



## Did U Know?

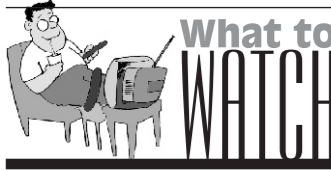
What were the first goggles made of? Divers in the 1300's made goggles from polished, clear tortoise shell. The first rubber goggles, which had heavy glass lenses, were invented in the 1930's.



## TALK TURKEY



**Kapil Dev**  
(Former Indian cricket captain)  
"Leave the boy alone, he will come good. It happens to every batsman, however big he may be. You can't doubt Tendulkar's class, he's just going through a bad patch."



## What to WATCH

- ESPN**
- South Africa vs West Indies
  - Second Test, Day Five
  - Highlights at 10:30 am
  - Australia vs India
  - Third Test, Day Five
  - Repeat at 1:00 pm
  - Sportscentre Hindi**
  - Sport News
  - Live at 8:30 pm
  - STAR Sports**
  - English Premier Football League
  - Highlights at 9:30 am
  - Sportline Tonight**
  - Sport News
  - Live at 8:00 pm
  - Australia vs India
  - Third Test, Day Five
  - Highlights at 11:00 pm

## WAPDA in charge against BD A



SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Hanna Sarker hit his second fifty of the match but it was just about the only bright spot for Bangladesh A who were left staring at defeat at close on day three of the four-day Patron's Trophy match against Pakistan WAPDA at the UBL ground in Karachi yesterday.

The second string Bangladesh's side ended the day on 183 for six in their second innings and still need another 153 runs to make Wapda bat again.

The home side had declared their first innings yesterday on 520 runs for eight, a lead of 336. The A team could manage only 166 in their first essay.

Aqeel Ahmed initiated the Bangladesh's A's collapse in the

second innings as he claimed three wickets conceding 63 runs in 23 overs.

In-form Shahriar Hossain failed for the second time in the match when he returned to the dressing room with only 2 runs on the scoreboard. But Sarker paired Moniruzzaman to repair the early damage putting on 62 runs for the second wicket.

Test opener Sarker, who will return home after the match to join the national team's camp for the tour of Zimbabwe, made 57 off 110 deliveries with seven hits across the rope. Moniruzzaman was looking good as he reached 26 off 76 balls but was then run out.

Mohammad Ashraf and Ehsanul Haq didn't last long leaving the lower order with a mountain to climb just to save the game.

Earlier Adil Nishar blasted 157 and Shoaib Khan scored 88 as

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

## Russell's chance to prove their worth

SPORTS REPORTER



New boys Russell Kirra Chakra will fancy their chances to enter an unfamiliar yet pleasant territory when the Western Union Premier Division Football League resumes today after a day's break due to the national mourning day.

The enterprising Russell boys, who have already made a statement in their maiden flight in the elite 10-team league with two wins

and a draw against holders Mohammedan, go into their fourth match against Arambagh Krira Sangha at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

A victory will take them at the top alone, leapfrogging Abahani Krira Chakra, who have eight points from four games.

However, Arambagh can also claim the top spot if they turn the table on Sheikh Russell in the second match of the day.

But the recent performances of

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

## PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Abahani	4	2	2	-	11	4	8
Sheikh Russell KC	3	2	1	-	4	0	7
Arambagh KS	3	2	-	1	3	5	6
Mohammedan SC	4	1	3	-	7	2	6
Brothers Union	4	1	3	-	9	4	6
Muktijoddha	4	1	2	1	5	3	5
Badda Jagaran	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
Victoria	3	1	-	2	1	7	3
Dhaka Wanderers	3	-	1	2	2	9	1
Dhanmondi	4	-	1	3	3	8	1

**Hattrick:** Saiful Islam Khokon (Abahani) against Dhaka Wanderers.  
**Leading scorers:** 4 goals - Khokon (Abahani), Maxim (Abahani), 3 goals - Anwar (Brothers Union), 2 goals - Sheikh Russell (Dhaka Wanderers), Enigo (MSC), Farhad (MSC), Rashid (Sheikh Russell), Kennedy (Dhanmondi) and

## BCB names U-17 team

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday named a 14-member team for the forthcoming Under-17 Asia Cup to be held from the second week of January in Indian city of Hyderabad.

The selected players have been asked to report to coach Nazmul Abedin Fahim or co-ordinator Shahidul Islam at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 3pm tomorrow.

The team will fly to Hyderabad on January 16.

The first phase of the tournament will start on January 13 with 16 associate member countries of the ICC playing in four groups. The group champions will join four Asian Test playing nations Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the second round that will start from January 19 in two groups.

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have been drafted in one group with two other qualifiers.

## SQUAD

Golam Rahman Chowdhury (captain), Mehrab Hossain (vice-captain), Shamsur Rahman, Shakib Al-Hasan, Mashall Ayub, Mushfiqur Rahim, Suhrawardy Shuvo, Ishraq Soneet, Nazmul Hossain, Rezaul Islam Rajan, Dollar Mahmud, Rabiul Karim, Mazhar Uddin and Mohammad Sajid.

Reserves: Saifi Moazzem, Sumon Shah, Rabiul Islam and Sirajul Khadem.

## Ricky above them all

REUTERS, Sydney

Ricky Ponting's back-to-back double centuries against India saw him finish 2003 as the leading run scorer in Test cricket.

Ponting's 242 in Adelaide and his career-high 257 in Melbourne helped him finish the year with 1503 runs at the Don Bradman-like average of 100.20.

The Australian vice-captain's total was the second highest for a single year in Test cricket, behind Viv Richards' 1710 in 1976.

West Indies captain Brian Lara finished second in 2003 with 1344 while Australia's Matthew Hayden was third with 1312 after breaking Lara's world record of 375 with his 380 against Zimbabwe.

South African paceman Makhaya Ntini finished the year as the leading Test wicket-taker with 59, just ahead of Australian leg-spinner Stuart McGill (57) and Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan (48).

Pakistan's Yousuf Youhana edged Ponting by just 14 runs to finish the year as the leading run-scorer in one-day internationals with 1168 while Muralitharan and Australian fast bowler Brett Lee topped the bowling with 46 wickets apiece.

Australia finished the year as the leading country in both Tests and one-dayers.

# Missing George

There are certain moments in history, which celebrate the emergence of a messiah. Take the case of Austrian George Kottan who was a virtual unknown before he took over as Bangladesh's football coach. But the 53-year-old overcame numerous obstacles before mastering his apparent no-hopers to lay claim to the biggest prize in our part of the world - the South Asian Federation Football (SAFF) Championship that was played in Dhaka in January. For eleven days Kottan changed the face of Bangladesh football by managing to instill self-belief in his inexperienced charges they could best their opponents. He won over the hearts of his players, those around him and a grateful nation. Circumstances beyond our understanding has seen Kottan living thousand of miles away when he should have been with the national booters planning their next big triumph. But he's never far from our minds. So when THE DAILY STAR SPORT unanimously decided to jointly award Kottan and his SAFF heroes with the Achievers of the Year title, we thought it can never be complete without a few words from the man who made it all happen.

Kottan, who is now in Germany working for a FIFA project was his usual warm self when approached for an exclusive interview via email recently. Following are its excerpts:

**Daily Star Sport (DSS):** Congratulations Mr. Kottan we have selected you and your SAFF Championship-winning team as the achievers of the year 2003. How do you feel about it?

**George Kottan (GK):** Thank you for the congratulations of The Daily Star Sport. Your selection is a big honour for me and for my team. I was very proud of the SAFF victory then and after 11 months I am proud again because you remember me.

**DSS:** It has been eleven months since you bid an emotional farewell to Bangladesh. Are you missing Bangladesh?

**GK:** Yes, I do miss Bangladesh, especially all my players and my friends.

**DSS:** What are you doing now?

**GK:** I'm working now in Germany for a FIFA Mobile Goal project. It is a very useful and interesting exercise. It would be very useful for Bangladesh, too.

**DSS:** In the meantime did you follow Bangladesh football during this period?

**GK:** Yes, I did because I was in touch with a few Bangladeshi journalists.

**DSS:** Bangladesh has only played in the 2004 World Cup qualifying matches after your departure. The result was a 2-0 defeat both at home and away. Do you think this result was expected?

**GK:** If the national team had played like they did during the SAFF Championship then these bad results against Tajikistan would not have taken place.

**DSS:** Had you been with the Bangladesh where would have our football stood by the end of the year?

**GK:** My team and I were on good terms with each other. I'm sure that this nice relation induced continuation of the hard work.

**DSS:** How did you enjoy your stay in Bangladesh for two years as the national coach?

**GK:** The two-and-a-half years were a nice time for me. It was a

great challenge to discover your country and your talents. I appreciated especially the preparation period for the SAFF meet when I could finally get the understanding of the football officials in interest of the national team.

**DSS:** Do you think the support you got from the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) in terms of facilities and planning was enough to build a good national team?

**GK:** A short time before and during the SAFF the support from BFF was not bad. I wouldn't say it was professional, but everyone has tried to do the best, like in a big, diligent family.

**DSS:** Is money the biggest problem for the advancement of our football? Or is it something else?

**GK:** Money is very important. Organization could be important, too. It is not the question of money but how to organise national championship matches, e.g. matches mustn't take place during the rainy season! It is not the question of big money to build useful football grounds and keep them in good repair. It is very easy: think with head of the football players, too. Give more opportunity for the ex-national football players to work. They have the real football feeling and knowledge. E.g. where is Mr Bada! Talent and mentality of him aren't necessary?

**DSS:** Tell us about the SAFF Championship success story that you kept inside yourself until now.

**GK:** I find the success story wonderful. Importance of the SAFF was great for Bangladesh people. Fans made such a creepy fantastic atmosphere like a little World Cup. Celebration of our victory was fascinating. I'm grateful to them for learning their huge feeling. And I'm proud that we could give them such a great joy. The top surprise for me: Some Bangladeshi people who are living in Austria congratulated me on my arrival at Vienna Airport.

**DSS:** If you ever get an invitation to come again will you accept that?



GEORGE KOTTAN

**GK:** Certainly I would, but a few things should change.

**DSS:** What is your advice to the boys who are desperately missing you?

**GK:** I also miss everyone who was assisting in my work and I thank all of them with love. It was one of the most important performances in World Football Life of the year 2003 that Bangladesh won the SAFF Championship as I have just seen the year-end summarizing of Eurosport TV channel.

Let me allow to wish hereby all the best to my Bangladeshi friends: the former and present BFF officials, the president and members of Sonali Ottit Club, especially Badal and Bablu Bhai, my former national team coaching staff with Noman Bhai, Kannon Bhai, Atiq

Bhai and the team doctors, all the sports journalists, because they understood from the beginning what I wanted. To the sport school (BKSP), because I could help a lot on youth football development of Bangladesh with pleasure.

To Mr. Kiddel, the director of International School Dhaka, who has done a lot for our team's preparation for the SAFF Championship, Mrs Fiona and the teachers. And last but not least I will send my warmest greetings to everyone in the team including Mohsin.

I would like to remind all the boys: only hard and regular practice results in success! I wish the best to the Bangladeshi people! Happy New Year, God bless you!

## All's well that ends well



AFP, Karachi

Batting lynchpin Inzamamul Haq leads Pakistan's new cricket corps into 2004 with an emphatic series win over New Zealand and a younger team devoid of long-time stalwarts Wasim Akram, Saeed Anwar and Waqar Younis who all bowed out during the year.

Pakistan's seven-wicket win at Wellington on Tuesday capped a year of turmoil, which saw the team suffer the humiliation of a first-round exit from the World Cup in southern Africa.

In the ensuing fallout, eight players were dumped including captain Waqar who was replaced by Rashid Latif. Coach Richard Pybus was also ousted, his position filled by Javed Miandad.

Wasim, the greatest left-arm pacer the sport has seen, quit in May after taking 414 Test wickets and a world record of 502 one-day scalps. His long-time pace partner Waqar is still dropped but hopeful he will be able to regain his place.

Opener Saeed Anwar, with the highest one-day score, of 194, to his credit, bade adieu in August after he turned to religion and started preaching.

On Wednesday, the sport's governing body in Pakistan praised the decision to revamp the team.

"The win at Wellington has capped our 2003 on a high note and now I can say with confidence that the future is bright because our wins over Bangladesh, South Africa and New Zealand were banked on youngsters," Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Rameez Raja told AFP.

"Now Pakistan is among the top three teams in both forms of the game and the consistency in the performances is the most heart-warming factor," said Raja, who became chief executive in July.

A revamped Pakistan side won a four-nation, one-day tournament

in Sharjah in April. They followed this with a runners-up placing in a tri-series in Sri Lanka and a close one-day series in England won by the home side 2-1.

Pakistan whitewashed Bangladesh in three Tests and five one-day games in August-September. Against South Africa they lost 2-3 in the one-day series but won the two-Test series 1-0, taking their first home win over a major nation in six years.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

"In the post World Cup era we needed replacements of stalwarts like Wasim, Waqar and Anwar, which was difficult but cricket is above individuals and youngsters proved that," said Raja, himself a former captain.

By hosting South Africa and then New Zealand, Pakistan proved to the world the country is safe for cricket, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

**LIKE GRANDMOTHER, LIKE GRANDDAUGHTER:** Scholastica's Saima Hamid makes a move while her grandmother IWM Rani Hamid looks on during the former's fourth round engagement in the qualifying round of the national women's chess championship yesterday.

## Umar, Kamal to stay back in NZ

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan batsmen Taufeeq Umar and Asim Kamal will remain with the 17-man squad in New Zealand for the one-day series against the Black Caps to gain experience, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Wednesday.

"The board has decided after consultations with the team management and selectors that all 17 players presently in New Zealand will remain there for the one-day series," said PCB chief executive Rameez Raja.

"The team management has informed us that Taufeeq and Kamal are not in the starting lineup for the five one-day games and have been retained for experience sake," he said.

The first game of the five-match one-day series is on Saturday in Auckland.

## SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (captain), Imran Farhat, Yasir Hameed, Yousuf Youhana, Younis Khan, Saleem Elahi, Shoaib Malik, Abdul Razaq, Azhar Mahmood, Moin Khan, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Umer Gul, Danish Kaneria, Taufeeq Umar, Asim Kamal.

## Women's chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Msuda Begum, Afroza Khanom Babli and Samiha Sharmin Simmi jointly finished top at the end of the fifth round games of the 25th National Women's Chess competition qualifying round at the federation hall-room yesterday.

The leaders collected four points each.

Meanwhile, in the 24th National Sub-junior chess competition, Mahfuzur Rahman Shaheen, Minhazuddin Sagor and Imran Ali jointly led the table securing full five points at the end of the fifth round.

## 'Get Hayden & Ponting'



AFP, Sydney

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly has targeted prolific scorers Ricky Ponting and Matthew Hayden as the key wickets for a series-winning victory in the fourth Test against Australia starting here on Friday.



RICKY PONTING



MATTHEW HAYDEN

and Ponting. They are scoring a lot of runs at present and if we can (get them out cheaply) there will be a lot of pressure on the guys coming in the middle."

Of Australia's other batsmen, opener Justin Langer, after making 121 in the first innings of the series in Brisbane, has tapered off dramatically, adding only another 84 runs in five innings for an average of 34.17.

Ponting and Hayden have been Australia's undoubted stars in the series, with their performances in Melbourne separating the two teams in the third Test as Australia rallied to level the series 1-1 after winning by nine wickets.

Ponting is averaging 126.80 and Hayden 70.80, putting them well ahead of the other Australian batsmen going into the final Sydney Cricket Ground Test of what has been an engrossing series between two of the best batting teams in world cricket.

Ganguly indicated that the home team's batting tapered off behind the opener Hayden and the No.3 Ponting.

"I have made a point of not saying anything controversial on this tour," said Ganguly when pressed about Australia's batting after the third Test.

"But that's the key area, Hayden

No.4 Damien Martyn has made a run of solid scores to average 51.75 but seldom goes beyond the 30s and 40s before getting out.

Martyn's last Test century was almost two years ago and he has gone 22 innings without raising a hundred.

Steve Waugh, in the midst of his farewell series, is averaging 36.75 against the Indians and has yet to play a big innings while Simon Katich has yet to establish himself at No.6.

Katich has averaged 37.75, but skipper Waugh has spent more time talking about the left-arm's bowling potential than his batting.

And the one Australian batsman really struggling for runs is No.7 and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist.

Gilchrist has not passed 43 in the series and is averaging 21.50 well below his career average of 57.44.

The value of Hayden and Ponting can be seen in the fact the only innings in which they both failed substantially was the second innings in the second Adelaide Test when Ponting made a duck and Hayden 17 as Australia was bowled out for 196 and lost the Test by four wickets.

## Shakil unbeaten champion

SPORTS REPORTER

Fide Master Abu Sufian Shakil, who had already confirmed the title on Tuesday with a game in hand, secured full nine points beating Nasser in the last round of the Prime Bank Sixth National Rating Chess competition at the federation hall-room yesterday.

Mehedi Hasan Parag finished runner-up with seven points.

## Henman honoured

AFP, London

Tim Henman has expressed delight at being awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours List, but says that finally winning Wimbledon is still his big ambition.

The British No 1 said he was "extremely honoured" with the award and he would receive it "with a massive amount of pride."

Henman, with some help from Greg Rusedski, has single-handedly carried British Tennis for the last decade both in ATP tournament play and in the Davis Cup.

Injuries hampered his year in 2003, but he finished in style by winning his first Masters Series event in Paris in November.

Becoming the first Briton since Fred Perry in 1936 to win the men's singles title at Wimbledon remains his driving ambition though and with his 30th birthday looming in 2004, Henman is still full of self-belief.



## DAY'S EVENT

**Western Union Premier Div Football**  
Victoria vs Dhaka Wanderers (3:00 pm)  
Arambagh vs Sheikh Russel KC (5:00 pm)  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium, Mirpur  
**Patron's Trophy (Day-4)**  
Bangladesh A vs Pakistan