

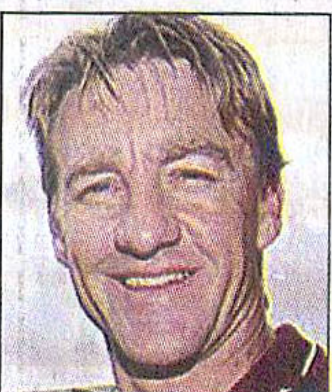


THREADING A RUN MOUNTAIN: India's Sourav Ganguly (C) and Venkatesh Laxman (R) stroll for a single on the second day of the second Test against Pakistan at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday. Ganguly scored 102, his first ton on his home ground, and Laxman struck an unbeaten 112 as India posted a massive 616-5 declared.



Did U Know?

Wimbledon was the first organised tennis tournament in the world. It is the only Grand Slam that still uses grass and is the biggest tennis event of the year. There are 20 grass courts available for play. Wimbledon Number 1 Court now comes complete with large fans at either end to dry out the court in case of rain. There are also five red shale courts, four clay courts, and five indoor courts for club members.



Andy Bichel
(Australia pace bowler)
"Kasper (Michael Kasprowicz) always used to joke that his shoulder operation was the equivalent of a 50,000-delivery service, so I guess this is my 100,000-ball service. Seeing the lighter side after shoulder surgery which has ruled him out of the rest of the summer."



What to Watch

DD National
India v Pakistan
Second Test, Day Three
Live from 10:00am

TEN Sports
Sri Lanka v England
First Test, Day Two
Live from 11:00am

ESPN
Euro 2008 Draw
Live at 5:00pm

Liverpool v Bolton Wanderers
English Premier League
Live at 8:55pm

STAR Sports
Tottenham Hotspur v Birmingham City
English Premier League
Live at 10:00pm

India erect a mountain

Cricket

AFP, Kolkata

Venkatesh Laxman and Sourav Ganguly hammered robust centuries to take India to a formidable total against Pakistan in the second Test here on Saturday.

Laxman scored an unbeaten 112 for his 11th Test hundred and left-handed Ganguly a solid 102 for his 14th, as India posted a mammoth 616-5 declared in their first innings after resuming at 352-3.

Under-pressure Pakistan faltered in reply as they lost Yasir Hameed (21) in leg-spinner Anil Kumble's opening over before reaching 50-1 on the second day.

Salman Butt (26) and Younis Khan (three) were at the crease when bad light stopped play.

Laxman and Ganguly were not the only batsmen to reach the three-figure mark against a hapless Pakistani attack on a flat track; as opener Wasim Jaffer (202) earlier

completed his second double-century.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni also joined the party, smashing one six and six fours in his unbeaten 50. India's total was their highest against Pakistan at home, surpassing the previous best of 539-9 declared at Chennai in 1961.

Nearly 60,000 spectators enjoyed the run feast at Eden Gardens as Ganguly scored his first Test hundred on his home ground before Laxman completed his century with a string of elegant strokes.

"It feels nice to get a hundred anywhere, but at Eden Gardens it feels a bit different because I've played all my life in this ground and to have ended without a Test hundred here would have been disappointing," said Ganguly.

"The first two days were the best batting conditions. But probably after tea on Sunday and on the last two days the pitch will turn a lot more. It is already dry and there are footmarks. It's going to be a result

pitch."

There was also drama during the day when Pakistani leg-spinner Danish Kaneria beat Laxman and wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal removed the balls, appealing for a stumping. The Indian had reached his century at that stage.

West Indies umpire Billy Doctrove referred the decision to third umpire Amish Saheba of India. Laxman started walking towards the pavilion when a giant screen flashed "Out" before correcting it to "Not Out."

It was a frustrating day for Pakistan, who could grab just two wickets in more than two sessions, removing Jaffer in the morning and Ganguly in the afternoon.

Key fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, declared fit on Friday after suffering from a chest infection, looked below his best in short spells for a second successive day as he failed to take a wicket.

"Winning is a second priority now. The first task is to avoid a

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Mohammedan raise Tk 1m in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Mohammedan Sporting Club drew blank on the field in their second charity game at the Tangail Stadium yesterday, but the match of the Black and Whites against the local selection generated quite a handsome amount for the Sird victims of the country.

The match ended in a goalless draw in front of a strong 10,000 crowd and the Tangail District Sports Association later disclosed that they had earned Taka 10 lakh from the charity game. The money would be donated to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund.

It was Mohammedan's second match for a noble cause after their first game in Sylhet on Friday.

Mohammedan will also play a three-match series against their bitter rivals Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on December 3, 5 and 7. The money coming from the games would also be donated for the Sird victims.

Cyclone Sidr ravaged the southern coastal districts of the country on November 15, leaving hundreds of thousands people homeless.

Meanwhile, Tangail's Deputy Commissioner Akhter Ali Sarkar

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Hoggard wrecks havoc

Cricket

AFP, Kandy

England's pace-spin duo of Matthew Hoggard and Monty Panesar combined to destroy Sri Lanka for 188 on the opening day of the first cricket Test here on Saturday.

England replied with 49-1 by stumps after losing opener Alastair Cook to the third ball of the innings when he was trapped leg-before by 100-Test veteran Chaminda Vaas.

Captain Michael Vaughan was unbeaten on 13 and Ian Bell was on 36 as England attempt to put up a big score on a barren wicket that is later expected to assist the spin of Muttiah Muralidaran.

The off-spinner, who needs five wickets to overtake retired Australian Shane Warne's world record tally of 708, came on in the 12th over and conceded two runs in three overs.

Hoggard grabbed four wickets in a deadly opening burst while Panesar cleaned up the Sri Lankan tail after a defiant sixth-wicket stand of 104 between Kumar Sangakkara and wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene.

Left-handed Sangakkara made 92 and Jayawardene chipped in with 51 to rescue the hosts who were tottering at 42-5 after electing to bat at the Asgiriya stadium.

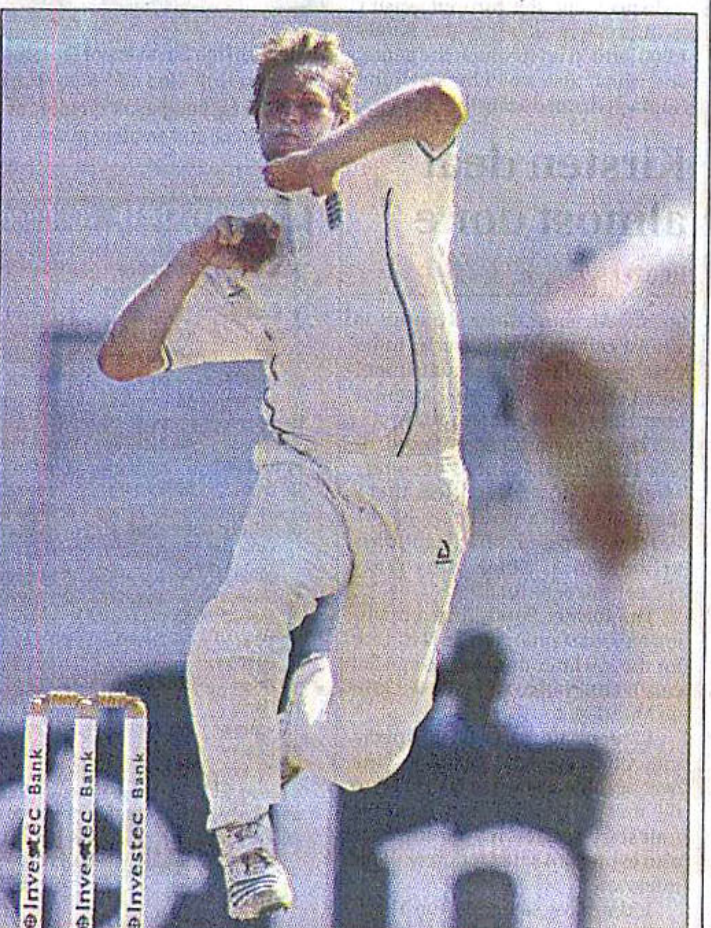
Sangakkara continued the same form that saw him compile 192 in the second Test against Australia in Hobart last month.

He hit 13 boundaries before being denied a 16th Test century by Paul Collingwood, who picked up a brilliant one-handed catch at backward point as the batsman cut a short ball from James Anderson.

Sangakkara and Jayawardene retrieved the situation for the hosts before Panesar broke the partnership 30 minutes before tea when Jayawardene patted a ball to Cook at forward short-leg.

Panesar also bowled Vaas just before the break and the last four Sri Lankan wickets fell for eight runs as England regained their pre-lunch advantage.

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BREATHING FIRE: England swing bowler Matthew Hoggard sends down a delivery on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy yesterday.

Rajshahi widen gap

SPORTS REPORTER



Khulna appeared poor without their national colours as they suffered an eight-wicket defeat at the hands of Dhaka in the sixth round one-day match of the 9th National Cricket League at the Shaheed Birshreshtha Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

The loss of Khulna did a huge favour to Rajshahi, who continued their hundred per cent record in the limited overs competition with a comfortable six-wicket victory over Sylhet at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium to have a six point lead ahead of Khulna and Dhaka.

On the other hand, despite Chittagong's fighting reply Barisal managed their second win with a 15-run victory against the home

team at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

Chittagong, Sylhet and Barisal have secured four points each after the sixth round.

DHAKA-KHULNA

Abdur Razzaq was the only national player to play the one-day match. He took two wickets for 24 runs in his ten-over spell and also made highest 39 but the left-arm spinner's efforts were not good enough as the home side were bundled out for 125 runs in 37.2

overs.

It was however paceman Mahbubul Alam who destroyed Khulna by taking four wickets for 34 runs while his new ball partner Niaz Morshed captured two for 39.

Dhaka rode on Shamsur Rahman's unbeaten 53 to reach the target of 126 in 33.2 overs by losing only two wickets. The right-hander smashed three fours and one six in 91 balls while captain Al-Shahriar was not out on 35 off 59 deliveries with the help of five fours.

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

Man of the match Farhad Hossain returned with a five-for and then scored 41 as Rajshahi kept their winning run intact.

Alok Kapali hammered 69 off 64 balls that contained six fours and two sixes but that was not enough for Sylhet to put up a challenging total on the board, being bowled out for 206.

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POINTS TABLE (ONE-DAY)

Team	M	W	L	T	Total
Rajshahi	6	6	0	0	12
Khulna	6	3	3	0	6
Dhaka	6	3	3	0	6
Chittagong	6	2	4	0	4
Sylhet	6	2	4	0	4
Barisal	6	2	4	0	4

Siddons debuts today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

New national cricket coach Jamie Siddons gets into business with the Tigers formally today when the training camp for the demanding tour to New Zealand gets underway at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

The 43-year-old Australian, Siddons will get hardly ten days at home to prepare his boys before going on to the tough first assignment as Mohammad Ashraful's boys are scheduled to fly to New Zealand on December 12 to play three one-day internationals and

two Test matches.

It is believed that the former assistant coach of the world's number one team is going to introduce a new system of training but he was not ready to disclose his plans before meeting his charges first.

"I will definitely try to put something new but also stick to the basics as well. The ultimate objective is to get better in batting, bowling and fielding and show improvement in all departments," said the shaven-headed coach while talking with the reporters during a

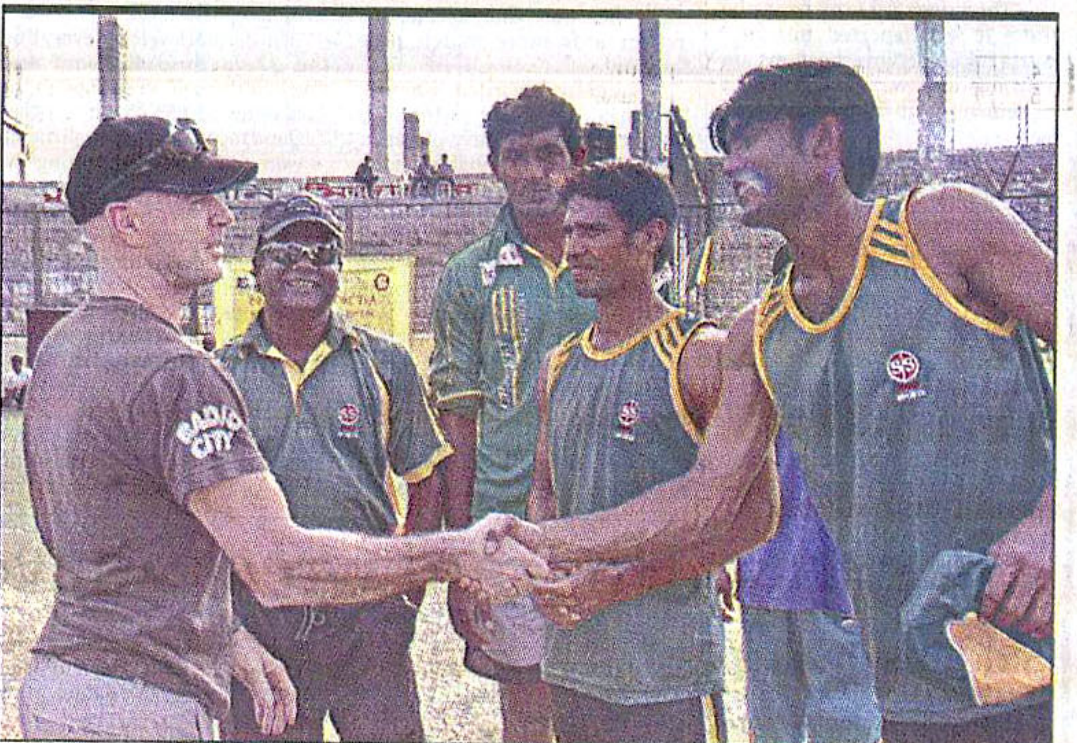
National Cricket League one-day match between Rajshahi and Sylhet at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

"I am yet to get my players together so it is better to let me meet the players first and know what they actually need and then I can only say something about my plans. Just wait for a while," he added with a smile.

There will be no cricketing training on the first day, as only fitness sessions will take place.

The time is really short for Siddons to prepare the Tigers for such a tough series in New Zealand where even the high-ranked sides struggle to cope with the condition but the good news was that the Tigers were in match practice although most of the players performance was not up to the mark in

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SO, YOU ARE THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE TEAM: Bangladesh's Australian coach Jamie Siddons (L) shakes hands with Zunaed Siddiqui, picked up by the selectors for the New Zealand-bound one-day squad, at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday. Siddons will have his first business day with the Tigers at the Mirpur National Stadium today.

PHOTO: STAR

BFF, Teletalk confirm deal

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Teletalk, the state-run mobile phone company, has signed with Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) as the title sponsor of the three-match Abahani-Mohammedan football series organised to raise fund for the cyclone-affected people.

BFF arranged the series between the Bangladesh's two sporting titans to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on December 3, 5 and 7 to help the Sird victims.

Teletalk's inclusion was officially disclosed during a press conference by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan at the BFF Bhawan conference room yesterday.

BFF vice-president Abdur Rahim, acting general secretary Manjoor Hossain Malu and Mohammedan SC general secretary and co-chairman of the organising committee Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan were present on the occasion.

BFF acting general secretary Manjoor Hossain Malu and Teletalk managing director Amirul Hassan signed an agreement to this effect on behalf of their respective organisations during the media conference.

Under the deal, Teletalk will

provide Tk 3 lakh to the football federation to be the title sponsor of the meet and it has earned the right to place 23 billboards around the ground, displaying Teletalk banners around the stadium.

Besides, all the participating players will use Teletalk logo in their armbands. The mobile phone operator will also provide medals, crests and trophies to the teams in addition to the best player's award.

The entire proceeds of the three-match series will go to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund.

The rates of ticket have been fixed at Tk 100 for VIP gallery, Tk 30 and 75 for gallery for all the three matches. The tickets are now available at different booths in the city.

Radio Today, the official partner of the exhibition matches, will give match updates every five minutes.

Meanwhile, Abahani Limited and Mohammedan fans have launched massive campaigns in different parts of the city and its adjoining areas to make the series a success.

BFF will hold a rally at 11am today with the participation of the players and officials of different metropolis clubs to inspire the people to enjoy the charity match.

The rally will start from Bangabandhu National Stadium and conclude at the National Press Club.

‘মানুষ মানুষের জন্য’

সিডরে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত আর্ত মানবতার সেবায় এগিয়ে আসুন



দুর্গত মানুষের পাশে ফুটবল

আবাহনী লিঃ ঢাকা ক্লাব ঢাকা মোহাম্মেদান জি



শ্রেষ্ঠের লড়াই

বেস্ট অব থ্রী

তারিখ : ৩, ৫ ও ৭ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৭

সময় : দৈনিক ৪: ৩০ মিনিট

স্থান : বঙ্গবন্ধু জাতীয় স্টেডিয়াম

আয়োজন : বাংলাদেশ ফুটবল ফেডারেশন