



Did U Know?

Sachin Tendulkar became the first batsman from India to post four centuries against Pakistan -- his previous three being 141 at Rawalpindi last year, 118 at Sharjah in the Sharjah Cup, 1995-96 and 100 at Singapore in the Singer Cup, 1995-96.

What to WATCH

- ESPN**
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 4:30 am (Friday)
- BTV & DD Sports**
India vs Pakistan
Fifth ODI
Live at 9:30 am (Friday)



Adam Gilchrist
(Australia vice-captain)
"My battle to survive in cricket these next few years is going to be a mental battle more than a physical one. It seems I'm always questioning myself now as to whether I should be away and how good it would be to be at home."



Ispahani Nat'l Cricket League
(Four-day, Day Two)
Dhaka vs Chittagong
Venue: FCS
Sylhet vs Khulna
Venue: Sylhet Stadium
Barisal vs Rajshahi
Venue: Barisal Stadium



SAN SIRO BURNING! AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti and players of Milan and Inter stand a safe distance away from flares thrown on to the San Siro stadium pitch by hardcore Inter fans during their abandoned Champions League quarterfinal on April 12.

SAN SIRO FIASCO UEFA decision on Friday

AFP, Rome
European football's governing body UEFA will meet Friday to decide what action to take against Inter Milan after their Champions League quarter-final was abandoned after 73 minutes when AC Milan keeper Nelson Dida was struck by a flare.
Andriy Shevchenko had put Milan 1-0 ahead, 3-0 on aggregate, after 30 minutes but UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Committee will now decide whether to hit Inter with a massive fine and ban them from playing in the San Siro for at least three matches.
UEFA's director of communications William Gaillard, who was at the match, said: "I've not seen anything like this before in a football stadium and we must make sure it doesn't happen again."
"Every punishment is at their disposal. It's a very clear situation and we just have to wait to see the sanctions."
"There have been several shocking incidents recently but this is the worst."
The UEFA meeting is at 1200 GMT on Friday in Nyon, Switzerland.
The Italian government are also likely to take action following a recent upsurge in violence at matches.
Italy's interior minister Giuseppe Pisanu has already warned that stadiums would be closed if fans failed to improve their "intolerable" behaviour.
And Premier Silvio Berlusconi called for drastic measures after meeting Pisanu on Wednesday.
Six-times champions Milan are now set to meet either Dutch side PSV Eindhoven or French champions Lyon in the semifinals.

Italy dangerous!

JAMES RICHARDSON (GUARDIAN)
Anyone who's followed football in Italy will know that last night's events at the San Siro were no one-off. The throwing of flares and missiles at the pitch or the opposition fans are a regular feature at many Italian stadia.
The incidents aren't usually as dramatic as last night's, when Milan's Brazilian goalkeeper Dida was struck by a burning flare hurled from the upper tier, but on occasion they are. Remember referee Anders Frisk's bloodied face after he was hit by a coin thrown by Roma fans at the Stadio Olimpico last September? Or, three years ago, Inter fans' attempts

to launch a burning scooter from the same Curva Nord that hosted last night's scenes?
The problem in Italy is simple, even if the solution isn't. The Curvas, the areas where the hardcore supporters go, are seen as Ultra territory and the police do not and will not enforce the law there. This was underlined again just last weekend when Lazio supporters at the Stadio Olimpico unveiled a giant banner boasting "Rome is Fascist" and happily waved Nazi flags throughout the game. Both acts are against the law in Italy, but no attempt was made to stop them.
I once asked an Italian policeman regularly assigned to stadium duty what the story was. He admitted that the police avoid entering Ultra territory for fear of provoking a riot. If they

ever do go in (say, if English fans are present) then it's with full body armour and truncheons to crack some heads, but this is rare. Many in Italy feel the "English model" - numbered seats and club stewards backed by officers quietly identifying and removing troublemakers - is the solution; but to introduce it would mean ending the power of the Ultra groups, and that won't be easy.
Italian supporters' groups enjoy a level of influence on their clubs without parallel in top-flight football. They can dissuade a club from signing a player, as in the case of Ronnie Rosenthal to Udinese, conduct negotiations with a transfer target, like when the Lazio fans'

Slow going all around

SPORTS REPORTER
Leaders Dhaka, just a win away from being crowned champions, made an ordinary start against visiting Chittagong on the first day of their National Cricket League match at Fatullah Stadium yesterday.
Dhaka, who need only four points to seal their second consecutive first-class title, crawled to 238 for seven at close after electing to bat.
Bowlers also dominated in the other matches in Sylhet and Barisal where visiting teams fared better on Day One.

DHAKA-CHITTAGONG
Half centuries from wicket keeper Anwar Hossain and Tigers discard Al Shahrir helped Dhaka avoid a collapse after paceman Tarek Aziz Khan had struck with the very first ball of the match by clean bowling Rashedul Haque.
Tarek then sent back Mehrab Hossain as Dhaka were reduced to 35-2. But Shahrir, who has missed a number of matches this season, made a fluent 54.
With opener Anwar, he added 70 for the third wicket. Although Anwar top-scored with 86 (221 balls, 12x4), it was Shahrir who dazzled in a 66-ball knock featuring 10 fours and one six before Tarek returned in his second spell to bowl him. Tarek finished the day with 3-64 from 18 overs.

Stand-in Chittagong captain Sabbir Khan also bagged three wickets with his offbreaks including the scalp of Anwar.
BARISAL-RAJSHAHI
One-day champions Rajshahi, who are ten points behind Dhaka, reduced Barisal to 246-9 by stumps at the Barisal Stadium.
It could have been even worse for the hosts who had slumped to 103-7 halfway through the second session.
In-form paceman Alamgir Kabir made the initial inroads for Rajshahi when he dismissed the Barisal openers with just 18 runs on board. Wickets tumbled at regular intervals but Mosharraf Rubel (66 off 150 balls) and Ali Arman (59 off 147 balls) spared Barisal's blushes with a

U-19s sweep 1-day series

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh under-19 cricket team inflicted a 46-run defeat on Australian under-19s in the second one-day match to sweep the two-match series 2-0 at Fehlbeg Park in Brisbane on Wednesday.
Fresh from a 13-run victory in the first match on the previous day, the visiting side thrived on an unbeaten half-century by Nazmul Hossain amassed a challenging 199 for seven in a curtailed 40 overs match.
Mehdi Hasan Siddique contributed 48 while Shamsur Rahman and Raqibul Hasan added 26 and 24 runs respectively. Suhrawardi Shuvo made an unbeaten 19.
In reply, the home side were bundled out for 143.
Nazmus Sadat claimed four wickets while Kamrul Islam picked up three and Rezaul Islam two to wrap up the opposition innings.
Bangladesh will play their next two matches against Sunshine Coast Scorchers on April 15 and 16.

End of road for Sourav?

Cricket
AFP, New Delhi
Sourav Ganguly's career was in a shambles Wednesday even as the Indian cricket board moved to appeal the six-match ban imposed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on the country's most successful captain.
Unwanted by fans and authorities alike, vilified by the media and unable to put bat to ball or persuade his bowlers to send down their overs in time, Ganguly is undergoing the most turbulent phase of his career.
It is debatable if the 32-year-old, nicknamed the Prince of Calcutta by former England batsman Geoffrey Boycott, will emerge from the crisis unscathed.
Given his poor form with the bat -- the left-hander averaged 9.6 in the drawn three-Test series against Pakistan last month and aggregated just 31 runs in the four one-dayers -- many see his ban as a blessing in disguise for India.
Ganguly, who boasts an Indian record of 19 Test wins as captain, has not scored a Test century since a brilliant 144 against Australia in Brisbane in November 2003.
A one-day hundred has eluded him since the World Cup semifinal against Kenya in Durban, South Africa in March the same year.
"What the Indian board and selectors could not do, the ICC has done," said former Indian captain Bishen Bedi, an outspoken critic of Ganguly.
ICC match referee Chris Broad imposed the unprecedented ban on the captain for his team's repeated slow over rates in the ongoing six-match series which stands locked at 2-2.
Having fined Ganguly 70 per cent of his match fee in the third match at Jamshedpur, Broad imposed the ban when India fell three overs short during the last-ball thriller at Ahmedabad on Tuesday which Pakistan won by three wickets.
"I made Ganguly aware of the potential penalties at the previous hearing and it is unfortunate that this warning was not heeded," Broad said in a statement.
It is the third time in the last five months that Ganguly has been hauled up for slow over rates.
In November Ganguly was

Ganguly to appeal against 6-ODI ban

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
The Board of Control for Cricket in India has said it would consider making an appeal against International Cricket Council's six-match ban slapped on skipper Sourav Ganguly for slow over rate in the fourth one-day international against Pakistan in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.
"There is a provision for appeal and we should definitely make use of it," said BCCI president Ranbir Singh Mahendra Tuesday night.
Mahendra said a decision to appeal against the ban, imposed by ICC Match Referee and former England Test cricketer Chris Broad, would be taken only after a formal communication from the ICC.
AFP adds, Ganguly's supporters, meanwhile, burnt effigies of Match Referee Chris Broad, a former England batsman, outside the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, the Indian captain's home city.
"I made Ganguly aware of the potential penalties at the previous hearing and it is unfortunate that this warning was not heeded," Broad said in a statement.
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TEAMS MAY TRAIN SOMEWHERE ELSE
Extraordinary security measures in and around Delhi's Ferozeshahkotla Stadium could see the two teams having their practice sessions somewhere else.
Kolkata will play host to the sixth and final ODI between India and Pakistan on April 17 which will be watched by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.



WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? Indian captain Souav Ganguly talks to the media on arrival at Kolkata on Wednesday.

Ntini scripts Protea win

Cricket
AFP, Port of Spain
An inspired Test-best bowling performance show by Makhaya Ntini fired South Africa to an eight-wicket victory in the second Test against the West Indies here on Tuesday.
Ntini ended with seven wickets for 37 runs from 19.5 overs, as West Indies folded for 194 in their second innings, and left South Africa with the modest victory target of 144.
Abraham de Villiers and captain Graeme Smith then shared an opening stand of 117 that consolidated their side's position before the visitors hit the jackpot about 25 minutes after tea, when Jacques Kallis straight drove Reon King for four to seal the result.
De Villiers hit the top score of 62 from 126 balls and left-hander Smith supported with 41 that included three fours from 97 balls, as South Africa take a 1-0 lead in the four-Test series, following a draw in the opening Test at Georgetown.
Both were lucky to have lasted that long. On 26, wicketkeeper Courtney Browne mis-stumped de Villiers off Chris Gayle, and on 31, Reon King bowled him with a no-ball, before the same bowler had Smith on nine, caught at mid-wicket off another no-ball.
Ntini however, stole the show when he collected four of the last five

West Indies wickets to end with record-breaking match figures of 13 for 132.
It was the best match analysis from a South African in Tests, and eclipsed Tony Greig's 13 for 156 for England in the corresponding match 31 years ago, as the best Test match figures in the Caribbean sunshine.
Ntini's bowling overshadowed the gritty batting of Ramnaresh Sarwan, who completed his seventh Test hundred and was undefeated on 107 from 221 balls in just under six hours.
The visitors needed 11.5 overs in just under an hour to complete the demolition of the West Indies' second innings, after the home team continued from their perilous bedtime position of 170 for five.
BRIEF SCORES
WEST INDIES: First innings 347 (Lara 196, Chanderpaul 35, W Hinds 32; Ntini 6-95) and second innings 194 (Sarwan 107 not out, Ntini 7-37)
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 398 (Smith 148, Prince 45, Kallis 39, Gibbs 34, De Villiers 33; Gayle 4-50, Collins 2-78, Bravo 2-98) and second innings 146 for 2 (De Villiers 62, Smith 41; Powell 1-27, Bravo 1-27)
Result: South Africa won by eight wickets and take 1-0 lead in the 4-Test series.
Man-of-the-match: Makhaya Ntini.