



Did U Know?

Beach volleyball, a new addition to the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996, began as a fun activity at Santa Monica, California, in the 1920s. It developed into a competitive sport in the 1950s and 60s and really took off in the late 1970s after becoming professional.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports & DD Sports

India vs Pakistan
First Test, Day Two
Live at 10:30 am

ESPN

UEFA Champions League
Juventus vs Real Madrid
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)
New Zealand vs Australia
First Test, Day One
Live at 3:45 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Arsenal vs Bayern Munich
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)

Honours even on Day 1

AFP, Mohali



Little-known Asim Kamal and Inzamamul Haq saved Pakistan from a batting embarrassment with gutsy half-centuries under pressure in the first Test against India here on Tuesday.

Pakistan were tottering at 30-2 and then 191-6 after being sent to bat on a seamer-friendly track, but left-handed Kamal (91) and skipper Inzamam (57) came to their team's rescue with responsible knocks.

Pakistan were all out for 312 in their first innings just before the scheduled close on the opening day. India will bat on Wednesday.

Kamal, who scored 99 on his Test debut against South Africa at Lahore two years ago, missed out on a century again when he was bowled by seamer Laxmipathi Balaji.

Balaji, out of Test cricket for nearly a year due to injury, made an impressive comeback with 5-76, his maiden five-wicket haul in six Tests.

India had seized the initiative in the first two sessions when they grabbed six wickets on a lively pitch, with fast bowlers Irfan Pathan and Balaji claiming two scalps apiece.

Kamal then launched a vigorous counter-attack to restore Pakistan's fortunes, smashing 14 fours in his fifth half-century in seven Tests.

The 28-year-old rallied his team with two useful stands, adding 52 for the fifth wicket with his captain and 48 for the seventh with Kamran Akmal (15).

Kamal offered one difficult

chance on 79 when he drove leg-spinner Anil Kumble, but Venkatsai Laxman failed to latch on to the ball in the cover region.

Barring this lapse, Kamal batted with confidence against both pace and spin to hold the innings together.

Kamal was not the only batsman to apply himself well on a grassy pitch which had both pace and movement as Inzamam was the first to keep India's pace-oriented attack at bay with his fluent 37th half-century.

India had to rely on veteran Kumble to end Inzamam's flourish but failed to make short work of Pakistan's lower-order batting led by Kamal.

Kumble, the lone spinner in the side, trapped Inzamam leg-before and then accounted for Akmal to finish with 2-76.

Pakistan's early batting woes began against pace as Pathan and Balaji made the most of a seaming track to sustain their team's hopes of restricting the tourists to a modest total.

India skipper Sourav Ganguly's decision to put Pakistan in to bat produced the desired result as Pathan and Zaheer Khan shared the first two wickets to reduce the tourists to 30-2.

Balaji then removed well-set Taufeeq Umar (44), who inside-edged a delivery on to his stumps just before lunch.

Pakistan lost one more big wicket after the break when reliable Yousuf Youhana (6) fell to a soft dismissal, edging an away-going delivery from Pathan straight to wicket-keeper Dinesh Karthik.

Playing their first Test series in India since 1999, Pakistan were off to a shaky start as Salman Butt and

Younis Khan fell cheaply.

Pathan struck in his fourth over when he dismissed Butt (five), who was bowled off-stump playing across the line. Younis (nine) also did not last long, trapped leg-before by Zaheer with the one that nipped back.

Inzamam then steadied the innings with a 59-run stand for the third wicket with Umar.

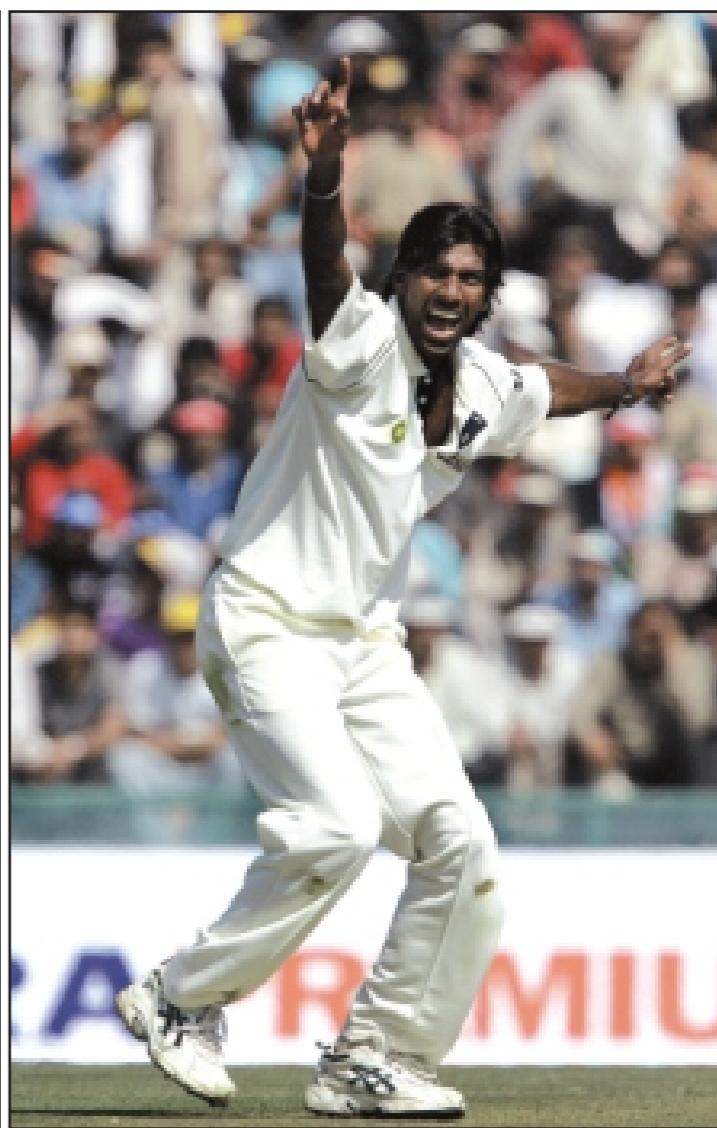
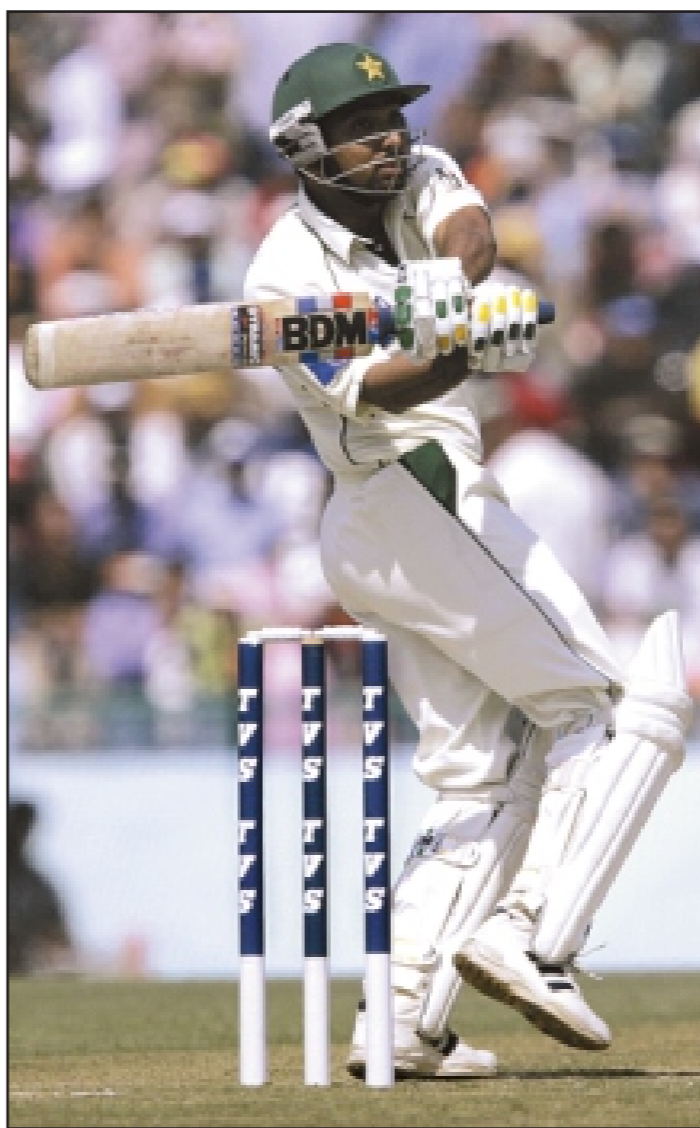
SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first Test between India and Pakistan at Mohali on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings	
Butt b Pathan	5
Umar b Balaji	44
Younis lbw b Zaheer	9
Inzamam lbw b Kumble	57
Youhana c Karthik b Pathan	6
Kamal b Balaji	91
Razzaq c Karthik b Balaji	26
Akmal c Dravid b Kumble	15
Sami b Balaji	20
Naved lbw b Balaji	11
Kaneria not out	8
Extras: (b-11, lb-5, nb-3, w-1)	20
Total: (All out in 86.4 overs)	312
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-30, 3-89, 4-104, 5-156, 6-191, 7-239, 8-282, 9-303	
Bowler	
Pathan	23 5 68 2
Zaheer	17 1 70 1
Balaji	20.4 5 76 5
Kumble	22 6 76 2
Ganguly	2 0 3 0
Sehwag	2 1 3 0

INDIA: Ganguly, Sehwag, Gambhir, Dravid, Tendulkar, Laxman, Karthik, Pathan, Zaheer, Kumble, Balaji.

Toss: India.
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa) and Darrell Hair (Australia).



DAY ONE SURPRISE HEROES: Young Pakistani left-hander Asim Kamal (L) plays a hook shot on way to a fine 91 while Indian right-arm seamer Laxmipathi Balaji appeals for an lbw decision on the opening day of the first Test at Mohali yesterday.

PHOTOS: AFP



WELCOME TO BIG TIME: Players of Brothers Union warming up at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday ahead of their AFC Cup first round fixture against Nisa FC of Turkmenistan.

BD A humbled

SPORTS REPORTER

After a comfortable victory in the second match, Bangladesh A came crashing down to earth in the third one-dayer against Zimbabwe A when they were handed a nine-wicket defeat on Monday at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo.

The home side now lead the five-game series 2-1. The fourth encounter is scheduled today.

Batting continued to trouble the Bangladeshis who struggled for the third game running after winning the toss. The tourists were already three down with just 10 runs on the board, a setback from which they never recovered, and ended up with a paltry 148 runs in 40.4 overs.

Hard-hitting batsman Mahmud Ullah Riyad (30), Mushfiqur Rahim (18) and tail-enders Enamul Haque Jr. (22) and Shafaq al-Jabir (24) were the only players who got starts as Zimbabwean seamers controlled proceedings.

Enamul and Shafaq added 46 runs for the last wicket to spare further embarrassment.

Veteran paceman Bryan Strang and Allan Mwayenga caused the top

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5-star Balaji wants more

Kamal expects three figures soon

AFP, Mohali



Indian paceman Laxmipathi Balaji said Tuesday he was hungry for more after claiming a maiden five-wicket haul in the opening Test against Pakistan.

"I am very happy my hard work has paid off with the first five-wicket haul. I think I can do better," said Balaji, who finished with 5-76 to help his team dismiss Pakistan for 312 on the opening day of the match.

Balaji said tips from former Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee helped him a lot in his comeback match after nearly a year out of Test cricket due to an injury.

"It is always challenging to stage a comeback after injury but I worked really hard. I sought help from Australian great Dennis Lillee who advised me to change the bowling

action a little bit," said Balaji, 23.

"And it all paid off here."

Balaji removed Taufeeq Umar (44) in his first spell before accounting for all-rounder Abdul Razzaq in the second.

He then took three wickets with the new ball to better his previous best of 4-63, also against Pakistan at Rawalpindi last year.

He said his five-wicket performance against Pakistan was special.

"Yes, it's always challenging to play against Pakistan. If you do well against them, it's something very special," he said.

He said Pakistan's gutsy lower-order batting virtually ruined India's day after the hosts had seized the initiative in the first two sessions.

"Lower-order batsmen have been doing well these days, but we kept a tight line and knew the batsmen will make mistakes," he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's saviour Asim Kamal was disappointed after missing out on a century in the first

Test on Tuesday, but said the three-figure knock would come soon.

"I can't describe how disappointed I am," Kamal, 28, told reporters after his stubborn 91 under pressure on a seamer-friendly track.

"It's part of the game, but I am happy that I lived up to the task," said Kamal, who was dismissed for 99 on his Test debut against South Africa at Lahore in October 2003.

The Karachi native also came close to scoring a century this year when he made 89 against Australia in Sydney.

"I never felt pressure in the nineties but you may call it bad luck," he said, adding pressure had always spurred him on.

"When I walked in our score was 104-4, so (captain) Inzamamul Haq told me to stay at the wicket and wait for the loose delivery and I did exactly that."

Kamal described the pitch as "sporting" and hoped it would support both bowlers and batsmen.

Grenada talks break down

BBC ONLINE, undated

Talks in Grenada on Monday lasting almost seven hours failed to settle the sponsorship row which saw Brian Lara and six others dropped by West Indies.

However, Grenadian Prime Minister Keith Mitchell, who chaired the meeting, said some steps forward had been made.

"We can't say we've had a complete solution but we have made some considerable progress," Mitchell said.

The players have personal deals with Cable and Wireless which conflict with the team's main backer, Digicel.

Lara, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Chris Gayle, Fidel Edwards, Dwayne Bravo, Dwayne Smith and Ravi Rampaul were left out of a 22-man squad for the upcoming home series against South Africa.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the West Indies Cricket Board, the players' association WIPA, and the two companies.

Mitchell added: "We have made

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BU's Asian test today

Nisa finally arrive

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union will make their debut in a top level competition under Asian Football Confederation today when the National and Dhaka Premier League champions host Turkmenistan's Nisa FC in an AFC Cup first round fixture.

The match kicks off at 4 pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium but it was uncertain till yesterday evening whether the game would be played at all.

However, a 14-member Nisa team including one official flew into the capital in the evening ending an anxious wait for Bangladesh Football Federation officials and AFC match commissioner Mohammed Muzammel.

The official had earlier said he was prepared to wait till the last minute for Nisa.

Brothers will be looking to start 2005 on the back of a glorious last season.

The Gopibagh outfit trained for the past two months under new coach Wajed Gazi but manager Amer Khan still thinks they will be short of match practice.

"We've not played any competitive football in the last six months following the National League," said Amer.

"We don't have any idea about our opponents and even the ground looks new to the players," said the former Brothers midfielder referring to the BNS where the pitch has been redone for football.

"It looks under-prepared and I'm really not sure how they will respond," he added.

National defender Mohammed Sujon, who has been given the

captain's armband this season, however, has the experience of playing against Nisa.

"I played against them for Muktiyoddha as a guest player in both the home and away matches. They are a good team but I think we have trained enough well," Sujon said.

Brothers have played three warm-up matches last week and beat Bangladesh Army 2-0, Arambagh 1-0 and Farashganj 1-0.

They are pinning hopes on Russian forward Victor Edward, who played a vital role in their two triumphant campaigns last season.

Their other foreign recruit is the combative Moroccan midfielder Hisham Inani, who is expected to fill playmaker Arman Mia's role.

Brothers have already announced their line-up with six new faces. Defender Jewel Rana and striker Topu though have been ruled out due to injury.

Four Iranian referees have already arrived in the city to conduct the game.

BROTHERS UNION: Mohammed Ali, Siraji, Sujon, Shuvra, Masud Rana, Abul, Inani, Pranotosh, Parvez Babu, Edward and Khokon.

DAY'S EVENT

AFC Cup
Brothers Union
vs
Nisa FC
4:00 pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium