



Did U Know?

Wasim Akram holds the record of most number of sixes in a Test innings. The Pakistan all-rounder hit 12 sixes during an unbeaten 257 against Zimbabwe at Sheikhupura in 1997-98.



What to WATCH

ESPN
Sportscentr Hindi
Sport News
6:30 am
Serie A
AC Milan vs Atalanta
8:00 am

English Premier Football League
Man United vs Middlesbrough
10:30 am

English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Derby County
Live at 5:50 pm
&
Newcastle United vs Leeds United
Live at 8:50 pm

STAR Sports

Asia Sports Show
11:30 am
World Cup Soccer Mix
12:30 pm
Gillette World Sports Special
1:30 pm
Int'l Sports News
3:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
8:30 pm

Primera Liga
Highlights at 10:30 pm
Cricket Magazine
India's Greatest Cricket Moments
India vs Pakistan
Bangladesh Silver Jubilee '98
Third Final
Highlights at 11:30 pm

Primera Liga
Barcelona vs Espanyol
Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)

Cricket Magazine
India's Greatest Cricket Moments
India vs Pakistan
Bangladesh Silver Jubilee '98
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TALK TURKEY



Steve Craig

(Australian cricket captain)
"It's nice for the family, for the mum and dad -- all the sacrifices they made with us growing up."

On playing his 100th consecutive Test together with twin brother Mark.



BFF ad-hoc body meeting

UNB, Dhaka

The new ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will meet on Sunday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

A 31-member committee with SA Sultan, MP, as president and Anwarul Haque Helal as general secretary was formed on Friday dissolving the elected executive committee.

This will be an introducing meeting but it is likely to discuss the upcoming third SAFF Football Championship to be held in Dhaka on January 26.

Various committees to organize the region's biggest football extravaganza smoothly are yet to be formed.

Meanwhile, an inter-ministerial meeting for the SAFF Championship will be held today at 2:30 pm.

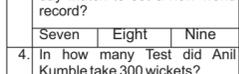
Mukti's new body

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad has reorganised the executive committee of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kira Chakra on Thursday with its new chairman Redwan Ahmed as the president.

The other six members of the committee are: Vice-presidents: Kanbir Ahmed, Mesbahuddin Sabu, general secretary: SM Jahangir Alam, members: Abu Sayeed Khan and Shamsuzzoha Chowdhury.

WhiZZ KID-161 winner



Tasneem Binte-Alam (Shaheed Anwar Girls School & College)

1. Who became FIFA's World Player of the Year?
Beckham Figo Raul

2. Which team scored the lowest one-day international total?
Bangladesh Zimbabwe West Indies

3. How many wickets did Chaminda Vaas take in a one-day match to set a new world record?
Seven Eight Nine

4. In how many Test did Anil Kumble take 300 wickets?
88 6676

5. Who won the Sri Lanka tri-series?
West Indies Sri Lanka Zimbabwe

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

BD brace for defeat

AFP, Hamilton

New Zealand were Friday poised to win their first cricket Test against Bangladesh thanks to over-exuberance by the tourists here Friday.

New Zealand's bowling was mediocre but it was enough to finish off Bangladesh's first innings for 205 then have them 90 for four at stumps in their follow-on.

It left them trailing by 70 runs overall after New Zealand declared their first innings Friday morning at 365 for nine to set the Test green-horns 216 to avoid automatically batting twice.

There was plenty of action for the crowd of around 1,000 who saw 354 runs scored and 18 wickets fall in the 100 overs bowled on a rare sun-drenched day.

Should the match finish on Saturday -- with more fine weather expected -- it will be the second consecutive Test in Hamilton to last barely two days after New Zealand's innings and 185 run-win over Pakistan in March.

Despite useful knocks from Habibul Bashar, debutant Sanwar Hossain and Khaled Mahmud, New Zealand managed to scuttle the tourists in 58 overs of entertaining but sometimes reckless batting.

Star all-rounder Chris Cairns was still far from his best but improved later on while speedster Shane Bond and spinner Daniel Vettori were the most consistent, Bond taking four for 47 off 13.1 overs.

But it looked for a time as if Bangladesh, who have lost three of their seven Tests by an innings, would mount a spirited fightback and make the New Zealand openers pad up again.

No 3 Bashar looked all class as he played 50 off 38 balls including eight fours and a hooked six off Craig McMillan.

He cracked anything loose square of the wicket and completed his fourth consecutive Test half-century after a double of 108 and 76 against Zimbabwe. It was his seventh Test 50 in his eighth match.

But he hit a soft catch on 61 to make it 121 for five and despite a pair of rapid 45s from Hossain and the hard-hitting Mahmud they were just short of the follow-on.

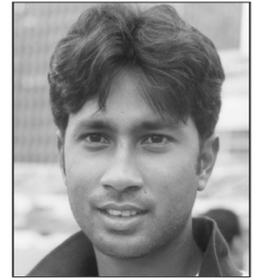
It was more of the same in the second innings as the tourists showed the ills of too much one-day play. Bashar and No 4 Aminul Islam

were both removed in consecutive balls by a rejuvenated Cairns and opener Mohammad Al Sahariar had two lives on 39 courtesy of Mathew Sinclair and Adam Parore.

Earlier, opener Mark Richardson's 143 helped the home side push for a declaration as they added 59 runs and lost four wickets in nine overs.

He scored the 14 runs he needed Friday to reach 1,000 Test runs in his 13th Test and 20th innings. He was one Test short of John Reid's New Zealand record of 1,000 runs in 12 Tests and 20 innings set in the 1980s.

Richardson's 356 minute innings came to an end when he charged at



AL SAHARIAR...53 n.o

16-year-old medium-pace Mohammad Sharif and skied a return catch. He faced 191 balls and hit 14 fours for his second Test ton.

Richardson and Cairns added 89 in 72 minutes before Cairns was bowled by Sharif for 48 off 59 balls.

Paceman Masrafe-bin-Mortuza was the pick of the bowlers with three for 100 off 27 overs while Sharif took three wickets in 4.1 overs to end with a Test best three for 114.

New Zealand had some minor injury worries with Nathan Astle off the field almost the entire day with a right wrist injury and Lou Vincent dislocating a finger while stopping a ball. Both were expected to be fit for the second Test next week.

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud said his players found it difficult batting in New Zealand conditions but still backed them to pull off an unlikely draw on Saturday.

"Some things were lacking in our batting and there was a lack of match practice over five days in these type of conditions. How to leave the ball, and mental application," Mahmud said. "But we'll try to bat it out, it's a very good batting wicket."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between New Zealand and Bangladesh here Friday.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 306-5): Richardson c and b Sharif 143 Vincent c and b Mortuza 0 Sinclair c Masud b Monjurul Fleming c Masud b Mortuza 7

Astle c Al Sahariar b Monjurul McMillan c M Islam b Mortuza 106 Cairns b Sharif 46 Parore b Sharif 20 Vettori lbw b Mahmud 0 Bond not out 4 Extras (b-2, lb-18, w-5, nb-3) 28

Total (For 9 wks dec in 77.1 overs) 365 Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-19, 3-29, 4-51, 5-241, 6-330, 7-357, 8-359, 9-365

Bowler O M R W
Mortuza 27 3 100 3
Islam 18 5 66 2
Sharif 20.1 2 114 3
Mahmud 9 0 40 1
Ashraf 3 0 25 0

BANGLADESH: First innings
Javed c Richardson b Cairns 9

Al Sahariar c Sinclair b Bond 15 Basharc Martin b Vettori 61 Aminul c Parore b Bond 14 Ashraf c Sinclair b Vettori 1 Sanwar c Vincent b McMillan 45 Mashud c Bond b McMillan 6

Mahmud c Richardson b Bond 45 Sharif b Martin 0 Mortuza lbw b Bond 3 Monjurul not out 6 Extras (lb-1, nb-5) 6

Total (All out in 58.1 overs) 205 Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-32, 3-92, 4-95, 5-121, 6-146, 7-155, 8-156, 9-204

Bowler O M R W
Cairns 11 0 55 1
Bond 13.1 2 47 4
Martin 11 4 38 1
McMillan 8 1 39 2
Vettori 15 4 25 2

BANGLADESH: Second innings
Javed lbw b Martin 15 Al Sahariar not out 53 Basharc Parore b Cairns 1 Aminul b Cairns 0 Ashraf c sub (Drum) b Bond 6 Sanwar not out 7 Extras (lb-4, nb-4) 8

Total (For 4 wks in 33 overs) 90 Fall of wks: 1-39, 2-42, 3-42, 4-68

Bowler O M R W
Cairns 12 0 46 2
Bond 8 2 17 1
Martin 4 1 6 1
Vettori 0 1 17 0

No WorldTel for BD-Pak series

SPORTS REPORTER

Even before a ball has been bowled, American media company WorldTel has again pulled the plug on next month's home series between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Apparently the production company of Mark Mascarenhas has failed to resolve its long-running dispute with satellite broadcaster Sony Entertainment Television (SET).

The row resulted in no international coverage of Zimbabwe's tour of Bangladesh in November. Eventually though both the two Tests and three one-day internationals were shown courtesy of state-run Bangladesh Television and private network Ekushey Television.

Under a five-year deal signed in September last year, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and WorldTel, the Board would be receiving 11.7 million dollars for covering nine home series.

WorldTel then sold the exclusive television rights to Indian satellite channel SET for 17 million dollars.

But in a strange twist of events neither party was unwilling to telecast Bangladesh's maiden home series against the southern Africans for a variety of reasons.

However, BCB director Ahmed Sajjad Alam, who is also the member secretary of Media Committee (Electronic), said yesterday the same makeshift arrangements will be used during the two Tests and three one-dayers against Pakistan.

It means BTV will again be charge of production and ETV will help Pakistan Television (PTV) telecast the matches.

Bichel included

AFP, Melbourne

Medium pacer Andy Bichel was recalled Friday to the 12-man Australian squad, replacing legspinner Stuart MacGill for the second Test against South Africa starting in Melbourne on Boxing Day.

But it seems unlikely he will repeat his five-wicket haul in the same Boxing Day Test fixture later year -- against the West Indies -- and is more likely to carry the drinks.

After being 12th man for the entire recent series against New Zealand, Bichel was omitted for the Adelaide Test when Australia toyed with the idea of playing two leg-spinners before making MacGill 12th man. is now surplus to requirements.

AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh (capt), Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Mark Waugh, Damien Martyn, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath, Andy Bichel.

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Golden Sun Shine defeated Lord's Cricket Coaching Centre by 26 runs in the seventh Bishreshtha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament at local Railway play ground yesterday.

The winners made 144 for eight in stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Lord's were all out for 118 in stipulated 25 overs.

Meanwhile, Al-Rasid Cricket Academy (A) recorded a ten-wicket win over Shaheb Bazar Sporting Club in the Shaheed Zia Smriti Cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Government College play ground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Shaheb Bazar collected 94 in 25 overs.

In reply, Al-Rasid reached the target for no loss in 14.2 overs.

WhiZZ KID-162 winner

Shariful Islam (Dhanmondi Boys High School, Dhaka)

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on December 27.

WhiZZ KID-162 correct answers

1. Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe one-day internationals?
Ans. D.Ebrahim

2. Who became Inter-Continental Cup champion?
Ans. Bayern Munich

3. How many runs did Habibul Bashar score in the first innings of the second Test against Zimbabwe?
Ans. 108

4. Which number Test venue is the MAAZiz Stadium?
Ans. 82nd

5. Who won the Tennis Masters Cup in Sydney?
Ans. Hewitt

Pakistan now coming Jan 2

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Friday revised the itinerary of Pakistan's tour of Bangladesh next month bringing the last two one-day internationals forward by a day.

The changes were made at the request of the Bangladesh Football Federation who are scheduled to host the third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship in the capital from January 26.

The decision to change the schedule came when Board of Directors met on Friday evening in Gulshan. New Board president Ali Asghar presided.

According to the previous itinerary, the last two ODIs of the three-match series were scheduled to take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on January 25 and 26, which was day of the SAFF

Tournament's opening match between India and Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Now those one-day matches will be on January 24 and 25. Also Pakistan will be arriving a day earlier than January 3.

The visitors kick off their Bangladesh visit with a three-day match against the A team at the Bangladesh Kira Shikha Protishan (BKSP) ground starting January 5.

REVISED ITINERARY

Jan 2	Arrival
Jan 3-4	Practice
Jan 5-7	3-dayer vs BD Aat BKSP
Jan 9-13	1st Test at Dhaka
Jan 14-15	Practice in Chittagong
Jan 16-19	2nd Test at Chittagong
Jan 22	First ODI at Chittagong
Jan 23	Travel to Dhaka
Jan 24	Second ODI
Jan 25	Third ODI
Jan 26	Depart for Karachi

The first Test begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on January 9. The second Test commences in Chittagong on January 16.

The port city will also host the first ODI on January 22.

In other matters, BCB retained the same eleven sub-committees, which functioned during Zimbabwe's tour.

There is a minor change in the reception sub-committee. Mahmud Ul Haq replaces Ali Ahsan as member secretary of the committee.

Besides, the Board retained Nafees Iqbal as captain of the Bangladesh team for next month's World Youth Cup in New Zealand.

The meeting also received the budget of different sub-committees for the upcoming series against Pakistan.

An inter-ministerial meeting will be held tomorrow at 11 am at the office of State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman.

Rain foils England

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

Rain and bad light frustrated England's bid to put India in the dock on the third day of the third and final cricket Test here on Friday.

The tourists, looking for a win to draw the three-match series, embarrassed India's batting might to reduce the hosts to 218-7 in the first innings in reply to their own total of 336.

The entire post-tea session was washed out, reducing the day's play to just 43 overs with India trailing by 118 runs in the first innings with three wickets in hand.

England now have two days to force a win, weather permitting, on the newly-laid wicket at the Chinnaswamy Stadium that is keeping low at times from both ends.

India, starting the day at 99-3, were rocked by Yorkshire paceman Matthew Hoggard, who bowled superbly in overcast conditions to pick up three wickets.

The Indians, reduced to 121-5 at one stage, were saved the blushes by a defiant 90 from Sachin Tendulkar and a quickfire 66 off 88 balls from Virender Sehwag.

When play was called off, Anil Kumble was unbeaten on 10 while Harbhajan Singh had yet to open his account.

Tendulkar missed his 28th century by 10 runs when, frustrated by left-arm spinner Ashley Giles' leg-stump line, he stepped out to drive and was stumped for the first time in his 89-Test career.

Tendulkar had scored 12 runs in Giles' previous over to complete 1,000 runs in the calendar year 2001 in 10 Tests.

Despite India's precarious position, Indian coach John Wright

warned his team was still capable of winning the match.

"It's not over yet," he said. "If the rain stays away there could still be some good cricket played over the next two days."

"But mark my words, India are not out of the picture yet. England

another wicket soon after when Sehwag edged a ball, but Andrew Flintoff at third slip put down a low chance.

Sehwag took advantage of the let-off by striking 13 boundaries before he was caught behind off Hoggard just before tea.

Play began an hour late in the morning despite the floodlights being switched on before the scheduled start.

India made heavy weather of the thick cloud cover, scoring just 50 runs in 24 overs during the curtailed morning session.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the third and final cricket Test between India and England at the Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Friday.

ENGLAND: First innings 336 (N. Hussain 43, M. Vaughan 64, M. Ramprakash 58, C. White 39, J. Foster 48; Srinath 4-73, Sarandeep 3-54)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 99-3)
Das b Flintoff 28
Dasgupta c Trescottick b Flintoff 0
Laxman b Flintoff 12
Tendulkar st Foster b Giles 90
Dravid c Foster b Hoggard 3
Ganguly c Butcher b Hoggard 0
Sehwag c Foster b Hoggard 66
Kumble not out 10
Harbhajan not out 10
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-2) 9
Total: (For seven wks in 86 overs) 218
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-22, 3-88, 4-121, 5-121, 6-173, 7-218

Bowler O M R W
Hoggard 20 6 65 3
Flintoff 24 9 46 3
Giles 34 18 74 1
White 8 2 26 0

Umpires: Asoka De Silva (Sri) and Avi Jayaprakash (Ind)
Match referee: Denis Lindsay (Rsa)

Hoggard should have had

will have to bat again a second time."

Tendulkar, who started the day on 50, added only 27 in the morning session as Hoggard removed the other two star batsmen, Rahul Dravid and captain Sourav Ganguly, in successive overs.

Dravid groped for 73 minutes to score just three runs before Hoggard ended his agonising stay at the crease by forcing an edge to wicketkeeper Foster.

The Yorkshire bowler then dismissed the out-of-form Ganguly for a duck in his next over when the batsman jabbed at a ball outside the off-stump and was caught at second slip by Mark Butcher.

The Indian captain has made just one half-century in his last 19 innings as bowlers around the world continue to exploit his weakness against the rising delivery.

Hoggard should have had

'The Phenomenon' reborn

Football

AFP/REUTERS, Milan

Inter Milan's Brazilian superstar Ronaldo rounded off a memorable 10 days with two goals in his side's 3-0 victory over Verona at the San Siro Wednesday, with the signs that both player and club are set to end a long spell in the doldrums.

"I am well, I would even say very well but I can still get better," said Ronaldo with his famous gap-toothed grin. "I have had some psychological problems to overcome but the team and Mr (Hector) Cuper have helped me a lot and supported me."

"Mr Cuper has helped me by having the confidence to play from start," said the player known in Italy as 'il fenomeno' (the phenomenon).

Ronaldo two goals proved he has returned better than ever, the club's president Massimo Moratti said.

Moratti has had to wait to reap the rewards of Ronaldo's fearsome talent after the striker's two years of injury anguish.

"The Phenomenon has returned, the player we know, a fantastic player and his second goal was exceptional," Moratti was quoted as saying in Thursday's Corriere Dello Sport.

"It brought back the memories for me and he has exploded all my hopes. When Ronaldo plays in that manner, it encourages the entire squad. Psychologically he is very important."

But just a fortnight ago many doubters were still insisting the 25-year-old would never return to the form that twice made him FIFA's World Player of the Year.

After all the former PSV Eindhoven and Barcelona player had not