



Did U Know?

The fastest motorcycle road circuit is said to be the Francorchamps Circuit in Belgium. It is 8 miles 134.0 yards (14.100 kilometres) in length and was lapped by the late British champion Barry Sheene at 135 kmph.

What to WATCH

- DD Sports**
India vs Australia
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 10:00 am
- ESPN**
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Portsmouth vs Tottenham Hotspur
Live at 12:55 am (Tuesday)
- STAR Sports**
Tennis Masters Series, Madrid
First Round
Live at 3:00 pm
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post **The Daily Star**

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 29, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

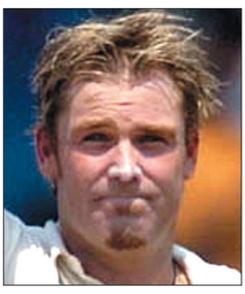
1. West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:	2 wickets	50 runs	33 runs
2. Who won the China Open tennis title?	Serena Sharapova	Hingis	
3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?	83	84	81
4. Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?	Sarwan Lara	Flintoff	

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Shane Warne
(Australian master leg-spinner)
"It's been a long time. I never thought I'd be in this situation when I first started. Obviously it felt pretty special. It was a special moment, especially here in India."
After surpassing Muralitharan's mark of 532 wickets

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT
Kazipara Cricket Club defeated Sarkerpara Cricket Club by 21 runs in the Dana Mia Cup cricket tournament at District Eidgah ground yesterday.
Kazipara decided to bat first after winning the toss and scored 120 for 9 in stipulated 30 overs while Sarkerpara, in reply, were bundled out for 99.
Safayat was top scorer for the winners with 58 and later he claimed three wickets. He was adjudged man-of-the-match.

McCullum up for it

SPORTS REPORTER

Wicketkeeping is a tough job and it becomes even more challenging for visiting stumpers to the sub-continent where the pitches produce treacherous bounce sometimes.

New Zealand's Brendon McCullum is one man ready to take up that challenge during the tour of Bangladesh.

"I am pretty pleased with our preparation here leading to the Test match. During the three-day warm-up match, the wicket was nice and the facilities were great. The opponents were highly competitive too," the 23-year-old McCullum said after the morning practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

McCullum was under no illusion that his skills will be tested in this series.

"The bounce has been up and down at times. Sometimes it kept a little bit low in the warm-up game. The pace bowlers would make good use of this but I am really excited about the challenge of standing up to the spinners, especially Daniel Vettori. It would be a great challenge mentally as well as physically. I want to come out of it with more experience," he said.

No mean player with the bat, McCullum wants to contribute to the team in every way he can. Having already scored a half-century in the tour opener, he is now eyeing his maiden Test century.

"Down the order, I am looking to provide solidity and add some runs."

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No Bashar in first Test?

SPORTS REPORTER



Pan Pacific Singapore Test Series 2004

Bangladesh vs New Zealand

With just only a day to go, Habibul Bashar's chances to play in the first Test against New Zealand looks slim as the Bangladesh captain skipped training yesterday.

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Bashar, recovering from an injury and subsequent surgery on his right thumb, received another blow on the same finger during Thursday's nets and has avoided practice since.

The team management is expected to wait until the last minute for the inclusion of the country's top batsman who has scored more than 2,000 Test runs. As a precaution, the national selectors have already named a 14-member squad, taking in a backup for Bashar.

If Bashar is ruled out of the Dhaka Test starting tomorrow, it will be the first time the Tigers will play a Test without him. In that event, the Bangladesh Cricket Board will also have to do an additional job of naming a stand-in captain in his absence.

Vice-captain Rajin Saleh, who had to take over the reigns for the ICC Champions Trophy in similar circumstances, might not be as lucky this time around as former captain Khaled Mashud looks to get the nod ahead of the youngest captain of the country.

The Bangladesh team, after having a full-fledged net session in the morning at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, attended a special session with coach Dav Whatmore in the afternoon, discussing the plus points and weaknesses of the New Zealand team for the first time.

The Black Caps top-order's ability to play long innings is considered as a big headache for the Tigers and if anyone is capable of stopping them, it would be Mohammad Rafique.

The ace Bangladesh left-arm spinner also exuded the confidence that if he could maintain the right line and length, even the best batsman would struggle.

"They have very good batsmen but it would be tough for them to cope with the conditions here. Yet I cannot say whether this wicket, still being prepared for the first Test, will help the pacers or the slow bowlers because we will be playing here after a long time," Rafique told reporters after the Tigers' morning practice session.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN
YOU'RE A GOOD ENOUGH CAPTAIN: Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (R) talks to former skipper Khaled Mashud during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Pakistan name SL Test squad

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan made five changes Sunday from their one-day squad for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka with recalls for batsmen Imran Farhat and Asim Kamal and leg-spinner Danish Kaneria.

Pakistan, who went down to Sri Lanka in the final of a one-day tri-series on Saturday, meet their South Asian rivals in the first of two Tests in Faisalabad from October 20.

"We have recalled opener Farhat for he has a good Test record and a hundred against India in the last home series, and Kamal and Kaneria are Test specialists," chief selector Wasim Bari told this news agency.

Dropped from the one-day squad are opener Salman Butt, all-rounder Shahid Afridi, pacer Rao Iftikhar and batsmen Misbahul Haq and Bazid Khan, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced.

Regular Test opener Taufeeq Umar was also not considered for

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It can go either way

AFP, Madras



AUSTRALIA II INDIA 2004-05

Australia, 141 runs behind on the first innings, recovered from an overnight score of 150-4 to post 369 in their second knock on the fourth day.

India, set a victory target of 229 to draw level in the four-match series, went to stumps on 19-0 with Virender Sehwag on 12 and Yuvraj Singh on seven.

The rivals return on the fifth and final day on Monday aware that all four results, including a tie, are possible on the slow, but wearing, wicket.

No team has successfully chased so many runs at the Chepauk. The highest fourth

innings total to win a Test at this venue was India's 155-8 against Australia in the previous series in 2001.

A remarkable battle between bat and ball on Sunday left both teams with an even chance to secure victory.

The overnight pair of Martyn and nightwatchman Jason Gillespie batted till three overs before tea, defying the Indians for 56 overs to add 139 for the fifth wicket.

Gillespie, sent in late on Saturday evening after the fall of captain Adam Gilchrist, stood his ground gallantly for more than four hours to make 26.

The duo took the score to 230-4 by lunch and then added 54 runs in the afternoon session to fashion Australia's batting revival.

Martyn, who reached his century with a six off Anil Kumble, also hit 11 fours.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh broke through just before tea when he removed both Martyn and Gillespie in the space of four deliveries to catches by Rahul Dravid in the slips.

Ganguly rotated his bowlers

under the hot sun and even brought himself on for three overs, but failed to get the break till Harbhajan's late strikes.

Leg-spinner Kumble went wicketless for 21 overs on his 34th birthday Sunday before removing Darren Lehmann and Shane Warne in three balls for yet another five-wicket haul.

Kumble, who took his 400th wicket in the first Test, followed his 7-48 in the first innings here with 6-133 in the second to finish with 10 or more wickets in a match for the sixth time.

India's young wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel, whose shoddy work behind the stumps has attracted widespread criticism, continued to flounder on Sunday.

For the second time in the match, Patel gave Australia five penalty runs when the ball slipped out of his gloves and hit the helmet lying on the ground behind him.

The 19-year-old, playing in his 18th Test, has dropped three catches in the match so far, but hit a half-century to lift India to a 141-run first innings lead.

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PHOTO: STAR
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY: New Zealand cricketers go through a strength-testing session as part of their training at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Chess Olympiad Bangladesh men lose to Czechs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's team suffered a 0-4 defeat against Czech Republic in the second round of the 36th Chess Olympiad at Calvia in Spain on Saturday.

Grand Master (GM) Ziaur Rahman lost his board to his counterpart David Navara, International Master (IM) Abdullah Al-Rakib was beaten by GM Vlastimil Babula, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib lost to GM Tomas Oral and FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed went down against GM Petr Haba.

Bangladesh women's team, which lost their first round game, drew with Albania in the second round.

Zakia Sultana beat Roela Paskun, Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa shared point with Rozana Cima and Nazrana Khan Iva lost to Driza Arta.

U-19 World Cup BCB's open selection trials

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is going to conduct a series of open selection trials for the 2006 Under-19 World Cup.

The interested players have been asked to take part in the trials in the respective venues. The venues are: Chittagong Divisional Stadium (October 19), Bogra District Stadium (October 24), BKSP (October 26), Khulna (October 30). The players, who are currently members of the BCB high performance unit, are not required to attend the trials.

Kumble confident

REUTERS/AFP, Madras



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January. Largely as a result of his efforts in sapping humidity, India were left to chase 229 for victory. At the close the home side were 19 for no wicket.

"Getting these wickets really rates high," Kumble said. "After being 1-0 down, it was important that we gave ourselves a good chance."

"If we had known beforehand that we would be in this position after Day Four, we would have taken it."

Although no team has scored more than 155 to win at Chepauk, Kumble described the target as "gettable".

"The first session has always been good for batters here," he said. "Hopefully we will get some runs and go to lunch in a comfortable position. Then we should make it."

The day's Australian hero Damien Martyn was also confident

of winning. "We have posted a score anyway and going by stats it is going to be tough to chase," said Martyn.

"History shows it is always tough to go for runs on the last day. If we can get one or two wickets in the first hour then India will be on the back-foot."

"I think we can bowl them out for less than that. Losing 20 runs tonight didn't help, but tomorrow is set up for a great day's cricket," said Martyn.

"And Warnie (Shane Warne) is a massive thing for us in any Test match. He will be the key."

Martyn scored an excellent 104 to help set India 229 to win. The right-hander said he was pleased with his eighth century in

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No racism in ZCU: ICC

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Lahore

A special report by an International Cricket Council (ICC) inquiry commission has ruled there is no evidence of racism within the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU).

ICC president Ehsan Mani told a news conference on Sunday after a meeting of the ICC Executive Board that a 73-page report by the commission had rejected the allegations, made by a group of Zimbabwe players unhappy with selection policy.

The ICC said a probe had found no evidence of racism in the ZCU and that the Test status of the country's team was never in question. "The ICC conducted an inquiry to

probe racism, allegations of racism, in Zimbabwe cricket and the two-member panel found absolutely no evidence of racism in Zimbabwe cricket," Mani told the press conference.

Cricket in the African country is in turmoil following a strike by 15 white players led by former captain Heath Streak who alleged racism in Zimbabwe cricket in April.

The ZCU refuted the allegations, sacked the rebel players and has subsequently been forced to field a weak and inexperienced side under young captain Tatenda Taibu.

Following Zimbabwe's humiliating defeat in two Tests against Sri Lanka and eight consecutive one-day losses, the ICC suspended Zimbabwe's Test status until the end of this year and launched an inquiry into the allegations.

The sport's governing body met in Lahore over the weekend to discuss a report on the allegations as well as review the sport's international structure.

The 73-page report, on which the future of cricket in Zimbabwe hinged, had been compiled by India's Solicitor General Goolam Vahanvati and South African High Court Judge Steven Majiedt.

Mani said Sunday that despite the probe, "Zimbabwe's Test status was never under threat."

"The ICC and the ZCU agreed to suspend the Test status until the end of this year after the ZCU was forced to field an inexperienced side," he said. "We agreed that these youngsters must be exposed to one-day cricket and minor level cricket first."

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PHOTO: AFP
HAPPY BIRTHDAY: India leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who turned 34 on October 17, celebrates taking the wicket of Michael Kasprovicz of Australia on the fourth day of the second Test in Madras yesterday.