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## Did U Know?

India played their first ODI on 13-01-1974 v/s England at Headingley, Leeds. Lost by 4 wickets.



## Romesh Kaluwitharana

(Sri Lanka wicketkeeper)  
"I started my Test career on a high note with a century against Australia and I'm happy to end it with a half century against Pakistan."



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## Bevan, Wright keep Victoria at bay

AFP, Hobart

A stubborn seventh-wicket stand by former one-day international Michael Bevan and Damien Wright on Wednesday frustrated Victoria's attempts to bring an early end to their Sheffield Shield cricket match at Bellerive Oval.

Victoria decimated Tasmania's top order to leave the home team flailing at 46 for 6 in the hour before tea on the third day.

But Bevan (95) and Wright (99) joined forces to post an unbroken 191-run stand by stumps, leaving Tasmania at 237 for six - 257 shy of the massive 494 required for victory.

Michael Lewis claimed 4-18 off 7.4 overs.

Victoria were keen to claim their first-ever victory against Tasmania in Hobart after already securing first-innings points.

In Adelaide, a fine double by all-rounder Shane Watson helped give Queensland almost total control of their match against South Australia at Adelaide Oval.

Watson (4-25) and Andy Bichel (4-71) routed SA for 150 before the Australian one-day all-rounder scored 61 as he and Jimmy Maher (80) put on 146 for the second wicket at better than a run-a-minute.

Queensland reached 237 for four in their second innings, an overall lead of 366 with two days remaining.

By stumps Andrew Symonds had belted a six and eight fours in a typically belligerent unbeaten 51 off 53 balls.

## Yuvraj's father gets jail term

CRICINFO, undated

Yograj Singh, father of India cricketer Yuvraj, has been sentenced to six months in prison for causing grievous injury to a scooter-rider in a road accident.

The charge was denied, but the prosecution said that Yograj's car number plate was found at the site of the accident, which took place in 2000.

Yograj played one Test and six one-dayers for India in 1980-81. In his only Test, against New Zealand, he claimed the wicket of John Wright, India's current coach.

## GP-Biman final today

All eyes on Mashrafe

SPORTS Reporter



Bangladesh Biman will go into the Cup final of the Corporate Cricket League against GrameenPhone fully aware that a pumped-up Mashrafe bin Mortuza can make all the difference between the two sides.

The final clash of the first ever Twenty20 cricket competition in the country will be played under floodlights beginning at 6:30pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Prior to that, Gazi Tank will take on BEXIMCO in defence of their Plate title in the lower-tier competition. The Plate final begins at 1:30pm at the same venue.

Former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud, who is leading tournament sponsors GrameenPhone, said that fast bowler Mashrafe will be a factor in the final with his all-round abilities.

"We are a balanced side and hope to lift the title. But Mashrafe has proved that he has the ability to

change the fate of a match single-handedly," said the diminutive all-rounder yesterday in reference to the hard-hitting batting of the 22-year-old.

Biman skipper Sanwar Hossain, whose side lost the previous meeting between the two in the group stage, also echoed the same sentiment taking into consideration the youngster's performances in the last few matches.

"The strength of the finalists is almost equal. But we are concerned about the presence of Mashrafe who is undoubtedly a very good bowler and has been hitting the ball really hard recently," said the middle-order batsman.

"We have to get him early," the Biman captain said. Mashrafe has been in tremendous form with the bat in his first competitive tournament after being sidelined due to an injury for more than a year.

Although the tearaway has produced some blazing knocks, there have hardly been any enthusiasms or fireworks in the second edition of the competition that has introduced

## Kolkata chess Reefat, Rajib upset GMs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh International Masters Reefat bin Sattar and Enamul Hossain Rajib were sharing the lead with other seven Grand Masters after the end of the third round games of the Kolkata International Open chess tournament at Gorky Sadan yesterday.

Reefat and Rajib both defeated their Grand Master opponents to push their collections to 2.5 points.

Reefat defeated Vietnam's GM Nguyen Anh Dung while Rajib upset compatriot GM Ziaur Rahman.

GM Niaz Murshed shared point with Chinese GM Ni Hua while IM Abdullah Al Rakib defeated India's Ramu K to follow the leaders with two points each.

Among other Bangladeshi participants, GM Zia, FM Khondokar Aminul Islam and Debaraj Chatterjee have 1.5 points each while FM Abu Sufian Shakil earned one point.

In other third round games, Amin beat Arman, Debaraj beat Satyajit Kunda, Shakil beat Souvik Chakraborty. Robin lost to Balasubramaniam and Javed lost to Saheli Nath.

## Gala platinum game

Cricket

AFP, Kolkata

World Cup-winning Imran Khan of Pakistan and Kapil Dev of India will top a host of cricket captains to be honoured at a one-day match between the two nations at the Eden Gardens here on Saturday, officials said.

Imran, Kapil and 17 other captains from both countries will be honoured during the dinner break of the match being organised as part of the 75th year celebrations of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

BCCI supremo Jagmohan Dalmiya said the captains will be among a capacity crowd of 85,000 spectators who will witness Sourav Ganguly's Team India play Inzamamul Haq's Pakistan in the 50-overs-a-side day-night game.

Kapil led India to victory in the 1983 World Cup in England, while Imran's team won the most coveted prize in the sport in Australia in 1992.

Among the Indian captains attending the match will be current stars Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar.

The others will be Nari Contractor, Chandu Borge, Ajit Wadekar, Srinivas Venkatraghavan, Bishan Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Gundappa Viswanath, Dilip Vengsarkar, Ravi Shastri and Krishnamachari Srikkanth.

The Pakistan Cricket Board is sending former captains Hanif Mohammed, Imtiaz Ahmed, Intikhab Alam and Zaheer Abbas for the match.

"There cannot be a better way to celebrate 75 years of the Indian board than a match between India and Pakistan," Dalmiya said.

"After all, when the Board was formed in 1929, India and Pakistan were one country."

There will be tight security at the match, Pakistan's first on Indian soil

since 1999 when political tensions between the South Asian rivals halted their cricket ties.

Deputy inspector general of police Chayan Mukherjee said no chances would be taken over safety.

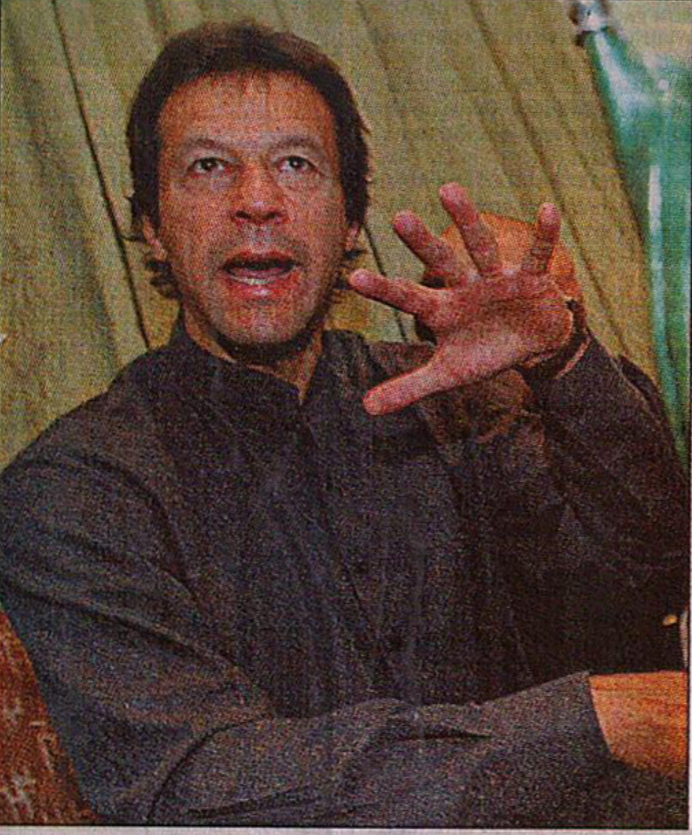
"More than 3,000 policemen and other security agents will be deployed around the stadium and the route the team will travel from the hotel," he added.

Trouble erupted in the Eden Gardens stand during the 1999 Test match, forcing police to clear the galleries on the last day as Pakistan galloped towards victory.

Inzamam said: "This time conditions are different and I think people of both countries are eagerly awaiting the match."

The neighbours reestablished their cricketing this year when India undertook its first Test tour of Pakistan since 1989 in March-April and won both the Test and one-day series.

Pakistan have won all their three one-day internationals against India since August, by 59 runs in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, 66 runs in the Netherlands and by three wickets in the Champions Trophy in England.



Pakistan's cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, who has been invited to attend a reception by Indian cricket board to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the organisation, speaks to media representatives in Islamabad yesterday.

## Clarke, Warne in

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

The rising star of Australian cricket, batsman Michael Clarke, was named Wednesday in the team to open this month's Test series against New Zealand, replacing a luckless Simon Katich.

Darren Lehmann, who was at risk of losing his spot to Clarke, remained in the 12-man squad subject to full recovery from a hamstring injury and spin-master Shane Warne has also made a comeback from a fractured thumb.

The other player dropped from the team which achieved a historic victory in Australia's Test series against India last month was young spin bowler Nathan Hauritz, who lost his spot to Warne.

Paceman Brett Lee was also retained, but looked likely to again be the 12th man after failing to bowl a single over during the India series.

Clarke's sensational Test debut in India, where he was called in to replace injured captain Ricky Ponting, gave Australian selectors

their toughest task in years in deciding the team to play New Zealand.

Clarke, 23, made 151 in his debut innings in Bangalore and topped both the team's batting and bowling averages after taking six wickets for only nine runs in the fourth Test in Mumbai.

Katich, 29, was also on fire with the third highest batting average in India, but he was finally dropped in favor of the more experienced Lehmann, 34. Katich could be recalled however if Lehmann fails to recover fully from the hamstring tear he suffered in the fourth India Test.

"Both Simon and Nathan performed exceptionally in India and it was a very difficult decision to leave them out," said Trevor Hohns, chairman of the Australian selectors.

## SQUAD

Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Damien Martyn, Darren Lehmann (subject to fitness), Michael Clarke, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprovic, Glenn McGrath, Brett Lee (12th man to be named).



MUTTHIAH MURALITHARAN

## Murali can bowl doosra

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan will be able to bowl his controversial 'doosra' under a recommendation from an International Cricket Council (ICC) committee.

The delivery, a leg-spinner bowled from the front of the hand, was outlawed as illegal by the ICC last May after a report concluded Muralitharan bent his arm during delivery and accordingly threw the ball.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the ICC said the committee had recommended that all bowlers be allowed to straighten their arms by up to 15 degrees.

At present spinners are permitted five degrees, medium pacers 7.5 and fast bowlers 10. Muralitharan's doosra was initially measured at around 14 degrees.

"Levels of tolerance are in place to deal with the reality that almost every bowler in international cricket will straighten his arm to some extent because of the bio-mechanical forces at work in his action," the statement said.

"Expert advice had identified that the recommended level of tolerance of 15 degrees will accommodate any straightening that is as a result of bio-mechanical forces at work in the action."

Former West Indies' fast bowler Michael Holding, a member of the committee which was chaired by former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, said he had been convinced that all bowlers straightened their arm to some extent.

"The scientific evidence is overwhelming," Holdings said.

"When bowlers, who to the naked eye look to have pure actions, are thoroughly analysed with the assistance of the sophisticated technology now in place they are likely to be shown as straightening their arm by 11 and in some cases 12 degrees."

"Under a strict interpretation of the law these players are breaking the rules. The game needs to deal with this reality and make its judgment as to how it accommodates this fact."

The statement said the committee had recommended that the starting point for any report on a suspect action should be the appearance of the delivery to the naked eye.

"The law is written for all levels of cricket," said ICC general manager Dave Richardson.

"In order that all bowlers at all levels are treated in the same way and that the bowlers of today are treated in a similar manner to the bowlers of previous generations, the consistent position is to retain the naked eye viewing the action at normal speed as the starting point for any report."

Richardson said the ICC needed to find a way to respect the tradition and spirit of the game while still taking advantage of advances in technology.

"The issue of illegal actions has been a controversial one in cricket for decades and is often clouded by the emotional responses that accompany the reporting of a player," he said.

The recommendation will now go to the ICC for approval.

Muralitharan, the second-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket with 532 victims, has been called twice for throwing.

He is expected to make a comeback to Test cricket in the series against New Zealand in January after recovering from a shoulder injury. He has been out of action since August.

## Flemo missing tour opener

REUTERS, Sydney

A mystery virus has forced New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming out of his team's opening tour match in Australia.

Fleming has been ill since returning home from his team's triumphant tour of Bangladesh and although the ailment has not been diagnosed, he has been ruled out of the four-day match against New South Wales starting in Sydney on Thursday.

The Kiwis have also lost their front-line spinner Daniel Vettori to a shoulder problem but coach John Bracewell said he would still play in the first Test with Australia starting in Brisbane on November 18.

"There is no doubt that Daniel Vettori will be available for the first Test match and this short break is actually a good chance for Daniel to rest after a heavy work load in Bangladesh," he said.

Bracewell also said Fleming was expected to make a full recovery in time for Brisbane but Craig McMillan had joined the squad as cover just in case.

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## Bob's money on England

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former South Africa coach Bob Woolmer believes England will win this winter's Test series between the two sides.

Woolmer, now in charge of Pakistan, says the South African seam attack is a "shadow of its former self".

He also thinks the captaincy of Graeme Smith is another area of potential weakness which England could exploit.

"Even sections of the local media who supported him are now questioning him," said Woolmer, who played Test cricket for England before taking up coaching.

England skipper Michael Vaughan, by contrast, is a "firm, popular and clever leader", according to Woolmer.

"He has the same grit displayed by other Yorkshire captains: a combination of Len Hutton, Ray Illingworth and Brian Close," he told Wisden Cricketer magazine.

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## Sourav may open always

Cricket

SAKYASEN MITTRA from Kolkata

India skipper Sourav Ganguly is seriously reconsidering to go back to the top of the batting order. In the past few years, Ganguly has opened in the absence of either Virender Sehwag or Sachin Tendulkar.

And if he decides so, he will open with Tendulkar in the match against Pakistan and Shewag will go down the order.

Talking to reporters on Wednesday, Ganguly said, "As far as fitness is concerned, I am ready to take the test. But if you personally ask me whether I am fit, I am confident that I can play on November 13."

Officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in Kolkata failed to give any proper information as to when the fitness test will be conducted. Team physiotherapist Andrew Leipus was scheduled to arrive in Kolkata in the afternoon yesterday. But there was no information about his arrival till late in the evening.

Both Pakistani and the Indian cricketers were also expected to arrive here late at night.

When asked about Pakistan skipper Inzamamul Haq's threat that they hoped to maintain the winning momentum against the archrivals, the Indian captain said he was not worried.

"The matches at Amsterdam and England were played under different circumstances. I am sure that the team will be in an upbeat mood after the recent win against Australia. And the conditions at the Eden Gardens are similar to that we encountered in Pakistan. So, it will be a different ball game altogether."

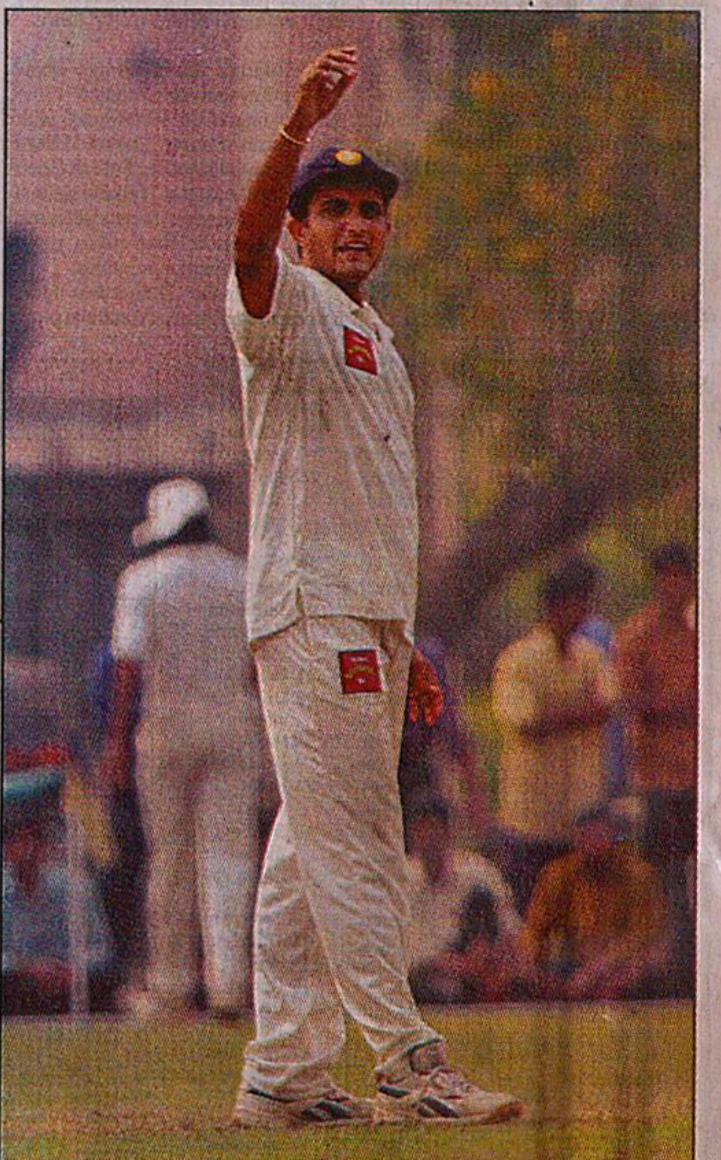
Meanwhile, betting and bookies, synonymous with an Indo-Pak match, are on at full swing in the capital of West Bengal.

According to the bookies, the odds are 100:175 in favour of Pakistan while they are 100:230 for India. And according to information available from police sources, rupees in excess of five crore will be placed on the match.

A bookie here on Wednesday said, "The rates have been fixed as per instructions from Mumbai. We operate on their orders. Police have already raided a number of joints famous for placing bets and have arrested seven bookies."

This will be Imran's first visit to the city since 1989. BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya informed, "Imran Khan will be coming from Hong Kong. We are now talking with his travel agent to finalise his itinerary."

"Security arrangements have also been beefed up. There will be restrictions on the movement of the Pakistani players even though their local counterparts will be allowed to move around freely."



India captain Sourav Ganguly plays for West Bengal against Karnataka in a Ranji Trophy match in Kolkata on Tuesday. Ganguly, who was out of cricket for a groin injury, made a big deal of fitness practice in the match which Bengal won.

## Boycotts ICC's chucking plan

BBC ONLINE, undated

Geoff Boycott has condemned the International Cricket Council's (ICC) proposal to relax rules on chucking.

The former England batsman said the move was made to benefit Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, whose 'doosra' ball could soon be legal.

"I think it's been brought in through pressure from Sri Lanka and Murali's supporters," Boycott told BBC Sport.

"It's a sad day for cricket that this pressure can allow Muralitharan to bowl whatever he wants."

Sri Lanka Cricket said such accusations were wide of the mark, and that the rule change would be made to benefit all bowlers.

"It is a bit unfair," a spokesman told BBC Sport.

"We have always said that many things need to be considered but we have never pressured the ICC and the decision is not only for Murali-- it is for all."

"We are very happy about it as it means Murali will be able to bowl his 'doosra'."

"Sri Lanka Cricket appreciates it very much and we thank the ICC for making such a decision."

## Dispute between WICB & players

REUTERS, London

A dispute between the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and its players is threatening to disrupt preparations for their tour of Australia in January.

The West Indies Players Association (WIPA) has instructed members not to sign letters of invitation issued to those selected for a training camp before the tour, during which they play a one-day tournament against the hosts and Pakistan.

The WIPA is annoyed that the letters of invitation were sent directly to the players and fears the WICB is threatening to leave players out of the touring squad if they do not sign.

The WICB has hit back, however, by saying the letters are necessary.

"At the time of issue the Board indicated publicly that the reinstatement of the invitation policy

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