



Did U Know?

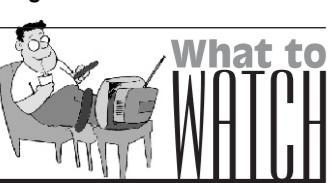
Steve Waugh made 87 consecutive ODI appearances for Australia, and was then dropped, only to be replaced by his twin brother Mark Waugh.



Sunil Gavaskar

(Indian cricket legend)
"The way they played in the World Cup and on this tour of Australia, I'd put India right at the top."

Believing that Australia are no longer the best.



ESPN

Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8.30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Sports News
Live at 8 pm



Tick the correct answers,
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 13, 2004 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who won the 25th National
Women's Chess Championship
title?

Shabana Parvez Rani Hanif Zaka
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
the age of

38 40

Name

.....

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Astle to have
further tests

REUTERS, Auckland

New Zealand batsman Nathan Astle, who has been troubled by persistent problems in his left knee, is to undergo scans to determine the cause of discomfort in his right knee, the New Zealand Herald reported on Tuesday.

Astle, who had surgery on his patella tendon in his left knee in April, missed the mid-year tour to Sri Lanka and returned home from India in October after the second Test in an effort to get fit for the domestic international programme.

WI 304-2

STAR SPORT MONITOR

West Indies batting first in the fifth and final one-day international against South Africa piled up a massive 304-2 in 50 overs at the New Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday.

Destructive opener Chris Gayle smashed 152 not out of 153 balls to square the series.

After the Newlands match,

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Nat'l cricket from Friday

SPORTS REPORTER

The eighth round of the Mirzapur Ispahani Tea Fifth National Cricket League resumes tomorrow after a nine-day Eid break at three different venues across the country.

Dhaka will take on Rajshahi at the Rangpur Cricket Garden while Chittagong meet Sylhet at the Sylhet Stadium and holders Khulna faces Barisal at the Barisal Stadium in the one-dayers which will be followed by the four-day competition.

Chittagong dominate the one-day table with ten points and they are followed by Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet, all with eight points. Khulna have bagged six and Barisal two from seven matches.

On the other hand, Dhaka enjoy a six-point advantage from their nearest rivals Sylhet in the longer version with 30 points. Chittagong occupy third spot securing 18 points while Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal jointly share third place with 16 points.

Tigers sweep one-dayers



SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Shahriar Hossain blasted 72 as Bangladesh completed a 3-0 whitewash of Namibia in the limited-overs series with a five-wicket victory in Windhoek yesterday.

The Tigers' top order had another useful batting practice as the visitors rattled up the 199 runs required for victory with eight overs and five wickets to spare.

It was a comfortable win for Habibul Bashar's men who had to be satisfied with two squeaky victories by six and 11 runs respectively in the first two matches against the Vipers.

Bangladesh will now play a three-day match against the home

team starting tomorrow as they continue their build-up for the tour of Zimbabwe later in the month.

Shahriar apart, Mohammedan Ashraful was the other notable scorer with an unbeaten 43 while vice-captain Rajin Saleh added 29.

Namibia had earlier struggled to 198 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs with Burger making the highest 42.

Left-arm spinner Manjurul Islam Rana led the way for the Bangladesh bowlers claiming three wickets for 29 runs from his quota of ten overs. Right-arm paceman Mashfiqur Rahman captured two for 31 from his ten while pace bowlers Tareq Aziz Khan, Monjurul Islam and occasional spinner Rajin Saleh claimed a wicket each.

On Sunday, the Tigers had

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Max commentary team due Feb 15

SPORTS REPORTER

A SET Max commentary team will arrive in Dhaka on February 15 to cover nine matches of the upcoming ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup.

Former Australian batsman Dean Jones, ex-Indian Test players Arun Lal, Laxman Shivaramakrishnan, Anshuman Gaekwad and anchor Charu Sharma form the commentary team.

Although matches get underway from February 15, SetMax's coverage starts from the next day with the India-Scotland game.

SetMax has bought the television rights of the event and the channel is expected to telecast live three group stage games involving India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the India-Scotland game.

The stylish right-hander Nafees, who lost the captaincy to Ashique

Nafees nails Nepal



SPORTS REPORTER

Richard McInnes' charges finally blazed when the Bangladesh Under-19 team scored a massive 191-run victory over Nepal Under-19 in a limited-overs practice match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Nafees Iqbal led the way with a brilliant century as the home side outplayed the visitors, who arrived on Saturday as the first team to take part in the ICC Under-19 World Cup starting from February 15 across the country.

The West Indies' Nafees, who lost the captaincy to Ashique

Rahman recently, smashed 101 as the hosts reached 285 for six in the stipulated 50 overs after deciding to bat.

While McInnes might have been happy that top order all made runs but he would not have been pleased with the running between the wickets as he watched four batsmen run themselves out.

Nafees belted seven fours and four sixes in his 132-ball knock and featured in a 96-run second wicket stand with his Chittagonian mate Aftab Ahmed, who made 48 off 64 balls with four hits to the fence.

Wicketkeeper Dhiraj Ghosh was in marauding mood when he blasted seven fours and a six to score unbeaten 44 off 26 deliveries.

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Kallis spree not enough



AFP, Centurion

Jacques Kallis continued his hot batting streak but it was not enough to stop a rampant West Indian side run off a spectacular victory by seven wickets at Centurion Park on Sunday.

Kallis made an unbeaten 95 in a South African total of 297 for four, but he was outshone by a sparkling collective West Indian batting performance as the tourists won with five overs to spare to keep alive their hopes of sharing the series.

South Africa lead 2-1 with one match to play.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul was the star for the tourists, hitting 92 off just 75 balls, with ten fours and two sixes, but Chris Gayle, Ricardo Powell and Ramaresh Sarwan all made important contributions before skipper Brian Lara sealed the victory with a thrilling unbeaten 59

off 37 balls.

"We were very positive from the start," said Lara of the run chase.

"Things haven't gone well for us on this tour, so to finally get a victory is great."

Lara said his team were looking forward to the final match of the series in Johannesburg on Wednesday, while South African captain Graeme Smith said his team needed to re-group.

"We weren't precise enough with the ball," he admitted.

The West Indies attacked from the start of the highest successful run chase in their one-day history, with Gayle slamming 26 off 22 balls, hitting two sixes and two fours off opening bowler Andre Nel.

The pace was maintained by Powell, who hit 34 off 34 balls, before Chanderpaul was joined by Sarwan (77 not out) in a third-wicket stand of 108.

Chanderpaul was caught behind when Shaun Pollock, the only South African bowler who escaped a pummelling, returned to the attack

in the 33rd over.

But any thoughts the home side had of getting back into the game were destroyed by Sarwan and Lara, who thrashed the bowling in an unbeaten partnership of 100 off 75 balls.

Fast bowlers Nel and Makhaya Ntini were targeted early on, with Nel conceding 38 runs off three overs and Ntini 17 off two when he replaced Nel.

The West Indies were always ahead of the required run rate.

Kallis was stranded five short of his sixth hundred against the West Indies during the season as South Africa made first use of the first batsman-friendly pitch of the one-day series after Smith, on his 23rd birthday, won the toss.

Kallis has been in phenomenal form against the West Indies on the current tour, scoring 712 runs at an average of 178 in the Test series, hitting centuries in each of the four matches.

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Proteas get Ngam back

AFP, Johannesburg

Mfuneko Ngam, hailed as the future of South African fast bowling on his debut three seasons ago, was named Monday in the South African squad to tour New Zealand.

Ngam, 25, has fought a frustrating battle against a series of injuries and his selection may be an act of faith as much as an indication that he is ready to make a major impact on the cricket world.

It is the first season since his debut that Ngam has not missed a game through injury but his form has been unconvincing.

Ngam, then 21, was picked for the third Test against New Zealand in 2000/01 and would have had a wicket with his fourth ball if Daryl Cullinan had not dropped a straightforward catch at first slip. He took two for 34 in a game reduced to one innings by rain.

Ngam then played in two Tests against Sri Lanka, taking three wickets in each innings of the second Test at Newlands, Cape Town, where he bowled with electrifying pace which clearly discomfited the touring team.

The youngster from Motherwell, a poor black area near Port Elizabeth, had beaten the odds to make it to the top and was set to join Makhaya Ntini as a black cricketing hero.

After the Newlands match,

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Zia finishes joint third

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman had to be content sharing third place after the 13th and final round of the first International Chess Tournament in Chennai on Wednesday.

Zia and four other GMs (Russians Alexander Fominyh, Pavel Smirnov and Sergey Iskusnyh and Safin Shukhrat of Uzbekistan) all earned 9.5 points.

Zia drew his board with GM Safin Shukhrat of Uzbekistan. In the previous round he defeated another Uzbek GM in Dzhumaev Marat.

GM Koneru Humpy of India and IM Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan became joint champions with 10 points each.

Meanwhile, IWM Rani Hamid, Zakia Sultana and Afroza Khanam Babu collected six points each.

U-17 booters sink Lanka

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-17 team ride on captain Atiqur Rahman's hatrick made a flying start in the BIMST-EC Youth Football Tournament when they handed Sri Lanka a 5-1 thrashing in Phuket yesterday.

After a barren first half, Atiqur pumped in four times and Rony Islam netted the other goal to virtually confirm the team a place in the semifinals on February 7.

Coached by Shahidur Rahman, the juvenile booters will play their second and last Group A match against hosts Thailand today.

Pakistan under match-fixing cloud again

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan cricket has been hit by a fresh match-fixing scandal after the leak of a confidential report from the ICC's Anti Corruption Unit (ACU) to the Pakistan board which suggested that the team may have deliberately under-performed in two one-day tournaments in 2002.

A story in The News, a Pakistan daily, claims that two letters were sent by Lord Condon, director of the ACU, expressing concern about the conduct of some Pakistan players in tournaments in Morocco and Kenya.

Pakistan performed poorly in both the tri-nation tournaments: they lost three out of four matches in Morocco, and made it to the final in Kenya only because the host nation was the third team in the competition.

Kapil finally gets his due

AFP, Bombay

Cricket legend Kapil Dev was this week offered a luxury that was denied him almost three decades ago when he was a fledgling young fast bowler extra helpings of chapatis (Indian bread).

In 1976, Kapil, then a 17-year-old tearaway hoping to play big-time cricket, was rebuked by officials when he asked for more bread during a training camp for young cricketers at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) here.

"Why do you want more chapatis?" thundered camp commander Keki Tarapore, who had the reputation of being a strict disciplinarian.

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Sumathipala withdraws

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's cricket chief Thilanga Sumathipala, in custody on charges of breaking immigration laws, Sunday announced he would not seek re-election to the governing body.

Sri Lanka Cricket