



## Did U Know?

Shahriar Nafees of Bangladesh scored 105 not out from 138 balls in the first ODI against Zimbabwe at the Khulna Divisional Stadium on November 30. It was his third century, all against Zimbabwe.



**Sourav Ganguly**  
(Former India cricket captain)  
"I am happy to be back but it is always a challenge playing in Tests, whether it is your first or 100th."



### ESPN

- Australia v England  
2nd Ashes Test, Day Two  
Live at 6:30 am
- English Premier Football League  
Arsenal v Tottenham  
Live at 6:40 pm
- Portsmouth v Aston Villa  
Live at 8:55 pm
- Primera Liga  
Levante v Barcelona  
Live at 12:55 am (Sunday)
- STAR Sports**
- English Premier Football League  
Wigan v Liverpool  
Live at 8:55 pm
- Middlesbrough v Man United  
Live at 11:10 pm
- Primera Liga  
Real Betis v Atletico Madrid  
Live at 3:00 am (Sunday)

## Sidhu convicted after 18 years

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian court on Friday convicted former Indian international cricketer and opposition party lawmaker Navjot Singh Sidhu for killing a man during an outburst of road rage.

Sidhu, an MP with the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was found guilty of "culpable homicide not amounting to murder" -- a charge roughly equivalent to



NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU

manslaughter -- for the 1988 incident.

Sidhu's sentence is to be announced next Wednesday. Lawyers said he faces up to 10 years in jail, but he can lodge an appeal with the Supreme Court.

"I have asked for permission to resign. I am sending my resignation now," 43-year-old Sidhu told reporters.

The police complaint against Sidhu said the former cricketer and his accomplice dragged the victim out of his car and showered him with punches and blows after a road accident.

He had previously been acquitted in the case in 1999 by a lower court.

Sidhu played 51 Test matches and 136 one-day internationals between 1983 and 1999 and has been a popular cricket commentator on television channels.

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## Busy Bangladesh today

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh will take on Bahrain in their second Group B match in the 15th Asian Games in Doha today.

The match will kick off at 10.45pm Bangladesh time at the Al-Arabi Football Stadium.

Bangladesh lost their opener to mighty South Korea 3-0 in a game that the Koreans absolutely dominated but had to remain satisfied with a relatively slim scoreline due to a stubborn defensive display by the rank outsiders on Tuesday.

Bahrain edged Vietnam 2-1 on the same day.

In another group match today, Vietnam play Korea earlier at the same venue.

Commonwealth and South Asian Games gold medalist Asif Hossain Khan will be in action today at the

Lussail Shooting Range in the Qatar capital along with his teammates in the men's 10m air rifle.

This will be Asif's first competitive shooting since he was brutally assaulted by police in Dhaka on October 2. Asif managed to begin training nearly after a month following his treatment in Thailand and the country's ace shooter is not expected to be at his best.

Even at his best, it would be difficult for Asif to reach the finals as Asian shooting standard is much higher than that of the Commonwealth scene.

Asif will team up with Imamul Hossain and Anjan Kumar Singha in the event.

In the women's 10m air rifle, Suraiya Akhter and Sharmin Akhter will participate in the qualifiers.

Doli Akhter will take the pool for Bangladesh when the young swimmer appears in the third heat of the women's 50m breaststroke at the Hamad Aquatic Centre.

Bangladesh's only medal hope lies in kabaddi and the team would be tested when they face gold medal aspirants India in their opening match of the 5-team round robin league at the Aspire Hall this afternoon.

The 2002 Busan Games silver medalists Bangladesh will face challengers Pakistan tomorrow, play Iran and Japan on December 4 and 5 respectively.

The top two teams will lock horns in the gold medal game while the third and fourth placed sides play in the bronze medal play-off on December 6.

The chess team also begin their campaign today in the Rapid Swiss League that ends on December 5. The Classical Swiss League will start from December 6.

The hockey team play their first match against India on December 4.

Bangladesh are also participating in athletics, weightlifting, judo, taekwondo, golf and archery.

## BCB, Nimbus make deal official

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) last night completed formalities of its worldwide marketing agency rights deal with Nimbus Sports International when the contract was signed between the two parties at a local hotel.

BCB president M Abdul Aziz and vice-president Nimbus Yannick Colaco signed the contracts. Sports Advisor CM Shafi Sami was also present.

The BCB in its executive committee meeting on November 17 approved the bid worth 56.88 million dollars for the next six years.

"We look forward to a lasting relationship with the BCB and we will not only work as its marketing agent but also work in development of the game and brand marketing," told Colaco in a brief speech.

M Abdul Aziz and CM Shafi Sami also spoke on the occasion.

## Mirpur set to get ICC recognition

SPORTS REPORTER

The Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur is expected to get its nod from the International Cricket Council (ICC) to host one-day international matches soon.

Ranjan Madugalle, the visiting ICC match referee in the ongoing series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, went on an inspection to the newly renovated ground in the capital and expressed his satisfaction with the ground.

He was accompanied by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Mahbul Anam where the ICC representative took a detailed look at the venue.

BCB officials also expressed their confidence that the ICC would, at last, give the green signal for the ground to hold international matches.

The final decision will be taken in the next two days, it was learned. If positive, the last two ODIs between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, scheduled for Dhaka, will be held at the Mirpur venue.

## Teams in Bogra

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh and Zimbabwe both reached northern district Bogra yesterday for the second and third one-day internationals of the five-match series.

The day-night matches are scheduled for December 3 and 5 at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium.

The two sides, after a long trip from Khulna where they played the series opener, will attend practice today.

The Tigers lead the series 1-0 following their thrashing 9-wicket win over the visitors on Thursday.

The final two ODIs will be held in Dhaka on December 8 and 9.

## Shakil sinks Jhalokathi

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakil's brilliant all-round show gave Pirojpur a massive 156-run victory over Jhalokathi at the Bangora Stadium yesterday as the National Cricket Championship resumed after a long break.

Opting to bat first, Pirojpur were all out for 208 in 44.3 overs with Shakil scoring 40. Lemon took four wickets for the bowling side. In reply, Jhalokathi were shot out for only 56 in 21.5 overs. Shakil again starred as he took six wickets.

At the Mymensingh Stadium, Kishoreganj also recorded a massive 111-run win over Jamalpur. Batting first, Kishoreganj scored

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## Footballers to continue sit-in programme

SPORTS REPORTER

The country's footballers, anxious over their future, staged an hour-long sit-in programme at the BFF Bhaban yesterday afternoon in protest of another delay in the start of the inaugural Professional Football League.

The Pro League, due to start on December 21, has been rescheduled for a January 13 start. The transfer will be held from December 5 to January 13 according to the new plan of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

"There have been so many delays that we fear the BFF would not be able to keep the date this

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England batsman Paul Collingwood plays a square drive during the first day of the second Ashes Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval on Friday.

## England take honours

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Kevin Pietersen won his battle with Shane Warne as England escaped from Australia's clutches to secure a solid position on the opening day of the second Ashes Test at the Adelaide Oval on Friday.

Paul Collingwood was poised for a century and Pietersen hoisted a lusty six over long-on off Warne in a hustling century stand for the tourists, fighting back after their punishing 277-run defeat in the first Test at the Gabba.

England were 266 for three at stumps. Collingwood followed on from his 96 in Brisbane to be unbeaten on 98 and Pietersen was on 60, after captain Andrew Flintoff won the toss.

The pair rattled an unbroken 108 runs for the fourth wicket in just 115 minutes.

Amid cautious field placements and curious bowling preferences by skipper Ricky Ponting, England wriggled out of Australia's grip in the final session with Stuart Clark under-bowled despite taking two wickets in the morning.

Pietersen's one-on-one contests with his Hampshire county teammate have been much-anticipated highlights of the series and he did not disappoint after their contretemps in Brisbane last week.

It was Pietersen's arrival at the

wicket after the loss of Ian Bell for 60 that quickened England's scoring rate after it had dawdled along at 2.4 runs an over amid tight Australian bowling.

"Whatever we did, whether it was bowling or batting, we had to do it well from ball one and we've pretty much done that with the bat on Friday," Bell said.

"It's important for us to get as many as we can and grind away and keep Australia out there as long as possible."

Pietersen wasted little time raising his half-century off 69 balls while Collingwood played more the anchor role to help restore the England innings after the loss of both openers before lunch.

During Pietersen's counter-attacking second innings of 92 in the first Test, Warne hurled the ball at his head, forcing the England No.5 to knock it away with his bat and yell at Warne.

Collingwood, who sacrificed a century in Brisbane when he charged Warne and was stumped, had occupied the crease for 277 minutes by the close in another influential innings for his country.

Warne finished the day with 0-85 off 27 overs.

Collingwood and Bell played strait-jacket cricket to put on 113 runs for the third wicket before Bell went to hook a short ball, only to sky a catch to bowler Brett Lee 13 minutes after tea.

Bell, who hit 50 in the first innings in Brisbane and wrestled with

Warne's tricks early, batted for just over three hours with six boundaries.

Medium-pace Clark followed up his seven wickets in Brisbane with the scalps of Andrew Strauss and Alastair Cook inside his first six overs in the morning session.

Strauss continued his poor series after Gabba scores of 12 and 11 when he miscued a leading edge to a diving Damien Martyn at mid-on and then had Cook caught behind by Adam Gilchrist.

But Clark only bowled two overs after tea and finished with 2-25 off 15 overs.

"It's always disappointing when you don't bowl overs, you can't get them out standing at fine leg and it's very boring out there sometimes," Clark said.

"Ricky went down a different path, he had a few ideas in mind and I'm sure I'll get my turn tomorrow."

Australian pace spearhead Glenn McGrath was passed fit to play after concern over a heel injury, while left-arm spinner Monty Panesar was left out of an unchanged England eleven.

McGrath had to convince his skipper Ponting that he would be able to complete a five-day match after needing painkillers to see out Australia's win at the Gabba. He bowled 18 overs for 0-51.

"Glenn did his fitness test in the morning and said he was 100 per cent, never felt better, so you can

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## Pakistan clinch series

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria took three wickets, including two in two balls, to help Pakistan beat the West Indies by 199 runs in the third and final Test and take the three-match series 2-0.

Kaneria dismissed a stubborn Shivnarine Chanderpaul (69) and Daren Powell next ball in the second over after tea to help send the tourists on their way for 244 in their second innings.

Pakistan won the first Test by nine wickets in Lahore. The second Test ended in a draw at Multan.

"We played well throughout the series and the result is ample proof of it," said Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq, under whom Pakistan also beat India and Sri Lanka this year.

West Indian captain Brian Lara said the defeat was "disappointing" after the visitors came back strongly at Multan to salvage a draw.

"I am still proud of my players," said Lara, whose team has not won a Test abroad in 45 attempts.

"Things have not gone well for us in Test cricket but we can take a lot of positives from this series. Pakistan were the deserved winners of the series," added the West Indian captain.

The 32-year-old Chanderpaul held the innings together after the West Indies lost the key wicket of Lara (49) and then vice captain Ramnaresh Sarwan (35) had to retire hurt with a foot injury.

The Guyanese hit ten boundaries during his fighting 155-minute knock and shared valuable partnerships with Dwayne Bravo (26) and Denesh Ramdin (25 not out) before Kaneria trapped him in front of the

wicket. Kaneria finished with 3-69, giving him 14 wickets in the series.

The home team took the last four wickets for 18 runs in the space of 68 deliveries to achieve victory.

Set an improbable 444-run

target, the West Indies survived the first 90 minutes of the extended two-and-a-half hour session as skipper Lara and Sarwan batted cautiously after resuming the day at 39-2.

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Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq (R) and PCB chairman Naseem Ashraf hold up the winners' trophy after defeating West Indies in the third and final Test on Friday to clinch the series at the National Stadium in Karachi.

## Qatar's moment of truth

AFP, Doha



After years of planning and billions of dollars in investment, the Asian Games officially opens Friday in the Qatari capital Doha with what is being billed as the most spectacular gala ceremony ever seen.

But the evening event is at the mercy of the elements, with heavy rain pounding the usually dry desert state.

The extravaganza will go ahead regardless, organisers say, heralding the most ambitious Asian Games so far with more than

13,000 athletes from 39 countries angling for gold in 45 events.

The competition runs until December 15, with China heavily favoured to top the medal table.

But it was dealt another blow Friday when big-name star, Japan's Olympic hammer champion Koji Murofushi, pulled out with a calf muscle injury.

It follows the withdrawal Thursday of two-time 3000 metres steeplechase world champion Saif Saaeed Shaheen with an Achilles injury.

The tiny Gulf state, home to just 700,000 people, most expatriate foreign workers, has pumped billions of dollars in transforming Doha for the Games with the country's rulers believing it will provide a

lasting legacy.

From extravagant plans to host the 2016 Olympic Games to the more modest 2015 Asian Cup, to boosting tourism and cutting obesity, they insist that the spectacular infrastructure changes, many still in progress, will be of enormous benefit.

But there have been teething problems from the outset.

Expatriate construction workers say contractors have failed to pay them while complaints surfaced Friday about "rude and unhelpful" officials.

"Some of the officials have been very rude and unhelpful at our

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PHOTO: STAR

Footballers of the country held a sit-in yesterday at the BFF Bhaban protesting the federation's delay of the Pro-League transfers.

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