



## Did U Know?

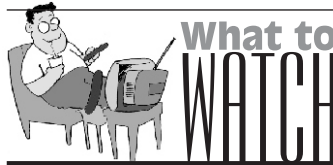
Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, the youngest ever Test captain, and a very fine Indian batsman played for a long time with a glass eye.



## Brian Lara

(West Indies captain)  
"He was awesome. When he got out I went up to him and told him it was the greatest batting in a series I've ever experienced, for or against."

On Jacques Kallis's amazing run-spre in the just-concluded series.



## ESPN

VB Series final  
Preview show  
Live at 8.30 am  
VB Series final  
Australia v India  
Live at 9.15 am  
Sportscentre India  
Sports show  
Live at 8.30 pm  
STAR Sports  
Sportsline  
Sports show  
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 Parveer 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

4. David Seaman quit football at the age of

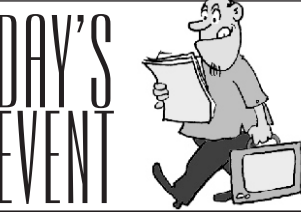
38 40

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....



Western Union Premier Division Football League  
Brothers Union v Badda Jagarani (3pm)  
Muktijoddha v Dhaka Wanderers (5pm)  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium  
Mirzapore Isphani Tea Nat'l Cricket League  
(One-day competition)  
Chittagong v Sylhet  
Venue: Sylhet Stadium  
Dhaka v Rajshahi  
Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden  
Khulna v Barisal

# It's BU's for the taking Premier Division resumes today

## SPORTS REPORTER

**WESTERN UNION** Fresh from a five-day Eid break, leaders Brothers Union will be hoping that they are not caught in Qurbani hangover against a sorry Badda Jagarani in one of the two return leg matches of the Western Union Premier Division Football League today.

The second leg of the championship resumes at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur with Brothers' game at 3pm. It will be followed by the clash between second place Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and Dhaka Wanderers Club, which is scheduled for a 5pm start.

With 24 points from ten outings, Brothers are overwhelming favourites to pocket full points against

Badda who are almost certain to face exit from the elite group at the end of the season. So far, they have won only one match and drew another while suffering eight defeats. Badda are just above bottom club Dhanmondi in the 10-team league.

National League and Federation Cup winners Muktijoddha are looking and playing like Brothers' main challengers for the title.

The Reds have 21 points from ten matches and have really bounced back after a disappointing start to the league when they lost 0-1 to Victoria Sporting Club. Wanderers however will be inspired by their 1-1 draw against third placed Abahani before the Eid holidays.

The promotees also have to

play for their lives if they are to avoid going back to the First Division as they have only managed nine points and are eighth in the table. The last three finishers would be relegated this time according to the new format.

The country's two most popular clubs Abahani and Mohammedan never had it this tough. While Abahani, who are joint third with Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra with 18 points, could still get lucky provided Brothers and Muktijoddha come up with some terrible results, Mohammedan are in dire straits.

The Motijheel giants, who won an unprecedented three major titles last season, are in sixth spot with 13 points from 10 matches and face a year without any silverware.

## PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brothers Union	10	7	3	-	27	5	24
Muktijoddha	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

**Hattrick:** Saiful Islam Khokon (Abahani) against Dhaka Wanderers, Etigo (MSC) against Badda Jagarani, Khokon (Abahani) against Dhanmondi and Alessandro (Abahani) against Dhanmondi, Victor (BU) against Victoria, Toe (Muktijoddha) against Dhaka Wanderers, Okelo (Brothers) against Dhanmondi).

**Leading goalscorers:** 8 goals - Khokon (Abahani), Etigo (MSC), 7 goals - Okelo, 6 goals - Victor (BU), 5 goals - Maxim (Abahani), 4 goals - Alessandro (Abahani), Alfaz (Brothers Union), Kennedy (Dhanmondi), Toe (Muktijoddha).

## Nafees torments Nepal



## SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Nafees Iqbal continued to toy with Nepal's bowlers when the Bangladesh under-19 cricket team coasted to an eight-wicket win in their second practice match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The former under-19 captain, who slammed 101 against the visitors on Tuesday, scored 80 off 95 balls as the home side, chasing a modest Nepal total of 182 in 50 overs, reached 186-2 in 37.4 overs.

Together with opening partner Naeem Islam, Nafees shared an 85-run stand and then added another 50 with one-down Nazimuddin before being dismissed.

The young Chittagong right-hander smote eight boundaries.

Nafees apart, Nazim was undefeated on 36 off 57 balls with three fours while Naeem made 35 off 77 balls with four boundaries.

Electing to bat, Nepal were shot

out for 182 in 49.2 overs with Sharad hammering highest 89-ball 56 with seven boundaries followed by Shakti who added 38 off 79 balls hitting just one boundary.

Kanishka (37) and Manoj (12) were the other notable run getters.

For Bangladesh medium-pacer Rubaiyat Haq and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque bagged two wickets each.

Nepal, who arrived in Bangladesh on December 31 to prepare for the forthcoming ICC Under-19 World Cup, will play their last match against Bangladesh at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium tomorrow.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**NEPAL U-19:** 181 all out in 49.4 overs (Sharad 56, Shakti 38, Kanishka 37, Manoj 12, Rubaiyat 2-32, Enamul 2-19)

**BANGLADESH U-19:** 186 for 2 in 37.4 overs (Nafees 80, Nazimuddin 36\*, Naeem 35, Ryad 20\*)

**Result: Bangladesh U-19 won by eight wickets.**



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Under-19 opener Nafees Iqbal sweeps on way to making 80 during the second one-day practice match against Nepal at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

A giant logo of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup is displayed at one end of the Bangabandhu National Stadium during a rehearsal for the mega event yesterday.

## U-17 booters thrashed

## SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-17 team suffered a crushing 5-0 defeat against hosts Thailand in the BIMST-EC Youth Football Tournament in the Thai city of Phuket yesterday.

However, no details of the game were provided by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF). Despite the defeat, Bangladesh have made it to the semifinals as Group A runners-up. They defeated Sri Lanka 5-1 on Wednesday in the three-team group.

Bangladesh's semifinal opponents will be decided after the Group B match between Myanmar and Bhutan. Nepal and India are the other two sides featured in Group B.

## U-21, nat'l snooker starts February 8

## SPORTS REPORTER

The ninth National (Under-21) Snooker Championship and 20th National Snooker Championship begin at the Dhaka Club Billiards room from February 8.

A total of 97 players from 11 affiliated clubs will take part in the tournaments over 12 days.

## Waugh won't play county

## BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Australian captain Steve Waugh will not be playing county cricket in England this summer.

Waugh's agent, Robert Joske, told BBC Sport he had received inquiries about his availability from four counties, but turned them down.

"He wants to spend some time with his family," said Joske.

Waugh played for Somerset in 1987-88 and made four Championship appearances for Kent in 2002 as a short-term replacement for Andrew Symonds.

Joske declined to name the clubs interested in Waugh, but said some had made formal offers.

Champions Sussex recently denied reports linking them with Waugh and have now re-signed former Zimbabwe Test batsman Murray Goodwin.

There are only a few overseas places remaining to be filled for the 2004 season, but Nottinghamshire have been linked with a handful of Australian batsmen, while Middlesex have yet to sign anyone.

Waugh retired from Test cricket following the fourth Test against India earlier this month, his 168th appearances for Australia. He led the team in 57 matches, winning 41 of them, and scored 10,927 runs overall at an average of 51.

The 38-year-old also played 325 one-day internationals and led Australia to victory over Pakistan in the 1999 World Cup final at Lord's.

He continues to play first-class cricket for state side New South Wales.

# Aus hold mental edge



## AFP, Melbourne

Australian captain Ricky Ponting is hoping speedster Brett Lee has left his Indian rivals mentally scarred as the two nations gear up for the first of the triangular VB Series one-day finals here on Friday.

Lee, out of form for most of the summer, burst back on the scene in the last encounter between the two countries in Perth, taking 3-22 as Australia dismissed India for 203 on a lively wicket renowned for helping pace bowlers.

It was the first time all summer that a bowler dominated the powerful Indian batting line up which will again be at full strength for the first of the best of three finals series.

Australia will go into the finals with a 3-1 win record against the Indians from the qualifying series and the knowledge taken from previous tournaments that they still

have the wood over their opponents.

The Australians have two victories in tournament deciders in the past year, thrashing India in the World Cup final in March and scoring a convincing win in the tri-series decider in Calcutta in November.

Ahead of this best-of-three series, Australia has a 7-1 one-day final record over India, the sole defeat courtesy of a big Sachin Tendulkar hundred in Sharjah in 1997-98.

Ponting believes Australia can exploit that record.

The Melbourne wicket will not offer Lee, nor his fellow pace bowlers Jason Gillespie, Brad Williams and Michael Kasprovicz, the same level of support as the Perth pitch, but Ponting said he was hopeful there would be enough in it to trouble India's batsmen.

"Hopefully we can repeat what we did in Perth," Ponting said.

"Hopefully he's (Lee) created a few scars there from the way he

bowled the other day and hopefully we can carry that on and bring that on into this series.

"We know if we bowl well and execute our plans well and hold onto our catches we're going to be very competitive this final series.

"I'll guarantee the Indians will be thinking about that and they've probably got every right to.

"You look back at our record against India over the last few years and it's very, very good not only in big games but in most games of cricket we've played against them."

India was also on the front foot on Thursday with captain Saurav Ganguly shrugging off suggestions his team's batting was starting to crack.

Ganguly conceded India had discussed its losses to Australia in finals, but was determined to use it as a spur to motivate his side.

"It's a new game and I've always believed you are one evening away from greatness that's the way I've

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# Indians divided within?



## PTI, Melbourne

Fresh concerns have emerged about the willingness of a few members of the Indian cricket team to visit Pakistan when the scheduled tour begins next month.

Sources within the team say a meeting took place among a few players on arrival in Melbourne on Wednesday evening where the first final of the tri-series against world champions Australia is scheduled on Friday.

Players seem to have called upon the meeting to win wider support for boycott rather than limit it to a couple of senior players only.

The tour to Pakistan is going to generate such passion that nobody wants to be seen alone in deciding

on the issue one way or the other. They would rather look to be united in the stand than appear to be the odd men out.

The Indian team management has repeatedly denied any such move on the part of players but more and more voices within the Indian team suggest impression to the contrary.

It was in Melbourne alone, during the second Test in December, when the word first went around players' reservations on tour to Pakistan. Since then the preparation for the tour has gone ahead and players now have no choice but to take a stand since the tour to Australia is coming to a finish.

Another reason for players to deal with the issue firmly is because it might hamper their preparation for the finals which they dearly want to win.

Indians have had a brilliant tour to Australia and they are keen to leave the shores with the one-day trophy in their baggage.

Players, it is learnt, remain unconvinced about the security aspect of the tour even though the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced they would be accorded presidential level of security.

A lot hinges on the upcoming tour, certainly financially for the PCB which is looking at a profit of at least 20 million dollars.

Decisions at many fronts at the administrative level still remain to be taken but there are indications that things would be hammered out by the time the week is out.

If players make known their stance to boycott the tour, it would once again pit them against the Board of Control for Cricket in India

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# ICC idea gains support



## AFP, Sydney

Rival skippers Ricky Ponting and Saurav Ganguly on Thursday gave cautious approval to a proposed world-best cricket tournament.

Cricket Australia (CA) confirmed it had given in-principle agreement to the International Cricket Council (ICC) idea, which would pit the world's best team against a Rest Of The World XI.

They would play one Test and three one-dayers in September next year, probably in South Africa.

While Ponting and Ganguly welcomed the concept, they pointed to concerns in the game about an overload in international cricket schedules.

Australia, most likely the number one team, will have an Ashes series next year in England before the

proposed tournament. "I think it (the international schedule) is pretty full, yeah," Ponting said on Thursday.

"I think you only have to look at this year's programme, next year's programme to understand that there's not much room for too much more cricket in there.

"I suppose it is a little bit of a concern for the player group, that's it's going to be an extra Test and an extra three one-dayers but it will just depend how we're feeling at the time, even if it is us."

Ganguly echoed Ponting's concerns, saying: "Today they're always travelling at some stage, so a series would mean another few more days of cricket."

"That's the decision which needs to be made and which needs to be sorted out if that tournament's going to go on."

A CA spokesman said CA would consult with the players' body, the

Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA).

ACA chief executive Tim May was unavailable for comment on Thursday.

"There are quite a lot of practical issues which have to be worked through, hopefully they can be," the spokesman said.

But Ponting and Ganguly agreed the series would be worthwhile if the timing issue could be resolved. Ponting would welcome the chance to play against a side featuring stars such as India's Sachin Tendulkar and West Indian Brian Lara.

"Those sort of opportunities don't come around very often and it would be a great thrill to play against those guys but once again, it's a long way away yet," Ponting said.

"It's over 12 months away and we've got to focus on the things at

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