



## Did U Know?

Makhaya Ntini of South Africa took 6 for 59 in the first innings of the second Test against Pakistan in Port Elizabeth on January 21. It took his aggregate to 301 wickets, and he became the twenty-first player, and third from South Africa to exceed 300 wickets.



## Brian Lara

(West Indies cricket captain)

"He's a player of high class and you expect performances like that from him."

After Sourav Ganguly scored a match-winning 98 in his come-back ODI on Sunday.



## ESPN

Commonwealth Bank Series  
New Zealand v England

Sixth ODI  
Live at 9:15 am  
Sportscenter India  
Live at 9:30 pm

## STAR Sports

Australian Open  
Men's/Women's Quarterfinals  
Live at 6:00 am



Premier Division Cricket League  
Mohammedan v Young Pegasus  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Biman v Partex  
Venue: BKSP  
Sonargaon Cricketers v Victoria  
Sporting  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

ENG MEET NZ TODAY

## Bopara's turn now

BBC ONLINE, undated

England may be tempted to make changes for their one-dayer against New Zealand on Tuesday, with Ravi Bopara and Monty Panesar set to come into contention.

Having beaten the Black Caps in Hobart, victory could go a long way to sealing England's place in the series final.

And Panesar could be recalled given the traditional impact of spinners at the Adelaide Oval, while Bopara may debut at the expense of out-of-form Ed Joyce.

New Zealand will be without pace bowler Shane Bond who has a back problem.

However, Jacob Oram is in contention after shaking off the hamstring problem that kept him out of Sunday's narrow defeat to Australia.

And seamer Kyle Mills, who has been sidelined by a knee problem, has also joined the squad in Australia and could play in what he describes as a "crucial" game.

"It's a pretty crucial game for us, if we can win we'll be back on level terms with England and then have four games to go," he said.

"There's still a fair bit of the series to go but this one is very important for us for the rest of it."

Meanwhile, wicketkeeper Paul Nixon says he is happy in his role as one of the team's elder statesman, saying: "Throughout time, we are all custodians of the game and

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# Abahani cross DOHS hurdle

SPORTS REPORTER



Stand-in skipper Tushar Imran led from the front as a depleted Abahani kept their winning record intact in the Kai-Altech Premier Cricket League when the title contenders overcame the Old DOHS hurdle with a 34-run victory at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The in-and-out Tigers batsman hit a well-composed 77 as Abahani, missing three key players for the third consecutive game, put up a challenging total of 262-8 on a placid track. Inspired by his second fifty in the league, the part-time off-spinner then sparked in a crucial stage to wrap up the DOHS innings for 228 in 46 overs.

While the Dhanmondi outfit, making a bid to bring the pride back after a few seasons in the wilderness, marched on with their fifth win in a row, new powerhouse DOHS suffered a big blow on way to a hat-trick title. It was their second consecutive defeat after a shocking four-wicket loss to Kalabagan at the same venue.

Man-of-the-match Tushar, in charge since skipper Khaled Mahmud's injury, made the difference in the vital game as he served

best when it was needed most.

The right-hander came to the wicket with his team struggling on 38-2 in the 12th over after his counterpart Akram Khan surprisingly invited them to bat first. He shouldered the responsibility immediately to set a platform for a defendable total.

Rather than going for big shots, the natural stroke-maker concentrated on singles to rotate the strike with partner Nazimuddin for the third wicket partnership. The 84-run stand, Abahani's best, was broken when Shamsur Rahman took a sharp catch at extra cover off left-arm spinner Mehrab Hossain to send back Nazimuddin, who contributed 61-ball 40 that featured two fours and as many sixes.

During his 101-ball knock, Tushar struck five fours and two sixes while Pakistani import Imran Abbas contributed a 54-ball 42 before Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza (26 off 15 balls) and Sohrawardi Shuvo (23 off 12 balls) provided the fireworks make up for a slow start.

In the second session, Tushar gave the vital breakthrough dismissing bright prospect Nadif Chowdhury (35off 42 balls), who along with Akram associated in a 63-run fifth wicket stand to revive the DOHS hopes. Nadif suddenly lost cool and flicked Tushar to

Zahurul Islam at long-leg for a simple catch as DOHS reached 183-5 in 34.5 overs.

Tushar's tight eight-over spell proved vital as he conceded just 24 runs and he might have picked another but for Mohammad Shahjada who dropped Akram in the next ball at cover.

The paceman, however, made amends in the very next over when he had the burly DOHS skipper stunningly caught at gully by Zahurul.

DOHS's last hope Khaled Mahmud (11), disappointed over his leg before decision, was trapped by left-arm spinner Sohrawardi Shuvo, the pick of Abahani attack with three for 19 from six overs.

"Nadif looked dangerous that's why his dismissal was the turning point in the match but before that, Seezan (Ehsanul Haque) also played a good innings. I must thank my bowlers who bowled brilliantly on a placid wicket and our fielding was also good," acknowledged Tushar.

Leading paceman Mashrafe, who reacted after several appeals were turned down in his first spell, stopped Ehsanul's surge when the right-hander was caught at mid-on by Abbas after a blazing 34-ball 57 laced with eleven boundaries.

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PHOTO: STAR

SUPREME SUBLIME: Tushar Imran, Abahani's dashing captain, strokes the ball on the on-side during his match-winning 77 against Old DOHS in their crucial Kai-Altech Premier League tie at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

# Pakistan level with SA



Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Younis Khan and Kamran Akmal took Pakistan to a series-levelling win on the fourth day of the second Test against South Africa at St. George's Park here Monday.

The pair shared an unbeaten stand of 99 as Pakistan won by five wickets with more than a day to spare.

Younis (67 not out) and Akmal (57 not out) rescued Pakistan from a precarious 92 for five.

Younis played a solid innings apart from a difficult caught and bowled chance low down to Shaun Pollock when he had five, while

Akmal batted aggressively as South Africa's hopes of a fourth successive Test win faded.

Akmal's first three boundaries, all off Pollock, flew off edges through the slip cordons. Two went between second slip and gully. When South African captain Graeme Smith moved the gully fielder to third slip Akmal edged the ball where gully had been.

But Akmal then played some stirring strokes as he hurried to his half-century off 61 balls with five more fours.

What had been a tense contest ended shortly before tea as Younis and Akmal took their team to victory with a flurry of strokes.

The victory was set up on the first day when South Africa were bowled

out for 124, their lowest score against Pakistan. Man-of-the-match Inzamamul Haq then made an unbeaten 92 to take Pakistan to a first innings lead of 141.

But South African hopes were raised when Pakistan, needing 191 to win, were three down with only 48 runs scored.

Younis and Mohammad Yousuf put on 39 before Pakistan had another wobble when Yousuf was caught at gully off Shaun Pollock for 18 and captain Inzamam was leg before for one when he missed a pull against Ntini.

Pakistan made a brisk start to the day with Andre Nel conceding 21 runs in three overs. But a switch of ends for Ntini, who took over

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PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan batsman Younis Khan appreciates his teammates' applause after reaching a fighting half-century during his match-winning knock against South Africa on the fourth day of the second Test against South Africa at St. Georges Park in Port Elizabeth on Monday.

# Ganguly alright



Cricket

PTI, Cuttack

Comeback hero Sourav Ganguly, who was unwell and could not take the field during the West Indies innings at Nagpur, has fully recovered and will play the second match of the series at the Barabati Stadium here on Wednesday.

Ganguly, who was suffering from cough on Sunday, is much better now.

"He is now ok. And he will play the second match of the series," Indian team's media manager Rajan Nair told PTI on phone.

Ganguly, who played a magnificent knock of 98 to lay the foundation for India's win on Sunday, opted to stay away from the field in the second half of the game due to a cough virus.

There was some doubt whether the left-hander would be able to play

here but the media manager put paid to such doubts.

"He had some medication and is now ok," Nair said.

After India's thrilling 14-run victory over the West Indies in Nagpur, Orissa Cricket Association is expecting a full house for the second game of the series here on Wednesday with booking counters registering brisk sale of tickets.

"More than 75 per cent tickets have already been exhausted. Tickets will be sold till tomorrow (Tuesday). But we feel that the stands may be full on Monday itself," OCA Joint Secretary Satya Mohanty told PTI on Monday.

The Barabati Stadium has a capacity of around 35,000. But keeping the security requirements in mind, the organisers have decided to keep the maximum footfall to 31,000.

Mohanty said the OCA has printed 22,950 priced tickets of the

denominations of 4,000 rupees, 1,500 rupees, 500 rupees and 400 rupees for the public. Besides, some tickets of 200 rupees valuation have been kept for its various affiliated units. The rest were being distributed as complimentary passes.

"All upper denomination tickets are exhausted. Only some tickets worth 500 rupees and 400 rupees are left," he said, as serpentine queues were seen outside the ticket counters.

Meanwhile, an infallible security network has been put in place for the second cricket one-dayer between India and West Indies here on Wednesday, with the Barabati Stadium and the team hotel being turned into virtual fortresses.

While the day-night match would be played here, the teams would be lodged at the Mayfair Lagoon hotel in Bhubaneswar, about 25 kilometres away.

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# BFF picks 25 for Indo-Bangla Games

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday named a 25-member preliminary squad for the Indo-Bangla Games to be held in Kolkata from February 23-March 1.

After a lot of uncertainty and lack of fund, the Bangladesh Olympic Association looked set to cancel the plan to take part in the Games

The booters have been requested to report to coach Hasanuzzaman Babloo at the BFF Bhaban tomorrow morning.

**SQUAD:** Nehal, Maksud, Sultan, Sujat, Russell, Saikat, Jony, Nurul, Robin, Mahfuzur, Raju, Alamgir, Manik, Jiku, Mobarak, Rony, Emon, Sabuj, Jahir, Sabbir, Jewel, Shahed, Biplab and Rashedul.

# JFA Cup qualifiers at eight venues

SPORTS REPORTER

The qualifying rounds of the third JFA Cup Under-15 football tournament will begin on February 7 across the country.

Eight venues have been chosen for the preliminary (knockout) stage and each will receive Tk 3,000 from the Bangladesh Football Federation for preparation. They are: Khulna, Mymensingh, Comilla, Sirajganj, Manikganj, Natore, Shariatpur and Meherpur.

# Nadal survives massive scare

AP, Melbourne

Second-seeded Rafael Nadal survived a relentless challenge from Britain's Andy Murray, rallying twice from a set down Monday to advance to the Australian Open quarterfinals.

Murray's withering serve, winners from the baseline and crisp volleys repeatedly had Nadal off-balance. But the super-fit Spaniard had more left at the end of the four-hour match than the slender, 19-year-old Murray, winning 6-7 (3), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

"It was very, very, very tough," Nadal said. "He is playing at an unbelievable level. All the time I was trying my best, trying to fight for every point. I needed one match like this against a big player."

He earned a match-up with No. 10 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, who earlier ousted number 5 James Blake 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (4) in another display of high-energy, high-quality tennis.

Tommy Haas also advanced with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 win over eighth-seeded David Nalbandian and next plays third-seeded Nikolay Davydenko, who dropped a set for the first time before beating number 13 Tomas Berdych 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (5).

Swinging for winners, Murray appeared to be in control early with a little help from technology. At 3-3 in the tiebreaker, he got an ace by challenging a line call with the replay system. Then on set point, he successfully challenged a Nadal

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# City, Indira winners

SPORTS REPORTER



City Club returned to winning ways after three consecutive losses when they beat giant-killers Kalabagan Kirra Chakra by 18 runs in Monday's Kai-Altech Premier Cricket League but struggling Brothers Union's miseries continued when the once heavyweights fell to their fifth defeat in as many matches.

In a battle of the two bottom-table sides, Indira Road Kirra Chakra edged Brothers by six runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium for their maiden victory.

## CITY-KALABAGAN

Fresh from a surprising win against holders Old DOHS, Kalabagan failed to lift their spirit when they were bundled out for 220 chasing City's 238-7 at the BKSP.

The inserted City, who won their first round game against Brothers, lost both openers including out-of-form skipper Shahriar Nafees (25 off 42 balls) -- also the Tigers vice-captain -- with 52 runs on board.

However, one-down Wasim Nayeem's 71 off 91 deliveries not only repaired the damage but also helped them reach a respectable total. The Pakistani all-rounder, who smashed eight boundaries and later picked two wickets to win the

man-of-the-match award, received good support from Mustafizur (29) and Sajjadul Hasan (56 not out) during two half-century stands.

Despite a good start, Kalabagan failed to stay in the race due to lack of an anchoring role. Pakistani batsman Shahbaz Butt, whose century upset DOHS, was dismissed for 49 to create panic in the dressing room. It resulted in a collapse that saw their last four wickets fall in the space of 19 runs to hand City their second win.

## INDIRA-BROTHERS

Left-arm spinner Tariqul Islam's four-wicket haul ended Indira Road's four-match losing streak when he restricted Brothers to 244-9 in reply to 250-6 built around opener Mehdi Hasan's 81 off 99 balls.

Man-of-the-match Tariqul, who had taken two wickets in his first spell, removed two more in the final over and conceded just three runs in the last three balls of the innings when Brothers needed ten to win. He ended his ten overs with 4-27.

Captain and opener Hannan Sarkar scored 66 off 83 balls to give the Brothers innings early momentum but slow batting, especially poor running between the wicket, in the middle cost them the match despite combative efforts by Lablur Rahman (32 off 28 balls) and Rubaiyat Haq (24 off 23 balls).

Earlier, Mehdi shared in two significant stands, 89 with Ashiqur Rahman for the opening wicket and a further 64 with one-down Mohammed Russell to prove captain Golam Maola's decision to bat first right.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**CITY:** 238-7 in 50 overs (Salahuddin 15, Nafees 25, Nayeem 71, Mustafizur 29, Sajjadul 57 not out, Khadem 6, Sonnet 13, Zakir 0, Tareq 10 n.o., extras 13, Sikder 1-33, Arafat 1-47, Mahmuduzzaman 2-49, Reazul 1-61).

**KALABAGAN:** 220 all out in 48.4 overs (Uttam 13, Golam Rahman 35, Mahbub 31, Shahabaz 49, SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



PHOTO: AFP

Rafael Nadal of Spain looks dismayed during his quarterfinal match against Scottish prodigy Andy Murray at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Monday.