



Did U Know?

In the history of Test cricket only four batsmen have scored centuries in their 100th Test -- Colin Cowdrey, Javed Miandad, Gordon Greenidge and Alec Stewart.

What to WATCH

BTV & SET Max

ICC World Cup 2007

Australia v The Netherlands

Live at 7:30 pm

England v Canada

Live at 7:30 pm

ESPN

English Premier Football League

Aston Villa v Liverpool

Live at 7:30 pm

Everton v Arsenal

Live at 9:55 pm

Primera Liga

Real Madrid v Ginnastic

Live at 12:00 am (Monday)

Sevilla v Celta Vigo

Live at 2:00 am (Monday)

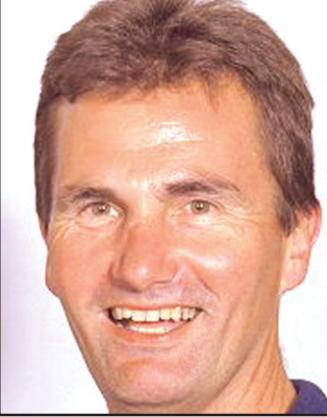
STAR Sports

English Premier Football League

Charlton Athletic v Newcastle United

Live at 7:25 pm

TALK TURKEY



Andrew Hilditch

(Australia cricket chief selector)
"He is one of the greatest one-day players in the world so when he is fit I am sure he will be coming back in the side."

On Andrew Symonds.



National Cricket League

Day One (Four-day)

Barisal v Sylhet

Venue: Fazlulah Cricket Stadium

Inzy hits back at rumour mill

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq and team officials have denied reports of discord in their World Cup squad in the Caribbean.

Reacting to stories in Pakistan and Indian papers that there have been problems between the captain and media manager Pervaiz Mir, Inzamam told the "Daily Jang" newspaper that the people spreading these rumours were anti-Pakistan.

Pakistan lost their opening match of the World Cup to hosts West Indies and there have been reports about Inzamam criticising Mir and refusing to attend a news conference.

"Whenever we lose, rumour mongers spread such stories. These people are not well-wishers of the team and want to derail our campaign," Inzamam told Jang.

"There is no discord in the team and I get along well with the media manager and players," he said.

Mir insisted gossip mongers had launched a propaganda campaign against the team.

"All these rumours are not true. There is harmony in the team and we will do well," he told a Pakistani newspaper.

Pakistan play Ireland in their second match on Saturday.

Passion rules the game

AFP, Gros Islet

Anderson Cummins is just one of five players at the World Cup who also took part in the 1992 tournament.

But unlike Sachin Tendulkar, Sanath Jayasuriya, Brian Lara and Inzamamul Haq, Cummins is playing for a new country.

Pushing 41 years old, Cummins is part of the Canada team here having once played 62 one-day internationals for the West Indies.

Age has slowed his pace, if not his ambition, although he hardly set the tournament alight on Wednesday when Kenya beat Canada by seven wickets with Cummins taking a modest 1-32.

"One of the things I realised pretty early is that I'm 40 and if I try to pretend I'm 25 I'll fall flat," he told the BBC.

"I bowl with the new ball but I do more with it than I used to, at a slower pace. The run-up is shorter. But it's all about what I can contribute to this team."

Cummins gave up international cricket in 1996 and moved to Canada.

"I got married, settled, got a real job like normal people," said Cummins who still played occasional league cricket.

His road to the Canadian national team began when Englishman Andy Pick, a former county championship seamer who knew Cummins from his time with Durham, arrived to take over as coach.

Cummins made his debut in the World Cricket League in Kenya taking just five wickets at an average of 48.60 and an economy rate of 6.39 per over.

Despite that modest performance, Cummins says his hunger for the game remains the same.

"You have to have the passion otherwise you wouldn't be here. It wouldn't make sense."

Defeat by Kenya means Canada face the unlikely task of beating both England (Sunday) and New Zealand (Tuesday) to progress from the first round.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

One eye on Proteas

AFP, Basseterre



Defending champions Australia are already looking beyond the formality of dismissing the Netherlands on Sunday as the countdown begins to their World Cup clash against South Africa.

Captain Ricky Ponting has one eye on the crucial match against the world number one Proteas on March 24 which will decide who tops Group A.

"We are ready for our next two matches and have planned well for South Africa which I expect to be a real good contest," said Ponting after his team saw South Africa crush the Netherlands by 221 runs at Warner Park on Friday.

Ponting predicted a high-scoring match against South Africa.

"I think 350 is very much a par score out there, it's just so small a ground. The straight boundaries are really small. I mis-hit a few the other day to the top of the grandstand."

"If we bat first (against South Africa) then we are going to have to make a really good score to be competitive," said Ponting whose side has failed to defend big totals,



ONE DOWN, NINE TO GO: Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (C) uproots Virender Sehwag's middle stump during the group B match against India at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

including a world record score of 434 against South Africa last year.

"That last match was a fitting end to a great series. I expect the game to be a really good contest and we have special plans for all of their guys."

"They are number-one ranked one-day team in the world now, so they are doing lots of things right. We've got a good rivalry with South Africa in Test and one-day cricket," said Ponting whose team lost their world number one spot to Graeme Smith's side last month.

Australia are expected to be unchanged on Sunday after all-round Andrew Symonds, recovering from arm surgery, was ruled out.

The Netherlands, playing their third World Cup since 1996, will be hard pressed to pick up pieces after their South African rout.

"It will be tough but we must cheer up and face Australia in the next game," said Dutch skipper Luke van Troost.

"We were doing well until the tenth over of the South African match but from then we lost our

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Rana laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Manzarul Islam Rana was finally laid to rest at his family graveyard in Majgunni after Asr prayers yesterday.

Fellow cricketer Sajjadul Hasan Setu was buried at the Toot Para Graveyard buried at 2:45pm.

Namaz-e-janaza of both the deceased were held after Zohr prayers at the outer stadium of Khulna District Sports Association. The coffins were brought there from their respective houses at 11:15 pm.

Large number of people from all walks of life including city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman and leaders of all political parties, professional organisations, socio-cultural organisations, NGOs, top officials of civil and police administrations and local cricketers, cricket officials and the extended family of the two players attended the namaz-e-janaza of Rana and Setu after laying floral wreaths on their coffins. Maulana Mohammad Saleh Ahmed, principal of government Alia Madrasa and imam of town jam-e-masjid led the janaza.

The second janaza of Rana was held after Asr prayer at Mujgunni

which was also attended by hundreds of people. Kazi Monirul Islam, father of Rana reached Khulna at 2:50 pm from India. He and Rana's mother Jamila Khatona have fallen sick and fainted -- when the coffin was taken to Mujgunni house after janaza. Monirul Islam has been suffering from cancer and his trip was arranged my Rana himself.

Meanwhile, Rezwana Elvi, wife of Sajjadul Hasan Setu, reached Khulna from Dhaka early this morning.

Rana's immediate elder brother Mahmudur Rahman Rimon and Setu's elder brother Masudul Hasan Mitu were among their other relatives present in the janaza.

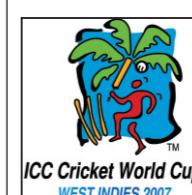
Obviously very upset at his brother's sudden demise, Rimon pointed at the selectors' exclusion of Rana in connection with this tragic accident.

Rana was born in Khulna on May 4 in 1984. He passed SSC examination in the year 2000 obtaining 824 marks in total from Khulna Zilla School from where he started his career also as a cricketer. He played 28 ODIs and 6 Test

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Sachin hints at 2011 WC

CRICINFO, undated



Sachin Tendulkar has hinted at playing the 2011 World Cup in the subcontinent if his "body holds good".

"I don't know if this is my final World Cup. The one in 2011 is quite far from here but it all depends on how my body is holding up," he said during a UNICEF function for awareness of HIV/AIDS among children in Port-of-Spain, where India open their World Cup campaign against Bangladesh.

"We can reach the finals," Tendulkar -- who was recently announced as a cartoon superhero -- added. "Our chances are very good but all we need is to stick to basics and gain an early momentum."

He also gave the example of West Indies' recent form when assessing how unpredictable the one-day game was. "West Indies were all-out for 85 against us but they then defeated Pakistan. In one-day cricket, everyday is a new day," he said. "We can't take any opposition lightly. We can't afford to be over-confident. Since we would face very different oppositions, we need to have a solid plan."

Questioned on his rivalry with Brian Lara, Tendulkar quickly said: "I'm glad we both have been able to give some wonderful cricketing years to the world. We have extremely high regard for each other and are good friends and that's what matters to us."

"Eventually, if we are able to SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Muktijoddha beat Mohammedan



SPORTS REPORTER

Saifur Rahman Moni guided Muktijoddha Sangsad to their first success in the B.League when the all-reds managed a solitary goal victory against giants Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The seasoned striker converted a low corner taken by Firoz Mahmud Titoo with a tricky header in the 43rd

minute to score the eventual match decider that belittled a much better display by the Black and Whites.

The big-spending side, which started their campaign with a goalless draw against Dhaka Abahani, headed into their home game smarting under a 1-0 away defeat against Chittagong Mohammedan and that's why the first win in three games gave the title aspirants a much-needed boost.

"We desperately needed the victory to get back the confidence after a pale start," said winning captain Moni who helped his side ride the luck in the Dhaka derby.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Muktijoddha Sangsad 'keeper Titumir (R) punches away the ball from converging Mohammedan strikers during their B. League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: AFP

Scores of people line up to take part in the namaz-e-janaza of Manzarul Islam Rana and Sajjadul Hasan Setu at the Khulna District Sports Association ground yesterday.

AFF, Gros Islet



England captain Michael Vaughan insisted there was no question of giving everyone a game against minnows.

England and New Zealand are favourites to qualify from a group also featuring Kenya.

Assuming both Test sides do go through, New Zealand will now carry forward two points into the second phase, Super Eight stage.

Vaughan's men were held to a modest 209 for seven, which owed much to an unbroken stand of 71 between Paul Nixon (42 not out) and Liam Plunkett (29 not out) after a middle order collapse saw England slump from 133 for three to 138 for seven.

In reply, New Zealand, who wobbled at 19 for three, finished on

thing to get back on the horse and play," said Vaughan.

"We know the conditions here now. We just need to make sure we improve our performance and make sure we come out on Sunday night with a victory."

He added: "We'll certainly be picking what we feel is the best XI to

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

TODAY'S MATCHES		
Team	Time	Venue
Australia v Netherlands	7:30 pm	St Kitts & Nevis
England v Canada	7:30 pm	St Lucia