



## Did U Know?

Ricky Ponting got his 11th man-of-the-match award for posting a century in each innings in the first Test (Nov 3-7, 2005) against West Indies. At Port of Spain in 2002-03, he had got his first MOM award against West Indies for posting 206 and 45.

## What to WATCH

**TEN Sports**  
Pakistan vs England  
First Test, Day Two  
Live at 10:20 am  
**STAR Sports**  
ATP Masters Series  
Live at 11:00 am



**Inzamamul Haq**  
(Pakistan cricket captain)  
"We are not interested in getting involved in any controversies. Our complete focus is on cricket. Whatever acrimony has happened in the past is history for us."  
While expecting a controversy-free tour by England this time.

India unchanged for first three SA ODIs

AFP, Vadodara

Indian cricket selectors Saturday retained their squad for the first three matches of a five-match one-day series against South Africa starting on Wednesday.

India, who completed a 6-1 drubbing of Sri Lanka on Saturday, once again chose to be without former captain Sourav Ganguly who has been injured in recent matches.

The one-day series will commence in Hyderabad with a day game while the remaining matches will be day-night affairs in Bangalore (Nov 19), Chennai (Nov 22), Kolkata (Nov 25) and Mumbai (Nov 28).

## SQUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Mahendra Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Jai Prakash Yadav, Rudra Pratap Singh, Sri Sreesanth, Harbhajan Singh, Murali Kartik.

**Smith sounds confident for Indian ODIs**

AFP, Mumbai

South African captain Graeme Smith said Saturday his team was ready to take on India after a superb recent run in the one-day form of the game.

"We have come here on a good run and see this tour as a massive opportunity," he said, after arriving for a five-match one-day series starting on Wednesday.

"India are a strong side with a bunch of young guys who are

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Dear Readers

As The Daily Star approaches its 15th anniversary, the Star Sport team would like to know your feedback on how to make the pages more attractive. So, for the next two weeks send us your suggestions, comments and even criticisms within 200-250 words to sports@thecitizenstar.net. We intend to publish them and wish your valuable views will enrich your favourite pages. The last date for submission of your comments is November 15.

-- Sports Editor

## Last four finalised

Beximco v Gazi Tanks; Epyllion v Acme

### SPORTS REPORTER

**GrameenPhone**  
CORPORATE LEAGUE

The semifinal line-up of the Grameen-Phone Corporate Cricket League was completed after fancied Beximco thrashed Jamuna Bank and Gazi Tanks survived a scare before pulling off an exciting four-run victory over Security Air Express yesterday.

Beximco scored a six-wicket triumph over Jamuna Bank at the BKSP ground in Savar to become Group A champions with nine points. They will take on Gazi Tanks in a Tuesday semifinal at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

The Gazi boys finished second from the other group but not before an unheralded Security Air Express gave them a run for their money.

Epyllion, who topped Group B by virtue of a better run-rate after finishing on equal nine points with Gazi Tanks, will take on Acme Laboratories

in the other semifinal on the same day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

There was another match on the final day of the group phase at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium which Araf Apparel won by a massive 155 runs against Bangla Cat thanks to a terrific hundred from national discard Ehsanul Haque.

The experienced right-hander struck 108 off 129 balls but it came too late to comfort Araf, who had already confirmed their exit from the title race. Ehsanul was the third batsman to hit a ton in the competition this year after Al Shahriar and Tushar Imran.

#### BEXIMCO-JAMUNA

Bangladesh batsman Rajin Saleh powered star-studded Beximco to register an easy win against newcomers Jamuna Bank with a fluent half-century at the BKSP.

Opening the innings, the right-hander scored an unbeaten 71 off 111 balls while Mohammad Ashraful scored a 37-ball 30 as Beximco raced

to 166 for 4 in 39.1 overs in reply to the bankers' 165 all out in 49.2 overs.

Earlier, Jamuna won the toss and decided to bat first. But the failure of their top-order never put them in a position to throw a challenging total to their mighty opponents. Zahirul Islam was the only notable scorer with 47 off 83 deliveries.

Mahbub Alam, Mohammad Shahjada, Abdur Razzak Raj and Mehrab Hossain Jr picked up two wickets each for Beximco.

#### GAZITANKS-SECURITYAIR

Gazi Tanks escaped an embarrassing defeat when they barely defended a modest total against a spirited Security Air at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Khaled Mahmud-led Gazi Tanks, who had earlier confirmed their semifinal berth, put on a modest 193 after being sent in with opener Golam Rakhman top scoring

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Harmison, Flintoff give England the edge

### Cricket

AFP, Multan

Two wickets apiece off and Steve Harmison neutralised Pakistan's early advantage and left England in the ascendancy at the end of Day One of the opening Test in Multan. Pakistan were comfortably placed at 161-1 before a determined display from the England pace duo and some tight spin bowling reduced the hosts to 244-6 when bad light stopped play with 2.2 overs remaining.

Flintoff finished the day with 2-49, while Harmison grabbed both of his wickets in his first over after tea. Pakistan's hopes of regaining the

initiative rest on captain Inzamamul Haq, the last specialist batsman. Inzamam, playing on his home ground, was not out on 41 with tailender Mohammad Sami on one at stumps.

England, playing their first Test series after defeating Australia at home in September to regain the Ashes after 18 years, could be satisfied with their day's work in challenging conditions.

The pitch had neither pace nor bounce for their pacemen. It did turn, but too slowly to really trouble Pakistan's batsmen.

Pakistan started well with left-handed opener Salman Butt cracking an impressive 74 for his second Test

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3



Stand-in England captain Marcus Trescothick (R) waits for a catch off Pakistan opener Salman Butt, who top-scored with 74, on the opening day of the first Test at Multan on Saturday.

## West Indies in tatters

### Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

The West Indies continued to struggle Saturday against Victoria, desperately needing to rediscover some kind of form ahead of next week's second Australia Test in Hobart.

Victoria plundered the tourists' lame bowling to amass an ominous total of 571 off 122.4 overs and the West Indies were left labouring at 144 for four off 34 overs at stumps on the second day.

West Indies great Courtney Walsh said Chanderpaul, who made two and seven in the lopsided first Brisbane Test, was not a natural leader but could inspire his side with the bat ahead of his 10th Test as skipper.

"It's vital for him to lead from the front," said former captain Walsh, who took a then-record 519 wickets in 132 Tests between 1984-2001.

"If he can focus first on one person and lead from the front, go out there and dominate and get runs for the team.

"He is second behind Brian Lara in

terms of experience, so if he can get out there and show them what to do and lead from the front, that will help him and his captaincy as well."

Captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul (15) and all-rounder Dwayne Smith (12) were unbeaten at stumps and the tourists trailed Victoria by 427 runs.

The tourists have just Sunday's final day to get things in order before they try to reverse the 379-run drubbing from the first Test, in the next international which starts on Thursday.

It was important they were not fearful of the Australians, he said.

"That's one of the rules I would like to tell them, not to be intimidated by this Australian team," he said.

"It's a good Australian team but once you get intimidated you are fighting the battle twice."

"So they've got to believe in themselves and back themselves to do a job and just come out and come out fighting."

Victoria were all out for 571 after

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

India's Mahendra Dhoni (L) watches the ball as his late glance goes past Sri Lankan keeper Kumar Sangakkara during the seventh and final one-day international at Vadodara on Saturday.

**India ready to play Test in Karachi?**

BBC ONLINE, undated

India are set to agree to play a Test match and one-day international in Karachi on their tour of Pakistan.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India is reported to have given its approval of the itinerary for three Tests and five one-dayers but it needs to be ratified by the government.

The first Test is set for Lahore on January 5 and the final ODI is planned for Karachi on February 11.

Pakistan Cricket Board director Abbas Zaidi said: "India have told us they have no objection to the itinerary."

Only Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have played in the troubled city of Karachi in recent times.

India resumed cricket ties with Pakistan last year and won the Test and one-day series when they toured there in 2004.

But Pakistan gained a measure of revenge on the reciprocal tour earlier this year, beating India 4-2 in the one-dayers and drawing the Test series.

#### PROPOSED ITINERARY

Jan 1	India arrive in Lahore
Jan 2-3	2-dayer Lahore
Jan 5-9	1st Test Lahore
Jan 13-17	2nd Test Faisalabad
Jan 21-25	3rd Test Karachi
Jan 28	1st ODI Peshawar
Jan 31	2nd ODI Rawalpindi
Feb 3	3rd ODI Lahore
Feb 6	4th ODI Multan
Feb 11	5th ODI Karachi

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Local Pathan the hero

India take Sri Lanka series 6-1

### Cricket

AFP, Vadodara

Home favourite Irfan Pathan produced a fine all-round performance as India notched up an easy five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the seventh and final one-dayer to wrap up the series 6-1.

Pathan grabbed three scalps and slammed a brisk 35 during his first international appearance in his hometown as India raced to the 245-run target with 10.3 overs to spare.

Hard-hitting Mahendra Dhoni made things easy with a quickfire 80, adding 83 for the fifth wicket with captain Rahul Dravid (31 not out) before falling at the brink of victory.

Wicketkeeper Dhoni, who was named man-of-the-series after a fine run with the bat that included a record-breaking 183 not out in the third match in Jaipur, hit nine fours and three sixes off 73 balls.

India, who had clinched the series early on by winning the first four matches, finished with a morale-boosting series result just four days ahead of a five-match one-day series against South Africa.

"I had full confidence in my boys before the series but didn't think we would win this easily," conceded Dravid. "Everyone delivered at different times and so it has been a great team effort."

The day belonged to 21-year-old Pathan, who was on the offensive from

early on after being promoted to the number three position, from where he had slammed a quickfire 83 off 70 balls in the opening match in Nagpur.

The left-hander smashed four boundaries and two sixes, one each off pacemen Dilhar Fernando and Nuwan Zoysa, in just 23 balls before he fell trying a high off Zoysa.

"Nothing seems to be enough for the Indians the way they are playing at the moment," said Sri Lankan captain Marvan Atapattu. "We have to take this out of our minds before we come back for the Test series next month."

Earlier, Pathan and the other left-arm paceman Rudra Pratap Singh had bagged three wickets each to help restrict Sri Lanka to 244-9.

Rudra finished with 3-33 and Pathan 3-38 as India made a strong start in the match.

Rudra, man-of-the-match with four wickets in the last outing at Rajkot, ran through the middle-order by taking the important scalps of Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene and Tillakaratne Dilshan.

Electing to bat, Sri Lanka were reduced to 85-5 after Rudra's successes, and only managed the total they did because of a 133-run stand for the sixth wicket between Atapattu (59) and left-hander Russell Arnold (68).

The duo came together in the 25th over and repaired the damage with some determined batting before they fell on successive deliveries from Pathan in the 47th over while trying to force the pace.

Pathan had earlier accounted for left-hander Upul Tharanga (six) with the new ball when the opener edged to Dravid at first slip.

Atapattu struck five boundaries during his 55th one-day half-century while Arnold hit seven fours and a six in his 23rd before they were both caught by Harbhajan Singh in the deep.

Jayawardene faced 49 balls before he was caught by Murali Kartik at short mid-wicket and Sangakkara followed him when he miscued a pull for Yuvraj Singh to run in from point and take a well-judged catch.

Seamer Ajit Agarkar chipped in with two wickets.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the seventh and final one-day international between India and Sri Lanka on Saturday:

#### SRI LANKA

Samaraweera c Harbhajan b Agarkar	6
Tharanga c Dravid b	