



### Did U Know?

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



### What to WATCH

### 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  
Atalanta v Roma  
Serie 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



### TALK TURKEY



**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



### Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 168

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- Sattar	Ziaur Rahman	Niaz Murshed	
2. Who became Astan 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.

## 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 Mohammedan 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 field 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.'

## Sehwag worry for India Selectors meet today for WI tour



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 Niranjan 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 met 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 Venkatsai 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 Venkatsai 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 Ratna and Deep Dasgupta are the main contenders for the berths, Ratna 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



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 Tiffin (Zimbabwe) and Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India).

## Waugh days not over



INTERNET, undated

Reports that Steve Waugh will be left out of the Australian team for next month's tour to Zimbabwe have been dismissed as rubbish by team officials.

England's Daily Mirror newspaper claims the Australian selectors are prepared to "squeeze out inspirational skipper Steve Waugh".

The 36-year-old has led the team for the past three years, a period in which they have established themselves as the top side in the world in both forms of the game, but recently lost the captaincy of the one-day side to Ricky Ponting.

The newspaper says the Australian selectors want to use the two Test matches in Zimbabwe to try out Ponting in the five-day game, with a view to him leading the team in next winter's Ashes series against England.

Waugh struggled with the bat during the Test series in South Africa, which Australia won 2-1, managing just 95 runs in five innings at an average of 19.

But he has made more than 17,000 runs for Australia in Test and one-day cricket since making his debut in 1985 and is keen to prolong his international career.

"I would rather have been play-

ing the one-dayers, but I've got some time off now, which is good. I can relax, get away from cricket and spend some time with the family.

"It's been 17 years that I've been involved with the one-day side and I'm not there any longer. I wish Ricky luck in captaining the side," Waugh commented.

He is currently on holiday in South Africa and will find out whether he will keep the Test captaincy next week when the

Zimbabwe tour squad will be confirmed.

Australian Cricket Board media spokesman Bryan Murgatroyd said he would not give credence to the newspaper report by issuing a statement on the matter.

Waugh, meanwhile, has been given public backing by Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

"I think he's a great captain. I'd always pick him," he said.



Bangladesh Tennis Federation president Alamgir Faruq Chowdhury (3rd from R) inaugurates the Davis Cup meet at the National Tennis Complex at Ramna in the city on Wednesday.

## 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 Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

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

In the doubles, Bangladesh's Shibu Lal and Dilip Pasia beat Oman's Khalid Al-Nabhani and Mohammad Al-Nabhani 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 Kyrgystan 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, Kyrgystan and Brunei. Group B -- Bangladesh, Oman, Sri Lanka and Jordan.

## Inter-varsity meet on Rajshahi to be 3rd Test venue

UNB/BSS, Rajshahi

Rajshahi will be the country's third venue for Test cricket, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman disclosed here yesterday.

Inaugurating the 10th Inter-University Athletics Competition, he said Rajshahi Stadium would be turned into a modern venue for Test cricket at a cost of Tk six crore.

The state minister said the government would take up a Tk 3-crore project for development and renovation of the RU Stadium, its gymnasium and other sports establishments.

The proposed extension works of the local Parjatan Motel would be started soon to remove the residential problems of players, the minister said.

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

A swimming pool would also be constructed, he added.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Mizanur Rahman Minu, MP, RU Vice Chancellor Professor Faisal Islam Faruqi and Secretary General of Bangladesh Olympic Association Zafar Imam were present on the occasion.

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.

## New GM tourney 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.



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



SPORTS REPORTER

They may be visually impaired but that doesn't stop them from dreaming and one of those dreams came true yesterday for seventy chess players.

In a humble but heart-warming ceremony at the National Sports Council, Interlife Bangladesh, a Swedish funded NGO working in this country to help the visually and physically retarded, in co-operation with Bangladesh Chess Federation, handed over Braille boards to visually impaired chess talents who had participated in the Special Chess Tournament in Dhaka last October. The seventy Braille chessboards were sponsored by The Daily Star newspaper.

Chess for the blind began in

Bangladesh nearly five years ago, but till yesterday, none of these players, had personal Braille chessboards 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.

## Bell wants to be Atherton

### Second English-Kiwi Test from today



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.

England opening batsman Atherton: "He had great mental strength and he is someone I have tried to model myself on.

"I'm the type of player who likes to spend a bit of time at the crease and like to occupy the crease before I start to play shots.

"One of the strengths of my game is that I leave the ball well. I would

Hussain. Butcher has a broken right thumb and is unlikely to play in the second Test in Wellington.

Hussain is almost certain to be fit but the call has given Bell the opportunity to get a glimpse of life as an England tourist as he becomes the latest player to be fast-tracked into the senior side.

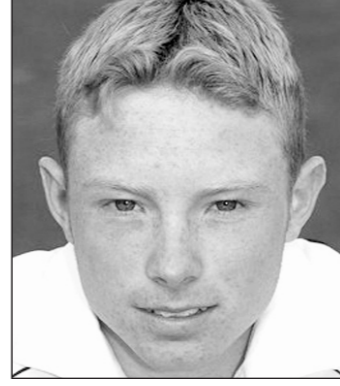
While Bell accepts he may do little more than carry the drinks for the next two weeks, the chance to impress coach Duncan Fletcher cannot be missed.

"I'm preparing myself as if I'm going to play in both matches because you never know what can happen. Working with some of the senior England guys can only help me return a better player to Warwickshire next season," Bell said.

Bell is the first England player to have gone through the England and Wales Cricket Board's academy where Rodney Marsh, the man responsible for harnessing the careers of Adam Gilchrist and Brett Lee, was director of coaching.

"Rodney Marsh phoned me on Monday to wish me luck and tell me I deserved a call-up," Bell said.

"He doesn't give much away and



**IAN BELL**  
The Warwickshire batsman, who has played just 13 first-class matches before being flown out to New Zealand to provide back-up for the middle order, said of former



**MICHAEL ATHERTON**  
label myself as an innings builder rather than someone who goes out and smashes it from ball one."

Bell flew in after injuries to Mark Butcher and captain Nasser

## Dev blasts excessive play



AFP, New York

Former Indian Test cricket all-rounder Kapil Dev, one of the sport's all-time legends, said international cricket is being played too much and the quality of play is starting to suffer.

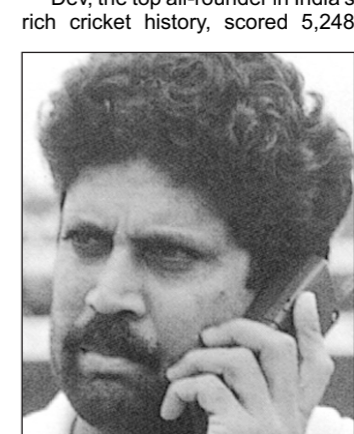
Dev, 43, said here Tuesday that with cricket being played more than 10 months a year, the standard of the game was being hurt.

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, 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



**KAPIL DEV**  
runs, averaging 31.05 when he retired had taken 434 Test wickets at 29.64, which at the time was a world record.

A cricket purist at heart, Dev said he is enjoying his retirement from the game.

Asked if cricket had settled down

following allegations of rigged matches, which had tainted a sport that was always known as a gentleman's game, he said: "I hope so. But I doubt it will be known as the gentleman's game.

"The game is changing, the spirit of the game is changing. It is now more competitive and ruthless on the ground. It is not the gentleman's game that it was 30 years ago."

Cricket playing countries have gradually played an increased schedule of Test matches and limited-over contests since the breakthrough World Series Cricket competition made peace with the established cricket administrators more than 20 years ago.

Before, countries usually played a five Test series once a year or in some cases once every two years.

But with network television taking a bigger interest in cricket, countries now face a much heavier schedule of international matches.

Dev also spoke about the conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, saying there should be peace and past disagreements between the two countries should be forgotten.