

  
**Did U Know?**  
In terms of Tests taken for reaching 10,000 runs, Brian Lara holds the record for achieving the feat in only 111 matches, followed by Sachin Tendulkar (122), Sunil Gavaskar (124), Allan Border (136) and Steve Waugh (156).

**What to WATCH**  
**DD Sports & TEN Sports**  
India vs Pakistan  
Third Test, Day Two  
Live at 10:30 am  
**ESPN**  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm  
**Euro U-21 Soccer Qualifier**  
England vs Germany  
Live at 1:25 am (Saturday)  
**New Zealand vs Australia**  
Third Test, Day One  
Live at 4:30 am (Saturday)  
**STAR Sports**  
Sportsline  
Live at 8:00 pm  
India vs Pakistan  
Third Test, Day Two  
Highlights at 8:30 pm





**Ian Chappell**  
(Former Australia cricket captain)  
"Sehwag can change the course of a match with the ease of Moses parting the Red Sea."  
On Virender Sehwag.

**DAY'S EVENT**  
  
**Independence Day Cup Football**  
First Semifinal  
Abahani vs Muktiyoddha (4:45 pm)  
Venue: BNS

## Independence Day Kabaddi final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles reached the final of the Independence Day Kabaddi Tournament as unbeaten group champions yesterday.

The final takes place today at the outer stadium court.

In the day's matches, Army beat Bangladesh Police 21-18 while Bangladesh Rifles outplayed Bangladesh Air Force 77-16.

## Shepherd to quit after 4 more Tests

CRICINFO, undated

David Shepherd, for so long part of the furniture of international cricket, is preparing to call it a day.

He officiated in his last match in the southern hemisphere earlier this week -- the washed-out Wellington Test -- and will stand in four more Tests in the Caribbean in the next few months before he reaches 65 and takes compulsory retirement.

Shepherd started umpiring Tests in 1985, four years after he made his first-class umpiring debut, and in the intervening period has overseen 88 Tests and 165 ODIs -- including the 1996, 1999 and 2003 World Cup finals, all with Steve Bucknor.

## Depleted Mukti face Abahani today

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra were dealt a major blow on the eve of their semifinal clash against Abahani in the Independence Day Gold Cup Football Tournament.

The Reds will be missing country's number one custodian Aminul, creative midfielder Arman Mia and Nigerian striker Paul Nwachukwu. The trio are suspended for today's match, which kicks off at 4.45 pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Their opponents also will be weakened somewhat by the absence of midfielder Abdullah Parvez after he picked up two yellow cards in successive matches.

Still, Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik thought his side stood a good chance of reaching the final.

"It is impossible to replace a player like Arman but we have some good players on the bench. Abahani may be struggling but they are a traditional force in domestic football," he said.

On way to the last four, Muktijoddha emerged as unbeaten group champions while Abahani finished runners-up despite a 4-0 loss to Brothers Union.

Premier League champions Brothers play Mohammedan Sporting Club in the other semifinal on Sunday.

## U-19 team goes Down Under next month

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board announced a 14-member under-19 squad to tour Australia in April.

However, the Board was yet to announce the captain or reveal a tour itinerary.

The team leaves on April 6 and is expected to return home on May 2.

### SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim, Md. Raquibul Islam, Sk. Nazmus Sadat, Farhad Hossain, Shamsur Rahman, Mazhar Uddin, Marshall Ayub, Md. Sohrwardi, Nazmul Hossain Milon, Dollar Mahmud, Rezaul Islam, Kazi Kamrul Islam, Sazedul Islam and Mehedi Hasan Siddiqui.

## Baroi unbeaten deaf chess champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Samajpati Baroi won the Independence Day Deaf Chess Tournament securing maximum five points yesterday.

Mobarak Hossain became runner-up and Manjur Iqbal finished third in the tournament.

The prize distribution ceremony takes place today.

## Army bury Barnak

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army blanked Barnak Samaj 4-0 to register their second successive victory in the Independence Day Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.

Sirajul Islam, Rahazuddin, Jamal Hossain Khan and Sanwar Hossain scored one goal each for the winners.

In the day's other match, Blue Berry Travels beat Bangladesh Navy 3-1 at the same venue.



PHOTO: AFP

INTO THE 21ST CENTURY: Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq, playing in his 100th Test, raises his arms as he looks to the heavens upon reaching three-figures on the first day of the third Test against India at Bangalore yesterday.

# England tour party in a week

## Chosen Tigers to miss NCL



SPORTS REPORTER

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed said that the four-member panel was in a dilemma whether to announce a preliminary 20-member squad or a final team for Bangladesh's first-ever full tour of England starting in May, because it would mean those selected would not be able to play in the final three rounds of the National Cricket League.

"We will first announce the Test team within a week but we are afraid those on the list will have to miss latter stages of the league. But we don't want to deprive anybody," Faruque said yesterday.

Faruque, however, was delighted at the flow of runs in the country's only first-class competition. So far, 28 hundreds have

scored in the four-day competition including a double century by Chittagong's Nazimuddin. The figure has already surpassed last season's 14.

"It is a very refreshing to see that our batsmen are trying to get into the habit of scoring big runs on a consistent basis. This was never the case previously. I've watched a number of matches and hundreds were scored not just on traditional flat tracks but on grassy surfaces too," informed Faruque.

Though the league has seen most of Bangladesh's key players among the runs, the selectors wanted to this time consider the performances of the Bangladesh A team's tour of Zimbabwe recently.

The chief selector declined speculate on a particular player but it was learnt that young speedster Shahadat Hossain Rajib, who had a outstanding tour, was widely tipped to get a Test call up.

"Definitely performances in the domestic competition are an important factor but may I remind you that it will not be wise on our part to make many changes to a winning combination.

"We had a very successful home series against Zimbabwe that's why there is no reason to bring too many changes. Besides, we need to consider English conditions before picking the team," Faruque added.

The national camp is expected to start from April 4 under coach Dav Whatmore. "The bowling and batting practice will be take place at Chittagong from April 15 after physical training in Dhaka," informed Faruque.

Bangladesh, who are expected to leave for England on May 8, will play two Tests and feature in a triangular one-day tournament that also involves world champions Australia.

# Pakistan all the way

AFP, Bangalore



Inzamamul Haq celebrated his 100th Test with a gem of a century and Younis Khan made an unbeaten 127 to lead Pakistan's fightback in the third and final Test against India here on Thursday.

Pakistan lost two wickets for seven runs before posting 323-2 at stumps on the opening day, thanks to an unfinished 316-run stand for the third wicket between Inzamam (184 not out) and vice-captain Younis.

Younis, who scored 147 in the second Test at Kolkata, completed his second successive Test hundred to play a big role in Pakistan's revival. This was his eighth ton in 35 Tests.

Pakistan are attempting to force a series-levelling win after losing the Kolkata Test by 195 runs. The first Test in Mohali ended in a draw.

Inzamam did everything right in his special match, first giving his team a big advantage by winning the toss on a good batting track and then completing a fluent 21st Test hundred under pressure to steer his

team to safety.

The Pakistani captain overshadowed Younis, who began slowly before going for big shots. Younis hit the first six of the day, lofting off-spinner Harbhajan Singh over long-on.

It was a frustrating day for the Indian bowlers as the Pakistani batting flourished after the soft dismissals of openers Shahid Afridi and Yasir Hameed in the opening three overs.

Harbhajan, reported for his suspect bowling action in the last Test, and Younis exchanged words in the final session, requiring the intervention of Inzamam and New Zealand umpire Billy Bowden.

But the day belonged to Inzamam, who became only the fifth batsman to score a hundred on his 100th Test appearance.

Inzamam was cheered by nearly 25,000 spectators at the Chinnaswamy Stadium after reaching his century in the afternoon session with a single to square-leg off seamer Irfan Pathan.

The 35-year-old removed his helmet, raised his bat and looked at the sky in celebration of the rare feat.

The Indian bowlers looked into the fray only in the opening three

overs when they reduced Pakistan to 7-2.

They then failed to maintain pressure on Inzamam and Younis as runs kept flowing at a brisk pace, especially in the last two sessions which yielded as many as 230 runs.

Inzamam was all grace and elegance, timing the ball beautifully against both spinners and seamers to find various parts of the boundary during his 263-ball knock containing 25 fours.

Younis initially played a supporting role before matching his captain shot for shot. He has so far struck one six and 12 fours in his chanceless 267-ball knock.

Inzamam and Younis produced big knocks just when their team needed them most as both the openers had fallen cheaply.

Afridi fell off the first ball he faced when he edged fast bowler Laxmipathy Balaji's delivery straight to Rahul Dravid, who held a regulation slip catch.

Hameed (six), omitted for the last two Tests, failed to justify his selection when he drove Pathan away from his body to be caught behind.

But Inzamam and Younis ended India's early celebrations with their

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# It makes it super special

AFP, Bangalore



Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq, who marked his 100th Test with a superb century against India on Thursday, said

he had been determined to lead from the front.

"The responsibility to show the way brought the best out of me. It was a special occasion which became super-special with a hundred," said Inzamam, who scored an unbeaten 184 on the opening day of the third and final Test.

"It was a setback to lose two quick wickets after winning the toss on a good batting pitch," said Inzamam. "When I walked in I was under pressure, but I knew runs would come once I saw off the new ball."

The 35-year-old Inzamam became only the fifth batsman to score a hundred on his 100th Test appearance.

"It is a great honour for me to be in that exalted company," said Inzamam, who was presented with a crystal trophy before the start of

the match by Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan.

"It's really flattering when people say I have become more responsible. I am on Cloud Nine when people say I am at the peak of my batting," said the middle-order batsman who hit 25 effortless boundaries during his 263-ball knock.

Inzamam had an auspicious start, getting a pat on his back from his father Intizamul Haq who flew in from Pakistan to celebrate his son's landmark.

"I dedicate this hundred to my father who came here for my 100th Test and also to the people of my nation," said Inzamam.

"My father has always been a source of inspiration for me since my childhood and he patted me on the back when I was coming to the

stadium."

Inzamam said it was an easy wicket to bat on.

"There is not much in it for the bowlers. So we aim to get 500-plus here and hope the pitch takes turn on the last two days," he said.

"Younis played better than me. It is a big achievement by him to score hundreds in successive Tests. I am happy the senior batsmen are showing the way.

He wants his side to build on a good first day and push for a series levelling victory.

"It is a crucial Test for us. As a captain I had to lead from the front and I am happy that the first day belonged to us. We have four more days to go to force a win," said Inzamam.

## ENTURY TEST CENTURION

Batsman	Country	Runs	Against	Venue	Season
Colin Cowdrey	England	104	Australia	Birmingham	1968
Gordon Greenidge	West Indies	149	England	Antigua	1989-1990
Javed Miandad	Pakistan	145	India	Lahore	1989-1990
Alec Stewart	England	105	West Indies	Manchester	2000
Inzamamul Haq	Pakistan	184*	India	Bangalore	2004-2005

(\* still batting)

## Eng-Zim Tests cancelled

REUTERS, London

England and Zimbabwe have agreed to cancel the two Test matches that were postponed during last year's tour.

The matches were postponed after the International Cricket Council took away Zimbabwe's Test status, which has since been returned.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Zimbabwe Cricket have agreed it will not be possible to reschedule the matches.

The two bodies also reached an "amicable decision" on the cancelled fifth one-day international from the same tour, the ECB said in a statement on Wednesday.

England are next scheduled to tour Zimbabwe in 2009.

# BCB embarks on ambitious project

## Revamped school cricket from today

SPORTS REPORTER



In an attempt to turn it into the game's breeding ground, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has brought about a massive change in the structure of the National School Cricket Championship.

This season's new look competition, Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket, kicks off at four different venues across Dhaka today.

Instead of the traditional one team per school concept, the board has kept a provision under which a school can enter three separate selections in under-13, under-15 and under-17 categories.

To facilitate this, the BCB has

incorporated its age-group development plan with school cricket in accordance to the International Cricket Council's design.

The under-17 tournament starts today as per the schedule in an impressive booklet and calendar of events provided to the local media during a press conference yesterday, which gave a complete picture of the school cricket competition.

The most significant part of this ambitious school cricket plan is that the tournament will be played on a round robin league basis instead of the knockout format, a long-standing demand of cricket experts and aspiring youngsters.

In the past, players with potential often missed out on the chance to showcase their talent with their schools getting knocked out after

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PHOTO: STAR

Osman Morad (2nd from R), the chief executive officer of Standard Chartered, takes questions from reporters on the National School Cricket Championship during a press conference yesterday.