

# Lee sends NZ tumbling

 Cricket

AFP, Auckland

Speedster Brett Lee stepped up in the absence of Glenn McGrath to inspire Australia to an overwhelming 147-run win over New Zealand in a one-day cricket international at Eden Park here Saturday.

After Australia were sent in to bat first and made 252 for eight in the opening match of the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy series, a blistering spell of pace bowling by Lee helped reduce New Zealand to 33 for six by the 13th over.

They were eventually dismissed for 105 in the 28th over, their sixth lowest score in one-day international history.

Lee was simply too quick for the New Zealand top order, sending the ball down around 155 kilometres per hour (96.3 miles per hour), and his three for five off six overs broke the back of the innings. He conceded just one scoring shot and three of the runs were from wides.

Backing Lee were fellow pacemen Nathan Bracken and Stuart Clark, and their performances quashed pre-match suggestions the Australians would miss the rested Glenn McGrath.

Only Chris Cairns offered any real resistance, posting a 41-run partnership with Jacob Oram for the seventh wicket and finishing not out 37.

Earlier, Ponting cracked a rapid 63 at a run-a-ball pace to set his side up

for what seemed a challenging target of 252 for eight.

His early appearance at the crease came after the usually reliable Adam Gilchrist was back in the pavilion for three as the Australian batsmen struggled to find their rhythm on the slow New Zealand pitch.

But once he had settled in, Ponting let rip in a 118-run partnership with Simon Katich, posting five fours and three sixes before New Zealand fought their way back into the game with three quick wickets.

Displaying their new lollipop green-and-yellow kit for the first time, Australia crawled to 18 for one after six overs before Ponting blasted 15 off one James Franklin over to force the New Zealand left-arm quick out of the attack, and Australia rapidly reached 46 for one off 10 overs.

Franklin, who claimed the prize scalp of Gilchrist for three in his opening over, was a late addition to the New Zealand starting XI after Shane Bond was ruled out with a hamstring injury.

## SCORECARD

Scorecard of the opening match of the one-day Chappell-Hadlee cricket series between New Zealand and Australia at Eden Park Saturday:

<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	
Gilchrist c Astle b Franklin	3
Katich c Vettori b Styris	54
Ponting lbw Vettori	63
Hodge b Styris	13
Symonds b Vettori	44
Clarke c Franklin b Cairns	31
Hussey not out	21
Lee b Cairns	0

Hogg c Vettori b Mills	4			
Bracken not out	1			
Extras: (lb-6, w-9, nb-3)	18			
Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs)	252			
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-121, 3-136, 4-148, 5-207, 6-230, 7-231, 8-249				
Did not bat: S Clarke				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Mills	10	1	35	1
Franklin	4	0	29	1
Cairns	9	0	54	2
Oram	7	0	54	0
Styris	10	0	45	2
Vettori	10	1	29	2

<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	
Vincent b Bracken	4
Astle c Clarke b Clark	14
H Marshall b Lee	5
Styris c Clarke b Bracken	1
J Marshall lbw b Lee	1
McMillan c Hussey b Lee	0
Cairns not out	37
Oram b Clark	23
McCullum c White b Clark	2
Vettori c Ponting b Symonds	8
Franklin c Gilchrist b Symonds	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-5)	10
Total: (All out in 28.4 overs)	105
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-16, 3-19, 4-20, 5-28, 6-33, 7-74, 8-82, 9-105	

**Result: Australia won by 147 runs.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Brett Lee.**

## Muktijoddha atop again

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Leonine Chess Club overcame a hurdle in the Dutch-Bangla Bank First Division Chess League when they won their seventh round board against Bangladesh Biman 3.5-0.5 at the federation hall room yesterday.

The match outcome helped Muktijoddha Sangsad to regain the lead with 23.5 points. Muktijoddha beat Friends Chess Power 3.5-0.5.

This victory however enabled Leonine to share the second spot with Biman as both secured 22 points each.

In the day's other matches, Destiny 2000 beat Dhaka University Chess Team 4-0, BJMC beat Anushilan DKC 3.5-0.5, Titas beat Dolphin CC 3.5, Narayanganj CCC beat Faith CC 3.5-0.5, Shahid Mufti KDD beat Farashganj 2.5-1.5 and Sonali Bank beat Mohakhali PS 2.5-1.5.

## Maiden J-League triumph for Gamba Osaka

AFP, Osaka

Gamba Osaka won the J-League championship for the first time Saturday after the title hopes of cross-town rivals Cerezo Osaka were ruined by an injury-time equalizer on the season's final day.

Gamba, trailing Cerezo by one point heading into the final match, battled back with two late goals from Yasuhito Endo and Brazilian Araujo for a 4-2 away win over Kawasaki Frontale.

Cerezo flirted with their first-ever league title before home supporters until the final minute when FC Tokyo scored an equalizer to close the match at 2-2.

## Abahani win

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other hand routed Khulna Town Club 5-1 in the league opener.

Yellow cards: Abdullah Parvez and Ibrahim (Abahani).

### TEAMS

**ABAHANI:** Nizam, Prodip, Marshal, Faisal, Obaidur, Parvez (Tushar), Edem, Igir, Parvez Chowdhury (Nurul Amin), Ibrahim and Bulbul (Anwar).

**MOHAMMEDAN:** Shakil, Ronny, Hasan, Pitter, Biplob, Mintu, Dibain, Sharif (Nayan) (Sentu), Emeka, Nakib and Francis.

**Referee:** Mansoor Azad.



EVEN THE NATURE IN TEARS: Ex-Scotland footballer and friend of George Best Dennis Law (2nd R), former Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham (C) and former Northern Ireland footballer Gerry Armstrong (L) stand next to the coffin of legend Best in front of the Stormont Parliament building before the funeral ceremony in Belfast on Saturday.

# Goodbye Best

 Football

AFP, Belfast

Tens of thousands of mourners packed Belfast to pay their last respects to Northern Ireland's favourite son, George Best, as his funeral cortege passed through the rain-soaked streets on Saturday.

In what came close to a state funeral, Best's coffin was driven from the family's humble home to the splendour of Stormont, the Northern Irish parliament, with the people of the province giving the soccer legend one last round of applause as the hearse passed by.

Tears were shed along the route as fans from the working-class Protestant Cregagh estate and beyond said a final goodbye to their hero.

Former teammates, ex-wives, dignitaries, fans, admirers and ordinary Ulster folk were to say farewell for Best's final journey in a life that took him from the highs of international stardom to the lows of wanton -- and equally public -- alcoholism.

Best died aged 59 on November 25 from multiple organ failure, after suffering a series of health problems in a London hospital.

Considered the first "pop-star" footballer, Best brought Northern Ireland a dash of glamour and sporting wizardry as it descended towards sectarian bloodshed.

His was one of the rare cases where the Protestant and Catholic communities could find unity, in their admiration for the Belfast Boy.

Best is considered as being among football's greatest players, alongside the likes of Brazil's Pele and Argentina's Diego Maradona -- except in Northern Ireland.

"Maradona good; Pele better; George Best" read a flag at the end of Best's old street.

The Best family held a private ceremony at their small family home on the Cregagh east Belfast estate where Best honed his skills against the terraced house walls.

The funeral cortege left shortly after 10:00 am (1000 GMT) from the Cregagh estate, its Loyalist paramilitary murals painted over and flags taken down for the occasion.

Mourners lined the length of the three-mile (five-kilometre) route through east Belfast and up the long drive to Stormont.

Best's funeral is to be the first ever held in the Parliament Buildings.

The palatial legislature and parkland grounds were chosen to accommodate the large numbers wanting to pay their respects.

Just 300 guests squeezed into the cream-marbled Great Hall for the funeral, with the service being broadcast to an expected 30,000 people allowed in the Stormont grounds.

During the hour-long service, former United teammate Denis Law was to give a tribute, as was Best's sister, Barbara McNarry, and his doctor, Professor Roger Williams, who oversaw his 2002 liver transplant and eventual decline. Calum Best was to read the poem, "Do not stand at my grave and weep".

Best will be buried next to his mother, Ann, in the Roselawn cemetery in the Castlereagh hills overlooking east Belfast and the fields where he first shone as a

footballer.

Best's alcoholism brought on a string of health problems which led to the liver transplant. He was back on the bottle within a year, however, despite having been told another drink could kill him.

Best made his professional debut for Manchester United in 1963, aged 17, going on to help the club become the first English side to lift the European Cup in 1968. In the same year he was voted European Player of the Year.

Dubbed "El Beatle", his playboy lifestyle involved an unquenchable thirst for alcohol and beautiful women.

He won 37 Northern Ireland caps before heavy booing took its toll and he unexpectedly quit United for good at the age of 28.

A sea of flowers, scarves, football shirts, cards and other tributes have been left by fans at United's Old Trafford stadium, at his father's home, Stormont and at those trademark Belfast murals dedicated to Best.

# Inzamam over the moon

 Cricket

AFP/BBC ONLINE, Lahore

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said Saturday he was surprised by his team's emphatic victory over England in the third and final Test here.

"Our bowlers stuck to their task, but I never thought we would get eight wickets so quickly," Inzamam said after his team whipped England by an innings and 100 runs to clinch the series 2-0.

England were in a position to save the match when they reached 201-2 at lunch before leg-spinner Danish Kaneria and fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar sparked a sensational collapse which saw the tourists lose eight wickets for just 47.

The tourists, trailing by 348 runs, were shot out for 248 in their second innings with Akhtar finishing with 5-71 and Kaneria with 4-52.

"Kaneria's two wickets opened

the gates. His double-strike was the turning point of the match," said Inzamam.

England's slide began when Kaneria dismissed well-set Paul Collingwood (80) with his fourth ball after the lunch-break before accounting for Ashes stars Kevin Pietersen for one and Andrew Flintoff for duck.

Collingwood and Ian Bell (92) had sustained England's hopes of drawing the match with a 175-run stand for the third wicket.

"We bowled well before lunch but were unlucky not to get the wickets."

"At lunchtime we said we needed just one wicket. I knew if we'd take one or two it would be difficult for them to survive three hours," Inzamam said.

"After lunch Shoaib and Danish bowled very well, there was a lot of pressure on England and after we got the first wicket they came regularly."

"It was a tremendous effort from the boys, they really worked hard.

"Danish has been tremendous in the last two years and Shoaib's really serious about his cricket now and working really hard."

"But Mohammad Sami, Navedul Hasan and Shoaib Malik also worked hard on a slow track although they didn't get many wickets."

"To break the partnership was crucial and once Kaneria provided us the breakthrough we knew we were there."

The Pakistan captain, named man-of-the-series for scoring 431 in three Tests, said he was happy to lead from the front.

"I am happy I scored runs when the team needed them most. It is always satisfying when you lead from the front and I think this is one of the biggest wins of my career," he said.

This was Pakistan's first Test series win since beating New Zealand in January 2004.

## Pakistan bring

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session, tasted instant success when he came back over dismissing Collingwood with his fourth delivery after the break.

Collingwood, who scored 96 in the first innings, struck 12 fours in his second successive Test half-century and was involved in a 175-run stand with Bell before edging to Hasan Raza in the slips.

Kaneria then removed Ashes heroes Pietersen and Flintoff off successive balls in his next over to put England in deep trouble at 212-5.

Pietersen was caught by Raza while Flintoff was bowled off a googly.

Geraint Jones survived the hat-trick ball, but not before a confident appeal for leg-before.

Akhtar also kept up the pressure from the other end, dismissing Bell and Jones in his opening spell after the lunch-break.

Bell hit 13 fours in his 189-ball knock before being trapped leg-before.

## SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard on the fifth and final day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and England at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Saturday:

**ENGLAND:** First innings 288 (Collingwood 96, Vaughan 58, Trescottick 50; Malik 3-58)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 636-8 declared (Yusuf 223, Akmal 154, Inzamam 97; Hoggard 2-106, Plunkett 2-125)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings (over-niet 121-2)

Trescottick lbw b Akhtar	0
Vaughan c and b Akhtar	13
Bell lbw b Akhtar	92
Collingwood c Raza b Kaneria	80
Pietersen c Raza b Kaneria	1
Flintoff b Kaneria	0
Jones lbw b Akhtar	5
Udal c Butt b Sami	25
Plunkett lbw b Akhtar	0
Hoggard b Kaneria	0
Harmison not out	32

Extras: (b-13, lb-9, nb-9, w-1) 30  
Total: (All out in 77.1 overs) 248

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-30, 3-205, 4-212, 5-212, 6-212, 7-227, 8-227, 9-248

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Akhtar	19	3	71	5
Naved	16	3	55	0
Sami	16	4	39	1
Malik	4	2	9	0
Kaneria	22.1	8	52	4

**Result: Pakistan won by an innings and 100 runs and clinch the 3-Test series 2-0.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Yusuf.**  
**Man-of-the-series: Inzamamul Haq.**

 Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Ashes-winning captain Michael Vaughan conceded Saturday that England needed to learn and improve if they wanted to realise their dream of becoming the number-one side in Test cricket.

"We are still a long way from becoming the number-one team in the world because we have not played everywhere," Vaughan said after his team lost by an innings and 100 runs in the third and final Test against Pakistan here.

England lost the series 2-0 following this defeat. They went down by 22 runs in the opening Test at Multan before salvaging a draw in the second at Faisalabad.

"We are still a very good team and we just have to make sure we learn and learn fast in these conditions," Vaughan said after losing the first-ever Test series in two-and-half years as England captain.

Vaughan had told teammates after their famous Ashes victory at home in September that they needed to succeed in the sub-continent to

displace Australia as number-one Test side.

"We now go to India in February and March and make sure that the mistakes that were made here were not repeated. It's hard work playing in the sub-continent and players have to realise that," he said.

"A real test of a team's unity is when you lose a series like this. If the team stayed together which I am sure they will, we work hard when we go to India for Test series."

"We will try to play better in one-dayers (against Pakistan) and make sure we go to India as a better team."

England are scheduled to play five one-dayers against Pakistan, the first beginning here on December 10.

Vaughan said lack of application was the main reason for his team's big defeat in the final Test.

"When you are outplayed, you don't deserve to win. Paul and Ian got us through to lunch, but after that Shoaib (Akhtar) produced a good spell of bowling and (Danish) Kaneria took a couple of quick wickets," he said.

"We just could not apply ourselves in these conditions, with Shoaib bowling a mystery of slow balls, yorkers and bouncers. He bowled

good spells throughout the series. He was the main difference."

"He was a massive threat as he got our key batsmen out at crucial times. It has been a surprise that he sustained his consistency and discipline. His line has been excellent. In each spell he bowled beautiful slow balls."

England looked like saving the match when they reached 201-2 at lunch, thanks to Bell (92) and Collingwood (80).

"To be honest, they played better cricket than us," said Vaughan.

"You can look back to Multan and say we should have won that game, but throughout the series Pakistan put us under pressure more than we did."

"Throughout the series, we have not applied ourselves as best as we could. Our bowlers have tried as hard as they can, but did not put their batsmen under enough pressure."

"We claimed 20 wickets in the first Test, but since then we have not been able to put them under pressure."

England were dismissed for 175 chasing a 198-run target on a wearing fifth-day track at Multan.

## Dalmiya gives

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released to the press here.

"In view of the recent changes in the Board of Control for Cricket in India, however, I feel that it is only appropriate that I tender my resignation with immediate effect from both positions," he wrote in the letter.

## Dhaka, Rajshahi

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### KHULNA-BARISAL

Stand-in Khulna skipper Manjarul Islam Rana led from front in absence of Bashar, who was nursing a minor elbow injury, with an unbeaten 76 as Khulna scored a fighting 184-8 in 50 overs after recovering from a 62-6.

The left-hander got good support from wicketkeeper Mohammad Salim to share 93 runs for the seventh wicket. Manjarul clobbered five boundaries and two sixes in 108-ball essay while Salim added 43 off 55 balls with five hits to the fence.

In reply, Barisal were bundled out for 116 in 44.5 overs with Nasiruddin Faruque making the team highest 27.

Left-arm paceman Monjurul Islam picked up three wickets for 20 in 10 overs for Khulna.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### DHAKA-CHITTAGONG

DHAKA: 272-8 in 50 overs (Javed 29, Rashedul 15, Al Shahriar 16, Ashraf 8, Riyad 13, Mahmud 1, Rafique 32, Sajjad 64 not out, Mosharrar 57, Sharif 8 not out, extras 29; Alamgir 2-51, Ehsanul 3-53, Yasin 2-64, Hasan 1-38).

**CHITTAGONG:** 251-8 in 50 overs (Salahuddin 19, Nafees 4, Nazimuddin 38, Ehsanul 22, Faisal 62 not out, Dhiman 32, Hasan 41, extras 30; Mahmud 1-52, Ashraf 1-15, Rafique 3-50, Sharif 2-36).

**Result: Dhaka won by 21 runs.**

#### RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

**SYLHET:** 162 all out in 45 overs (Rajin 9, Moniruzzaman 48, Kapali 39, extras 18; Kamrul 4-34).

**RAJSHAHI:** 166-3 in 44.3 overs (Moniruzzaman 10, Farhad Hossain 89 not out, Naeem Islam 48 not out, extras 10; Nayeem 2-21).

**Result: Rajshahi won by seven wickets.**

#### KHULNA-BARISAL

**KHULNA:** 184-8 in 50 overs (Sajjadul 16, Tushar 0, Manjarul 76 not out, Salim 43, extras 17; Anisur 2-34, Arifat Salahuddin 3-22, Sajid 2-33, Hannan 1-40).

**BARISAL:** 116 all out in 44.5 overs (Shahriar Nafees 13, Faruque 27, Hannan 1, Salahuddin 25, extras 28; Monjurul 3-20, Ziaur 2-33, Razzak 2-12, Manjarul 2-18).

**Result: Khulna won by 68 runs.**

# Celtic or Real?

 Football

AFP, London

Departing Manchester United skipper Roy Keane has discussed a move to Celtic with club officials and will tell them next week if he is to make the move to Scotland.

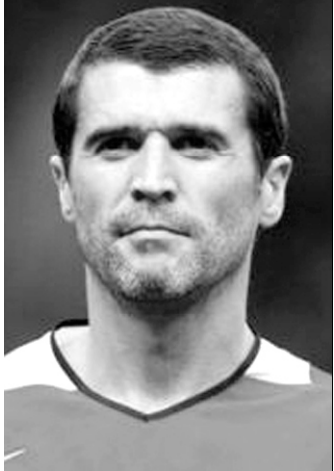
"There have been talks with lots of clubs - including Celtic," the player's lawyer Michael Kennedy said.

"Roy has one or two more clubs still to see and there will be a decision during the course of next week," he added.

Since announcing he was leaving Old Trafford, Keane's name has been linked with a host of clubs in Britain and abroad, but he has always said that he would be delighted to sign for Celtic, the club he supported as a youngster.

Meanwhile, Sporting Life, adds

quoting Manchester United coach Sir Alex Ferguson that the midfielder was heading to Real Madrid.



ROY KEANE

Ferguson believes the Spaniards have already agreed a deal with his long-term target Michael Ballack and suggested they were also close to acquiring Keane.

Ferguson had identified Bayern Munich and Germany midfielder Ballack as the ideal replacement for Keane, who left Old Trafford when his contract was terminated by "mutual consent" last month.

But, when asked about his chances of signing Ballack, the United boss told the Guardian: "I have heard he has signed for Real Madrid, that he has already agreed to join them."

"There is talk about Roy going there too for four months, January to May, and it's quite possible."

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer