



Did U Know?

The United States' Major League Soccer made its debut in 1996, shortly after the wildly successful 1994 World Cup was hosted by the United States.



ESPN

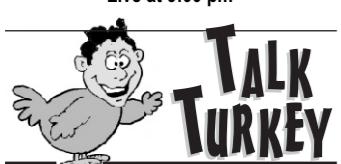
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Zaragoza
Repeat at 1:00 pm
Sportscentre
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportspage
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

TEN Sports

West Indies vs England
1st Test, Day 5
Live at 9:00 pm



Courtney Walsh

(West Indian great)
"Shane knows how to stay motivated and he is a great competitor. I wouldn't be surprised if he goes all the way to 600 and then 700 wickets as he knows that there's a little fellow called Murali chasing him all the way."



Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

March 27, 2004 and draw

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score against Zimbabwe in the third ODI?	230	242	238
2. Who clinched the first Division Football League title?	Parashanji Victoria	Youngmen's	
3. Who won the Qatar Open tennis title?	Hings Henin	Myskina	
4. Who won the four-day National Cricket League title?			
Name			
Class..... Roll No.....			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Windies not so extra special

AFP, Kingston

West Indies entered the record books for all the wrong reasons on Saturday when they conceded 60 extras in England's first innings in the first Test here -- the seventh worst summary in the history of the game.

The West Indies sent down 28 leg-byes, 18 no-balls, seven byes and seven wides in England's total of 339 all out.

The West Indies hold the record for most extras conceded -- 71 against Pakistan in Georgetown in 1987-88.

Cricket takes a bow

AFP, Islamabad

If cricket needed to convince itself it was in robust health, it need not look further than the remarkable week just gone by.

India began its first full tour of Pakistan in 15 years with a magnificent game at Karachi on Saturday that ended as the highest scoring one-day international in history.

Shane Warne returned to Test cricket from a 12-month drug-induced ban with a match-winning 10-wicket haul against Sri Lanka at Galle on Friday, becoming the first spinner ever to claim 500 victims.

Two days earlier, wooden spooners Bangladesh had recorded their first international victory in five years when they overcame Zimbabwe by eight runs in a one-day in Harare.

And Jacques Kallis of South Africa hit a century in five consecutive Tests and was just one ton away from emulating Australian legend Don Bradman's feat of six in six.

All-rounder Kallis, who made four hundreds at home against the

West Indies, continued his amazing run with a 150 against New Zealand at Hamilton on Sunday.

"This is cricket at its best, a real entertainer," remarked International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani. "Hope there are many more such weeks to follow."

Nothing, however, will surpass the magic that India and Pakistan worked up on Saturday to send millions of viewers on both sides of the border and across the world in frenzy.

Barely two years back the warping neighbours were on the brink of another catastrophic conflict, with their armies ranged against each other following an upsurge in militant violence over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Yet the cricket teams of both nations produced a classic slugfest played in good spirit before an appreciative capacity crowd of 33,000 at the heavily guarded National stadium in Karachi.

In the end Pakistan failed to score nine runs in Ashish Nehra's final over despite a match aggregate of 693 runs on a belter of a wicket whose preparation was

supervised by Englishman Andy Atkinson.

Pakistan responded to India's seemingly impregnable 349-7 with 344-8, which overtook the previous record of 664 runs by Sri Lanka and Pakistan in Singapore in April 1996.

Exhasted by the experience, rival captains Sourav Ganguly of India and Inzamamul Haq of Pakistan termed the game a victory for cricket and whet the appetite for one-day international in the year-long ban.

There are still four more one-dayers to be contested -- the second one is in Rawalpindi on Tuesday -- followed by three Test matches in what is regarded as the ultimate rivalry in the sport.

"It can't get better than this," said Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Ramiz Raja, a former Test captain.

"Cricket was certainly poorer without an India-Pakistan contest and we are determined to make up for time lost."

Cricket chiefs of the two countries are already drawing up plans for future contests with a Pakistani team likely to tour India sometime

next year.

When Warne was found to have taken a banned diuretic in February last year, many believed time had finally caught up with the champion leg-spinner.

He missed Australia's World Cup winning campaign in South Africa and was not even allowed to train with first-class sides during the year-long ban.

Yet he returned fitter and mentally stronger to show the cricket world he was the best spinner in the business with 501 Test wickets and almost certain to overtake the world record tally of 519 by West Indian Courtney Walsh.

Walsh, now retired, backed Warne to blaze his way to 700 Test wickets, saying: "Shane knows how to stay motivated and he is a great competitor."

Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan, who took 11 wickets in the same Galle Test, is breathing down Warne's neck with a tally of 496.



PHOTO: AFP

A LEFT-HANDED OPENER AT LAST: Manjul Islam, who opened the innings with Hannan Sarker, plays an off drive on way to a fine 63 against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club yesterday. Manjul is the first left-handed Bangladeshi batsman to have opened the innings after Mohammad Rafique did so against Kenya in India in 1998.

Zimbabwe A win emphatically

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-23 cricketers suffered a huge 223-run defeat in their three-day warm-up match as visiting Zimbabwe A got their tour off to a winning start yesterday.

Test off-break bowlers Gavin Ewing and Trevor Gripper did the damage in the home side's second essay as Naeem Islam's boys were bundled out for a meagre 151, chasing a mammoth 374 on the final day at the Fatullah Stadium.

Naeem top-scored with 44 off 115 balls before he was trapped lbw by Gavin Ewing, who returned figures of 4-31. Gripper claimed three wickets for 28 runs.

The tourists resumed the day on 93-3 and skipper Alester Marwede and Elton Chigumbura smashed unbeaten half-centuries as they declared

their second innings at 203 for 4, setting a daunting target of 375 runs for the locals.

Zimbabwe A will take on Bangladesh A in the first four-day match at Rajshahi from March 17.

SCORE SUMMARY

ZIMBABWE A: First innings 328 all out in 98.1 overs (Gripper 81, Sibanda 68, Coventry 30, Marwede 32, Ewing 57, Panyangara 24; Razzak 3-103, Arafat 6-79, Faisal 1-13)

BD UNDER-23: First innings 157 all out in 47.4 overs (Imran 15, Naeem 28, Faisal 11, Arafat 23, Dhiman Gosh 35; Mwayenga 2-14, Panyangara 2-39, Ewing 2-40, Gripper 2-12)

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) last night issued a statement confirming Rafique's early departure for a 'breach of the code of conduct'.

The BCB statement however did not provide any details about the matter saying that a disciplinary hearing would be convened after the team returned from Zimbabwe.

Rafique sent home early

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique was ordered to fly home from Zimbabwe before the fifth and final one-day match at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday.

The Bangladesh team management took the action against the country's leading wicket-taker after he was reportedly involved in a row with captain Habibul Bashar on Saturday.

It was learnt that the temperamental Rafique suddenly got excited after Bashar said something to Zimbabwean spinner Raymond Price about Manjul Islam being a future prospect for Bangladesh cricket when both teams trained for the last time in Harare.

Rafique, standing nearby when the conversation took place, created a commotion on the field and his antics continued inside the dressing room.

It was also gathered that the embarrassing scene irked coach Dav Whatmore and manager MA Latif, who in consultation with the Bangladesh captain, put the angry



MOHAMMAD RAFIQUE

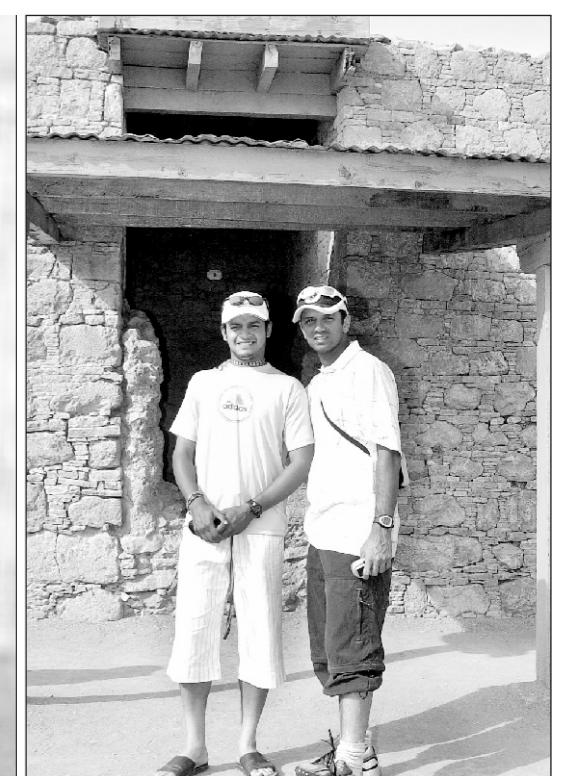
cricketer on a first available flight out of Harare on Sunday morning.

Rafique is expected to reach Dhaka this morning, only two days before the squad is due back.

This is not the first time the 34-year-old wily Rafique has created a nuisance. Just after the 1999 World Cup he surprised all by announcing his retirement from international cricket along with Minhzul Abedin.

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I WAS NOT A BAD BOWLER! (L) Pakistan coach Javed Miandad gives fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar some bowling tips during a practice session at Rawalpindi yesterday. (R) Indian star Rahul Dravid (R) and Murali Kartik pose in front of a museum in Taxila, 35 kms west of Islamabad, during a sightseeing tour yesterday.

Sporting Karachi crowd

AFP, Karachi

over the last five years.

But not a stone was hurled at the players by the capacity crowd of 33,000 in the National Stadium and "no anti-India slogans were chanted," police said after the dramatic resumption of cricketing ties between the South Asian rivals.

The fans proved to be "most sporting crowd," city police chief Asad Ashraf Malik told AFP, after fears of terrorism were expressed ahead of the match at the start of India's first tour of Pakistan in 14 years.

"Karachiites have proved that they are peace-loving people and could have hosted a Test match as well."

India refused to play a Test in Karachi over security concerns, saying they did not want to stay for long in the city.

But Malik said: "The people behaviour in such a hot and humid day was excellent and hats off to them."

Fans applauded both teams throughout the match, clapping every run and every wicket. Many spectators painted their faces with colours of their national flags, while some were even seen carrying the flags of both India and Pakistan.

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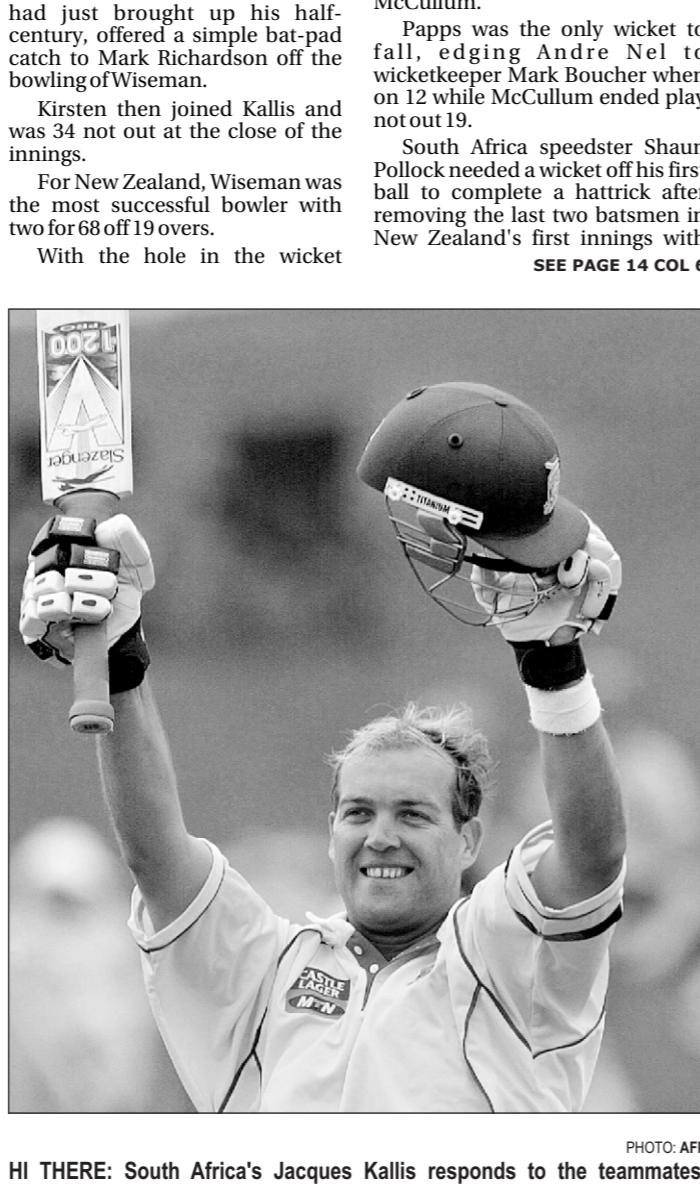


PHOTO: AFP

HI THERE: South Africa's Jacques Kallis responds to the teammates' applause after he reached his century against New Zealand on the fifth and final day of the first Test at Hamilton yesterday.

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AFP, Kingston

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