

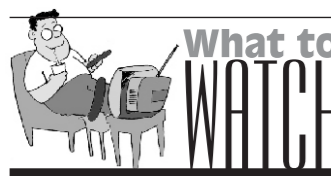


## Did U Know?

The first laws of soccer were drawn up at Cambridge University in 1848. Since then they have been rewritten and amended.



**Geoff Boycott**  
(England cricket legend)  
*"When I was playing the game we never had the benefit of TV or video to analyse our techniques or look at*



**TEN Sports**  
Sri Lanka vs England  
First Test, Day Three  
Live at 9:30 am

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
Primera Liga  
Real Madrid vs Atletico Madrid  
Repeat at 9:30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Australia vs India  
First Test, Day One  
Live at 6:00 am  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm

**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 Speed	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 .....			
School Address .....			
Phone: (if any) .....			

## Akram to fight against petty legal cases

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan cricket legend Wasim Akram moved to strike down "frivolous" court cases against celebrities on Wednesday after a petition was filed seeking to bar him from coaching Indian bowlers.

Wasim, who retired from international cricket in May, is also facing legal action over an Indian liquor commercial in which he appeared two years ago.

"We have filed an appeal in the civil court demanding that all pub-

## Nepal rout Pakistan

Bangladesh must win tomorrow



SPORTS REPORTER

Nepal got off to a resounding start in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-20 qualifying round with a 3-0 thrashing of Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday afternoon.

Forward Raj Kumar Ghising, Bijay Gurung and Pradeep Maharajan scored one goal each for the Himalayan Kingdom in their opening Group Five encounter.

The outcome of yesterday's match left hosts Bangladesh, who beat Pakistan 1-0 in the inaugural match on Monday, with a must-win situation to qualify for the finals when they face Nepal in the last game at the same venue tomorrow.

On the other hand, a draw would be enough for Nepal to pip the hosts on goal difference.

Nepal justified their pre-match billing as a vastly improved team by taking the lead in the very third minute.

A sloppy clearance by the

Pakistan defence allowed striker Raj Kumar to take possession of the ball, who then beat his marker before firing the ball into the far corner of the net with a powerful right-footer from an acute angle (1-0).

To their credit, Pakistan regrouped and constantly attacked the Nepalese in the remaining minutes of the half but poor finishing left them down.

They again got a wonderful chance to equalise after the break when midfielder Farooq Shah's cheeky lob beat an advancing Nepal custodian Bikash Malla only to return to play after kissing the post.

With the Pakistanis tiring, Nepal, who were content to soak up the pressure for most of the game, staged a late second half flurry and scored two more goals in the last 20 minutes.

Bijay Gurung doubled the margin heading home a Susan Bhandari cross from the right in the 73rd minute while Pradeep, after a brilliant solo run from the left flank, sealed the fate of the Pakistanis with a magnificent left foot volley a minute before the long whistle.

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Action from the AFC Under-20 Championship match between Nepal and Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## National Cricket League Law to end free movement

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to form strong bylaws for this year's National Cricket League in an attempt to check the mercenary attitude of the players.

The country's lone first-class competition has seen four separate bylaws put into use in its first four years but none have clearly defined the issue of players' allegiance which had created a lot of confusion. Besides, last year the competition was marred by controversy over the rule and points distribution. Funnily the tournament committee was forced to give an instant ruling after the weak bylaws failed to resolve which two teams qualified for the final after eventual winners Khulna, Dhaka and Chittagong all finished on equal points at the end of their league fixtures.

After a marathon meeting last night, the tournament committee included a rigid clause, which restricts free movement of players. It was learnt that a player can only represent a particular division if he was either born there or has his family settled in that division.

The new regulations are

expected to be made public today after Board president Ali Asghar has given his approval.

After yesterday's meeting BCB's cricket committee chairman Mahbub Anam said that they have followed the standard first-class bylaws adopted in other Test playing countries.

"Hopefully, we will no longer experience controversies like in the past", said Anam without elaborating.

The fourth National League will commence on December 10 and if the new bylaws is approved by the Board president, then the six participating teams would have to rethink their strategy of recruiting players.

For Example, out of favour national batsman Al Shariar, who was set to play for Chittagong, might have to opt for Dhaka. Another national discard Sanwar Hossain appeared for Barisal Division last season but is actually a Dhaka Division player if one goes by the birth rule. The line-ups will see a lot of changes when the six divisions send their team rosters to the tournament committee over the

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## Marshall can't stop hosts



AFP, Faisalabad

Pakistan beat New Zealand by 51 runs in the third one-day international here Wednesday and won the five match series 3-0 despite Hamish Marshall's maiden unbeaten hundred.

The 24-year-old Marshall, from Auckland, finished with 101 not out and hit his career's first century in the 50th over with the match already in the home team's pocket.

Pakistan gained an unassailable 3-0 lead with two matches to go. This is their third home one-day series win in four attempts in the past 18 months.

Pakistan, electing to bat, made a mammoth 314-7 in their allotted 50 overs with opener Imran Farhat missing his maiden one-day century by nine runs.

The tourists, chasing a run rate of more than six an over, were never in the hunt as they lost opener Craig Cumming in Shoaib Akhtar's second over for 10.

Marshall batted without any support for 109 balls, hitting seven boundaries and two sixes.

Mathew Sinclair and Richard Jones repaired the early loss through a second wicket stand of 46 before Sinclair fell run out for 32 and Jones fell to Abdul Razzaq for 23.

Marshall partnered with Chris

Harris in a solid but slow stand of 107 but the asking rate was creeping with the visitors needing a highly unlikely 141 in the last 10 overs.

Mohammad Sami, who took 5-10 in the second match, came for his second spell to remove Harris for 46 and in his next two overs had dangerous Chris Gaimis caught for nine and trapped Brendon McCullum for one to finish with 3-22.

Farhat's 91 off 110 balls included five boundaries and a six.

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Pakistan opener Imran Farhat sweeps one on way to scoring a match-winning 91 against New Zealand in the third ODI at Faisalabad yesterday.

## Murali strikes a balance



AFP, Galle

Ace Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan grabbed two quick wickets to put England under pressure in the opening cricket Test here on Wednesday.

The off-spinner removed openers Marcus Trescothick and Michael Vaughan in his testing opening spell before England reached 97-2 at stumps on the second day in reply to Sri Lanka's first-innings total of 331.

Graham Thorpe was batting on 20 with Mark Butcher (15).

Trescothick (23) and skipper Vaughan (24) scored freely against pace to put on 56 for the opening wicket before Muralitharan struck twice on a turning pitch to restore balance in the closing session.

The spinner had left-handed Trescothick caught behind trying to push and then bowled Vaughan with a gem of a delivery.

The England captain tried to pad the ball away, but it spun sharply and went between the batsman's legs before hitting the stumps.

Muralitharan was also in the limelight as a batsman in the afternoon session, smashing an entertaining 38 to help his team reach a competitive total after mid-innings hiccups.

Sri Lanka were struggling at 239-7 following fast bowler Andrew Flintoff's double-strike before Muralitharan led a fightback with his 37-ball knock which included one six and four boundaries.

England were frustrated by the Sri Lankan tail-enders as the hosts scored 92 for their last three wickets.

Kumar Dharmasena (27) and Chaminda Vaas (22 not out) also chipped in to help the hosts cross

the 300-mark.

Vaas put on 40 for the eighth wicket with Dharmasena and as many runs for the last wicket with Muralitharan.

Sri Lanka's defiant lower-order batting also neutralised England's early advantage given by Flintoff.

The England fast bowler dis-

missed Thilan Samaraweera (45) and Upul Chandana (21) in successive overs to reduce Sri Lanka to 239-7 after the hosts had resumed at 138-4.

Kumar Sangakkara (71) had earlier enhanced Sri Lanka's chances of reaching a big total with

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England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff celebrates taking the wicket of Upul Chandana on the second day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at Galle yesterday.

## BHF looking to AHF U-21 meet

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is aiming to use the first Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Under-21 competition as an opportunity to restore the pride their senior brothers lost in the Men's Asia Cup in Kuala Lumpur last September.

BHF general secretary Shamsul Bari came under fire after Bangladesh experienced their worst defeats against India, Pakistan and China in that Asia Cup and many doubted there was some wrongdoing while selecting the team.

It was also anticipated that the BHF would bring about a wholesale change on the executive committee following the debacle, but it was learnt there is little chance to see any major change when the annual general meeting (AGM) of the federation takes place on December 7.

Bari, a veteran hockey organiser, appeared least bothered about the upcoming AGM. He is rather more interested in bringing a foreign coach to flourish the game in the country.

"We received two CVs one from an Australian and the other from a Pakistani. But everything will be decided after discussing the matter with an AHF expert on December 27 in Singapore," Bari said.

He also informed that they were interested to appoint the new foreign coach by next month.

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## Tendulkar, work on your leg-spin

AFP, Brisbane

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly wants master batsman Sachin Tendulkar to practise his leg-spin before he can expect to have more Test bowling stints.

Tendulkar, 30, is widely acclaimed as the game's foremost batsman, but Ganguly would be happier if he spent more time in the nets working on his bowling technique.

"To be honest that's one area we're looking to develop," Ganguly said on Wednesday of Tendulkar's part-time leg-spin.

"But with Sachin it depends on how he feels. There are days when

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## One spinner each?

Australia, India begin Test rivalry today



AFP, Brisbane

Australian captain Steve Waugh is expected to stick with leg-spinner Stuart MacGill and to unleash three pace bowlers on a green-top Gabba wicket against India in the series' opening Test in Brisbane on Thursday.

Waugh, playing in his farewell Test series after announcing his retirement last week, said he wanted balance in his bowling attack, which is without injured Glenn McGrath and Brett Lee, and that he was leaning towards MacGill.

"In a Test match side you probably want some balance there and if you've got a quality spinner, you would be unlikely to leave him out. I would probably think it would be

three quicks and one spinner," Waugh said on Wednesday. "There's an option of playing four quicks, but I think that's doubtful."

That means either West Australian speedster Brad Williams or New South Wales' left-arter Nathan Bracken will be the 12th man when the eleven is finalised.

The fast bowlers were licking their lips in anticipation of cutting loose on a greenish pitch, which is expected to give bounce and movement in steamy conditions.

But 32-year-old MacGill, who has stepped up admirably to replace Shane Warne as the first-choice leg-spinner serves a 12-month doping ban, has snared seven wickets in two Gabba Tests and is expected to get assistance as the most pitch gets cut up during the Test's five days.

"There's definitely some grass there, but it's dry underneath as

well," Waugh said. "Whoever bats first, it will be testing early conditions, but if you get through that you can set the game up, it really depends if you back yourself or not."

"I think it will turn, if there is any moisture in a wicket it tends to dig up with the spikes and you get more turn than a dry pitch sometimes. If you're a good quality bowler you'll make most of the conditions."

MacGill offers variety to Australia's bowling attack and he has taken 133 wickets in 26 Tests, including nine hauls of five wickets or more in an innings.

Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly suggested his side would be going into the first Test with just one recognised spinner, either Anil Kumble or Harbhajan Singh.

"We have options, but looking at the history of the Gabba, it looks

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South Asian Football Federation president Ganesh Thapa (R) enjoying the match between Nepal and Pakistan from the Nepalese tent at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## Indians told to have self-belief



AFP, Brisbane

India should see their challenging Test series in Australia as a chance to atone rather than as an insurmountable task, sports psychologist Sandy Gordon said here on Wednesday.

As they venture into Thursday's opening Test at the Gabba, the Indians are weighed down by historical baggage of winning just three of their 28 Test matches in Australia going back to the 1947-48 Bradman era.

Saurav Ganguly's tourists have enlisted the help of Gordon to speak with the team before the first of four Tests against Australia, amid general consensus that they will again not match it with the all-conquering Aussies.

The Indians' lead-up form has caused alarm, having conceded over 800 runs in two unfinished innings to Victoria and a Queensland academy team.

Australian-based Gordon worked with the Indians at the World Cup in southern Africa last February-March when they got to the final, only to lose heavily to Australia.

Gordon is stressing that the Indian team treat the Australian tour as a fresh start.

"It's a new tour, a new project. You learn from the last one but the next one's a new one," Gordon was quoted in press reports here Wednesday.

"They've certainly come here determined to respond to the critics. Some of that is illegitimate. Some of it is based on pure statistics."

India have not won a Test series

outside the sub-continent since 1986 and in seven previous tours of Australia they have won just three of 28 Test matches, their last victory coming in 1981.

Gordon, who helped Australia to the 1999 World Cup triumph in England, said statistics can pigeon-hole teams.

"You can look hard at statistics and you can pigeon-hole teams by their performances away from home, but this bunch I know has improved in their touring," he said.

"There's a trend that would suggest Indian players are best equipped to handle Indian conditions, and only Indian conditions, so when they come to different locations, different wicket conditions, different cultures, it is a bit of an adaptation that they haven't responded well to in the past.

"These players are more of a globalised sort now, they're on tour

all the time, so the gap is narrowing.

"It's not so much of a culture shock anymore.

"They're ready for this tour and they're certainly looking forward to it."

"That missing ingredient that they need to work on mostly is belief that they can produce and be competitive on the day."

"These guys know they can. They've got that much ability and talent in their team."

Skipper Ganguly has paid tribute to Gordon's work with the Indian players.

"We've been interacting with him for some time. He's done good for us, the mind is very important and in the writeups in the newspapers about this game is that it's all about mind games and that's one area where you have to be tough to go ahead."