



Did U Know?

England's Bob Taylor was the first wicketkeeper to take 10 dismissals in a Test match. He achieved this feat against India at Bombay in 1980.



TEN Sports

- French Open Men's semifinals Live at 5:00 pm
- ESPN England vs Zimbabwe Second Test, Day Two Live at 3:45 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 11:00 pm
- STAR Sports Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show Repeat at 8:30 am Futbol Mundial Taped Version at 2:30 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show



Arjuna Ranatunga
(Former Sri Lanka cricket captain)
"I am an honest person and I can't work with people who are corrupt."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post **The Daily Star**

Competition closes at 8 pm June 13, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the national youth hockey title?	Dhaka	BKSP	Dinajpur
2. How many Test matches has Wasim Akram played?	112	104	205
3. Who became UEFA Cup champions?	Celtic	Porto	Dortmund
4. How many Grand Slam titles does Pete Sampras have?	13	14	15
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

18 more sides enter NFL

SPORTS REPORTER

Eighteen more districts have enrolled the names of their top clubs for the upcoming third National Football League qualifying round late Wednesday night.

With these the number of districts taking part in the meet rises to 54. Only 10 districts out of the total 64 did not show their interest for competing in the championship.

Besides, five service teams, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force,

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Hondo hits England



AFP, Chester-le-Street

Douglas Hondo took three wickets for eight runs in 11 balls to rob England of a promising position in the second Test at the Riverside here on Thursday.

At tea on the first day England were 173 for five after winning the toss, with Alec Stewart 17 not out and Anthony McGrath one not out.

Fast bowler Hondo's wicket-taking spell began when he had left-hander Mark Butcher, whose century set up England's innings and 92 run first Test win against Zimbabwe at Lord's last month, playing on for 47 to leave England 146 for three.

International fledgling Robert Key (four) fell next when he flicked

Hondo to Grant Flower at square leg. Key stood his ground and the decision was eventually referred to third umpire Peter Willey.

Although television pictures appeared inconclusive, Key was given out by former England batsman Willey.

But there was no doubt about the outside edge England captain Nasser Hussain (18) nicked to wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu, England 156 for five.

England resumed after lunch on 96 for one with Marcus Trescothick 36 not out and Butcher 27 not out.

Trescothick had added just one to his lunch score when he swept left-arm spinner Raymond Price high to the deep midwicket boundary where Sean Ervine dropped a diving catch and conceded a six in

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PHOTO: AFP
Zimbabwe spinner Raymond Price is ecstatic after taking the wicket of England opener Marcus Trescothick on the first day of the second and final Test at Chester-le-Street yesterday.

Asghar sits with advisors today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar will have a meeting with the eleven-member Advisory Council this afternoon. It is believed that some important decisions will be taken in the meeting.

First of all, the BCB boss is expected to show the much-talked about probe committee report on World Cup debacle that was submitted to him by a two-member probe committee on May 27.

Although Asghar had earlier committed to the media that he would make the report public as soon as he got that, ten days have passed so far and the report did not see light as yet.

Besides, the meeting will name the captain and manager of Bangladesh team for the upcoming tour of Australia. The meeting will also name a captain, manager and coach for the Bangladesh under-23 team that is scheduled to tour Sri Lanka later this month.

The meeting will also approve the budget for both Australia and Sri Lanka tours.

Development Cup hockey underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Gaibandha and Dhaka made winning starts in the Development Cup (under-14) hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Gaibandha registered a 2-0 win over Jessore in the opening match of the six-team event.

After a barren first-half, Abu Sifat and Shafiqul scored one goal each for the winners.

In the day's other match, Dhaka swamped Munshiganj by seven goals to nil.

The winners led the first half 6-0. Faisal struck thrice while Kabir added two goals to the winners' credit. Rashid and Rubel scored the other two goals.

Earlier, Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Shamsul Bari inaugurated the six-team meet as chief guest.

All Belgian final



AFP, Paris

Fourth seed Justine Henin-Hardenne shocked US defending champion and top seed Serena Williams 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 in an epic 2hr 20min semifinal Thursday to book a meeting with fellow Belgian and second seed Kim Clijsters in the French Open women's singles final.

Clijsters earlier beat unseeded Russian Nadia Petrova 7-5, 6-1, guaranteeing the first ever Belgian Grand Slam champion.

Henin threw up her arms in the air in triumph as she won an enthralling contest by holding to love after a see-saw decider when Williams drove wide.

The American then drew a hail of booing from a crowd which had been against her throughout as she gave her conqueror the briefest of handshakes at the end.

"The level of the match was very, very high though I briefly panicked at the idea of winning. But I believed in myself and took it point by point as I kept my focus," said Henin-Hardenne, scoring her third career win over the outgoing champion.

"Serena can be very intimidating - it was tough to serve out at 4-2 down in the third I had some doubts but it's so good to be into my first final here. I am very happy, it's an emotional moment. I'll have to get my energy back for Saturday!"

"It was a wonderful atmosphere there were so many Belgians here and the French fans were behind me too."

Henin broke in the opening game with a brilliant trademark backhand down the line after a weak second serve from Serena, who had already staved off two break points.

The Belgian was immediately into her rhythm and raced 3-0 clear

with a break to love to huge cheers from the Philippe Chatrier Centre Court crowd, overwhelmingly behind the blonde from Liege.

Serena, who went into the match with four wins in previous six meetings against her rival, began to find her bearings in the fourth game and broke back with a smash.

Henin-Hardenne, who put a stop to Serena's 21-match winning record in 2003 when she beat the world number one in the final at Charleston, held for 4-2 and broke to 5-2 when her opponent hit long.

Henin-Hardenne, who bowed to Clijsters in the 2001 semi-final, shrugged off two missed chances by accelerating into a forehand and then ailing her way to the opening set in just half an hour.

Serena had coughed up 20 unforced errors to just 10 for her rival across the opening set but in the second she dug deep and broke for 3-3 after saving a break point in the third game.

The burly American broke for 5-

3 when Henin-Hardenne drove long and then saved a break point created out of a superb low Belgian passing shot. But the challenger stretched to smash home her second opportunity for a comeback in the ninth game as the match moved to the boil.

Serena again raised the tempo and levelled the contest on her first set point with a clubbed backhand down the line which Henin-Hardenne was unable to get back, a 27th winner for the titleholder to just five for her opponent in the second set.

The decider saw both women's nerves begin to fray, Serena's serve in particular losing power.

Henin looked to be staring defeat in the face as Serena broke for a 3-1 lead to head seemingly into the victory strait, only to concede her own serve with a netted backhand.

However, more errors flowed from the Belgian in the next game as Serena broke again for 4-2.

But the crowd continued to cheer every Serena error as they rooted for the underdog and Henin-Hardenne drew inspiration to move break back.

Serena's first serve percentage slid down to the 50 percent mark as, having led 40-15, she staved off a break point in the ninth game - but a top spin return brought Henin-Hardenne another chance.

She grabbed it with both hands to move 5-4 clear with the chance to serve out for a place in the trophy match.

She flunked that opportunity with a dismal loss of serve to love, aided by a double fault and a drive long.

But she regained her loins, breaking when Serena hit wide and then keeping her nerve to serve out second time round.



KIM CLIJSTERS



JUSTINE HENIN-HARDENNE

ACA's plan to 'save' ODIs



AFP, Sydney

The establishment of an international one-day cricket league was proposed here Thursday by an Australian players' body as a key part of a plan to save the sport from overkill.

The Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) blueprint outlined by ACA chief executive Tim May also envisages countries being restricted to 30 one-day internationals a year.

The plan was aimed at ensuring players were not burned out by too much one-day cricket, said May, a former Australian off-spin bowler.

May unveiled the plan after Australian one-day captain Ricky Ponting who led his country to a World Cup triumph in South Africa earlier this year pleaded with Australian cricket chiefs to reduce players' on-field burdens.

Arriving home from the West Indies tour, Ponting said too much cricket, leading to premature burn-out, was his team's biggest fear.

And recently, outgoing International Cricket Council (ICC) president Malcolm Gray raised concerns about one-sided matches. May, writing on his organisation's website, said the game had been damaged by a glut of lopsided one-

day matches across the globe as well as the sheer number of games, seemingly haphazard in their organisation.

"Cricket authorities have identified that ... cricket is potentially damaged by the over-scheduling of uneven matches, yet they continue to put more of it out there for us to consume," he said.

May said one-day matches were cricket's saviour in terms of revenue, but the ICC risked damaging its

no real structure and apart from the sides competing, no real relevance," he said.

"It is confusing, at times boring and, as Gray notes, it is getting predictable."

May has proposed an international one-day competition every year, with the best nation being crowned champion.

Eleven competing teams would play each of their 10 opponents three times (at home, away and at a neutral venue) for a total of 30 matches.

A relegation and promotion system would encourage the developing nations.

"One-day cricket as we know it would be totally scrapped," May said. "This model would give meaning to one-day internationals and would produce a more exciting competition."

"Indications are that this property would command far greater media rights and sponsorship money."

Australian Cricket Board chief executive James Sutherland did not make any specific comment on the ACA plan.

But he conceded Australian players deserved a rest on their return from the West Indies.

"We have just had a very hectic cricket program, made more intense

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Lehmann's Test place still not guaranteed

AFP, Adelaide

Veteran Australian batsman Darren Lehmann conceded here Thursday he is still under pressure to keep his Test berth ahead of challenging youngster Michael Clarke despite his successful series in the West Indies.

Lehmann, 33, who acknowledged before the tour he was playing for his position, responded with his maiden Test century and averaged 58.83 for the series.

The left-hander also thrived with the bat in the limited-overs series, with scores of 55, 43 and 107 in his three innings, although his position in the one-day side was more secure.

But Lehmann, who returned to Australia with team-mates Thursday, said with the 22-year-old Clarke a Test batsman-in-waiting, he could not afford to give selectors an excuse to drop him.

"I don't think you can ever relax, not with so many good cricketers around Australia," he said.

"You've just got to perform in every series and hopefully you play well in the next series and kick on from there."

"There are blokes breathing down your neck to play well in each and every game."

"It was good to see the emergence of Michael Clarke in the one-day series."

"He's shown he has the ability to play a long career for Australia, so our old blokes have got to play well in every game."

One-day captain Ricky Ponting was enthusiastic about Clarke's future.

"Everything we've seen in one-day cricket indicates he has a lot of talent, a lot of class," Ponting said.

"He played beautifully in that series when he had his chance in the West Indies, but as everyone knows, Test cricket is a different game."

"But I've got a fair bit of faith in Michael Clarke being able to succeed at Test level right now."

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Cricket coming back to Karachi

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's port city of Karachi, last year hit by terror attacks, will stage a one-day international and a Test match when South Africa's cricket team tours the country in September, officials said Thursday.

"South Africa agreed to playing in Karachi straight away and we see no problems in staging international matches in the city," Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Rameez Raja told this news agency.

South Africa will play three Tests and as many one-day games on their tour to Pakistan from September 22 to October 28.

Two bomb blasts in the commercial hub of Pakistan, one outside a five star hotel where the New

Zealand cricket team was staying, and the other outside the US consulate saw 26 people killed in May and June last year.

New Zealand packed their bags and refused to play the second Test in Karachi on May 8 following the first blast which their players called the "trauma of their lives".

Pakistan had to play two of their home series on neutral venues last year after the West Indies and Australia refused to visit amid security concerns.

"Karachi is our main Test venue and it is difficult to imagine it not hosting any matches in a series," Raja said.

International cricket returns to Pakistan in mid-August when Bangladesh tours the country followed with tours by South Africa and New Zealand.

"I will finalise the itinerary of New Zealand's five one-day games in November this year after consultation with New Zealand officials very soon," he said.

Pakistan also hopes that a plan of two one-day games, one each in India and Pakistan, is also materialised in September this year.

"The ball is in India's court and I

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Winning start for Sri Lanka

AFP, St. George's

Sri Lankan captain Marvan Atapattu geared up for the one-day series against the West Indies by making 99 in his team's 115-run win in a warm-up match here.

Electing to bat, the tourists posted 243-7 on Wednesday before restricting the Shell Academy eleven to 128-9 in their only practice game ahead of the three-match series.

The first two one-dayers against the West Indies will be held in Barbados on Saturday and Sunday, followed by the third at St Vincent on June 11.

The one-dayers will be followed by two Test matches.

Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan also excelled with three wickets off five runs in seven overs against the mediocre opposition.

Fast bowler Prabath Nissanka was the other main wicket-taker with 2-26.

SCORES IN BRIEF
Sri Lanka 243-7 in 50 overs (M Atapattu 99, M Jayawardene 35, T Dilshan 27, N Nawaz 26, K Sangakkara 21; D Bravo 2-44, J Bennett 2-56) and Shell Academy Eleven 128-9 in 50 overs (M Sinclair 22; M Muralitharan 3-5 P Nissanka 2-26)

Result: Sri Lanka win by 115 runs.

Div I b'ball Big wins for Josephites, Europa

UNB, Dhaka

Josephites and Europa Youth Club maintained their all-win record in the Metropolitan First Division Basketball League beating their respective opponents at Dhanmondi Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Josephites registered their ninth victory with a massive 131-50 points margin against Hornets Sporting Club. The winners dominated the first half 70-21.

In the day's another match, Europa Youth secured their eighth consecutive win outplaying Wraith Club 142-41 points after leading the first half 70-21.

Gowtam caged 27, Imran 27 and Uma Shankar 20 for Europa while Hasan scored 12 and Bakhtiar 9 for the Wraith.

Ponting' caution



REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's World Cup-winning captain Ricky Ponting says that burnout caused by exhausting playing schedules is the team's biggest fear.

Ponting, 28, arrived with his side



RICKY PONTING

at Sydney Airport on Thursday after leading the world champions to a 4-3 victory in the one-day series against Brian Lara's West Indies.

Steve Waugh, 38, had captained Australia to a 3-1 win in the Test series earlier in the two-month Caribbean tour.

"I think that (burnout) is the fear of everyone at the moment," Ponting told reporters.

"All the players want to play as much cricket for Australia as they can but at the same time don't want to be worn out, fatigued and have their careers cut a little bit shorter than they might have been."

"That's the biggest fear we've got in the team and we've mentioned that to various people and hopefully people will start listening to us pretty soon."

Australia's cricketers, who have been playing virtually non-stop since November last year, will have a short break at home before hosting a two-Test series against Bangladesh in July.

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PHOTO: AFP
Pakistan cricket coach Javed Miandad (R) takes questions during a press conference ahead of the national team's departure for England in Rawalpindi on June 4. Pakistan will play three one-day internationals on a short trip to England.