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Did U Know?

The lowest score in a Test innings is 26 - made by New Zealand against England at Auckland in 1954-55.



Mohammad Kaif

(India batsman)
"I will not walk. The umpire has a job to do and I will wait for his decision." On the issue of marching orders.



ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8.30 pm
Goals
Taped at 9 pm
UEFA Champions League
Deportivo v Liverpool
Live at 1.30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports
Paris Tennis Masters
2nd round
Live at 4.30 pm
Sportsline
Live at 8 pm
Classic boxing
Ali: The Greatest
Repeat at 11.30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Man Utd v Sparta Prague
Live at 1.30 am (Thursday)

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 217
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 5, 2004 and draw
shortly afterwards

- West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:
2 wickets 50 runs 33 runs
- Who won the China Open tennis title?
Serena Sharapova Hings
- 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
- Who clinched the AKTEL school basketball girls' crown?
Sunbeams Maple Leaf Scholastica

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

Premier hockey from Nov 26

SPORTS REPORTER

The Premier Hockey League will begin on November 26, the league committee decided at a meeting yesterday.

The league was scheduled to start immediately after the end of the ongoing Club Cup tournament on November 9, but it was delayed after the clubs' request to begin the top domestic event after the Eid vacations.

A curate's egg

Cricket

AA MAHMUD, Ctg

It was a curate's egg at the end of the day for Bangladesh after the first one-day match at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

The morning could not have been more radiant for a strong 18,000 home fans, who enjoyed every bit of a disciplined bowling backed by some enterprising fielding that saw Bangladesh restricting the Kiwis to a modest 224.

The total on a slightly slowish wicket suddenly created enormous interest even among those, who had earlier decided to stay away from a TV set assuming another crushing defeat was on the cards.

Expectations of Tigers' sixth one-day victory in their 96th appearance loomed large round the corner when the game resumed after a satisfying lunch.

Murali calls for peace in Lanka

REUTERS, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's most successful bowler, Muttiah Muralitharan, on Tuesday urged the government and Tamil Tiger rebels to resume stalled talks to turn a truce into lasting peace after two decades of civil war.

Spin bowler Muralitharan, a Tamil himself, made his plea during a three-day tour of the war-torn north with representatives of the United Nation's World Food Programme and foreign donors.

The tour included a visit to the political and administrative stronghold of the Tamil Tigers, whose bloody war for autonomy killed more than 64,000 and ruined swathes of the north and east.

"As a sportsman, all I can say is that Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims come together to play cricket side by side," Muralitharan said after a one-hour meeting with Sudha Master, the deputy political head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"Likewise, the politicians and the LTTE must come together and make peace for the good of this country's people," he told this news agency after seeing the destruction caused by years of fighting.

"The LTTE is willing to come to the peace table and, although I don't know about the government's position or the procedures involved, the people of the south want peace. The government must fulfil their wishes and come for negotiations."

Warne ruled out of Mumbai Test

AFP, Mumbai

Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne was ruled out of the final Test against India after he suffered an injury during a training session.

"Warne injured his bowling hand during 'nets' and will not be able to play in Wednesday's match," Australian media manager Jonathan Rose told AFP on Tuesday.

"He was taken to a hospital this evening for tests and doctors felt he could need between six and eight weeks to recover fully."

Warne, 35, is the world's highest wicket-taker in Tests with 541 scalps in 115 matches. He has also taken 291 wickets in one-day internationals.

'Discipline is the key'

Cricket

AFP/REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan are a talented side but need a resilient mindset and improvement in technique to face Australia at their home ground next month, the team's English coach Bob Woolmer told AFP.

"This side has the talent but there are certain disciplines needed for the Australian tour, which is always a big test for the touring team," Woolmer told AFP.

The 56-year-old former South Africa coach replaced Pakistan great Javed Miandad in June following a series defeat against India earlier this year.

Pakistan, who beat Sri Lanka by six wickets in the second Test on Monday to level the series 1-1, play three Tests and a one-day tri-series in Australia, also involving the West Indies.

But a rare dream quickly turned into a nightmare when our infamous batting line-up crashed to 86 all out with more than 19 overs remaining. The way our batting collapsed defied logic and New Zealand, who were feeling a little uncomfortable, heaved a big sigh of relief at the callousness of the home side.

"Our bowlers did a commendable job in the morning restricting New Zealand to an attainable target but the batting spoiled a wonderful opportunity," said Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar.

Returning to the side after a two-month injury break, Bashar was the lone batsman who played with some purpose.

"The wicket was a bit slow but it cannot be an excuse for the manner in which we have thrown our wickets away," said the grim-faced 32-year-old in a post-match briefing.

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore was trying to hide his face after

yet another inexplicable batting display by his charges and that too after long hours in the nets.

"It was yet another extremely disappointing performance by the team," said the 50-year-old Australian, who was particularly critical about his top-order.

"The top-order batsmen must take much more responsibility. I mean the first four to six batsmen must take more responsibility," said Whatmore acerbically.

While the Bangladesh camp looked as if they were attending a funeral, New Zealand stand-in captain Daniel Vettori, who was leading the side without Stephen Fleming, was a relieved man after a surprising facile victory.

"We were lucky to reach 224 as (Scott) Styris and (Chris) Cairns were involved in a valuable stand. We hope the wicket will be better in the next game," said Vettori after the match.

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SERIES SALAD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

It was carnival atmosphere inside the MA Aziz Stadium for the first one-day international yesterday. The home crowd nearly numbering 18,000 sang and danced as New Zealand wickets fell with alarming regularity.

It was beyond their wildest dreams that the same team, which just a few days ago had inflicted a crushing innings defeat on the home side in the second and Test here, was getting a taste of its own medicine.

No sooner had the Kiwis' innings ended well below their projected target on a pitch that was predicted to favour batting, younger members of the crowd that had queued for hours before gates were opened started to beat their homemade drums in anticipation of a rare Bangladesh victory on home soil.

Unfortunately, any thoughts of a party quickly turned sour when the

batsmen once again performed their disappearing act.

The familiar sight of Bangladesh batters coming and going was too much for some youths to handle as they were overheard crying out, "What's the point of supporting a team that keeps on hurting its fans' feelings."

THAT'S THE SPIRIT

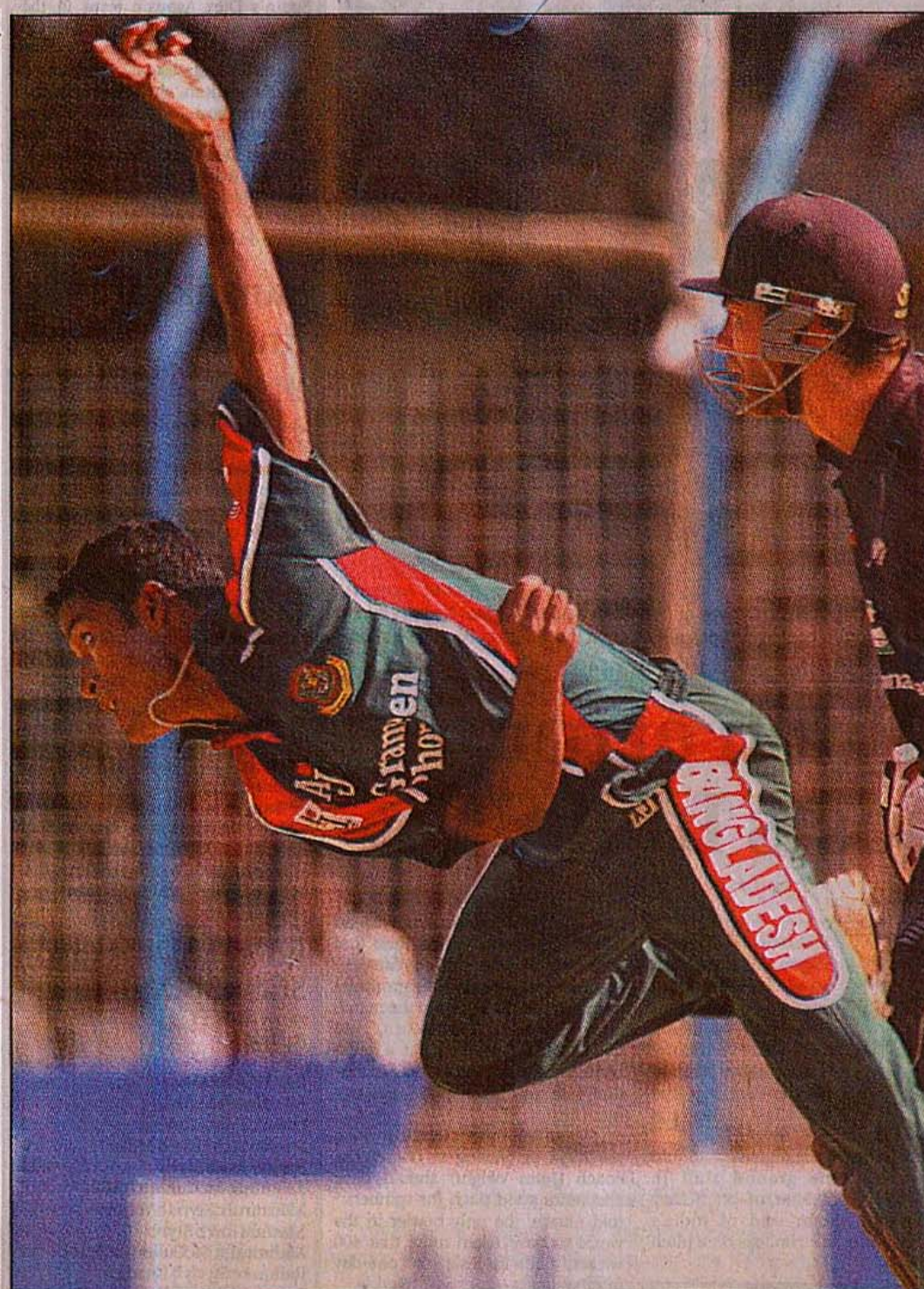
Chittagonians know how to strike a balance between fanfare and religious obligations. And it was illustrated during the first ODI.

The majority of the crowd present inside the stadium had been fasting but those who weren't were consuming all the treats on offer. A festive mood was prevailing as the home side turned on a spirited show against the New Zealanders in the morning.

But soon it was time to say Zohr prayers and a long queue was spotted near the washroom as devotees prepared themselves.



ON A RAMPAGE: New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns salutes the Chittagong crowd upon reaching his half-century in the opening ODI yesterday.



ONE BRIGHT BANGLADESHI: Paceman Nazmul Hossain, who was the hosts' top performer with 4-40, in his follow-through after slamming down a delivery against New Zealand in the first one-day international yesterday.

Sachin may open bowling India bid to restore pride in final Test

AFP, Mumbai

India will consider playing three spinners and ask star batsman Sachin Tendulkar to open the bowling as they attempt a face-saving victory over Australia in the fourth and final Test here from Wednesday.

With the series already lost, the Indians are determined to avoid a 0-3 drubbing by playing bold cricket on a Wankhede Stadium wicket expected to provide turn and bounce to the bowlers.

Coach John Wright said playing three spinners -- Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh and Murali Kartik -- was an option, but stressed the final composition will not be decided till just before the toss.

Asked who will share the new ball with Zaheer Khan in case three spinners were included, Wright deadpanned: "Sachin. He is bowling quick at the nets."

Tendulkar, struggling to regain top batting form following a tennis elbow injury, has claimed 35 Test wickets in 115 matches, most of them bowling leg-spin.

India have not lost three Tests in a home series since 1983 when Clive Lloyd's world-beating West Indies avenged the stunning defeat in the World Cup final in England a few months earlier.

Australia, who clinched their first series win on Indian soil since 1969 after winning the third Test at Nagpur for a decisive 2-0 lead, were boosted by the return of captain Ricky Ponting for the final match.

Ponting missed the first three Tests due to a broken thumb suffered during the Champions Trophy in England in September, and now takes over the captaincy from Adam Gilchrist and the number three slot from Simon Katich.

Katich, one of Australia's batting successes on the tour, will slide down to number five or six in place of Darren Lehmann, who was ruled out of the match with a hamstring injury.

India, meanwhile, are certain to blood rookie opener Gautam Gambhir and 19-year-old wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik as they look ahead to the two-Test home series against South Africa later this month.

Rahul Dravid will lead the home team for the fourth time in seven Tests this year after captain Sourav Ganguly was ruled out for a second match in a row with a groin injury.

"We have a lot to play for in this game," said Dravid. "A victory here will do the team a lot of good for the season ahead."

India surrendered the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after losing the first Test in Bangalore by 217 runs and the third in Nagpur by a whopping 342 runs, their biggest defeat in terms of runs.

The second Test in Madras was drawn after rain washed out the final day's play with India on 19-0 chasing a fourth innings target of 229.

"We were unlucky at Madras and the conditions suited Australia better in Nagpur," said Wright.

"But the wicket here will favour our spinners and we have to make the most of it. We are playing for form and pride and we want to win this Test match badly."

India are hoping Tendulkar will fire on his home ground after mak-

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Club Cup hockey Abahani edge out Mariners

SPORTS REPORTER

Title-contenders Abahani avoided a premature clash with arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Club Cup hockey tournament when they handed Mariner Youngs Club a 4-2 defeat in their last group match at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Sky Blues became Group B champions winning all five matches and are set to face local giants Usha Krira Chakra in the second semifinal on Friday. Group B champions Mohammedan, the defending champions, will meet Mariners in tomorrow's first semifinal at 3 pm.

Last year runners-up Abahani had to wait until the 10th minute of the first half to go in front after Indian recruit Ronald Kiran struck from a penalty corner.

Rajib Ahmed Issa doubled the lead four minutes after the break when the young forward deflected Shahidullah Titoo's hit into the goal.

Mariners, however, did not lose heart and came back into the match with a strike from Prashanta Kumar who brilliantly converted a penalty corner in the 45th minute. However, Abahani restored their two-goal advantage a minute later thanks to promising striker Russel Mahmud Jimmy.

Jimmy, the highest scorer in the recently concluded Under-21 international tournament in Dhaka, dodged past rival defender Chandan and onrushing goalie Jahangir Alam before hitting the board.

Ace striker Rafiqul Islam Kamal brought Mariners back into contention when he found the target from a goalmouth melee in the 58th minute but Abahani were quick to kill the game with their fourth goal after one minute when Indian marksman Prakash Calke scored with a reverse hit.

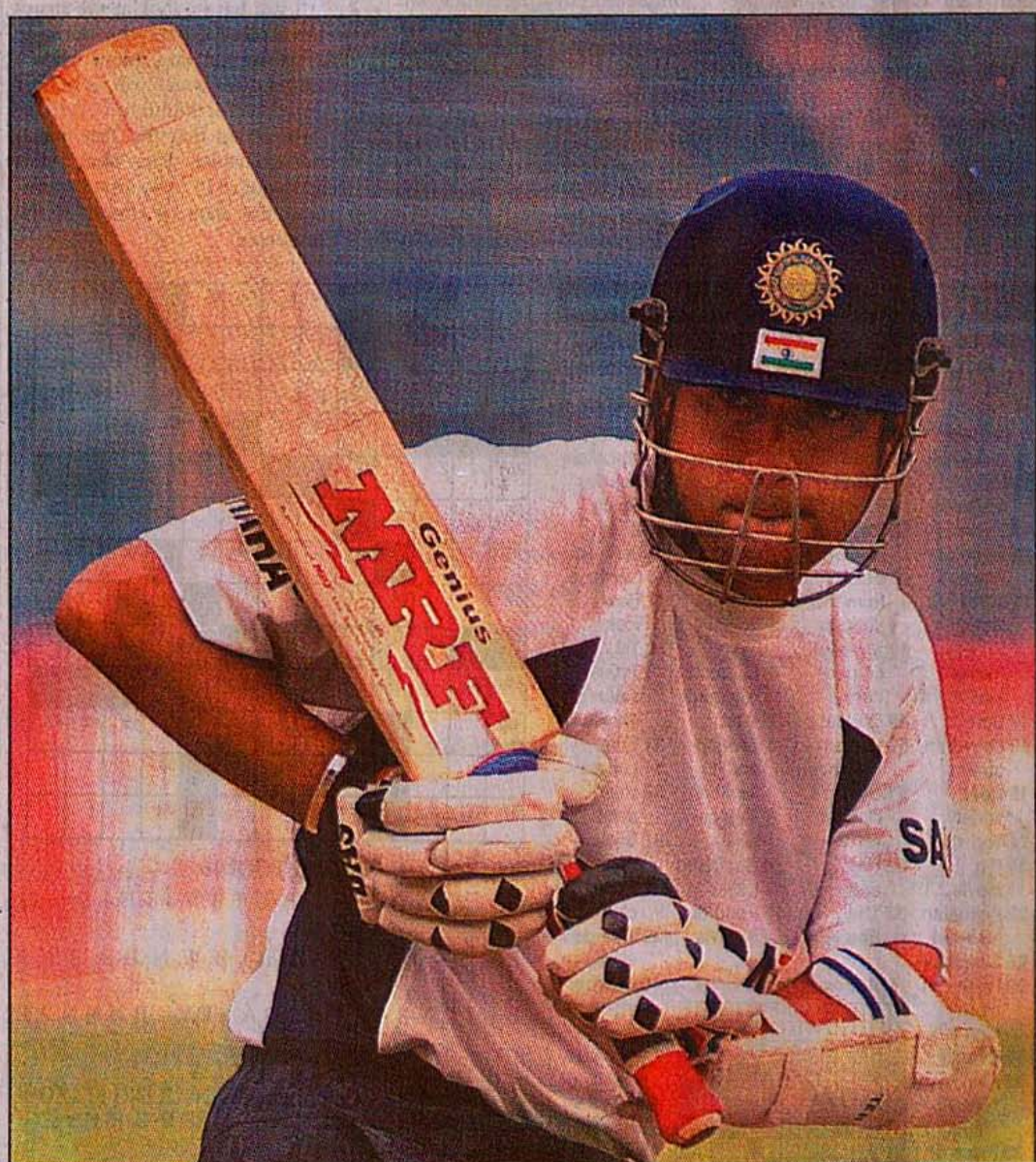
Earlier on the day, Ajax Sporting Club defeated Farashganj Sporting Club 5-2 after leading the first half 2-0.

BANGLADESH-NZ SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Tuesday.

NEW ZEALAND			
Fulton b Nazmul	9		
Astle b Nazmul	27		
Marshall st Mashud b Manzarul	7		
Styris run out	43		
McMillan c Mashud b Baisya	17		
McCullum b Rafique	8		
Cairns b Nazmul	74		
Harris c Saleh b Manzarul	5		
Vettori b Baisya	12		
Adams c Mahmud b Nazmul	4		
Mills not out	0		
Extras (lb-4, nb-3, w-11)	18		
Total: (All out in 49.2 overs)	224		
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-49, 3-50, 4-77, 5-94, 6-143, 7-168, 8-191, 9-224			
Bangladesh			
Bowler	O	M	R W
Baisya	10	0	58 2
Nazmul	8.2	1	40 4
Manzarul	10	0	35 2
Mahmud	5	0	28 0

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



NOT ONLY YOUR BATTING WILL DO: Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar bats in the nets during a practice session at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.