



## Did U Know?

Yellow tennis balls were not used in the Wimbledon Championships until 1986, when they were brought in to make speeding balls more visible for the television cameras.



## What to Watch

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm  
English Premier League  
Wigan v Everton  
Live at 1:45am (Tuesday)

**TEN Sports**  
Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka  
Third ODI  
Live from 1:30pm  
ICL World Series  
India XI v Pakistan XI  
Live from 8:00pm



## Day's Event

**Nat'l Cricket League**  
(Four-Day, Day 1)  
Khulna v Barisal  
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium  
Chittagong v Rajshahi  
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium  
Dhaka v Sylhet  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur  
Citycell B. League  
Abahani v Mohammedan  
Time: 4:30pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



## Talk Turkey



## Imran Khan

(Pakistan cricket legend)  
*"The terrorists will never target cricketers, knowing that they will then lose the battle of hearts and minds of the people. Cricketers are safe in Pakistan."*

## Two bronze medals for shooters

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh won two team bronze medals in the 4th South Asian Shooting Championships in Islamabad yesterday.

After winning two gold medals on Saturday at the Pakistan capital, Bangladeshi shooters bagged bronze in men's 50m rifle prone and men's 10m air pistol.

Saiful Alam Rinki, Abdullah Hel Baki and Ramjan Ali teamed up for the 50m rifle event while Mahendra Kumar Singh and Alamgir Hossain paired in the 10m air pistol.

## No luck for hockey team

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh President XI bowed out of the 45th Nehru Cup hockey tournament in India without any point when they lost their last group match ONGC 1-0 at the Nehru Stadium in Gurgaon, Haryana.

Jayanta Meitsi scored the only goal of the match in the sixth minute.

Earlier, the Bangladeshi side lost 5-1 to Bharat Petroleum and 5-3 to South Central Railway.

# Gap worries giants

## Abahani-Mohammedan match today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Top-of-the-table Abahani will find it hard to maintain their winning run in the B. League when the defending champions take on archrivals Mohammedan today.

The crucial match between the two genuine title contenders, which resumes the competition after a two-week break, will kick off at 4.30 pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

However, there would be no current form for either of the Dhaka giants as Abahani -- who won five matches in a row after starting the league with a shocking win against Rahmatganj -- would be playing their first match in three weeks while the Black and Whites their first in 20 days.

The long gap, the league was halted for the national team's tour to Myanmar,

worries both the coaches who promised to victory at a pre-match press conference at the BFF Bhawan yesterday.

Amal Sen's league

leaders while Maruf Haque's six games while Maruf Haque's Mohammedan, who have played a match less, are at fourth place with 11 points.

Although Mohammedan's

2008 record is enviable, they have lifted the Federation Cup beating Abahani on penalties and haven't lost a single match this season, the fact that they have not beaten Abahani other than tiebreakers since 2004 is a spot of agony.

But Maruf says that he does not dwell in the past.

"It's a new match for me. In fact every match is new and what we did in the last match does not matter. We are well prepared for this match although I am worried about the gap," said Mohammedan coach Maruf.

Mohammedan crossed a major hurdle when they edged Sheikh Russel 2-1 in their last encounter but Maruf believes that that form would not count.

"Every time we came after a long gap, we have taken time to pick up the tempo. My team's main strength is speed and it is difficult to tell now whether we would be able to

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Mohammedan captain Jewel Rana (L) takes questions from reporters as his Abahani opposite number Nazrul Islam (R) and B. League chairman Salam Murshedi look on during a pre-match press conference at the Bangladesh Football Federation Bhawan yesterday. The two giants clash today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR

# Johnson sinks Kiwis

**Cricket**

**CRICINFO, undated**

It took Australia only 48 minutes on the fourth day to wrap up New Zealand's final four wickets and claim a 149-run win in the first Test at the Gabba. Mitchell Johnson finished with his first five-wicket haul in Tests and Stuart Clark ended up with four victims as New Zealand's collapsible tail lived up to its reputation and they were bundled out for 177.

The match finished so early -- it was not yet 11 am in Brisbane -- that it gave the satisfied local spectators plenty of time to head off for a Sunday brunch. They had filed into the stadium knowing that a long day was improbable but the swiftness of the finish was still rather startling.

New Zealand began the day needing 184 runs for victory with six wickets down but the already unlikely scenario became completely unfeasible when they lost Daniel Vettori and Ross Taylor to Johnson for the addition of 18 runs. Vettori fell in almost identical fashion to the first innings when he drove to point and Andrew Symonds jumped to take a one-handed catch above his head.

Taylor followed in Johnson's next over when he drove at a ball that moved across him and edged behind to Brad Haddin for 75. When

Clark added Iain O'Brien, who lobbed a simple chance to Michael Clarke at point, the score was 9 for 164 and the only remaining points of interest were whether Johnson would collect his fifth and Chris Martin would make his 24th Test duck.

The answers were yes and no. Martin managed to squeeze a single off Clark -- and then watched as Tim Southee pounded a pair of sixes straight down the ground -- but his bat returned to near hologram status when he was bowled from the first straight ball he received from Johnson. The stumps rattled, Australia celebrated and it left Johnson with 5 for 39, match figures of 9 for 69, and the Man-of-the-Match award.

He was perhaps fortunate to receive the honour ahead of Simon Katich, whose unbeaten 131 was a match-winning effort on a pitch where only two other batsmen posted half-centuries. Johnson was Australia's leading wicket-taker on the tour of India but he was still pleased to return to more familiar and friendly conditions after the lifeless surfaces he had encountered recently.

"It is good to get back on a bouncy fast track," Johnson said after the match. "I felt pretty good over in India. I just try and hit the deck as hard as I can and that's what I did out here, so I'm feeling pretty good about my bowling at the moment."

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# Vettori backs batters

**Cricket**

**CRICINFO, undated**

Daniel Vettori will look for a magic cure to New Zealand's traditional batting woes before Friday's second Test as they attempt the difficult task of levelling the series in Adelaide. One of the many worries for Vettori when he took over the leadership from Stephen Fleming in 2007 was the side's lack of run-scoring ability and it was on display again in Brisbane as they were dismissed for 156 and 177 on the way to a 149-run defeat.

"It's been a problem well before I was captain," Vettori said. "A lot of guys went through it and tried to find ways of redeeming it. I still look at the guys and think they're extremely talented, but we have to turn that talent into consistent performances and unfortunately we're not just getting that."

A lack of support from the batsmen is a long-term problem and it is made harder by the fact five of the current top six have played fewer than 20 Tests. Vettori hopes his teammates will learn quickly on the job and develop in to strong international players.

"We've always produced quality bowlers but with the batting there's Martin Crowe, who averages 45 with 17 Test hundreds, and then there's a pretty big gap," he said. "Historically, we've always struggled with our batting. But I look at Jesse Ryder, I look at Ross Taylor, Jamie How, Brendon McCullum and Daniel Flynn, who are very good players, and once they have played 20 Test matches in those positions they can average 40 and can be very good players."

"At the moment we're

trying to work with some very young guys, some very inexperienced guys. I think even Australian guys in their first 10 Test matches would find it difficult coming into conditions like this."

Taylor top scored for New Zealand with 75 in the second innings but only he and Ryder looked capable of attacking Australia, while Daniel Flynn stood firm on both occasions from No. 6. Vettori will resist making many changes to the line-up and is reluctant to

alter the order.

"Jesse has always batted in that area his whole career and Daniel has batted five, so we would have been changing and probably upsetting a guy in his third Test and a guy in his sixth Test," he said. "It would be a bit too much."

Despite the side's batting woes, Vettori does not believe he is resigned to a couple of tough years in charge. "I do have a lot of faith in them," he said. "I see the talent in them

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India opener Virender Sehwag executes a powerful pull during the fourth one-day international against England at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# NCL 7th round from today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Barisal take on Khulna today in one of three seventh round clash of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 10th National Cricket League.

On top of the points table with 67 points, Barisal have the chance to extend their lead against a weakened Khulna side. Khulna, who are in fifth place with 42 points, did not even go for the chase against Sylhet when they were asked to score 135 runs from 30 overs.

Rajshahi, on 59 points, however will remain hot on the heels of the leaders Barisal as they take the bus to Chittagong to play the hosts, who are in fourth with 48 points.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium here in Mirpur, the hosts take on Sylhet.

## POINTS TABLE

	M	W	L	D	Pts
Barisal	6	3	0	3	67
Rajshahi	6	3	1	1	58
Dhaka	6	2	1	3	53
Chittagong	6	1	1	4	48
Khulna	6	1	2	3	42
Sylhet	6	0	5	1	28

# Siddons seeks two years

**Cricket**

**BISHWAJIT ROY in Bloemfontein**

After a crushing innings defeat in the first Test, Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons asked everybody not to be frustrated with his young charges, rather he assured that this side will be better in two years time.

"This team performance is going to get better. My guarantee is this team will be better in two years time because they have got the ability and have good coaches around them. They also have the facilities. We are training for the future, not for now. They are training hard in a very disciplined way," said the Tigers coach yesterday.

While South African players took a day off to share time with their families following the early finish of the Test match, Siddons returned to business with his boys yesterday to make a match-like practice at the centre wicket of the OUTsurance oval.

Bangladesh coach said that unfortunately they have to complete the schooling of the players in the national team which should have been done before they got the nod for the highest level of the game.

"My guys are improving, they are working hard but still they are very young. They were not up to the mark against tough opponents like South Africa but they are going to be. They are not world-class right at the moment and I need time to develop them," observed the Australian.

"There are no Smith (Graeme), (Neill) Mackenzie or Shalim Amla who came through a process. They have had the schooling before entering into this level but there is almost nothing at a

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# Chess Olympiad Scotland beat Bangladesh

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Despite Grandmaster Abdullah Al Rakib's win over GM Shaw John, Bangladesh men's team lost 3-1 to Scotland in the ninth round of the 38th Chess Olympiad at Dresden, Germany on Saturday.

GM Ziaur Rahman lost to Rowson Jonathan GM Enamul Hossain Rajib went down to GM Aagaard Jacob and FM Abu Sufian Shakil was beaten by IM Arakhamia-Grant Ketevan as Bangladesh remained on nine match points in the open section.

The women's team suffered a similar fate, losing 3.5-0.5 to Indonesia. WFM Tanima Parveen drew with Indonesia's Kadek Iin Dwijayanti but WIM Rani Hamid, Nazrana Khan Eva and Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipal lost their boards.

The women's team have eight match points.

In yesterday's tenth round, the men's team were playing El Salvador and the women against IBCA.

# Dinajpur into last eight

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Dinajpur became the last district to enter the eighth-team final round of the 29th National Cricket Championship after a clinical 4-wicket win over Nilphamari at their very own Bara Maidan yesterday.

Chasing 172 runs, Dinajpur took only 47.5 overs to claim the victory.

Battling first, Nilphamari scored 171 in 46 overs with Shuvo's 54 and 31 from Nadim. In reply, Dinajpur's Rezaul slammed 47 while Hossain hit an unbeaten 25 to confirm the victory.

Dinajpur now play Moulavibazar in the fourth quarterfinal on November 30 at the Jessore Stadium that hosts the final round of matches.

The opening quarterfinal will be held on November 27 between Barisal and Chandpur.

# Under-17s off to flier

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Mohammad Sentu took three wickets to help Bangladesh Under-17 romp to a eight-wicket victory over their Nepali counterparts in Kathmandu yesterday.

Opting to bowl first, the visitors skittled out Nepal Under-17 for just 62 runs in 30.3 overs. In reply, Bangladesh took 27.2 overs to topple the small target losing two wickets.

Seamer Sentu destroyed the top-order to take three for 12. He found good help from every-one around with Asif Hasan and Mehedi Hasan taking two wickets each. Dewan Sabbir, Abu Zayed and Mamun Hossain got one each.

Opener Ashiqul Alam top-scored with 17 while extras contributed 18 as the visitors romped home.

# SA give good account

**Football**

**INTERNET, Johannesburg**

There were smiles all around on Saturday as South Africa took another step towards hosting the 2010 football World Cup. A short, but colourful, draw ceremony for the 2009 Confederations Cup at the Sandton Convention Centre went off without a hitch, the hosts were given a very favourable draw and

coaches and officials of the other seven competing teams were also satisfied.

Bafana Bafana will play Iraq in the opening game in Ellis Park on June 14, 2009, while New Zealand face Euro

GROUPINGS	
<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>
Spain	Italy
South Africa	Brazil
New Zealand	Egypt
Iraq	USA

2008 champions Spain in the other Group A game on the same day.

The other group sees world champions Italy take on the defending Confederations Cup champions Brazil, as well as Egypt and US in the competition that will be played in four venues June 14-28, 2009.

The draw in the Sandton Convention Centre not only had an African feel to it, seven contestants of the Miss World competition, that will be held

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Miss South Africa Tansy Coetzee helps out in the Confederations Cup draw at Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Sidebottom out of ODIs

**Cricket**

**CRICINFO, undated**

Ryan Sidebottom, the England fast bowler, has been ruled out of the remaining four matches of the one-day series against India with a side strain. Sidebottom has been afflicted by injury for much of 2008, sustaining an Achilles injury during England's Stanford Super Series in Antigua before a long-standing side strain re-emerged at the start of this series.

England sent him for a scan earlier in the week whose results, though inconclusive, were not encouraging, but this latest diagnosis has confirmed a tear on his right side. The England Performance Squad arrived in Bangalore Sunday, and Sidebottom will remain with the group in a bid to be fit for the forthcoming two-Test series which will follow the ODIs. The first Test in Ahmedabad gets underway on December 11, which doesn't leave him with much time in which to regain fitness.

Sidebottom spearheaded England's attack for a year, surprising many with his consistent pace and aggressive line. However, he struggled in the home series against South Africa in the summer, and there were indications that his first year as a fully-fledged Test cricketer had begun to take its toll on his body. Despite this latest setback, Peter Moores insists that Sidebottom can return to his world-beating best.

"We know fast bowlers can pick up niggles," Moores told PA. "We've had Andrew Flintoff missing for 18 months and he's come back, so we know it happens. We also know that people who play international cricket, they have a never-ending schedule because it's a 12-month cycle and they have to get used to that."

"Ryan's given everything for 12-18 months, picked up those niggles and hopefully we can get him fit, strong and his body in the right shape to then carry on playing without injury for a decent period of time," he said. "If anything we'll get more (from him) because he's training very hard to be able to bowl,"

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