



## Did U Know?

Maria Sharapova is the first Russian woman to claim Wimbledon singles title at the age of 17.

## What to WATCH

### BTB

**AFC Challenge Cup**  
Pakistan vs Tajikistan  
Live at 3:30 pm  
Brunei vs Nepal  
Live at 6:00 pm

### BTB World

**AFC Challenge Cup**  
Bhutan vs Sri Lanka  
Live at 3:30 pm  
Macau vs Kyrgyzstan  
Live at 6:00 pm

### TEN Sports

**Sri Lanka vs Pakistan**  
2nd Test, Day Two  
Live at 10:30 am

### ESPN

**South Africa vs Australia**  
3rd Test, Day Five  
Live at 2:30 pm

**UEFA Champions League**  
Ac Milan vs Olympique Lyonnais  
Live at 12:30 am (Wednesday)

### STAR Sports

**UEFA Champions League**  
Villarreal vs Inter Milan  
Live at 12:30 am (Wednesday)



## Rahul Dravid

(India cricket captain)

"Sachin (Tendulkar) is a huge factor. He has a big presence and it is something that we do miss. But having said that, it gives opportunity for some of the young players to cash in."



**AFC Challenge Cup**  
Bhutan vs Sri Lanka (3:30 pm)  
Brunei vs Nepal (6:00 pm)  
Venue: M A Aziz Stadium, Chittagong  
Pakistan vs Tajikistan (3:30 pm)  
Macau vs Kyrgyzstan (6:00 pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Tait not coming

AFP, Johannesburg

Australian fast bowler Shaun Tait will return home because of a back injury Wednesday and will miss the team's tour of Bangladesh.

It is the latest injury blow to the tourists, following injuries to opening batsman Justin Langer and swing bowler Michael Kasprovic during the third and final Test against South Africa.

Tait, who did not play in any of the Tests, suffered his injury while bowling in the nets. Although a scan showed no major damage, it was decided he should return to Australia for rest and recovery, rather than travel to Bangladesh, where a two-Test series starts in Dhaka on Sunday.

Meanwhile Langer again stayed at the team hotel at the start of the fourth day's play in the third Test at the Wanderers Stadium.

Langer, who suffered concussion when struck by a ball from Makhaya Ntini Saturday, was said by a team spokesman to be feeling "brighter" and hoped to get to the ground later in the day.

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## Palestine power into last 8



SPORTS REPORTER

Palestine romped into the quarter-finals of the AFC Challenge Cup from Group C when they thrashed Cambodia 4-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

Away in Chittagong, title-contenders India were held to a one-all draw by the Philippines while Chinese Taipei came from behind to split points with Afghanistan in a 2-2 draw in Group A at the MA Aziz Stadium.

After an 11-0 blitz over Guam in the opener, Al Sweirki struck twice while Ahmed Keshkesh and Fahed Attal added one each as tournament hot favourites Palestine put on another clinical display to raise their tally to six points after two games.

On the other hand, the result knocked Cambodia out from contention.

Keshkesh opened the account

when the tall striker flicked in a freekick by Francisco Atura in the 10th minute for his second goal in the tournament while diminutive midfielder Sweirki doubled the lead within 60 seconds after darting run from the midfield, putting the ball past an onrushing goalkeeper Mic Ouk.

Attal, fresh from his six-goal performance in the opener, then nodded the ball into an empty net on the half hour when Al Amour found him with an inch-perfect right-side cross.

On a very humid day, Palestine perhaps lost the appetite for more goals and looked more interested to relax on a three-goal cushion at the breather, allowing Cambodia to go on counter attacks. But their inexperienced forwards could not get the ball past an airtight defence -- much superior physically -- to threaten goalkeeper Iyad, who was not required to make a single save.

Kumpheak came close to reducing the gap in the 57th minute but

the forward blasted the ball over the lone keeper from 10 yards after hard work by Narath at the left.

Sweirki got his second goal in the 74th minute when he sliced through two defenders and placed the ball into the far corner after Fady Salem and Ziyad did the spadework at the right wing.

### INDIA-PHILIPPINES

Favourites India's hero in their 2-0 victory over Afghanistan in the opening match, Vimal Pariyar once again gave his side the lead in the eighth minute on a cross from captain N Pradeep but Philippines restored the parity through midfielder Mark Alvin Valeroso 10 minutes later. Valeroso's header found the back of the net on a Jeremias Jiao corner.

Both the teams were engaged in a midfield battle since the beginning with India, playing without injured Xavier Vijay Kumar, making a few good moves. In the 29th minute Pariyar's shot from the

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PHOTO: STAR

Palestine's star forward Fahed Attal (2nd from R) shrugs off his marker Sokunthea Hout (R) to play a pass during their AFC Challenge Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

## Qtrs fights heat up



SPORTS REPORTER

The battle for quarterfinals berths from Group D -- the only group of death in the inaugural AFC Challenge Cup -- intensifies today when Pakistan take on Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan play Macau in the second round matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Tajikistan, after the 4-0 showoff against lowly Macau, look clear favourites in the day's first match but Pakistan's 1-0 upset win over Kyrgyzstan has really changed the equation.

"The weather is no problem for us and the boys have not only accustomed to the conditions quickly but also tuned up well to reach the second stage. The result of the opening match proves that. We know that Pakistan would not be an easy opponent, but we are confident about ensuring the quarterfinal berth by

beating them," said Tajikistan coach Sharif Nazarov.

Pakistan's Bahraini coach Salman Sharida was elated after his team's first win in seven international matches and said that his side with a number of youngsters were ready to fight all out against the tournament favourites.

"We got the reward for fighting hard against Kyrgyzstan. We will fight the Tajiks with the same spirit too because if we lose, we would be under pressure to win in the last match against Macau," Sharidatold.

Meanwhile to stay in the race, Kyrgyzstan must beat Macau before the group finale against their central Asian neighbours Tajikistan, and coach Boris Podkorytov was worried.

"The heat is too much and we may have to field an understrength side because our key centre-back Samsaliev is injured and doubtful for the game," stated Podkorytov.

In Group B, Nepal coach Shyam Thapa is confident of his side's

victory in their second game against Brunei today at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong. Bhutan take on Sri Lanka in the day's other match at the same venue.

Former Mohun Bagan striker Thapa said his boys did not play up to their potential in the opener against Bhutan. "We have chalked out a plan and we can win if they can implement it on the field properly. Our combination was good in the first match but the strikers lacked finishing skills which is a cause for concern, but I hope they will improve on that in the second game," he said.

Sri Lanka coach Sampath Perera feels the margin of victory against Brunei, 1-0, could have been bigger but his forwards failed to materialise the chances. "We also concentrated on that aspect during the training and we will try to play good quality football tomorrow," he hoped.

## Cruciani far from being happy

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Diego Cruciani has yet to smile in the ongoing AFC Challenge Cup as his boys put on another frustrating show in front of the home crowd.

After a struggling 2-1 win over Cambodia, the hosts failed to score against Guam -- ranked 204th in the world -- in the entire first-half of their second match. With the crowd booing, they managed to bag full points and a quarterfinal berth with a late rally.

The Argentine coach, who fielded the same lineup as the first match, thought his boys were surprisingly nervous.

"I don't know why they were nervous. We deserved more goals but we lacked efficient scorers and the finishing problem remains a worry as before," said Cruciani after the game.

"There are a lot of technical problems that we have to discuss. However, today's performance was better than the previous match," he added.

"I will sit with the boys before the Palestine game which is crucial. We have to win to finish group champions."

Guam bowed out after two losses but felt happy for conceding just three goals.

"Another day, we could have conceded 11 goals to Bangladesh but we were lucky. They are a very strong team and kept us under pressure for 90 minutes," said Guam coach Norio Tsukitate.

## BD-SL first A ODI today

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh A will play their first one-day match against visiting Sri Lanka A at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra today.

Both the Tests in the two-match series between the two sides ended in draw.

Tushar Imran will lead the 13-member Bangladesh squad against Jehan Mubarak's tourists.

The second and the third matches will be played in Khulna on April 6 and 8.

**Squad:** Tushar Imran (captain), Nazmul Hossain, Nazimuddin, Saqib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad, Farhad Reza, Sahagir Hossain Pavel, Mohammad Sharif, Shafiq Al Jabir, Nadif Chowdhury, Nazmul Hossain and Eshanul Haque.

## BCB to set up academy

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will set up a cricket academy soon for the development of the game.

BCB general secretary Mahbubul Anam disclosed this at a press conference on Monday after the fifth executive committee meeting of the board at a local hotel.

Vice-president Aziz Al Kaiser Tito presided over the meeting in absence of president Ali Asghar.

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh forward Hasan Emily (C) holds off Guam players Dominic Gadia (L) and Jerome Unpingco (R) during the AFC Challenge Cup encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

## Yuvi, Irfan seal India win



AFP, Goa

Yuvraj Singh smashed a rapid century and Irfan Pathan grabbed four wickets as India beat England by 49 runs in the third one-day international here on Monday.

The 24-year-old Yuvraj struck three sixes and 10 fours in his 76-ball 103 -- his seventh hundred in one-dayers -- as India posted a challenging 294-6 before restricting England to 245 in hot and humid conditions.

England all-rounder Paul Collingwood gave a good account of himself, top-scoring with a brave 84-ball 93 which included one six and 10 fours.

He put on 105 for the seventh wicket with Geraint Jones (32), but the stand came too late to stop India from gaining a 3-0 lead in the seven-match series.

England were virtually out of the game when they lost six wickets for 100, but Collingwood and Jones defied the Indian attack with their responsible knocks under pressure.

The task, however, always looked beyond their reach as the asking-rate kept climbing, with England needing 116 off the last 10 overs with five wickets in hand. "We have been playing some good one-day cricket in recent times and we hope to keep the momentum going," said India captain Rahul Dravid.

"The last two matches were close but we ran away with this one, thanks to a big stand between Yuvraj and Suresh Raina."

England, missing key batsman Kevin Pietersen due to illness, initially struggled on a newly-laid track where stroke-making was difficult as the ball came slow onto the bat.

The tourists, who had lost close matches at Delhi and Faridabad, looked like suffering a big defeat after losing six wickets, including three in left-arm seamer Pathan's

opening spell.

Pathan removed Andrew Strauss (seven), Owais Shah (seven) and Ian Blackwell (nine), who was promoted in the batting order, with clever variations in pace.

"If we win the next two matches, we are right back in the series though it is a mountain to climb," said England captain Andrew Flintoff.

"I think the 290-plus was a pretty tough target on this wicket and in

these conditions. But we can still get back into the series."

India earlier wobbled in their middle overs before Yuvraj and teenager Raina (61) went on the rampage. The pair put on 142, India's best fifth-wicket stand against England in one-dayers.

The hosts, electing to bat, had slipped from a healthy 105-1 to

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PHOTO: AFP

Indian batsman Yuvraj Singh is elated at reaching his century during the third ODI against England at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa on Monday.

## Australia well placed



REUTERS, Johannesburg

Michael Hussey and Damien Martyn shared a century stand to put Australia on top in the third and last Test against South Africa on Monday.

Australia, who need 292 to win, were 163 for two in their second innings at tea on the fourth day.

Hussey was 72 not out with Martyn on 69 in a partnership of 130 for the unbroken third wicket.

Hussey was promoted to the top of the order from number five after regular opener Justin Langer was concussed by a bounce from fast bowler Makhaya Ntini in the first innings.

Australian media manager Philip Pope told reporters Langer's condition had improved, but that he had remained at the team hotel and would arrive at the ground later in the day.

South Africa were dismissed for 303 in their first innings to which Australia replied with 270.

The home side resumed their second innings on 250 for eight, and Australia needed just 15 balls to dismiss them for 258.

Mark Boucher survived a chance to the fifth ball of the day when he attempted to pull a delivery from fast bowler Brett Lee and was dropped by wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist.

Boucher played a similar stroke to the first ball of Lee's next over, and this time Gilchrist held the catch to end a ninth-wicket stand of 64 Boucher shared with Andre Nel.

Boucher hit nine fours in his 63.

The innings ended when Lee bowled Makhaya Ntini for a second-ball duck to finish with three for 57.

Australia lost their first wicket in their second innings without a run on the board when Matthew Hayden edged a drive off Ntini to AB de Villiers at third slip.

Hussey and Ricky Ponting put on 33 for the second wicket before Jacques Kallis found the inside edge of Ponting's bat and was caught by wicketkeeper Boucher for 20.

Steady batting by Hussey and Martyn then took the game away from South Africa, who were hampered by the fact that fast bowler Nel bowled just two overs before leaving the field with an upset stomach.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the third and final Test between South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers Stadium on Monday:

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 303  
**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 270

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings (overnight 250-8)  
De Villiers b Clark 4  
Gibbs c Martyn b Warner 53  
Dippenaar c Hayden b Clark 20  
Kallis lbw b Clark 27  
Prince c Symonds b Warner 9

Pollock c Gilchrist b Lee 44  
Rudolph c Gilchrist b Clark 0  
Boucher c Gilchrist b Lee 63  
Boje c Symonds b Warner 4  
Nel not out 18  
Ntini b Lee 0

Extras: (b-6, lb-4, nb-5, w-1) 16  
Total: (All out in 71.3 overs) 258  
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-55, 3-100, 4-120, 5-130, 6-140, 7-186, 8-194, 9-258.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Lee 18.3 3 57 3  
Clark 18 4 64 4  
Kasprovic 2 0 12 0  
Symonds 5 0 18 0  
Ponting 2 1 7 0  
Warne 26 5 90 3

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings  
Hayden c De Villiers b Ntini 0  
Hussey not out 72  
Ponting c Boucher b Kallis 20  
Martyn not out 69  
Extras: (b-1, lb-1) 2  
Total: (For 2 wickets in 57 overs) 163  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-33.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Ntini 12 3 31 1  
Nel 2 1 4 0  
Pollock 13 2 36 0  
Kallis 13 4 29 1  
Boje 16 5 49 0  
De Villiers 1 0 12 0

To bat: A Symonds, A Gilchrist, J Langer, S Warner, B Lee, M Kasprovic, S Clark  
Umpires: S Bucknor (WIS), A Hill (NZL)



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Asif is about to bowl on the first day of the second and final Test against Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya International Cricket Ground in Kandy on Monday.

## Asif restricts Lanka



AFP, Kandy

Pakistan seamer Mohammad Asif bagged his maiden five-wicket Test haul to help restrict Sri Lanka on the opening day of the second Test here on Monday.

The 23-year-old returned figures of 5-41 as the home side reached 267-8 at the close, with Nuwan Kulasekara (11) and Lasith Malinga (zero) the not out batsmen.

Asif, who bowled a nagging line in his morning spell of 12 overs, ripped through the top order with three vital wickets to reduce Sri Lanka to 61-3.

He had opener Upul Tharanga (ten) and captain Mahela Jayawardene (four) caught in the slips and bowled Sanath Jayasuriya (14) with a delivery that beat the left-hander and went between bat and pad.

Then with the second new ball he dismissed Thilan Samaraweera for 65 and Malinga Bandara for 43 to claim his maiden five-for in his fifth Test.

In between Asif's bursts, leg-spinner Danish Kaneria claimed three wickets.

The Sri Lankans also suffered two doubtful decisions.

Kumar Sangakkara (79) was adjudged caught bat-pad when replays suggested the ball had not touched his bat and Farveez Maharoof (seven) also fell to a similar decision off Kaneria.

Sangakkara, the hero for Sri Lanka in the drawn first Test with a brilliant 185, brought up his 20th Test half-century in only 59 balls. He hit 15 fours during his 98-ball knock.

Sri Lanka also benefited once, when a run out appeal against Bandara was turned down by the fifth umpire Asoka de Silva even though the batsman looked to be out of the crease.

The home side were in a precarious position before recovering in the second session through an 81-run partnership between Sangakkara and Samaraweera.

After Sangakkara's dismissal, Samaraweera carried on to hit nine fours off 180 balls before falling to Asif.

Pakistan were without Shoaib Malik, who was the hero of the drawn first Test in Colombo last week with a match-saving century. He was ruled out of the match due to high fever.

But Mohammad Yousuf, who missed the first match due to injury, returned to the side. Pakistan left out all-rounder Shahid Afridi while

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