



Did U Know?

Pakistan were once bowled out by South Africa in Cape Town for 43. Seven of their 11 batsmen scored ducks.



Pavel Nedved
(Czech soccer star)
"I do not want to be seen as leaving without feeling or as being disgruntled."
While announcing his retirement from international soccer.



TEN Sports

India vs Pakistan
Hockey
Repeat at 9:00 am
Serie A
Lazio vs Milan
Live at 11:30 pm

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Everton vs Portsmouth
Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Football Extra
Live at 9:00 am
English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Crystal Palace
Same Day Delay at 2:30 pm
Primera Liga
Barcelona vs Mallorca
Same Day Delay at 1:00 am
(Monday)



Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 1, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?	Galkina	Devers	
Du			
2. Who became Asia Cup cricket champs?	India	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
3. Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title?	Federer	Henman	Agassi
4. Who lifted the 25th nat'l hockey crown?	Usha	MSC	Bangladesh
Army			
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (if any)			

Aussies bank on SL success Gilchrist-led team arrives in India



AFP, Bombay

Stand-in captain Adam Gilchrist said Saturday Australia will seek inspiration from their success in Sri Lanka as they attempt to win the first Test series in India in more than three decades.

Gilchrist, leading Australia in the absence of injured Ricky Ponting, said his team was in a better frame of mind to excel in the Indian conditions after completing a 3-0 Test sweep in Sri Lanka in March.

"We've played a lot of cricket in similar conditions since our last visit to India (in 2001), especially in Sri Lanka which was a significant tour," Gilchrist told reporters after his squad arrived here for a four-Test series.

The opening Test begins in Bangalore on October 6.

"We succeeded in Sri Lanka in

similar conditions and the guys are in a better mind-set and prepared to take on India. We've also been exposed to the Indian conditions a lot in the last few years," said Gilchrist.

Gilchrist was part of the 2001 Australian side which lost a three-match series 2-1 on slow turning tracks in India.

"A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the last tour," he said.

Australia last won a Test series in India in 1969 under Bill Lawry's captaincy.

Gilchrist said Australia would continue to maintain their high standards even in the absence of

Ponting, recovering from a thumb injury and expected to join the squad after the opening Test.

"I'm not here to prove anything or leave my imprint on the Australian team, but to continue the way we play under Ricky's leadership," he said.

"We'll also be speaking to him (Ponting) and see our game goes in the direction he'd have wanted."

India are also likely to miss star batsman Sachin Tendulkar through an elbow injury for the opening match, but Gilchrist said the series would still be very competitive.

"It's a big loss for both the teams," he said.

"But as far as we are concerned, hopefully we'll be able to make it up as we have some quality players in the team. I don't think the excitement will be less because they are not there."

Gilchrist said it was always a

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SCHEDULE

Sept 30-Oct 2: 3-day	Bombay
Oct 6-10: First Test	Bangalore
Oct 14-18: Second Test	Madras
Oct 26-30: Third Test	Nagpur
Nov 3-7: Fourth Test	Bombay

On high sources' advice?



AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's much criticised English coach Bob Woolmer on Saturday defended the decision to bat first in the ICC Champions Trophy match it lost to the West Indies, saying it was based on advice from "high sources".

"Our original plan was to put the West Indies in, if we won the toss and to chase, but the advice we had when we got there was contrary to that and it came from couple of high sources," Woolmer told this news agency in an interview after the team's return.

Woolmer and captain Inzamam-ul-Haq were criticised for choosing to field first after winning the toss in the semifinal match against the West Indies in England

on Wednesday.
The move back-fired as Pakistan was dismissed for a paltry 131 in difficult batting conditions and lost the match by seven wickets.

"Our initial plan throughout the



BOB WOOLMER

tournament was to field first and chase so it took quite a lot of persuading for us to change but unfortunately it backfired on us and in the hindsight we might say we would have liked to bowl."

Woolmer did not name anyone for influencing the decision to bat first after winning the toss.

"But I am quite comfortable with the fact that if I made a mistake, I am prepared to put my hands up and say so but it wasn't done lightly."

Woolmer, who played 19 Tests for England and coached South Africa between 1994-1999, took over as Pakistan coach in June this year.

"We can't regret what we have done, we must learn from our mistakes and we know if we do well we are heroes and if we do bad we are not heroes."

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Svetlana wins Russian duel



AFP, Beijing

US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova beat reigning Wimbledon queen Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals of the \$85,000 dollar China Open here Saturday and now faces number one seed American Serena Williams in the tournament's inaugural final.

Six-time grand slam winner Williams reached Sunday's final by dispatching the third Russian semifinalist Vera Zvonareva 6-2, 6-3.

For Kuznetsova it was her 14th consecutive win since taking the US Open earlier this month and the seventh final she has reached in WTA tournaments since August 2003.

The 19-year-old Russian's powerful serve and accurate ground strokes were too much for the 17-year-old Sharapova who has not been able to find her top form since winning Wimbledon in July.

"Like everyone was saying, the last two Grand Slam champions are playing here. I think this is great, but as soon as I got out on the court I didn't think about it, I just tried to play my game," Kuznetsova said.

"I wasn't expecting the match to be so easy, I came out wanting to fight for every ball and I didn't want to give her anything easy. I had my chances and I used it, I didn't play perfect, but I played my game."

The leggy Sharapova looked good early on, getting off to a quick start by breaking Kuznetsova in the second game of the first set and jumping out to a 3-0 lead.

But in the fourth game, the 19-year-old Kuznetsova broke back and began overpowering the part time model and the darling of the sponsors, who was hampered by unforced errors and missed hits.

"I thought I had the chance for a second break but she was just too good on her side, she played some

great tennis today," a disappointed Sharapova said.
"I think it was her confidence on the court today, she was hitting the ball all over the court and she had a very powerful deep shot."

In the second set, the two com-

patriots and good friends battled to a 2-2 tie, before Kuznetsova broke the Florida-trained Sharapova in the fourth game, ending the match after 65 minutes.

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PHOTO: AFP

DOWN AND OUT: Russian star Maria Sharapova leaves the court after losing in the semifinals to compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova in the China Open in Beijing yesterday.



TIMELY TON: England opener Marcus Trescothick sets off for a run on way to scoring a century against West Indies in the ICC Champions Trophy final at The Oval yesterday.

Afghan hockey team in city

SPORTS REPORTER

Afghanistan arrived in Dhaka yesterday to take part in the international invitation hockey tournament.

The five-nation meet begins at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium on September 30.

Afghanistan was the second team to reach the capital after Oman, who landed here on Friday. Besides, a team from neighboring Myanmar was also expected to arrive last night.

But the star attraction for the Under-21 meet India have yet to send their roster although they have confirmed their participation last week.

ENG-WINDIES SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the England innings against West Indies in the ICC Champions Trophy final at The Oval on Saturday:

ENGLAND				
Trescothick run out (Lara)	104			
Solanki c Browne b Bradshaw	4			
Vaughan b Bradshaw	7			
Strauss run out (Bravo)	18			
Flintoff c Lara b W Hinds	3			
C'wood c C'paul b W Hinds	16			
Jones c Lara b W Hinds	6			
Giles c Lara b Bravo	31			
Wharf not out	3			
ough st Browne b Gayle	0			
Harmison run out (Sarwan)	2			
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-15)	23			
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs)	217			
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-43, 3-84, 4-93, 5-123, 6-148, 7-211, 8-212, 9-214				
Bowler				
Bradshaw	10	1	54	2
Collymore	10	1	38	0
Gayle	9.4	0	52	1
Bravo	10	0	41	1
W Hinds	10	3	24	3
WEST INDIES: Gayle, W Hinds, Sarwan, Lara, Chanderpaul, Powell, Bravo, Browne, R Hinds, Bradshaw, Collymore.				
Toss: West Indies.				
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa) and Simon Taufel (Australia).				

ICC thinks NFL-wise



BBC ONLINE, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is considering a proposal to allow teams to appeal against umpiring decisions.

It would mean captains having the right to refer three decisions per innings made by an on-field official to the TV umpire.

The plan is unlikely to be discussed, however, before a full meeting of the ICC Cricket Committee next year.

If the go-ahead was given, it is

likely that the rule change would be trialled in one-day internationals.

A similar system is already in place in America's National Football League (NFL) with teams permitted to 'challenge' two refereeing decisions per half, resulting in an immediate TV replay review.

The ICC has conducted a number of experiments in recent years with a view to improving the accuracy of decision making.

Research has shown umpires make the right decisions 92 per cent of the time, but the game's world governing body wants to improve the figure to at least 94 per cent.

Umpires have been wired up to

Tigers start training today

SPORTS REPORTER

It is back to training for the Bangladesh cricket team after a week off since returning from England where they took part in the ICC Champions Trophy.

The Tigers, who had two miserable one-day tournaments, will get exactly 23 days to regroup and more importantly hope that their captain Habibul Bashar has recovered enough before the first Test against New Zealand on October 19.

The Kiwis will fly to Dhaka on October 8 for two Tests and three one-day internationals.

Bashar missed the Champions Trophy due to a broken thumb. But the top batsman of the country is confident that he will be ready to take on Stephen Fleming's men.

Bangladesh will also desperately hope fast bowler Mashrafe-bin Mortuza, who was named as one of the 21 probables, proves his fitness before the first Test in Dhaka. The Narail quick has missed the best part of a year after suffering a career threatening knee injury.

The training, which will start at the Army Stadium, focuses on the physical aspects. The nets however will commence at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday provided the weather is good.

Chaotic private soccer day

SPORTS REPORTER

The first-ever football competition involving the private universities of the country got jumbled at the Army Stadium yesterday.

The sixth day of the meet saw one team failing to turn up while in another game one side walked off the ground after playing only 43 minutes.

Independent University got the walkover in the first game after Eastern University failed to take to the field. But the full three points did little to improve Independent University's chances as hosts Stamford University has already confirmed their place in the last four

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Australia fast bowler Brett Lee (L) and opening batsman Matthew Hayden upon their arrival at the Chatrapati Shivaji Airport in Bombay yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP