



Did U Know?

When choosing locations for the Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) specifically gives the honour of holding the Games to a city rather than a country.



ESPN

Sachin Tendulkar speaks

On World Cup Stars

Repeat at 7:00 am

English Premiership

Highlights at 11:30 am

Crickit Programming

Legends of Cricket

Repeat at 5:00 pm

Football Focus

Football Magazine

Live at 6:30 pm

Sportscenter Hindi

Sports News

Live at 8:30 pm

Man City v Tot Hotspur

English Premiership

Repeat at 9:30 pm

STAR Sports

Gillette World Sports Special

International Sports News

Repeat at 11:00 am

Trans World Sports

International Sports News

Taped version at 11:30 am

Black Rovers v Man United

English Premiership

Repeat at 12:30 pm

Malaga v Real Madrid

Primera Liga

Repeat at 6:00 pm

Sportsline Tonight

Sports News

Live at 8:00 pm

English Premiership

Highlights at 8:30 pm



David Gower

(Former England cricket captain)

"I don't think it is right that England should be playing a (World Cup) match in Harare on February 13, 2003, or on any other day while the Robert Mugabe regime remains in power in Zimbabwe."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star**. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 27, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Bangladesh lost the third ODI against West Indies by:

86 runs	5 wkts	120 runs
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- Who won the 2002 Davis Cup?

Russia	France	Australia
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- Who was man-of-the-match in the first Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?

Lawson	Gayle	Sarwan
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- Who lifted the women's World Cup hockey title?

Argentina	Germany	Australia
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- Who was voted World Soccer magazine's player-of-the-year?

.....

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Nazim-Akram show



SPORTS REPORTER

Nazimuddin struck a startling century and former national captain Akram Khan put behind the disappointment of his World Cup exclusion with an equally impressive knock as Chittagong took control on their four-day match of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National League match against Sylhet yesterday.

Young opener Nazimuddin cracked a 221-ball 140, his first ton in the first-class competition, and Akram scored an unbeaten 96 to guide the port city outfit to 309-4 at stumps on the opening day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The pair added 188 runs for the fourth wicket after Chittagong, sent into bat on a dump wicket, lost three wickets for 91 runs.

A good stroke player on the on-side and a compulsive hooker and puller, Nazimuddin hammered 19 boundaries and five sixes in his nearly five-hour vigil at the crease. The under-19 players also scored a fine 86 in the previous match against Barisal.

Akram on the other clubbed a dozen boundaries in his polished 172-ball knock. The right-hander's dream for a second World Cup appearance was dashed after the selectors ignored him in the shortlist of 20 cricketers on Saturday. The experienced middle-order batsman will be looking for his 13th boundary when he resumes the innings with Azam Iqbal to complete his first hundred this season.

Enamul Hoque (jr) was the lone Sylhet bowler who made an impact with two for 89 in his 29 overs.

Khulna, who has already earned the reputation of being a dark horse in the six-team competition, got off to a sound start against defending

champions Dhaka at the BKSP in Savar.

Denied Chittagong a victory in the opening match and won comprehensively against Sylhet, the spirited Khulna were 121-2 at close with opener Sajjadul Hasan batting on 55 with Raju Parvez (37).

The match at the BKSP started with a delay due to dense fog and offered only 46-overs of play.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Rajshahi bowled Barisal out for 221 in 80.1 overs. Rajshahi were 19 no loss at close.

Sent into bat, Barisal started disastrously losing five wickets for only 59 runs on the board. But Prosenjit with a defiant 55 saved their blushes.

Young pacer Shafaq Al-Jabir with 3-41 was the pick of Rajshahi bowlers. Nuruzzaman also claimed three wickets for 22 runs and experienced right-arm seamer Aminul Islam took two wickets

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No signs of landing

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Bangladesh Biman recorded their eleventh straight victory in the First Division Chess League yesterday.

They outplayed Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan and Krira Sangha 3.5-0.5 to increase their tally to 42 points.

Apart from International Master Enamul Hossain's draw against Chanchal Kumar Gosh, the star-studded national airline were steered by GM Ziaur Rahman beating Syed Ahmed, IM Reefat-Bin-Sattar defeating Mohammad Javed and FIDE Master Rezaul Haque getting past Anarul Karim Bahar.

Lagging far behind on 33 points was Bangladesh Ansars in the second place and Titas Club occupied third position with 32.5 points.

The Ansars beat Anirban Chess School by 3-1 while Titas crushed Nakhlapara Jubo Kalyan Sangha 4-0.

In other matches, Leonine Chess Club edged Narayanganj City Club 2.5-1.5, Sonali Bank beat Anu Memorial Club 3-1, Mohakhali Prodig Sangha beat Bangshal Progati Samaj Kalyan Sangstha 3-1 Monipur Chess Club beat Dhaka University Chess Team 3.5-5 and Anushillan Daba Krira Chakra beat Farashganj Sporting Club 2.5-1.5.



Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (R) of Bangladesh Biman tries to concentrate in First Division Chess League match yesterday.

Wanting a pitch to bat on



AFP, Hamilton

India, with their batting pride badly battered and bruised in a recent Test series against New Zealand, hope the pitches do not dictate terms in the upcoming one-dayers against the hosts.

"I just hope we have very good batting wickets for one-dayers," Indian coach John Wright said before the team's departure for Auckland for Thursday's opening one-dayer.

India, who lost the two-Test series 2-0 here on Sunday, will play seven one-dayers hoping to salvage their reputation with a vastly-improved batting performance in the shorter version of the game.

Their batting was so brittle in Tests on seamer-friendly tracks that they failed to cross the 200-mark in four innings despite having quality players in Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and skipper Saurav Ganguly.

Batting genius Tendulkar and reliable Dravid both have scored more than 1,000 Test runs this year, but neither could do justice to his

stature against the New Zealand pace attack on seaming wickets.

The tourists lost the opening Test at Wellington by 10 wickets and the second here by four -- both inside



JOHN WRIGHT

three days -- as India were blanked for the first time in a Test series under Ganguly's captaincy.

Only Dravid and Tendulkar managed to compile half-centuries in two Tests as India scored 161, 121, 99 and 154 in their four innings in one of their most disappointing

batting shows in recent years.

"You haven't seen the best of our batsmen," said Wright whose side has been strengthened with the arrival of fast bowler Javagal Srinath, leg-spinner Anil Kumble and all-rounder Yuvraj Singh for the one-day series.

"Their style and attacking brand of cricket have yet to be seen on the tour. I hope the New Zealand public gets the opportunity to see that in seven one-dayers," he said.

The Indian coach said it was essential for both India and New Zealand to play on good pitches here in their last one-day series before the World Cup, starting in South Africa next February.

"I think it is very important (to have batting wickets) for both the sides heading into the World Cup. We want to go there with batsmen in form and I imagine our opposition also wants the same," said Wright.

"Our preparations for the World Cup will depend on how batsmen-friendly pitches are in this series. You should be able to put up big scores and I think New Zealand will

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India sending rookie pacer down under

AFP, New Delhi

Indian selectors on Monday included pacemen Ashish Nehra and Rakesh Patel in the team for an upcoming one-day series in New Zealand.

The selectors had initially named 14 players for the seven-match series, keeping their options open for the remaining two slots until after the just-concluded Test series, which India lost 2-0.

Nehra is already in New Zealand as a member of the Test team, while uncapped Patel will join the team at a later date.

Patel, a 24-year-old, plays for Baroda in domestic competitions.

BD against George Tele



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh football team will take on Indian side George Telegraph in their opening second round match of the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Memorial Gold Cup at the Phuentsholing Stadium in Bhutan today.

The Group B clash will kick off at 3:30 pm Bangladesh time.

Although it was earlier understood that the second round would be held from the quarterfinal stage on knock-out basis, however the Bhutan Football Association, who has organised the club-level international meet, changed the format making it a robin league affair without giving any reason.

The revised fixture reached BFF

(Bangladesh Football Federation) yesterday, a day after the team left for Bhutan by road.

Pencilled in Group B, Bangladesh will meet Sikkim in their next match tomorrow and the Thimpu Eleven in the last match on December 27.

The other group consists of Dhuk Pol, Bharati Sangha, Oil India and Nepal.

Top two teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals scheduled for December 29 and 30 while the final will be held on December 31.

Bangladesh are taking part in the tournament as part of their preparation for next month's South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship.

The eight-nation event will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from January 10 to 20.

Ashes urn has a crack: X-ray

AFP, London

X-rays have revealed a crack in the Ashes urn, according to its owners Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

The X-rays were carried out on Friday in the wake of longstanding Australian complaints that despite their dominance in Ashes Tests against England -- their last series defeat was back in 1986-87 -- the urn which houses the Ashes has stayed put in the museum at MCC's Lord's cricket ground in London.

But MCC said the X-rays confirmed its view that the urn was presently too fragile to travel to Australia. "In particular, they show the extent of the crack, in the stem between the main body of the urn and its foot, which recently caused the cancellation of the urn's planned 2002-3 trip to Australia," MCC's statement said.

It added that the crack was at least 75 years old and that restoration needed to begin soon due to degeneration of the adhesive used in the original repair.

However, the statement also said that once that work had been carried out in the New Year, it was hoped that the displays of the urn in Australia scheduled for Melbourne and Sydney could take place.

The Ashes urn is one of sport's smallest but oldest trophies, standing just 10-centimetres (four inches) high with a history dating back to 1882.

The Ashes tradition began that year when a London newspaper published an obituary lamenting the death of English cricket after its first home defeat by an Australian team, concluding "the body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia".

Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Niznandual Sporting Club moved into the final of the Econo First Division Football League defeating Islampurpara Sporting Club 3-0 in the first semifinal at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

All the goals came in the second half. A H Khan Smriti Sangsad take on Shaheed Murad Smriti Sangsad in the other semifinal today.



STEVE WAUGH ... Australia's Test captain

Waugh, now or never



REUTERS/AFP, Melbourne

Steve Waugh will be batting for his career in the remaining two Ashes Tests against England and has the backing of players to come through the challenge.

Australia's chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said on Monday his four-man selection panel will pick 37-year-old Waugh for the remainder of the Ashes series.

But after then, Waugh will be judged solely as a batsman and his glorious 17-year Test career could be over if he doesn't get enough runs.

There's the option of public adoration in announcing his retirement before the final Sydney Test in the New Year, ensuring a fitting ending to his days in the baggy green.

Or there's the more Waugh-like option of gritting his teeth and continuing as long as possible, refusing to admit defeat, refusing to let Hohns or anybody else tell him what to do.

Test pace bowler Glenn McGrath expects Waugh to emerge victorious.

"You look through his whole career, he's really been a fighter the whole way through," McGrath said here on Monday ahead of the Boxing Day Test.

"Determination and ruthlessness are a couple of words you could say about him. He's probably got his back up against the wall, this is probably the toughest fight of his career but the type of character he is, he'll probably rise to the occasion.

"Ideally it would be great to see Steve come down here, put a big score on the board in Melbourne and do the same in Sydney -- that would be the ideal scenario and I'm sure every player in the team would love to see him do that."

Asked the big question, when Waugh should retire, McGrath said: "That's a decision he's got to make himself. He's been a legend of the game, really.

"The amount of times he's really fought and brought Australia back into a game when we've been in trouble...I consider myself lucky to have played with a guy of his calibre.

"It would be great to see him go out on his own terms, when he wants to."

Waugh is Australia's most successful Test captain with 32 wins from 43 matches in charge, including big victories in the first three Tests of this Ashes series.

The former promising junior soccer player from western Sydney will equal Allan Border's world record of 156 Test appearances when he plays in the fifth Test in

us, so I'm sure he's got a point to prove but like I say we're not targeting Steve Waugh, we're just trying to gently work our way through their batting line-up."

Waugh had no comment when he arrived here on Monday with Shane Warne's replacement Stuart MacGill, declining to speak to the media as television crews shoved microphones in front of his face and repeatedly asked questions like, "Is this the end, Steve?"

He will hold a press conference at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

Test vice-captain Adam Gilchrist rejected any suggestion that Waugh was trying to stay in the game for financial reasons.

Waugh, who has 106 runs at an average of 26 from the first three Ashes Tests, has been under pressure for the last 12 months.

His returns have been 78 at 19.5 against New Zealand, 141 at 35.25 versus South Africa at home, 95 at 19 in South Africa and 134 at 44.67 against Pakistan.

But he does have a century and a half-century from his last four Tests.

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Lee bowls, Ponting bats



AFP, Perth

Questions about the legality of Australian demon bowler Brett Lee's action would likely be spared were it not for his speed, Australian one-day cricket captain Ricky Ponting said Monday.

"If he was bowling at, say, 135 kilometres (83.8 miles) per hour, I don't think his action would be queried," Ponting said amid press reports Lee's bowling action might be suspect.

Media sparked the issue Sunday when Lee hurled one of the fastest deliveries bowled in Australia.

Lee, 26, clocked speeds of 156.2 kilometres an hour during a fearsome opening spell to start the Sri Lankan innings in a VB tri-nation series one-day clash at the WACA Ground.

A speed gun operated by Channel Nine television caught the screaming deliveries on tape.

"He has just got good rhythm at the moment -- he is just bowling fast," Ponting said.

"It's the price you pay for bowling

as quickly as he is."

Lee said he had no problem with his action.

"It was questioned about three years ago," he said. "An expert panel of 10 looked at me, and they came back 10-nil in my favor. I think

this month when Lee was terrifying England's batsmen during the third Test here.

"I have seen him right throughout his career, and there have been times when it (his action) has not looked great," Lilee said.



RICKY PONTING



BRETT LEE

if I had a problem with my action, the umpires would query it.

"Until then, I have no problems." Australian fast bowling legend Dennis Lillee compounded the controversy over Lee's action earlier

"Overall, I have never had a problem with Brett Lee. I have had a problem with some other bowlers, but I am not going to mention their names."

Lilee, who grabbed 355 wickets

in his Test career, said the International Cricket Council needed to do more to monitor bowlers with suspect action and convene panels similar to the one that examined Lee's action.

Lee was credited with a personal best speed of 157.3 kilometres an hour in a March Test against South Africa in Cape Town.

It has long been his ambition to deliver a ball at 161 kilometres an hour (100 mph).

Former Australian Test star Jeff Thomson is recognised as having bowled the fastest ball in Australia.

He was recorded at 160.5 kilometres an hour (99.7 mph) in 1975, when he and Lillee formed one of the world's most feared pace combinations.

Pakistan's tearaway Shoaib Akhtar claims to have bowled the fastest ball ever recorded in the game.

Pakistan cricket authorities say Shoaib was clocked at 161 kilometres an hour when he bowled to Craig McMillan during a one-day international against New Zealand at Lahore's Gadafi Stadium in April.