



## Did U Know?

Softball was introduced as an Olympic sport in the 1996 Games in Atlanta.



### Asif Iqbal

(Former Pakistan cricket captain)  
"The line has to be drawn somewhere and if it is not drawn here, the question has to be asked -- are we waiting till he commits mass murder?"

While urging the Pakistan Cricket Board to slap a life ban on Shoaib Akhtar after the spat with Mohammad Asif.

## What to WATCH

ESPN  
ICC World Twenty20  
Bangladesh v West Indies  
Live from 1:45 pm

Zimbabwe v England  
Live from 5:45 pm

India v Scotland  
Live from 9:45 pm

## 10-wicket win for NCA

### SPORTS REPORTER

BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) finished their tour of Australia in style when they thrashed Northern Territory Strike by 10 wickets in the Crocodile Cup four-day match at the University ground yesterday.

Tom Scollay converted his overnight half-century to 111 not out but it was not good enough for his side to avoid a huge defeat inside three days as the local team were bowled out for 336 to set a small winning target of 722 for the tourists.

The NCA reached the target in 9.4 overs without any damage as left-hander Imrul Kayes made 31-ball 38 and his opening partner Sahagir Hossain hammered 32 off 27 deliveries.

Earlier left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain grabbed two wickets on the day to finish with a figure of 3-59 and pacers Mahbub Alami (2-61) and Dollar Mahmud (1-41) took the remaining wickets as Northern Territory Strike added 42 runs to their overnight score of 252 for six.

The tourists earlier won the only three-day match and three limited-over games out of five in Darwin and they are expected to return home on September 15.

## Sourav sure of T20 success

### PTI, Kolkata

Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday exuded confidence that the young Indian team would quickly adjust to the South African conditions and would perform well in the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup.

"I am sure they will do well. They will not have any problem in adjusting to the conditions," Ganguly told newsmen on his return home from England.

Ganguly said the Indians had an outstanding series in England.

"May be we did not win the one-day series but apart from that the tour went off very well. We played outstandingly." Ganguly did not agree that the Indians choked at Lords in the finals of the NatWest series against England.

"Just because we lost that match, it would not be proper to brand us chokers. Prior to the England series, we came back from behind to beat South Africa 2-1 at Belfast," he said.

## Tigers ready for all

JOHANNESBURG, TigerCricket.com



The ICC Twenty20 World Championships are already underway and the Bangladesh team gets going today believing that anything and any result is possible.

Their opening match against the West Indies at the Wanderers is as crucial as cricket games come, especially for the West Indies who must win to stay in the competition. Victory for Bangladesh on the other hand would ensure they are not catching an early flight back home and a chance for more heroics in the Super Eight stage.

The match starts at 2pm Bangladesh Standard Time. The Tigers trained for three hours at the Wanderers in the morning and it was a relief for captain Mohammad Ashraful that those nursing injuries all came out okay from the practice.

Tamim Iqbal, who has a moderate fracture on his left index finger batted and fielded without any noticeable discomfort and key spinner Abdur Razzaq also showed no side effects from a strapped left hamstring and was his usual self while bowling.

Yesterday was Razzaq's only second practice session following the muscle strain suffered during the warm-up game against Scotland on September 8.

"It is very good that we had all the players fit for selection for this important match. We have had a nice preparation phase leading up to this competition and now the real game begins and we have to be at

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our full strength," said Ashraful.

Bangladesh have left out Nadir Chowdhury, Mahmudullah Riyad, Junaed Siddique and Ziaur Rahman from the starting line up. Nadir will be the 12th man. Tamim and his prolific Chittagong partner Nazimuddin will open the batting with Aftab Ahmed, Ashraful, Shakib Al Hasan and Alok Kapali completing the top order.

"All our preparation has been

directed towards this moment. I have been scoring runs in the warm-up matches and hopefully that will continue. I have faced the Pakistan attack that I consider among the best in the world and that has given me a lot of confidence. But in Twenty20 you cannot say that this is a good bowling side and this is not.

The West Indies are experienced in this form of the game but I will play my natural game," said Nazimuddin who has top-scored for the Tigers in three out of their five warm-up matches.

The Bangladesh side watched

the opening match of the tournament popularly called T20 here at the Wanderers on Tuesday afternoon and felt the amazing atmosphere.

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Bangladesh left-arm spinner Abdur Razzaq bowling in the nets at the practice facilities of the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday. The Tigers launch their Twenty20 World Championship campaign against the West Indies here today.

PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

the toss and asking Kenya to bat first at a sun-baked Kingsmead.

Kenya lost the first three wickets without a run on the board, slipped to 4-1 before Collins Obuya and Dennis Odoyo put on 36 for the fifth wicket.

Both batsmen made 18 runs each but it was not enough to help the Africans put up a reasonable total to challenge New Zealand in the group C match.

Vettori, who already captains New Zealand in one-day and Twenty20 cricket, replaced the long-serving Stephen Fleming as Test skipper earlier on Wednesday.

"I am pretty happy the way we bowled," said Vettori. "(Shane) Bond and Gillespie set up the win for us and we now look forward to our other matches."

Fast bowler Bond struck with the first delivery of the match when he bowled Maurice Ouma and then dismissed Tanmay Mishra off his fifth ball.

Gillespie removed David Obuya

## Mondal denies Janakantha allegation

### SPORTS REPORTER

Senior sports journalist Aghore Mondal yesterday dismissed the allegations that were labelled against him in a Bengal daily.

He also said that he would be forced to take legal action unless the newspaper did not apologise properly admitting their mistake within a week.

In a report headlined "Cheating Aghore Mondal style", the Daily Janakantha on Tuesday accused the reporter of using the daily's name illegally to obtain media accreditation for the ongoing ICC World Twenty20 Championship in South Africa.

"The report is totally baseless. I submitted my documents (for the accreditation) as a freelancer because right at the moment I am not involved with any media house. Everybody can understand my claim if s/he goes through the documents of my correspondence with the organisers," said Mondal in a press conference that he organised to clear his position.

He also provided the attending reporters with the relevant papers that he had from the organisers. And none of the papers showed he used the name of the daily, let alone illegally.

"I have been working as a sports reporter for the last fifteen years, but that newspaper (Janakantha) termed me as a 'so-called reporter' which is beyond my imagination. I firmly protest this news which has tarnished my professional and personal image," he added.

"I will definitely go for legal action if the Janakantha authority does not apologise properly for the mistakes within a week," he warned.

## Gillespie sinks Kenya

AFP, Durban



Mark Gillespie returned the best ever figures in Twenty20 cricket as New Zealand demolished Kenya by nine wickets in the world championships here on Wednesday.

Gillespie picked up 4-7 in 2.5 overs to send Kenya crashing for 73 all out, the lowest T20 international total, which the Kiwis surpassed easily in the eighth over to begin their campaign on a rousing note.

Peter Fulton ended the one-sided match with two consecutive sixes off Rajesh Bhudia.

In Tuesday's opening match in Johannesburg, West Indian Chris Gayle scored the first century in the shortest version of the game but could not prevent an eight-wicket win by hosts South Africa.

Daniel Vettori celebrated his elevation as New Zealand's Test captain earlier in the day by winning

the toss and asking Kenya to bat first at a sun-baked Kingsmead.

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## Vettori new Test captain

Fleming to continue as batsman

### Cricket

AFP, Wellington

Stephen Fleming has been dumped as New Zealand Test captain after a decade in favour of one-day skipper Daniel Vettori.

Fleming announced at the same time Tuesday he was retiring from one-day internationals and indicated he will soon end his Test career as well.

The 34-year-old, widely admired as one of the best skippers in world cricket, stepped down as one-day captain after this year's World Cup but said he wanted to continue his 10-year reign as Test skipper.

New Zealand Cricket chief executive Justin Vaughan said Fleming was New Zealand's greatest ever captain but added it was time to look ahead.

"The selectors are looking to the future and have recommended that Daniel assume captaincy of the Test team as well as the one-day team," he said.

"Stephen was an outstanding captain and his legacy in the role sets a high standard for Daniel."

"I am sure Daniel will rise to the challenge and will bring his own particular skills and style to the team."

There has been recent speculation Fleming might join the rebel Indian Cricket League but he said he remained committed to the New Zealand team, despite his decision to retire from one-day internationals.

for the Test, one-day and Twenty20 teams," Fleming said.

"I hold Daniel Vettori in high regard and will support him fully in his transition as Test captain."

"I shall continue playing Tests as long as I have the desire and skills required to contribute."

"However, it is likely that the coming New Zealand summer will be my last home series."

Vettori is currently captaining New Zealand in the Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa and will now lead his country in a two-Test series against South Africa in November.

New Zealand are also scheduled to face Bangladesh and England in home Test series over the 2007/8 season and Vaughan said it would "obviously be a major step for Stephen to play in a non-captaincy role."

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PHOTO: AFP

ONLY THE THIRD BALL: Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi drags the ball towards long on for a six as Scotland wicketkeeper Colin Smith looks on during their Twenty20 World Championships at Kingsmead in Durban on

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

### SPORTS REPORTER

Five local boys won their respective singles matches by beating their compatriots when the Prime Bank Asian Under-14 Tennis Tournament got underway at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Raisul Islam beat Sadman Saleem 6-1, 6-1, Ranji Passi beat Arif Khan 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, Shew Shew beat Biplob Ram 6-0, 7-6(3), Hasibul Huq beat Jamil Bhuiyan 7-6, 3-6, 6-0 and Hussain Jubair beat Mahmood Nabil 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

The other first round winners are Raghuvaran Sourav, Lakhota Raghu, Kishore Arma, Thakkar Rakshay, Goghar Ashman and Bishit Ronit, Khurram Faizan and Nguyen Thien.

In the girls' singles, local Alam Sarda won her first round match while Bal Namita, Malik Arzoo, Hegde Riddhi and VKC Vishesh were the other first round winners.

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## TODAY'S MATCHES

Team	Time	Venue
Bangladesh v West Indies	1:45pm	Johannesburg
Zimbabwe v England	5:45pm	Cape Town
India v Scotland	9:45pm	Durban