



Did U Know?

Lazio Kiss of Hungary is the only substitute to have scored a hat-trick in the World Cup. Hungary were 5-1 ahead when Kiss scored his first of three in this match against El Salvador which ended 10-1 in Spain in 1982. That is by the way the biggest victory in World Cup history.



ESPN
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Australia vs South Africa
Sixth ODI, Highlights
Repeat at 9:00 pm
West Indies vs India
Fifth Test, Day Five
Repeat at 10:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Taped Version at 11:30 pm

STAR Sports
Football Asia
Taped Version at 8:00 am
England vs India
Eighth ODI, NatWest Series
Taped Version at 8:30 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 6:30 pm
South Africa vs Sri Lanka
Sixth ODI, Highlights
Repeat at 11:00 pm



Rivaldo
(Brazilian superstar)
"I played 14 games with the No. 10 shirt, a number that lots of great players have worn and I am sure that in the future lots of people will remember."

Aminul ensures draw

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's cricketers overturned a 147-run deficit to avoid the ignominy of losing to Sri Lanka's Board Academy Eleven when they drew the three-day match at the Nondescripts Cricket Club Ground in Colombo yesterday.

Resuming the final day on 31 for one and still 119 runs in arrears, Bangladesh finished on 243 with one wicket in hand to take a lead of 96 runs at the close of play.

The country's leading run-scorer Aminul led the way with a workmanlike 66 off 143 balls.

Former national skipper Aminul Islam led the way with a workmanlike 66 off 143 balls.

Opener Hannan Sarkar made up for his first innings 12 with a run-a-ball 43. He hammered seven boundaries.

Acting skipper Habibul Bashar warmed up for the two-Test series with another impressive knock.

The country's leading run-scorer

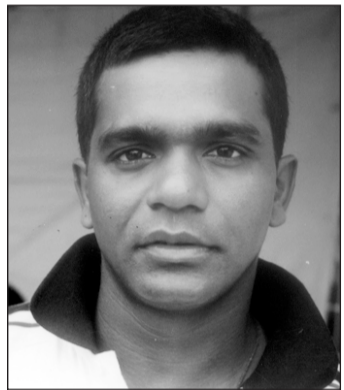
in Tests made 42 off 53 balls. Most of the right-hander's runs came in clever ones and twos. The usually fluent Bashar managed only one four.

However burly Akram Khan and young Mohammad Ashraf failed to get into form.

Akram fell for seven and Ashraf was sent packing for a duck after facing four balls.

SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard on the third day of



AMINUL ... 66

the three-day tour match between Bangladesh and the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) Academy Eleven at the Nondescripts Cricket Club Ground

in Colombo on Thursday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 195 (Enamul Haque 40, Aminul Islam 39, Habibul Bashar 34; Lakshitha 4-16, K Fernando 3-28, Rupasinghe 3-38)

BCCSL ACADEMY XI: First innings 342 (C Jayasinghe 101, S Kalavittigoda 58, S Kandamby 33; A Kabir 3-84, T Jubair 3-85, Enamul Haque 2-63)

BANGLADESH: Second

innings
Hannan c C Fernando b Miranda 43
Al Shahrar c Mendis b Lakshitha 6
Ehsanul c Kandamby b K Fernando 20
Bashar lbw b Rupasinghe 42
Akram c C Fernando b Rupasinghe 7

Aminul run out	66		
Ashraf c C Fernando b Rupasinghe	0		
Enamul c C Fernando b Mendis	10		
Kabir c Kalavittigoda b Lakshitha	0		
Monjurul not out	9		
Jubair not out	12		
Extras: (b-1, lb-17, nb-7, w-3)	28		
Total: (For 9 wks in 94 overs)	243		
Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-62, 3-118, 4-127, 5-132, 6-133, 7-157, 8-178, 9-226			

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Perera	9	0	41	0
Mirando	22	7	59	1
Lakshitha	23	8	65	2
Rupasinghe	29	13	34	3
K Fernando	8	3	16	1
Mendis	3	1	10	1
Result:	Match drawn.			



Muktijoddha captain Prodeep (C) tries to intercept Narayan of Dhanmondi during their National Bank Premier Division Football League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Seven atop in Rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Seven players -- International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib, Taibur Rahman Sumon, H Alam, Taherul Islam, Shawkat Hossain Pallab, Khorshed Alam and Afroza Khanum Bably -- were leading the Standard Chartered Bank Fide Rating Chess Tournament table at the end of the second round yesterday.

In yesterday's round, Rakib beat Mehdi, Sumon overcame Aminul Islam, Amin defeated Rashed, Pallab checkmated Mahtab, Khorshed conquered Abul Malek, Bably beat Mahfuzur Rahman Imon and Taher won against Safussin Lovlu and earned full two points each from as many matches.

Two players -- Abu Sufian Shakil and IWM Rani Hamid who shared the points in the round, have 1.5 points.

The third and fourth round games will be held today in two sessions at the NSC chess room.

2005 ICC Trophy in Ireland

INTERNET, London

Ireland will stage the 2005 ICC (International Cricket Council) Trophy -- one of the world's top cricket tournaments.

The top three teams in the event qualify for the World Cup finals in the West Indies in 2007.

The Irish Cricket Union was unanimously supported by the International Cricket Council in its quest to bring the event to Ireland.

The tournament features 12 non-Test playing countries and gives them a chance to qualify to play against the best players in the world.

The only outstanding problem is whether to stage the tournament in the north or south of the border.

The European Championships are due to start in Northern Ireland this week when 22 venues will be at the disposal of the 12 competing nations.

Irish Cricket Union chairman John Caldwell was delighted at the news.

"It's a terrific feather in the cap for Irish cricket," he said.

"We are in the throes of staging the European Championships and the news that the world tournament is now coming Ireland's way is a wonderful double.

"Three years ago Dublin hosted a World Cup tie in exemplary fashion and last year the organisation of the Australians' visit to Belfast attracted great praise."

Ireland failed to qualify for next year's World Cup in South Africa after finishing bottom in last year's ICC Trophy in Canada.

The host country, Holland and SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Muktijoddha fall prey to penalties



SPORTS REPORTER

Favourites Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra suffered a jolt in their bid to regain the National Bank Premier League title when tiny Dhanmondi Club handed them a defeat in the tie-breaker at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The match, which was locked 1-1 after 90 minutes, eventually ended in a 4-2 loss in the shootout for star-studded Muktijoddha.

They became the second high-profile casualties of the league after holders Abahani Krira Chakra lost in a similar fashion to newcomers Badda Jagarani in opening match of the ten-team elite league last Monday.

After the all-reds took an eleventh minute lead, everything seemed to go upside down with Dhanmondi finding an equaliser in the 27th minute.

Hasan Al-Mamun, the national defender who played as a midfielder in Muktijoddha's 4-4-2 formation, put his side ahead with a brilliant

right-foot shot after being nicely fed by Rakib.

Mehdi Hasan Tapu equalised for Dhanmondi when he capitalised on a defence-splitting pass from Nurul Islam.

Eager to avoid the same fate as Abahani, Muktijoddha tried to apply the pressure in the second period but the slippery conditions made it virtually impossible to play their natural flowing style of football.

Dhanmondi however held their nerve as they managed to stretch the game into shoot-out.

Shahidul, Narayan, Ashrafur Kader and Shipon converted from the spot for the winners while Asif and Moni netted for the losers.

Yellow cards: Sujon, Rakib (Muktijoddha) and Shipon, Dulal (Dhanmondi).

TEAMS
DHANMONDI CLUB: Ratan Ali (Biplab), Dulal Shah, Shahidul Islam, Parimal, Narayan, Hanif, Sabbir (Shamim), Nurul Islam (Shipon), Ashrafur Kader, Mehdi Hasan and Parvez.

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD KC: Biplab, Prodeep, Hasan Al-Mamun, Sujon, Rajani, Pavel, Matuir Munna, Rakib (Asif), Arman, Moni and Alfaz.

Gough's fear

INTERNET, London

England fast bowler Darren Gough believes an increasing number of players will follow Graham Thorpe's lead and quit one-day cricket.

Gough, who himself chose to miss a tour of India last winter, believes the rigours of the international game are becoming too tough.

Thorpe announced his retirement from England's limited overs set-up game in order to try to preserve his life in the Test side.

And England teammate Gough supported his move.

He said: "I believe Graham has made the right decision and one more and more players will be forced into over the next few years."

"An international player at both Test and one-day levels will probably get a maximum of four weeks off in any 12-month period."

"The strain on the body alone is enormous and it is going to get harder and harder."

"In the next few months we have a Test series against India, a one-day tournament in Sri Lanka, an Ashes series in Australia, the World Cup and then a new domestic season."

"That kind of scheduling is bound to cause problems and in the future I don't see many players' careers extending beyond four or five years."

Aussies' yes, Kiwis' no

Pakistan may hold tri-series in Kenya

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Lahore

Australia will take part in a limited-overs tri-nation cricket series involving Pakistan but New Zealand have pulled out, a Pakistani official said Thursday.

It was almost certain that the August 27-September 7 tournament would be played in Kenya rather than violence-wracked Pakistan, the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) newly appointed director, Chishty Mujahid, added.

PCB was forced to shift the series, which had been intended as the centrepiece of the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Pakistan attaining Test status, from Pakistan to Kenya after Australia and New Zealand raised security concerns.

But while the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) had confirmed its participation, New Zealand cricket chiefs had declined despite the likely change of venue, he said.

"New Zealand Cricket has conveyed to us their inability to take part in the tri-nation series," Mujahid told

AFP.

"New Zealand cricket chief executive Martin Snedden has informed us that they can't take part in the triangular series for various reasons," Mujahid told Reuters.

"However, Australia have given us a favourable response and will play in the triangular series. We are now considering two options after New Zealand's unavailability."

"The first option is to ask Australia to play a series of six to seven one-day internationals. The second is to include Kenya in place of New Zealand in the triangular series."

"It is very much likely that we will stage this tri-series in Kenya," he said.

"Australian Cricket Board has given their confirmation and we might invite Kenya as the third team," Mujahid said.

"In a way it's disappointing that New Zealand is not coming because Australia, Pakistan and New Zealand playing a one-day tournament is a great attraction," he added.

Mujahid said New Zealand had informed him that their team could not play in Kenya because of an already heavy international sched-

ule.

The New Zealand team recently finished a tour of the West Indies after playing in Sharjah and Pakistan.

New Zealand were originally scheduled to tour Pakistan for a three-Test series last September, but the tour was put off after the September 11 attacks on the United States.

The ACB is still debating whether to proceed with a three-Test tour of Pakistan in October, but for the moment the country appears off-limits to New Zealand.

An explosion outside their hotel on May 8 forced the New Zealand team to cut short their tour of Pakistan without playing the second Test in Karachi.

Cricket in Pakistan has been badly hit in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks on the United States and the resultant war in Afghanistan.

The West Indies and Sri Lanka both refused to tour Pakistan and the Test series against West Indies had to be played in Sharjah instead.

Disruptions to Pakistan's cricket schedule caused by tensions in the region have cost the PCB millions of dollars in lost revenue.

Opening problem persists

Cricket

INTERNET, London

Yet again India's openers are under the spotlight as the Test series against England looms.

The current pair, Shiv Sunder Das and Wasim Jaffer, both looked short of match practice and form in the tour match against West Indies A at Arundel.

It was their first appearance of the tour following the one-day NatWest Series, when the openers' berths were filled by Sourav Ganguly and Virender Sehwag.

And although Das has been given a prolonged run in the Test side, Jaffer is still a relative novice at the top level.

It was ever thus for Indian cricket since the retirement of the legendary Sunil Gavaskar.

Ever since the second highest run-scorer in Test cricket hung up his sun hat for the last time, India have struggled to find anybody to take his place.

In some sense the quest for Gavaskar's replacement echoes that of England's eternal search to replace their own talisman, Ian Botham.

The problem is not a lack of talent. In the likes of Navjot Sidhu, Manoj Prabhakar and Ravi Shastri, India have had some more than competent players at the top of the order.

However, since those three gradually faded away from the international scene, the selectorial scrambling has become even more pronounced.

Although injuries played a part, India changed their opening partnership no fewer than 22 times in 34 Tests between November 1996 and November 2000.

That included series against both South Africa and Australia where a different pair were used in every Test.

With that kind of inconsistency in selection, no wonder the prospective openers have been unable to cement a place.

During that time, no fewer than 12 players, including Jaffer himself were all used.

Mostly they were rotated around but only poor Mannava Prasad played in a solitary Test.

This merry-go-round was finally brought to a halt when Das emerged and together he and Sadogopan Ramesh appeared to have struck up a partnership that would provide the answer.

However, despite Das gaining the plaudits of many for his dogged defence, Ramesh's form and fitness began to desert him.

Since the tour to South Africa in November 2001, Das has now had three more partners, Deep Dasgupta who flattered to deceive with a century in his second match, all-rounder Sanjay Bangar and Jaffer.

The latter made two half centuries against West Indies in May but averages only 22 after five Tests and on the first day at Arundel, he took an hour to make just five runs.

He improved that record with a 50 in the second innings but he is still unproven in English conditions and facing Darren Gough in a Test match is an entirely different proposition.

Meanwhile, the likes of Dinesh Mongia and Mohammed Kaif are forced to sit on the sidelines despite their excellent form in the recent one-day series.

Mongia in particular demonstrated his form at Arundel, hitting 87 after the openers failed, but he can only play in the Tests if the tour management seek special permission from the Indian Board.

The Punjab batsman has opened in one-day matches for India before, indeed his best effort 159 not out against Zimbabwe, came in that slot.

Whoever is chosen, England have already identified India's openers as a potential weakness and know that the sooner Sachin Tendulkar has to face the new ball the better.

Eng waiting for Caddick

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, London

England will name their squad for next week's first Test against India on Saturday, the England and Wales Cricket Board said.

The Test party was due to be announced at 1000 GMT on Thursday but the selectors wanted more time following injuries to opener Marcus Trescothick and paceman Andrew Caddick.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney will now reveal the 13-man squad at 0920 GMT on Saturday.

Trescothick's multiple fracture in

his left thumb -- endured while fielding against Worcestershire on Wednesday -- will almost certainly rule him out of the entire four-match series, which begins at Lord's next Thursday.

The England vice-captain is wearing a cast around his hand and the recovery time has been diagnosed as between six to eight weeks, with the final Test against the Indians starting in seven-weeks time.

The Somerset batsman's teammate Caddick is still troubled by a side strain.

Alex Tudor is struggling with shin splints and fellow paceman Darren Gough has only just returned to action after knee surgery.

Kapil has high hopes



REUTERS, Calcutta

India have the potential to win the upcoming Test series against England and claim their first overseas success in over 16 years, former skipper Kapil Dev has said.

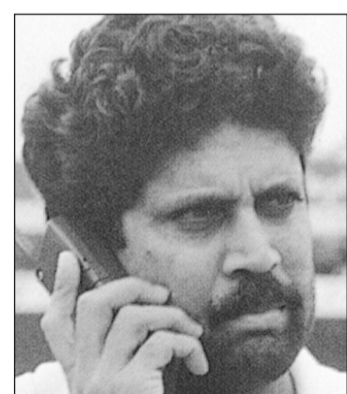
"I hope they win. They have the capability and they should believe in themselves," the former all-rounder told Reuters. The first of the four Tests against England starts at Lords next Thursday.

India, a potent force on slow pitches at home, have struggled overseas and have gone without a Test series win outside south Asia since Dev's side won 2-0 in England in 1985-86.

Dev cautioned Saurav Ganguly's team not to get carried away by their victory over England in the final of the triangular series on Saturday.

"That is history, the entire focus should now be on the Tests," he said.

India achieved the second



KAPIL DEV highest successful run-chase in one-day history to overhaul England's total of 325 and send millions of fans in the cricket-crazy

country into a frenzy.

The victory and Mohammad Kaif's match-winning innings of 87 not out continued to dominate Indian newspapers three days later.

Indian hopes have also soared for next year's World Cup, which is taking place in South Africa from February 8 to March 23.

But Dev, who led India to their only World Cup triumph in 1983, warned against unrealistic expectations.

"The performance was very good, but winning one series is not enough," he said. "Too much expectation has been created. The World Cup is eight months away, give them time."

He also admonished Ganguly for taking off his shirt in celebration on the Lord's balcony, a display seen as a response to England's Andrew Flintoff's similar demonstration after lifting his side to a series-leveling one-day win in India earlier this year.

"I was taken aback because he was the captain," said Dev. "If a junior player had done it, it was understandable. He should know how to show his emotions."

Dev, whose 434 Test wickets remained a world record until West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh pegged the mark to 519, said India's young fast bowlers need to mature if they are to become a more consistent side.

Schaffter's finding

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan cricket manager Chandra Schaffter said Thursday the team's inability to adapt to different conditions was the main reason for its dismal performance on the recent tour of England.

"The team's inability to acclimate to English conditions, especially the moving ball, cost us the series," said Schaffter. "But that can't be

Navy aquatic

ISPR, Dhaka

Hosts, BNS Issa Khan emerged champions and BNS Titimir finished runners-up in the annual swimming championship of the Bangladesh Navy that concluded on Wednesday.

The hosts' team collected 127 points while the latter ended up with 118 points respectively.

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READERS' ZONE

A lesson in Braziliance
Do you have any observation regarding sports and its management in Bangladesh? Do you feel certain issues need to be addressed before time runs out? Then, hurry up and send us your burning questions, critical views and thoughtful suggestions not in excess of 400 words. Let your thought buzz at your corner, the Readers' zone.

--Sports Editor

Brazil's World Cup winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has answered all his critics by showing the world how to constitute an invincible squad of all-rounders.

Scolari has taught us how to change the game plan whenever required on the pitch, how to form the world's most dangerous attacking combination with maestros like Ronaldinho, Ronaldo and Rivaldo -- assisted by the tremendous acceleration, overlapping and sharp, accurate passes by captain Cafu or Kleberon from the right and Roberto Carlos from the left.

Brazil also displayed admirable defensive qualities from second round onwards frustrating any attempt of the opponents to enter the penalty area unless it was a high ball, or a corner kick.

Then there were moments to behold like the magical dribbling of Denilson, the 40-metre curling free-kick by the new sensation Ronaldinho against England -- who to me was the best player of the season or the scorching free kick by Roberto Carlos against China.

Individual flair came to the fore

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



National Bank Premier Football League

Arambhang KS v Brothers Union (3:30 pm)