



### Did U Know?

The Olympic flame is lit at the ancient site of Olympia by natural rays of the Sun reflected off a curved mirror. Women dressed in robes, resembling those worn in ancient times, light the flame.




### What to WATCH

### ESPN


Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
English Premier Football League Highlights  
Repeat at 9:30 pm

### STAR Sports


English Premier Football League  
Newcastle United vs Blackburn Rovers  
Repeat at 12:30 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm



### TALK TURKEY



**Rahul Dravid**  
(Indian star batsman)  
"Ponting and Hayden showed they are probably the top two batsmen in the world at the moment."



### Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 20

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

**Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 2, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards**

- Who clinched the Intercontinental Cup?  
Boca Juniors AC Milah Inter Milan
- Who won the 2003 Asian footballer-of-the-year award?  
Mahdavia Inamoto Cha Kyung-bok
- Who is the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman?  
Shaharyar Khan Tauqir Za Intikhab Alam
- Who won the FIFA player-of-the-year award?  
Zidane Ronaldo Henry
- How many runs did Shahriar score against Defence Housing

Name .....
Class. .... Roll No. ....
School Address .....
Phone: (If any) .....

## V-Day volleyball final tomorrow

**BSS, Dhaka**

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy moved into the final of the Victory Day Volleyball Championship after beating their respective rivals at the Volleyball ground yesterday.

Bangladesh Army defeated favourites Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in the first semifinal 25-14, 25-21 and 25-20.

Bangladesh Navy, who earned a stunning victory against fancied BDR in their last group match on Sunday, moved into the final when they beat Bangladesh Air Force 25-23, 25-21 and 25-17 in the other semifinal.

The final will be held tomorrow after the third place deciding encounter between the BDR and Air Force.



PHOTO: STAR

Muktijoddha Sangsad striker Rokonuzzaman Kanchan (R) tries to dodge past a Dhanmondi defender during their Western Union Premier Division Football League encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## D'mondi spoil Reds' day

**SPORTS REPORTER**

**WESTERN UNION** The draw-syn-drome, which has hit title contenders like a naugh-ty virus, struck Muktijoddha Sangsad Kira Chakra yesterday when tiny Dhanmondi Club came from two goals down to hold them 2-2 in a Western Union Premier Division Football League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Having watched Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani and Brothers Union all drop precious points in their last round of matches through drawn games, the Reds found themselves in the same boat yesterday but must be ruing conceding the goals to a team that had lost all their previous three outings.

The result left the Federation Cup and National League champions in sixth position in the ten-team league table with five points from four matches. Dhanmondi mean-

while, celebrated their first point of the season.

In an entertaining encounter, midfielder Bidyut gave Muktijoddha a perfect start when he headed home a Rokonuzzaman Kanchan cross from the left (1-0). Just before half time, Kenyan defender Harry appeared to have sealed Dhanmondi's fate when he made it 2-0 by shooting home from a goal mouth melee.

But Dhanmondi had other ideas. In time added on, Aminul headed past his namesake under the Muktijoddha bar Aminul Haque from a Mishu chip (1-2).

Dhanmondi maintained the pressure over their far superior counterparts after the breather who rather surprisingly looked content in defending the slender lead.

The Reds heaved a sigh of relief when Dhanmondi's Ghanaian recruit Kennedy was hauled down inside the D box by Papel in the 57th minute but referee Tayeb Hasan ignored the appeals for a penalty.

But the minnows' enterprise eventually paid off when Kennedy found the net with a brilliant flip-back header from a Maruf freekick in the 68th minute (2-2).

The league will resume at the same venue tomorrow with today's two scheduled matches deferred by 24 hours because of the National Mourning Day. Victoria Sporting Club will face Dhaka Wanderers Club in the first match at 3 pm followed by the second match at 5 pm between Sheikh Russell KC and Arambagh KS.

**Yellow cards:** Prodeep Barua and wasim (Dhanmondi).

**TEAMS**  
**Muktijoddha Sangsad:** Aminul, Hasan Al-Mamun, Papel, Harry, Riad, Lajuk, Tushar (Kabir/Tipu), Ghanshah, Bidyut, Moni and Kanchan.  
**Dhanmondi Club:** Ratan, Prodeep, Arman, Mishu, Wasim, Maruf, Aminul, Donald, Kennedy, Bipul and Palash.  
**Referee:** Tayeb Hasan.

## Aussies draw level

**AFP, Melbourne**

Australia defeated India by nine wickets to level the series 1-1 and set up an emotionally-charged farewell for skipper Steve Waugh in this week's final Test.

Chasing 95 runs to win at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australia scored 97 for one for the loss of Justin Langer's wicket for two, to leave the series all square heading into the decisive fourth Test starting in Sydney on Friday.

First-innings heroes, double-century Ricky Ponting and century-maker Matthew Hayden steered Australia home before a healthy final day crowd of 29,262, who took advantage of free ground entry.

Man-of-the-match Ponting hit the winning runs, a boundary off Anil Kumble, to finish unbeaten on 31 with Hayden crashing nine fours in his 53 not out.

"The last six Tests against India have all been great contests, you couldn't have better cricket, it's an uncomfortable pressure when you're one-nil down but it's something you occasionally need to lift yourself and we lifted in this game," Waugh said.

Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly said his team had failed to capitalise on a great position after opener Virender Sehwag cracked 195 to have the tourists at 278 for one an hour after tea on the first day.

It was a crucial victory for Waugh's men, who trailed 1-0 in a home Test series for the first time since losing to South Africa in the second Sydney Test by five runs in January 1994.

Now the Australian team will be aiming to give their captain a fitting send-off in his home city of Sydney.

India put the acid on Australia with a sensational four-wicket win in the second Adelaide Test after fighting back from a mammoth first innings total of 556.

Australia have not lost a home series since going down 2-1 to the West Indies in 1992-93.

Langer was the only Australian wicket to fall in the meagre run chase, although television replays suggested the little left-hander may have been unlucky.

New Zealand umpire Brent Bowden took some time before raising his finger to give him out leg before wicket to Ajit Agarkar with the Australian total on nine.

India will be without left-arm strike bowler Zaheer Khan for the final Test with hamstring trouble, which restricted his bowling in the Melbourne Test and kept him off the ground on the final day.

India, who had won three of their previous four Tests against Australia, threw away their chance in this Test when they slumped from 278 for one in the first innings on Friday, only to be all out for 366 losing their last nine wickets for 88 runs.

Australia batted for almost 10 and a half hours for 558 and a crushing innings lead of 192 with Ponting compiling a Test-best 257 and Hayden 136 to set up victory.

**SCOREBOARD**

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the third cricket Test between Australia and India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday:

**INDIA:** First innings 366 (Sehwag 195, Dravid 49, Chopra 48; MacGill 3-70)  
**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 558 (Ponting 257, Hayden 136; Kumble 6-176)

**INDIA:** Second innings 286 (Dravid 92, Ganguly 73; Williams 4-53)  
**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings Langer lbw b Agarkar 2  
Hayden not out 53  
Ponting not out 31

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PHOTO: AFP

**LET'S CELEBRATE:** Australia's Matthew Hayden (L) and Ricky Ponting swap the high-five after defeating India in the third Test at Melbourne yesterday.

## Dhaka crash & slump

**ISPAHANI Mirzapore Tea**  
5th National Cricket League

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Dhaka slumped to a massive 105-run defeat against Sylhet in the one-day competition of the Ispahani Tea Fifth National Cricket League yesterday.

The result at the Sylhet Stadium meant that the holders dropped to second spot in the table while their victors ended the third round sharing the lead with Rajshahi and Chittagong each on four points.

Khaled Mashud's Rajshahi coasted to a comfortable 95-run victory over hosts Barisal but Chittagong had to work hard before managing a narrow win against Khulna.

**SYLHET VS DHAKA**  
Mohammad Rafique may have won the 'battle of the spinners' with Sylhet's leggie Nabil Samad but even five wickets was not enough to prevent the home team's march to victory as Dhaka collapsed to 117 while chasing 223.

Nabil captured four for 13 in 4.4 overs to design Dhaka's downfall.

One down Sajjad Hossain top-scored with an 83-ball 44 that included three boundaries while Jahangir Alam added 25 off 49 balls.

Earlier Imtiaz Hossain Tanna's half-century propelled Sylhet to 222-9 after being put in to bat.

The opener was later adjudged man-of-the-match after scoring an exciting 53 off 65 deliveries with seven sweetly-timed fours. Nasirul Alam Nahid added 43 and Bangladesh all-rounder Alok Kapali contributed 27 off 36 balls with one over-boundary.

Left-arm spinner Rafique finished with five for 16.

**RAJSHAH VS BARISAL**  
Rajshahi recovered from a shaky start to pile up 261 for seven. The total, however, was beyond Barisal's reach as they made 166-7 in their allotted overs at the Barisal Stadium.

Former national paceman and Barisal skipper Anisur Rahman rattled the visitors claiming three of the four wickets to fall by the time Rajshahi had put 14 runs on the board. He eventually collected 5-42.

But a 139-run partnership between Nuruzzaman Nayan and Anisur Rahman salvaged the situation.

Nuruzzaman made 67 off 95 balls with five boundaries while his fellow right-handed partner Anis top-scored with 81 off 113 balls with seven fours and a six.

It was lower-order batsman Hasanuzzaman Rozel who really punished the Barisal bowlers with a rapid-fire for fifty. The man-of-the-match during a 32-blitzkrieg smashed five fours and a six.

In Barisal's innings Nahidul Haq Shaon made an unbeaten 69 off 131 balls.

**CHITTAGONG VS KHULNA**  
Chittagong returned to winning ways in the abridged version of the first-class competition.

In a curtailed affair at the Comilla Stadium, Akram Khan's men, which last week lost to hosts Dhaka, defended a modest total of 183-8 in 47 overs after being invited to bat.

Due to foggy conditions the match referee deducted three overs.

The former national captain Akram was the top-scorer with 41 off 68 balls with two hits to the fence.

Khulna spinner Abdur Razzak Raj claimed three for 24 while

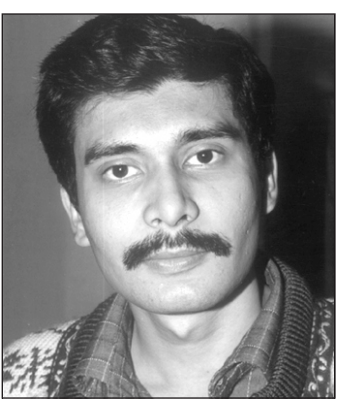
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## Reefat's 2nd GM norm

**SPORTS REPORTER**

International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar finished the Leonine Grand Masters' Chess Tournament in grand style as he earned his much-needed GM norm beside clinching the title without losing a match.

The IM, who had already con-



**REEFAT-BIN-SATTAR**

firmed the title on Monday with a game in hand, drew his ninth and final round board against fellow IM Abdullah Al Rakib at the federation hall room yesterday, but that was

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## WAPDA head for big total

**SPORTS REPORTER**

It was a long hard second day for Bangladesh A at the UBL ground in Karachi yesterday as Pakistan WAPDA piled up a huge 383 for four in the first innings of their four-day Patron's Trophy match.

The home side, who resumed the day on 58 for two, have already taken a 217-run lead after they bundled out the second string Bangladesh team for 166 on the first day.

Asif Hossain and Adil Nisher led the run feast with both scoring centuries.

Asif hammered 139 runs while Adil was unconquered on 143 runs when the balls were drawn for the day. Sdad Khan was accompanying the not out batsman with 48.

For the tourists, right-arm pacer Alamgir Kabir was one of the two successful bowlers on the day while the other being spinner Jamal Uddin.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**BANGLADESH A:** First innings 166 all out in 69.1 overs (Hannan Sarker 64, Shahriar Hossain 15, Moniruzzaman 0, Mohammad Ashraf 1, Ehsanul Haq 0, Mohammad Selim 4, Jamal Uddin 10, Mosaddeq Hossain 26, Manjarul Islam Rana 18 not out, Anwar Hossain 6, Alamgir Kabir 5; Nadif 4-51, Sarfaraz 4-31)  
**PAKISTAN WAPDA:** First innings 383 for two in 108 overs, stumps (Aziz 5, Asif 139, Jaman 27, Aqil 5, Adil 143 batting, Sdad 48 batting; Alamgir 2-68, Jamal 1-101, Manjarul 1-63)

**BFF want Festival in Sylhet**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has made a primary decision to hold the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-14 Football Festival in Sylhet in April 2004 following a meeting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

BFF president SA Sultan MP chaired the meeting. The BFF will now propose Sylhet District Sports Association to play host to the five-nation meet that is scheduled for a April 4 start.

Apart from Bangladesh, other teams in festival are Sri Lanka, Iran, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

"We will sit with the Sylhet DSA officials soon. We will only inform the AFC of our choice of venue if we get a positive response from Sylhet," said BFF General Secretary Anwarul Haque Helal yesterday.

Helal also revealed that the national team management committee was told to sit with coach Shahidur Rahman Chowdhury Shantoo on January 4 and finalise plans to prepare the Bangladesh Under-23 team for the forthcoming South Asian Federation (SAF) games and the under-14 team for the

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**Cricket**

**AFP, Wellington**

Pakistan humiliated New Zealand by taking advantage of a break in the rain to polish off the second Test with ease Tuesday, cracking the final 28 runs inside four overs on the fifth and final day at the Basin Reserve.

After two rain delays and the prospect of more disruptions, Yousuf Youhana and Inzamamul Haq were in a hurry to finish as they caned the New Zealand attack to clinch a seven-wicket win and claim the two-Test series 1-0.

Pakistan's two key batsmen deservedly led the way to the target of 274 with Youhana typifying their dominance as he nonchalantly smacked pace bowler Ian Butler to the boundary for four to bring up the winning runs and finish unbeaten on 88 with captain Inzamam on 72.

The brief spell of fine weather which allowed the victory meant Inzamam could breathe easier after an extraordinary decision at the end of the fourth day when, with only a handful of runs needed, he deciding against claiming the option of an extra 30 minutes play.

However, his plan to put New Zealand to the sword on Tuesday morning appeared shaky in the morning rain and Inzamam joked he was "not going to breakfast because of the nerves".

Play was initially delayed for half an hour and just as the players took the field a fresh shower sent them back to the pavilion for another 15 minutes.

Fearful of further rain, Youhana and Inzamam took just 22 balls to get the necessary 28 runs and inflict New Zealand's first series loss at home in four years.

The impact of rain aside, the result was never in doubt after the Black Caps began their second innings with a healthy 170-run advantage only to see the initiative ripped away in a devastating spell of swing bowling by Shoaib Akhtar on Monday.

They lost their last seven wickets for just eight runs and Akhtar finished with figures of six for 30 and a match performance of 11 for 78.

"It was one of my great spells, I'm really thankful to my team who backed me up all the way," said Akhtar who was deservedly awarded the man-of-the-match award.

A beaming Inzamam said Akhtar was "the difference between both teams".

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming was left to ponder what might have been had his side been able to play the flurry of in-swinging yorkers fired down at around 150 kilometres an hour by Akhtar.

"It was a very bad session which cost us the Test match," lamented Fleming.

"We got tight, we saw how well he was bowling and didn't respond accordingly."

The shock of the batting destruction appeared to affect New Zealand in the field as wayward bowling and fielding lapses assisted the P a k i s t a n

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PHOTO: AFP

**I BETTER PUT IT HERE!** Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar (C) shares a light moment with Moin Khan while teammate Asim Kamal (R) looks on during the presentation ceremony after their side beat New Zealand in the second Test at Wellington yesterday.

## Wait for him to come back

**Cricket**

**AFP, New Delhi**

Sachin Tendulkar's dramatic slump in the year gone by has acquired such serious proportions that many have even begun to joke about it.

At the awards ceremony after the recent Test series between Sri Lanka and England, former West Indian legend Michael Holding complimented Muttiah Muralitharan for scoring more Test runs than Tendulkar in 2003.

A startled Muralitharan, who at that stage had 113 runs from nine innings this year as compared to Tendulkar's 109 from seven, hoped he could do the same again in 2004.

The Sri Lankan off-spinner unwittingly touched a raw nerve among millions of cricket lovers in India and around the world who are puzzled and disconsolate at Tendulkar's poor run.

The most prolific batsman in modern cricket has failed to reach double figures in eight of his last 13 Test innings and ended the year with only 153 runs in five Tests at an average of 17.

It's not that the whole year had gone horribly wrong for the little champion. But amidst the Test failures, the record 673 runs he compiled at the World Cup in South Africa in February-March was forgotten.

The 30-year-old clearly makes as much news not scoring runs as he did when he kept piling them on.

It's not just scores of 0, one, 37, 0 and 44 in the current series against world champions Australia that has critics worried. The manner of his dismissals has alarmed them more.

A horrific umpiring error apart, he was twice out misjudging the line of the ball and twice went edging expansive drives outside the off-stump.

Doubts may have arisen among Tendulkar's legion of fans, but teammates and former internationals are certain the master's fortunes will turn in the new year.

Vice-captain Rahul Dravid, now regarded more dependable than Tendulkar after scoring 803 runs in the year, defended the beleaguered superstar.

"You go through phases like this where sometimes whatever you try, things don't seem to work out for you," Dravid said.

"The positive from our point of view is he's batting really well and he's in a good frame of mind. He seems his usual self and he's quite relaxed. We still believe he's the best."

Former captain Kapil Dev echoed Dravid's feelings that Tendulkar will turn the corner soon.

"Leave the boy alone, he will come good" said the former world bowling record-holder.

"It happens to every batsman,

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