



## Did U Know?

Brian Lara scored 226 runs from 298 balls in the first innings of the third Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval on November 25, 2005. It was his eighth double century, third against Australia.



## Javed Omar

(Bangladesh opener)  
"I know I have to score runs because it has always been the insurance for my place in the national team which might not be the case with others. The pressure always helped me put my best at any level. I have never been a so-called entertainer patience and determination is my motto."  
After scoring first-class centuries in both innings in the National Cricket League.



**TEN Sports**  
Pakistan vs England  
Third Test, Day Two  
Live at 10:50 am

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Sunderland vs Liverpool  
Live at 1:40 am (Thursday)



## Div I cricket

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Apuurbo Roy bagged five wickets for 16 to steer Partex SC to an emphatic 74-run win over Azad SC in yesterday's First Division Cricket League at the BKSP ground.

Apuurbo destroyed the rival tail during his 6.1-over spell as Azad bundled out for 107 while chasing 182 for victory. Apuurbo's performance overshadowed a marvellous show by Azad bowler Bishwanath Halder, who topped and tailed the Partex innings to finish with 6-42 from 7.4 overs.

In a low scoring match at the Dhaka University ground, Dhanmondi Club (136-8) snatched a thrilling two-wicket win over Rupali Bank (134) with Akhter making a fine 44.

In the day's other match, a 77-run third wicket stand between Bappi (42) and Jamilul (63) led Lalmitia Club (161-5) to a 5-wicket win against Kathalbaggan GCC (157) at the City Club ground.

## Div II hockey

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Bangladesh Police and Utara Hockey Club enjoyed goal feasts with heavy wins in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Police fired on all four cylinders in an 8-0 thrashing of Dhaka Young Star with Riaz netting three goals and a brace each from Kamal and Mahmudul.

In the second match, Bappi scored three goals in Utara's 7-0 victory over Tejgaon Agragami.

# Visitors now coming good



## SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar-led Khulna took sweet revenge of their one-day defeat to Rajshahi as the visitors recorded a ten-wicket victory over the home side in the four-day fixture of the National Cricket League yesterday.

Khulna, who lost the one-day match against Rajshahi by 20 runs after their double disappointment in Chittagong in the first round, walked into the Rajshahi Stadium on the third day needing just 13 runs for victory with all ten second innings wickets intact. They completed the mere formality chasing those runs in 4.4 overs without any damage.

But battles were far more intense in other two first-class fixtures with Shahriar Nafees leading an unexpected fightback for Barisal against Dhaka with a 148-run opening stand with Imran Ahmed at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Set to chase an improbable target of 496, Barisal not only dashed Dhaka's hopes for a quick kill but also finished the third day on 215-3.

Away at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium, the day also belonged to the visitors with Alok Kapali taking his overnight 121 to 156, and more importantly, giving his side a first-innings lead of 49 against the hosts.

Resuming the day on 267-8, Sylhet eventually finished on 322.

Chittagong, who scored 273 in their first essay, thrived on half centuries by Nafees Iqbal and Ehsanul Haque to score 231-4 at stumps.

## DHAKA-BARISAL

When Dhaka declared their second innings at 295-8 just before the lunch break, whispers were ripe that Barisal might succumb as quickly as they did in the first innings, where they could post only 131. But the weakest of the six teams showed nerves of steel during a

mammoth chase.

Shahriar Nafees and Imran gave their side a perfect start after Javed Omar starred for Dhaka with his back to back hundred.

Javed, who became only the third Bangladeshi to score first-class centuries in both innings on Monday, took his overnight score (104) to 151 off 193 balls that featured 25 fours and a six.

The right-hander smashed nine boundaries in the morning to add 47 runs from 38 balls with Sanwar Hossain. Nafees and Imran safely negotiated the three overs before lunch to make 11. The pair then added 129 runs in the second session much to the frustration of Dhaka attack.

Ace left-arm spinner Moha-mmud Rafique finally gave Dhaka the much-

needed breakthrough when he trapped Nafees lbw. The left-handed national opener, who missed the line trying to sweep, hammered eleven boundaries for his 76 off 114 balls.

Right-handed opener Imran, who was dropped by Khaled Mahmud at cover off Ashrafal after completing his fifty, also fell an lbw victim but this time, Ashrafal was the bowler. Imran scored a 196-ball 77 with eleven hits to the fence.

Rafique won his second lbw appeal against Proshenjiti Bose (0) to finish the day with 2-52.

Out-of-favour Hannan Sarker was looking confident with an unbeaten 32 that contained a massive six over mid-wicket off Rafique while wicketkeeper-batsman Shahin Hossain was

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PHOTO: STAR

**LEADING FROM THE FRONT:** Barisal captain Shahriar Nafees sweeps one on way to scoring a stroky 76 in the second innings of their National Cricket League against Dhaka at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

# Australia sweep series



AFP, Adelaide

Ricky Ponting believes Australia have righted a few wrongs from the Ashes loss to England with their 3-0 Test series clean sweep over the West Indies at Adelaide Oval Tuesday.

Australia cruised to a seven-wicket victory over the tourists in the final Test after picking off the required runs at 182 for three 16 minutes after lunch on the final day.

Man-of-the-series Matthew Hayden remained unbeaten on 87 off 174 balls with first-innings centurion Mike Hussey not out 30.

The 2-1 Ashes series defeat to England in September cuts deep with the Australian cricketers and skipper Ponting pointed to his team's improvement against a much-less formidable opponent in the West Indies side.

"We had a few wrongs to right after the Ashes tour and we've made a few steps towards making ourselves a better cricket team," Ponting said.

"I'm really happy with the way things have progressed and improved since we've returned from that tour,"

Ponting said.

"I think we've been a lot more disciplined with our bowling. Our batting at times has been more disciplined as well."

Australia won the first Brisbane Test by 379 runs and the second match in Hobart by nine wickets to clinch the series ahead of the Adelaide Test.

It was Australia's 12th win in their last 13 Tests with the West Indians stretching back to 1999. The West Indies have won only three of their last 21 Tests overall.

It was Australia's fifth straight series win over the once-great Caribbean team in the Frank Worrell Trophy.

The West Indies have not won a Test series against Australia since Richie Richardson's team won here in 1992-93.

The Caribbean tourists, who have a one-day match against a Prime Minister's XI in Canberra on Friday to complete their visit, have a few positives to take back home with man-of-the-match Brian Lara's superlative first innings 226 to become Test cricketer's all-time leading scorer at the forefront.

But more importantly for the West Indies' future was the form of exciting Trinidad all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who backed up his 113 in Hobart with a fine match double of 34 and 64 with the bat and 6-84 in Australia's first innings here.

Ponting still has concerns about first innings "mini-collapses" in the Australian middle-order, losing six for 67 here and five for 71 in Hobart.

"In most Test matches of late we had mini-collapses in the middle order, which is a bit of a worry for us but something we've got to keep working on and trying to improve," he said.

"In the last four or five games we've played that has been the only area of concern."

"We did the same thing in Hobart and in the Super Test in Sydney, so we just have to be conscious of establishing partnerships, that's what Test cricket is all about -- working and batting in partnerships."

Australia will put that to use in the opening Test of a three-match home series against South Africa, starting in Perth on December 16.

The West Indies will return to Adelaide on December 23.

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## NFL's Rangpur nflu from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The second leg of the Nitol-Tata Fifth National Football League final phase begins at the Rangpur Stadium today amid mismanagement and uncertainty over defending champions Brothers Union taking on debutant Samabesh Club of Munshiganj in the opener at 3pm.

Organisers here were furious after inclusion of government officials and party supporters in the local organising committee.

Brothers manager Amer Khan has already expressed his worries over safety of the players after repeated bomb-blasts in the country.

The NFL champions reached the north-Bengal town Monday night, but Amer complained that none from the local committee has so far enquired about the team.

"No DSA official or organising committee member has contacted us since our arrival and we are anxious about our safety," the Brothers manager said.

He also called upon the local administration to take adequate security measures for the players in the wake of deteriorating law and order situation.

Football organisers also showed their doubts over the success of the league and alleged that some of the local organising committee members had no experience of football, let

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## U-19 tri-series begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

With an eye on next year's Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka, the Bangladesh youth team will begin their campaign in the tri-nation one-day series, that also involves Sri Lanka, against England at BKSP today.

England have been here for nearly two weeks and played a number of one-dayers, but the Sri Lankans were due to reach Dhaka last night.

The trio will face each other three times in the league phase for the December 14 final.

It would be a test for the England U-19s who have lost all five warm-up games against Bangladesh Cricket Board's HP (High Performance) Squad, especially after Bangladesh's three wins in a row in the recently concluded Afro-Asian Under-19 cricket tournament in India.

Bangladesh coach Aaron Winter, however, warned his boys to put the past behind and prepare afresh for the tournament.

Captain Mushfiqur Rahim, on the other hand, told that victories against Zimbabwe, Pakistan and South Africa at the end of the Afro-Asian Cup have boosted their confidence.

"We are more confident after winning the last three matches in India and we will go for the title,"

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## Ganguly backers sacked from selection panel

AFP, Kolkata

Deposed India captain Sourav Ganguly suffered a blow on Tuesday when all three selectors who supported his return were sacked from the five-man panel.

Ganguly was included in the 15-man Indian squad for Friday's first Test against Sri Lanka in Chennai on a 3-2 verdict by the selectors following a four-hour meeting last week.

His backers, Pranob Roy, Yashpal Sharma and Gopal Sharma were all removed from the panel on Tuesday after political heavyweight Sharad Pawar wrested control of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from Jagmohan Dalmiya.

The trio was replaced by Ranjib Biswal, Sanjay Jagdale and Bhupinder Singh, none of whom have played Test cricket.

Former Test wicketkeeper Kiran More was retained as chief selector and VB Chandrasekhar also held on to his job. Both had opposed Ganguly's return to the Test squad.

It is unclear whether Ganguly, who was replaced as captain by Rahul Dravid, will be picked in the playing eleven for the Chennai Test.

The left-hander has scored 5,066 runs in 84 Tests with 12 centuries, besides taking 25 wickets.

Ganguly was dropped from the one-day side due to poor form, an elbow injury and a damaging public spat with coach Greg Chappell, who termed him unfit to lead India in a leaked e-mail to the Indian board.

Dravid's men thrashed Sri Lanka 6-1 and drew with South Africa 2-2 in two one-day home series this month.



PHOTO: AFP

**HIS INSPIRATION:** Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho is seen with his mother (L) and other members of his family after being named the European Footballer-of-the-Year in Paris on November 28.

# It's Ronaldinho



AFP, Paris

Silky smooth Brazil and Barcelona forward Ronaldinho was named the 50th Ballon d'Or, equivalent to the European player of the year here on Monday.

The 25-year-old, who finished third in voting last year when Ukrainian Andriy Shevchenko was nominated, was awarded the prize which has been organised since 1956 by France Football magazine with a total of 225 points.

He becomes the third Brazilian to win the award after his compatriots Ronaldo, who won it twice, in 1997 and 2002, and Rivaldo, who won it in 1999.

"It's a dream come true for me to win such a prestigious award," said the long-haired Brazilian who arrived in Europe, at French club Paris St Germain, in 2001.

"Just looking at the list of players to have won it, including Ronaldo and Rivaldo, makes me feel quite special and makes me want to continue working hard and being successful with

Barcelona and Brazil.

"This award is as much for my teammates at Barcelona and Brazil," Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard garnered 148 points from the 52 voting journalists while his England international teammate Steven Gerrard, the Liverpool captain who led the Reds' fightback in their triumphant Champions League final against AC Milan last season, came third.

Ronaldinho's prize, largely representing the player's performances last season, was hotly anticipated.

The former Gremio (Brazil) and PSG forward helped Brazil win the Confederations Cup earlier this year.

He also played a pivotal role in Barcelona's resurgence in the Spanish football league last season when the Catalan giants won the league trophy after a six-year hiatus. Barcelona also won the Spanish Super Cup.

Despite being a huge talent both at club and international level, Barcelona seems to have brought the best out of the flamboyant long-haired forward whose mazy turns, deft feints and superb goalscoring ability has left many a defender kicking out at thin air.

His ball skills, some of which have

spawned their own names, have long been compared to those of his esteemed compatriot Pele, to whom he was compared six years ago at the Copa America in Paraguay when he scored a similar goal to the one scored by the Brazil legend against Wales at the 1958 World Cup.

Two weeks ago Ronaldinho was given an altogether different honour after scoring his second of two goals in a 3-0 Spanish league victory over Real Madrid.

Fans at Real's Santiago Bernabeu stadium, despite their frustration at having seen their side go down 3-0, stood up and began applauding the Brazilian en masse.

The last time that had happened was when another south American, Argentine legend Maradona, won the hearts of the Bernabeu fans with a similar feat back in 1983.

First won by Blackpool's Stanley Matthews nearly half a century ago, his prize, fittingly, arrived only days after another former winner, Manchester United star George Best, died after a long illness.

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# Hosts wrest back initiative



AFP, Lahore

Off-spinner Shoaib Malik and pacer Navedul Hasan shared five wickets on Tuesday as England squandered an early advantage with some poor sweep shots on the opening day of the final Test.

England were well-placed at 101 without loss before a spirited fightback by the Pakistani bowling duo reduced the tourists to 248-6 at stumps in Lahore in the third meeting between the two sides.

All-rounder Paul Collingwood was unbeaten on a solid 71 and Shaun Udal on 10 when bad light stopped play with 13 overs remaining.

Malik struck three times in the

space of 17 balls after skipper Michael Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick hit half-centuries during a century stand for the opening wicket.

The off-spinner bagged 3-58 while Naved took two wickets in the last session to finish with 2-62.

England, trailing 1-0 in the three-match series, won an important toss on an easy-paced pitch and gained the early initiative after Vaughan and Trescothick frustrated the home bowlers in the first session.

But the tourists were undone by a succession of poorly-executed sweep shots against Malik as Vaughan fell for 58, Ian Bell for four, and then Trescothick for 50.

The 23-year-old Malik, reported for his suspect bowling action after the first Test, had Vaughan caught sweep-

ing by Mohammad Yousuf at square-leg in the third over after lunch.

Vaughan, forced to open the innings after Andrew Strauss returned home to attend the birth of his child, hit 10 fours during his 14th Test half-century.

Malik then dismissed Bell in a similar manner, with the batsman failing to keep an attempted sweep down and was caught at short fine-leg by Yousuf after making four.

"I bowled in my normal style and since England batsmen were trying to score at a brisk pace they got out playing shots," said Malik.

Trescothick, who took 27 balls to open his account, survived a

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# Pawar ends Dalmiya days



AFP, Kolkata

Political heavyweight Sharad Pawar wrested control of India's cricket board on Tuesday, ending Jagmohan Dalmiya's more than 25-year stranglehold on the country's richest sporting body.

Federal agriculture minister Pawar defeated Dalmiya's incumbent nominee, Ranbir Singh Mahendra, 20-11 in the election for the president of the faction-ridden Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in Kolkata.

The election was conducted by India's former chief election commissioner, TS Krishnamurthy, on the orders of the Supreme Court after voting was put off in September due to legal wrangles.

Pawar, 64, won the election on his second attempt after losing out to Mahendra last year. At that time, it was Dalmiya's casting vote that decided the secret ballot which was tied 15-15 with one vote disqualified.

Pawar, a former chief minister of

the western state of Maharashtra, currently heads the Mumbai Cricket Association.

Politicians have ruled the cash-rich BCCI in the past, but this was the first instance since Dalmiya's induction to the board in 1979 that he or his nominee had lost an election.

The 65-year-old Dalmiya, a former president of the International Cricket Council, is a known master of realpolitik whose financial wizardry is largely



SHARAD PAWAR

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PHOTO: AFP

**England's Paul Collingwood** cuts one during his knock of 71 not out on the first day of the third Test against Pakistan at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium in Lahore on Tuesday.