



## Did U Know?

Australia fast bowler Brett Lee is the only bowler to have taken more than 300 Test wickets without taking six or more wickets in an innings.



**Nat'l Cricket League**  
(Four-Dayer, Day 3)  
Khulna v Chittagong  
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium  
Dhaka v Rajshahi  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium  
Sylhet v Barisal  
Venue: Sylhet Divisional Stadium  
Citycell B. League  
Muktijoddha v Farashganj  
Time: 4:30pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



## Geoff Lawson

(Former Pakistan cricket coach)  
"I think a few of the England players should reflect on what happened in their country before they start pulling out of cricket matches in India."



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

## BOA to start SAG preps this month

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is looking forward to start training camps by this month to prepare the athletes for next year's South Asian Games (SAG).

Dhaka will host the 11th edition of the SAG.

BOA secretary-general Kutubuddin Ahmed yesterday told that they have decided to start camps on December 18.

Two coaches from Korea for athletics and archery will arrive in Dhaka within one week, the BOA chief executive informed.

The Korean national Olympic committee had promised to help Bangladesh by providing coaches and sport facilities after the BOA supported Korean city Icheon's bid to host the 2014 Asian Games.

Kutubuddin, who agreed that Bangladesh must prepare hard to regain the gold medal in football, however, said they have no plan for football coaches.

But he said that the BOA would be ready to provide logistic supports to Bangladesh Football Federation for the SAG training camp.

The BOA has already got Tk7 crore, the first instalment of the total 16-crore taka budget for training and preparation.

## Ashraful admits batters' failure

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team returned home yesterday after an expectedly dismal tour of South Africa, where they were white-washed in the Test series but were spared a similar crashing in the one-dayers due to rain.

After the tired Tigers faced the local press briefly at the Zia International Airport lounge, captain Mohammad Ashraful admitted that their preparation to face the Proteas was not adequate.

"Our lack of experience in playing on bouncy wickets at home was the main reason behind the batsmen's overall failure in the series," told the country's premier batsman, who scored 73 and five in the two one-dayers. The third match was washed out.

A lot was expected of him but Ashraful failed to give batting solidity to the team, which suffered innings defeats in both the Tests.

"The wickets were difficult because we are not used to such tracks. Also, we just took on the Proteas after playing against New Zealand on low wickets at home. Still, I would say that the bowlers did their part well but the batsmen failed to give them support," added the Bangladesh skipper, whose contribution in the four Test innings were 1, 13, 1 and 21.

He said that they could not adopt those pitches quickly that caused their batting debacle, especially in Test matches. He also thought some decisions in the second Test went against them.

"I am happy the way we played in T20 and the ODIs because it is always tough for all teams playing in South African conditions. We tried our best to perform well and our performance was not that bad in the end. Our focus would be on the Sri Lanka series

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## Arambagh ride on Nicodemus treble

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Nicodemus Gichana slotted a first-half hat-trick as Arambagh destroyed Khulna Abahani 5-0 for their second victory in the Citycell B. League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Midfielders Moudud Ahmed and Lutfar Rahman Nayan added the rest for Arambagh, whose previous victory came in their second league match late in September when they beat Muktijoddha Sangsard 2-1.

Despite putting an end to the seven-match poor run, Arambagh remained in the relegation zone with nine points from nine matches.

For Khulna Abahani, on three points, it has become a painful competition as the bottom-table side slumped to their eighth consecutive defeat after beginning the race with a 3-1 win against Muktijoddha.

Both the sides returned to action after one month and the visitors looked rusty and conceded a tenth minute penalty when defender Nasir's clumsy challenge brought down host striker Anwar inside the area.

Anwar, who received a serious injury in his ankle, was later taken to a hospital for treatment.

Kenyan footballer Nicodemus, who played in midfield in the

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Arambagh's Kenyan forward Nicodemus (C) shrugs the challenges of two Khulna Abahani defenders to head home his third goal during yesterday's Citycell B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## India and Pakistan must complement each other

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Javed Miandad, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director-general, has said India and Pakistan should back each other in terms of cricket in the wake of the recent Mumbai terror attacks. Pakistan, he said, were keen to play in India and as a reciprocal gesture of goodwill, India should go ahead with their tour of Pakistan in January next year.

"Both India and Pakistan are victims of terrorism and cricket will bridge the gap between the two nations," he

told the Hindustan Times. "Pakistan has gone through the same ordeal and suffered not just economically but in terms of cricket too. Our players are starved of international matches and this is the right time for India and Pakistan to complement each other."

Miandad, a former Pakistan captain, said he hoped that India was not isolated in international cricket, given that the one-day international series against England was curtailed, the two-Test series hangs in the balance and the Champions League scheduled for December 3-10 has been postponed.

"The English team is sulking and the Champions League is also cancelled," said Miandad. "This is the right time for the Asian bloc to show some solidarity by coming together and assuring the world that the subcontinent is safe for cricket."



BRAVE SMILE: Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak (R), who was suspended on Monday, leaves the Zia International Airport yesterday.

## BCB approves standing committees

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday approved the heads of its different standing committees at the second meeting of the board of directors.

Senior vice-president Mahbul Anam will head the working committee while Enayet Hossain Siraj came as a surprise choice for chairman of the cricket operations committee although other names were speculated prior to this meeting.

Also, a number of board officials previously successful in different committees have been given responsibilities in other areas.

Following are the chairmen of the other standing committees: Finance- Ahmed Iqbal Hasan, disciplinary- Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby, game development- Aminul Haq Moni, tournament- Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, umpires-

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## United start with a win

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

United Cricket Club defeated Agrani Krira Chakra by 5 wickets in the opening day of the International Grammar School inter-district cricket tournament here at the Rangpur Cricket Garden yesterday.

Agrani batted first and scored 108 runs in 19.1 overs. United reached the winning target, also in 19.1 overs.

Ejaz of United was the best performer of the day, obtaining three wickets and scoring 37 runs.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur Abdul Ahad inaugurated the tournament.

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## England offered new tour itinerary by India

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

England have been offered a revised schedule for their tour of India but will await a security report before making any decision.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has said players will not be forced to go following the terror attacks in Mumbai.

Indian cricket bosses say the ECB has agreed to the Ahmedabad and Mumbai Tests switching to Chennai and Mohali, the first starting on December 11.

A planned three-day warm-up match has been cancelled.

Security expert Reg Dickason was due to fly to Chennai on Tuesday.

"We'll go through the information in groups with the

players and then help them come to a decision," Professional Cricketers' Association chief executive Sean Morris told BBC Sport.

"We'll have a position as a whole but there will always be the opportunity for personal decisions."

Former England bowler Andy Caddick, who opted out of a trip to India shortly after the 9/11 attacks on the United States in 2001, spoke highly of Dickason.

"The one big thing the England team have now is a very reliable and trustworthy guy as far as their protection is concerned," Caddick told BBC Radio 5 Live.

Travel advice for India on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website on Monday stated: "There is a high threat of terrorism throughout India."

"Attacks have targeted places frequented by expatri-

## Khulna lose their way

SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong fashioned a stunning reversal while Rajshahi dominated Dhaka on the second day of the seventh round National Cricket League yesterday.

After being bowled out for just 121 in their first innings, Chittagong reduced Khulna to 40 for seven after the hosts declared their first innings at 301-9 at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

Rajshahi has an overall lead of 129 runs after scoring 283 all out in 107.5 overs. Dhaka were 12 for one when play was called off due to bad light at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Sylhet-Barisal tie remained a slow game; the hosts reaching 366-9 before declaring their first innings after Golam Rahman struck a century. League leaders Barisal batted the rest of the day with skipper Imran Ahmed scoring an unbeaten half-century.

### KHULNA - CHITTAGONG

Kamrul Islam ripped through the Khulna top-order in the second innings. The left-arm paceman took out Habibur Rahman, Ashraful Aziz and Sahagir Hossain, and found some support from Mohammad Younus, who took two wickets. Mohammad Salim was the last man out in the 30th over, as the hosts led by 140 runs with just three wickets in hand. It comes as no surprise from Khulna who were crushed in just two days by Barisal in the last round. But they impressed somewhat, making an impressive 301-9 in the first innings.

Earlier, Chittagong themselves suffered the batting blues, being bowled out for 121 runs in just 31.4 overs. Ziaur Rahman took five for 36 from 11.4 overs while Rabiul Islam took three wickets.

### DHAKA-RAJSHAHI

Jahurul Islam and Suhawardi Shuvo carried on the good work from the first day, adding 86 for the third wicket. The right-handed opener struck 83 off 199 balls with a dozen boundaries that had one six. Shuvo, who is primarily a left-arm spinner,

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## Rangpur set final clash with Khulna

SPORTS REPORTER

A blazing 80-run opening stand between Salahuddin Papu and Ashraful Islam paved Rangpur's way to the final of the 29th National Cricket Championship with an emphatic eight-wicket victory against neighbours Dinajpur in the second semi-final yesterday.

In reply to Dinajpur's 202 all out in 49.4 overs, Rangpur rattled 206-2 in just 33.2 overs at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore to set a clash against Khulna in tomorrow's final.

Man-of-the-match Ashraful, who remained unbeaten on a run-a-ball 89, shared 80 runs with Papu (48 off 39 balls) in just 11 overs and added further 102 for an unbroken third wicket stand with Ferdous Ahmed, who contributed 50 off 49 deliveries.

Earlier, Roni bagged 3-13 from ten overs to restrict Dinajpur to a moderate total, built around Bappy's 43 and Foyzal's 53.

## WI call up Pollard for NZ ODIs

CRICINFO, undated

Kieron Pollard, the Trinidad and Tobago batsman, has been included in the West Indies squad for the forthcoming one-day internationals in New Zealand. According to the Trinidad and Tobago Express Shaun Findlay and Nikita Miller, the left-arm spinner, will also join the squad but it's uncertain who they will replace.

Pollard, who also bowls medium pace, helped T&T reach the final of the recently concluded WIBC Cup in Guyana with an all-round

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## 'C'Games, WC safe'

AFP, New Delhi

India will host the 2010 Commonwealth Games and cricket's World Cup in 2011 as scheduled despite security concerns after the Mumbai terror attacks, top officials said on Tuesday.

Indian Olympic Association secretary-general Randhir Singh said there was no threat to the Commonwealth Games to be held in New Delhi from October 3-14, 2010.

"What happened in Mumbai is tragic, but sport must go on and we are determined to host the Games," Singh, a member of the International Olympic Committee, told AFP.

"There will be high security for the Games as is common at most international sporting events. There is no cause to worry."

"The Olympic torch relay in New Delhi earlier this year went off without a problem despite demonstrations because the security was very tight."

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## C'Ron wins Ballon d'Or

Football

INTERNET, undated

Cristiano Ronaldo claimed the Golden Ball awarded to the European Footballer of the Year on Tuesday.

Ronaldo proclaimed the accomplishment as "one of the most beautiful days of my life" and vowed to keep improving after winning the prestigious Ballon d'Or award in the early hours of the morning.

The Manchester United winger was named as 2007 winner Kaka's successor after convincingly seeing off competition from Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Liverpool striker Fernando Torres.

Of the 96 top journalists

polled by France Football magazine, 77 voted the Portugal winger as their top

player this year and every one placed him in their top five after he scored 42 goals in

United's Barclays Premier League and Champions League winning season.

He polled a massive 446 points from a maximum 480, finishing comfortably ahead of second-placed Messi (281) and third-placed Torres (179).

In doing so, the 23-year-old becomes the third Portuguese player to lift the famous trophy - after legendary pair Eusebio and Luis Figo - and joins fellow Red Devils George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton in taking the gong.

A total of 11 Barclays Premier League players earned votes, with England internationals Steven Gerrard (ninth), Wayne Rooney (13th) and Frank Lampard (15th) flying the flag for Fabio Capello's side.



CRISTIANO RONALDO

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