



## Did U Know?

The first batsman to be dismissed on 99 in a ODI was Geoffrey Boycott v/s Australia at Oval on 20-08-1980.

## What to WATCH

- STAR Sports**  
Bangladesh vs New Zealand  
Second Test, Day One  
Live at 9:20 am  
Sportsline  
Live at 8:00 pm
- DD Sports**  
India vs Australia  
Third Test, Day One  
Live at 10:00 am
- ESPN**  
Football Focus  
Live at 6:30 pm  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm



**Michael Owen**  
(Real Madrid's England striker)  
"This goal has given me more confidence. I haven't hit my best level yet but that can't be too far away."

After scoring his first league goal

**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

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

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (if any) .....

## Mariners win big again

SPORTS REPORTER

Mariner Youngs Club recorded their second successive victory in the Club Cup hockey tournament thrashing Farashganj Sporting Club 8-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mariners, who brushed aside Bangladesh Railway 14-0 in their group opener, went ahead two minutes after the start and were leading 5-0 at the break.  
Prashanta slammed three goals, Yamin Vatti netted two while Belal, SEE PAGE 14 COL 8



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

LET'S NOT SLIP ANYTHING: New Zealanders (L-R) Nathan Astle, Matthew Sinclair and Stephen Fleming do slip-catching practice during their training session at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. The second and final Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand begins here today.

## Mashud cries for support Chittagong Test starts today

RABEED IMAM from Chittagong



Pressure is telling on the Bangladesh team. So much so that it has prompted a rallying cry from stand-in skipper Khaled Mashud ahead of the second and final Test against New Zealand starting here today.  
Smarting from an innings and 99-run defeat in the first Test in Dhaka, the Tigers have arrived in an unusually subdued Chittagong with fan interest at its lowest ebb in years. Naturally, a lot of criticism has been thrown at the team following their recent performances and the players have also been targets of the odd rebuke from frustrated supporters. But Mashud feels this is the time when support is most needed.  
"We haven't played well and I can understand the anger. But we have to have the home supporters' backing now more than ever. A lot of things have been said, many things have been written in newspapers about us but my appeal to the crowd will be that this is your team

playing so please rally around it. Besides, I would like the fans to remember that because of this cricket team, we have earned international recognition and many good things have also happened," said Mashud after yesterday morning's practice at the MA Aziz Stadium.  
Mashud, deputising for injured Habibur Bashar, said the younger players are the ones most affected

by criticism.  
"There are a lot of newcomers. They are already under pressure to perform. If the fans are behind them, they will realise that it is a demand that they do well. That is very important."

Regarding Bashar's absence, Mashud said the dashing right-hander would be seriously missed.  
"He is someone who takes the attack to the opposing bowlers. When other players see him taking charge, they feel inspired to do the same. So that will be something we will be missing," said Mashud who still felt the team had the potential to do well here.

"In the first Test, we could not perform to our ability. We are a much better team and it is our challenge to show that."

Coach Dav Whatmore was also talking on similar lines.  
"If we are able to post 300 runs and they have a hundred lead and we go and post some runs in the second innings, then they have to bat on a tricky surface on the fifth

## TEAMS

**BANGLADESH** (from): Khaled Mashud (Captain), Javed Omar, Nafees Iqbal, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Ashraful, Aftab Ahmed, Alok Kapali, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique, Manzurul Islam, Enamul Haque (Jr.) and Tapas Baisya.  
**NEW ZEALAND** (from): Stephen Fleming (Captain), Mark Richardson, Matthew Sinclair, Nathan Astle, Scott Styris, Brendon McCullum, Jacob Oram, James Franklin, Daniel Vettori, Ian Butler, Paul Wiseman, Hamish Marshall, Kyle Mills and Chris Martin. Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia), Mark Benson (England).

## Tk 800 tickets sold so far!

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Two groups of youngsters were disconcertingly uneven and uncared-for patch of land adjacent to the MA Aziz Stadium known as the outer stadium.

It was a perfect picture portraying interest in cricket if you want to gloat over the game's popularity in Bangladesh but a closer inspection would reveal that the attraction did not go beyond that dusty field.

"We are very disappointed with our team. They play well abroad but can not perform at home. We want an answer why this is happening? We won't go to the ground tomorrow. What's the use?" said one of the teenagers Mamun.

According to local sources only 800 taka worth of tickets had been sold till yesterday afternoon although that information could not be verified.

A boy called Rajib, barely in his teens, was timing the red taped tennis ball beautifully. Flicking, driving, defending by going behind the ball impeccably, left-hander Rajib was a hero to his mates. His defensive technique was so good that you can't help, albeit

## Inter-club transfers on Victoria dominate trading



SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Victoria Sporting Club and Bangladesh Biman dominated the bourse on the opening day of the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer that got underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Back-to-back Premier League winners Victoria was the first team to upset the pre-transfer speculation when they retained the services of left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak. It was widely expected that the slow bowler, one of the 13 cricketers bracketed in the national pool, would join Mohammedan Sporting Club.

But the Khulna cricketer, who was reported for having a suspect action on debut during the Asia Cup and has been going through a rectifying process now, relieved the Victorians.

Victoria also held on to the services of middle-order batsman Anisur Rahman, opener Rafiqul Islam, wicketkeeper Mohammad Salim and all-rounder Nuruzzaman.

Besides, they also lured Mohammedan's opener Ehsanul Haque, Development Squad

paceman Shafaq Al Zahir, BKSP's talented batsman Shakib Al Hassan, and Brothers Union opener Gazi Salahuddin.

The Arambagh-based club has also confirmed the services of their coach Mohammad Salahuddin, who transformed the mediocre team into a winning force since taking over after the sad demise of Dawlatuzzaman.

Biman, who escaped relegation last year, was the other big Premier League Club that enjoyed a happy harvesting. In an effort to strengthen their batting line-up the national flag-carrier roped in ex-national cricketer Sanwar Hossain from Mohammedan, all-rounder Humayun Kabir (Indira Road) and City Club's wicket-keeper-batsman Sajjad Kadir.

They have also signed up Mohammad Sharif, the national pace bowler who is trying to make a comeback after a long groin injury, Abahani's seamer Russel, Surjo Tarun's left-arm spinner Elias Sunny and Mosharrar Hossain of Brothers.

The national airline also confirmed that prolific opening batsman Rashedul Haque, experienced left-arm pacer Anisur Rahman and wicketkeeper Golam Mortuza would be staying.

Although Mohammedan missed out on getting spinner Razzak, the popular Motijheel

outfit however gained some solace with the capture of Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza from City Club. The Narail quick, a late arrival at the transfer market, is looking forward to taking the ball after missing a year due to chronic injury.

Starving for Premier League glory for the last five years, Mohammedan however roped in Victoria's out-of-favour national left-arm pacer Manjurul Islam, picked up City Club's middle-order batsman Mazharul Haque and promising Dhanmondi Club batsman Wasel Uddin.

While Mohammedan made some gains on the opening day their bitter rivals and a permanent force in the domestic scene Abahani Kirira Chakra did not turn up.

The popular Dhanmondi-based club might be the biggest losers this season as a number of high-profile names including their long-serving captain Akram Khan have decided to find a new place.

Abahani's absence has inspired Brothers Union officials to hold talks with Javed Omar, Tapash Baisya and Aftab Ahmed who were set to join Abahani.

A total of 41 cricketers took part in the opening day's transfer with 32 deciding to switch clubs.



PHOTO: STAR

YOU'RE ALSO STAYING BACK? Spinner Abdur Razzak (2nd from L) and batsman Anisur Rahman shake hands after both signed for Victoria Sporting Club for another year at the Conference Room of the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Sachin, pitch take centre stage

### Crucial Nagpur Test begins today

REUTERS, Nagpur

India captain Sourav Ganguly expressed his dismay and Australia's Adam Gilchrist his delight as the grassy wicket in Nagpur became the centre of attention on the eve of the third Test.  
"We're playing at home, where our main strength is spin. But this kind of wicket takes that advantage away from us," Ganguly told reporters on Monday.  
"I asked the groundsman a few days ago for the grass to be removed but he's not done much. The curator here is the man in charge and he has his own ideas."  
Gilchrist said he had been pleasantly surprised.  
"It looks like a perfect Australian wicket," he said. "But we're not jumping around. We've to see what it looks like tomorrow morning. We'll still have to play well to win."  
Australia, seeking their first Test series win on Indian soil since 1969, lead the four-match series 1-0.  
The wicket at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium is normally perfect for batting, but this time around it has an even spread of seam-friendly grass on it. There is also dampness to encourage swing.  
Ganguly would have preferred a drier, balder track to assist his spinners Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

Curator Kishore Pradhan, however, defended his work.  
"It'll turn later in the match. I've made a standard wicket and I don't see what all the fuss is about," he told this news agency.  
India, with Sachin Tendulkar returning from a tennis elbow injury, were also debating on Monday about who should open the batting alongside Virender Sehwag.  
Yuvraj Singh, more a batting all-rounder, took on the role in the drawn second Test but an Indian team source said specialist opener Akash Chopra would get the nod in Nagpur.

"Chopra is definitely in the fray," Ganguly said on Monday.  
Chopra has been criticised for batting too slowly but played an important part in India's drawn series in Australia last year by holding up one end.  
Mohammad Kaif is likely to miss out despite a career-best 64 on his return to Test cricket in Madras last week, while Mumbai medium-pace Ajit Agarkar will play, replacing Irfan Pathan who has a side strain.  
Australia, having considered the wicket, have added paceman Brett Lee to their 12-man team ahead of Nathan Hauritz.  
"Lee will give us a definite option," Gilchrist said. "But we'll decide after looking at the wicket tomorrow morning."  
But the batting line-up will be unchanged until the fourth Test, when regular skipper Ricky Ponting

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PHOTO: AFP

YOU SEE, THIS PITCH IS DIFFERENT: Australia opener Justin Langer discusses something about the pitch with India batsman Rahul Dravid during their practice sessions at Nagpur yesterday.

## Corporate cricket Cup line-up complete

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's mobile phone operating houses maintained their impressive run in the second edition of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League as all three participants reached the Cup competition at the end of the first phase yesterday.

Tournament sponsor Grameen-Phone, who made a poor start in Group B, won their last two matches to book a berth in the second stage of the top six sides.

Top three teams from both groups compete in the Cup while the bottom three from each group play for the consolation Plate trophy.

In the fifth and final round yesterday, GrameenPhone (106) defeated Gazi Tank (82-9) by 24 runs in the

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## Harbhajan scare for hosts India

REUTERS, Nagpur

Off spinner Harbhajan Singh is doubtful for Tuesday's third Test against Australia because of fever, adding to India's fitness worries as they try to square the four-Test series.

Harbhajan, who has taken 51 wickets in seven matches against Australia, missed practice on Monday although a team official said he was hopeful he would recover in time.  
Nicknamed the "Turbanator" after taking 32 wickets to inspire

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## Test-by-Test at MA Aziz Stadium



LENIN GANI

The MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong plays host to the second Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand that gets underway today.

This will be the sixth match for the country's second Test venue since making its debut on November 15, 2001 when Zimbabwe played here.

The highest total on this ground belongs to the southern African team which scored 542-7 declared while the lowest is 138 by Bangladesh against England last year.  
In the inaugural Test three

batsmen made centuries (Andy Flower 114 not out, Craig Wishart 114 and Trevor Gripper 112).

But South Africa's Jacques Rudolph and stylish Pakistani Yousef Youhana hold the distinction of completing unbeaten double hundreds respectively. Youhana was 204 not out while Rudolph's defiant 222 was extra special as it was made on the southpaw's debut.

Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar is the only local player in the magical three-figure club.

In the bowling records Paul Adams is the player to have taken 10 wickets in a match.

Following are some interesting statistics on Test matches played at the venue:

## FACTBOX

Highest totals by visiting teams		
542-7d	1st inns	Zimbabwe 2001
470-2d	1st inns	South Africa 2003
465-9d	1st inns	Pakistan 2002
326-10	1st inns	England 2003
296-10	1st inns	West Indies 2002
Highest totals by Bangladesh		
301-10	2nd inns	v Zimbabwe 2001
251-10	1st inns	v Zimbabwe 2001
212-10	2nd inns	v West Indies 2002

Lowest totals by Bangladesh		
Score	Against	Year
138	England	2003
148	Pakistan	2002
148	Pakistan	2002

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