



## Did U Know?

Golf was banned in Scotland from 1457 to 1502 to ensure citizens wouldn't waste time when preparing for an English invasion.



## Juan Pablo Sorin

(Former Argentina soccer captain)  
"My career appears to have gone really fast, but I truly believe that the moment has come to call a halt to it."



## BTV & TEN Sports

West Indies v Bangladesh  
Third ODI  
Live from 8:30pm  
**STAR Cricket**  
England v Australia  
Third Ashes Test, Day 2  
Live from 5:00pm  
**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 9:30pm

## Murali to quit Tests in 2010

Muttiah Muralidaran has said he will retire from Test cricket at the end of Sri Lanka's home series against West Indies in November 2010. Speaking at the end of the first ODI against Pakistan, in which he was awarded the man-of-the-match, Murali said he will focus on representing his country in one-day cricket until the 2011 World Cup and thereafter will stick to Twenty20 cricket.

Murali, 37, is the world's leading wicket-taker in Test cricket with 770 at 22.18 from 127 Tests. He passed Shane Warne's Test record of 708 wickets against England in December 2007, fittingly on his home ground in Kandy. He achieved the grand double of being the highest wicket-taker in ODIs as well when he went past Wasim Akram's record of 502 wickets in 2009.

## T20 Champs League dates announced

Royal Challengers from India will meet South Africa's Cape Cobras in the first match of the inaugural Twenty20 Champions League, organisers said on Thursday. The six-million-dollar event, featuring 12 domestic Twenty20 teams from seven Test-playing nations, will be held in the Indian cities of Bangalore, Hyderabad and New Delhi from October 8 to 23. Bangalore will host the opening match and a semifinal, New Delhi will host the second semifinal, and the final will be played in Hyderabad on October 23, a release from the organisers said. India will field three teams, Australia, South Africa and England two each, and New Zealand, the West Indies and Sri Lanka will send one team each to determine the champion club in cricket's shortest format.

## THIRD ODI TODAY

# Tigers target whitewash

## Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh might opt for a couple of changes when they go into the final one-day match against the West Indies at Warner Park in St Kitts today.

Having already clinched the three-match series by winning the double-header in Dominica, the Tigers might drop their two pace bowlers Syed Raseel and Rubel Hossain, who failed to make any impression in the first two ODIs at Windsor Park where Bangladesh won the first game by 52 runs and the high-scoring second match by three wickets on Wednesday.

It was learnt that right-arm pace bowler Nazmul Hossain and young Mahbubul Alam Robin are likely to feature in the third game which turned into an academic affair other than offering Bangladesh an opportunity to complete a whitewash of a weak West Indies team.

Bangladesh, still unbeaten in the tour, had earlier won the Test series 2-0.

The visitor are on a high after the victory in the second one-dayer where they chased down 274, a target they had never successfully chased before. Bangladesh achieved that landmark mainly due to back-to-back half centuries from stand-in captain Shakib Al Hasan and his predecessor Mohammad Ashraful.

Shakib, who took over the demanding job from injured captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, has been a revelation in the tour winning everything with the bat and ball either in the Tests or in the ODIs.

He scored a match-

winning 65 on Wednesday. He also led the Bangladesh spin attack, which has so far proved very successful against the home side. But the pace attack remains a worry in the absence of Mashrafe, who pulled out of the tour after twisting his right knee on the opening day of the first Test.

Rubel with a slinging action has struggled with his line and length. Medium pacer Syed Raseel also found his swing easily handled by the opponents. And with the next series against Zimbabwe in mind, coach Jamie Siddons was all set to take the opportunity to test his pace battery on the reserve bench.

Bangladesh Television and satellite channel TEN Sports will beam the match live from 8.30pm.

Meanwhile, West Indies have persisted with a weak-

ened squad for the third ODI and the Twenty20 match against Bangladesh. Chris Gayle and other top players still find no place, and the only change was the exclusion of fast bowler Nelson Pascal, who sustained a finger injury in the first ODI last Sunday.

## SQUADS

**WEST INDIES:** Floyd Reifer (captain), Dale Richards, Devon Smith, Andre Fletcher, Travis Dowlin, Dave Bernard Jr, Rawl Lewis, Darren Sammy, Nikita Miller, Kemar Roach, Nelson Pascal.

**BANGLADESH (From):** Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraful, Rokibul Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah, Rubel Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Naem Islam, Syed Raseel, Nazmul Hossain, Mahabubul Alam Robin, Imrul Kayes, Mehrab Hossain.

# Pakistan not going for neutral venue

CRICINFO, undated



Pakistan has ruled out holding its share of 2011 World Cup matches at a neutral venue. "There's no such clause in the agreement among the four co-hosts, so it's not possible," PCB chairman Ijaz Butt said.

Butt also briefed lawmakers on the ongoing legal dispute over the ICC's decision to strip Pakistan of co-hosting rights on security grounds, at a meeting of the parliamentary sports committee. "We are looking for an out-of-court settlement with the ICC and I am hopeful that we will settle the issue some time next month," Butt said.

The ICC has promised to give the PCB 10.5 million dollars as a co-host, despite distributing Pakistan's share of 14 World Cup matches among the other hosts: India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. "Four of our demands have been met while the dispute is over the other two," Butt said without elaborating on the details.

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Groundsmen attempt to clear the water away from the playing surface as expectant crowd brave the rain on the first day of the third Ashes Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston yesterday.

# Durham gets Ashes nod

## Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Durham's Riverside ground will host its first Ashes Test in 2013, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Thursday.

But the board have yet to confirm that north London venue Lord's, the self-styled 'home of cricket' will stage a Test against Australia in four years' time.

England won their first Ashes Test at Lord's in 75 years last week to go 1-0 up in the five-Test series with three to play.

The recommendation by the independent major match group (MMG), chaired by Lord Bill Morris, a former trade union leader, also confirmed an Ashes Test match at the Oval, in south London, for 2013 as a part of their long-term staging agreement.

That leaves the three other Ashes Tests due to take place up for grabs and the ECB will now invite bids to host those matches.

Durham first staged Test match cricket at their Chester-le-Street home in 2003 and England have won all four Test matches staged there including the match against the West Indies in May.

Durham have also been awarded a Test match against Sri Lanka in 2016.

Hampshire's Rose Bowl, already awarded a Test against Sri Lanka in 2011, will host an India Test match in 2014 along with Old Trafford and the Brit Oval. There is one further Test match against India in 2014 where the venue had still to be allocated.

Durham was awarded the Ashes Test under the MMG's

new system of awarding major match packages to grounds which do not have long term staging agreements. The reason for the introduction of these packages was, said the ECB, to allow grounds to attract finance by demonstrating a 'certainty of supply' of games for the period running from 2012 to 2016 for a fixed fee.

An ECB statement said this would allow venues to develop their facilities to world class status which is a priority of the board.

The board remain open to

offers for next year's neutral Tests between Pakistan and Australia.

These are being staged in England as a way of helping keep Pakistan involved in Test match cricket following the reluctance of international teams to travel to the Asian nation following the terror attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore in March.

All fixture awards made by the ECB are subject to the confirmation of the International Cricket Council's Future Tours Programme.



Yesterday afternoon's final of the Nuru Mia Gold Cup Football in Faridpur Stadium will be marked as a memorable day. The ground which has a capacity of 20,000 was so packed that eager fans like these two children here, were forced to resort to climbing walls or find different innovative measures to catch a glimpse of the action. It is a reassuring sight for the football fraternity as they seek a renaissance of the game in the country. For the record, Faridpur KS beat Dhaka KS 3-0 to lift the first edition of the tournament.



Sri Lanka's spin wizard Muttiah Muralidaran (2nd from left) celebrates with his teammates after dismissing Pakistan batsman Misbahul Haq (R) during the first one-dayer at the Rangiri Dambulla Stadium yesterday. Muralidaran's all-round performance grabbed him the man-of-the-match award.

# Rain delays start of play

AFP, Birmingham

Rain meant there was no play before tea on the first day of the third Ashes Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston here on Thursday.

Although the skies were clear at the scheduled start time of 11am (1000GMT), a sodden outfield made wet by persistent rain Wednesday meant umpires Aleem Dar and Rudi Koertzen ruled conditions unfit for play.

Several subsequent bursts of rain ruled out any hope of the match starting in a first session where the pitch and square were, for the most part, kept under extensive covering.

## U-19 cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

England U-19s clinched the Twenty20 series after their second match against Bangladesh was abandoned due to rain.

The host team beat Bangladesh U-19 by five wickets in the first match of the series.

Prior to that, the visitors drew one match and lost another to the England U-19 team in a two match Test series but capped a memorable tour by emerging winners in the one-day series by 2-1.

# Nuru Mia Gold Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Faridpur Krira Sangstha (FKS) beat Dhaka Krira Sangstha 3-0 in the finals to win the first edition of the Nuru Mia Gold Cup football tournament held at the Faridpur Stadium on Thursday.

Toru, Nasir and Rafail each netted a goal to lead the host team to victory. Shuvro of FKS was adjudged man-of-the-match.

The tournament was the first in a number of years to take place in the area and it created enormous enthusiasm amongst the locals, who flocked in from all corners for a glimpse of the action.

Although the match was scheduled to start at 5pm, people started arriving at the stadium from 9 am and by 12 noon, the venue was already packed.

People then resorted to watching the game from adjacent buildings and rooftops. Also, by the time the match was finished, the spectators sitting in a nearby settlement office were stuck after authorities there left the spot locking the door. Fire service officials later came to the rescue and freed the stranded fans.

Labour and employment minister Engr. Khondoker Mosharrif Hossain was present in the final match as chief guest.

A total of twenty teams from different districts of the country participated in this tournament.

# SL survive late scare

## Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

After Angelo Mathews and Muttiah Muralidaran had combined to devastating effect with the bat, Sri Lanka's pace bowlers scythed through Pakistan's top order to lead them to a 36-run victory on a blustery day in Dambulla. Sri Lanka seemingly had the game in the bag at 134 for 8, but a gritty and stroke-filled 62-run stand between Umar Gul and Mohammad Aamer so nearly spoiled their day. Pakistan had bossed the opening exchanges after electing to field on a green-tinged pitch, but they never quite recovered from a batting Powerplay in which 54 runs were conceded. With none of the frontline batsmen able to build on starts, it was left to the tail to try and pull off a miracle.

Sri Lanka had scripted a stirring revival of their own in the morning. After 44 overs, they were an underwhelming 169 for 6. But once Nuwan Kulasekara fell, having added 42 with Mathews, Murali whirled his bat like a dervish. Gul was top-edged for four and then straight-driven for six in an over that cost 15, and Shahid

Afridi then clobbered through the off side for fours before Aamer put the sheen on a superb debut display by bowling him for 32. It had taken just 15 balls though, and by then, on a surface where run-making was not easy, Sri Lanka had enough of a total to defend.

Pakistan appeared deflated by that revival, and their batting effort never left the ground. Kulasekara started things off, tormenting Shoaib Malik outside his off stump. The odd ball would move away, while others would nip back and force him into the most awkward contortions. The scoreboard was moving thanks to a couple of lovely drives from Kamran Akmal but there was an air of inevitability about Malik's dismissal, bowled playing down the wrong line to a straighter one.

After Lasith Malinga's slingshot pace and slower balls had failed to provide a breakthrough, Kumar Sangakkara turned to Thilan Thushara, and he struck with his very first delivery. Akmal also played down the wrong line to one that deviated little, and saw his stumps pegged back. When Mohammad Yousuf then chased a wide one from Kulasekara, Pakistan had slumped to 48 for 3.

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# Schumacher is back

AFP, Rome



Seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher is making a sensational return to Formula One, Ferrari announced on Wednesday.

The German motor racing legend, who retired in 2006, will replace injured Felipe Massa in the European Grand Prix in Valencia on August 23, and possibly for the remainder of the season.

"The Ferrari-Marlboro team plans to give Michael Schumacher Felipe Massa's car until the Brazilian returns to competition," Ferrari announced in a statement on its website carried by Italian news agency ANSA.

The statement added: "Michael Schumacher says he is available and in the coming days he will pursue a specific programme of preparation at the end of which it will be possible to confirm his participation in the European Grand Prix."

Schumacher, 40, commented: "Ultimately I like

challenges and this is a great challenge."

"The important thing is that Massa gets better," he continued, adding that he "just wanted to help the firm (Ferrari) when they needed it".

Schumacher, who last test drove for Ferrari in April last

year, was pleased, though, that the most recent update on the unlucky Brazilian was encouraging.

"The most important thing first thank God, all news concerning Felipe (Massa) is positive," he was quoted as saying

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Seven-time world champion Micheal Schumacher will once again be sitting behind the Ferrari wheels to replace once teammate injured Felipe Massa.

# Pak players to keep mum

## Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's cricketers have been banned from giving media interviews without official permission, an official said Thursday following controversial remarks by paceman Shoaib Akhtar.

"We have sent reminders to all the players who are under central contract to follow obligations and not give interviews without prior permission from us," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director of operations Zakir Khan told AFP.

The PCB was upset with recent interviews by both recalled opener Imran Nazir and Akhtar. But while Nazir was cleared in a board hearing, the troubled fast bowler's remarks still reverberated through Pakistani cricket.

# BCCI to discuss anti-doping code

CRICINFO, undated

The BCCI will hold an emergency meeting of its working committee on Sunday to discuss the way forward in implementing the ICC's new anti-doping regulations at the domestic and international level.

According to an ICC board resolution, all member countries have to submit to the ICC's WADA-compliant code by July 31. However, concerns have been expressed by India players in the testing pool over privacy and the procedure involved, which includes

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