

partnerships in Tests was India's Suni



ESPN

Football Focus Repeat at 10:00 am **English Premier Football League** Liverpool vs Aston Villa Repeat at 6:30 pm Sportscentre Hind 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





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-



The Haily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 16, 2004 and draw

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Class...... Roll No......

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

Phone: (If any)

India. He earlier won one board while drew the other two.

A total of 156 players from 12 countries including 17 Grand Masters and 28 International Masters are participating in the





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 Muktijoddha 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

gather at the Sher-e-Bangla **মানি ট্র্যাঙ্গফার** Sher-e-Bangla জন্মাজ্যমাজ্যমাজ্যমাজ্যমাজ Stadium in Mirpur today afternoon hoping to see a result when defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club take on Muktijoddha Sangsad

Football fans will

Krira Chakra in a crucial match. So far, all the four big matches in the league have failed to produce

Muktijoddha's top notch encounter with star-studded Brothers Union ended in a goalless lraw. Abahani also tied Brothers 3-Brothers then played another Mohammedan (1-1) before Abahani shared points with Iuktijoddha with a goalless draw.

But stakes will be high in today's

Elina thorn in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Championship at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex yesterday.

Punam Reddy, Kartiki Bhatt and Ashmitha in the final four after her

orea's Jung Yoon Shin.

traight 6-4, 6-1 win over South

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-

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 quo-

In the girls' doubles, Linyu and Lee Ya of Taipei, Panchart and Ractchaya of Thailand, Dilyara and Tjasa of Slovakia and Sandai and

Reddy of India reached the last

Elina lined up with Indian trio of

India's flesh

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.

Muktijoddha 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

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 per-

"It's a big set back for the team and I'm yet to decide on how to the first eleven, Mukti-joddha 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

"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.

It's now time to see how they some up in a big match like this

Abul was however concerned with the form of winger Amin Rana who has had some pedestrian performances after looking close to recapturing his best form in the beginning of the season.

"I'm not very impressed with Amin Rana. He looks completely lost. I might replace him with Rony in the first eleven," Abul revealed.

PROBABLE TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Nadeem, Basala, Jewel Rana, Faisal, Rony, Kaiser, Olinga, Etigo, Afala, Pappu and Farhad.

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Aminul, Hasan Al-Mamun, Prodeep, Din Mohammad Ghansha, Papel, Lajuk, Bidyut, Matiur Munna, Arcadia Toe and

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 Muktijoddha 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 10,00 fine for its officials and supporters' unruly behav-They also warned Abahani

midfielder Arif Khan Joy for his misconduct with the assistant But the disciplinary committee

also denounced referee Taiyeb Hasan and his two assistants for officiating the match poorly.

Tickets go on sale today



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 Dudhia 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

Selected branches of stateowned 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

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. 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

Stadium and Rajshahi Divisional

Before that, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will officially inaugurate the meet on February 10 at the

the opening day matches.

Bangladesh have been placed in 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

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

NHERE TO GET THE T

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. Gonoshastva Kendra

Narayanganj: BB Road Corporate, Fatullah

Chittagong: Laldighi East Corporate, Sk Mujib Road Corporate, Kazirdewri, 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

Abahani cry

Uzbekistan's Elina denied the prospect of an all-Indian semifi-nals in the girls' singles of the International Junior Tennis



Abahani Krira day demanded

Taiveb Hasan and the police attack on its officials and players during their troubled-torn Western Union Premier Football League match against Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra.

refereeing and stop police aggres-

the club tent two days after Monday's mayhem at the Sher-e-Mirpur, Abahani's football secre-Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnu

crucial victory due to biased refereeing from Taiyeb.

He also condemned the police attack on chief football coordinator Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul and manager Momen

"The police not only mercilessly beat up Tutul but also verbally abused Munna. We are feeling insecured because of frequent police actions. It was not long ago when police raided our club that did never happen in our history," said

Munna said that Taiveb was planted to deny his team a deservng 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.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

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 yester-

Rani beat Shamiha Sharmin Shimmi in the 10th round to lift the crown for the 14th time. Shabana Parveen Nipa of Titas

Club became runner-up with 8.5

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, Afria Khatun Moni beat Shamima Akter Liza of Narayangani and Kishwara Shairin Evana of Ńarayanganj 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

Cute handball

BSS, Dhaka

Defending champions Bangladesh Rifles defeated Bangladesh Police 35-23 in the Cute Premier Division Handball League at Dhaka Handball Groundyesterday.

The winners led the first half 20-

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.

Western Union Premier Football League Arambagh vs Dhaka Wanders Mohammedan vs Muktijoddha

They included Australia's Matthew

Sehwag strikes Zimbabwe

Cricket

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 lhere on Wednesda

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 hostnation Australia. Chasing Zimbabwe's 208 for six, Sehwag joined with the little mas-ter 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 Saurav 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-

The pair came together with the score at 114 for six and at the close of the 50-over innings were both unbeaten with Streak on 59 from 68 deliveries and Ervine on 48 from 33

It was a ground-record one-day partnership for the seventh wicket. SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



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.

Leading the way

Cricket

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 profli-gate 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



(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).

At the same time West Indies captain Brian Lara (52.69) was plundering runs off a South African team led by Graeme Smith (18th overall with 55.45). Ruling out Smith, who has played only 20 Tests, six contemporary batsmen can present convincing cases for the title of world number Statistics are one guide. Australian Don Bradman, who

Waugh retired with an average of 51.06 and more than 10,000 runs.

averaged 99.94 from 52 Tests, is a unanimous choice as the best batsman in the history of the game. Context is another. Jamaican

George Headley is one of a trio grouped behind Bradman with a Test average of over 60. Unlike Bradman, Headley batted in a s t r u g g -SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

Niaz won his fourth round game against Rishipal Singh of

GM Harikrishna of India, GMs Fominyh and Pavel of Russia were sharing the lead with 3.5 points

Cricket

five-match series. After producing one of their

finest one-day bowling efforts in recent years to dismiss Pakistan for a cheap 126, New Zealand were able to bat at leisure as they picked off the target in the 23rd over. There was some movement off the pitch, but nothing to suggest it

for just eight runs. The meagre target helped New Zealand opener Craig Cumming, who has been the least effective of a sometimes brittle batting line up, as he had time to play himself in and ended with an unbeaten 45 to

full of elegance, particularly with his flowing cover drives, but he appeared to come unnerved when n one over from Shoaib Akhtar and Iahmood in the next over.

eppered three times on the body was dismissed by Azhar

for justice

SPORTS REPORTER

মানি ট্র্যাপফার WISTERN LUNCH SERVICE DE LEGAL SERVICE PRO-per action

The popular Dhanmondi outfit also threatened to boycott the league if the Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) failed to ensure impartial

Speaking at a press briefing at Bangla National Stadium in

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1 said that his team was robbed off a NZ clinch series in style

AFP, Napier New Zealand cantered to an eightwicket win with 27 overs to spare in the one-day fixture against a lacklustre Pakistan here Wednesday to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the

was as calamitous as Pakistan's batsmen found it when their top order was routed in the space of four overs, with five wickets falling

repay the selectors faith in him. Captain Stephen Fleming was

New Zealand went from 84 for one to 87 for two as Hamish Marshall came and went, bringing in hard hitting Chris Cairns who hit four fours in his 18 off 17 balls as New Zealand exacted revenge after losing a one-day series in Pakistan last month 5-0, and the recent

"We were very determined after the Test series to do well in the oneday series, and winning (the series) in four games is great," a delighted Fleming said. "A series win against Pakistan

tonight. Pakistan captain Inzamamul Hag conceded his side fell victim to injudicious shot selection.

"Our shot selection was very

after coming off 5-0 in Pakistan is something we will celebrate

were bowling on the right length, he said. In a series where the captain who won the toss has bowled first

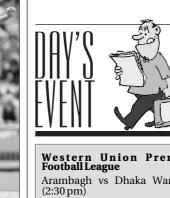
bad and the New Zealand bowlers

no hesitation in putting Pakistan into bat when the coin fell his way. Pakistan saw off the initial pace attack and comfortably reached 49 for one in the 14th over when the rot set

and won every match, Fleming had

went in quick succession, nicking the ball to wicketkeeper Brendon SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Saleem Elahi and Imran Farhat



(4:30 pm) Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadiun, Mirpur MILLS TAKES OFF: New Zealand pacer Kyle Mills follows through on a delivery during the fourth one-day international against Pakistan in Napier yesterday.