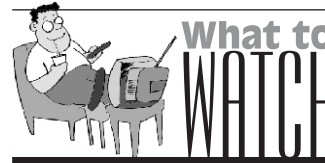




Did U Know?

That term 'it's all fun and games until someone loses an eye' is from Ancient Rome. The only rule during wrestling matches was, 'no eye gouging!' Biting, kicking and scratching was allowed, but the only way to be disqualified was to poke someone's eye out.



What to WATCH

- ESPN**
- Australia vs England World Series, First Final Live at 9:13 am
 - English Premier Football League Fulham vs Middlesbrough Repeat at 5:30 pm
 - Cricket Programming Super Selector Taped Version at 7:30 pm
 - Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
- Australian Open Women's Singles Semis Live at 8:30 am
 - English Premier Football League Arsenal vs West Ham United Taped Version at 12:30 pm
 - Australian Open Men's Singles Semis Live at 2:30 am
 - Sport News Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Thierry Henry
(Arsenal's French striker)

"We do some silly things and play jokes on each other. You can't have a good spirit on the pitch if you don't have one off the pitch. It grows after time and this is a real team."

On the atmosphere in the Arsenal team.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

Tick the correct answers, post **The Daily Star**

Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 24, 2003 and draw

1. How many teams will play in next month's Cricket World Cup?	16	12	14
2. Who won the Hopman Cup title?	Australia	Russia	America
3. How many Test centuries has Steve Waugh scored?	34	31	29
4. Who became Tribal football champions?	K'Chari Rangamati	M. Y. M. S. Singh	Rangamati
5. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the fifth and final Ashes			

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No.: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (If any) _____



Dhaka's Naimur Rahman sweeps against Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Aus win not for granted Tri-series finals start today

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

England face a huge challenge when they take on World Cup champions Australia here Thursday in the first final of the tri-nation one-day cricket series.

But tourists' captain Nasser Hussain, while conceding his side's Australian tour had been the toughest of his life, rejected the idea that Australia were a certainty to win.

Hussain's team will be attempting to end a four-year, 11-match limited-overs losing streak against Australia.

Anything was possible in limited-overs cricket, he said.

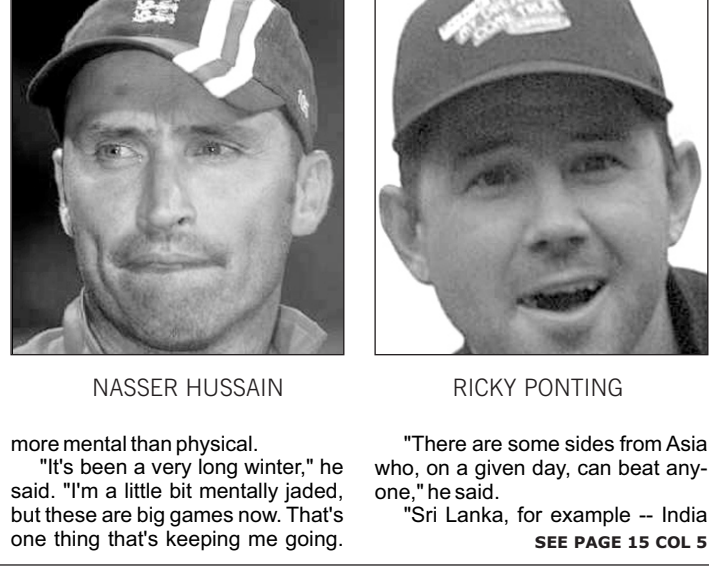
"I think both sides know that England can beat Australia in one-day cricket on a given day," said Hussain.

"Our record isn't very good against them recently, but let's be fair -- look at what injuries have done to Australia, because we've been plagued by them.

"If we can put all parts of our game together -- we've played well at times -- we can beat Australia, definitely."

England's three-month tour was a humiliating experience until a face-saving trouncing of Australia in the fifth Ashes Test -- perhaps significantly, in Sydney.

Reaching the tri-nations finals has further eased the pain.



more mental than physical. "It's been a very long winter," he said. "I'm a little bit mentally jaded, but these are big games now. That's one thing that's keeping me going."

"There are some sides from Asia who, on a given day, can beat anyone," he said.

"Sri Lanka, for example -- India SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Ali nat'l junior chess champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ali clinched the 24th National Junior Chess Championship title beating defending champion Mehdi Hasan Parag 2-1 in the play-off match at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

Total 122 players from Dhaka, other 16 districts and other organisation participated in the event.

ROLL OF HONOUR

1979 Mansur Rahman
1980 IM Zillur Rahman,
1981 Farid Ahmed,
1982 Idris Ali,
1983 Moniruzzaman Khan
1984 Neamul Haque
1985 Not held
1986 Syed Ohidul Islam
1987 GM Ziaur Rahman
1988 IM Reefat Bin Sattar
1989 GM Ziaur Rahman
1990 Kh. Kayes Hasan
1991 GM Ziaur Rahman

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

India players' victory?

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, London

India's leading cricketers will be allowed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to play in next month's World Cup despite changing the terms of their contracts, a source close to the negotiations told AFP on Tuesday.

Both sides in the dispute between cricketers' world governing body and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will call a truce during the February 8 to March 23 tournament, the source said.

But he added that India's World Cup cut of 8 to 9 million dollars would not be released by ICC until the dispute was resolved.

And, in a dramatic development, the source warned that if the BCCI failed to pay any compensation arising from its players altered contracts, it would be suspended from the ICC and so become a rebel cricket nation.

On Friday, the World Cup contracts committee (WCCC) will formally tell the ICC's management board that India's players be allowed to take part on their own terms.

India's entire World Cup squad objected to the ICC ruling which prohibits players from endorsing non-official sponsors before, during and after the World Cup.

Last week the ICC confirmed it had received "signed but amended contracts" from the Indian players by its January 14 deadline.

Many Indian stars, including

Dhaka need eight wkts

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka consolidated their position in the play-off match of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League taking a huge lead over Chittagong yesterday.

On the third day, Dhaka scored 215 in their second innings to raise their overall lead to 313.

Chittagong, in reply, lost two wickets for 66 runs in the remaining 19 overs of play.

The visitors need another 248 runs today to win.

Opener Nafees Iqbal was out on 40 while Aftab scored 20 for Chittagong.

Dhaka, resuming the day on 58 for two, scored the two hundred plus innings mainly due to opener Rashedul Haque who scored 58, Middle order Naimur Rahman (32) and Sajjad Ahmed (27) also made contributions.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Dhaka: First innings 295 all out in 96.1 overs (Javed 60, Jahangir 51, Mazharul 32, Kadir 31, Sabbir 5-102)

Chittagong: First innings 197 all out in 67.5 overs (Akram 93, Azam 28, Anisul 25, Arafat 6-48, Fahim 3-62)

Dhaka: Second innings 215 all out in 91.5 overs (Rashedul 58, Naimur 32, Sajjad 27, Suja 4-57, Sabbir 3-89)

Chittagong: Second innings 66 for 2 in 19 overs (Nafees 40, Aftab 20, Arafat 1-16)

StanChart nat'l school cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Wills Little Flower School earned a massive 95-run victory over Dhanmondi Tutorial in the Dhaka Metropolitan Standard Chartered 21st National School Cricket at the City Club ground here yesterday.

Sent into bat first, Wills Little Flower scored 188 runs for all in 35 overs while Dhanmondi Tutorial, in reply, were bowled out for 93 runs in 22.3 overs in the face of devastating spell from Reza, who picked up six wickets for 25 runs.

In five other matches, Scholastica School, Janatabagh High School, New Jurain KM Moinuddin High School, Rabeya Pre-Cadet School and Gabtali High School beat their respective opponents at difference city venues.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Scholastica defeated Motijheel Ideal School & College by six wickets.

Ideal scored a respectable 194 runs for three wickets in stipulated 35 overs after deciding to bat first and Scholastica reached the target making 198 runs for 4 in 23.4 overs riding on Saad's 97 runs.

At the Dhanmondi Club Ground, Janatabagh High School beat Kajarpar High School by 45 runs. Kajarpar made 131 runs for 9 wickets in stipulated 35 overs in reply to Janatabagh's 176 runs for 8 in 35 overs.

At Uttara Friends Club ground, New Jurain KM Moinuddin High School beat Agradut Bidyaniketon by 29 runs. Moinuddin High School scored a mammoth total of 232 runs all out in 34.4 overs while Agradut, in reply, made 203 runs for 9 in 35 overs.

At Kalindi KC ground, Rabeya Pre-Cadet School defeated Shantibagh High School by two wickets. Rabeya scored 135 runs for 8 in 23.4 overs in reply to Shantibagh's 134 runs all out in 29.5 overs.

At the East End Club ground, Gabtali High School beat Mirpur Udayan by two wickets. Gabtali scored 272 runs for 7 wickets in 32.2 overs in reply to Udayan's 271 runs for 9 in 35 overs.

Ctg complain to ICC

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

An aggrieved Chittagong has braced itself for a legal battle against a ruling that forced them into a playoff against Dhaka in the Fourth National Cricket League.

Though the team is about the start the fourth and final day against the well-placed Dhaka in Dhanmondi today, they have sent a complaint to International Cricket Council.

Chittagong has also lodged protest to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar claiming that injustice was done to them in determining the finalists of the first-class competition.

It was thanks to Khulna's sensational win against Rajshahi in the last round that led to the confused situation.

In their protest note to Asghar Chittagong said that they deserved a place in the final along Khulna because of their superior run-rate.

"We have sent a letter to the Board president seeking justice. Besides, we have faxed a copy to the game's highest body. And so we expect a reply shortly," said Selim Abedin Chowdhury yesterday.

The general secretary of Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha (CJKS) also hoped that the world body would definitely rule in our favour.

"We don't mind the tournament committee's decision to add the fraction in Dhaka's run-rate, but they have no right to disregard our one," Abedin remarked.

The committee was caught in a dilemma after Chittagong, Dhaka and Khulna finished on equal 14 points. Khulna sailed into the final with a healthy run-rate. But the problem centered around the net run rate of Chittagong and Dhaka. Chittagong had +32.28 compared to Dhaka's 31.61.

According to by laws, both teams ended up on +32.

Although Abedin claimed that a letter was sent to BCB president on January 19, surprisingly Ali Asghar informed The Daily Star Sport that he was not aware of any such letter being sent to him.

He, however, stated that he would bring the issue to a quick resolution.

Warne quits ODIs after WC

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, Sydney

Australian leg-spinning wizard Shane Warne said Wednesday he would retire from one-day international cricket after the World Cup, with the aim of extending his Test career by at least five years.

The move to quit in March after the game's showpiece in South Africa and Zimbabwe was also designed to avoid the risk of being sacked like the Waugh twins, Steve and Mark, the 33-year-old said.

Warne revealed he made his decision after suffering a dislocated shoulder last month that ruled him out of the final two Ashes Tests and forced him to undergo a painful rehabilitation program.

"The number one priority for me is to play Test cricket for as long as I can," said Warne, who has 491 Test wickets.

"It's a decision I haven't come to lightly because I love playing for Australia, but everyone I've spoken to thinks it's a pretty positive and smart decision and also a pretty gutsy one.

"I've got mixed emotions -- it's quite sad in a way that I might have only a few games left in one-day cricket but it's not as though I'm retiring from everything.

"Hopefully this will prolong my Test career and I can play for five or six years."

Warne said the anguish of his shoulder injury and the subsequent six-hours-a-day recovery sessions with team physiotherapist Errol Alcott and fitness coach Jock Campbell convinced him to devote all his energies to the Test arena.

Helter-skelter one-dayers, he decided, were too taxing on his ageing body.

"The one-day form is a fantastic way to show different skills like diving around the field, bowling different ways, slogging with the bat, throwing the stumps down, it's just great fun and I'm going to miss that," he said.

"But it's only a matter of time if you keep playing until something else is going to go wrong with injuries."

"I probably wanted to do it (retire from one-dayers) down the track a bit further, but the decision was brought forward when I was carried off."

"Diving around and throwing yourself around in the field is what you have to do in one-day cricket. It just brought home the pressures of one-day cricket on my shoulder and on my body."

Warne made his decision earlier this week after consulting one-day captain Ricky Ponting, coach John Buchanan, the selectors, his teammates, friends, family and the Australian Cricket Board, all of whom supported him.

Test skipper Steve Waugh and his twin Mark have been summarily sacked from one-day duty in the past year.

Warne says he wants no such exit.

"A year or so down the track I don't particularly want to get the tap on the shoulder," he said.

"I'm going out my way, the way I wanted to go out and while I'm still at the top of my game."

"Hopefully, this way I'll be around and you can look at my ugly dial for a few years yet in Test cricket."

"My form this last year has probably been the best it's ever been statistically and performance-wise, the way I've bowled has made me very happy."

Warne has played 191 one-dayers for Australia, taking 288 wickets at an average of 25.79.

That 30's show

Australian Open

AFP, Melbourne

Andre Agassi has made a mockery of his advancing years and reduced his younger rivals to gasping wrecks on his relentless charge to a fourth Australian Open title.

The remarkable 32-year-old American looks a class apart from the others here, even more so with the early exit of world number one Lleyton Hewitt, and he is just one match away from his fourth Australian Open final.

He mauled French number one Sebastien Grosjean in his quarterfinal and now another thirtysomething blocks his way to final.

South African journeyman Wayne Ferreira is back in the semifinals, 11 years after playing Stefan Edberg in the last four here, and the man charged with stopping Agassi from reaching Sunday's final.

The stats make gloomy reading for 31-year-old Ferreira's chances of derauling the ebullient Agassi in Thursday's semifinal.

Ten times they've played over eight years and 10 times Ferreira has lost.

But he is taking the positive approach and believes he has worked on a weakness that shrewd Agassi has capitalised on.

"I just haven't played that well (against Agassi)," said Ferreira on Wednesday.

"Most of the time I've played him, it's been in situations like this where he's ended up winning the tournaments and playing great tennis."

"This week he's basically steam-rolled through everyone and he is playing great tennis."

Ferreira knows what to expect against the super-fit Agassi, who thrives in the Australian conditions on the Rebound Ace hardcourt.

"It's tough to get any rhythm (against him). You end up running a lot."

But Ferreira offers hope for his chances of a monumental upset.

"I do feel that I have improved my backhand considerably. I'm taking it a lot earlier and I'm more aggressive on it. I'm missing a lot less."

"That's always been a very big factor against him, he's absolutely dominated me on the backhand side and has given me no opportunities to hit any forehands."

Ferreira said if he can utilise his backhand as he did in dispatching Spanish fourth seed Juan Carlos Ferrero in Tuesday's quarter-final, then he might be able to stay in the point longer and be more competitive against Agassi.

Agassi has spruced up his chal

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

