

# Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 22, 2003, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



## Did U Know?

The first ball in the World Cup history was bowled by India's Madan Lal to England's Denis Amiss at Lord's on June 7, 1975.



## John Wright

(Indian cricket coach)  
"I am not at all worried about his current lack of form."  
On Sachin Tendulkar.



**ESPN**  
SportsCentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
English Premier Football League  
Man City vs Leeds United  
Live at 1:55 am (Tuesday)  
**STAR Sports**  
New Zealand vs Pakistan  
First Test, Day Four  
Live at 3:57 am  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm  
Primera Liga  
Malorca vs Real Madrid  
Repeat at 8:30 pm

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 203**  
Tick the correct answers, post to  
The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Jan 2, 2004 and draw

1. Who clinched the Intercontinental Cup?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Milan

2. Who won the 2003 Asian footballer-of-the-year award?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Who won the FIFA player-of-the-year award?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_  
School Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

## AHF Cup jr hockey Bangladesh blank Hong Kong

UNB, Dhaka  
Bangladesh made a flying start in the first-ever AHF Cup junior men's hockey tournament, outplaying Hong Kong by 5-0 in the inaugural match in Singapore yesterday.  
The winners dominated the first half by 3-0.  
Promising forward Maksudul Alam struck three goals - two quick ones in the 3rd and 15th minutes and the third in the 59th minute.  
Russell Mahmud and Mazharul Islam Maksudul netted the other two goals in the 30th and 49th minutes.  
Bangladesh, who placed in Group A with Hong Kong, Iran and hosts Singapore, will play Iran tomorrow today and hosts Singapore Wednesday in the remaining group affairs.

## Rafiq, Naimur wreck Ctg Sylhet shock Rajshahi

**ISPAHANI Mirzapore Tea**  
5th National Cricket League

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Mohammad Rafique and Naimur Rahman spun Dhaka to a comprehensive 226-run victory over fellow title contenders Chittagong on the final day of their Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.  
Dhaka's second consecutive success in the longer-version competition enabled Khaled Mahmud's team to replace Chittagong at the top of the table with 12 points.

But the day's biggest surprise came during the match between hosts Rajshahi and Sylhet at the Rangpur Cricket Garden. After being put on the back-foot for the first three days, Tapas Baishya with four wickets inspired the visitors to pull off an exciting 13-run victory while defending a target of 135 runs in a minimum of 90 overs.

Meanwhile, though Khulna's Tushar Imran hit an unbeaten century against Barisal at the Jessore Stadium, the rain-affected match ended predictably as a draw.  
**DHAKA-CHITTAGONG**

The port city team was bowled out for 101 while set an improbable victory target of 327 runs.

The spin twins Rafique and ex-national captain Naimur shared nine wickets as the Chittagongian second innings collapsed within three hours after lunch.

Rafique extracted turn and bounce to finish with a 10-wicket match haul while Naimur used his off-spinners to return with figures of 5 for 16 in 8.2 overs.

Earlier resuming on 220-6, Dhaka added another 98 runs to their second innings total losing three more wickets before declaring.

The Dhaka captain Mahmud continued to sparkle in the National League scoring 45 off 84 balls.

When it was Chittagong's turn to bat again Rafique mesmerized the visitors sending back opener Masumudowla (4), Azam Iqbal (12), Minhazul Abedin (10) and Sabibul Azam (0) to bag 4-39 in 17 overs. In the first innings the slow left-arm bowler claimed six wickets for 45 runs from 26 overs.

Only Faisal Hossain offered any resistance before Rashedul Haq took a brilliant catch at forward short leg off Naimur. The left-hander scored 43 runs off 59 balls featuring seven boundaries.

## RAJSHAHI V SYLHET

Tapash captured four wickets for 28 runs in 15.4 overs while spinner Al-Wadud bagged three for 37 as Sylhet shot Rajshahi out for only 122 runs in the second innings.

Rafiqul Islam was the top Rajshahi scorer with 29 runs. Middle-order batsman Parvez Ahmed of Sylhet was adjudged man of the match for his 91-run knock.

## KHULNA V BARISAL

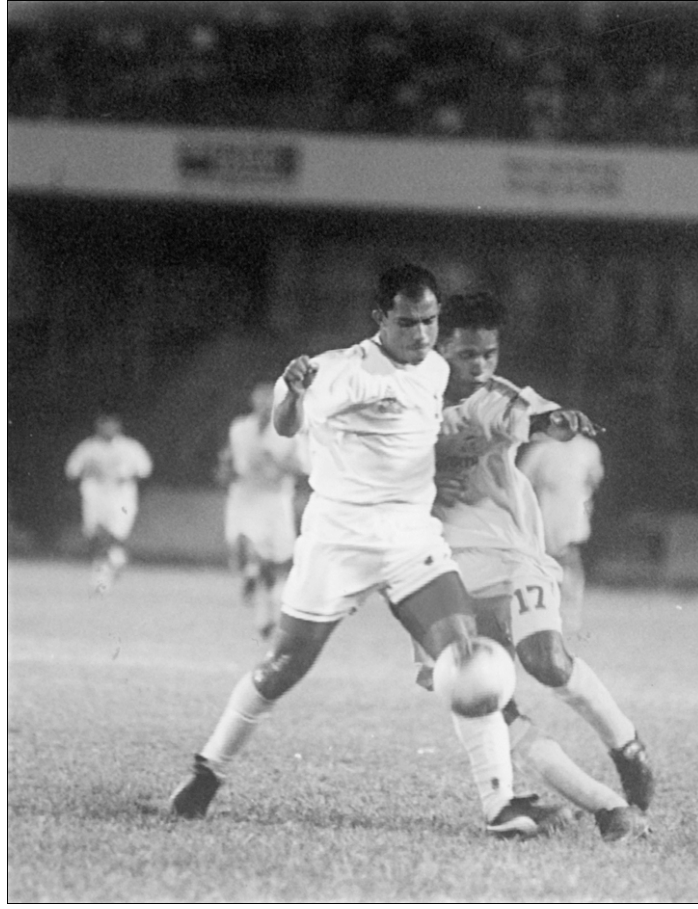
Tushar hit an unbeaten 103 for holders Khulna, took their overnight 143-4 to 219 for seven before declaring their first innings, but after two days were lost due to rain Barisal replied with 112 for four on the final day.

One-day specialist Tushar hammered six fours and a six in his 225-ball knock. He was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

Both sides collected three points from the drawn match.

## SCORECARDS

Final scoreboard of the three Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League matches played at different



Abahani's Saiful Islam Khokon (R), who scored one goal, puts pressure on a Victoria defender during their Western Union Premier Division Football League encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## Abahani thank prolific duo

**SPORTS REPORTER**

**WESTERN UNION**  
Abahani's deadly attacking duo of Maxim and Saiful Islam Khokon scored one apiece as the

Sky Blues blanked ten-man Victoria Sporting Club 2-0 yesterday in their Western Union Premier Division Football League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur.  
Maxim, the son of Abahani coach Anatoli, put his team ahead in the 52nd minute and Khokon struck just a minute later as the Dhanmondi giants maintained a hundred percent record after two games.

The two forwards were Abahani's heroes in the first game also when Khokon blasted a hatrick and Maxim netted twice in the 6-1 demolition of Wanderers Sporting Club.

Victoria came in to the match on the back of a shock 1-0 victory over title favourites Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kirra Chakra last week but never looked like matching a free flowing Abahani.  
They however managed to keep

the marauding Abahani attackers at bay in the first half. But once Ugandan recruit Idris was dismissed in the 49th minute, Abahani didn't waste any time to capitalise on the one-man advantage.

Striker Idris, who had scored the all important goal against the Muktis, became a villain this time as he lost his cool and kicked Nigerian defender Sila in an off the ball incident leaving referee Ramkrishna Gosh with no option but to show the red card. Idris earned the dubious distinction of becoming the first player in this year's Premier League to be sent off.

Three minutes later Maxim went on a solo run from the right wing after Alessandro had set him free. The powerfully built Russian left three Victoria defenders in his wake and placed the ball past advancing Victoria goalkeeper Raju (1-0).

Alessandro, who was denied a goal in the dying seconds of the first half by the post, again proved provider when his clever chip from the midfield was controlled by the opportunistic Khokon inside the

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## Another one-day party

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Hannan Sarker hammered a dazzling half-century and Mohammad Ashraful returned to form with a responsible 51 as Bangladesh A recorded its second successive victory in the Patron's Cup with a 18-run win over Pakistan Tele Communication Limited (PTCL) at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday.

The second string national side, which is the lone guest team in Pakistan's inter-departmental competition that also includes the four-day Patron's Trophy, won their first one-day game against Defence Housing Authority (DHA) by 35 runs at the same venue last week.

Although Mushfiqur Rahman's men had to be satisfied with a draw in the four-day against DHA, runs continued to flow from the top-order.

Inspired by the scintillating form of fellow opener Shahriar Hossain,

who scored 78 in the one-dayer and 218 in the four-day affair in the A team's four opener, Hannan struck a blazing 81 off 96 balls.

He also dominated in a 96-run second wicket stand with Ashraful as the tourists posted a fighting 218 despite a late-order collapse.

The PTCL, in their chase, were all out for exactly 200 in 48.1 overs in the face of some disciplined bowling from the spinning duo of Jamaluddin and Manjarul Islam and backed up by inspired fielding.

Hannan laid a solid foundation with Ashraful after first-match hero Shahriar was dismissed for 10. The diminutive right-hander clubbed eight fours and a six in his fluent knock.

Ashraful, on the other hand, played a controlled knock. The talented right-hander, who has been desperately short of runs in international cricket, struck only two boundaries in his workmanlike 72-ball innings.

But the middle and lower order failed to accelerate the runs after both batsmen were dismissed. They

could only manage to score 38 runs in the last eight overs before being all out 11 balls to spare with Ehsanul Haq scoring 26.

The home side also faced a similar collapse after one-down Azhar Zaidi scored a cracking 109 off 133 balls that included nine fours and two sixes. But there was no support from the other end for Zaidi and opener Bashar Naeem departed for 23.

Off-spinner Jamaluddin was the most successful Bangladesh A bowler finishing with 3-24 in his 10 niggling overs. Left-arm spinner Manjarul also gave him good support with 2-29 in his quota of ten. Rajin Saleh made up for with batting disappointment claiming two wickets for 40 runs.

The four-day match will start today.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Patron's Cup match between Bangladesh A and

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## Mashrafe's 2nd surgery today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Injured fast bowler Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza will undergo a second surgery in Australia today.

The Narail speedster had his first operation on the right-knee by Dr David Young in Melbourne four weeks ago. After the successful surgery, the surgeon then advised the fast bowler to have another operation on his left knee.

Dr. Young suggested that a minor adjustment was still needed on his left knee ligaments that were fixed in India in March last year.

The 20-year old fast bowler informed yesterday over telephone that he felt good after his father Golam Mortuza joined him down under on Sunday.

"My surgeon told me that I would be fully fit in seven months time. The right knee seems alright," said Mashrafe adding that he was feeling lonely in Australia.

"It's now over because my father has come over here to be by my side."

## U-19 stars to bolster Ctg

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Chittagong will be boosted by the inclusion of their three under-19 batsmen when they take on Dhaka in the limited-overs match of the Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Nafees Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed and Nazimuddin will all join the port city side today at the big bowl after coach Richard McInnes allowed them to take part only in this match as they were now on a week-long vacation.

## Million rupees in Marvan's hotel room!

**REUTERS/AFP, Colombo**

Sri Lanka's cricket board called for a police investigation on Sunday after a large sum of cash was reportedly found in a hotel room that had been occupied by the national one-day team captain Marvan Atapattu.

An article in the Sunday Observer claimed that 1.1 million rupees (11,480 dollars) had been found in a room occupied by Atapattu by a hotel employee shortly after Sri Lanka's second Test against England in Kandy last week.

Atapattu denied owning the money and that he was engaged in match-fixing.

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TODAY'S MATCHES	
Western Union Premier Div Football League	Muktijoddha vs Brothers Union (5:00 pm)
Nat'l Cricket League	Dhakas vs Chittagong
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium, Mirpur	
Nat'l Cricket League	Dhakas vs Chittagong
Venue: BNS	
Khulna vs Barisal	
Venue: Jessore Stadium	
Sylhet vs Rajshahi	
Venue: Cricket Garden, Rangpur	
Patron's Trophy 4-day match	Bangladesh A vs PTCL
Venue: Karachi National Stadium	

## Elements help Pakistan

**Cricket**

**AFP, Hamilton**

New Zealand could claim a slight advantage when rain and bad light combined to cut short the third day of the first cricket Test here against Pakistan, with Pakistan at 227 for four in their first innings.

But more probable is the prospect of a draw unless the weather clears considerably and the New Zealand bowlers can overcome their inability to bowl a consistent length.

The tourists' hopes that Yasir Hameed would lead a strong fightback were dashed in the brief period of play after lunch when he played an indifferent shot to Daryll Tuffey, New Zealand's most effective bowler, and was trapped leg before on 80.

Pakistan need a further 127 runs with little batting depth remaining to avoid the follow on after New Zealand amassed 563 in their first

innings.  
But they can draw heart from the inability of the Black Caps bowling attack to sustain any real pressure, evidenced by the run rate of better than four an over for much of the innings before slowing to 3.72 as the light began to fade.

In the after lunch session, only 10 overs were possible before the players left the field and never returned, despite only intermittent rain and the use of the floodlights to counter the gloom at Westpac Park.

The umpires officially abandoned the day about three hours later with Inzamamul Haq on 38 and Abdul Razzaq on 12.

Although some of the time can be made up by extending the periods of play over the final two days, the New Zealand bowlers need to secure a significant breakthrough if there is to be a result.

Only two wickets fell in less than three hours play Sunday including the inform Hameed who had looked a potent force for Pakistan.

He progressed comfortably from his overnight 36 to be 80 at lunch, but was dismissed soon after to give Tuffey his third wicket for 60 runs off 18 overs.

Tuffey had earlier captured Yousuf Youhana, caught ankle-high by Lou Vincent in slips for 28 in the first session of the day to go with his dismissal of Taufeeq Umar on Saturday.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after bad light and rain ended play early on the third day of the first cricket Test between New Zealand and Pakistan here Sunday.  
**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 563 (Fleming 192, Vettori 135 not out, Richardson 44; Shabbir 5-117)  
**PAKISTAN:** First innings (overnight 118-2)  
Farhat c Hart b Oram 20  
Umar c Butler b Tuffey 27

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**I BETTER LET IT GO:** Pakistan's Yasir Hameed ducks a bouncer during the third day's play of the first Test against New Zealand at Hamilton yesterday.

## Murali scripts SL win

**Cricket**

**AFP, Colombo**

Muttiah Muralitharan gave a superb display of spin bowling to help Sri Lanka post their biggest-ever victory over England with more than a day to spare in the final cricket Test here on Sunday.

Mystery spinner Muralitharan bagged 4-63 as Sri Lanka won by an innings and 215 runs to clinch their first-ever Test series against England after two drawn matches at Galle and Kandy.

The off-spinner broke the back of England's batting with his alarming turn and bounce as the tourists were shot out for a meagre 148 in their second innings after conceding a massive 363-run lead on the fourth day.

The hosts had earlier declared their first innings closed at 628-8 in reply to England's 265.

Sri Lanka's previous biggest win over England was by an innings and 28 runs at Galle two years ago.

England had clinched both of their previous two Test series

against Sri Lanka, winning 2-1 in 2001 and 2-0 last year.

Muralitharan, who took 19 wickets in the first two Tests, finished with 26 victims and was named man of the series.

The 31-year-old was brilliantly supported by left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya (2-5) and pacer Dilhara Fernando (3-27) as England surrendered meekly.

Muralitharan's victims included front-line batsmen Graham Thorpe (19) and Nasser Hussain (11) as he plotted the England collapse along with Jayasuriya. Fernando made short work of tail-enders.

Muralitharan was on a hatrick when he had Thorpe (19) and Gareth Batty (nought) stumped off successive balls.

Thorpe jumped out to Muralitharan, but failed to read the turn as the ball moved the other way and went through his bat and pad for wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara to effect an easy stumping.

Batty was dismissed first ball as he played forward and Sangakkara brought off a smart stumping.

The wicketkeeper had earlier caught former England captain Hussain to give Muralitharan his first victim. The spinner then dismissed tail-ender James Kirtley to complete his tally.

After Muralitharan had shaken the foundations of England's batting, Jayasuriya sent back Mark Butcher (37) and Chris Read (nought) in the space of 10 balls.

Butcher was bowled while Read was trapped leg-before as Jayasuriya kept a tight line and conceded just five runs in his nine overs.

Sri Lanka, resuming at 563-5, batted 49 minutes in the morning before declaring their innings closed.

Tillakaratne Dilshan, 72 overnight, was bowled by left-arm spinner Ashley Giles for 86 after hitting three fours in his 131-ball knock.

Uplul Chandana (76) struck two sixes and seven fours before being dismissed by fast bowler Kirtley.

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**THE MAGICIAN:** Sri Lanka spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan (R) leads captain Hashan Tillakaratne (C) and Sanath Jayasuriya off the field after their team defeated England in the third and final Test in Colombo yesterday.

## Clarke ton in dull draw

**Cricket**

**REUTERS/AFP, Hobart**

Young batsman Michael Clarke, seeking a first Test call-up, hit an unbeaten 131 for Australia A in the three-day tour match against India which ended in a draw at Bellerive Oval on Sunday.

Australia A resumed on their overnight score of 57 for three, leading by 123 runs overall. The tourists had been bowled out for 245 in reply to Australia A's first innings total of 311 for five declared.

Captain Mike Hussey declared Australia A's second innings closed at 241 for seven shortly before tea, setting India 308 to win in 41 overs.

India opener Akash Chopra

took more than an hour to get off the mark and was eventually out for 25 as India crawled to 66 for two off 33 overs before the game ended early.

Clarke, who was later praised by India captain Saurav Ganguly, hit 12 fours in his 140-ball innings after resuming on his overnight score of 22.

The uncapped 22-year-old from New South Wales hit four sixes including one to reach his century from 123 balls.

Ganguly told reporters: "He's a quality player and with Steve (Waugh) retiring he's got a chance to make a name for himself."

"I've seen him in India (in one-dayers) and I saw him in 1999 when we played New South Wales and he was a young boy."

"Hopefully he can get a place in the Test side and go ahead in his

career."  
Clarke said: "All I can do is keep scoring runs and I hope I get the opportunity one day, whether it's now, I don't know."

"But I feel I'm hitting the ball very well."  
All four of Clarke's sixes came from the bowling of left-arm spinner Murali Kartik, who was flown out to Australia as a replacement for injured off break bowler Harbhajan Singh.

Clarke will face competition from Darren Lehmann and Martin Love for the vacant middle order position of Test captain Waugh, who is retiring when the four-Test series against India ends in Sydney next month.

India lead the series 1-0. The third Test starts in Melbourne on

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