



## Did U Know?

The International Olympic Committee took an unusual decision to expel South Africa from the Games in 1964. South Africa was banned for its segregation policy of apartheid.



## What to Watch

- ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Bolton Wanderers vs Liverpool  
11:00 am  
&  
Arsenal vs Leicester City  
6:30 pm  
**Sportscentre Hindi**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
**English Premier Football League**  
Newcastle United vs Man United  
Live at 1:50 am (Thursday)  
**STAR Sports**  
South Africa vs Australia  
Third Test, Day One  
Live at 5:57 am  
Sportsline Today  
Sport News  
8:00 am  
**English Premier Football League**  
Man United vs Fulham  
1:30 pm  
**Sportsline Tonight**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm  
World Cup Soccer Mix  
8:30 pm  
Gillette World Sports Special  
Int'l Sports News  
9:00 pm  
South Africa vs Australia  
Third Test, Day One  
Highlights at 11:00



## Talk Turkey



**Leyton Hewitt**  
(World No 1 tennis star)  
"I have an inner self-belief that I'm able to match it with any guy on any surface."

## Star Whizz Kid COMPETITION 163

Tick the Correct Answers Post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Jan 4, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who became FIFA's World Player of the Year?	Beckham	Figo	Raul
2. Which team scored the lowest one-day international total?	Bangladesh Zimbabwe West Indies		
3. How many wickets did Chaminda Vaas take in a one-day match to set a new world record?	Seven	Eight	Nine
4. In how many Test did Anil Kumble take 300 wickets?	88	6676	
5. Who won the Sri Lanka tri-series?	West Indies Sri Lanka Zimbabwe		

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

## Pabna soccer

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna**  
Avijan Club outplayed Al-Helal Club 8-0 in the Radhuni Second Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday. Jamil netted five, Manik two and Johnny one for the winners.



A pitch at the Bangabandhu National Stadium being rolled yesterday. The stadium is getting ready to play host to one Test and two one-day matches between Bangladesh and Pakistan, who arrive here today.

## Spotlight on Shoaib

**AFP, Karachi**  
Pakistan leave Wednesday for their first ever Test tour of Bangladesh with a question mark over the action of one of their star pacemen. Shoaib Akhtar, along with skipper Waqar Younis and veteran Wasim Akram, will head the fast-bowling attack during two Tests and three one-day internationals.

Dubbed the "Rawalpindi Express", Akhtar is under scrutiny from the International Cricket Council (ICC) after his action was questioned for a third time in a short career of four years. The 26-year-old faces a one-year international ban if he is reported again for throwing. Last November his action was the subject of a report for a third time. But the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) rejected the second stage of the ICC's process for dealing with bowlers with suspect actions. If reported again on the Bangladesh tour, Akhtar would be subject to stage three of the process and a one-year ban could be imposed. Younis played down the problem as the 15-member squad prepared to leave. "I don't see any problem for

Australia and South Africa this year and I think this would be ideal preparation for the 2003 World Cup." Coach Mudassar Nazar acknowledged that Akhtar would be the main focus of attention. "Akhtar is naturally very apprehensive. It can make or break the team. Our stance is that if Sri Lanka can bowl on medical grounds, then Akhtar can also bowl," Nazar said. Muralitharan was also reported in 1995 for a suspect action. But he was cleared by Western Australian University experts who said his bowling arm has a deformation. Akhtar was also cleared twice by the same university. The report said his bowling arm has an inborn deformity. Pakistan's planned home series against New Zealand and a make-shift series against Sri Lanka were cancelled due to security fears in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. "Despite having played little international cricket we feel that the tour of Bangladesh should be easy and anything less than that would be disappointing," Nazar said. "But since our World Cup defeat against Bangladesh is still not erased from the memories of the people and the team, we have prepared the players as we do for normal tours and have not taken it lightly."

**PROGRAMME**

Jan 5-7: v Bangladesh A, Dhaka
Jan 9-13: 1st Test, Dhaka
Jan 16-20: 2nd Test, Chittagong
Jan 22: 1st ODI, Chittagong
Jan 25: 2nd ODI, Dhaka
Jan 26: 3rd ODI, Dhaka

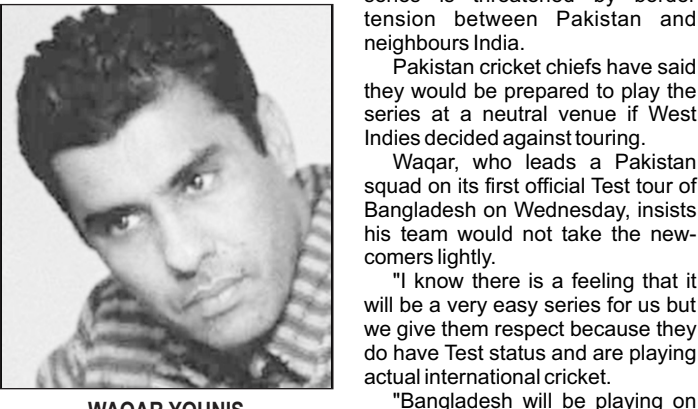
Bangladesh side simply because they have Test status and are playing international cricket. "Bangladesh will be playing on their home ground and they have this advantage. We will treat them as a professional side and do our best to win the series." Bangladesh, accorded Test status last year, have lost eight of their nine Tests -- five by innings margins. Younis also warned of a tough year ahead. "We will play the West Indies,

## Rankings vex Younis

**REUTERS, Karachi**  
Pakistan captain Waqar Younis called on Tuesday for cricket chiefs to devise a new system for ranking teams and players, insisting the current method made no sense at all.

"I just don't understand how these systems work," Waqar said of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) rankings. "(South Africa fast bowler) Allan Donald has not played cricket for so long, yet he is number two in the rankings of one system. "I would say our (team) position at eighth in the World Test Championship rankings is also not a true reflection of our standing," he told reporters. He said Pakistan's low ranking was because they had played just one Test since July 2001 as a result of tour cancellations brought about by the instability in neighbouring Afghanistan. He called for the ranking systems to be "regularised" so that a more fair assessment of teams and players would be available to cricket fans and asked for a better explanation of how the current system

worked. He said: "I just hope we do get the series against West Indies this month -- even if we have to play at a neutral venue. We need maximum matches to prepare for the World Cup (in 2003)." West Indies are due to tour Pakistan later in January but the series is threatened by border tension between Pakistan and neighbours India. Pakistan cricket chiefs have said they would be prepared to play the series at a neutral venue if West Indies decided against touring. Waqar, who leads a Pakistan squad on its first official Test tour of Bangladesh on Wednesday, insists his team would not take the newcomers lightly. "I know there is a feeling that it will be a very easy series for us but we give them respect because they do have Test status and are playing actual international cricket. "Bangladesh will be playing on their home ground...and are playing more cricket than us." Waqar said he expected injury-plagued paceman Shoaib Akhtar to face no fitness problems on the Bangladesh tour. "Akhtar has been cleared medically, there should be no problems," he said.

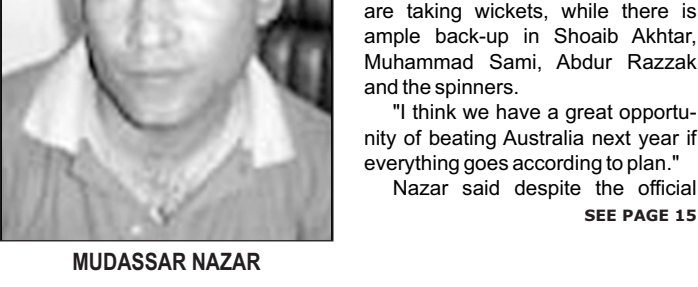


**WAQAR YUNIS**  
us but I think if we play to our potential we have the strength to finally confirm our ranking as a top three team and also improve our position in the world rankings," he said. Waqar admitted the lack of international cricket was frustrating his players and said it was difficult to keep them motivated.

## Nazar's claim

**REUTERS, Karachi**  
Pakistan coach Mudassar Nazar said his team had the ability to dethrone Australia as the world's undisputed top side despite their current lowly international ranking of eighth. "If there is any team in the world with the ability to beat Australia, it is Pakistan," Nazar told this news agency. Australia are 2-0 ahead in a three-Test home series against South Africa, ranked the world's second best Test-playing side, and head the International Cricket Council World Test Championship rankings. They play a return series in South Africa in a few months with the win-

opportunity to beat the world leaders for the first time since 1994. Nazar, a veteran of 76 Tests, said on Monday he had always believed South Africa would struggle against Australia as they lacked bowling power. "Our bowling line-up is the best," he said. "Both our senior bowlers (Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis) are taking wickets, while there is ample back-up in Shoaib Akhtar, Muhammad Sami, Abdur Razzak and the spinners. "I think we have a great opportunity of beating Australia next year if everything goes according to plan." Nazar said despite the official



**MUDASSAR NAZAR**

## National League resumes today

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
The Ispahani Mirzapur Tea 3rd National Cricket League resumes today with three matches in Comilla, Sylhet and Barisal. At the Comilla Stadium, Chittagong will host Rajshahi while Khulna meet Sylhet at the Sylhet Stadium. The other match between Dhaka and Barisal will be played at the Barisal Stadium. All the six divisional teams will, however, miss the services of 49 leading players of the country. Fifteen national players came back from New Zealand last night while a 14-member Bangladesh A team will begin their practice at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from today for the three-day match against Pakistan starting at the BKSP ground on January 5. Besides, there are 20 under-19 cricketers training at the BKSP in preparation for this month's World Youth Cup in New Zealand. There was one match in the first round between Dhaka and Chittagong last week. Dhaka won the four-day game and earned six points while Chittagong bagged two points by becoming victorious in the limited-over fixture. Meanwhile, Khulna Division announced a 24-member team a couple of days ago for the National League without naming their captain.

**KHULNA SQUAD**  
Habibul Bashar, Monjurul Islam, Mashrafi-bin-Mortuza, Tushar Imran, Shafiqul Alam, Hasanuzzaman, Manzarul Islam, Murad Khan, Syed Russell, M Selim, Sajjadul Hasan, Salauddin Ahmed, Shahin Ahmed, Al-Amin, Nahidul Haq, Tariqul Hasan, Masudul Hasan, Monirul Islam, Niaz Mursheed, Jamaluddin Ahmed, Raju Parvez, Asadullah Khan, Sohel Islam and Ahmed Kamal.

## Pepsi v'ball from Jan 11

**BSS, Dhaka**  
The Pepsi inter-district volleyball championship, organised by Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF), will begin at different venues from January 11. Thirty teams will take part in the men's championship while 17 teams will participate in the women's competition in nine zones. The first round of the competition will take place from January 11-14 and the second phase from January 16-21. The final round will begin on January 28 with the zonal champions, the services teams and defending champions Khulna.

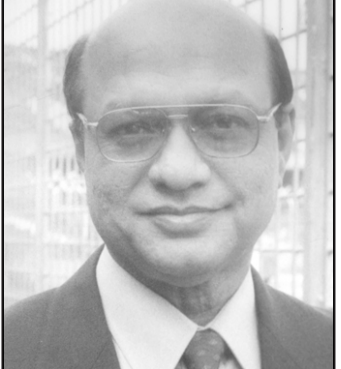
## Sanath eyes clean sweep

**REUTERS, Colombo**  
Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya is already aiming for a clean sweep of the three-Test series against Zimbabwe after Monday's first Test win by an innings and 166 runs. "We are trying our best to make a clean sweep of the series and we can do that if we continue our present form. The batsmen and bowlers will have to do their job," Jayasuriya said. The win was Sri Lanka's biggest ever and also their sixth consecutive Test victory. Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan took eight wickets to finish the year with the world's leading tally of 80 while Kumar Sangakkara was named man-of-the-match for his 128 in Sri Lanka's first innings 586 for six declared. "It is a lot of hard work for the bowlers especially with three Tests coming in a row," Jayasuriya added. "It will be more difficult and at the same time we have to be mentally prepared for the next two games also. Kumar Sangakkara did a lot of hard work scoring runs and keeping wickets and we want him to continue that good form. "The players know what is expected of them and they are enjoying themselves. Zimbabwe's problem is that none of their batsmen have gone on to make a big score. They have been getting out in the 30s and 40s and not getting big partnerships going." Zimbabwe captain Stuart Carlisle said his batsmen had to carry on after making good starts. "If you are not going to get bigger scores you are not going to save any games," he said. "The guys have to look at their own game and come back next Test. "Everyone knows that we were a little unlucky and that certain things went against us. We hope these things get sorted out for the next Test. "I am not trying to make any excuses but it does make a difference. In the first innings we were 103 for three and we had two unfortunate decisions and that changed the game. There's a lot of room for improvement in the remaining two Tests and the guys know that."

## Sultan fears SAFF loss

**Football**  
**SPORTS REPORTER**  
The present ad-hoc committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) remains determined not to back down on the Asian Football Confederation demand even if the country embraces international isolation. The committee, headed by president SA Sultan, would however keep manoeuvring the issue in its favour till the last minute of January 5, the day when the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) ultimatum to reinstate the Harunur Rashid-led committee expires. "We have called a meeting on January 4 to take a final decision regarding this," Sultan said to the Daily Star yesterday. The BNP legislator however fears that AFC might take the forthcoming South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship away if the FIFA ban comes into effect after January 5. The regional football tournament is scheduled to start in Dhaka on January 26. "What I can assume now after assessing the whole situation that AFC may not allow us to hold the SAFF Championship. It might award it to Sri Lanka who have already shown their interest to host the tournament," revealed Sultan.

Ominously though, Sultan however prefers to smart under the huge pressure of the game's world governing body, who is known for its ruthless disciplinary action over the years. "But we are not worried about the consequences. Because even if



**S A SULTAN**

FIFA bans us it would be for a period of maximum two months. If we do not host the SAFF tournament, it would be easy for us to hold the election in two months time," Sultan probably only consoled himself by saying. The BNP government in late November appointed Sultan as the new president and then announced a 31-member ad-hoc committee on December 20 dissolving the elected

## Last Test starts today

**Cricket**  
**REUTERS, Sydney**  
Australia's cricketers say they have no intention of going soft on South Africa in the third and final Test in Sydney with Steve Waugh urging his players to go for the kill. With the South Africans already showing signs of cracking under pressure after two heavy defeats in the first two Tests, Waugh said he

Klusener, has already been sent home to try and regain his confidence before the one-dayers and the rest of the team is feeling down. Pollock said the Proteas were finding it difficult coming to terms with the nature of their defeat. They came to Australia ranked second in the world behind Waugh's team and with genuine hopes of winning the series to take the number one spot. "We're a proud sporting nation and we don't like getting beat,"



**STEVE WAUGH**



**SHAUN POLLOCK**

wanted his players to capitalise on the tourists' fragile state of mind by completing a series clean sweep. "I think their fans back home would be a bit let down with the results so if we can win 3-0 it would certainly put a lot of pressure on them," Waugh said. "We know how high we can raise the bar and we don't want to drop below that." South African captain Shaun Pollock admitted his players were mentally drained after being outplayed in the first two Tests. One of their star players, all-rounder Lance

Pollock said. "We know we haven't played well here. We put too much pressure on ourselves and the guys are really determined to turn it around in this match. "But we also know that talk is cheap and we have to put in a better performance if we want to win." With Klusener already on his way back to Durban, the South Africans are likely to throw left-arm spinner Nicky Boje into the Test side even though he only arrived in Australia on Tuesday. The Sydney Cricket Ground is

## 10-year-old Warne!

**Cricket**  
**REUTERS, Sydney**  
Shane Warne celebrates the 10th anniversary of his Test debut when Australia take on South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) on Wednesday with yet another milestone in his sights. Already the greatest spin bowler in Test cricket history and Australia's leading wicket-taker, Warne is poised to become the most successful bowler in 120 years of Test cricket at the SCG. The 32-year-old Victorian already has 43 wickets from nine matches on Australia's most accommodating pitch for spinners, just two behind Charles Turner's SCG record of 45 Test scalps from just six matches in the 19th century. "I don't really pay that much attention to stats but it's a feather in the cap," Warne said on Tuesday. "The only milestone I ever aimed for was Dennis Lillee's Australian record (355 Test wickets) and I almost guessed that so I don't like to think about them too much." Warne, who overtook Lillee as Australia's most successful Test wicket-taker almost two years ago, is fourth on the all-time list with 424 wickets. Warne made his Test debut against India at the SCG in January 1992 but his first nervous appearance provided little insight into what was to come. He took 1-150 on debut and was

dropped after failing to take a single wicket in his second match before being recalled seven months later for the tour of Sri Lanka. Warne took just three wickets in Sri Lanka but made his first breakthrough when he took 7-52 in the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground later that year. "It really has been a wonderful journey. There's been some great conversation with an English nurse that made the newspapers. He has also been troubled in recent years by injuries, requiring surgery to his shoulder, knee and two broken fingers, but remains just as potent as ever, claiming the man of the match award in last month's first Test win over South Africa. Australian captain Steve Waugh said he first saw Warne on an development tour to Zimbabwe and was impressed by what he saw. "He was from another planet," Waugh said. "He was always going to be something special. "And there's no reason, if he stays injury free, that he can't get 500 or 600 wickets."



**SHANE WARNE**

times and some bad times...but I wouldn't have changed a thing," Warne said. "When I look back over the 10 years since my first game in Sydney, obviously a lot has happened since then." Warne's career has not been without controversy, most notably his admission that he once took money from a bookmaker in Sri Lanka in 1994 and more recently when he was stripped of the vice-captaincy for a lewd telephone

## LIFE SKETCH

Profile on Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne who celebrates a decade in Test cricket in the third and final Test against South Africa in Sydney starting on Wednesday: **Born:** 13 September 1969 **Teams:** Victoria, Hampshire, Australia **Statistics:** Debut: v India, Sydney, January 1992. 97 matches, 424 wickets, average 26.68. Best Bowling: 8/71. 1925 runs at 15.90. High score: 99. The most successful spinner in Test history with 424 wickets, the fourth highest in the sport's history. One of five players named as Wisden's cricketers of the century. Useful lower-order hitter, with a high score of 99 made against New Zealand in November 2001.