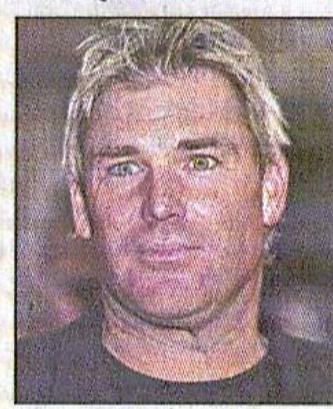




Did U Know?

Former world number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland started playing tennis at age of two and entered tournaments at the age of four. From this early start, Hingis turned pro at fourteen finishing the year with a world ranking of 87 in 1994.



Shane Warne
(Australian spin legend)
"Congratulate Murali for breaking the record I had."

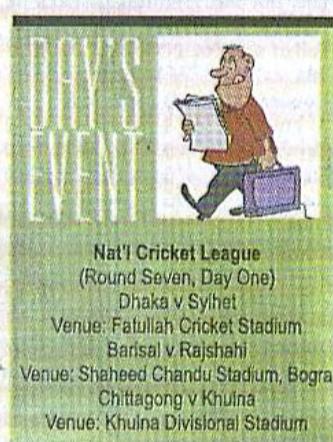
After Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralidaran became the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket on Monday.



TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v England
First Test, Day Five
Live from 11:00am
ESPN

Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm



Pakistan call up Rauf for final Test

REUTERS, Kolkata

Pakistan have called up uncapped fast bowler Abdur Rauf for the final Test against India, a team official said on Tuesday.

Rauf, 28, will replace second wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed in the 15-man squad to reinforce the pace attack after Umar Gul missed both previous Tests with back trouble and returned home.

All-rounder Yasir Arafat was flown in as replacement for Gul.

Pakistan, hit by illness, drew the second Test in Kolkata on Tuesday after the hosts won the opening game in New Delhi by six wickets.

The third and final Test in Bangalore starts on Saturday.

BCCI backs down, Dilip can continue

PTI, New Delhi

In a sudden turn of events, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday climbed down in its stand-off with chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar, saying it would go into his "legitimate" demands for compensation for not writing columns.

In an apparent bid to effect a truce, BCCI president Sharad Pawar said he wanted Vengsarkar, who had demanded relaxation of the strict guidelines that barred selectors from writing columns or

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

'Conditions tough, but helpful'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh batsmen on Tuesday got a little idea about what is exactly coming at them in New Zealand.

Mohammad Ashraful's men found it hard to cope even against net bowlers during match simulation at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The reason was simple as the bowlers, especially Chittagongian Nazim, carried the ball brilliantly and penetrated the national batsmen most on a very lively pitch that is prepared on the demands of new national coach Jamie Siddons.

The system to cut down the length of the pitch to give the batsmen some idea of the pacy conditions in New Zealand worked out well and interestingly, only Abdur Razzaq looked comfortable during his 42-run knock.

Understandably the Tigers pace bowlers enjoyed the conditions as well, despite the fact that they were not allowed the advantage of shorter length of the pitch.

And pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza issued a warning that the conditions would be tougher than the replicated one that is prepared at home.

"It would be much, much tougher in New Zealand than the batsmen are facing here. You know, the breeze plays a vital role in favour of the seam bowlers, which is not the case here. And another thing is that we are getting even bounce here but it would not be the same in New Zealand," said the Bangladesh vice-captain who visited the country during the Tigers' first visit in 2001.

"But I am really excited with the behaviour of the practice pitches because I hardly have seen such a good wicket in Bangladesh. Unfortunately we could not play in this kind of surface in the National Cricket League," he added.

His new-ball partner Shahadat Hossain echoed his senior's sentiment.

"It's fantastic to bowl here. Any fast bowler would love to bowl in such a condition that has bounce and movement. But it was difficult for the batsmen, though ultimately they will benefit from playing here," said the lanky paceman who missed most of the NCL matches due to fever.

Siddons definitely would have loved to see his batsmen immediately take the upper hands against the fast men, as the batting is his side's main headache.

NZ, Tigers' Sidr fundraiser in Hamilton

APP, Wellington

Bangladesh and a New Zealand team will play a Twenty20 match this month to raise funds for victims of November's deadly cyclone.

Cricket New Zealand said Tuesday the match will be played in Hamilton on December 23 at the start of Bangladesh's tour of New Zealand.

Cyclone Sidr smashed into the southern coastal districts of the delta nation on November 15, killing at least 3,200 people and leaving millions homeless or short of basic staples such as rice.

"With the Bangladesh cricket team touring New Zealand in December and January we felt it is appropriate and the right thing to do to assist the relief efforts in their country," Cricket New Zealand chief executive Justin Vaughan said.

The New Zealand XI will be captained by Stephen Fleming, who was replaced earlier this year as captain of the national team by Daniel Vettori.

An invitational Masters team will also play the New Zealand under-19 side in another Twenty20 game before the main match as part of the fund raising.

Bangladesh will play three one-day internationals and two Tests during their tour of New Zealand.

Stand-in captain stands up
Kolkata Test ends in a draw

Cricket

APP, Kolkata

dous innings."

Indian spinners Anil Kumble (2-73) and Harbhajan made the batsmen struggle for runs on a slow turning track, keeping a tidy line and length with four men in catch-

ing positions close to the bat.

Pakistan were in trouble midway through the afternoon session when they lost four wickets for 78 in 40 overs, but Younis came to his team's rescue as he added 136 for

the unfinished fifth-wicket stand with Younis.

Younis, leading the side in the absence of unfit Shoaib Malik, never allowed the Indian spinners

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

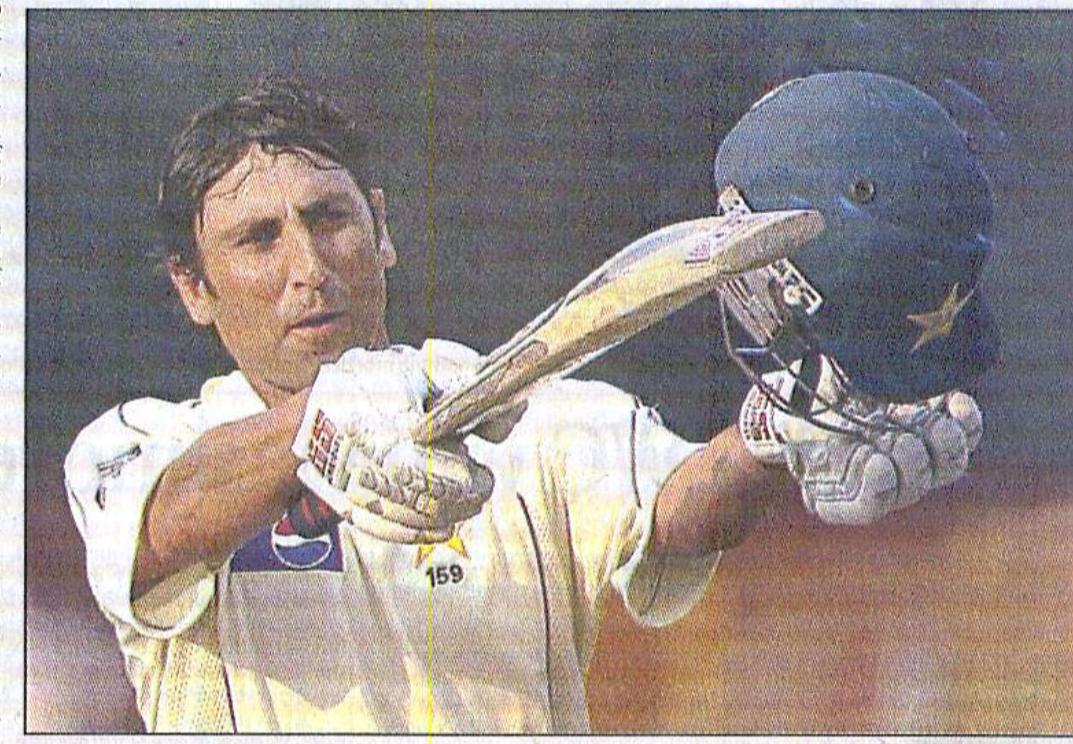


PHOTO: AFP

SAVING GRACE: Pakistan captain Younis Khan salutes the crowd upon reaching a century during the last day of the second Test against India at the Eden Gardens in Kolkatta on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka in command
Sangakkara's unique feat

Cricket

APP, Kandy

month.

Australian legend Don Bradman, Wally Hammond of England and Mudassar Nazar of Pakistan did it in three successive Tests.

Of his 16 Test centuries, Sangakkara has crossed the 150-run mark 11 times.

But he almost did not get there on Tuesday as Ian Bell at first slip,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

month.

Kumar Sangakkara became the first batsman to hit 150-plus scores in four consecutive Tests as Sri Lanka pressed for victory in the first Test against England on Tuesday.

The left-hander made 152 as Sri Lanka piled up 442-8 in their second innings when they declared 30 minutes before stumps on the fourth day to leave England an imposing victory target of 350.

England closed the day on 9-1, losing Alastair Cook to the fourth ball of the innings from Chaminda Vaas, who forced an edge to Chamara Silva at first slip.

Skipped Michael Vaughan was unbeaten on one and nightwatchman James Anderson was on four as England return on the final day to attempt a history-defying win against world number one Muttiah Muralidaran.

The highest fourth innings total achieved at the Asgiriya Stadium to win a Test was 264-3 by India in 2001.

Vaughan's men can, however, take heart from their previous visit to Kandy in 2003 when the tourists, set a target of 368, ended with 285-7 to draw the match.

Sangakkara followed his 92 in the first innings with a brilliant century containing 19 fours before he was caught at mid-on by Vaughan off part-time seamer Paul Collingwood.

Sangakkara's 16th Test century - the sixth in his last 10 innings -- made him only the ninth batsman in history to score a hundred against all the other nine Test-playing nations.

But he was the first to achieve

the rare feat of four 150-plus scores

in as many Tests after making 200

not out and 222 not out against

Bangladesh at home in July and 192

against Australia in Hobart last

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PHOTO: AFP

RUNS FOLLOWING HIM: Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara (L) acknowledges the dressing room as his batting partner Chamara Silva congratulates him during the fourth day of the first Test at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

C'WEALTH CHESS
Reefat, Rakib win in 2nd round too

SPORTS REPORTER

Reefat Bin Sattar and his fellow Bangladeshi Grand Master Abdullah Al Rakib maintained their winning run in the second round of the Commonwealth Chess Championship in New Delhi, India.

While Reefat and Rakib collected maximum two points after two wins, country's first GM Niaz Murshed drew his board with Abhay after beginning the competition with a win.

In Monday's 2nd round, Rakib beat Mary Ann Gomes while Reefat defeated Krishnan Saravanan.

FIDE Master Khondokar Aminul Islam and IWM Rani Hamid have one point each after Amin drew with Priya Mohana and Rani's loss to IM Vikramaditya Kamble.

Div I chess
from Dec 12

UNB, Dhaka

The Metropolis First Division Chess League will begin in Dhaka on December 12 at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room.

Sixteen teams will participate in the league. They are reigning champions Bangladesh Birman, runners-up Leonine Chess Club, Chittagong Mohammedan, Destiny 2000, Narayanganj City Chess Club, Titas Club, Sonali Bank, Dhaka University Chess Club, Mukti Jiddha Sangsads, Mohakhali Pradip Sangha, Friends Chess Power, Farashganj, Faith Chess Club, Agragati Chess Club (Toyota Motors), Prime Life Insurance Company and Sultan Kamal Smriti Pathagar.

The teams have been requested to send their entry and the registration fees to the Bangladesh Chess Federation by December 9. The deadline for sending team lists is December 10.

Touchline ban for Manik
MSC-Abahani 2nd charity match today

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Be it exhibition or competitive, the tension seems to hang around an Abahani-Mohammedan clash.

It would be no different when the two archrivals take the field today for the second match of the Best of 3 TeleTalk Series, organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to raise fund for the victims of Cyclone Sidr.

After Monday's dramatic end of the first match both the sides will miss known faces when the match kicks off at 4.30pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan, who lead the series 1-0 after winning 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw in

the first encounter, will be without Hassan Al Mamun while Abahani miss Arif Khan Joy -- both serving a one-match ban following their sent-off decisions. However, they will return for the third and final match on Friday.

Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik has also been handed a touchline ban for today's match.

Both sides will make changes as they have received Abahani's letter and felt that both sides would not mind after the punishments served.

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