



Did U Know?

South Africa skipper Shaun Pollock's first Test victim was Graham Thorpe of England. Thorpe was caught by Dave Richardson for 13.



What to WATCH

ESPN

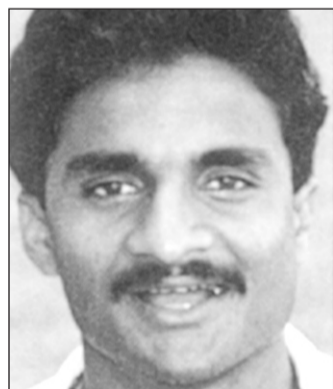
Western Union World Football
6:00 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
6:30 am
English Premier Football League
Derby County vs Newcastle United
11:00 am
Serie A
Juventus vs Lazio
4:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
6:30 pm
Western Union World Football
8:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
World Cup Soccer Mix
9:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Sunderland vs Liverpool
11:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline Today
Sport News
7:30 am
English Premier Football League
Highlights at 8:30 am
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Arsenal
12:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Football Mundial
10:00 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
11:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Javagal Srinath

(Indian fast bowler)
"Pace bowling is easier for the Australians, the West Indians, and the South Africans because of their natural build and the wickets they bowl on. It is far tougher for us from the sub-continent. There are so many stumbling blocks."



Tick the Correct Answers Post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
**Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 30, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards**

- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the Sharjah Champions trophy final?
Wasim Waqar
Wasim Waqar
- Who clinched the Munich WTA Tour singles title?
Hilfigs Davenport
Serena
- South Africa defeated India in the first Test at Bloemfontein by
140-run 7-wkt 9-wkt
- How many Test centuries has Sachin Tendulkar scored?
30 22
- Bangladesh will play 2003 WC cricket's opening match
Name the opponent?
UAE Kenya Canada

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

Anyang - 11; Muktijoddha - 0

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Anyang Football Club of South Korea moved into the quarterfinals of the 21st Asian Club Championship with a 3-0 away win over Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Wednesday afternoon.

In the one-sided affair, forward Kim Byung Chae and substitute Park Jung Hwan struck one goal apiece while Muktijoddha defender Abdul Wasiu gifted an own goal to help the visitors complete an 11-0 rout on aggregate. Muktijoddha were thrashed 8-0 in the first leg in South Korea.

The winners, who looked like having an afternoon stroll around the park, led the first half 1-0.

As if to portray the standard of the country's football, only a handful of fans bothered to turn up at the stadium even though the football authorities made entry free for all. What was more striking was the fact

that the number of expatriate Koreans present at the ground, easily out-numbered the locals.

The home team could have taken a surprise lead in the 14th minute of the match when a shot from Anyang custodian Back Min Chill ricocheted off Muktijoddha forward Saifur Rahman Moni and hit the right side post.

After that close call, Anyang, who fielded only one foreign recruit in their starting line-up and rested their top stars, quickly took control of the game.

Kim put the tourists ahead 18 minutes into the first half capitalising on a goal mouth rebounder after his fellow forward Park Sung Ho's shot was fisted by a diving Muktijoddha custodian Aminul Haq.

After the breather, Anyang made two changes brining in Brazilian Ricardo Costa and Park Jung in place of Park Sung Ho and Han Jung Hwa. Jung made an instant impact when he headed home a Costa cross from the left flank.

In the 77th minute it was 3-0 when Muktijoddha defender Wasiu side footed the ball into his own net

while trying to clear a minus from Anyang's another Brazilian Andre Santos.

Midfielder Santos was later adjudged as match-of-the-match.

In the last eight, Anyang will meet either Kashima Antlers of Japan or BEC Tero Sasana of Thailand over two legs on February 20 and 24.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the match as chief guest. Newly appointed Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan, BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid and other top officials were present.

TEAMS

Anyang FC: Back Min Chill, Lee Young, Park Young, Choi Yoon, Son Hyun Jun, Choi Tae, Andre Santos, Choi Won, Han Jung (Park Jung), Kim Byung and Park Sung (Ricardo Costa).

Muktijoddha Sangsad: Aminul, Hasan Al-Mamun, Rajani, Rakib, Prodeep, Abdul Wasiu, Moni, Munna, Asif, Emeca (Farhad) and Prodeep Barua.

Referee: Devendra Bista (Nepal).

'Tendulkar no tamperer'

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

English match referee Mike Denness clarified Wednesday he had not charged Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar with tampering with the ball and said his decision was misunderstood.

"Tampering seems to be the instant word that everyone wants to use," Denness told the Hindu newspaper in his first reaction to the verdicts that snowballed into a major crisis in the cricket world.

"Tendulkar was punished not for tampering with the ball, but for failing to call up an umpire to supervise his attempts to clean the ball," Denness was quoted as saying.

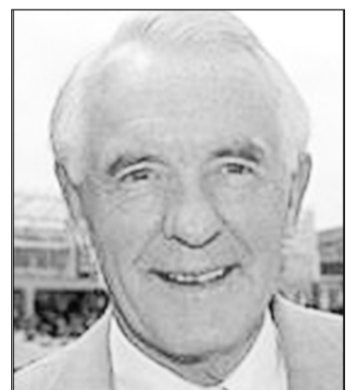
Denness, a former England captain, created a furore when he charged Tendulkar and five other Indians for irregularities during the second Test against South Africa at Port Elizabeth earlier this month.

He was later dumped by India and South Africa for the final Test at Centurion Park, forcing the International Cricket Council (ICC) to declare the match unofficial.

Denness' latest remarks contra-

dict his own statement, released through the ICC last week, that Tendulkar had been punished for

believe he had over-reacted in punishing Tendulkar, a national icon widely regarded for his clean image



MIKE DENNESS



SACHIN TENDULKAR

"alleged interference with the match ball, thus changing its condition".

The ICC said Tendulkar had "brought the game into disrepute by acting on the ball". He was fined 75 percent of his match fees and handed a one-match suspended ban.

Television footage showed Tendulkar trying to clean the seam with his fingers, but there was no complaint from on-field umpires that the ball had been tampered with.

Denness, 60, however did not

both on and off the field.

"If someone says you have got your decisions wrong and they can justify it, you can have a discussion and you can learn from it," Denness told the Hindu.

The report said "Denness had never been afraid to make unpopular decisions as chairman of the England Cricket Board's pitches committee and it looks as if he carries that determination into his role as match referee."

History beckons SL, Murali

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka will look to Muttiah Muralitharan to make their maiden clean sweep in Test cricket when the third and final Test against the West Indies starts here on Thursday.

Motivation will not be a problem for the off-spin wizard and his team as they attempt to build on the unbeatable 2-0 lead against Carl Hooper's inexperienced squad.

Sri Lanka have not swept a series since gaining Test status in 1982, while Muralitharan is one 10-wicket performance away from surpassing New Zealand paceman Richard Hadlee's world record of nine hauls of 10 or more scalps in Tests.

The 29-year-old spinner set a world mark in the second Test at Kandy on Sunday with his fourth successive 10-wicket effort to go past Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett.

Grimmett grabbed 10 wickets in his last three Tests against South Africa way back in 1935-36.

Hooper admitted Muralitharan

was the difference between the two teams in the current series, saying the Sri Lankan was the best spinner in the world.

"There is no doubt that Muralitharan is the best spin bowler in the world," the West Indian captain said.

"He has been putting us under a



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

lot pressure. We will have to come up with a solution in the final Test. "It has been difficult here in Sri Lanka. Conditions have not been exactly good for batting and we are

up against a world-class spinner."

West Indies coach Roger Harper, himself a former Test off-spinner, agreed with his captain.

"Look at the statistics," Harper said. "Shane Warne is taking four wickets per Test, but Muralitharan is taking well over five. He is the best."

Muralitharan has so far bagged 371 wickets in 68 matches, including 31 hauls of five or more in a Test innings.

The West Indies captain said his batsmen would have to apply themselves well against Muralitharan to prevent a sweep.

"We cannot be thinking about the whitewash," Hooper said. "The important thing is that we play better here. We have to keep working hard. We cannot afford to give up."

Batting was the West Indies' main worry in the last two Tests, with a consistent Brian Lara alone managing to solve the Muralitharan puzzle with 338 runs in four innings.

"We have not been batting properly," Hooper said, adding it was time for the youngsters to deliver.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, dropped middle-order batsman Michael Vandort to reduce the squad from 15

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Chris thinks NZ can do it

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Cricket minnows New Zealand can beat unofficial world champions Australia in the deciding third Test starting at the WACA Ground here Friday, star Kiwi all-rounder Chris Cairns declared.

"It is exciting still to be in the series and with an opportunity to beat one of the greatest teams ever," the 31-year-old said after the tourists had completed a three-hour training session at the WACA Ground Wednesday.

"It will be tough, but we can do it. That's why we play." Cairns said he had set private

goals for the three-Test series, currently standing at 0-0 after two rain-affected clashes, and he had one more Test in which to achieve the targets.

"If I can do that, and put us towards a victory, that is what I will be trying to do," he said.

"Strictly speaking, I am still underdone," added Cairns, who has been sidelined for most of the year with a right knee injury.

"I would have liked some more overs under my belt, but the reality is I am here and, who knows, you run in, it could be your day, you pick up 5-60 and you are in the game."

Cairns is enthused about having second-Test youngster Shane Bond and Chris Martin, who replaces the injured Darryl Tuffey, to share the new ball with him.

"I was pretty impressed with Bondy in Hobart," Cairns said. "I felt his figures there did not really indicate what he did in his first game."

"He really surprised some of the Aussies with his pace."

"He will bowl some quick nuts on this Perth wicket, though he will have to be aware of the small margin for error. Martin will also enjoy the bounce."

In another change, New Zealand dropped out-of-form opener Matthew Bell, replacing him with 23-year-old Lou Vincent, who will make his Test debut.

Vincent said there was a "good buzz" in the team.

The promotion of Vincent to the top of the order underscores New Zealand's nothing-to-lose attitude.

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Anyang's Santos (L) comes under a sliding tackle from an unidentified Muktijoddha defender during their 21st Asian Club Championship second round second leg encounter at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla Stadium on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

Pollock wants to say something

AFP, Centurion

South African captain Shaun Pollock Tuesday called for players to have a say in the running of world cricket.

Speaking after his side had won the unofficial Test against India by an innings and 73 runs here, Pollock said there were lessons for the International Cricket Council to be learned from the controversy over match referee Mike Denness which led to the game losing its official Test status.

"The players are the ones out there and we should have a say," said Pollock.

The South African captain said one of the main lessons for the ICC was that there should be a uniform list of penalties for on-field offences.

"It should be prescribed what the punishment is for each offence, not left to each match referee," said Pollock, who said that despite his side's good performance the players still did not regard the match as an official Test.

Stand-in Indian captain Rahul Dravid and coach John Wright both said India had approached the match as though it were an official Test.

"We went in fully focused and tried to win," said Dravid.

PCB warns Shoab

AFP, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has reprimanded express pacer Shoab Akhtar for misconduct against a Sri Lankan batsman during the Sharjah tri-series final earlier this month, an official said Wednesday.

"Akhtar is reprimanded by a written strict warning to set an example so that such misconduct does not take place again," PCB director Brigadier Munawwar Rana told this news agency.

Akhtar, however, escaped any fines and suspensions.

The 26-year-old hurled a four-letter word at Sri Lankan Mahela Jayawardene when the batsman hit him for a six during the final of Sharjah tri-series on November 4.

International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Denis Lindsay, who reported Akhtar's action during the same tournament, did not take any action of the misconduct.

However, PCB chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia passed the matter to a four-member disciplinary committee on the grounds that Akhtar's action could have spoiled cordial relations between Pakistan and Sri Lankan cricket boards.

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Millenium defeated Nobarun Sangha 4-1 in the Radhuni Second Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

Shimul netted twice, Mizan and Asif scored one each for the winners while Raj pulled one back for the losers.

India select Sehwag

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Jaipur

India on Wednesday selected banned cricketer Virender Sehwag for next week's first Test against England, fuelling a crisis that could lead to the series being cancelled.

The 23-year-old middle-order batsman from Delhi was included in a 14-man squad announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after a meeting of the selection committee here.

The squad includes four uncapped players, including an untried pace attack.

Chairman of selectors Chandu Borde said he had not received any directions from BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya to pick or drop Sehwag.

"We went entirely by merit, and on merit, you can't drop a batsman who scored a century on debut less than a fortnight ago," Borde said.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) ruled Sehwag ineligible to play the first Test at Mohali from Monday due to the one-match suspension slapped on him by match referee Mike Denness after the second Test against South Africa at Port Elizabeth.

India have maintained the ban was served during the ongoing third Test at Centurion Park, but the ICC have declared the game unofficial after Denness was removed as

referee by both teams.

If Sehwag is picked in the playing 11 for the Mohali Test, the ICC is certain to declare the match illegal which could force England to pull out of the series.

The ICC has given the BCCI until 0630 GMT on Friday to confirm if Sehwag will take the field in the Test.

BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah,

With the seventh place going to wicket-keeper Deep Dasgupta, the remaining four berths will be filled by bowlers.

"We will finalise the team after having a good look at the conditions in Mohali," Borde said.

The selectors overhauled the new ball attack, bringing in three uncapped players in Sanjay Bangar, Iqbal Siddiqui and Tinu Yohannan.

Banger claimed seven wickets against the tourists in a warm-up match at Hyderabad earlier this week. Siddiqui wrecked England with four wickets here earlier on Wednesday.

There was no place for the injured Javagal Srinath or the trusted trio of Venkatesh Prasad, Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra.

The squad also includes three spinners with off-break bowler Sarandeep Singh joining the seasoned Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

If India play three spinners, captain Sourav Ganguly will share the new ball with one of the three newcomers.

SQUAD

Sourav Ganguly (captain), Rahul Dravid, Shiv Sunder Das, Connor Williams, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Prasad, Virender Sehwag, Deep Dasgupta, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Sarandeep Singh, Sanjay Bangar, Iqbal Siddiqui, Tinu Yohannan.



VIRENDER SEHWAG

who announced Sehwag's selection at a crowded press conference, said it was up to Dalmiya to respond to the ICC.

Asked if he believed the first Test will go ahead, Shah responded: "Why not? We all want the match to be played."

Sehwag may, however, not be included in the playing 11 as the selectors picked six other specialist batsmen in the squad.

Flemo turns to Lillee

Cricket

AFP, Perth

New Zealand cricket captain Stephen Fleming has called on Australia's fast bowling icon Dennis Lillee to help the tourists exploit the pace and bounce of the WACA Ground wicket here in the deciding third Test starting Friday.

Fleming revealed Wednesday he wants Perth-based Lillee (355 Test wickets from 70 games) to pep up a pop-gun Kiwi attack that was blasted by Australia's batsmen during the drawn first two Tests in Brisbane and Hobart.

Fleming said he was hoping Lillee -- regarded by many as the world's best fast bowling coach -- could get his attack on track so they could perform at their best on Australia's most fast bowler-friendly pitch.

"The bowling needs a massive overhaul," Fleming said.

"The bowlers know if they don't get it right, they will get hurt. We have to be more exact."

Australia's batsmen have smashed totals of 486 for 9 (dec) and 558 for 8 (dec) in the first innings of the opening two Tests, with opening pair Matthew Hayden and Justin Langer giving the home team superb starts of 224 and 223 against limp new ball bowling.

Fleming said Lillee had already

worked in New Zealand with Chris Cairns, the Kiwis' most experienced paceman, and also spoke to him in Queensland last month.

And he believed newcomer Shane Bond, who impressed in spells with an energetic display in Hobart, would benefit from time with the maestro.

While the New Zealand team is unlikely to be named until Thursday at the earliest, there is speculation

One thing is virtually certain: major weather interruptions which came to New Zealand's rescue in Brisbane and Hobart will not be a factor on the parched western side of the continent.

Rain has never been a serious problem in the 30 years Test cricket has been played at the WACA Ground -- and the forecast for this weekend is for continuing fine and hot conditions.

Australia, thwarted by conditions beyond their control in the opening Tests, are straining at the leash to wrap up the series in convincing fashion as they prepare to take on South Africa next month in a three-Test series for the unofficial world Test title.

McGrath, Lee and Gillespie -- arguably the most fearsome pace trio in the game -- loom as potential Australian match-winners on a pitch on which they have all starred before.

It is just on 12 months since McGrath captured a hat-trick inside the first half-hour of the Test here against the West Indies.

The strapping New South Welshman whipped out Sherwin Campbell, Brian Lara and Jimmy Adams even before several thousand angry fans -- held up by slow-working turnstiles -- were inside the ground.

McGrath, with a haul of 361 wickets in Test ranks, has been limited to a mere three scalps in the

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