



## Did U Know?

Boxing, often called "the manly art of self-defence," is a sport in which two competitors try to hit each other with their gloved fists while trying to avoid each other's blows. The competition is divided into a specified number of rounds, usually 3 minutes long, with 1-minute rest periods between rounds. Although amateur boxing is widespread, professional boxing has flourished on an even grander scale since the early 18th century.



## Ruud Van Nistelrooy

(Man United's Dutch striker)  
"Roy will always be remembered as the greatest player that played for the club. His leadership and quality of play and his character will always be within us."

# Spectacular Sylhet U-turn



## SPORTS REPORTER

Ashiqur Rahman returned with a six-wicket burst as Sylhet staged a spectacular turnaround against Dhaka, on the second day of their four-day fixture of the National League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

While Dhaka stumbled, other hosts Chittagong and Rajshahi thrived on centuries by Nafees Iqbal and Anisur Rahman to continue to dominate at their own den.

National and Chittagong opener Nafees scored exactly 100 in the port city team's impressive total of 380-7 against Khulna's 192. Anisur hit a superb 103 as Rajshahi responded with 238-3, in reply to Barisal's 223 at close of Day Two.

But it was right-arm seamer Ashiqur who hogged the spotlight with a dream spell in an ideal condition. Out of competitive cricket for a long time due to back injury, Ashiqur destroyed the vaunted Dhaka batting for 131 and gave his side an unlikely first-innings lead of 94 runs.

If Ashiqur with 6-46 was the action hero at Dhanmondi then Sylhet wicketkeeper Golam Mabud played the best supporting role, with eight stunning catches behind the stumps. It would have been a perfect ten for the nimble stumper had two Dhaka batsmen not been adjudged leg before.

Holders Dhaka however hit back later in the day with national paceman

Talha Jubair claiming three wickets as Sylhet collapsed to 126-6 in their second essay, before bad light stopped the day's play with 12 overs remaining. But Sylhet with an impressive overall lead of 220 hold an edge going into the third day of

the eventful match.  
**DHAKA-SYLHET**  
Dhaka boast of enjoying the services of nine current and former national players. The big names collapsed like nine pins after resuming the day on 8-1. Left-arm paceman Rezaul Haque

started the carnage by removing overnight batsman Sajjad Kadir with the scoreboard reading 33-2.

Coming in as a first change bowler, Ashiqur ripped through the  
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**STARS OF THE DAY:** (L) Sylhet paceman Ashiqur Rahman, who returned figures of 6-46, bowls against Dhaka at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while (R) Chittagong's Nafees Iqbal sets off for a run on way to scoring a century against Khulna at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Monday.

## HP Squad take winning lead

### SPORTS REPORTER

An all-round performance by Mahmudullah Riyad powered Bangladesh Cricket Board High Performance (HP) Squad to register a 53-run victory against England under-19 team in the limited-overs match at BKSP yesterday.

The win gave the local side an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match warm-up series against the visitors with the last two games taking place in Khulna on November 24 and 25.

Riyad smashed a 59-ball 53 as the home team scored 225-8 in allotted 45 overs and later he took three wickets for 12 runs to dismiss the English side for 172 in 41.3 overs.

Promising batsman Farhad Reza was the other notable scorer  
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## 2 more friendlies for nat'l booters

### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh football team will play two more warm-up matches in Dhaka as part of their preparations for next month's SAFF Championship in Pakistan.

The defending SAFF champions, now training under Argentine coach Diego Cruciani at the BKSP, will take on Abahani tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 4pm and will face Brothers Union on November 1 at the same venue.

The squad leaves for Karachi on November 6.

# Youth booters blank SL



### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh brightened their chances to reach the AFC Youth (Under-17) Football Championship finals in Singapore next year with a 3-0 thrashing of Sri Lanka in the first leg of the qualifier at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The hosts, who scored all their goals in the first half after a scintillating start, will leave for Sri Lanka tonight to play the away leg on November 25 in Colombo.

Skipper Sabuj shot the home side in front after 11 minutes while midfielder Rana doubled the lead with a spectacular strike five minutes later. Bangladesh were 3-0 ahead by the half hour when striker Zahurul scored with a header but unfortunately, the finishing was not as good as a series of second-half opportunities went begging.

With the local boys controlling the midfield with a string of neat passes, there was only one side on the pitch. The first real chance went to the Red and Greens. But Emon's placing shot crawled wide of the post after eight minutes. The hosts didn't have to wait long before they found the net from their second attack.

Moharak failed to connect cleanly after Zahurul floated the ball near the goalmouth from the left but Sabuj stabbed home while the two Lankan defenders delayed to clear the danger.

Rana then pulled off a stunner from 35 yards, lobbing the rival keeper with a

curling left-footer that virtually put the opposition out of the game. There was no respite and Sirfin, who replaced injured midfielder Mobarak on the 27th minute, set up the third goal for Zahurul who nodded home a perfect centre from right.

Bangladesh wasted four clear-cut opportunities and inside the first 15 minutes of the second half and Rana hit the woodwork from close before the visitors showed some spirit.

Substitute winger Fasal ran through the local defence ten minutes from time but his feeble shot went straight to goalkeeper Nehal, who gave away a penalty three minutes later for a clumsy change on Ziyad.

Nehal, however, made amends for his mistake when he dived full length to parry Fasal's low drive from the spot.

Sri Lanka coach Chandrasiri admitted that his side lost to a better side.

"I would have been happy had we scored that invaluable away goal. Now we have to win 4-0 at home and that is a big task. We will try our best to utilise our own conditions," the former international told after the match.

"They were nervous, probably because of their first international appearance. I have no complaints against conditions here and I hope they would play up to their ability in the return-leg," he added.

Bangladesh coach Mahbub Hossain Roxy was elated after the team's magnificent show in his first assignment.

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# Inzy puts Pakistan on top on a scary day



### AFP, Faisalabad

A powerful blast during play and Pakistan's sharp pace attack combined to make Monday a scary day for England in the second cricket Test.

The tourists -- one down in the three-Test series -- were 113-3 when bad light stopped play for the day, still 349 behind Pakistan's challenging first-innings total of 462.

Ian Bell (36) and Kevin Pietersen (four) were the not-out batsmen.

England were on 92-2 when the game was held up for nine minutes following an explosion in one of the stands. Marcus Trescothick and Bell remained on the field along with Pakistan's cricketers as police and commandos rushed to the ground to provide security cover.

A local official later said the explosion was caused by a gas cylinder in one of the drinks dispensers. A policeman was slightly hurt.

When play resumed, Trescothick fell soon afterwards.

The left-handed opener, who was on 41 when the blast stopped play, added seven more runs before falling to a low catch by wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal off paceman Mohammad Sami.

England's early problems came from little-known seamer Navedul Hasan, playing only his sixth Test.

Naved dismissed Andrew Strauss and skipper Michael Vaughan in successive overs to reduce the visitors to 39-2 before Trescothick and Bell added 68 for the third wicket.

Strauss inside-edged a delivery on to his stumps while attempting to pull, while Vaughan was stunned by a yorker that uprooted his middle-stump.

Pakistan were indebted to captain Inzamamul Haq for posting a big total. The middle-order batsman scored an elegant 109 to equal Javed Miandad's Pakistani record of 23 Test centuries in 20 fewer Tests (124).

The Pakistani batting flourished in the morning session, thanks to Inzamam's polished century and Shahid Afridi's fireworks at the other end.

The captain, 80 overnight, struck 13 fours in his 200-ball knock before being adjudged run out by third umpire Nadeem Ghouri of Pakistan.

Fast bowler Steve Harmison fielded a drive on his follow-through, saw Inzamam out of the crease and threw down the stumps.

Inzamam played a major role in putting his team in a commanding position.

He put on 128 for the fourth wicket with Mohammad Yousuf on Sunday and 145 for the next with Afridi, who

fell in the morning session after smashing six sixes and as many fours in his 85-ball 92.

Afridi, who made 67 in his team's overnight total of 300-4, continued to demoralise England's bowlers with his hard and clean hitting.

He set the tone in the day's first over with a firm drive for four past paceman Matthew Hoggard before falling to the same bowler.

He swung Hoggard for two successive sixes over wide long-on and steered the next ball past second slip for four before Trescothick held a low catch in the slips.

There was no respite for England as lower-order batsmen Akmal (41), Naved (25) and Mohammad Sami (18) played their parts in swelling

Pakistan's total.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second cricket Test between Pakistan and England at the Iqbal Stadium on Monday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings (overnight 300-4)

Malik c Flintoff b Hoggard	27
Butt c Jones b Harmison	26
Younis c Pietersen b Flintoff	7
Yousuf c and b Bell	78
Inzamam run out	109
Afridi c Trescothick b Hoggard	92
Akmal c Jones b Giles	41
Naved b Harmison	25
Sami c and b Giles	18
Akhtar c Flintoff b Harmison	12
Kaneria not out	4

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## Rain threatens third India, S Africa ODI

### AFP, Chennai

Bad weather threatens to wash out the third one-day international between India and South Africa here on Tuesday.

Incessant rain soaked the Chidambaram Stadium on Monday and prevented the teams from training ahead of the crucial day-night game with the five-match series locked 1-1.

More rain was forecast for Tuesday in the southern metropolis which had been flooded by the southwest monsoon over the last month.

"We can start on time on Tuesday afternoon provided there is no more rain, but I am not very hopeful," said N. Srinivasan, president of the host Tamil Nadu Cricket Association.

"It has not been easy to prepare the wicket because of the weather  
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**SPREAD INZAMAM:** Captain Inzamamul Haq celebrates his Pakistani record-equalling 23rd century on the second day of the second Test against England in Faisalabad on Monday.

# Victim of ignorance?



On a day when Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq should have been celebrating his 23rd Test century on a par with national record holder Javed Miandad, he has been done in by the ignorance of the untouchable men in white.

His dismissal for 109 on the second day of the Faisalabad Test on Monday will be recorded simply as a run-out. True once upon a time he was known as the king of run-outs, but to condone this decision is to show no respect for a skipper who has rightfully led from the front.

Looking comfortable, Inzamam drove a ball back to England paceman Steve Harmison. As bowlers are wont to,

Harmison aimed for the stumps at the striker's end. Inzy automatically moved and lifted his foot into the air to avoid being hit by the ball. The ICC's elite panel umpires Simon Taufel and Darrell Hair referred the decision to third umpire Nadeem Ghauri who had the replays on hand. It is beyond comprehension that none of the television commentators seemed to be aware of the Law 38, 2 (a), which states: a batsman is not out run out if he has been within his ground and has subsequently left it to avoid injury, when the wicket is put down.

Pakistan have themselves benefited from two controversial decisions against England. During the third Test at Headingley in 1987, Chris Broad let a ball from Imran Khan go outside his off

stump and the ball brushed his glove, which was clearly off the bat. David Shepherd ruled him out and Pakistan won the match by an innings and 18 runs.

Broad was again the recipient of a dubious decision in favour of Pakistan, this time during the 1987-88 series. In the first Test in Lahore, Broad pushed forward to Iqbal Qasim and just missed the ball but was judged caught behind. In this case Broad refused to be submissive and had to be guided off the pitch by partner Graham Gooch.

The irony of the moment may be lost on no one but surely cricket's ruling body -- which gives its umpires' reports much importance -- should clear up this appalling lack of knowledge in its own backyard.

**Compiled by Razia Khan**

# Another Aussie canter



### AFP, Hobart

Skipper Ricky Ponting is looking within his team for intense competition to steel Australia after another lopsided Test cricket win over the once-great West Indies.

Australia cantered to a nine-wicket victory on the final morning of the second Test here Monday to retain the Frank Worrell Trophy for a sixth straight series after a massive 379-run victory in the opening Brisbane Test.

There are concerns that the lack of competition will harm Australian cricket and leave it under-prepared for sterner challenges as they experienced in this year's Ashes series loss to England.

The Australians, who held a match-winning 257-run innings lead after the Caribbean tourists mustered only 149 on a perfect batting pitch on day one, had to chase down just 78 runs for victory after the West Indies forced the match into a fifth day through the batting of Dwayne Bravo (113) and Dinesh Ramdin (71) on Sunday.

There is one more Test to play

against the under-achieving West Indies in Adelaide later this week before a three-Test home series with South Africa, starting next month.

"I am not worried about that at all. If you look at how we've gone about our Test cricket we have had lots of intensity about the way we played and I think that's because of our training and preparation," Ponting said.

"It's up to us to generate that competitiveness with our training. That's one thing we learned coming back from the Ashes, that we had to make our training as competitive as we possible can."

"When I go to training I want to be facing (Brett) Lee, (Glenn) McGrath, (Nathan) Bracken and (Shane) Warne and I want them at their best to practice so I can get something out of it going into the next game."

"We try to have everything as intense and competitive as we possibly can."

Australia ambled to another comprehensive victory, but Ponting praised their fight and character from the disastrous opening day.

"The Windies had a couple of very good days as the Test progressed. To be bowled out for 149 and then have our openers score centuries the game

was pretty much over as far as we were concerned but not as far as they were," he said.

"They batted very well yesterday afternoon, the two young guys (Bravo and Ramdin) played exceptionally well and probably showed a lot of us how good a batting wicket it was."

"They've put their hands up this game and showed a lot of fight and character, which is what you come to expect from West Indies cricket teams."

The Australians had a lot of positives out of the match, primarily through their two batting newcomers, Mike Hussey and Brad Hodge.

Hussey claimed man-of-the-match honours after scoring 137, while Hodge looked compact in compiling his 60 on Test debut.

"The majority of our bowlers have done better than our batting group with the exception of Mike, Brad and Matty (Hayden)."

"For our bowlers to bowl the West Indies out for 149 on day one on that wicket was an exceptional effort."

"It was great to see Mike get the man-of-the-match award, make his first hundred and Brad Hodge to fit in and play as well as he did at

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## Shabbir removed

### REUTERS, Faisalabad

Pace bowler Shabbir Ahmed has been withdrawn from the Test series against England to prevent him from facing a one-year suspension over his faulty bowling action.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan told Reuters on Monday that Shabbir will not play until his action is cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

## Sad!

### AFP, Faisalabad

An England cricket fan, who came to watch the ongoing Pakistan-England Test series, died of heart attack, an England team official said Sunday.

"I can confirm that an English fan has suffered an unfortunate death due to heart attack but I have no more details," England team media manager Andrew Walpole told AFP.

Robert Padmore, 45, suffered the heart attack on Sunday evening  
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