



## Did U Know?

The Olympic flag was presented by Baron de Coubertin at the 1914 Olympic Congress to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the International Olympic Committee. The flag made its debut at the 1920 Antwerp Games.



## What to WATCH

- ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Fulham vs Liverpool  
Repeat at 11:00 am  
South Africa vs West Indies  
Third Test, Day One  
Live at 2:25 pm  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 9:30 pm
- STAR Sports**  
Australia vs India  
Fourth Test, Day One  
Live at 6:00 am  
Futbol Mundial  
Taped Version at 6:30 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm



## TALK TURKEY



**George Kottan**  
(Former Bangladesh football coach)  
"If the national team had played like they did during the SAFF Cham-pionship then these bad results against Tajikistan would not have taken place."  
Asked his opinion on Bangladesh's performances in pre-World Cup qualifiers.

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 203**  
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 2, 2004 and draw

- Who clinched the Intercontinental Cup?  
Boac Juniors AC Milan Inter Milan
  - Who won the 2003 Asian footballer-of-the-year award?  
Mahdaviak Inamoto Cha Kyung-bok
  - Who is the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman?  
Shaharyar Khan Tauqir Zia Intikhab Alam
  - Who won the FIFA player-of-the-year award?  
Zidane Ronaldo Henry
- Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

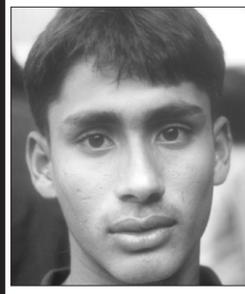
## Four lead eves' chess

Four players were leading the table after the sixth round preliminary matches of the National Women's Chess Championship yesterday.  
Masuda Begum, Afroza Khanam Bably, Shamiha Sharmin Simmi and Nazrana Khan Eva all earned five points after their respective matches at the NSC conference room.  
In second place were Shamima Akter Liza, Dilara Jahan Nupur and

## Mahmud's primary relief



**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Under-fire Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud has been handed a lifeline when the national selectors named him among the 17 probabilities for the tour of Zimbabwe.  
The gutsy campaigner was not the crowd favourite for his performance as a player during the home series against England but the three-man selection panel, headed by Faruque Ahmed, was still impressed by his leadership qualities besides a strong showing



**MOHAMMAD ASHRAFUL**  
in the current National League as captain of Dhaka.  
The primary squad also saw the return of Shahriar Hossain and Mohammad Ashraful. They have been among the runs in Pakistan during the inter-department first-class competitions.  
The out-of-favour Shahriar has scored the bulk of the Bangladesh A team's runs in the Patron's one-day Cup and four-day Trophy.  
The right-hander, who last played for the Tigers in the inaugural Test against India in

November 2000, has slammed a double century. Not only that the hero of Bangladesh victory against Pakistan in the 1999 World Cup has scored 234 runs in five innings at an average of 81. He scored 143 runs in his three one-day games with two half-centuries and a top score of 84 against Defence Housing Authority.  
Ashraful, the youngest centurion on Test debut, last donned the Test cap during the away series against Pakistan but endured a horrible time making only one fifty during that tour.  
He was subsequently dropped for the series against Michael Vaughan's men and told to take a



**EHSANUL HAQUE**  
made a surprise one-day debut against England, was overlooked but Faruque said that more players would be included.  
"This is not a final one. As you know a number of players are now in Pakistan, so nothing is final with the list," he added.  
"We rested Ashraful due to his poor run of form and after a couple of months we have decided to recall him," said Faruque adding that Ashraful's call up was nothing to do with his current form in Pakistan.  
While the chief selector was in no doubt about his ability but the defended Ehsanul's inclusion because selectors by saying that they did not want to experiment with new faces as they did in the past.  
Bangladesh will land in Zimbabwe on February 10 for their second trip to the southern African nation. They will play two Tests and five one-day internationals. Before that the team will spend two weeks as part of their conditioning camp in Namibia starting in the last week of January.  
Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore will return from his holidays tomorrow and will start the camp on January 4.  
Faruque also explained that due to a shortage of pacemen, they kept faith with experienced right-arm bowler Hasibul Hossain. The selectors are left with little to choose from in the fast bowling department after Narail speedster Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza got injured.  
"We have limited bowling options, so we'll have to bank on our experienced players," he said.  
Earlier, opener Javed Omar ruled himself out because of a shoulder injury. He is the only Bangladesh batsman to have carried his bat in the Karachi Test when last toured Zimbabwe in 2001.

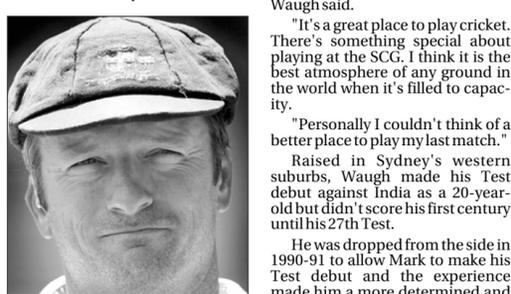
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## 'No better time to go'



**REUTERS, Sydney**  
Timing is everything for cricketers and Australia's retiring captain Steve Waugh believes he has chosen his moment perfectly.  
More than 18 years after making his international debut and despite being agonisingly close to passing Allan Border's world record for the most Test runs, he wants to move on, satisfied that he has already achieved everything he wanted.  
His farewell Test, against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground, promises to be an emotional send-off but the 38-year-old says he has no regrets.  
"There's no real sadness about it. I don't feel it's a sad occasion," he said. "I've been lucky to have played a lot of matches. I've had great experiences around the world, played against great players, met a lot of fantastic people, seen a lot of different cultures."  
"There's nothing to be sad about, I've definitely been fortunate."

After silencing his critics, he was tempted to quit but continued, scoring another four centuries in the ensuing 12 months.  
With his destiny back in his own

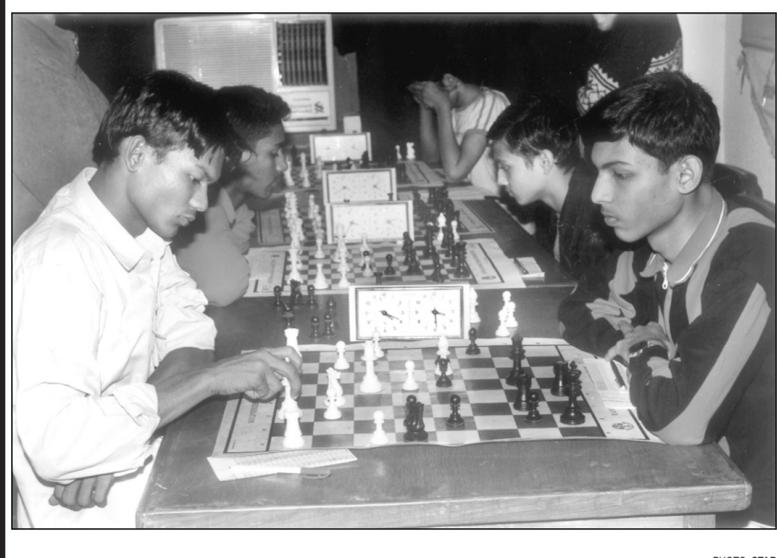


**STEVE WAUGH**  
hands, Waugh announced he would retire after the final Test with India, ensuring he finished in his

**STEVE STATS**  
Statistics of Test and one-day international matches played by Australian captain Steve Waugh, who retires from international cricket after the fourth Test against India starting on Friday.

TEST BATTING										
Matches	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	
167	258	46	10807	200	50.97	48.61	32	49	112	
TEST BOWLING										
Overs	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ	
1298.5	332	3439	92	37.38	5-28	3	0	84.7	2.64	
ODI BATTING										
Matches	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	
325	288	58	7569	120*	32.90	75.91	3	45	111	
ODI BOWLING										
Overs	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	4w	5w	SR	Econ	
1480.3	56	6761	195	34.67	4-33	3	0	45.5	4.56	

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Scene from the sixth round of the sub-junior chess championship at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.



Players of Arambagh Krira Sangha and Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra are locked in an aerial battle for possession during their Western Union Premier Division Football League encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

## Russell won't dance solo



**SPORTS REPORTER**  
New boys Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra missed out on an opportunity to take an enviable solo lead in the Western Union Premier Division Football League when they drew goalless with Arambagh Krira Sangha at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.  
Ranked last before the start of the ten-team league, Sheikh Russell needed a victory against another surprise package Arambagh in the day's second fixture to assert their position at the summit of the topsy-turvy race. But after an eventful game on a chilly night marked by two black outs and a red card, they had to remain satisfied with only one point.  
The outcome however kept Russell jointly atop the standings with Abahani. Both have eight points from four games. Arambagh on the other hand are in hot pursuit. They have seven points from the same number of matches.  
After a spirited draw against holders Mohammedan Sporting Club and two consecutive wins, the Russell boys were certainly favorites to record their third straight victory against Arambagh and dominated the defensive-minded charges of Wajed Gazi throughout the 90 minutes. They opened up the Arambagh defense twice and

looked threatening on a number of occasions even after being reduced to ten men just before half time.  
Russell lost defender Jahangir Alam Mintu when he was shown his second yellow card of the match for a cynical tackle against Arambagh midfielder Walid Khan in the 44th minute.  
And just after referee R Alam had blown the short whistle, dark



**MINTU ... Sent Off**  
ness gripped the whole stadium as all the floodlights failed.  
A second power failure took place two minutes after the restart and game was suspended for another fifteen minutes.  
The exciting Russell team came close to scoring in the eighth minute when Mintu lobbed a perfect

cross to an unmarked Abdel. But a diving Arambagh custodian Piro spectacularly parried off the powerful head of the Moroccan striker.  
Abdel again watched in dismay as his second effort, a sudden shot from outside the box in the dying moments, just missed the far post.  
Although Arambagh enjoyed the advantage of one extra booter for the last 45 minutes, they appeared uninterested to cash in and were happy to protect their own fort. Their only scoring opportunity came just before the red card incident when Shamim headed a Johnny cross into the side netting.  
Red Card: Mintu (Sheikh Russell).  
Yellow cards: Johnny, Oeinu and Shamim (Arambagh)  
**TEAMS**  
**SHEIKH RUSSELL KC:** Apel, Biplob, Narayan, Mintu, Kamal, Gurdeep, Asif, Abdel, Jalal, Rashidi and Fabio.  
**ARAMBAGH KS:** Piro, Khaled, Anupom, Ashraful, Mostafa, Sabah, Johnny, Asad, Arman Aziz, Walid (Shamim) and Oeinu (Sohel).  
**Referee:** R Alam.  
**VICTORIA VS S WANDERERS**  
Meanwhile, the first match of the day between Victoria Sporting Club and Dhaka Wanderers also produced an exciting 1-1 draw.

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## 'Just another Test match'

**AFP, Sydney**  
Indian captain Saurav Ganguly has dismissed Steve Waugh's emotional final cricket Test as "just another game".  
Ganguly said his players had enormous respect for the Australian skipper but they wouldn't be distracted from their attempt at an historic series victory.  
"It's just another Test match," Ganguly said on Thursday.  
"It's something different because it's Steve's last Test but for us it's another Test."  
"We respect a great cricketer but everybody has to go some day, all of us who play cricket have to go some day."  
"I'm very happy for Steve that he's going the way he wanted but from our point of view it's a Test match and we need to win."  
"We respect his contribution and we wish him good luck but we need to go on with our cricket."  
Ganguly said the Waugh-factor would lift the crowd but he didn't think it would change the way Australia played.  
"I think the tempo is going to be the same because Australia, in the past, has played to win and I don't think the attitude is going to be different because it's Steve's last game."

## Waugh's Last Test

**AFP, Sydney**  
Steve Waugh is determined to put the seal on one of the greatest careers in cricket history here Friday by leading Australia to a series-clinching victory in the fourth Test against India.  
Waugh has been on a back-slapping tour of Australia's major cricket venues this past month since announcing that his 168th Test on his home-town pitch at the Sydney Cricket Ground would be his last.  
The scene could hardly be better scripted. The series is locked at one all after Australia's recovery from losing the second Adelaide Test to conclusively beat the Indians by nine wickets in Melbourne last Tuesday.  
Now all is set for what is the final Test match of the second-highest Test run-scorer, the second-greatest century-maker and the most successful captain with 41 victories from 56 matches.  
There have been times in this series against a very good Indian team that the emotional part of Waugh's farewell tour may have distracted Australia against the concerted challenge of Saurav Ganguly's tourists.  
But with his teammates and a nation of cricket fans pulling for him, Waugh has reached the final stage of a remarkable 18-year Test career characterised by milestones and raw grit.  
Many are hoping Waugh's farewell fares considerably better than the great Don Bradman.  
Bradman strode to the crease at The Oval in 1948 for his last Test innings against England needing only four runs for an average of 100, yet was bowled by Eric Hollies for a duck.  
Waugh has to juggle the delicate balance of playing in his final Test before family, friends and fans, while keeping his mind on plotting victory over India which will give Australia a series victory and the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.  
"I'm just going to try and enjoy it. I know it's going to be difficult at times with a lot on, but these things only happen once in your life and I want to make it a positive experience as I can," Waugh said ahead of what will become known as Waugh's Last Test.  
Waugh, who received applause from spectators before and after his final practice session at the SCG on Thursday, said there was no sadness going into his last Test match wearing his beloved Baggy Green cap.  
"There's no real sadness there,"

## Fourth round of NCL from today

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
The fourth round of the Ispahani Tea Fifth National Cricket League (NCL), with a revised fixture to be taking place, begins today at three different venues across the country.  
The tournament committee has decided to hold the one-day matches first ahead of the four-dayers from this round in a bid to give more excitement to the country's only first-class competition.  
Khaled Mahmud will lead defending champions Dhaka against his fellow national teammate Habibul Bashar's Khulna at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.  
The star-studded Dhaka will desperately be looking to return to winning ways in the abridged version as they already have slipped to the second position losing two of their previous three matches. On the other hand, Khulna also won only one match in their previous three encounters.  
In the other matches, Chittagong face Rajshahi at the Cricket Garden in Rangpur and Sylhet take on Barisal in a home match.  
Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet are sharing the top place in the one-day competition with four points each.

## Manjarul, Jamal shine in loss

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Lower order batsmen Manjarul Islam Rana and Jamal Uddin smashed half centuries to restore some pride but Bangladesh A still crashed to a 10-wicket defeat to Pakistan WAPDA on the last day of their Patron's Trophy match at the UBL ground in Karachi yesterday.  
It was the tourists' second consecutive defeat in the four-day games. Bangladesh A drew with Defence Housing Authority (DHA) in their first match and lost to Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) in the second.  
Left-hander Manjarul made a sparkling 84 while Jamaluddin scored exactly fifty to take the A side to a respectable 337 in the second innings. But that left the home team with only two for victory and WAPDA got there off the first ball of Alamgir Kabir which went for four bytes.  
But the efforts of the number seven Jamal and number nine Manjarul was the highlight of the day which began with their side teetering on 183 for six and in need

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## DAY'S EVENT

**Western Union Premier Division Football**  
Mohammedan vs Badda Jagarani (5:00 pm)  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium, Mirpur  
**Nat'l Cricket League**  
Dhaka vs Khulna  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
Rajshahi vs Chittagong  
Venue: Cricket Garden, Rangpur  
Barisal vs Sylhet  
Venue: Sylhet Stadium