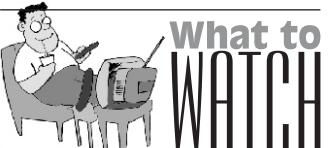




Did U Know?

Windies great Garfield Sobers hit all the six balls of an over for a six in first-class cricket in England. Former India skipper Ravishankar Shastri is the other player to do so in a domestic cricket championship. He achieved the feat while playing for Mumbai in their Ranji Trophy match against Vadodara in 1984-85.



ESPN

English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Sunderland 12:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Weekly Highlights at 2:30 pm
Series A
Juventus vs Lazio 3:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Leeds United vs Man United 5:30 pm

STAR Sports

New Zealand vs England
Third Test, Day Two
Live at 4:27 am
New Zealand vs England
Third Test, Day Two
Highlights at 9:00 pm



CAPTAIN'S KNOCK GOES IN VAIN: Abahani's Akram Khan sweeps one on way to scoring an unbeaten 102 against Victoria in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

White Plus GM meet Winning start for Zia, Niaz

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master (GM) Ziaur Rahman got off to a good start in the White Plus Grand Masters Chess tournament with a victory over Shawkat Hossain Pallab in the opening round at the NSC conference room on Saturday.

GM Niaz Moshed also won his board against Abu Sufian Shakil.

However, Tayebur Rahman Sumon of Bangladesh stole the day's limelight forcing Ukrainian GM Alexander Goloschchapov to a draw.

In the day's other matches, top seed GM Drazen Sermek of Slovenia beat Syed Mahfuzur Rahman, IM Johansson beat Khandakar Kaysar Hasan, Indian Raktim Bandapadhyaya beat IWM Rani Hamid, and Shabana Parveen Nipa beat Aminul Islam.

Three matches between Indian GM Dibendu Barua and Malaysian IM Wang Jiehui, Russian GM Fominyh and Indian Nisha Mehta, and Parag and Indian Girinath ended in draws.

The second round begins at the same venue at 3 pm today.

The IOA president was speaking while on a three-day visit to Pakistan to attend an executive committee meeting of the Ninth South Asian Federation Games.

He also held talks to discuss the possibility of reviving sporting contacts between India and Pakistan.

Both countries have amassed some 800,000 troops on their shared border following an attack last December on the Indian parliament which New Delhi alleges was carried out by Pakistan-based

militants.

Already weak sporting relations between Pakistan and India have suffered as a result of the stand-off, with cricket the worst hit.

"Both Pakistan and India should now go step-by-step and I am here as the first step and the process should be furthered by mutual cooperation," he said.

When asked if he saw any chance of India playing a commemorative Test against Pakistan in October this year, Kalmadi declined to comment.

"It's too early to say and when I return home Sunday morning I will give a report of my tour to the sports ministry and hope that some positions would come out."

Pakistan's Cricket Board has plans to invite India to play a commemorative Test to mark the 50th anniversary of the first ever India-Pakistan Test played in 1952-53.

India is also scheduled to tour Pakistan in April-May next year which, if it goes ahead, would be their first full Test tour of the country since 1989-90.

Pakistan broke a deadlock of 13

Sports remedy to Indo-Pak rift

AFP, Islamabad

Sporting ties will ease friction between nuclear rivals Pakistan and India and should not suffer because of tension between the South Asian neighbours, India's Olympic chief said Saturday.

"I strongly feel that sporting relations will help ease whatever political tension exists between Pakistan and India and whatever be the political scenario, sports should go on," Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President Suresh Kalmadi told the news agency.

The IOA president was speaking while on a three-day visit to Pakistan to attend an executive committee meeting of the Ninth South Asian Federation Games.

He also held talks to discuss the possibility of reviving sporting contacts between India and Pakistan.

Both countries have amassed some 800,000 troops on their shared border following an attack last December on the Indian parliament which New Delhi alleges was carried out by Pakistan-based

years when its cricket team crossed the border to play a Test series and a triangular tournament in 1999.

Both countries have not met on a cricket field since the Asia Cup tournament in Bangladesh in June 2000.

Kalmadi added that he believed the Ninth South Asian Federation Games, which were Saturday rescheduled from March 29 to April 17 next year, would open the door for a renewal of sporting ties.

"After meeting with Pakistan Olympic Association officials we mutually agree that regular meets like athletics, football, hockey, kabaddi and cricket should be held," Kalmadi said.

Pakistan and India revived their cross-border hockey series in 1998 but this was terminated the following year following an outbreak in hostilities.

Kalmadi also held discussions with Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia on Friday.

"Overall it was a fruitful tour and I hope results will come," he added.

Japan to help sports sector

BSS, Dhaka

Japan will provide all-out cooperation to Bangladesh to build a international standard sports complex and youth centre.

Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Jiro Kobayashi revealed this during a meeting with State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman at the latter's Secretariat office on Saturday.

They also discussed about the development of the youth and sports sector.

Youth and Sports secretary Muhammad Nurul Huda was present during the meeting.



Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (L) ponders his next move against Shawkat Hossain Pallab during their New White Plus Grand Masters' Chess Tournament engagement at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium on Saturday.

Ponting pounds Proteas

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Bloemfontein

Australia proved too hot to handle for South Africa in the fourth one-day international at Bloemfontein, thanks to a century from captain Ricky Ponting.

Ponting's 129 set up an Australian total of 290 for six from their 50 overs which proved far too much for a South African side who collapsed to 253 all out in 48.3 overs as the run-rate became impossible.

With this 37-run win, Australia now have an unassailable 3-0 lead in the seven-match series with three games to play - the third game having ended in a tie.

Ponting dominated the Australian innings with his first century as captain in an exhibition of one-day batting.

Some judicious shot selection and excellent running kept the Australian rate going throughout the innings, with all the batsmen exploiting the wide open spaces of the Bloemfontein outfield.

Ponting was ably assisted by Darren Lehmann who made 39 from 37 balls at a crucial stage.

The pair put on 119 for the fourth wicket from only 92 balls, taking Australia past 250.

The 20-year-old Smith eventually showed his inexperience playing on

to Ian Harvey in the first ball after the drinks break.

Jacques Kallis and Neil McKenzie tried to take over from where Smith left off, rotating the strike without taking total command.

The pair put on 71 for the fourth wicket before Kallis offered a return to catch to the innocuous left-arm spin of Darren Lehmann.

Jonty Rhodes then joined McKenzie and together they built another 50 partnership, allowing McKenzie to complete his fifth ODI half-century off 69 balls.

However, with the run-rate edging up towards ten per over McKenzie was worked by Brett Lee trying to make room.

Mark Boucher followed in the same fashion from the very next ball and with Shaun Pollock capitulating for just two, South Africa's chances were gone.

Lee also picked up the wickets of Boje and Rhodes for 56 to finish with his second four-wicket haul in consecutive matches as South Africa subsided to 253 all out.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard in the fourth one-day international between South Africa and Australia at Springbok Park on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist b Telemachus 34
SEE PAGE 15

Caddick owes it to Nasser

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

Andrew Caddick took his place among England's best Test bowlers and immediately thanked captain Nasser Hussain.

One of Hussain's first tasks when he took over as captain in the summer of 1999 was to recall Caddick to the Test arena.

And the Somerset fast bowler has rewarded the faith Hussain placed in him by becoming the ninth England player in history to grab 200 Test wickets.

The match ended in a tie as both the teams scored 237 runs in the stipulated 40 overs but Stamford won the battle due to loss of less wickets to book seat in the last four.

Batting first, Stamford scored 237 runs for seven wickets in fixed 40 overs.

Hussain made unbeaten 82 runs and later picked up three wickets for 20 runs to receive the man-of-the-match award.

In reply, Independent University were all out for 237 runs in 40 overs with Russell making 57 and Farhan 39 runs.

American International University of Bangladesh take on Darul Ehsan University in the third quarterfinal match today at the same venue.

He knows what you're trying to do, he knows what he wants me to try and do and the relationship between us goes quite well.

"Duncan is also useful because he's had a bowling background and it's been great to have someone as your coach that knows what it's like

Nasser Hussain.

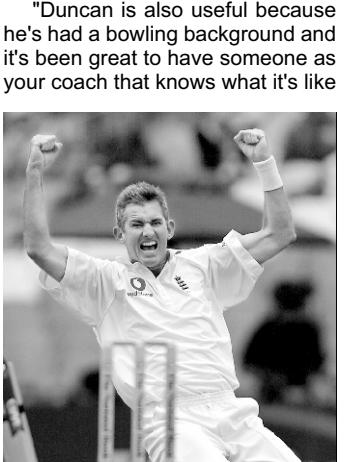
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And the Somerset fast bowler has rewarded the faith Hussain placed in him by becoming the ninth England player in history to grab 200 Test wickets.

Hussain described reaching the milestone as one of the highlights of his career but one that would not have been possible had it not been for the more relaxed approach introduced by Hussain when he became captain alongside coach Duncan Fletcher.

"As a captain he always backs you," enthused Caddick. "We've had our ups and downs and disagreements but for 90-95 percent of the time he is backing you."

"I enjoy proving people wrong,



CADDICK ... 200 Test wkt haul

to be out there bowling.

He added: "The low points usually outweigh the high points during a career, but when these sort of milestones and highs come along you do try and enjoy them."

"I enjoy proving people wrong,

He defeated Giasuddin Ahmed in the final.

In the veterans' doubles,

Khondker Musa Khaled and Anwarul Huq won the title beating Giasuddin Mahmud and Dewan Shah Alam.

Major (retd) AKM Rezaul Islam and Dr SB Nasim bagged the doubles title defeating Qamrul Islam Siddiqi and AMM Nasiruddin.

Officers' Club tennis

Rashid clinches singles title

UNB, Dhaka

Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed won the singles title of the Officers' Club annual tennis championship at the club court on Friday.

He defeated Giasuddin Ahmed in the final.

In the veterans' doubles,

Khondker Musa Khaled and Anwarul Huq won the title beating Giasuddin Mahmud and Dewan Shah Alam.

Major (retd) AKM Rezaul Islam and Dr SB Nasim bagged the doubles title defeating Qamrul Islam Siddiqi and AMM Nasiruddin.

Harris mans Kiwi fort

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

myself a chance."

Harris was promoted to number four in the order as part of a couple of team changes aimed at squaring the series after the Kiwis lost the opening Christchurch Test by 98 runs.

Harris, who had a Test average of 19.4 from 19 matches going into the Test, took 37 minutes to get off the mark but grew in confidence and anchored partnerships with Craig

The left and right spin combination of Sabir Khan and Mohammad Rafique claimed seven Brother Union wickets giving away only 42 runs. Sabir was at his miserly best taking four wickets for 14 runs off his chase.

Dropped on 53 by Victoria keeper Khaled Mashud at square leg, Akram, who took 72 balls to

win, had a Test average of 23.5 from 19 matches going into the Test, took 37 minutes to get off the mark but grew in confidence and anchored partnerships with Craig

Harris ... 55 no.

McMillan and Parore.

England fast bowler Andy Caddick was irresistible in the morning conditions and claimed his 200th Test wicket.

The New Zealand-born Caddick captured 4-28 to have New Zealand

SEE PAGE 15

Day's Event

Cartoon of a man with a briefcase.

Cartoon of a man with a briefcase.