Diego Maradona played his first match with the Argentina national team against Hungary on February 27 in 1977.



**DD Sports** India vs Sri Lanka Third Test, Day Four Live at 10:00 am

**TEN Sports** Pakistan vs England Live at 12:00 pm



Old DOHS vs Brothers Union Venue: BKSP-2 Indira Road vs Orient SC Venue: Comilla Dist Stadium Agani Bank vs Kalabagan KC Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Nohammedan vs Sonargaon Cricketers

Venue: BKSP-1 City Club vs Abahani Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium Victoria SC vs Biman Venue: Bogra Dist Stadium Fifth Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League Abahani vs Rangamati MSC (6:30 pm)

Venue: Bangabandhu Nat'l Stadium





### Sania Mirza

(Indian tennis star)

"Some people have some problems with the dress code. Maybe I wear short skirts but I pray five times a day and do the things that other

### Rahul released from hospital

Indian cricket captain Rahul Dravid was discharged from a hospital Tuesday morning after being treated for gastroenteritis.

Dravid was admitted to the Rajasthan Hospital and had to miss third Test match against Sri Lanka that began on December 18. The skipper had taken ill on the

eve of the match and was complainng of nausea and diarrhoea The Bangalore batsman was also

match in Delhi but managed to lead

### School h'ball

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Scholastica moved into the semifinals of both boys and girls' events in the 15th Bata school handball tournament yesterday.

Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunnydale 11-3 and the girls' team beat Motijheel Govt. Girls' High Boxing Day. School 10-6 at the Dhanmondi squad playing in the first Test was Women's Sports Complex. Narinda Govt. High School, the omission of paceman Stuart Clark, who had been named 12th

The boys' team trounced

Bangladesh International School and Bhashantek High School

earlier confirmed their semifinal berths in the boys' section. In the girls' section, Viquarunnessa Noon, Ispahani Girls' High

School and Sunnydale were the other teams to reach the last four. Sunnydale defeated Moha-

**SQUAD** Ricky Ponting (captain), Phil Jaques, Matthew Hayden, Brad mmadpur Preparatory Girls' High Hodge, Michael Hussey, Andrew School 8-2 and Bangladesh Inter-Symonds, Adam Gilchrist, Brett national School beat BAF Shaheen Lee, Shane Warne, Stuart MacGill, College 10-6. Nathan Bracken, Glenn McGrath.

# **BU storm into Super Six**

SPORTS REPORTER



After two demoralising draws in the previous rounds, Brothers Union returned to their belligerent best at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on

Tuesday when they thrashed Bangladesh Army 4-0 in their final group league match of the Nitol-Tata Fifth National Football League.

Nigerian striker Paul struck twice in either half while his compatriot Felix and midfielder Rezaul Karim Liton added one each as the holders stormed into the Super-Six from a relatively easy Group A.

Having started the title defence with a 2-0 win against Khulna Town Club, the men in orange stumbled to goalless draws against little known Munshigani Samabesh Club and Jamalpur Kacharipara in their last two games. But Tuesday's easy success against Army, who holds

Cricket

Test draftee Jacques Rudolph

earned his stripes here Tuesday,

staunchly defying Australia's attack

and salvaging a gallant draw for

South Africa in the opening cricket

day, glueing the Proteas' second

innings together with a masterful

102 not out from 283 balls in 431

had reached 287-5, still 204 runs

short of the 491 they had needed for

victory but good enough to keep

their hopes alive in the three-Test

It was a remarkable achievement

from the 24-year-old Rudolph who

was called into the side to replace the

Aussies make

Australia have made two changes to

their squad for the second Test

against South Africa starting in

Melbourne on December 26 follow-

ing an injury to veteran opener

Langer, 35, who strained a

hamstring while running between

the wickets in the first Test in Perth,

was replaced by New South Wales

debut as opener in front of a likely

crowd of about 80,000 at the

Jaques. 26. will make his Test

The only other change to the

Spinner Stuart MacGill will return to

the squad after a successful Test

series against the West Indies.

state opener Phil Jaques.

Justin Langer.

man in Perth.

two changes

for 2nd Test

injured Jacques Kallis.

At the close of play South Africa

Rudolph batted throughout the

Test at the WACA ground.

AFP, Perth

series.

the reputation as a tough nut to crack, gave Brothers a big boost ahead of the six-team final round. Three Dhaka giants Mohammedan, Abahani and Muktijoddha are set to join them from the

Brothers finished with eight points from four games, leaving the other two slots from the group wide Army's first defeat after a win and

two draws meant that they would have to beat Samabesh Club of Munshiganj in their last match on Thursday to reach the Super Six.

With two matches in hand, Samabesh also stand a bright chance to progress into the next phase. They are now sharing the second spot with Army and Kacharipara, all having four points

Back in the day's match. Brothers were too hot to handle for the armymen

Felix drew the first blood in the 28th minute when he spooned the

Brothers' Nigerian recruit Felix (R) takes a tumble after a sliding-tackle by a Bangladesh Army defender during their

Rudolph denies Australia

In the end he virtually mirrored

Kallis' brilliant 1999 innings when

the all-rounder batted for more than

eight hours to score his first Test

century against Australia and stave

off what had seemed certain defeat

during the Boxing Day Test in

his teammates to stand up and be

counted to earn a draw after

Australia prepared to come into the

and fighting to keep his place in the

side, clearly responded and

together with middle order batsman

Justin Kemp, who scratched out an

uncharacteristically slow 55, the

pair frustrated the Australians for

fell all day, starting with Herschelle

Gibbs for 33 and Ashwell Prince for

eight in the morning session and

Only three South African wickets

Rudolph, playing in his 29th Test

final day in an unlosable position.

On Monday, Kallis called on all

National Football League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

Melbourne

213 minutes.

Kemp, late in the day.

Army goalkeeper Monirul from the edge of the box.

Army conceded the second goal a minute before break following a defensive error by Mizan, whose attempted clearance off a powerful Felix shot deflected to an unmarked Paul who completed the simple task of stabbing the ball home.

Midfielder Liton extended the lead two minutes after the restart with a scorching grounder after being nicely fed by Felix inside the

Paul then sealed the biggest win for Brothers at the stroke of the final whistle when the muscular Nigerian dribbled past Army defender Didarul before rounding off custodian

Group B leaders Abahani take on Rangamati Mohammedan Sporting Club at the same venue today.

The hosts, red-hot favourites to

win the match at the start of play on

Tuesday, were left to ponder if they

their second innings to a close as

soon as Test newcomer Brad Hodge

had brought up his double century

Hodge reach a major Test mile-

stone, it came after the Australians

had built-up a monumental lead of

could take just two wickets in the

remaining session and lost a further

six overs when bad light stopped

Ponting has previously criticised

But while the Australians had

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

West Indian captain Brian Lara for

cause to ponder, the South Africans

playing for milestones.

Following the declaration they

Although the decision saw

Captain Ricky Ponting called

had left their declaration too late.

just before tea on the fourth day.

491 runs.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

# Premier cricket's 4th round today SPORTS REPORTER

The fourth round matches of the Premier Division Cricket League will take place at six different venues across the country today.

Defending champions Old DOHS with all-win record face formidable Brothers Union, who lost their third game against promotees Kalabagan, at BKSP.

However, Victoria Sporting Club, fresh from a 34-run victory against title aspirants Moha-mmedan, will face a tough challenge to maintain their unbeaten run when they face Biman at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Mohammedan meet promotees Sonargaon Cricketers at BKSP. National paceman Tapash Baisya will play his first match for Sonargaon after recovering from

Runners-up City Club face Abahani at Fatullah Cricket Stadium while Indira Road take on Orient Sporting Club at Comilla Stadium and the match between Agrani Bank and Kalabagan will be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

# 2nd JFA Cup from today

Football

Brazil and Barcelona playmaker

Ronaldinho picked up his second

successive World Player of the Year

award from soccer's governing body

world and European player awards

in the same year after Ronaldo in

1997 and 2002, and Rivaldo in

to comfortably beat Chelsea's

England midfielder Frank Lampard

(306) in the FIFA vote by national

coaches and captains around the

mate Samuel Eto'o of Cameroon

finished in third place with 190

"I would like to say thank you to all

The Brazilian's Barcelona team

Ronaldinho picked up 956 points

He is the third Brazilian to win the

REUTERS, Zurich

FIFA on Monday.

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

The Second JFA (Japan Football Association) Cup Under-16 football tournament begins at different venues across the country today.

A total of 57 teams -- 55 district teams along with Jessore Education Board and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) -- will take part in the knockout first round.

Eight zonal champions will participate in the second round which begin in the third week of January.

The opening day's matches are: Joypurhat vs Sirajganj at Gaibandha Stadium, Chittagong vs Feni at Rangamati Stadium, Magura vs Jhenidah at Satkhira Stadium. Gazipur vs Jamalpur at Tangail Stadium, Nilphamari vs Noagaon at Kurigram Stadium. Dhaka vs Rajbari at Manikgani Stadium. Khulna vs Jessore at Bagerhat Stadium.

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

i ne Pakistan tootdali team arrived against Bangladesh.

Their England-born defender

the big bowl.

## India cricket team worth 70m dollars

AFP, New Delhi

sored for a whopping 3,130 million rupees (70 million dollars) over the next four years, an official said on Tuesday.

India group, won an open bid invited second innings at stumps on the by the Board of Control for Cricket in third day for an overall lead of 479 -meaning Sri Lanka must chase the highest-ever total in the fourth The deal marks a large increase innings to win a Test from the previous sponsorship

Only three teams -- the West Indies (418-7 v Australia in 2003), India (406-4 v the West Indies in 1976) and Australia (404-3 v England in 1948) -- have success-It covers a minimum of 44 Test fully chased more than 400 in the

fourth innings. tionals the Indian team will play over India lead 1-0 in the series followthe next four years, starting with the ing their 188-run victory in the second Test at Delhi. The rain-hit

opening Test at Chennai was drawn. India set the stage for victory when fied with the deal." The players will wear the Air

they bundled Sri Lanka out for 206 in reply to their own first-innings 398, thanks to off-spinner Harbhajan's 7-62 -- his 17th haul of five or more wickets in a Test innings.

Cricket

India virtually knocked Sri Lanka out

of the third and final Test and the

series on Tuesday after a seven-

wicket haul by Harbhajan Singh and

a blistering half-century from Yuvraj

The hosts were 287-9 in their

AFP, Ahmedabad

Left-hander Yuvraj then built on Harbhajan's effort, attacking vigor-ously to smash an 83-ball 75 with delighted to renew its contract with one six and 13 fours.

Sri Lanka grabbed five wickets in

India bury SL under runs

last, but their efforts came too late to improve their position. Off-spinner Muttiah Murali-

Players of the Pakistan football team stretch during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS: FIFA World Player of the Year Ronaldinho (L) delivers his speech after receiving his

It's Ronaldinho again

my team mates and national team

"I hope I can make people happy

with what I do and I hope to be here

again in a year's time," he said,

before being whisked back to

won the inaugural FIFPro World

Player of the Year award, selected

by his fellow players, in September.

successful year, helping Barcelona

win the Primera Liga title and featur-

ing in Brazil's Confede-rations Cup

triumph in Germany.

"He will undoubtedly be one of

the star turns at next year's World

Cup in Germany," FIFA said in a

Runner-up Lampard was mag-

"I am not disappointed," he told

Ronaldinho enjoyed a hugely

The 25-year-old Ronaldinho also

trophy at a gala in Zurich on Monday. On the right is his female counterpart, Germany's Birgit Prinz.

house in snowy Zurich.

Barcelona.

statement.

nanimous in defeat.

Sachin Tendulkar (19), Mohammad Kaif (nine), Venkatsai Laxman (five) and stand-in skipper Virender Sehwag for a duck before being propped up by Yuvraj on a track of

first innings, made amends as he applied himself remarkably well and used his feet against the spinners to keep the Sri Lankan attack at bay

Harbhajan (19 not out) then made

merry in pressure-free conditions.

who made 104 in the first innings, was caught behind off Maharoof.

Sri Lanka earlier lost five wickets

Harbhajan had taken four wick

because without them all I would not opponent a deserved winner. "For me he is the most exciting be here." Ronaldinho told the FIFA Gala, hosted at the lakeside opera player and the player I enjoy watch-

ing the most in the world.' The poll was based on the verdict of 159 international coaches and captains. Five points were awarded for a first place nomination, three for

reporters, calling his Brazilian

second and one for third. Germany's Birgit Prinz beat off competition from Brazilian player Marta and U.S. challenger Shannon Boxx to win the women's crown for

the third successive year. The President's Award went to

Sweden's former internationa referee Anders Frisk. Frisk retired from the sport in

March when he received death threats after officiating in Barcelona's controversial 2-1 victory over Chelsea in the Champions League in February.



in the capital yesterday to play their Asia Cup qualifying away match

The game will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on

Zesh Rehman will join the team

"It is true that Bangladesh will enjoy the home advantage and they won the SAFF Championship semifinal against us, but I still believe that my team has the ability to win this match," said Pakistan's Bahraini coach Salman Ahmed Sharida during a practice session at

The two teams will meet again in the return match on December 26 in

India's cricket team will be spon-Indian domestic airline Air

Sahara, a subsidiary of the national team's current sponsors Sahara India (BCCI).

agreement of 780 million rupees (17 million dollars) for the last three years, BCCI secretary Niranjan matches and 110 one-day interna-

tour of Pakistan from January 6. "Team India is a brand on the rise and very popular with sponsors, Shah told AFP. "We are very satis-

the Indian team

Sahara logo on the chest and arm at matches and during practice and travel Sahara India spokesman Abhijit Sarkar said the company was

> SEE PAGE 17 COL 1 the afternoon session and four in the

tharan and leg-spinner Malinga Bandara took three wickets apiece. India lost Gautam Gambhir (30),

variable bounce Yuvraj, who failed to score in the

during his third Test half-century. Ajit Agarkar (48), Irfan Pathan (27), Anil Kumble (23 not out) and

India started poorly when Sehwag slashed the first ball of the innings from Malinga straight to Maharoof at third man and Laxman,

Tendulkar and Kaif were trapped lea-before, while Gambhir was caught by wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara while attempting to cut Muralitharan.

after adding 75 to their overnight total of 131-5, with Harbhajan claiming three scalps and leg-spinner Kumble two in his 100th Test

The tourists did manage to avoid

batsman Dilshan's gutsy 65 -- his fifth Test half-century. Dilshan was the only batsman to defy the Indian spin duo, hitting

the follow-on after middle-order

eight fours in his 109-ball knock before being caught off his gloves by Kaif at short-leg. Harbhajan ended the innings when he had Malinga caught by

close-in fielder Sehwag. **SCOREBOARD** 

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the third and final cricket Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday: INDIA: First innings 398 (Laxman

104. Pathan 82; Malinga 3-113, Muralitharan 3-128)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 131-5) Tharanaga c Dhoni b Pathan 2

Atapattu c Sehwag b Harbhajan 40 Sangakkara b Harbhajan Jayawardene c Kaif b Harbhajan 0 Samaraweera c Kaif b Harbhaian 1 Dilshan c Kaif b Harbhajan Mubarak b Kumble Maharoof c and b Harbhajan

Bandara not out Muralitharan st Dhoni b Kumble 3 Malinga c Sehwag b Harbhajan 0

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

THE SAVIOUR: A happy Jacques Rudolph of South Africa leaves the field after playing a match-saving knock of 102 not out on the final day of the first Test against Australia in Perth on Tuesday.