



**Did U Know?**

Early triple jump practitioners in Ireland used 2 hops and a jump before the event was standardized. The best distance achieved using this technique was 15.72m by Daniel Ahearn (3rd July 1910), Daniel also set the first IAAF record of 15.52 the next year (30th May 1911).



**ESPN**

NOVEMBER 25  
**Football Focus**  
Live at 6.30 pm  
**Sportscentre**  
Live at 8.30 pm  
NOVEMBER 26  
**UEFA Champions League**  
Inter Milan v Arsenal  
**Live at 1.30 am (Wednesday)**  
UEFA Champions League  
Celtic v Bayern Munich  
Same day delay at 3.30 am  
**Sportscentre**  
Live at 8.30 pm  
Goals  
Taped at 9 pm  
NOVEMBER 27  
**UEFA Champions League**  
Panathinaikos v Man United  
**Live at 1.30 am (Thursday)**  
**Sportscentre**  
Live at 8.30 pm  
NOVEMBER 28  
**UEFA Cup**  
Barcelona Vs Panionios  
**Live 2 am (Friday)**

**STAR Sports**

NOVEMBER 25  
**English Premier League**  
Fulham v Portsmouth  
**Live 1.55 am (Wednesday)**  
**Sportsline**  
Live at 8 pm  
NOVEMBER 26  
**UEFA Champions League**  
Monaco v Eintracht  
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**Geoffrey Boycott**  
(Famed TV commentator)  
*"When I was playing the game we never had the benefit of TV or video to analyse our techniques or look at faults, we depended on other cricketers to watch us and then tell us what they thought we were doing wrong."*

**Star WHIZZ KID**  
**COMPETITION 201**

Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes  
**Competition closes at 8 pm**  
**Dec 5, 2003 and draw**

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score against England in the last ODI?	143	190	182
2. Who is the International Cricket Council (ICC) president?	Malcolm Speed	Ali Asghar	Ehsan Mani
3. Who became Asian Under-19 cricket champions?	Pakistan	Bangladesh	India
4. Who clinched the women's title in the Asian Zonal Chess?			
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			



Tajikistan footballers upon their arrival at Purbani Hotel in the city yesterday.

## Tajiks predict tough time

SPORTS REPORTER



A 19-member Tajikistan football team arrived in the city yesterday to play their Asian pre-qualifying round for the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals that will be held in Germany.

The Central Asian side, which also has five officials, take on Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow at 3pm.

Currently the former Soviet republic is ranked 180th on the FIFA listing compared to the hosts' 147th.

But the visiting team is not overly concerned at the rankings.

"We aren't bothered by the rankings. They are just a list and nothing else. We have come here to play good football like in the Asian qualifiers," said Tajikistan coach Nazarov Sharif during a press briefing at the Bangladesh Football Federation conference room in the afternoon.

And like Bangladesh, the visitors were also in dark about their opponents.

"I don't know much about Bangladesh except some basic information," Sharif said when asked if he had done any homework before coming to Dhaka.

However the Tajiks were full of confidence going into the big match although they narrowly failed to qualify

for the 2004 Asian Cup.

"We started our campaign with a 1-0 win over Thailand in the first leg, then earned goalless draws against Hong Kong and Uzbekistan. We also lost to Uzbekistan 4-1, and 1-0 to Thailand. And only won against Hong Kong in the second leg," the Tajik coach said.

There are only seven Tajik players

Knitel Denis) have played in Russia."

Although the Tajiks might start as underdogs, Bangladesh were still not complacent.

"We must ensure that we take advantage of playing on home soil, otherwise I don't think we will be able to compete in the freezing conditions when we travel to Dushanbe for the second leg," said coach Golam Sarwar



Bangladesh team leader Golam Rasul Mollah (2nd from R) briefs the press regarding the upcoming Asian pre-qualifying match against Tajikistan yesterday.

who are semi-professionals.

Sharif said, "Yes, just seven footballers are playing in professional leagues. Two players (Tuvchiev Alisher and

Tipu. Bangladesh will play their away match on November 30.

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## Nandasena passes away



SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lankan curator of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) PD Nandasena died at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday after spending 23 days in a coma.

The 55-year old groundsman from Kandi, who joined BCB last year before the West Indies tour of Bangladesh, was found in an unconscious state at

the Hotel Imperial, where he was lodged, on the morning of November 1.

Nandasena was reportedly running a high temperature the previously day and was scheduled to meet a physician in the morning. But after his driver found there was no response after knocking on his door he informed the BCB's grounds committee officials.

The officials rushed to the hotel sensing something was not right with the usually punctual Nandasena and broke the door down only to find him lying in a heap.

Initially he was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from where he was later transferred to the CMH.

The doctors at the CMH said that he suffered a massive haemorrhage. The body of Nandasena has now been kept at the DMCH morgue for an autopsy, which will be done today morning.

BCB president Ali Asghar and his advisory council have expressed their deep shock at the death of Nandasena.

His untimely death came as a

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THE LAST RIDE: This file photo, taken on September 23, shows Sri Lankan curator of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) PD Nandasena driving his mower onto the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## Lara asks for consistency

BBC ONLINE, undated

Brian Lara was at a loss to explain the inconsistency of his West Indies team following their six-wicket defeat by Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on Sunday.

They were bowled out for 125 only 24 hours after totalling 347-6 at the same ground in a 51-run win.

"I just thought our attitude going out today may have been a little too relaxed," said Lara.

"I don't think there was any difference in the pitch. I think our approach needs to be looked at."

Lara said one of the characteristics of his young team was an occasional tendency to "capitulate".

He added: "Remember the Test match here. We looked like we were going to get 1,000 in the first innings second innings we were all out for 128."

Sunday's win was a deserved reward for Zimbabwe, who pushed West Indies hard in the two-match Test series, only to lose it 1-0.

And skipper Heath Streak was delighted by a big improvement from their bowlers.

"It was a bad day for us yesterday and we sat down (afterwards) and were honest with each other."

"We asked for a bigger effort and that exactly what happened," he said.

"We got the early wickets and we managed to sustain that pressure, so it was a great effort by the boys."

## Eng hope for the cloud to lift!

BBC ONLINE, undated

England switch back to Test mode on their Sri Lanka tour and are hoping the weather changes at the same time.

Monsoons washed out two of the three matches in the one-day series, giving the hosts a 1-0 win.

England have a warm-up match over three days against a President's XI in Colombo starting on Wednesday.

The six specialist Test players Graham Thorpe, Nasser Hussain, Mark Butcher, Matthew Hoggard, Robert Croft and Geraint Jones could all play.

But England will be short of meaningful match practice ahead of the first Test in Galle on December 2 unless the poor weather ceases.

Coach Duncan Fletcher said: "We want the Test-playing guys to get a good three-day game and the practice in, so there is concern that the rain could leave us a little unprepared."

"Our plan for this week's game was going to be to leave out Michael Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick."

"But because of the weather Michael now wants to reconsider that."

First-choice wicketkeeper Chris Read was also set to miss out, with Kent's Jones deputising.

But the former's lack of batting on tour is another concern, given that he will come in at seven in the three-match Test series.

Glamorgan spinner Croft, a key part of England's 2-1 success in 2001, will compete against Ashley Giles and Gareth Batty for a slow-bowling berth.

## India open tour today

### Ganguly still hopeful of getting Akram



AFP, Melbourne

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly was hopeful Monday Pakistan cricket legend Wasim Akram would be able to help his left-arm pacemen during the tough Australian tour starting this week.

India begin preparations for their four-Test clash with world champions Australia when they meet the Victorian state side in a three-day game at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Tuesday.

Wasim, now retired from first-class cricket, will follow the tour as a commentator.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India last week strongly denied reports Wasim would be appointed the national team's fast-bowling coach.

Tensions remain high between the countries, and Ganguly agreed Monday it was not straightforward to have a high-profile former Pakistan player working with the Indian Test team.

"There are a lot of sentiments attached to Wasim ... it's a bit of a sensitive issue," Ganguly said.

"We would love to have help from

him because he's probably one of the best fast bowlers I've seen."

"We'd love to have him in the nets to look after the boys."

Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra, both chosen to play against Victoria, and fellow tourist Irfan Pathan are all left-armers who would benefit greatly from Wasim's tuition.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble will miss the opening game because of flu, while Sadagoppan Ramesh and Deep Dasgupta will also sit out the match, along with Pathan.

Accepting the difficult nature of this series, Ganguly conceded India would lose matches but he was prepared to put up with setbacks if his side could upset the world's champion Test team in the big games.

"They're a very good side, the best side in the world, and to be honest in the last one and a half years, they're the only side we've not played well against," he said.

"It's a big challenge for all 16 of us on this tour to do well."

"We know we're going to lose some, because they're a very good side ... but we don't mind losing a few games as

long as we win a few."

New Zealand's 2001-02 squad were the last side to push Australia at home.

Ganguly said he had spoken to the New Zealanders recently about the best way to tackle Australia on their home pitches.

"They played well against Australia in the three Tests in this country, but to be honest, a lot of the days got rained out you never know what the final result would have been otherwise," he said of the 0-0 series result.

"New Zealand are a competitive side. They may not have the best names around, but still they compete very hard."

"They play to a plan and I find Stephen Fleming a very good leader."

**SQUADS**

**VICTORIA:** Cameron White (captain), Jason Arberger, Matthew Elliott, Brett Harrop, Ian Harvey, Brad Hodge, David Hussey, Mathew Inness, Brendan Joseland, Andrew McDonald, Jon Moss, Peter Roach (12th man to be named).

**INDIA:** Saurav Ganguly (captain), Ajit Agarkar, Akash Chopra, Rahul Dravid, Zaheer Khan, VVS Laxman, Ashish Nehra, Parthiv Patel, Harbhajan Singh, Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar (no 12th man named).

## Aussies sans Glenn, Darren



AFP, Sydney

Australia look set to go into next month's opening cricket Test against India with an under-strength pace attack after news Monday that pace spearhead Glenn McGrath is struggling to regain full fitness.

McGrath said he will miss the opening two Tests against Saurav Ganguly's team and was aiming to return in the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne after ankle surgery.

Fellow speedster Brett Lee also remains in doubt with abdominal and ankle problems and is unlikely to be selected for the opening Test at the Gabba, starting on December 4.

Both were assessed by team physiotherapist Errol Allcott over the weekend with neither given a clean bill of health.

McGrath, who last played in August against Bangladesh, is targeting Saturday's NSW one-day match against Tasmania in Hobart as his comeback but doubted he could back-up for five-day cricket.

"I think it's a little bit early for the first two Tests but I would love to be playing them," McGrath said on Monday.

"Hopefully, if all goes well I'll play a few games for NSW and be available for selection for the Boxing Day Test."

The news was worse for senior batsman Darren Lehmann, who has

been ruled out of first-class cricket until early next year with his Achilles tendon injury.

The 33-year-old left-hander, sidelined since suffering the injury during the first Test against Zimbabwe in October, is to have an intense rehabilitation program.

Lehmann, wearing a protective boot since his injury, admitted frustration at the news and set his sights on taking part in the triangular one-day series with India and Zimbabwe in the New

100 percent fit."

The Australian selectors will on Tuesday choose a 12-man squad for the first Test.

It is expected batting all-rounder Simon Katich, who starred with the ball in the second Test against Zimbabwe, should retain Lehmann's place in the batting order at No.6 over Queensland's Martin Love.

The selectors are also likely to retain Brad Williams and left-arm Nathan Bracken, if Lee is ruled out.



GLENN MCGRATH

Year.

"I'm naturally disappointed with the knowledge that I'll be watching this series from the sidelines," he said.

"Obviously the VB (one-day) Series is now my target, but there's a lot of hard work to do before then to ensure I am



DARREN LEHMANN

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said opener Matthew Hayden was not in doubt despite being ordered to rest a nagging foot injury instead of playing for Queensland against South Australia this week.

## Kale saga takes new turn



AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs closed ranks on Monday after Abhijit Kale, the player at the centre of a cash-to-play scandal, received support from former greats like Kapil Dev.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will meet in an emergency session here on Sunday to discuss the scandal, the biggest to rock Indian cricket since a match-fixing saga three years ago.

"It is important not only to find the truth and see it does not happen again, but also ensure the name of Indian cricket is not ruined by other baseless allegations," a BCCI official said.

The BCCI last week ordered a probe after two of its five national selectors, former internationals Kiran More and Pronob Roy, alleged that Kale offered them bribes to get picked for the ongoing tour of Australia.

The duo alleged in writing to BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya that Kale, a 30-year-old batsman from Maharashtra, offered them a million rupees (21,700 dollars) each to get selected for the tour.

The offers were rejected, the selectors said.

BCCI official DV Subba Rao, who is chairman of the Bar Council of India, begins work on Monday to investigate the incident in the 15-day deadline set by Dalmiya.

Kapil, a former world bowling record holder, questioned the decision to ban Kale from first-class cricket until the probe was completed, saying he doubted a BCCI official would have been punished in similar circumstances.

"I feel for the young man," said Kapil, who himself had faced the wrath of officials, public and the media before he was cleared of any wrongdoing in a match-fixing scandal in 2000.

"I've been through all this and support Kale completely. If he is not proven guilty, I wonder how the BCCI will compensate him."

"Would the BCCI have acted against any of its officials in the same vein had a finger been raised on any issue?" Kapil asked.

Arun Lal, secretary of the Indian Cricket Players' Association, was equally scathing in his criticism.

"One reads about the BCCI con-

been on the fringe of national selection in the recent past, would resort to offering bribes."

"But if he was pushed to it by his frustrations, then it is a sad reflection on the reputation of the selectors, as he must have had more than sufficient reason to believe in the success of such an option."

"Also why would he approach them directly and not through an unidentified intermediary who, once the deal was struck, would carry the money?"

The Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA), Kale's state body, gave the player a clean chit on Monday after its own investigation and demanded the two selectors undergo lie-detector tests.

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## £2500 lost to rains!

BBC ONLINE, undated

An angry England fan spoke of his frustration after blowing 2,500 pounds on the two washed-out one-day matches against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Father-of-two Barry McLaughlin will be returning home to Middlesbrough without seeing one ball bowled in the capital.

The Sri Lankan board refused to offer refunds, instead offering discounts to the Australia side in February.

"The whole tour has ended up being a complete farce," McLaughlin told Radio Five Live.

The scheduling of the tour during Sri Lanka's monsoon season has drawn criticism from England

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