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Did U Know?

Anil Kumble is known as Jumbo, Rahul Dravid as Jammie, Sourav Ganguly as Dada by their teammates.



What to Watch

TEN Sports

India vs South Africa
 First Test, Day Three
 Live at 9:50 am

ESPN

English Premier Football League
 Chelsea vs Bolton Wanderers
 Repeat at 3:30 pm
 Sportscentre
 Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Primera Liga
 Real Sociedad vs Bilbao
 Repeat at 10:30 am
 Sportsline
 Live at 8:00 pm
 English Premier Football League
 Aston Villa vs Tottenham Hotspur
 Live at 1:55 am (Tuesday)



Talk Turkey



Michael Clarke
 (Australia's latest batting sensation)
 "That's the best thing I've ever seen in cricket, it was just unbelievable. When he went out to bat, we all started getting ready to field because we thought he'd be back in a minute." After Glenn McGrath scoring his maiden Test fifty.

National Sports Awards Shantoo, Enayet stay in final list

SPORTS REPORTER
 The Youth and Sports Ministry yesterday finalised a list of 15 recipients for the 2004 National Sports Awards.

The list will be sent to the Prime Minister's office for final approval and the official announcement is likely to be made on December 15.

The ministry in its fourth meeting on October 15 completed the list but there were objections against the inclusion of former national footballers Enayetur Rahman and Shaheedur Rahman Shantoo, who have become US citizens.

But after the meeting on Sunday the selection committee for the awards decided on conferring the honour on both booters considering their contribution to the country's football. The recipients will receive cash award of Tk 20,000, a gold medal and a certificate.

THE AWARDEES: Shahidur Rahman Shantoo, Enayetur Rahman, Imtiaz Sultan Johny (football), ASM Faruque (cricket), Shamsul Bari, Malek Chunnun (hockey), Mahbubur Rahman, Laila Noor (swimming), Miljar Hossain, Golam Ambia (athletics), Mosaddek Haque Rochi, Nasimul Hassan Kachi (table tennis), Khurshida Akhter Khushi (gymnastics), Sadeque Hossain Khoka and SA Sultan (organiser).

Masakadza recalled

CRICINFO, undated

Hamilton Masakadza was surprisingly included in Zimbabwe's 16-man squad for the first two one-day internationals against England, to be played at Harare Sports Club on November 26 and 28.

The last time Masakadza, 21, SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

BCB plans Zimbabwe ODIs at Bogra



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) plans to hold a couple of one-day internationals between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the newly-built Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra next January.

Though the BCB is yet to get approval from the International Cricket Council (ICC) to arrange international matches there, the Board still named it in Zimbabwe's tour itinerary.

"We have proposed to hold two matches in Bogra as we are hopeful to get ICC recognition in the first week of December. ICC venue inspector Clive Lloyd made some suggestions except for Bogra," said member secretary of BCB grounds committee Rafiqul Islam Babu yesterday.

ICC match referee Lloyd, who

inspected four venues -- Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Bogra Stadium, Chittagong Divisional Stadium and Khulna Stadium -- during a six-day visit earlier this month, has already submitted his suggestions to the game's highest governing body.

"He (Lloyd) expressed his satisfaction with Bogra but we are also hoping to arrange one Test at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium instead of MA Aziz Stadium if approved," Babu added.

As part of the itinerary the third and fourth one-dayer between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe will take place in Bogra on January 27 and 28.

The southern African nation will arrive in Dhaka on December 30 to play two Tests and five one-day internationals against the Tigers.

The Zimbabweans will fly to Chittagong on the same day to play a three-day match starting on January 2 before the first Test commences from January 7.

The Bangabandhu National Stadium will host the second Test

from January 14 as well as two day-night one-day matches on January 21 and 23.

The fifth and final one-day match will also be held in Dhaka on January 31.

Meanwhile, an inter-ministerial meeting was held at the conference room of Youth and Sports Ministry to discuss arrangements for the coming home series against India and Zimbabwe.

India will arrive on December 7 to play two Tests and three one-day matches against the home side.

The first Test will be played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from December 9-13. The two teams then fly to Chittagong to play the second Test and a limited-overs match in the port-city.

The MA Aziz Stadium will host the second Test from December 16-20 and the first one-dayer on December 23.

The teams return to the capital for two day-night encounters on December 26 and December 27.

Kiwis crash to defeat



AFP, Brisbane

Ricky Ponting hailed two outstanding days of pressure cricket for delivering one of Australia's biggest Test victories over New Zealand inside four days at the Gabba here.

The Australians demoralised their Trans-Tasman rivals by an innings and 156 runs on Sunday after recovering from 128 for four chasing 353 to amass 585 and turn the match with a 232-run innings lead.

Man-of-the-match Michael Clarke (141) and Adam Gilchrist (126) shared in a record 216-run partnership for the sixth wicket and tailenders Glenn McGrath (61) and Jason Gillespie (54) shot the Kiwis to bits by posting their Test-best scores in a 114-run last-wicket stand.

New Zealand were then routed for just 76, their lowest Test innings in Australia for almost a quarter of a century.

Only Australia's innings and 222-run triumph in Hobart in 1993-94 ranks as the Black Caps' heaviest loss in Trans-Tasman Tests.

It was Australia's 19th win in 42 Tests against New Zealand with seven defeats. Their last loss to the Kiwis was in Auckland by five wickets in March 1993.

"It was a huge turnaround for us. We almost ambled through the first couple of days without playing anywhere near our best," Ponting said.

Ponting pointed to the crushing double-century partnership between batting prodigy Clarke and team vice-captain Gilchrist for a momentum surge that powered the Australians to a consummate victory before tea on the penultimate day.

"Michael Clarke and Adam Gilchrist just really changed the game for us with their partnership, the way they played was absolutely outstanding and it really took the game away from New Zealand.

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming said his team's batting had

been poor and their first innings total of 353 was only border-line against such a powerful Australian team.

"We need to acknowledge that the batting was pretty poor, today was massively poor, but the first innings to have your No.7 (Jacob Oram 126 not out) get you through to a good score is becoming too much of a trend for my liking," he said.

New Zealand's previous lowest Test innings was 121 in Perth in 1980-81.

Test cricket's leading wicket-taker Shane Warne captured 4-15 off 10.2 overs to take his world record tally to 549 in 116 Tests.

McGrath started the ball rolling with the first three wickets and finished with 3-19 off eight overs for 457 Test wickets and Gillespie claimed 2-19 off 10 overs for 229 Test wickets.

The Kiwis were in trouble from the opening over with Mark Richardson prodding at a McGrath swinger and edging a catch to Gilchrist.

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ALL IN A DAY'S WORK: Captain Ricky Ponting (2nd from L) chats with Glenn McGrath (L) while teammates Jason Gillespie (C), Michael Kasprovic and Shane Warne (R) leave the Gabba pitch after Australia crushed New Zealand by an innings and 156 runs on the fourth day of the first Test in Brisbane yesterday.

Hall-mark on India



AFP, Kanpur

Andrew Hall struck a valiant century as South Africa swelled their total in the first Test against India at the Green Park Stadium here on Sunday.

The 29-year-old's knock of 163 helped South Africa reach 459-7 on the second day as the home side was left bowling a defensive line.

Hall lifted the morale of his young side, who were considered the underdogs going into the two-Test series, with an important century-stand with debutante all-rounder Zander de Bruyn (83).

Shaun Pollock (31) and Thami Tsolekile (five) were the not out batsmen at close.

Hall played a determined knock for what was his maiden Test ton and also his best effort in first-class cricket, bettering his previous high-est of 153 for Easterns versus North West in 2001-02.

the best by a South African on Indian soil, breaking the previous record of 153 not out by Daryl Cullinan at Kolkata in 1996-97.

Hall, tried as an opener, was associated in a 144-run stand with de Bruyn for a record sixth-wicket partnership for South Africa against India.

The duo played out the major part of the first two sessions to better the record of 112 for the sixth wicket between Brian McMillan and Pollock at Johannesburg in 1996-97.

Hall was finally bowled by experienced leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who completed his 28th five-wicket haul in Tests after picking up four scalps on the opening day.

"It was tough scoring runs but our preparation for the pitches here helped us a lot," said Hall.

"Things worked our way and I got a lot of support from other guys in the dressing room.

"Batting with de Bruyn was a pleasure because we have played a lot of cricket together since our school days. Having him in the middle with me was very, very special as he is a tough guy," said Hall.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

"Nobody plays for a draw and we are here to win," he warned.

India's bowling looked pedestrian on a good batting pitch. The home side picked up just one wicket in each of the three sessions on day two after finishing the first day at 230-4.

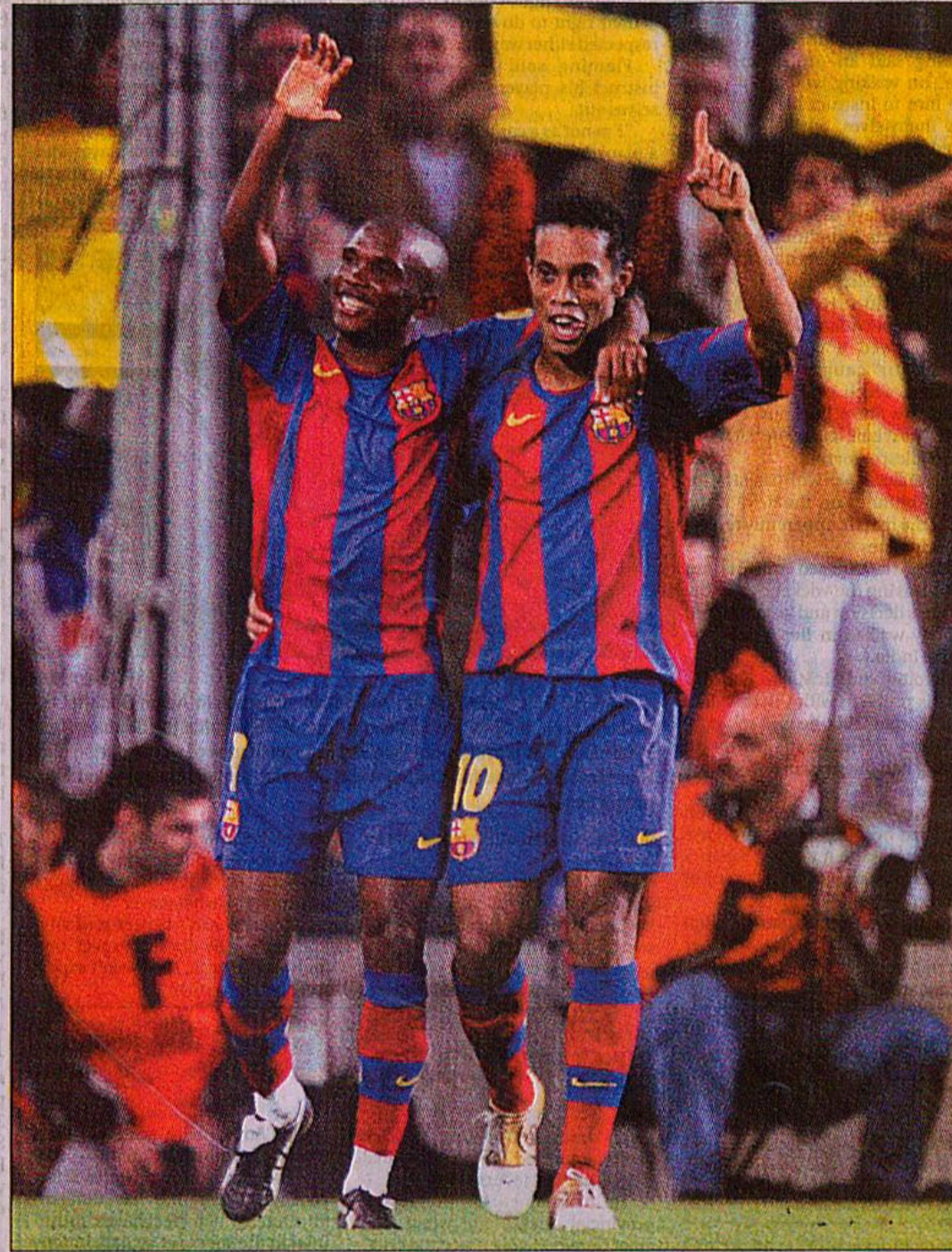
Resuming on his overnight score of 78, Hall played confidently against both spin and pace after India took the second new ball in the second over of the morning.

After seeing off steady spells from seamers Zaheer Khan and Sourav Ganguly, Hall reached his century with a swept four off Kumble.

Hall, whose previous Test highest was an unbeaten 99 against England at Headingley last year, struck 17 boundaries off 454 deliveries during his knock which stretched to almost five sessions and ten hours.

De Bruyn continued the good work and played some attacking shots in his 206-ball knock which included three sixes off off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, two in the same over.

He also hit six boundaries before his five-hour vigil came to an end in



DOUBLE DAZZLE! Barcelona's stars of the night Ronaldinho and Samuel Eto'o (L) celebrate the third goal against Real Madrid at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on November 20.

Primera Liga Barca simply un-Real



AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona humiliated their eternal rivals Real Madrid at the Nou Camp on Saturday, a 3-0 stroll giving them a seven-point lead at the top of the Spanish table.

Real were never at the races as Barca shocked them with a swash-buckling display. Samuel Eto'o and Giovanni Van Bronckhorst scoring in a one-way opening period to put the match out of Real's reach.

A Ronaldinho penalty wrapped things up in a second half which

could have seen the hosts easily widen the margin as they centered onto 29 points from 12 games to 22 for Real, who have now lost four league outings.

Under Dutch coach Frank Rijkaard, Barcelona have continued where they left off in the second half of last term, when after a poor start they finished second behind eventual champions Valencia.

Valencia on Saturday got back to winning ways after a poor run with a 2-0 away success at Malaga with Corradi and Xisco on target to take under pressure Claudio Ranieri's men fourth.

This season, Barca have swept all

before them save for an uncharacteristic slip-up at Real Betis last week which brought their only loss of the campaign to date, leaving Real looking at another domestic flop.

Mexican defender Rafael Marquez promised before Saturday's showdown that the Betis blunder would not blow the Catalan giants' ship off course and he and his teammates were as good as their word.

In contrast, Real's England skipper David Beckham was every bit as much a lost soul as he was at the Bernabeu in England's midweek friendly international defeat to Spain and gave way to compatriot

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

World Junior Chess No cheers for Parag

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehdi Hasan Parag stumbled to his second successive defeat in the 43rd World Junior Chess Championship in the Indian city of Cochin yesterday.

The Bangladesh national junior champion lost to India's International Master Deepan in the third round.

Parag, who won in the first round, stuck to his previous collection of one point.

Shoaib can play county cricket

AFP, Karachi

Express pacer Shoaib Akhtar is free to play in English county cricket next year provided his national duties are not affected, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Sunday.

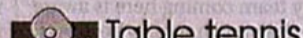
"We have no objection to Akhtar's playing in English county as long as it does not coincide with the national team's duties," board spokesman Abbas Zaidi said.

English county side Worcester-shire last week announced Akhtar, famously known as the Rawalpindi Express for his pace, will feature in the second half of their next season.

"Pakistan is not scheduled to play in the period when Akhtar is signed to play for the county, but if any international commitment comes up out of schedule then he will have to return to play for Pakistan," said Zaidi.

Akhtar, one of the fastest bowlers in the world, will join the Division Two team in July, following his country's tour of the West Indies.

Guests start brightly



SPORTS REPORTER

All the three foreign teams got off to flying starts on the opening day of the Beximco Pharma Abul Hashem Smriti Table Tennis Championships at the Woodenfloer Gymnasium yesterday.

Nepal's SAF Games squad blanked Jessore 3-0 in the women's team event while Jessore beat Wari 3-0 and Patuakhali beat Rajshahi 3-1.

In the boys' team event, Wari, Biman and Dinajpur recorded identical 3-0 wins over Gaibandha, Kushtia and Rangpur respectively.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman declared the four-day meet open.

sive straight-sets victory against Feni. In other men's matches, Rajshahi beat Mohammadpur Boys 3-0, Ajax beat Brothers Union 3-0, Swami-bagh Boys beat Munshiganj 3-0 Rajshahi beat Wari Club 3-1.

Inter Sports, who beat Jupyterhat 3-0 in their first game, later lost to Armanitola 3-1.

Dhaka League champions Abahani blanked Armanitola 3-0 in the women's team event while Jessore beat Wari 3-0 and Patuakhali beat Rajshahi 3-1.

In the boys' team event, Wari, Biman and Dinajpur recorded identical 3-0 wins over Gaibandha, Kushtia and Rangpur respectively.

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Sepp not coming to open BFF Bhaban

SPORTS REPORTER

FIFA president Sepp Blatter won't be available to inaugurate the newly built 'Football Bhaban' in Motijheel. Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan informed yesterday that Blatter expressed his inability through a letter on Saturday.

The 67-year-old Blatter, who had earlier put off his visit on three occasions, was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on November 26.

"Since Blatter is unable to grace the opening ceremony we are studying other options. AFC president Mohammad Bin Hammam is expected attend the ceremony," said Sultan.

The four-storied complex was built as part of FIFA's 'Goal Project' in the city's commercial hub on two-bighas of land.

BFF is all set to shift their administrative offices from the Bangabandhu National Stadium to the new establishment in the first week of January.

Apart from a modern gymnasium on the ground floor, it has a dormitory and office spaces. Sultan was also keen on hiring another foreign coach for the national team in the New Year.

"We will use the AFC fund to bring a foreign coach (for the national team). But the AFC has given us a directive to recruit only from Asia," he said.

"However, we have applied to the AFC to reconsider and give us permission to bring coaches from outside the region. Personally, I prefer South American coaches but if we have to take Asians, I would like one from either Iran or Iraq," the BFF chief said.

AFC will give the BFF 6,000 dollars-per-month and the federation will need 2,000 dollars to employ four coaches for the grassroots level.

The rest of the cash will be spent to entertain the foreign coach, explained Sultan.

Al-Shahriar gets lucky

SPORTS REPORTER

The selectors yesterday named Al-Shahriar as a replacement for Sanwar Hossain in the 21-man list of probables for the home series against India next month.

The ganging right-hander got



AL-SHAHRIAR

the lucky break after seven months in the wilderness following the withdrawal of Sanwar on personal reasons.

26-year-old Al-Shahriar played his last Test against Australia in July 2003. He was also a non-playing member when Bangladesh toured Zimbabwe last March.

An attacking middle-order batsman Al-Shahriar also opened the innings during the World Cup in South Africa but he remained an enigma in international cricket.

"We were looking for a middle-order batsman and that's why we had called up Sanwar. Now we think Rokon (Al-Shahriar) is the best

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



Participants of the Beximco Pharma Abul Hashem Memorial Table Tennis Championship listen to the opening address at the outer stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR