



Did U Know?

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 talent."

Still Leonine

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

The win extended their tally to 49.5 points.
Title aspirants Mukhtijodha Sangsad joined Bangladesh Biman to share the second spot as both secured 48 points each.

Biman beat Mohakhali Prodig Sangha 3.5-0.5 while Mukhtijodha earned full points against Shaheed Mufi Kafe Daba Dal by 4-0 win.

In the day's other matches, Titled 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 Titus 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 venue.

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 one-day 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 spin.

Legendary former Australian captain Don Bradman and West Indian batting great Viv Richards said his batting reminded them of their own.

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...

TOP TEST CENTURIANS

Batsman	T	O	N	S
S Tendulkar	35	125		
S Gavaskar	34	125		
S Waugh	32	168		
B Lara	31	121		
D Bradman	29	52		
A Border	27	156		
G Sobers	26	93		
R Ponting	25	97		

World-record chase sees Kiwis narrow the gap



AFP, Christchurch

A Scott Styris century and a whirlwind 50 by Brendon McCullum steered New Zealand to a shock two-wicket 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 Zealand ended a record-equaling 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 balls.

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

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 scoring.

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 Zealand were 194 for six in the 33rd

over.
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 ground.

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 eighth-wicket stand, and in the process lifted his one-day average to a phenomenal 151 from 11 innings. He has only been dismissed four times.

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 of the team.

This was the 100th one-day international between New Zealand and Australia, with Australia having won 70.

SCOREBOARD
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:

AUSTRALIA	
Gilchrist lbw b Mills	0
Katich c Styris b Martin	2

Ponting lbw b Vettori	75
Hodge c Mills b Styris	59
Symonds c Mills b Vettori	1
Clarke c Mills b Martin	71
Hussey not out	88
White c Vettori b Martin	0
Bracken not out	21
Extras: (lb-4, w-8, nb-2)	14
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	331
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-7, 3-122, 4-124, 5-179, 6-194, 7-257, 8-258	
Did not bat: Lewis, Clark	
Super-sub: Johnson for Katich	
Bowler	O M R W
Mills	10 1 64 1
Martin	9 0 65 3
Cairns	6 0 61 0
Oram	8 0 69 0
Vettori	10 1 37 2
Styris	7 0 31 1

NEW ZEALAND	
Vincent c Hussey b Clark	39
Fleming c Gilchrist b Bracken	0
Astle c White b Clark	14
H Marshall b White	27
Styris c Symonds b Clark	101
McMillan c Gilchrist b Symonds	11
Cairns c Gilchrist b Lewis	6
Oram b Clark	42
McCullum not out	50
Vettori not out	23
Extras: (lb-9, w-10)	19
Total: (For 8 wks 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	
Bowler	O M R W
Lewis	9 0 77 1
Bracken	9 1 41 1
Clark	10 1 55 4
Johnson	9 0 64 0
White	4 0 34 1
Symonds	8 0 52 1

Result: New Zealand won by two wickets. Australia win series 2-1.
Man-of-the-match: Scott Styris.
Toss: New Zealand.
Umpires: Aleem Dar and Gary Baxter.

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 yesterday.

It was their sixth straight defeat in the competition after a 5-0 white-wash 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 topped 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; Karunaratne 98, Fernando 75, Mathews 31, extras 6; Waters 3-49, Brown 4-36).
SRI LANKA-19: 288-8 in 49.4 overs (Karunaratne 75, Fernando 70, Mathews 31, extras 6; Waters 3-49, Brown 4-36).
Result: Sri Lanka Under-19 won by two wickets.

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 yesterday.

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

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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 Alvitto.

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

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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 run-getter 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 cricketer."

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

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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 five-match series will be played here on Monday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening day-night one-overs international between England and Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Saturday:

ENGLAND

Trescothick c Kaneria b Naved	13
Prior lbw b Sami	45
Strauss c Butt b Kaneria	94
Pietersen st Akmal b Malik	56
Flintoff not out	72
Collingwood not out	34
Extras: (lb-3, nb-5, w-5)	13
Total: (For 4 wks in 50 overs)	327
Did not bat: Solanki, Blackwell, Jones, Anderson, Harmison	
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-94, 3-185, 4-237	
Super-sub: Arshad	
Bowler	O M R W
Akhtar	10 0 60 0
Naved	9 0 75 1
Sami	7 0 35 1
Razaq	6 0 33 0
Kaneria	9 0 62 1
Malik	9 0 59 1

PAKISTAN

Butt c Flintoff b Harmison	67
Akmal b Anderson	5
Younis c Collingwood b Flintoff	60
Yousuf c Solanki b Plunkett	59
Inzamam c Jones b Collingwood	13
Malik c Jones b Plunkett	50
Razaq c Jones b Plunkett	13
Akhtar run out	3
Naved not out	2
Sami c Trescothick b Flintoff	1
Kaneria b Flintoff	0
Extras: (lb-5, nb-2, w-5)	12
Total: (All out in 46.5 overs)	285
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	
Bowler	O M R W
Harmison	8 0 58 1
Anderson	7 0 33 1
Flintoff	8.5 0 73 3
Plunkett	9 0 51 3
Blackwell	10 0 45 0
Collingwood	4 0 20 1

Result: England won by 42 runs and take 1-0 lead in the 5-ODI series.
Man-of-the-match: Andrew Strauss.
Toss: England.
Umpires: Darrell Hair and Brian Jerling.
Second ODI: December 12, Lahore.

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 "+Teamegeist" and features just a little gold colouring around the long panels. In France in 1998 the "Tricolore" was the first multicoloured ball to be used in the finals. In 2002 in South Korea and Japan the "Fevemova" ball was a beige colour with a large gold, black and red design.

German sporting goods maker 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.

Enticing draw for Asians



AFP, Tokyo

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.

South Korea, semi-finalists four years ago, have an easier ride, in a group that pits them against Switzerland and Togo but also 1998 winners France.

Saudi Arabia will play perennial underachievers Spain, and also Ukraine and African champions Tunisia while Asia's other representative, Iran, has its work cut out against seeded side Mexico, Portugal and debutants Angola.

Japan and Australia, who also 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 watering in Asia.

"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 interest in football in Australia.

"They are the favourites and the toughest draw we could have had," added the Dutchman, who steered South Korea to the last four in 2002.

Australia are competing at their first World Cup finals since 1974.

Japan, recently voted Asia's

team of the year by the Asian Football Confederation, are more of an unknown entity for Hiddink, but he is not underestimating them.

"Japan have changed a lot since 2002 and, like us, they will want to pull something out of the hat," he said. "We are happy to have qualified, but we are not here to make up the numbers and want to spring a surprise."

For Japan's Brazilian coach 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 challenge.

"A team that has qualified 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 Leipzig after the draw there.
"For us, it is easier to encounter Brazil in the first round. It is better than fighting them after winning through to the second round."

While Brazil are the number one threat, Zico is aware that Australia under Hiddink are dangerous and shouldn't be underestimated.
"They are well guided. It will be very important for us to win the first match and boost the morale of my players," he said.

Australia play Brazil at Nuremberg on June 18 while Japan will lock horns with them in Dortmund on June 22.

South Korea, led by Manchester United star Park Ji-Sung, will fancy their chances in Group G, opening their World Cup against first-timers Togo in Frankfurt on June 13.

While playing down the prospect of another semifinal success, coach Dick Advocaat said his team would be difficult to beat, but acknowledged France were favourites to top the group.

"We have three tough games but 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 slight favourites on paper."

Three-time Asian champions Iran have a tough draw, with manager Branko Ivankovic admitting it will be hard to overcome Euro 2004 runners-up Portugal and Mexico in Group D.

"Our problem will be in adapting to the different styles -- European, African and Latin-American. I hope our players will learn how to respond to the different problems," said the Croatian.

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 country Tunisia.

Saudi Arabia suffered a humiliating 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 at all costs.

The World Cup finals get underway in Munich on June 9 when hosts Germany meet Costa Rica.

Premier Cricket No matches in Mymensingh

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) has decided not to hold any Premier Division Cricket League match at the Mymensingh venue.

The league will start on December 12 across the country in six venues.

The match between Mohammedan and Agrani Bank was scheduled to be played at Mymensingh on the opening day but it will now take place at BKSP.

"The local authority informed us that it would be impossible for them to allot the stadium after the first match due to Victory Day programmes, that's why we withdrew the venue," said Khondokar Jamiluddin, chairman of CCDM.

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.

India ride on Sachin

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knock but was foxed by an away-going delivery from Muralitharan which he edged to