



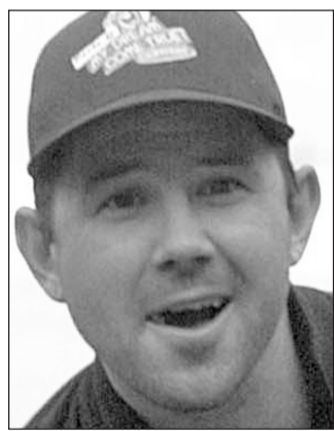
## Did U Know?

Way back when baseball was first beginning, the pitcher's mound was only 45 feet from home plate. It used to take 8 balls to walk somebody. If a person hit the ball and it bounced once and someone caught the ball, the person that hit it would be called out. Walks also used to be counted as base hits.



## What to Watch

- ESPN**
- Black Rovers v Man United
  - English Premiership Repeat at 10:00 am
  - Football Focus
  - Football Magazine 2:30 pm
  - Man City v Tottenham
  - English Premiership Repeat at 6:30 pm
  - Sachin Tendulkar, India v ...
  - Crickit Talk Show
  - Taped version at 8:30 pm
  - Goals!
  - Football Magazine 10:00 pm and 2:00 am
- STAR Sports**
- Football Asia
  - Football Magazine 7:30 am
  - Harsha Online
  - Crickit Talk Show 8:00 am and 9:30 pm
  - English Premiership Highlights at 9:00 am
  - Malaga v Real Madrid
  - Primera Liga
  - Repeat at 10:00 pm
  - Everton v Liverpool
  - English Premiership Repeat at 12:00 pm
  - Sportsline Tonight
  - Sports News
  - Taped version at 10:30 pm



**Ricky Ponting**  
(Australia's one-day captain)  
"If he was bowling at, say, 135 kilometres (83.8 miles) per hour, I don't think his action would be queried."  
After Lee's bowling action came under question earlier this week.

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18**

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

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 27, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Bangladesh lost the third ODI against West Indies by: 86 runs | 5 wkts | 120 runs
- Who won the 2002 Davis Cup? Russia | France | Australia
- Who was man-of-the-match in the first Test between Bangladesh and West Indies? Lawson | Gayle | Sarwan
- Who lifted the women's World Cup hockey title? Argentina | Germany | Australia
- Who was voted World Soccer magazine's player-of-the-year?

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

## Sajjad defies Dhaka

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sajjadul Hasan defied an overcast condition at the BKSP in Savar to score a hundred as Khulna pushed defending champions Dhaka on to the back foot in their Ispahani Mirzapore 4th National League fixture yesterday.

Sajjadul turned his overnight 55 to 102 as Khulna, resuming on 121-2, posted 284 for four at close of the second day's play.

The four-day match once again got off to a delayed start due to dense fog. The second day allowed only 47-over's of play, one over more

than that of the first day.

With the weather continuing to threaten, the already impressive Khulna total has left Dhaka in the jitters. The only team to have collected full points from their previous two games, Dhaka would certainly face a tough task against a quality Khulna attack that included pacesman Mashrafe-bin Murtaza.

Sajjadul struck fifteen boundaries in his nearly five and a half-hour stay at the wicket. Khulna captain Hasanuzzaman, who scored a double hundred against Chittagong, was batting on 34 along with Manjarul Islam (22).

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, experienced right-arm pacesman Safiuddin Ahmed sent Sylhet reeling with a five-wicket

burst after Akram Khan completed his hundred.

Safiuddin's 5-53 left Sylhet reeling on 204-8 after Chittagong finished their first innings on 372 runs.

Resuming on 94, Akram completed his century with his 13th boundary in the first over of the day. The former national captain scored 105. Chittagong added 63 runs to their overnight 309-4 before being all out in 100 overs.

Sylhet were immediately in trouble losing four wickets for 49 runs before Rajin Saleh salvaged them with a gritty unbeaten 91. The dependable middle-order batsman struck nine fours and two sixes in his 161-ball vigil at the crease.

The dapper right-hander would be looking for his hundred when Sylhet resume the innings with a deficit of 168 runs today. At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, veteran left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman bowled Rajshahi out for 198 with a six-wicket burst and gave his side Barisal a first-innings lead of 23 runs.

The former national pacesman finished with devastating figures of 19-9-38-6 as Rajshahi, resuming the day on 19 for one, were bundled out for 198.

Only opener Jamaluddin Babu stood tall among the ruins with a 158-ball 92. He clubbed 15 boundaries.

Yet to win a point from their first two engagements, Barisal were 50 for two at stumps on the second day, with a lead of 73 already. They scored 121 in their first essay.

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PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet's Rajin Saleh sweeps.

## Steve decides after Ashes

Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

Test captain Steve Waugh believes he still deserves a place in the Australia team and refuses to make any decision on his playing future until after the Ashes series finishes next month.

Australia's chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said the panel had spoken to Waugh about his international playing future and told the 37-year-old captain he had their backing until the fifth Test against England in Sydney (starting on January 2).

"I've never asked for a guarantee nor did I want a guarantee," Waugh told a news conference at Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday before the fourth Ashes Test which starts on Thursday.

"I've always played my cricket under the belief that you pick your best 11 players and that's never changed. I think it's wrong to give players guarantees.

"If I'm not one of the 11 then that's fair enough ... I know I am one of the best 11 players."

Waugh captained Australia to victory in the 1999 World Cup final but lost his place in the one-day side in March this year.

He grew tired on Tuesday of constant questions on his playing future at Test level.

"The next two Test matches are about the Australian side playing an Ashes series," Waugh said.

"So I'd like to think that the focus

would be on the cricket rather than speculation about myself.

"I'll make a decision after the Sydney Test match."

Waugh said he had found it difficult to read Australian newspapers in the last six weeks as some mounted a campaign for him and some were against him playing on next year.



STEVE WAUGH

"A lot of people writing stuff don't know what's going on," Waugh said. "One lot of newspapers are for me, the other newspapers are against me, that's just the way it is."

Waugh is Australia's most successful Test captain with 32 wins from 43 matches in charge, including big victories in the first three Tests of this Ashes series.

The former promising junior soccer player from western Sydney will equal Allan Border's world record of 156 Test appearances when he plays in the fifth Test in Sydney.

## Asian Youth F'ball Festival Bangladesh hold hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-14 team held hosts Nepal to a 2-2 draw in their third match of the Asian Youth (under-14) Football Festival at the Dharat Stadium in Katmandu yesterday.

Shankar put Bangladesh ahead in the 15th minute but Nepal came back to take a 2-1 lead before half-time. Prolific striker Mithun Chowdhury however equalised for Bangladesh in the 70th minute.

It was Mithun's ninth goal in the tournament. In their previous match on Sunday, Mithun scored all the goals in Bangladesh's 8-0 rout of Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh lost their opening match to India 1-2. Bangladesh will face Maldives tomorrow and then Bhutan in their last match on December 28.

## Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

AH Khan Smriti Sangsad moved into the final of the Econo First Division Football League defeating Shaheed Murad Smriti Sangsad 4-0 at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Bulbul slammed a superb hattrick while Pranotosh netted the other goal for the winners.

They meet Nizanduali Sporting Club in the December 30 final.

## Waqar warns 'em

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Pakistan skipper Waqar Younis rallied his side on Tuesday by warning his critics that his team will come good when the two-Test series against South Africa gets underway here on Tuesday.

Having lost the one-day series 4-1 and without the services of injured



WAQAR YOUNIS

paceman Shoab Akhtar and veteran Wasim Akram, Waqar insists that the class of his senior players will shine through against the hosts.

"I'm not worried at all about the batting," said captain Waqar Younis after watching his side limp to a draw with South Africa A at Pietermaritzburg on Monday when,

batting at number 10, he was his side's top scorer with 36.

"We have some world class batsmen in Inzaman Ul Haq, Yousuf Youhana and Younis Khan.

"Also the youngsters Taufeeq Umar and Salim Elahi have done really well in both Zimbabwe and South Africa.

"After playing so many one-day internationals, it's now just a matter of discipline when it comes to the five-day game," added the skipper.

Rain brought a premature end to the three-day tour match at the Pietermaritzburg Oval.

Taufeeq Umar held the Pakistan second innings together in making 89 having occupied the crease for just over five hours.

Apart from the 34 made by Younis Khan, nobody else in the Pakistani order made much of an impression in the second innings as the tourists reached 174-8 when played.

Having been dismissed for 174 in the first innings, Pakistan suffered another middle order collapse to reach 174 for eight when rain ended play three overs after lunch.

With almost two full sessions still to be played, Pakistan had limped to a slender lead of 138.

After mounting a rousing fightback on Sunday to play themselves back into contention, Pakistan made a disastrous start to their morning.

Resuming on 91 for two, they lost two wickets in the space of three

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PHOTO: STAR

IT'S A HOLI-HOLIDAY! (L-R) Fast bowling buddies Mashrafe-Bin-Mortuza and Talha Jubair are enjoying a chat while Bangladesh players Hannan Sarkar, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique try to understand what's so funny while on the other hand Mohammad Ashraful, Tareq Aziz and veteran Javed Omar are more interested on other things at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Biman clinch Div I chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman retained their First Division Chess title with two rounds to go yesterday.

The runaway leaders registered their twelfth successive victory with a 3.5-0.5 win over Bangladesh Ansars at the NSC chess room.

Even if second place Titans win all their eight rounds in the remaining rounds it will not overhaul the national airline team.

In this round, Grand Master Ziaur Rahman beat Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, International Master Abdullah-Al-Rakib beat Khandakar Aminul Islam of Ansar and IM Enamul Hossain beat FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil, IM Reefat-Bin-Sattar however drew with FIDE Master Taibur Rahman.

Titans Club are in the second position with 35.5 points while the defeat left Ansars third with 33.5 points.

Titans beat Anirban Chess School 3-1.

Elsewhere, Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan and Krira Sangha beat Leonine Chess Club 2.5-1.5 points, Dhaka University Chess Team beat Sonali Bank 3.5-0.5, Mohakhali Prodig Sangha beat Anu Memorial Club 3-1, Nakhla Para Jubo Kalyan Sangha beat Anushillan Daba Krira Chakra 2.5-1.5 and Monipur Chess Club beat Farashganj Sporting Club 3-1.

The only draw was between Narayanganj City Club and Bangshal Pragati Samaj Kalyan Sangstha.

## Jigme Dorji meet Bangladesh start well

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh got off to a good start in the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk memorial football tournament with a 2-0 win over Indian side George Telegraph in their opening Group B match in Phuentsholing, Bhutan yesterday.

Forward Rokonzaman Kanchan scored both the goals for Bangladesh who are taking part in the tournament as part of their preparation for the forthcoming South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship.

Kanchan opened the account for Bangladesh in the 17th minute and then sealed the fate of match with his second goal in the 30th minute.

According to a telephonic message here yesterday, Bangladesh dominated throughout the match, but the uneven ground in Phuentsholing prevented them from scoring more goals.

Bangladesh will take on Sikkim in their second match at the same venue in the afternoon today.

## Mashrafe, Habibul's WC dream

UNB, Dhaka

Frontline Bangladesh batsman Habibul Bashar wants to bounce back at next year's Cricket World Cup after his failures in the recent home series against the West Indies team.

With the help of the national team's new psychologist Clinton Gayward, Bashar has already sorted out his faults and is now determined to overcome the run drought.

"My expectations were very high

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## U-19 tourney from today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The preliminary round of the CityCell Digital 22nd National Youth (under-19) Cricket Championship begins in six divisions today.

Sixty districts -- 17 from Dhaka division, 14 from Rajshahi division, 10 each from Chittagong and Khulna, 6 from Barisal divisions and three from Sylhet division -- will take part in the preliminary round to be played on knock-out basis. This round will end on January 10.

Teams of Dhaka and Rajshahi and Khulna divisions have been split into two groups each because of high number of participating contingents, and also the matches of each group will be played in different venues.

Top two teams from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna and one each from Barisal and Sylhet will move into the final round where they will face defending champions BKSP and either Rajshahi or Jessore Education Board. The fixture, apparently made in a hurry, does not tell whether there will be a play-off between the two education boards.

The final round is scheduled to start from January 6.

A press conference in this connection was held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium conference room yesterday with tournament committee secretary Khondoker Jamiluddin in the chair.

Speaking to the press Jamil said that the venue for the 12-team final round will be selected later on from the first round ground.

Taka 35 lakh has been earmarked

## Cricketers' camp begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team will begin their residential camp in preparation for the 2003 World Cup at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) from today under the supervision of national coach Mohsin Kamal.

A total of 20 cricketers have been called in the six-day camp which runs up to December 30.

A final squad of 15 men for the World Cup will be announced on December 31.

The team will then have another two-week training at the BKSP before they fly off to Namibia on January 14 for a two-week conditioning camp from where they will head straight for South Africa.

Seventeen out of the 20 cricketers called for the camp reported to manager ASM Faruque yesterday afternoon and later traveled to the BKSP.

Captain Khaled Mashud and the two youngsters from Sylhet Alok Kapali and Taposh Baishya were expected to join the camp today morning.

The following 20 cricketers have

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for the under-19 tournament, sponsored by the cell phone company CityCell.

## DAY ONE FIXTURE

- Mymensingh vs Manikganj
- Venue: Jagannath Hall ground
- Faridpur vs Narshingdi
- Venue: Mymensingh Stadium
- Bagerhat vs Narail
- Jessore Stadium
- Chuadanga vs Meherpur
- Jhenidah Stadium
- Barisal vs Bhola
- Pataukhali Stadium
- Moulvibazar vs Habiganj
- Sylhet Stadium
- Rajshahi vs Natore
- Dinajpur Stadium
- Sirajganj vs Dinajpur
- Rangpur Stadium
- Chittagong vs Rangamati
- Venue: Comilla Stadium



PHOTO: STAR

Khandakar Jamil Uddin (C), member secretary of BCB tournament committee, addresses a press conference yesterday.

## Wright crosses fingers

Cricket

REUTERS, Auckland

India coach John Wright hopes his batsmen will give the New Zealand public a display of what they are capable of in the seven one-day internationals between the two sides starting on Thursday.

Wright's charges come off a 2-0 drubbing in the low scoring two-Test series in which only three batsmen from the two sides managed to sufficiently counter the weather-affected pitches in Wellington and Hamilton to score half-centuries -- India's Rahul Dravid (76) and Sachin Tendulkar (51) and New Zealand's Mark Richardson (89).

"The one-day pitches will suit the batsmen more," Wright said.

"I hope our batsmen can go out and show the cricket people of New Zealand how they have become one of the most feared line-ups in world cricket."

India's last one-day series was a 3-4 home loss to the West Indies completed days before the team flew to New Zealand.

For the seven one-dayers in New Zealand, beginning in Auckland on Thursday, India have sent fast bowlers Javagal Srinath and uncapped Rakesh Patel, leg-spinner Anil Kumble and batsman Yuvraj Singh to join the rest of the

squad. Left-arm speedster Ashish Nehra got to stay on by virtue of a controlled, hostile spell of three for 34 against New Zealand as the home side inched to victory in the recently completed Hamilton Test.

New Zealand have left out Scott Styris, one of the more accomplished one-day players during this year's series in the West Indies when he had scores of 85 and 63 batting at number six and took six for 25 in the fourth match.

He has been deemed the unlucky man among the all-rounders -- for the first two matches at least -- and must now do the business in domestic

## Sachin scare for India

AFP, Auckland

Indian batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday became a doubtful starter for the opening one-day against New Zealand due to an ankle injury.

"He sprained his right ankle during a practice session, but it's too early to say anything," said Indian manager Nethu Ram Chaudhary.

"There's still one more day to go. I talked to Tendulkar and he seemed confident to play the match," said the Indian manager.

one-dayers to get back into the frame for the third match in Christchurch on New Year's Day, when other all-rounders Chris Cairns, Chris Harris and Andre Adams should be available after injury.

Interest will focus on Brendon McCullum, the 20-year-old Otago wicketkeeper and explosive batsman who had a tough baptism in the Australian one-day series early this year as an opening batsman only.

This time he will bat at six or seven as well as work behind the stumps. Dennis Aberhart, the New Zealand coach, enthused over the depth at the top of the one-day game in the country and welcomed the logjam of all-rounders after a place.

"The depth, with others coming back from injury, means people will need to be on top of their game to stay in the side for the World Cup. It's going to be tough for some."

## TEAMS

**NEW ZEALAND** (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, Shane Bond, Paul Hitchcock, Kyle Mills, Brendon McCullum, Craig McMillan, Jacob Oram, Daryl Tuffey, Mathew Sinclair, Daniel Vettori, Lou Vincent.

**INDIA** (from): from Saurav Ganguly (captain), Ajit Agarkar, Sanjay Bangar, Rahul Dravid, Harbhajan Singh, Mohammed Kaif, Zaheer Khan, Anil Kumble, Vengalpurappu Laxman, Parthiv Patel, Virender Sehwag, Javagal Srinath, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Rakesh Patel, Ashish Nehra.