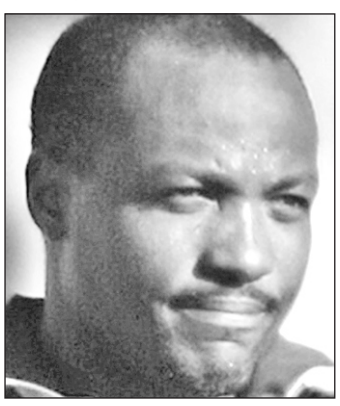


Did U Know?
India's Syed Kirmani is the first wicket-keeper to dismiss five batsmen behind the stumps in a World Cup match.

Talk Turkey
A cartoon character with a turkey head and a human body, holding a sign that says 'Talk Turkey'.



Brian Lara
(West Indies cricket captain)
'It's nice to see young guys coming through and having a passion for the game.

What to Watch
A cartoon character sitting at a desk with a lamp, reading a book.

ESPN
Football Focus
Repeat at 7:30 am
Australia vs India
First ODI
Live at 9:15 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 11:30 pm

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

Form with questions about chess and football, and a section for name, class, school address, and phone.

DAY'S EVENT
Western Union Premier Football League
Badda Jagarani vs Dhaka Wanderers (3:00 pm)
Muktijoddha vs Sheikh Russell KC (5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium
Nat'l Cricket League
Dhaka vs Sylhet
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Chittagong vs Barisal
Venue: Comilla Stadium



PHOTO: STAR
Arambagh defender Shamsheer Alam (L) is clearing the ball against Abahani's left wing back Mahmudul Hasan during yesterday's Western Union Premier Division Football League clash at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Blank firing Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER
League leaders Abahani came down to earth after their 7-goal picnic in the last match when Arambagh Krira Sangha held them to a goalless draw in the Western Union Premier Division Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

'Get Gilchrist'
AFP, Melbourne
India has targeted Adam Gilchrist as the Australian player they must stop to repeat their Test performance when the triangular one-day series begins here on Friday.

Gilchrist was a key factor in Australia's World Cup win and international series win in India in 2003 with top-order batting that devastated the Indian attack.



ADAM GILCHRIST
Australia last year.
"Winning in a crunch situation is very important for us. It was unfortunate we lost the World Cup final but I felt the Australians played really well there," Laxman said.

IFT jr. tennis
Singh, Khatabi in boys' final

SPORTS REPORTER
Nav Deep Singh of India and Faris Khatabi of the United Kingdom moved into the boys' singles final of the BKSP International Junior Tennis Championship after winning their respective semifinals at the country's lone sports institute in Savar yesterday.

Rani leads

SPORTS REPORTER
International Women Master Rani Hamid took a solo lead in the Igloo 25th National Women's Chess Championship yesterday with a win against Narayanganj's Kishwar Sajrin Ivana in the fourth round.

BCDF move into C'wealth final
Cricket
BSS, New Delhi
A superb unbeaten 86 by Sheikh Nizamuddin powered Bangladesh Cricket Development Foundation (BCDF) to a brilliant three-wicket victory over India in the first semifinal of Under-19 Commonwealth Championship at the Raja Nahar Singh Cricket Stadium in Faridabad, Haryana yesterday.

Electing to bat the hosts scored 213-8. BCDF replied with 219 for 7 in 49 overs.



PHOTO: STAR
Australian sports psychologist Anthony Stewart (R) sharing a light moment with Bangladesh all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Time for shorter cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated
Australia and India are set to lock horns again on Friday only three days after the end of an emotion-ally draining Test match in Sydney.
After ending the Test series 1-1, home skipper Ricky Ponting wants a winning start to the one-day competition that also includes Zimbabwe.
Australia's squad includes one-day specialists Ian Harvey, Michael Bevan, Andrew Symonds and Brad Hogg.
" They inject a little bit more life into it and I'll be asking them to do that here," Ponting commented.
He will lead the team at the Melbourne Cricket Ground despite suffering from a virus which prompted team officials to delay his journey from Sydney to Melbourne for 24 hours.
Ponting is not the only player who is feeling the effects of the Tests.
Pace bowler Brett Lee struggled to rediscover his normal potency following an injury lay-off, taking eight wickets in two games at a cost of 59 runs each.
But Ponting expects him to have an important say in the outcome of the tri-series which will culminate in a best-of-three final next month.
" I thought he bowled pretty well with the new ball on a couple of occasions, got a couple of wickets off no-balls, had a couple of catches put down.
" I'm sure with a few days rest and a bit more bowling under his belt in the next couple of weeks, you'll see him come back to his best."
Indian vice-captain Rahul Dravid is expected to take over the wicket-keeping duties from Parthiv Patel.
Skipper Saurav Ganguly said, however, that all 15 players were in contention to play in the opening game.
They are not at full strength with Harbhajan Singh and Zaheer Khan having flown home because of injuries and Mohammad Kaif unable to make the trip.
SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Gritty Jamal not enough

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
Jamaluddin Babu scored a defiant half-century but that was not enough for Bangladesh A to avoid an innings and 15-run defeat against Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) in the Patron's Trophy four-day match at the Quaid-e-Azam Park in Karachi yesterday.
The gritty lower-order batsman frustrated the home side with 81 off 175 balls after Bangladesh A, resuming the final day on 134-5 and needing another 166 runs to make their opponents bat again, slumped to 182-8.
Together with paceman Gazi Alamgir he shared 96 runs for the ninth wicket before champion off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq finally broke through the stubborn pair for PIA.
Jamal, who made his one-day debut during the home series against England in Chittagong, stayed at the crease for more than four hours only to brighten his reputation as a useful bat apart from his exploits as a regular off-spinner.
Alamgir also scored a plucky 25 before Saqlain, who claimed his second five-wicket haul in the match, also dismissed him. The tourists' innings folded at 284 but not before they played another 51.4 overs on the final day.
Saqlain finished with a match-haul of 11 wickets including a first-innings effort of 6-80.
It was the A team's third successive defeat in four games in the first-class competition of Pakistan. They will play their next match against Customs from January 12 at the Karachi National Stadium.
SCOREBOARD
Final scoreboard of the Patron's Trophy four-day match between Bangladesh A and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) that finished at the Quaid-e-Azam Park in Karachi yesterday:
BANGLADESH A: First innings
Kabir b Saqlain 6
Rashedul b Fazle 110
Moniruzzaman b Fazle 39
Tushar lbw b Saqlain 6
Ashraf 24
Mazharul c and b Saqlain 0
Anwar lbw b Fazle 3
Jamaluddin c Ghulam Ali b Saqlain 5
Alamgir not out 14
Ashraf lbw b Saqlain 0
Gazi b Saqlain 1
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, nb-1) 12
Total: (All out in 77.2 overs) 203
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-80, 3-109, 4-136, 5-137, 6-156, 7-167, 8-193, 9-193
Bowler O M R W
Fazle Akbar 17 3 58 3
Najaf Shah 15 2 30 1
Ilyas 7 1 15 0
Saqlain 31.2 6 80 6
AMujtaba 7 1 9 0
PIA: First innings
Kamran b Gazi 5
Ghulam b Ashraf 10
Najaf run out 4
Faisal lbw b Alamgir 125
AMujtaba c Anwar b Jamal 126
Mehmood c and b Ashraf 62
Zahid run out 1
Ahmed not out 100
Saqlain c Halim b Alamgir 38
Ilyas c and b Jamal 0
Fazle not out 0
Extras: (b-13, lb-12, nb-3, w-3) 31
Total: (For wickets in 140.3 overs Dec.) 502
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-19, 3-36, 4-254, 5-339, 6-390, 7-478, 8-485, 9-486
Bowler O M R W
Kabir b Fazle 2
Alamgir 36.3 4 133 2
Gazi Alamgir 18 1 68 1
Ashraf 24 6 69 2
Jamaluddin 48 5 149 2
Kabir 12 2 42 0
Tushar 2 0 16 0
BANGLADESH A: Second innings
Kabir b Fazle 0
Rashedul b Saqlain 30
Moniruzzaman b Najaf 1
Tushar b Saqlain 61
Halim b Saqlain 0
Mazharul b Fazle 26
SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Div II b'ball
BSS, Dhaka

Rainbow Basketball Club earned a comfortable 86-21 win over Saboteurs in the FedEx Second Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday.
Rainbow led the first half 48-8. Shadow struggled against Friends Welfare Development Society before snatching a dramatic 60-59 victory.
Shadows were trailing 24-25 at the breather.
Rohan Gavaskar wants to carve out his own identity in international cricket and not just be known as the son of Indian batting great Sunil Gavaskar.
The 27-year-old left-handed batsman and spin bowler hopes to make his full international debut in the one-day tri-series, which gets underway against Australia here on Friday.
A regular in the India A team, Rohan Gavaskar, named after former West Indian batsman Rohan Kanhai, was a late addition to the one-day squad last week when Mohammad Kaif was ruled out with a thumb injury.
Gavaskar said he "couldn't stop smiling for three days" when told he would join the national squad.
He was equally happy to talk about his father, answering questions that have been fired at him since before he made his first-class debut seven years ago.
" It's an honour to be his son, I get up every morning feeling very proud of him, he's been great," he said of his father.
" Hopefully now I've got the chance to create my own identity in international cricket.
" Everyone in India has realised I'm my own man and I've got my own cricketing identity. I've been playing first-class cricket for seven years.
" Probably the expectations

Cricket
AFP, Melbourne
Rohan Gavaskar has the world record for the most Test centuries with 34 and is third behind Australians Allan Border and Steve Waugh on the list for Test runs with 10,122.

ROHAN GAVASKAR
Indian captain and Bengal teammate Saurav Ganguly said Gavaskar was in contention to play in Friday's match.
" He knows he can't be a Sunil Gavaskar and he knows that pressure is going to be on him, but he still leads a normal life and goes and enjoys himself," Ganguly said on Thursday.
" He's a bit more attacking than what I've seen his dad play, but he has to be because he's playing one-day cricket, he's a good player."

