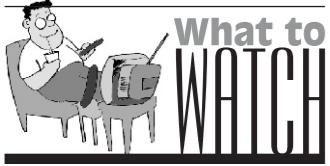




Did U Know?

'Sting' was the first official WCW world heavyweight champion.



ESPN

Goals!
Football Magazine
10:00 am
Blackburn v Leeds
English Premiership
Repeat at 11:00 am
Arsenal v Juventus
UEFA Champions League
Repeat at 6:00 pm
Sportscenter Hindi
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
World Cup Mix
Football Magazine
9:00 pm
Panathinaikos Fc Vs Real Madrid
UEFA Champions League
Repeat at 9:30 pm
Atlanta v Roma
Series A
12:00 am (Friday)

STAR Sports

England v New Zealand
Second Test, Day One
Live from 4:30 am
Highlights from 4:00 pm
Sportsline Today
Sports News
12:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
Taped version at 12:00 am



Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

(Former India cricket captain)
"Captaincy is all about either leading from the front or pushing from the back. One needs a heavy dose



Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
March 29, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the Prof Abdur Razzak 28th national chess title?

Reefat-bin- Ziaur Niaz
Sattar Rahman Murshed

2. Who became Asian Test champions?

India Sri Lanka Pakistan

3. Who clinched the World Cup hockey title?

Name

.....

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

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Annual sports

UNB, Mymensingh

The annual sports competition of the Parangani High School was held here last week.

Students and teachers of the school, guardians and local elite attended the function.

"I would rather have been play-

Cricket on road to Fatullah

Premier League from Friday

SPORTS REPORTER

The Premier Cricket League involving twelve teams begins on Friday.

But unlike previous years the most colourful domestic event will get underway at the newly built Fatullah Stadium instead of the all-purpose Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

The BNS, which has gone through a lot of pounding during the Bangladesh Games, will not be ready for play again before April 1.

Defending champions Mohammad Sporting Club will take on promotees Young Pegasus at Fatullah, which has previously hosted a few Dhaka Zone games of the National Schools Championship.

Although the organisers Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis

(CCDM) is yet to disclose the name of the title sponsor for the limited-overs competition, but it is gathered that a cell phone company might take over from Daily Janakantha.

Two more games will also be held on the opening day with runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra taking on Uttara Sporting Club at the BKSP in Saver. Bangladesh Biman will feature in the other match against Young Cricketers at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The start of the League within three days after the inter-club cricketers' transfer, which ended on Tuesday, means that all the teams will have to get into action with little or no practice.

The club officials however were relieved to know that they can field their lone foreign player with little difficulty.

The CCDM on Wednesday decided that any club willing to file a foreign player will be allowed to register him even 12 hours before the game. It has also decided that a club can register maximum four overseas players, of which only one would be able to play in a match.

The CCDM has also decided to follow the parabola formula to decide a curtain-over match instead of the complicated Duckworth-Lewis method, which has been prescribed in the latest ICC playing condition.

The CCDM has also agreed not to follow the latest development in the ICC playing condition which read the 'team finish on equal runs will constitute a tie no matter whether both teams concede same number of wickets.'

Davis Cup Bangladesh outplay Oman

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh made a good start in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone Group-4 when they blanked Oman 3-0 on the first day at the Ramma Tennis Complex yesterday.

Shibu Lal took the initiative for Bangladesh when he beat Khalid Al-Nabhan 6-3, 6-4. His elder brother and former national champion Hira Lal made it 2-0 defeating Mohammad Al-Nabhan 6-7, 6-2, 6-0.

In the doubles, Bangladesh's Shibu Lal and Dilip Pasia beat Oman's Khalid Al-Nabhan and Mohammad Al-Nabhan 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

In the day's other matches, Sri Lanka beat Jordan 2-1, Bahrain had a 2-1 win over Brunei and Kyrgyzstan beat Iraq 2-1.

Eight countries, split into two groups, are taking part in the tournament for two slots in Group Three next year.

The participating countries are: Group A -- Bahrain, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and Brunei. Group B -- Bangladesh, Oman, Sri Lanka and Jordan.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Chess Federation general secretary Syed Sujauddin hands over a Braille board to a visually impaired chess player during a function at the National Sports Council on Wednesday. Interlife Bangladesh's project director Barbro Henriksson is seen at the centre.

Star light for them

Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh nearly five years ago, but till yesterday, none of these players, had personal Braille chess-boards to practice. The Braille board is specially designed to aid sightless people to make chess moves.

Barbro Henriksson, project director of Interlife Bangladesh, chaired the occasion while Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, was chief guest. Bangladesh Chess Federation general secretary Syed Sujauddin attended the programme as special guest.

While expressing her gratitude to the Daily Star, one of the visually impaired players Mansura Yasmeen Beauty of Dhaka said that it was one of the most memorable days of her life.

"The Braille board is very costly and I could never have afforded it. I have waited a very long time to own a board like this. Now my waiting days are over. From now on, I will

able to practice at home and prepare better for future competitions," said Beauty in a moving speech.

Mahfuz Anam, in his address, said that it was the players who deserved all the adulation.

"You are amazing. I am moved at your commitment, dedication and hard work in perusing such a brain-straining game despite your visual limitations. By watching you, I get inspired to work harder. It is you who should be thanked," said the Daily Star Editor.

Mahfuz Anam added that the Daily Star would continue its co-operation in developing chess for the visually impaired.

Prodeep Sinha, an assistant project director of Interlife Bangladesh, and Zahangir Alam, the advisor of Bangladesh Braille Chess Association, also spoke on the occasion and thanked The Daily Star for its noble gesture.

Sehwag worry for India

Selectors meet today for WI tour

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Indian middle-order batsman Virender Sehwag is doubtful for the upcoming tour of the West Indies as he is struggling to get over a shoulder injury, a top Board official said Wednesday.

"We will decide on his selection after having a good look at his fitness certificate and other reports," Board secretary Nirjan Shah told AFP.

"We are yet to take a decision, but his fitness is a worry," said Shah. "We are in the process of consulting doctors and will forward his name to the selectors only if we are satisfied."

The national selectors meet in Bombay on Thursday to pick a 16-member squad for five Test matches and a 14-member team for the five one-dayers to follow.

Sehwag, who has slammed one century and two half-centuries in five Tests, was chosen ahead of Venkatesh Laxman for the second

Test against Zimbabwe at New Delhi, during which he suffered the shoulder injury.

He missed the subsequent one.



VIRENDER SEHWAG

day series against the tourists along with star batsman Sachin Tendulkar, who had a knee injury.

In the absence of Sehwag and Tendulkar, youngsters Mohammad Kaif, Dinesh Mongia and Yuvraj

Singh did well and the selectors will have to look at them for the Tests.

Captain Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Venkatesh Laxman are the other middle-order batsmen sure to be in the Test team.

The selectors are also expected to pick two wicket-keepers for the two-month tour starting April 2.

Ajay Ratra and Deep Dasgupta are the main contenders for the berths, Ratra giving a good account of himself in the one-dayers and Dasgupta finding reasonable success as an opener.

But sources said the selectors were also considering bringing back experienced stumper Nayan Mongia or M.S.K. Prasad for the series.

Paceman Javagal Srinath and Anil Kumble are set to return to the Test side after missing the Zimbabwe one-dayers.

Srinath asked not to be considered for the one-day series, while Kumble was rested for the last two limited-over matches.

Officials try to improve

Cricket

REUTERS, Cape Town

Cricket's newly appointed elite panel of international match referees and umpires will begin an intensive four-day training course on Thursday as part of the sport's attempt to improve standards.

The International Cricket Council's five match referees and eight umpires have gathered at a conference centre at the Arabella Country Estate near Cape Town for sessions on media training, discussions on playing conditions and the reporting of suspect bowling actions, as well as a medical and fitness check.

The officials are all to be trained to use laptop computers, which will become their main tool of communication.

Legal considerations -- particu-

larly in light of the new code of conduct procedures and the sanctions now available to match referees -- will play a large part of the course.

Under the new code, drafted at a meeting of the ICC executive board in Cape Town last week, charges will be laid by on-field umpires leading to a hearing held by the match referee.

The referee now has recourse to a four-tier disciplinary system, with level one offences punishable by a minimum of a reprimand, with a life ban the ultimate sanction for level four breaches. The most serious sanctions are now open to appeal for the first time.

"It can't be stressed how vital these four days are," ICC communications manager Mark Harrison told Reuters. "What we are looking for is consistency and this is the start of a more consistent process of giving umpires and referees the kind of

professional training they have never had before."

All the officials on the elite panel have worked in cricket for a long time. The ICC has never before told them how to approach the job in a professional and well thought-out fashion.

"This is the start of an ongoing process."

THE FIVE-MAN REFEREES PANEL

Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka) as chief referee, supported by Clive Lloyd (West Indies), Mike Procter (South Africa), Wasim Raja (Pakistan) and Gundappa Viswanath (India).

THE UMPIRES PANEL

Steve Bucknor (West Indies), Asoka De Silva (Sri Lanka), Daryl Harper (Australia), Rudi Koertzen (South Africa), Dave Orchard (South Africa), David Shepherd (England), Russell Tiffen (Zimbabwe) and Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India).

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A total of 125 athletes from Dhaka, Rajshahi Chittagong, Khulna, Jahangirnagar and Islamic Universities are taking part in 30 events of the two-day competition at Rajshahi University stadium.

Grand Master tournament from March 30

SPORTS REPORTER

A new Grand Master chess tournament starts in the capital from March 30 under the auspices of Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF).

Six Grand Masters, two from Bangladesh and one each from India, Russia, Slovenia and Ukraine, will take part in the 10-round Swiss League tournament which will be sponsored by Square Toiletries Limited.

Earlier, BCF used to organise a biennial GM tournament sponsored by United Insurance Company in a robin league format. The BCF has organised this tournament to accommodate at least one Grand Masters tournament every year.

Dev. 43, said here Tuesday that with cricket being played more than 10 months a year, the standard of the game was being hurt.

He said that he would like to see 10 Test matches and 20 limited-over games and that this was "the right combination" to be played by each country every year.

Dev. 43, attending a gathering of global sports greats here, said the quality of the game was being affected because players were injured as a result of the many games that were now being played.

"When the top players are injured and can't play, then the quality of the game is affected," he said.

Asked why so many extra games were on the schedule, Dev said: "It

Bell wants to be Atherton

Cricket

REUTERS, Wellington

England teenager Ian Bell will use Michael Atherton as his inspiration if he gets the chance to make his debut against New Zealand in the second Test starting on Thursday.

He said flood-lights along with other installations would be set up to upgrade the stadium into an international one.

A swimming pool would also be constructed, he added.