



## Did U Know?

West Indies (149) registered the lowest ever total in the first innings of the second Test against Australia at Hobart. In November 1993, New Zealand had recorded 161 in each innings against Australia.

## What to WATCH

### TEN Sports

Pakistan Vs England  
Second Test, Day One  
Live at 10:20 am

### ESPN

English Premier Football League  
Tottenham Hotspur Vs West Ham  
United

Live at 6:55 pm  
Middlesbrough vs Fulham  
Live at 9:55 pm

### STAR Sports

Australia vs West Indies  
Second Test, Day Four  
Live at 5:30 am  
ATP Masters Series  
Live at 5:00 pm



## Duncan Fletcher

(England cricket coach)

"We played some real positive cricket (at Multan). Test cricket is a difficult game. You can play well for four days and suddenly you can get yourself in trouble within an hour." After losing the first Test against Pakistan.



Nat'l Cricket League (Four-Day)  
(Day One)  
Dhaka Vs Sylhet  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
Rajshahi Vs Barisal  
Venue: Rajshahi Div Stadium  
Khulna Vs Chittagong  
Venue: Chittagong Div Stadium

## Sachin touches another mark

REUTERS, Bangalore

India batsman Sachin Tendulkar equalled former Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram's world record for most one-day international appearances on Saturday, in the second game against South Africa.

Tendulkar, 32, was playing in his 356th match. He already holds the records for most one-day runs (13,875) and hundreds (38).

## Hossains lead Special Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Kamal Hossain and Abid Hossain were jointly leading the table in the Seventh Special National Chess Championship for the visually impaired, at the end of the sixth round yesterday.

The leaders collected a maximum of six points while five players Shamsul Haque, Mokter Hossain, Monir Rana, Shahidul Islam and Habibur Rahman followed them with five points each.

The final round will take place today.

# Hosts off to fliers



SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts grabbed the spotlight with victories in the one-day competition of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Seventh National Cricket League that began at different venues across the country yesterday.

Paceman Mohammad Sharif returned with a vengeance as Dhaka posted an eight-wicket win over Sylhet while defending champions Rajshahi registered a similar result against Barisal.

Both matches were however low-scoring affairs. The other game at least crossed the 200-run-mark but hosts Chittagong still managed to enjoy a seven-wicket cruise against Khulna.

All teams now lock horns in the more important four-day game at the same venues from today.

### DHAKA-SYLHET

It was a tale of two skippers at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium with ace Bangladesh batsman Moham-mad Ashraf outshining Rajin Saleh in the final analysis.

Both were leading their sides for the first time in the National League but it was Ashraf who scored an unbeaten 48 to help Dhaka reach their target in just 29.4 overs.

Earlier, Rajin-led Sylhet were shot out 147 in 46 overs. The total could have been much lower had their skipper not top-scored with 31.

It was Mohammad Sharif, recently returning from lengthy lay-off, who upended the Sylhet line-up. The one-time national bowler bagged five for 21 in a spirited 9.2 overs. His new-ball partner Shahadat Hossain Rajib started the slump knocking over Golam Mabud (5).

Dhaka's other notable wicket-taker was left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique with 2-18 off 10 overs.

Dhaka's pursuit also had a shaky

start when national opener Javed Omar fell for a two-ball duck. But an unbroken 110-run third wicket stand between Rashedul Haque and Ashraf eventually steadied the boat.

Seasoned opener Rashedul hammered a 93-ball 76 that included 13 fours and a six while Ashraf's 56-ball contribution produced ten boundaries.

### RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Bangladesh southpaw Shahriar Nafees also making his debut as Barisal captain, however, was not so lucky. They crashed

at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

Opting to bat first the visiting Barisal team, the traditional lightweights of the first-class competition, were dismissed for 108 in 46.2 overs. The left-handed Nafees laboured for 24 balls before being out for 11.

Pace bowlers Shafaq Al Jabir, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammad Shahjada and Rezwanul Islam claimed two wickets each.

Khaled Masud's Rajshahi overcame a minor hiccup losing two wickets for 20 runs but Nayeem Islam and Anisur

Rahman shared 92 runs for the third wicket to propel their side to 112-2 just in 23.2 overs.

Nayeem slammed an unbeaten 54 off 72 balls and Anisur was not out with a 55-ball 31.

### CHITTAGONG-KHULNA

An unbeaten fourth wicket partnership between Ehsanul Haque and Faisal Hossain designed Chittagong's success at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

Right-handed Ehsanul scored

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PHOTO: STAR

SAVAGING SYLHET: Dhaka opener Rashedul Haque cuts one square on way to scoring an unbeaten 76 against Sylhet in their Ispahani National Cricket League one-dayer at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

# It'll be Lara or else



APP, Hobart

Brian Lara overtook Steve Waugh as Test cricket's second all-time Test run-scorer but another heavy defeat was looming for the West Indies in the second Test at Bellerive Oval here Saturday.

Lara, who has wrestled for form in the lopsided series, was unbeaten on 18 and moved seven runs ahead of the former Australian captain (10,927) when rain forced an end to the third day.

The West Indies at 82 for four were still 175 runs from making Australia bat a second time coming after their 379-run pummeling in the first Gabba Test.

Lara has now scored 10,934 Test runs but he carries a significant burden on Sunday's fourth day to prevent another substantial defeat for the once-great Caribbean team.

Brad Hodge scored an assured 60 in his debut Test innings as Australia were earlier dismissed for 406 off 109.4 overs.

Hodge looked in sweet touch as he raised his maiden Test half-century with wickets clattering around him as the West Indian bowlers enjoyed one of their best sessions in the series.

Hodge said he received advice from former Test stars Dean Jones and Waugh on how to handle his debut.

"Deano basically said watch the ball hard and when you're nervous remember to breathe and relax, while Steve said to back yourself and your ability will take care of itself," Hodge said.

"It was very special, I thoroughly enjoyed the moment as nervous as what I was and it was a nice feeling to get off the mark first ball and put together a nice innings."

Yet again the Windies' top-six batsmen failed to provide the platform for their team.

Vice captain Ramnaresh Sarwan played a rash shot at Brett Lee well outside off-stump in the first over after a rain-break and was pounced by Adam Gilchrist for 32.

Skipper Shivnarine Chander-paul followed in a similar mode of dismissal for 10, leaving his side in trouble at 76 for four just before rain hit the ground.

The West Indies lost both opening batsmen to Glenn McGrath in the eight overs to tea.

McGrath bowled Chris Gayle with a yorker with the fourth ball of his opening over and then removed Devon Smith three balls before tea, caught at

second slip for eight.

The Australians, looking impregnable at the start of the third day on 256 for one, crumbled losing nine wickets for 150.

While Hodge displayed poise and technique, Michael Clarke's shaky hold on the number four batting slot was looking even more insecure after another failure.

Hodge was the second-last batsman out when he fell leg before wicket to Corey Collymore in an innings that occupied 152 minutes and contained nine boundaries.

Quicksilver super sub Dwayne Smith, deputising for injured Marlon Samuels (knee), was involved in three of the dismissals.

Clarke's wretched run of scores continued when he was superbly caught by Smith in the covers for five off 23 balls. In this series he has scored 5, 14 not out and 5.

Michael Hussey's maiden Test century was extended to 137 before he was caught by Sarwan, diving forward

at short extra cover off Dwayne Bravo.

Hussey batted for 388 minutes, faced 236 balls and hit 19 fours in his chanceless innings.

Andrew Symonds, in for injured all-rounder Shane Watson, was run out in a mix-up with Hodge for one.

Television replays showed him well out of his ground when Smith's throw from backward square leg directly hit the stumps at the bowler's end, but it was given not out by the video umpire.

Symonds was three-quarters of the way to the pavilion when the "not out" decision was flashed on to the large replayscreen.

The West Indian players protested to the umpires and after further consultation Symonds was given out.

An Australian team spokesman said a glitch with new software operated by the video umpire had caused the confusion.

Edwards finished with 3-116 off

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## BD U-19s beaten at Vizag

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 team suffered a four-wicket defeat to hosts India, in their opening match of the Afro-Asian Under-19 Cricket Tournament in Vishakhapatnam yesterday.

Opting to bat first, Bangladesh were all out for 193 in 49.4 overs with number eight batsman Suhwardy Shuvo notching 45 off 38 balls with eight boundaries, whilst captain Mushfiqur Rahim contributed a 75-ball 40 that included four boundaries.

Piyush Chawla was the most successful Indian bowler, picking up three wickets for 46 in 10 overs.

In reply, India Under-19s reached the target of 194 for six wickets in 39.1 overs. Shukla hammered 56 runs.

Nabil Samad and Shabib Al Hasan claimed two wickets each while Dollar Mahmud captured one wicket.

Bangladesh take on Sri Lanka today.

## Youth booters off to Iran

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-20 football team leaves Dhaka today, to play their away match against Iran in the Asian Under-20 Youth Championship qualifiers on November 23.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) announced a 20-member team on Friday but Midfielder Zahid Hossain will miss the party after picking up a last minute injury.

The second leg is scheduled for November 27 in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Under-17 team arrived yesterday to face their Bangladesh counterparts in the Asian Under-17 Youth Championship qualifiers on November 21.

The two teams will meet again in Colombo on November 25.

## Win for Muktis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Chittagong Muktiyoddha Ekadosh beat Memberpara Ekadosh 3-1 in an opening match tiebreaker, in the Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup Tournament at a local hotel.

Ten teams from Bandarban, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar are taking part in the meet.

Moni Sawpaw Dewan, deputy minister of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry, inaugurated the meet.

# Pathan keeps SA in check



APP, Bangalore

Seamer Irfan Pathan claimed three wickets in his first four overs as India restricted South Africa to 169-9 from 50 overs in the second one-day international here on Saturday.

The spinners choked the runs on a dry wicket with left-arm Murali Kartik conceding just 16 runs in his 10 overs and Harbhajan Singh and Virender Sehwag finishing with two wickets each.

South Africa, who led 1-0 in the five-match series, need a win in the day-night game to equal Australia's record 21-match unbeaten streak in limited-overs cricket.

But the tourists were caught flat-footed on the turning track at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, a far cry from the seaming wicket that helped them win the first one-dayer at Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Andrew Hall's 32 was the top score as wickets tumbled at regular intervals after Indian captain Rahul Dravid won the toss and elected to field on his home ground.

India celebrated Sachin Tendulkar's 356th one-day appearance, which equalled Pakistani Wasim Akram's world record feat, by destroying South Africa's top order.

Pathan had Abraham de Villiers caught at square leg with the fifth delivery of the match and trapped

## India go level

India defeated South Africa by six wickets in the second one-day international on Saturday to level the five-match series 1-1.

India surpassed South Africa's modest 169-9 in the 36th over of the day-night match at the Chinnaswamy stadium with Virender Sehwag hitting an unbeaten 77. Irfan Pathan followed up his three wickets with 37 to win the man-of-the-match award.

South Africa won the first match by five wickets in Hyderabad on Wednesday. The third match will be played in Chennai on Tuesday.

captain Graeme Smith leg-before for three in his third over.

Pathan struck another vital blow in his next over when Jacques Kallis slashed outside the off-stump and was caught behind to make it 20-3.

Hall, who replaced the injured Charl Langeveldt, hit 32 off 43 balls when he was snapped up by Mohammad Kaif at short-leg off Harbhajan's turning delivery.

South Africa plodded their way to 85-4 by the 27th over when Sehwag had Mark Boucher leg-before for 14 with his first ball.

Sehwag got another success in his next over as Ashwell Prince, who appeared set on 30, holed out to long-on in a bid to step up the scoring.

Justin Kemp (28) and Shaun Pollock (29) boosted the total by adding 47 for the seventh wicket.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the South African innings against India in the second

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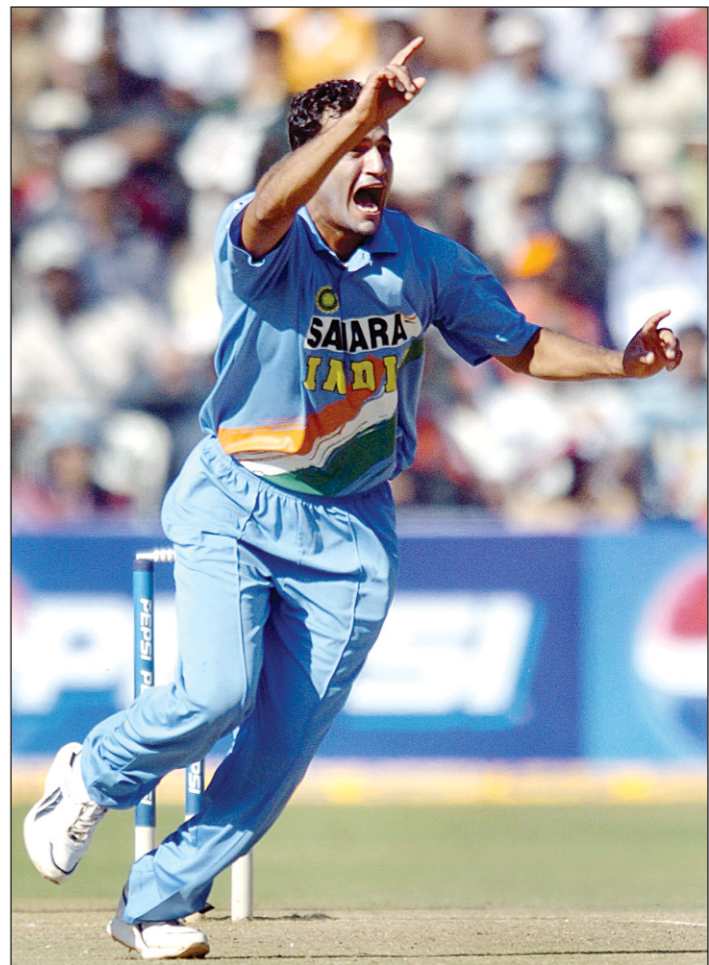


PHOTO: AFP

BREAKING SA'S BACKBONE: India paceman Irfan Pathan, who took three wickets in his first four overs, is elated after seeing the back of South Africa captain Graeme Smith in the second one-day international in Bangalore on

# Vaughan back for England

## Faisalabad Test begins today



APP, Faisalabad

Michael Vaughan returned to lead England in a confident frame of mind, saying his team would try to seize an early advantage against Pakistan in the crucial second Test here on Sunday.

"Whatever we do tomorrow we have to make sure we start well and put Pakistan under pressure as we did in Multan," a fit-again Vaughan told reporters on the eve of the match.

The England skipper was forced to miss the opening match of the three-Test series at Multan due to a knee injury.

Vaughan said he was confident of lasting the match his team need to win to square the series following their 22-run defeat at Multan.

"I have passed the fitness test and had a good couple of days," he said,

adding he would replace either Paul Collingwood or Ian Bell.

"It is always a slight risk when you come back from an injury, but I am confident I can get through the game and that is really all that counts."

Vaughan said his team needed to raise their level of performance in crunch situations because it was not easy to come back in a short series.

"It is tough times because we have to win both the Tests to win the series. We had four games to pull it back against Aussies, but here we have just two," said the Ashes-winning captain.

England lost the opening Test against Australia at Lord's before clinching the five-match Ashes series 2-1.

England put Pakistan under pressure in the opening match before losing their way on the fifth and final morning. They were bowled out for 175 chasing a 198-run target.

"We were going at a position when

we could have won the game," said Vaughan.

"For four days in Multan we performed very well until that last morning when we got stuck. We just try to improve little more this week. We played a perfect game until that last morning."

Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria played a key role in Pakistan's victory, grabbing four wickets.

"He (Kaneria) is a good bowler and on the last day he can cause problems. He is probably the best young leg-spinner in the world," said Vaughan.

"Leg-spinner on the last day should be causing you problem, but I think six wickets to seamers was more of a concern. He has a few different deliveries, but it is difficult to compare him with Shane Warne at this stage."

"If you tell me that we are chasing 198 in the last innings I will take it again."

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# SAARC misses cricket beat

ARCHITECT DR. NIZAMUDDIN AHMED

Despite all the glitz, buntings and security, one of the things which was most disappointing at the 13th SAARC summit in Dhaka, was the failure on the part of any of the leaders to duly acknowledge the significant role cricket plays in enhancing understanding, goodwill and fellowship among the people of south Asia.

There is no doubt that amongst all the sports and games played in the world, the SAARC countries are best at the game that originated in England over 500 years ago. This argument is corroborated by the fact that this region sports four of the ten Test-playing nations, amongst the more than 120 countries where the game has been taken up. A commercialized global sport, an India-Pakistan ODI can draw a television audience as large as three billion.

With the regional cooperation getting stronger and more proactive in its third decade, there should be a SAARC cricket team comprising of players from all the seven member-countries to play against the other Test nations, namely Australia, South Africa, England, New Zealand, West Indies and Zimbabwe. For want of a

better name currently, the team may be called SAARCricket.

A quota system has to be in play to give Test babes Bangladesh a fair deal, as well as the opportunity to improve upon its performance. That is the very purpose of the association to support each other in all avenues of education, culture and economy, so why not include sports within this enclave?

Considering their respective strengths there could arguably be three players each from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, two from Bangladesh, and one from Bhutan, Maldives or Nepal.

Venues should be spread all over the region and each visiting Test team should play against SAARCricket in the host country. For example: SAARCricket versus Australia in Sri Lanka, or SAARCricket versus England in Bangladesh. Alternatively SAARCricket may tour South Africa.

A series could comprise of five one-dayers and three five-dayer matches. If the ICC cannot accommodate a long series in its annual programme, a series can be restricted to just the shorter version of the game. The ICC may also be approached to grant the matches ODI and Test status. A lot of changes have been incorporated into the game over the years and this will

be one more exciting factor.

For a start, if the international schedule remains as tight as it is at the moment, SAARCricket could meet in the country where a visiting Test team is touring. For instance, presently South Africa is touring India and England is in Pakistan. At the end of each series, selected players from the SAARC countries could gather at a venue in India or Pakistan and play at least a one-dayer to pitch the idea.

Can you imagine the excitement and fellowship a SAARC team with a line-up like this would generate? One can visualize 150 crore cricket fans roaring for one team SAARC. Here it is then:

Sachin Tendulkar, Kumara Sangakkara, Rahul Dravid, Md. Ashraf, Inzamam-ul Haq, Md. Yousuf, Irfan Pathan, Chaminda Vaas, Md. Rafique, Shoab Akhtar, Muttiah Muralitharan ... plus a rotation system would ensure a different combination in every other match.

And think of the wonders it will do for SAARC! If it is unity the leaders are seeking, then there is no playing field more ripe and appropriate than cricket.