



Anil Kumble became the first Indian bowler and the fourth in the world to claim 30 five-wicket hauls in Test cricket, joining Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (48), New Zealand's Richard Hadlee (36) and Australia's Shane Warne (34).



Jose Mourinho
(Chelsea coach)
"I feel this award, not as an individual award but as one to Chelsea's success, the success of the team, my players, my club, my board, people who support the club."
After being named the BBC Sports Coach of the Year.

TEN Sports

Pakistan vs England
Third ODI
Live at 12:00 pm

Premier Div Cricket League
Old DOHS vs Kalabagan KC
Venue: Bogra Dist Stadium
Orient SC vs Sonargaon Cricketers
Venue: Sonilla Dist Stadium
City Club vs Brothers Union
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Victoria SC vs Indira Road
Venue: BKSP-2
Birman vs Agani Bank
Venue: BKSP-1
Abahani vs Mohammedan
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Inter-varsity h'ball from Dec 17

CU CORRESPONDENT

The inter-university handball tournament begins at the Chittagong University (CU) central field on December 17.

A total of 11 teams including both male and female from seven universities of the country will compete in the five-day meet.

Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University and National University along with the hosts will compete in both men's and women's events.

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology and Islamic University (Kushtia) will however compete in the men's events only.

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Pappa smashed a hundred as Jatrabari Krira Chakra registered a comfortable six-wicket victory over Lalmatia Club in the First Division Cricket League at the City Club ground yesterday.

Jatrabari thrived on Pappa's unbeaten 111 to score 204-4 in 36 overs in reply to Lalmatia's 203-5.

In the day's other match, Cricket Coaching School (CCS) rode on two half-centuries by Yasin (51) and Pappu (51) to beat Prantik Khira Chakra by five wickets at the Dhaka University ground.

CCS scored 184-5 in 46 overs in reply to Prantik's 182 all out in 49 overs.

Surrey rope in Kumble

AFP, London

Surrey have signed India spinner Anil Kumble for the 2006 season, the English county announced on Wednesday.

The leg-spinner will be available after India's Test series against West Indies and is expected to make his debut against Northamptonshire on July 14.

It's India as expected

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Karachi

India maintained their superior record against Maldives when the two-time champions beat the Indian Ocean islanders 1-0 in the first semifinal to enter the final of the Fourth SAFF Championship here today.

Left fullback Manju struck the all-important goal at the People's Sports Complex Stadium with a header in the 38th minute as India reached their third final in the history of the championship with their sixth victory against Maldives in eight internationals.

Maldives, the in-form team who came to the knockout match having scored 11 goals in the group stage, never looked at ease and choked against a more matured-looking India, who had lost only once to the tiny island in their previous seven meetings.

Maldives, who left almost eight players back in their own territory, however dominated the first quarter with Ashfaq, Tariq and Umar Ali combining in all their attacks. But the trio failed to penetrate a tidy Indian defence.

India, who played the waiting game, only looked dangerous from

MSC-Abahani clash today



After two days break, the Premier Division Cricket League resumes today with archrivals Abahani and Mohammedan lock horns at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium in one of the six matches billed for the day.

Although the two popular giants usually play at the later stages of the League because of their rankings, but their slide from the top in recent years forced an early derby.

There is another big match on the day between runners-up City Club and a formidable Brothers Union at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, but undoubtedly all eyes will be on the season's first encounter between the country's perennial rivals.

On paper, Mohammedan, led by national skipper Habibul Bashar, is

much better side than Abahani, who are without any brand name. Experienced campaigner Neeyamur Rashid Rahul is captaining the Dhanmondi outfit.

The match will however offer an interesting India-Pakistan battle with Pakistani Test cap Shadab Kabir arriving in the capital yesterday to boost the mediocre Abahani batting line-up. Mohammedan on the other hand have flown in Delhi all-rounder Sandeep Sharma.

In the other matches, holders Old DOHS face Kalabagan at Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Biman meet Agrani Bank at BKSP, Victoria take on Indira Road at BKSP and the match between Orient and Sonargaon Cricketers will be held at the Comilla Stadium.

Biman apart, all the giants -- Old DOHS, City, Abahani, Mohammedan and Brothers won their first matches.

‘The win is for the martyrs’

SPORTS REPORTER from Karachi

Everybody was on the edge of their seats as the clock was ticking towards the final whistle. The nervy Bangladesh tent at the People's Sports Complex Stadium here went for frantic changes to buy precious time. It worked for the holders as they survived a late Pakistan pressure to eke out a 1-0 victory and a place in the final of the SAFF Championship for a second successive time.

And just when the Iranian referee blew the long whistle at the expiry of the three-minute injury time, the Bangladesh angels attired in all white broke into wild celebrations, reminiscent of their outpouring euphoria in this month in 1971.

Immediately after the match, Bangladesh captain Anif Khan Joy dedicated the victory to the memories of three million martyrs of the Liberation War.

"It was very tense at the end but thankfully we held our nerves when it was needed most," said central defender Sujon, whose first-half penalty separated the two sides.

"We were confident although Pakistan were a strong team but frankly speaking, I did not want to face them in the semifinals. Our plan was to snatch the ball, hold it and supply to the forwards. We successfully did it for some time and failed later because they played well. Now that we are in the final and no opposition is threatening for us. We have held India with our second-string side, so we are ready for the final," said Bangladesh's Argentine coach after the match.

Pakistan coach Salman Ahmed Sharida admitted that Bangladesh won as a better team.

"They played well. We tried hard but luck did not favour us. One team has to win and as I said earlier, the better team on a given day has reached the final."

SA give Kallis more time

AFP, Perth

South Africa once again extended the deadline for Jacques Kallis to prove his fitness for the opening Test against Australia starting on Friday, even though the brilliant all-rounder couldn't lift a bat during a net session here Wednesday.

Kallis, who has a torn tendon in his left elbow, has had just 10 minutes of nets batting since arriving in Perth and officials had originally given him until Tuesday to prove his fitness.



PHOTO: AFP

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: India's master leg-spinner Anil Kumble (C) and Harbhajan Singh swap the high five after the former dismissed Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas (not in picture) on the final day of the second Test at New Delhi on Wednesday.

Kumble kills SL off



AFP, New Delhi

Anil Kumble was once again among the wickets as India achieved a resounding 188-run victory over Sri Lanka on the final day of the second Test at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground here on Wednesday.

The 35-year-old leg-spinner bagged four second innings wickets to finish with his eighth 10-wicket haul in Tests. He helped dismiss Sri Lanka for 247 after they had been set a daunting 436-run target.

Kumble took two of those wickets Wednesday as Sri Lanka, resuming on 125-3, folded up 41 minutes after lunch with Mahela Jayawardene (67) the only one to offer resistance on the final day.

"Kumble was outstanding in the match but I thought it was a very good overall team effort," said Indian captain Rahul Dravid, whose side now have a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

"This match will always remain a memorable one because of the victory and also because Sachin (Tendulkar) set a world record of 35 Test centuries here," he added.

Tendulkar top-scored in the match with 109 in the first innings to pass compatriot Sunil Gavaskar in the list of century-makers in Tests.

Kumble, who bagged all 10 wickets in a Test innings against Pakistan here in 1999, rekindled that memory with another fine performance.

He bowled Tillakaratne Dilshan (32) in the first session and followed it up in the second with the scalp of Chaminda Vaas (17) who was caught by Harbhajan Singh at mid-wicket while trying to play a pull shot.

"This has been a very good win but

all credit to our batsmen for setting it up for the bowlers," said Kumble, who took 4-85 in the second innings to finish with a match haul of 10-157.

"I was at my usual job of pegging away at the batsman and knew it was a matter of time before we won."

Kumble was supported well by off-spinner Harbhajan who chipped in with two wickets Wednesday to finish with 3-70.

Harbhajan removed a determined Jayawardene, who batted for 205 minutes in a bid to prolong the inevitable. He struck seven fours off 164 balls before being caught at short-leg by Gautam Gambhir.

Harbhajan also took the wicket of last man Muttiah Muralitharan as the batsman heaved the ball high in the air for wicketkeeper Mahendra Dhoni to take an easy catch.

The fall of Muralitharan's wicket triggered victory celebrations among the Indian players. It was their sixth consecutive win at the venue.

Sri Lankan skipper Marvan Atapattu said his team had done well in patches and could lift themselves for the third and final match to be played in Ahmedabad from Sunday. The first rain-hit Test was drawn.

"We had our positives like Jayawardene's knock in the second innings and Muralitharan's bowling and hope to do better in the next match," said Atapattu.

"The pitch was a good one unlike what we thought before the match, when we were fearing it would not be a sporting one."

Sri Lanka have yet to win a Test in India.

SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard on the final day of the second Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground in New

Delhi on Wednesday:

INDIA: First innings 290 (Tendulkar 109, Laxman 69, Ganguly 40; Muralitharan 7-100)

SRI LANKA: First innings 230 (Atapattu 88, Jayawardene 60; Kumble 6-72, Pathan 3-34)

INDIA: Second innings 375 (Pathan 93, Yuvraj 77 not out, Dravid 53, Dhoni 51 not out; Vaas 2-65)

SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 123-5)

Gunawardene lbw b Pathan	9
Atapattu c and b Kumble	67
Sangakkara c Dhoni b Agarkar	33
Jayawardene c Gambhir	
b Harbhajan	67
Bandara lbw b Kumble	0
Samaraweera c Dravid	
b Harbhajan	0
Mubarak lbw b Agarkar	3
Dilshan b Kumble	32
Vaas c Harbhajan b Kumble	17
Muralitharan c Dhoni	
b Harbhajan	2
b Harbhajan	2
Fernando not out	2
Extras: (b-2, lb-7, nb-6)	15
Total: (All out in 91.2 overs)	247
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-109, 3-119, 4-119, 5-123, 6-131, 7-199, 8-243, 9-243	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	14	2	38	1
Agarkar	16	4	45	2
Kumble	36	7	85	4
Harbhajan	25.2	5	70	3

Result: India won by 188 runs to take 1-0 lead in three-match series.

Man-of-the-match: Anil Kumble.

Next Test: Ahmedabad, Dec 18-22.

KARACHI DIARY

SPORTS REPORTER from Karachi

The old and new co-exist in Karachi peacefully but it seems that the older part dominates the life of the former Pakistani capital. The port city, unlike its counterparts in the north, is very crowded and you would not realise it unless you stroll through the city centre, or Saddar as it is called. The broad metallic roads and the posh villas near the Clifton Beach is like a paradise to the common people who live in dirt, dust and smoke. And it is also ill-reputed as the most dangerous city in the country. The first advice for any foreigner would be to never move alone. Mugging and snatching are everyday threats, especially to tourists who carry expensive goods and currency. So moving in a group is sensible and the Bangladesh reporters covering the SAFF Championship hired a car for two weeks to avoid trouble and the hazard of dealing with local taxi driver's everyday.

'HORFUN MOULA'

Within a couple of days, we realised that Talib -- the driver -- is quite a character and a true 'horfun moul' (a man who can perform any task). The

lean and thin 45-year-old has become our local guardian and when we learned that he has already fathered ten sons and two daughters, we instantly believed that he could take care of the lot from Bangladesh. From taking us to the stadium, practice venues, team hotel or restaurants, he has been helping us change foreign currency or buy SIM cards or mobile sets apart from browsing through the markets. Although Karachi wakes after 11am, he would be at your service from 10am until midnight, ignoring two sick offspring at a hospital. When asked, he would smilingly say that his wife was good enough to look after the domestic front. Even at the media centre, he would not let you leave your seat to go for lunch, and rather he would bring it himself.

THE TRUTH!

Only if the organisers would have been as caring as Talib, things would have been much easier. After two days' wilderness, the internet connection was restored but a local expert working with the Karachi City Government complained that they were actually told to set up the network the day before the start of the meet.

"We provide wireless internet connections to the Karachi National Stadium and other international venues. But the People's Sports

Complex is hosting its first-ever international football tournament. The location is also backward. So we needed at least five days to set up modern facilities. It was impossible for us to do all these in 24 hours," said the expert seeking anonymity.

It hurt the Bangladeshi media men most because they felt betrayed by their own man. Bangladesh Football Federation vice-president Sirajul Islam Bachchu, also the general secretary of organisers South Asian Football Federation, who had claimed in Dhaka in mid-November that 'he has taken care of media facilities'.

SUPPORT

When the Bangladesh football team played a warm-up game as part of their preparation for the SAFF Championship, the stands of the Bangabandhu National Stadium were empty. But at least 12,000 Bangladeshi expatriates cheered them on with enthusiasm, never letting the footballers feel that they are about 1,500 miles away from home. About eight lakh Bangladeshis, almost 80 per cent of the Bangladeshi community in Pakistan (unofficial source), live in Karachi and you would often walk into one from the motherland.

Bashir works at a juice shop in Saddar and has been here for 18

years. At first sight, no one would realise that the bearded man in 'Kabuli' dress is actually from Noakhali. While having dinner on a street-side restaurant, he suddenly surprised us with a few Bangla words: Bhai kobe ailen (Brother, when did you arrive)?

A similar surprise awaited us at a sea-food stall near the Clifton when we were asking for the name of an unknown fish at display and discussing among us whether it would suit to our taste or not. The seller's response was: Bhai khaite parben, chinta nai (No problem, you can eat it). It was Alam from Maheshkhali, who has been living here since 1985. "The last time I went to Bangladesh was six years back. I don't want to go back and soon, my young son will join me at this stall," Alam said.

His associate Mohammad Rafique works at the Karachi Port Trust but his eyes show signs of drug addiction. He knows about his namesake in the Bangladesh national cricket team but has been suffering from amnesia and often talks about Naya Paltan and Mirpur, which he thinks are same places.

Hayden doesn't buy the idea

AFP, Perth

Opening batsman Matthew Hayden dismissed suggestions Wednesday that the Australian Test team needed a full-time batting coach despite the team's poor showing against England in the Ashes series.

Hayden, speaking ahead of Australia's opening Test match against South Africa in Perth, was at odds with former teammate Michael Slater.

Slater said earlier he wanted the Australian team to have specialist batting and bowling coaches to work with head coach John Buchanan and his assistants, Dene Hills and Jamie Siddons.

"If I am a batsman struggling in this Australian unit, if I go to John Buchanan, how is he going to help me with my batting given that he has never been a batsman?" Slater asked.

"I would have a batting coach as well. I think it's just as important to have the batting unit be able to go to someone in confidence and work on their game."

"Siddons and Hills are there for general duties, not specialists. They may have been batters when they

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