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Did U Know?

The name Adidas, formed from the first and last name of its founder, has come to mean so much more. Is it merely a coincidence that the letters of the Adidas name have come to stand for the acronym 'All Day I Dream About Soccer' among many other things.

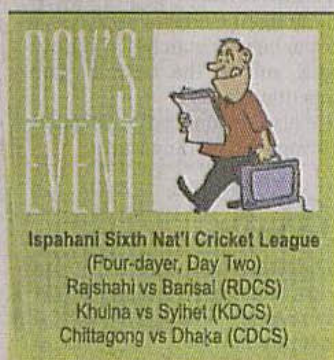


ESPN
FA Cup
Blackburn Rovers vs Leicester City
Live at 7:00 pm
Newcastle United vs Tottenham Hotspur
Live at 9:55 pm
Brazilian Football
Santos vs Barbaresse
Live at 12:57 am (Monday)
New Zealand vs Australia
First Test, Day Five
Live at 3:30 am (Monday)

STAR Sports
Football Crazy
Live at 9:00 am
South Africa vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day Three
Live at 2:30 pm



Sir Alex Ferguson
(Manchester United coach)
"Cafu must have two hearts, he did so much running, and as for Maldini if he continues to play for another five years I'm quitting!"
Commenting on the two AC Milan defenders after being knocked out of this season's Champions League.



AFC U-17 WOMEN FOOTBALL
Bangladesh open against Guam
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have been placed in Group B along with Japan, Hong Kong and Guam in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-17 Women Football Championship to be held in South Korean city of Namhae over April 16-27. Bangladesh will open their campaign against Guam on April 16 and then face Japan on April 18 and Hong Kong on April 20. A total of 11 teams will take part in the competition. Before setting off for Seoul on April 13 to mark their maiden appearance in any international tournament, Bangladesh women's team will play three practice matches in West Bengal in the last week of this month.

Pepsi v'ball
SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong and Comilla moved into the final of the Pepsi inter-district volleyball championship beating their respective rivals in the semifinals at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday. The final takes place at the same venue today. Chittagong beat Gazipur 25-15, 25-17 and 25-14 while Comilla defeated Tangail 25-20, 25-12, 25-18.

Dramatic draw at Mohali

Akmal pushes back the boundaries

AFP, Mohali



Pakistan found an unlikely saviour in Kamran Akmal to snatch a creditable draw from the jaws of defeat in the opening Test against India here on Saturday. Pakistan faced defeat when they resumed batting on the fifth and final morning as they were 53 ahead with last four wickets in hand, but Akmal turned the match upside-down with his superb maiden Test century under pressure. The wicketkeeper-batsman, 23, exceeded expectations as he slammed a solid 109 in only his 11th match to help his team post a massive 496-9 declared in the second innings, their highest total in India. Pakistan batted more than two sessions to shatter India's hopes of victory in the first match of a three-

Draw delights the saviour

AFP, Mohali

Pakistan's unlikely hero Kamran Akmal said Saturday he had realised his dream of scoring a match-saving century in the opening Test against India here. "It was my dream to score a Test hundred and save my team from defeat," said the wicketkeeper-batsman, who scored a sparkling 109 for his maiden Test hundred. "I thank God as we could draw this match. We drew a match which we thought we had lost," a smiling Akmal, who was named man-of-the-match, said. "I am happy my first hundred came at a time when the team needed it most." Pakistan were 53 runs ahead with

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Test series, thanks to unsung Akmal's resolute batting. India finished the day at 85-1 after being set an improbable target of 293 runs off 25 overs, with Virender Sehwag scoring 36 and Gautam Gambhiran unbeaten 32. Pakistan gained a big psychological boost ahead of the second Test in Kolkata with their gutsy lower-order batting, led by Akmal, after being under pressure on the first four days of the match. Akmal led the remarkable recovery as he steered his team to safety with a record 184-run stand with Abdul Razzaq, a free-stroking batsman who curbed his shots in his team's interest. Razzaq scored 71 off 260 balls. The partnership was Pakistan's best for the seventh wicket against India, surpassing the previous high-est of 154 between Imran Khan and Ijaz Faqih at Ahmedabad in 1986. Akmal became only the second

Pakistani wicketkeeper after Imtiaz Ahmed (1960-61) to score a Test hundred against India when he fluently drove leg-spinner Anil Kumble through the covers for his 15th four. It was a demoralising day for India, who were in a winning position on Friday but had to toil under the sun for more than three hours for their first wicket. With wickets hard to come by, pressure kept mounting on India and their bowlers steadily lost confidence and direction. The hosts conceded as many as 52 extras, including 13 wides and two no-balls. A minor consolation was that Kumble became the fifth Test bowler to complete 450 wickets after Australians Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath, Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan and retired West Indies paceman Courtney Walsh. Fast bowler Laxmipathy Balaji finished with nine wickets in his

comeback match and Kumble with six, but they failed to deliver when their team needed it most. When Akmal was caught driving by substitute fielder Harbhajan Singh in the cover off Balaji in the post-lunch session, Pakistan had saved the game as they were 223 runs in front. India had few chances to break the match-saving stand between Akmal and Razzaq on a fifth-day track which was still good for batting as it had neither bounce for pacemen nor turn for spinners. Akmal was on 45 when his mistimed drive off left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan eluded the outstretched hand of Venkatesai Laxman at second slip. Razzaq survived on 50 when he tried to loft Kumble over mid-on, where Ganguly ran back nearly 15 yards but could get only his fingertips to the ball. He then smashed the

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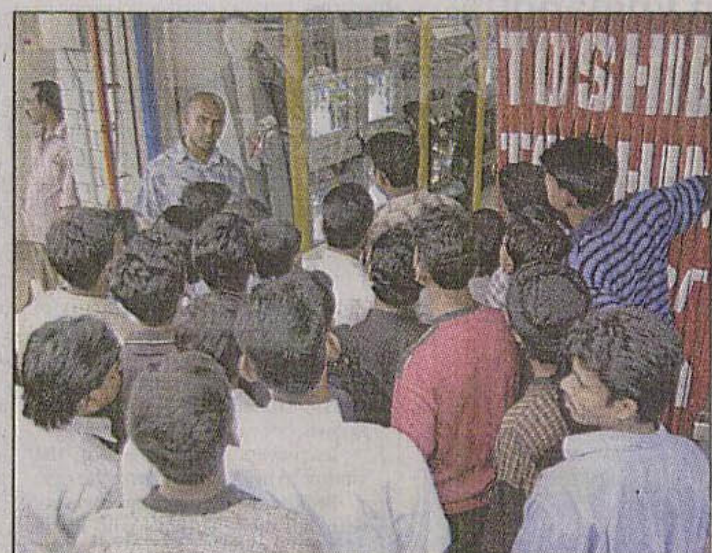


PHOTO: STAR

PUSH EVERYTHING ASIDE: Cricket fans gather in front of a TV shop at Purana Paltan in the city to enjoy the match between India and Pakistan.

Inzy hopes to win the series

Sourav defends tactics

REUTERS, Mohali

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said his team's rearguard action to save the first Test against India on Saturday could spur them on to win the three-match series. "I'm relieved. The boys showed tremendous character," he said after Pakistan, who had been outplayed on all four previous days, fought back from the verge of defeat to post 496 for nine declared and ensure a draw on the fifth and final day. Pakistan wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal, who scored his first Test century before being dismissed for 109, and all-rounder, Abdul Razzaq (71),

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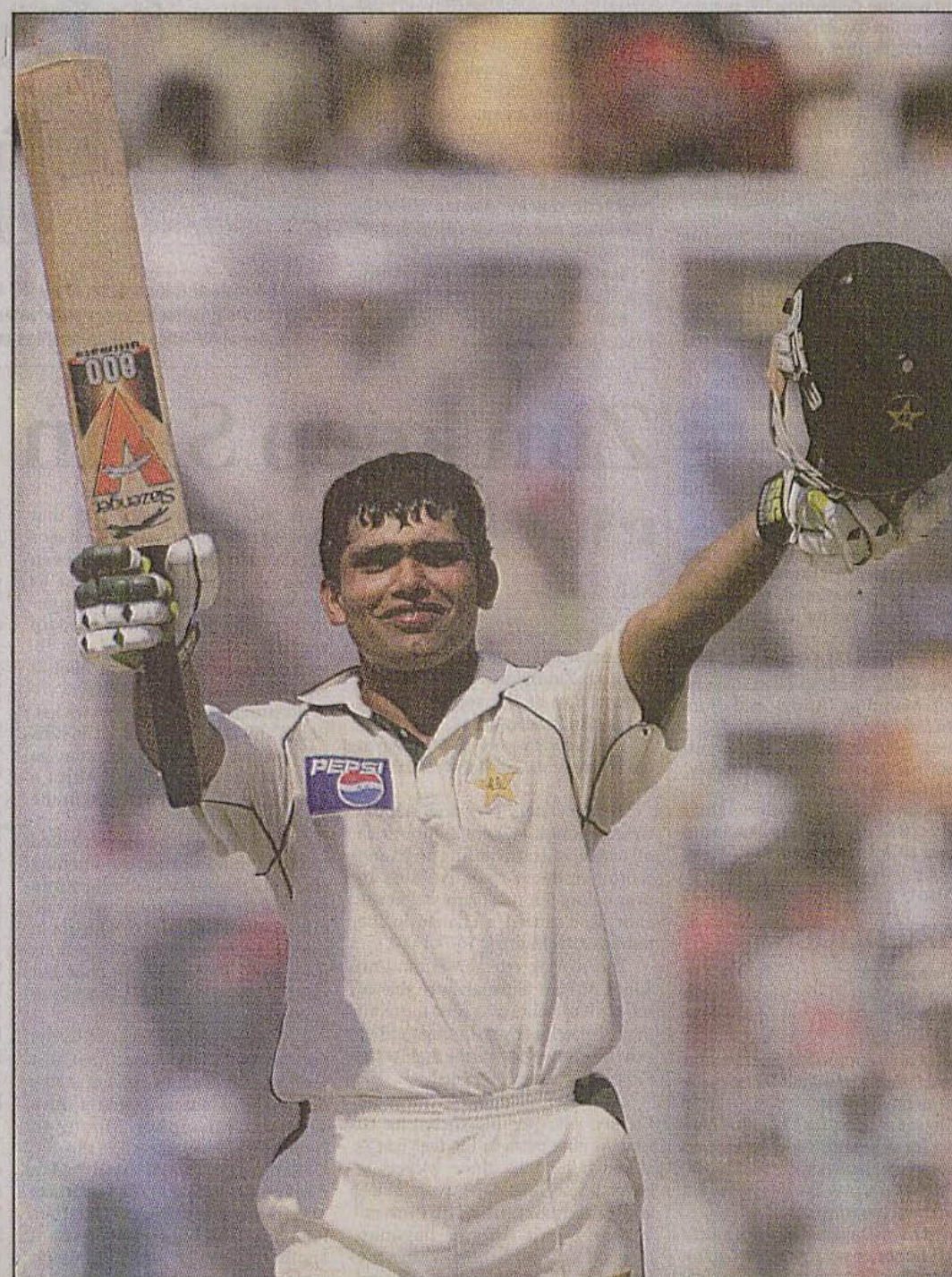


PHOTO: AFP

NO BETTER TIME FOR A MAIDEN TON: Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Kamran Akmal salutes the Mohali crowd upon reaching three figures on the fifth and final day of the first Test against India yesterday.

Ton-up Ashraful



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraful hit back to form with an unbeaten century as Dhaka got off to a flying start against hosts Chittagong in the fifth round of the Ispahani Sixth National Cricket League yesterday. The talented right-hander, back after a disappointing tour in India where he led the BCB XI in the Duleep Trophy, struck a swash-buckling 115 not out in Dhaka's impressive score of 280-5 at stumps on Day One at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium. Mohammad Shahajada, who was also a member of the BCB XI, used his experience in the India's first-class competition to good effect when the right-arm seamer took four wickets to restrict Barisal to 250-9 at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium. While there was plenty of action at Chittagong and Rajshahi, the other match between Khulna and Sylhet at the Khulna Divisional Stadium was hit by the pre-season rain. Inclement weather in the southern part of the country could allow only 9.2 overs of play after the hosts sent Sylhet into bat.

DHAKA-CHITTAGONG
Khaled Mahmud's Dhaka made a perfect start in the top-of-the-table battle against Chittagong when Ashraful's sixth first-class hundred laid the holders a strong platform. The visitors were off to a worst possible start when their opener junior Mehrab Hossain returned to the pavilion for a duck. But his senior namesake and former Bangladesh opener Mehrab (48 off 105 balls) repaired the damage putting on 97 runs for the second wicket with Anwar Hossain. Dhaka suffered a mini collapse when Yasin Arafat bowled Anwar for 42 and Ilias Sunny removed veteran Halim Shah for 1, leaving the score at 107-4. But Ashraful and captain on song Mahmud effectively stopped the slide producing 172 runs for the fifth wicket before the latter was caught by Faisal off Sunny after scoring a patient 54 off 140 balls that included seven boundaries. Ashraful however carried on and struck 18 delightful boundaries and one six during his 163-ball undefeated vigil at the crease. Neeyamur Rashid was batting on nought with Ashraful when the stumps were drawn for the day. **RAJSHAHI-BARISAL**
Right-arm pacer Shahajada gave Rajshahi a perfect start after his

captain Khaled Mashud, who has returned to action after serving a one-match ban, won the toss and put Barisal in. The young paceman removed both Barisal openers Imran Ahmed (15) and Humayun Kabir (5) with the scoreboard reading only 39. He also denied discarded national opener Hannan Sarker from a deserved half-century after the right-hander put on 70 runs for the third wicket with Nasiruddin. Hannan scored 48 off 115 balls with three hits to the fence while Nasiruddin made 46 off 116 balls that features three boundaries. Barisal lost wickets at regular intervals but managed to score respectable total thanks an unbeaten 33 by number nine batsmen Arafat Salahuddin. **KHULNA-SYLHET**
Overnight rain and incessant drizzling till lunch almost spoiled the opening day's play at the Khulna Divisional Stadium. The match finally started an hour after Test and Sylhet were 31 for no loss in 9.2 overs with In-form Golam Rahman batting on 10. Moniruzzaman on 16. **SCOREBOARD**
Scoreboards on the first day of the four-day National League fifth round matches yesterday:

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Zimbabwe A win one-day series?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A lost the one-day series against Zimbabwe A when the visitors suffered a five-wicket defeat in the fifth and final match at Bulawayo yesterday, said an unconfirmed source. An earlier SMS said that the second string Bangladesh side scored 197 for 9 in their share of 50 overs. According to the source, the home team overhauled the target for the loss of five wickets to clinch the five-match series 3-2. Bangladesh A whitewashed their Southern African hosts 3-0 in the preceding four-day Test series.

Nat'l women chess on

SPORTS REPORTER

International Women Master Rani Hamid made a good start in the final round of the 26th National Women Chess Championship when she won her first round board against Saima Almas at the federation hall room yesterday. In the other matches, Nazrana Khan Eva beat Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa, Sub-junior champion Shamima Akter Liza beat Farjana Hossain and Shamiha Sharmin Shimmi beat Kiswara Shajrin Evana. Afroza Khanam drew with Sharmim Sultana and Zakia Sulatana drew with Masuda Begum.

Shoaib unlikely for ODIs also

BBC ONLINE, undated

Shoaib Akhtar could miss Pakistan's entire tour of India as he continues to struggle with hamstring trouble. The pace bowler was quoted in Karachi paper the News as saying: "I don't think I would be able to play the one-day series." "According to the doctor it requires another three weeks before I even start bowling at the nets again." Pakistan team manager Saleem Altaf had told the same newspaper on Thursday that medical reports were favourable. But Shoaib described the statement as "just a rumour". His gloomy prognosis was in stark contrast to last week, when he said he might even play in the final Test. In the absence of their strike bowler, Pakistan struggled in the opening Test in Mohali, allowing India to total 516. Two more Tests follow in Kolkata and Bangalore before a six-match one-day series.

Abdullah, Beauty shine



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Abu Abdullah of Bangladesh Army and Nazmun Nahar Beauty of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) became the fastest man and woman when the PHP 30th National Athletics Championships ended at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday. Although Abdullah won the most coveted title, he was a little unhappy with the official timing. Hafizur Rahman of BJMC and Shahidul Islam of Army bagged the silver and bronze respectively clocking 10.60 and 10.80 seconds. The country's fastest man Abdullah disagreed with the official

record that showed him with a timing of 10.40 seconds. "In fact, my timing was 10.35 second but they changed it later for reasons best known to them," claimed Abdullah while talking to journalists after the race. He won the

Team	G	S	B	T
Army	17	10	9	36
BJMC	14	15	3	32
Navy	3	1	2	6
BKSP	2	8	5	15
RU	0	2	0	2
BDR	0	0	6	6
Noakhali	0	0	5	5
Jessore	0	1	3	4
Khulna	0	0	1	1

title at the Summer Games title with a similar timing. Meanwhile, former fastest man Golam Ambia and top athlete Sufia Khatun, who were both judges, argued that Abdullah's actual timing was between 10.36 and 10.38 seconds and the final timing of 10.40 second was recorded as per competition rules. However, Abdullah dismissed it and said there was no such system or rule of timing in the international arena. "I can improve my timing further if given the opportunity to practice abroad." There was no such controversy in the women's 100 metres despite the fact Beauty was competing in her

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Simon, Adam bat Aus back



AFP, Christchurch

The first cricket Test between New Zealand and Australia was delicately poised at the end of the third day here Saturday after a 212-run partnership by centuries Simon Katich and Adam Gilchrist hauled Australia back into contention. The Australian innings finished just before stumps on 432, just one run behind New Zealand, with Stephen Fleming and Craig Cumming extending the lead to 10 runs in the brief six overs they had at the crease before the close.

In a day of swinging fortunes, New Zealand took the honours in the first and third sessions but when it looked like Australia were in danger of not making the follow-on target, it was the dominance of Katich and Gilchrist in the middle section that revived the tourists' chances. They came together with the score at 201 for six, when Australia had lost three wickets for 54 runs in the morning, and their partnership ended with the score at 413 and in sight of New Zealand's total. New Zealand captain Fleming took the new ball in the 89th over but there was little bother for the batsmen as they added 133 off 30 overs in the post-lunch session as the bowl-

ers toiled on a flat, low pitch. Katich reached 118 before holing out to Lou Vincent off the bowling of Nathan Asle in an innings that included 17 fours and a six, while Gilchrist, who was particularly ruthless on Daniel Vettori, had 12 fours and sixes in his 121. But it was Vettori who came to New Zealand's rescue, eventually getting the better of Gilchrist and finishing with five for 106. "The way Katich and especially Gilchrist took the game away from us with some pretty awesome batting, I think it was pretty good of us the way we fought back in that last session," Vettori said.

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It's now Fabiano's mom



AFP, Sao Paulo

The mother of FC Porto striker Luis Fabiano has been kidnapped, according to Brazilian television channel Globo here Friday. Fabiano's mother is reported to have been taken in her home neighbourhood near Campinas, around 120km from Sao Paulo although local police have not confirmed the report. Asked by AFP the police said they would make no comment. According to Globo, no ransom demands have been made. It is the third kidnapping of the mother of a top player in only five months in Sao Paulo. Less than a month ago the



File photo of Brazilian striker Fabiano

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PHOTO: AFP

Dashing Australian left-hander Adam Gilchrist hoists one over long-off for a six during his scintillating 121 against New Zealand in Christchurch yesterday.