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## Did U Know?

Rahul Dravid by stepping on to the field at Eden Gardens on the opening day the second and final Test against South Africa, emulated Sachin Tendulkar's world record of most consecutive Tests (84) since making his Test debut.



## Talk Turkey



## Wasim Akram

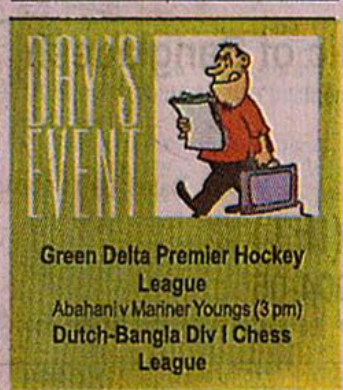
(Pakistan cricket great)  
"I've been there (Australia) some 10 times in the last 20 years and I know how tough it is going to be there."  
On Pakistan's chances of winning a Test series in Australia.



## What to Watch

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8.30 pm  
English Premier League Preview  
Taped 9 pm  
Born to Play  
Football programme  
Repeat at 9.30 pm  
Samsung Cricket Show  
Taped at 10 pm  
Here We Go  
Same day delay  
At 10.30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier League  
Liverpool v Arsenal  
Repeat at 12.30 pm  
Sportsline  
Live at 8 pm  
Hong Kong Cricket Sixes  
Taped at 9 pm  
FA Cup  
Southampton v Wrexham  
Live at 1.30 am (Saturday)



## Premier hockey Maiden win for Sonali Bank

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Bank tasted their first victory in the Green Delta Premier Hockey League after two draws when they blanked Wari Club 4-0 at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.

The bankers, who snatched points from Club Cup runners-up Mariner Youngs but were unlucky to drop points against Sadharan Bima, scored all four goals in the first half.

Indian recruit Anil Ekka scored twice, in the sixth and tenth minute while Hosne Mobarak and Imran added the rest by the half-hour mark.

In the day's other match, Usha Krira Chakra fought hard to maintain hundred per cent record when they beat Sadharan Bima 3-2.

Two goals by national striker Moududur Rahman Shuva and one goal from Yamin Hossain gave Usha a 3-0 lead at the break. But Bima's Mamun and Jamil Ahmed scored inside four minutes of the second half to threaten an upset.

Usha, however, held on to the slim lead to push their collection to six points from two games.

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# Going to script

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club rode on the batting of one seasoned campaigner and a refreshing tyro to record a crushing victory over minnows Indira Road Krira Chakra while there were expected first wins for fellow giants Abahani and Brothers Union in the Premier Division Cricket League yesterday.

## MOHAMMEDAN V INDIRA ROAD

Mohammedan, last league's runners-up, routed Indira Road by 163 runs.

A significant partnership between Kenyan star Steve Tikolo and youngster Wasel Uddin helped Mohammedan to 285-9 in the allotted 50 overs, the highest total so far in the league, after they were put in at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Indira Road were never going to challenge that kind of target and were promptly bundled out for 122. The Mohammedan pacers led by the impressive Mashrafe bin-Mortuza did the damage early on before champion left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique mopped up the tail taking 4-26 from 9.2 overs. Mohammad Kalim played a lone

hand with 55.

Mohammedan however, did not have things going their way in the morning when Indira Road pace-man Mahbubul Alam Robin took three early wickets to reduce them to 48-3 by the 16th over. Bangladesh opener Nafees Iqbal (9 off 51 balls) failed for the second match on the trot while the much anticipated return of skipper Habibul Bashar, who played his first game for a month after recovering from a toe injury, lasted eight balls before he was caught behind. Parvez Ahmed (19 off 29 balls) became the third catch for wicketkeeper Sagor Hossain Pavel in the space of 12 runs.

But Tikolo, who was dropped on naught by Nahidul Haque at second slip off Robin, made Indira Road pay. He went on to make 96 off 103 balls and despite losing Minhajul Abedin with the total on 94, found in Wasel (66 off 64 balls) a man possessed.

The two took the game away with a blazing fifth wicket stand 147 in 20 overs.

Tikolo completed his 50 in 65 balls with an exquisite boundary through midwicket but the show-stopper was Wasel who matched the classy Kenyan shot for shot.

Wasel, who joined Mohammedan from Dhanmondi this season, raced to his fifty in just 48 deliveries.

Man-of-the-match Tikolo, who hit nine fours and two sixes, missed a deserved hundred for four runs

when he was brilliantly stumped by Pavel who stayed up to the medium pace of Kalim.

Wasel, having cracked five fours and three sixes, holed out at wide long off in the 49th over but not before helping his side to collect 95 in the last ten overs. The tall also wagged for Mohammedan with Mashrafe and his pace partner Anwar Hossain clubbing three sixes between them. Mashrafe gave an awesome display of his power by sending the ball over hundred yards into the adjacent road of the ground.

## ABAHANI-PEGASUS

Having lost their opening match to Bangladesh Biman, Abahani could ill-afford another debacle and had flown in Pakistan batsman Taufiq Umar before the game.

But it was their bowlers who set up a six-wicket win at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Umar made the highest 36 for Abahani but captain Naimur Rahman, fresh from his 50 against Biman, was adjudged man-of-the-match for his unbeaten 32 off 34 balls that took Abahani past Young Pegasus' 176 with more than five overs to spare.

Earlier, Pegasus had limped to 176-9 after being put in. One-down Forhad Reza's 43 and skipper Rezwanul Islam's 33 were the only notable scores.

In a break to this league's trend,

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

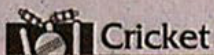
## SCORES IN BRIEF

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
MOHAMMEDAN: 285-9 in 50 overs (Parvez 19, Tikolo 96, Minhajul 14, Wasel 66, Munir 14 n.o., extras 43, Robin 3-29, Maola 2-36, Gahar 1-45, Kalim 2-38).  
INDIRA ROAD KC: 122 all out in 36.2 overs (Pavel 13, Kalim 52, Maola 23, extras 21, Manjulul 1-23, Mashrafe 2-19, Munir 1-9, Rafique 4-26, Tikolo 1-42).  
Result: Mohammedan won by 163 runs

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
PEGASUS: 176-9 in 50 overs (Murad 19, Forhad 43, Arif 22, Sharif 12, Rezwanul 33, Alamgir 1-31, Manzarul 2-29, Rajan 3-36, Naimur 1-28, Umar 1-8).  
ABAHANI: 177-4 in 44.2 overs (Imran 22, Saqib 33, Umar 36, Manzarul 20, Naimur 32 n.o., Arif 2-33, Sharif 2-20).  
Result: Abahani won by six wickets.

Venue: BKSP  
BROTHERS: 196 all out in 49 overs (Jahangir 33, Litu 21, Nasirul 21, Halim Shah 11, Tapash 16, Arwar 31, Ziaur 11 n.o., extras 37, Ashiqur 1-26, Moballik 1-41, Amin 1-20, Mahmood 3-45, Shafiq 2-32).  
UTTARA: 101 all out in 42.1 overs (Biplab 23, Moballik 19, extras 17, Tapash 3-14, Ziaur 3-26, Kumaran 2-15, Altam 1-15).  
Result: Brothers won by 96 runs.

# India spin to series win



AFP, Kolkata

Harbhajan Singh starred in a resounding eight-wicket victory over South Africa that helped India win the two-Test series here on Thursday.

Kallis was surprised by the bounce on a flighted delivery and gave an easy return catch to Harbhajan.

"That was the most satisfying dismissal as it was the most important wicket for us," said Harbhajan, who finished with nine wickets in the match to earn the man of the match award.

"Eden Gardens has always been

special for me," said the off-spinner, who got a Test hat-trick against Australia here in 2001. "It feels great to get wickets when the team wants them."

Shaun Pollock, who became only the fifth player in Test history to get a double of 3,000 runs and 300 wickets when he scored six runs, fell to a bad decision

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



BACK TO WINNING WAYS: Joyous India team members pose with their trophies after they won the Test series against South Africa at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

The off-spinner grabbed 7-87 to block all escape routes for the visiting side, who managed to draw the first match in Kanpur last week.

It was only the second Test series win for India over South Africa after the 1996-97 series at home which India won 2-1.

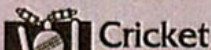
Harbhajan bowled an immaculate spell on the final day as South Africa were dismissed for 222 in their second innings to leave India with an easy target of 117 to get in well over two sessions.

India made it home comfortably as Rahul Dravid (47 not out) and Sachin Tendulkar (32 not out) got the runs with a full session to go.

South Africa, who had conceded a 106-run first-innings lead, lost their remaining five wickets this morning for just 50 runs with Harbhajan picking three and leg-spinner Anil Kumble taking two.

South Africa's hopes of fighting it out after finishing the fourth day on 172-5 evaporated early when Harbhajan dismissed Jacques Kallis (55) after the first-innings centurion had added just three to his overnight score.

## Anil touches Kapil



REUTERS, Kolkata

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble was praised for his never-say-die attitude after equalling Kapil Dev's Indian record 434 wickets in the second Test against South Africa on Thursday.

Kumble reached the milestone when he had last man Makhaya Ntini caught by Rahul Dravid at slip, finishing with three for 82 as South Africa were bowled out for 222.

Kumble, who has played 90 Tests, is joint fifth on the all-time Test-wicket list. Kapil Dev played 131 matches.

The bowler, who got a congratulatory call from Kapil, said he would now aim for 500 wickets.

"A realistic target would be 500 wickets," he said. "Kapil called up

and said I should go for that." Kumble said while injury had been the hardest part of his career, particularly coming back from two surgeries, for a career-threatening shoulder injury in 2001 and then for a fractured jaw suffered while batting in West Indies in 2002, criticism of his style still bothered him.

"It hurts a lot that I still have to answer questions over why I don't turn the ball that much. After taking 434 wickets, after 15 years, people still can't accept me for what I am."

Captain Sourav Ganguly lauded Kumble's unwavering focus. "His commitment has been the same ever since I've known him. That's a great quality to have," said Ganguly.

"I've played with him for the last 10 years and known him since our under-15 days. His grit and determination have never wavered in all these years."

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## Muktijoddha keep it safe

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad officials collected tokens from their key players yesterday, the second day of Bangladesh Football Federation's token handover programme.

Apart from keeping old players like goalkeeper Aminul, defenders Hassan Al Mamun and big-throwing Belal, Muktijoddha ensured midfielder Saiful Islam and striker Saiful Rahman Moni.

The National Football League runners-up also completed formalities to recruit national right fullback Feroz Mahmud Titu from Brothers Union and former national attacker Maksudul Amin Rana from Mohammedan.

Mohammedan defender Riad and defensive midfielder Rashed Pappu were on their list that included young players like Enamul

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

## Distinction for Pollock

REUTERS, Kolkata

South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock completed a rare Test double on the final day of the second Test against India at the Eden Gardens here on Thursday.

Pollock became only the fifth player in Test history to score 3,000 runs and take 300 wickets when he scored six runs in South Africa's second innings.

The 31-year-old joined an elite club consisting of Kapil Dev, Ian Botham, Richard Hadlee and Imran Khan, who have performed the double.

Pollock had 351 Test wickets and 2,976 runs before this game. The all-rounder scored 18 runs in the first innings.

## Div I chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Leonine Chess Club kept a two-point lead in the table halfway through the Dutch-Bangla First Division Chess League at the federation hall-room yesterday.

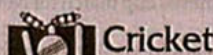
The all-Grand Master Leonine, who have dropped only two points so far, blanked Rajshahi Daba Unnyan Sangstha 4-0 in the eighth round.

GM Dao Thein Hai beat Prabir Chandra Saha, GM Iuldashev Saidali beat Shibli Norman, GM Nguyen Ann Dung beat Annan Siddique Mithu and local GM Niaz Mursheed beat Kawsar Ali.

Newcomers Muktijoddha Sangsad also secured second place

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

## 'SA missed a spinner' Ganguly glad at winning



AFP, Kolkata

South African skipper Graeme Smith Thursday admitted missing an experienced spinner in his side during the two-Test series against India.

"We missed having a frontline spinner in the team," Smith said after South Africa went down in the second Test here by eight wickets on a pitch aiding turn to lose the series 1-0.

"Our young team has gained a lot of experience on this tour but the results could have been different if we had the services of an experienced slow bowler," said Smith.

South Africa came here with only one specialist spinner in Robin Peterson, who played in the first Test.

Other left-arm spinner Nicky Boje missed the tour fearing detention over a match-fixing case being pursued by Indian police since South Africa's last tour to India in 2000.

"We have had some gains from the tour like (Andrew) Hall and great performances like that from (Jacques) Kallis and will surely do better in future," he said.

Hall struck a century in the first Test in Kanpur in a new role as opener while Kallis struck a ton in the first innings here and a fifty in the second.

Smith conceded his team could not take advantage of batting first here.

"We should have scored in excess of 400. But we did not make the most of winning the toss by getting a big score," said Smith on his team's first innings effort of 305.

Smith felt their new coach Ray Jennings would help take the team forward.

"I am sure he will help us get good results in the coming matches," said Smith.

Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly was happy at the way the second Test went.

"The pitch seemed flat when the match started but as it turned out, it was good for spin bowling," said Ganguly. "Both our spinners, Harbhajan (Singh) and (Anil) Kumble, bowled very well."

Ganguly also praised the young South African team for fighting it out.

"They did pretty well considering they did not have much experience of playing in India, which can be very hard. They were also lucky that the pitches were a bit flat but still all credit to them."

## India's eyes on Pakistan series

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian cricket selectors feel the coming tour of Bangladesh later this month will provide a good warm-up for the tougher home series against Pakistan in January-February.

This is the reason why most of the senior players who played against Australia and South Africa at home have been retained in the 15-member team for Bangladesh, according to the secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in India

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## Laxman, Kumble out of BD ODIs

REUTERS, Kolkata

Middle-order batsman Vangipurappu Laxman has been left out of India's 15-player squad named on Thursday for a one-day series in Bangladesh this month.

Laxman, who is in the squad for the two-Test series against Bangladesh, has struggled in the last three one-day tournaments and was replaced by in-form left-hander Dinesh Mongia.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble will also return home after the Tests, board secretary Karunakaran Nair told reporters.

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## ICC Test table India move to third place

AFP, London

India have broken into the top three in the International Cricket Council's Test Championship table for the first time since the ranking system was introduced three and a half years ago.

A 1-0 home series win over South Africa, clinched by Harbhajan Singh's match-winning performance in the second Test on Thursday, was enough to lift India above Pakistan and leave Sourav Ganguly's side snapping at the heels of second-placed England.

India's current rating of 107 is also the highest it has had since the ICC Test Championship was launched in May 2001. Ganguly's

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



Bangladesh Biman Grand Master Ziaur Rahman makes a move against Dhaka University's Uten during their eighth round engagement of the Dutch-Bangla First Division Chess League at the federation's hall room yesterday.