



## Did U Know?

The Olympic Hymn, played when the Olympic Flag is raised, was composed by Spyros Samaras and the words added by Kostis Palamas. The Olympic Hymn was first played at the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens but wasn't declared the official hymn by the IOC until 1957.

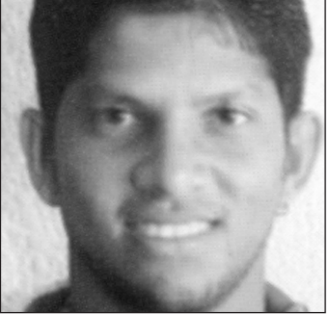


## What to WATCH

- ESPN**
- Australia vs England First ODI
  - Live at 9:13 am
  - South Africa vs Pakistan Third ODI
  - Live at 6:25 pm
  - Sportscentre Hindi Sport News
  - Live at 10:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
- New Zealand vs India First Test, Day Two
  - Live at 3:50 am
  - Sportline Tonight Sport News
  - Live at 8:00 pm



## TALK TURKEY



**Ramnaresh Sarwan** (West Indies star batsman)  
 "My main goal is to help West Indies get back to the top again and to do that I would have to play on a consistent basis. And at the end of my career I wish to have decent average."

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18**

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

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 13, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the DC Gold Cup soccer title?	Tangail	M'singh	N'ganj
2. Who lifted the Shanghai Tennis Masters Cup?	Agassi	Ferrero	Hewitt
3. Who was the man-of-the-match in the 6th ODI between India and West Indies?	Dravid	Gayle	Agarkar
4. Pakistan won the Test series against Zimbabwe by?	1-0	2-1	2-0
5. Brazil won the friendly match against South Korea by?			

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Ispahani football

CU CORRESPONDENT

Lalkhan Bazar Boys Club recorded an exciting 9-8 tiebreak win against the Blue Star Club in a match Ispahani Mahanagari Pioneer Football League played at the Dampara Police Lines ground yesterday.

Lalkhan Bazar's custodian saved two in the shootout after the normal time ended 1-1.

Arafat Shahriar of Blue Star struck first in the sixth minute of the first half but the Sujat of Lalkhan equalised midway through the game.



PHOTO: COURTESY Bangladesh stars (L-R) Habibul Bashar, Aminul Islam and Naimur Rahman stretch during a practice session of the national cricket team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The team is preparing for the second Test against the West Indies that starts at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong from December 16.

# Relief for BFF

## Cricket goes out of BNS in January

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) heaved a huge sigh of relief as the sponsor Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Marketing Limited (AML) finally accepted its eleventh hour proposal yesterday to shift venue of the third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).

The eight-nation regional meet will now be held at the all purpose Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) instead of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, as the notoriously tardy and inefficient organisers failed to upgrade the floodlight system to the required international standard even in a year.

The championship will start on January 10 and run up to the 20th.

The BFF, in consultation with State Minister for Youth and Sports and NSC chairman Fazlur Rahman on Wednesday, requested the AML to allow it to shift the venue.

The AML initially had refused to accept the proposal saying it was too late for them to make any

change, but it held an emergency meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday and agreed to accept it.

Though the BFF, which never could think beyond BNS, can sleep in peace now, but the whole affair indeed tarnished the country's image in the international football arena once more.

Bangladesh had experienced a temporary FIFA ban in January for dissolving the elected committee of BFF and forming an ad-hoc committee in place of it.

The government had to reinstate the elected body to get back into the international football a month later.

The BFF in association with the NSC's department of development and planning had been involved in brining the floodlight system up to the mark for over a year. And, the decision to hold the championship in the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium was taken two years back.

Though Rahman kept assuring that all the preparation would be completed right on the dot, but it was exposed only on Wednesday that

he hardly knew what had been going on in his NSC. The department of development and planning dared to let the NSC boss down by its lack of initiative and carelessness and would surely get away with that.

Even his top NSC officials assured the AML that the required up-gradation to the lighting system would be finished in time when two officials of the sponsors visited Dhaka early this month.

Rahman meanwhile also did not bother to give a courtesy call to any Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official before confirming BNS as the venue for the SAF Championship. The BNS has been allotted to BCB until March next year.

Shah Nurul Kabir MP, a member of BCB advisory council and chairman of BCB's tournament committee, said that there should be a permanent system regarding how the BNS should be used.

This was not for the first time that the Board would have to vacate the BNS for football at the middle of the season.

# Rajshahi rout Sylhet

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi posted a convincing 10-wicket victory over Sylhet in their inaugural Ispahani National Cricket League encounter at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

On the third day of the four-day match, Rajshahi, needing only four runs in their second innings, collected the runs in three balls courtesy of Sylhet bowler AKM Mahmud Ripon.

Ripon bowled two wide deliveries while the rest came from byes.

Earlier, Sylhet, resuming their second innings score of 94 for one, were all out for 226 in 86.5 overs with opener Parvez Alam hammering highest 57.

Middle-order Kabi chipped in

with 51 while Golam Mowla added 33 runs.

Left-arm seamer Shafaq Al-Zabir was the wrecked Sylhet taking five wickets for 42 runs.

Away at the BKSP ground, Dhaka were on the verge of victory in their match against Barisal.

Chasing 130 runs in their second innings, Dhaka were 85 for four at stumps.

One-down Jahangir Alam was batting on 33 while captain Khaled Mahmud was not out on 27.

Earlier, a brilliant 113 from middle-order Nahidul Haq helped Barisal make 274 in their second innings and also take a 129-run lead.

Nahidul faced only 112 balls for his 113, which included five sixes and 15 boundaries.

Lower-order Ali Arman was the other notable run getter with a 119-ball 74.

In the other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Khulna were fighting to avoid defeat against Chittagong.

At stumps on day three, Khulna were on 216 for five in their second innings that gave them a 127-run lead.

Khulna scored 221 runs in their first innings while Chittagong, riding on a 117 from opener Nafees Iqbal, scored 310 in their first innings which has already ensured them a draw on the final day.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**Rajshahi v Sylhet**  
 Venue: Fatullah Stadium.  
**SYLHET:** 111 and 226 in 86.5 overs (Parvez 57, Kabi 51, Mowla 33, Shafaq 5-42)  
**RAJSHAH:** 341 for 8 and 4 for no loss in 3 overs.

# Ronaldo the best

## World Soccer magazine awards

REUTERS, London

Real Madrid striker Ronaldo has been named World Soccer magazine's player of the year following his heroics for Brazil in the 2002 World Cup finals.

Ronaldo came back after three years of injury blight to score eight goals at the World Cup, including both in the 2-0 final victory over Germany.

It was the highest individual tally in the finals since West Germany's Gerd Mueller hit 10 in 1970.

The latest issue of the English-based magazine, published on Friday, said Ronaldo polled more than 26 per cent of the votes cast by readers. The prestigious awards began in 1982.

Midfielder Michael Ballack, who helped Germany to the World Cup final and inspired Bayer Leverkusen to the final of the Champions League as well as runners-up in the Bundesliga and German Cup, was second.

Ronaldo's Madrid and Brazil teammate, defender Roberto Carlos, was third. Ronaldo has also been short-listed for FIFA's World

Player of the Year award, along with German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn and French midfielder Zinedine Zidane.

Ronaldo and Zidane have both won the FIFA award twice previously, while Ronaldo won World Soccer magazine's award in 1996 when he was only 20.

winner Real Madrid and English League and FA Cup double winner Arsenal.

Guus Hiddink, the Dutchman who took South Korea to the semifinals of the World Cup, was named manager of the year.

Brazil's Luiz Felipe Scolari was second ahead of Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger.

**THE CATEGORIES**

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR (%)**

- Ronaldo 26.17
- Michael Ballack 17.69
- Roberto Carlos 8.48
- Zinedine Zidane 5.95
- Oliver Kahn 4.87

**MANAGER OF THE YEAR**

- Guus Hiddink (S Korea) 28.33
- Luiz Felipe Scolari (Brazil) 16.78
- Arsene Wenger (Arsenal) 14.26
- Klaus Toppmoller (L'Kusen) 8.84
- Rudi Voeller (Germany) 4.51

**WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR**

- Brazil 24.36
- Real Madrid 14.44
- Arsenal 11.73
- South Korea 10.46
- Turkey 8.64



Last year's winner, Michael Owen of Liverpool, was ninth in this year's poll. Brazil was named team of the year, ahead of Champions League

# Powell beyond sixes

There's a sense of excitement whenever Ricardo Powell goes out to bat. If on song, Powell ensures that there's no shortage of entertainment as sixes and fours rain down.

One of the hardest hitters of the game, Powell announced his arrival in the international scene with a match-winning 124 against India from a hopeless situation in the final of a three-team tournament in Singapore in 1999, playing only his fourth one day international. More significantly, he gave the West Indies a tournament triumph after almost a decade.

Hailed as the solution to many of West Indies' problems, Powell however failed to live up to the high expectations and after just one Test appearance against New Zealand, he was only considered as a limited-overs player and has been in and out of the side until recently.

The Jamaican right-hander, who will be 24 on December 16, played some crucial cameos during the one-day series victory over India and single-handedly propelled the West Indies over Bangladesh in the first ODI in Chittagong with a breathtaking 51-ball 88. That's the kind of cricketer Powell is. He has that divine power to conjure a miracle from nothing.

A God-fearing person, Powell is slowly but steadily re-establishing himself in the West Indies' one-day team and he attributes that to a new found maturity. The mild-mannered Powell prefers to let his bat do all the talking but still spared some time when THE DAILY STAR SPORT's LENIN GANI and RABEED IMAM approached him after practice on December 7.

**Daily Star Sport (DSS):** Are you aware of the nervous-excitement in anticipation of boundaries and over boundaries you evoke among the crowd when going out to bat?

**Do you consider yourself as an entertainer first and foremost?**

**Ricardo Powell (RP):** It's always a good feeling when you walk out. Most of the time I go into the middle to try and please myself and if I can do that then I've pleased the crowd too.

**DSS:** How does it feel to hit more sixes than other batsmen?

**RP:** Of course it's one of the best feelings in the world after you've hit one over the boundary. But that doesn't mean I don't play each delivery on its merit.

**DSS:** You made your debut in the 1999 World Cup and another one is just around the corner. What aspects of your game have changed for you in between?

**RP:** Firstly, I think I've grown in experience by playing in so many one-day internationals. Although I haven't played in too many Tests, my immediate thoughts are with the World Cup next year. I was very young in 1999 and maybe tried to play too many shots. I'm more selective now. I hope to do better than I did last time.

**DSS:** You are considered as a specialist one-day player. Doesn't that tag bother you? Don't you regret not playing enough Tests?

**RP:** I guess in each level of cricket one needs time to develop. I'm trying to take it one step at a time so that when I finally get the chance



to play Test cricket I can make the best use of that opportunity.

**DSS:** Why did you become a cricketer? Did you try other sports?

**RP:** I think it was because I had a love for the game. I knew I had the talent and I tried to pursue it. In high school I played football but I wasn't that good and I found out that cricket was the thing for me. I also played table tennis but I would always put cricket first.

**DSS:** Who were your idols when you began playing cricket?

**RP:** I've always admired Viv Richards, Brian Lara and Sachin

Tendulkar. I tended to look at the great players to understand how they get their runs, it is as simple as that and then move on from there.

**DSS:** What kind of person are you away from cricket?

**RP:** I think I'm a pretty relaxed sort of person, who listens to soft music now and then. My favourite singers include Celine Dion and Whitney Houston. Also I like watching English football matches. I support Manchester United.

**DSS:** Has there been any change in dressing room atmosphere over the last few months?

**RP:** Well I guess the influx of young players is a key difference. Other than that, over the years the team and the changing room have been the same. We may hail from different countries and islands but we are all friends and get on very well.

**DSS:** What is your impression of cricket in Bangladesh?

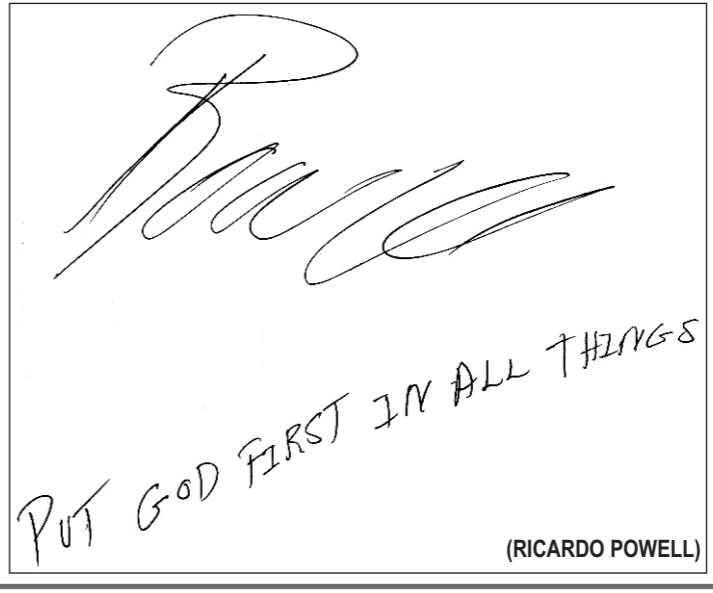
**RP:** I think Bangladesh have a good cricketing programme going. There are lovely grounds and wickets are also very good here. You have a lot of young players coming up too. The future is bright.

**DSS:** What does the future hold for Ricardo Powell?

**RP:** I'm back in the team now. I want to stay as a full-time player and then try to get into the Test side and take it from there.

**DSS:** What is your motto in life?

**RP:** Whatever you want you can achieve once you put your heart and mind into it.



# India outpaced on Day 1

AFP, Wellington

Inexperienced New Zealand fast bowlers ruined India's batting reputation and helped the hosts gain an upper hand on the opening day of the first Test at the Basin Reserve here on Thursday.

Shane Bond and Scott Styris each grabbed three wickets, while Daryl Tuffey and Jacob Oram shared four as India were bundled out for 161 after being put in to bat on a lively pitch despite Rahul Dravid's fighting 76.

New Zealand lost opener Lou Vincent before reaching 53-1 at stumps. Mark Richardson was batting on 27 with skipper Stephen Fleming (11).

Tuffey, Bond and Styris had a combined experience of just 17 Tests before this match, while Oram made his debut.

The foursome still proved fearsome and too hot to handle for the famed Indian batting line-up on a pitch which had both pace and bounce, as the tourists were all out in the fifth over after tea.

New Zealand did not have to pay dearly for three dropped catches in the slips, thanks to their pacemen's skill to strike at regular intervals.

Dravid maintained his reputation as one of the best Indian batsmen away from home as he top-scored with a gutsy 28th half-century in 68 Tests.

The reliable middle-order batsman, 29, alone gave a good account of himself against a disciplined four-

man pace attack, timing the ball sweetly to hit 13 fours in his 172-ball knock.

Dravid looked confident and applied himself remarkably well as he

patiently waited for the loose deliveries to punish. He reached his half-century in the afternoon session

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India captain Saurav Ganguly kicks the ball away from the line of his stumps during the opening day's play of the first Test against New Zealand in Wellington yesterday.

# World Series from today

## Australia's target Sri Lanka

REUTERS/AFP, Sydney

Australia plans to avenge big-match hidings from Sri Lanka and experiment with World Cup initiatives during the limited-overs triangular series.

Australia meet England in the opening day-night game of the Victoria Beer World Series here on Friday but the hosts are looking forward to the prospect of facing Sanath Jayasuriya's team.

Sri Lanka soundly beat Australia by seven wickets in the semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy at Colombo last September.

Australia's seven-wicket loss to Sri Lanka in the 1996 World Cup final still ranks with many of the

current players as the worst

"We were disappointed with the

**RICKY PONTING**

moment of their careers.

"They're a very good side, they proved that in Sri Lanka a few months ago," captain Ricky Ponting said on Thursday.

Star-studded Bangladesh Biman began their defence of the First Division Chess League with a comfortable 4-0 win over Bangshal Prograti Samaj Kallyan Sangha yesterday.

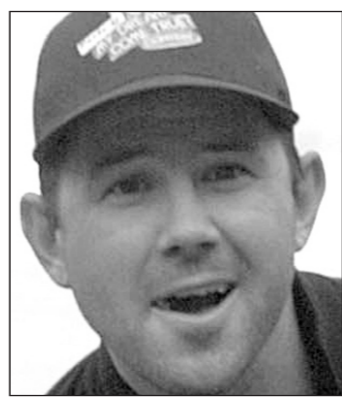
Grand Master Ziur Rahman, International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar, IM Enamul Hossain and Fide Master Rezaul Haque all won.

Last year's runners-up Titas Club defeated Leonine Chess Club 3-1.

While GM Niaz Murshed, Saifuddin Lavlu and Monir Hossain won however Khandakar Kayes Hasan lost to Monjur Alam.

In other games, Bangladesh Ansar beat Dhaka University Chess Team, Anirban Chess School beat Anu Memorial Club, Kamlapur Samaj Kallyan & Krira Sangha beat Farashganj Sporting Club, Narayanganj City Club beat Nakhalpara Jubo Kallyan Sangha, Anushilan Daba Krira Chakra beat Mohakkhal Prodip Sangha and Sonali Bank drew with Monipur Chess.

The second round starts today at 3:30 pm.



## Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Sreerampur Friends Club trounced Shafige Smriti Sangsad 3-0 in the Econo-First Division Football League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Tahajjat scored twice while Rashed netted one goal for the winners.