

The first man to swim the English Channel without a life jacket was Captain Matthew Webb, who died trying to swim the rapids





Muttiah Muralitharan

(Sri Lankan master spinner) "I think breaking Courtney's record is within my reach. If I play for three or four more years I can easily go past the record. It depends on how Warne bowls. It depends on who gets there first.'



ESPN

Pakistan vs New Zealand Second Test. Day Three Live at 3:57 am South Africa vs West Indies Second Test, Day Three Live at 1:55 pm English Premier Football League an United vs Middlesbrough Live at 10:00 pm

STAR Sports Australia vs India

Third Test, Day Three Live at 6:00 am **English Premier Football League** Newcastle United vs Blackburn Rovers Live at 8:00 pm



The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 2, 2004 and draw

1. Who clinched the Interconti-

nental Cup? Milan

2. Who won the 2003 Asian footballer- of-the-year award? Mahdavikia Inamoto Cha Kyung-bok Who is the Pakistan Cricket

Board chairman? Shaharyar Khan Tauqir Zia Intikhab

4. Who won the FIFA player-of-

the-year award?

Zidane | Ronaldo | Henry

Class..... Roll No......

Phone: (If any)



Western Union Premier Div Football League Mohammedan vs Brothers Union

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium,

Nat'l Cricket League (Day-3)

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

Venue: Barisal Stadium Bangladesh Avs Pakistan WAPDA Venue: Karachi Nat'l Stadium

Batsmen dominate



SPORTS REPORTER

Imran Ahmed and Arif Ahmed put Barisal and Chittagong in the driving seat respectively at the end of the second day's play in the Ispahani Tea fifth National Cricket ėague yesterday.

Opener Imran hit an unbeaten 152 as hosts Barisal for the first time took a vital 76-run first innings lead after making 266 against Rajshahi.

Arif (107) became the second century-maker after teammate Faisal Hossain scored exactly 100 on Day One as Chittagong piled up a mammoth first innings total of 389 for nine against Khulna at the Comilla Stadium.

Away at Sylhet, leaders Dhaka imped to 147-5 at stumps in reply Sylhet's first innings total of 331.

RAJSHAHI V BARISAL

Imran remained like a thorn in Rajshahi's side although the visiors kept taking wickets at the Barisal Štadium.

The right-hander started the ay on 19 with Barisal on 47 for hree in reply to Rajshahi's paltry

And with his overnight partner lustadir Litu, he shared 64 runs for the fourth wicket stand before Litu was caught by Nuruzzaman off Sohel Rana for 29.

During his 282-ball knock, mran struck 21 boundaries.

Right-arm paceman Shahjada vas the most successful Rajshahi bowler picking up four wickets for 64 runs while lanky pacer Shafaq Al Jabir captured three for 62 in 21

DHAKA V SYLHET

An all round show by Rezaul Haq Nayeem gave Sylhet the upper hand against star-studded Dhaka.

Earlier, the lower-order pair Гараsh Baisya and Nayeem hammered fifties to boost the home team's overnight total from 257f or past the 300-run mark. The pair contributed 93 runs for the eighth

Tapash scored 59 off 120 balls that featured five boundaries while his partner Nayeem was 56 not out. His 164-ball innings contained seven fours and a six.

The left-arm seamer Nayeem later grabbed three Dhaka wickets. National pacer Tapash and legspinner Nabil Samad took the other Dhaka wickets.

Dhaka middle-order batsman Sanwar Hossain was batting on 52 and Arafat Sunny was yet to open his account.

Opener Mehrab Hossain was the other notable run-scorer for the capital team with 47

CHITTAGONG V KHULNA

Arif's maiden first-class hundred enabled Chittagong to declare their first innings at 389 for nine at Comilla. And then Khulna fell into

trouble at 81-3 by the close.

Raju Parvez and Hasanuzzaman were both batting

Earlier, a 150-run sixth wicket partnership between Arif and Sabbir Khan powered Chittagong who started the day on 272-5.

288-ball innings while Sabbir made 57 off 137 balls with seven hits to New ball bowler Syed Russel finished with three wickets for 85

Arif belted ten boundaries in his

SCORECARDS

runs in 28 overs

Scoreboards on the second day of the three Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League matches played at different venues across the country yesterday:

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



Barisal opener Imran Ahmed leaves the field after his 152 not out against Rajshahi in the National Cricket League at Barisal yesterday

Aussies claw back

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Prolific scoring batsmen Matthew Hayden and Ricky Ponting wrested the initiative off India in a belligerent 234-run partnership to raise Australian hopes of a serieslevelling victory in the third Test here on Saturday.

Hayden and captain-in-waiting Ponting made the Indians pay after the tourists squandered a great opportunity to bat Australia out of the series. They folded, losing six wickets for 16 to be bowled out for 366 in their first innings earlier on the second day.

The Australians cruised to within 49 runs of the Indian total at the close and looking for a substantial innings lead to push for victory over the remaining three days after India's upset four-wicket victory in

ast week's second Adelaide Test. At stumps, Australia were 317 for three with Ponting unconquered on 120 off 214 balls with

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

tion in Pakistan.

Pakistan's hopes of hosting a home

series against India for the first

The Indian squad, currently on

tour in Australia, are reportedly unhappy about the security situa-

They are said to have drafted a letter to their Board of Control for

Cricket in India (BCCI), although

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf was the target of a failed

assassination attempt by two sui-cide bombers in Rawalpindi on

They suffered heavy losses

following an explosion in Karachi

last year which prompted New

Zealand to abandon a tour and led

to series against Australia and West

indies being played at neutral

And although the situation eased

nothing has yet been received.

time since 1989 could be in doubt.

India's Pakistan

tour uncertain?

Damien Martyn not out seven.

Hayden raised his 17th century in his 49th Test with a swept four off spinner Anil Kumble before he fell leg before wicket sweeping Kumble on 136, some 14 overs before the Ponting, who takes over the Test

captaincy after next week's retirement of Steve Waugh, dashed for a single off Kumble to bring up his 20th Test hundred in 74 Tests and his sixth of the year following his career-best 242 in the last Adelaide Hayden with his fifth hundred

of the year and third against India, including 99 in the first Brisbane Test, took his run tally this calendar year to 1,259, third behind Ponting's unfinished 1,335 runs and West Indian Brian Lara's 1,333.

The big left-hander, who batted for 260 minutes with 17 boundaries and a six, has now tallied 850 runs in six Tests against India at an

The stung Australians rebounded from the frustration of Friday's opening day when India posted the

sufficiently for Bangladesh, South Africa and New Zealand to play in

Pakistan in recent months, the

series against India was the one

which had captured the public's

ary including three Tests and seven

one-day internationals, with the

tour due to run from late February

But any concerns expressed by the Indian players would put the

Jagmohan Dalmiya, president of BCCI, told BBC that he had not

heard anything from the team about

letter, I shall hold a news confer-

off 75 balls by Sachin Tendulkar.

There have, however, been

matches at junior level and

Pakistan A are currently taking part

in a triangular tournament in

India, also involving Sri Lanka A.

"If it is true and they send such a

The two countries have one of

The PCB has proposed an itiner-

imagination.

series in jeopardy.

ence," he said.

highest first-day tally by a touring team at the Melbourne Cricket Ground of 329 for four

If Boxing Day belonged to India, then the second day was well and truly Australia's.

After dominating the opening day with opener Virender Sehwag plundering 195, the Indians imploded, only adding 37 runs Saturday and offering the Australians a way back into the Test the home side cannot afford to lose with only one more Test to play in Sydney.

India, chasing their first series win in Australia after winning the second Test, need only to draw this Test to hold on to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Brett Lee claimed the big wicket of Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly for 37 in the fifth over of the morn-

Ganguly, who edged a short delivery to Justin Langer in the gully, was furious with himself and waved his bat angrily while Lee

celebrated

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

A team meets **WAPDA** today

SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting Bangladesh A team will play their third game in the Inter-Department Cricket Championship against Pakistan WAPDA at the UBL ground in Karachi today.

After the third match, ten players will return home and they will be replaced by a second group of players. Middle-order batsman Tushar Imran will take over the captaincy from Mushfiqur Rahman for the remaining three

Reefat takes the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Reefat Bin NSC Conference room yesterday.

IM Abdullah Al Rakib, GMs

In this round Reefat beat Amin, Rakib beat Monur, Zia drew with Fominyh, Niaz drew with Dinesh,

Meanwhile in the Prime Bank sixth International Rating Chess room yesterday.

Abdul Maleq, Md Javed and women champion Syeda Shabana Parveen were in the second position with 4 points each.

In this round Shakil beat Parag, Maleq beat Shafiq, Javed beat Nasser, Nipa beat Alamgir and Lavlu beat Sohel. Arman drew with Ranodev, Reza drew with Lipon and Monir drew with Palash.

Women's chess

UNB, Dhaka

The preliminary phase of the 25th National Women Chess Championship and the 24th National Sub-Junior (Under-16) Chess Champion-ship began yesterday at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room.

respective matches in the first round of the women meet while 43 players registered their wins in the first round of the sub-junior cham-

Meanwhile, 50 women players from 10 districts are taking part in the women championship while 106 players of 15 districts in the sub-junior championship.



THE AUSSIE POWERHOUSE: Mathew Hayden raises his bat after reaching his century against India yesterday. On the right is captain Ricky Ponting who also scored a hundred later on

The second string Bangladesh team will play a limited-overs match in the Patron's Cup against WAPDA today and then feature in the four-day match of the Patron's

Trophy that begins tomorrow. Bangladesh won both their previous one-day matches against Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) by 35 and 18 runs respectively. But in the four-dayers, they drew with DHA in the first match and lost to PTCL by eight wickets in the second.

Sattar led the table with 4.5 points after the end of the fifth round games of the Leonine Grand Masters Chess tournament at the

Alexander Fominyh and Alexei Barsov were in second position with 3.5 points each. GM Ziaur Rahman earned 3 points, GM Niaz Murshed and FM Khondakar Aminul Islam earned 2 points each.

Barsov drew with Debasish.

tournament, Fide Master Abu Sufian Shakil took the solo lead in the points table with maximum 5 points after end of the fifth round games at the Chess Federation hall

Twenty-three women won their

the thick of things. Abdel and Rashidi scored for the Burdeep, Asif (Nurul), Abdel, Jalal Abdel Ali rattled the Wanderers (Ashraful), Rashidi and Fabio. net with a powerful angular shot DHAKA WANDERERS: Himu, from outside the box after receiv-Dulal, Jahangir, Selim, Shahin, Hanif (William), Masud, Monir ing the ball from his Brazilian mate impact by reaching the last four of Fabio in the 23rd minute. the Federation Cup last month, has His compatriot Rashidi doubled

the margin after four minutes

capitalizing on a defensive error.

last man to the crease for New

New Zealand gained control of the second Test against Pakistan on Saturday after the tourists lost two quick wickets before ending the day on 52 for two in reply to the home side's competitive total of

The two men out were opener Imran Farhat and Yasir Hameed as Jacob Oram and Ian Butler claimed a wicket apiece in the space of seven balls to leave Pakistan struggling on 30 for two.

At the close, Taufeeq Umar (13) and Yousuf Youhana (11) had put on 22 for the third wicket. New Zealand resumed the day

backed up by an attacking innings of 97 by all-rounder Oram to wrest the initiative from Pakistan. It was left to paceman Shoaib Akhtar to mop up New Zealand's

tail with his fifth wicket of the

Shoaib had missed the drawn first Test in Hamilton but was the pick of the Pakistan bowlers on his return from a hamstring injury, finishing with figures of five for 48.

Shabbir Ahmed chipped in with three wickets for 87.

Zealand and hit the first ball he faced from Shoaib to the cover boundary before edging the next delivery to wicketkeeper Moin Khan to end the innings.

unlucky to miss out on a century when he edged a Shabbir delivery to the wicketkeeper for his highest Despite his disappointment at missing out on reaching three figures, Oram said he was happy

with his performance. "I sort of looked at the bigger picture and realised that a couple of partnerships I was involved in helped us get to a bit of a dream total last night," he said.

After Friday's play, New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming had set an optimistic target of 350 but it appeared to be an unlikely prediction as first Richardson and Robbie Hart, then Oram, ground along at a slow rate before the lunch interval.

However, the final total pleased New Zealand coach John Bracewell after the side had struggled on the opening day. "Stephen Fleming said right

from the start that anything above 300 was going to be a pass score," Bracewell said. "Pakistan bowled well yesterday under trying conditions which were probably foreign to them and

it has made for a pretty competitive

game of cricket and I think it's been

a pretty intriguing couple of days.

Oram began very ordinarily before deciding to take on the Pakistan bowlers. His scoring rate increased and he reached his 50 in 107 minutes off 83 balls and hit nine boundaries.

His final tally took 199 minutes to compile in 159 balls, including 12 fours and one six.

Vettori, who scored his maiden Test century in Hamilton, was an able ally to Oram, but assumed the senior role after his departure.

Opener Richardson was dismissed in the final over before

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second and final Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at the Basin Reserve on

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

16 26 19 Oram c Moin b Shabbir 97 Vettori c Hameed b Sami 44 Tuffey not out Butler c Moin b Akhtar Extras: (b-5, lb-14, nb-11, w-3) 33

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Stadium yesterday..

In the day's matches, Bangladesh Navy beat Bangladesh Police by 25-17, 25-16, 25-16 while Bangladesh Amy eliminated Titas



Action from yesterday's Western Union Premier Division Football League encounter between Sheikh Russel Krira

Russel shoot to the top MSC-Brothers big battle today

break the hold of the big three,

SPORTS REPORTER



Premier League new boys Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra continued to impress in

their first season in the big league when they registered a 2-0 victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The win, their second in three games that also including a markable goalless draw with

holders Mohammedan Sporting Club, now placed them jointly atop in the 10-team table with Abahani Krira Chakra in the Western Union Premier Division Football League. The Moroccan strike pair of

winners in the space of four min-utes in the first half. $The \, impressive \, victory \, of \, Skeikh \,$ Russel, who made an immediate

thrown the title race wide open. With the lightweights trying to

Brothers Union will be aiming to Wanderers defence failed to clear convince others that they want to an innocuous Arif floater. reestablish themselves in Dhaka It could have been a double football. delight for Rashidi six minutes later.

Fresh after their exciting 3-3 But he fired the ball wide with draw with fellow title-contenders Wanderers custodian Himu at his Aba-hani, the big-spending Gopibagh outfit will now face the challenge of Mohammedan in what promises to be yet another Monir's 20th minute effort went high-voltage encounter at the inches wide and Russel keeper Apel then was called into action by same venue today. The big match

will kick off at 5pm. Both Brothers and Mohammedan are on five points going into

the fourth league game. Back to the battle of the babes Sheikh Russel called the shot with their foreign recruits very much in

Wanderers also had two chances to square the match. But

He tapped the ball home after the

fisted away a Ritu header at the stroke of the short whistle. Yellow cards: Abdel (Sheikh

Russel), Monir (Wanderers)

TEAMS SHEIKH RUSSEL KC: Apel, Biplob (Apu), Narayan, Mintoo, Kamal,

(Yousuf), Yousuf Ali (Dalim),

Referee: Ramkrishna Gosh.

Shipon and Ritu.

Kiwis gain upper hand

Cricket

on 151 for five and a battling 82 from opener Mark Richardson was

innings as the home side were dismissed shortly after tea.

New Zealand had resumed after tea on 359 for eight, but Daniel Vettori was out in the first over of the evening session, caught by Yasir off Mohammad Sami for a carefully-crafted 44. Butler was the

V-Day v'ball

Earlier, Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Air Force reached the last

Before tea, Oram had helped New Zealand take advantage of a tiring Pakistan attack and was

SCOREBOARD

Richardson c Youhana b Shabbir82 Vincent b Akhtar Fleming lbw b Akhtar Jones b Razzag

Club by 25-19, 25-20, 25-16.

Styris c Moin b Akhtar McMillan lbw b Shabbir Hart c Farhat b Akhtar

Total: (All out in 142.3 overs) 366 Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-1, 3-41, 4-94, 5-145, 6-171, 7-247, 8-327, 9-361

The incident resulted in the the fiercest rivalries in international death of at least 15 people, including cricket, but have not played Test Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh the bombers, and 46 were injured. Navy moved into the semifinals of the Victory Day Volleyball tournacricket against each other since India hosted a series in 1999. Cancellation of the series against ment eliminating their respective rivals at the Dhaka Volleyball India would be a massive blow to They last met during the World the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Cup in South Africa early this year when India came out on top by six wickets, thanks to an innings of 98