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## Did U Know?

The very first Wimbledon Championship was in 1877 when it was watched by some 200 spectators. In 1999 it was broadcast to 174 countries, with an estimated global audience of 1 billion people.



## Talk Turkey



**Javed Miandad**  
 (Pakistan cricket coach)  
*"In cricket, fortunes are balanced on just one ball. That's what it takes to dismiss a batsman."*



## What to Watch

- ESPN**
- Australia vs India  
Tri Series, 11th ODI  
Live at 8:30 am
  - English Premier Football League  
Blackburn Rovers vs Chelsea  
Live at 7:55 pm
  - Arsenal vs Man City  
Live at 10:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
- Australian Open  
Mixed Dbls & Men's Singles Final  
Live at 6:00 am
  - South Africa vs West Indies  
Fourth ODI  
Live at 1:57 pm

## Star Whizz Kid

COMPETITION 205

Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
 Win attractive prizes  
 Competition closes at 8 pm  
 Feb 13, 2004 and draw  
 shortly afterwards

- Who won the 25th National Women's Chess Championship title?  
 Shabana Ferveen | Bani Hamid | Zakia Sultana
  - Who lifted the Hopman Cup tennis title?  
 Australia | America | Russia
  - Steve Waugh has played how many Test matches?  
 132 | 168 | 200
  - David Seaman quit football at the age of  
 38 | 40 | 42
  - Who will lead Bangladesh's ICC Under-19 World Cup team?  
 Nafis | Ashiqur | Tushar
- Name: .....  
 Class: ..... Roll No.: .....  
 School Address: .....  
 Phone: (If any) .....

## CA appeals for help

Australian cricket authorities appealed to the public Friday for help in catching thieves who stole a batch of prized autographed cricket bats.

The 43 stolen bats were signed by Australian and international sides from matches dating back a decade, including the 1999 World Cup won by Australia, Cricket Australia said.

Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said the theft of the bats from a Melbourne storage facility was discovered in August and police had failed to track down the culprits.

"We understand the police have several leads in their investigation, which has been progressing since

# MSC misery mounts

SPORTS REPORTER

**WESTERN UNION** Arambagh Kriya Sangha sprinkled more salt on a wounded Mohammedan Sporting Club when they held their fancied Mujibhel neighbours to a goalless draw in their first return league encounter of the Western Union Premier Division Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Virtually thrown out of the title race after their 2-1 defeat against bitter rivals Abahani Kriya Chakra in the Dhaka derby on Tuesday, Mohammedan needed a mountain to climb and all the luck in the world to stage a turnaround in the return leg.

But the holders not only lacked someone special to give that finishing touch but also found that luck was running against them in a season so far they would definitely try to forget.

Having already forfeited two of the three major domestic titles, the Black and Whites made a desperate effort to return to winning ways if not emulating their first round 3-0 success against a team known as a traditional giant-slayer.

But Arambagh custodian Atiqul Islam stood like an impregnable

wall, making at least five brilliant saves in the second half. It was understandable when the tall custodian became the toast of celebration in the Arambagh camp after the game was over.

The result in the last match hot on the heels of Abahani's 1-1 stalemate with Dhaka Wanderers before going into a five-day Eid break was music to the ears of big-spending Brothers Union.

While Mohammedan stayed in an unlikely sixth position with 15 points, Brothers lead the 10-team table with 24 points. Abahani, on the other hand, have 18 points that gave an indication that the league race for the first time since Independence would not feature the two proven giants in domestic football.

At the moment Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra has the strongest possibility of challenging Brothers' bid to win a dream league title.

Back to the day's match, Mohammedan were often sluggish in the first 45 minutes. However, they picked up their game after the break with their talented midfielder Kaiser opening up the packed opponents' defence.

Kaiser curled in a superb cross from the right-flank that found

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Points
Brothers Union	10	7	3	-	27	5	24
Muktiyoddha	10	6	3	1	19	6	21
Abahani	10	4	6	-	22	10	18
Sheikh Russell KC	10	5	3	2	10	5	18
Arambagh KS	10	4	3	3	6	10	15
Mohammedan SC	10	3	5	2	16	7	13
Victoria	10	3	1	6	6	17	10
Dhaka Wanderers	10	2	3	5	7	19	9
Badda Jagarani	10	1	1	8	3	19	4
Dhanmondi	10	-	2	8	9	27	2



Mohammedan's Cameroon striker Etigo (L) is under pressure from Arambagh defender Apu during their Western Union Premier Division Football League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## PCB wants to keep Karachi, Peshawar

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan want to play matches in the contentious venues of Karachi and Peshawar in the series against India. South Africa and New Zealand refused to play there last year because of security fears but the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) says it is safe.

"We should not deprive millions of cricket-starved people of these two big cities from watching exciting cricket," said PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan.

The respective boards have yet to finalise a schedule for the series. It is due to take place in March and April and will be India's first Test tour to Pakistan for 14 years.

Shaharyar met Indian ambassador Shiv Shankar Menon for talks on Friday.

"It is a positive sign that cricket is being revived and both the boards are working to sort out the details," the Press Trust of India quoted Menon as saying.

"Cricket can add to the peace process both countries have initiated, and as a keen follower of the game I keep my fingers crossed for exciting cricket."

## Sumathipala remanded

AFP, Colombo

A Colombo magistrate Friday remanded Sri Lanka's cricket chief and head of the main telecommunications company after formally charging him with breaking immigration laws, a court official said.

Thilanga Sumathipala was ordered to be remanded in custody for 10 more days pending further police investigations, the official said.

Sumathipala appeared before the court on Friday, 11 days after he was remanded following allegations that he helped a criminal travel abroad on a forged passport.

The magistrate refused him bail and fixed the next hearing for early next month.

Sumathipala is the president of Sri Lanka Cricket, the governing body of the sport as well as chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom, the main carrier partly owned and fully managed by NIT of Japan.

Sumathipala had been accused of aiding and abetting Dhammika Amarasinghe, a man implicated in more than 28 murder cases and with previous convictions, to obtain a forged passport and travel to London to see a cricket match.



WELCOME TO BANGLADESH: The Nepalese Under-19 cricket team upon their arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday. Players from the Himalayan kingdom became the first to come here to take part in the ICC U-19 World Cup that starts on February 10. However, the tournament proper begins on February 15.

## U-18 booters go to Thailand on Eid Day

BSS, Dhaka

The Bangladesh under-18 football team will take on hosts Thailand in their first match in the BIMST-EC Youth Football Tournament on February 4 in the city of Phuket.

Placed in Group A, the Bangladeshi boys meet Sri Lanka in their next match of the competition, which runs from February 3 to 8, the following day. Bhutan, Nepal, India and Myanmar are competing in Group B.

The semifinals are scheduled for February 7 while the final will be held on February 8.

A 22-member Bangladesh team, including four officials, are scheduled to leave for Thailand on February 2.

## Close shave for Tigers

Saleh added 51, according to Bangladesh team manager MA Latif.

Latif was talking to The Daily Star Sport just after the first of the three practice matches ended in the Namibia capital at around 10pm (BST).

It was a tense finish that saw the ICC associate member nation putting up a good fight against their more established opponents.

"They required 18 runs in the last over to win the game and seven of the last ball bowled by paceman Tapash Baishya," said an excited Latif from the ground.

Namibia ended their brave chase at 256-7 in 50 overs. Tapash was the pick of the Bangladesh bowlers with three wickets. Left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique also took three

## Aus wary of India batting

AFP, Perth

Australia will face the full might of India's batting line-up in their one-day cricket match here on Sunday, but it is the bowlers that have stand-in skipper Adam Gilchrist just as worried.

Gilchrist, who will fill-in for rested captain Ricky Ponting, said there was no magical formula for handling what was rapidly becoming the world's most formidable batting line-up.

"It's been an issue all year, they've played so well," he said ahead of the triangular VB Series match at the Western Australian Cricket Association Ground.

"I'm not going to say we've come out with a secret plan that we're certain is going to do the job.

"But we've continued to assess it and got our thoughts together about what we want to try and execute our plans this time and we'll see how it comes out."

Gilchrist said India's tour of Australia had also unveiled the strength of its previously underrated bowling attack.

"What they've done on this tour is prove that they've got some quality bowlers," he said.

"(Anil) Kumble has come into his own on this tour where previously he hasn't done well overseas or certainly in Australia.

"(Ashish) Nehra, (Irfan) Pathan... Ajit (Agarkar) have bowled wonderfully well all tour.

"Their bowling line-up has certainly proven that they've got a bit more fight than what's been shown before. They have been successful against everyone."

India have included fit-again batting maestros Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag in their squad, which already boasts the talents of VVS Laxman, Rahul Dravid and Yuvraj Singh.

Gilchrist said there was no easy way to counter such a potent line-up but trial and error had taught the Australians they needed to be consistent.

"It's about the execution, not so much the end result whether Laxman gets another hundred or Dravid keeps getting runs or Tendulkar or any number of those guys," he said.

"We've been a bit patchy in our execution. Sometimes we've been good, sometimes we haven't been so good.

"They're such good players

## It boomerangs on Abbas

AFP, Lahore

A Pakistani judge reprimanded a man Saturday for seeking a court order to stop national cricket hero Wasim Akram from coaching Indian bowlers, and issued him a hefty fine.

"Wasim has been a national hero and a legend and unnecessary inconvenience and harassment has been caused to him and the case is dismissed," civil judge Anwar Gondal said in his judgement against Syed Najmul Abbas.

Gondal fined Abbas 15,000 rupees (250 dollars).

Abbas filed his case in September last year after media reports that Wasim was coaching Indian bowlers and was to sign a deal to formalise

## Zia loses 11th game

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman lost his eleventh round game to Russian counterpart Alexander Fomin in the first International Chess tournament in Chennai, India yesterday.

Zia shared the third position with other three players with 8 points.

IWM Rani Hamid and Hafizul Islam Chapal earned 5.5 points each, Zakia Sultana and Afroza Khanam Bably earned 5 points each.

Chapal beat Santhosh of India, Rani Hamid drew with Arindam Mukherjee, Zakia drew with Lakshmi Sathithi of India and Bably beat Kushal, Shukla of India.



WASIM AKRAM

this arrangement.

Abbas wanted Wasim stopped, while the cricketer denied he was passing his skills on to rival India.

The storm of controversy over the issue subsided when the Indian cricket board hired former Australian pacer Bruce Reid as their bowling coach in November last year.

Wasim, who retired from international cricket in May last year with a world record 502 one-day and 414 Test wickets, is a television commentator in Australia where India have wrapped up a Test series and are playing a tri-nation tournament with Australia and Zimbabwe.

Pakistan's coach Javed Miandad reignited the controversy last week when he said he hoped Wasim had not given Indian batsmen tips about playing reverse swing, for which Pakistani bowlers are famous.

The Pakistani media have also questioned Wasim's loyalty to Pakistan and involvement with Indian players ahead of a much-

## Men's preview: Something special

### Australian Open

RUETTERS, Melbourne

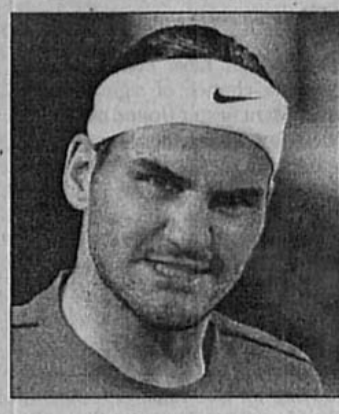
Top of the world and seemingly untouchable, Roger Federer is red-hot favourite to slay Russian goliath Marat Safin in the final of the Australian Open on Sunday.

After becoming the first Swiss man to reach number one, second seed Federer will be anxious that his ascent to the top of the world rankings does not fall flat against a resurgent Safin.

The Wimbledon champion pulverised third seed Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 after convincing wins against Lleyton Hewitt and nemesis David Nalbandian.

However, Federer knows the danger posed by Safin.

Now ranked 86th after an injury-plagued 2003, Safin won five-set



ROGER FEDERER



MARAT SAFIN

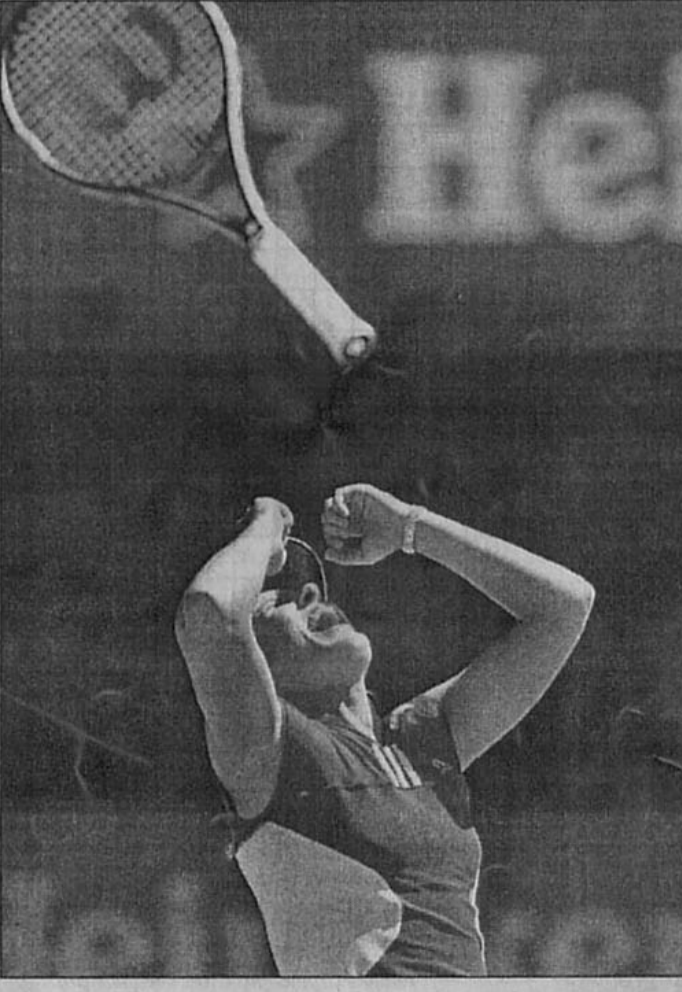
## Saha's dream debut

REUTERS, London

French striker Louis Saha has scored on his debut and Ruud Nistelrooy struck the winner as Manchester United beat Southampton 3-2 at Old Trafford to go top of the English Premier League.

Saints striker Kevin Phillips scored two fine goals from outside the box either side of the interval to put Southampton level after Paul Scholes had given United a two-goal lead in the 37th minute on Saturday.

Van Nistelrooy pounced in a



Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne tosses her racket into the air after beating compatriot Kim Clijsters in their singles final of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday.

## Henin's relief

REUTERS, Melbourne

Normally ruthlessly calm, Justine Henin-Hardenne admitted to suffering from nerves and high emotions as she fought to win her first Australian Open title on Saturday.

What started as a lopsided women's singles final between the world number one and fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters reached a dramatic climax at Melbourne Park. Clijsters, yet to claim a major title despite meeting Henin-Hardenne in three of the last four Grand Slam finals, twice fought back before the world number one finally served out to win.

"I was very emotional, I thought I couldn't close the match," said Henin-Hardenne, who also holds the French and US Open titles.

"It was really emotional. We were nervous, the both of us. It probably wasn't a good match of tennis."

"At the end the crowd gave a lot of support to Kim and it wasn't easy," said Henin-Hardenne.

"I just tried to stay focused on every point and approach in a positive way. It wasn't easy at all, the game to go to 5-3 was really close.

"I have three Grand Slams and I can't even realise it yet.

"I want to win the four grand slams. It's going to be a goal if not this year, then in coming years," she said, adding that she needed to improve her grass court game before she could expect to win Wimbledon.

Henin-Hardenne credited her success to the extra physical work