

## Did U Know?

Major League Soccer (MLS) was formed on December 17, 1993, fulfilling a promise to FIFA from Alan Rothenberg and the US Soccer Federation to establish a "Division One" professional soccer league in exchange for staging the 1994 FIFA World Cup.



"We've got to make sure we get 250 and bat our 50 overs. We've broken a few teams rules and hopefully it won't happen again," Siddons told.

## Cricket

AGENCIES, Napier

Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons said some of his star batsmen must look to carry on after they are set at the crease ahead of the second one-day international against New Zealand at McLean Park in Napier today.

Tigers lost the plot and then the match in the opening encounter at Eden Park in Hamilton on Wednesday when captain Mohammad Ashraful and Tamim Iqbal's dismissals triggered a middle-order collapse that left them with 201 runs to defend. The hosts reached the target losing four wickets.

"We've got to make sure we get 250 and bat our 50 overs. We've broken a few teams rules and hopefully it won't happen again," Siddons told.

"If you get those sorts of starts you can't afford to fall away that badly."



**Anderson**  
(Man United's Brazilian midfielder)  
"A player does not show what he is worth in one match. It happens over a period of time and I am sure eventually, the fans will see what I can do."

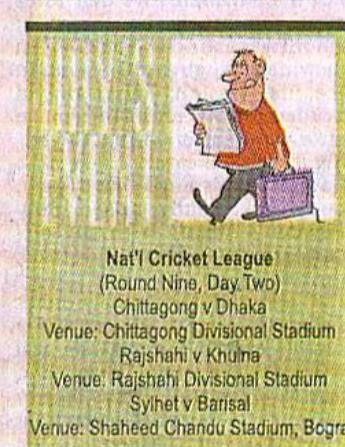


**SAB tv**  
New Zealand v Bangladesh  
Second ODI  
Live from 4:00am

**STAR Cricket**  
Australia v India  
First Test, Day Four  
Live from 5:30am (Saturday)

**TEN Sports**  
South Africa v West Indies  
First Test, Day Three  
Live from 2:30pm

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30pm



## Malik begins rehab

CRICINFO, undated

Shoaib Malik, the Pakistan captain, needs a further three weeks to recover fully from the ankle injury that curtailed his tour to India. It also means that he faces a race against time to be fit for Pakistan's next assignment, an ODI series against Zimbabwe, which begins from January 26.

Malik missed the final two Tests against India recently after injuring his ankle during a post-Test warm-up and now begins an injury rehabilitation programme at the National Cricket Academy.

"Doctors have removed the plaster from Shoaib Malik's ankle Thursday and have advised him to undergo a rehabilitation programme for the next three weeks," Ahsan Malik, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman, told The News.

Malik will be working with Sohail Saleem, the PCB's chief medical officer, and trainer Abdul Saboor. "He (Malik) is feeling much better and is confident of regaining full match fitness ahead of the series against Zimbabwe," Ahsan said.

Another vital player, Mohammad Asif, also begins his comeback from the elbow injury.

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## Siddons warns batters

"(Mohammad) Ashraful and Tamim (Iqbal) seemed to make it look pretty easy but the two guys threw it away," Siddons said.

"The batsmen that were in were probably looking at a 280 target rather than making sure we got 250. The captain has a bit to answer for there."

But aside from the middle and lower order batting failure, Bangladesh also failed with the ball, unable to ruffle a New Zealand

## TEAMS

**BANGLADESH:** Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Zunaid Siddique, Tamim Iqbal, Afzal Ahmed, Shakib Al Hasan, Tushar Imran, Farhad Reza, Mashfiqur Rahim (wicketkeeper), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain.

**NEW ZEALAND (likely):** Jamie How, Brendon McCullum (wicketkeeper), Peter Fulton, Ross Taylor, Scott Styris, Mathew Sinclair, Jacob Oram, Daniel Vettori (captain), Kyle Mills, Mark Gillespie, Chris Martin.

batting lineup struggling for confidence.

Jamie How (88), fighting to secure a regular berth in the team, and Peter Fulton (35) who is returning from injury, spent quality time in the middle before both fell to rash aerial shots.

Bangladesh have never beaten New Zealand in nine encounters, but Ashraful had them in with a chance with a rollicking 70 off 57 balls before falling to an injudicious shot rather than a quality ball.

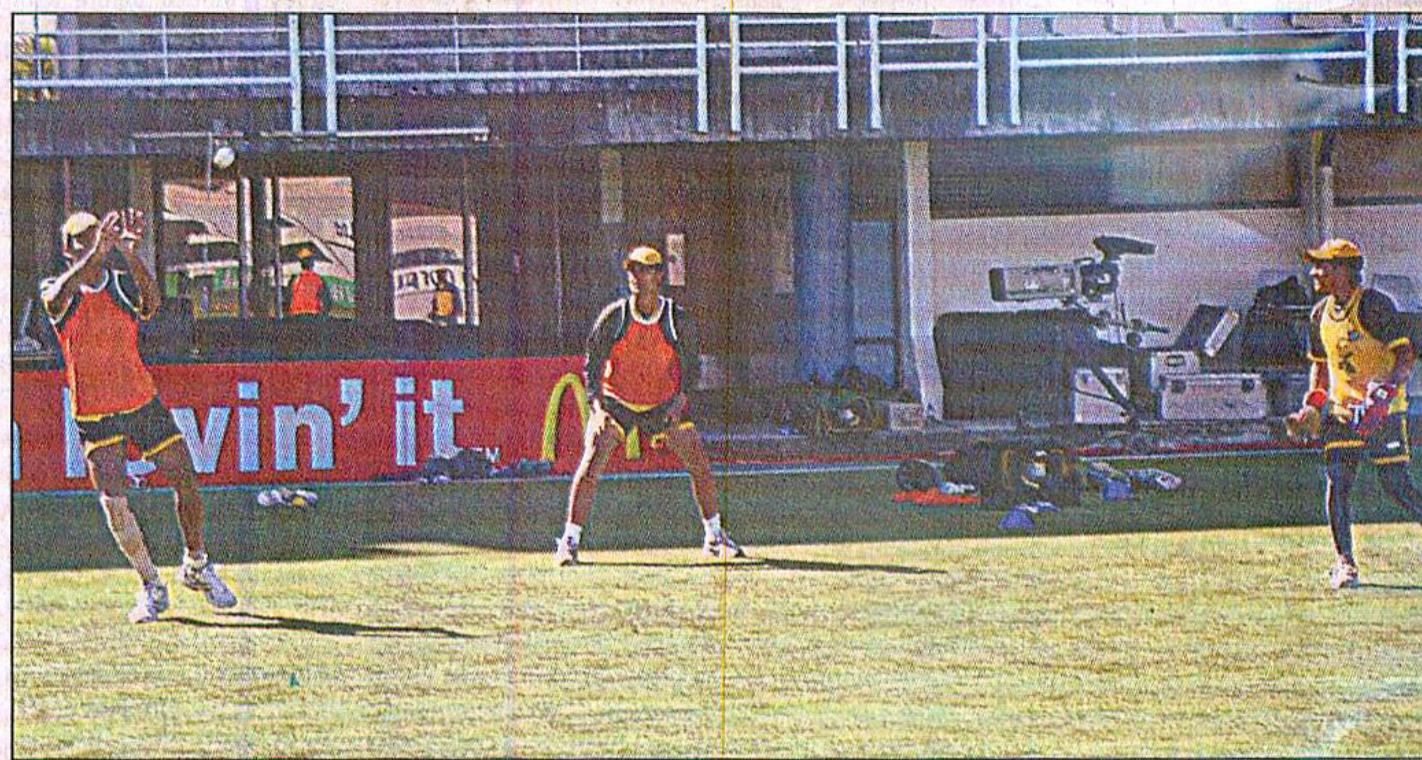
"I thought he was pretty outstanding," said New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori.

"It sort of reminded us of some of the world class players going round at the moment in his ability to hit good balls for fours and sixes consistently."

"He's obviously got an amazing eye and is going to be a major threat to us the whole series."

Vettori wants to ram home the advantage over Bangladesh to further lift morale.

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Bangladesh opener Zunaid Siddique (L) prepares to take catch as wicketkeeper Mashfiqur Rahim (R) and Tamim Iqbal look on during a training session at McLean Park in Napier on Thursday.

PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

## Fog, bowlers dominate

## SPORTS REPORTER

**KULNA**, Dhaka and Barisal bowled themselves to great positions at the end of the first day's play of their respective ninth round National Cricket League matches across the country yesterday.

All three sides dominated proceedings with the ball but dense fog forced the Rajshahi-Kulna and Barisal-Sylhet encounters back by several hours in the morning.

Rajshahi, at home, were bowled out for only 188 runs in 51.1 overs, thanks to an all-round bowling effort from the visitors. Kulna were 21-2 at the end of day's play.

In Chittagong, Dhaka folded the hosts' first innings for only 98 with Mohammad Sharif and Arafat Sunny starring with the ball. Dhaka were 10 runs behind after they reached 88-2.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Sylhet struggled to 149-8 against Barisal in 60 overs of play.

## RAJSHAHI-KULNA

After dense fog delayed the start of play by one and half hours at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, Kulna's stand-in captain Nahid Haq sent the hosts to bat.

Fast bowlers Ziaur Rahman, Aslam Khan and Rabiu Islam took two wickets each to vindicate Nahid's decision when Rajshahi fell to 66-4.

Only opener Shakil Haider struck nine fours and a six in his rapidfire 61 off 85 balls but his dismissal, an edge to Sahagir Hossain off Aslam, was the turning point as another batting order collapse began. Off-spinner Jarnaluddin Babu snapped three while Fariduddin Masud took one as the hosts slipped to 188 all out.

Rajshahi opening bowler Delwar Hossain tried his best to wrestle back the initiative by picking up both the Kulna wickets.

## BARISAL-SYLHET

Except opener Golam Rahman and captain Alok Kapali, none of the Sylhet batsmen could stand up to Barisal's varied bowling attack.

After the 2.5-hour delay,

fell like ninepins there as well.

The host batsmen never looked like getting on top of the Dhaka bowlers as the likes of Mahbulul Alam, Mohammad Sharif, Mosharrif Hossain and Arafat Sunny destroyed Chittagong in the first innings.

Sharif and Sunny took three wickets while Mosharrif and Mahbulul took two each.

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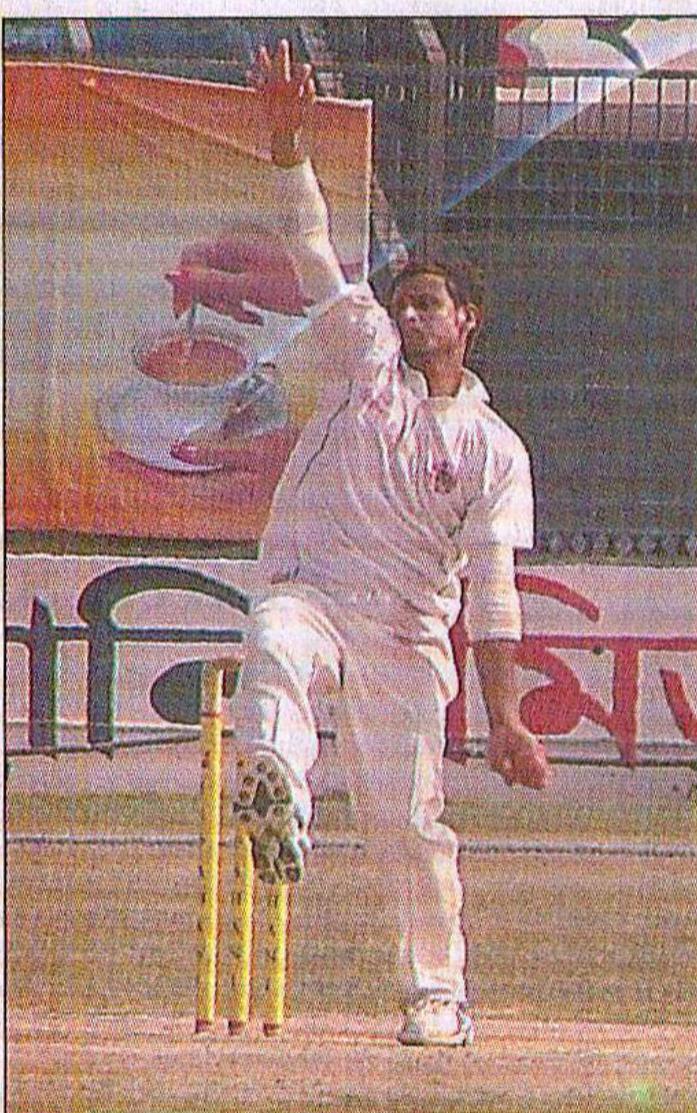


PHOTO: STAR  
Dhaka left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny, who took three wickets against Chittagong, is about to deliver during their National Cricket League match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Thursday.

## Bangladeshi trio to reach NZ Dec 30

## SPORTS REPORTER

The three cricketers to join Bangladesh for the Test series in New Zealand will leave Dhaka tomorrow.

The chosen three -- ex-skippers Habibul Bashar, former vice-captain Shahriar Nafees and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr -- however, will reach New Zealand on December 30 instead of tomorrow due to a revised flight schedule.

The Tigers will play two Tests against the Black Caps in Dunedin and Wellington.

## Shuvo slams half-century

## SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Suharwardi Shuvo and Rony Talukdar shone on the opening day of Bangladesh under-19s' three-day practice match against their South African counterparts at Sedgars Park in Potchefstroom on Thursday.

Opting to bat first, the visitors reached 226-6 in 60.3 overs with captain Shuvo scoring 68 and Rony hitting 43.

Mahmudul Hasan was unbeaten on 37 after Shuvo was the last man out in the second session.

Wayne Parnell took two wickets while Jonathan Vandiar and Audrey Swanepoel took a wicket each.

## BRIEF SCORES

**BANGLADESH UNDER-19s:** First innings 226-6 in 60.3 overs (Rony 43, Mithun 39, Nadimuddin 0, Nasir 8, Marshall 23, Suharwardi 68, Mahmudul 37\*, Parnell 2-37, Vandiar 1-22, Swanepoel 1-33).

## Brett reaches 250 wickets

AFP, Melbourne

Brett Lee's seemingly unstoppable rise to become one of the greatest Australian bowlers reached another milestone here Thursday when he joined the 250-club of Test wickets.

The spearhead of the Australian bowling attack following the retirements earlier this year of record-breakers Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath shared top billing with Stuart Clark (4-28) as they helped dismiss India for 196 in the first Test.

Lee, 31, man-of-the-series against Sri Lanka last month, claimed 4-46 and took his 250th Test wicket to become the sixth all-time leading Australian wicket-taker, overtaking Richie Benaud.

"It feels fantastic... when you're nine years of age, you think about playing one Test match or even taking one Test wicket," he said.

"But to think that you're in the 250 club, it's pretty special moment, I'm a very proud man."

Lee played a major part in helping the Australians seize the momentum with a 179-run lead after the second day's play with 10 wickets and three days left to get a result in the first match of the four-Test series.

The speedster has developed into a model of line and length consistency as he shoulders the responsibility of leading the Australian new-ball attack.

"In our team meetings... we've been talking about being so patient, especially on this MCG wicket," Lee said.

"It's a very low, slow wicket, so patience is probably what we're after and building up momentum and patience from each end," Lee said.

Clark removed Tendulkar just when the 'The Little Master' was in ominous touch and followed up with the dismissals of Yuvraj Singh and Mahendra Dhoni in the same over either side of the wicket.

Clark, who made his Test debut at the age of 30, has now taken 58 wickets at 19.32 in his 12th Test, while Lee, man-of-the-series against Sri Lanka last month, took his Test tally to 250 wickets.

Tendulkar was in his pomp, caressing drives and cuts for boundaries and crashed leg-spinners Brad Hogg for a huge six before he chopped a Clark delivery on to his stumps.

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Lee would have reached the 250 mark sooner had he not been

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## Sultan mystery deepens

## Football

## SPORTS REPORTER

sports adviser and also mentioned that the 'media cannot be controlled without exchange'. He also accused the media of being politically motivated in the same letter.

Admitting that he chose 'a few wrong words' in his letter to the NSC chairman, Sultan declared in his letter to Tapan: "Instead of journalists, I should have written a few words of being dishonest and politically motivated.

Sultan, who sparked controversy earlier this month by attacking the country's sports adviser Tapan Chowdhury and the media, regretted his remarks against the sports boss.

In a letter to Tapan Chowdhury, dated December 17, he apologised for hurting the sports adviser but mentioned that he was provoked by questions (from a journalist) leading to his answers, which Sultan claims as an 'inadvertent outburst'.

The BFF yesterday revealed the copy of the letter, which seems to be a vain face-saving attempt by Sultan, who had said previously that the sports adviser had no jurisdiction to comment about the football federation.

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Mahmudul Hasan was the last man out in the second session.

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The stumps, Australia were on track for their 15th consecutive Test win and were cruising at 32 without loss with Matthew Hayden on 22 and Phil Jaques 10, representing an overall lead of 179 runs with 10 wickets intact.

Late-blooming seamer Clark struck three times in 12 balls in his 4-28 to seize the initiative sparked by the coveted scalp of Sachin Tendulkar and Lee continued his glorious summer to finish with 4-46.

"We've been talking about being patient, especially on this low, slow MCG wicket, so it's about patience and building up momentum from each end," Lee said.

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