



## Did U Know?

The Hockey World Cup, sometimes called the Hockey World Championships, is an international field hockey competition organised by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). The tournament started in 1971.



**Brett Lee**  
(Australia fast bowler)

"It feels fantastic... when you're nine years of age, you think about playing one Test match or even taking one Test wicket. But to think that you're in the 250 club, it's a pretty special moment. I'm a very proud man."

After reaching the milestone during India's first innings in the first Test.



## What to Watch

**SAB tv**  
New Zealand v Bangladesh  
Third One-Day International  
Live from 4:00am (Monday)

**ESPN**  
English Premier League  
Derby County v Blackburn Rovers  
Live from 7:25pm  
Man City v Liverpool  
Live from 12:00am (Monday)



**Nat'l Cricket League**  
(Round Nine, Day Four)  
Chittagong v Dhaka  
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium  
Rajshahi v Khulna  
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium  
Sylhet v Barisal  
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra

## 'We did well on foreign pitch'

PTI, Melbourne

Australian skipper Ricky Ponting Saturday declared that if the Indian batsmen felt suffocated at a "subcontinental" track like the MCG, they will not find it easy at any of the remaining three matches of the Test series.

Ponting said the Australian team's homework on the Indian batsmen was thorough and the hosts would not concede an inch in the upcoming matches as well.

"We have not one but five or six plans against each batsman for different conditions and in different scenarios. That's the beauty of technology. The way our plan came off at the MCG, I would say that we have really been well prepared," he said after the hosts thrashed India by 337 runs in the first Test Saturday.

Ponting said it was extremely satisfying to achieve such a big win against a good Indian side on a wicket which was not a typical Australian strip.

"It was a kind of pitch which was more sub-continental type, more foreign to us. Here in Australia we are looking to blast sides out," he said.

"Here we needed to do things differently and I am glad we were able to do it so well. After the first day's play the match was 50-50 so to come out with a 337-run win over India in such conditions was extremely satisfying," he added.

## Win beckons Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi are eight wickets away from snatching Khulna's top spot as they dominated Day Three of their ninth round match in the 9th National Cricket League at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Khulna, set 322 for victory, were 56-2 after Rajshahi put up 284-10 in their second innings.

Chittagong lost only one wicket as they moved from 26-3 overnight to 259-4 in a return to Dhaka. They now lead by 41 runs after having conceded a 218-run first innings deficit at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Sylhet must survive the final day after Barisal amassed 383-5 declared. They were 4 for two.

### RAJSHAHI-KHULNA

From an uncomfortable 62-2 overnight, Rajshahi slowly moved out of danger through, first, a solid 61

from opener Jahurul Islam.

The lanky right-handed batsman, who was unbeaten on 39, struck eight boundaries and a six in his two-hour knock.

After his dismissal to five-wicket bowler Ziaur Rahman, it was the turn of captain Khaled Mashud to hold the baton and then a spirited effort from Anisur Rahman, who scored 64 off 82 balls with the help of five boundaries and two sixes.

Apart from Ziaur's 5-39, Rabiul Islam and Murad Khan took two wickets each.

Khulna faltered as they started their chase of 322 runs, losing two wickets before Imrul Kayes and Mostafizur Rahman steadied the ship to end the day without further damages.

### BARISAL-SYLHET

Middle-order batsman Abul Bashar struck an unbeaten 82 and Nasiruddin Faruque and captain Imran Ahmed struck 70s as Barisal took a huge 200-run first innings lead.

Bashar, regarded one of the best

fielders in the country, struck six boundaries and two sixes. Faruque, who opened for Barisal, hit 77 off 186 balls while Imran was not out on 70 when he declared the innings.

Sylhet lost two wickets for four runs in their second innings.

**CHITTAGONG-DHAKA**  
Experienced Chittagong opener Masumuddin, with Nazimuddin and captain Ehsanul Haq staved off Dhaka during the third day.

Right-hander Masum, unbeaten on 14 overnight, played 307 deliveries to reach his first hundred of the season with 12 boundaries.

Left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny took the only wicket of the day when he removed Nazimuddin for 80 to end a 140-run fourth wicket stand with Masum. The in-form batsman also hit 12 fours in his two and half hours stay at the wicket.

Ehsanul and Masum also added

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## Mahmudur's tenure won't be extended

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday officially confirmed that its current chief executive officer Mahmudur Rahman's contract will not be renewed at the end of his current tenure in mid-February next year.

The board's working committee has decided to form a three-member committee headed by its chairman Syed Fahim Munaim to search for a new man for the post.

"As per the working committee decision our current CEO will continue till his tenure ends in mid-February and after that we will look for a new candidate for the post. Our working committee chairman Fahim Munaim will head a three-member committee to find out the new man," informed Ishiaque Ahmed, vice-chairman of the media committee.

He however didn't want to make any comment on whether Rahman has tendered his resignation.

Ishiaque also said that a decision was also taken in the meeting that a three-member committee headed by Shafiqur Rahman Munna will be formed to examine the issue of women's wing member secretary Nazma Shamim, who was sacked by committee chairperson Monwar Anis Khan.

"It was also approved that we will appoint a fast bowling development coach as well as finding a high performance coach," he added.

## Trio shines as match drawn

SPORTS REPORTER

Mithun Ali and Nadimuddin slammed half centuries after Dollar Mahmud's five-for as the three-day warm-up match between Bangladesh Under-19s and South Africa Under-19s ended in a draw at Sedgwick Park in Potchefstroom yesterday.

The visitors scored 208 for 2 in the second innings on the third and final day with Mithun scoring 80 and Nadimuddin not out on 72.

Earlier, right-arm paceman Dollar captured five for 75 runs but still the home team amassed 434 in their first essay thanks to 156 by Reeza Hendricks and 103 by John Vandiar.

### BRIEF SCORES

**Bangladesh Under-19s:** First innings 294 and second innings 208 for 2 in 54 overs (Rony 11, Mithun 80, Nadimuddin 72 not out, Nasir 29 not out; Pretorius 1-44, Smuts 1-30).  
**South Africa Under-19s:** First innings 434 all out in 113.4 overs (JT Smuts 77, K Smuts 60, Rossouw 9, Vandiar 103, Hendricks 156, Vallie 47, Swanepoel 0, Moshele 6, Parnell 5 not out, Pretorius 8, August 1; Dollar 5-75, Rubel 3-89, Rony 1-45, Nasir 1-47).

## 'Dravid call was right'

REUTERS, Melbourne

India were right to move Rahul Dravid up to opening batsman against Australia, to make room for Yuvraj Singh in the middle order, captain Anil Kumble said after his team lost the first Test on Saturday.

India, chasing an improbable 499 for victory, were bowled out for 161 late on the fourth day and lost the match by 337 runs.

Dravid struggled against the new ball on a low and slow wicket, making five and 16, while Yuvraj made a duck and five in his two appearances.

"I think it was the right decision," said Kumble, who was forced to defend the selection several times at a media conference after the match.

"You go with form and the team composition and looking at the series against Pakistan, going by form this was the best combination going into this Test match."

"It's difficult when Yuvraj is playing so well and we don't pick him, you (media) say why not? Then when we put Rahul up the order and then make way for Yuvraj, you say, 'No, you shouldn't have done that'."

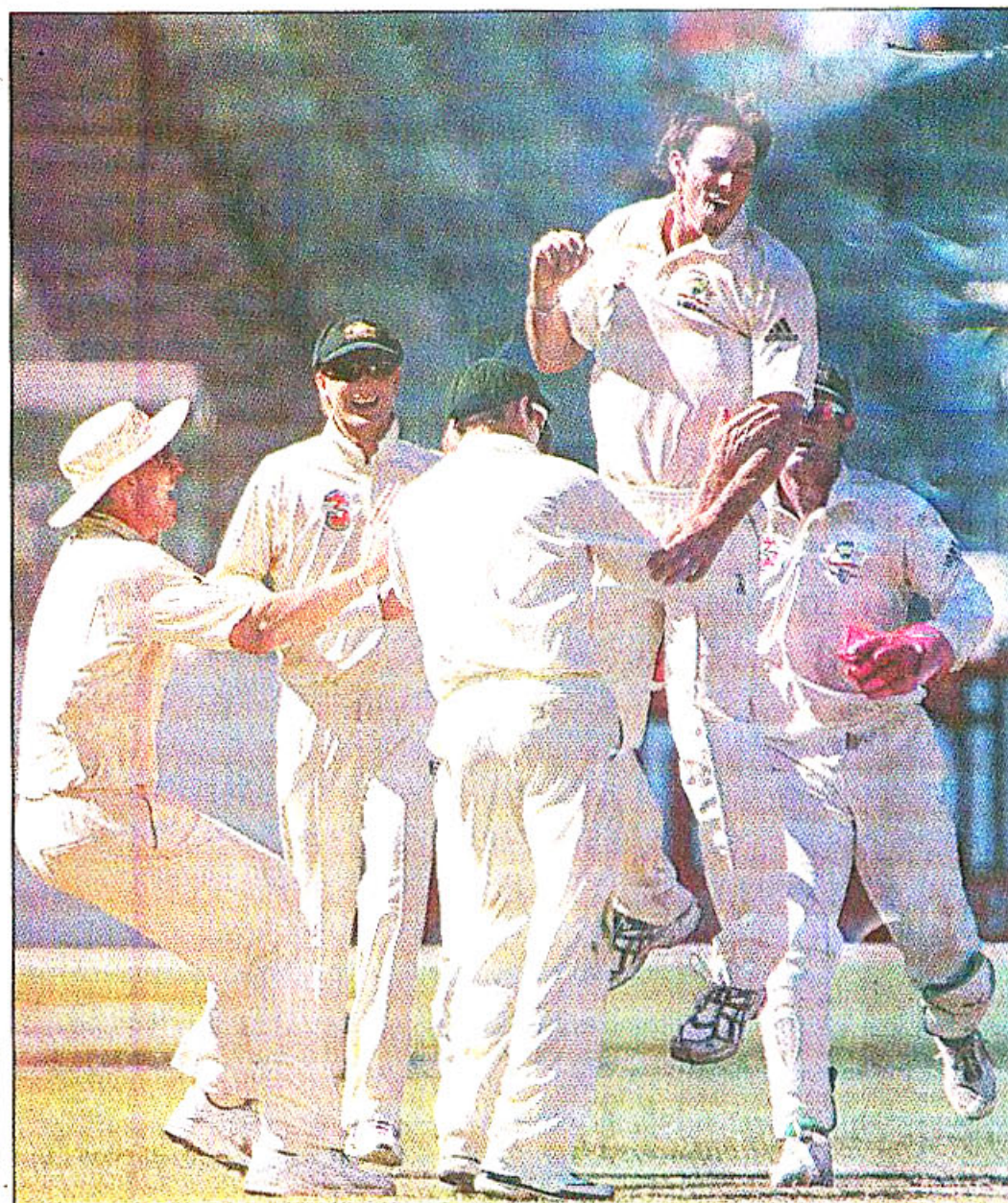
"There are always ifs and buts, but for me personally I need to look at the team dynamics and who is batting well."

"If you look at our batting order then all seven of them are batting well and the other two openers, who could have possibly taken someone else's place, weren't really getting runs."

Kumble said no decisions about the composition of the team for the second Test in Sydney, and whether to bring in aggressive opener Virender Sehwag or Dinesh Karthik, would be made until the team had inspected the pitch.

The leg-spinner, however, added he was confident that Dravid, who has amassed 9,704

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**CAN'T BRING HIM DOWN:** Australia left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Johnson (2nd from R) celebrates after he took the final Indian wicket, that of Rudra Pratap Singh (not in picture), on the fourth day of the first Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday.

## Aussies storm to win

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Australia inflicted one of India's heaviest Test defeats Saturday, winning the opening match of the four-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series by 337 runs on the fourth day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The Australians claimed their 15th consecutive Test victory and will look to equal their world record of 16 wins set from October 1999 to February 2001 in next week's second Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

India, set a historic 499 runs to win, fell away late in the day to go down to one of their heaviest defeats.

Only their 342-run loss to Australia in Nagpur in 2004-05 and 341-run defeat to Pakistan in Karachi a year later rank worse.

The Indians, who battled for two

sessions in fierce heat, unravelled after tea, losing five wickets for 27, with left-arm paceman Mitchell Johnson taking 3-21 off 15 overs.

After almost dismissing Australia on the opening day, India dropped away under the relentless pressure of Ricky Ponting's side to lose substantially at 4:31pm (0531 GMT) on the fourth day.

"We played excellent cricket all the way through with the discipline we showed with the bat to grind out the runs and with the ball to stick to our plans and do things differently on this type of pitch," skipper Ponting said.

"It was a pleasing win because this wicket was probably more suited to the sub-continental style of play and we adapted well."

Once Australia dismissed key batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman in the middle session, the end was inevitable.

Much depended on the two stalwarts to stick it out against

relentless Australian probing, but they could not overcome the odds.

Only three teams in Test cricket history have scored 400 or more in the fourth innings for victory.

"It was important that we batted through sessions but our batting didn't stand up, it was pretty disappointing," Indian skipper Anil Kumble said.

"The first innings was crucial and if we had come close to their score, if not take a lead, then things could have been different."

"But it was very disappointing after having a good first day... we couldn't back it up with our batting on the second day."

Brett Lee set up Tendulkar with a short-pitched ball and followed up with one outside off-stump which "The Little Master" chased after for his favourite square drive and edged to Adam Gilchrist.

Tendulkar, who scored 15, was playing in his fourth and farewell

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**Chittagong opener Masumuddin sets off for a run during his century against Dhaka on the third day of the National Cricket League match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.**

## Kumble orders runs

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Skipper Anil Kumble, stung Saturday by one of India's heaviest Test defeats, says the tourists must toughen up mentally if they are to improve against Australia in next week's second Test in Sydney.

Ricky Ponting's all-conquering Australians dusted off the Indians by 337 runs inside four days at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to take a one-nil lead in the four-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series.

"It hurts, not just as an individual but as a team that we haven't put up a good show and I can tell you we will address that and try to put up a better show in Sydney," Kumble said.

"It's mainly a mental thing and that is something we will address so we are hungry for success when we go to Sydney."

"It's just a matter of going out there and batting freely. We didn't do that in our two innings here."

Amid a clamour in the Indian

media for team changes, Kumble said he will check on the pitch conditions in Sydney before making any decisions.

"If you look at our batting order then all seven of them are batting well and the other two openers, who could have possibly taken someone else's place, weren't really getting runs," he said.

"It's a difficult position for me. If (openers) Virender Sehwag and Dinesh Karthik were in great form then the choice would have been easier."

One burning issue is the selection of 116-Test batsman Rahul Dravid as opener to fit in Yuvraj Singh at number six in the batting order.

Yuvraj was a big disappointment in Melbourne, failing twice to impress -- scoring zero and five runs -- while Dravid was castigated for his painstaking scoring -- five off 66 balls and 16 off 114 balls.

"He (Dravid) is too good a player to worry about his batting. He just needs to go out there and enjoy his batting," Kumble said.

"I'm positive that he can do that."

He has played more than 100 Tests and has scored more than 9000 runs. I am really confident he will be able to come out and bat the way he does.

"It's difficult when Yuvraj is playing so well and we don't pick him, you (media) say why not? Then when we put Rahul up the order and then make way for Yuvraj, you say no you shouldn't have done that."

"There are always ifs and buts, but for me personally I need to look at the team dynamics and see who is batting well."

Kumble also has the problem of rectifying India's shoddy fielding, which was exposed during the MCG Test in comparison to the slick Australians.

"We can't really change that. We have some of the guys, including me, on the other side of 35 so it is tough for us to make those adjustments," he said.

"Whatever the best fielding unit we have then we have to manage with that. You can't win a match by fielding alone, you need to score

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## WI conquer SA finally

Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth

The West Indies gained their most significant Test win away from home in seven years when they beat South Africa by 128 runs on the fourth day of the first Test at St

George's Park here on Saturday.

Set 389 to win, South Africa succumbed to consistent pressure from the West Indian fast bowlers and were bowled out for 260 with Fidel Edwards and Jerome Taylor taking three wickets each.

South Africa were never in contention after slumping to 45 for four, although Jacques Kallis (85)

and AB de Villiers (60) provided resistance in a fifth wicket stand of 112, while Andre Nel (34) and Dale Steyn (33 not out) delayed the end with a hard-hitting ninth wicket partnership of 67.

It was the first away Test win for the West Indies, other than against minnows Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, since they beat England by an innings and 93 runs in Birmingham in June 2000.

South Africa's troubles started early when Daren Powell dismissed Herschelle Gibbs for his second duck of the match.

Fellow fast bowler Edwards built up impressive pace to claim the wickets of Hashim Amla and South African captain Graeme Smith as South Africa slumped to 20 for three.

Kallis and Ashwell Prince survived until lunch but Prince fell to Jerome Taylor four balls after the interval, edging a low catch to West Indian captain Chris Gayle at first slip.

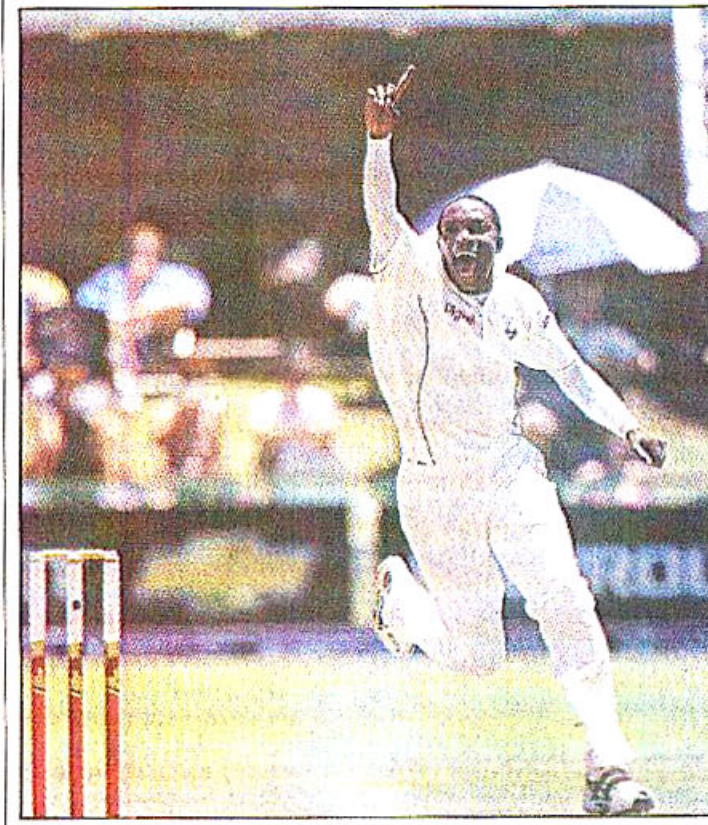
Earlier the West Indies scored 29 runs before losing their last two wickets to be all out for 175. Taylor made a hard-hit 22 before he was last man out. Left-arm spinner Paul Harris took both wickets to finish with four for 35.

South Africa, seeking to better their highest winning fourth innings total of 340 for five against Australia in 2001/02, made a bad start when Gibbs padded up to Powell in the third over.

The ball was only marginally outside his off stump, angling in to the stumps, and umpire Aleem Dar had no hesitation in giving Gibbs out.

Edwards, who did not take a wicket in the first innings, had

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**West Indies fast bowler Fidel Edwards is cock-a-hoop after removing South Africa captain Graeme Smith (not in picture) during the fourth day of the first Test at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth on Saturday.**