



## Did U Know?

The first cricket World Cup was held in 1975 in England. Sponsored by the Prudential Insurance Company, it was called the Prudential World Cup.



**Raj Singh Dungarpur**  
(Former BCCI chief)  
*"He is invariably at a loss for words when he talks about cricket because he just doesn't know a thing about the game. No wonder, he pronounces it as 'kirkiti' or 'krikate' and fortunately he doesn't have to spell it."*  
**On Jagmohan Dalmiya.**

What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
Football Crazy  
Live at 5:00 pm  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Brazilian Football  
Internacional vs Sao Paulo  
Same Day Delay 2:30 pm

## Eying a place in World Chess C'ship

SPORTS REPORTER

The fifth Asian Individual Chess Championship begins today in Hyderabad, India with four Bangladeshi players vying for places in the next World Championship in Arvier, Italy.

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Reefat bin Sattar whose GM title is pending for rating, and IMs Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Islam Rajib, who left Dhaka for Kolkata on Wednesday, have already reached the Andhra Pradesh capital to take part in the nine-round Swiss League.

The competition will be held at the Kotla Bhaskar Reddy Indoor Stadium. Out of 88 participants from 18 countries, the top ten will reach the World Championship, which will be held from September-October 2006.

No Bangladeshi player has ever played in the top individual chess competition.

For Reefat, it would be a great opportunity to add some points to his rating and fulfil the quota of earning the GM title. The two youngsters, Rakib and Rajib, could earn a GM norm as well.

Originally billed to play, the country's first Grand Master Niaz Murshed declined citing personal reasons.

## PCB awards Afridi, Younis top deals

REUTERS, Karachi

Twenty Pakistani players have signed central contracts with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and vice captain Younis Khan and all rounder Shahid Afridi have been promoted to the top category.

"The players have now signed the contracts," a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official said on Wednesday.

Captain Inzamamul Haq, Mohammad Yousuf, Younis, Shoaib Akhtar, Abdul Razzaq and Afridi are the six highest paid players.

"Danish Kaneria and Kamran Akmal have been promoted to grade two category because of their performances in recent months," the spokesman said.

# BCB goes for longer-version at age-group level



SPORTS REPORTER

The recent debacle of the senior team in Sri Lanka has brought about the realisation in Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) that age-group competitions would be the perfect platform to habituate future cricketers with the longer-version of the game.

The board on Wednesday made public the domestic calendar for the 2005-06 season as per their commitment of providing a meaningful domestic schedule. It includes longer version competitions in different under-15 and under-17 tournaments.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed had

## Inzamam for more emphasis on Tests

LAHORE

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq has said that he will suggest to the ICC to increase the number Test matches. Talking to reporters on Tuesday, the day before he left for Australia on Wednesday to attend the Test skipper's meeting and then play for World XI in the one-off Super Series 'six-day Test', stated that the ICC should focus on Test cricket and arrangements should be made to promote it.

He said that Test cricket was the real version of the game and people were more interested in it. Inzamam, however, said that he would not give any suggestions about the new rules being applied in one-day (substitution) cricket because he had not played in any match under this rule.

However, Inzamam said that he

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been advocating longer-version cricket at age-groups for a long time as he is certain that the problem with adapting to Test cricket lies in the mind of players. He has been vocal in his demand for two or three-day fixtures at grass-roots level to ensure a healthy future for the Tigers.

"We had suggested to the board to introduce longer-version cricket in the age-group because it is now clear that our cricketers have to learn the trick from an early age. We have a bunch of talented cricketers in the national side but you can see that they lack the patience to build an innings," observed Faruque.

The former national captain however said that time was a crucial factor to properly accommodate the longer

version competitions.

"Our domestic season is actually restricted to six or seven months and that's why it is impossible to arrange the competitions as per our desire."

Six junior cricket competitions (u-13, u-15 and u-17) are scheduled to finish between December '05 to February '06.

The under-15 divisional cricket tournament (January) will be two-day matches and will include limited-overs games while the under-17 divisional tournament will see one-day, two-day and three-day fixtures.

On completion of the junior meets three different age group school cricket tournaments will be played from February to March next year.

### ENGLAND SERIES

# Saqlain unlikely to be fit enough



CRICINFO

Saqlain Mushtaq, the Pakistan off spinner, says he doesn't expect to be picked for the forthcoming England series.

Saqlain, who last played for Pakistan against India in Multan last year, has been suffering from a chronic knee injury for much of the last year, and despite recovering well, he believes it unlikely that he will play against England.

Saqlain told Reuters: "The injury has healed and I resumed playing first-class cricket for Surrey this season. But a comeback against England is not

likely because I still need more match practice and training."

But he warned Pakistan that England will provide an extremely difficult challenge during the series.

"After beating Australia, England are keen to win in Pakistan and show everyone their Ashes victory was not a fluke. Pakistan should expect, on and off the field, pressure tactics and mind games."

Saqlain also cautioned against attacking the tourists with spinners on slow pitches. This was a strategy Pakistan adopted when England visited last in 2000 but one that met with little success.

Saqlain took 18 wickets during

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# Injured Jones not going to Pakistan



AFP, London

Welsh seamer Simon Jones has been ruled out of England's upcoming tour of Pakistan with an ankle injury.

The Glamorgan paceman has failed to recover from the ankle spurs that sidelined him for the final Ashes Test at The Oval.

Jones took 18 wickets in the first four Tests before his place in the XI which secured the Ashes was taken by Durham all-rounder Paul Collingwood. Jones failed a fitness test on Tuesday and the chief medical officer of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said the Welshman would have to go under the knife.

"We have tried a number of measures to help Simon's ankle injury to settle, but these have been unsuccessful and we are left with no alternative

but to operate," said Peter Gregory. "There should be sufficient time for



SIMON JONES

Simon to regain fitness and hence become available for selection for the tour to India beginning in late February."



PHOTO: AFP

Franz Beckenbauer (R), the head of the organising committee for the 2006 World Cup, presenting the mascot to Chung Mong-Joon (L), president of the Korea Football Association, during a ceremony in Seoul, on Wednesday. The German soccer legend is now in South Korea as part of his country's preparations for the football's quadrennial premier tournament in June next year.

The board has also decided to pull out of its traditional knockout-based school cricket and has opted for a league format to give the teams an opportunity to play at least four or five games.

The coming domestic season will start with the 12-team Corporate Cricket League from October 10 and it will be followed by the National Cricket League, First Division Cricket League, Premier Division Cricket League and the National Youth Championship due in April.

The most noticeable aspect of the domestic calendar is that the Premier League will be played between breaks in the National League which is the only first-class competition in the country.

## Stamford stamp their mark

SPORTS REPORTER

Stamford University, who organised the Inter-Private University Football Tournament, fittingly won it after a nail-biting penalty shootout (5-4) over IBAIS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Packed with a number of Premier League players, both universities however, found themselves inseparable as 110 minutes of thrills and spills failed to produce a goal.

The first five shots of the lottery ended at two apiece and it needed in all 11 attempts from each team before a winner could emerge.

Maruf, Faisal, Masud Parvez, Shamim and Pulak remained cool to convert from the spot for Stamford.

On the other hand, Milon, Shiplu, Rokon and Rana were the successful IBAIS kickers.

At least for consolation IBAIS's fullback Mamun Mia, who is a Roberto Carlos look-a-like and played for Youngmen's Club in the recently concluded Premier League, was adjudged player of the tournament.

Stamford captain Nur Alam won the man-of-the-final award while popular name in domestic football Masud Khan Johny, the Asian University and Farashganj Sporting Club striker, was the highest scorer with nine goals.

Tournament organisers Auritro received Tk one lakh from State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, the chief guest.

The champions were richer by Tk 50,000 and the runners-up pocketed Tk 25,000.

Bangladesh Football Federation president SA Sultan, general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal were also present.

## BCB chief shocked at Tryphon's death

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar on Wednesday condoled the death of Sri Lanka Cricket's secretary of interim committee Tryphon Mirando on the behalf of the board.

Asghar expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Mirando died at of a massive heart attack in London on Sunday at the age of 53.



PHOTO: AFP

PAYBACK: Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist jumps on man-of-the-match Shane Watson after dismissing World XI's Andrew Flintoff (L) during the Super Series First ODI on Wednesday.

# Normal service resumes Australia shut World stars down by 93 runs



AFP, Melbourne

Australia, driven to atone for last month's Ashes failure in England, crushed the cream of world cricket to claim the opening Super Series one-dayer by 93 runs at Docklands stadium here Wednesday.

Criticised relentlessly since their return from the Ashes tour, the determined Australians sought redemption, compiling a competitive 255 for eight off their 50 overs and then running through the World XI for 162 in 41.3 overs.

The world champions were back to their upbeat best, with the bowlers hitting the pitch hard and the fielders buzzing about with purpose, although two outfield catches were put down.

Only Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara rose to the challenge, clubbing 64 off 96 balls in opening the innings.

England's Ashes hero Andrew Flintoff contributed 38 off 52 balls after being dropped in a sitter by Brett Lee on five.

All-rounder Shane Watson claimed 3-43 off 10 overs, Glenn McGrath had 2-13 off seven overs and Brett Lee 2-31.

The rousing victory set up Australia for a crack at the series in Friday's second game with the world team having plenty to do to keep the series alive.

The world team crumbled to 50 for three in the 13th over with McGrath snaring the wickets of Virender Sehwag (6 off 10 balls) and Jacques Kallis (8 off 23 balls) and left-arm Nathan Bracken getting the big wicket of Brian Lara for a duck.

Sangakkara was dropped by Simon Katich on 31, a two-handed chance running back in the deep before Bracken snared Lara for a two-ball duck in the same over.

Lee cramped up Rahul Dravid with a short-pitched delivery and offered an easy catch to Ponting in the covers for four off 14 balls, leaving the world all-

stars at 75 for four in the 19th over.

England's Kevin Pietersen, booed to the crease by sections of the 18,435 crowd, only scored two before being caught leg before wicket to Watson.

Sangakkara's daring innings ended to a low catch by Ponting at backward point off Watson, leaving his team at 101 for six in the 28th over.

Shahid Afridi, who came on as a super sub for Muttiah Muralitharan, went lbw to Symonds for two and Pollock was run out for five by a direct throw by Watson.

Flintoff's defiance ended on 38 when he holed out to McGrath running in from the ropes to give Watson his third wicket. Flintoff hit a six and two fours in his 52-ball knock.

It was all over when Vettori found Ponting backward of the wicket to be out for 15 with 51 balls left in the innings.

Australia earlier rallied to score 255 for eight after spinners Vettori

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# 'We're hurting inside'



AFP, Melbourne

Skipper Shaun Pollock is demanding a big improvement from his world all-stars to keep the one-day Super Series alive after a crushing defeat to rejuvenated Australia here Wednesday.

The World XI have only a day to regroup for Friday's second one-dayer at Docklands stadium after crashing to a 93-run loss to Ricky Ponting's team, bursting to redeem themselves after their much-criticised Ashes loss to England.

Only four of the world's best 11 players managed to reach double-figures against the Australian bowling - Kumar Sangakkara with 64 off 96 balls and Ashes hero Andrew Flintoff made 38 -- in a match that proved anticlimactic along the way.

"It's not that you lose, but in the manner you lose and for us to be seven or eight down for not much at all was probably the most disappointing part about tonight's game," Pollock said.

"I can assure you that the guys are

proud cricketers and it hurts their pride, no one likes to go down like that, no matter what game it is ... they're definitely hurting."

Pollock said it was not a time to panic and he would use Thursday's rest day to regroup the players, adding that he expected them to bounce back.

"You have to give them the opportunity to fight back. We'll discuss and see what Sunny (chairman of selectors Sunil Gavaskar) thinks.

"But it's not really about team selection, it's about mentally that we come out all prepared and do the job well and that's the biggest challenge for us."

While there was pain in the world dressing room, there was joy in the Australian camp after a month of fall-out over losing the Ashes to England.

"I've said all long that I think we're still the best cricket team in the world," skipper Ricky Ponting said.

"It's great to get out there and express ourselves the way we have. We've been looking forward to this for a while to play the brand of cricket we know we can play, so it's very satisfying."

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