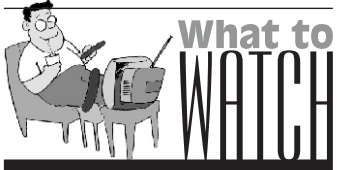


The only two Test cricketers to play Davis Cup tennis were Cota Ramaswami of India and West Indies wicketkeeper Ralph Legall.



ESPN
Australia vs India
First ODI
Repeat at 1:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Middlesbrough
Live at 8:55 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Real Sociedad
Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)
STAR Sports
Pakistan vs New Zealand
Third ODI
Live at 4:57 am
English Premier Football League
Preview
Taped Version at 1:00 pm



Claudio Ranieri
(Chelsea coach)
"Don't worry you will still see me on Thursday and for a long time yet.
On speculations that his days at Chelsea are numbered.

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 Leoneine Grand Masters chess title?	Zia	Reefat	Rakib
2. Who won the Pepsi Nat'l volleyball women's crown?	BJMC	Army	Navy
3. Who won the European footballer-of-the-year award?	Nedved	Owen	Zidane
4. Who became World Youth football champions?	Brazil	Holland	France
5. Who won the FIFA women's...			
Name			
Class.	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			



Western Union Premier Football League
Brothers Union vs Victoria SC
(5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium
Nat'l Cricket League (Day-1)
Dhaka vs Sylhet
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Chittagong vs Barisal
Venue: Comilla Stadium
Khulna vs Rajshahi



PHOTO: STAR
Muktijoddha striker Saiful Islam Khokon attempts an overhead kick while being closely marked by two Sheikh Russell defenders at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Reds burst Russell bubble

SPORTS REPORTER

WESTERN UNION
সাঁতার প্রাণচক্রে
কটন কনফারেন্সে ফুটবল লীগের

Muktijoddha Sangsad revitalised their title aspirations in style when the defeated high-flying Sheikh Russell Kriha Chakra 2-1 in a crucial Western Union Premier Division Football League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

On an incident-filled afternoon where one player was sent off and three cautioned, both teams employed physical force as the game petered into a rough brawl especially towards the end of the match.

The Reds' welcome win was marred by some unwarranted clashes between players of both teams. Tempers flared in the 87th

minute when Muktijoddha's Rwandan defender Harry was given the marching orders after he had punched Sheikh Russell's Moroccan midfielder Abdel Ali. There were heated exchanges between players and officials and it ultimately spread outside the ground even after the match had finished. It took police intervention before peace was finally restored.

National striker Saifur Rahman Moni and Liberian forward Arcadia Toe scored for the winners while midfielder Asif Yusuf pulled one back for Sheikh Russell.

The defeat ended Sheikh Russell's unbeaten five-match run in their maiden appearance in the Premier League and denied them the opportunity to take a solo lead in the ten-team table. Amazingly, it was also the first goals conceded by the season's surprise package from

Uttara. Russell now lie second on 11 points with their conquerors. Abahani are alone atop with 12 points from six matches.

Muktijoddha, the winners of the National League and Federation Cup, had made a poor start having won only two matches in five outings against a defeat and two draws. But yesterday, probably for the first time in the league, they did justice to their reputation.

They went ahead in the 28th minute when Moni stunned Russell's custodian Apel with a gem of a goal. Receiving the ball on the left side of the Russell D from a Motiur Munna corner, Moni struck a swerving right-footer which sailed in front of Apel and just curved in enough to find the top corner of the far post (1-0).

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Akhtar ready to strike



AFP, Christchurch

Pakistan express bowler Shoaib Akhtar spoke the words New Zealand did not want to hear when he declared himself fit for the third one-day international here Saturday.

Although the five-match series is locked 1-1, Pakistan are on a high after their top-sided victory in the second match at Queenstown during the week and New Zealand need to strike back fast if they are to have any confidence in the later matches.

Akhtar has missed both one-day matches after being hit in the groin while batting in practice without a protector, but he could not hide his recovery this week when he was seen bouncing across the waves on a jet-ski.

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad said Akhtar would undergo a further fitness test before the match began but he was optimistic there

would be no problems.

"He still has a problem but I'm sure he will be fit enough to play. It's up to him," Miandad said.

And Akhtar told reporters on arrival here that he was ready to play, words that stung a New Zealand side already smarting from his 11 for 78 haul in the recent second Test which gave Pakistan both the match and the Test series.

With the ball likely to swing on the hard and fast Jade Stadium wicket it heightens New Zealand's batting concerns after the top order found Akhtar virtually unplayable in the Test and had just as much trouble with his lieutenants in the first two one-days.

Senior players Craig McMillan and Chris Cairns, who will be playing in front of their home crowd, are desperately in need of runs, captain Stephen Fleming should be contributing more than the 40s he has managed so far while Craig Cumming and Hamish Marshall need a confidence boost.

"Our top and middle order have

got to step up and put together some partnerships of significance rather than individuals," New Zealand coach John Bracewell said.

"They expect a lot more of themselves. They believe they need to step forward. You can't launch a big score unless the top and middle order do their stuff."

TEAMS
NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Craig Cumming, Hamish Marshall, Scott Styris, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Daniel Vettori, Daryl Tuffey, Ian Butler.
PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Imran Farhat, Yasir Hameed, Salim Elahi, Yousuf Youhana, Shoaib Malik, Abdul Razzaq, Moin Khan, Azhar Mahmood, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Younis Khan, Danish Kaneria, Umar Gul, Shoaib Akhtar.

Azlan Shah Cup Pakistan on a roll



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Pakistan managed only a narrow 3-2 win over a second string side from arch-rivals India in the Azlan Shah Cup tournament at the National Hockey Stadium here Friday.

While Pakistan would welcome the three points that came with the win, they had difficulty in overcoming the Indian side, comprising of 10 junior players.

Pakistan had lost to India in the final of the Asia Cup at the same venue in September and also played second fiddle in the Afro Asian Games in Hyderabad last October.

Pakistan were awarded a penalty corner as early as the fourth minute but Sohail Abbas sent his attempt wide.

But the master executioner was not to be denied as he converted the next penalty corner in the 13th minute to give Pakistan the lead.

India started playing with more purpose and against the run of play they found the equalizer.

Skipper Dhanraj Pillay went on one of his trademark solo runs and released the ball to Arjun Hallapa on the right.

Pakistani keeper saved Salman Akhtar his attempt but Baljeet Singh Dhillon picked up the rebound to put India on level terms.

India started playing with confidence and were duly rewarded when Rajpal Singh scored to put them 2-1 ahead in the 19th minute.

But Sohail proved that he has not lost his scoring touch by converting Pakistan's fifth penalty corner in the 28th minute to put the teams on level terms going into the half-time break.

And Sohail ensured that Pakistan won its second consecutive match by scoring off another penalty corner in the 50th minute.

SPAIN 3; AUSTRALIA 1

Spain provided the first shock of the tournament when they defeated Australia.

They owe the 3-1 win to the deadly finishing of Santiago Freixa Escude, who scored two goals in the match to take his personal tournament tally to four.

ITF Jr tennis Double delight for Koreans

SPORTS REPORTER

South Korean girls snatched the singles and doubles titles of the BKSP International Junior Tennis Championship that ended yesterday at the country's lone sports institute in Savary yesterday.

Nav Deep Singh of India clinched the boys' singles crown beating Faris Khatabi of United Kingdom 6-2, 6-1.

The United Kingdom pair Eaton Cris and Faris Khatabi emerged champion in the boys' doubles with 6-3, 6-3 win against Lin Hyoung and Li Seon Mi of South Korea.

In the girls' singles final, Soon Min Sea of South Korea beat Punam Reddy of India 7-5, 6-4.

In the girls' doubles final, the South Korean pair Bae Hae and Seo Soon Mi beat Punam Reddy and Sandy Ganguthry of India 3-6, 7-6, 6-0.

Rani alone atop

SPORTS REPORTER

International Women Master Rani Hamid maintained the solo lead with maximum five points after the end of the fifth round games of the Igloo 25th National Women's Chess Championship at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Shabana Parveen Nipa was in the second position with 4 points.

In this round Rani Hamid beat reigning champion Shabana Parveen Nipa, Zakia Sultana beat Shamima Akhter Liza, Masuda Begum beat Kishwara Shajrin Evana, Afroza Khanam Bably beat Nazrana Khan Eva, Delara Jahan Nupur drew with Arifa Khatun Moni and Shamiha Sharmin Shimmi got walk over against Tanima Parveen.

Cute handball

BSS, Dhaka

Favourites Narinda Progoti Boys Club defeated Old Ideal 31-11 in the Cute Premier Division Handball League at Dhaka Handball Ground yesterday.

Narinda Progoti enjoyed an emphatic 17-4 lead in the first session.

Shibli scored the highest eight goals, Rifat followed him with seven goals while Hanif added six to the winners' tally.

Dhanmondi Club scored a hard-fought 28-26 win over Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club in the day's other fixture.

The winners were 13-14 behind in the first half.

Ripon struck nine goals while Faruk added eight to Dhanmondi's total. Faruk and Didar with eight goals each were the leading scorers for Mariners.

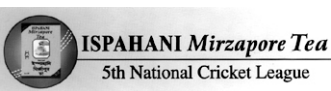
Steve given reality check

AFP, Newcastle

Steve Waugh experienced the highs and lows of cricket when he scored just seven playing for New South Wales in a Sheffield Shield cricket match against Victoria here on Friday.

Just three days after his forgettable final day as a Test player in the fourth Test against India in Sydney, Waugh lasted just 34 minutes and 27 balls.

Ctg one-day leaders Mehrab stars for Dhaka



SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong finished the first-phase atop the one-day competition of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League when they managed a two-wicket victory over Barisal at the Comilla Stadium yesterday.

An all-round show by discarded Bangladesh opener Mehrab Hossain allowed Dhaka to exact revenge against Sylhet with a huge 99-run win at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The defeat left Sylhet sharing second place with Dhaka and Rajshahi, who shot Khulna out for 41 at Jessore.

Chittagong ended the fifth round with eight points, two more than the three second-placed teams. Khulna and Barisal have collected two points each.

CHITTAGONG V BARISAL

Skipper Akram Khan hit an unbeaten 61 and Masumudowla scored a patient half-century as Chittagong registered their fourth

win.

Akram led his side from the front as they reached the target with two balls to spare. Chittagong made 208-8 in reply to Barisal's 204-7.

The former national captain smashed two fours and a six off 71 balls while one-down Masum contributed 53.

Earlier Jamal Faisal made 76 to help Barisal reach a respectable total after opting to bat. He put on 54 runs for the second wicket with Imran Ahmed who scored 46 that contained eight boundaries.

DHAKA V SYLHET

Mehrab hammered 82 and captured three wickets as Dhaka earned a facile win against the same opponents who stunned the star-studded team by 105 runs in the third round.

The right-hander in partnership with another discard Sanwar Hossain added 129 runs for third wicket as Dhaka piled up 272 for eight in 47 overs after deciding to bat. Dense fog forced three overs to be curtailed.

Batting at number three for a change, Mehrab scored highest 82

off 111 balls that featured three fours and as many as sixes. Sanwar hit a quickfire 71 with seven hits across the fence. Al-Shahriar added a 31-ball 33 with four boundaries.

Ejaz Ahmed claimed four for 48.

In reply, Sylhet were bundled out for 173 in 43.3 overs with Golam Mouvula making 42.

Mehrab picked up three for 19 and was adjudged man-of-the-match.

RAJSHAH V KHULNA

Right-arm pacer Shahjada grabbed five wickets as Khulna hit the lowest one-day total so far at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore.

Only Khulna opening batsman Sajjadul Hasan managed enter double figures as they collapsed in 20.1 overs chased Rajshahi's 208.

Shahjada captured five for 18.

SCORECARDS

Scoreboard of the three limited-overs Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League matches played at different venues across the country.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



REUTERS, Melbourne

World champions Australia fielded brilliantly to record a tense 18-run victory over India in their triangular series one-day match on Friday despite a brave innings of 82 from opposing captain Sourav Ganguly.

Michael Clarke took four catches and one for 22 after guiding the hosts to 288 all out in 48.3 overs with a quickfire 63.

He shared a century partnership with man-of-the-match Andrew Symonds, who made 88 and took two for 47.

Australia had been set for an even bigger score but were kept below 300 after a six-wicket haul from India's Ajit Agarkar.

India scored 270 in 49 overs in reply after Sachin Tendulkar clipped 63 from 69 balls to give the tourists a flying start.

Tendulkar, who hit eight fours, and Virender Sehwag (35) put on 103 for the first wicket in 18.2 overs.

Tendulkar's dismissal at 134 for two in the 26th over, after Australia captain Ricky Ponting pulled in a spectacular one-handed catch at mid-wicket off the bowling of Symonds, was a big blow for India's hopes of victory.

Ganguly was left to anchor the innings after Vangipurappu Laxman (16), Rahul Dravid (16) and Yuvraj Singh (25) could not push to big scores before a capacity crowd of 63,271 at Melbourne Cricket Ground, where India flags almost outnumbered the local variety.

All-rounder Ian Harvey (3-52) helped turn the match in the 46th over when he had Yuvraj caught at mid-wicket and next ball ran out Ganguly with a direct hit at the bowler's end. The skipper had batted for two hours, hitting six fours and one six from 83 balls.

Australia's Symonds and 22-year-old Clarke, who came to the crease at 89 for four, put on 143 for the fifth wicket in 142 balls.

Clarke holed out to deep square



PHOTO: AFP

Australian batsman Andrew Symonds goes on the attack against India during their tri-series one-day match at the MCG yesterday.

Pointers for Ponting



REUTERS, Sydney

As Ricky Ponting prepares to take over the reins as Australia's next Test captain, departing skipper Steve Waugh has passed on a sobering word of advice.

Waugh, statistically cricket's most successful leader, said Ponting had the potential to captain his country for a decade but should consider limiting himself to just five years.

"As a captain five years is a long time," Waugh told a news conference before his emotionally-charged farewell to international cricket.

"I did it for five and I feel as though it's almost as though five years is about the maximum for a captain. It does take its toll, mentally it can be wearing and it takes a huge effort to captain a lot longer than that."

Waugh replaced Mark Taylor as Australian Test captain in 1999 and went on to become the most successful in history with 41 victories from 57 tests and a success rate of 71.93 per cent.

He also led Australia to victory in the 1999 one-day World Cup but the burden of captaining both sides

began to take its toll.

He lost the one-day captaincy to Ponting in 2002 and only saved his Test career with a century in the last Ashes match in Sydney a year ago.

Waugh showed the same perfect-timing that characterised his



STEVE WAUGH

batting by retiring in a blaze of glory after this week's Indian series and endorsing Ponting as his successor.

Waugh said he expected Ponting to break a stack of batting records, including Allan Border's record for the most runs as well as

his own record for the most centuries, but only as long as the demands of the captaincy didn't weigh him down.

"Ricky Ponting will do a great job. He has the respect of the players and most importantly he wants the job and he's ready for it," Waugh said.

"He's at the peak of his powers right now and there's no better time to take over.

"Run-wise I think he'll be Australia's greatest ever run scorer and century-maker but as a general rule, five years is a good period for the captain and the coach.

"After that, it depends on your worth and whether you want to keep going on and whether you've got new ideas and whether you're innovative and maybe can go a bit longer."

Waugh said the best bit of advice he could pass on to Ponting was to enjoy his teammate's success as much as his own to take some of the pressure off himself.

"You're going to have plenty of ups and downs yourself so you've got to be able to enjoy the people around you and the success they're having and also show compassion when they're not having success," he said.

"It's about taking care of your own game and thinking about those around you."