



Did U Know?

The first player to score 100 runs and take 10 wickets in the same Test was Australia's Alan Davidson in 1960.



TEN Sports

Pakistan vs New Zealand
First ODI
Live at 2:00 pm

ESPN

English Premier League
Wolves v Newcastle
Live at 6:25 pm
Blackburn v Tottenham
Live at 8:55 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Osasuna
Same Day Delay at 2:00 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

4th ODI
West Indies v Zimbabwe
Live at 1:20 pm



Arjuna Ranatunga

(Former Sri Lanka captain)
"This is the weakest-looking England side I can remember. I watched them struggle to beat Bangladesh in Dhaka and they are nowhere near as good as the sides I faced."

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.

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

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Wessels found 'not racist'

REUTERS, Cape Town
Former South Africa captain Kepler Wessels was found not guilty of racism on Wednesday by a disciplinary tribunal of the Eastern Province Cricket Union where he is coach.
"Kepler had the hearing yesterday and the judgement was made this afternoon -- he was found not guilty," EPCU chief executive officer David Emslies said.
"We are awaiting the full judgement papers but we know he has been found not guilty."
Wessels was accused by two black players in his squad of calling them "animals" at a net practice on October 23 but he always vehemently denied the claim.



Bangladesh's Alfaz Ahmed (L) tries to control the ball during the World Cup pre-qualifying match against Tajikistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Wednesday.

Mission impossible for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Tajikistan have virtually confirmed their place in the 2006 World Cup qualifiers when the Central Asian republic handed hosts Bangladesh a 2-0 defeat at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Wednesday.
The outcome leaves Bangladesh needing to climb a mountain to overturn the deficit in the second leg, which takes place in Dushanbe tomorrow. Coach Golam Sarwar Tipu received chilly jolt after learning the game will be played in sub-zero temperatures.
The visitors, who should have walked away with at least six goals, had to settle for two in either half to stun the nearly 5,000 fans that turned up at the venue.

But their festival mood received a rude shock on 11 minutes when Khamidov Sukhrob put the Tajiks ahead with a right-footer after Bangladesh custodian Aminul failed to deal with his header.
Bangladesh's hopes of finding an equaliser never seemed quite on the cards especially as the much-vaunted midfield trio of Arman Mia, Monwar Hossain and Matur Munna could not find a way through the rock-solid Tajik back four.
Before the dying minutes of the first half there was hardly a worthwhile attack mounted by the home team. But when the chances finally came strikers Alfaz Ahmed and Rokunuzzaman Kanchan wasted them.
The lower-ranked Tajiks needed only five minutes after the break to throttle their superior opponents. Hakimov Numordzhon had the simplest task to tap the ball home following

confusion inside the box.
After what proved to be the killer blow, the Tajiks relaxed a little but that still didn't inspire Bangladesh to stage some sort of fightback.
And once again when a scoring chance did arrive it disappeared as second half substitute striker Ariful Kabir Farhad discovered in the 64th minute.
Coming in place of Alfaz, the Mohammedan striker opted for power rather than precision as his left-footer went miles wide of the target.
Only the woodwork denied the goal-hungry Tajiks, ranked 180th by FIFA, from compounding 147th-ranked Bangladesh's woes.
Besides, Aminul had to be at his very best to keep Tajikistan at bay.
The under-prepared Bangladesh team had to battle the remaining 24

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India draw tour opener

REUTERS, Melbourne
India's first tour match of Australia ended in a draw on Thursday as Victoria's Brad Hodge pounded the bowlers with a record knock of 264.
Hodge broke Justin Langer's previous record of 223 for the highest first-class score made against India on Australian soil as Victoria piled on 518 for eight in their first innings before mercifully declaring.
India, who had managed just 266-9 in their first innings, were 116 for two second time round when stumps were drawn on the third and final day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.
There were some worrying signs for India's bowlers as they prepare for next week's first test against Australia in Brisbane as Hodge carted them to every part of the ground.
Starting the day unbeaten on 153, Hodge brought up his double hundred before lunch off 330 deliveries. By the time he left, caught by Rahul Dravid off Virender Sehwag, he had batted almost eight and a half hours and hit 39 fours and a six.

A team's departure delayed

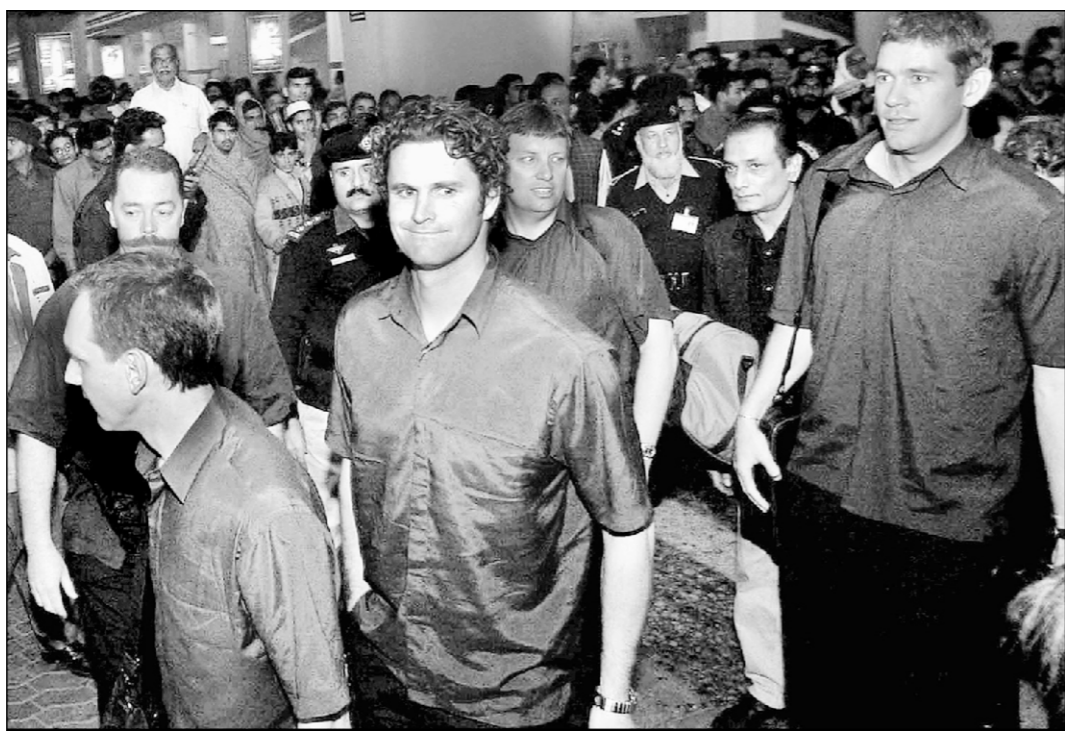
Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team's participation in the Inter-departmental Cricket Championship (Patron's Trophy and Patron's Cup) has been deferred for at least ten days following Pakistan Cricket Board's decision to increase the number of teams from nine to 13.
The PCB took the decision on November 26 at the request of some leading local teams who had originally failed to qualify for the first-class competition.
Initially, the PCB decided to pick the two top teams from each of the four groups of the qualifying round that concluded on November 22. Now, however, they have decided to promote the top three teams and make it a 13-team event with Bangladesh A.
Accordingly, thirteen teams have

been divided into two groups. The second string national team has been drafted in Group A along with Pakistan International Airlines, Customs, DHA, WAPDA, Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), Pakistan Tele Communication Limited (PTCL) while the other group includes ZTBL, KPT, NBP, Sui Gas, ABL and HBL.
The four teams which benefited from the new ruling were DHA (from Pool A), PTCL (from Pool B), NBP (from Pool C) and HBL (from Pool D).
The new fixture was scheduled to be finalised on Friday, but it has been decided that Pool A matches will begin from December 7 and will be played in Karachi and Hyderabad while Rawalpindi and Peshawar will host the Pool B games that will begin from December 14.
Meanwhile, BCB advisor and chairman of the cricket committee

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New Zealand cricket players make their way out of the Allama Iqbal International Airport in Pakistan yesterday.

Mashrafe's surgery successful

SPORTS REPORTER

The right knee of Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza was successfully operated upon by Dr. David Young at the Avenue Hospital in Melbourne on Monday.
The 20-year-old Narail speedster, who tore his right knee ligament while bowling against England in the second Test in Chittagong last month, went through two MRIs in Chittagong and Dhaka before he was sent down under the advice of Dr Young.
The Australian surgeon had recently treated injured pacer Mohammad Sharif's groin at the same hospital.
Talking to The Daily Star Sport yesterday, Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore said that Mashrafe was alright after the first operation and if everything was satisfactory then the left knee would also undergo surgery after two weeks.
The right-arm paceman is expected to be out of action for up to eight months.
Meanwhile, Sharif returned home on Friday. He will now spend 16 weeks in a rehabilitation programme.

Rogers replaces Gripper

AFP, Harare

Flamboyant batsman Barney Rogers will replace opener Trevor Gripper in the Zimbabwe side to play West Indies for the fourth of five one-day internationals at Harare Sports Club Saturday.
Rogers scored a flowing half-century against the tourists for Zimbabwe 'A' at Kwekwe nine days ago which secured his place in the squad.
But he has only managed 13 runs in two previous internationals - against Pakistan.
Zimbabwe: Heath Streak (capt), Vusi Sibanda, Barney Rogers, Mark Vermeulen, Criag Wishart, Stuart Matsikenye, Tendata Taibu, Andy Blynagut, Sean Ervine, Ray Price, Gary Brent.
West Indies will not announce their team until just before the start of play.

SL pick tyro paceman

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka have included uncapped quick bowler Dinusha Fernando in a 15-man squad for the first Test against England next week.
Fernando, 24, will compete with his namesake Dilhara for the new ball alongside Chaminda Vaas. He made his one-day debut against England earlier this month, taking two for 13 in a 10-wicket win at Dambulla.
Dilhara Fernando last played for Sri Lanka seven months ago before suffering a stress fracture of the spine.
Off-spinner Kumar Dharmasena has been recalled but leg-spinner Upul Chandana, who has not played a Test since July 2002, is expected to play ahead of him as the side's second spinner in a four-man bowling attack.
The three-Test series starts at Galle on December 2.
SQUAD
Hashan Tillakaratne (capt), Marvan Atapattu, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Kumar Dharmasena, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Dinusha Fernando, Muttiah Muralitharan, Dilhara Fernando, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Michael Vandort.

New Kiwis face Pak ODI test

AFP, Lahore

All-rounder Chris Cairns led a new look New Zealand cricket team to play a challenging five-match one-day series against a settling Pakistan team starting with the day-night fixture here on Saturday.
"We have things to achieve on this tour and we are not here to be second but we know Pakistan will provide challenge in different ways for our inexperienced side but we look forward to various challenges," said Cairns in a press conference.
The 15-man New Zealand squad arrived early Friday morning amidst tight security on a tour which initially ran into trouble after four Black Cap players pulled out over security fears.
Craig McMillan, Scot Styris, Ian Butler and Lou Vincent pulled out of the tour after they received threats from an anonymous emailer.
Two possible replacements -- Andre Adams and Matthew Horne -- also refused to tour while regular captain Stephen Fleming, pacer Shane Bond and opener Nathan Astle are nursing injuries.

Right time to go

Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia Test captain Steve Waugh announced on Wednesday he will retire from international cricket at the end of the upcoming home series with India.
Waugh told a hastily arranged news conference at the Sydney Cricket Ground that he would call it quits after the fourth Test with India, starting in Sydney on January 2.
"The upcoming Sydney test will be my last for Australia, should I be selected to play," Waugh said.
"My present form and fitness

suggests I could play on, however all good things must come to an end."
Waugh is the most capped player in the sport's history with 164 Test appearances and the second highest run scorer with 10,660 runs.
He is also the most successful captain in Test cricket and is second on the all-time list of century makers with 32.
Waugh, 38, had previously planned to retire after Australia's tour of India in September next year but decided to bring it forward after consulting his family.
"I want to leave the game on a high and I feel the time is right now," Waugh said.



Australian legend Steve Waugh (R) leaves the Sydney Cricket Ground with his wife Lynette after announcing his retirement from Test cricket on November 26.

Daughter's wish fulfilled

Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

Little Rosie Waugh knew it was time for her dad, Australian Test captain Steve Waugh, to retire from international cricket.
At breakfast last week, Rosie looked at her father and said: "I don't want you to go away anymore."
"Previously, 12 months ago, she said 'look if you want to keep playing cricket and it is in your heart, keep doing it,'" Waugh said in recalling the conversation with his daughter.
"She had obviously come to a stage where she thought it was time for me to spend more time at home," Waugh told a news conference on Wednesday as he announced his plans to retire from international cricket after the upcoming four-test series against India in Australia.
The most successful captain in test cricket and second on the all-time list of century makers with 32 hundreds, Waugh said he was playing some of his best cricket and wanted to exit the game he loved on a high.
He also wanted to spend "quality time" with his young family, Rosie (7), Austin (4) and Lily (2), acknowledging that his wife Lynette and children had sacrificed a lot for his cricketer career.

"I am looking forward to spending time with the family, particularly seeing the kids grow up, that is something I have missed over the years," Waugh said.
"In some ways she (Lynette) is retiring today," he said.
At 38, Waugh's longevity at the top of world cricket is due not only to his magical skills with a bat and a fitness regime which solved niggling injuries in recent years, but a fierce competitive streak that runs through all top sportsmen and women.
Waugh is regarded as a highly skilled cricketer, but he has one added ingredient -- he is ruthless on the field.
His ascendancy to Australian Test captain began in the mid-1980s at a time when the side was struggling, but today there is no team more formidable in world cricket than the one he now leads.
Waugh admits retiring for someone so competitive will be tough.
To satisfy his thirst for competition, Waugh joked he would take on four-year-old Austin in a game of backyard cricket.
On a more serious note, Waugh said he planned to write a book about his life as a cricketer, which should take him 12 months to complete. Waugh has already written 11 books.
While India will be in mourning

after hearing of Waugh's retirement plans, his legions of fanatical fans on the sub-continent will still get to see their cricketing god.
Waugh said he planned to continue working with the charity "Calcutta Foundation", raising funds for another home for leprosy children in the teeming city, and with his Indian business interests -- he has endorsement contracts with India's AMP Sanmar life insurance company and Indian tyre firm MRF.
"I know that whatever field I turn to I will give it 100 per cent and try and take the same values I have taken from sport into the business world," he said.
And the cricket world has not seen the last of the gifted batsman, who will continue playing for state side New South Wales and hopes to one day "pull on the pads" and help develop the minnows of international cricket.
"I like the underdog tag, I have always been one to help those teams out," Waugh said.
"If I can help in anyway in the future to develop some of these other countries, like Kenya, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, then I see that as a role I would like to take on later on."
"I am hoping that international cricket gets stronger and stronger and these minnows become much stronger forces."

Ponting handed capt's armband

Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

Ricky Ponting will take over as Australian Test captain when Steve Waugh retires in January, Cricket Australia (CA) announced on Friday.
CA chairman Bob Merriman said the board had decided to make the announcement early so that speculation about the new skipper would not overshadow Waugh's farewell series.
He also announced that wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist had been appointed vice-captain.
"The Test captaincy is one of Australia's significant leadership roles," Merriman said.
"Given the strong public interest in the issue, we thought it would be prudent to avoid any unnecessary speculation and distraction throughout the summer by making this announcement today."
Ponting, who replaced Waugh as Australian one-day skipper almost two

years ago, said he was honoured to be given the job.
"The one-day captaincy has given me a valuable insight into the characteristics required to be a successful



RICKY PONTING leader and I'm confident I can transfer these skills across to the Test arena," he said.
Waugh, who announced on

Kale wins appeal

AFP, New Delhi

The cash-to-play cricket scandal in India took a dramatic twist on Friday when a civil court allowed the suspended Abhijit Kale to resume his playing career.
The district court in the western city of Pune upheld Kale's appeal challenging the decision of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to temporarily suspend the player until a corruption inquiry was over.
"Kale should be not be stopped from playing," Judge V.D. Kulkarni ruled, according to court reporters quoted by television media.
The Maharashtra state Ranji Trophy team, of which Kale is the vice-captain, is due to play against Orissa in Cuttack from Monday.
The BCCI last week banned Kale from first-class cricket until it had investigated accusations from two national selectors, Kiran More and Pronob Roy, that the player offered them bribes to be picked for the ongoing tour of Australia.
The selectors, both former internationals, alleged in writing to BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya that Kale, 30, offered them a million rupees (22,000 US dollars) each for his selection.