



Did U Know?

Walcott, Weekes and Worrell formed the famous W trio of the West Indies. The fearsome fast bowlers played together for the Caribbeans and immortalised themselves in the history of cricket.



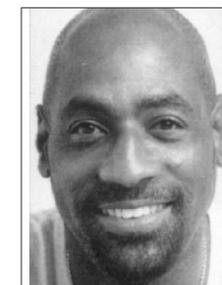
What to WATCH

ESPN

New Zealand vs India
Second ODI
Highlights
Repeat at 11:30 am
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Birmingham City
Repeat at 3:30 pm
ATP Tour World Series
Tata Open, Round of 32
Live at 5:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 9:30 pm
STAR Sports
Futbol Mundial
Repeat at 7:00 am
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 8:30 am
English Premier Football League
Newcastle United vs Tottenham Hotspur
Taped Version at 12:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Viv Richards
(West Indies Selection Committee chief)
"I think it is marvellous that (Lara) is back and we welcome him with open arms."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

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

Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 10, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who lifted Div I chess title?
Titus Club | Biman | Ansars
- Who won Reuters' sportswoman of 2002 award?
Hingis | Serena | Jones
- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?
Jacobs | Kapali | Mashud
- Who won 2002 FIFA World Player of the Year award?
Owen | Ronaldo | Carlos
- Who clinched World Squash Open title?
Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (If any) _____

Zimbabwe boycott ECB warned of compensatio

INTERNET, London
England have been warned that they could be hit with a hefty compensation claim, which may total up to 1 million pounds, if they fail to



PHOTO: STAR

Barisal's Towhid Hossain follows through on a square cut on the first day of the four-day fixture against Khulna at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Azam carrying Chittagong



SPORTS REPORTER

Azam Iqbal scored a superb hundred as leaders Chittagong recovered from a shaky start to pile up a commanding total on the opening day of their four-day Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 4th National League game against Rajshahi at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

The experienced right-hander cracked 109 not out to guide the port city outfit to 302-6 at close.

Coming into bat at number four with his side struggling on 58-3, Azam held the Chittagong innings together. He shared 58 runs for the fourth wicket with Aftab Ahmed after centuries in last match Nazimuddin and young opener Nafis Iqbal returned to the dressing room cheaply.

Aftab, a member of the Bangladesh youth team, scored an enterprising 60 off 79 balls that included 11 boundaries.

However it was the tail of Chittagong that rallied behind a stubborn Azam in rebuilding the innings after Aftab departed with the score on 111-4.

Faisal made 28 in the 45-run fifth wicket stand with Azam. Then off-

spinner Sabbir Khan scored 32 while adding 81 crucial runs for the



AZAM IQBAL ... 109 n o

sixth wicket.

Azam then found a determined partner in Ahsanullah Hasan who shared 65 runs for the undefeated seventh wicket.

Azam hundred included ten boundaries and came off 242 balls.

For Rajshahi young paceman Shafaq al-Jabir exploited the early morning moisture to finish the day with two for 69. His new-ball partner Aminul Islam also took two wickets giving away 60 runs.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket

Stadium, Barisal rode on a dogged last wicket stand between Anisur Rahman and Debabroto Pal to post a fighting 229-9 against Khulna at stumps.

The pair added 54 runs for the unbroken tenth wicket after Barisal was reduced to 175-9. Former national left-arm paceman Anis scored a gritty 43 off 78 balls while Debabroto remained not out at the other end with an 81-ball 10.

The duo frustrated Khulna for more than one and a half-hours after Khulna were threatening to take complete command of the match.

Towhid Hossain with 45 was the other notable performer for a pointless Barisal on the opening day. Paceman Al-Amin, Razzak, Jamaluddin and left-arm spinner Manjarul Islam took two wickets each for Khulna.

SCORECARDS

Scoreboards on the first day of the two Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League matches held at different venues yesterday:

Chittagong v Rajshahi
Venue: Fatullah Stadium.
CHITTAGONG: First innings Nafees c Bidyut v Shafaq 7

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Tribal football Cox's Bazar beat Borguna

BSS, Dhaka

Cox's Bazar defeated Borguna 3-1 in the first-ever Tribal football tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Wo Lie Aung broke the deadlock scoring three minutes after the break for the winners while Aung Ila King doubled the lead in the 54th minute.

Wo Mong of Borguna pulled one back before Cox's Bazar's Te Aung stretched the lead to seal the victory 3-1.

Mymensingh beat Bandarban by a solitary goal in the other match of the day.

Dipankar scored the all-important goal in the 28th minute.

CityCell Youth Championship Barisal in final round



SPORTS REPORTER

Barisal made their way into the final round of the CityCell Digital 22nd National Youth (under-19) Cricket Championship with a convincing 54-run win over hosts Patuakhali in the divisional final at the Patuakhali Stadium yesterday.

In a low-scoring match, Barisal mustered 156 runs before being all out in 43.2 overs.

Bappi scored highest 38 followed by Lipu and Sajib who added 27 (n.o.) and 24 respectively.

In reply, the home side were shot out for 102 in 36.5 overs.

Monir and Nahid took two wickets each for the winners.

Elsewhere, Comilla, Rajbari and

Tangail won their respective divisional qualifying round matches.

Comilla outplayed Laxmipur by 106 runs at the Comilla Stadium, Rajbari beat Narayanganj by 69 runs at the Jagannath Hall ground while Tangail registered a 56-run victory over Netrokona at the Mymensingh Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Barisal v Patuakhali

Venue: Patuakhali Stadium.
Barisal: 156 all out in 43.2 overs (Bappi 38, Lipu 27 n.o., Sajib 24, Nipu 4-37, Jitu 3-26)

Patuakhali: 102 all out in 36.5 overs (Omi 16, Monir 2-10, Nahid 2-20)

Result: Barisal won by 54 runs.

Comilla v Laxmipur
Venue: Comilla Stadium
Comilla: 188 for 7 in 50 overs (P a l a s h

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Aussies made to sweat



AFP, Melbourne

Australia have their eyes on a rare Ashes series clean sweep after beating England by five wickets in the fourth Test here Monday despite the tourists putting up their best scrap of the summer.

The world champion Australians had free wheeled to three massive wins to clinch the series after just 11 playing days and expected much the same in the fourth Boxing Day Test, yet the anticipated final day formality turned into a gripping finish.

Entering the fifth day requiring 99 runs for victory, England's two pace bowlers, Andy Caddick and Stephen Harmison, gave the beleaguered tourists a sniff of a miraculous victory, much like the tourists' come-from-behind win at the Melbourne Cricket Ground four years ago.

England, who fought bravely through Michael Vaughan's 145 to take the Test into a fifth day, had the

who has been under considerable strain at the helm of a struggling touring team over the last couple of months.

"Nothing will take away from the effort this morning, that will still be there, but we still lost the Test match," Hussain said.

"It's very disappointing. We've had some barren spells out there on the field this (northern) winter and we've not had much enjoyment so those two hours this morning were special for us and it was very enjoyable."

It all began on the very first ball of the day with in-form opener Matthew Hayden out hooking to Caddick.

Hayden was cramped by a short one and top-edged a hook to be caught by substitute fieldsman Alex Tudor at deep backward square leg for one coming after his 102 in the first innings.

Ricky Ponting breezed along clipping three fours and a six in his 30 off 35 balls before he became the first of raw but willing Durham pacesman Harmison's two wickets in four balls.

It was a bitter-sweet result for England captain Nasser Hussain,

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Cricket at crossroads

World divided over Zimbabwe boycott

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia's Prime Minister John Howard has joined Tony Blair's call for a cricket World Cup boycott of Zimbabwe as the row over its co-hosting of the event intensified.

Zimbabwe chief government spokesman Jonathan Moyo responded by saying Britain and Australia wanted to keep "cricket white" by pulling out of matches there.

"If the British and the Australians want to keep cricket as a white and colonial sport, then they should do so alone because we are not interested in their rubbish," Moyo told the official Herald newspaper on Monday.

"This is obviously not about safety and security, it is just political mumbo-jumbo," Moyo added.

Zimbabwe received support on Monday from Pakistan and World Cup organiser Dr Ali Bacher of co-hosts South Africa while the Australian and English team captains have called for politicians,

rather than players or administrators, to make the final decision.

Blair had confirmed his government was opposed to England playing there but had no power to ban them and would leave the final decision to the English cricket board (ECB).

His spokesman added on Monday that ministers were ready to meet representatives of the ECB if they wanted to talk but said none had been scheduled. "Their door is open," he said.

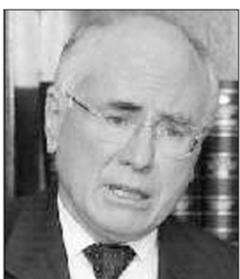
Howard told Australia's Channel Nine television on Monday that the sport's world governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), should review its backing for Zimbabwe as hosts.

"You have appalling human rights abuses occurring in that country. You have a completely illegitimate, undemocratic, stolen government in Zimbabwe," he said.

"That was the most rigged election in years and that has been attested to by all manner of international opinion.

"This is not just Australia visiting Zimbabwe.

"If we take a decision in isolation from decisions of other governments then that can create a situation where you have one team



JOHN HOWARD

playing and another team not. "What I'm saying to the International Cricket Council is please look at this again. I am disap-

pointed that they (ICC) took the decision they did... and I hope other governments, including the British government, say exactly the same thing."

Six of the 54 World Cup matches are scheduled for Zimbabwe. The competition, from February 9 to March 23, will mainly be staged in South Africa. Australia play Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on February 24 and England take on the Netherlands in Harare on February 13.

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe has received widespread international criticism for his controversial land reform programme amid a deteriorating political and economic situation.

But an ICC inspection of the country recently said it would be safe to play World Cup matches there and would not support a boycott on political grounds.

Australia captain Steve Waugh, in his post-match news conference after leading his side to a fourth

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Jigme Dorji football Bangladesh in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh stored into the final of the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Memorial football tournament in Bhutan with a 4-2 semifinal win over Oil India in Phuentsholing, Bhutan, yesterday.

The match was locked 2-2 during the breather.

Oil India took the lead when Palash Gogoi scored in the third minute.

But Bangladesh came back in the match and leveled the score after eleven minutes with defender Sujon scoring from a penalty.

Bangladesh, who are taking part in the tournament as part of their preparation for the third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, then went ahead in the 20th minute with midfielder Matiu Munna scoring from a free kick.

But Oil India equalised at the stroke of half-time capitalising on a mistake from goalkeeper Aminul Haq.

Bangladesh kept their cool in the second half and scored twice to confirm their berth in the final.

Moni put Bangladesh again in the lead in the 49th minute after being brilliantly fed by Rajani while Sujon then sealed Oil India's fate with yet another penalty in the 73rd minute.

Bangladesh will take on hosts Bhutan in the final scheduled for January 2.

Kenyan security to be assessed

AFP, Melbourne

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is considering sending a delegation to Kenya to assess whether it is safe to stage two World Cup matches there next February.

Kenya are due to play New Zealand (February 21) and Sri Lanka (February 24) in preliminary round matches in the capital Nairobi.

ICC President Malcolm Gray said here he would chair an international telephone hook-up later Monday to consider whether to send a safety and security delegation to Kenya within the next two weeks.

"We may look at the situation there due the fact that there has been a change of government there since last Saturday," Gray told a press conference.

"Among other things a bomb went off there recently and if we do send a delegation to Kenya it will be to establish whether it is safe and secure for the players, the supporters and the general population if the two World Cup matches continue to be held there."

Ctg soccer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Customs Sports & Vat Club earned a 'hard-fought' two points in tie-breaker against Kwaliti Sports in the CJKS Elite Paint senior division football league yesterday (Monday).

Kwaliti should consider themselves unlucky as they dominated throughout the goalless proceedings before going down 2-3 in the tie-break.

Jamal, Mehdi and Farid of Customs club, and Delwar and Sabbir of Kwaliti found the net.

TODAY'S MATCH
CPA Krira Samity vs Mohammedan Sports Club Blues (3.30pm)

India seek fresh talk Dalmiya resigns from contract committee



AFP, Calcutta

Indian cricket board chief Jagmohan Dalmiya Monday said he had resigned from the International Cricket Council's contracts committee over an ongoing sponsorship row, threatening to solve the dispute via international arbitration.

"Since the legality of the restrictive clauses in the contract is being tested by the Indian board, it would not have been fair to remain on the committee," Dalmiya told a press conference here.

Dalmiya said as the ICC was not showing any flexibility, the Indian board had no option but to look into the legality of the contracts which bar players from endorsing competitors of ICC sponsors.

"The Indian board has put the ICC's development committee on notice that it is seeking redress through non-binding mediation immediately to resolve the ongoing contracts dispute," he said.

Several Indian cricketers including star batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag have con-

tracts with rivals of the official sponsors of the World Cup.

The ICC has reiterated that India is bound to send its best team as per an agreement signed earlier this year, but the Indian board says it will not be party to an attempt to induce players to break existing contracts.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has exercised considerable restraint in the matter despite a number of provocations," said Dalmiya.

Dalmiya said the Indian board had been pushed to the wall on the issue.

"The unreasonable and unjust clauses requiring Indian players to breach their existing contracts have not been withdrawn and we feel it is now necessary to test the legality and validity of the clauses that amount to unfair restraint of trade."

"We also feel it is necessary to test how and under what authority were such excessive rights given to the official sponsors."

ICC's original contracts sought to impose a ban on advertisements for rival sponsors for a period of 30 days either side of the February 8 to March 23 tournament in southern Africa as well as during the competition itself.

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Laxman left out



AFP, Calcutta

India have dropped batsman VVS Laxman from their final squad for next year's World Cup.

Laxman makes way in the 15-man squad for Dinesh Mongia, who is not part of the current touring party in New Zealand.

However, none of the group

centuries during India's recent home series against West Indies, which they lost 4-3.

Mongia, 25, has played in 29 limited-overs internationals with a batting average of 30.42, including an unbeaten 159 against Zimbabwe earlier this year.

The selection committee decided to include specialist wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel, expected to be a stand-by for batsman Rahul Dravid, who has been keeping wickets in recent one-dayers.

India, who have still to play five matches in New Zealand, open their World Cup campaign on 12 February, against the Netherlands in Paarl.

They must finish in the top three of Pool A - a group that also includes Australia, Pakistan, England and Zimbabwe - in order to progress to the second round.

Several Indians including star batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag have contracts which are in conflict with the official sponsors of the World Cup and have refused to sign contracts for the World Cup.

Teams are due to lodge the signed player terms for all their squad members with the ICC by January 14.

SQUAD
Saurav Ganguly (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Harbhajan Singh, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Anil Kumble, Parthiv Patel, Dinesh Mongia, Sanjay Bangar, Ashish Nehra, Ajit Agarkar

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Australia A to play against SL

AFP, Melbourne

Victorians Brad Hodge and Ian Harvey were included in the Australia A team named on Monday for two limited-overs matches against Sri Lanka over the next week.

Hodge replaces Justin Langer,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5