



Did U Know?

The highest score ever achieved by a team in a one-day international is 398/5 by Sri Lanka. They made this gigantic score in the 1996 World Cup league match against Kenya at Kandy.



Talk Turkey



Steve Waugh
(Australian Test captain)
"I'm a pretty emotional person. I'm basically the opposite of what I'm perceived as on the cricket field. When you drop a player as captain, you become emotional. You don't cry, but you feel like crying."



What to Watch

ESPN

Second ODI
West Indies v Zimbabwe
Live at 1.25 pm

English Premier League
Tottenham v Aston Villa
Live at 10 pm

STAR Sports

Cricket Classics
India v Pakistan
Repeat at 9 pm

TEN Sports

Third ODI
England v Sri Lanka
Live at 2 pm



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	Ehsan 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)			

Blair hails heroes

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Saturday hailed the English rugby union team after their 20-17 World Cup win over Australia in Sydney as "a fantastic day for English rugby and for England."

The Prime Minister watched the match at his country residence of Chequers outside London and congratulated the team for the biggest win for the country since England's football team won the 1966 World Cup.

"This was a fantastic day for English rugby and for England. The

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Mashrafee faces double op?



SPORTS REPORTER

Injured fast bowler Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza will be taken to the treatment table on Monday for a surgery on his damaged right knee in the Australian.

But a latest development suggested that the Narail quick might have to go through a second operation on his other keen after Dr. David Young at the Avenue Hospital in Windsor completed a full investigation.

Although Mashrafee had a successful operation on his left knee in India in March last year, but the Australian surgeon has now suggested that the young paceman may require a MRI on that keen also.

A high official of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) last night con-

firmed a second MRI was necessary since the Board thought it would be a good idea to have a through check-up while he was in Australia.

"But whether Mashrafee will need another operation on his left knee or not we can't say at the moment. I have only recently learnt that that a metal plate was inserted in that leg during his surgery in India. May be the doctors in Australia want to apply a more sophisticated technique," the high official told The Daily Star Sport last night.

But even if it comes down to surgery again certainly the left keen will be treated after Monday's operation on his right knee.

The 20-year-old pace ace tore the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his right knee while bowling on the third day of the second Test against England in Chittagong last month. Mashrafee 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 Mashrafee could be sidelined for at least eight months.

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

Mashrafee has been dodged by injury so far in his career. The injury-prone quick couldn't play for more than a year after injuring 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

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Ganguly admits it



AFP, Adelaide

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly has conceded Australia holds a mental edge over his team heading into the southern summer's four-Test series.

Australian one-day captain Ricky Ponting said after his side's tri-series final win in India on Tuesday that his players had a psychological hold over the Indians.

Ganguly, who arrived with the Indian team here on Saturday, agreed the Indians had a mental barrier to overcome on their Australian tour.

"Yes, honestly we've lost to them four times now in the last two months in one-day cricket and we accept that they're a good side and they're playing good cricket," he told reporters.

"That's why it's more of a challenge to raise our game and perform at par



SAURAV GANGULY

with them in Australia.

"We know they are going to be a

tough side at home, they win overseas as well and them playing at home will be even tougher.

"We know that and we have to be up to the task."

But Ganguly dismissed suggestions his side's inexperienced pace attack would struggle on the bouncy Australian pitches.

India's most experienced bowlers will be Zaheer Khan (26 Tests) and Ashish Nehra (13 Tests), but Ganguly said both players had proved their ability at international level.

"They were inexperienced in the World Cup and to be honest they were on par with the best in the world, if you go through the records," he said.

"Even before the World Cup, we went to New Zealand before the

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England aim to square series

BBC ONLINE, undated

England all-rounder Paul Collingwood says the team are confident of squaring the one-day international series against Sri Lanka on Sunday.

After losing the first match by 10 wickets, and watching as the second was washed out on Friday, England must secure victory in the last match to save face.

After morning practice in thankfully fine conditions in Colombo, England watched television as their

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Wessels' denial



REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Former South Africa captain Kepler Wessels has continued his strong denial of the racism claims that led to his suspension as coach of Eastern Province.

Wessels issued a statement through his lawyers on Friday angrily denying the accusation against him, made by two players from his own squad.

"I emphatically deny the incident

took place or that I ever uttered any words remotely approximating the words that I am accused of uttering," Wessels said.

The no-nonsense attitude that characterised Wessels's 20-year playing career continued with a threat by him to bring charges of racism against his accusers, saying that such counter action would be "necessary and fair."

Details of the incident have become clearer since Wessels's lawyers obtained a sworn affidavit from the white cricketer to whom Wessels is alleged to have made

a



PHOTO: STAR

LISTEN TO ME: National cricket coach Dav Whatmore (C) tries to make Mazharul Haq (L) something understand during a practice session of Bangladesh A side at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mushfiq to lead BD A team

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday formally announced the 15-member Bangladesh A team that will take part in the Patron's Trophy in Pakistan.

As per speculation, all-rounder Mushfiquur Rahman has been named the captain while opening batsman Hannan Sarker will be his deputy.

The Board has also decided to send the selectors and coaches to Pakistan by rotation as Golam Nawsher Prince and Shahidul Alam Ratan will accompany the team as manager and coach respectively for the first phase of the tournament.

They will be with the squad from December 1 to December 25 while chief selector Faruque Ahmed and Athar Ali will replace them from December 28 to January 28 in the next phase. Sarwar Imran will replace Ratan as the coach.

Meanwhile, national coach Dav Whatmore will also be accompanying the team and watching two matches of the meet. He will then go home in Australia on a leave.

The Bangladesh A team will fly off to Pakistan on November 29 to play eight first class matches in the country during their two-month tour. They open their tour on December 1 against Pakistan A.

Besides, seven members of the team Hannan Sarker, Moniruzzaman, Rajin, Mushfique, Manjarul Islam, Jamaluddin and Anwar Hossain Munir are scheduled to return home at the end of December to join the national team camp for the tour of Zimbabwe. They will be replaced in Pakistan by a new set of

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Rampant Gayle, Lara



AFP, Bulawayo

Chris Gayle and Brian Lara combined with centuries each to power the West Indies to 347 for six from 50 overs in the first of a series of five cricket one-day internationals against Zimbabwe here on Saturday.

Gayle made a welcome return to form with an undefeated 153 in 158 balls while captain Lara, who won the toss and opted to bat, was even more aggressive, piling up 113 runs in 105 balls.

Lara struck three sixes and 14 fours to record his 18th one-day international century.

It will not concern Gayle in the least that his was not the dominant role, for he recorded his highest score in internationals, hammering Zimbabwe for two sixes and 19 fours.

The West Indies total of 347 was their second highest in internationals.

Zimbabwe kept Gayle and Wavell Hinds quiet in the opening overs, when only 13 runs were on the board from four overs. But it was a calm before the storm.

The run rate steadily built up, Gayle beginning to celebrate his return to form and with Lara at his irrepressible

best.

They moved quickly through four an over, then five, on towards six during the 42nd over and well over that in the final stages of the innings. The total was close on seven.

The going was hard and tormenting for Zimbabwe and they were almost exclusively on the defensive. Heath Streak was unfortunate not to get Gayle caught behind with a couple of unplayable balls, caused by reverse swing.

But an unstoppable flow of singles and an avalanche of boundaries kept the scoreboard in a high gear. The 39th over, by Sean Ervine, cost Zimbabwe 19 runs, the same number that was taken off the 48th bowled by Blignaut.

The Gayle-Lara combination was in total command of the innings. Zimbabwe captain Streak was almost helpless to stop or even slow down the runs feast.

After Lara departed, Zimbabwe captured the wickets of Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Marlon Samuels in quick succession. These were personal setbacks but did nothing to affect Zimbabwe's situation.

The home team's task is next to hopeless, but the weather might come to their aid. Dark clouds were building up on the horizon at the lunch break and

Zia pulls out of Pak team

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Saturday pulled its chief's son from a 15-man national squad against New Zealand a day after his controversial selection triggered a wave of media criticism.

The selectors "accepted a request" from Junaid Zia, son of PCB chairman Tauqir Zia, and pulled him from the Pakistan team for the five-match one-day series against New Zealand to be played between November 29 and December 7, a PCB statement said.

"Junaid's place was awarded to Umar Gul who had been initially selected in the Pakistan A team for next month's tri-nation one-day series in India," the statement said.

"Junaid requested the selectors that he may be relieved from the one-day series so that he could appear in his academic examinations and would now replace Gul in Pakistan A squad for the December 13 to 21 event in India."

Junaid was chosen from outside the pool of 23 probables after he took 35 wickets in four matches of a non-first class tournament.

Leading Pakistani dailies called his selection "controversial" and "shocking" as he was picked over other notable performers, including Waseem Khan (36 wickets in six matches), Abdul Rauf (34 in four) and Gul (20 in three).

Junaid's selection for four one-day games against Bangladesh two months ago also sparked media outrage.

He was later dropped against a formidable South African side.

The first two matches of the Pakistan-New Zealand series will be played at Lahore on November 29 and December 1, while Faisalabad will host the third match on December 3.

New Zealand arrive in Pakistan on November 28.

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Alfaz spares seniors' blushes

SPORTS REPORTER

A double strike by ace forward Alfaz Ahmed yesterday gave the national team a hard-fought 2-1 win over the Bangladesh under-20s in the lone practice match ahead of their World Cup first-leg qualifier against Tajikistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Bangladesh will face the Central Asian country on November 26 at the same venue. However the home leg is likely to clash with Eid-ul-Fitre.

Although the result of the practice match ended as expected, it hardly inspired coach Golam Sarwar Tipu before his charges play the big match against Tajikistan.

The national booters had rally from a goal down after Anwar put the under-20 ahead in the seventh minute. It took another 26 minutes before Alfaz found the net capitalizing on a defensive lapse. The experienced marksman slammed home the winner in the 66th minute from a

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There should be some truth



AFP, Adelaide

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly said on Saturday there must be some basis to allegations that a player offered bribes to Indian selectors to get picked for the national team.

India's cricket chiefs on Friday ordered an investigation into the allegations.



ABHIJIT KALE

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

The BCCI has since suspended Kale while it investigates the allegations, which have been denied by Kale.

"When I got to know the story yesterday I found it a little bit hard to believe that somebody would pay so much money just to be a part of the Indian side," Ganguly told reporters here on the

Indian team's arrival on Saturday.

"Abhiji't's a consistent performer in first-class cricket in India, he's scored loads of runs, so I was a little surprised when I heard the story."

"But now I have heard ... that he has been banned by the BCCI, so there must be some truth to this story."

"It is true it's pretty shameful." Kale, 30, a right hand batsman, represented India in a one-day international in Bangladesh in April but was ignored for the recent home series against Australia and New Zealand.

Ganguly said he had no first-hand knowledge about the incident and had only heard about it in the media.

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Kirtley staying back in Lanka

REUTERS, Colombo

Fast bowler James Kirtley will remain in Sri Lanka as cover for the injured James Anderson during the forthcoming Test series, an England team spokesman said on Friday.

Anderson twisted his ankle playing squash on Wednesday night and although x-rays revealed no bone problem an MRI scan showed soft tissue damage.

England's physio Dean Conway predicted that Anderson would be out for about two weeks, which would make him doubtful for the first Test starting on December 2.

"James Kirtley will stay in Sri Lanka as cover until such time as Jimmy (Anderson) recovers," Mark Hodgson, England's media spokesman, told reporters.

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