



Did U Know?

Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia became the only man to win gold medals in the 5000 metres, the 10,000 metres, and the marathon in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.



Shahid Afridi

(Pakistan all-rounder)
"I want to continue with my style of batting which is extremely simple: hit the ball back with same force. I like hitting the ball into stands and want to hear the cracking sound that comes out of my bat. I don't know why but that sound (of wood) and sight of seeing the ball land in enclosures gives me immense pleasure and satisfaction."

What to WATCH

- ESPN**
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Deportivo
Repeat at 12:10 pm
English Premier Football League
Newcastle United vs Bolton Wanderers
Live at 6:55 pm
Middlesbrough vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 9:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
Football Extra
Live at 9:00 am
South Africa vs Zimbabwe
Second ODI
Live at 2:00 pm
Primera Liga
Valencia vs Real Betis
Live at 1:55 am (Monday)
- TEN Sports**
Serie A
Inter Milan vs AC Milan
Live at 1:30 pm

DAY'S EVENT

- Ispahani Sixth Nat'l Cricket League**
(Four-dayer, Day-4)
Dhaka vs Khulna
Venue: FCS
Rajshahi vs Sylhet
Venue: RDVS
Barisal vs Chittagong
Venue: CDVS
- Federation Cup Soccer**
First Round
Venue: Kamalapur Stadium

PCB to push for neutral umpires

REUTERS, Karachi
Pakistan will press for the introduction of neutral umpires in one-day internationals at next month's meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in India.
"We are preparing a paper on the benefits of having neutral umpires at both ends in the one-day internationals and it will be submitted to the executive board meeting in Delhi," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan said on Saturday.
Pakistan sent a letter to the ICC during the one-day series in Australia asking it to review the decisions given by umpires and also suggesting they introduce neutral officials.
The ICC have said they would consider the proposal.
Neutral umpires are appointed for Test matches, though the ICC allows one "home" umpire to officiate in one dayers.
"We will try our best to convince
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BCB gets its directors back

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

The suspended directors of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) finally won a battle on Saturday when a law court of the country vacated the stay order enforced against them on August 11, 2002.
The 18 aggrieved directors had smiles on their faces after a High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Awlad Ali and Justice Mohammad Emdadul Haque discharged the rule on why Clause 12 of the BCB's constitution should not be declared illegal.
The ruling now means that BCB president Ali Asghar, who has been functioning with 10 advisors, will have to work with the previous directors until fresh elections are held.
Earlier, a High Court Division Bench of Justice MA Aziz and Justice Mohammad Mamtazzuddin Ahmed upheld a writ petition filed by Rafiqul Islam, a BCB counselor,

who has been left out of the Board's current set-up, termed the court's decision a victory for democracy.
"First we will hold talks with all the councilors before deciding our next course of action," said Tutul.
"It has been a long struggle to establish our rights. When the writ petition was filed we were not given the chance to defend our position because the showcase was served on the Board president and the NSC and they both remained silent for reasons best known to them. It was only last March that we became defendants," said Ahmed Sajjadul Alam, a long-serving cricket organizer and one of the directors.
"A couple of years ago a vested quarter in and outside the board hatched a conspiracy to seize power. But with today's judgement by the honourable justices, the conspirators' plans have been thwarted and the ruling also justified that the board of directors was the o n l y
which challenged the validity of Clause 12 of the cricket board's constitution.
Under Clause 12 of the BCB constitution there will be a management council comprising a chairman, 31 directors (16 from Dhaka clubs, 12 districts, one Education Board, one development foundation and an ex-officio).
But Rafiqul, who was apparently used to carry out Asghar's desire for placing like-minded people within the Board, argued that particular clause was a violation of the 1974 National Sports Council Act.
But with yesterday's legal twist, Rafiqul said that he would move a petition in the Supreme Court soon.
Asghar, on the other hand, declined to make any comment.
"I've heard about it but I won't say anything until I see it in writing," said the BNP lawmaker from Khulna, who made a chaotic debut in a then board of director's meeting on November 28, 2001.
While Asghar was understandably disappointed, Dewan Shaful Arefin Tutul, one of the 18 directors

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Aussies ensure series

Cricket
AFP, Auckland

An unbroken 136-run partnership by Michael Clarke and Mike Hussey and a terrorising spell of bowling by Brett Lee carried Australia to an 86-run win over New Zealand Saturday to wrap up the one-day cricket series with two matches to spare.
The rescue partnership, an Australian record for the sixth wicket, began with the world champions struggling at 128 for five and carried them to 264 at the end of their 50 overs.
In reply New Zealand offered meek resistance as Lee took the key wickets of Stephen Fleming and Chris Cairns, and sent recalled batsman Michael Pappas to hospital, leaving the home side out for 178 with eight overs remaining.
Brad Hogg cleaned up the tail with three of the last four wickets which fell in the space of 10 runs.
It was Australia's 11th win from their last 12 matches against New Zealand, and Fleming conceded his team had no answer.
"We weren't good enough as we haven't been throughout the series. They never let us gain any momentum and we were outplayed in all departments."
Australian captain Ricky Ponting was ecstatic at his side's effort.
"It was pretty good, yeah. We were in a bit of trouble but Michael Clarke and Michael Hussey played beautifully," Ponting said.
"It was a total we were confident of defending. The way they played was a great bonus for us."
Clarke, after scores of nought and 23, notched 71 not out off 75 balls while Hussey, in only his third one-day international, scored an unbeaten 65 off 73, and they plundered 56 off the last five overs.
Opener Simon Katich, recalled in place of the injured Matthew Hayden, scored 58 off 78 balls before falling to spinner Daniel Vettori who again turned the innings for New Zealand.
He took two for 31 off 10 overs, including the wicket of Damien Martyn for one, and with medium

pacers Nathan Astle and Craig McMillan put the brakes on as Australia went from 68 without loss to 128 for five in the space of 13 overs.
When New Zealand came out in reply they faced a fired-up Lee who regularly topped 150 kilometres (93 miles) an hour, and removed Fleming for his third consecutive failure in the series when he played on to his stumps for one in the third over.
Then Pappas, recalled for the



IVE MADE IT: Australian young sensation Michael Clarke completes a sharp single during the third one-day international against New Zealand at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

Kaneria gets 'good omen'

Cricket
AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's spin weapon Danish Kaneria got a "good omen" ahead of his side's India tour when his wife gave birth on Saturday to the couple's first child, which he hoped would bring him good luck on the pitch.
Kaneria, 24, who will lead Pakistan's spin trio, had to skip a short two-day training camp in Lahore to be with his wife Dharmeta and will join the team on Sunday.
"It's a good omen for me and I hope the girl would bring good luck to me on the challenging tour of India," Kaneria told this news agency.
"As per the Hindu traditions it is a Shubh (good omen). She looks like me and I am very happy on the birth of my first child."
Pakistan's team is scheduled to leave for New Delhi on Monday

where they play three Tests and six one-day games on their first tour of India since 1999.
Kaneria, only the second Hindu to play for Pakistan behind wicketkeeper Anil Dalpat, emerged as Pakistan's top bowler taking 15 wickets in three Tests against Australia early this year.
He believes the Australia tour has matured him and he can excel in the series against India, expected to be dominated by spinners.
"Australians are better and subtle batsmen and I think the tour of Australia has given me the much needed confidence to tackle Indian batsmen," he said.
India has world class batsmen in Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and Venkatesai Laxman, against whom great Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne has generally struggled.
"Warne's exploits are known but if he did not come good in India, it doesn't mean I will also fail," the

Pakistani said.
Since making his Test debut against England in 2000, Kaneria has grabbed 102 wickets in 23 Tests for Pakistan.
"Everyone says that Indian spinners are superior to us. This could be a blessing in disguise and would free our minds to perform," said Kaneria.
He has off-spinner Arshad Khan and leg-spinning all-rounder Shahid Afridi to supplement the spin attack.
India has illustrious leg-spinner Anil Kumble, with more than 400 wickets, and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh as their frontline spinners.
Kaneria said his main target would be Dravid.
"Dravid is their linchpin and I would target him because it's very tough to get him. He truly is a 'wall' against whom you have to bowl well," he said.
"I am more than a hundred per cent ready for the challenge."



Khulna middle-order batsman Jamaluddin drives one through mid-off during his fighting knock of 72 on the third day of their National Cricket League match against Dhaka at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

FED CUP F'ganj, Victoria earn victories

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj Sporting Club and Victoria Sporting Club managed a solitary goal victory in the Tibet 20th Federation Cup Football Tournament at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.
The winners will meet on March 1 at the same venue to book seat in the Group B final.
Arup Kumar netted for Farashganj in the 44th minute as they beat BRTC 1-0 in the first match while Victoria rode on Sohag's 18th minute strike against Badda Jagarani Sangsad in another match.
Dhanmondi Club will meet Agrani Bank and Bangladesh Air Force face Youngmen's Club Fakirpool in today's Group C matches.

Sehwag wary of rookie Pakistan pace attack

REUTERS, New Delhi
India can not take Pakistan's pace attack lightly in next month's Test series despite the absence of injured strike bowler Shoaib Akhtar, opening batsman Virender Sehwag said on Saturday.
Indian batsmen would, however, be boosted by their 2-1 Test series success against the Pakistan attack last year.
The aggressive Sehwag, 26, led the way in that triumph, scoring India's first Test triple century with a match-winning 309 in the first Test in Multan.
"When India meet Pakistan the motivation level will be very high for both teams," Sehwag said on Saturday. "They may be a new side, but they are a good and strong side."
"Even with Shoaib we beat them at home and playing at home will be an added advantage for us."
"But the new faces in their team can still create trouble because we don't know how they bowl. We can't take them lightly."

Zia draws with Niaz

SPORTS REPORTER

The 'battle of Grand Masters' between Ziaur Rahman and Niaz Murshed ended as a draw in the Mercantile Bank 31st National Chess Championship at the federation hall-room yesterday.
The second round clash of the country's top two kingpins finished all-square after 35 moves. Reigning champion Zia played with white pieces.
International Master Reefat Bin Sattar won his first game defeating national junior champion Mehdi Hasan Parag.
In other second round games, IM Abdullah Al Rakib beat Khondokar Aminul Islam, Uten beat Aminul Islam Palash, Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon beat Hasan Imam, Mainuddin Ahmed beat FM Rezaul Haque and IM Enamul Hossain Rajib drew with his teammate FM Abu Sufian Shakil.

Anything can happen



SPORTS REPORTER

All three third round four-day matches in the Ispahani Sixth National Cricket League are set for a dramatic finish on the final day after the end of third day's play at different venues across the country yesterday.
Overnight batsmen Ilias Sunny converted his fifty into a handsome hundred and Ehsanul Haque extended his ton on the day as hosts Chittagong put lowly Barisal under a heavy load of runs to brighten their chance for another outright victory.
At close of play the tourists were 85 for one and still needed 156 runs to avoid an innings defeat after the port city side declared at 479 for 7 at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.
The match between Dhaka and Khulna at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium also heads into a thrilling last day after the visitors fought back brilliantly in their second innings to amass 415 runs that set a 262-run winning target for the home side.
Away at the Rajshahi Divisional

Stadium, the hosts took a 263-run lead with five wickets intact in their second innings against Sylhet.
CHITTAGONG v BARISAL
Sunny hit his maiden first-class century and partnered in a towering 365-run stand with Ehsanul as Chittagong, who were 242 for 4 overnight, declared their first innings on 479 for 7 in 155 overs.
Left-handed Sunny resumed the day on 75 and went on to make 176 facing 429 balls. His marathon nine-hour innings was studded with 18 fours and two sixes.
On the other hand, national discard Ehsanul, who started the day on 106, added another 80 runs before being stamped by Barisal keeper Shaheen off Musharraf Rubel, the only successful bowler on the day with three for 80 in 38 overs.
The mammoth total gave the port city team an estimable 241-run first innings lead after restricting their opposition to 238 in the first knock.
In the second innings, Imran Ahmed and Humayun Kabir made a solid start for Barisal, but left-arm spinner Faisal Hossain broke the 81-run opening partnership as he

BD A 206-6

SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting Bangladesh A team were 206-6 half-an-hour before close of play on the second day of the third and final Test against Zimbabwe A at the Kwekwe Sports Club in Harare yesterday.
Tushar Imran scored 58 and Saqib Al Hasan 47 as the tourists recovered from a shaky start, which saw them go into lunch at 76-2.
Earlier, the home side added only three runs to their overnight 266-8 in the morning before being dismissed.
The Zimbabweans was boosted by the return of former 'rebel' Andy Bignaut, but he gave a return catch to Sanwar Hossain after making only 10.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh A lead the three-match series 2-0.
Perera nabbed
REUTERS, Colombo
Former Sri Lanka all-rounder Suresh Perera has been arrested on assault charges following a drunken brawl, police said on Saturday.
Perera, who played in 20 one-day internationals and three Tests, was drinking at home with friends last week when they were allegedly antagonised by a passing group of men and drawn into a fight that left two in hospital.
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Balaji, Nehra back

Cricket
AFP, Mumbai

India on Saturday named four fast bowlers in a 14-member squad for the opening cricket Test against Pakistan, with Laxmipathy Balaji and Ashish Nehra making come-backs.
Left-arm seamer Nehra and Balaji returned to bolster the pace attack after being out of Test cricket for nearly a year because of injuries.
Both played their last Test match in April against Pakistan.
Nehra has so far bagged 44 wickets in 17 Tests and Balaji 13 in five. They are expected to provide valuable support to left-arm fast bowlers Irfan Pathan and Zaheer Khan.
Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar,

who played just one domestic game after the Bangladesh tour in December to rest his injured elbow, was also included in the team announced by board secretary Karunakaran Nair.
The opening Test of a three-match series begins at Mohali on March 8. The remaining two Tests will be played at Kolkata and Bangalore.
Pakistan, who arrive in India on Monday, will also play six one-day internationals.
India captain Sourav Ganguly will now have a full-strength bowling attack at his disposal as off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has also been named in the squad along with leg-spinner Anil Kumble.
Nair said Harbhajan had been cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC) after being reported for suspect bowling action during the second and final Test against



A GRAND BATTLE: GM Ziaur Rahman (L) makes a move against GM Niaz Murshed during their second round engagement of the Mercantile Bank 31st National Chess Championship yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR