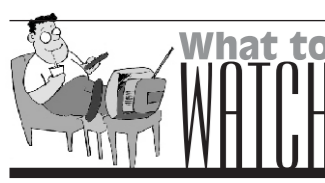




Did U Know?

The most medals won by a man in World Track and Field Championships is 10. The world record is held by great American sprinter Carl Lewis.



What to WATCH

ESPN
English Premier Football League
Tottenham Hotspur vs Everton
Repeat at 9:00 am
New Zealand vs India
Seventh ODI
Repeat at 12:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Live at 7:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Australian Open
Men's/Women's Second Rd
Live at 6:00 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Live at 7:30 pm
Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



Wasim Akram
(Pakistan cricket super star)
"It's an honour to play in four World Cups and lead the side in two of them. I know there would be a lot of expectations from me in the tournament."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 24, 2003 and draw

- How many teams will play in next month's Cricket World Cup?
16 12 14
- Who won the Hopman Cup title?
Australia Russia America
- How many Test centuries has Steve Waugh scored?
34 31 29
- Who became Tribal football champions?
KChar M y m e n s i n g h Rangamati
- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the fifth and final Ashes?
Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

Gold Cup soccer
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
Masterpara Eleven moved into the final of Bonarpara Motur-Sattar Smity Gold Cup football tournament at Bonarpara Naya Bandar ground yesterday.
Masterpara defeated Sarkar Para Krira Chaktra 2-0.
Golia Sporting Club will take on Masterpara Eleven in the final on January 31.



PHOTO: STAR
Niranjan Rayamajhi (R) of Nepal and Maldives' Ibrahim Amil go for an aerial tussle during their SAFF Championship fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Maldives make it to semis



SPORTS REPORTER
Maldives stormed into the semi-finals of the South Asian Football Federation beating Nepal 3-2 in their last Group B match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Coming from one down, the islanders scored three goals within a space of 21 minutes in the second half to shatter the semifinal hopes of Nepal.
Maldives, who finished second after Bangladesh in Group B, will now face Group A champions Pakistan in Saturday's first semi-final. Group A leaders Bangladesh, who handed Bhutan a 3-0 defeat in an inconsequential affair yesterday, will take on defending champions India in the other semifinal, also on Saturday.
Maldives however could have gone one goal ahead in a sterile first session had not their midfielder Mohamed Nizam missed a penalty

seven minutes before the final whistle.
Nepal however raised a glimmer of hopes when Dev Narayan scored from a header off a Basantha cross during the injury time. But it was too late for them as referee blew the long whistle immediately after that goal.
Yellow cards: Upendra and Narayan (Nepal).

TEAMS
Maldives: Imran, Ibrahim (Sabah), Nizam, Ali Umar, Azeem, Assad, Habeeb (Naaz), Jameel, Hussain (Fazeel), Lutfy and Shiham.
Nepal: Upendra (Channu Ram), Rakesh, Deepak, Bal Gopal, Niranjan, Sukra Man Singh, Anant Raj (Den Narayan), Narayan, Basanta Kumar Thapa, Hari Khadka and Sunil Tuladhar.
Referee: Kunsata Chaiwat (Thailand)

Murali can't stop Aus



AFP, Brisbane
Sri Lanka's champion off-spin bowler Muralitharan gave Australia a mighty scare before the home team limped home by four wickets in a dramatic tri-nation series one-day clash at the Gabba Ground here Wednesday.

Australia made 214 for six wickets to win with seven balls to spare after Sri Lanka scored 211 for nine wickets.
Muralitharan captured 3-19 off his opening eight overs as Australia made heavy weather chasing down a modest target.
He injured a leg chasing the ball in the outfield and was helped off the field for treatment, with Australia at 165 for four wickets.
He was off the ground for 15 minutes before returning -- with a pronounced limp -- to bowl his remaining two overs.
Despite being handicapped by the injured leg, Muralitharan struck again with his fifth ball as he trapped Shane Watson for four, leaving Australia an uncertain 182 for six.
One-day specialist batsman Michael Bevan, ever-steady under pressure, calmly guided his side home, finishing with an unbeaten 45.
Muralitharan earned a wonderful haul of 4-27 from his full 10-over quota.
It was not immediately clear whether the injury will keep him out of Sri Lanka's next game, against England in Adelaide Friday.
Australia's win guaranteed they will play in the best-of-three finals, which start late next week.
With all teams having completed six games, Australia lead with 27 points, followed by England (14) and Sri Lanka (13).
Sri Lankan coach Dav Whatmore blamed the four run outs of the team's batsmen for the narrow defeat.
He said Sri Lanka fell between 30 and 40 runs short of an ideal score.
The team's management would anxiously wait for a medical report on Muralitharan, he said.
Australian captain Ricky Ponting praised the fielding and bowling performances which enabled the home team to set up the hard-fought

Sangakkara completed a second stumping.
Australia's fortunes were improved by fifth-wicket pair Darren Lehmann and Michael Bevan, who cracked 72 from 92 balls before Lehmann was run out for 38, leaving Australia still 40 runs short.
In Sri Lanka's innings, a fighting 70 from 101 balls by stylish opening batsman Marvan Atapattu saved Sri Lanka from a complete rout.
Atapattu and Mahela Jayawardene (56 from 90 deliveries) fashioned a crucial fourth-wicket stand of 112 after the side was on its knees with 35 for three in the 13th over.
But their spirited effort was largely undone when the last six wickets toppled for only 64 runs.
Atapattu cracked seven boundaries in his two and a half hour



PHOTO: AFP
Australia captain Ricky Ponting sets off for a run during the day-night match against Sri Lanka at the Gabba yesterday.

Parag leads the way

SPORTS REPORTER
Defending champion Mehdi Hasan Parag continued to lead a pack of six players after the fourth round of the 24th National Junior Championship yesterday.

The players are: Syed Ejaz Husain, Mohammad Javed, Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, Golam Mostafa and Obaidul Islam Shahin, Shamima Akter Liza and Tarif Jana are second position with 3.5 points each.
In the fourth round: Parag beat Elin, Ejaz beat Razzak, Javed beat Ali, Sagar beat Bilash, Mostafa beat Iqbal and Shahin beat Shahinuddin. Liza drew with Tarif.

NAT'L WOMEN'S MEET
Meanwhile, eight players are leading the table after the second round of the selection phase of the 24th National Women's Championship. They are: Masuda Begum, Afroza Khanam Bably, Nazrana Khan Eva, Shamiha Sharmin Shimmi, Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury Moly, Feroza Haque Popy, Saima Almas and Farjana Haque Anny.
Second round results: Masuda beat Evana, Bably beat Mimi, Eva beat Title, Shimmi beat Moni, Moly beat Nupur, Popy beat Nafisa, Saima beat Priya and Anny beat Ridi.

Ctg football

CU CORRESPONDENT
Bakulia Krira Sangstha defeated Rising Star 5-4 in the shootout in the CJKS Elite Patent Senior Division League at the M A Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Both sides failed to find a goal in normal time.
On Tuesday, Customs Excise and Vat Club (land customs) and Madarbari Udayan Sangha won their respective matches.
Customs Excise defeated Mohammedan Blues 3-2.
Sharier, Nazim and Shahid of the winners scored in the 30th, 62nd and the 75th minutes while Khaled and Dalim reduced the margin with goals in the 42nd and the 60th minutes.
Madarbari Udayan Sangha recorded an exciting 8-7 tie-break win against Muktiyoddha. There were no goals in normal time.

JU cricket Archaeology champions

OUR CORRESPONDENT
Archaeology won the inter-department cricket tournament title of Jahangirnagar University for the second time beating Geography and Environment by eight wickets at the Central playground yesterday.
Sent in to bat, Geography and Environment scored 94 in the 25 overs.
Rana scored highest 30 runs. Shaon and Mithu claimed three wickets each for 11 and 15 runs respectively.
Archaeology reached the target losing two wickets in the 20 overs.
Sanjoy hammered not out 51 while Tutul made 15 runs.
Shajol claimed 2 wickets for 25 runs.

Agassi blows Lee up

AFP, Melbourne

Andre Agassi swept into the Australian Open third round here Wednesday as Venus Williams donned her best jewellery to produce a sparkling victory.
Agassi, seeded two, needed just 80 minutes to blast aside South Korean challenger Lee Hyung-Taik with a 6-1, 6-0, 6-0 win.
The seven-time Grand Slam winner will play French Davis Cup star and 29th seed Nicolas Escude in the next round and is brimful of confidence after awarding himself top marks for his display.
"How can you not (rate it 10 out of 10) when you play a guy of Lee's quality, playing as well as he's been playing, to go out there and have a score line like that doesn't happen too often," Agassi said.
Agassi is bidding to become only the fourth man to win four Australian Open titles, behind Roy Emerson (6), Jack Crawford (4) and Ken Rosewall (4).
Lee said playing Agassi was like hitting against a wall.
"Last week in Sydney my groundstrokes were causing my opponents problems, but against Agassi I felt like I was hitting against a wall," said Lee, who had stunned the field to win the Sydney International.
Agassi's counterpart in the women's tournament, the second seeded Williams, came up with a vastly-improved display as she beat lowly-ranked American Ansley Cargill 6-3, 6-0.

Dhaka enter NCL final



SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka moved into the Ispahani Mirzapore National Cricket League final with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Rajshahi at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.
On the third day, the defending champions needing just 36 runs to secure victory, took 6.1 overs to reach their target.
Opener Anwar Hossain and Jahangir Alam were unbeaten on 10 and 17 respectively.
Dhaka joined Chittagong atop the table with each having 14 points on completion of the first round.
Both teams will play in the January 18 final.
In the other match, Rajshahi were inching towards their first win in the first-class competition at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium after taking full command over Khulna.
At stumps, Khulna had to still open their account after facing just one ball. They face an impossible target of 388 runs to win.
Rajshahi, who had scored 311 in

the first innings, added another 273 in their second innings yesterday while Khulna made only 197 in their first essay.

SCOREBOARDS
Scoreboards on the second day of the two Ispahani Mirzapore National Cricket League matches played at different venues yesterday:

Dhaka v Rajshahi
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium.
RAJSHAH: First innings 171 all out in 53.5 overs (Jamiul 43, Nuruzzaman 28, Mahubub 25; Munir 3-24, Fahim 3-58, Mosaddek 3-23)
DHAKA: First innings 361 all out in 81 overs (Rashedul 85, Neeyamur 72, Sajjad 62, Shafaq 3-61, Imran 3-82)
RAJSHAH: Second innings (over-night 10 for 1 in 7 overs)
Jamiul lbw b Monir 21
Shamsul c Kadir b Neeyamur 2
Imran retired hurt 22
Nuruzzaman c Jahangir b Arafat 23
Anisur c Sajjad b Arafat 43
Mushfiq not out 43
Hasan lbw b Arafat 5
Mahubub c b Arafat 11
Mustardir c Anwar b Fahim 4
Aminul jr run out 29
Shafaq lbw b Arafat 4

Extras: (b-8, lb-8, nb-1, w-1) 18
Total: (All out in 74 overs) 225
Fall of wicket: 1-4, 2-53, 3-122, 4-123, 5-139, 6-153, 7-162, 8-220, 9-225.

Bowler O M R W
Monir 17 5 41 1
Neeyamur 7 2 20 1
Mosaddek 12 1 50 0
Arafat 21 5 56 5
Fahim 17 4 42 1

DHAKA: Second innings
Rashedul b Shafaq 0
Anwar not out 10
Fahim c Mahubub b Shafaq 5
Jahangir not out 17
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-2) 4
Total: (For 2 wks in 6.1 overs) 36
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-11.

Bowler O M R W
Shafaq 3 0 13 2
Mushfiq 2 0 11 0
Hasan 1 0 10 0
Anisur 0.1 0 0 0

Result: Dhaka won by eight wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Arafat Sunny (Dhaka)
Sylhet v Khulna
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.
SYLHET: First innings 311 (Rajin SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

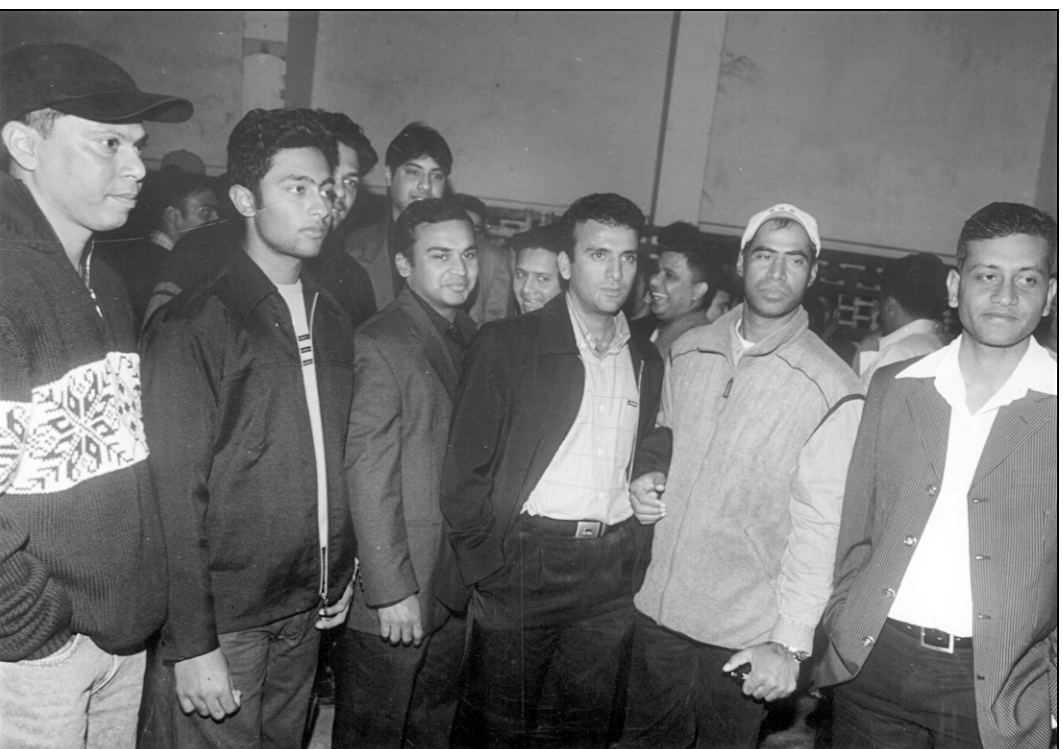


PHOTO: STAR
MOHAMMEDAN REAP RICH: Big name players like (starting with 2nd from L) Nafis Iqbal, Hasibul Hossain, Naimur Rahman, Javed Omar, Enamul Hoque and Fahim Muntasir line up for a photograph after signing for Mohammedan on the first day of the inter-club cricketers' transfers at the National Sports Council yesterday. Veteran Minhazul Abedin (L) also decided to stay back with the club.

MSC set the tone Inter-club transfers



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting club stole the show on the first afternoon of the three-day inter-club cricketers transfers for the forthcoming Premier and First Division cricket leagues at the National Sports Council yesterday.
Nine noted cricketers joined Mohammedan from different clubs. Leading the pack was former national captain Naimur Rahman who severed his nine-year bond with Abahani Krira Chakra. Mohammedan's other prominent catches include veteran all-rounder Enamul Hoque from Victoria Sporting Club, opener Nafees Iqbal from Abahani, batsman Aftab Ahmed from Biman, off spinner Fahim Muntasir from Kalabagan Krira Chakra, paceman Anwar

his contract sum.
Apart from Mohammedan, Biman, City Club and Premier League champions Victoria Sporting Club were also busy in the cricketers market yesterday.
Biman roped in former national opener Athar Ali Khan and Jahangir Alam from Brothers Union, Ahsanullah Hasan from Abahani, Rashedul Haque from Mohammedan, leg spinner Mosaddek Hossain from Kalabagan and wicketkeeper Golam Mortuza from Victoria.
Abahani's new ball bowler Alamgir Kabir, Surjo Tarun batsman Mazharul Haque, Biman's Wicketkeeper Sajjad Kadir and Kalabagan batsman Rajin Saleh joined City Club. On the other hand, City lost dependable opener Azam Iqbal to Victoria. Abahani batsman Anisur Rahman and Kalabagan trio of Rafiqul Islam, all-rounder



PHOTO: STAR
SOLEMN SILENCE FOR NABI: Players of Bangladesh and Bhutan observe a minute's silence in memory of renowned footballer Nabi Chowdhury. The defender of pre-liberation era, Nabi died after a heart attack at his residence in the capital in the early hours of Wednesday. He was 69. He was also the first Bengali footballer to lead an erstwhile Pakistan national team in the sixties.