



## Did U Know?

American Frank Shorter pulled the US into the running boom by winning the gold medal in the marathon at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Shorter was actually born in Munich.



### Danish Kaneria

(Pakistan leg-spinner)  
"I respect David a lot. He is a great player and my favourite too. I don't think any other Indian batsman will be difficult to bowl at. He has got the class and he would be the main wicket for me. He is truly the Wall and if I get him it will be an achievement for me."  
Targeting Rahul Dravid.



### ESPN

New Zealand vs Australia  
Third ODI  
Live at 7:00 am  
English Premier Football League  
Southampton vs Arsenal  
Live at 8:45 pm  
Tottenham Hotspur vs Fulham  
Live at 8:55 pm  
Man United vs Portsmouth  
Live at 11:10 pm

### STAR Sports

South Africa vs Zimbabwe  
First ODI  
Highlights at 7:00 am  
English Premier Football League  
Aston Villa vs Everton  
Live at 8:55 pm  
Primera Liga  
Barcelona vs Numancia  
Live at 1:00 am (Sunday)  
Real Madrid vs Deportivo  
Live at 3:00 am (Sunday)



### Sixth Nat'l Cricket League

(Four-day, Day-3)  
Dhaka vs Khulna  
Venue: FCS  
Rajshahi vs Sylhet  
Venue: RDVS  
Barisal vs Chittagong  
Venue: CDVS  
Federation Cup soccer  
First Round  
Venue: Kamalapur Stadium

## S Africa 301-7

AGENCIES, Johannesburg

Solid batting down the order enabled South Africa to post a total of 301-7 in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe in Johannesburg on Friday.

Adam Bachar top-scored with 56 and skipper Graeme Smith and Jacques Rudolph made exactly 50 each.

But the real acceleration came in the last five overs as 70 were added with Mark Boucher hitting three sixes in his 49 off 29 balls.

Spinner Prosper Uteyasa was Zimbabwe's best bowler with figures of 3-40.

Earlier, Zimbabwe won the toss and sent South Africa into bat in the day-night ODI at the Wanderers Stadium.

The hosts started the match without Jacques Kallis and Shaun Pollock, their two leading all-rounders. Kallis has been rested for the three-match series, while Pollock, who has been troubled by an ankle injury, will miss the first

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# Rahman ton fails to topple Rajshahi



### SPORTS REPORTER

Golam Rahman celebrated his second century of the Sixth National Cricket League yesterday but his heroics were not quite enough for Sylhet to overhaul Rajshahi's first innings total at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

The young opener, who cracked 160 in the league opener against Dhaka, made 115 but Sylhet only managed 202 for nine at stumps on second day after Rajshahi left-arm spinner Sohrwardi Shuvo snatched six wickets.

Meanwhile, three half-centuries gave Dhaka a substantial first innings lead in their home match against Khulna but their opponents replied with some solid batting of their own.

Ehsanul Haque scored the other century of the day to help Chittagong take a first innings lead against visiting Barisal.

### RAJSHAHI v SYLHET

Rahman kept the Sylhet scoreboard moving but the left-hander's magnificent 189-ball knock could not make

up for the disappointing way his teammates approached Shuvo's bowling, who finished with a fantastic 6-84.

Four of Sylhet's top six batsmen were dismissed below ten however Rahman remained resolute for over four hours hitting 14 fours and one six before being run out.

It was the 17-year-old's third first-class hundred with his maiden century coming also in this competition --115 against Chittagong last year.

Earlier, Rajshahi were all out for 299 in their first innings. The hosts lost their last five wickets adding 56 runs to their overnight 243 as Sylhet's national paceman Tapash Baisya grabbed three wickets in the morning. Hasibul Hossain, who took three wickets on the opening day, was the pick of the bowlers with 4-49.

Rajshahi opener Naeem Islam, overnight 75, added just one run while middle-order batsman Hasanuzzaman, resuming on 24, made 55 studded with half a dozen boundaries.

### DHAKA v KHULNA

A flurry of strokes from the middle-order and tail salvaged Dhaka from a precarious overnight 66-4 to 307 in their first innings at the Fatullah

Stadium.

Sajjad Kadir, who began on 25 with Halim Shah, lost his senior partner early but found an ally in skipper Khaled Mahmud.

Dhaka stumper Sajjad top-scored 76 while Mahmud contributed 47 in a sixth wicket stand that produced exactly 100 runs.

Jamaluddin Babu finally broke Dhaka's best partnership when the off-spinner removed Sajjad, who had struck 11 fours and one six from 131 deliveries.

Mahmud hit six fours and one six before being scalped by Dollar Mahmud but the tourists' frustration increased as they saw Neeeyamur Rashid (61 off 65 balls) and Arafat Sunny (53 not out off 78 balls) widen the gap during a rapid-fire 108-run stand for the eighth wicket.

The pair shared 13 fours and two sixes between them in just 21 overs.

In the end, Dhaka finished with a 154-run first-innings lead when they lost their last three wickets in the space of five runs with national speedster Mashrafe-Bin- Mortuza sending back the last two batsmen without scoring.

Khulna trimmed the lead to just

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PHOTO: STAR

CATCHES WIN MATCHES: Khulna's Nazmus Sadat dives full-length to take a catch to dismiss Dhaka captain Khaled Mahmud off the bowling of Dollar Mahmud during their National Cricket League encounter at Fatullah yesterday.

# No Waqar for India tour



AGENCIES, Karachi

Former Test captain Waqar Younis has failed to reach an agreement with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for his appointment as bowling coach for the national team.

"Basically Waqar wanted a contract for one year, while we were looking at an arrangement specifically for the Indian tour," PCB director of cricket operations Saleem Altaf said on Friday.

Altaf said the board was still keen to sign the former fast bowler to a long-term contract at the National Cricket Academy.

"We want him to help the bowlers. But at the moment we are looking for a bowling coach for the Indian tour."

Waqar lashed out at the PCB saying that they did not have the courtesy of informing him about their decision not to appoint him.

He claimed that he came to know of the PCB decision only when the newsmen called him for his reaction.

"I am disappointed that we could not strike a deal," Waqar told the Press Trust of India. "I wanted to serve the country and I will certainly work in future if provided with an opportunity."

"But what has saddened me more is the attitude of the PCB. I never initiated the move of a bowling coach for the Pakistan team. It was the PCB that started it all and when they decided they didn't want me, they did not have the courtesy to telephone me and inform me of their decision."

"That disappointed me. Because I was very keen to help out the younger lot of bowlers."

"Money is not that important for me because I think I can contribute a lot to our next generation of bowlers. I want to pass on to them the art of reverse swing."

Waqar was dropped by Pakistan after their first-round exit

from the 2003 World Cup. Renowned for his reverse-swinging yorkers, he took 373 wickets in 87 Tests and 416 wickets in 262 one-day internationals.

Younis' credentials are just second to his more illustrious compatriot and pace partner Wasim Akram who took 414 Test and a world record of 502 one-day wickets.

"It would have been a great honour but I think they never wanted me, there was no mention of the money when I talked to the PCB but yes I wanted a long-term contract because you need time to work on bowlers," Waqar told AFP from Lahore.

Pakistan announced a 16-member squad with express pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar, Shabbir Ahmed and Umer Gul missing due to varied injuries.

The pace attack would be led by Mohammad Sami, Navedul Hasan, Mohammad Khalil and all-rounder Abdul Razzaq.



PHOTO: STAR

GM Niaz Murshed (L) and FIDE Master Rezaul Haque are engrossed in deep thinking during their first round engagement of the Mercantile Bank 31st National Chess Championship yesterday.

# WI: In depths of despair



REUTERS, London

Just when you think things cannot get any worse for West Indies cricket, they do.

The team have been in a cavernous hole for some years but recent events suggest they are determined to keep digging for a while yet.

The latest rumpus, sparked by a leaked confidential memo, is more important than most since it involves money, and big money at that. Mobile telecommunications operator Digicel had just begun sponsoring the team, paying some 20 million dollars in a record five-year deal, when they set off for a one-day tournament in Australia in January.

The sponsorship, however, clearly contained potential for

disruption, with many of the individual players already having links with Cable and Wireless.

So it proved. Digicel sent Richard Nowell as its sponsorship manager with the team to Australia. His observations, leaked to the press, were scathing, criticising the players for not co-operating with the team's paymaster and for being poor ambassadors.

A web of alliances to different sponsors, the West Indies Cricket Board and the West Indies Players Association had split the team into factions, he said, adding that some players were more motivated by enjoyment off the pitch than hard work on it.

The bottom line was that Digicel was not getting value for money.

Half-hearted attempts have since been made to play down the matter but the root of the problem --

the on-going dispute between players and board over sponsorship rights -- remains as thorny as ever and is sure to resurface when the team are presented contracts for the home series against South Africa, which dominated the world game in the 1970s and early 80s, has been in chaos for years.

The most colourful cases of dissension in recent years involved a players' strike at Heathrow airport before the 1998-99 tour of South Africa, when Brian Lara was sacked, then rapidly reinstated by the board after a rebellion over money. The team won the battle with the board but went on to lose the Test series 5-0 and the one-dayers 6-1.

Then there was the time in 2001

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## FED CUP Dipali knock Wari out

### SPORTS REPORTER

The first match of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup Football Tournament was decided in the tiebreaker with Dipali Jubo Sangha eliminating Wari Club at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The opening Group A encounter was locked 1-1 in normal time after Jalaluddin put Dipali ahead in the 12th minute but Jahangir Alam equalised for Wari in the 63rd minute.

In the shootout, Saiful, Noor Hossain, Biplob and Sujon made no mistake for the winners while Shipon Barua was the only player able to convert from the spot for Wari.

Dipali will now meet with the winners of tomorrow's match between Dhanmondi Club and Agrani Bank at the same venue.

Today Group B matches kick off with Farashganj meeting BRTC and Victoria facing Badda Jagarani Sangsad.

## Zimbabwe A 256 for 8

### SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwe A were 256 for eight in their first innings shortly before stumps on the opening day of the third and the final four-day Test against Bangladesh A in Harare yesterday.

The home side, who are already 2-0 down in the series, elected to bat first but slumped to 68-4 by lunch with Bangladesh spinners dominating the first session.

Saqib Al Hasan captured three wickets and fellow left-arm spinner Enamul Haque, the Bangladesh A captain who missed the second Test, took one wicket.

## Battle of GMs today

### SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Masters Niaz Murshed and Ziaur Rahman got off to winning starts when the Mercantile Bank 31st National Chess Championship began at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

Reigning champion Zia made beat Syed Mahfuzur Rahman while Niaz won his first round board against Fide Master Rezaul Haque.

Their victories set up an intriguing second round clash today between the top two players of the country.

In other matches, International Masters Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib drew their game, national junior champion Mehdi Hasan Parag, winner of the qualifiers, defeated Mainuddin Ahmed while Aminul Islam Palash drew with Hasan Imam and Fide Master Khondokar Aminul Islam also shared a point with Uten.

## Streak ends strike



REUTERS/AFP, undated

Former captain Heath Streak has signed a contract to play for his country again after a year-long exile, Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) said in a statement on Friday.

Streak was part of a group of 15 leading white players who walked out in April in a dispute with the Zimbabwe board over selection policies.

The team temporarily lost its Test status last year as a result of the row and has struggled to compete since, losing a Test and one-day series to Bangladesh.

"Former Zimbabwe cricket captain Heath Streak has signed a contract to play again for Zimbabwe," the ZC statement said.

The Zimbabwe board responded to the walk-out by firing the players. A Zimbabwe government committee is currently trying to resolve the dispute in meetings involving the rebel players and ZC.

"I just need to finalise some aspects of my contract with Warwickshire so that it ties in with

my international commitments," Streak was quoted as saying in the statement.

"Otherwise I am ready to play for Zimbabwe when selected. I am putting my weight fully behind the captain, Tatenda Taibu, and the rest of the lads."

Streak, who along with the rebels



HEATH STREAK

argued teams were being selected on racial lines, last played for Zimbabwe on their tour to

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## Pak fans crowd Indian visa office

AFP, Lahore

Around 5,000 Pakistani cricket fans Friday obtained visa forms from a special counter set up by India, allowing them to watch the first tour across the border in six years.

Long queues formed outside the office set up by the Indian High Commission (embassy) at the Pakistan Cricket Board's headquarters in the eastern city of Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

"We issued around 5,000 visa forms on the first day," said an Indian official at the office. "The interest is more than we expected."

Applicants must submit the forms on Sunday or Monday along with a fee of 2,500 rupees (65 dollars), which includes the price of a single match ticket for the first Test at Mohali starting from March 8.

India plans to issue a total of 10,000 cricket visas to Pakistanis.

The High Commission decided to set up visa counters in Lahore,

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# Aussies aim to do it now



AFP, Auckland

Some of the batsmen have been talking to a psychologist and a former Test player has called for the selectors to be sacked but New Zealand are denying any whiff of panic as Australia attempt Saturday to take an unbeatable 3-0 lead in their one-day cricket series.

The Kiwis' 106-run drubbing in

Christchurch on Tuesday gave Australia a 2-0 lead in the five-match series and the prospects are looking grim for the home side in Auckland.

New Zealand's top order has been fragile and the bowlers -- Daniel Vettori and the now injured Scott Styris apart -- have struggled to dent the formidable Australian line-up. Despite a desperately close finish in the first match, the critics have been quick to point the finger after the Christchurch humiliation.

Commentator and former Test

wicketkeeper Ian Smith this week called for the three-man selection panel to be sacked for not trying new bowlers, describing the selection policy as "boring and unimaginative".

News that several batsmen had spent time with the team psychologist on Wednesday added to the air of desperation.

Pride will be at the forefront of New Zealand's attempts to restore their fortunes, captain Stephen Fleming said.

"We're pretty determined, we know the importance of the match tomorrow to keep the series alive," he said.

"But more importantly we want to play up to the standard we have over the last 12-24 months with our one-day cricket."

New Zealand achieved its second ranking in the world by winning 19 of 23 completed matches last year but would be overtaken by Sri Lanka if they lose every match in the current series.

Batsman Michael Papps and all-rounder Andre Adams have been added to the New Zealand squad. Papps is in at the expense of Mathew Sinclair, after another run of failures against the Australians, but Adams is not expected to play because of illness.

The slowness of the pitch will determine whether Jeff Wilson -- hammered for 0-57 off six overs on Tuesday -- or James Marshall plays. Marshall is the identical twin brother of Hamish Marshall, New Zealand's best batsman in the first international last Saturday.

Matthew Hayden, Australia's century-maker on Tuesday, will miss Saturday's match after injuring his shoulder taking a spectacular diving catch in the outfield at Christchurch. He will be replaced by Simon Katich who will open the batting with Adam Gilchrist.

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PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's opening match of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup football tournament between Dipali Jubo Sangha and Wari Club at the Kamalapur Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium.