



Did U Know?

Dilip Vengsarkar is the only Test cricketer from India who made all his three visits to Lord's memorable by a century.



What to WATCH

ESPN
Serie A
Highlights at 10:00 am
The Npower Test Series
Pakistan vs England
Day Two
11:00 am
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Tottenham Hotspur
6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
World Cup Soccer Mix
9:00 pm
Game of the Week
Football
9:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
11:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline Today
Sport News
7:30 am
English Premier Football League
Highlights at 8:30 am
Sportsline Today
Sport News
12:45 pm
English Premier Football League
Leeds United vs Ipswich Town
1:00 pm
Primera Liga
Mallorca vs Barcelona
3:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
11:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Waqar Younis
(Pakistan cricket captain)
"I feel bad for the young players because they have missed an ideal opportunity to play against the Kiwis."

After New Zealand cancelled their scheduled tour to Pakistan.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 159
Tick the Correct Answers Post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 12, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many runs did Herschelle Gibbs score in the first ODI against Zimbabwe?
115 125
- Who clinched the Princess Cup tennis title?
Hingis Dokic
Kournikova
- Who became the new Australian Cricket Board chief?
Denis Rogers Bob Merriman Geoff Marsh
- What was the result of the South Africa and Zimbabwe Test series?
2-0 1-0
- Who became Shanghai Open Champion?
Chang Schuttler Agassi

Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
Phone: (If any).....

IFA Shield Muktis reach semis in style

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Federation Cup champions Muktijoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra moved into the semifinals of the 107th IFA Shield football tournament with a 3-0 thrashing of Tata Football Academy in the third quarterfinal played at the Howrah Stadium in Kolkata, India on Wednesday.

Playmaker Rakib and strikers Farhad and Mizanur Rahman Dawn scored one goal each for the Dhaka giants.

Muktijoddha will now take on Brazilian side Palmieras in the second semifinal at the same venue on Friday.

Palmieras, who sent their

reserve team to feature in the oldest football tournament of India, thrashed Vietnam's Nam Dinh Club 6-1 in another quarterfinal on Wednesday at the Salt Lake Stadium.

Muktijoddha dominated from the start of the match but had to wait for their opening goal.

Rakib, who retired from the national team after the Kathmandu SAF Games in 1999, gave Muktijoddha the breakthrough minutes away from half-time with a spectacular effort. His curling corner bemused the TFA defence and their custodian and went straight into the far corner of the net.

Muktijoddha continued to attack relentlessly after the breather.

Farhad, the speedy attacker, made it 2-0 in the 67th minute after

being nicely fed by Nigerian striker Emeca Achilefu.

The 'all reds' sealed the fate of the match when substitute Dawn, who came in place of Farhad, drove home the third in the 89th minute capitalising on a through pass from Uzbek recruit Yarkin.

Earlier, defending champions East Bengal stormed into the last four on Tuesday with a 6-0 whitewash of FC Kochin at the Salt Lake Stadium. In the semis on Friday, the Calcutta giants will meet the winners of the fourth quarterfinal between Mohun Bagan Club and Tollygunge Agragami.

MUKTIJODDHA LINEUP: Aminul, Hasan Al-Mamun, Rajani, Faisal, Matiuur Munna, Rakib, Yarkin, Mintu, Asif, Farhad (Dawn) and Emeca (Prodeep).

Abahani's Assam appearance uncertain

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier League champions Abahani's participation in the Golden Jubilee Bordoloi Trophy in Assam looks uncertain as the club has decided to ask the organisers to defer their first match on October 10.

Abahani director Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chhunu said Wednesday that they are going to contact with the Assam Football Association (AFA) soon and request the organisers to change the fixture. "We need four or five days more to be prepared for the meet," he said.

Abahani were already given a direct entry into the quarterfinals in the 50th edition of the Assam's biggest football tournament.

When asked if the organisers do not comply with their request, Chhunu said they wouldn't go in that case.



Zimbabwe's Andy Flower lands his bat after it was all over for him during the first one-day international against England in Harare yesterday. He was stumped by James Foster (R) after making 59.

Pak inquiry calls up biggies

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

A commission probing allegations of match-rigging by Pakistani cricketers during the last World Cup has summoned some of the biggest names in the game in Pakistan to give evidence on October 13.

"Justice Karamat Bhandari today issued orders for Majid Khan, Javed Miandad, Khalid Mehmood, Dr Zafar Altaf and Lt Colonel Ifthikar to appear before the commission at its next hearing," registrar Kazim Ali Malik told this news agency on Tuesday.

The commission was constituted by the government to investigate allegations that Pakistan played two fixed World Cup games against Bangladesh and India during the tournament in England in 1999.

It has already held two hearings at the Lahore High Court in which former Test fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz said in a two-hour statement that he believed the World Cup games were fixed.

"The commission will also decide on Thursday which experts to call to view the video tapes of the matches," said Malik.

"The commission has summoned the five persons for their testimony because all of them were involved with Pakistan cricket in one way or the other in 1999 and can help the investigations," he said.

Mehmood and Majid were respectively chairman and chief

executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board when the World Cup was held, while Altaf was chairman for a short period after the competition.

Miandad was removed as the team's coach just two weeks before the World Cup following reports that he had accused some Pakistan



MAJID KHAN

players of throwing games against England in a tournament at Sharjah in April of that year.

Ifthikar was a senior official in the defunct government Ehtesaab (accountability) Commission, which held a match-fixing inquiry into the World Cup defeats and suspended players Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmad on match-fixing suspicions.

Sarfraz has claimed Ifthikar has important documents in his possession which confirm involvement of players in match-fixing.

"The statements of Khalid Mehmood and Majid Khan are very important for the commission, as they were in charge of cricket affairs when the allegations first surfaced," said Malik.

Dr Ali Bacher, the former managing director of the United Cricket



JAVED MIANDAD

Board of South Africa who first suggested that Pakistan's World Cup matches against Bangladesh and India might have been fixed, has said that Majid passed on the information to him.

Majid later confirmed he had given the information to Bacher, but said he had no solid evidence to back up his suspicions.

Despite losing both games, Pakistan qualified for the next stage of the World Cup and went on to reach the final which they lost to Australia.

BKSP crowded with cricketers

SPORTS REPORTER

Weather permitting, the national team will take on Australia-bound under-19 team in a limited-over practice match at the BKSP ground this morning.

It will be the first match for the boys of Australian coach Trevor Chappell after a week-long break.

Naimur Rahman's men are preparing for the home series against Zimbabwe, who will be arriving in the city in the first week of November to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

The national team had a weight training session Trevor at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The residential camp of the team will start at the BKSP after the departure of the A and the Under-19 teams.

The BKSP, country's lone sports institute, is now crowded with different selections including the under-17 cricketers.

The Bangladesh A team will leave for a month-long tour to India on October 13. The youth on the other hand will go down under on October 11 for a nearly six-week training.

Both the junior teams will play a limited-over match at the BKSP on Friday.

The second string national side will feature in a four-day match against the senior team from Saturday.

No monetary loss for NZ cricketers

AP, Wellington

New Zealand Cricket has agreed to compensate its players for a tour of Pakistan that was called off due to heightened security concerns over the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

NZC chief executives Martin Snedden said Wednesday that while there was no legal obligation to pay the players for the tour, which was officially abandoned last Friday, he felt there was a moral one. "The players are full-time professionals, for the majority of them cricket is their sole source of income so we had to look at the situation carefully," Snedden said.

The players will receive their weekly tour payments as if they'd been on tour, but will miss out on appearance fees as well as bonuses.

The association withdrew from the tour of Pakistan after safety concerns arising from the New York and Washington terrorist attacks and subsequent military buildup around Pakistan's neighbour.

SA A 241-6

REUTERS, Benoni

South Africa A, who won the toss and chose to bat, totalled 241 for six in their 50 overs in a tour match against India on Wednesday.

Scores: South Africa A 241-6 (Gerald Dros 85, Martin van Jaarsveld 69).

Name of Waugh's disease is DVT

REUTERS, Sydney

Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh has confirmed he is suffering from deep vein thrombosis (DVT), the potentially fatal condition better known as "economy class syndrome".

But Waugh said his case was not considered serious and while he was receiving daily medication to thin his blood he expected to be ready to lead Australia in this summer's first Test against New Zealand starting on November 8.

"It sounds bad but...it's not considered to be too serious," Waugh said on Wednesday.

Hussain leads England

Cricket

AFP, Harare

England won their first one day international of the year when they beat Zimbabwe by five wickets here on Wednesday.

The win, inspired by an innings of 73 by skipper Nasser Hussain and a battling 50 from opener Nick Knight, broke a losing sequence of eleven defeats stretching back to the tour of Pakistan last season.

The defeat added to Zimbabwe's misery - they have now suffered eight defeats in a row.

Mark Ramprakash was the unlikely bowling star for the tourists when he took 3-28 as the home side, who had won the toss and elected to bat, were dismissed for a dismal 206 in 49.1 overs.

England reached their target in 46.4 overs with five wickets to spare.

They lost Marcus Trescothick early on but Knight and Nasser Hussain stabilised the innings sufficiently for an easy victory.

They scored 50 and 73 respectively and figured in a second wicket partnership of 98. It was not without problems, however, with Knight being dropped early in his innings.

Hussain has been out of cricket much of the year because of a hand injury, while Knight looked for quick runs from the first over when England began their response.

Their performances, as well as the path to victory, were encouraging signs for the touring party who are beginning a long build-up to the

2003 World Cup here and in South Africa.

After their departures and with the score on 144-3, an England victory was assured, even though they lost two more wickets, those of Mark Ramprakash and Graham Thorpe before Ben Hollis and Andrew Flintoff saw them home.

Zimbabwe's innings was bolstered by 59 from Andy Flower, the 45th one-day half century of his career, while Dirk Viljoen and Dion Ebrahim also created a lively seventh wicket partnership of 42.

But it was otherwise a disjointed and jaded performance. England's attack had little penetration but it was sufficient to keep Zimbabwe on the back foot and nobody was able to break free for a big score.

A curiosity was the dismissals of both Flower brothers to stumpings in the same over, by Jamie Foster off Jeremy Snape.

The defeat left Zimbabwe in dire straits - they are without a one-day win since April when the inexperienced Bangladesh toured here.

But they are having to make do without four first choice seam bowlers in Heath Streak, Andy Blythe, Bryan Strang and Brighton Watamaba who are all injured.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between England and Zimbabwe on Wednesday:

ZIMBABWE

Campbell b Hoggard	3
Whittall c Snape b Hoggard	13
A Flower st Foster b Snape	59
Carlisle c Kirtley b Flintoff	37
Wishart c Thorpe b Ramprakash	18

G Flower st Foster b Snape

Ebrahim c Ramprakash b Kirtley	42
Viljoen b Ramprakash	18
Nkala c Hollis b Ramprakash	1
Brent c Thorpe b Kirtley	3
Hondo not out	0
Extras: (lb-6, w-6)	12
Total: (All out in 49.1 overs)	206
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-34, 3-111, 4-126, 5-126, 6-145, 7-187, 8-201, 9-204	

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Hoggard	10	2	25
Kirtley	9.1	1	33
Hollis	6	0	35
Trescothick	1	0	7
Flintoff	6	0	33
Snape	10	0	39
Ramprakash	7	0	28

ENGLAND

Trescothick c Campbell b Brent	4
Knight c Viljoen b Whittall	50
Hussain b G Flower	73
Ramprakash b Viljoen	35
Thorpe c G Flower b Viljoen	13
Hollis not out	14
Flintoff not out	16
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-1)	5
Total: (For 5 wks in 46.4 overs)	210
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-111, 3-144, 4-176, 5-187	

Did not bat: J Snape, J Foster, J Kirtley, M Hoggard

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Hondo	6	0	35
Brent	10	3	29
Whittall	7	1	32
Nkala	8.4	0	48
Viljoen	10	0	44
G Flower	5	0	18

Result: England won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Jeremy Snape.

Voicing the unthinkable!

Cricket

REUTERS, London

It probably took a West Indian to voice the previously unthinkable.

Brian Lara, said Everton Weekes, one of the celebrated three W's, is past his best.

"We have now seen the best of Lara and it's unfortunate to say that," Weekes said this week. "He depends heavily on footwork but his movement has been hindered by injuries."

If Weekes is correct it now seems clear that Lara will not fulfil the destiny that once seemed his by right.

In 1994, Lara broke Garfield Sobers' record for an individual Test score with 375 against England in Antigua.

He then became the only person to score 500 runs in an individual innings with 501 for Warwickshire against Durham.

Lara scored six championship hundreds in seven innings, culminating in his world record. His 2,066 championship runs for the season were scored at almost a run a ball.

Such feats drew the inevitable comparisons with Don Bradman, who died this year at the age of 92.

Bradman is the only other person to score 1,000 runs in England by the end of May in seven innings, averaging 170.16 to Lara's 235.20.

Yet beyond the sheer mass of runs and the rate at which they were scored, there was little comparison. Bradman played his cricket with a ruthless, clinical efficiency. Lara plays with a high back lift and an exotic Caribbean flourish, taking risks that are sometimes calculated, sometimes less intentional.

The world was seemingly at Lara's feet at the midpoint of the 1990s. But in his notes for the 1995

Wisden, where Lara was named as one of the five players of the year, respected Barbadian cricket writer Tony Cozier sounded a prophetic warning.

Lara, Cozier noted, came from Trinidad, land of the carnival, and knew how to enjoy himself beyond the boundary.

"There is another more threatening consequence of his sudden success and stardom," Cozier wrote. "It places on him an awesome responsibility that not all celebrated young sportsmen can properly handle."

Michael Holding spoke for many when Lara was reappointed for the first two Tests of the following series against Australia.

"Being captain of West Indies is a huge honour and a huge job," Holding fumed. "It needs a big man to do it... Brian Lara is not. He is a spoilt child."

West Indies capitulated abysmally in the first Test at Port-of-Spain before Lara somehow transformed his and the team's fortunes in a stunning turnaround.

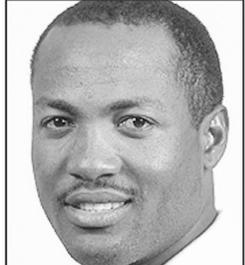
He set up victory in the next Test with an innings of 213 which Cozier reckoned was the best ever played by a West Indian.

Wisden describes his 153 not out in the next Test, won by West Indies by one wicket, as "the hand of a genius". He scored yet another century in the final Test but it was not enough to prevent Australia squaring the series.

Lara's performances in the early part of 1999 still glow in the memory. But unfortunately for West Indies the great innings are now further apart, the injuries more frequent.

He has relinquished the captaincy he once coveted and his average has slipped to 47, the mark of an outstanding batsman but not necessarily one of history's elite.

The little left-hander is also now 32 and recovering from a recurring hamstring injury.



BRIAN LARA

"With satellite television now spanning the globe, Lara has become cricket's first international megastar. Public expectations will be excessive and the non-cricketing demands on him persistent.

"There are pressures that the great players of the past - even Bradman, Sobers and Viv Richards - did not have to contend with to the same extent. Temperament, as much as talent, is now likely to dictate Brian Lara's future."

Cozier's fears were sadly not misplaced.

Lara was in bitter conflict with the West Indies management during the 1995 tour of England, disap-