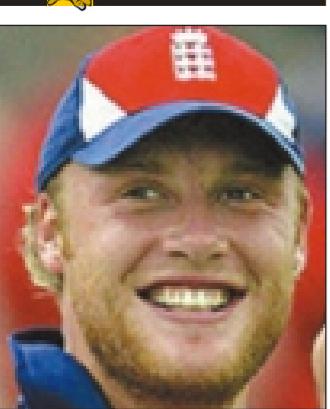




## Did U Know?

England's regaining of the Ashes was their first series win over Australia since 1986-87.



### Andrew Flintoff

(England all-rounder)

"I'd never make a decent celebrity. I'm ugly. I'm overweight, but I'm happy."

## What to WATCH

ESPN  
Football Crazy  
Live at 5:00 pm  
UEFA Champions League  
Werder Bremen vs Barcelona  
Repeat at 6:30 pm

STAR Sports  
India vs Zimbabwe  
First Test, Day Three  
Live at 2:00 pm

## Navy basketball

SPORTS REPORTER

BNS Issa Khan clinched the Bangladesh Navy annual basketball championship title when they edged past BNS Titumir 78-76 in an exciting final at the Sailor's Colony ground in Dhaka yesterday.

The winners led the first half 39-34.

PK Ghoswami of BNS Titumir was adjudged best player in the five-day meet.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan witnessed the final and later distributed the prizes.

## 'We are way behind in mental strength'

### Cricket

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

After a disastrous loss inside three days the battered Bangladesh cricketers were coming to terms with the realisation that they probably do not have the required steel to be consistently successful at this level.

"I admit that we are way behind in mental strength than the Sri Lankans who utilised the conditions to outplay us. We just failed to take opportunities that came to us," said Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar after the first Test was over before lunch on third day.

Smarting over two batting collapses that saw Bangladesh bowled out for 188 from a comfortable 155-2 in the first innings and skittled out for their lowest Test total of 86 in the second in reply to the home sides' 370-9 declared, Bashar informed that the team would take two days off from cricket in a desperate attempt to prepare mentally for the last Test.

"Our realisation from this match is that the scoreboard would not have looked like it is now had we capitalised on the early advantage. The fate of this match could well have been different."

Refusing to take it as Bangladesh's worst performance, Bashar said, "The wicket played a part. We had never played on a track that started turning big from the second day and where the ball kept this low. But I have no complaints against the pitch because it was fine when we batted in the first innings."

"A total of around 300 in the first innings and a generous lead in the second would have given us the edge because any team chasing in the fourth innings would have been under pressure on this wicket."

"I feel that we have wasted a big

chance, throwing away a strong position in the first innings," said Bashar whose side suffered their eighth innings defeat in the last ten matches.

"We knew that batting in second innings would be tough against the experienced home attack. But I did not like the way the batsmen caved

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PHOTO: AFP

LOOKS KILL: Master Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who took six Bangladesh second innings wickets, is about to let go yet another venomous delivery at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Wednesday.

## No Brothers party until Jewel leaves hospital

SPORTS REPORTER

League champions Brothers Union has decided to hold back all kind of celebration programmes until their central defender Jewel Rana returns from hospital.

The former national captain received an injury on his head following an aerial tussle with Mohammad's Nigerian defender Peter Odaf during Monday's play-off match.

"He was expected to be released from the hospital (Holy Family Hospital) today (Wednesday) but last night his condition suddenly deteriorated as his nose was bleeding. However the doctor assured us that it was nothing serious as the CT Scan reports found everything fine," said Amer Khan, Brothers manager.

The winners led the first half 39-34.

PK Ghoswami of BNS Titumir was adjudged best player in the five-day meet.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan witnessed the final and later distributed the prizes.

## Murali the mighty

### Atapattu backs Bangladesh

### Cricket

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

batting parades that we get at the Premadasa Stadium," said Muralitharan recalling their record breaking 952-6 against India eight years ago at this venue.

"The wicket was two paced with some deliveries keeping low and there was plenty of spin and bounce too. On this wicket 370 is equal to 500-550 anywhere else. I didn't bowl particularly well in the first innings, but got my rhythm back in the second innings," said the off-spinner who has taken 558 wickets from 94 Tests.

"Winning here within three days is not going to make us take Bangladesh lightly for the second Test. After all, who thought England were going to win the Ashes?"

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## Nitol-Tata NFL kicks-off today

SPORTS REPORTER

The preliminary round of the Nitol-Tata sixth National Football League begins today at four different venues across the country.

In the opening day's matches, Diganta Prasari of Rajshahi will play against Nilphamari ZKCS at the Natore Stadium, Rangamati Mohammmedan will face Laxmipur Sadar Upazila at the Rangamati Stadium, Dariapur Jubo Krira Sangha of Meherpur will take on Unmochan Club of Bagerhat at the Khulna Stadium and Nabo Uddam Krira Chakraborty of Sherpur meet with Mymen Singh at the Jamalpur Stadium.

A total of 52 teams are taking part in the qualifying round and six zonal champions will get tickets for the first phase of the final round.

## Serious stuff for Cruciani starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

New Bangladesh football coach Diego Andres Cruciani gets into action today with the start of a month-long national team camp at BKSP.

The Bangladesh Football Federation last week announced a 28-member preliminary squad for the camp.

Two Asia Cup pre-qualifying matches against Pakistan in November will be the first assignment for Cruciani but his main target is to prepare the team for the 4th SAFF Championship to be held in Pakistan in December where Bangladesh will defend their title.

The first challenge for Cruciani and his compatriot trainer Victor Ariel Colman is to ensure the fitness of his charges after a long premier league campaign.

## Uttara Club tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Top seed Amol Roy failed to reach the men's singles final of the Uttara Club National Open tennis tournament when Henry Pritul Mandal stunned him in the first semifinal by 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 at the club court yesterday.

Pritul will take on Dipu Lal, who

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batting parades that we get at the Premadasa Stadium," said Muralitharan recalling their record breaking 952-6 against India eight years ago at this venue.

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"Winning here within three days is not going to make us take Bangladesh lightly for the second Test. After all, who thought England were going to win the Ashes?"

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## Manjarul on the list

ICC names player-of-the-year awards nominees

### Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Jacques Kallis.

The nominations for three other awards were also announced at a media conference here by ICC official Jamie Stewart.

There were 15 nominees for the Test player-of-the-year, including leg-spin wizard Shane Warne of Australia, prolific batsman Brian Lara of the West Indies and Virinder Sehwag of India.

There were six nominees for the Emerging player-of-the-year: Kevin Pietersen and Ian Bell of England, Gautam Gambhir and Dinesh Karthik of India, Manjul Islam of Bangladesh and AB de Villiers of South Africa.

**NOMINEES**

**Player-of-the-year:** Rahul Dravid (IND), Andrew Flintoff (ENG), Inzamamul Haq (PAK), Jacques Kallis (RSA), Adam Gilchrist (AUS), Glenn McGrath (AUS) and Ricky Ponting (AUS).

**Test player-of-the-year:** Shivnarine Chanderpaul (WIS), Adam Gilchrist (AUS) and South African all-rounder

## Pool competition coming to town

SPORTS REPORTER

With an attempt to attract youths to indoor games, the Gen Yo-Cue Cult first ever pool tournament will begin from September 22 at three city venues.

Cellular phone company CityCell is organising the festival, which they named after their popular youth brand 'Gen Yo', with the help of Bangladesh Billiards and Snooker Federation (BBSF).

The organisers came forward to arrange the tournament after a survey by Strategica, the event management company for the tournament, revealed that there were about 105 pool clubs across the country where more than 10,000 youths aged between 18-30 years enjoy the game.

"The game has a bright future as there is shortage of grounds for outdoor games in the country," said Farhad Alam, the vice-president of CityCell, at a press conference at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room yesterday.

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## Asif shoots bronze in Asian meet

SPORTS REPORTER

SAF and Commonwealth Games gold winning shooter Asif Khan won the bronze medal in his favorite .177 air rifles event scoring 695.5 in the First Asian Gun Shooting Championship in Bangkok yesterday.

Indian shooter Gagan Narang clinched the gold scoring 696.6 while Thai shooter Tavarit Majchacheep took the silver scoring 696.1.

A six-member Bangladeshi team comprising four shooters -- Asif Khan, Sabrina Sultan, Suraiya Akther and Sharmin Akther -- and two officials -- A Karim (team manager) and M Adil Khan (armer) -- left the capital for Bangkok on Tuesday to participate in the prestigious Asian meet.

Sabrina Sultan and Suraiya Akther will compete in the women's air rifles (40 shots) tomorrow while up and coming shooter Sharmin Akther will compete in junior air rifles (40 shots) on Sunday.

## BD-SL SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard on the third day of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Wednesday:

**BANGLADESH:** First innings 188 (Basher 84; Herath 4-38, Murali-tharan 3-42). Extras: (b-4, nb-2, w-5) 11 Total: (All out in 27.4 overs) 86

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-35, 3-35, 4-39, 5-47, 6-50, 7-59, 8-73, 9-83

**Bowler** O M R W

Vaas 10 4 31 1

Malinga 6 1 32 3

Murali-tharan 10.4 4 18 6

Herath 1 0 1 0

**Result:** Sri Lanka won by an innings and 96 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Muttiah Murali-tharan.

**Second Test:** Sept 20-24, Colombo.