



Did U Know?

Sunil Gavaskar scored his only century against New Zealand at Nagpur in the 1987 World Cup after playing 107 one-day internationals. Ironically it was the Indian little master's second last match in the shorter version of the game.



What to Watch

DD Sports & National
India vs West Indies
 Second Test, Day Three
 Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

Cricket Programming
 Legends of Cricket
 Repeat at 10:30 am

English Premier Football League
 Man City vs Liverpool
 Repeat at 1:30 pm

Cricket Programming
 Super Selector
 Repeat at 4:25 pm

English Premier Football League
 Leeds United vs Liverpool
 Live at 4:55 pm

&
 Everton vs Arsenal
 Live at 7:55 pm

&
 Fulham vs Man United
 Same Day Delay at 10:00 pm

Primera Liga
 Racing vs Real Madrid
 Live at 12:30 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

Asia Sport Show
 Int'l Sports News
 Taped Version at 7:30 am

Pakistan vs Australia
 Third Test, Day One
 Live at 11:55 am

Cricket Talk Show
 Repeat at 7:30 pm

India vs West Indies
 Second Test, Day Three
 Highlights

Same Day Delay at 8:30 pm

Harsha Online
 Cricket Talk Show
 Repeat at 7:30 pm
 India vs West Indies
 Second Test, Day Three
 Highlights
 Same Day Delay at 8:30 pm



Talk Turkey



Sir Garfield Sobers

(West Indies cricket legend)
 "I will never believe that age has anything to do with ability. I believe that if a player is still performing it doesn't matter how old he is, as long as he's performing."
While commenting on Waugh brothers' abilities.

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 182
 Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
 Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 25, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Kremlin Cup tennis title?
 Maleeva Davenport Kournikova
- In which event did Bangladesh win silver medal in the 14th Asian Games?
 Kabaddi Hockey Shooting
- Who is Asia's fastest woman?
 Jayasinghe Netalya Darshita
- How many Test matches will West Indies play against Bangladesh in November-December?
 Two Three Four
- How many goals did Ronaldo score on his Real Madrid debut?
 One Two Three

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



THAT'S IT: South Africa opener Graeme Smith flicks one to reach his maiden hundred on the first day of the first Test against Bangladesh in East London yesterday.

Marauding Proteas



AFP, East London

Opening batsman Graeme Smith overcame a hand injury to hit a maiden Test century as South Africa piled on the runs on the first day of the first Test against Bangladesh at Buffalo Park Friday.

Smith was on 127, while Gary Kirsten had scored 70 not out to be 30 runs short of becoming the first batsman in Test history to score centuries against nine different opponents.

The left-handed Smith, 21, was untroubled by a weak bowling attack but he suffered a painful blow on the right thumb when he was struck by a throw from Alok Kapali, fielding at square leg, as he ran for a quick

single shortly after lunch when on 43. Smith needed treatment on the field and called for further treatment midway through the afternoon.

Smith, playing in his third Test, took 96 balls to reach his second Test half-century before accelerating to reach his hundred off 165 balls with 12 fours.

Run-scoring became progressively easier as the day went on and Bangladesh were reduced to employing defensive field placings, with a sweeper in place on the cover boundary.

Kirsten, 34, South Africa's most experienced player, was seeking to become the first player in the world to make centuries against all possible opponents.

He is currently tied with Australia's Steve Waugh, who has made hundreds against all eight nations he has played against. Waugh has not played against

Bangladesh. Kirsten, normally an opening batsman, went in at number three after Herschelle Gibbs was caught at cover for 41 off Tapash Baisya, Bangladesh's only success of the day.

Kirsten batted with rare fluency to reach his fifty off 58 balls with eight fours. Bangladesh's decision to send South Africa in to bat in the inaugural Test between the countries, seemed prompted as much by concern at the potential damage that might be caused to their batting by South Africa's fast bowlers on a well-grassed pitch.

There was some life for the opening bowlers but Smith and Gibbs played sensibly and were able to score at better than four runs an over through judicious shot selection.

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Shoaib blow for Pakistan

Bali killings inspire Waugh in last Test



REUTERS/AFP, Sharjah

Pakistan's leading fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has been ruled out of the third Test against Australia starting on Saturday because of a back injury.

"Shoaib has a minor back problem and is flying back to Pakistan tonight," Pakistan team manager Khawaja Mohammed Nasir told reporters on Friday. "Since we have a long tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa ahead, we decided to rest him from the third Test."

Shoaib took five wickets in 15 balls in the first Test but, despite his efforts, Pakistan are two-nil down in the series, losing the second Test within two days.

Pakistan had already lost all-rounder Abdul Razzaq, who fractured his left wrist while negotiating a delivery from Australia's Brett Lee in the second Test. He has been ruled out for at least six weeks.

"Injury to Shoaib is certainly a big blow, but nothing could be done about it," Pakistan captain Waqar Younis said.

"We have to play with the available talent. The good news is that Rashid Latif has fully recovered from a muscle spasm."

Pakistan have already been hit

by injuries to key batsmen Inzamamul Haq, Yousef Youhana and Razzaq, while veterans Wasim Akram and Saeed Anwar opted out of the series.

On the other hand, Australia's captain Steve Waugh will be motivated by the recent terror attack in Bali and the support of a warship crew ahead of the final Test.

"One is never short of motivation representing Australia, but we will be playing for the victims of the bomb attack in Bali and the soldiers on the warship we went to yesterday," he said.

"These people have supported us a lot so it puts the cricket in perspective. Having said that, a 3-0 sweep will be very satisfying."

Many Australians were among more than 180 dead and hundreds injured when a huge car bomb destroyed two nightclubs packed with foreign tourists in Bali's Kuta resort area last week.

The Australians will take the field wearing black arm-bands and observe a minute's silence in memory of those killed, Waugh said.

On Thursday, Waugh led his teammates on a visit to Australian warship, HMS Arunta, which is on a peace-time mission in the area and is currently docked in nearby Port Rashid.

Officers and crew of the warship are expected to journey to the

Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Saturday to cheer Waugh's men.

The Test is crucial for Steve Waugh and his twin brother Mark, who have been under increasing media pressure lately due to their poor form with the bat.

Steve Waugh has gone 16 Test innings without a century, a sequence that has seen his average fall below 50, while Mark has scored just 245 runs in nine innings this year.

In the two Tests against Pakistan so far, Mark Waugh has made 55, 0 and 2. Captain Steve's tally is 31, 0 and 0.

Pakistan coach Richard Pybus meanwhile confirmed there would be some changes to the batting order and further changes to the line-up.

Shahid Afridi is expected to open with Hasan Reza coming into the middle-order in place of the struggling Imran Nazir, who has got two ducks in four innings in the series so far.

Afridi's inclusion also gives Pakistan plenty of spin options, but with captain Waqar Younis struggling with a back problem, the bowling attack might have to be rethought.

"We have a lot to prove in the first Test," he said.

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Pybus didn't mean that



REUTERS, Sharjah

Pakistan coach Richard Pybus has attempted to defuse the row with former Australia captain Allan Border by insisting his remarks about the Waugh brothers were misinterpreted.

Pybus incurred Border's wrath by suggesting Australia were battling internal tension as Waugh brothers Steve and Mark attempt to hold down a place in the side at age 37.

His comments were reported in the Australian media and prompted Border, a national team selector, to tell Pybus to concentrate on his own team and to 'keep his mouth shut'.

But Pybus said on Thursday: "I never meant, in any way, to indulge in any psychological warfare or criticise the Waugh brothers."

"It was an observation and nothing else. It is sad that the remarks have been taken out of context and in a negative manner."

"It was never meant to be a dig at the Australian team. I get a feeling that Border's was an emotional outburst given the way the media in Australia has been raising the issue of the Waugh brothers."

Pybus said he had his hands full in the middle of a tough series and he had the highest regard for the Australian team as they had been playing some good cricket.

"Look, the future of the Waugh brothers is an issue Australian cricket has to face up to," he said. "My remarks were unfortunately perceived by the media as an intended effort to play mind games before the final Test, which is not correct."

The third Test begins on Saturday and Pybus said Pakistan were focusing on the basics. "We just didn't play well enough in the second Test," he said.

"The boys are very disappointed that they let the country down and they want to make amends. We are trying to approach the final match with a positive mindset."

AFC U-20 soccer

B'desh play Saudis today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will face powerful Saudi Arabia in their second Group B match of the AFC Under-20 Championship in Doha, Qatar today.

The game kicks off at 10:30 pm Bangladesh time. Bangladesh are virtually out of contention having lost to India 6-0 on Wednesday.

They face Japan in their last match on October 22.

Fed Cup draw cancelled

SPORTS REPORTER

The draw of the Federation Cup football tournament, which is scheduled for an October 23 start at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, was not held yesterday.

Although the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) earlier announced that the draw would be held on October 18, it was cancelled late Wednesday night.

"We had a problem with the stadium which is now being used by Army as their camp. But the situation has been resolved following discussions with Army officials. Hopefully, the draw will be held in the next couple of days," said BFF assistant general secretary and tournament committee secretary Badal Roy yesterday night.

Cricketers at BKSP

SPORTS REPORTER

The six-day camps for the Bangladesh A team and BCB Development squad began at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Pratishthan yesterday morning.

Both teams as well as the national side will feature in the Challenge Cup starting on October 25.

Seventeen experienced cricketers have been called for the A team while 18 players have been drafted for the Development squad.

Two former national captains Aminul Islam and Naimur Rahman, who failed to join the A team camp in time, are expected to report today. The A team is being coached by Sarwar Imran while Sri Lankan Carlton Berardus will look after the development squad.

After the six-day camp both teams will be reduced to 14-man-a-side on October 23.

The Challenge Cup introduced by the Board, is a series of four-day games. The competition will help the Board with their selection for the home series against West Indies.

Kishoreganj clinch DC Gold Cup

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Kishoreganj won the Dhaka Division Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament when they defeated hosts Mymensingh 1-0 at the local stadium yesterday.

Tareq was Kishoreganj's hero with a goal scored right at the death in the 70-minute encounter.

A total of five district teams took part in the competition.

Kapil against playing Pak

AFP, Bangalore

Legendary former Indian all-rounder Kapil Dev on Friday backed New Delhi's thorny decision not to resume sporting ties with Pakistan until tensions between the two rivals ended.

"Is the country important or playing cricket? To me, the country is more important than playing the game for the amusement of some," said Kapil.

Kapil, who is on a day's visit to this software hub of India, said although he wished the two nuclear South Asian rivals would mend ties, it was New Delhi's policy not to resume cricketing ties with Pakistan.

"Emotion is not more important than the country," said Kapil who scored 5,248 runs and took 434 wickets in 131 Tests during his illustrious 16-year career.

India and Pakistan last played cricket against each other in Bangladesh two years ago, but the Indian government rejected subsequent proposals to play Test and one-day series.

Two years ago when India refused to tour Pakistan for a scheduled Test series, the Pakistan Cricket Board said it was deprived of 15 million dollars in revenue.

In July, Pakistan during

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WI fightback, India ahead



AFP, Madras

Veteran fast bowler Mervyn Dillon and debutant Jermaine Lawson shared four wickets to lead a West Indies fightback in the second Test

against India here on Friday.

India were strongly placed at 93 for no loss before slipping to 190-5 at stumps on the second day in reply to the West Indies' first-innings total of 167 at the Chidambaram Stadium.

Venkatesai Laxman (18 not out) sustained India's hopes of gaining a sizeable lead on a slow pitch of

variable bounce where batting is likely to become more difficult as the match progresses. Parthiv Patel was unbeaten on one.

Dillon (2-17) and Lawson (2-37) did well to restrict India after opener Virender Sehwag had smashed a 65-ball 61 with the help of three sixes and eight fours to put the hosts in a strong position.

Dillon dismissed stubborn opener Sanjay Bangar (40) and skipper Saurav Ganguly (nought) off successive deliveries, while Lawson got rid of in-form Rahul Dravid (11) and subdued Sachin Tendulkar (43).

Their brilliant efforts also did not allow India to make the most of the West Indies' fielding lapses after three catches had been dropped.

Tendulkar was on eight in a total of 118 when he mistimed a pull off off-spinner Carl Hooper, but Shivnarine Chanderpaul dropped a running catch at wide mid-on after having got his hands to it.

Sehwag was left off on 41 and 47, first by first-slip Chris Gayle off Dillon and then by Wavell Hinds at forward short-leg off debutant off-spinner Gareth Brees.

Trinidadian paceman Dillon ended Bangar's 227-minute vigil at the crease when he had the batsman caught by Hooper at lone slip.

Bangar, virtually strokeless during his 171-ball knock, hit just two boundaries but provided valuable support in a 93-run stand for the opening wicket with Sehwag.

Ganguly was unlucky to given out leg-before by Sri Lankan umpire Asoka de Silva off the next delivery as the TV replays showed the ball hit the bat and then the pad.

Jamaican fast bowler Lawson dismissed Tendulkar, who insidged a ball on to his stumps in the extended last session under lights to make up for the morning session, washed out due to a wet outfield following overnight rain.

Tendulkar hardly went for shots in the closing session, adding just 22 in more than an hour.

Lawson had earlier bowled

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Ramnaresh Sarwan (L) of West Indies takes evasive action as India's Rahul Dravid hits a powerful square-cut during the second day's play of the second Test at Madras yesterday.

England bank on bowling



REUTERS/AFP, Perth

England's cricketers arrived in Australia on Friday quietly optimistic about their chances of regaining the Ashes.

Australia have beaten England in the last seven Ashes series, matching the longest winning streak by either nation since they first locked horns in 1876-77.

In their most recent meeting in England a year ago, Australia crushed the home side to win 4-1. It could have been 5-0 if not for a generous declaration by Australia's fill-in captain Adam Gilchrist.

The early indications are that few people in Australia expect the English to mount a serious challenge during the five-match series.

Even before the English arrived, the country's only national newspaper described the tourists as "second-rate" while former Test wicketkeeper Ian Healy predicted they would be thrashed as badly as last year.

Compounding England's woes are injuries to fast bowler Darren Gough and all-rounder Andy Flintoff, who are both unlikely to play before the first Test starting in Brisbane on November 7.

But the rest of the squad will be available and back in training on Saturday morning with the first warm-up match, a limited-overs game against an invitational side, scheduled for Tuesday.

England captain Nasser Hussain was a notable absentee when the squad arrived on Friday after deciding to fly in earlier in the week with his wife Karen, who is heavily pregnant and planning to have the baby in Australia.

Hussain, who is now in Sydney, says a varied bowling attack is the key to claiming the series from Australia for the first time since

1986-87. But for that to happen Hussain says the England players needed to be fit if they were to get amongst the Australian wickets.

"I think the key in Australia is having your full variety of bowling," Hussain said a Sydney television on Friday.

"The Kookaburra ball does get soft after 15, 20 overs and for too long England have just had a nice, Saturday morning with the first warm-up match, a limited-overs game against an invitational side, scheduled for Tuesday.

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Being underdog is good



AFP, Perth

One of the young players seen as holding a key to England's chances in this summer's Ashes cricket

series against Australia said here Friday his side's underdog status could help them in their quest for victory.

"That takes a bit of pressure off us," star opening batsman Marcus Trescothick, 27, said when the England squad arrived here to start

preparing for a five-Test series against the world champions getting under way in Brisbane November 7.

"People didn't really give us much of a chance when we went to Sri Lanka and Pakistan in 2000-01, but they saw what happened when we came through there."

England, against the odds, beat Sri Lanka 2-1 and Pakistan 1-0 on an encouraging revival over the past two years, spoiled mainly by a 4-1 beating by Australia in England just over a year ago.

"It's not going to bother us at all being the underdogs," Trescothick said.

Australia have beaten England in the past seven series between the sport's oldest foes.

But Trescothick was not fazed by that grim record.

"The way I see it this probably makes it a bit easier for us this time," he said. "Somewhere along the line things have to change. After all, things do go in phases. Hopefully, things will change in this series."

"We are very excited, and it will be a great challenge to play against this Australian team."

"I found it very thrilling to play against Australia at home last year, and this will be an even bigger event."

"We obviously want to try to win the series, and we know it will be a lot of hard work."

"I am aiming to do better myself in this series than in the last one against Australia. My game has moved on pretty quickly since then."

Trescothick, a tall, hard-hitting

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England all-rounder Andy Flintoff arrives in Perth with the rest of the squad yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET