



Did U Know?

Lawrence Rowe is the only WI player to score centuries in both innings of his first test match.



TALK TURKEY



Muttiah Muralitharan
(Sri Lankan spin wizard)
"I sincerely believe that I will be allowed to bowl the 'doosra' again."

What to WATCH

STAR Sports
Bangladesh vs New Zealand
Second Test, Day Four
Live at 9:20 am
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm
Swiss Indoors Tennis
Live at 8:30 pm

DD Sports
India vs Australia
Third Test, Day Four
Live at 10:00 am

TEN Sports
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 10:15 am

ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID
OMPETITION 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 wkts	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	Flintoff	Lara
Name			
Class	Roll No		
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

First JFA Cup semi today

SPORTS REPORTER

Barguna will take on Narsinghdi in the first semifinal of the JFA Cup under-16 football tournament today. The match will kick-off at 2.15 pm at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. Feni face Rajshahi in the second semifinal tomorrow at the same venue. The final is slated for November 1.

Just not worth it

AL-AMIN



If you are sick and tired of writing about a cricket match involving the Bangladesh cricket team against any side, a piece of advice: don't bother to file a fresh story. All you have to do is just change the date, venue and scores of the terrible Tigers. The rest will fall into place as you just have to take the trouble of using the 'cut and paste' option on your PC. And that's enough for the day or night depending when you are filing the report. For a confused reader this is just journalesse. This is how Bangladesh is playing the game of cricket these days.

One half of the story is that the toothless Tigers bowl their hearts out and wait for the opposition to declare. Then it is the turn of the batters to come out with all their limited abilities (don't believe they are a bundle of talent!) only to surrender within a couple of hours. One would expect that being the home side is an advantage as you are playing in known conditions and on a tailor-made pitch to suit your strengths (!?) in front of a strong local crowd. But playing at home has so far proven to be a nightmare for Bangladesh. And then there are some common features that are at times so irritating one wonders is it worth the trouble of describing the day's events. The same players, the same

mistakes and above all the same result. You can cry out loud trying to teach them that the essence of a five-day match is all about occupation of the crease and building partnerships. But the majority of our batsmen after giving the impression that they have understood every piece of advice go into the middle, play a couple of defensive shots and then do the unthinkable. The commit suicide. So much for all the briefings and long hours in the nets! Stand-in Bangladesh skipper Khaled Mashud before the second Test in Chittagong urged that the fans should rally behind them as the team was going through a rough patch. It worked as the knowledgeable cricket followers in the port city

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SERIES SALAD

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

Having managed to lose 15 wickets in one day, the Tigers for the umpteenth time left an eternally expectant home crowd with a bitter taste in their mouths. "Our batsmen possess a unique tendency to surrender far too often. It's the same old picture, barring Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique or Tapash Baisya who have some fight in them," said a glum Imran, a City College student. While the Tigers were getting lost in the deadly maze of Daniel Vettori and Paul Wiseman, Mohammad Rafique decided to go down all guns blazing. His cameo knocks of 32 (40 balls, 3x6, 2x4) in the first innings and unbeaten 30 off 34 (1x6, 5x4) in the second were the only treat for spectators yesterday. Rajin Saleh also provided some solace by hitting two over boundaries.

"Those six sixes were the only comfort to come out of the match" said an uncharacteristically subdued Ali Abbas, the Cricket Secretary of Chattagram Jila Krira Sangstha. **SHAW IS SHINING HERE TOO** Having won over the Dhaka crowd with antics, the die-hard New Zealand fan Sonny Shaw has been spreading his infectious enthusiasm among the supporters at the MA Aziz Stadium also for the first three days of the Test. He roams around different parts of the galleries carrying a New Zealand flag and often entices the local crowd by shouting "Bangladesh Bhua (Bangladesh in no good)" just to make fun. The home supporters also did not lose any opportunity to return the compliment when the Tigers batted. The chorus "New Zealand Bhua" greeted every four or six.

Shaw was a particular hit with young cricket fans. Some school students were following him as if he was a pied piper while singing and dancing. **EVEN NEW ZEALANDERS ARE UPSET!** The Tigers yesterday not only frustrated the home crowd but also one New Zealander. "This is sheer stupidity. They played cross-batted shots!" exclaimed a surprised Martin Walterson, a sports reporter from New Zealand Radio Service referring to the identical dismissals of two local boys Nafees Iqbal and Aftab Ahmed. Martin felt the Tigers had only themselves to blame for the situation they were in. "You see the pitch today was not that vicious. So, what the Bangladeshi batsmen needed was to show a bit of patience."



VENOMOUS VETTORI: New Zealand spinner Daniel Vettori, who has so far taken 10 Bangladesh wickets, celebrates taking one of his eight victims on the third day of the Chittagong Test at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bashar available for ODI series

SPORTS REPORTER

Habibul Bashar will be available for the one-day series against New Zealand, chief selector Faruque Ahmed told yesterday. The Bangladesh captain, who missed both Test matches, has been declared fit by the team physio and will return as captain for the three one-day internationals. The selectors have already picked the squad for the first one-day to be held in Chittagong on November 2. "We have submitted the team to the Board and it will announce it tomorrow," Faruque said while talking to The Daily Star last night. It was learnt that the selectors have decided to make three changes from the team that is playing in the second Test. The second and third ODIs will be held in Dhaka under lights on November 5 and 7.

Corporate cricket Shahriar stars for GrameenPhone

SPORTS REPORTER

A dashing 61 by Shahriar Hossain helped GrameenPhone upset defending champions Araf Apparels by 38 runs on the opening day of the Cup competition in the Grameen-Phone Corporate Cricket league yesterday. GrameenPhone, after electing to bat in the Twenty20 match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, amassed 143 for seven with Tushar Imran contributing second highest 35. In reply, Araf reached 105-5 in the stipulated 20 overs. CityCell (100-6) recorded a six-wicket victory against Robintex (96) also at the BNS but the other cellular phone operating house AKTEL (102) were not so successful when they lost to title aspirants Biman (133-9) by 31 runs at BKSP ground. In the Plate competition, Partex

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A NARROW MISS: Australia's Simon Katich is about to pull one on way to scoring a stroky 99 in the second innings on the third day of the third Test against India at Nagpur yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Aussies dictate terms

AFP, Nagpur



World champions Australia marched boldly towards their first series win in India in 35 years after taking an imposing 415-run lead with seven wickets in hand in the third Test here on Thursday. The tourists, who did not enforce the follow-on despite leading India by 213 on the first innings, rode on an aggressive 99 from Simon Katich to reach 202-3 in their second knock by stumps on the third day. Australia, who lead the four-match rubber 1-0, have two days to drive the final nail in India's coffin and seal a series victory for the first time on Indian soil since 1969. Adam Gilchrist's men, who made 398 in their first innings, bowled India out for 185 and chose to bat a second time on the even-paced wicket which is still affording bounce and movement to the fast bowlers. Australia also did not enforce the follow-on in the first Test at

Bangalore, which they went on to win by 217 runs. The decision to play it safe was probably influenced by the stunning turnaround in the Kolkata Test in 2001 when India beat the Australians despite being made to follow on 274 runs behind. But India will face a Herculean task to conjure up an encore when Gilchrist declares his second innings sometime on Friday, leaving the hosts at least five sessions to bat out for a draw. India's frustration came to a boil after lunch when stand-in captain Rahul Dravid exchanged hot words with Justin Langer after an appeal for leg-before had been turned down against the left-hander. Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar was forced to step in and cool tempers as the usually unflappable Dravid gesticulated angrily at Langer. Langer, who batted dourly to make 30 off 119 deliveries, was shown the way to the pavilion by many Indian fielders when he lofted Murali Kartik to Venkatsai Laxman on the mid-wicket fence. Langer's opening partner Matthew Hayden had been dismissed cheaply for nine, but Katich and Langer put on 80 for the second wicket.

Katich then added 72 for the third wicket with Damien Martyn before falling one run short of a second Test century when he played back to Kartik and was trapped leg-before. At stumps, Martyn was unbeaten on 41 and Michael Clarke was on 10. In the morning India lost their last five wickets for 39 after resuming their first innings on the overnight score of 146-5. Fast bowler Jason Gillespie picked up three of those wickets with the second new ball to finish with five for 56, his eighth five-wicket haul in 57 Tests. Glenn McGrath, who wrecked India's top order on Wednesday with 2-18 from 20 overs, added the wicket of Mohammad Kaif to end with 3-27 in his 100th Test match. Kaif, 47 overnight, struck his second consecutive half-century in the series before edging a McGrath out-swing to Shane Warne at first slip after making 55. Leg-spinner Warne began the rout with the wicket of overnight batsman Parthiv Patel, who was caught in the slips by Hayden for 20. Gillespie removed both Ajit Agarkar and Kartik to catches at second slip by Michael Clarke and

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Club Cup hockey MSC stretched by Sonali Bank

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded a hard fought 4-2 win over Sonali Bank to ensure a semifinal berth in the Club Cup hockey tournament yesterday. The Group A match was locked at 2-2 in the first half at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium but twin strikes Mamunur Rahman Chayan sealed the third consecutive victory for the black whites. Chayan converted two penalty corners in the 45th and 48th minute after Mohammedan struggled against the bankers who were leading 2-1 at one stage. Ashraful Islam Shishu opened the scoring for the defending champions after 11 minutes but Sumon and Sweet put Sonali Bank ahead before Maksud Alam Habul restored parity. In the day's other match, three goals by Raju sarkar inspired Wari Club to edge Sadharan Bima 4-3 in an exciting match. It was Wari's first win after two defeats, Gautam scored another goal for the winners while Mamun struck twice and Rashed one for Bima.

BANGLADESH-NZ SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the third day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Thursday:

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Whatmore puts a spin on it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Bangladesh cricket coach Dav Whatmore was disappointed after his side lost 15 wickets on a sunny, good day at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday. The Australian said after the third day's play that he had thought that some of the local boys would be comfortable with the bat. "But it was different. We got a dusty wicket that favoured spin. Their quality spinners got good support from the fielders who took some good catches," Whatmore said. "They batted under pressure, feeling not comfortable with the

fielders' eyes so close to the bat," explained the 50-year-old. "There were a lot of cases of not being able to face fast balls and giving wickets to spins. If we could've put on 400/500 runs, then with the spinners likely to take more wickets, things would have been different. "There was good batting conditions on Day One and till the second half of the day to help the tourists put on 545 runs, which was a very big total," he added. Whatmore, however, was a bit pleased with lower-order batsmen. "Rafique did well with both the ball and bat taking nine wickets in two matches and getting some runs as well. "Javed Omar scored a fifty in the

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Razzaq revives Pakistan



REUTERS/AFP, Karachi

All-rounder Abdul Razzaq took a career best five for 35 as the depleted Pakistan attack dismissed Sri Lanka for 208 on the opening day of the second Test on Thursday. Razzaq, playing in his 30th match, fully compensated for the absence of injured strike bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Sami to give his side a great opportunity to square the two-match series. A defiant ninth-wicket stand of 44 between Romesh Kaluwitharana (54) and Rangana Herath (12) restored some respectability to the scorecard before the visitors were dismissed in the final over of the day. Kaluwitharana held the innings together with his 104-ball innings, which included four fours and one six, after Sri Lanka had slipped to 164 for eight after tea. He fell in the penultimate over before the close, caught behind off leg-spinner Danish Kaneria. In the next over Razzaq had Herath caught behind to wrap up the innings. Razzaq who recorded his best bowling figures in 12 Tests after his four for 25 against the West Indies in Sharjah in February, 2002, accounted for first Test centurion Thilan Samaraweera, Jehan Mubarak, Chaminda Vaas and Farveez Maharoof. He followed up the good work by Kaneria, who took two for 11 before

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ON A ROLL: Pakistan's Abdul Razzaq, who took career-best 5-35, is in his follow through after a delivery to a Sri Lankan batsman on the first day of the second Test at Karachi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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