

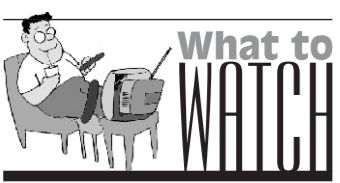


Did U Know?

The oldest Test captain was WG Grace, aged 50 years 320 days in 1899.



Steve Waugh
(Former Australian Test captain)
"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."



ESPN
Australia vs Zimbabwe
Second ODI
Live at 9:15 am
English Premier Football League
Leicester City vs Chelsea
Live at 7:55 pm
Man United vs Newcastle United
Live at 10:00 pm
STAR Sports
Primera Liga
Bilbao vs Atletico Madrid
Live at 2:00 am (Monday)

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

- Who clinched the Leonine Grand Masters chess title?
Zia Refaat Raki
- Who won the Pepsi Nat'l volleyball women's crown?
BJMC Army Navy
- Who won the European footballer-of-the-year award?
Nedved Owen Zidane
- Who became World Youth football champions?
Brazil Holland France
- Who won the FIFA women's player-of-the-year award?

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



Western Union Premier Football League
Mohammedan vs Arambagh (5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium
Nat'l Cricket League (Day-2)
Dhaka vs Sylhet
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Chittagong vs Barisal
Venue: Comilla Stadium
Khulna vs Rajshahi
Venue: Jessore Stadium
Patron's Cup
Bangladesh A vs Customs
Venue: National Stadium in Karachi

Victor vanishes Victoria

SPORTS REPORTER

WESTERN UNION
Big-spenders Brothers Union joined Abahani at the top of the Western Union Premier Division Football League after thrashing Victoria Sporting Club 4-0 with a hat-trick by Russian Victor at the floodlit Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The scoreline however flattered to deceive, as the Gopibagh outfit played nothing like they did against Dhaka Wanderers. In fact the men in orange had wait until the half an hour mark before their Russian marksman found the target after seizing on a weak back pass by Victoria defender Gobinda to his keeper Raju.

Brothers had to wait eight minutes after the breather to feel virtually secure when lanky Victor, who had only scored once in the League until last night, made it two-nil with a thunderous left-footer from outside the box thanks to another defensive lapse.

After Brothers' Ugandan forward Okelo burst into the Victoria box and fired a half-hearted, the threat was not properly dealt with and so the ball somehow fell invitingly for Victor to let loose a cannon shot.

He had every right to think he would become the fifth hat-trick hero. And in the 64th minute Victor joined the impressive list when he intelligently lobbed the ball with his right foot over Victoria's substitute custodian Tutul trying to close the angle.

The winners completed the rout through substitute Hasan Imam Rikta. Just five minutes after coming on to replace Liton, the

Brothers midfielder placed the ball home from a low cross by Okelo. Brothers' third win lifted them to joint leaders with Abahani on 12 points from six outings.

On the other hand, Victoria, who started the league with a stunning 1-0 victory against giants Muktijodha -

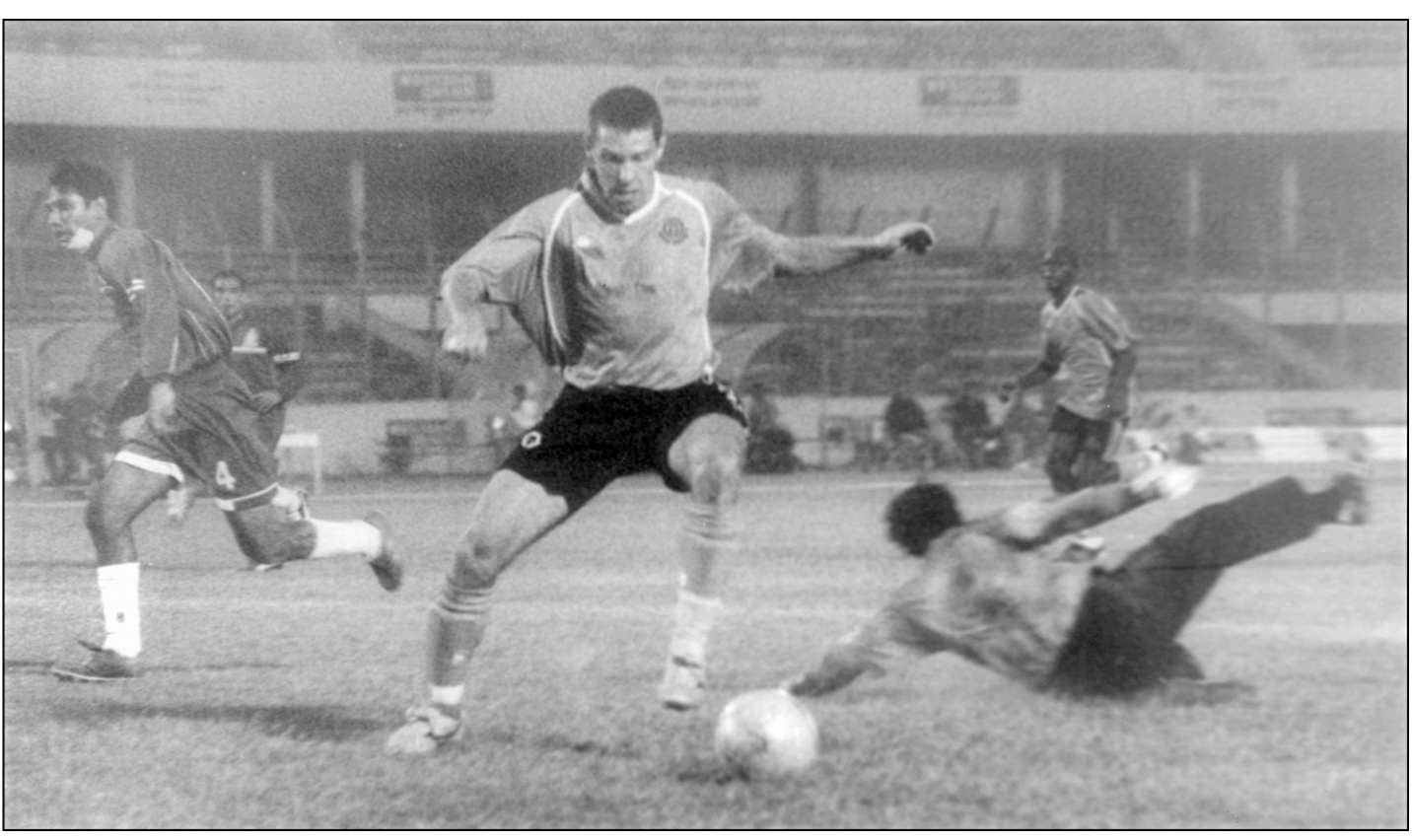
SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Points
Abahani	6	3	3	-	18	7	12
Brothers Union	6	3	3	-	16	4	12
Muktijodha	6	3	2	1	9	5	11
Sheikh Russell KC	6	3	2	1	6	2	11
Mohammedan SC	6	2	4	-	12	3	10
Arambagh KS	6	2	2	2	4	7	8
Dhaka Wanderers	6	1	2	3	4	13	5
Badda Jagarani	6	1	1	4	2	10	4
Victoria	6	1	1	4	2	13	4
Dhanmondi	6	-	2	4	7	16	2

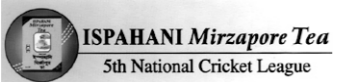
Hattricks: Saiful Islam Khokon (Abahani) against Dhaka Wanderers, Etigo (MSC) against Badda Jagarani, Khokon (Abahani) against Dhanmondi and Sandro (Abahani) against Dhanmondi, Victor (Brothers) against Victoria.

Leading goalscorers: 7 goals-Khokon (Abahani), 5 goals -- Etigo (MSC), 4 goals -- Maxim (Abahani), Sandro (Abahani), Alfaz (Brothers Union), Victor (Brothers), 3 goals-Farhad (MSC), Kannedy (Dhanmondi).



Brothers Union's Russian striker Victor rounding past a tumbling Victoria custodian Raju to score his first of three goals during their Western Union Premier Division Football League clash at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Dhaka restrict Sylhet



SPORTS REPORTER

Bowlers hogged the spotlight as the fifth round of matches in the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League began at different venues across the country yesterday.

Paceman Neeeyamur Rashid and spinner Elias Sunny each took three wickets as league leaders Dhaka restricted Sylhet to 247 in their first innings at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Saifullah Khan and Imran Parvez spun Rajshahi to a comfortable position against Khulna. They shared six wickets as the holders slumped to 164-8 at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore.

Away at Comilla, number eight batsman Sabbir Khan cracked an unbeaten 92 to rescue Chittagong against lowly Barisal. The home side recovered from 61-6 to compile 232-8 by stumps.

DHAKA V SYLHET

Three batsmen hit half-centuries but it wasn't enough for Sylhet to put up a huge total on the board. Number five batsman Golam Mowla top-scored with 68 off 167 balls that featured eight boundaries while opener Golam Mabud contributed 50 off 112 balls with seven hits to the fence.

But it was Sylhet number eight Ejaz Ahmed that put enabled the visitors to make some sort of score. He hit a 97-ball 51 with nine hits across the rope.

Right-arm pacer Neeeyamur captured three wickets conceding 50 runs while left-arm spinner Sunny captured three for 54.

CHITTAGONG V BARISAL

Sabbir Khan salvaged the port city team from an early batting collapse.

The tall batsman first paired with former national skipper Minhajul Abedin, who batted unusually at number seven, and added 73 runs. He then featured in a 92-run eighth wicket stand with Ahsanullah Hasan.

Sabbir hammered eight bound-



PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet's Golam Mowla pulls one on way to scoring 68 against Dhaka on the first day of their four-day Ispahani Mirzapore Teat National Cricket League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Azlan Shah Cup South Korea hold Australia

SPORTS REPORTER

Australia drew 1-1 with South Korea in cautious play Saturday at field hockey's Azlan Shah Cup at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

Neither side showed the form that has made them world hockey powers as play for most of the game was confined to the centre of the pitch.

"Both the teams lost their opening matches thus the cautious approach was understandable," said Australian assistant coach Colin Bell.

"Considering that both teams did not look sharp I feel that the draw was a fair result as it would

have been gross injustice if either side had won the match."

Korea, who had lost to Pakistan 4-2 in their opening match on Thursday lacked the speed and aggression normally associated with their game while the

Aussies, who also lost their first match 3-1 to Spain, were guilty of losing possession time and again.

With both teams concentrating

POINTS TABLE

Germany	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Pakistan	2	2	0	0	7	4	6
Spain	2	1	1	0	6	4	4
Malaysia	2	0	1	1	5	7	1
South Korea	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Australia	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
India	2	0	0	2	6	3	0

A team meets Customs today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A will take on Pakistan Customs in the limited-overs Patron's Cup match at the Karachi National Stadium today.

The visiting second string Bangladesh side experienced mixed results in this competition as they lost their previous two matches after winning first two encounters.

On the other hand, Pakistan Customs secured 12 points from four matches to follow leaders Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

The one-day competition will follow by a four-day meet.

C'wealth cricket BCDF meet SA in final today

BSS, New Delhi

Bangladesh Cricket Development Foundation take on South Africa in the final of the first Under-19 Commonwealth Cricket Championship at Faridabad today.

South Africa reached the final defeating Kenya by 9 wickets in the second semifinal on Friday.

The BCDF team reached the title match with a three-wicket win over India in the first semifinal on Thursday.

Rani remains on top

SPORTS REPORTER

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

Shabana Parveen Nipa was in the second position with 5 points.

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

Transcom Cup golf Farid's

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Farid won the challenging annual Transcom Cup Golf Tournament in the beautiful surroundings of Kurmitola Golf Club course on Friday.

A good holiday crowd watched as 328 golfers including 23 ladies competed in the day-long event.

Chief of Army Staff and KGC president Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury teed-off the meet and also distributed prizes as the chief guest at the club house.

Chairman and Managing Director of sponsors Transcom Limited Latifur Rahman was also present on the occasion.

OTHER RESULTS

Ladies' winner: OD Hwang; Senior winner: A Qudus; Junior winner: Imtiaz; Best gross: Shakwat-uz-Zaman; Ladies' best gross: HB Kang; Second best gross: Sqn Ldr Tejbir Singh; Runner-up: Shafiqul Islam Babul; Second runner-up: Maj Gen Abdul Wahab; Nearest to pin: CD Hwang; Longest drive: Sk Farid Ahmed.

BFF hopes to gain from AFC vision

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) wants to use an Asian Football Confederation (AFC) initiative as a means of transforming the amateur body to a professional set-up.

"The state of football in the country will never improve until we establish a professional body to monitor all activities," BFF president SA Sultan said yesterday at a press conference held a day before the arrival of a 25-member AFC delegation.

AFC president Mohamed Bin Hammam of Qatar will lead the high-powered team.

During their six-day visit the officials, which also include general secretary Dato' Peter Velappan, will offer a long-term strategic plan for the local football body through holding seminars as part of the 'Vision Asia-Pilot Project'.

The topics will cover areas such as administration, rule of district associations and clubs, coaching, finance, business affairs, television rights and marketing, women's football, school football, referees and sports medicine.

BFF officials will get a chance to air their problems during the course of each seminar.

Bangladesh earned a place in the project following their SAFF Championship success in January last year.

"Eight countries -- Saudi Arabia, China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Jordan, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh were included in the project. The SAFF Championship success helped us. Besides, the AFC supremo paid a visit during the tournament and we convinced him of our potential and that's why we beat contenders Nepal and Sri Lanka," Sultan said.

The BFF boss informed that they will especially focus on four areas -- administration, youth football, training and financial matters.

Athar favours more A team tours

SPORTS REPORTER

National selector Athar Ali Khan is in favour of sending Bangladesh A teams to Pakistan on regular basis in future.

"It is my belief that our players would benefit immensely if they were sent to places like Pakistan more often," said Athar, who accompanied the team for four matches in the first-class competition.

The former Bangladesh opener also said the senior players that featured in the Patron's Cup and Trophy matches would do very well on the tour of Zimbabwe.

"I'm very happy with their performances even though the team was unable to win any of the four-day matches. They faced some quality Pakistani attacks," he added.

Athar said that Shahriar Hossain made a statement of intent during the tour and was very much a candidate to fill the opening slot in Zimbabwe.

"He was brilliant and the way he scored his double century against a formidable attack impressed me. And I think the same could apply to Mohammad Ashraf whose confidence grew as the tour went on."

Flemo leads from front

Cricket

AFP, Christchurch

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming beat the demons Saturday, cracking an unbeaten 115 in leading his side to an emphatic seven-wicket win in a one-day match against Pakistan, and putting them 2-1 ahead in the five-match series.

After making Pakistan bat first and restricting them to 255 on a friendly wicket, Fleming brought up the winning runs with a classic boundary and 22 balls to spare.

It was a much-needed morale booster for the New Zealand Black Caps after they were comprehensively outplayed by Pakistan in the second match.

Fleming had been angry at the failures of his recognised batsmen in the first two games and his own inability to get passed the 40s and

his mood would not have been helped when Pakistan announced the return of speed demon Shaoh Akhtar from injury.

After Pakistan set a run rate of more than five an hour, Fleming's mood would have darkened further when opener Craig Cumming failed again, leaving New Zealand in early trouble at one for 10.

Hamish Marshall joined his captain and quietly accumulated the singles while Fleming set about the run chase, unveiling a delightful array of strokes off both the front and back foot.

In front of his home crowd, he played with a maturity not seen for many a one-day innings, reaching his half century in 48 balls and without resorting to rash strokes.

Marshall eventually succumbed in the 30th over when he swept Malik straight into the hands of Mohammad Sami, but by then New Zealand were 158 for two, the run rate was comfortable and the

win was coming ever closer.

Scott Styris raced to 20 before he was clean bowled by Akhtar, bringing Craig McMillan to the crease to support his skipper to the end.

It completed a memorable match for Fleming who scored his fifth one-day international century and also took his 100th catch of his international one-day matches.

Akhtar reached a top speed of 159 kilometres (98 miles) an hour in his comeback game from a groin injury, and was the best of the Pakistan bowlers with figures of one for 43 off 10 overs.

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq knew the 256 target his side set here would be difficult to defend.

"I think we were 30 runs short because it was a good batting track but the middle order was not going well in this game," he said.

Pakistan had reached 144 for two in the 30th over when their g o l d e n

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury (4th from L) is seen with the participants of the Transcom Cup golf tournament which he inaugurated on January 9 at the KGC course.