



Did U Know?

In 1984 Games at Los Angeles, Greg Louganis became the first male diver in 56 years to win both the springboard and platform events.



TALK TURKEY



Steve Waugh
(Australian Test captain)
"It's definitely the right place to finish up. It's not always possible and once again I've been pretty lucky it's happened this way."
On his retirement at SCG.



What to WATCH

ESPN
South Africa vs West Indies
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 2:25 pm
Primera Liga
Valencia vs Villarreal
Live at 2:00 am (Monday)

STAR Sports
Australia vs India
Fourth Test, Day Three
Live at 6:00 am



Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 204

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 16, 2004 and draw

1. Who clinched the Leonine Grand Masters chess title?

Zia	Reefat	Rakib
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2. Who won the Pepsi Nat'l volleyball women's crown?

BJMC	Army	Navy
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3. Who won the European footballer-of-the-year award?

Nedved	Owen	Zidane
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4. Who became World Youth football champions?

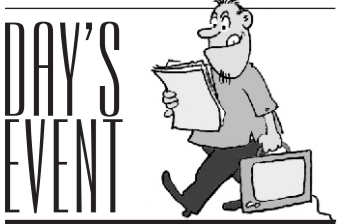
Brazil	Holland	France
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Name

Class. Roll No.

School Address

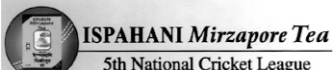
Phone: (If any)



DAY'S EVENT

Western Union Premier Football League
Abahani vs Dhanmondi (5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium
Nat'l Cricket League
Rajshahi vs Chittagong (Day-2)
Venue: Cricket Garden, Rangpur
Barisal vs Sylhet (Day-2)
Venue: Sylhet Stadium
Dhaka vs Khulna (Day-1)
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Patron's Cup
Bangladesh vs PIA

Sylhet start strongly



ISPAHANI Mirzapore Tea
5th National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER
Hosts Sylhet made a flying start against lowly Barisal on the opening day of their fourth round match in the Ispahani Tea Fifth National Cricket League yesterday.

Playing without national stars Alok Kapali and Tapash Baishya, who have been asked to join the preliminary Zimbabwe tour camp that starts today, Sylhet first shot out their opponents for only 130 and at stumps were 101-1. Away at Rangpur not a single ball was bowled in the four-day game between Chittagong and Rajshahi due to the dense fog that enveloped the Cricket Garden venue. The other match between Dhaka and holders Khulna will start at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today.

The game will however has lost much of its appeal as Dhaka captain Khaled Mahmud, left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique and Khulna skipper Habibul Bashar will all be attending Dav Whatmore's camp.

SYLHET V BARISAL
After a one-hour delay Barisal, winning the toss, batted first at the Sylhet Stadium. But the visitors may have regretted the decision as they made 130 in their first innings. Number six batsman Towhid Hossain scored a painstaking 31 not out off 70 balls with three boundaries. Young left-arm spinner Nabil Samad was the most successful Sylhet bowler with three for 23 while Syed Parvez, Rezaul Haq Nayeem and Imtiaz Hossain bagged two wickets each. Imtiaz Hossain and Golam Mabud gave the home team the perfect start sharing 95 runs for the first wicket before Imtiaz fell after scoring 46, which featured six hits to the fence. Mabud was on 42 and Nayeem one not out when the balls were removed.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the first day of the four-day Ispahani Tea Fifth National Cricket League match at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday:
SYLHET V BARISAL
Venue: Sylhet Stadium
BARISAL: First innings
Imran c Imtiaz b Parvez 4
Jamal c Nayeem b Parvez 22
Shahin lbw b Imtiaz 18
Nahidul lbw b Nabil 10
Nayan c Mabud b Nabil 0
Towhid not out 31
Mustadir c Moula b Imtiaz 11
Tariqul c Taqrimul b Nabil 3
Anisur c Taqrimul b Ejaz 10
Biaksh b Nayeem 9
Kamal lbw b Nayeem 0
Extras: (b-7, lb-3, nb-1, w-1) 12
Total: (All out in 57 overs) 130

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Aussie tri-series Kaif out of India team

REUTERS, New Delhi
Middle-order batsman Mohammad Kaif has been ruled out of India's one-day squad for a triangular series in Australia starting later this month because of a thumb injury. Kaif, 23, sustained the injury during a series against Pakistan and Sri Lanka's A teams in Calcutta last month. "It is confirmed that Kaif will not be able to travel to Australia," a senior Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) official said. "His replacement will be announced shortly. The first match of the tri-series, also involving Zimbabwe, will be played between India and Australia at Melbourne on January 9. Kaif, with 1,170 runs in 59 matches at an average of 30.78, has been a key member of India's one-day team. His most memorable knock was an unbeaten 87 against England in a triangular final at Lord's in 2002 to help India chase 326 for victory.

Tigers' training begins today

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
National cricketers begin today what will be their most extensive preparation since gaining Test status for the upcoming tour of Zimbabwe in February. Practice starts at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the morning under the supervision of coach Dav Whatmore. The 49-year-old Australian returned to Dhaka yesterday following a three-week Christmas and New Year's break in his land of birth Sri Lanka. Physio John Gloster and trainer Dean Woodford also arrived back in the capital yesterday after spending their holidays in native Australia. The camp promises to be an intense one with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hiring some high-profile Australian specialists of different fields to assist Whatmore. Their job will be to help the Tigers take thorough preparations mentally, physically and most importantly cricketwise. Owen Mattau, who like Whatmore was also born in Sri Lanka, arrived in the same flight as the Bangladesh coach. He has been assigned to improve the batting of Bangladesh's tailenders during his three-week stint. Former Bangladesh coach Trevor Chappell, who incidentally was in charge when the Tigers played their first away series against Zimbabwe in 2001, is expected to arrive tomorrow to sharpen the fielding. To ensure that all areas are covered, Australian sports psychologist Anthony Stewart has been appointed. Stewart will conduct some special sessions with the players. He is due on January 7.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Styris styles Kiwi win

Cricket
AFP, Auckland
An unbeaten 101 by Scott Styris, his second one-day international century, lead New Zealand to an upset four-wicket win over Pakistan in the first one-day cricket international here. Chasing a target of 230 after veteran Moin Khan had trounced a largely inept New Zealand bowling attack, New Zealand reached their target with five balls to spare on Saturday. New Zealand were in early trouble at 35 for two when Styris came to the wicket in the 12th over and proceeded to hammer his 101 off 108 balls including 10 fours and two sixes. It completed an excellent effort for Styris, who was New Zealand's most successful bowler with three for 34 off 10 overs, which included 10 off his last over during Pakistan's monumental charge. New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming steered the side through the first 100 runs but was out for 45 soon after when he mistimed a pull shot to be caught by Mohammad Sami off the bowling of Azhar Mahmood. Mahmood was a late replacement in the Pakistan side after Shoaib Akhtar was ruled out just before the match after being hit in the groin during practice. When Shoaib Malik removed all-rounders Chris Cairns and Jacob Oram in quick succession to have New Zealand at 156-6 in the 40th over the run chase looked forlorn. But Brendan McCullum joined Styris at the crease and they added the remaining 74 runs without

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: New Zealand all-rounder Scott Styris swings one over mid-wicket for four on way to his match-winning 101 not out in the first one-day international against Pakistan in Auckland yesterday.

Javed blames batters

Cricket
BBC ONLINE, undated
Pakistan coach Javed Miandad put the blame on his batsmen following their defeat by New Zealand in the opening one-day international in Auckland. They lost by four wickets after posting a total of only 229 for 7 despite the short boundaries at Eden Park on Saturday. They reduced the Kiwis to 156-6 in reply but an unbeaten 101 by

Scott Styris gave the home side the victory. "I thought we had it in the middle of their innings but Styris batted magnificently. He was a real hero for New Zealand," said Miandad. Pakistan had won 11 of their previous 13 one-day meetings with New Zealand, including all five on home soil last month. But Styris rose to the occasion with his second century in a limited-overs international, having made 141 against Sri Lanka at last year's World Cup. Styris' temperament under

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



GOD MUST BE AN INDIAN: Master Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar celebrates his double-century on the second day of the fourth and final Test against Australia in Sydney yesterday.

Tushar to lead A team today

SPORTS REPORTER
Middle-order batsman Tushar Imran will lead the Bangladesh A team when it plays formidable Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) in the fourth round of the Inter Department Cricket Championship in Pakistan today. The second batch of Bangladesh A will take on the airliners in the limited-overs Patron's Cup clash at the Quaid-e-Azam Park in Karachi. Both sides will then feature in a four-day Patron's Trophy at the same venue. The PIA are leading Pool A in the shorter-version competition securing 12 points from four matches while the second string national side are fourth with eight points from three matches. All-rounder Mushqur Rahman led the A team to victory against Defence Housing Association in the first match and acting skipper Hannan Sarkar enjoyed success against Pakistan Telecommunications Company Limited but the tourists lost to Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) in their last fixture.

Singer chess from Jan 16

SPORT REPORTER
The preliminary phase of the Singer 30th National Chess Championship, sponsored by Singer Bangladesh Limited, will start from January 16 at the NSC Conference room. Players who have a rating of 2100 will participate in the meet. They have been requested to enroll their names on or before January 12. Nine players will qualify for the final phase. Grand Masters Niaz Murshed, Ziaur Rahman and International Masters Reefat bin Sattar, Abdullah al Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib will participate directly in the final phase. Meanwhile, the final phase of the 15th National Women Chess Championship will start tomorrow at 3:00 pm at the same venue. 12 players are participating in the phase. They are: Shabana Parveen, Zakia Sultana, IWM Rani Hamid, Tanima Parveen, Masuda Begum, Afroza Khanam Baby, Shamiha Shamin Simmi, Nazrana Khan Eva, Shamima Akhter Liza, Dilara Jahan Nurpur, Kiswara Shajrin Evana and Arifa Khatun Moni.

India surge in Sydney

Cricket
AFP, Sydney
Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman hammered Australia's bowlers in a blazing, record triple-century stand to give India a throttle-hold on Steve Waugh's farewell Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground here on Saturday. The pair flailed the home attack for just under seven hours in a 353-run fourth-wicket stand that almost certainly has taken a series win away from Australia. The four-match series stood at one all at the start of this, the fourth and final Test. Tendulkar broke through for his first Test century in 14 months and later his highest Test score, while Laxman continued to torment with his fourth hundred against Australia as India reached a mammoth 650 for five at stumps with three days left to play. **It was the highest score by an overseas team in Australia, surpassing England's 636 at the SCG in 1928-29.** Tendulkar batted out the whole day to be unconquered on 220, put together in more than nine-and-a-half hours off 419 balls and including 30 boundaries. Wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel was not out 45. **Laxman and Tendulkar's herculean stand was the highest for the fourth-wicket by an overseas team in Australia, surpassing the 341 of South African pair Graeme Pollock and Eddie Barlow at Adelaide in 1963-64.** Just when it appeared the pair would bat out the entire day Jason Gillespie bowled Laxman for 178 off his pads in the 165th over with the India in full cry at 547 for four. Tendulkar finally flourished in the last match of the series after an unproductive run of scores 0, 1, 37, 0 and 44 and scoring only 153 runs in five Tests at an average of 17 throughout 2003. Tendulkar's last century was 176 against the West Indies in Calcutta in November 2002.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

Double is his reply

Cricket
AFP, Sydney
Master batsman Sachin Tendulkar had to ask his teammates what he was doing wrong during his dismal run of form that ended so spectacularly with a career Test best, an unbeaten double-century against Australia in the final Test here. The 'Little Master' batted out the entire day at the Sydney Cricket Ground to be unconquered on 220 to have India at an impregnable 650 for five after the second day's play. Tendulkar finally hit his straps in the last match of the series after an unproductive sequence of scores 0, 1, 37, 0 and 44 scoring only 153 runs in five Tests at an average of 17 throughout a dismal 2003. It was a day of milestones, with Tendulkar's long-anticipated century this series finally arriving and was his 32nd Test hundred to join Steve Waugh, just two behind all-time leader Sunil Gavaskar. Tendulkar said Waugh told him as they walked off the field at the end of the day's play: "He said 'it's fully deserved, you batted well'."

Tendulkar also eclipsed Ravi Shastri's 206 as the highest Indian score at the SCG, established 12 years ago, and his unbeaten 220 was his third Test double-century following his 217 against New Zealand in Ahmedabad in 1999-2000 and 201 against Zimbabwe in Nagpur in 2000-01. On Friday's opening day, Tendulkar became only the fourth player to pass 9,000 runs in Test cricket. That puts him behind only Australians Allan Border (11,174) and Steve Waugh (10,807) and fellow Indian Sunil Gavaskar (10,122) in most Test runs scored. "It's a very good feeling, especially when you've not had a good series," Tendulkar said after Saturday's play. "It was not that I wasn't batting well, I was just missing out on one particular ball instead of getting out snickin' it. "I knew a big innings was around the corner and it was just a matter of hanging in." Tendulkar said it was an important knock because it was in Steve Waugh's final Test, his 168th. "This innings was particularly important because being Steve's last Test, he'll always be remembered, and after having a series like this, to get runs it is very satisfying.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



VVS Laxman of India follows through on a flick during his knock of 178 against Australia yesterday.

'Very Very Special'

Cricket
AFP, Sydney
Australian bowlers are becoming sick of the sight of VVS Laxman. The fluent 29-year-old Hyderabad right-hander again tormented Steve Waugh's Australians with a vintage knock of 178 off 298 balls studded with 30 boundaries. Laxman dedicated his century to his parents and retiring Australian captain Steve Waugh. "I would like to dedicate this hundred to my parents, who have been a great source of inspiration for me," Laxman said. "And also to Steve Waugh because this is really memorable for me because this is his last Test match and he has been a great inspiration for me, watching him play always gave me a lot of pleasure." In 12 Tests against the team that had dominated world cricket Laxman has accumulated 1,334 runs at an average of 63.52. He has scored four of his seven Test centuries against Australia and has featured in three 300-plus run partnerships against the world's best team, twice with Rahul Dravid and on Saturday with Sachin Tendulkar. "I respect both of them as players and individuals and it's always a great learning experience batting with Sachin. We've had some good partnerships in one-day internationals," Laxman said. "When you're at the non-strikers' end and you're watching the best batsman in the world play, it's an on-going learning process for me." Laxman rated Saturday's innings as one of his best. "You are scoring a hundred in Australia, any overseas hundred is very special to me, and against Australia it definitely gives more satisfaction. "There's nothing I can pinpoint," he said. "It's really satisfying to be getting runs against the best bowling attack in the world, but I think it's just a coincidence (to score big against Australia)." Vangipurappu Venkata Sai (or "Very Very Special") Laxman, an exquisite stroke player, flourishes against Australia. His career highlight is the 281 in the famous second Calcutta Test of

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5