



## Did U Know?

Alfred Show of England bowled the first ball in Test cricket and it was faced by Charlie Bannerman of Australia.



## Muttiah Muralitharan

(Master Sri Lankan off-spinner) "I enjoyed the eight-wicket haul because the Indians are great players of spin."

After the feat in the first innings of the Colombo Test.



## ESPN

Pakistan Tour of New Zealand  
Pakistan vs New Zealand  
Fourth ODI  
Highlights at 11:00 am  
**Serie A**  
Juventus vs Lecce  
4:00 pm

**English Premier Football League**  
Derby County vs Leeds United  
**Live at 6:50 pm &**  
Newcastle vs West Ham  
**Live at 9:00 pm**

## STAR Sports

Asian Basketball Show  
7:30 am  
World Cup Soccer Mix  
9:30 am  
**Primera Liga**  
Espanyol vs Real Madrid  
10:30 am  
India vs Zimbabwe  
Third ODI, 1997  
7:00 pm



Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 28, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who became National Bank Premier League football champions?	Abahani	Mohammedan	Arambagh
2. Who won the US Open men's singles title?	Hewitt	Safin	Sampras
3. What was Ashraf's score in his century innings against Sri Lanka in the Asian Test Championship?	114	126	140
4. What was the result of the Test series between India and Sri Lanka?	2-1	2-0	1-1
5. Former West Indies fast bowler Andy Roberts comes from which island?	Barbados	Jamaica	Antigua

Name .....

Class. .... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Lara can play now

INTERNET, undated

West Indies batsman Brian Lara has been cleared to start playing again after a lengthy lay-off caused by a persistent hamstring problem.

The left-hander first suffered the injury in England last year, but played on through subsequent series against Australia and South Africa.

## Kowshik right on target



SPORTS REPORTER

Masrafe-bin-Murtaza Kowshik celebrated his call-up into the Bangladesh A team by claiming three wickets as the national team was restricted to 217 in their first innings on the opening day of their four-day practice match at the BUET ground on Saturday.

But Khaled Mahmud's A team were struggling on 23 for three at stumps.

The 18-year-old paceman from Narail showed no signs of nerves on his debut against the national team after the selectors rushed him into the second string national side when many thought it would have been better had the youngster gradually made his way into the big League.

Bowling with considerable pace, Kowshik returned with impressive figures of 17.4-2-40-3. He was the leading wicket-taker on a day where the ball dominated the bat.

The national team batted first and was bowled out for 217 runs in 73.4 overs. None of the senior batsman could last long in their first match since their lacklustre Asian Test championship campaign, where

Bangladesh lost to both Pakistan and Sri Lanka inside three days.

The senior team found an unlikely hero in lower-order batsman Hasibul Hossain, who smashed a 66-ball 57. The only half-century in Naimur Rahman-led team was studded with four massive sixes and a boundary.

The experienced national pace-man is having a bad time with the ball for quite some time. And now with his place in the Test team uncertain, Hasibul can consider the half-century as a morale booster though wickets should always be his first priority.

Hasibul apart, opener Al-Shahriar and one-down Habibul Bashar repaired the innings after Javed Omar was out first ball. They put on 71 runs for the second wicket. Al-Shahriar scored 35 before hitting his wicket while negotiating Kowshik. Bashar was run out for 36.

The A team, which will tour India next month, lost three quick wickets resuming their innings. National opener Mehrab Hossain, who has been drafted in the team to get back his form, failed to capitalise the opportunity. He was out for a duck.

His partner, young Rafique, also

SEE PAGE 14



PHOTO: STAR

Hasibul Hossain of the senior team pulls one on way to a quick-fire 57 on the opening day of the four-day practice match against the A team at the BUET ground yesterday.

## Ronaldo ready for Brazil



AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Inter Milan star Ronaldo celebrated his 25th birthday Saturday and his successful comeback from a long-term injury by confidently stating he was now "totally recovered" and ready to help rekindle Brazil's struggling 2002 World Cup campaign.

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari recalled the striker, who made his return to action in the UEFA Cup on Thursday, for the World Cup qualifier against Chile on October 6 in Curitiba.

Ronaldo, who is in line to win his 55th cap against the Chileans, said that he was just happy to be in the squad and did not want to push himself too hard during his second comeback from a serious right knee injury.

"The important thing is that I can participate in the game. I feel confident and I'm totally recovered," said the Brazilian.

"I lack the rhythm to play for 90 minutes, but I can come in to play for 30 minutes and start the match - that depends on the coach."

"I'm joining the squad without asking anything. I'm at the disposal of the technical committee so that they can use me in the best possible way."

Brazil are in fourth spot with Uruguay behind on goal difference. Only the top four teams in South

America qualify automatically for the World Cup. The fifth-ranked team faces a home-and-away playoff against Australia in November.

Following his first return Ronaldo lasted just seven minutes before injuring his knee again and forcing a 17-month layoff.

In March this year he took his first tentative steps towards recovery when he appeared at Rio's legendary Maracana Stadium, albeit in a charity match before scoring in two August friendlies.

On Thursday he played in Inter's 3-0 UEFA Cup first-round first-leg win over Romania's Brasov, however he is expected to be rested by the Italian side during Sunday's Serie A match against Turin.



RONALDO

## Team for down under named

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday announced a 15-member Bangladesh Under-19 team for the tour of Australia.

The first-ever trip under by any Bangladesh team begins on October 11. During the nearly six-week stay, the youths will undergo training at the famous Commonwealth Bank Academy in Adelaide. Besides, the team, which will return home on November 23, will also play a few limited matches.

The selected players have been asked to report to Sri Lankan coach Carlton and his assistant Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury at the BCB's stadium office on September 25 at 4 pm.

The players are: Gazi Salahuddin, Shariful Islam, Kazi Hasibul Huq, Shafaq Al Zahir (BKSP), Kamrul Islam, Ali Arman Rajon, Ashique Rahman (Dhaka), Nafis Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed (Chittagong), Shafiul Alam (Khulna), Waseluddin Ahmed (Comilla), S Huq Bidyut (Rajshahi), Murad Khan (Jessore), Arif Hossain (Barisal) and Talha Jubair (Faridpur).

Standby: SK Russel (Jessore), Tariqul Islam, Kafi Khan (BKSP), Ziaul Hossain, Shahriar Nafis (Dhaka) and Sadek Hossain (Chittagong).

## Muktis in Kolkata

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra reached Kolkata on Saturday to take part in the 107th IFA Shield football tournament.

The all-reds will meet Vietnamese side Nam Dinh in the second match on the opening day of the 12-team meet on Monday.

Defending Champions East Bengal will take on Taliganj Agragamee in the tournament opener at the imposing Salt Lake Stadium.

Placed in Group C, the Federation Cup champions will play against the Indian Under-19 team on September 26 at the home ground of Mohan Bagan, one of the three giants of Indian football.

Two teams from each group will advance into the quarterfinals of the prestigious meet, where the second string team of Palmeiras are also involved as one of the three guest teams. This is the first time a Brazilian club is taking part in the competition.

## Ajay Jadeja breaks ban

INTERNET, undated

Disgraced former Indian Test batsman Ajay Jadeja could see his five-year ban from cricket extended.

Jadeja, who was banned from all official cricket for his involvement in match-fixing, allegedly played two matches for Hollywood Cricket Club in the Southern California Cricket Association (SCCA) League earlier this summer.

He played on August 19 against International PIA and again on September 15 against Cosmos in the SCCA League.

Hollywood, founded by British actors in the 1930s and now seventh

SEE PAGE 14



PHOTO: INTERNET

Bahrain's Ali Amer Hasan Musaifer (L) tries to go past Sami A Al-Jaber of Saudia Arabia during a World Cup qualifier on September 21.

## Saurav feels no pressure



AP, New Delhi

Saurav Ganguly said on Friday there would be no pressure on his position as India's cricket captain during the tour of South Africa.

"The selectors have given me a job and I'm prepared to show my best," Ganguly was quoted as saying by United News of India from India's eastern city of Kolkata.

Ganguly said he would strive to lead by example.

"A captain should lead from the front," said Ganguly, whose poor batting form led to his captaincy facing flak during the recent tours to Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

"My own lack of runs wasn't because of a lack of effort. I've always been working hard," Ganguly said.

"There's no set formula for a captain ... But I won't stop being positive," he said.

Ganguly, who led India to an inspiring 2-1, come-from-behind victory over all-conquering Australia this year, came under fire recently when he became the first Indian captain in 16 years to lose a series to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka prevailed 2-1 in the three-Test series against an injury hit

Indian team, prompting Ganguly to lament that he has never had the luxury of leading a full strength Indian team.

But his captaincy record remains impressive -- six victories against four defeats in 11 Test matches. Only one Test has ended in a draw.

Ganguly isn't banking on statistics, however, to prove he is a worthy captain.

"Statistics are not the barometer to prove that a captain is fit to be retained," said Ganguly.

India's chief selector, Chandu Borde, also pointed to Ganguly's record as captain when he was picked to lead the team to South Africa, which he had earlier visited as a member of Sachin Tendulkar's team in 1996.

Borde said Ganguly had done "a fairly good job" and the selectors considered him the right person to lead India.

Ganguly's team, which leaves for Johannesburg on Monday, will undergo a strenuous fitness test in the western metropolis of Bombay during the weekend to ensure no Indian player carries any injury on the South African sojourn.

India will play a triangular limited-over series -- which features Kenya as the third country -- and three Test matches during its nine-week South African tour.

## Sachin, Anil back



REUTERS/AFP, Bombay

Indian batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar and ace leg-spinner Anil Kumble were Saturday declared fit for the upcoming triangular one-day cricket series in South Africa.

"Tendulkar, who injured his toe during the tour of Zimbabwe, and Kumble, making a comeback after a year due to a shoulder injury, have been found fit," Jaywant Lele, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said.

Tendulkar suffered a hairline fracture on his right foot during the final phase of a Test tour of Zimbabwe in July and missed the recent triangular one-day series and three Tests in Sri Lanka.

Kumble, India's second highest Test wicket-taker with 276 victims, is making a comeback after being sidelined for nearly a year because of a shoulder injury.

The tall spinner, who withdrew midway through a one-day series in Sharjah in October last year complaining of shoulder pain, underwent surgery in January before beginning a slow recovery process.

Paceman Javagal Srinath, who skipped two Tests in Sri Lanka due to a hand injury, also passed the fitness tests for the South Africa-bound squad.

National selectors, concerned by injuries to several key players, are holding fitness tests at the

Wankhede Stadium here over the weekend.

The players were put through various fitness drills by team physiotherapist Andrew Leipus and Dr Anant Joshi, a sports medicine expert for over two hours in the presence of the national selectors.

Kenya is the third team in the competition starting next month.

But left-arm fast bowlers Ashish Nehra and Zaheer Khan were ruled out of the tour as they had not recovered completely from injuries to the groin and shin respectively.

"It will take at least two weeks for Nehra to recover and be completely fit," Lele said. "So he has been ruled out of the one-day series."

Nehra's replacement will be chosen on Sunday from among Ajit Agarkar, Debasish Mohanty and uncapped Rakesh Patel, the BCCI secretary added.

Top middle-order batsman Venkatsai Laxman, who underwent knee surgery in Australia recently, has already pulled out of the triangular series as he has yet to regain fitness.

His replacement, Hemang Badani, was also sidelined after sustaining a back injury while fielding in a local tournament in Hyderabad last Sunday and was advised to rest for three weeks.

Middle-order batsman Jacob Martin and fast bowler Harvinder Singh were Wednesday drafted into the touring party.

The Indian team leaves for South Africa on Monday.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian master batsman Sachin Tendulkar goes through the fitness drills while Dr Anant Joshi watches at the Wankhede Stadium in Bombay yesterday.

## Rhodes boost for SA ODI series starts today



REUTERS/AFP, Bulawayo

South Africa will be bolstered by the addition of Jonty Rhodes to their squad when they take on Zimbabwe at Queen's Sports Club Sunday in the first of three one-day international.

Rhodes, 32, has played in 200

part of the set up," Rhodes told reporters. "I do miss it, but it's a decision of life and it continues."

Rhodes played down the importance of his arrival in Zimbabwe.

"When you bat in the middle-order in our side, you don't get a chance to bat for long," he said.

"So I'm not coming here putting pressure on myself to score a hundred or be like Jacques Kallis and bat forever -- old 'Barney Barnacle', they couldn't remove him from the

two-match Test series 1-0 but Zimbabwe have a solid record in limited overs matches on home soil and showed during the drawn second Test that they have little to fear from South Africa's pace-based attack on the slow Queen's club pitch.

South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis, man-of-the-Test-series, after making 388 runs without being dismissed, will only bowl if it is felt he will not aggravate a lower-back muscle strain which prevented him from bowling in the second Test.

South Africa have added Rhodes, off-spinner Justin Ontong and fast bowler Charl Langeveldt to their squad for the one-day series.

Zimbabwe's bowlers took a hammering from the South Africans in the Test series and will need to produce a better collective performance if they are to keep the visitors in check.

Medium-pace Gary Brent, fast bowler Henry Olonga and all-rounder Muleki Nkala have been drafted into the one-day squad after not being selected for the Test matches while the batting line-up is not expected to be too different from the one which played in the Test matches.

The one-day series will be the last for both sides before the final World Cup seedings are decided at the end of September. The fixtures for the 2003 World Cup will be announced in Durban, South Africa, on October 27.

The South African players will return home after Sunday's match and a new squad will be named

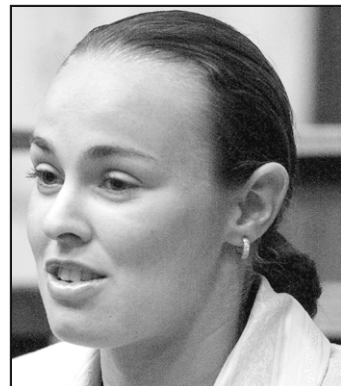
SEE PAGE 14

## Prosecutor falls for Hingis

AFP, Miami

Christopher Calkin, who prosecuted a man who stalked Martina Hingis, admitted in a deposition that he began a romance with the Swiss tennis star two days after Dubravko Rajcevic received a two-year jail sentence.

Hingis, a 20-year-old ranked No. 1 in the world, called Calkin on April 13, the day after Rajcevic, 46, was



MARTINA HINGIS

sentenced, and invited him to her home near Tampa.

Calkin said he flew there that night and began a "physical relationship" the next day.

The sworn statement was made as part of a case pressed by Rajcevic asking that his conviction be thrown out, saying Calkin and Hingis began their relationship earlier and it tainted the trial.

Officials ruled the case had merit when Hingis was midway through the US Open, where she suffered a semi-final loss to Serena Williams.