



Did U Know?

180 players participated in the 1999 Cricket World Cup, 166 appeared in different matches. But only 14 did not play even in a single match.



TEN Sports
FA Cup Final
Arsenal vs Southampton
Live at 9:30 pm
ESPN
English Premier Football League
Chelsea vs Liverpool
Repeat at 9:30 am
Primera Liga
Deportivo vs Valencia
Live at 1:30 am (Sunday)
STAR Sports
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 8:30 am
West Indies vs Australia
First ODI
Live at 8:30 pm



John Howard
(Australian Prime Minister)
"I would, I'm sure you would, and it's a very natural Australian thing to do."
Defending Glenn McGrath.

NOTICE
Dear WHIZZ KIDS, due to some technical difficulties draw of the Competition- 193 could not be held last night. It will now take place on May 30.
--- Sports Editor

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 193
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm May 30, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National chess title?	Niaz	Zia	Reefat
2. Who became man-of-the-match in the Sharjah Cup final?	Youhana	Sami	Taufiq
3. Who will lead Sri Lanka's one-day side?	Tillekeratne	Vass	Atapattu
4. Who won the man-of-the-series award in the TVS Cup triangular tournament?	Name	Class	Roll No.
	School Address	Phone: (If any)	

Active chess

SPORTS REPORTER
International Master Abdullah Al Rakib took a solo lead with 7.5 points after the end of the eighth round games of the Active Chess tournament at the Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.
Grand Master Ziaur Rahman and International Master Reefat Bin Sattar were in second position with 7 points each while International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib and Aminul Islam in third position with 6.5 points.



Andrew Eade (C), International Cricket Council's Global Development Manager, listens during a meeting with some national cricketers and team officials at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's management office in Gulshan yesterday.

ICC's five point agenda

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
International Cricket Council (ICC) global development manager Andrew Eade yesterday said that world body has identified five key areas which Bangladesh need to address in order to become more competitive on the world stage.
New Zealander Eade, who was born in Shilong, Assam, and spent the first three years of his life incidentally in Chandpur, where his grandfather was a missionary, said that the ICC was sincerely trying to lift the standard of cricket in this country.
"There is a general concern why Bangladesh hasn't become more competitive, more quickly in international cricket. It was a believed that Bangladesh would become stronger within a year or two after they got the Test status. But what we found after three years is that the national team is really struggling to come to terms with both Test and one-day cricket," said Eade adding that ICC was eager to help Bangladesh in terms of improving their performance in the shortest possible time.
"The most significant point is that there is no chief executive in the Board who can run it in a system. You need a chief executive with the experience of what it takes to run a Test nation and the ICC will assist the BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) in providing a possible candidate.
"We will try and find persons who have the necessary experience and let the BCB know. From a short list, BCB will then select a person to work for at least two or three years. His role will be to help establish a professional set up," he said.
"The second area is to further improve the excellent strategic plan between the BCB and Australian Cricket Board (ACB). We will be monitoring it and even offer our assistance by providing coaches," Eade said.
"The third area that the ICC would try to address was strengthening the kind of cricket being played below the national team. There must be a strong back-up plan especially with the under-19 team. The ICC will ensure that Bangladesh gets a good under-19 coach," said Eade.
He said that the fourth point was the lack of training facilities for the national team.
"You need a national training centre where cricketers can practice round the year. I think BCB will soon be establishing one in Mirpur with all the facilities," he said.
The fifth and final area identified by Eade was the non-continuation with the specialist foreign coaches. "Many coaches came on short term basis in the past. We need to gear up that programme especially for Bangladesh."
Regarding funding for Bangladesh he said: "Though the

PHOTO: STAR

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City end with a flourish Moniruzzaman, Saifullah top performers

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
Champions Victoria Sporting Club ended their GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League campaign with a defeat when City Club thrashed them by 130 runs with a day to spare in the last Super League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
On the third day of the four-day fixture, City were all out for 143 runs in 36.1 overs in their second innings which gave them an overall lead of 283. Prolific opener Moniruzzaman and wicket-keeper Sajjad Quadir both made 33. First innings centurion Rajin Saleh chipped in with 24. First change Mosharraf Hossain ripped through the City batting with five for 49 from 12 overs
Victoria, fielding a much weakened side as they decided to give some new players a taste of the Premier League in this inconsequential game, were never up for the chase and were bundled out for 153. Left-arm spinner Saifullah Khan Jem was the main wrecker with four for 29. Captain Azam Iqbal top-scored with 47. Bowling hero Mosharraf also showed his batting guile by remaining unbeaten on 38 runs.
With yesterday's win, City Club finished the League joint second with Mohammedan Sporting Club with each having 72 points from 16 matches, two points adrift of Victoria.
City Club provided the top two performers of the League. Moniruzzaman had an outstanding season with over 850 runs against his name. He emerged as

26th National Cricket Sylhet first in final round

SPORTS REPORTER
Sylhet became the first team to qualify for the final round of 26th National Cricket Championship with a seven-wicket win over Moulvibazar at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.
Chasing a paltry 62 of Moulvibazar, Sylhet scored 63 for three in 15.4.
At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium in Dhaka, Dhaka University moved into the services zone final with a wicket win over Jahangirnagar University.
Dhaka University will now meet Bangladesh Railway in the zonal final tomorrow.
At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Railway beat Rajshahi University by six wickets in another match yesterday.
In Jhenidah, the home district

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Whatmore leaves Dhaka

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh's new cricket coach Dav Whatmore left Dhaka for Colombo yesterday after his four-day orientation visit in Bangladesh.
Whatmore, is scheduled to return to Bangladesh on May 30 and would officially begin his work from June 1.
His first assignment would be Bangladesh's maiden Test tour of Australia in July and August.
During his short trip, Whatmore had several meetings with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials and leading national cricketers.
He also visited the Bangabandhu National Stadium, BKSP and Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur to see the existing training facilities.

Pistol Pete stops firing?

Tennis
"I'll be curious. I won't watch a ton, but it'll be interesting to see how I feel."
Sampras as good as admitted his career was over when he said he was 95 percent close to walking away for good.
"It'll all be more clear to me" by the end of the year, he added.
The French Open is the only major he has not won. He reached the semi-finals once, in 1996, but lost in either the first or second round in seven of the 13 years he played at Roland Garros.
He was beaten by Italian journeyman Andrea Gaudenzi in the first round last year.
His 64 ATP titles included seven Wimbledon titles, five US Open crowns and two Australian Open titles. And he spent a record 286 weeks as world number one.
Sampras' wife gave birth to their first child in November and he pulled out of the Australian Open in January although he said he might be tempted when Wimbledon came around.
It now looks as if Pistol Pete has packed his guns for good.
Pete Sampras, whose record 14 Grand Slam titles underline his status as a tennis legend, appears to be on the verge of retirement.
His coach Paul Annacone announced Thursday that Sampras had withdrawn from three tournaments he had been scheduled to play -- including Wimbledon where he has won seven of his Grand Slam titles.
His seventh championship on Wimbledon's grass courts came in 2000 when he beat Australian Patrick Rafter for a 13th Grand Slam title that beat Australian Roy Emerson record dozen set in 1967.
"Yes, for me not to be at Wimbledon, I guess that's big," Sampras said from his home in Beverly Hills.
"I don't play just to play. I set the bar high and I want to be the best. Right now I just don't have it," the 31-year-old added.
Sampras beat Rafter after losing the first set and trailing in a second-set tiebreaker 4-1.
He then went 33 tournaments without a win over the next two years, ending the drought with an astonishing victory over Andre Agassi in the US Open final last September.
That was his last match.
It represented the 762nd tour victory of his 15-year career. He lost 222 matches and won 43,280,489 dollars.
And on Thursday he said he would not be playing on the French Open's clay courts in two weeks, where he rarely impresses, or the grass courts of Queen's Club and Wimbledon in June.
He had been expected to have one more stab at Wimbledon to make amends for his 2002 second round upset to little-known George Bastl of Switzerland.
"I'm going to watch some of Wimbledon on TV," Sampras said.



PETE SAMPRAS

Carry on the good work First ODI today

Cricket
AFP, Colombo
Star Pakistani fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar is not feeling the pressure in the triangular one-day cricket series despite being threatened with the axe, skipper Rashid Latif said.
"I don't think he (Akhtar) is feeling any pressure in this series. Other players have taken the pressure off him," Latif said here Thursday.
Akhtar, one of the fastest pacemen in the world, was warned by his country's cricket chief Tausiq Zia that the Sri Lankan tri-series would be the last chance to revive his career.
He was one of the eight players dropped after Pakistan's early exit from the recent World Cup in South Africa before being recalled.
The fast bowler responded well in his first match of the current series, grabbing two crucial wickets for 19 runs in eight overs to set up his team's 79-run victory over Sri Lanka.
Akhtar, 27, bowled well in the second game also, against New Zealand, but failed to get a wicket.
"He has bowled impressively in both the matches and proved that he is still one of the best strike bowlers",
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The West Indies are looking for the momentum of their euphoric Antigua Test victory over Australia to carry over into their seven-match one-day international series, starting here on Saturday.
The cricket world was buzzing as Brian Lara's young team created Test history with the highest fourth innings of 418 for seven last Tuesday to floor the Australians, who were shooting for an unprecedented 4-0 Caribbean series whitewash.
It was a heroic performance that may finally have instilled the self-belief that has been missing in West Indies cricket since the heyday of Viv Richards and their deadly four-man pace attack of the 1980s.
"We have now set a standard and we kept the standard up and we made the greatest run chase in the history of the game and that's what we are going to take forward," Lara said in the wake of the three-wicket victory at St John's.
Now Lara's team face another mountain with Ricky Ponting's

schedule, with many, particularly among the Test team, having their thoughts on home over the closing weeks of their Caribbean tour.

Ponting is recovering from a virus which forced him out of the final Test and there are concerns over the flagging fast bowlers, particularly the injury-prone Jason Gillespie, Australia's best bowler in the Test series.

Ponting believes there is no reason his team can't continue their winning streak.
"We've got the four of five players that have come into the squad (after the Tests) and that should be able to help us out," Ponting said on Friday.
"It's up to everyone to lift themselves up for these games. It's a big series for us."

Australia want to play their strongest team in the opening matches at Sabina Park on Saturday and Sunday to ensure a winning start, and dictate to Lara's team from the outset.

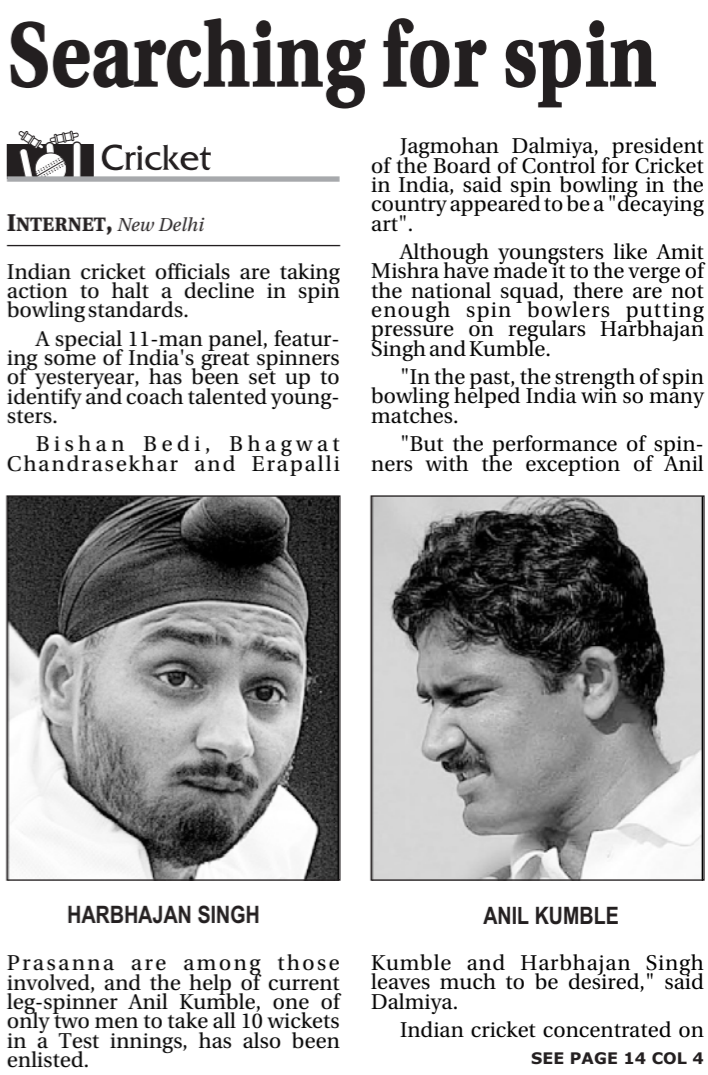
SERIES SCHEDULE	
May	
17: Kingston, Jamaica	
18: Kingston, Jamaica	
21: Castries, St Lucia	
24: Port-of-Spain, Trinidad	
25: Port-of-Spain, Trinidad	
30: St George's, Grenada	
June	
1: St George's, Grenada	

Vermeulen puts Zim in command

INTERNET, Howe
Mark Vermeulen played himself into form ahead of the first Test against England with a magnificent unbeaten 194 in their four-day game against Sussex on Thursday.
The Zimbabwe opener hit a six and 32 fours as he batted through the opening day to finish just four runs short of a career-best score as the tourists ended the first day on 317-4.
Vermeulen reached three figures in less than three hours off 138 balls and then reined in his attacking instincts to ensure he was there at the close.
He shared century stands with Grant Flower (64) and Stuart Carlisle (37) as the inexperienced tourists showed they have no intention of being mere pushovers in the Test series.
After winning the toss, Zimbabwe made a shaky start when Dion Ebrahim was caught behind by Andrew Hodd for 14, gloving an attempted hook shot off Billy Taylor.
But Vermeulen accelerated after an understandably cautious start following scores of 11 and nought in the previous game against Worcestershire.
He put on 114 for the second wicket with Stuart Carlisle, who was caught at slip off spinner Mark Davis during the afternoon session.

Searching for spin

Cricket
INTERNET, New Delhi
Indian cricket officials are taking action to halt a decline in spin bowling standards.
A special 11-man panel, featuring some of India's great spinners of yesteryear, has been set up to identify and coach talented youngsters.
Bishan Bedi, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Erapalli
Jagmohan Dalmiya, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said spin bowling in the country appeared to be a "decaying art".
Although youngsters like Amit Mishra have made it to the verge of the national squad, there are not enough spin bowlers putting pressure on regulars Harbhajan Singh and Kumble.
"In the past, the strength of spin bowling helped India win so many matches."
"But the performance of spinners with the exception of Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh leaves much to be desired," said Dalmiya.
Indian cricket concentrated on



HARBHAJAN SINGH

ANIL KUMBLE

Prasanna are among those involved, and the help of current leg-spinner Anil Kumble, one of only two men to take all 10 wickets in a Test innings, has also been enlisted.

Kumble and Harbhajan Singh leaves much to be desired," said Dalmiya.
Indian cricket concentrated on

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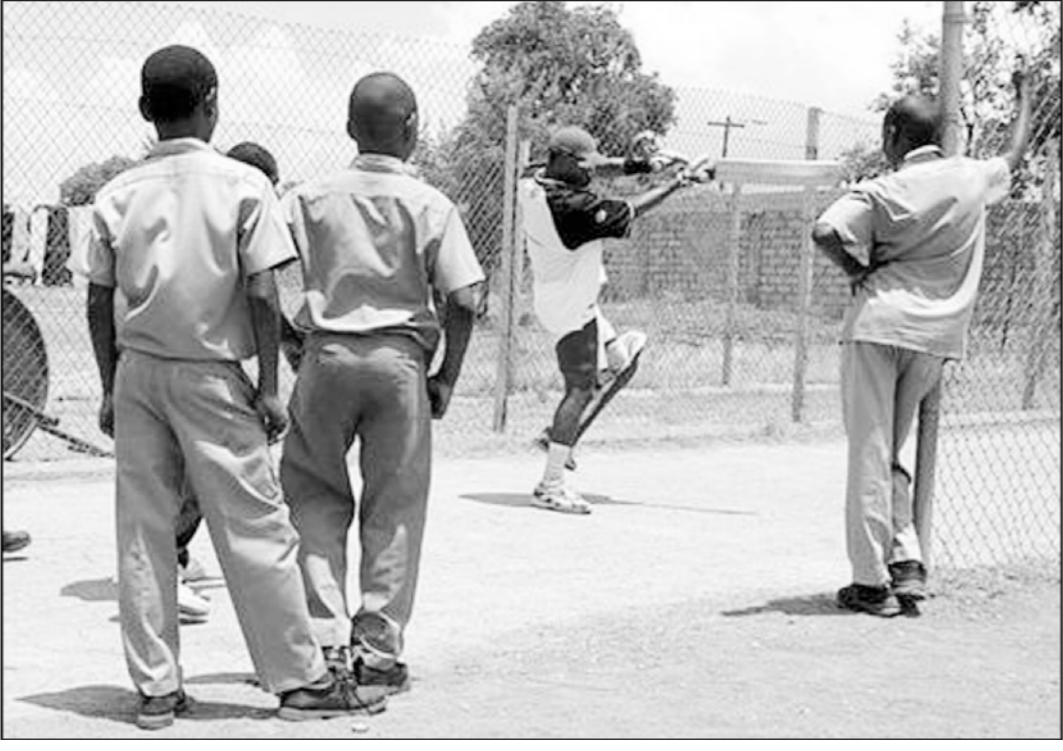


PHOTO: INTERNET

CUT IT LIKE SAMUELS! Jamaican School boys watch Marlon Samuels bat during a net session of the West Indies team at the Kensington Cricket Club in Kingston on May 15.

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