



## Did U Know?

Toys that were like yo-yos had been around for hundreds of years, but a man named Pedro Flores was responsible for manufacturing the first modern yo-yo in 1928. Originally from the Philippines, Flores based his design on a game that he remembered as a child. By 1929 his American factory was churning out 300,000 yo-yos a day.



## Sourav Ganguly

(India cricket captain)  
*"When Sachin says he is 100 per cent fit, he is, and nobody has a right to talk about the form of a man who has 70 international hundreds."*  
**Defending star batsman Sourav Tendulkar's fitness and form.**



**ESPN**  
 ICC Cricket World Repeated at 7.30 pm  
**Sportscentre**  
 Live at 8.30 pm  
 English Premier League Preview Taped version at 9 pm  
 Here We Go  
 Same day delay at 10.30 pm  
**New Zealand v Australia**  
 Fifth ODI  
 Live at 3.30 am (Saturday)  
**STAR Sports**  
 South Africa v Zimbabwe  
 First Test  
 Live at 2.30 pm  
 Sportsline  
 Live at 9.30 pm



**Ispahani Sixth Nat'l Cricket League**  
 (Day One of 4-day match)  
 Rajshahi vs Dhaka  
 Venue: Bogra Stadium  
 Chittagong vs Khulna  
 Venue: CDVS  
 Barisal vs Sylhet  
 Venue: Barisal Stadium  
**Tibet Federation Cup Soccer**  
 Wanderers vs Victoria SC (3:00 pm)  
 Venue: Kamalapur Stadium

## Bachelor win

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
 Bachelor SC defeated Shantinagar SC 2-1 in yesterday's Green Delta First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.  
 Danesh put Bachelor ahead in the first half while Muhid doubled the margin from a penalty corner halfway through the second half.  
 Saddam scored Shantinagar's consolation goal three minutes from time.

## Train passage for Pak fans

**AFP, New Delhi**  
 India and Pakistan have agreed to run special trains from the Pakistani city of Lahore to Chandigarh in northern India to allow cricket fans to attend the first Test match next week, an official said Thursday.  
 The details are being worked out by officials of the two countries. Punjab state Chief Minister Amarinder Singh told a press conference in the state capital of Chandigarh.

# Dhaka's run ends

## Sylhet too good for Barisal, holders tumble



**SPORTS REPORTER**

Rajshahi overcame high-flying Dhaka. Sylhet made a mockery of a formidable Barisal total while Chittagong were outplayed by Khulna in yesterday's one-day fixtures of the National Cricket League.

Victory in the fourth round of matches enabled Rajshahi and Khulna to join Dhaka atop the table on six points each. Dhaka's three-match unbeaten run ended with the 37-run defeat in Bogra while Khulna knocked over defending champions Chittagong by four wickets at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

Winless Barisal's miseries continued as they slumped to a five-wicket loss at home to Sylhet. Chittagong's collection remained on two.

The same opponents start the four-day matches today at the same venues.

### RAJSHAHI-DHAKA

Half-centuries by Mushfiqur Rahman and Forhad Reza steered Rajshahi to a challenging 252-7 after the home side were asked to bat by Dhaka captain Khaled Mahmud at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium.

Reza, the top run-getter in the ongoing one-day competition, made 56 off 71 balls -- his second fifty -- with five fours and one six. Bangladesh all-rounder Mushfiq completed a breezy 71-ball 67 featuring three fours and a six and then went on to bag 2-54 to win the man-of-the-match award.

Dhaka lost their first wicket with just six on the board. Opener Anwar Hossain (50 off 88 balls) tried his best to keep the innings on track but with the run rate creeping up all the time, Dhaka eventually succumbed to pressure.

Jahangir Alam and Mehrab Hossain Jr made 35 each but batted too slowly in the middle and Mahmud's run-a-ball 30 was too little too late.

### KHULNA-CHITTAGONG

Salahuddin Ahmed starred in Khulna's impressive win with a sparkling all-round display. Salahuddin, playing his first match in the competition, captured four wickets for 41 from ten overs to help Khulna dismiss the home side for 190 in 48.1 overs.

Faisal Hossain topscored with 56 after Chittagong had batted first. The left-hander struck five fours before falling to Salahuddin, who was adjudged man-of-the-match for his all-round exploits. Salahuddin made a run-a-ball 43 as Khulna stormed to the target with 16 overs to spare.

Opener Nazmus Sadat contributed an explosive 36-ball 43 while Jamaluddin remained unbeaten on 48 from 54 deliveries.

### SYLHET-BARISAL

Opener Imran Ahmed's 75 and a whirlwind unbeaten 41-ball 61 by Abul Bashar took Barisal to 274-7

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## SCORES IN BRIEF

**RAJSHAHI v DHAKA**  
**RAJSHAHI:** 251-7 in 50 overs (Zunaid 17, Reza 56, Anisur 38, Mushfiq 67, Mashud 25, Rosel 22; Mahmud 1-10, Ashraf 3-63, Sunny 1-35, Mehrab Jr 1-47)  
**DHAKA:** 215-8 in 50 overs (Anwar 50, Jahangir 35, Mehrab Jr 35, Halim 21, Mahmud 30; Alamgir 2-44, Reza 1-16, Mushfiq 2-54, Rezwanul 2-34)  
**Result:** Rajshahi won by 37 runs.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Mushfiqur Rahman.

**CHITTAGONG v KHULNA**  
**CHITTAGONG:** 190 all out in 48.1 overs (Tamim 19, Ehsanul 17, Nazim 20, Faisal 56, Azam 24, Sunny 18, Rabbi 20; Manjurul 1-28, Al Amin 2-31, Salahuddin 4-41)  
**KHULNA:** 192-6 in 34 overs (Sadat 43, Shaful 14, Sazzad 13, Salahuddin 43, Jamal 48 not out, Asadullah 14; Alamgir 1-24, Ehsanul 1-32, Arifat 2-36)  
**Result:** Khulna won by four wickets.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Salahuddin Ahmed.

**BARISAL v SYLHET**  
**BARISAL:** 274-7 in 50 overs (Imran 75, Hannan 35, Shahin 29, Nahidul 14, Bashar 61 not out, Mosharraf 26, Sonnet 11 not out; Ashiqur 1-33, Hasibul 2-54, Tanna 3-58)  
**SYLHET:** 275-5 in 48.4 overs (Moniruzzaman 55, Mabud 34, Mawla 85 not out, Ezaz 17, Rezaul 46 not out; Sonnet 2-61, Mosharraf 1-32, Tariqul 1-38)  
**Result:** Sylhet won by five wickets.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Golam Mawla.

# BCB look down the barrel



**PALLAB BHATTACHARAYA, New Delhi**

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven were spared the embarrassment of following on but their agony in the second Duleep Trophy match against Central Zone mounted on the penultimate day at the Karnal Singh Stadium yesterday.

The tourists were dismissed for 146 in their first innings in reply to Central's 351, but home captain Jai Prakash Yadav chose not to ask Mohammad Ashraf's boys to bat again.

Yadav was happy with the first-innings lead since it guaranteed his side a place in the final of the Indian premier first-class competition after outright win over East Zone in the previous round.

Having secured a big first-innings lead of 205, Central then stroked their way to 212-6, an overall lead of 417, in their second essay at close of Day Three with

Sanjay Bangar hitting an unbeaten 91.

Yadav is likely to declare the innings once Bangar, a Test discard, completes his century today and then have a crack at the touring batsmen on a weary fourth day wicket.

The only highlight for the visitors on the day was a five-wicket haul by medium pacer Aftab Ahmed. The young right-hander from Chittagong, whose bowling prowess was noticed during the second one-day international against New Zealand at Dhaka last year, sparked a Central top-order collapse with his military medium after Bangar and Devendra Bundela produced 76 runs for the second wicket.

Bundela followed up his first-innings 83 with an impressive 53 but his dismissal at the score of 97 saw Central collapse to 105-5 with Aftab taking all the four wickets.

The hosts lost three wickets -- first innings centurion Abbas Ali, Yadav and wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha -- at the score of 103 to Aftab, who then dismissed Doru

(29) to finish the day with 5-28 in 18 overs.

Earlier, Bangladesh, resuming on 117 for six in the morning, could add just 29 more runs before being bowled out.

Shalabh Srivastava was instrumental in polishing off the visitors, taking four for 33.

Manzarul Islam, who had stood tall in the ruins, took his personal score to 47 before falling to medium pacer Harvinder Singh. Srivastava accounted for the other three batsmen to go in the first session.

Bangladesh dealt Central Zone an early blow in their second innings as opener Amit Pagnis was out for 15 with just 21 on the home team's scoreboard.

**SCOREBOARD**  
 Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the four-day Duleep Trophy match between Bangladesh Cricket Board XI and Central Zone at the Karnal Singh Stadium in Delhi on Thursday:

**CENTRAL ZONE:** First innings 351  
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# Pakistan's faulty start



**AFP, Dharamshala**

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq had little to cheer about on his birthday as his batsman floundered against pace in a practice match ahead of a Test series against India here on Thursday.

Pakistan were wobbling at 83-4 against a Board President's team before reaching 165-5 in their first innings at stumps on the opening day of a three-day game.

Inzamam, who turned 35 on Thursday, steadied the innings with a 72-run stand for the fifth wicket with Asim Kamal (43 not out) but was dismissed when looking well-set.

The Pakistani captain made a fluent 35 before falling leg-before while attempting to sweep off-spinner Venugopala Rao.

Pacemen Gagandeep Singh, Rudra Pratap Singh and Shib Shankar Paul rattled Pakistan's top order as they shared three wickets to put the tourists on the back foot after Inzamam had won the toss in overcast conditions.

Just 45 overs were completed due to bad light and drizzle at the Dharamshala Cricket Stadium, hosting its first-ever international match.

But the tourists failed to make the most of their only warm-up game before the opening Test of a three-match series against India, starting at Mohali on March 8.

Pakistan were off to a solid start on a slow pitch as left-handed openers Taufeeq Umar and Salman Butt put on 54 runs in 11 overs.

The slide began when Butt was run out for 21 following a mix-up with Umar. The tourists then lost three wickets in the space of 29 runs.

New Pakistan vice-captain

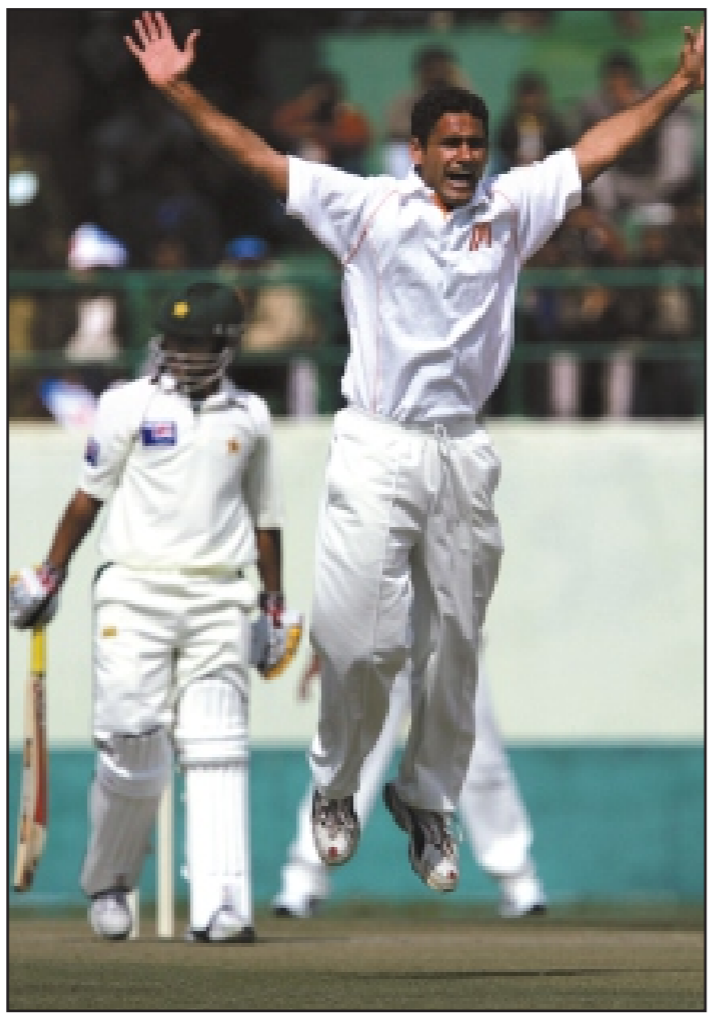
Younis Khan was dismissed off the first ball, brilliantly caught by Dheeraj Jadhav off Gagandeep.

Reliable middle-order batsman Yousof Youhana (18) executed a couple of handsome shots before

inside-edging a Paul delivery to wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel.

Umar (37) had been looking confident during his 99-minute stay

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Indian Board President's XI pacer Gagandeep Singh unsuccessfully appeals for an lbw decision against Pakistan batsman Salman Butt at Dharamshala yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

THE PICTURE SAYS IT ALL: School children hold cards and banners in Amritsar yesterday as they line up on the roadside to welcome Pakistani cricket supporters to India to witness the forthcoming series between the two arch-rivals.

## F'pool in Fed Cup finals

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Youngmen's Club Fakirpool became the first side to reach the final round of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup when they edged Agrani Bank by a solitary goal yesterday.

Ripon slammed the match winner after 23 minutes in the Group A final at the Bishreshitha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Ripon struck twice to help Bangladesh Army eliminate Rahmatganj MFS 2-0 in the day's other match and set a final clash against Arambagh Kirra Sangha in Group C. The final will be played at the same venue tomorrow.

The Group B final between Victoria Sporting Club and Dhaka Wanderers is scheduled for today.

Three group champions qualify for the finals, joining the five automatic qualifiers.

## Independence Day hockey this month

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh Hockey Federation will organise the Independence Day hockey tournament in Dhaka from March 18-25.

The Premier League, First Division and services teams and Dhaka University have already been invited for the tournament. The tournament is also open for non-affiliated teams and other clubs. Interested teams have been requested to enroll by March 8.

## Reefat draws with Shakil

**SPORTS REPORTER**

International Master Reefat Bin Sattar shared point with FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil in the adjourned first-round match of the Mercantile 31st National Chess Championship yesterday.

The championship resumes today with the seventh round matches after a rest day.

Defending champion Grand Master Ziaur Rahman is leading the table jointly with GM Niaz Murshed on 5.5 points. IM Abdullah Al Rakib is second with 4.5 points and Reefat is third with four points.

## Mohammedan school cricket

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Three matches of the Mohammedan Dhaka Metropolitan inter-school cricket tournament were held yesterday at different city venues.

Shakil Ahmed smashed 129 as Matuail High School (332-5) inflicted a massive 146-run defeat on Nawabpur Government High School (186) at the East End Club ground.

A blazing 54 not out by Borhan throttled Motijheel Model High School (151-2 in 14 overs) to an 8-wicket win over Haider Ali High School (147) at the Khilgaon Government High School ground while Mohammadpur Government High School (118-8) snatched a two-wicket win against Shaheed Abu Taleb High School (117) at the COP ground.

# Chalk & cheese captains



**AFP, Dharamshala**

When India captain Sourav Ganguly bared his chest at Lord's to celebrate his team's rare win against England in the NatWest Trophy one-day final in 2002, the purists frowned.

His unassuming Pakistani counterpart Inzamamul Haq has never been known for betraying emotions in public, his body language often staying the same in both defeat and victory.

The rival skippers for the upcoming Test series starting in Mohali on March 8 are as different as chalk and cheese. Inzamam is an exemplar and Ganguly is a motivator.

Ganguly's shirt-waving act at Lord's was criticised by many, including former India skipper Kapil Dev, who believed it did not befit the

stature of an international captain.

But it was a spontaneous reaction from Ganguly, who likes wearing his heart on his sleeve. When he took off his shirt and waved it vigorously in the air, he did not know his action would spark such a heated debate.

That was his way of reacting to a grand occasion as his team had successfully chased a massive 326-run target to savour one of the best moments in the history of Indian one-day cricket.

Unlike Inzamam, Ganguly is not the best batsman of his team, coming down the pecking order behind such luminaries as Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. But his role as a motivator should not be underestimated.

Ganguly is the most successful Indian Test captain, having led his team to 18 wins in 44 matches since taking over from Tendulkar in 2000. India have lost just one home Test series under his captaincy, against

Australia earlier this season.

The 32-year-old took over the captaincy in troubled times during the match-fixing scandal and succeeded in making India a team to be feared.

Ganguly has been credited with backing youngsters passing through a lean patch. And he has been proved right as batsman Yuvraj Singh, off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and paceman Zaheer Khan all benefited from his encouragement.

His major contribution is that India have now learnt to win away from home. A 1-1 draw in Australia last year was India's best performance under his leadership.

The Ganguly-led India are also a force to reckon with in one-dayers, sharing the rain-hit Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka in 2002 before reaching the World Cup final in South Africa the following year.

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# Harbhajan in the clear



**AFP, London**

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has had his action effectively "cleared" by the International Cricket Council (ICC), the world governing body announced Wednesday.

Back in December a group of officials, including former England batsman Chris Broad, raised concerns over Harbhajan's 'doosra', a delivery which turns away from a right-handed batsman -- the opposite of an orthodox off-spin ball.

But Harbhajan was reported under now defunct 'chucking' regulations which were more strict than those which came into force on March 1 allowing bowlers up to 15 degrees of straightening of their arm

in delivery.

In a statement, cricket chiefs



HARBHAJAN SINGH

said: "The ICC today confirmed that it has received a report on the bowling action of India bowler Harbhajan

Singh from the Board of Control for Cricket in India which indicates that his bowling action for both his off-spinner and 'doosra' falls within the tolerance threshold prescribed in its new regulations.

"The report will now be forwarded to the members of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires and Referees."

Harbhajan was reported following the second Test between Bangladesh and India in Chittagong where he took two for 19 in the host's second innings during an innings and 83 run-win that saw India clinch the series 2-0.

His action was analysed last month by expert Bruce Elliott at the University of Western Australia, who supervised a high-speed camera test on Harbhajan.

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## Akhtar may return for 3rd Test

**AFP, Lahore**

Fiery Pakistani pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar said Thursday he was recovering fast from a hamstring injury and hopes to play in the final Test against India at Bangalore later this month.

"I have been on rehabilitation and the injury is healing quicker than expected," Akhtar told AFP.

"I hope to get fit and play one or two side matches in Pakistan before going to India," he said.

"It could be the final Test in Bangalore" on March 24. The 29-year-old pacer, regarded as one of the fastest bowlers in the world, pulled out of Pakistan's first tour to India in six years because of the injury.

He announced his withdrawal a day after being fined 500 dollars for breaches of discipline during the tour of Australia, although he said the punishment had no bearing on his decision.

"It's agonising not to be with your mates but it's out of my hands," he said.

"Missing a tour like India is a great disappointment for any player

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