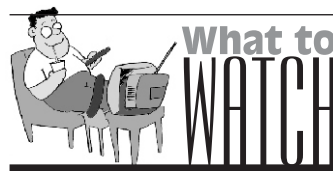




Did U Know?

Riddick Bowe is the only fighter to have held all four world title belts-IBF, WBA, WBC and WBO.



ESPN
English Premier League
Arsenal vs Fulham
Live at 7:55 pm
Chelsea vs Man United
Live at 10:00 pm

STAR Sports
West Indies v Zimbabwe
Fifth ODI
Live at 1:20 pm
Primera Liga
Deportivo vs Villarreal
Live at 2:00 am (Monday)



Ricky Ponting
(Australian cricket captain)
"The one-day captaincy has given me a valuable insight into the characteristics required to be a successful leader and I'm confident I can transfer these skills across to the Test arena."
After being named Test captain.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 201
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.
Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 5, 2003 and draw

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score against England in the last ODI?
143 190 182

2. Who is the International Cricket Council (ICC) president?
Malcolm Sped Ali Asghar Ehsan Mani

3. Who became Asian Under-19 cricket champions?
Pakistan Bangladesh India

4. Who clinched the women's title in the Asian Zonal Chess?

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

Ramnarine retires

Dinanath Ramnarine, a 28-year-old West Indian leg-spinner, has announced his retirement from first-class cricket.
His decision to call it a day comes after his continued exclusion from the national side.
Even though he was named on standby for the forthcoming series in South Africa, Ramnarine has decided to stop playing and will now concentrate on his role as president of the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA).
Despite taking 45 wickets in 12 Tests, and being the leading wicket-taker in the recent Red Stripe Bowl tournament, Ramnarine has been left out in the cold since February 2002, his last Test, against Pakistan.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh U-20 football team members warm up before their practice session at the BUET ground in the city yesterday.

U-20s wary of Nepal

Football

The Bangladesh Under-20 football team will take on their Pakistani counterparts in the opening match of the Group-5 AFC Under-20 qualifying round tomorrow at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur at 5 pm.
Nepal is the other team that is featured in the group hoping to advance to finals in Malaysia next year.
Bangladesh coach Abu Yousuf expected that his charges would face a sterner examination from Nepalese booters rather than the Pakistanis.
"I don't think the match against Pakistan will be a tough one. But Nepal will definitely provide a test as they are experienced at this level," said Yousuf last night.
He believed his team's preparation went very well and it would help them to succeed on home soil.

"Although we picked some fresh players, three months training has helped to mould them into an effective unit," the former booter said adding that the side also contains some quality players like strikers Ridon and Anwar.
Yousuf said the team's real strength lay in defence, which would be led by Zahir, Robin and Faisal.
However, Bangladesh's opponents no sooner after arriving on Friday also expressed their determination to emerge as group champions.
"We are in no doubt about qualifying for the next round. We took enough time to prepare the team and they played lot of matches before coming here," said Nepalese coach-cum-manager Ashok Pabu KC, who is making his second visit to Bangladesh after 24 years, when he appeared in the 1979 Aga Khan Gold Cup.
He explained that the boys were selected once they had reached age twelve and then gradually made their way in to the under-20s.

"The squad recently finished fifth in the Katmandu League so the players are on song at the moment," he said.
"Goalkeeper Bikash Malla and attacking midfielder Parla are the players to watch," he added.
Despite a poor build-up, Pakistani coach Mohammad Siddiq Sheikh didn't rule out his team's chances.
"We have been training for just two months and it's a relatively young and inexperienced side."
But he still believed that there was nothing to choose from between the three teams because according to him they all started as equals.
The former Pakistan midfielder, who played in Tanzania in 1974-75, however lamented the fact that age-group football failed to develop in his country due to improper planning.

FIXTURE

December 1: Bangladesh v Pakistan
December 3: Nepal v Pakistan
December 5: Bangladesh v Nepal

Pakistan ride on Razzaq

Cricket

All-rounder Abdul Razzaq snatched an unlikely victory from a novice New Zealand side with a blazing unbeaten 47 off just 22 balls in the first one-day international at Gaddafi Stadium on Saturday.
Razzaq, named man-of-the-match, hit three boundaries and two sixes and with Mohammad Sami, who made 17 from eight balls, including two sixes, successfully steered Pakistan to a challenging target of 292 in 48 overs.
Earlier New Zealand captain Chris Cairns hit six sixes and five fours to help New Zealand reach 291-5 in their 50 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat.
Razzaq and Sami needed 65 runs off 39 balls but both held their nerve and added 65 off just 27 balls for a match winning eighth-wicket stand.
Pakistan had started off disastrously, losing opener Imran Farhat in the third ball of the innings when debutant

bowler Michael Mason forced an edge to wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum for nought.
Yasir Hameed and Yousuf Youhana settled the home team with a 90-run second wicket stand, taking 23 off Cairns's first two overs, although both fell within the space of two runs.
Youhana failed to beat a throw from Hamish Marshall in the covers and was run out for a 40-ball 42 with five boundaries while Hameed was caught in the covers for 52, including seven boundaries.
New Zealand was lifted by Cairns who hit leg-spinner Danish Kaneria for three sixes in the 48th over, scoring his first fifty in his last 11 one-day games.
With Jacob Oram, he added a quickfire 90 off just 60 balls for the fifth wicket as New Zealand slugged 122 runs in the last ten overs.
Cairns took another 22 off the last over by Abdul Razzaq to complete the run out.
Oram hit a 31-ball 35 with three boundaries and a six.
Debutant Hamish Marshall and Mathew Sinclair also hit half centuries.
New Zealand, without their regular

captain Stephen Fleming and seven other key members, rested All-rounder Chris Harris and spearhead Daryl Tuffey and gave six players Craig Cumming, Richard Jones, Hamish Marshall, Matthew Walker, Kerry Walmsley and Michael Mason their one-day debuts.
Cumming and Jones gave New Zealand a confident start of 49 by the tenth over before Shabbir Ahmed dismissed Cumming for 25. Razzaq bowled Jones for 16 soon after.
Sinclair, playing his first match since a World Cup game in March this year, and Marshall then added a solid 99 in quick time and hit some delightful strokes.
Sinclair and Marshall fell in quick succession after making 55 each.
Shabbir finished with 2-30.
"We were in until Razzaq took away the match but still we look forward and hopefully can come back in the series," said Cairns afterwards.
Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq praised the efforts of Razzaq.

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PHOTO: STAR
Pakistan under-20 booters practise at the Shaheed Bir Shreshtha Mustafa Kamal Stadium at Kamalapur yesterday.

Booters face Tajik test

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh face Tajikistan today in the return leg of the 2006 World Cup pre-qualifier in Dushanbe.
The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) was however yet to receive any message from the team after they left for the capital of the Central Asian republic.
"Until last night we weren't able to contact the team," said BFF general secretary Anwarul Haq.
Bangladesh face a virtually impossible task as they must overturn Wednesday's 2-0 deficit in order to progress.

Nat'l League now from Dec 10

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Cricket League has been deferred by five days at the request of the divisional organisers. The home and away first-class competition will now begin from December 10.
"The divisional organisers sought more time to prepare their respective teams and that is why we decided to delay the start of the meet by five days," said tournament committee chairman and BCB advisor Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen yesterday.
Meanwhile, the tournament committee meets on Monday to discuss the competition's budget.
Shaheen informed that the sponsors Ispahani have agreed to provide Tk 30 lakh, which is double the amount they paid last year.

Kale ruling overruled

AFP, New Delhi

The cash-to-play scandal in Indian cricket took another twist Saturday when a higher court reimposed the ban on Abhijit Kale, the player charged with offering bribes to two national selectors.
Following an appeal by the Indian board, the district sessions court in the western city of Pune stayed a lower court's ruling Friday which allowed Kale to resume his career, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.
The lower court Friday had upheld Kale's appeal challenging the decision of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to temporarily suspend him until a corruption inquiry was over.
The board last week banned Kale after allegations by selectors Kiran More and Proneb Roy that he had offered them bribes to be picked for the current tour of Australia.

Trouble for India

AFP, Brisbane

India were humiliated here Saturday on the opening day of a three-day match against a young Queensland Academy of Sport side.
With the first Test against the world champion Australia only five days away, the tourists were given a lesson in batting and bowling by what was virtually a Queensland state second eleven.
The Queensland side's Zimbabwe-born left-arm paceman Scott Brant was on a hat-trick in his second over after Akash Chopra (0) edged to first slip and Deep Dasgupta (0) was trapped in front without offering a shot.
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the opening day of a three-day cricket match between India and Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) at Allan Border Field on Saturday:
QAS: First innings
Simpson c and b Agarkar 43
Payne lbw b Pathan 0
Carseldine c Dasgupta b Kumble 112
Nye b Kumble 15
Phillipson st Dasgupta b Kumble 85
Farrell lbw b Kumble 9
Hartley not out 21
Leloux not out 5
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-2 nb-7) 14
Total: (For 6 wickets dec in 81 overs) 304
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-65, 3-137, 4-222, 5-256, 6-283
Bowler
Agarkar 18 4 73 1
Pathan 17 2 70 1
Balaji 11 3 36 0
Ganguly 4 0 16 0
Kumble 26 4 74 4
Sehwag 5 0 30 0
INDIA: First innings
Chopra c Carseldine b Brant 0
Sehwag c Hartley b Dawes 6
Dasgupta lbw Brant 0
Laxman not out 1
Ganguly not out 5
Extras: (lb-5) 5
Total: (For 3 wickets in 7 overs) 17
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-7, 3-11
Bowler
Dawes 4 1 10 1
Brant 3 2 2 2

Payroll okayed

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has approved the new payroll for eleven players.
BCB advisor and cricket committee chairman Mahbubul Anam informed yesterday that Board president Ali Asghar had given his consent to the new payroll that was put forward on September 28.
Although there were rumours about captain Khaled Mahmud's place in the national side, he has been placed in Category A along with Habibul Bashar, Mohammad Rafique, Khaled Mashud and Javed Omar Belim.
All five players will get a monthly basic salary of Tk 35,000 each.
Hannan Sarker, Tapash Baisya, Mashrafe bin-Mortuza and Alok Kapali were ranked in Category B and they will draw Tk 27,500 each as basic salary.

Rajin Saleh and Mushfiqur Rahman have been put in Category C and each of them will get Tk 20,000.
However, this new payroll, likely to be in effect from next month, has been approved for six months. In case of a dramatic improvement in Bangladesh's performance on the international stage during these six months, the Board will review the pay structure.
In another move, the BCB has decided to bring its contracted players under a group insurance scheme.
The new payroll has also changed the distribution policy of match fees. From now on, match fees will be distributed equally among the players. Earlier, senior players received more money than the juniors.
Currently, Bangladesh receive Tk 50,000 for a Test match and Tk 25,000 for a one-day international as match fee.
Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud welcomed the change in the match fee distribution.
"This is a good initiative by the BCB."

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Rights row behind NZ-Pak game black-out

REUTERS, Lahore

Saturday's one-day match between Pakistan and New Zealand was not televised due to a row over transmission rights between the state-run Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) and the local cricket board.
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) sold the rights for the five-match series to the private GEO channel, but PTV claimed there was no proper bidding process.
The state-run Pakistan Electronic Media Regulation Authority sided with the PTV and did not provide an up-link facility to GEO for Saturday's match to be screened.
Rameez Raja, chief executive of PCB, said PTV had opted not to participate in the bidding process.
"Everyone knew this series was up for sale. It was no big secret," he said. "We sold the rights to the highest bidder."
It was the first time since 1967 that an international cricket match in Pakistan was not aired, triggering

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Gayle, Hinds go wild

Cricket

AFP, Harare

West Indies opening batsman Chris Gayle blew the opening Zimbabwe seam attack apart in the fourth of a five-match one-day series at the Harare Sports Club here Saturday.
His opening partner Wavell Hinds, cautious at first, caught the mood and inflicted his own, even more severe, punishment on the home side.
Their efforts propelled West Indies

to a challenging score of 256-3 in 45 overs before a raincloud struck the ground.
West Indies are 2-1 down and desperately need a victory to keep the series alive. But inclement weather might well frustrate them.
Gayle struck 51 runs in just 34 balls, including two sixes and seven fours. He passed his 3,000 aggregate in internationals and registered his 26th half-century to confirm his status as, overall, the West Indies' best batsman on this tour.
Gayle and Hinds put on 96 for the

first wicket inside the first 15 overs. It was clearly the result of a West Indies decision to take the game to the home team as their best option.
Hinds reached his own 50 in a more cautious 78 balls and in taking up the mantle handed over by Gayle he went on to make an aggressive 127 not out in 141 balls. He slammed four sixes and 10 fours. It was his fourth one-day century.
The runs-chase slowed for a while with the dismissal of Brian Lara for 14. Lara hit a six but before he could get going Gary Brent persuaded a catch to Tatenda Taibu.



PHOTO: AFP

West Indies centurion Wavell Hinds drives the ball on the on-side on way to his unbeaten 127 against Zimbabwe in the fourth ODI in Harare yesterday.

Fever catching 'em

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Excitement was growing across Pakistan and India for the revival of cricketing between the arch-rivals early next year, an official said on Saturday.
"The excitement is growing and during my visit to India I noticed a lot of people wanting to know how they can come and get involved in the mouthwatering series," Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Rameez Raja told this news agency after he returned home from India on Friday.
Raja was in India for a soft drink promotion also involving Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne and batsman Darren Lehman.
"A lot of things like (the) ease in visa regulations and more air and bus travelling can be done to give more and more people the chance to watch the series," Raja said.
Raja said various Indian businesses are offering to sponsor the deadlock breaking series but the PCB would strike a balance between Pakistani and Indian companies.
The ceasefire in the restive Kashmir region has raised hopes for the resumption of stalled cricketing ties between India and Pakistan.
India offered to resume sporting ties with Pakistan in a package of peace-building measures earlier this year and approved its team's sched-

uled tour to Pakistan in March-April next year.
No Indian team has toured Pakistan since 1989-1990 and Pakistan's last trip across the border was in 1998-1999.
"We are confident that India will agree to our proposed itinerary of seven one-day games and three Tests as we too are due to play the same number of matches when we tour India in 2005," said Raja, who led Pakistan in India's Independence Cup in 1997.
A junior Indian team won the Asian Under-19 event in Pakistan earlier this month during efforts to restore ties at the junior level.
"The junior team's visit and Pakistan A team's visit to India next month are the first steps and we are gearing up for the next step with open hearts," Raja said.

India want Reid as bowling coach

REUTERS, New Delhi

India want to hire former Australia fast bowler Bruce Reid as bowling coach for their Test series starting in Australia next week, a board official said on Friday.
"We have received a request from the team management in Australia," he said. "A decision will be taken at the board's working committee meeting on Sunday."
India's largely inexperienced pace attack took a hammering in their three-day opening tour game against Victoria, with Brad Hodge hitting 264.
The 40-year-old Reid was a left-arm, as are India's Ashish Nehra, Zaheer Khan and the uncapped Irfan Pathan.
The Indian media has reported that former Pakistan left-arm fast bowler Wasim Akram was also being considered, but both the bowler and the Indian board denied it.
The gangly, injury-prone Reid played 27 Tests over eight years, the last in 1992.