



## Did U Know?

The first left-hander to score a century on his Test debut was John Mills of New Zealand in 1930.



**Marvan Atapattu**  
(Sri Lanka cricket captain)  
"I've always been against match-fixing and have never been involved with bookies or match-fixers."



- ESPN**
- Pakistan vs New Zealand  
Second Test, Day Two  
Live at 3:57 am
  - South Africa vs West Indies  
Second Test, Day Two  
Live at 1:55 pm
  - STAR Sports**
  - Australia vs India  
Third Test, Day Two  
Live at 6:00 am
  - English Premier Football League  
Charlton Athletic vs Chelsea  
Same day Delay at 2:00 pm
  - Man United vs Everton  
Same Day Delay at 4:00 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.

- Who clinched the Intercontinental Cup?  
Bolea Juniors - AC Milan - Inter Milan
- Who won the 2003 Asian footballer-of-the-year award?  
Mahdavia - Inamoto - Cha Kyung-bok
- Who is the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman?  
Shaharyar Khan - Tauqir Zil - Intikhab Alam
- Who won the FIFA player-of-the-year award?  
Zidane - Ronaldo - Henry

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

## Orient handball

Bangladesh Police emerged group champions and Victoria SC finished runners-up to reach the semifinals in the Orient Bread Cup handball tournament eliminating their respective rivals in the last group matches at the Outer Stadium handball ground yesterday.

Bangladesh Police clinched the top slot in Group B defeating Dhanmondi Club by 26-17 after leading the first session by 16-10 while Victoria SC placed second in the group outplaying Prime Sporting Club by 21-6 after dominating the first half by 10-2.

In the semifinals on Sunday, Group A champions Bangladesh Rifles will play against Victoria SC at 1.30pm while Group B champions Bangladesh Police against Narinda Pragati Boys Club at 3.15 pm at the same venue.

# Kapali impresses on return

## Ton-up Faisal



SPORTS REPORTER

Test allrounder Alok Kapali was finally back among the runs after a prolonged drought as he rescued Chittagong's batsman Faisal Hossain hit a purple patch with a century against Khulna after three fifties in earlier matches when the third round of the Ispahani Tea Fifth National Cricket League began yesterday at different venues.

Meanwhile, captain Khaled Mashud led Rajshahi from front once again by top-scoring for his team as they struggled against lowly Barisal.

### DHAKA V SYLHET

Kapali, who had missed the Bangladesh A team's tour of Pakistan and the first two rounds of matches due to a shoulder

injury, made a promising return to the field by making a polished 85 as hosts Sylhet finished the day on 257 for 7 after deciding to bat first at the Sylhet Stadium.

Kapali shared 121 runs for the sixth wicket with Golam Mouta Tushar as Sylhet recovered from 80 for five. 20-year-old Kapali, going through a lean patch in international cricket, faced 140 balls. The stylish right-hander hit seven boundaries and one six before being bowled by Arafat Sunny who took two for 29 from 15 overs. Left-arm spinner Sunny also dismissed Tushar lbw for 42.

Ace left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique and off-break bowler Naimur Rahman also claimed two wickets each.

Tapsh Baishya was batting on 35 when balls were taken off for the day.

Former national skipper Naimur led league leaders Dhaka in absence of Khaled Mahmud, who decided to give the game a miss due to family commitments.

### CHITTAGONG V KHULNA

At the Comilla Stadium, Faisal made up for his heartbreaking miss in the first round to reach his hundred as Chittagong ended strongly on 272 for 5 against holders Khulna after winning the toss.

Faisal was stranded on 99 as Chittagong lost all their wickets in their first outing against Rajshahi at the same venue two weeks ago.

But he was determined to reach three figures this time around after opening bowler Syed Russel had given Khulna a perfect start sending back opener Anisul Hakim and one down Mahbulul Karim before the batsmen could open their accounts.

Masumudoullah (29) and veteran Azam Iqbal (31) repaired the damage before left-hander Faisal and Arif Ahmed took away the initiative from Khulna with a 102-run fifth wicket stand.

Number five Faisal belted 14 boundaries facing 152 balls to score exactly 100 while Arif Ahmed finished the day unbeaten on 79 off 188.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



Badda Jagaroni's Ugandan recruit Daniel (R) takes on Moni of Muktiyoddha during their Western Union Premier Division Football League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## Park wins BTI Cup golf title

SPORTS REPORTER

The first BTI Cup golf tournament sponsored by Building Technology & Ideas Ltd, ended at the picturesque Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday.

The two-day meet was a tee-off on Thursday by Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mashud Chowdhury, who is also president of KGC. He gave away prizes on the final day.

About 285 golfers including eight ladies took part. Arshi Haider, managing director of the sponsors attended the prize-giving function.

### WINNERS' LIST

Winner: JO Park, Ladies Winner: M H Kim, Senior Winner: Maj Gen S Ameer Ali, Junior Winner: Master Aayan Anwar, Best Gross: Sadiq

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

## Joy for Muktis

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra finally got off the mark in the Western Union Premier Division Football League when they thrashed Badda Jagaroni Sangsad 3-0 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Lajuk was also instrumental in setting up Kanchan's 24th minute goal.

The hard-working midfielder's flag-kick zeroed in on Kanchan who outjumped all the Badda defenders to powerfully head the ball home.

The second period experienced a lull before Tipu, who replaced Tushar, sealed the minnows' fate.

After receiving a pass from Momi, the super-sub sprinted down the left before smashing an unstoppable right-footer past the Badda custodian Al-Amin.

Desperate to stay in touch with the leading group after beginning

with a shock 1-0 loss against Victoria Sporting Club and sharing points in a scoreless draw against this season's glamour club Brothers Union, Muktiyoddha took the lead when Bidyut hit a brilliant left-footer after Lajuk provided a perfect pass.

Lajuk was also instrumental in setting up Kanchan's 24th minute goal.

The hard-working midfielder's flag-kick zeroed in on Kanchan who outjumped all the Badda defenders to powerfully head the ball home.

The second period experienced a lull before Tipu, who replaced Tushar, sealed the minnows' fate.

After receiving a pass from Momi, the super-sub sprinted down the left before smashing an unstoppable right-footer past the Badda custodian Al-Amin.

Desperate to stay in touch with the leading group after beginning

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

## NZ resist Shoaib storm



New Zealand fought back from a vicious spell of pace bowling from Pakistan express bowler Shoaib Akhtar to be 151 for five at stumps on the first day of the second cricket Test at the Basin Reserve here Friday.

Akhtar, in his comeback game after missing the first Test with a hamstring strain, finished the day with the remarkable figures of three for 14 off 11 overs, after having New Zealand at two wickets for one run at one stage.

However, there were concerns about his fitness at the end of the day when he developed a limp just before stumps and did not bowl the last over as expected.

After a shaky start, the ever-diligent Mark Richardson anchored the New Zealand recovery to be 53 not out at stumps with Robbie Hart on three.

Bowling with a howling northerly at his back and reaching speeds of up to 156 kilometres an hour (96.7



AKHTAR... 3/14

mph), Akhtar had both Lou Vincent and Stephen Fleming back in the pavilion without scoring, and followed up with the wicket of Scott Styris.

Vincent had no chance when a scorching full-length delivery shot between bat and pad. It was the New Zealand opener's third failure of the series after scores of eight and four in Hamilton.

Captain Fleming, who won the toss and chose to bat first on what appeared a good batting pitch, had a scare off his first ball when Akhtar's confident leg before wicket shout was turned down by umpire Asoka de Silva.

He survived two more balls before the rain set in, and when play resumed nearly three hours later he was out first ball for his second consecutive duck after amassing 192 in the first innings of the first Test.

Abdur Razaq had New Zealand at 41 for three when Test debutant Richard Jones, a later inclusion after all rounder Chris Cairns pulled out with a virus, chopped the ball on to his stumps to be dismissed for 16.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

## Shahriar, Ashrafal recalled

SPORTS REPORTER

Ten Bangladesh A team players will return home from Pakistan on January 1 to join the national team's camp for the tour of Zimbabwe beginning from January 4.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)'s cricket committee member secretary Asif Ali Khan confirmed the names of the cricketers who will fly off from Karachi.

Following their impressive showing in the Patrons Cup and Patrons Trophy, the selectors have decided to recall Shahriar Hossain and Mohammad Ashrafal to the Test fold.

Shariar has been the pick of the batsmen on the tour having cracked a double century and two fifties in both forms of the game. Ashrafal is also enjoying his time and has cracked a hundred and a fifty so far.

Middle-order batsman Ehsanul Haq and wicketkeeper Mohammad Salim will also pack their bags and head home after the team's next match against Pakistan WAPDA starting from December 28 in Karachi, along with Test opener Hannan Sarkar, Rajin Saleh, left-arm spinner Manjarul Islam Rana and pacemen Tareq Aziz Khan, Anwar Hossain Monir and Alamgir Kabir.

The A team's captain Mushfiqur Rahman is already in Dhaka having played just one match in the Inter Department Cricket Championship because of a thigh strain.

The incoming players will be replaced by Humayun Kabir, Rashedul Haq, Tushar Imran, Anwar Hossain (wicketkeeper), Halim Shah, Fahim Muntasir, Monjurul Islam, Nasiruddin Faruque, Hasibul Hossain, Shanta Jr and Gazi Alamgir for the three remaining matches of the first class competition.

The replacements have started training under national coach Sarwar Imran yesterday. Imran will accompany the players with chief selector Faruque Ahmed to Pakistan for the second half of the tour.

## No change in GM chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The scenario remained unchanged in the Leonie Grand Masters chess tournament after GMs Ziaur Rahman, Alexi Barsov and International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar maintained their hold over the top slot yesterday.

In the third round at the National Sports Council, Zia defeated Indian IM Debashish, Barsov won his board against Aminul and Reefat proved too strong for Monjur.

They all have equal 2.5 points to their credit.

Russian Grand Master Fominah was second with two points.

## India A ride on Badani

AFP, Kolkata

Hemang Badani guided India A to a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka A with an unbeaten 85 in a triangular one-day cricket tournament here on Friday.

The Indian captain smashed one six and eight fours in his 92-ball knock as the hosts surpassed a modest Sri Lankan total of 200 with more than 10 overs to spare at Eden Gardens.

The Indian and Sri Lankan teams have so far posted two victories apiece from three matches, while Pakistan A are winless after two games.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SRI LANKA A:** 200 in 47 overs (Saman Jayantha 65, Naveed Nawaz 57, Nuwan Zoysa 20, Sanjay Bangar 3-43, Sarandeep Singh 2-31, Munaf Patel 2-33, Amit Bhandari 2-33).

**INDIA A:** 201-3 in 39.2 overs (Hemang Badani 85 not out, Gautam Gambhir 51, Yuvraj Singh 33 not out).

**Man of the match: Hemang Badani**  
**Saturday's match: Sri Lanka A v Pakistan A**



Western Union Premier Div Football League

Dhaka Wanderers vs Sheikh Russell KC (4:00 pm)  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium, Mirpur

Nat'l Cricket League (Day-2)

Dhaka vs Sylhet  
Venue: Sylhet Stadium  
Khulna vs Chittagong  
Venue: Comilla Stadium  
Rajshahi vs Barisal Stadium  
Venue: Barisal Stadium



TAKE THAT! Indian opener Virender Sehwag leaps for joy after scoring a century against Australia on the first day of the Boxing Day Test at the MCG.

## India bludgeon Aus

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Virender Sehwag savaged Australia's depleted bowling attack to put India in a commanding position in the third cricket Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here on Friday.

Sehwag was in imperious form to propel the tourists to an imposing 329 for four at the close of the first day with India needing only a draw to hold on to the Border Gavaskar Trophy with the final Sydney Test to play.

India lead the four-match series 1-0 after their fighting four-wicket victory in the second Adelaide Test last week.

The Delhi right-hander helped himself to 195, an innings lavished with 25 boundaries and five sixes off 233 balls for the highest first-day Test score at the home of Australian cricket.

Sehwag's swashbuckling bettered Australian Clem Hill's previous highest 182 first-day MCG score back in 1897-98 and surpassed Sunil Gavaskar's 118 in 1977-78 as the highest Indian score here.

Sehwag, by virtue of his all-or-nothing batting style, had some fortune along the way profiting from a muffed run out on three and dropped on 66, but it was an innings to be long remembered by the 62,613 Boxing Day crowd.

He ultimately died by the sword, attempting to bludgeon his sixth six off left-arm part-time spinner Simon Katich only to be caught by a diving Nathan Bracken at long on 11 overs from stumps.

At the close, skipper Sourav Ganguly was not out 20 with V.V.S. Laxman on six.

It was the fourth Indian century of the series and exposed the limited Australian resources without their Test bowlers injured Glenn McGrath (430 Test wickets) and Jason Gillespie (185) and drug-

suspended leg-spinner Shane Warne (491).

Sehwag should have been run out in the first half-hour when he was metres out of his crease going for a second run only for wicket-keeper Gilchrist to fumble scooping up bowler Lee's throw.

Sehwag was dropped by Katich at backward point off Bracken when on 66 and had another close shave on 36 when he survived a tight stumping chance off leg-spinner Stuart MacGill that took several minutes for adjudication by the third umpire before smacking MacGill for two towering boundaries.

Australia had some successes late in the day, removing out-of-form Sachin Tendulkar for a first-ball duck, dismissing Adelaide Test double-century Rahul Dravid for 49 and opener Akash Chopra for 48.

Sehwag with Chopra put on 141 for the first wicket, flourishing after a helmet-denting opening spell by Australia's new ball bowlers.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## Defining Sehwag

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Virender Sehwag was prepared to wear a barrage of short-pitched Australian bowling to become the foundation of a commanding Indian first innings on the opening day of the third cricket Test in Melbourne on Friday.

Sehwag, living on the edge with his explosive hitting, cracked 25 boundaries and five sixes off 233 balls in his 195 to power the tourists to 329 for four at stumps after they had won the toss.

India only have to draw the Melbourne Cricket Ground Test to hold on to the Border Gavaskar Trophy, the symbol of cricket supremacy between the two countries. If they go on to win they will claim their first-ever series victory in Australia.

Sehwag took a pounding in the first hour, with Australia's fastest bowler, Brett Lee, clocking him twice on the helmet, while his opening partner Akash Chopra (48) collected a ringing blow from Nathan Bracken.

If the intimidatory new-ball spell was supposed to unsettle the Indian pair, it didn't work as they posted an opening stand of 141 runs in three hours to put the Indians in command.

"After I was hit I gained confidence because the ball only hit me on my body or my helmet. After that I was conscious of my concentration going well and I played with a very solid defensive technique after that," Sehwag said.

"In the morning the wicket was a little damp and the ball was not coming on to the bat, so we decided to play defensive and not go for our shots."

would go on the defensive for the first hour and after then we would go for a little of our shots and after lunch, we would go for the full shots."

"I played my natural game. If the ball was there to be hit, I hit it, that's it," Sehwag said of his fifth Test century.

"I am very comfortable with my technique, so I played like I did today."

Sehwag, by virtue of his all-or-nothing batting style, had some fortune along the way, profiting from a muffed run out on three and dropped on 66, but it was an innings to be long remembered by the 62,613 Boxing Day crowd.

He ultimately died by the sword, attempting to bludgeon his sixth six to reach his double-century off left-arm part-time spinner Simon Katich only to be caught by a diving Nathan Bracken.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5