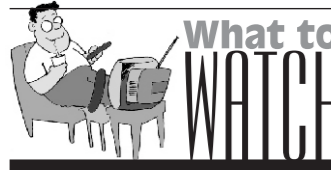




Did U Know?

More than 40 millions soccer balls are sold each year worldwide.



What to Watch

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs England
Second Test, Day Four
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

South Africa vs West Indies
First Test, Day Two
Live at 2:27 pm

Primera Liga
Celta De Vigo vs Atletico Madrid
Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

Australia vs India
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 6:30 am



TALK TURKEY



Steve Bucknor

(Cricket umpire)
"Just recently I was umpiring the World Cup final so I don't understand what is happening, but at the moment I am pretty comfortable (with my form)."

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?

<input type="checkbox"/> Gilchrist
<input type="checkbox"/> Ponting
<input type="checkbox"/> Martyn
- Who won the Rugby World Cup?

<input type="checkbox"/> Australia	<input type="checkbox"/> England	<input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand
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- Who will lead the Bangladesh A team to Pakistan?

<input type="checkbox"/> Rajin	<input type="checkbox"/> Mushtiq	<input type="checkbox"/> Hamman
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- Who won the Federation Cup title?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Name
 Class Roll No.
 School Address
 Phone: (if any)



Dhaka wicketkeeper Anwar Hossain makes a diving attempt to stop a Khaled Mahmud delivery going down the leg side as the Barisal batsmen look on at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Showstopper skipper

Shah first to three figures

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Khaled Mahmud led by example as star-studded Dhaka completed an easy innings and 63-run victory over Barisal with a day to spare in the Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Away at Sylhet, holders Khulna were just a wicket away from a win against the home side.

Meanwhile, visitors Rajshahi were in deep waters as they led Chittagong by just 63 runs with only four wickets remaining.

DHAKA V BARISAL

Mahmud, the Bangladesh captain, gave a devastating display of seam bowling while discarded Test off-spinner Fahim Muntasir redeemed himself as Dhaka tormented Barisal on the third day of the four-

day fixture.

Mahmud took four for 19 off 12 overs while Muntasir bagged four for 31 as Barisal were skittled out for 118 in their second innings with an hour remaining of the day's play. Both players had a memorable match as all-rounders having scored half centuries when Dhaka batted.

Earlier, Dhaka veteran Halim Shah, who was 89 not out overnight, duly reached three figures to become the first centurion of the league.

Number nine Muntasir, who started the day on 34, finally did his batting potential some justice by making 58 off 86 balls with nine boundaries.

Shah went on to score 119 and smashed 20 boundaries in his 303-ball innings. Dhaka were eventually all out for 374 just before lunch which gave them a 181-run first innings lead.

The advantage proved more than enough as the Barisal bats-

men found Mahmud and Muntasir too tough to handle.

Mahmud, who is under pressure to perform after a very ordinary time against England in the last home series, rediscovered his confidence and was instrumental in the win with a match-haul of six wickets and a well compiled 51.

Muntasir also served a timely reminder with five wicket and the vital runs.

The two teams will battle in a limited-over match tomorrow at the same venue.

SYLHET VKHULNA

Chasing 236 to win, Sylhet were 145 for nine in their second innings by close of play at the Sylhet Stadium. Takrimul Hadi was the top scorer for the home team with 43 off 159 balls.

Tamim Bashir claimed four wickets for 36 runs and first innings wrecker left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak Raj grabbed three for 43 to

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Biman remain unbeaten

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Bangladesh Biman remained on top of the table in the First Division Chess League with another 4-0 win over Farashganj Sporting Club in the fifth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman and International Masters Reefatbin-Sattar, Abdullah Al-Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib won their respective boards against Debasish, Tamoy, Nur-e- Alam and Nasir to raise their tally to 19.5 points in five matches.

Leonine Chess Club followed the leaders with 16.5 points.

In yesterday's round, Leonine beat Nakhhalpara Jubo Sangha by 3.5-5 points.

In the other matches of the day, Ansars beat Destiny 2000 Limited 2.5-1.5. Titas Club beat Fighter Chess Club 3-1, Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan and Krira Sangha beat Narayanganj City Chess Club 2.5-1.5. Dhaka University Chess Team beat Anushillan Daba Krura Chakra 4-0, Mohakhali Prodig Sangha beat Monipur Chess Club 3-1 and Sonali Bank beat Rajshahi Daba Unnayan Sangtha 4-0. Today is the rest day. The sixth round will start at the same venue tomorrow at 3pm.

Smith starts in style

AFP, Johannesburg

Graeme Smith marked his first home Test as South African captain by hitting a century on the first day of the first Test against the West Indies at the Wanderers Stadium Friday.

South Africa were 206 for two at tea, with Smith unbeaten on 110.

Smith's fifth 100 in his 18th Test ended a relatively lean spell for the 22-year-old left-hander, who had made only one half-century in 10 Test innings since hitting two double centuries in successive matches against England earlier this year.

The West Indies, already hit by injuries which have caused three players to go home early, suffered another blow when opening batsman Chris Gayle pulled up with what appeared to be a serious hamstring injury while chasing a ball in the outfield.

Gayle was helped off the field and the West Indies management said he was receiving ice treatment and a full assessment of the injury would be made later.

With the West Indies opting for four seam bowlers, off-spinner Gayle would have provided the main spin bowling option for the tourists, who were forced to use part-timers Daren Ganga and Ramnareesh Sarwan for two overs each.

Sarwan almost made a crucial breakthrough with the last ball before tea when Smith, on 110, turned him to leg slip where a diving West Indian captain Brian Lara

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

WC School Cricket Kalindi High finish third

SPORTS REPORTER

Keraniganj Kalindi High School finished third in the World Cup for School Cricket tournament beating Comilla Razzak High School by eight wickets in Delhi yesterday.

Batting first Razzak High were all out for 107 in 24.5 overs. Hanif picked up five wickets conceding 28 runs while Milton took three for 15 runs.

In reply, Kalindi High reached the target of 108 runs for two wickets in 27 overs. Rana was the top scorer with 32 and Babu added 25 runs.

Mohammedan: Tension beneath the bar

Football

HASAN MASOOD

Mohammedan Sporting Club is a club synonymous with success. But a year after completing a rare domestic treble the 13-time Premier League champions are set to lose their last remaining crown.

Having already surrendered the national football league (NFL) and Federation Cup to Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, the popular Motijheel outfit will really have to play out of its socks to clinch silverware.

An indication of how the balance of power may be shifting was when Mohammedan lost twice to the Reds in the space of two months.

First the reigning NFL kings went down after a penalty shootout at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in September. When the two sides met again in last month's

Federation Cup final, it ended 1-0 in Muktiyoddha's favour even though for much of the match it was the eight-time winners who actually dominated.

Most football buffs believe Mohammedan's dismal current state of affairs is due to the exodus of six members of the treble-winning squad -- Masood Rana, Firoz Mahmud Hossain Tito, Joy, Kan-chan, Monwar and Iraqi defender Riadh. They all decided to say their goodbyes during the transfer season in late September.

However, the sentiment is not shared by club officials who argue that if the team had been under-strength then it wouldn't have been possible to reach either of the domestic cup finals.

"Frankly we didn't have any luck in both matches. Though I still think we were the better side on each count," exclaimed Mohammedan coach Abul Hossain while talking to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

The former Bangladesh

defender thought everything except the goalkeeping department was okay.

"We desperately need a reliable custodian. Bijan has been injured for a long time while Milan is best described mediocre. Senior club officials have told me that efforts are being made to rope in a foreign goalkeeper," he said.

The loss of so many key players initially worried Hossain but now he thinks the introduction of some unheralded yet promising footballers could plug up the holes in the squad.

"There are a few promising players like Shuvro, Amin Rana, Sourav Raju, Rony, Kaiser and Khokon Das. I think with this team we can defend our Premier League title."

Mohammedan captain Jewel Rana is also pinning his hopes on the current squad provided they can get a good keeper before the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 3



Mohammedan booters stretching during their practice session at the Army Stadium on Thursday.

England tail wags

Cricket

AFP, Kandy

Chaminda Vaas and Muttiah Muralitharan bagged four wickets apiece to help Sri Lanka seize the initiative in the second cricket Test against England here on Friday.

Off-spinner Muralitharan finished with 4-60 and left-arm fast bowler Vaas 4-77 as England were bowled out for 294 in reply to Sri Lanka's first-innings total of 382 on a tepid third day.

Sri Lanka lost opener Marvan Atapattu before reaching 39-1 at stumps for an overall lead of 127 when bad light stopped play 55 minutes before the scheduled close.

Sanath Jayasuriya was unbeaten on 25 with Kumar Sangakkara (one) after the early dismissal of Atapattu, who was trapped leg-before by left-arm spinner Ashley Giles for eight runs.

Just 170 runs were scored in the day as both Sri Lanka and England batted cautiously on a slow turning wicket in a bid to gain the upper hand.

England looked determined to boost their total after resuming at 163-4, but failed to cope with Vaas and Muralitharan who took five of the remaining six wickets.

Middle-order batsman Graham

Thorpe defied the Sri Lankan pace-spin combination with a solid 57 after his team had lost three wickets in the opening hour.

The tourists slipped from 177-4 to 205-7 in the space of 13 overs before left-handed Thorpe steadied the innings with tail-ender Gareth Batty.

Batty, playing only his third Test, batted 168 minutes for his 38 runs and put on 51 for the eighth wicket with Thorpe.

Thorpe was trapped leg-before by Muralitharan in the afternoon session after hitting five fours in his 33rd half-century in 82 Tests.

Batty and Giles (16) continued to offer stiff resistance before Sri Lanka ended the innings with the second new ball, taken at 273-8.

Vaas struck in the first over when he had Giles caught low in the slips by Mahela Jayawardene and then removed Batty, caught in the deep by Tillakaratne Dilshan.

England wobbled in the first hour as they lost Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff and wicketkeeper Chris Read.

All-rounder Collingwood edged Vaas to wicketkeeper Sangakkara after making a patient 28 off 88 balls with four boundaries.

Flintoff began aggressively as he drove Vaas through the cover for a four and then a straight six before being bowled by Muralitharan, the ball hitting the stumps after brush-

ing the bat and pad.

Read fell without scoring as he was adjudged leg-before-wicket off left-arm spinner Jayasuriya by Australian umpire Daryl Harper when the point of impact appeared to be outside the line of off-stump.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the third day of the second Test between Sri Lanka and England at the Asgiriya Stadium on Friday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 382 (Dilshan 63, Fernando 51 not out, Jayawardene 45, Tillakaratne 45, Sangakkara 34, Jayasuriya 32, Vaas 32; Giles 5-116)

ENGLAND: First innings (over-night 163-4)

Trescottick c Dilshan b M'tharan 36
Vaughan c Jayawardene b M'tharan 52

Butcher st Sangakkara 4
B Dharmasena 10
Hussain lbw b Vaas 10
Thorpe lbw b M'tharan 57
Collingwood c Sangakkara b Vaas 28

Flintoff b M'tharan 16
Read lbw b Jayasuriya 0
Batty c Dilshan b Vaas 38
Giles c Jayawardene b Vaas 16
Kirtley not out 3

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



STILL GOING STRONG: Liberation War veterans participate in a wheel-chair race, which was the first ever sports competition for the disabled freedom fighters. It was arranged by the Bangladesh Olympic Association at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Upbeat Pakistan in New Zealand

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

Pakistan is to field a Test-strength side for the opening match of their New Zealand cricket tour, coach Javed Miandad said Friday, while New Zealand's top echelon was riddled with injuries.

"It will be the only game before the Test," Miandad said of the three-day match against Auckland starting Sunday.

"We are going to put the full-strength team out."

Pakistan have just completed a 5-0 one-day whitewash of an under-strength New Zealand side at home, with the Black Caps

counting injuries to captain Stephen Fleming, quick bowler Shane Bond and top-order batsman Nathan Astle.

Bond and Astle have already been ruled out of this new series, while Fleming, who is suffering a stomach injury, is to use a provincial match starting Friday as a fitness test.

"How he copes in that match will give us a clear indication of whether or not he is fit enough to be considered for test selection," New Zealand coach John Bracewell said.

All-rounder Chris Cairns, who deputised for Fleming as captain in Pakistan, is also using a provincial match to prove his stamina after not playing in a test for nearly two

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Ponting punishes India

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Captain-in-waiting Ricky Ponting smashed an unbeaten 176 as Australia roasted a threadbare Indian bowling attack to take a vice-like grip on the second Test at the Adelaide Oval on Friday.

Vice-captain Ponting, who will take over as Australia's Test skipper on the retirement of Steve Waugh early next month, continued his rich scoring vein with his 10th century in his last 19 Tests. His 19th Test century sets the Australians well on the way to an imposing first innings total.

The Indians were incapable of stemming the flow of runs after competing so well in the drawn first Test in Brisbane.

At stumps on day one, Australia had raced to 400 for five on a perfect batting strip after winning the toss -- a sumptuous scoring rate of 4.4 runs an over.

Ponting collected 24 boundaries in his 364-minute innings knock, and wrapped up a superb day for Australia with Adam Gilchrist not out nine.

"I had a life on 17 which was a good let-off for me and the wicket was very good to bat on and the outfield was really quick, I'm very

happy with the way things went," Ponting said.

"From a team's point of view, 5-400 on a first day of a Test match is an outstanding start and it's vital tomorrow morning that we capitalise on that start and get a good partnership going.

"Today we managed to bat through the day and the wicket is

in a 138-run partnership with Ponting for the fifth wicket.

Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly had limited bowling options after the loss of strike bowler Zaheer Khan with a hamstring injury and front-line off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who is expected to have surgery on his middle spinning finger next week.

The tourists' docile attack was led by 19-year-old Test debutant Irfan Pathan and fellow left-arm Akish Nehra, who made up for his lamentable ground fielding with an improved second spell of two wickets.

Experienced Anil Kumble, who came in for Harbhajan, may have taken 359 career Test wickets, but he continued his lean pickings in Australia where he averages over 90 for each of his six wickets in four Tests.

The five Australian wickets to fall were Matthew Hayden (12), Justin Langer (58), Damien Martyn (30), Steve Waugh (30) and Katich (75).

Pathan claimed the wicket of Hayden when he edged to wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel inside the first half-hour, Pathan's first spell was 1-27 off seven overs.

First Test centurion Justin Langer was out on the second-last ball before lunch for 58, ending a 113-run partnership with Ponting.

Nearing lunch Langer ripped into Kumble, clubbing two sixes and two fours for 20 runs in one over to race to his 20th Test half-century off 64 balls.

But he was deceived by a Kumble delivery and was cramped up in an attempted sweep shot to spoon a catch to the retreating Sehwaig.

Martyn looked to be cruising before he edged Nehra to VVS

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4