



## Did U Know?

In 1891, James Naismith, a physical education instructor, was thinking about new ways of providing exercise for the young men. He nailed peach baskets onto the balconies at either end of a gymnasium and challenged his student to throw a soccer ball into them from below. Thus modern basketball was born.



### Michael Clarke

(Star Australian cricketer)  
"I've been really enjoying my cricket, especially over the last 12 months -- I made my debut for Australia in Test cricket, I've been doing pretty well in one-dayers and hopefully, fingers crossed, I will continue doing well."

After he was named the country's best player over the past year.

## What to WATCH

### ESPN

Football Crazy  
Magazine Programme  
Live at 5:00pm

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm

### STAR Sports

Manchester City v Newcastle

English Premiership

Same day delayed at 12:30pm

Sportsline

Sports News

Live at 7:30pm

Hyderabad Sultans v Chennai Veerans

Tier I

Indian Premier Hockey League

Live at 8:00pm

## Parag stays on course

### SPORTS REPORTER

Reigning champion Mehdi Hasan Parag continued his winning run in the BASIC Bank 26th National Sub-Junior Chess Championship when he beat Shibli in the third round at the federation hall-room yesterday.

With the outcome Parag shared the top slot with Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin, Mohammad Ali, Mahfuzur Rahman Shahin, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, Nazir Salehin, Nahid Parvez Sagar, Saimon Siddiqui Rahman, Kishwara Shafrin Evana, Samiun Bashir and Bakul Hossain, all on maximum three points.

In the other third round matches, Robin defeated Annie, Shahin beat Reza, Ali beat Shirin, Mostafa beat Raju, Nazir beat Jubaer, Samiun beat Anwar, Bakul beat Saif and Evana beat Hamid.

## Pak captain fined

### REUTERS, London

Captain Inzamamul Haq has been fined for Pakistan's slow over-rate during their one-day tri-series victory over West Indies on Tuesday.

International Cricket Council match referee Chris Broad ruled Inzamam had failed to ensure that his team played "within the spirit of the game" at the WACA in Perth, an ICC statement said.

He was fined his entire match fee for that offence and another 30 per cent of his fee for the slow over-rate itself. The rest of the team were fined 15 per cent of their match fees.

No appeals are allowed against level two breaches of the ICC code of conduct.

## BCB declares cash reward for heroes

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday rewarded the victorious Bangladesh team for their brilliant Test and ODI series sweep against Zimbabwe.

The advisory committee of the Board after an informal meeting last evening at the BCB's Gulshan office, declared a lucrative bonus for the entire squad.

"We have decided to award Tk 3 lakhs to cricketers who had featured in both the series (Test and ODI). Those who were part of the squad in one series will get half of that amount," said Reazuddin Ali Mamun, BCB advisor and chairman

of the media committee. Mamun added that coach Dav Whatmore, physio Robbie Hunt and trainer Stuart Karppinen will also receive Tk 3 lakh each while manager MA Latif Khan and computer analyst Nasir Ahmed will get 1.5 lakh Taka.

"We didn't announce the bonus after the Test series victory because we thought it would be better to declare it after the end of the one-day matches. We think the cricketers have fully earned the bonus through their historic success," said Mamun.

Mamun also said that the cricketers were in line for more prizes. "As far as we know they will be awarded by the government also."

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar was delighted at hearing the announcement.

"I thank the cricket board on behalf of my team. It is a really encouraging news for us but I must say the boys deserve it. We tasted our maiden Test and one-day series victory against Zimbabwe which was an occasion to savour in the history of Bangladesh's cricket."

"It was not the money rather we were waiting to hear something like this from the Board as that proves they appreciate what we have achieved. The announcement will definitely inspire us ahead of our next assignment," said Bashar.

The bonus will be in excess of the monthly benefit packages enjoyed by the cricketers.

Bangladesh won the two-Test series 1-0 and then in a memorable comeback, clinched the ODI series 3-2 after trailing 0-2.

## Pieter-ton lifts England

### Cricket

#### AFP, Bloemfontein

#### adopted country.

Pietersen was not originally selected for the series in South Africa but was called up after some impressive performances in his debut series in Zimbabwe last November.

Wednesday's innings took his total of international runs to 234 in five innings. He has only been dismissed once.

The hard-hitting Pietersen, who started his first-class career for KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa before taking advantage of a British passport to play county cricket for Nottinghamshire and qualify for England, shared stands of 80 with skipper Michael Vaughan (42) and 92 with Paul Collingwood (40).

England made a flying start when Marcus Trescothick and Geraint Jones put on 52 for the first wicket in 10.1 overs but the South African bowlers then pegged back their opponents, who struggled to 67 for

three before Vaughan and Pietersen came together.

The pair started cautiously but kept the score moving with brisk running between wickets before picking up the tempo as the South African bowlers wilted in sweltering heat. Pietersen reached his fifty off 55 balls and his century off 91. His innings included six fours and two sixes.

South Africa made two changes from the team that was beaten by 26 runs on the Duckworth/Lewis method in the rain-interrupted first international in Johannesburg Sunday.

Batsman AB de Villiers, who was surprisingly omitted after making 92 and 109 in the final Test last week, was selected to make his one-day international debut in place of Adam Bacher, while seamer bowling all-rounder Andrew Hall was preferred to left-arm spinner Nicky Boje.

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PHOTO: STAR  
CONCENTRATION BELIES AGE: Soumen Saha ponders a move against Munshi Wadud during their Under-20 National Junior Chess qualifying match yesterday.

## BD A win by 8 wickets

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A team beat UAE by eight wickets in the first one-day match at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in Dubai yesterday.

Having bundled out the home side for 132 in 40 overs, thanks to a six-wicket haul (6-24) by paceman Mohammad Sharif, the A side romped home in 37 overs.

Left-handed opener and captain Shahriar Nafis Ahmed scored 55 while Tushar Imran remained unbeaten on 52 as the second string national side reached 136 for 2.

The home side won the toss. The second day-night match will be held at the same venue today.

## Sumon hattrick steers Kalabagan

### UNB, Dhaka

A brilliant hattrick by veteran left-arm pacer Moshed Ali Khan Sumon guided Kalabagan KC to a four-wicket victory over Sonargaon Cricketers in the First Division Cricket League which resumed yesterday after a two-week recess for the Eid-ul-Azha and Zimbabwe's tour of Bangladesh.

Batting first at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Sonargaon were all out for 195 with middle-order batsman Jewel Hossain making 63 off 74 balls.

Former national cricketer Sumon completed the hattrick when he dismissed Jewel, Nasiruddin and Milan in the third, fourth and the fifth balls of the 47th over.

In reply, Kalabagan 196-4 in 44.1 overs with Arman Hossain scoring a polished 84 off 104 balls.

In the day's other three matches, Rupali Bank defeated Wari Club by 50 runs at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium, Young Pegasus B beat Jatrabari KC by five wickets while Nabin Sangha beat Azad SC by four wickets at BKSP.

## Reception to local heroes

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

#### The

Sylhet District and City BNP accorded a civic reception to local heroes Rajin Saleh, Tapash Baisya, Alok Kapali and Enamul Haque Jr here yesterday.

The four cricketers of the Bangladesh national team, which won the Test and one-day series against Zimbabwe, were greeted warmly on their return to hometown after the historic triumph.

City BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury chaired the reception rally at the Court point area while Dilber Hossain Selim, MP, was the chief guest. Sylhet DSA vice-president Bimalendu Dey Nantu and general secretary Ahmed Arif Arefa also spoke among others.

Crests, floral bouquets and a cheque of Taka 11,000 each were handed over to the cricketers who expressed their gratitude to the cricket lovers of Sylhet.

Another member of the Test team Nazmul Hossain, who also hails from Sylhet, could not join the programme.

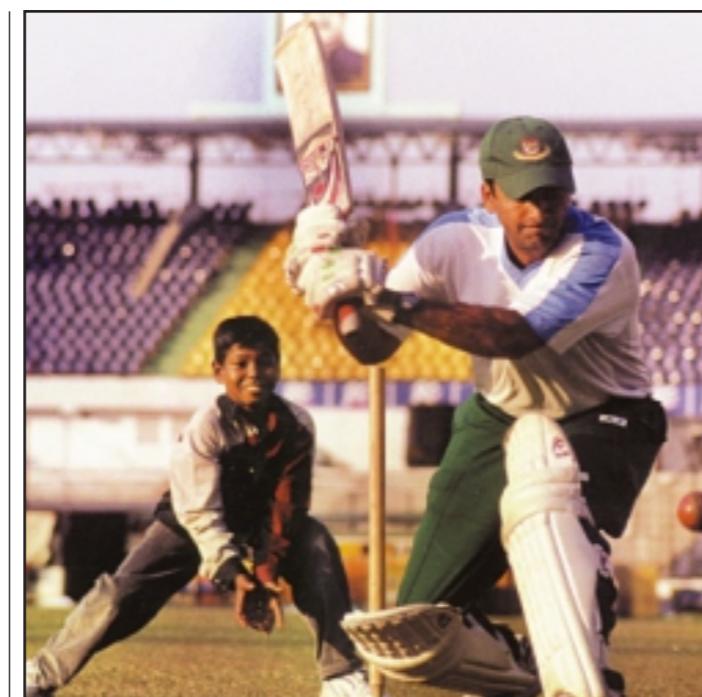


PHOTO: STAR  
NO TIME TO RELAX: With the National Cricket League just a week away, Test opener Javed Omar trains at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Murali heart finds Indian dame

### AFP, New Delhi

Sri Lankan cricket star Muttiah Muralitharan is to marry an Indian businesswoman next month in the southern city of Madras, the bride-to-be's family said on Wednesday.

The marriage between the 32-year-old off-spinner and Madhimalar Ramamurthy, 24, was finalised by the respective families after both passed the traditional test -- matching horoscopes.

"We are happy to have Murali as our son-in-law," the girl's mother, Nithya Ramamurthy, told the Press Trust of India.

"It is like a match made in heaven. After exchange of horoscopes, Murali and his mother visited our house and the marriage was arranged."

Muralitharan, who is currently in Australia undergoing surgery on his bowling arm, was described by his mother as "a good boy".

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## Inzy charged up for finals

### AFP, Melbourne



Preserving early wickets will be vital if Pakistan are to continue their recent run of form into the Tri-series limited-overs cricket finals against Australia, skipper Inzamamul Haq said.

Pakistan completed back-to-back wins over Australia and West Indies on Tuesday to grab a finals berth and help erase memories of their 3-0 Test whitewash by the hosts.

Their massive 307 innings against West Indies -- highlighted by a knock of 105 from Younus Youhana while Inzamam himself scored 74 -- was the second highest in a one-day international at the Western Australian Cricket Association Ground.

Just as importantly, strike bowler Rana Naved-ul-Hasan grabbed 4-29 off 9.1 overs to end the Windies' hopes of overhauling the total.

Inzamam, who has been under pressure to keep the captain's job, said Pakistan had been working on keeping wickets intact in the innings, setting the scene for big-hitters such as Shahid Afridi later on.

"If you look at the last couple of games... if you save wickets then in the last 20 or 30 overs you can score anything," he said.

"The last game against the West Indies they had a couple of wickets in hand and they scored 340-odd runs so it is important that we apply that."

The win over the Windies prompted captain Brian Lara to declare them a big threat to world champions Australia in the best-of-three finals, starting on Friday, and Inzamam said Pakistan was optimistic of playing well.

"I know it is tough opposition but if we really work hard then well, hopefully we will perform well in the finals," Inzamam said.

He said his own form had

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"My form is good, that is why I am looking good," he said.

"The last two games he (Rana) has really done well -- they (the bowlers) really feel hunger and I think he has set the example," he said.

The Australians are still under pressure over their opening combination following the continuing poor form of Matthew Hayden.

Coach John Buchanan again threw his support behind Hayden, whose position is under threat from the richly-talented Michael Clarke, who has moved up the order to open at various times with huge success.

Hayden has scores of six, 27, three and six in his four matches in the limited overs series while Clarke has a strike-rate of almost 95%.

But Buchanan believes it is only a matter of time before Hayden finds his touch.

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## World selector Sunny

### Cricket

#### REUTERS, Sydney