



## Did U Know?

A first-class match between South Africa and England at Durban in 1938-39 was played over 10 days. It was the longest match of this sort ever played.



**ESPN**  
Australia vs England  
World Series, Second Final  
Live at 9:13 am  
Cricket Programming  
Legends Of Cricket  
Repeat at 10:00 pm  
Primera Liga  
Atletico Madrid vs Real Sociedad  
Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)

**STAR Sports**  
Australian Open  
Women's Singles & Men's Dbls Final  
Live at 8:25 am  
Cricket Programming  
Super Selector



**Shoab Akhtar**  
(Pakistan fast bowler)  
"It's my job to bowl fast and I have to keep doing it."



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

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Feb 7, 2003 and draw

1. Who clinched the national junior chess title?	Parag	Ali	Zia
2. Bangladesh lost to Namibia by 20 runs 2-wkt 7-wkt			
3. Who became MVP in the SAFF Championship?	Arman	Rajani	Alfaz
4. Who will lead Kenya in the cricket World Cup?			
	Tikelo	Suji	
Name .....			
Class .....			
School Address .....			
Phone: (If any) .....			

## Booters meet PM today

### Kottan's future undecided



SPORTS REPORTER

The victorious Bangladesh football team will be given a grand reception when they meet Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office today.

Bangladesh won the third SAFF Championship final with a 5-3 tie-break win over the Maldives last Monday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, BFF president SA Sultan MP, national team coach George Kottan, manager Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir and other senior BFF officials will be present during the reception.

It was learnt that the PM is likely to reward the team for their magnificent victory in the eight-nation regional meet.

It is not the only reception skipper

Rajani Kanta Barman and teammates will be attending in the next few days.

President Professor Iajuddin Ahmed will receive the team on January 27 while the opposition Awami League has organised a similar function the following day.

Besides, Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Sadeq Hossain is expected to felicitate the players and officials on January 29.

However, the BFF (Bangladesh Football Federation) is taking its time to celebrate the achievement.

"We have not decided when to organise our function. Maybe it will be held after January 31," BFF president SA Sultan told The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

Sultan also revealed that a decision over national coach George Kottan would be taken. The Austrian is leaving on January 27 as his contract expired in December.

"We don't have sufficient funds to pay him any longer. The Asian Football Confederation used to pay his salary but not now.

"Anyway, we will discuss the matter with the National Sports Council. And if they are ready to bail us out we will definitely try to retain him (Kottan)," he said.

The BFF chief was keen to start the under-23 camp in preparation for the SAF Games, which gets underway in Islamabad from March 29.

"Our first priority is securing a coach and if that is Kottan we will be happy. But at the moment he is going on leave."

When contacted Fazlur Rahman also responded positively that a solution would be found.

"I am ready to help in anyway possible."

## Chittagong's plea falls on deaf ears?

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Division have asked the tournament committee for the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League to withhold the final on January 26 as Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president is yet to respond to their appeal made last week.

Chittagong officials wrote a protest letter to BCB president Ali Asghar saying that they were deprived of a final berth despite having a better net run rate (+0.32.28) than Dhaka's (+0.31.61) and were forced to take part in a play-off with Dhaka ignoring competition by-laws. A copy of that letter was also sent to the game's governing body ICC.

Asghar, who is now in Kuwait, had however told The Daily Star on January 22 that he had not received any letter from Chittagong in this connection.

Meanwhile, the tournament committee rejected Chittagong's demand last night.

When contacted, tournament committee secretary Khandker Jamiluddin said the final would be held as scheduled from January 26.

"They have already played the play-off match. It means they were satisfied with our decision to hold the play-off. Now their demand has no legality," said Jamil.

## Kallol Elite Paint football champs

CU CORRESPONDENT

Kallol Kira Sangstha won the CJKS Elite Paint Senior Football League title after Madarbari Udayan Sangha upset second-placed Customs Excise and VAT Club 4-3 in the tie-breaker yesterday.

The game ended 1-1 in regulation time at the MA Aziz Stadium.

The result confirmed Kallol as champions with 20 points from nine games while Customs remained on 17 points from the same number of outings.

In the day's other match, Brothers Union defeated Chittagong Port Authority 2-1.

## WhiZZ KID-188 winner

Farhan Rashid Ahmed Ansari (Mastermind, Uttara, Dhaka)

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on February 2.

going to the World Cup and winning that.

"It would be a great way to finish my one-day career."



SHANE WARNE

On Friday, Warne played in his first match for Australia since dislocating his shoulder in mid-December.

He snared 1-28 from 10 overs as Australia mauled England by 10

wickets in the opening match of the best-of-three series.

Warne admitted he had been nervous in his first few overs.

He settled down well and reported no soreness Friday.

Australian openers Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden smashed 118 in 12.2 overs to end the match after England had been skittled for 117.

Gilchrist whacked 69 from 37 balls, including 15 fours.

"I just wanted to try to have a good bat and feel the ball in the middle of the bat," he said.

"It's amazing when you don't think about it and you relax, what can happen."

Gilchrist acknowledged England were struggling mentally, but would still have to be afforded respect Saturday.

"They'd be a bit flat, they'll be thinking about the end of the tour, maybe the chance of trying to get home before going to South Africa for the World Cup," he said.

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## 'Final' final today

### Warne wants to make it memorable



AFP, Melbourne

Australian leg-spinning wizard Shane Warne said here Friday he was hoping to be able to achieve something special in Saturday's second tri-nation one-day series final against England.

Back for a second workout at the top level after having surgery on a dislocated right shoulder, Warne will be making his final one-day international appearance in front of his home crowd at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"Hopefully, I can do something special for the crowd," said Warne, who announced earlier this week he will quit limited-overs internationals after the World Cup, getting under way in South Africa and Zimbabwe next month.

"They've been so supportive over a long time.

"It would be great to go out on top, hopefully by winning and then

## ICC headaches



AFP, London

The four major crises blighting the build-up to next month's World Cup are set to be discussed at a special meeting of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) executive board on Friday.

The governing body confirmed the teleconference meeting in a statement issued from its Lord's headquarters on Thursday.

As revealed by AFP on Tuesday, the meeting will discuss the following issues: The Indian players' decision to sign altered World Cup contracts, the failure of the Sri Lankan board to return signed player terms before the January 14 deadline and the safety and security situation in World Cup sub-hosts Zimbabwe and Kenya.

ICC's 15-man executive board will, according to Thursday's statement, be "asked to confirm the decision of the World Cup Contracts Committee (WCCC) regarding the altered Indian contracts.

A source close to the talks between the ICC and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) told AFP on Tuesday that the WCCC had called for a truce between the

parties for the duration of the February 8-March 23 tournament.

Last week the ICC confirmed it

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Former South Africa spin bowler Paul Adams gives the thumbs-up as he poses in front of a car featuring 'The Dazzler', official mascot of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003, in Cape Town on January 23. The 'Dazzler' will feature in each of the 14 cities hosting World Cup matches, sporting a different cricket position in each city.

PHOTO: AFP

## Grand Slam feud

### Women's singles final today



AFP, Melbourne

She couldn't bear to watch as sister Serena stood on the brink of defeat against Kim Clijsters - but Venus Williams' eyes are now firmly on the prize at the Australian Open.

The greatest sibling rivalry in the history of tennis plays out its latest instalment here Saturday when the Williams sisters go head-to-head in a Grand Slam final for the fourth consecutive time.

Having finished on the losing side of the net to her younger sister at Roland Garros, Wimbledon and US Open last season, second-seeded Venus is now determined to halt the sequence of defeats.

On Thursday Venus buried her head in her hands while watching helplessly from the players' box at the Rod Laver Arena as her sister trailed 5-1 in the final set of her semi-final with Clijsters.

"I just felt so sad for her at 5-1," said Williams.

"But I knew that if she could just win one game she would do a lot better and she did. She's a regular

Houdini," she added, following Serena's remarkable 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 win over Clijsters.

The two sisters teamed up again on Friday when they claimed their sixth Grand Slam doubles victory.

But sisterly love gets pushed to one side on Saturday as Venus attempts to wreck her sister's hopes of completing the 'Serena Slam', by adding the Australian Open to her collection.

"On the court I'm a competitor, no matter who it is, I hate to lose," Venus said. "The same with her - maybe her even more."

"Off the court we're sisters again. If she were to twist her ankle on the court, of course I'd be concerned but I would still have to go out and hit the next shot.... that's the way it is."

Venus' last victory in a Grand Slam came at the 2001 US Open, crowning a two-year period when she dominated the game.

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PHOTO: AFP

NOW IT'S TIME TO GO ON THE OTHER SIDE, SIS: American Venus Williams hugs her sister Serena after the women's doubles final yesterday.

## HEAD-TO-HEAD

**Serena Williams (USA x1) vs Venus Williams (USA x2)**  
Matches shared 5-5  
1998 Australian Open (hard) V. Williams 7-6 (7/4), 6-1  
1998 Italian Open (clay) V. Williams 6-4, 6-2 (QF)  
1999 Miami (hard) V. Williams 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 (F)  
1999 Grand Slam Cup (hard) S. Williams 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 (F)  
2000 Wimbledon (grass) V. Williams 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) (SF)  
2001 Indian Wells (hard) S. Williams W/O (SF)  
2001 US Open (hard) V. Williams 6-2, 6-4 (F)  
2002 Miami (hard) S. Williams 6-2, 6-2 (SF)  
2002 French Open (Clay) S. Williams 7-5, 6-3 (F)  
2002 Wimbledon (grass) S. Williams 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 (F)  
2002 US Open (hard) S. Williams 6-4, 6-3 (F)

## Zim's anxious hours



REUTERS, Harare

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said on Thursday Zimbabwe had provided useful information on security plans for next month's World Cup matches, but declined to say if he believed the controversial games should go ahead.

After two days of talks in Harare, Speed said he would make a full report to the ICC executive board which meets on Friday in a teleconference to discuss various World Cup issues.

"We have gathered information which is very useful," Speed told reporters at an airport news conference.

"There are a number of concerns about safety and security in this country that we are well aware of...but we have taken them on board and that will form part of the report to the board tomorrow," Speed said.

England and Australia have both resisted calls for their governments to boycott matches in Zimbabwe, where President Robert Mugabe faces criticism over policies which opponents say have led to economic crisis and political unrest.

Speed declined to say what exactly he would say to the ICC board and remained non-committal on whether Zimbabwe's six World Cup games would go ahead as planned.

"I'm not making any comment

about that," Speed said. "It was very productive. We had a lot of meetings and a lot of frank and honest answers from a lot of people with whom we met."

Friday's ICC board meeting is expected to address a number of questions, including whether player safety can be guaranteed in Zimbabwe and in Kenya, where other matches are scheduled.

Speed, speaking later to reporters in Johannesburg, said any member country of the ICC board could ask for the Zimbabwe matches to be scrapped if it felt security preparations were inadequate.

"If one of the board members...be that England or Australia or anyone, wants to test the board's previous decision, that is certainly open to them," he said.

He added the matches could still be rescheduled, although this would grow more difficult as the event nears.

"It could be done quite late. There are obviously practical problems with moving matches. It could be done up until a week, five or six days before the event," he said.

World Cup chief organiser Ali Bacher, who accompanied Speed on his visit to Harare, said he was encouraged by assurances from Zimbabwean police officials that security preparations were well underway for the games.

"I was pretty heartened by their desire that it should go off in Zimbabwe without any problems," Bacher said. "We are very reassured by the manner in which they want to

## Tigers' third practice game today

SPORTS REPORTER

With the series level on 1-1, the Bangladesh national cricket team will take on Namibia in the third limited-over practice match at the Wanderers Club in Windhoek today.

Bangladesh won the first match by 60 runs on January 18 and then suffered a two-wicket defeat on Wednesday. They will play two more matches scheduled for tomorrow and Tuesday.

Bangladesh are now on a two-week conditioning camp in Namibia as part of their preparation for next month's World Cup in South Africa.

## StanChart nat'l school cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Kalindi High School emerged Group C champions in the Dhaka Metropolitan Standard Chartered 21st National School Cricket Championship beating Rahmatullah Model High School by 54 runs at the Kalindi KC ground yesterday.

Batting first, Kalindi scored 212 runs for eight in the stipulated 50 overs while Rahmatullah Model, in reply, were bundled out for 158 runs in 30 overs.

In the day's other matches, West End High School and National Bangla High School won their respective matches at different city

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