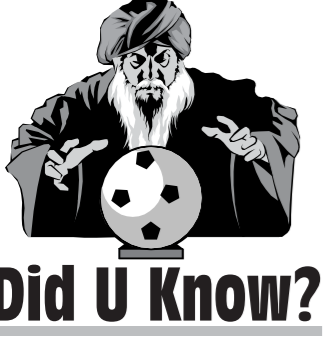


# Star SPORT

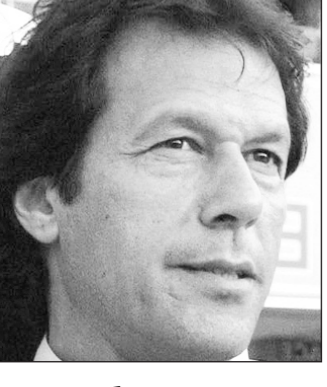
DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 27, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



## Did U Know?

Mia Hamm was the youngest woman ever to play with the US national soccer team at the age of 15

## TALK TURKEY



**Imran Khan**  
(Pakistan cricket legend)  
"Pakistan has a balanced bowling attack which will test the Indian batting and for me, Shoaib holds the ace as he is the deadliest bowler in modern day cricket."

## What to WATCH

- ESPN**
- Football Focus
  - Live at 6:30 pm
  - Sportscentre
  - Sports News
  - Live at 8:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
- Australian Open
  - Men's/Women's Singles Qtrs
  - Live at 6:00 am
  - Sportsline
  - Sports News
  - Live at 8:00 pm

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 205**

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 30, 2004 and draw

1. Who won the 25th National Women's Chess Championship title?  
Shabana Parveen, Rani Hamid, Zakia Sultana

2. Who lifted the Hopman Cup tennis title?  
Australia, America, Russia

3. Steve Waugh has played how many Test matches?  
132, 168, 200

4. David Seaman quit football at

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## DAY'S EVENT

**Western Union Premier Football League**

Mohammedan vs Abahani (4:00 pm)

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium, Mirpur

**Nat'l Cricket League (Day-4)**

Chittagong vs Dhaka

Venue: Comilla Stadium

Khulna vs Sylhet

Venue: Shamsul Huda Stadium, Jessore

## All roads lead to Mirpur

**SPORTS REPORTER**

**WESTERN UNION**  
The season's most anticipated battle takes place today with defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club facing off perennial rivals Abahani in a high octane Western Union Premier Division Football League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Dhaka derby will kick-off at 4pm under special security arrangements taken by the Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC).

"We have asked for additional police force for tomorrow's match. Besides, to avoid untoward situations, we have decided not to allow any unauthorised person or TV/video cameras inside the ground," said DMFLC secretary Muzammel Haque Mukta yesterday.

Captains of both teams have requested their passionate supporters to keep their emotion under check and accept the result in good spirit. They also urged the

DMFLC to appoint a competent referee for the game.

"If you look back, you will find that erroneous decisions of the referees and linesmen actually raised tension among the supporters and ultimately that had led to crowd violence so far in the league. So I have good reasons to expect proper refereeing tomorrow," said Mohammedan captain Jewel Rana.

Jewel will play today's match under special consideration as Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan revoked the one-match ban imposed on him by the DMFLC for misbehaving with the match officials during the ill-fated January 15 match against Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra.

About the match, Jewel said that it was going to be a do or die affair for both sides as they are well short of leaders Brothers Union already. Brothers have 21 points on completion of their nine first round games. Mohammedan and Abahani have 12 points from eight matches.

"We have to win tomorrow or forget about retaining the title," Jewel added.

Mohammedan will miss their Cameroon midfielder Afala today as he is suspended after receiving three yellow cards.

Abahani are without prolific Russian forward Maxim as he is also serving a one-game ban for receiving a red card in their previous match against Sheikh Russell KC. However, the Sky Blues will be buoyed by the return of forward Khokon who is back after suspension.

Abahani captain Rakib Hossain said it was impossible to predict an outcome in an Abahani-Mohammedan match.

"It's a game of nerves where reputation matters little. Abahani is a better team on paper but we have lost all the three previous meetings against Mohammedan this season," said Rakib.

Rakib also called for good refereeing today.

With today's match, the first round of the 10-team league will conclude.

## Abahani coach unhappy with payment?

**SPORTS REPORTER**

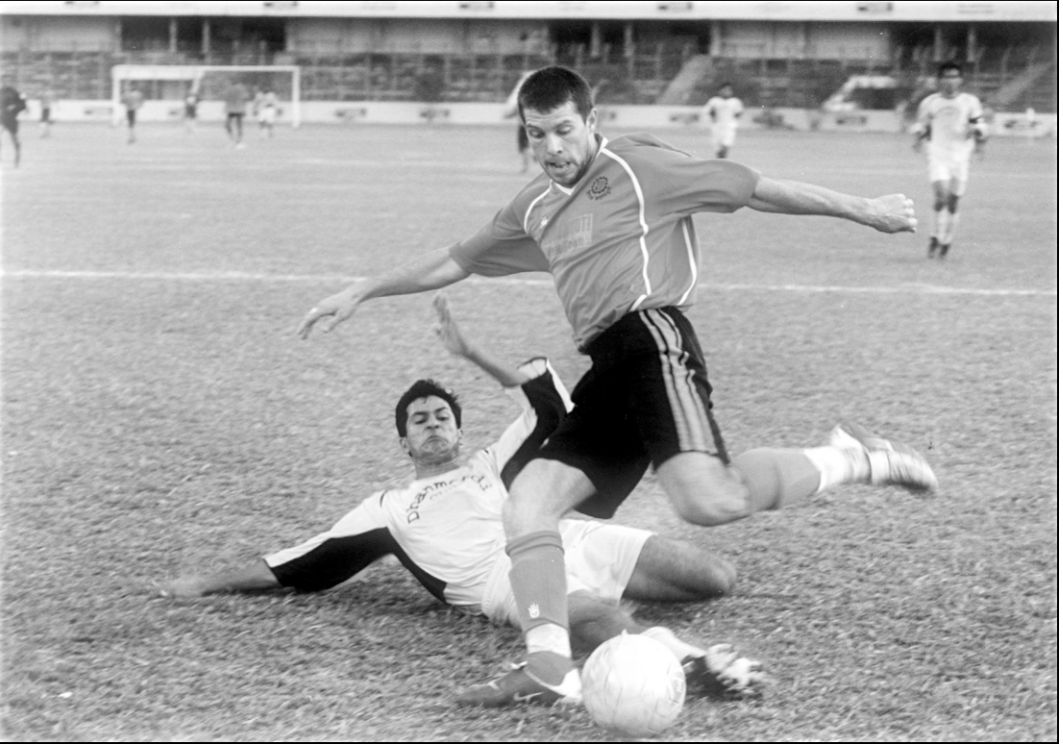
Abahani's Russian coach Anatoly Olkhovic has apparently fallen out with the popular Dhamondi club. The club reportedly relegated him to a stand-by coach and he wasn't allowed to supervise the team's practice session yesterday ahead of the crucial Western Union Premier Division league clash against arch foes Mohammedan.

Anatoly's assistant Amalesh Sen took over yesterday which came as a huge surprise to many present during the practice.

When contacted, Abahani manager Monem Munna said that it was done for the benefit of the team.

But an Abahani insider revealed that the 54-year old Moscow-based coach was not happy with the payment system of the club and didn't come to training for two days in protest last week.

Anatoly declined to talk to the press on the issue.



Brothers Union's Russian striker Victor gets past a sliding defender of Dhamondi during their Western Union Premier Division Football League encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

## Dudhia reveals strategic plan

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Chief Executive Officer of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Maqbul Hussein Dudhia yesterday presented the Board's strategic plan for the year 2003-2006.

The 49-year-old Zimbabwean in his thorough presentation, which was made at a city hotel, told reporters the plan was developed as part of the then Australian Cricket Board and Bangladesh Cricket Board agreement in 2001-05.

"If we go through with the plan the local capacity would be able to run the show in all aspects like coaching, physiotherapy, management level, IT sectors etc," said Dudhia, who believed his high performance unit would be able to shape the plan within three years.

The ambitious plan covers five strategic areas. They are: introduction of an efficient and effective

management structure, development of excellent facilities all over Bangladesh, develop high performance cricket, including a viable club system, build up participation and ensure cricket has a strong and sustainable financial base.

Dudhia said that the BCB was planning to take the game to next generation that's why their main target would be to concentrate on the school-level competition.

"It is amazing that over one thousand schools are taking part in the competition, so we should increase the facilities of the schools," he added.

Cricket committee chairman Mahbul Anam informed the audience that they are expected to hold international matches at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in February next year.

"Cricket Australia will provide the master-plan free of cost for the Mirpur Stadium and we are hopeful to start construction within three months," said Mahbul.

## Dhaka face stiff target

**ISPAHANI Mirzapore Tea**  
5th National Cricket League

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Dhaka will require a further 367 runs on the final day of their Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League match against league leaders Dhaka at the Comilla Stadium.

At stumps yesterday, Dhaka, set a stiff 405-run target, had reached 39 without loss.

Earlier Chittagong, who resumed their second innings on 72-1, piled up another 299 runs.

First-innings' destroyer Sabbir Khan led the way for the port city outfit smashing an unbeaten 85. It contained nine fours and six.

He grabbed five wickets as Dhaka were dismissed for 148 in response to Chittagong's 254.

Chittagong's foundation was laid by a second-wicket stand of 88 between Anisul Hakim and Faisal Hossain.

Right-hander Anisul scored 79 off 203 balls with eight hits to fence while southpaw Faisal contributed an 85-ball 49 with six boundaries.

Left-arm spinner Elias Sunny picked up four for 75.

Elsewhere, hartal supporters forced organisers at the Rangpur Cricket Gardens to abandon play in the between Rajshahi and Barisal after 32.2 overs.

Barisal, who began the penultimate day on 144-5 progressed to 175 for the loss of one wicket. Bad weather meant no play was possible on the first day.

At Jessore Salahuddin hit 64 to help holders Khulna take a vital 64-run first-innings' lead against Sylhet. They scored 245 after resuming the innings on 13-0 in reply their opponents to 181.

Spinner Nabil captured five for 55.

When stumps were drawn Sylhet in their second innings had made 35.

## Aussies offer to help Shabbir

**REUTERS, Karachi**

Two Australian specialists have told Pakistan bowler Shabbir Ahmed they are willing to try to correct his suspect bowling action, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Monday.

Shabbir, who had been reported for a suspect action during games in Toronto and Sharjah in 1999, was reported for a third time by umpires Billy Bowden and Darrell Hair after the fifth one-day international against New Zealand earlier this month.

Cricket coach Daryl Foster and biomechanics professor Bruce Elliott, who both worked with Shoaib Akhtar to correct his bowling action, have offered to work with Shabbir if he came to Australia, PCB chief executive Rameez Raja said.

"It is a very gracious offer from two people who are experts in their field and have done a lot of good work with Shoaib," said Raja.

Raja said the PCB was still waiting for the video tapes of Shabbir's action from the International Cricket Council (ICC) and they would make a decision on what steps to take then.

## BU clear atop

**SPORTS REPORTER**

**WESTERN UNION**  
Brothers Union Club finished the first round of the Western Union Premier Division Football League with a convincing lead as the 10-team league resumed at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday after six days of unscheduled break.

However, the title favourites were made to work hard by bottom club Dhamondi in the day's second match before scraping through 1-0. Ugandan forward Okelo scored the all-important goal 15 minutes from time with a looping header from an Arman Miah cross from the right flank.

It was Brothers' sixth win in nine matches against three draws. They have 21 points, three clear of second placed Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra.

On the other hand, Dhamondi suffered their seventh defeat in nine games. They remained glued in last spot with only two points.

Apart from the Okelo's header, Brothers had many chances to score against the minnows but it was Dhamondi custodian Ratan



Bangladesh Cricket Board chief executive officer Maqbul Hussein Dudhia makes a presentation of the Board's strategic plan for the year 2003-2006 during a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

## Singer chess Debaraj earns 1st position

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Debaraj Chatterjee grabbed the first position with 8.5 points after the end of the last round games in the preliminary phase Singer 30th National Chess Championship at the NSC yesterday.

Nine players earned 8 points each. Their tie was broken by tie-breaking system.

Their positions are: 2nd - Sawkat Hossain Pallab, 3rd - Aminul Islam Polash, 4th - Abdul Maleq, 5th - FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, 6th - Saif Uddin Lavlu, 7th - Mohammad Javed, 8th - Mehdi Hasan Parag, 9th - Monjur Alam.

These nine players qualified for the final phase.

In the last round Debaraj drew with Pallab, Polash drew with Nasir, Lavlu drew with Javed, Parag beat Amin, Monjur beat Enayet and Mani got walk-over against Shakil.

## Zim just can't do it

**Cricket**

**AFP, Adelaide**

Zimbabwe once again failed to match it with world champions Australia, tumbling to a 13-run loss in their triangular international one-day cricket series match at the Adelaide Oval here on Monday.

A painfully slow start to the innings saw Zimbabwe chasing a total it never really looked like making. After 15 overs they stood at just 40 for one in reply to Australia's 279.

Opener Grant Flower gave stout resistance to earn man of the match honours with 94 runs from 106 balls. But he found little support from the top order, with Tatenda Taibu cleaned bowled for nine with the score on 29.

Travis Friend fared no better, the victim of a thunderbolt from paceman Brett Lee while on eight.

Stuart Carlisle then made just 15 before the middle order finally offered some resistance, with Sean Ervine making 33 and skipper Heath Streak 28.

The Australian pace attack of Lee, Brad Williams and Jason Gillespie kept Zimbabwe bottled up early on, with Lee in particular keeping them ducking and weaving.

By midway through the innings, Zimbabwe had crawled to 97 for three, needing well over seven per over for the last 25 overs.

The batsmen went after part-time left-arm spinner Michael Clarke in the middle stages, taking 42 runs from his first five overs.

All-rounder Ervine hit 33 from 33 balls and with Flower smashed 16 off Clarke's fifth over, the 35th of the innings.

But spinner Brad Hogg broke their 69-run stand, easily the best of the innings, in the following over, having Ervine caught in the deep.

It was Gillespie who finally captured Flower's wicket, having him caught behind to end Zimbabwe's hopes.

But by the time Flower fell, Zimbabwe was 169 for five after 37 overs, still needing 111 from 13 overs at nearly nine per over.

It meant wickets fell regularly from then on as the lower order batsman tried to smash quick runs, with all-rounder Andrew Symonds picking up two late wickets to go with his quickfire 34 with the bat. In the end Zimbabwe capitulated for 266.

Earlier, Ricky Ponting belted a quick 63 and one-day specialist Michael Bevan compiled 75 to form the backbone of Australia's total.

Ponting's innings included 11 sixes.

## Police pressure on Saiful, Sanwar

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

Former national cricketer Saiful Islam and Sanwar Hossain once again got into a tug of war with police over the possession of land that they were awarded by the government for their heroics in the 1997 ICC Trophy, which Bangladesh won in Kuala Lumpur.

The Mymensingh police, which came under severe criticism for mishandling Saiful in September last year after the right-arm paceman went to erect fencing in his allotted land, this time retaliated by putting up their own fences on Sunday.

Police took the matter into their own hands after learning that Saiful and Sanwar had sought the permission of the Mymensingh District Commissioner (DC) to set up a homestead on that piece of land.

It was also learnt that the law-enforcers had placed a signboard clearing stating that the land was police property. Sources said that the local police high-ups also warned the two cricketers not to enter the land otherwise they would face severe consequences.

Meanwhile, the latest police move has sparked off criticism from the local people, who demanded that Saiful and Sanwar be awarded their rightful piece of land.

## Rameezuddin High rule

**SPORTS REPORTER**

**Standard Chartered**  
22nd

Shaheed Rameezuddin High School thrived on two half-centuries from Shaiful and Faisal to record a massive 139-run victory over Kachi Kanthan High School in one of five Dhaka Zone matches of Standard Chartered 22nd National Schools Cricket Championship yesterday.

Shaiful hammered a breezy 81 and Faisal made 59 in Shaheed Rameezuddin's commanding total of 255-6 in 35 overs at the Uttara Friends Club ground.

It was also the highest score of any of the matches played at different venues in the city.

Set to climb a mountain Kachi Kanthan were bundled out for 116 in 31.2 overs.

Adarshya Bidyapith scored a seven-wicket victory over Manarat

## Benfica booter dies playing

**AFP, Lisbon**

Hungarian striker Mikos Feher became the second international footballer in the last seven months to die during a game when he collapsed while playing for Benfica on Sunday.

The 24-year-old Feher, who had come on as a substitute after 60 minutes, was rushed to hospital but died shortly after.

He had just been sanctioned in injury-time for time-wasting after Portuguese giants Benfica had taken a late 1-0 lead over Vitoria Guimaraes in a league match.

Football fans watched on television and at the stadium in Guimaraes, located some 320 kilometres (180 miles) north of Lisbon, as doctors tried to save an apparently unconscious Feher as he lay on the muddy field.

Benfica players, including coach Jose Antonio Camacho, wept or prayed as they paced the pitch in the driving rain before an ambulance arrived nine minutes after Feher collapsed to take the player to hospital.



A SIGHT NO ONE WANTS TO SEE: Medics try in vain to make Benfica's Hungarian international Mikos Feher (inset) breathe as a teammate (No. 30) reacts in shock after Feher had collapsed during a Portuguese league match on January 25. Feher died of a heart attack.