



Did U Know?

Michael Atherton has got a dubious record in Tests. He has got 19 ducks, highest for an Englishman.



What to Watch

ESPN
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Chelsea
Repeat at 8:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Taped Version at 9:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Legends Of Cricket
Repeat at 10:00 pm

STAR Sports
Australian Open
Women's dbls Final, Mixed Dbls/
Men's Singles Semis
Live at 10:00 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News



Talk Turkey



Anil Kumble
(India star leg-spinner)
"I think we have to change our attitude when we go overseas. Be more positive and aggressive, begin believing in ourselves."

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	M y m e n s i n g h	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)		

Ctg football

CU CORRESPONDENT
Kollol Sangstha took another step towards clinching the CJKS Elite Paint Senior Division Football League after a 3-2 victory over the Rising Star at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.
Kollol top the standings with 20 points from nine matches. Customs trail in second place on 17 points. They play Madabari Kirra Sangstha today in their final league game.
However, if Customs win, then a play-off will be needed tomorrow, CJKS officials said.
In another match, Kwality blanked the Bakulia Kirra Sangstha 2-0.

Dhaka amble thru'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Dhaka moved into the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League final with a 113-run win over Chittagong in their play-off match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.
On the final day, Chittagong, needing 314 in their second innings to win the four-day match, were all out for 200. The comprehensive victory set the defending champions up for a meeting with Khulna in the final that has been scheduled for January 26.

Resuming the day on 66 for two and needing another 248 runs to win, Chittagong lost their last eight wickets in 42.4 overs.

Middle-order Akram Khan scored highest 43 while lower-order Golam Mortuza made 41.

Young left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny, who bagged six wickets for 48 runs in the first innings, once again wreaked havoc with four for 63. He finished with a match haul of ten for 111.

Right-arm seamer Anwar Hossain Monir and off-spinner Naimur Rahman captured two and three wickets respectively.

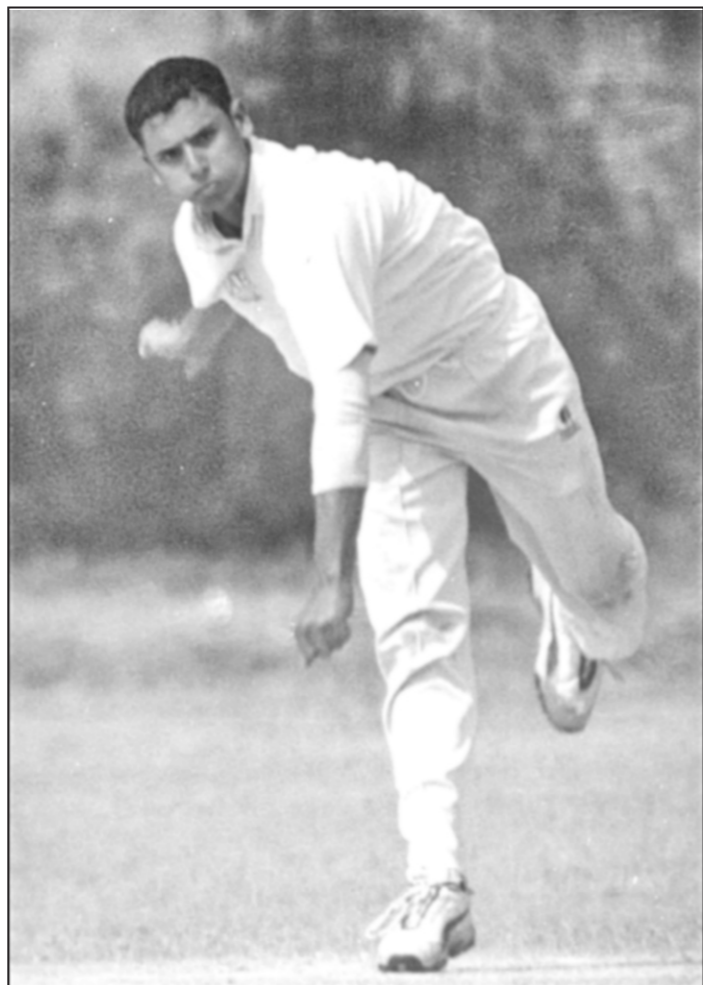
SCORES IN BRIEF

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 200 all out in 61.4 overs (Nafees 40, Akram 43, Mortuza 41, Arafat 4-63, Naimur 3-42, Anwar 2-48).
Result: Dhaka won by 113 runs.



ARAFAT SUNNY ... 10-wkt haul

PHOTO: STAR

WC last for Murali too

Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan believes he will follow Shane Warne's lead and retire from one-day cricket to concentrate on Tests.

"I only ever get injured playing one-day cricket, never Tests," Muralitharan was quoted as saying in The Age newspaper on Thursday.

"I'm only 30 now, but I think in maybe one or two years after the World Cup I will do the same thing as Warnie (Shane Warne)."

The Australian leg-spinner announced on Wednesday he would retire from one-day internationals after the World Cup starting next month.

Muralitharan is the third-leading wicket-taker in Tests (437) and one-day internationals (304).

At 33, Warne is second on the list in Tests, 28 behind retired West Indies paceman Courtney Walsh's 519, and is the sixth-leading wicket-

taker in the shorter version of the game on 288.

Warne, who dislocated his shoulder in a one-day match against England in Melbourne last month, said the one-day games took a far greater toll on his body than Tests.



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

However, he is expected to return to the Australia side on Thursday for the first final of the triangular one-day series against

England in Sydney.

Sri Lanka missed out on a place in the best-of-three match finals and Muralitharan has left Australia with the team, possibly for the last time on a tour of the country.

"I will speak to my parents and some former Sri Lankan captains about it," he said from Melbourne airport.

"It depends how I feel, but I think this is probably my last time (touring Australia)."

"I hope to put that (no Australia tours clause) in my next contract, and then that would be it."

Muralitharan, who bowls with an unusual bent-arm action, has been no-balled for throwing in 1995-96 and 1998-99 tours of Australia but his action has since been cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

He was taunted by Australia supporters as a "chucker" in one-day series matches earlier this month and has said he may not tour the country again because of the crowd's behaviour.

What an escape

Australian Open

AFP, Melbourne

Serena Williams produced the fightback of her life to set up a fourth consecutive Grand Slam final meeting with big sister Venus at the Australian Open here Friday.

The Williams sisters' monopoly of the silverware looked set to be broken by Belgian teenager Kim Clijsters as the fourth seed raced into a 5-1 final set lead in her semifinal against world number one Serena.

Clijsters had two match points on serve with the score at 5-2 in the decider but was unable to take either of them as the top seed produced a fabulous return and an instinctive volley to hang on and then break.

Clijsters, the girlfriend of Australian world number one Lleyton Hewitt, had another opportunity to serve for the match in the 10th game, but fumbled.

Two consecutive double faults from Clijsters put Williams in the driving seat and when the Belgian hit another return long the American had miraculously squared the final set at 5-5.

Williams held and then broke serve, producing a string of winners to reach her fourth consecutive Grand Slam final and her first appearance in the Australian Open final with a 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 win.

"It was an unbelievable battle out there," said Williams.

Williams - who earlier told television interviewers that she thought she had lost when trailing in the third set - later said she had never completely thrown in the towel as Clijsters took command of the final set.

"I kept fighting. I thought, 'I don't

want to lose 6-1.' Then I said I don't want to lose 6-2. So I just kept fighting. Next thing I know I came back.

"I've always been a fighter. I just keep fighting, I don't know where it comes from. It's innate.

"I just never think I'm going to lose. I just don't want people to think

I'm too cocky. It's always something with us Williams sisters, you know 'They're too cocky.' Whatever," Williams said.

Clijsters was upbeat in defeat, saying she had been unable to respond when Williams raised her game in the final set.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



SERENA WILLIAMS

Nat'l chess tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The preliminary phase of the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Chess Championship will start tomorrow at the Bangladesh Chess Federation auditorium.

Sixteen selected players will participate in the event.

The phase will be held in an 11-round Swiss-League system and nine players will qualify for the final phase.

GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Niaz Murshed, IM Enamul Hossain, IM Reefat Bin Sattar and IM Abdullah Al Rakib will directly participate in the final phase.

Asian jnr TT starts Jan 26

SPORTS REPORTER

The Asian Junior (South Asian Zone) Table Tennis Championship begins at the BKSP in Savar on January 26.

About fifty-two boys and girls from the seven member-nations of South Asia will take part in eight events during the five-day.

The juvenile festival features India, Pakistani, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and hosts Bangladesh. Most of the teams have already sent advance squads for a seven-day training ahead of the meet.

The camp under former Indian player Tapan Chanda and arranged by the Asian Table Tennis Union, started at the BKSP on January 17.

RU cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Public Administration moved into the final with a 56-run victory over Marketing in the inter-department cricket tournament of the Rajshahi University yesterday.

Winning the toss, Public Administration batted first and collected 133 runs all out in 30 overs.

Alamgir scored 22 and Aminul 35.

Titas and Rana claimed 3 wickets each for 28 and 34 runs respectively.

In reply, Marketing were all out for 77 in 19.2 overs.

Alam scored 16. Alamgir claimed 3 wickets for 29.

Alamgir was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Ctg hockey

CU CORRESPONDENT

Defending champions Anirban Club defeated Professor Ahmed Hossain Smiriti Sangsad 2-0 in the Bangladesh Shipping and Trade Mahanagari Hockey League at the Dampara Police Lines ground yesterday.

Sujan Nath opened the scoring in the 44th minute and Anis converted from a penalty-corner out in the 62nd minute.

They still love him

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa's World Cup squad were reported Thursday to have decided to dedicate the contest to disgraced ex-skipper Hansie Cronje who was killed in a plane crash last year.

"For me this World Cup is going to be extra special and there's an extra-special person I'd like to dedicate it to," Jonty Rhodes told the Star.

Asked if the person he was referring to was Cronje, Rhodes simply nodded. Fast bowler Allan Donald was reported to have nodded in agreement.

Cronje was banned for life in 2000 after admitting he had been paid 100,000 dollars by Indian bookmakers and offered other players money to under-perform.

Donald, who like Cronje, hails from Bloemfontein, wore the No 5 embroidered on his collar last season. The number was worn by Cronje during international matches.

Herschelle Gibbs, who served a six-month ban after being implicated by Cronje in the scandal, was another player who paid tribute to the former skipper.

"We need to go out there, play like we know we can and go and win it. It will be a lovely end to the careers of Allan (Donald), Jonty (Rhodes), Gary (Kirsten) and bearing one other person in mind," Gibbs said in an obvious reference to Cronje.

Cronje made his debut for South Africa in 1992 and captained the national team from 1994 to 2000.

He represented South Africa in 68 Tests - 53 as skipper. He led his country to victory in 71 per cent of the one-day internationals and 51 per cent of Test matches.

In the 1999 World Cup, South Africa, skippered by Cronje, lost on run rate to Australia after tying with them in the semifinals, when Donald was infamously run-out after a mix-up with Lance Klusener.

Namibia shock BD

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh suffered a shock two-wicket defeat against Namibia in the second of the five-match one-day series at the TransNamib field on Wednesday.

The visitors recovered from a dreadful start to make a fighting 212 for seven in 50 overs.

Namibia reached their target (213 for eight) with four balls to spare.

Though was Namibia's first win against Bangladesh unfortunately it will not be officially recorded since it was only a practice match.

It was also an eventful day for former South African coach Bob Woolmer, who has been appointed by the ICC to look after the emerging African nation's preparations for the forthcoming World Cup.

Bangladesh suffered a stunning collapse after skipper Khaled Mashud won the toss and decided to bat.

They were reduced to 98 for six before a gritty 103-run seventh wicket stand between Mashud and Mohammed Rafique salvaged their battered image.

Mashud played a captain's knock of 46 off 98 balls. The wicketkeeper-batsman struck four

boundaries. Rafique scored an unbeaten 61-ball 47 that included four fours and a six.

Mohammad Ashraf, top scorer in the first match with 45, chipped in with 28. However opener Al-Shahriar made only nine and Ehsanul Haque, coming in for Hannan Sarkar, struggled to make 19.

Habibul Bashar again disappointed with two. And even in-form Alok Kapali failed. He scored 19 off 23 balls.

For the second successive game Bangladesh suffered a batting collapse. They scored 163 in the first match at Wanderers on Monday.

Although the bowlers helped the visitors win the first game by 60 runs, they could not make up for the batting debacle.

The pace pair of Taposh Baishya and Talha Jubair, who shared seven wickets in the opening fixture, were ineffective.

Namibian opener Swonepole fashioned the victory with a solid 73 off 128 balls. He hammered seven boundaries. Besides, one-down Bucer struck a run-a-ball 31 with the help of six fours.

Bangladesh, now in Namibia for a two-week conditioning camp before the World Cup starts, will play their third limited-overs game at the Wanderers on Saturday.

SL dispute resolved

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka on Thursday resolved a pay crisis that had threatened to scuttle the team's participation in next month's World Cup, cricket board officials said.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) and skipper Sanath Jayasuriya held lengthy talks here Thursday to end the deadlock over the pay demand of players, a spokesman for the board said.

"The matter has been resolved and Sri Lanka will field a full-strength team," the spokesman said without giving details of the settlement.

The two sides were due to announce the terms of the settlement at a joint press conference later Thursday.

The BCCSL had threatened to field a second string team or completely pull out of the tournament if the players stuck to their guns.

The players were insisting on a 20 per cent share of the BCCSL's guaranteed fee of 6.4 million dollars from the World Cup, but the authorities were only willing to offer 10 per cent plus an incentive payment.

The incentive was a 100,000 dollar-bonus to the entire team if they won the World Cup and the doubling of match fees from 700 dollars to 1,400 dollars.

An additional 20,000 dollars was also being offered if the team entered the final.

England blown away

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia's Adam Gilchrist cracked 69 off just 37 balls as his side humiliated England by 10 wickets in the first tri-nation one-day series final here Thursday.

In the opening clash of the best-

of-three games, the reigning World Cup limited-overs champions outclassed the opposition, skitting them for 117 in 41 overs before racing to 118 without loss in a lightning 12.2 overs.

It was England's 12th straight one-day loss to Australia.

Bowling first without injured pace spearheads Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie, Australia were still

far too penetrating for England as speed trio Andy Bichel (4-18), Brett Lee (3-29) and Brad Williams (2-22) shared the major spoils.

Returning leg-spinner Shane Warne (1-28) was also in the action, underlining that he is well on the mend from a severe right shoulder injury heading into the World Cup one-day contest starting next month.

Hussain said the sparkling form shown by Australia was too much for his weary travellers at the end of a three-month tour.
But he would not accept the one-sided result as "a low moment" for his team.
"The margin of victory was huge - they just kept coming at us whether it be with ball and bat," he said.
"We were outplayed -- no doubts.
"But as long as my players feel they did their best, it wasn't a low moment. It's a low moment when people don't give their best."

Ponting, thrilled with the run-away win ahead of the World Cup in southern Africa, said: "It's not very often you can walk off the field and say you've almost put on a 10-out-of-10 performance, but we pretty much did that."

"We thought we could lift a bit for the finals, we generally do that. When the big games come around our side usually plays well and lifts and we certainly did that tonight."

Wicketkeeper Gilchrist, along with his buccaneering batting, completed five catches and a stumping to equal his own record for the most dismissals by a gloveman in a one-day international innings. Gilchrist shares the record with England's Alec Stewart and West Indian Ridley Jacobs.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



ADAM IN FULL SWING: Australia wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist pulls one powerfully during his whirlwind 69 off 37 balls against England in the first game of the three-match finals at Sydney yesterday.

Upbeat Pakistan off to SA

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, Lahore

Skipper Waqar Younis warned Thursday that his under-performing team should not be written off as contenders for the cricket World Cup on the eve of their departure for South Africa.

"I was surprised to read some analysis in South Africa where people have written us off even from the Super Sixes stage," Waqar told a press conference here.

"It's a wrong impression and with the focus on the Cup we are among the top contenders."

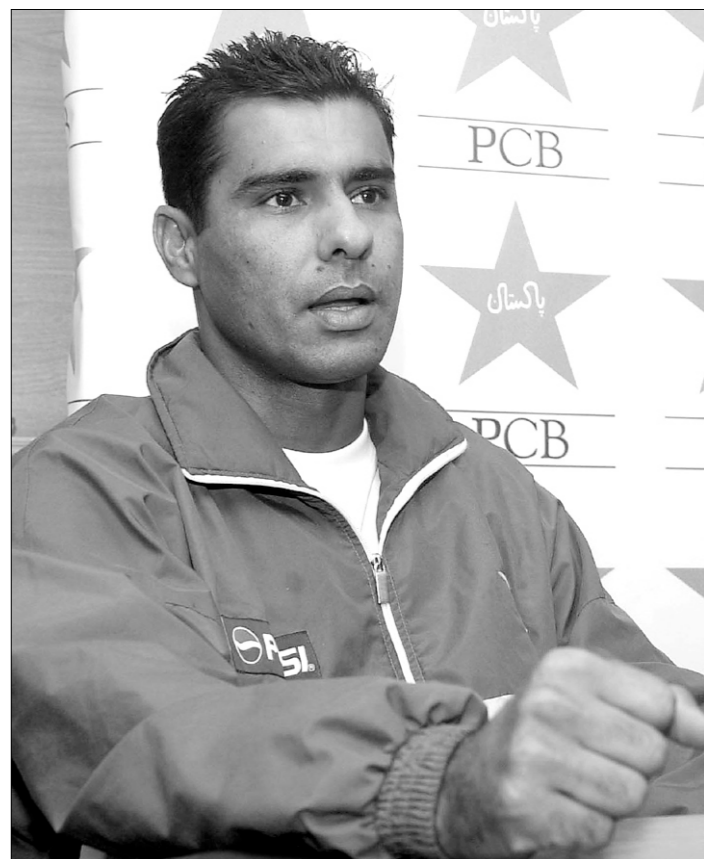
The eighth World Cup starts with a colourful opening ceremony in Cape Town, South Africa on February 8 with a record 14 teams lining part.

While the lion's share of matches will be in South Africa, Zimbabwe will stage six games while Kenya will host two.

Pakistan, one of the most unpredictable sides in world cricket, had a miserable tour of South Africa last month where they lost the one-day series 4-1 before losing both Tests.

"I have told the boys to leave the luggage of bad memories behind and prove everyone wrong with some positive, aggressive cricket,"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Pakistan captain Waqar Younis speaks at a press conference in Lahore yesterday. Waqar and company left for South Africa early today.

PHOTO: AFP