



Did U Know?

The first two twins to play in the same Test match were not Steve and Mark Waugh of Australia, but Rosemary and Elizabeth Signal of New Zealand, versus England in 1984; in women's cricket!



What to Watch

ESPN
World Cup Soccer Mix
6:00 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
6:30 am
Western Union World Football
7:00 am
India vs West Indies
Coca-Cola Cup, Harare
Sixth ODI
2:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportline Today
Sport News
7:30 am
English Premier Football League
Ipswich Town vs Aston Villa
1:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Football Asia
9:00 pm
Tennis Masters Series, Hamburg
Highlights at 9:30 pm
Cricket Magazine
India's Greatest Cricket Moments
India vs Pakistan
Bangladesh Silver Jubilee '98
Final
Highlights at 11:00 pm



Talk Turkey



Luis Figo

(Real Madrid's Portuguese super star)
"I am proud to be here with these great players and I thank my teammates, my family, my friends and my wife."

After he was crowned FIFA's World Player of the Year.



Tick the Correct Answers Post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 21, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe one-day internationals?
Al-Shahriar H Bqshar D Ebrahim
- Who became Inter-Continental Cup champs?
Boca Juniors Real Madrid Bayern Munich
- How many runs did Habibul Bashar score in the first innings of the second Test against Zimbabwe?
117 109
- Which humber Test venue is the MA Aziz Stadium?
73rd 66th

Name.....
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
Phone: (if any).....

Mark, Craig blast BD



AFP, Hamilton

Centuries from Mark Richardson and Craig McMillan led a New Zealand recovery after they lost four early wickets on day three of the first Test against Bangladesh here Thursday.

At stumps, the home side had reached 306 for five, with Richardson unbeaten on 124 and Chris Cairns not out 40.

With two days lost to rain and just 68 intermittent overs possible Thursday, it put the Kiwis in a dominant position after being sent into bat.



RICHARDSON...124 n.o

Richardson and McMillan added 190 runs, 32 short of the New Zealand fifth wicket Test record set a year ago by Nathan Astle and McMillan against Zimbabwe in Wellington.

Their tons were much needed to haul New Zealand out of deep trouble at 51 for four as the jubilant Bangladeshis celebrated their best session in their seven-Test history.

Paceman Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza and left-armers Monjurul Islam did the damage with two wickets each before McMillan and Richardson snatched the game back in the space of three hours.

They overcame difficult conditions with controlled aggression, particularly from McMillan who played shots to all parts of the ground.

Richardson continued the approach that has earned him an average of 47.88 from his 19 previous Test innings.

He excelled with his trademark shots -- the cut, the straight drive and the flick off his legs -- and occasionally a hook as he and McMillan steadied the ship to 93 for four at lunch.

Richardson ground out his eighth Test 50 off 89 balls despite being dropped twice in the 40s. McMillan's 15th half-century followed soon after off 95 balls.

McMillan though was first to three figures after taking 18 off four



McMILLAN...106

balls from Mohammad Sharif, then helping himself to 25 off three overs from leg-spinner Mohammad Ashraf.

A thunderstorm forced the players off for two hours with Richardson stranded on 96 but he immediately clocked up Test century No 2 on his return to the field.

McMillan was caught on the third man boundary later in the over for 106 as New Zealand chased quick runs. A quickfire 40 from Cairns helped Richardson add 65 before the rain returned for good.

The New Zealand top order earlier collapsed to a mixture of ill-discipline and seam.

Three of them -- Lou Vincent, captain Stephen Fleming and Astle -- were all coming off centuries in the third Test against Australia.

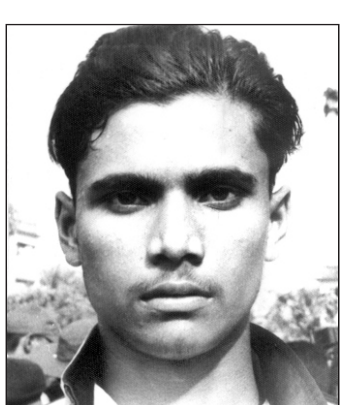
Mathew Sinclair waved the bat outside off stump and was caught behind off Monjurul Islam for seven.

It leaves his place for the second Test in serious doubt after a below-par series in Australia and a century from Matthew Horne for Auckland on Thursday.

Fleming (4) and Astle (5) were both caught behind the wicket cheaply, with Astle's the only genuinely good delivery.

McMillan was lucky to be on the field at all after walking away from a car crash almost unscathed on Tuesday, the first scheduled day of the match.

The taxi he was in was hit by another car on the side he was sitting, throwing him across the back seat. He



MASHRAFE...3/82

escaped with a badly bruised finger and no broken bones.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard after Day Three of the first cricket Test between New Zealand and Bangladesh at WestpacTrust Park on Thursday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings
Richardson not out 124
Vincent c and b Mashrafe 0
Sinclair c Mashud b Monjurul 7
Fleming c Mashud b Mashrafe 4
Astle c AI c Shahriar b Monjurul 5
McMillan c Monjurul b Mashrafe 106
Cairns not out 40
Extras: (b-2, lb-10, w-5, nb-3) 20
Total: (For 5 wickets in 68 overs) 306
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-19, 3-29, 4-51, 5-241

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	23	3	82	3
Monjurul	18	5	66	2
Sharif	16	2	87	0
Mahmud	8	0	34	0
Ashraf	3	0	25	0

Asghar meets directors today

SPORTS REPORTER

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board Ali Asghar will hold his first official meeting with his directors at the Board's Gulshan office today at 4pm.

During the meeting an announcement is likely on who will captain the Bangladesh Under-19 team at the World Youth Cup in New Zealand next month.

Also, a review of preparations for the forthcoming home series against Pakistan will be made.

Pakistan arrive in Dhaka on January 3 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

The first Test begins at the Bangabandhu National on January 9 with Chittagong's MA Aziz Stadium the venue for the second Test starting on January 16.

After the first one-dayer is at the port city on January 22 the one-day series returns to the capital on January 25, 26.

BFF names 20 for SAFF meet

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Thursday selected the final 20 players to take part in the third SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Championship.

The seven-team regional event will be held in Dhaka over January 26 to February 5.

Bangladesh have been drawn in Group B along with Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal while the other group comprises India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

TEAM
Sujon, Ritu, Kanchan, Hasan, Nazrul and Arman (Abahani); Pavel, Monwar, Alfaz and Joy (Mohammedan); Aminul, Rajani, Munna, Prodeep and Hasan al Mamum (Muktijoddha); Parvez Babu (Brothers Union); Liton (Arambagh); Minto (Badda); Moni (Rahmatganj) and Biplal (Farashganj).

Kumble enters 300-wkt club

AFP, Bangalore

Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble crossed the 300-wicket milestone in Test cricket on Thursday after an agonising wait over two days before his nervous home crowd.

The 31-year-old, who began the third and final Test against England with 299 wickets against his name, bowled 29 unfruitful overs before trapping last man Matthew Hoggard leg-before to achieve the feat.

Kumble, a Bangalore-based computer engineer, is only the fourth spinner to join the 18-strong club after Australia's Shane Warne, Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan and West Indian Lance Gibbs.

Fast bowler Courtney Walsh of the West Indies leads the field with 519 wickets, but only Kapil Dev (434) has taken more wickets for India than Kumble.

Kumble's regret at not taking a wicket on the first day of the Test on Wednesday was that his mother was unable to watch him achieve the landmark.

"My mother came to the stadium on the first day, but could not make it today because she had taken ill," the 66-Test veteran said.

U-19 cricketers camp resumes today

UNB, Dhaka

The training camp of the under-19 cricketers resumes today at BKSP after a nine-day recess due to Eid vacation.

The young players, who are preparing for the Under-19 World Cup to be held in New Zealand next year, reported to the coach at the cricket board office yesterday.

Coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury informed that the camp will continue till January 7 and the team is expected to leave for New Zealand on January 11.

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Sporting Club and Koritola Sporting Club won their respective matches of the seventh Birshesha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament at local Railway ground yesterday.

Rajshahi Sporting defeated Upashar Cricket Coaching Centre by 40 runs in the first match.

Batting first the winners scored 155 for nine in stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Upashar were all out for 115 in 21.1 overs.

NSC acts on BFF



SPORTS REPORTER

As expected the government on Thursday dissolved the Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) elected executive committee. It became the first victim of the dreaded National Sports Council Act 20 (A).

A 31-member ad-hoc committee has been appointed to run the BFF for a three-month period.

As per NSC constitution, a fresh election must be held within the next 89 days, failing to do so, the ad-hoc committee's tenure can be extended by notification.

The move comes despite objection from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) regarding the appointment of BFF president SA Sultan.

The regional body on December 11 sought an explanation for the removal of former football chief Mohammad Hanif, the Dhaka City Mayor.

To avoid antagonizing both the AFC and FIFA, which views political changes in its associations very seriously, the BFF wasted little time to nullify any possible sanctions by sending a letter stating the reasons for the changes.

In its reply on December 13, BFF argued that the president is always appointed by the government according to the federation's constitution. Hence the relevant ministry made Sultan president.

Furthermore, it was standard procedure for the ruling party to re-constitute any of the country's sports federations if they deemed it necessary.

The BFF while assuring that a new election would be held in the next six months, denounced the one held in March last year, as premature because it was done to protect a vested quarter.

The infamous 1974 Act, that was later amended on February 19 1991, authorises the NSC to dismiss any federation if the government feels that the existing executive council is not acting properly or in a prejudicial manner. And in its place an ad-hoc committee will manage affairs.

The revamp came despite an assurance from the new State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman that the sports arena would not be politicized.

But the new ad-hoc body runs contrary to Rahman's promise as it is dominated by pro-BNP organisers.

Anwarul Haque Helal has been given the chair of general secretary.

There are as many as seven organisers who were also in the previous elected committee including three vice-presidents Anjan Chowdhury Pinto, Khairul Anwar Piaru and Abdur Rahim.

Zakaria Pinto and Alhaj Dastgir Chowdhury are the other two vice-presidents.

Following is the full ad-hoc committee:
President: SA Sultan MP; **vice-presidents:** Zakaria Pinto, Anjan Chowdhury Pinto, Khairul Anwar Piaru, Abdur Rahim and Dastgir Chowdhury; **general secretary:** Anwarul Haque Helal; **joint-secretaries:** Col Obaidullah Khan (ret'd) and Saeed Hasan Kanan; **treasurer:** Afzal Hossain; **members:** Kazi Usha Mishu, Mozammel Haque Mukta, SA Khan Jahangir, Kazi Salauddin, Fazlur Rahman Babul, Shafiguzzaman, Yusuf Mia, Manzur Hossain Malu, Azim Badal, Khurshid Alam Babul, Golam Rabbani Helal, Abdur Razzak, Ferdous Islam, Mobinul Islam, Anwar Hossain Uzzal, Firoz Ahmed Iqbal, Khairul Azam Masud, Shahjahan Mridha, Azfaruzzaman Sohrab, Amirul Islam Babu and Shahidul Islam.

Sanath's show



AFP, Colombo

Sanath Jayasuriya guided Sri Lanka to a 34-run victory over the West Indies with a superb all-round performance in the day-night triangular cricket series final here on Wednesday.

Skipper Jayasuriya, adjudged both man of the match and series, scored a brisk 64 to help his team post a challenging 253-8 after electing to bat on a slow pitch.

He then grabbed two vital wickets with his left-arm spin to restrict the West Indies, chasing a revised target of 247 off 47 overs due to rain, to 212-7 after a 111-run stand between openers Chris Gayle (60) and Daren Ganga (50).

The West Indies lost their way under lights after a solid start as the asking-rate climbed to over six an over after the dismissals of Gayle and Ganga in the space of three overs and six runs.

Jayasuriya kept the pressure on the tourists after off-spinner Kumar Dharmasena provided a breakthrough with Ganga's wicket, who stepped out to try a big shot, missed the line and was bowled.

The 25-year-old, finally returning to full fitness after two injury-blighted years, had a hand in Christian Vieri's opener and then scored twice himself to send Hector Cuper's side top of the division.

That position is owed partly to the fact that Chievo's home match with Lazio was postponed because of an icy pitch while champions AS Roma, level with Chievo on points at the top at the start of play, only managed a 0-0 draw with Brescia.

In-form Vieri, set up by a touch from Ronaldo, put his side ahead in the first half with his 10th goal of a season that has also been injury hit.

But after the interval it was the Brazilian who took centre stage with two clinical strikes in the space of five minutes, taking his tally to three for the season after scoring his first goal for two years against Brescia 10 days ago.

His first was a simple header but his second saw him outpace the Verona defence and round goalkeeper Fabrizio Ferron before scoring to complete his first double since May 3, 1999 when he scored twice in Inter's 5-4 victory over Roma in Rome. Ronaldo was later substituted.

AS Roma, given that Chievo's match was postponed, therefore missed the chance to take the outright lead in the division and could not break down Brescia who will be pleased with the 0-0 draw.

Juventus, looking for a boost before being floated on the stock market Thursday, had to settle for a 1-1 draw away to cash-strapped Fiorentina.

French striker David Trezeguet, who had earlier had a goal disallowed, profited from dismal defending to put the Turin side ahead after

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French striker David Trezeguet, who had earlier had a goal disallowed, profited from dismal defending to put the Turin side ahead after

minutes after the visiting captain Paolo Maldini had been carried off with what looked a serious knee injury.

In the second half referee Alfredo Trentalange briefly needed treatment after being struck on the lip by a snowball.

But after 57 minutes AC Milan got back on terms when their Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko bagged his 11th goal of the season. It finished 1-1.

A late own goal by Lecce goalkeeper Antonio Chimenti gave Perugia a 3-2 win in a basement battle.

Perugia's Giovanni Tedesco had given his side an early lead but

Bottom club Venezia, buoyed by their first victory of the season over Udinese last weekend, were deflated again after losing 3-2 to Piacenza after leading twice.

The Venice outfit led through experienced striker Filippo Maniero. Carmine Gaudio equalised shortly after the interval for Piacenza but Uruguayan midfielder Federico Magallanes restored Venezia's lead. But it ended in tears for the Venice club as two late strikes by Paolo Poggi ensuring the visitors prevailed.

At Verona the belated decision by referee Domenico Messina to postpone the Chievo-Lazio match because of an icy match after the scheduled kick-off time was greeted by a chorus of boos by both sets of fans.

Serie A's top six

Italian First Division table after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Inter Milan	15	9	4	2	28	14	31
AS Roma	15	8	6	1	21	9	30
Chievo	14	9	2	3	28	16	29
Juventus	15	6	7	2	23	13	25
AC Milan	15	6	6	3	23	17	24
Lazio	14	6	5	3	19	10	23

Note: Chievo-Lazio match, postponed Wednesday, to be played at date to be announced

England on top on hot day



AFP, Bangalore

Andrew Flintoff dented India's batting with three vital wickets to leave England in control of the third and final cricket Test here on Thursday.

The tourists, looking to square the series, scored 336 in their first innings and reduced India to 99-3 by close of an acrimonious second day's play at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Stumps were drawn 11 overs early due to bad light with India still trailing by 237 runs on a brand new wicket that is already showing signs of wear.

Sachin Tendulkar kept India's hopes alive with an unbeaten 50, his 30th half-century in Tests. Rahul Dravid was the other batsman at the crease on one.

The final session was marred by a heated exchange between Indian batsman Shiv Das and England's spinner Ashley Giles after an appeal was disallowed, forcing the umpires to intervene.

Umpires Avi Jayaprakash of India and Asoka De Silva of Sri Lanka spoke to the two players and also summoned England captain Nasser Hussain during the drinks break to calm matters.

The tourists, already seething at Michael Vaughan's dismissal on Wednesday for handling the ball, were annoyed further when umpire De Silva erred in turning down an appeal for a catch against Das.

Television replays showed the ball from Giles hit both the bat and pad before lobbing to wicketkeeper James Foster, but De Silva was unmoved.

A wicket at that stage would have reduced India to 40-3, but Das went on