



The worst finish that a European Champions Cup winner ever achieved in their domestic league was 12th by Aston Villa in 1981-82.



**Marcello Lippi**  
(Italy football coach)  
"Germany will be a leading figure. England, France, the Netherlands, Italy -- these teams are going to the World Cup with a hope of winning. But they all know that the main candidate is Brazil."



**DD National**  
India vs England  
3rd Test, Day Two  
Live at 10:30 am

**TEN Sports**  
Sri Lanka vs Pakistan  
2nd ODI  
Live at 10:00 am

**ESPN**  
New Zealand vs West Indies  
2nd Test, Day Three  
Live at 3:30 am (Sunday)

**English Premier Football League**  
Fulham vs Chelsea  
Live at 9:55 pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Newcastle United vs Liverpool  
Live at 7:25 pm



**7th National Cricket League  
Four-Day Matches (Day Three)**  
Dhaka vs Khulna  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
Chittagong vs Rajshahi  
Venue: BKSP-2  
Sylhet vs Barisal  
Venue: Barisal Divisional Stadium

## Attapattu out of series

AFP, Colombo

Injury-hit Sri Lanka Saturday suffered a major setback when captain, Marvan Attapattu was ruled out of the ongoing one-dayers as well as the upcoming Tests against Pakistan.

"Marvan aggravated the injury while fielding in the first match on Friday and the medical staff have advised us to rest him for the one-dayers as well as the Tests," chief selector Lalith Kaluperuma told AFP.

Attapattu's back injury added to the home side's woes as star batsman Sanath Jayasuriya (thigh), ace seamer Chaminda Vaas (side strain) and paceman Ruchira Perera (hamstring) are already nursing injuries.

Attapattu, who sustained the injury during the tour of Australia in January, aggravated it on Friday. Recurring back problems have frequently kept him on the injured list of late.

The selectors will not name a replacement for Attapattu and his deputy Mahela Jayawardene will lead the side.

The remaining one-dayers will be played here on Sunday and Wednesday with provisions for reserve days after the opening match was abandoned due to rain. They will be followed by two Tests with Colombo and Kandy as the venues.

## Advantage Chittagong



SPORTS REPORTER

Ehsanul Haque and Elias Sunny shared six wickets as Chittagong tightened their grip on fellow title-contenders Rajshahi at the end of the second day of the crucial ninth round Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League at the BKSP yesterday.

Chittagong, who scored a fighting first innings total of 341, picked up seven Rajshahi wickets for 169 to virtually ensure the decisive first-innings lead in the penultimate round, which both teams have started on equal 32 points.

Away at the Barisal Divisional Stadium, young right-hand batsman Marshal Ayub smashed his maiden first-class hundred to ensure Barisal's 160-run first innings lead against Sylhet.

Discarded national paceman Mohammad Sharif capped a fine all-round show to throttle Dhaka to a commanding position against Khulna at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. The right-arm seamer grabbed four wickets after hitting an unbeaten 75 in Dhaka's massive first innings total of 464.

**CHITTAGONG-RAJSHAHI**

Farhad Reza and Nayeem Islam struck half-centuries but their effort was not enough for Rajshahi to avoid a stunning collapse.

Rajshahi finished the day on 169-7, still 172 runs behind of Chittagong's impressive 341.

Farhad and Nayeem put on 92 runs for the third wicket after Rajshahi were reduced to 28-2. But once Elias Sunny removed Farhad, who made a 103-ball 57, Rajshahi again lost their way.

Sunny, who smashed 51 after Chittagong had resumed the day on 257-6, captured three wickets for 44 runs while Ehsanul's military medium fetched him three wickets for 14 runs.

Nayeem stood among the ruins with an unbeaten 58.

**DHAKA-KHULNA**

Sharif took four wickets for 27 runs to sent Khulna crashing for 157-6 despite half-centuries by Tushar Imran and Sahagir Hossain.

Tushar, who will lead the Bangladesh A team against the touring Sri Lanka A later this month, was batting on 50 while wicketkeeper-batsman Sahagir scored exactly fifty but still Khulna faced a daunting task emulating Dhaka's massive first innings total.

Sharif caused the early Khulna damage while left-arm spinner

Mosharraf Hossain bagged two wickets for 37.

Earlier, Sharif scored 75 of 113 balls as Dhaka, resuming the day on 316-6, added another 128 runs. Khulna pacer Ziaur Rahman captured Dhaka's all four wickets on the day to finish with 5-82.

**BARISAL-SYLHET**

Marshal Ayub produced a blistering 107 off 97 balls as Barisal took the first innings lead against Sylhet.

The 19-year-old right-hander clobbered 14 fours and two sixes after coming in to bat at number seven. His fireworks saw Barisal posting a commanding 354 after resuming the day on 94-1 in reply to Sylhet's paltry 194.

Number ten Arafat Salahuddin also struck an unbeaten 66 that contained seven fours and a six. Salahuddin and Ayub shared 106 runs for the ninth wicket.

Sylhet however fared better in their second essay. They were 73 for loss at stumps with Imtiaz Hossain (45) and Golam Rahman (27) at the crease.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**CHITTAGONG:** First innings- 341 all out in 112.2 overs (overnight)

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## Golden girls keep hosts afloat

AFP, Melbourne



Australia's superstar women swimmers pushed the hosts further ahead in the Commonwealth Games gold chase on Saturday as a fascinating battle for individual glory unfolded.

Libby Lenton won her second

gold in the pool as she continued her pursuit of six titles here while compatriot Leisel Jones captured her second victory in what could be a unique breaststroke treble.

Not to be outdone, Indian shooter Samaresh Jung picked up his second gold of a campaign which he hopes will yield a total of seven.

World record holder Lenton overcame her nemesis Jodie Henry to win the blue riband 100-metres freestyle gold while Jones swept to her second breaststroke gold in the 200m event in close to her world record time.

Sophie Edington claimed the 100m backstroke gold and the team of Lenton, Bronte Barratt, Kelly Stubbins and Linda MacKenzie swum a Games record to win the 4x200m freestyle relay.

Australia's golden girls have now won seven golds at the meet with their only loss coming in the 200m freestyle when Scotland's Caitlin McClatchey upset Lenton.

But if Australia's women were dominant, the same could not be said for their male counterparts who once again had to play third fiddle to England and Scotland.

Gregor Tait won Scotland's third gold medal in the 200m backstroke, South African world record holder Roland Schoeman took the 50m butterfly, Christopher Cook headed an English one-two finish in the 100m breaststroke and England won the men's 4x200m freestyle relay ahead of Scotland and

Australia. Lenton held off Olympic and world champion Jodie Henry to win 100m freestyle in the classic race of the meet.

Lenton posted a Games record time of 53.54 seconds to lead an Australian clean sweep of the medals ahead of Henry and Alice Mills.

Her winning time was just 0.12secs outside her world record of 53.42.

"It was my first individual medal

in the event so I'm just so excited," Lenton said.

Leisel Jones went within 0.18 seconds of breaking her world record in posting an emphatic victory in the 200m breaststroke final.

Jones, the pre-eminent women's breaststroker in world swimming, claimed her second

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PHOTO: AFP

**POOL QUEEN:** Libby Lenton of Australia celebrates after winning the women's 100m freestyle gold at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre during the Commonwealth Games on Saturday.

## Clark leads Aus to victory



AFP, Cape Town

Debutant bowler Stuart Clark enabled Australia to complete a seven-wicket win on the third day of the first Test against South Africa at Newlands on Saturday.

Clark took four for 34 as South Africa were bowled out for 197 in their second innings. Australian opening batsmen Justin Langer and Matthew Hayden put on 71 but fast bowler Makhaya Ntini took three wickets in five balls before Australia reached the victory target of 95.

Australia's win in the first Test of a three-match series follows a 2-0 series win in Australia earlier in the season.

Australia won five out of six Tests between the two countries in the 2001/02 season, with South Africa winning a 'dead rubber' game in Durban at the end of the home series.

Bowling accurately at fast-medium pace, Clark finished with match figures of nine for 89. He took five for 55 in the first innings.

Clark struck two key blows

Saturday morning by dismissing overnight batsmen Jacques Kallis and Ashwell Prince after South Africa resumed at a shaky 70 for three.

He came back in mid-afternoon to take two more wickets and stand on the brink of becoming only the third Australian, after Clarrie Grimmett in 1924/25 and Bob Massie in 1972, to take ten wickets in a match on his debut.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne took the final wicket, however, when last man Ntini holed out to long-off.

For South Africa, it was a disappointing batting display, albeit on a pitch which helped seam bowlers throughout.

Jacques Rudolph made South Africa's top score of the match when he made 41 before he was bowled by Warne. The left-hander padded up to a sharply-turning delivery far outside his off stump but the ball deflected off his withdrawn bat into the stumps. Rudolph and Andrew Hall put on 50 for the seventh wicket, the only half-century stand of the match by South Africa. Hall was unbeaten on 34 when the innings ended.

By contrast, Australia had a

partnership of 154 - exactly half their total of 308 - for the second wicket between Matthew Hayden and Ricky Ponting which provided the foundation for what proved a crucial first innings lead of 103.

South Africa's hopes rested largely on Kallis at the start of play. He clipped Brett Lee's third ball of the day confidently to square leg for four.

Clark struck with the third ball of the day's second over when Kallis, on 36, attempted a forcing shot off the back foot and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist leapt high and to his right to take an excellent catch.

Clark bowled impeccably, conceding just one run off his first five overs. In his sixth over, bowling around the wicket, the left-handed Prince edged a sharp chance which went for four through the fingertips of Shane Warne at first slip.

Prince did not take advantage of the let-off, however, and was out for 27 off the next ball when he glanced a catch down the legside to Gilchrist.

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PHOTO: AFP

England opener Andrew Strauss raises his bat and helmet to the crowd after scoring a century on the first day of the third Test against India at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday.

## AFC Cup Mahindra arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

India's new leviathans Mahindra United will arrive in the capital today to play their AFC Cup away match against Brothers Union.

The Group A match between Mumbai's leading club and the Dhaka giant will take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

Premier League and Federation Cup champions Brothers Union lost their first match in the competition against Al Muharraq 2-0 in Beirut last week.

## Toufiq, Mohendra finish 11th Silver medalists rewarded

BDNEWS, undated

Bangladeshi pair Toufiqur Rahman and Mohendra Kumar Singha finished 11th in the men's 10m Air Pistol of the 18th Commonwealth Games in Melbourne on Saturday. Toufiq and Mohendra scored a total of 1105 points, 29 points behind bronze medalists Australian David Moore and Daniel Repacholi pair and 49 points behind of gold medalists Indian Vivek Singh and Samaresh Jung pair, who broke the previous record of 1145 points done back in Manchester 2002.

Alhaj Salahuddin Ahmed MP, team leader of Bangladesh contingent, awarded 400 US dollars to Asif Hossain Khan and Anjan Kumar Singha for winning the men's 10m Air Rifles Pair silver on Friday.

Army Chief and Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) president Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed announced that any Bangladeshi participant winning a gold medal in the meet would be awarded with Tk 5 lakh by the BOA.

## Dravid captain till World Cup

AFP, Mumbai

Rahul Dravid will remain as India's captain until next year's World Cup in the West Indies, national selectors announced here on Saturday.

Dravid, 33, has led his team to one-day series victories against Sri Lanka at home and in Pakistan since taking over from Sourav Ganguly last year. His side also drew 2-2 against South Africa at home last year.

The middle-order batsman became the sixth Indian to figure in 100 Tests during the third and final match against England which began here on Saturday. Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Dilip Vengsarkar and Anil Kumble are others to have played 100 or more Tests.

Dravid also led his team in two three-Test series, beating Sri Lanka 2-0 at home last year before losing 1-0 in Pakistan in January.

His side is currently leading 1-0 against England after winning the second Test by nine wickets at Mohali. The opening match ended in a draw.

Dravid has made 8,492 runs in 99 Tests, the third-highest Indian scorer after Tendulkar (10,434) and Gavaskar (10,122).

## Strauss puts Eng on top



AFP, Mumbai

Andrew Strauss returned to form with an elegant century as England made the most of India's surprise decision of electing to field first in the third and final Test here on Saturday.

The left-handed opener, without a half-century in his last four innings of the series, scored 128 for his eighth Test hundred as depleted England posted an impressive 272-3 at stumps after being put in to bat.

Stand-in captain Andrew Flintoff was unbeaten on 17 with all-rounder Paul Collingwood (11).

India captain Rahul Dravid, playing his 100th Test, won the first toss of the series and elected to field, only to see his bowlers struggle for success on a good batting track.

The hosts could grab just one wicket in the first two sessions and two in the last, with seamer

Shanthakumaran Sreesanth finishing the day with 2-51 and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh with 1-68.

Strauss, 29, received valuable support from Owais Shah who scored an exact 50 on debut after being named in the team as a late replacement for in-form opener Alastair Cook, who was ruled out of the game due to a stomach ailment.

Shah added 106 for the second wicket with Strauss before retiring hurt with cramps in his hands, but he will be able to bat on Sunday.

England, already missing four members of their Ashes-winning squad, suffered yet another setback when they lost Cook, just a day after strike bowler Steve Harmison had pulled out due to a shin injury.

But England showed character in a crisis, with Strauss showing the way in hot and humid conditions with a commendable knock in a match his team need to win to square the series.

The hosts gained a 1-0 lead with a nine-wicket win in the second

## Cricket fever grips Khulna

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Cricket fans in Khulna are bubbling with excitement of watching the first-ever one-day international at the Divisional Stadium here on Monday.

With host Bangladesh and Kenya already in the south-west district of the country to play the second game of the four-match series, fans were seen in frantic chase for tickets.

But much to their disappointment tickets for the 15,000-capacity Bishreshtha Shaheed Flight Lt. Motiur Stadium have already been sold out.

Evidently, there is more excitement here in Khulna than there was in Bogra after the home side's record 131-run win against Kenya in the opening match.

Two people were injured as police charged batons on agitated fans who put up barricades in front of the stadium for tickets. They alleged that the KDSA officials were involved in selling tickets illegally at higher price to black market.

One of the five purpose-built cricket grounds established in the run-up to the 2004 Under-19 World Cup, the stadium was granted international status, though only for One-day internationals, along with Chittagong Divisional Stadium and Shaheed Chandu Stadium at Bogra on January 2006, ahead of Sri Lanka's tour.

The Khulna Stadium becomes the fifth international cricket venue of the country.

Test at Mohali after the drawn opening match at Nagpur.

David's hopes of getting a couple of early wickets were shattered by makeshift opener Ian Bell (18) and Strauss, who put on 52 runs.

India could dismiss only Bell in the morning session but not before he had given his team a sound start. He batted patiently before falling to a loose drive, caught by Harbhajan at point off Sreesanth.

The hosts went into the match with three seamers for the first time in the series, but Irfan Pathan, Sreesanth and Munaf Patel were unable to put pressure on England even on a pitch that initially offered bounce.

Strauss and Shah showed there was little in the track for seamers and spinners as they continued to gather runs comfortably.

There was more frustration for the Indian captain who dropped Strauss on 92 at lone slip off

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## NZ gain upper hand



AFP, Wellington

A 165-run second wicket partnership between captain Stephen Fleming and rookie Peter Fulton put New Zealand firmly in control of the second cricket Test against the West Indies here Saturday.

New Zealand were 335 for seven at stumps, a lead of 133 after the 'West Indies' first innings ended early on the second day for 192.

Fleming and Fulton turned the game around when they arrived at the crease in quick succession with New Zealand rocking at an embarrassing two wickets for three runs.

But when Fleming departed for 97, New Zealand had reached 168, and by the time Fulton was dismissed for 75 on the first ball after tea, they were already 15 runs ahead.

Nathan Astle continued the

charge and was unbeaten on 65 at the close, his 23rd Test half-century.

The West Indies would have been hoping for a low New Zealand total when Hamish Marshall went on the last ball of Ian Bradshaw's first over and Jamie How was bowled by the first ball of Fidel Edwards' next over.

They also had a good spell when Daren Powell took Fulton, Scott Styris and Brendon McCullum in quick succession soon after tea to finish with figures of three for 69, while Fidel Edwards chimed in with three for 64.

But outside of those two brief bursts the West Indies had little to cheer about.

Fulton raised his maiden half-century, in only his second Test, with a booming six over long on.

He showed some great touches off his legs to reach 75 with 10 boundaries and three sixes.

The New Zealand selectors needed Fulton's innings because

the gamble on playing three rookies in the top order has generally failed, with Marshall struggling as an opener and mixed results from How's first three Test innings.

While cracks remain in the top order, Fleming has been a steady-presence and was in great touch on Saturday as he blazed his way to his 41st Test half-century off 50 balls.

He was cruising towards 100 before wafting at Edwards for Dwayne Bravo to take the catch at third man. His 97 from 132 balls included 15 boundaries and one six.

The New Zealand cause was also assisted by some wayward fielding.

Fleming was given two lives, the first on 47 when a skied shot to fine leg dropped to the ground between three fielders, and then on 81 when Runako Morton split a diving catch at second slip.

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PHOTO: AFP

Peter Fulton of New Zealand drives off the back foot during his knock of 75 as Darren Ganga leaps out of the way on the second day of the second Test at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on Saturday.