



## Did U Know?

Britain's Rio Ferdinand became the world's most expensive defender in July 2002 when he joined Manchester United from Leeds United in a deal worth £30 million (\$46.9 million). When he was 16, Ferdinand joined English soccer club West Ham and two years later made his debut. He quickly became one of the most exciting prospects in English soccer and was part of England's 1998 and 2002 World Cup squads.



## Talk Turkey



**Rameez Raja**  
(PCB chief executive)  
"As an international and professional cricketer he has every right to accept any coaching assignment. But we feel his first priority should be given to Pakistan."  
On the possibility of Wasim Akram coaching Indian bowlers.



## What to Watch

- ESPN**  
West Indies v Zimbabwe  
First ODI  
Live at 1.25 pm  
**Primera Liga**  
Barcelona v Villarreal  
Live at 2.30 am (Sunday)  
**STAR Sports**  
Rugby World Cup Final  
Australia v England  
Live at 3 pm  
English Premier League  
Man United v Rovers  
Live at 6.25 pm  
English Premier League  
Arsenal v Birmingham  
Live 8.55 pm

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 201**  
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.  
Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 5, 2003 and draw

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score against England in the last ODI?	143	190	182
2. Who is the International Cricket Council (ICC) president?	Malcolm Speed	Ali Asghar	Ihsan Mani
3. Who became Asian Under-19 cricket champions?	Pakistan	Bangladesh	India
4. Who clinched the women's title in the Asian Zonal Chess			

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (if any) .....

## Pierce-powered France

Former French and Australian Open winner Mary Pierce secured France a Fed Cup final showdown this weekend with the United States following a three-set win over Russian Vera Zvonareva. The 33rd-ranked Pierce marked her return to the Fed Cup fold by seeing off world number 13 Zvonareva 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in one-hour, 44min to give France an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

# Poorly prepared BD face Tajikistan Nov 26

SPORTS REPORTER



It appears only a few days before Bangladesh play their long-awaited 2006 World Cup first-leg qualifier against Tajikistan there is apathy among players and officials of Bangladesh Football Federation.

But that is the least of their worries as Bangladesh, with little or no preparation, face the Central Asian country at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on November 26. The away match will be held four days later in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. Bangladesh coach Golam Sarwar Tipu felt poor groundwork could hamper the hosts' chances. "I'm not at all satisfied with the preparation going into such an important match," he said yesterday. "Since the camp started on

November 2, I could only work with the full squad just once. I'm happy at least all twenty players joined the camp today after the end of the Federation Cup."

However, the coach was unhappy that he had less time to work on certain aspects.

"Maybe there was no necessity to work hard with some players but I had hoped that I could work for at least ten days to find out a good combination," the former national player added.

Tipu was also concerned at his long injury list. "Hasan Al Mamun, Moni, Joy and Saiful are not 100 per cent at the moment. But I think they will recover before the big match."

On the other hand, an unnamed senior player painted a different story. "It was really funny how the national team was made to prepare when the federation officials were

showing indifference. They didn't bother to know what was happening on the field and if we needed anything," the experienced booter told The Daily Star Sport on Friday.

The players and coaching staff can argue that their preparations could have gone smoothly had the BFF high-ups been more dynamic instead weighing the pros and cons of participating in the long World Cup campaign for a ticket to Germany.

Months before this fixture, football lovers in the country were stunned when the SA Sultan-led federation decided against taking part in the extravaganza citing it as a waste of money.

Yet in another strange twist the same officials were made to understand the benefits after 'polite' conversation between FIFA supremo

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# Time to get tough

Cricket

HERALD SUN/CRICKET365, New Delhi

Indian coach John Wright says the time has arrived for his richly talented team to shed its reputation as easy roadkill away from home.

Regardless of the result in the four-Test series in Australia this summer, Wright wants his side to be able to say it fought as hard as any touring team has against Steve Waugh's men.

The Indians have been guilty of adopting a defeatist mentality even

before getting on the field in previous overseas tours - and Wright wants that to change.

"This is a big country with very passionate cricket fans," he said.

"What the fans deserve is a team that really fights hard in every situation."

"If we go over there and play with the right attitude, intensity and determination, we will play good cricket."

Wright is also under no illusions as to the mountainous task that awaits his side.

"It will be the toughest tour since I came to India and joined as coach," said New Zealander, who was

appointed coach of the team in November 2000.

"They are rated as the number one team of the world. You have to be realistic... We will start as underdogs."

The former New Zealand captain and doughty opening batsman, has added toughness and structure since replacing Kapil Dev not long before Australia's epic series in India two years ago.

Kyle Mills is also missing with a viral infection. Matthew Horne and Andre Adams have also opted out of the tour without explanation. Last week, New Zealand players received death threats by e-mail in Pakistan where security officials are searching for the culprit.

Fast bowler Shane Bond, who is in the final stages of rehabilitation from injury, was not considered.

Established Test player and sometime one-day international player, Mathew Sinclair, is recalled, as is Hamish Marshall, a replacement batsman to South Africa in 2000-2001 who made 40 in his only Test innings and has not been used

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Indian captain Saurav Ganguly (R) flanked by coach John Wright addresses a press conference, prior to the team's departure for Australia, in Madras yesterday.

# Gavaskar's fear

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

India depart on Friday for a tour of Australia but already critics led by former captain Sunil Gavaskar are suggesting Saurav Ganguly's side are heading for another demoralising trip.

Ricky Ponting's one-day team beat India in the World Cup final in Johannesburg in March and the Australians completed a 37-run win in Tuesday's tri-series final over India in Calcutta.

India's batting crumbled under pressure chasing a modest target of 236 against an Australia pace attack without injured trio Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Brett Lee.

"If they can't get 236 against a second string bowling attack what will they do against the fully fledged attack?" Gavaskar, who has scored a world record 34 Test centuries, wrote in his Hindustan Times newspaper column.

India have struggled in Australia, losing the 1999-2000 three-test series 3-0 and the 1991-92 five-match series 4-0.

Ponting, who is Test vice-captain under Steve Waugh's leadership, warned India would face a gruelling

time in Australia, where they are due to play four tests and a one-day tri-series also involving Zimbabwe.

India have had a poor build-up, managing only to draw last month's two-Test home series against New Zealand and they were forced to follow on in the second game in Mohali.

"Our performances in the recently concluded Test and one-day series have been below par," Ganguly wrote in his column in the Hindustan Times on Thursday.

"The situation requires for everyone to put up their hands and be counted."

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# Clash of hemispheres

REUTERS, Sydney



For all the talk of motivation, desire and a dozen other imponderables, Saturday's World Cup final between Australia and England will come down to individual contests within a team game.

Both sides are through to the final on merit, defeating the brilliant but flawed New Zealand and France sides respectively last weekend.

Australia have the World Cup pedigree. They are the only side to win the William Webb Ellis Trophy twice and believe they should retain it permanently if they secure victory at the Olympic Stadium on Saturday.

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SUPER BOOT: England's Jonny Wilkinson practises his kicking at the Olympic Stadium in Sydney yesterday, a day before the Rugby World Cup final against Australia.

# Second ODI washed out

AFP, Colombo

Heavy rain washed out the second one-day international between England and Sri Lanka without a ball being bowled here on Friday.

The day-night match was in doubt from the beginning after heavy overnight rain left a slushy outfield at the Premadasa Stadium.

The umpires consulted rival captains Marvan Atapattu of Sri Lanka and Michael Vaughan of England before abandoning the match after it became evident there would be no time for each team to bat the required minimum of 25 overs.

"There was no point waiting for the ground to dry up today," said Australian umpire Daryl Harper.

"It is better to give the ground staff time to get the outfield ready for Sunday's third international."

England must win on Sunday to draw the one-day series after losing the opening match at Dambulla on Tuesday by 10 wickets.

# 7 NZ rookies drafted

REUTERS, Auckland

Seven players who have never represented New Zealand in one-day cricket have been named in the 15-man squad to play five matches in Pakistan beginning next week.

Four established players are unavailable - Craig McMillan, Scott Styris, Ian Butler and Lou Vincent - and captain Stephen Fleming and Nathan Astle are out because of injury.

Kyle Mills is also missing with a viral infection.

Matthew Horne and Andre Adams have also opted out of the tour without explanation. Last week, New Zealand players received death threats by e-mail in Pakistan where security officials are searching for the culprit.

Fast bowler Shane Bond, who is in the final stages of rehabilitation from injury, was not considered.

Established Test player and sometime one-day international player, Mathew Sinclair, is recalled, as is Hamish Marshall, a replacement batsman to South Africa in 2000-2001 who made 40 in his only Test innings and has not been used

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# PCB again picks Junaid

AFP, Karachi

Pakistani selectors Friday named their squad for the five-match one-day series against New Zealand starting next week, including Junaid Zia, the son of Cricket Board Chairman Tauqir Zia.

Junaid was chosen from outside the pool of 23 probables because of his good performance in the domestic cricket season, chief selector Aamir Sohail said.

His selection for four one-day matches against Bangladesh two months ago was criticised by the media here as favouritism.

The 15-member team also includes star fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, but he will be excluded from the first two matches in compliance with an International Cricket Council ban on him.

Shoaib was handed a one Test and two one-day match ban by ICC match referee Clive Lloyd on charges of using abusive language against South African tail-ender Paul Adams in the Lahore Test.

Pakistan will take a hit as opener Taufiq Umar will miss the series due to injury.

The 22-year-old Umar scored 313 runs to finish as man-of-the-series in Pakistan's 1-0 win in the two-match series against South Africa last month.

Salim Elahi, one of eight players dumped after Pakistan's disastrous first round exit from the World Cup earlier this year, will fill Umar's place.

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# Korea Cup Taekwondo next month

SPORTS REPORTER

The three-day long Korea Cup Taekwondo Championship 2003 will be held at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium from December 18 under the joint-management of the South Korean Embassy in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Taekwondo Federation.

Interested district sports associations (DSA), universities, education boards and other organisations have been requested to send their entries to the Bangladesh Taekwondo Federation by December 15.

# Mashrafe's surgery Monday

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza will undergo a surgery on his damaged right knee in the Australian city of Melbourne on Monday.

The operation will be performed at the Avenue Hospital in Windsor under the supervision of reputed surgeon Dr. David Young. Mashrafe had already left for Australia last Wednesday.

The 20-year-old pace ace tore the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) on his knee while bowling on the third day of the second Test against England in Chittagong last month. Mashrafe went through two MRI scans in Chittagong and Dhaka and the reports were sent to Dr. Young who suggested immediate surgery.

It is believed that Mashrafe could be out of the game for some eight to ten months at least.

Young, who is an expert in sports related injuries, recently conducted a successful operation on the groin of another Bangladesh seamer Mohammad Sharif.



MASHRAFEE-bin-MORTUZA  
Tigers coach Dav Whatmore wished fast bowler, dubbed the 'Narail

Express', a successful surgery and also hoped that he will be back with the national team sooner than expected.

"He should be alright in the next six to eight months. We need him," said the Bangladesh coach while talking to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

This is not the first time that Mashrafe will be out of action for a significant period. The injury-prone quick couldn't play for more than a year after he had a similar injury on his left knee during Bangladesh's tour of New Zealand in December 2001.

He made his return to international cricket in the 2003 World Cup in South Africa but again got hurt during a practice session after the first match against Canada.

Mashrafe was back bowling in the home series against South Africa and then toured Australia and Pakistan earlier this year before breaking down yet again in Chittagong on October 31.

# Kapali not going

# Mushfique A team skipper?

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team will fly off to Pakistan on November 29 instead of November 28 to take part in the Patron's Trophy.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed yesterday confirmed that the squad's departure has been delayed by a day.

The second string national side are scheduled to play eight first class matches in Pakistan during their two month long tour. Their opening fixture starts from December 1 against Pakistan A.

Meanwhile, a source close to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday hinted that in-form all-rounder Mushfiquur Rahman might be declared captain of the A team with top order batsman Rajin Saleh acting as his deputy.

In another development, all-

rounder Alok Kapali, who was originally picked for the tour, pulled out because of pain in his right shoulder. Faruque informed that Kapali would stay back and undergo some medical tests to know the extent of the injury. Middle order batsman Mazharul Haque has been included in the 15-man squad as his replacement.

Seven members of the team -- Hannan Sarkar, Moniruzzaman, Rajin, Mushfiquur, Manjarul Islam, Jamaluddin and Anwar Hossain Munir are scheduled to return home at the end of December to join the Tigers' camp for the upcoming tour of Zimbabwe. They will be replaced by a new set of players.

Bangladesh A team: Hannan Sarkar, Moniruzzaman, Mazharul Haque, Rajin Saleh, Mushfiquur Rahman, Manjarul Islam, Jamaluddin, Anwar Hossain Munir, Mohammad Ashraf, Ehsanul Haque, Shahriar Hossain, Alamgir Kabir, Tareq Aziz Khan, Mohammad Salim (wicketkeeper) and Mosaddek Hossain.

# BCCI to probe bribe scam

AFP, Calcutta

India's cricket chiefs on Friday ordered an investigation into allegations that a player offered bribes to selectors to get picked for the national team.

"It is indeed a very serious matter and I will get to the bottom of this," said Jagmohan Dalmiya, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), at a crowded media conference here.

Dalmiya said BCCI official D.V. Subba Rao will conduct an enquiry in the next 15 days, after which his report will be referred to the cricket board's disciplinary committee.

Two selectors, former international Kiran More and Pranob Roy, reported to the BCCI on Thursday that Maharashtra batsman Abhijit Kale offered them both one million rupees (21,700 dollars) earlier this month if he was named in the national team.

It was not immediately clear if Kale wanted the selectors to pick him for the upcoming tour of Australia or the India 'A' team's

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# Don't rush Lee back

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Australian Test captain Steve Waugh has warned against rushing Brett Lee back into the national team for the India series before the tearaway speedster has regained match fitness.

Lee, along with Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar one of the fastest bowlers in world cricket, is recovering from ankle surgery and torn stomach muscles, and has not played since the second Test against Zimbabwe in Sydney last month.

He is making a bid to be ready for the first Test against India in Brisbane, starting December 4, but would have had only one limited-over match before then for New South Wales against Tasmania on November 29.

Waugh said the decision was up to the selectors, but he would not want to



BRETT LEE  
captain a side involving players with

fitness doubts. "I'm not sure how Brett's going, it's not a lot of preparation, but it's up to the selectors to make that call," Waugh said here on Friday.

"I think you want to see the guys ready for a Test match. You can't really go in hoping they're going to be okay, you've got to know they're going to be right and they've done enough bowling."

Paceman Glenn McGrath, who is recovering from two ankle operations and has not played since the second Test against Bangladesh in Cairns last July, is in a similar situation and also unlikely to be ready for the first Test.

But Waugh gained some encouragement from watching first hand as another recovering Australian paceman, Jason Gillespie, took

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# Anderson may miss first Test

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Colombo

England bowler James Anderson is set to miss the first Test against Sri Lanka because of an ankle injury.

An MRI scan revealed Anderson suffered soft tissue damage when he was injured playing squash in Colombo.

He will also miss the remaining two one-day internationals. England physio Dean Conway said Anderson was expected to be out of action for up to a fortnight, ruling him out of the Galle Test on 2 December.

Conway said: "The injury is less than 24 hours old and we will need a few days to assess it."

"Ten days would take us within 48 hours of the first Test in Galle, so realistically the second Test in Kandy is his likeliest deadline."

Anderson is on crutches and England have yet to decide whether to call up another strike bowler to the squad.

The news is a further blow to England, having learned on Wednesday Steve Harmison will not be available for the Sri Lanka Tests because he has failed

to recover from a lower back injury in time.

England play two more one-day internationals, on Friday and Sunday, and three Test matches.

They are 1-0 down in the series, having lost by 10 wickets in the first

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JAMES ANDERSON

# Afridi named Pak A skipper

AFP, Karachi

Popular all-rounder Shahid Afridi was Friday named captain of the Pakistan A team for next month's high-profile tri-series in India.

The 22-year-old, who was dropped from the national team after its first-round exit from the World Cup, will lead the first Pakistani team to India in nearly five years for the Calcutta tournament with the hosts and Sri Lanka.

The A series is the last of three junior-level events agreed upon by Pakistan and India as steps toward reviving stalled cricketing ties.

The Indian government last month withdrew its three-year ban of bilateral cricket matches against Pakistan, paving the way for a Test series between the arch-rivals in Pakistan in March-April next year.

Pakistan has not sent a cricket team to India since February 1999.

Established fast bowler Umar Gul and rookie pacemen Abdul Rauf and Mohammad Ershad are also included in the A team, the first Pakistani side to visit India since February 1999.

**SQUAD**  
Shahid Afridi (captain), Imran Nazir, Salman Butt, Mohammad Hafeez, Naved Latif, Faisal Iqbal, Hilal Asad, Abdul Rauf, Khalid Ahmed, Mansoor Amjad, Umer Gul, Saeed Bin Nisar, Mohammad Ershad, Amin Ur Rehman, Naved Anjum (coach), Azhar Zairian (manager)