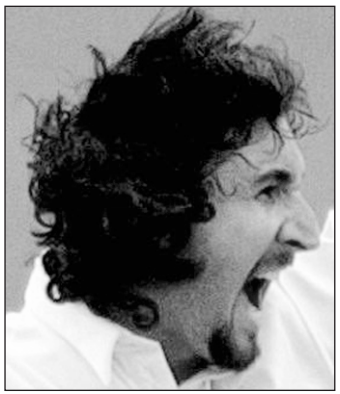
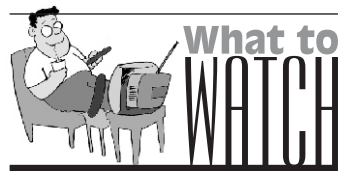




Sugar Ray Leonard won a record of five world titles from 1979 to 1988 including the WBC welterweight, the WBA light-middle, the WBC middleweight, the WBC super middleweight and the WBC light heavyweight titles.



Jason Gillespie
(Australian fast bowler)
"I appealed for so long and I didn't get a response, so I assumed it was going to be given not out, yeah, it was a nice surprise."
On the controversial decision against Sachin Tendulkar.



ESPN
Football Focus
Live at 6.30 pm
Sportscentre
Live 8.30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Manchester United v Stuttgart
Live at 1.30 am (Wednesday)
STAR Sports
Sportline
Live at 8 pm
UEFA Champions League
Besiktas v Chelsea
Live at 1.30 am (Wednesday)

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 202
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 19, 2003 and draw

1. Who has been named Australia's Test captain?	Gilchrist
Ponting	Martyn
2. Who won the Rugby World Cup?	Australia England New Zealand
3. Who will lead the Bangladesh A team to Pakistan?	Rajin Mushfiq Hannan
4. Who won the Federation Cup title?	
Name	
Class.	Roll No.
School Address	
Phone: (If any)	

USA to play in Challenge cricket

INTERNET REPORT

The International Cricket Council on Monday confirmed the USA as the final team in the ICC Six Nations Challenge to be contested in the United Arab Emirates from 29 February to 6 March 2004.

The USA will join Canada, Holland, Namibia, UAE and Scotland in the competition that will decide the final qualifying place for the ICC Champions Trophy 2004 in England.

The winner of the ICC Six Nations Challenge will play both Australia and New Zealand in the ICC Champions Trophy.

Selectors watching Nat'l League begins tomorrow



SPORTS REPORTER

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed said that performance in the National Cricket League would play a major role in determining the team that will tour Zimbabwe in February.

Faruque told this to reporters yesterday while outlining the importance of the lone first-class competition of the country. The fifth edition of the National League will begin at three different venues across the country tomorrow.

"It will be our task to watch as many games as possible. Maybe we cannot see all the matches since one of my colleagues will fly to Pakistan with the Bangladesh A team. But this time I want to make sure that we get the real picture of who is doing what," said the chief selector while watching the practice sessions of Dhaka and Rajshahi along with his deputy Athar Ali Khan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the afternoon.

The intensive involvement of the selectors in this year's National League was the result of a new thinking by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), which is now determined to explore the potential of the first-class competition after a cou-

ple of dull years that hit rock-bottom in 2002.

The return of a home-away format for the six participating teams means the selectors will be frequently travelling to different cricket centres around the country. But Faruque said they were ready to take the burden.

"We will fondly follow the National League matches and I want to see consistency rather than one or two brilliant knocks by the players because that is what I'm looking for," said the former national captain.

But his real cause for concern was the current state of pitches around the country that was blasted by the local media during the National Cricket Championship last month.

"Our effort will never be a meaningful one if we keep on hearing about matches that are played on sub-standard wickets. It would be unfair to judge a player's performance if he is not playing on a standard wicket," he said.

Faruque and his three colleagues will pick the Bangladesh squad for Zimbabwe after the first round is completed in mid-January. The Tigers will play two Tests and five one-day internationals in their second visit to the southern African nation.

Faruque's performance yardstick can be deemed as a pointer for certain players like Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud.

The feisty all-rounder came under fire for his own performance in the home series against England that the Tigers suffered a white-wash.

Mahmud will lead Dhaka Division in the National League that includes a four-day followed by a one-day game.

Dhaka will take on Barisal at the Dhammondi Cricket Stadium in one of the three opening fixtures while Sylhet host defending champions Khulna and Chittagong play Rajshahi at the Comilla Stadium.

Mahmud apart Al-Shahriar, Sanwar Hossain, Mehrab Hossain will also try to draw the attention of the selectors after being left on the sidelines.

Al-Shahriar was dropped after the World Cup while Sanwar got the chop following the Pakistan tour.

Mehrab, who is the lone one-day centurion of Bangladesh, on the other hand has been out of the national team for over a year.

The aspiring trio will feature for Dhaka in the National League.



PHOTO: AFP

NO ONE IS A LOSER: Indian and Australian players greet each other after the first Test ended in a draw at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday.

India draw after lapses



AFP, Brisbane

India were made to sweat before recovering to secure a comfortable draw against Australia in the first cricket Test at the Gabba here on Monday.

Just when the opening Test of the four-match series looked like it was being killed off, Australia skipper Steve Waugh caught India off-guard with an unexpected declaration that set the tourists 199 runs off 23 overs to win.

India were soon under pressure when left-arm paceman Nathan Bracken, playing in his debut Test, struck twice in his opening over, snaring the wickets of openers Virender Sehwag (0) and Akash Chopra (4) with consecutive balls to raise the prospect of a sensational result.

Experienced pair Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman restored equilibrium and batted it out when the match was called a draw at 5:09pm

(0709 GMT) with seven overs left.

Vice-captain Dravid was not out 43 with Laxman on 24 and India at 73 for two.

"I was pleased with what happened today. That was our plan, this morning to take the last four (Indian) wickets, to bat with some purpose and then have 20 overs at the Indians tonight, we did exactly what we wanted to today," Waugh said.

Indian counterpart, Saurav Ganguly said: "Both sides have got positives out of this Test, but I believe Adelaide will be a new game, it's how we play there which is going to matter, you do carry some form into your next game but we'll be starting from scratch and what you do on those five days is going to matter."

Australia have largely played second-fiddle to India since dominating the opening day after being

sent into bat, but Waugh's boldness pepped up the home side ahead of the second Test starting at the Adelaide Oval on Friday.

Waugh called a surprise halt to Australia's second innings at 284 for three with Waugh unbeaten on 56 and Damien Martyn on 66, the pair putting on an unbroken 128-run partnership.

World record holder Matthew Hayden missed out on his 16th Test century when he was dismissed for 99.

Hayden, who had reached 1,000 Test runs during the innings for the third consecutive calendar year, swept spinner Harbhajan Singh to Sehwag at deep square leg to become the 18th Australian dismissed one run short of a century in Tests.

The big left-handed opener, who hit a record 380 against Zimbabwe in Perth last October, was making merry before his home-town fans, but a rush of blood cost him a merited hundred off 98 balls with 11 fours and two sixes.

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U-19 sans Aftab

SPORTS REPORTER

The departure of Aftab Ahmed from the Under-19 camp may have whipped up more speculation but coach Richard McInnes said that he was least concerned with the disappearance of the Chittagonian right-hander.

The Australian told reporters that he has already finalised a 19-member squad for the ICC Under-19 World Cup without considering Aftab, who did not appear in the camp after the Pakistan tour last month.

"The team was finalised last Thursday and Aftab was not considered because he was absent since the team returned from Pakistan on November 16," said McInnes, who took over responsibility last October.

Aftab, who was picked for the first Test against England but never played, surprised all his teammates by not appearing in the Under-19 camp. It was only recently learnt that Aftab quit the camp on personal grounds.

A spokesman for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said that the player took a break to catch up with his SSC exam preparation.

But another version of the story

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Rahman to tour venues

SPORTS REPORTER

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will visit different venues designated for the forthcoming ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup over the next few days to see the progress of preparation.

Rahman's visit was planned during a meeting with a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) delegation at his office yesterday. They also discussed various issues including air travel, security and visa connected to the Under-19 World Cup which is scheduled to be held in Bangladesh from February to March next year.

The State Minister assured the BCB officials that he will organise an inter-ministerial meeting soon to sort out everything.

BCB advisors Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen MP, Mahmud Jamal, Professor Abdur Rahman and tournament director ASM Roquibul Hassan were the officials who met Rahman.

19th BAGC from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Partex 19th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship begins today at the lush green Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) course.

The four-day premier golf tournament of the country has attracted an impressive field, which contains the top golfers from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan.

The format of the meet is a stroke gross open to all amateur players who are members of a golf club recognized by the Bangladesh government. The men's tournament is played over four rounds and the two-round ladies event starts on the penultimate day.

The main championship is played on the basis of gross score, a full handicap 72 holes strokeplay competition for the men. However for the first time the ladies will vie over 36 holes instead of 54.

The maximum allowable handicap shall be 18 for men and 27 for ladies.

The tournament shall be played under the current Rules of Golf as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and in accordance with the local rules approved by the Tournament Committee.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Bucknor blasted

AFP, Brisbane

West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor's controversial decision to give out Indian batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar leg before wicket in the first Test against Australia was greeted with universal condemnation Monday.

The Gabba crowd groaned when Tendulkar was given out by Bucknor for his 11th duck in 108 Tests during the morning session of Sunday's fourth day.

Tendulkar looked in disbelief but took the decision with good grace as he left the wicket, but Bucknor was roundly condemned in the Monday press.

The Australian's Mike Coward wrote: "Thankfully, Steve Bucknor is Jamaican. If he was an Australian citizen, one hell of a diplomatic row would be under way following his astonishing leg before verdict against Sachin Tendulkar."

Coward said the Tendulkar decision "was an aberration and an

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh A cricket team captain Mushfiqur Rahman (R) and his deputy Hannan Sarker talk while stretching during their practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A team all set



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team had their final practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday before their departure for Pakistan to play in the final round of the Inter Department Cricket Championship (Patron's Trophy and Patron's Cup).

The team led by Test all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman, will leave for Karachi on the evening of December 11.

Bangladesh will take on Defence Housing Authority (DHA) in their opening Group A encounter from December 14 at the Karachi National Stadium.

The other teams in the group are Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Customs, Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), Khan Research Labs (KRL) and Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL).

Group B consists of Agriculture Development Bank of Pakistan, Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Sui Gas

Corporation of Pakistan, Allied Bank, National Bank of Pakistan and Habib Bank Limited.

The competition will have a one-day match followed by a four-day First class fixture.

The winners of the First Class competition will be awarded the Patron's Trophy while the one-day champions will get the Patron's Cup.

Top teams from each group will play in the final starting from January 25.

Seven players of the A side-- Mushfiqur Rahman (captain), Hannan Sarker, Moniruzzaman, Rajin Saleh, Manjarul Islam, Jamaluddin and Anwar Hossain

Munir will return home in the first week of the New Year after playing the opening three matches to join the national team's camp for the tour of Zimbabwe. The camp is scheduled to start from January 4.

A team captain Mushfiqur Rahman expressed his optimism about the tour saying that his side would play good cricket in Pakistan.

"We had satisfactory preparation. Especially, Dav Whatmore's presence was very important. The combination of the team is also ideal. So, hopefully it will be a good experience for us," said Mushfiqur after practice yesterday.

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FIXTURE

Date	Match	Venue
Dec 14	Bangladesh ADHA	National Stadium, Karachi
Dec 21	Bangladesh APTCL	National Stadium, Karachi
Dec 28	Bangladesh A Wapda	UBL Ground No. 1, Karachi
Jan 4	Bangladesh APIA	Quaid-e-Azam Park, Karachi
Jan 11	Bangladesh A Customs	National Stadium, Karachi
Jan 18	Bangladesh AKRL	UBL Ground No. 1, Karachi
Jan 25	Final	Not yet decided

In Murali's backyard



AFP, Kandy

Sri Lanka go into the second Test against England here from Wednesday hoping Muttiah Muralitharan will deliver the knockout punch on his home ground.

The star off-spinner claimed 11 wickets in the opening Test of the three-match series at Galle last week in which England managed to hold out for a draw with just one wicket in hand.

Muralitharan will pose a bigger threat on his home turf at the Asgiriya Stadium provided the Sri Lankan batsmen don't let him down.

He pinpointed Sri Lanka's 331 in the first innings at Galle as the main reason why England were allowed to breathe free.

"We should have scored more than 400 runs in the first innings," said Muralitharan. "Had we done that, we would have won comfortably by the fifth day."

England staved off defeat as Sri Lanka failed to claim the last three wickets during the final session even as play was stopped due to bad light with just 18 minutes left.

The Sri Lankans were, however, confident they can nail England at Kandy after outplaying the tourists in the first Test.

"We were on top throughout that game and they (England) were never in with a chance of winning," said new coach John Dyson.

"We almost bowled England out twice after walloping them in the Dambulla one-dayer. They have not been playing well and we should beat them."

Sri Lanka thrashed England by 10 wickets in the only one-dayer possible in a preceding one-day series as the tourists were shot out for their second lowest total of 88.

The remaining two matches were washed out by heavy rain.

England coach Duncan Fletcher, however, felt his team could do better in the last two Tests.

"We're happy at the way (Ashley) Giles bowled in the first Test. It shows that our spinners too are capable of bowling well in helpful conditions," said Fletcher.

"Our batsmen too are capable of doing a better job and we will fight hard in the remaining matches," Fletchersaid.

Left-arm spinner Giles took eight wickets in the match, but a throat infection since then has prevented him from training with

the side.

"He is the one concern we have got at the moment," Fletchersaid.

Meanwhile, former captain Nasser Hussain (viral infection) and paceman James Anderson (ankle injury), who missed the first Test, are likely to play in Kandy.

Hussain was England's captain when they beat Sri Lanka in both their previous Test series 2-1 in Sri Lanka in 2001 and 2-0 in England a year later.

TEAMS

SRI LANKA (from): Hashan Tillakaratne (captain), Marvan Ata-pattu, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samarawera, Michael Vandort, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Dinusha Fernando, Dilhara Fernando, Tillakaratne Dilshan.

ENGLAND (from): Michael Vaughan (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Andrew Flintoff, Rikki Clarke, Gareth Batty, Paul Collingwood, Robert Croft, Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, James Anderson, Richard Johnson, James Kirtley, Chris Read, Geraint Jones.



PHOTO: STAR

Grand Master Niaz Murshed (L) and his first round opponent Asaduzzaman are engrossed in deep thinking during their First Division Chess League fixture at the NSC chess room yesterday.