



PHOTOS: AFP

THE PRINCE IS BACK: India's Sourav Ganguly (L) celebrates his half-century on return to one-day international cricket in the first match against West Indies while his rival batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul wipes his brow following their defeat at the Vidarbha Cricket Association stadium in Nagpur on Sunday.



Did U Know?

Aamir Sohail and Wasim Akram are the only left-handed batsmen to score double hundreds in Test from Pakistan.



Rafael Nadal
(Spanish tennis superstar)
"He's a very good player. He can be one of the best players in the world." On Britain's Andy Murray.



South Africa v Pakistan
Second Test, Day Four
Live at 2:30 pm
Sportscenter India
Live at 9:30 pm
STAR Sports
Australian Open
Men's/Women's 4th Round
Live at 6:00 am



Premier Division Cricket League
Old DOHS v Abahani
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
City Club v Kalabagan KC
Venue: BKSP
Brothers Union v Indra Road KC
Venue: Dhamondi Cricket Stadium

England one of Sourav's picks

BBC ONLINE, undated

Sourav Ganguly, who led India to the 2003 World Cup final, believes England are one of five teams with a chance of winning the World Cup this time around.

Ganguly, recalled to India's one-day squad after 16 months on the sidelines, told BBC Sport there was enough talent in the England side to go all the way.

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WC tickets sale slow

BBC ONLINE, undated

World Cup organisers have admitted that ticket sales are not going as well as they would hope for, with just 50 days to go until the opening fixture in Jamaica.

And the hassle of obtaining the special visa has even led to cancellations.

Josef Forstmayr, managing director of Round Hill Hotel and Villas in Montego Bay, Jamaica, gave the Miami Herald his version of the situation.

"This is the worst public relations nightmare the Caribbean has ever created for itself," he said.

Earlier in January, European tour operators, fans and Jamaican tourism workers criticised Caribbean leaders over the visa situation.

The Caricom visa is designed to allow easy travel from one host country to the next, plus Dominica, during the tournament.

Applicants must either walk in or post their passports to the nearest visa-issuing office along with 100 dollars -- and wait.

Both the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA) and the

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Abahani challenge for champs

SPORTS REPORTER



KAI ALTECH

Champions Old DOHS will face tough challenge to get back to winning tracks

when they take on title contenders and leaders Abahani in one of three fifth round games of the Kai-Altech Premier Cricket League today at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium.

The remaining fifth round games -- Birman v Partex (BKSP), Mohammedan v Pegasus (Fatullah) and Sonargaon v Victoria (Mirpur) -- are slated for tomorrow.

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts
Sonargaon	4	4	0	8
Abahani	4	4	0	8
Old DOHS	4	3	1	6
Mohammedan	4	3	1	6
Victoria	4	2	2	4
Birman	4	2	2	4
Young Pegasus	4	2	2	4
Kalabagan	4	2	2	4
City Club	4	1	3	2
Partex	4	1	3	2
Brothers	4	0	4	0
Indra Road	4	0	4	0

stumps were broken, but was given not out by the third umpire.

Clarke had another life on 42, Franklin the frustrated bowler this time as wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum could not hang onto an inside edge standing up to the stumps.

Those crucial errors enabled Australia to recover from 77 for four, with Clarke and Hussey putting on 90 for the fifth wicket to put

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their side within reach of victory.

Once again, the unflappable Hussey did the job for Australia in the final overs as the Black Caps paid the price for dropping a specialist bowler to strengthen their batting.

The victory, which means Australia has won 18 of its last 20 limited-overs matches against New

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Australia keep winning

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

New Zealand blew a golden opportunity to upset Australia when the home side won their triangular series one-day international by two wickets at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Michael Clarke's 75, batting at number three, and Mike Hussey's cool head (65 not out) at the finish, enabled Australia to scramble to victory with eight balls to spare and remain unbeaten in the series, making 8-224 from 48.4 overs in reply to New Zealand's 218.

With one run needed to win and two wickets left, Hussey coolly lifted Nathan Astle over square leg for six to seal the victory in the penultimate over.

After the win, Australian captain Ricky Ponting praised Hussey for his ability to remain cool in a crisis.

"He has really just managed to win a lot of games off his own bat whether it be in Test matches or controlling one-day games," Ponting said. "He is a very good finisher."

Ponting admitted the Australians had been below their best in the past two games, but said there was no need for wholesale changes.

Early in the game, New Zealand had a great chance to finally break the shackles of recent Australian domination when they had the home side 3-17. But three terrible fielding blunders cost them dearly.

Opening bowler James Franklin committed the first fielding sin, dropping an absolute sitter at fine leg from the bowling of Mark Gillespie when Clarke was on just 17.

The normally reliable Daniel Vettori was the next offender, losing control of the ball when he tried to break the stumps to run out Hussey as the Kiwis made a hash of what should have been a certain wicket.

Hussey, who was 18, was well short of his ground when the

stumps were broken, but was given not out by the third umpire.

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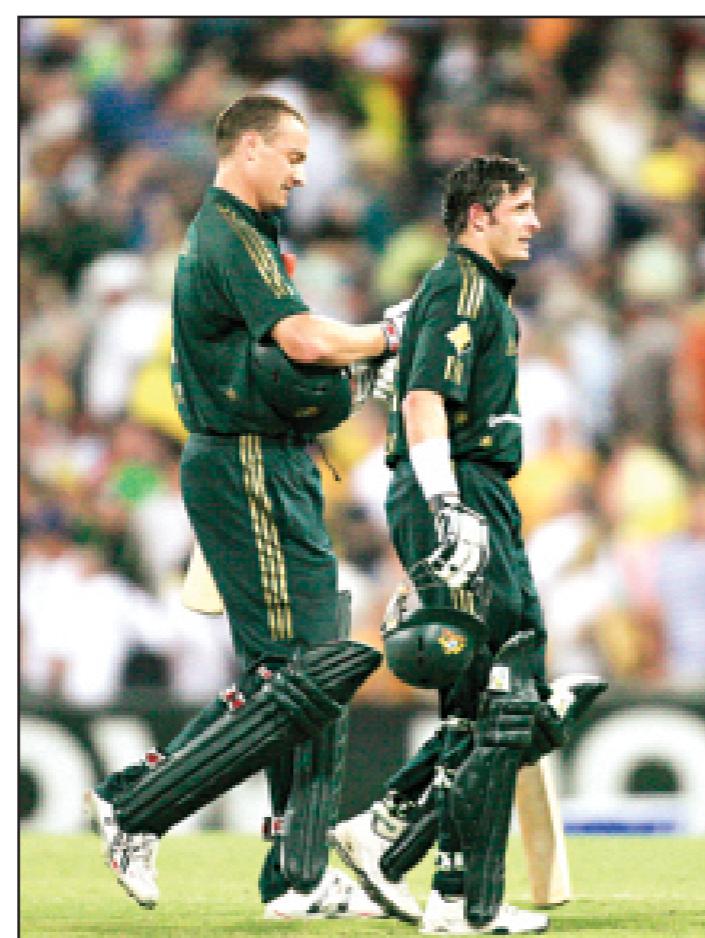


PHOTO: AFP

Australia's Michael Hussey (R) and Stuart Clark walk off the ground after Australia beat New Zealand in their one day international at the Sydney Cricket ground on Sunday.

Kabaddi team fly today for WC

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national kabaddi captain Badshah Mia has been brought back from retirement to represent Bangladesh in the second Kabaddi World Cup to be held in India from January 24.

Although the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) had finalised the squad as early as the first week of January, veteran Badshah was a last-moment inclusion in the squad which leave Dhaka today.

Kabaddi legend Badshah announced his retirement in December after the Asian Games but he will replace injured Yunus Mia in the 14-member squad including ten players. Badshah, however, will depart by road due to this late development which leave Dhaka today.

The former Indian captain, playing his first one-day in 16 months, hammered three sixes and 11 fours in his 110-ball knock to help the hosts surpass their previous best total of 325-5 against the West Indies.

Coach Abdul Jalil targets at least a semifinal berth for the under prepared side, which had to train on taekwondo mat.

Although the federation received the fund to buy synthetic mat for its court at the Outer

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Kolkata erupts

PTI, Kolkata

An air of jubilation pervaded the city as Sourav Ganguly made a perfect comeback to the one-day international team and giving a fresh spurt to the clamour among his fans for reinstating him as Indian cricket captain.

Since Ganguly crossed the half-century mark, fans were either seen shouting 'three cheers for Sourav' or sending sms' to friends or at least having an animated discussion on the former India cricket captain's glorious innings.

As Ganguly got out at 98, the enjoyment was not totally unalloyed however, it gave a fresh spurt to the clamour for reinstating him as the Indian cricket team's captain.

"India will win the World Cup only if Sourav is the captain; it is as simple as that," said Monotosh Roy, an 82-year-old avid cricket fan, who appeared as confident as Ganguly was in the crease at Nagpur this morning.

But a large section of the city's fans had to be content with seeing live scores on news channels and not the action at Nagpur owing to failure by a number of cable operators to beam 'Neo Sports', which is telecasting the match.

Angry cricket fans could be seen in front of cable tv offices in different parts of the city.

"Our cable operator's office is closed and his mobile is switched off. He is going to lose business due to this. We have several options to choose from," said S B Chatterjee, one such person waiting anxiously to see some of the live action.

Asif followed up with the prize

Ganguly guides India

Cricket

AFP, Nagpur

West Indies matched India in the early stages when they raced to 80 in 12 overs, thanks to Chris Gayle who punished the pacemen with a wide range of shots to hit 10 fours in his 46-ball 52.

The run-rate declined after the dismissal of Gayle, caught in the slips by India skipper Rahul Dravid off spinner Harbhajan Singh. The spinner struck again when he bowled Runako Morton to reduce the West Indies to 102-2.

India were indebted to Sourav Ganguly for posting their highest total in the West Indies' hopes, but the asking-asked kept climbing as they needed an exact 100 to win in the closing 10 overs with seven wickets in hand.

The former Indian captain, playing his first one-day in 16 months, hammered three sixes and 11 fours in his 110-ball knock to help the hosts surpass their previous best total of 325-5 against the West Indies.

The 32-year-old Chanderpaul threatened to ruin Ganguly's day

with a gem of an innings, which came off 136 balls with the help of three sixes and 16 fours. He was named man of the match.

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put their team on course for a big total with a 144-run stand for the opening wicket.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Dhoni (62 not out) and Dravid (54 not out) built on the openers' efforts, exploring with a flurry of boundaries to add 119 vital runs for the unfinished fourth wicket in the closing 11.5 overs.

Lara's decision to put India in to bat after winning the toss failed to produce instant results as his team had to wait for nearly 25 overs for the first success.

Off-spinner Gayle provided the breakthrough when he had Ganguly caught by Marlon Samuels. Ganguly, playing his first one-day after nine months, hit 10 fours in his second half-century.

But there was no stopping Ganguly, who batted with authority against both seamers and spinners. His aggressive knock helped India maintain an impressive run-rate from the beginning.

Ganguly put on 70 for the second wicket with Sachin Tendulkar, a specialist opener batting at the

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South African batsman Jacques Kallis (R) executes an on-drive as Pakistani wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal watches on the third day of the second Test at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth on Sunday.

Pakistan need 183 more

Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth