



## Did U Know?

The game of basketball was first played at the YMCA where Dr James Naismith (founder) was a member.



## What to Watch

### ESPN

**India v New Zealand**  
First ODI  
Live at 7:00 am  
Goals!  
Football Magazine  
Repeat at 3:30 pm  
Black Rovers v Man United  
English Premiership  
Repeat at 4:30 pm  
Primera Liga  
Highlights at 6:30 pm  
Sachin Speaks  
On World Cup Stars  
Repeat at 7:00 pm  
**Sportscenter Hindi**  
Sports News  
Live at 7:30 pm  
**Arsenal v West Brom**  
English Premiership  
Live at 7:55 pm  
**Man United v Middlesbrough**  
English Premiership  
Live at 10:00 pm

### STAR Sports

**Australia v England**  
4th Ashes Test, Day One  
Live from 5:57 am  
**Pakistan v South Africa**  
First Test, Day One  
Live from 1:55 pm  
**Sportsline Tonight**  
Sports News  
Live at 9:00 pm  
Sachin Speaks  
On World Cup Stars  
Repeat at 11:00 pm



## Talk Turkey



**Habibul Bashar**  
(Bangladesh's frontline batsman)  
"My expectations were very high in the series against the West Indies that's why I felt the pressure. I failed to play my natural game."  
On his failure in the Test and one-day series against the tourists recently.

**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 wks | 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 ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (if any) .....

# Ctg still on course

**Cricket**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong were well on course to their second win in the Ispahani Mirzapore 4th National League despite a disappointing second innings total against Sylhet at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The former champions scored 155 in their second essay after Sylhet, resuming the day on 204-8, were bowled out for 253 on the third day of the four-day match. It was an eventful day where Rajin Saleh completed his century and young left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque captured five wickets for Sylhet. Rajin, resuming on 71, scored an unbeaten 107 to help his side avoid follow-on. But the middle-order batsman walked in to

bat for a second time on the same day after Sylhet, set to score 275 runs, slumped to 17-4 at close. Chittagong, who has already confirmed two points for taking the first-innings lead, would be desperately trying to remove the remaining six wickets for an outright victory. Sylhet on the other hand would be looking to Rajin again to save the match. While Chittagong were in the driving seat at the BNS, defending champions Dhaka were all set to concede points against a spirited Khulna after two successive victories. Dhaka were 160-4 at close of the day's play after Khulna declared their first innings on 310-5. Resuming the day on 356-4, Khulna added 54 runs in just seven overs with Manjarul hammering a 52-ball 55. The young left-arm spinner struck nine boundaries in his blazing unbeaten knock. He also captured three wickets including dangerous Rashedul Haq, who scored 61. At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, young off-spinner Ali Arman cracked an unbeaten 109 as Barisal posted a huge second innings 315 against Rajshahi. Coming in to bat at number seven, Arman held the Barisal innings together after his side were reduced to 154-5. Played for Abahani in the Premier League last year, the lower-order batsman clubbed 16 boundaries in his 184-ball vigil at the crease. While Arman celebrated his maiden first-class century, opener Imran Ahmed missed out on the



PHOTO: STAR  
**WHAT'S GOING WRONG?** Chittagong's Akram Khan (L) and Minhaz Abedin hold a discussion in the middle of the pitch during their second innings against Sylhet in the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Even the former national captains could not rescue the Chittagonians as they were shot out for a paltry 155.

# Proteas target top spot

**Cricket**  
AFP, Durban

South Africa will be seeking to snatch the International Cricket Council Test championship when they take on a depleted Pakistan team in the first Test starting at Kingsmead here on Thursday. If South Africa win the two-match series they will overtake Australia on the ICC log, despite having been heavily beaten in home and away series by the Australians last season. "It's testament to how well we've played around the world," said South African captain Shaun Pollock. We beat India in India and Australia couldn't. And we beat the West Indies in the West Indies. South Africa's average points tally is boosted by series wins against Zimbabwe and Bangladesh, while Australia have not yet played series against the two lowly nations. The only team not to have been defeated by South Africa in a recent series at home, apart from Australia, are Pakistan, who shared a three-match series five seasons ago. It is because of that result that South Africa can improve their points tally, while Australia cannot gain extra points from their current series against England. Pakistan will start the series as underdogs after being trounced 4-1 in a one-day series, followed by an unimpressive performance in a three-day warm up match against South Africa A in Pietermaritzburg in which they were facing defeat when rain ended play early. Skipper and fast bowler Waqar Younis will carry a huge burden for the tourists following the decision of fellow veteran Wasim Akram not to play in the Tests and the withdrawal because of a knee injury of Shoaib Akhtar. The promising Mohammad Sami did not play against South Africa A because of a groin injury but is

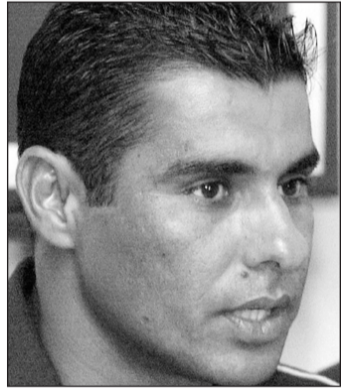
expected to be fit for the Test. Fellow fast bowler Mohammad Zahid is set to make a comeback to Test cricket after a four-year absence because of a back injury which required surgery. Zahid took five for 43 against South Africa A. Also in line for a recall is Fazl-e-Akbar, who made his debut against South Africa at Kingsmead five years ago but has only been selected for three Tests since then. Akbar was called up as a replacement because of Pakistan's injury problems. Pakistan have reason to be concerned about the form of their batsmen on a pitch which usually helps the fast bowlers. Their openers, Salim Elahi and Taufeeq Umar, are both inexperienced, while their middle order stars, Inzamam-ul-

# SAFF Championship Three send players' list

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan have sent the lists of their players for the forthcoming third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship which will be held in Dhaka from January 10 to 20. This was confirmed by SAFF general secretary and Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) acting general secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu yesterday. Bachchu said that he would provide the players' list of one team a day from tomorrow but whether he will be able to do that is anybody's guess as no other team have so far sent their squad names despite repeated requests. Even hosts Bangladesh can not finalise their 20-man team before the end of this month as they are playing tournament in Bhutan. Meanwhile, the BFF yesterday confirmed that Asian Football Confederation (AFC) general secretary Peter Velappan will arrive in Dhaka to watch the final match of the championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on January 20.

**TEAMS**  
**SOUTH AFRICA (from):** Shaun Pollock (captain), Graeme Smith, Herschelle Gibbs, Gary Kirsten, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Boeta Dippenaar, Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Andrew Hall, Makhaya Ntini, Mornantau Hayward, Steve Elworthy.  
**PAKISTAN (from):** Waqar Younis (captain), Taufeeq Umar, Salim Elahi, Younis Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Faisal, Iqbal, Abdur Razaq, Kamran Akmal, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mohammad Zahid, Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Sami, Hasan Raza, Fazl-e-Akbar.  
**Umpires:** Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India).



WAQAR YOUNIS



SHAUN POLLOCK



PHOTO: STAR  
Scene from the thirteenth round of the First Division Chess League at the Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.

# First Division Chess Biman a class apart

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Champions Bangladesh Biman continued their impressive run in the First Division Chess League with a 3-1 win over Anirban Chess School in the 13th round at the NSC chess room yesterday. With that win, Biman, who have already confirmed their tenth league title on Wednesday, improved their tally to 49 points, ten points more than second placed Titus Club with two round to go. In yesterday's round, Biman's International Master (IM) Reefatbin-Sattar beat Almasur Rahman, IM Abdullah Al-Rakib beat Giasuddin Mithu, Fide Master Rezaul Haque beat Nazir Saleheen while International Women Master (IWM) Rani Hamid lost to Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar. Titus Club, who are on 39 points,

# India sans Sachin

**Cricket**  
AFP, Auckland

India suffered a major setback on Wednesday as ace batsman Sachin Tendulkar and all-rounder Sanjay Bangar were ruled out of the opening one-dayer against New Zealand due to injuries. Tendulkar has not recovered from an ankle injury sustained while bowling in the nets on Tuesday, Indian team physio Andrew Leipus said ahead of Thursday's day-night match at the Eden Park here. "He was bowling the last ball of the day in the nets when he stepped on a little hole and sprained his right ankle," said Leipus. "It's quite swollen at the moment, but he's walking around and that's a positive sign. He'll be missing this game and I'll try and get him ready for the next but, if necessary, will rest him for that as well. "We're keeping our fingers crossed. We'll have to wait and see. We have got seven matches coming and then the World Cup, so it's better to take a conservative approach rather than struggle with a chronic swollen ankle." Tendulkar, who has scored a world record 11,544 runs in 300 matches with 33 centuries, also missed the seven-match one-day series against the West Indies at home last month due to a hamstring injury. His absence was a big blow to India whose batsmen struggled for runs against the New Zealand fast

bowling on seaming wickets in a recent two-Test series, won 2-0 by the hosts. Tendulkar was only the second Indian after Rahul Dravid to score a half-century in Tests. Leipus said Bangar was likely to play the second one-dayer (at Napier on Sunday) after suffering a knee injury while taking a catch during the second and final Test at Hamilton last week. "It's not a grave injury, but he needs rest. He won't play tomorrow, but hopefully the next game," he said.



SACHIN TENDULKAR

Skipper Saurav Ganguly, however, said India had the batsmen to put in an impressive performance despite the Test debacle. "The one-day cricket is a different ball-game altogether. We have been in a situation in the past when we lost a Test series, but came back to win one-dayers," he said. "I think we have some sort of

India had yet to decide whether to go into the match with two spinners, Harbhajan Singh and Anil Kumble, or play an extra seamer on a portable pitch. "We've yet to decide our playing eleven," said Ganguly. India coach John Wright said he expected the portable pitch to favour batsmen. "From what I understand it will be a good wicket," said Wright. "I know they are very happy with this specific portable pitch. It looks a good, hard and consistent deck." Meanwhile, New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming is expecting his fast bowlers to maintain their supremacy over India's batsmen in the one-day series. New Zealand were indebted to their pacemen for wrapping up the recent two-Test series 2-0 against the tourists, with Daryl Tuffey being the leading wickettaker with 13 in four innings. Strike bowler Shane Bond grabbed 12 wickets and Jacob Oram 11 as the Indians crashed to pace on seaming wickets and lost both the Tests inside three days. "Our bowlers have got another chance to get on top of them," said Fleming ahead of the opening one-dayer. "I'd like to focus on the ability of Bond and Tuffey to continue their dominance over the Indians. They've to keep an edge over their batsmen even though India are a very talented one-day side and have quality players."

# 'Leg'-break for Lehman

## Boxing Day Test starts today

**Cricket**  
AFP, Melbourne

Martin Love will replace Darren Lehmann in the top order and Shane Warne in the slips when his ten-year wait for a Test debut ends against England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Thursday. Lehmann joined Warne (dislocated shoulder) watching the fourth Test when he was admitted to hospital with an acute infection in his right leg. Bacteria entered his system through a small blister in his foot, requiring intravenous anti-biotic treatment, team doctor Trevor James said on Wednesday. James said Lehmann will remain in hospital for several days, placing him in doubt for next week's fifth and final Ashes Test in Sydney. "Obviously, it's a massive disappointment to miss out on one of the highlights of the cricketing year - the Boxing Day Test with a full house at the MCG," Lehmann said on Wednesday. "It's all the more disappointing because of the way things had been going for me lately with that hundred in Perth. "I started to feel unwell on Monday night but now I'm beginning to feel better with less aches. "For me it's now a case of looking forward to getting back and playing cricket again as soon as possible. I also want to wish Martin all the best. He thoroughly deserves his chance and I'm sure he'll do well." Australian captain Steve Waugh said 28-year-old Love, whose untroubled, eye-pleasing technique has been likened to that of Greg Chappell, will command respect in the Boxing Day Test, one of the great occasions in Australian sport. National selectors will be in a quandary if Love complicates big score, with Lehmann still searching for his big breakthrough Test innings since his return at the expense of Mark Waugh at the start of the series. Australia holds an unbeatable 3-nil series lead, but Waugh said Love's inclusion was one reason why the match was not a dead rubber. Meanwhile, England wicketkeeper Alec Stewart remains a doubt for the Test. Stewart suffered a bruised hand while playing in England's one-day game against Sri Lanka in Perth on Friday. Stewart batted without problems in the nets on Wednesday, but while

Richard 'Santa Claus' Dawson! The England cricketer during the team's net practice at the MCG yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP  
RICHARD 'SANTA CLAUS' DAWSON! The England cricketer during the team's net practice at the MCG yesterday.

# Sydney can't say Steve bye

**Cricket**  
AFP, Melbourne

Steve Waugh will ignore overwhelming public sentiment and resist the temptation to retire before the fifth Ashes Test against England in Sydney next week. "I'm not after fairytales," the 37-year-old Australian captain said on the eve of the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. "It doesn't really matter whether someone claps you in the fifth Test or whether they clap you later on. "I feel so much goodwill out there and I appreciate that. An extra couple of claps in Sydney is not going to make any difference. "It's not going to change the way people feel." Waugh's decision means fans who are at the Sydney Cricket Ground for the final Test from January 2 won't know whether they are seeing him play for the last time. He wants to play out the series and then decide in his own good time whether he will quit or soldier on. Waugh is one of the great Test match cricketers. The 154-Test

campaigner is 160 runs away from becoming only the third batsman to score more than 10,000 runs in Tests, joining compatriot Allan Border (11,174) and India's Sunil Gavaskar (10,122). He has found it difficult to amass runs in a prodigious-scoring Australian batting order which has only batted for three and a half innings out of a possible six in this one-sided series. Without runs in Sydney or Melbourne, he runs the real risk of being sacked for Australia's tour of the West Indies in April. "I just want to go out there and play my cricket," he said on Wednesday. "It can become too emotional if you make a decision beforehand ... it can affect the way you're going to play. "I'm going to sit down and have a look at it after Sydney." Waugh recalled a comment from former Test fast bowler Craig Rackemann, who said years ago: "I never announced when I was going to start, so why should I announce when I retire?" "I think that's a pretty good way to look at it," said Waugh. "Life will go on, the team will survive. It's got to end at some stage."

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns revealed last weekend that Waugh was assured of his place in the Australian side until the Sydney Test. Beyond that, said Hohns, nothing was certain. "I was disappointed to read that I had guarantees for the next two Test matches," said Waugh, who was clapped by supporters when he walked into the MCG nets on Christmas Eve. "I've never asked for a guarantee, nor did I want one. I didn't expect it. "I guess Trevor was trying to get a positive message out there but from my point of view I didn't agree with it. Guarantees are something that have happened in the past and it didn't work well for the side." Waugh assumed the captaincy from Mark Taylor after the fifth Ashes Test four years ago. Since then, Australia's achievements have included a world-record 16 straight victories, with Waugh winning 26 of his 37 Tests in charge. Ricky Ponting will take the helm whenever Waugh departs. "I feel as if, as a captain, I've