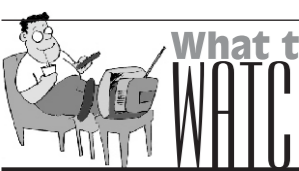




## Did U Know?

The oldest winner of an Olympic event was Patrick 'Babe' McDonald, who was 42 years 26 days old when he won the 56-lb weight throw in Belgium in August 1920.



## What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Man United vs Sunderland  
Repeat at 8:30 am  
New Zealand vs India  
Fourth ODI  
Repeat at 11:30 am  
Football Focus  
Taped Version at 6:30 pm  
**Sportscentre Hindi**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
Cricket Programming  
Legends Of Cricket  
Repeat at 10:00 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Harsha Online  
Cricket Talk Show  
Repeat at 8:30 am  
Gillette World Sports Special  
Int'l Sports News  
Repeat at 12:00 pm  
Primera Liga  
Real Sociedad vs Malaga  
Taped Version at 6:00 pm  
**Sportsline Tonight**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm



## TALK TURKEY



**Arsene Wenger**  
(Arsenal manager)  
"The fact that he's scored his 100th in this game shows just how professional he is. He doesn't just save his goals for the bigger games."  
On Dennis Bergkamp.



Tick the correct answers,  
Post to  
**The Daily Star**

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Jan 10, 2003 and draw

- Who lifted Div I chess title?  
Titus Club | Biman | Ansars
- Who won Reuters' sportswoman of 2002 award?  
Hingis | Serena | Jones
- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?  
Jacobs | Kapali | Mashud
- Who won 2002 FIFA World Player of the Year award?  
Owen | Ronaldo | Carlos
- Who clinched World Squash Open title?  
Name: .....  
Class: ..... Roll No: .....  
School Address: .....

## Ctg soccer

CU CORRESPONDENT

Customs and Excise and VAT Club (land customs) defeated Muktiyodda Kirra Chakra 1-0 in the CJKS Elite Paint Senior Division Football League at the MA Aziz Stadium here on Sunday.

Jalal of Customs Club scored the lone goal of the match in the 15 minutes of the first half of the match.

Earlier on Saturday the  
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## SL promise exciting soccer



SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka have promised to play exciting football in the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship that begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from Friday.

The islanders' Brazilian head coach, Marcus Ferreira, at a press conference yesterday said his young players are capable of giving big names a good run for their money.

The press briefing was arranged at the Bangabandhu National Stadium immediately after the 25-member Sri Lanka team arrived in the city to play in the eight-nation football fiesta.

Soon after taking over Sri Lanka in early 2000, the South American coach inspired his team to a 1-0 victory over Bangladesh in a Maldives tournament in 2000. Ferreira however said none of those players are with the team this time.

"We are mainly preparing for the SAF Games in Pakistan next year. It's a new combination where there is no experienced player. So, I don't really expect much from them. What I'm looking for is they play as a team," said Ferreira, adding that the



MARCUS FERREIRA

average age of his players is 23. Stated in the Group A, the Lankans, led by defender Duddley

Lincon Steinwall, start their campaign against newcomers Afghanistan on January 10 after arch-rivals India and Pakistan, also from the same group, lock horns in the tournament opener.

Placed second (139) behind India (127) on the FIFA rankings recently, Sri Lanka had their only success in the regional football competition way back in 1995 when they clinched the one-off SAARC Football Championship trophy at home.

Sri Lanka began their camp four months back and played nine friendly matches against Vietnam, Maldives and Pakistan national teams at home in their lead-up to the Dhaka meet.

"The results of those matches are encouraging. We lost only once against Vietnam against two draws, and we also beat Pakistan and Maldives. So, you can say that we are well prepared. But what I want to say is the level of tournament we are

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Sri Lanka's national football team members having their lunch at Grand Azad Hotel in the city yesterday. They came here earlier in the day to participate in the SAFF Championship.

## Some solace for England



AFP, Sydney

England finished their miserable Ashes tour on a victorious note with a 225-run thrashing of Australia to prevent a historic 5-0 series whitewash in the final Test here on Monday.

Pounded in their first three Tests to lose the series in a whirlwind 11 playing days before exerting pressure in the fourth Melbourne Test, Nasser Hussain's tourists saved their best until last to outplay the Australians.

Buttressed by Michael Vaughan's majestic second innings of 183 and 34-year-old paceman Andy Caddick's 7-94 to skittle Australia for 226, England showed to one side the memories of Australia's superiority to savour a special victory.

England set Australia an overwhelming task of chasing 452 for victory, but swept to a massive victory as Caddick produced his second-best bowling performance to wreck the vaunted Australian batting line-up.

In the end the victory was completed in 54 overs - 34 overs on Monday - as Australia collapsed under the concerted pressure with bowlers Andy Bichel (49) and Brett

Lee (46) the top scorers.

It was Australia's first Test defeat at home in four years since England claimed the 1998 Boxing Day Test in Melbourne and only their third in England in the last 15 Ashes contests.

But Hussain was looking at the bigger picture when asked if Monday's euphoric victory helped ease the pain of the 4-1 series

Waugh said Australia missed their opportunities with some dropped catches on the opening day and England outplayed Australia.

"The guys are a bit tired and weary, we've played eight Tests in the last 12 weeks with some travelling and one-dayers in between, and the Tests in Sharjah, whilst they weren't very long, certainly took something out of our bowlers," he said.

"It's hard to maintain that sort of intensity and quality over a long period of time and in this Test match we just weren't good enough and England capitalised better on their opportunities."

Caddick aligned for much of the one-sided series, had his day on

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The victorious Australia team members pose for photographs with the Ashes trophy at the end of the five-Test series at Sydney yesterday.

## Football's truce?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has apparently defused the on-going conflict between the players and manager Sayeed Hasan Kanon by appointing Amirul Islam Babu as an assistant manager to the team.

Amirul, a Mohammedan official, will call shots during the SAFF Championship pushing Kanon into the sidelines.

BFF president SA Sultan said yesterday the footballers were satisfied with the outcome. But a senior player opting anonymity expressed guarded optimism.

"Our demand was the removal of Kanon. But the BFF came up with a compromise plan by naming Amirul. From now on we will discuss matters him and not Kanon," he said over telephone adding that it was only temporary solution.

When team leader Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir took Amirul to the BKSP in the afternoon to introduce him with the players, Kanon, however, was absent.

The non-appearance of Kanon at the BKSP, has led to speculation

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## SAFF CHIPS

### Teams start to arrive

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka and Bhutan arrived in the capital yesterday to take part in the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship.

The Sri Lankans reached the city via Bangkok in the afternoon while Bhutan came by road.

Maldives was also scheduled to reach here last night to play in the eight-team regional tournament.

Defending India are due on January 8 along bitter neighbours Pakistan. However war-ravaged Afghanistan, making their return to international sports after two decades, were stranded in New Delhi.

"They might fly in to Dhaka today if they can manage a flight," said SAFF secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu.

Nepal will be the last team to come here on January 9.

The 10-day tournament kicks-off

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## Did you Waqar?

SPORTS REPORTER

A young Bangladeshi woman was allegedly paid to sleep with Pakistan cricket captain Waqar Younis during Pakistan's tour of Bangladesh in January last year,

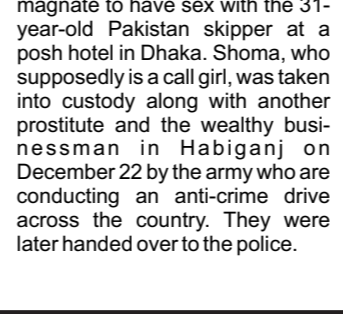
according to a report published in a Bangla daily on Monday. The Daily Janakantha reported that the woman named Shoma revealed during police interrogation that she was paid a large sum of money by a local magnate to have sex with the 31-year-old Pakistan skipper at a posh hotel in Dhaka. Shoma, who supposedly is a call girl, was taken into custody along with another prostitute and the wealthy businessman in Habiganj on December 22 by the army who are conducting an anti-crime drive across the country. They were later handed over to the police.



VAUGHAN ... m-o-m & m-o-s

defeat. "No, not really, it's the same old story, we lost the Ashes 4-1 so that's the bottom line," Hussain told his post-match press conference.

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## Nat'l sub-jr chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Five players Shamima Akter Liza, Minhazuddin Sagar, Nagir Arifeen Shamsuddoha Shakin and Mahfuzur Rahman Shahin were leading the table with full points each at the end of the fourth round in the 23rd National Sub-Junior Chess Championship yesterday.

Hasib Redwan Khan and Saima Almas were sharing second position with 3.5 points each.

In the fourth round game: Liza beat Imran Ali Elin, Sagar beat Mimi Arzumand, Arifeen beat Awlad Hossain, Shakin beat Oaidul Islam and Shahin beat Shahrier Faruk. Hasib drew with Saima.



National football coach George Kottan briefs his charges during a practice session at the BKSP yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Fahim flays Ctg



SPORTS REPORTER

Fahim Muntasir scored a dazzling half-century as holders Dhaka posted a commanding total on the opening day of their crucial Ispahani Mirzapore Fourth National League match against Chittagong at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The discarded national off-spinner and a useful lower-order batsman hammered 60 off 70 balls as Dhaka recovered from a middle-order collapse to finish on 316 for eight in 91.4 overs.

Fahim was the last batsman out in the day slashing paceman Ashique to Tariq Aziz at wide mid-off, but not before he shared in a vital 97 runs for the eighth wicket with Neeyamur Rashid.

An equally impressive Neeyamur was batting on 39.

Desperately needing an outright victory against the league leaders, Dhaka fielded a full-strength team

that included former Bangladesh captains Naimur Rahman and Aminul Islam.

But Aminul scored only two. He top-edged an attempted cut off left-arm spinner Ahsanullah Hasan to Aftab at point. Naimur however contributed a 68-ball 39.

Dhaka got off to a brisk start with opener Rashedul Haq notching a 37-ball 30 that included seven cracking boundaries. His partner Jahangir Alam made 38 and one-down Mazharul Haq struck six fours in his impressive 33.

Ahsanullah was the most successful Chittagong bowler with four for 97 runs and right-arm paceman Tariq took two for 64.

SYLHET-BARISAL

At the Fatullah Stadium, Barisal rode on a brilliant 89 by Prosenjit to score 290-7 in 92 overs against Sylhet.

Coming in to bat at number eight, Prosenjit held the innings together after a bottom-placed Barisal crashed to 162 for six.

Prosenjit shared 72 runs for the

unbroken eighth-wicket with Nadif, who was batting on 31.

Prosenjit clubbed fourteen boundaries in his defiant 168-ball unconquered knock.

Nayan Kumar with a solid 59 was the other notable run-getter for Barisal. He struck six fours and a couple of sixes.

Young left-arm spinner Imran Rahim claimed three wickets for 64 runs for Sylhet.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards on the opening day of the two Ispahani Mirzapore National League four-day matches yesterday:

Dhaka v Chittagong	
DHAKA: First innings	
Rashedul c Mortuza b Tariq	30
Jahangir b Ahsanullah	38
Mazharul lbw b Ahsanullah	33
Aminul c Aftab b Ahsanullah	2
Halim c Mortuza b Ahsanullah	41
Naimur c & b Sabbir	39
Kadir c Aftab b Tariq	15

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## Zim issue getting worse



AFP, London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) was going ahead Monday with plans to stage World Cup matches in Zimbabwe despite the weekend murder of an Australian tourist in the strife-torn country.

However, a spokesman for the Australian Foreign Minister said the murder emphasised the government's concerns about Zimbabwe staging World Cup matches.

He also re-iterated calls for a collective boycott of all World Cup fixtures in Zimbabwe because of the policies of President Robert Mugabe and the worsening security situation.

But an ICC spokesman in

London told AFP: "We need to find out more about the incident before making any comment."

The 27-year-old South Australia man was stabbed to death on Saturday in an apparent robbery attempt while visiting Victoria Falls in northwestern Zimbabwe, the foreign ministry said.

"This death is certainly a reminder of the wider concerns that we have about security in Zimbabwe and the deteriorating political and economic environment," a spokesman for Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told AFP.

He said Australia was continuing discussions with other World Cup cricketing nations in hopes of organising a group boycott of Zimbabwe venues during the tournament, due to open in Cape Town on February 8.

Downer has lobbied his counter

Prime Minister John Howard has openly opposed the Australian team playing matches in Zimbabwe, where political violence has been rife since Mugabe began forcibly evicting white farmers as part of a "land reform" campaign.

Zimbabwe's main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change, has also called for a total World Cup boycott although Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak, whose parents live on a farm, has pleaded with visiting teams to carry out their fixtures as planned.

Howard has said it would be unfair to the cricketers and their fans to unilaterally withdraw the Australia team. "It's got to be one-in, all-in or one-out, all-out," Howard said over the weekend.

Downer has lobbied his counter

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## School cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

North Badda Bidyaniketan, Khilgaon High School, Monipur High School, Zinzira Pilot High School and Aftab Memorial Academy won their respective Dhaka Metropolitan qualifying round matches in the Standard Chartered Bank 21st National Schools Cricket Championship yesterday.

North Badda registered a seven-wicket win over Little Jewels International School at the Mirpur Outer Stadium. Khilgaon outplayed Bangladesh International School by 100 runs at the City Club ground, Monipur High School posted a six-wicket win over Golden Future at the Uttara Friends Club ground, Zinzira defeated Muslim High School by 53 runs at the Kalindi KC ground while Aftab Memorial Academy edged past Islami Adarsha School by 10 runs at the East End Club ground.

A total of 120 schools from Dhaka are taking part in the qualifying round from which four teams will make it to the final round.

SCORES IN BRIEF

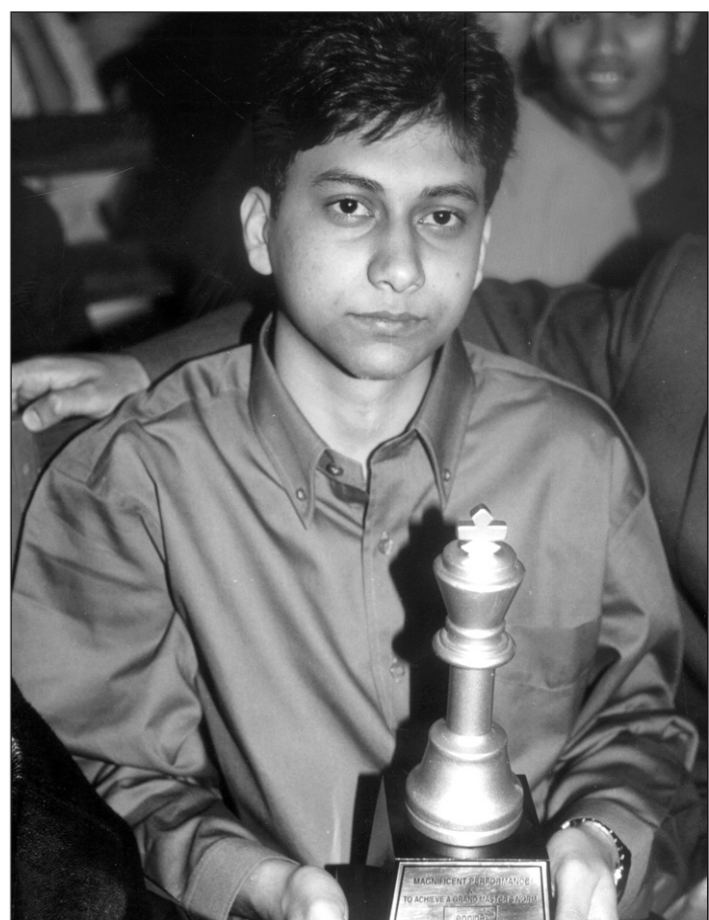
North Badda Bidyaniketan v Little Jewels

LITTLE JEWELS: 117 for 9 in 35 overs (Mamun 29 n.o., Faisal 4-8)  
North Badda: 118 for 3 in 20.5 overs (Maruf 26, Mizan 2-19)

Result: North Badda won by seven wickets.

Khilgaon High School v Bangladesh International School

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Enamul Hossain Rajib with his player-of-the-year trophy during the prize-giving ceremony of the Prime Bank Fifth International Rating Chess Competition at the National Sports Council yesterday. The International Master earned a Grand Master's norm in the year 2002.

PHOTO: STAR