



## Did U Know?

FIFA 2006 World Cup will be held in Germany. It will be Germany's second time to host the World Cup after 1974.



**Khaled Mahmud**  
(Former Bangladesh cricket captain)

"I was a little bit shy on the first day, but everybody appreciated me. Actually it was totally a new experience for me. I am especially excited because I can remain involved with the series as a commentator."

On his debut as a TV commentator



**ESPN**  
South Africa vs Australia  
3rd ODI  
Live at 2:00 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Man City vs Sunderland  
Live at 7:25 pm  
Tottenham Hotspur vs Blackburn Rovers  
Live at 9:55 pm  
**DD National**  
India vs England  
First Test, Day Five  
Live at 10:30 am



7th Nat'l Cricket League  
Four-Day Matches (Day Three)  
Rajshahi vs Khulna  
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium  
Barisal vs Dhaka  
Venue: Barisal Divisional Stadium  
Chittagong vs Sylhet  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

**Mauresmo in Qatar Open final**  
AP, Doha

Top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France defeated Martina Hingis 6-2, 6-2 Friday and will play second-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia in the final of the Qatar Open.

Petrova topped Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-1, 7-6 (2) in the earlier semifinal.

"In the final tomorrow, my serve is likely to play a big role," Mauresmo said. "It will be a tough match."

Mauresmo, who has won three titles this season, beat the Swiss former No. 1 and 2001 inaugural Qatar champion for the fifth time in six meetings.

The Australian Open champion broke Hingis twice in the first set and four times in the second.

Mauresmo is pleased with her consistency on the court.

"I think all aspects of my game are OK at the moment," Mauresmo said. "I am being consistent with my play. Being consistent is a very important part of my game."

Petrova, a quarterfinalist at the Australian Open, broke Sugiyama's serve in the second and fourth games of the first set. In the second, Sugiyama fought back from 4-0 down and won five consecutive games to force a tiebreaker.

Petrova then played a baseline game with deep forehands and crosscourt shots to win the match.

It was a much-needed victory for the West Indies, who have not won a

## Runs rain on Day Two



### SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Ehsanul Haque converted his overnight half-century to a hundred as Chittagong tightened their grip on table-toppers Sylhet at the end second day's play of the Ispanian Seventh National Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The discarded national right-hander hammered 138 as Chittagong amassed a massive 579. Ehsanul was the third Chittagong batsman to score hundred in the first innings after Tamim Iqbal (113) and Gazi Salahuddin (115).

Yasin Arafat then picked up five wickets to send Sylhet reeling for 196-8 at stumps.

The day also saw the bat dominating the ball at other venues with young opener Nazmus Sadat smashing an unbeaten 117 as Khulna fought back gallantly in their second innings against hosts Rajshahi.

Away at the Barisal Divisional Stadium, Mehrab Hossain Junior missed out a first double hundred this season just for four runs but his effort and a diligent 88 by Sajid Kadir helped Dhaka to post a fighting first innings total of 395.

### SYLHET-CHITTAGONG

Chittagong sent Sylhet on leather hunt for the second successive day as they added another 162 runs in quick time after resuming on 417-5.

Ehsanul took his overnight score of 73 to 138. During his more than four hours stay at the wicket he smote 17 boundaries and a six.

Golam Rahman and Imtiaz Hossain made a bold start for Sylhet but the leaders lost their way once left-arm spinner Yasin Arafat broke the 84-run opening stand by removing Rahman (43).

Imtiaz also fell victim of Arafat for 43 and Sylhet, who were looking good at 95-2, suffered a stunning collapse despite a tough resilience from one-down Ijaz Ahmed, who stood in the ruins with an unbeaten 76 off 115 after five batsmen returned to pavilion without troubling the scorer.

Yasin was the most successful Chittagong bowler with 5-50 while Elias Sunny picked up 3-56.

### RAJSHAHI-KHULNA

Rajshahi took a worthy first innings lead of 231 but Khulna rode on a 166-run second wicket partnership between Nazmus Sadat and Shamsur Rahman to stage a fightback in their second essay.

Resuming the day on 221-4, Rajshahi were all out for 353 in reply to Khulna's paltry 122.

Anisur Rahman, who started the

day on 68, top-scored with 95 off 140 balls that contained 14 fours and a six while Mushfiqur Rahman, who rattled Khulna's first innings claiming five wickets, contributed a 95-ball 57.

With a huge first innings deficit, Khulna started disastrously losing opener Sajjadul Hasan for a duck. But Sadat and Shamsur were not ready to die without a fight.

Sadat's unbeaten 117 off 141 balls featured 14 fours and a six while Shamsur scored 70 with the help of seven hits to the fence.

### DHAKA-BARISAL

Left-arm spinner Nadif Chowdhury took a return catch to dash Mehrab Hossain's hopes of making the first double hundred.

The left-hander was on 196 when he drove the ball in the air only to see Nadif breaking his heart.

But resuming the day on 133, the talented batsman played the sheet anchor role in guiding Dhaka to a commanding 395. The under-19 batsman hit 30 fours in his marathon 378-ball essay while wicketkeeper Sajjad scored a 202-ball 88.

Pacer Anwar Hossain Munir then picked up two wickets for 43 runs as Barisal ended the day on 128-3. Nasiruddin Faruque was batting on 31 with Nadif (17).

### SCORES IN BRIEF

CHITTAGONG: First innings 579 all

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Bangladesh cricketers cool off at the Sonargaon Hotel swimming pool in the city on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

## England sniff win after Cook ton



AFP, Nagpur

Alastair Cook ground out a century on debut and Kevin Pietersen smashed a blistering 87 to boost England's chances of forcing a win in the opening Test against India in Nagpur on Saturday.

Cook made a composed 104 not out and Ashes hero Pietersen hammered an aggressive half-century as England posted 297-3 at stumps on the fourth day for an overall lead of 367. Paul Collingwood was the other not-out batsman on 36.

Cook, a 21-year-old left-handed opener, became only the second England batsman to score a century on Test debut against India after Bryan Valentine, who made 136 at Bombay in 1933.

The day started positively for England as swing bowler Matthew Hoggard picked up India's final wicket for the addition of just one run to the host's overnight score of 322-9.

It was Hoggard's sixth wicket of the innings as he finished with impressive figures of 6-57, his sixth haul of five or more wickets in a test innings and the first against India.

Cook then put his team on course for a big total with a 95-run stand for the opening wicket with Andrew Strauss (46) before Pietersen dominated the Indian bowling with an amazing array of aggressive shots.

The pair dented India's bowling pride with a 124-run stand for the third wicket to ensure the hosts would have to bat through most, if not all, of Sunday to save the match.

Cook only flew in from the West Indies to join the squad as a late replacement after several England injuries.

His century on debut, the first for England since his opening partner Strauss against New Zealand at Lord's in 2004, followed an assured knock of 60 in the first innings.

It enabled Pietersen to put the

Indian attack to the sword as he smashed one six and 14 fours in a blazing half-century, the fourth of his career.

Pietersen hit Anil Kumble for two fours early in his innings before Indian third-umpire Ivaturi Sivaram

turned down a strong call for a caught and bowled from the Indian spinner in his next over, when England's big-hitter was on 36.

Kumble again came close to

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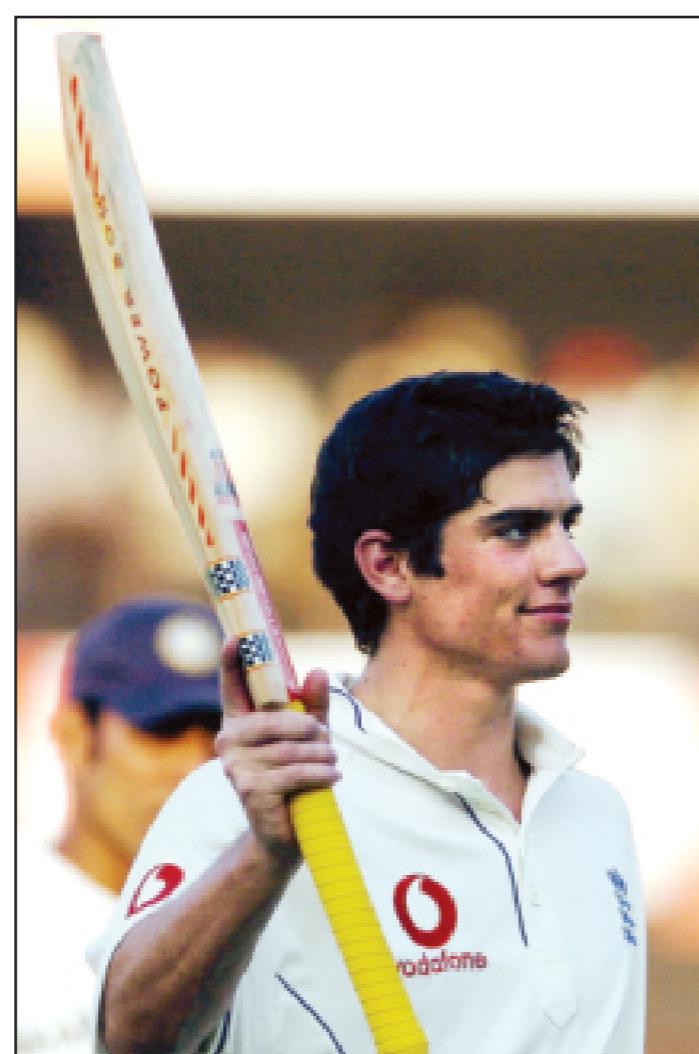


PHOTO: AFP

England opener Alastair Cook raises his bat to the Nagpur crowd after his 104 at the close of fourth day's play of the first Test on Saturday.

## Zia shares 2nd position

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman shared the second position along with International Master Reefat Bin Sattar and Abdullah Al-Rakib in the ONCC Cup International Grand Master Chess Tournament after the ninth round in Hyderabad yesterday.

Zia beat Himanshu while Rakib beat IMP Konguve and Reefat drew with GM Parvin Thipsay to raise their collection to seven points.

GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly, IM Deepan Chakrabarty and GM Pavel Kotur secured 7.5 points each to share the lead in the meet.

Another Bangladeshi Grand Master Niaz Mursheed and International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib bagged 6.5 points each.

## Zim ride on Rinke

AFP, Harare

A battling 72 from opener Piet Rinke helped Zimbabwe to beat Kenya by 109 runs on Friday and level their five-match one-day series at 2-2.

Zimbabwe, currently suspended from all Test cricket and having to struggle on with one-dayers, made 231 for 9 in a game reduced to 44-overs-a-side by heavy overnight rain.

The home side's total proved more than enough as Kenya were bowled out for 122, with Ryan Higgins grabbing 4 for 21.

The fifth and final match takes place here on Saturday.

"We knew what we were capable of," said the skipper.

"This is basically the team that went 20 games unbeaten to get us to the number two ranking in the

## Ntini sends Aussie crashing



AFP, Cape Town

Makhaya Ntini took the best figures by a South African in one-day international cricket as South Africa crushed Australia by 196 runs in the second one-day international at Newlands Friday.

The win put South Africa 2-0 up in a five-match series.

Ntini took four wickets in a devastating opening spell and finished with six for 22 as Australia were bowled out for 93, their fourth-lowest all-time total.

"It's like a dream come true," said Ntini of his rapid return to top form, a week after his first match in two months following a knee injury.

Herschelle Gibbs and Justin Kemp hit aggressive but contrasting half-centuries as South Africa posted an imposing total of 289 for seven on a slow pitch.

Gibbs made an elegant 66 and Kemp bludgeoned an unbeaten 51.

Any hopes Australia had of making a contest of it were blasted away by Ntini, who took two wickets in his first over and had figures of four for four after five overs.

His final figures were better than the six for 23 by Allan Donald against Kenya in Nairobi in 1996/97.

Captain Graeme Smith said the margin of victory was unexpected but said his team knew all along they had the ability to beat Australia, despite a poor recent tour of the country.

"We knew what we were capable of," said the skipper.

"This is basically the team that went 20 games unbeaten to get us to the number two ranking in the

world. We have tried one or two different combinations and tonight's performance was superb."

It was the biggest victory by a margin of runs in one-day matches between the two countries.

South Africa beat Australia by 109 runs in Bloemfontein in 1996/97.

Gilchrist admitted it would be tough for Australia to come back and win the remaining three matches of the series, starting with the third encounter in Port Elizabeth Sunday.

"It's going to be very difficult on only one day between games but there is a great belief in this side."

Australia were again without injured captain Ricky Ponting (abdominal strain) and all-rounder Andrew Symonds (hip-flexor muscle) and have less than 36 hours to get the two key men fit ahead of what could be the deciding match of the series.

Ntini struck with his first ball when Gilchrist was caught behind by Mark Boucher off an inside edge for one.

Four balls later Phil Jaques, who arrived in South Africa Wednesday as cover for Ponting, was caught at second slip for nought.

In his only previous one-day international the Australian left-hander made 94 against South Africa in Melbourne in January.

Damien Martyn was caught at fine leg and Michael Clarke caught behind as Australia crashed to a scarcely credible seven for four off four

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## Debutant grabs the glory



BBC ONLINE, London

Alastair Cook was in jubilant mood after becoming just the 16th England Test batsman to hit a century on debut.

The Essex opener's patient knock took almost six hours and he said: "It is unbelievable. I know it is a cliché but it really is a dream come true."

Cook took a backseat while Kevin Pietersen (87) cut loose but said he enjoyed batting with the Hampshire man.

"Give him one then sit back and enjoy the fireworks. He took the pressure off me and I could just bat," he said.

"He can do things that I would never be able to do so I've just got to play my own game and watch from the other end."

But Cook, who faced 243 balls, admitted he had changed his approach slightly as the end of the day, and a likely declaration, approached.

"There was a little bit of a change of attitude," he said.

"A case of 'right, here I go, I've got 10 overs