youngs Club in their Premier Division League fixture at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Usha sink Mariners

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions Usha Krira Chakra notched up their third consecutive win of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League by outplaying Mariner Youngs Club 4-1 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mariners earned the first two penalty corners (PC) of the match, but former national player Mamunur Rahman Chayan failed to beat the Usha goalkeeper Abu Sayeed Nippon on either occasion. Usha, on the other hand,

took full advantage of their first PC in the 21st minute, with Pakistani defender Alim Belal scoring from Krishna Kumar's drag. While Mariners pressed hard for the equaliser, it was Usha who doubled the advantage, thanks to a brilliant solo effort from striker Pushkor Khisha Mimo in the 32nd minute.

Mariners pulled one back through Ashraf Islam in the 61st minute, but Usha scored two more, with Hasan Jubayer Niloy and Mahbub Hossain adding their names to the score-sheet in the final four minutes of the match.

This was the first defeat for Mariners, who played with only one foreign player against the five foreigners fielded by Usha.

Cozier laid to rest

AGENCIES, Bridgetown



West Indies cricket's media titan Tony Cozier was laid to rest on Friday following a service at the Coral Ridge Memorial Gardens that was attended by several dignitaries and influential members of the regional cricket community.

Barbados legend Garry Sobers topped the list of mourners along with former Chief Justice David Simmons, noted Caribbean jurist Richard Cheltenham, the West Indies batting great Everton Weekes and outstanding former fast bowler Wes Hall, who conducted the ceremony, reports CMC.

Several former West Indies players were also in attendance including chairman of selectors, Clive Lloyd; Barbados Cricket Association president Joel Garner and West Indies head coach Phil Simmons.

Known as the 'voice of the West Indies cricket', Cozier chronicled the fortunes of the team for nearly six decades, in an illustrious career which saw him rise to the summit of the industry.

Cozier was eulogised by son Craig who described him as an outstanding family man, a true professional and a pioneer in the field of cricket journalism.

"I was lucky to have him as my mentor and teacher as I too charted a path in journalism and cricket, learning as much from his vast professional know-how as his human qualities," said Craig.

"For a long time the sole Caribbean presence on overseas campaigns, dad paved the way for others to follow and he was delighted to be joined by likeminded Caribbean men to share his experiences with."

He added: "Dad always had time for people and especially loved his family time."