

Imperial Cricket Conference (ICC now the International Cricket Council) was set up in 1909 with England, Australia and South Africa as the original members





Vikram Solanki

(England opener)

"Shoaib Akhtar is a very interesting character -- quite a unique type of guy. Changing from 90 miles an hour to slower deliveries was quite impressive. He has exceptional

Still Leonine

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Leonine Chess Club blanked Farashganj Sporting Club 4-0 in the 14th round to maintain their solo lead in the Dutch-Bangla Bank First Division Chess League at the federation hallroom yesterday.

The win extended their tally to 49.5 points.

Title aspirants Muktijoddha Sangsad joined Bangladesh Biman to share the second spot as both secured 48 points each.

Biman beat Mohakhali Prodip Sangha 3.5-0.5 while Muktijoddha earned full points against Shaheed Mufti Kafe Daba Dal by 4-0 win.

In the day's other matches, Destiny 2000 beat Sonali Bank 2.5-1.5, BJMC beat Friends Chess Power 4-0, Anushilan Daba KC beat Faith Chess Club 3-1 while Titas Club drew 2-2 with Narayanganj City Chess Club and Dhaka University Chess Team drew with Dolphin Chess Club 2-2

The fifteenth or last round of games will start today at the same

Awaiting

FROM PAGE 12

national programmes," said Selim. Bangladesh earned victory against the brutal Pakistani occupation force on December 16 in 1971 after a nine-month bloody war.

The final of the eight-team regional championship will take place at the People's Sports . Complex Stadium in Karachi on December 17 and no doubt, a victory in Karachi would mean a lot for the Bangladesh football team in the month of pain and pleasure.

Century-making

FROM PAGE 12

Tendulkar was in his teens when Gavaskar predicted that he would smash all of his records. He is already India's leading run-getter in Test cricket, having surpassed Gavaskar's 10,122 runs.

Tendulkar is also the highest scorer in one-day internationals, having amassed 13,909 runs in 358 matches with a world-record 38 oneday centuries

He emerged as India's number one batsman in the mid-1990s and

has been on top since then.

Despite his increasing fame and earning power Tendulkar remained focused on what he loved most -batting and scoring runs. Not surprising from a man who once said it was "hard to imagine life without cricket."

Tendulkar remained in the runs whether playing at home or away, on slow or fast pitches or against pace or

Legendary former Australian captain Don Bradman and West

Indian batting great Viv Richards said his batting reminded them of their Australian leg-spinner Shane

Warne said after his team's 1997-98 tour of India that Tendulkar's batting continued to haunt him in his dreams after being punished by the Indian. And the story is not over yet...

TOD TEST CENTURIONS

TOP TEST CENTURIONS		
Batsman	То	n s
Tests		
S Tendulkar	35	125
S Gavaskar	34	125
S Waugh	32	168
B Lara	31	121
D Bradman	29	52
ABorder	27	156
G Sobers	26	93
R Ponting	25	97
•		

World-record chase sees Kiwis narrow the gap

Cricket

AFP, Christchurch

A Scott Styris century and a whirlwind 50 by Brendon McCullum steered New Zealand to a shock twowicket victory over Australia in a world record one-day cricket performance at Jade Stadium here Saturday.

New Zealand's 332 for eight was the highest winning score by the team batting second in the international history of the limited-over game, and was achieved with an over to spare.

A single to captain Daniel Vettori off the last ball of the 49th over, which cost Australian bowler Mick Lewis 20 runs. sealed victory and eclipsed the previous world best run chase of 330 for seven set by Australia against South Africa in 2002.

Although Australia still win the Chappell-Hadlee series 2-1, New 7ealand ended a record-equalling seven-match home losing streak and exposed deficiencies in Australia's inexperienced bowling line up.

Styris did the groundwork with his 101, departing with the score at eight for 258, and it was left to powerful hitting by McCullum and Vettori to smash the remaining 74 runs in just 36

McCullum took 50 off 25 balls, including three fours and four sixes, while Vettori's 23 came from 12 deliv-

After Ricky Ponting and Michael Hussey had set up Australia's imposing 331 total, New Zealand made a rocky start in reply. Usual skipper Stephen Fleming,

who was named a super sub after missing a month of international cricket while recovering from surgery, made a disappointing return. After sitting out the New Zealand

fielding effort, he faced just nine balls at the head of the batting lineup before edging Nathan Bracken to wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist without Wickets fell at regular intervals, but

the home side's fortunes began to change with the arrival of Jacob Oram at the crease to join Styris when New

GERMANY

2006

The World Cup draw threw up some

enticing encounters for Asia-Pacific

nations, with newcomers Australia

and Asian champions Japan drawn

in the same group as holders Brazil.

/ears ago, nave an easier ride, in a

group that pits them against

Switzerland and Togo but also 1998

Saudi Arabia will play perennial

underachievers Spain, and also

Ukraine and African champions

Tunisia while Asia's other represen-

tative, Iran, has its work cut out

against seeded side Mexico,

play Croatia, begin Group F action

with a clash against each other in

Kaiserslautern on June 12, but it is

the prospect of meeting five-time

champions Brazil that has mouths

"Perhaps Japan and Croatia

have other ideas, but realistically we

are looking for the spot behind

Brazil," said Australia's coach Guus

Hiddink, who has helped spark huge

toughest draw we could have had."

added the Dutchman, who steered

South Korea to the last four in 2002.

first World Cup finals since 1974.

Australia are competing at their

Japan, recently voted Asia's

knock but was foxed by an away-

going delivery from Muralitharan

punish anything loose and got to his

23rd half-century when he sent a full

toss from leg-spinner Malinga

Muralitharan bagged a wicket each

Earlier, Chaminda Vaas and

Left-arm seamer Vaas trapped

opener Gautam Gambhir (two) lbw

on his home ground while

Muralitharan had skipper Rahul

after Virender Sehwag was ruled

out because of a throat infection,

added 54 for the second wicket with

Laxman before falling to a bat-pad

Sri Lanka retained the side that

played in the opening match in

Chennai while India brought in

middle-order batsman Yuvraj Singh

in the western city of Ahmedabad on

The third and final Test will begin

catch taken by Jehan Mubarak.

for Sehwag.

December 18.

Dravid, who opened the batting

Dravid (24) caught at short leg.

Bandara to the mid-wicket fence.

in the opening session.

The stylish batsman was quick to

which he edged to Sangakkara.

India ride on Sachin

They are the favourites and the

interest in football in Australia.

watering in Asia.

FROM PAGE 12

Japan and Australia, who also

Portugal and debutants Angola.

South Korea, semi-finalists four

The two all-rounders lifted the pace to more than a run-a-ball as Styris posted his third century and one of Oram's two sixes went out of the

Glenn McGrath did not make the tour and Brett Lee, who tormented the New Zealand batsmen in the first two matches, returned home before the final match of the series.

So the world champions fielded a mainly new-look attack which came unstuck under pressure.

Lewis (one game) went for 77 off nine overs and debutant Mitchell Johnson conceded 64 runs from nine. Stuart Clark was the most successful bowler with four wickets in his fourth international but conceded 55 runs along the way.

In the Australian innings, Ponting was dropped early in the innings by wicketkeeper McCullum while on four. He then opened up to crack 71 runs from the next 47 balls before falling leg before wicket to Vettori for 75.

Brad Hodge posted his first international half-century, reaching 59, and Michael Clarke scored 71 to carry Australia through the middle stages before Hussey slaughtered the New Zealand bowling at the end, facing just 56 balls for his 88.

In the final five overs he put on 72 with Bracken in an unbroken eighthwicket stand, and in the process lifted his one-day average to a phenomenal 151 from 15 innings. He has only been Vettori was the tightest of the New

Zealand bowlers with two for 37 off his 10 overs, while Chris Martin sent down nine overs to return the figures of three for 65 on his recall after five years out

This was the 100th one-day international between New Zealand and Australian, with Australia having won

SCOREBOARD

Gilchrist Ibw b Mills

surprise.

challenge.

Katich c Styris b Martin

Scoreboard in the third and final match of the one-day Chappell-Hadlee cricket series between New Zealand and Australia at Jade Stadium on Saturday: **AUSTRÁLIA**

Enticing draw for Asians

team of the year by the Asian

Football Confederation, are more of

an unknown entity for Hiddink, but

2002 and, like us, they will want to

pull something out of the hat," he

said. "We are happy to have quali-

fied, but we are not here to make up

the numbers and want to spring a

Zico, who took over from

Frenchman Philippe Troussier after

the 2002 World Cup, being drawn

against his home country is a dream

come true, and he is ready for the

World Cup finals must be prepared

for any situation whatsoever." Zico.

who played for Brazil at three World

Cups, told Japanese television in

Brazil in the first round. It is better

than fighting them after winning

threat, Zico is aware that Australia

under Hiddink are dangerous and

very important for us to win the first

match and boost the morale of my

Nuremburg on June 18 while Japan

will lock horns with them in

United star Park Ji-Sung, will fancy

their chances in Group G, opening

their World Cup against first-timers

Scoreboard at stumps on the open-

ing day of the second Test between

India and Sri Lanka at the

Ferozeshah Kotla ground in New

Togo in Frankfurt on June 13.

South Korea, led by Manchester

"For us, it is easier to encounter

While Brazil are the number one

"They are well guided. It will be

Australia play Brazil at

Leipzig after the draw there.

through to the second round."

shouldn't be underestimated.

players," he said.

Dortmund on June 22.

SCOREBOARD

Delhi on Saturday:

INDIA: First innings

Gambhir Ibw b Vaas

Tendulkar not out

Ganguly not out

Bowler

Fernando

Bandara

Dilshan

Muralitharan

Mubarak, Bandara.

Vaas

Extras: (b-4, lb-7)

Dravid c Mubarak b Muralitharan

Laxman c Sangakkara b Muralitharan

Total: (For 3 wkts in 75.4 overs)245

To bat: Yuvraj, Dhoni, Agarkar,

20.4

18

28

SRI LANKA: Atapattu, Guna-

wardene, Sangakkara, Jayawar-

Vaas, Fernando, Muralitharan,

Umpires: Simon Taufel and

Samaraweera, Dilshan,

O M R

4 77

6

0

4 43

77

33

2

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-56, 3-133

Kumble, Harbhajan, Pathan.

"A team that has qualified for the

For Japan's Brazilian coach

'Japan have changed a lot since

he is not underestimating them.

Hodge c Mills by Styris 59 Symonds c Mills b Vettori Clarke c Mills b Martin 71 Hussey not out White c Vettori b Martin Bracken not out Extras: (lb-4, w-8, nb-2) Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 331 Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-7, 3-122, 4-124, 5-177.6-259.7-259 Did not bat: Lewis. Clark

Super-sub: Johnson for Katich M Bowler 65 0 Martin 61 Cairns 0 0 69 Oram 10 37

Vettori 31 0 Styris **NÉWZEALAND** Vincent c Hussev b Clark Fleming c Gilchrist b Bracken Astle c White b Clark 27 H Marshall b White Styris c Symonds b Clark McMillan c Gilchrist b Symonds 11 Cairns c Gilchrist b Lewis Oram b Clark McCullum not out Vettori not out

Extras: (lb-9, w-10) Total: (For 8 wkts in 49 overs) 332 Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-50, 3-61, 4-149, 5-179, 6-194, 7-257, 8-258 Did not bat: Mills

Super-sub: Fleming for Martin M 0 77 41 55 0 64 34 0 52 Symonds Result: New Zealand won by two wickets. Australia win series 2-1. Man-of-the-match: Scott Styris.

Umpires: Aleem Dar and Gary

While playing down the prospect

of another semifinal success, coach

Dick Advocaat said his team would

be difficult to beat, but acknowl-

edged France were favourites to top

the way we are playing we are very

difficult to beat at the moment. We

have a very young team but it is

maturing," he said. "France are

Iran have a tough draw, with man-

ager Branko Ivankovic admitting it

will be hard to overcome Euro 2004

runners-up Portugal and Mexico in

to the different styles -- European,

African and Latin-American. I hope

our players will learn how to respond

to the different problems," said the

In Group H, Saudi Arabia, in their

fourth consecutive World Cup, will

need to be at their best to beat

Ukraine, the first European nation to

qualify for Germany, and Africa's top

ing 8-0 defeat to eventual runners-

up Germany in their opener of the

2002 World Cup in Japan, and will

be looking to avoid a similar disaster

The World Cup finals get under-

way in Munich on June 9 when hosts

Germany meet Costa Rica.

PREMIER CRICKET

Mymensingh

SPORTS REPORTER

venue.

six venues.

100

No matches in

Cricket Committee of Dhaka

Metropolis (CCDM) has decided not

to hold any Premier Division Cricket

League match at the Mymensingh

The league will start on

The match between Moha-

mmedan and Agrani Bank was

scheduled to be played at

Mymensingh on the opening day but

that it would be impossible for them

to allot the stadium after the first

match due to Victory Day

programmes, that's why we with-

drew the venue," said Khondokar

He however added that they

would consider Mymensingh again

after the end of the third round

matches. "We will inspect the pitch

before taking a decision on this

revise," he said

Jamiluddin, chairman of CCDM.

"The local authority informed us

it will now take place at BKSP.

December 12 across the country in

Saudi Arabia suffered a humiliat-

Croatian.

country Tunisia.

at all costs.

"Our problem will be in adapting

Three-time Asian champions

slight favourites on paper."

"We have three tough games but

Toss: New Zealand.

England leave empty handed SPORTS REPORTER

England Under-19 team came to Bangladesh as part of their build-up for the upcoming Youth World Cup in Sri Lanka next February. But they will certainly try to forget their month-long trip after a string of demoralizing defeats.

The English side finished their disastrous tour with a two-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka in their last match of the under-19 tri-nation cricket tournament at BKSP yester-

It was their sixth straight defeat in the competition after a 5-0 whitewash against Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) High Performance Squad in the warm-up series.

England hopes of winning at least one game in the competition got a big boost when they posted a massive 286 for five in their allotted 50 overs with their captain Varun Chopra hammering 98 and Robert Woodman scoring 79.

But Sri Lanka toppled the highest innings total in the competition with Karunaratne and Fernando leading the chase.

Opener Karunaratne top scored with 75 off 80 balls and number four Fernando produced a fiery 70 off just 62 balls that featured eight fours and a six.

Hamilton Brown was the most successful England bowler claiming four wickets for 36

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka play the last group match today at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF ENGLAND UNDER-19: 286-5 in 50

overs (Chopra 98, Wood 31, Woodman 79 not out, Brown 35, extras 24; Karunanayake 2-52). SRI LANKA-19: 288-8 in 49.4 overs (Karunaratne 75, Fernando 70, Mathews 31, extras 6; Waters 3-49,

Result: Sri Lanka Under-19 won by

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Prantik Krira Chakra earned a massive 84-run victory over Jatrabari Krira Chakra in the First Division Cricket League at BKSP

Aslam hit 70 as Prantik scored 214 for 6 in 50 overs while Jatrabari, in reply, were bundled out for 130 in 37 overs

At the Dhaka University ground, Cricket Coaching School (207-7 in 48.3 overs) managed a three-wicket victory over Young Pegasus B (206-10 in 48 overs).

India blank

FROM PAGE 12

cross the line as goalkeeper Jigme Singye fumbled twice to lose the ball from his grip.

India added their second goal six minutes after break when Gawli. completely unmarked by the Bhutan backline, leaped high in the air to put a drop-header into the back of the net after meeting a right-flank corner by Alvito.

The Bhutan defence was in disarray against their mighty rivals' repeated raids but gave in once again when substitute Abdul Hakkim headed in a chip by Ajayan in the 66th minute. Bhutan, who also suffered an

identical 3-0 defeat to holders Bangladesh, crashed out of the meet after two losses.

It's for my FROM PAGE 12

centuries, had scored his first ton (119 not out) against England at Manchester in 1990.

"It has been a long journey from Manchester to here and I have learned a lot along the way both as a player and a person," said Tendulkar, who is the leading rungetter in one-dayers with 13,909 and a record 38 centuries.

"People seemed to be waiting for it (the record) more than me," said Tendulkar, who scored his 34th century last December against Bangladesh. "Let us not forget that we have

played just four or five Tests since my last century and it has not taken very long to finally break the record.' said Tendulkar, 32. "These things (records) come

about on their own. If you run after them, it becomes more difficult to get them." said the master batsman. who received a standing ovation from the crowd on reaching the landmark. "This century has been satisfying

in terms of quality also. The first half of my runs were difficult to come by but they came more easily after the umpires changed the ball." He thanked his coach Ramakant

Achrekar, brother Ajit Tendulkar and Gavaskar for their help in his formative years. "All of them worked very hard to help me develop as a crick-The Mumbai batsman said he

was not troubled by nerves as he approached the milestone. "Once you go out there you try to be as calm and composed as possible."



BACK IN RUNS: England's Andrew Strauss, who had a lean patch in the Tests, pulls one on way to making a match winning 94 in the first one-day international against Pakistan in Lahore on Saturday.

Flintoff fells Pakistan

three sixes in his 65-ball knock to help England beat their previous highest one-day total against Pakistan of 306-5 in Karachi five

years ago The second game in the fivematch series will be played here on

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening daynight one-overs international between England and Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Saturday **ENGLAND**

Trescothick c Kaneria b Naved 13 Prior Ibw b Sami Strauss c Butt b Kaneria Pietersen st Akmal b Malik Flintoff not out Collingwood not out Extras: (lb-3, nb-5, w-5) Total: (For 4 wkts in 50 overs) 327 Did not bat: Solanki, Blackwell Jones, Anderson, Harmison Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-94, 3-185, 4-

Super-sub: Arshad

Bowler Akhtar Naved 35 33 Razzag Kaneria 62 0

Butt c Flintoff b Harmison Akmal b Anderson Younis c Collingwood b Flintoff 60 Yousuf c Solanki b Plunkett Inzamam c Jones b Collingwood13 Malik c Jones b Plunkett Razzaq c Jones b Plunkett 13 Akhtar run out

Naved not out Sami c Trescothick b Flintoff Kaneria b Flintoff Extras: (lb-5, nb-2, w-5) Total: (All out in 46.5 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-132, 3-160,

4-179, 5-262, 6-279, 7-282, 8-282,

9-285 Super-sub: Plunkett for Pietersen M 0 58 Harmison 33 Anderson Flintoff 0 73 0 51 Plunkett Blackwell 10 0 45 Collingwood Result: England won by 42 runs

series Man-of-the-match: Andrew Strauss.

and take 1-0 lead in the 5-ODI

Toss: England. Umpires: Darrell Hair and Brian Second ODI: December 12,

Official WC ball unveiled

REUTERS, Leipzig

The ball for the 2006 World Cup finals will be largely in traditional black and white for the first time since 1994.

The new ball, unveiled during the draw in Leipzig on Friday, is called the "+Teamgeist" and features just a little gold colouring around the long panels. In France in 1998 the "Tricolore"

used in the finals. In 2002 in South Korea and Japan the "Fevernova" ball was a beige colour with a large gold, black and red design. German sporting goods maker

was the first multicoloured ball to be

Adidas hopes to sell 10 million of the official balls "It's been good in training,"

England captain David Beckham, who is sponsored by Adidas, said from Madrid in a recorded video presentation. "It's very classic looking. Black and white -- it's all about football."

Adidas, who have provided the official World Cup ball since 1970, had hoped to equip balls at the 2006 finals with microchips but FIFA decided the goal line technology was not ready and FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Wednesday he did not expect it to be used in the foreseeable future.

Tendulkar factbox

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

Factbox on India's Sachin Tendulkar, who scored a world record 35th Test hundred during the second Test against Sri Lanka on Saturday

Born: April 24, 1973 in Mumbai. Right-hand bat, part-time spinner. Rated among the all-time great

batsman. Holds the records for most ODI appearances, runs and hun-Test debut: v Pakistan, Karachi, November 1989. 125th Test, 35 centuries. 10,134 runs, average

57.05 (before current innings). ODI debut: v Pakistan Gujranwala, December 1989. 358 matches, 13,909 runs, 38 hundreds, 71 fifties, average 44.01. 140 wick-

Wisden Cricketer of the Year in

Ranked second in both all-time Test and one-day lists by Wisden, behind Australia's Don Bradman

33 That's

enough

Limbaugh

the act?

35 "Zounds!"

36 Radio's

37 Part of

38 Drop in

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43 Pled in

48 Neither

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49 Wished

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18 Take it

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30 Gun

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32 Parisian

31 Apple

fathers

14 Anony

13 First

agent

5 Post-bath

Teenage prodigy. As a schoolboy, scored 326 not out and added

future India Test player. Aged 15, scored 100 not out on debut for Mumbai v Gujarat.

maiden Test hundred, 119 not out v England at Old Trafford. In 1990, became the first overseas player to sign with English

county Yorkshire. after a 3-0 Test series rout in

Australia the following year. Equalled Bradman's 29 Test centuries, scoring 117 at Port of Spain in April, 2002 v West Indies when India won their first Test in the

By Eugene Sheffer

22 In need of

23 Foe

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ployees

Two unsuccessful terms as India captain, the first aged 23 in 1996 before being axed 17 months later after his batting suffered. Reappointed in 1999, but stood down

Caribbean for more than 26 years. Named player of the 2003 World

December 2004, equalled Sunil Gavaskar's 34 Test hundreds against Bangladesh. Went on to get by an Indian. Virender Sehwag heads the list with 309 v Pakistan in

Test runs at the Eden Gardens in second Test against Pakistan, a week after falling six short of a world record 35th century in Mohali. Surpassed Gavaskar's Indian record Test aggregate of 10,122 in the next game in Bangalore.

Has suffered a series of back foot and hand injuries since 1999. mainly attributed to wear and tear of constant play. Was sidelined for six months after undergoing elbow

December 2005, scores a record 35th hundred on the first day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in New Delhi. surpassing compatriot Gavaskar's mark

a break? **CRYPTOQUIP**

WFZIV ROSZN ISH AXRRX

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOFT PLUMAGE MADE ITS WAY INTO A LANDFILL, YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S DOWN IN THE DUMPS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals E The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

B X H IR O SQXLDQ D R QWAPSNUDNB, ROSU PSVDI

another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

28 Somaliar perhaps

34 On the members 20 Lennon's 35 Oblong cream Teasdale 37 Pouch 38 Tarzan's Solution time: 21 mins. transport

39 "American —' 40 It takes the cake 41 Took the A train

44 Pair

45 Plaything

46 JFK info 47 Marino or

664 runs with Vinod Kambli, also a 248 not out, his highest first-class Became India's youngest Test Multan in 2004. player at 16 in 1989. Aged 17, hit his March 2005, crossed 10,000

surgery in May.

Cup, scoring a record 673 runs to help India reach their second final

> LXAS FSS, LXAS