

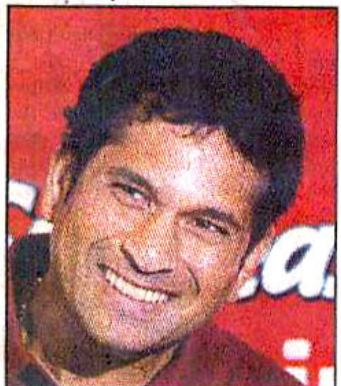
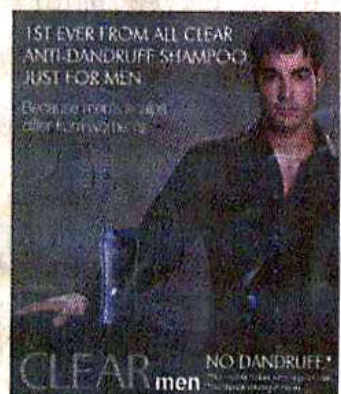
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Did U Know?

During World War II, a bomb ripped through the Centre Court at the All England Tennis Club and 1,200 seats were lost. Fortunately, they weren't filled at the time. Play finally resumed in 1946 but it wasn't until 1949 that the area was back in top shape.



Sachin Tendulkar
(India's batting superstar)
"Once in a while, I do play with my son (Arjun), that's it... He seems quite fond of the game..."
On his son's interest in chess in the wake of Vishwanathan Anand's World Championship triumph.

What to WATCH
NEO Sports
India v Australia
Third ODI
Live from 9:30 am
TEN Sports
Pakistan v South Africa
First Test, Day Five
Live from 11:00 am
ESPN
Sportcenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm

SPECIAL OLYMPICS Saidul wins silver

AKM Saidul Islam of Bangladesh won silver medal in the men's singles of bocce at the Special Olympics World Summer Games that began at the Jia Ding Sports Centre, some 50-kilometres from Shanghai city in China.

Saidul narrowly missed the gold losing 11-12 to Chia Wei Hsu of Taiwan in the keenly contested final. Earlier, he beat Man Chong Cheng of Macau 12-5 and Chin Wei Hsu 12-8. Mahmud Bin Abdullah Rusho of Bangladesh lost both his games. Bangladesh female bocce team will participate in the singles final today. Bangladesh swimmers did well in the heats at the Shanghai Pudong Nanatorium with Nurunnahar finishing first and Laili Akter second in the women's 50m freestyle.

Euro Famous, Tongi win

Tongi KC and Euro Famous recorded slim wins in yesterday's Third Division Football Super League at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. Shamim slammed the winner in Tongi's solitary goal win over Lalbagh SC while Euro Famous defeated Spandan KC 2-1 with goals from Afsar and Rubel. Sumon reduced the margin for Spandan.

Indira, Brothers don't turn up

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The relegation play-off match between Indira Road and Brothers Union 'fell through' after the teams did not turn up at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

According to competition by-laws, the situation calls for a treatment that will be equal to a walkover by one side in a game of cricket and according to match referee Roquibul Hasan, it is abnormal.

"It was a peculiar situation because you expect one team to not turn up but here we had both sides doing the same thing," said the former national captain.

"Their behaviour is disappointing and it is not cricket because you are not respecting the game and its laws."

Roquibul submitted his report to Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) which will take due course of action after the scheduled second match on

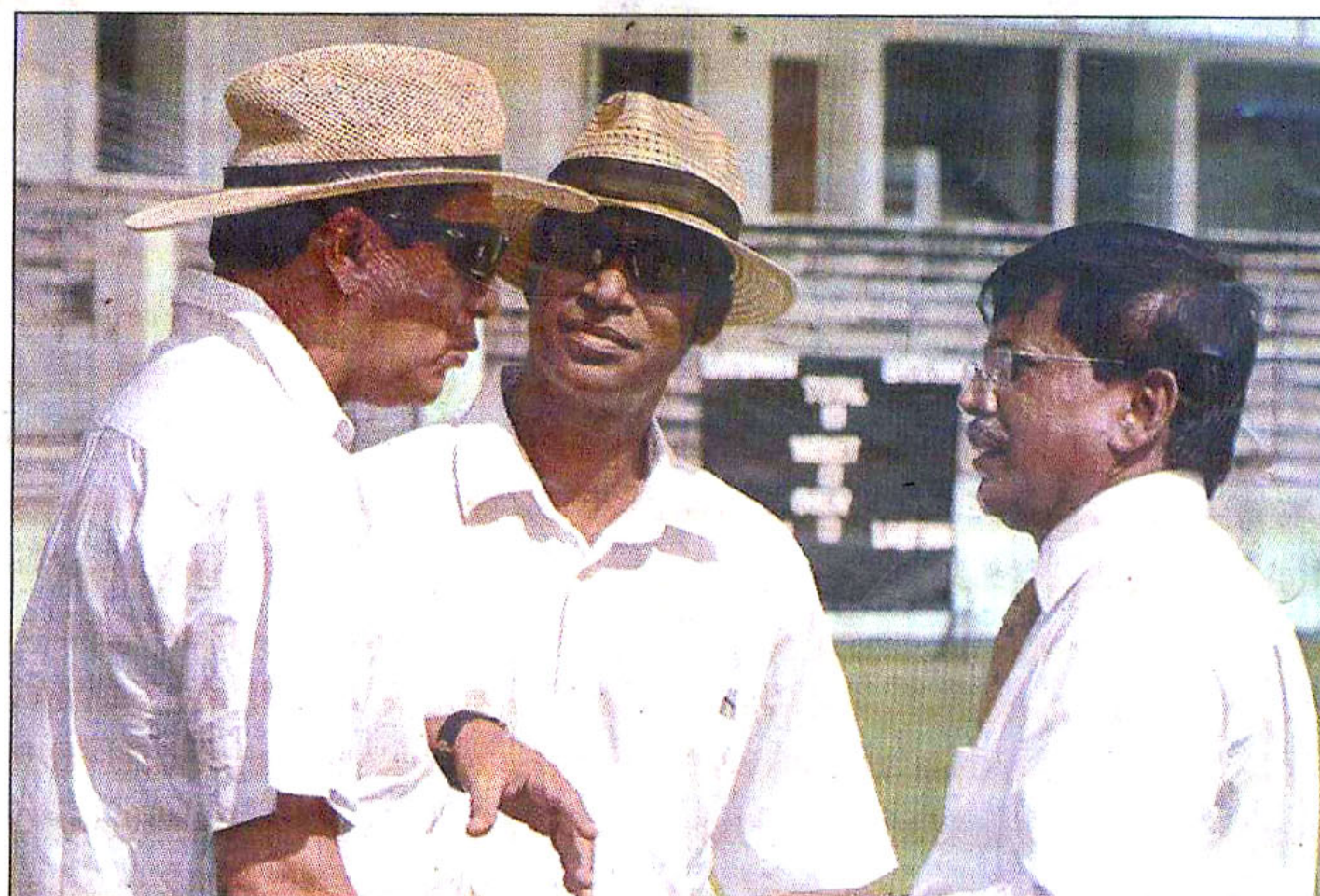
October 7.

The sequence of events on Thursday morning were usual for any cricket match but the only difference: no players and no cricket.

Umpires Nadir Shah and Enamul Haque Moni, in accordance with match referee, decided to delay the game by 30 minutes because of a wet wicket but when the time for toss was over at 9.15pm, the umpires strode to the middle and took the balls off to terminate the match.

The rules clearly state that if one team fail to report to the match referee before the toss, it will be regarded as a walkover and their position in the league will be scrapped and the team will be automatically demoted.

They have failed cricket and brought the game into disrepute. As a club, both have the responsibility of carrying the sport in their locality. With this act, of not appearing in a cricket match, it shows the lengths they are willing to go just to get the best of their desire.



IT'S NOT CRICKET: Match referee Roquibul Hasan (R) in conversation with umpires Nadir Shah (L) and Enamul Haque Moni in an empty Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday after the relegation play-off match between Indira Road and Brothers Union fell through.

Dhoni's got qualities: Vengsarkar

CRICINFO, undated

Dilip Vengsarkar, India's chairman of selectors, has expressed confidence in Mahendra Singh Dhoni as captain.

"I have been watching Dhoni from close quarters for quite some time now. I found him to be a very good student of the game," Vengsarkar told Hindustan Times. Before his appointment as captain following Rahul Dravid's resignation, the selection panel had elevated Dhoni to vice-captain for the tour to England. "He is extremely focussed, down to earth and very disciplined. He is modest about his achievements and possesses good man-management skills. He has all the qualities of a good captain."

Vengsarkar has been at the helm of India's selection affairs for over a year now, a period in which the team had an early exit at the World Cup in the West Indies, followed by a win at the recently-concluded World Twenty20 in South Africa. "Well, it was rather satisfactory because, apart from the early exit from the World Cup, the team did reasonably well, winning a Test for the first time in South Africa," he said about his tenure. He indicated

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Another Kallis ton Younis keeps hosts afloat

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan were inspired by a fiery unbeaten 93 from Younis Khan as they chased a record South African target featuring Jacques Kallis's second successive century in the first Test here on Thursday.

Pakistan, facing a world record chase of 424 runs, finished the fourth day on 146-3 with night-watchman Mohammad Asif on one, needing another 278 runs to win the Test in the remaining 90 overs on Friday.

Just when Younis and Faisal Iqbal (44) threatened the tourists with a solid 114-run stand for the third wicket, left-arm spinner Paul Harris dismissed Iqbal with three overs to go to set up an intriguing last day.

South Africa were indebted to Kallis who became only the fourth Proteas batsman to score a century

in each innings of a Test. Kallis remained unbeaten on 100 to help his team declare their second innings at 264-7.

The world record for the highest target achieved was 418 which the West Indies made against Australia in Antigua in May 2003. Pakistan's highest successful chase is 315-9 against Australia made at the same ground in 1994.

Pakistan had a disastrous start to their second innings, losing Mohammad Hafeez (one) in the second over of the innings when he played on to a Dale Steyn delivery.

Steyn then removed Salman Butt (three) in his third over when close-in fielder Hashim Amla smartly took a bat-pad push to leave Pakistan struggling at 20-2.

Younis, who managed just six in Pakistan's first innings score of 291, made amends as he raced to his fifty off just 51 balls with his eighth boundary. Younis has so far hit 14 boundaries and a six during his 99-ball knock.

Pakistan now need a big effort from their batsmen to win or save the Test at the venue where they have only lost to England (2000) in 39 previous Tests.

It was Kallis who put the tourists on the winning track as his second successive high-class knock demolished the home team's hopes of a fightback.

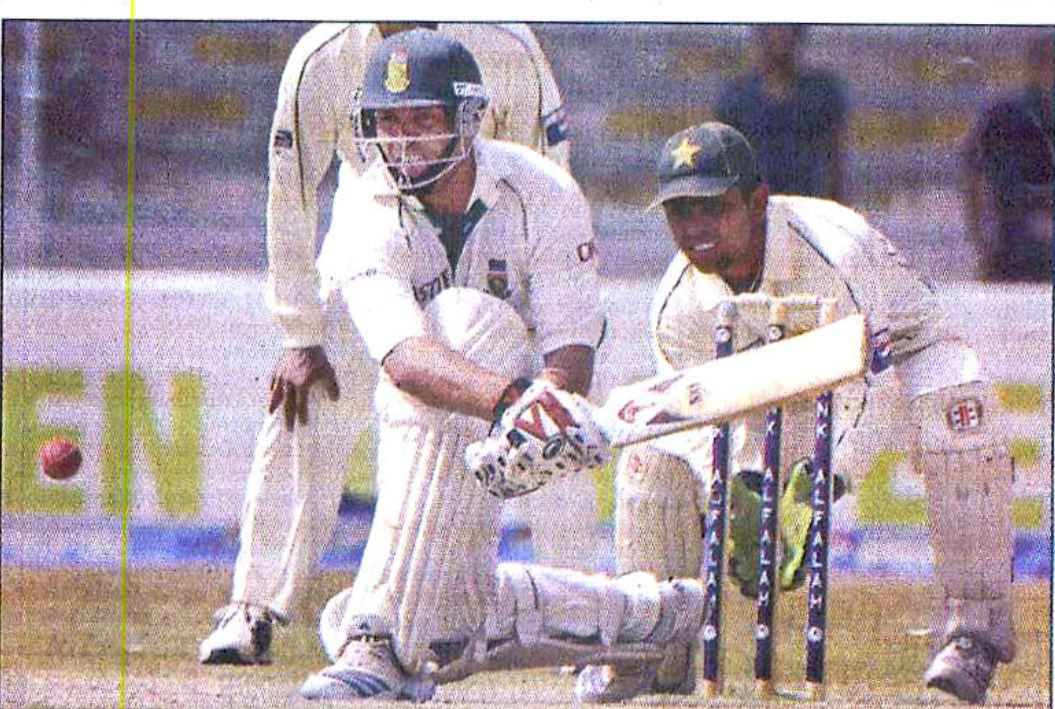
Kallis hit only four boundaries and a six during his nearly five-hour stay at the crease, proving his claim to be the best South African batsmen in the longer version of the game.

The 31-year-old added 88 runs for the fourth wicket with Ashwell Prince (45) and another 63 runs for the sixth wicket with Andre Nel who made a Test best of 33.

Nel's previous best of 23 not out was also against Pakistan at Port Elizabeth earlier this year.

Kallis, subdued after lunch with no boundaries for 55 balls, lifted Rehman to go within four runs of

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EASY FOR KALLIS: South African batsman Jacques Kallis plays a reverse sweep on way to his century on the fourth day of the first Test match at the Karachi National Stadium on Thursday.

England draw level

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

England again demonstrated their ability to bounce back from adversity with a commendable 65-run win to draw level in the one-day series at Dambulla on Thursday, their first one-day victory in Sri Lanka since 1982.

Riding on Owais Shah's 82, which led a fightback from 61 for 4, the fast bowlers shredded Sri Lanka's top order then Graeme Swann completed a fine all-round day by further enhancing his impressive return to the team.

Chasing England's 234 for 8, the hosts were bowled out for 169 in 44.3 overs, with Jehan Mubarak hitting a painstaking 44 not out.

The match was a case of role reversal from the opening game;

this time it was Sri Lanka's turn to struggle under the lights after England had battled their way out of trouble. The first-half of their innings had been played in quicksand with the batsmen unable to make any advances against another consistent display from the home side's bowlers. But Shah showed his ability to marshal a recovery, adding 70 with Swann as 151 runs came from the second 25 overs. It gave the attack a target to bowl at, with England's quicks enjoy the evening conditions.

Ryan Sidebottom struck with his second ball when Upul Tharanga drove loosely and Alastair Cook snaffled the catch at second slip. The same combination should have accounted for Kumar Sangakkara two balls later, but this time Cook couldn't hold onto a chance which came higher and slightly quicker to him. Sangakkara

continued to live a charmed life when Phil Mustard palmed a top edge off James Anderson.

Sidebottom's probing line didn't let Sanath Jayasuriya -- who became the first player to reach 400 ODIs (more than the whole England side) -- escape to a flying start and, trying to find a gap through the covers, picked out Ian Bell. Sangakkara never settled at the crease despite his two lives, spending 37 balls over 9 before edging the final ball of Broad's first over low to Mustard, who made amends for his earlier mistake with a neat catch.

England's bowlers were reveling in a situation that allowed them to operate to their natural styles and Broad dispatched Chamara Silva first ball with a delivery which bounced and looped to backward point. Mahela

SEE PAGE 22 COL 2

Yousuf now joins IPL

CRICINFO, undated

Mohammad Yousuf, the Pakistan middle-order batsman, has joined the Indian Premier League (IPL), which is organised by the Indian board, a week after cancelling his contract with the unofficial Indian Cricket League (ICLI).

"Yousuf has signed a contract with the IPL," Nasim Ashraf, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, told the News, a Pakistani daily. Eight Sri Lankan cricketers, including Muttiah Muralitharan and Mahela Jayawardene, have already signed on with the IPL.

Yousuf had backed out of the first Test in the ongoing series against South Africa citing lack of match fitness, a decision which fuelled speculation that he might still play in the ICL. Ashraf denied this categorically, stating, "There's

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Flintoff out for 2007?

BBC ONLINE, undated

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff is highly unlikely to play again in 2007 as he battles to overcome a worrying ankle problem, BBC Sport understands.

He has had further scans to assess the injury and is waiting for the results before deciding what action to take.

Flintoff, 29, had a third operation in June in a bid to get himself fully fit but is still in pain when he bowls.

England will not risk Flintoff, who had hoped to play in December's Test series in Sri Lanka, until he is 100% right.

"We would love to have him in the squad but we won't risk Andrew in the Test matches," said coach

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BKSP retain nat'l youth hockey title

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP retained the youth hockey title the hard way when Savar sports institute won a five-goal thriller in the final of the Araf Apparels 21st National Hockey Championship yesterday.

Ajit Kumar struck a brace including the match winner on the hour-mark to help BKSP beat Dhaka 3-2 in the pulsating affair -- a repeat of last year's final -- at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

In a neck and neck game, Ajit put the boys from Savar ahead after nine minutes but two-goal Jamal Hossain Shaown brought parity for Dhaka in the 28th minute.

It took the visitors a couple of minutes to regain lead when Hasan Jubair converted BKSP's only penalty corner of the match.

BKSP held onto a 2-1 first-half lead until 54 minutes when Shaown levelled the scores again, this time from a penalty corner.

Dhaka wasted two more short corners as BKSP maintained their monopoly, sealing their eight

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Booters' lone warm-up

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The national football team will return to Dhaka today after a weeklong camp at BKSP to play their only warm-up match ahead of the 2010 World Cup pre-qualifier against Tajikistan.

The squad, short-listed to 20 players by Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin yesterday for the October 8 date against the Central Asians, will face a rather unfit opposition in today's preparation match starting at 3pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The opposition -- a Dhaka XI -- will comprise of out-of-touch professional league booters who narrowly missed out from the national side.

Nayeemuddin handed over the 20-member list to Bangladesh

Football Federation (BFF) acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu at BKSP last night and the federation will approve the team in its executive meeting this afternoon.

Two members of the selection panel including Malu witnessed the team's practice although BKSP-based selector Faruqul Islam and two other were absent. Nayeemuddin later briefed them about the present condition of the side.

It was learned that the 60-year-old Indian has proposed to give the armband to different players in different matches; an idea he thinks will boost the team's performance.

However, there is little chance the BFF will endorse this unheard of plan.

Playing weak opponents for preparation has long been a drawback for the national team although coach and players have

repeatedly emphasised on this area.

Like the past, the BFF has once again ignored the pleas as the underprepared boys face the risk of another humiliation at the hands of the Tajiks, whose last visit to Dhaka resulted in a 6-1 victory against Bangladesh in last year's inaugural AFC Challenge Cup.

Before the Nehru Cup in India and the Merdeka Cup in Malaysia in August, the team got the chance to play one warm-up match against the Under-16 boys and on conclusion of their two-week conditioning camp in Cox's Bazar last month, they played an insignificant local eleven of the resort town.

Senior defenders Hassan Al Mamun and Nazrul Islam, who led the team in the Nehru Cup, both said that playing strong teams for preparation was very important for good result.

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Sourav, Ricky to play Steamy ODI series continues today

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The daytime temperature in Hyderabad is around 32 degrees Celsius. It gets hotter inside a stadium filled with tens of thousands of noisy fans and when there's no love lost between the two teams, the contest could well and truly boil over. India and Australia play each other in the third of seven ODIs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Friday, and if the walk matches the ample talk from both teams, it could be a

bumpy but exhilarating ride.

Australia are likely to be strengthened by the return of their captain Ricky Ponting who missed the first two games because of a hamstring strain he sustained during the ICC World Twenty20. Australia's one worry would have been their tendency to lose quick wickets at the start -- 18 for 2 at Bangalore and 8 for 2 at Kochi -- and Ponting's inclusion, most likely at the expense of Brad Hodge, will allay fears of the middle order having to bail them out again. Ponting hasn't played an ODI since the World Cup final and even though he didn't contribute much

in Australia's Twenty20 campaign, his captaincy and presence at No 3 and will undoubtedly bolster his team.

"I'm hoping to play tomorrow," said Ponting. "Everything is looking positive for me at the moment. I went to the ground and had a good workout at the nets yesterday. There are a few other things with the physio and physical trainer today, but if I get through that I will be up for selection tomorrow."

Nathan Bracken, the left-arm medium-pace, has also joined the squad after attending the birth of his son and has a strong case for

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A BRILLIANT FEELING: BKSP players are ecstatic after beating Dhaka in the final of the 21st National Youth Hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR