



Did U Know?

Soccer has been part of the Olympic Games since 1908.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs England
First Test, Day Five
Live at 9:30 am

ESPN
Western Union World Football
Taped Version at 2:00 pm

English Premier Football League
Newcastle United vs Liverpool
Live at 6:25 pm

Leeds United vs Chelsea
Live at 8:55 pm

Primera Liga
Barcelona vs Real Madrid
Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports
Australia vs India
First Test, Day Three
Live at 6:00 am



TALK TURKEY



Christian Vieri
(Italian star striker)
"I was a bit of an all-rounder at school. I would have loved to have been a cricketer."



Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 202

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 19, 2003 and draw

- Who has been named Australia's Test captain?
Gilchrist
Ponting
Martyn
- Who won the Rugby World Cup?
Australia
England
New Zealand
- Who will lead the Bangladesh A team to Pakistan?
Rajin
Mushiq
Hamman
- Who won the Federation Cup title?

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

WHIZZ KID-201 winner

Farzina Khan Smirity
(Parijhat Shikhangon, 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 December 14.

WHIZZ KID-201 correct answers

- How many runs did Bangladesh score against England in the last ODI?
Ans: 182
- Who is the International Cricket Council (ICC) president?
Ans: Ehsan Mani
- Who became Asian Under-19 cricket champion?
Ans: India
- Who clinched the women's title in the Asian Zonal Chess Championship?
Ans: N Minakshiee
- Who is the owner of Chelsea?



DELIGHT BEFORE DESPAIR: Bangladesh team members celebrate after scoring a goal against Nepal during the AFC Under-20 Championship at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

U-20s suffer cruel draw

Football
SPORTS REPORTER

An own goal late in the second half cost Bangladesh their place in the final round of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-20 Championship after Nepal came from behind to earn heart-breaking a 1-1 draw at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Nepal qualify for the 16-team final round in Malaysia next September.

Striker Parvez Chowdhury gave the hosts a perfect start in the final match of the Group Five qualifier with a spectacular goal after just

two minutes

But after protecting the slender lead for over seventy minutes, Nepal had to wait until the 72nd minute to eventually edge out Bangladesh for a berth in next year's finals.

The knockout blow happened when Bangladesh custodian Piru trying to clear the ball from substitute Susan Bhandari's powerful grounder only resulted in the ball bouncing off the chest of defender Zahurul and into the net.

Despite losing the initiative Abu Yousuf's young brigade tried frantically to grab a winner knowing that Nepal would go through on goal difference in case of a drawn affair. And in the remaining 18 minutes they earned as many as

five corners but failed to capitalise from any of them.

The result of the do-or-die encounter was a bitter pill to swallow especially for Yousuf who three years ago in Rajshahi went so close when in charge of the Under-19 team. On that occasion local hopes were also dashed by an identical scoreline against Iraq.

Going into Friday's match Bangladesh had to win because both teams had earlier seen off Pakistan with contrasting victories in the three-nation qualifying group. But while Himalayan kingdom won 3-0 the home team managed a scratchy solitary goal victory in their opening fixture.

When Parvez's brilliant side-volley gave the youthful

Bangladeshis the lead it was the start that everybody in the packed stadium was hoping for.

The young lad was the quickest to react after the ball came off the head of fellow midfielder Arup Kumar.

Bangladesh then intensified the pressure on their opponents. They had two more distinct chances to increase the margin in the space of 14 minutes.

But each time Nepal custodian Bikash Malla pulled off some smart saves to keep his team in the contest.

Afterwards Yousuf admitted his team paid the price for not scoring a second goal with chances they had in the first half.

Zaheer wrecks Aussies

Cricket
AFP, Brisbane

Zaheer Khan, hitting the seam and bowling in the right areas, stepped forward with five Australian wickets to stake his claim as India's strike bowler here on Friday.

The 25-year-old left-arter led the way as India staged a sensational comeback after an uninspiring opening day to reduce Australia to 323 for nine from an overnight 262 for two after the rain-ravaged second day of just 16 overs.

The Indians, criticised for not taking full advantage of winning the toss on a green Gabba wicket and paying the price, roared back with Zaheer leading the way.

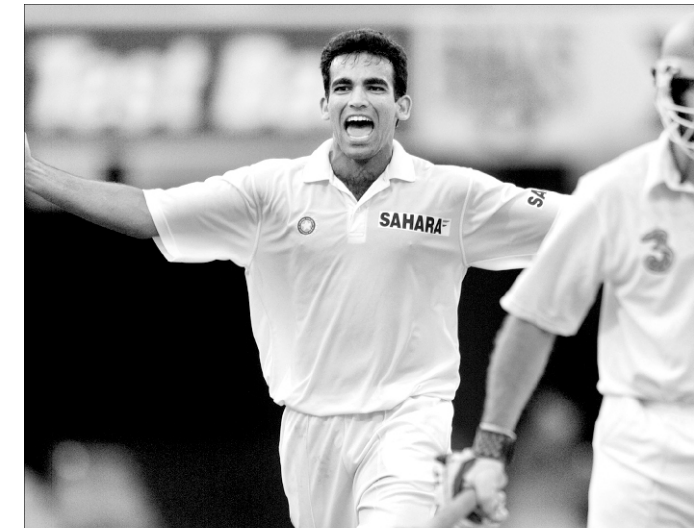
Zaheer claimed the big wickets of skipper Steve Waugh for a duck, Adam Gilchrist (0) and Simon Katich (16) to go with Thursday's scalps of Matthew Hayden (37) and Ricky Ponting (54) to finish the day with 5-95 off 23 overs.

He has now taken 82 wickets in 27 Tests.

What a difference a day makes as Zaheer troubled the Australian batsmen on a moist, swinging wicket with immaculate line, length and movement to lead the Indians to one of their best days of cricket in Australia for decades.

Zaheer's third five-wicket haul comes after the recent retirement of veteran pace spearhead Javagal Srinath.

"There was a lot more help from



Indian paceman Zaheer Khan (L) celebrates after taking the wicket of Australian batsman Simon Katich at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday.

the wicket today and the key was that we bowled in the right areas consistently," Zaheer said.

"Fast bowling on any wicket is all about bowling in the right areas, no matter who the batsman is, if you're bowling in the right areas he is going to be consistently struggle.

"That's what I've been trying to do here. My emphasis today was hitting the seam."

Zaheer said it was a satisfying performance in frustrating playing conditions of just 16 overs of pulsating cricket.

"Considering the situation we were in yesterday, we did a fantastic job today to restrict them to 323 for nine," he said.

Zaheer said part of the credit was due to the team's Australian fast bowling coach and former Test bowler Bruce Reid, who has been co-opted to help the team on tour.

"He basically told us to concentrate on line and length and to bowl there consistently," he said.

Zaheer said there was a team strategy directed at Australian skipper Steve Waugh, who lasted

Nat'l marathon swimming Munmun, Mamtaz lift titles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ch nauabganj

Munmun Ahmed of Bangladesh Navy clinched the men's crown while Mamtaz Shirin of Bangladesh Ansars won the women's title in the seventh National Marathon Swimming Competition on the river Mahananda of Chapainawabganj yesterday.

A total of 10 swimmers including four females from six organisations participated in the competition being organised by Chapainawabganj Swimming Club under the auspices of Bangladesh Swimming Federation. Rafiqul Islam of Bangladesh Navy and Momin Khan of Bangladesh Army grabbed the second and third position in the men's group while Merina Akhtar of Sagar Khabli Swimming Club (Kushtia) and Asana Talukdar of BKSP became second and third respectively in the women's section.

The male participants swam 15 kms from Gobatala Ghat to the Mahananda Bridge and female ones 10 kms from Baliadanga Ghat to the Mahananda Bridge.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Mizanur Rahman Minu gave away prizes as chief guest.



Sri Lankan batsman Mahela Jayawardene pulls for a four during his defiant half-century against England in the first Test at Galle yesterday.

Dispute over BHF post

SPORTS REPORTER

There is little chance of wholesale changes on the executive committee of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) when the annual general meeting (AGM) of the federation takes place tomorrow.

But it was learnt that a dispute has arisen over one of the joint-secretary posts, which might affect the outcome of the AGM itself.

Besides deciding the major post, seven or eight new members will be on the 31-member BHF executive committee.

"The decision-makers agreed on a compromise formula before the AGM by proposing some changes to the executive posts. Veteran Shamsul Bari will however remain as general secretary," a reliable source told The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

Mohammedan hockey secretary Sajed Adel is expected to replace Khaja Rahmatullah as a joint secretary.

Akram for Tigers?

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Legendary Pakistani fast bowler Wasim Akram is likely to impart his vast knowledge on Bangladeshi quicks in March 2004.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is planning to bring the world's greatest ever left-arm paceman before Bangladesh's home series against India in April.

"We have already talked to him and he has primarily accepted our proposal to help the Bangladesh bowlers. But the financial matters are yet to be finalised. One of our officials is keeping constant contact with him," informed a highly placed BCB official on condition of anonymity.

The former Pakistani captain, who recently appeared before a civil court in Lahore after a petition was filed against him for reportedly 'accepting' a coaching programme with Indian bowlers, will work with



WASIM AKRAM
the local bowlers for two weeks.
"We had an intention to bring him before the Zimbabwe tour but it was not possible as he had his commitments as a commentator for ESP-Star. He will work with the boys for two weeks after Bangladesh team

Farhat flays Kiwis

Cricket
AFP, Rawalpindi

Opener Imran Farhat hit a scintillating 82 as Pakistan annihilated New Zealand by seven wickets in the fourth day-night one-day international match played at Pindi stadium here on Friday.

Farhat's innings enabled Pakistan to reach the required target of 184 in 41.2 overs. It was Pakistan's fourth consecutive win against New Zealand in as many one-dayers.

Earlier the Black Caps were bundled out for 183 in 47.5 overs with paceman Shoaib Akhtar taking 3-23 after the tourists opted

to bat.

Yasir Hameed and Farhat, who hit 115 and 142 for the opening wicket in the last two matches, once again featured in a century stand.

Farhat reached his third 50 off 68 balls, with 10 boundaries, while Hameed hit six boundaries off the same number of deliveries for his seventh half-century, and fourth successive ton in the series.

At 134, Hameed was caught at long on off the bowling of Tama Canning after scoring 61. Farhat failed to beat Tama Canning's direct throw from third man after his 117-ball stay spiced with 14 hits to the ropes.

Shoaib Malik with 16 and Salim Elahi with seven hit the winning

runs.

New Zealand, who surprised everyone by putting 291-5 in the first match in Lahore, batted without any resolve with captain Chris Cairns top-scoring with a patient 48.

Cairns added 43 for the seventh wicket with Canning, who made 13 and 33 for the fifth wicket with Chris Harris, who made 25. New Zealand lost the first four wickets for 49 in 21 overs.

Cairns hit four boundaries and two towering sixes in his 61-ball stay before off-spinner Shoaib Malik first dismissed Harris and then bowled Cairns to finish with 2-46.

Mercedes-Benz Trophy Golf held

PRESS RELEASE

Rancon Motors, the exclusive agent for Mercedes-Benz in Bangladesh, hosted the Mercedes-Benz Trophy Golf Tournament at the picturesque Bhatiyar Golf and Country Club (BGCC) in Chittagong yesterday in association with Canon Camera, Siemens and Homebound.

The country's top golfers took to the course at 6 am. The amazing skills of the golfers and fierce competition ensured that the tournament was thoroughly enjoyed by all the spectators.

The event was organised by Jetset PR, the nation's leading event management company.

Major General Moeen U. Ahmed, honourable senior vice-president, BGCC and GOC, 24 Infantry Division and Area Commander, Chittagong area was the chief guest.

Chairman of Rancon Motors Ltd A Rouf Chowdhury and Momo R Chowdhury, managing director of Rancon Motors Ltd were also present on the occasion.

A complete set

Cricket
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, Brisbane

Steve Waugh is no stranger to unusual dismissals against India and he's now completed the grand slam.

Falling hit wicket for a duck in the first Test at the Gabba on Friday after his leg brushed his stumps was the second time he'd fallen in a bizarre manner in as many Tests against the Indians.

He was out handled ball in the third Test in 2001 in Chennai.

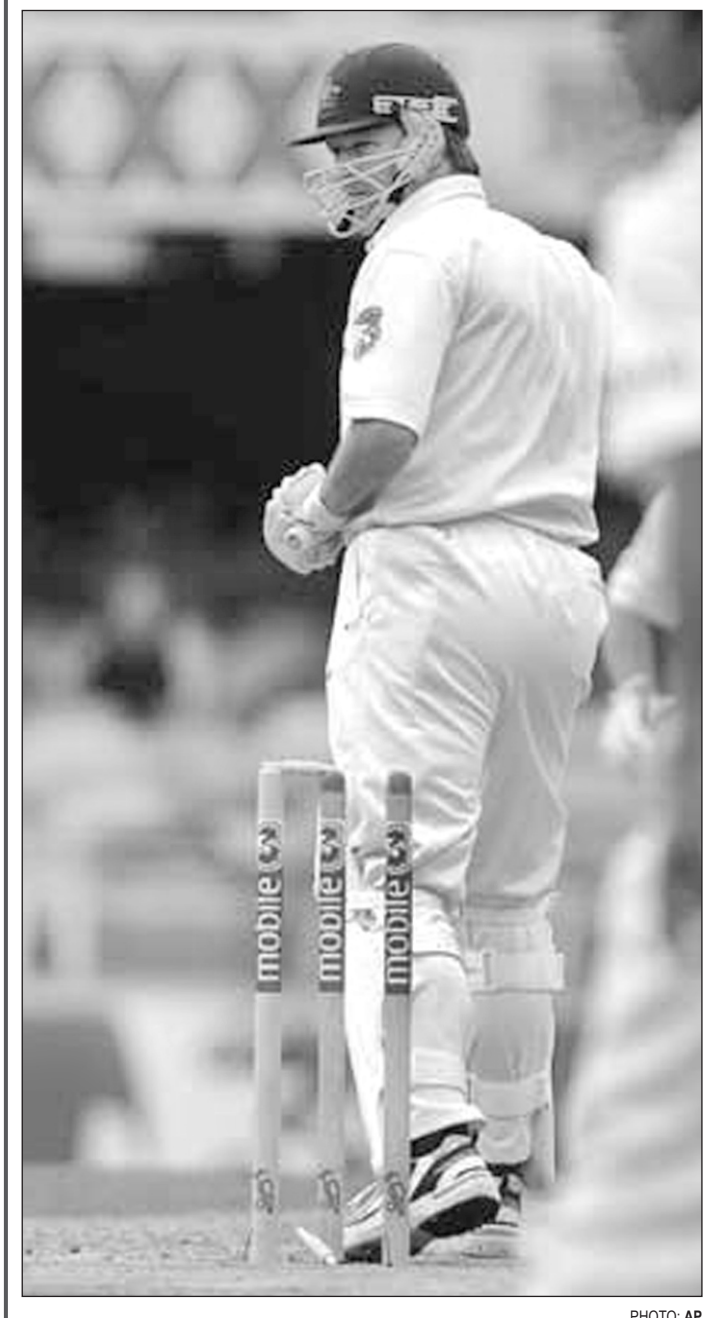
In a terrible start to his farewell Test tour, Waugh became the 144th Test cricketer dismissed hit wicket.

He was the first Australian to break his stumps in 22 years, with the last being former captain Kim Hughes in the sixth Test against

England in the 1981 Ashes series.

The 38-year-old's dramatic nine-minute innings, his first in his farewell series, completed the dubious achievement of getting out in every possible manner in Test cricket.

Waugh brushed his off-stump with his pad when playing a short ball by Zaheer Khan to be out hit wicket for the first time in his career.



AS BAD AS IT GETS: Australian captain Steve Waugh looks back after stepping on his stumps for the first time in his international career yesterday.

Younis recalled

Cricket
AFP, Rawalpindi

Pakistan Friday recalled middle-order batsman Younis Khan to their 16-man squad for the tour of New Zealand starting later this month.

The 26-year-old Younis, who has played 28 Tests and 96 one-day internationals, was dropped after failing to score prominently in the

Eng face stiff target

Cricket
AFP, Galle

Mahela Jayawardene hit an unbeaten 86 under pressure to help Sri Lanka set a stiff 323-run target for England to win the opening cricket Test here on Friday.

England were four for no loss in their second innings at stumps on the fourth day when rain stopped play an over after tea, with Marcus Trescothick batting on four with captain Michael Vaughan.

The hosts were indebted to Jayawardene for setting a challenging target on a turning track as the stylish middle-order batsman returned to form with a timely half-century.

England now face a tough task on a fifth-day pitch on Saturday, especially after off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's seven-wicket haul in the first innings and

past record.

The highest fourth-innings target achieved to win a Test in Sri Lanka is 326, by the hosts against Zimbabwe at Colombo in 1997-98.

The day belonged to Jayawardene, who scored runs just when his team needed them most.

He thwarted the England attack for two sessions before running out of partners, compiling his highest score since his century in England in May 2002.

"It's definitely one of my best Test knocks," said Jayawardene.

"I was not really under pressure about keeping my place in the side, but it was still a much-needed innings for me."

Resuming at 99-5, Sri Lanka were put on the right track by Jayawardene who batted comfortably against both spin and pace during his 311-minute stay at the crease. He hit seven fours in his