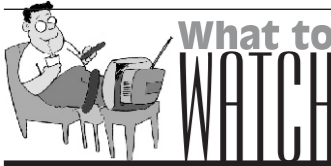




Did U Know?

The first batsman to share in 50-century partnerships in Tests was India's Sunil Gavaskar.



What to Watch

ESPN
Football Focus
Repeat at 10:00 am
English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Aston Villa
Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Newcastle United
Taped Version at 12:30 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Taped Version at 6:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



Talk Turkey



Roberto Baggio
(Italian soccer legend)
"The idea of retiring is uppermost in my mind and I think that is what will definitely happen."
Explaining his decision on retire-

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 has won the men's nine Grand Masters Chess title?
Zia Rezaat Raktb
- Who won the 1st Nat'l BIMC Army Navy
- Who won the 1st year women's Nedved Owen Zidane
- Who won the World Youth Brazil Holland France
- Who won the FIA women's Wright Prinz Mia Ham Sun

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

Niaz wins

SPORTS REPORTER
Grand Master Niaz Murshed earned three points at the end of the fourth round in Commonwealth Chess Championship now being held in Mumbai.
Niaz won his fourth round game against Rishpal Singh of India. He earlier won one board while drew the other two.
GM Harikrishna of India, GMs Fominyh and Pavel of Russia were sharing the lead with 3.5 points each.
A total of 156 players from 12 countries including 17 Grand Masters and 28 International Masters are participating in the event.



A combo photo shows (L) a happy Mohammedan coach Abul Hossain (2nd from L) shares a light moment with his charges at the club ground while (R) players of Muktiyoddha warm up before a training session the Armed Police Battalion field in Uttara yesterday. The teams meet in a crucial Western Union Premier Division Football League encounter today.

Reds limited, MSC charged up

SPORTS REPORTER
WESTERN UNION
Football fans will gather at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today afternoon hoping to see a result when defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club take on Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in a crucial match.
So far, all the four matches in the league have failed to produce any winners.
Muktiyoddha's top notch encounter with star-studded Brothers Union ended in a goalless draw. Abahani also tied Brothers 3-3. Brothers then played another stalemate with holders Mohammedan (1-1) before Abahani shared points with Muktiyoddha with a goalless draw.
But stakes will be high in today's

game and also the prospect of a win for either side as the two giants will be desperately trying to finish the first part of the double-leg championship on a high.
Although Mohammedan started poorly with a draw against newcomers Sheikh Russell KC, they appear to have put their acts together lately and are sharing the second spot with archrivals Abahani. Each have 13 points from seven matches, two points shy of leaders Brothers Union.
Muktiyoddha also began shakily and tasted defeat in their very first game against Victoria. But the Reds are peaking at the right moment. Their collection stands at 12 points from seven outings.
But the task of challenging Mohammedan has been made difficult for the Muktis as four regular players will miss today's match.
Liberian defender Harry, midfielder Tushar and forward Moni are serving bans while Iraqi defender Riyadh is injured. National striker Rokunuzzaman Kanchan too is not hundred percent.
"It's a big set back for the team and I'm yet to decide on how to line-up the first eleven," said Muktiyoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik. "I'm also worried with Kanchan because he is not fully fit," Manik added.
His Mohammedan counterpart and former Bangladesh defender Abul Hossain, however has an abundance of talent to choose from.
"Everybody in the team is fit and raring to go," said Abul. We are considering every match as a final and today's game will not be any different. The team is in good shape now. The four Cameroon booters have also gelled nicely.



PHOTOS: STAR

Ban and fine on Tushar

SPORTS REPORTER
The disciplinary committee of the Western Union Premier Division Football League slapped a three-match ban and fined Tk 10,000 on Muktiyoddha Krira Sangsad midfielder Tushar for physically assaulting the referee during a match on Monday against Abahani at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.
The committee also banned Abahani striker Saiful Islam Khokon for one match. The club itself received a Tk 10,000 fine for its officials and supporters' unruly behaviour.
They also warned Abahani midfielder Arif Khan Joy for his misconduct with the assistant referee.
But the disciplinary committee also denounced referee Taiyeb Hasan and his two assistants for officiating the match poorly.

Elina thorn in India's flesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Uzbekistan's Elina denied the prospect of an all-Indian semifinals in the girls' singles of the International Junior Tennis Championship at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex yesterday.
Elina lined up with Indian trio of Punam Reddy, Kartiki Bhatt and Ashmita in the final four after her straight 6-4, 6-1 win over South Korea's Jung Yoon Shin.
Punam scored a 6-4, 6-4 win against Yu Ting Lin Chinese Taipei and Kartiki came from behind to win over Tjasa of Slovakia 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Ashmita won the battle of compatriots Gayatri Krishna 7-6, 6-1.
The boys' singles semifinals however had two representatives from Taipei in Lee Hsin Han and Huai En. Indian Singh and Khatib of Great Britain completed the quarter.
In the girls' doubles, Linyu and Lee Ya of Taipei, Pancharat and Ractchaya of Thailand, Dilyara and Tjasa of Slovakia and Sandai and Reddy of India reached the last four.

Abahani cry for justice

SPORTS REPORTER
WESTERN UNION
Abahani Krira Chakra yesterday demanded proper action against referee Taiyeb Hasan and the police attack on chief football coordinator Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul and manager Momen Munna.
"The police not only mercilessly beat up Tutul but also verbally abused Munna. We are feeling insecure because of frequent police actions. It was not long ago when police raided our club that did never happen in our history," said Chumnu.
Munna said that Taiyeb was planted to deny his team a deserving victory.
"Let alone the disallowed goal, we were deprived of a genuine penalty after Nikolai was brought down inside the box during the last five minutes," said a fuming former national captain.
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Rani champion for 14th time

SPORTS REPORTER
IWM Rani Hamid of Bangladesh Biman clinched the title of the Igloo 25th National Women Chess Championship with a tenth straight win at the NSC chess room yesterday.
Rani beat Shamiha Sharmin Shimmi in the 10th round to lift the crown for the 14th time.
Shabana Parveen Nipa of Titus Club became runner-up with 8.5 points.
Zakia Sultana of Ansars finished third with seven points.
In the round, Nipa drew with Dilara Jahan Nupur of Barisal, Zakia beat her teammate Afroza Khanam Bably, Nazrana Khan Eva of Manikganj beat Masuda Begum of Barisal, Afris Khatun Moni beat Shamima Akter Liza of Narayanganj and Kishwara Shajrin Evana of Narayanganj earned walkover against Tanima Parveen.
Final points table after the 10th round: 10 Rani Hamid; 8.5 Nipa; 7 Zakia; 6 Eva, Dilara; 5.5 Masuda; 5 Shimmi; 4 Liza; 3 Moni; 2.5 Bably, Evana; and 1 Tanima.
The 11th and final round will start at 3pm today at the same venue.

Sehwag strikes Zimbabwe

AFP, Hobart
A blistering 90 from man-of-the-match Virender Sehwag helped India to a seven-wicket win over Zimbabwe and their first victory of the tri-nation series at Bellerive Oval here on Wednesday.
Sehwag, a part-time spinner who had earlier taken 2-40 against Zimbabwe's batsmen, blasted his runs off just 99 deliveries in an innings which included nine boundaries five of them sixes.
India finished with 211 for three, for its first victory in the series after both teams lost their opening matches against host-nation Australia.
Chasing Zimbabwe's 208 for six, Sehwag joined with the little master Sachin Tendulkar, who made 44, to put India in control with an opening stand of 130 from 24 overs.
From there only a miracle could save Zimbabwe and despite picking up 42 for three, India bolted to victory with 74 balls to spare well inside the 40 overs needed to earn a bonus point for the match.
Captain Sourav Ganguly hit a breezy 32 not out, with V.V.S Laxman unbeaten on 13. Tendulkar smashed four early boundaries and at one stage led his partner by 15 runs before Sehwag hit full throttle.
Earlier a late flourish by Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak had helped carry his team to a respectable 208 for six after the top order again failed to find form.
Streak paired with all-rounder Sean Ervine for a 93-run partnership from just 72 balls to help rescue Zimbabwe's innings after an uninspiring performance by the top-order.



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Indian opener Virender Sehwag lofts one for maximum on way to scoring a 99-ball 90 against Zimbabwe in their VB tri-series encounter at Hobart yesterday.

NZ clinch series in style

AFP, Napier
New Zealand exacted revenge after losing a one-day series in Pakistan last month 5-0, and the recent home Test series 1-0.
"We were very determined after the Test series to do well in the one-day series, and winning (the series) in four games is great," a delighted Fleming said.
"A series win against Pakistan after coming off 5-0 in Pakistan is something we will celebrate tonight."
Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq conceded his side fell victim to injudicious shot selection.
"Our shot selection was very



MILLS TAKES OFF: New Zealand pacer Kyle Mills follows through on a delivery during the fourth one-day international against Pakistan in Napier yesterday.

Cute handball

BSS, Dhaka
Defending champions Bangladesh Rifles defeated Bangladesh Police 35-23 in the Cute Premier Division Handball League at Dhaka Handball Ground yesterday.
The winners led the first half 20-14.
Saiduzzaman scored highest nine goals while Khairuzzaman and Kamrul contributed eight each for the riflemen.
Preeti Mohan scored nine goals for the vanquished.
Dhanmondi Club registered a 26-15 win over Old Ideals in the day's first encounter.
The winners took a dominating 14-6 lead at the breather.
Ripon struck 10 goals for Dhanmondi while Adam with nine was the leading scorer for Old Ideals.

Leading the way

REUTERS, London
Throughout the ages bowlers have seen themselves as downtrodden artisans compared to batsmen.
"The last bowler to be knighted," remarked wit, writer and leg-spin bowler Arthur Mailey, "was Sir Francis Drake."
Mailey, a gifted if often profligate leg-spin and googly bowler for Australia during the 1920s, would have winced in sympathy as 1,747 runs were accumulated in the recent fourth Test between Australia and India.
Five batsmen in the all-time top 20 by average were present in Sydney for Steve Waugh's final Test.
They included Australia's Matthew



BRIAN LARA
Hayden (58.28), Ricky Ponting (55.97) and Adam Gilchrist (55.59). India fielded Rahul Dravid (57.42), in 11th place one spot ahead of Sachin Tendulkar (57.19).

Tickets go on sale today

ICC U/19 CRICKET WORLD CUP BANGLADESH 2004
SPORTS REPORTER
The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will start selling tickets for the upcoming ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup from today, nearly a month ahead of the tournament.
BCB chief executive officer Mackbul Hussein Durdhia made the announcement at a press conference yesterday.
Although enthusiasm among fans for the youth cricket gala is yet too set in, the organisers said that they had gone by the instructions from the International Cricket Council (ICC) to make tickets available for the spectators a month in advance.
Selected branches of state-owned Janata Bank will sell the tickets. Matches of the U/19 World Cup will be spread over eight venues in five regions Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi and tickets will be sold at designated branches of those regions.
The venues are BNS, Fatullah Stadium, Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protistan (BKSP), MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong, Chittagong Divisional Stadium, Bogra District Stadium, Khulna Divisional Stadium and Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.
The 16-team event comprising under-19 sides of the ten ICC full members and six associates members will begin on February 15 with hosts Bangladesh taking on New Zealand at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) in one of the opening day matches.
Before that, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will officially inaugurate the meet on February 10 at the BNS.
Bangladesh have been placed in a pool that includes India, New Zealand and Scotland.
The other participating countries are Australia, South Africa, West Indies, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, England, Zimbabwe, Canada, Nepal, Ireland, Uganda and Papua New Guinea.

WHERE TO GET THE TICKETS
ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2004 will be held in Bangladesh (Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi & Bogra) from 15th February to 5th March 2004. Match tickets are available at the following branches of Janata Bank from 15th January 2004:
Dhaka: Ramna Corporate, Farmgate Corporate, Satmasjid Road Corporate, Rajuk Bhaban Corporate, Uttara Model Town Corporate, Gulshan Circle-1, Mirpur Sector-10, Mouchak Market, Dhaka University Campus, Dhakeswari Road, Victoria Park, Jurain.
Savar: Savar, Gonoshastya Kendra.
Narayanganj: BB Road Corporate, Fatullah.
Chittagong: Lalidighi East Corporate, SK Mujib Road Corporate, Kazirdewi, WASA, New Market, Colonel Hat, Pahartali, Dewanhat.
Rajshahi: Rajshahi Corporate, Haragram, Kazihata, Rani Bazar, Nowdapara.
Khulna: Khulna Corporate, Khan-A-Sabur, Nur Nagar, Dawlatpur, Cantonment.
Jessore: MK Road Corporate.
Bogra: Bogra Corporate, Fuldighi, Saptapadi Market, Chandni Bazar.
N.B: Ticket for matches in each region shall only be available from that particular region.

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