



Did U Know?

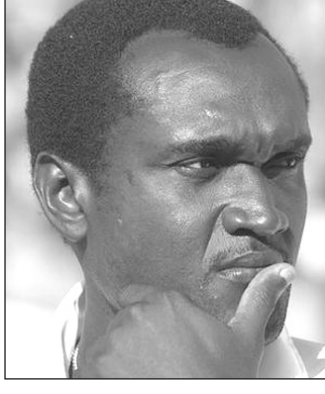
Katarina Witt of Germany achieved a rare feat in figure skating when she won the World, Olympic and European titles in both 1984 and 1988. The only other figure skaters to have matched this feat were Austria's Karl Schaffer and Norway's Sonja Henie, in both 1932 and 1936.



What to WATCH

ESPN
English Premier Football League Southampton vs Newcastle United Repeat at 8:30 am
Western Union World Football Taped Version at 10:30 am
Cricket Programming Super Selector Repeat at 11:00 am
Cricket Programming Legends Of Cricket Repeat at 10:00 pm

STAR Sports
Australian Open Mixed's Dbls Final & Men's Singles Final Live at 6:00 am
Cricket Programming Super Selector Repeat at 4:00 pm
Primera Liga Celta de Vigo vs Barcelona



Carl Hooper
(West Indies cricket captain)
"We have a lot of very talented players and we're not scared of any team in the world."



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	Sujji	
Name			
Class			
School Address			
Phone: (if any)			

South Asian TT begins today

UNB, Dhaka
The seven-nation South Asian Junior Table Tennis Championship begins at BKSP gymnasium today. State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will inaugurate the five-day meet at 4 pm. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan and hosts Bangladesh will participate in the competition. A total of 29 boys and 23 girls will compete in seven events - boys team, girls team, boys singles, girls singles, boys doubles, girls doubles and mixed doubles.

Nat'l League final starts today



SPORTS REPORTER

The final of the Ispahani Mirzapore Fourth National League between holders Dhaka and new force Khulna begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. The controversial four-day contest will start at 9:30 am under protest from Chittagong. The concept of a final match between the top two finishers from the round robin league matches has only invited trouble for the inept organisers. Chittagong, who first thought they had become the first team to reach the final, then suddenly found themselves in a play-off against Dhaka. It happened when Khulna pulled

off a dramatic one-wicket victory against Sylhet, leaving all three teams finishing on equal 14 points at the end of the round robin league. Chittagong, a victim of ambiguous by-laws, lost the playoff against Dhaka by 113 runs. But there was no denying of a fabulous run by an unheralded Khulna after starting as underdogs in the six-team meet. Having failed to cross the first-round in the previous three editions, Khulna would be looking for a repeat act against Dhaka to clinch their maiden League title. They got two crucial points by virtue of first-innings lead against the defending champions in a league match at the BKSP, Dhaka, on the other hand, would leave no stone unturned to make the most of an opportunity by default.

School b'ball from today

UNB, Dhaka

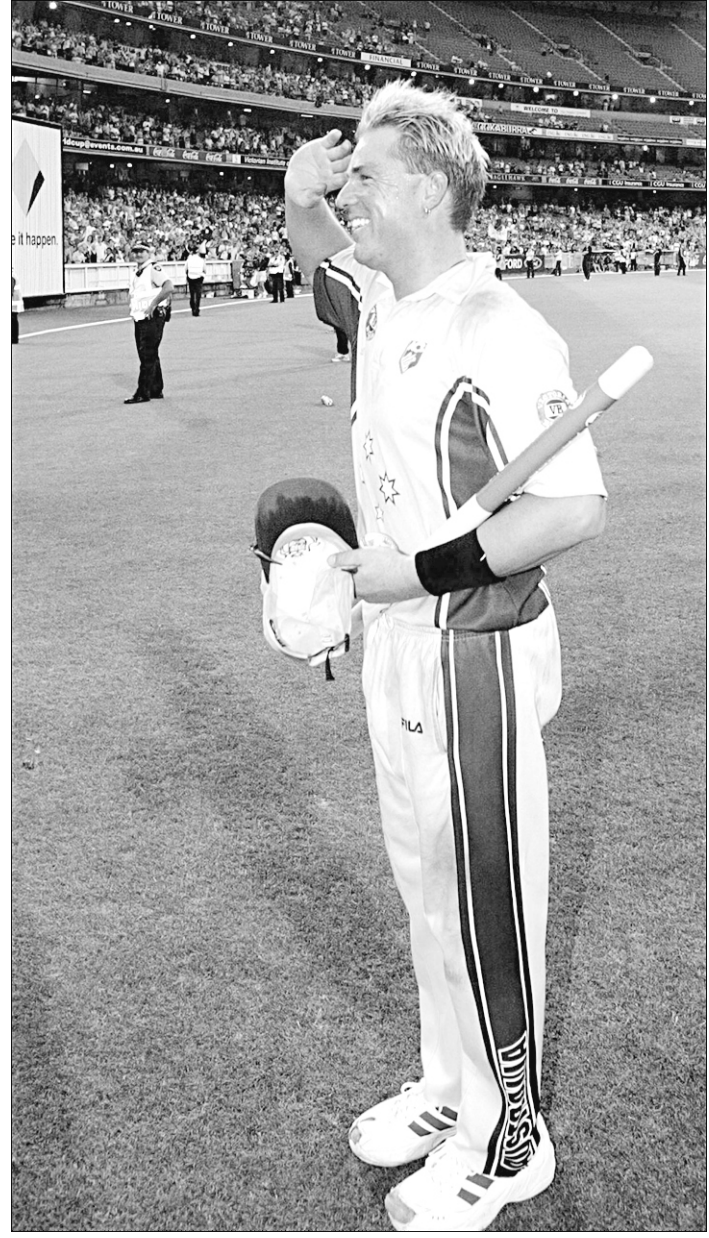
The Metropolis School Basketball tournament for both boys and girls, organised by Bangladesh Basketball Federation, begins at the Dhanmondi wooden floor gymnasium today. Green Herald International School will meet Residential Model School in boys' match at 3pm while Scholastica School encounter Agha Khan School in girls' affair in the other opening day match. Twelve teams - South Breeze, BAF Shaheen School, Saint Gregory High School, Saint Nicholas High School, Fariduddin Siddiqui School and College, Green James International School, Green Herald International School, Sun Beam School, Scholastica School, Agha Khan School, BKSP and Residential Model School - are taking part in the boys' group. Eight teams - South Breeze, Green Herald Int School, Sun Beam School, Maple Leaf School, Scholastica School, Agha Khan School, European Standard School and Sunny Dale School - are taking part in the girls' group.

Series Australia's Fitting finishing to triangular meet



AFP, Melbourne

Australia beat England by five runs in a thrilling finish at Melbourne Cricket Ground Saturday to wrap up the tri-nations one-day cricket finals by two games to nil. Fast bowler Brett Lee captured 5-30 and leg-spinning wizard Shane Warne celebrated his last one-day international at the ground with two key wickets. England, after looking set for victory, were bowled out for 224 off 49.3 overs in reply to Australia's 229 for seven wickets from 50 overs. Lee, who pulled the game out of the fire for Australia with a withering late burst, was named man of the match and man of the series. In an incident-packed match, Australian middle-order batsman Michael Bevan was stretchered off the field when he tore a right groin muscle while batting. The left-hander is considered doubtful for the one-day World Cup, starting next month in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Australian captain Ricky Ponting said winning such a tight match after not batting well would benefit his team going into the World Cup. "These sorts of tight situations... the more we get into them and come out on top - it's obviously going to give us a lot of confidence when those big games come around," he said. "For Brett to do the job he did tonight, and Brad Williams and a few of those guys... was very pleasing. "It was a very good win, to come from where we did. We were behind the eight-ball for most of the game, particularly in our innings." England captain Nasser Hussain was disappointed not to take the finals series into a decider in Adelaide Monday, but proud of the way his players reacted to Thursday's thumping by 10 wickets in the first final. Some English players had wanted to return home briefly



GOODBYE MELBOURNE: Champion Australia leg-spinner Shane Watson salutes the crowd after the second but last final of the tri-series against England at the MCG yesterday. The match was his last ODI in Australia. Warne announced earlier this week that he would quit the limited-overs version of cricket after the World Cup.

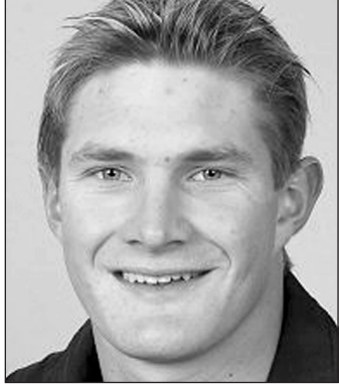
Watson out, Bevan in doubt



AFP, Melbourne

Australia were dealt two big injury blows Saturday ahead of the cricket World Cup, with dashing all-rounder Shane Watson ruled out of the tournament and experienced bats-

man Michael Bevan likely to follow suit in the next 48 hours. Watson, 21, revealed he has a stress fracture in his lower back and has been told by medical staff he will not be fit enough to play in the sport's four-yearly showpiece, starting in South Africa and



SHANE WATSON



MICHAEL BEVAN

man Michael Bevan likely to follow suit in the next 48 hours. Watson, 21, revealed he has a stress fracture in his lower back and has been told by medical staff he will not be fit enough to play in the sport's four-yearly showpiece, starting in South Africa and



GRAND SLAM PICTURE: The 2003 Australian Open women's singles champion, Serena Williams of the US, holds up a framed picture of her four Slam victories yesterday.

Slam-bang Serena



AFP, Melbourne

World number one Serena Williams joined the pantheon of tennis legends after recording a fourth straight Grand Slam victory over big sister Venus to win the Australian Open crown here Saturday. Williams punished her elder sibling's mis-firing service game with a series of brutal forehand winners to become only the fifth woman to hold all four Grand Slam titles at the same time. The 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 6-4 triumph put the 21-year-old into an exclusive club, Williams joining greats Maureen Connolly, Margaret Court, Martina Navratilova and Steffi Graf as the only women to have achieved the feat. Graf was the last woman to have held all four titles at the same time when she won the Australian Open in 1994. Williams choked back tears when presented with her trophy, and later said she was honoured to add

her name to the list of women to win all four Grand Slam titles. "I can't believe that I can be compared to these women, to be in their category is really amazing," Williams said after the final, which was played with the roof of the Rod Laver Arena closed as Melbourne sweltered in 44-degree temperatures, the second hottest day in the city's history. "It definitely feels really special to even be mentioned with Maureen Connolly. I've always looked at her story, that's just super special. "Really only a handful of people have done it. I guess it's a really special feeling." Serena is now one-quarter of the way to becoming only the fourth player to win a calendar year Grand Slam. "I'm definitely going to try to win all four Grand Slams in one year, but Venus might have an unbelievable year and win the next three," she said. While Serena celebrated, Venus could not hide her disappointment in defeat, the fourth time in a row that she has been beaten in a Grand Slam final by her sibling.

"I don't like losing altogether, whether it's to Serena or any other player," Williams said. "It's just never fun. "I never go to the finals and say 'Yes, I'm losing today'. I'm going out there with the attitude I'm going to out there, do my best and try to take the title." Williams paid tribute to her sister's achievement in holding all four Grand Slam titles at the same time. "Not many people get all four Slams, so that's really wonderful, it really is," she said. Serena's fifth Grand Slam title helped her overtake Venus, who has won four during her career. Venus said her sister's stronger mental approach had been the difference between the two. "I think right now she's just probably a little mentally tougher out there than I was today. I think maybe that's the main thing that's dropped off in me. "Usually, I would just really get in there and take a match like that," she said, putting her sister's run of form down to 'momentum'.

NB volleyball

UNB, Dhaka

Water Development Board earned their sixth victory in their seventh match of the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League yesterday. The winners beat Titas Club 22-25, 25-23, 25-22, 13-25, 15-13. It was the third defeat for Titas in their seven league encounters. In the day's other match, Wari Club tasted the second victory beating Sonali Bank Club 25-15, 25-22, 25-22.

PM hails heroes



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia called the victorious Bangladesh football team a group of brilliant youths at a reception hosted by her at the International Conference Centre yesterday. "A group of brilliant youths have presented us with a victory," she said with a note of satisfaction. "This victory is not only for the players, coaches and organizers, but a glorious moment for every Bangladeshi. We all have a share in it." Bangladesh won the South Asian Federation Football (SAFF) Championship last week defeating Maldives 5-3 in the tiebreaker. "You have to have ardent patriotism, intensive training, unflinching desire and perseverance, and augment your confidence," said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister as a token of her government's appreciation handed over a gold medal and a cheque of Tk one lakh to each member of the team. As recognition of their victory, the Prime Minister also directed to allot residential plots to all members of national football team. She assured of looking into the problems of playing ground. She expressed her desire that Bangladesh should ensure their place in the next Asian Cup and their visions should be extended to the World Cup. Coach George Kottan, in his brief deliberation, requested the Prime Minister to help the growth of the game. "This country needs football," he said. He reminded his squad that if they were willing to work hard, success would follow. State Minister for Youth and Sports



Players and officials of the Bangladesh football team, which clinched the SAFF Championship, pose for a group photograph with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the International Conference Centre at the PM's Office yesterday. State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman and Bangladesh Football Federation president SA Sultan were present.

Ctg hockey final today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The final of the Bangladesh Shipping and Trade Mahanagari Hockey League will be held at the Dampara Police Lines ground at 3 pm today. Both defending champions Anirban Club and Ganga Bari Young Society finished the league phase equal on 12 points from four matches. Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism will give away prizes as the chief guest.

StanChart nat'l school cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Wills Little Flower School and New Model High School emerged group champions in the Dhaka Metropolitan zone of the Standard Chattered 21st National School Cricket Championship beating their respective rivals in the zonal finals at deferent venues yesterday. At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, a polished 112-run by Moniruzzaman enabled Wills Little Flower to earn a massive 169-run victory over Scholastica. New Model recorded a five-wicket victory over Motijheel Govt Boys High School at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WILLS LITTLE: 276 for 7 in 35 overs (Moniruzzaman 112, Mehrab 63, Mehdi 34).
SCHOLASTICA: 107 out in 30 overs (Mehrab 3/17, Monir 2/9, Moniruzzaman 2/22, Reza 2/31).
MOTIJHEEL GOVT: 111 all out in 31.3 overs (Al Amin 3/10, Akid 2/15, Dollar 2/28).
NEW MODEL: 114 for 5 in 25 overs (Ibrahim 38, Shisir 2/18, Kafi 2/27).
In the day's other matches, Rabeya Pre-Cadet High School beat Motijheel Model High School by 93 runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Janatabagh High School defeated Muggadpara Kazi Zafar Ahmed High School by 30 runs at the Uttara Friends Club ground, National Bank Public High School beat Segunbagicha High School by 29 runs at the Kalindi KC ground while Muradpur Adarsha School beat Maleka Banu Adarsha School by 74 runs at the East End Club ground.

Pakistan reach South Africa

AFP, Johannesburg

Pakistan was the first team to arrive for the Cricket World Cup in South Africa Saturday, saying a three-week rest has put them back in form for the series. "The World Cup is the tournament everyone is geared up for," captain Waqar Younis said. "We are the first team to come here and we have got an extra week compared to other teams so we must make sure we utilise it." 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. But Younis felt that a three-week break since that tour ended has done them the world of good. "If you look overall, we played for six months on the trot, in Sri Lanka, Kenya, Sharjah, Zimbabwe and South Africa, so needed to rest," he said. "It was the best break for us, we spent most of the time speaking about what went wrong and how we could sort out the problems." Pakistan's first World Cup match is against Australia at The Wanderers on February 11. The team is pitted in Pool A alongside Australia, England, India, the Netherlands, Namibia and