



Did U Know?

While players may strike the ball with any part of their body except their hands or arms, kicking is still the most



Michael Owen

(Real Madrid's England int'l)

"I have a record of scoring in big games and big tournaments. I am not a kid. I am an experienced international."

Replies to criticism.



DD Sports

India vs Australia
First Test, Day Two
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

Football Crazy
Live at 5:00 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

IFA Shield Soccer
Semi-final
Live at 6:00 pm
Sportsline



COMPETITION 217

Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 15, 2004 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:

2 wks 50 runs

33 runs

2. Who won the China Open tennis title?

Serena Sharapova Hingis

3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (if any)

JFA Cup Day belongs to host sides

SPORTS REPORTER

It was a day for hosts in the JFA Cup under-16 football tournament at different venues across the country yesterday.

Dilip struck four goals as hosts Rajbari recorded a 5-2 victory against Faridpur at the Rajbari Stadium to move into the second round.

Jamalpur also registered a comfortable 3-1 victory against Gazipur.

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Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has vowed to continue with promoting women's football in the country despite threats from a section of fundamentalist zealots.

The BFF launched the first-ever football competition for women at the Bir Shreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur on Monday. But on the following day a group of religious zealots under the banner of Islami Oikya Andolan renewed their hate campaign against the sport, terming it a 'nude exhibition'.

"There is nothing indecent in it and I think they are just trying to create an issue in the name of religion. We have full support from

"Even Iran, Pakistan and other Islamic countries have introduced women's football. What's wrong if our women play football too?"

The government and we are determined to continue to promote women's football in the country," told chairman of the women's football committee Sirajul Islam Bachchu to reporters yesterday in the back drop of more protests by the fundamentalists who have announced a 'gherao' programme of National Sports Council for October 9.

Also a vice-president of BFF, Bachchu cited the example of more conservative countries who have

started encouraging women's football.

"Even Iran, Pakistan and other Islamic countries have introduced women's football. What's wrong if our women play football too?"

"It will tarnish our image internationally if we bow to the pressure from a handful of fundamentalists. Because then they will be encouraged to attack female participation in other sports. We are not ready to accept it," he added.

The veteran football organiser also informed that the government had assured them to provide full security for holding the tournament.

Meanwhile, the day's two scheduled matches were postponed yesterday following heavy rain and Bachchu informed the matches would be held today.

"There is nothing indecent in it and I think they are just trying to create an issue in the name of religion. We have full support from

Australia prosper

REUTERS/AFP, Bangalore



Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble reached 400 Test wickets on the first day of the first Test against Australia on Wednesday, though the milestone failed to stop Simon Katich and debutant Michael Clarke hitting fighting half-centuries.

Katich top-scored with 81 and Clarke was 76 not out as they guided the tourists to 316 for five after being reduced to 149-4 in the afternoon. Adam Gilchrist was 35 not out at the close.

The 29-year-old Katich, batting in the number three position left vacant by injured captain Ricky Ponting, showed tremendous patience before getting on top of Kumble and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh on a powder-pitch, while the 23-year-old Clarke attacked the flagging Indian attack in the final session.

The pair shared in a 107-run fifth-wicket stand after Katich had raised 74 runs for the second wicket with opener Justin Langer, who made 52.

The left-handed Katich dug in for almost four hours, facing 168 balls and looked set for a deserved century when he was bowled by Kapil Dev's 434.

But India did not have too much else to cheer as Australia finished the day strongly.

Debutant Clarke never looked overawed, hitting 11 fours and lofting Kumble for two big sixes and joined Gilchrist to score freely as Australia raised 139 runs in the final session.

Australia, after winning the toss and choosing to bat, began cautiously and looked far from a safe total on a pitch that is already threatening to crumble after Kumble struck twice in quick succession in the afternoon.

The 33-year-old dismissed Damien Martyn to a bat-pad catch in close for three and then had an aggressive Darren Lehmann edging to slips for 17.

Kumble's double-strike came after Langer, who had completed his 21st Test fifty, was yorked by a brutal, swinging delivery from left-

arm paceman Irfan Pathan.

Earlier, Australia reached 70 for one at lunch after opener Matthew Hayden fell for 26 when, after initially curbing his aggression, he failed to keep a sweep down against Harbhajan to be caught at mid-wicket.

The first hour produced only 30 runs in 13 overs, mainly due to a fine opening spell by Pathan who conceded just five runs in seven overs.

India abandoned plans to play three spinners, preferring to go in with two seamers in Zaheer Khan and Pathan and two specialist slow bowlers.

Harbhajan, who took 32 wickets to spark India's 2-1 comeback victory over Australia in 2001, however, returned an expensive 1-105 while Kumble finished with 3-86.

The tourists picked three seamers, Glenn McGrath, Michael Kasprowicz and Jason Gillespie, and a lone spinner Shane Warne on a wicket already aiding turn and bounce. Australia are eyeing their first Test series victory in India since 1969-70.

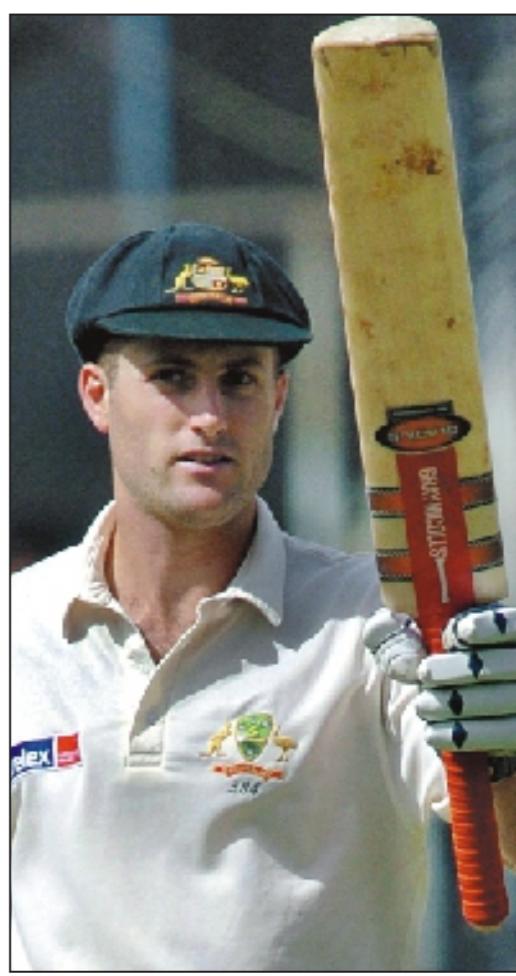
SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first cricket Test between India and Australia at the Chinnaswamy stadium here on Wednesday:

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HEROES OF THE DAY: (L) Prolific India leg-spinner Anil Kumble (L) and his teammates successfully appeal for a catch at forward-short leg against Damien Martyn (not in picture) of Australia on the first day of the first Test in Bangalore yesterday. Kumble later scalped his 400th Test wicket. (R) Australia's Simon Katich, who scored 81, raises his bat on reaching his half-century on the day.



PHOTOS: AP/AF

India Test series against Australia in 2001 due to the injury, had been keen to make an instant impression against a formidable Australian batting line-up for more than one reason.

He won more matches for India than any other bowler with his

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Hosts stumble in rehearsal Bangladesh-India final today



SPORTS REPORTER

corner converted by Mayur Subbaiah in the 32nd minute.

Mamunur Rahman brought Bangladesh back in the match briefly also from a penalty corner in the 44th minute but India replied with two field goals in the 49th and 69th minutes through Bhagwant Singh and Vikas Toppo.

Despite the defeat, Bangladesh coach Qamar Ibrahim was pleased with the performance and said he will adopt a different strategy in the final.

"I was impressed by the way the boys played against their superior opponents. They missed a lot of good chances otherwise the result could have been different. I think experience made the difference," said the former Pakistani international who took over the team a month ago.

Ibrahim was a little concerned though with the side's failure to make the most of penalty corners.

"The boys are still struggling with penalty corners. They are not stopping the ball properly but in hockey you have to utilise even half oppor-

tunities."

India's coach Mukesh Kumar, a former Indian international and a popular figure in this country because of his association with Abahani in 1997, termed the match as a warm-up game and said results were of little significance.

"I wouldn't have minded even if we had lost the match but the win will inspire my side," said Mukesh who also praised the Bangladeshi lads.

"They had enough chances but just failed to capitalise them."

Mukesh also informed that the team that has come to Dhaka was not the original Indian Under-21 squad. Rather it was a combination of fringe players of the Under-18, 19 and 21 selections. "The original Under-21 side is going to Australia later this month."

In the other fixture of the day, Oman scored a solitary goal victory over Myanmar at the BKSP to finish third in the competition. Al-Shibli scored the all-important goal in the sixth minute.

National swimming Six more new nat'l records

SPORTS REPORTER

The second day of the 20th National Swimming Championships was marked by six more new national records at the Army Swimming Complex yesterday.

Bangladesh Navy continued with their dominance securing five gold medals out of ten at stake on the day while BJMC and Bangladesh Ansar bagged two each and BKSP took the other.

Navy's star natant Rubel Rana, the SA Games gold medalist, set another new national record in the 50m backstroke after he had created a new record in the 200m individual medley on the first day.

He took 00:28.89sec, bettering the previous mark by 0.05sec, to win the gold and later contributed in his team's victory in the 4x200m freestyle relay. Mumunur Ahmed, Kazi Monirul Islam and Jewel Ahmed were his partners in the team who won the gold clocking 8:33.51sec.

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Kiwi security boss in city

SPORTS REPORTER

Security manager of New Zealand Cricket Dave Woodman arrived in the capital on Tuesday night to assess the safety measures ahead of the Bangladesh-New Zealand series that begins with a three-day match at BKSP from October 14.

The Kiwis led by Stephan Fleming will embark on their first away series against the Tigers on October 12, the third revised date announced by the Bangladesh Cricket Board. The Board first announced that the Black Caps would be arriving on October 8 and then said on October 11.

Woodman yesterday visited the BKSP and the Bangabandhu National Stadium, which will host the first Test from October 19 and the last two one-day internationals.

The Kiwi security official will also go on a recce of Chittagong where the second Test and the first one-day match will take place.

Woodman is expected to meet with the home ministry officials today.

Rain plays foul with Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team's net practice at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) was postponed yesterday due to heavy rain.

With the worrying news of more rain, the Tigers have already shifted to the BKSP and will train indoors there today. Bangladesh are preparing for the home series against New Zealand, who will arrive in Dhaka on October 12 for two Tests and three one-day internationals.

Desperately looking for an extensive batting practice, coach Dav Whatmore cancelled his charges' weekly rest day on Saturday in an effort to make best use of time available. The national team will get back to the BNS as soon as the outfield is fit for practice.

Anil attains 400-mark

AFP, Bangalore



Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble gave home fans plenty to cheer about when he capped a glorious career by becoming the ninth bowler in Test history to scalp 400 wickets.

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beaten 107 and Malik was 86 not out as Pakistan put their Asia Cup defeat against Sri Lanka two months ago behind them.

Sri Lanka, who won the toss, were derailed mid-way through their innings before reaching 232-9 in their allotted 50 overs, with 53 by Sanath Jayasuriya and 46 by skipper Marvan Atapattu.

"I think restricting Sri Lanka to 232 paved the way for our win and

the rest was done by Youhana and Malik who batted superbly," said Pakistani skipper Inzamamul Haq.

Atapattu said his side lost track in the middle overs.

"We were comfortably placed by the 35th over but we had a mid-innings collapse which didn't help our cause," Atapattu said.

"We batted first because the history of this ground tells that teams batting first won three of the last five matches and it was a good batting track."

Pakistan, who beat Zimbabwe in the previous two matches of the series, qualify for the October 16 final with 16 points while Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka have one point each.

Youhana and Malik joined forces to blunt the tourists' attack with an unbroken stand of exactly 200 after Pakistan lost Yasir Butt (13) and Salman Butt (17) inside 12 overs.

You