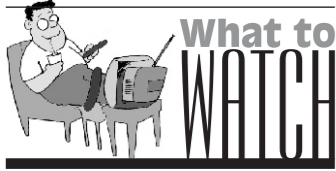




Did U Know?

The five rings in the Olympic flag symbolize the five inhabited continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and America. It is believed the colours were chosen because at least one of them can be found in the flag of every nation



ESPN

- Pakistan vs New Zealand
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 3:57 am
- Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 9:00 pm
- STAR Sports
Australia vs India
Third Test, Day Five
Live at 6:00 am
- Futbol Mundial
Repeat at 3:30 pm
- English Premier Football League
Highlights
Taped Version at 5:00 pm
- Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



Ricky Ponting
(Australian star batsman)
"I've developed a lot as a person and a cricketer since the day of my wedding to Rianna. I now have respect for myself, the game of cricket and all the people around me, teammates included."

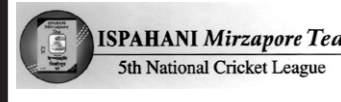
Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 203
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 2, 2004 and draw

- Who clinched the Intercontinental Cup?
Boea Juniors AC Milan Inter Milan
 - Who won the 2003 Asian footballer-of-the-year award?
Mahavikia Manoto Cha Kyung-buk
 - Who is the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman?
Shaharyar Khan Tauqir Zia Intikhab Alam
 - Who won the FIFA player-of-the-year award?
Zidane Ronaldo Henry
- Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

Second batch's poor practice

SPORTS REPORTER
The Pakistan-bound second batch of Bangladesh A team players suffered a five-wicket defeat against the Bangladesh Under-19 squad in a limited-overs practice match at the BKSP yesterday.
The A team were bundled out for 94 after being put in to bat with number nine batsman Shanto Junior top-scoring with 35.
In reply, the under-19s reached the target in 26 overs.
Aftab Ahmed scored highest 34 off 64 balls and Abul Bashar added 28 off 37 deliveries.

Dhaka still lead



SPORTS REPORTER

All matches on the final day of the Ispahani Tea Fifth National Cricket League ended as draws but the real losers were leaders Dhaka as they dropped their first points in the longer-version form of the first-class competition yesterday.
A day after rain washed out play in all three third round matches across the country, Khaled Mahmud's team lost four valuable first innings points against hosts Sylhet, who were dismissed for only 66 in their second essay.
Elsewhere, Khulna wicketkeeper-batsman Hasibul Haq dug himself in to make 75 off 365 balls as the holders managed to escape against Chittagong while lowly Barisal earned all four first innings points against visitors Rajshahi.

DHAKA V SYLHET

Mohammad Rafique and Naimur Rahman worked their magic to share six wickets as the two Dhaka

spinners ripped the heart out of Sylhet's batting order. But they will rue having lost a day's play because Dhaka could only manage to take add a further 104 runs to their overnight 147-5 chasing Sylhet's 331. National discard Sanwar Hossain hit 88.
Slow left-arter Rafique conceded only 24 runs in 20 overs for his three wickets while off-spin partner Naimur captured three for seven in 9.4 overs.
Set to score an improbable 147, Dhaka reached 16 without loss in four overs when the bails were finally removed.
Dhaka collected two points from the drawn match to raise their tally to 14 points while Sylhet jumped to the third spot securing ten points.
Rezaul Haq Nayeem of Sylhet was adjudged man-of-the-match.

KHULNA V CHITTAGONG

Hasibul's stubborn display spoiled Chittagong's hopes of taking a first innings lead.

five in reply to Chittagong's mammoth 389.
Middle-order batsman Asadullah Khan was the other notable contributor with patient 61. During his 203-ball vigil he hit eight boundaries. They shared 110 runs for the fifth wicket.
Spinner Sabbir Khan took two for 64 for the port city team.
Khulna raised their tally to 11 points while Chittagong secured eight points.
Hasibul was adjudged man-of-the-match.
BARISAL V RAJSHAHI
Bangladesh wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud made a gritty unbeaten 73 as Rajshahi scored 232-5 in their second innings at stumps against Barisal.
But Barisal bagged still four points by virtue of taking a first innings lead when they scored 266 in reply to Rajshahi's 190 at the Barisal Stadium.
Imran Ahmed of Barisal was adjudged man-of-the-match for his brilliant 152.



Barisal players appeal in unison for an lbw decision against a Rajshahi batsman on the fourth and final day of their National Cricket League encounter at Barisal Stadium yesterday.

Sarker shines but A falter

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite a fighting 64 by captain Hannan Sarker Bangladesh A were bowled out for 166 in their first innings on the opening day of their four-day Patron's Trophy match against Pakistan WAPDA at the UBL ground in Karachi yesterday.
Sent into bat the top-order of the national second was blown away by Rana Nadif and Sarfaraz Ahmed who shared eight wickets.
Discarded national opener Shahriar Hossain was one of three players to reach double figures in the paltry total. Shahriar, who has been consistent performer with a double century on the tour so far, was dismissed for only 15.
The other scorers were tailenders Mosaddeq Hossain (28) and Manjarul Islam with 18 not out.
The home team, which the day before won the limited-overs contest, had lost two wickets with 58 runs on the board.
Right-arm pacer Alamgir Kabir captured one wicket conceding 22 runs while left-arm spinner Manjarul took the other wicket for 18 runs.
However, no other details of the scoreboard were available as the Bangladesh team management once again faxed a funny summarized score.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: First innings 166 all out in 69.1 overs (Hannan Sarker 64, Shahriar Hossain 15, Moniruzzaman 0, Mohammad

Reefat becomes GM chess champ

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar confirmed the title of the first Leonine Grand Masters Chess Tournament with a game to go at the NSC conference room yesterday.
Reefat, who has so far collected 6.5 points in eight rounds, was declared the champion as he has won more matches than anybody else in the competition.
He is one point clear from second placed Gms Alexander Fominyh of Russia and Alexi Barsov of Uzbekistan who have 5.5 points each.



FIRING BLANKS! Maxim (C), the prolific Abahani striker, shoots wide past Badda custodian Al-Amin (L) during their Western Union Premier Division match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Badda frustrate Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Abahani missed a chance to take a clear lead in the Western Union Premier Division Football League when they were held to a goalless draw by Badda Jagarani Sangsada at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.
In an uninspiring match, Abahani perhaps still feeling the aftereffects from the hard-earned 3-3 draw against Brothers Union in their previous outing last week, failed to break down a spirited Badda defence.
Abahani still remained atop the table with eight points from four matches. But promotees Sheikh

Russell Krira Chakra (seven points) can take solo lead if they beat Arambagh Krira Sangha their fourth match tomorrow. Badda have four points from as many games
Abahani perhaps played their worst game of the season and at no point looked like serious contenders for the title. Frustrated and shut out by the youngsters of Badda, who employed nine men in defence, the Sky Blues resorted to a physical game and Referee Maruf Sikder had a busy time keeping discipline. He had to caution six players on either side.
Russian forward Maxim, who scored four goals in the previous three matches, was one of the main culprits of rough play. Not surprisingly he received his third yellow card of the league which automati-

cally suspends him from Abahani's next game against Dhanmondi on January 2.
The Badda booters also retaliated which led to five of their players seeing yellow.
Abahani's hot-headed Brazilian playmaker Alessandro was living dangerously which prompted coach Anatoly to replace him with midfielder Uzzal in the second half.
Despite the stubbornness of the opposition, the best chances still fell to Abahani.
Maxim almost scored in the 15th minute when his goal-bound shot was touched by teammate and attacking partner Saiful Islam Khokon who was in an offside position.
Maxim spoiled another chance

Aussies' target 95 runs



AFP, Melbourne
Australia need 95 runs for a series-levelling victory after wearing down India's dogged middle order in the third cricket Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here on Monday.

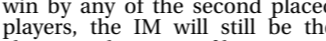
ing a defiant 27 not out.
Brad Williams claimed 4-53 off 22 overs and Nathan Bracken took 2-45 off 25 overs.
India's demise was hastened by the taking of the second new ball during the David-Ganguly partnership and finishing with the last six wickets for 61.
Brett Lee fought back from a clobbering to claim the huge wicket of the in-form David just when the stylish Indian vice-captain looked set for his 17th century in 74 Tests.
The tearaway pace bowler was caned for 23 runs off nine deliveries with the second new ball before he got the Adelaide Test double century to edge to wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist on 92.
David gave another classical batting display stretched out over five and a half hours and 244 balls with 13 boundaries.
He put on 93 valuable runs for the fifth wicket with Ganguly, who fought back after being struck on the back of the head by a nasty delivery in the fifth over of the day.
Impressive left-arm paceman Bracken dismissed Ganguly four overs later when the skipper dragged a delivery on to his stumps

to be out for 73 with India only 66 runs ahead at 258 for six.
Ganguly was forced from the ground on 16 when he turned his head into a Williams lifter but returned to the fray later in the day.
Williams ripped through the shaky tail with Ajit Agarkar bowled for one after being dropped by Gilchrist without scoring and Anil Kumble going two balls later, leg before wicket for a duck.
He then had Zaheer Khan snapped up by Matthew Hayden at slip for one and Ashish Nehra became Hayden's third catch of the innings off leg-spinner Stuart MacGill for a duck.
Australia must win the Melbourne Test to go to Steve Waugh's farewell Sydney Test on Friday with a shot at winning the series after the setback of going down in the second Adelaide Test by four wickets after scoring 556 batting first.
The Australians had to work hard for wickets for much of the fourth day and grabbed the prized scalps of Sachin Tendulkar (44) and VVS Laxman (18) in the middle session after the tourists went to lunch at 109 for two.



OUCH: India captain Saurav Ganguly is being hit on the side of the head by a Brad Williams lifter on the fourth day of the third Test against Australia at Melbourne yesterday.

Shoaib clips Kiwi wings



REUTERS/AFP, Wellington
Pakistan were just 28 runs away from victory against New Zealand after Shoaib Akhtar ripped through the host's batting taking six wickets on the fourth day of the second Test on Monday.

Pakistan ended the day on 246 for three after captain Inzamam-ul-Haq spurred the additional eight overs on offer to claim the victory much to the surprise of the New Zealand players.
The tourists must now rely on the weather to stay fine to complete the task on Tuesday.
When asked why Pakistan decided to wait until the fifth day to reach the 274-run target, manager Haroon Rashid said: "We were doing fine, so why not come back tomorrow?"
Inzamam was on 57 and Yousuf Youhana on 73, having virtually settled matters with a 90-run unbeaten partnership.
New Zealand resumed the day on 75 for three but Shoaib made light work of their batsmen in the morning session as the home side collapsed to be all out for 103 in their second innings.
After missing the drawn first Test in Hamilton because of a hamstring injury, the pace bowler took six for 30 to finish the match with 11-78.



SIX, SIX, HURRAH: Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar punches the air after bowling Ian Butler of New Zealand on the fourth day of the second Test at Wellington yesterday.

Shakil stays on the top

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil maintained his solo lead in the Prime Bank Sixth International Rating Chess Tournament points table with maximum points at the end of the seventh round games yesterday.
In the round, Shakil beat Saifuddin Lavlu, Parag beat Mohammad Javed, Monir beat Abdul Maleq and Reza beat Debraj.
The eighth round games start at 3pm at the Bangladesh Chess Federation office today.

DAY'S EVENT
Western Union Premier Div Football League
Muktijoddha vs Dhanmondi (5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium,
Mirpur
Nat'l Cricket League
Dhaka vs Sylhet
Venue: Sylhet Stadium
Khulna vs Chittagong
Venue: Comilla Stadium
Rajshahi vs Barisal
Venue: Barisal Stadium
Patron's Trophy (Day-2)
Bangladesh A vs Pakistan WAPDA
Venue: UBL Ground, Karachi

CA decides on Zim tour later

AFP, Melbourne

Australian cricket officials have yet to decide their stance on next year's tour of Zimbabwe.
With Zimbabwe's relationship with Australia at an all-time low because of Australia's push for the African nation to remain suspended from the Commonwealth and Zimbabwe's subsequent decision to quit the body the tourists set to be a hot topic of debate in the New Year.
But Cricket Australia (CA) said they will wait until February before they put the Zimbabwe tour on the agenda amid a tour of Sri Lanka in

NZ drop Harris for one-dayers

AFP, Wellington

The New Zealand cricket selectors Monday dropped veteran all-rounder Chris Harris and opener Lou Vincent from the squad for the upcoming one-day series against Pakistan.
Harris is New Zealand's most-capped one-day player with 238 appearances spread over 13 years and has been left stranded on 199 wickets.
SQUAD
Stephen Fleming (captain), Craig Cumming, Hamish Marshall, Craig McMillan, Scott Styris, Chris Cairns, Brendon McCullum, Jacob Oram, Andre Adams, Daniel Vettori, Kyle Mills, Daryl Tuffey, Ian Butler.