



## Did U Know?

In France, soccer is called football.

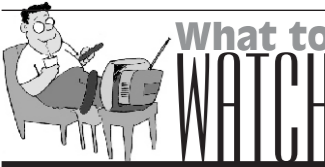


## TALK TURKEY



### Saurav Ganguly

(Indian cricket captain)  
"It was a dream to score a hundred in Australia. Though all Test hundreds are important, this will be a special one. It came against the best team in the world."  
After scoring a century against Australia in the first Test.



## What to WATCH

### TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs England  
Second Test, Day Three  
Live at 10:00 am

### ESPN

South Africa vs West Indies  
First Test, Day One  
Live at 2:27 pm  
Sportscentre  
Sport News  
Live 9:30 pm

### STAR Sports

Australia vs India  
Second Test, day One  
Live at 6:30 am  
Futbol Mundial  
Repeat at 4:30 pm  
Sportsline  
Sport News  
Live at 8 pm



Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Dec 19, 2003 and draw

- Who has been named Australia's Test captain?  
Gilchrist  
Ponting  
Martyn
- Who won the Rugby World Cup?  
Australia  
England  
New Zealand
- Who will lead the Bangladesh A team to Pakistan?  
Rajin  
Mushiq  
Hannan
- Who won the Federation Cup title?

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Nasser in the clear

REUTERS, Kandy

England's Nasser Hussain was cleared of sledging Muttiah Muralitharan on the second day of the second Test on Thursday, according to media reports.

Match referee Clive Lloyd said he had reviewed television footage and could find no evidence to support the allegations, the BBC said.

Sri Lanka filed an official complaint after the off-spinner said Hussain had verbally abused him as he came in to bat.

# Mahmud's bold batting



SPORTS REPORTER

Khaled Mahmud launched his battle to restore his profile with an encouraging half-century as Dhaka recovered from a shaky start to pile up a commanding total against Barisal in their opening Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The Bangladesh and Dhaka captain hammered 51 off 83 balls on the second day of the four-day encounter as the hosts resuming on 2-1 in reply to Barisal's first innings total of 193, reached 302 for seven, a lead 109 runs.

Under pressure since the home sires against England the gutsy all-rounder was involved in a 93-run fifth-wicket stand with Halim Shah after Dhaka were reduced to 54-4 after some quality bowling from former national left-arm pacer Anisur Rahman, who added two more wickets to his tally.

Mahmud joined Halim in the rebuilding operation after discarded national opener Al-Shahriar was run out for 30.

Mahmud's statement of intent included one six and four boundaries. However, it was Halim who kept the ship afloat with an unbeaten 89.

The seasoned right-hander who

was only 11 runs shy of becoming the National League's first centurion this year, also featured in a 106-run stand with Neeeyamur Rashid. Neeeyamur scored a solid 62 that contained eleven fours.

Halim struck 14 boundaries in his vigilant knock of 240 balls. Off-spinner Fahim Muntasir was batting on 34 with Halim at stumps.

### SYLHET V KHULNA

Away at Sylhet, holders Khulna turned the tables on the home team defending a poor first innings total of 160 when they bundled out the opposition for only 80.

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak led the demolition job with a seven-wicket haul.

Starting from where he left off Razzak, dashed Sylhet's hopes of taking a first innings lead by claiming five more wickets on the day.

It was an astonishing spell from Razzak that read 16.1-9-11-7.

Resuming on 36 for two, Sylhet could add another 42 runs to their total before being dismissed.

Opener Imtiaz Ahmed top-scored for Sylhet with 30 while Golam Mabud (14) was the other batsman to reach double figures.

Khulna were 129 for eight at stumps in their second innings, which gave them a lead of 209 runs. One-down Raju Parvez scored highest 48 for the visitors.

### CHITTAGONG V RAJSHAHI

In the other match at the Comilla Stadium, left-arm spinner Saifullah Khan took four wickets to help Rajshahi maintain the advantage over hosts Chittagong.

Chittagong were on 191-7 in response to Rajshahi's 234.

Saifullah, an experienced campaigner in domestic cricket, captured 4-54 in his marathon 32 overs on a wicket suited more for the spinners.

On the opening day debutant off-spinner Yasin Arafat claimed five wickets for Chittagong. He also took the last two wickets to finish with 7-62. Earlier, Rajshahi, resuming the day on 230 for eight, could add another four runs before being all out.

Opener Anisul Hakim top-scored with 53 followed by a patient 38 from Chittagong captain Akram Khan.

### SCOREBOARD

Scorecards on the second day of the four-day matches in the Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League at different venues yesterday:

#### Dhaka v Barisal

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS)

BARISAL: First innings 193 all out in 92.2 overs (Shahin 55, Ali Arman 43, Mustadir 30, Rafique 4-60, Neeeyamur 2-15)

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Dhaka's Halim Shah cover-drives on way to scoring an unbeaten 89 on the second day of their National Cricket League match against Barisal at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

# Second Test starts today



REUTERS, Adelaide

Australia are considering promoting express bowler Brad Williams to their starting team for the second Test with India starting at Adelaide Oval on Friday.

A final decision on the team will not be made until Friday morning but Williams is in line to replace Andy Bichel as part of an Australian ploy to unsettle the Indian batsmen with short-pitched bowling.

Australia captain Steve Waugh said Williams' extra speed would be vital in helping his team rattle the Indian batsmen.

"It's always crucial in Test

matches to take early wickets and put pressure on the middle order batsman," Waugh told a news conference on Thursday.

"India's strength is obviously in the middle order, so taking early wickets is crucial to the outcome of the match."

India surprised Australia by their bold performance in the drawn first Test but Waugh said his team knew what to expect this time.

"We've got to lift our intensity, you'll see a much improved performance from us in this Test match," Waugh said.

"I thought we were below our best. We recognise that and we've talked about and I think you'll see a much more intense and commit-

ted side in this Test match."

India captain Saurav Ganguly said his players were expecting a tougher match but were brimming with confidence after their performance in Brisbane.

"I know they will come hard but that's what Test cricket is all about and we'll have to be up for it," said Ganguly, whose 144 in the opening Test won him the man-of-the-match award.

"We're prepared for this Test. It's a good wicket and we all want to do well."

"For us, going through the first Test overseas and not being one down is important. The first Test is always the key because you get u s e d

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The Pakistan-bound Bangladesh A cricket team members share a lively moment at the BCB office at Bangabandhu National Stadium prior to their departure yesterday.

## A side off to Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team left the capital for Karachi, Pakistan last night to take part in the Inter Department Cricket Tournament (Patron's Trophy and Patron's Cup).

During their seven-week tour, the second string national side led by Test all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman, will play six First Class and as many one-day matches.

The A team would take on Defence Housing Authority (DHA) in their opening match a limited overs game -- at the Karachi National Stadium on December 14. Both teams will then play a four-day First class match starting from the following day as per the format of the competition.

A total of 12 office teams of Pakistan are appearing in the final apart from Bangladesh A. Bangladesh have been put in Group A along with Defence Housing Authority (DHA), Pakistan I n t e r n a -

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## Where is Naimuddin?

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union Club were taken by surprise yesterday when former Indian coach Naimuddin, who has agreed to take over the star-studded team in the Premier Division football League, did not arrive in the Dhaka yesterday.

The Kolkata-based coach was scheduled to arrive yesterday afternoon and the Brothers Union officials were present at the airport to receive him. But Naimuddin was not on board when the aircraft arrived.

"We have checked the list of passengers and Naimuddin's name was there. We don't know why he failed to catch the flight. May be there was some problem which we are not aware of," said Anwar Hossain Ujjal, the chairman of Brothers Union football committee yesterday.

"We are trying to contact him in Kolkata. Hopefully he will be arriving in a couple of days," added Ujjal.

# England under pressure



AFP, Kandy

Spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan grabbed two big wickets as England faltered after a bright start in the second cricket Test against Sri Lanka here on Thursday.

Off-spinner Muralitharan removed free-stroking openers Marcus Trescothick and Michael Vaughan before England reached 163-4 at stumps on a controversial second day in reply to Sri Lanka's first-innings total of 382.

Muralitharan threatened to alter the course of the innings after left-handed Trescothick (36) and skipper Vaughan (52) had put on 89 for the opening wicket in just 18 overs with their aggressive batting on a slow turning track.

Trescothick was caught by Tillakaratne Dilshan at silly-point on the stroke of tea after hitting five fours.

Vaughan failed to read the line of a delivery that turned the other way, edging it to Mahela Jayawardene at slip after smashing eight fours in his attractive eighth Test half-century.

England slipped from 89 for no loss to 119-4 in the space of nine overs before Graham Thorpe (20 not out) and Paul Collingwood (19 not out) denied Sri Lanka further success.

England also had a tough time on the field as Sri Lanka, led by tail-ender Dinusha Fernando's maiden Test half-century, added 104 for their last two wickets before the innings ended on a controversial note.

Last-man Muralitharan was initially given not out after left-arm spinner Ashley Giles' delivery had clipped the off-stumps' bail.

Umpires Daryl Harper (Australia) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan) failed to notice the ball brushing the stump before being persuaded by the England skipper to consult TV umpire Peter Manuel of Sri Lanka.

Muralitharan was then ruled out.

Fernando frustrated England the most as he hammered an unbeaten 51 in only his second Test, adding 76 for the ninth wicket with Kumar Dharmasena (29) and 28 for the last with Muralitharan

(19). England heaved a sigh of relief when Giles succeeded in claiming the last two wickets in the afternoon session to finish with 5-116, his third haul of five or more wickets in an innings in 29 Tests.

The tourists could get just one wicket in the morning session after Sri Lanka had resumed at 277-7.

Fast bowler Andrew Flintoff was

the wicket-taker when he had skipper Hashan Tillakaratne (45) caught hooking by Mark Butcher at long-leg.

Fernando batted sensibly to shatter England's hopes of making short work of the Sri Lankan tail.

He, however, failed to impress as a new-ball bowler as he was punished by Trescothick and Vaughan.

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Sri Lankan players celebrate the dismissal of Mark Butcher on the second day of the second Test against England at Kandy yesterday.

# Zimbabwe want that Eng come



BBC ONLINE, undated

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) has insisted England should honour their scheduled tour next October despite calls for them to boycott it.

On Sunday, president Robert Mugabe pulled Zimbabwe out of the Commonwealth.

And there are calls from within the country to sever all ties with Britain.

But ZCU chairman Peter Chingoka said: "Our position is very clear we are a sporting body that's apolitical."

He added: "What happens with Zimbabwe's status within the Commonwealth has nothing whatsoever to do with the cricket situation."

Zimbabwe went ahead with a tour of England in June on the un-

derstanding that a reciprocal tour would take place the following year.

The ECB announced on Tuesday it would delay a decision on the tour until late-February, when it meets to review the situation.

But Chingoka is certain the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) would not be able to call off the tour on grounds of safety or security.

"The only concerns that the ECB expressed were related to safety and security and very clearly that does not apply," he said.

"We've hosted successful tours as recently as the West Indies last month."

"We fulfilled our obligations like we do with every other country and we expect every other country to do the same when it's their turn."

"I believe that we're all gentlemen, I believe that there are f r i e n d l y

## Kale charged of offering bribe

AFP, Calcutta

India's cricket chiefs on Thursday gave suspended player Abhijit Kale 15 days to explain his conduct after charging him with trying to buy his place in the national team.

A three-man disciplinary committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which met here for three hours, examined the findings of the preliminary inquiry by Bar Council chairman DV Subba Rao.

"We have gone through the report submitted by Subba Rao and found a prima facie case against Kale," said BCCI chief Jagmohan Dalmiya, who sat on the disciplinary committee with vice-presidents Kamal Morarka and Ranbir Singh.

"Accordingly we have framed charges against Kale and decided to issue a show cause notice to the cricketer."

Dalmiya, however, declined to expand on the charges against Kale and added the committee will meet

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NO LOOKING BACK: India superstar Sachin Tendulkar stretches with the help of physio Andrew Leipus during a practice session at Adelaide yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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