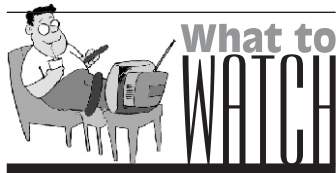




Did U Know?

The first cricketer to be knighted was Sir Pelham Warner of England. Sir Neville Cardus was the first cricket writer to be honoured.



ESPN

English Premier League

Bolton v Liverpool

Live at 8.55 pm

Spanish Primera Liga

Real Madrid v Malaga

Live at 2.30 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

English Premier League

Everton v Manchester United

Live at 8.55 pm

English Premier League

Wolves v Arsenal

Same day delay at 11 pm



Nasser Hussain

(Former England captain)

"He's only got one knee left. I know he'll be running in all day, so we've got to handle him well."

On Essex's gamble in signing Darren Gough.



Tick the correct answers, Post to The Daily Star

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

- Who won the 25th National Women's Chess Championship title?
Shabana Parveer Sultana Rani Hamid Zakia
- Who lifted the Hopman Cup tennis title?
Australia Russia America
- Steve Waugh has played how many Test matches?
132 168
- 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
Arambagh v Dhanmondi (3 pm)
Abahani v Victoria (5 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium
Mirzapore Ispahani Tea Nat'l Cricket League
(Four-day competition)
Chittagong v Sylhet
Venue: Rajshahi Stadium
Dhaka v Sylhet
Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden
Khulna v Barisal



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Brothers Union's Russian striker Victor Edwards (2nd from L) attacking the Badda end during their yesterday's Western Union Premier Division league match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Top two stay on track

SPORTS REPORTER

WESTERN UNION Main title aspirants Brothers Union Club and Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra showed no Eid-break jitters as they won their respective matches on resumption of the second leg of the Western Union Premier Division Football League yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

But performances were contrasting with leaders Brothers thrashing lowly Badda Jagarani Sangsad 5-0 while the second placed Reds had to thank national striker Rokonzaman Kanchan for a solitary goal win over a determined Dhaka Wanderers Club.

Their seventh consecutive victory left Brothers sitting pretty on 27

points from eleven matches, three points ahead of Muktijoddha who have also played the same number of games.

BROTHERS 5; BADDA-0 Brothers' Russian duo Victor Edwards and Constantine netted a brace each as Brothers overwhelmed Badda in the day's first fixture.

The big-spending Gopibagh outfit made their intentions clear from the start. By half time, the game was over as a contest with the men on orange leading 3-0.

Brothers took the lead when a blistering left-footer from impressive Russian forward Victor from outside the Badda D bamboozled custodian Al-Amin in the 12th minute (1-0).

Compatriot Constantine doubled the margin in the 21st minute with a cheeky placing shot after wingback

Firoze Mahmud Hossain Titoo had passed the ball to him.

Another left-footed scorcher from 25 yards by Victor put the game beyond Badda in the 41st minute (3-0). **With that strike, Victor joined Abahani's Saiful Islam Khokon and Mohammedan's Etigo atop the scorers list with eight goals.**

Brothers were in a more relaxed mood after the breather but that didn't stop Constantine and midfielder Monwar Hossain to join the party.

Constantine gently lifted the ball over an advancing Al-Amin to score his second goal in the 70th minute while Monwar completed the rout at the stroke of the final whistle.

Badda are almost a surety now to be relegated having secured just four points from eleven matches.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Ponting savages India



REUTERS, Melbourne

Captain Ricky Ponting blasted 88 off 80 balls to lead Australia to a seven-wicket victory over India on Friday and a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three limited-overs finals series.

Chasing India's 222 all out off 49 overs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the world champions reached 224 for three from 40.1 overs to cruise to victory with 59 balls to spare.

Ponting and Matthew Hayden (50) shared a second wicket partnership of 139 off 151 balls to blunt India's attack led by 22-year-old seamer Lakshminath Balaji, who took three for 52.

Hemang Badani (60 not out) and Ajit Agarkar (53) put on 102 runs for the seventh wicket to lift India towards a competitive total after the first six wickets fell for just 75 runs in

21.1 overs.

The 27-year-old Badani paced India's innings and hit four boundaries, facing 81 balls in his fourth one-day half-century. The left hander has a highest score of 100.

Agarkar made his third half-century in 127 one-day internationals. The 26-year-old struck four fours and two sixes in an entertaining 62-ball innings after coming to the crease at 75 for six when all hope of a total above 200 had seemed lost.

India's openers Virender Sehwag (3) and Sachin Tendulkar (8) fell inside the first six overs. Sehwag popped a short ball from Jason Gillespie (2-39) to wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist in the third over at six for one and eight runs later Tendulkar was bowled by Brett Lee.

Fast bowler Brad Williams removed Vangipurappu Laxman for 24 at 48 for three and Rahul Dravid fell for six to the bowling of Ian Harvey without addition to the

team's total.

Twenty-seven runs later India again lost two wickets for nought. Captain Saurav Ganguly was caught behind off Harvey (2-40) for six and three balls later Lee (2-34) began his second spell with the wicket of Yuvraj Singh, also caught behind.

Agarkar was caught at gully by Lee off left-arm spinner Michael Clarke at 177 for seven. Irfan Pathan (19) and Anil Kumble (2) were both run out.

All-rounder Harvey left the field to ice a shoulder injury but it was not known if he is doubtful for Sunday's second final in Sydney.

Australia's Gilchrist hit a swash-buckling 38 off 20 balls including seven fours in a 48-run opening stand with Hayden in six overs before Gilchrist was caught at fine leg off Balaji.

Hayden offered a return catch off the toe of the bat to Balaji who gave a

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Venkat to stand down



CRICINFO

Srinivasaraghavan Venkataraman, known universally as Venkat, is to retire from the elite panel of international umpires during the forthcoming Test series between Sri Lanka and Australia, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Thursday.

Venkat's final match in charge will be the second Test at Kandy, which starts on March 16.

Venkat, whose involvement in international cricket spans nearly 40 years, made his umpiring debut in India's 1992-93 home series against England, and will have stood in 75 Tests and 52 one-day internationals by the time he finally bows out. Prior to that, he played 57 Tests and 15 one-day internationals as a member of India's famous quartet of spinners, alongside the likes of Bishan Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar.

He played his first Test aged 19, against New Zealand in 1964-65, and after an on-off career, finally

bowed out at the age of 38 against Pakistan in 1983-84. He was India's captain for five matches, including four on the 1979 tour of England.

Malcolm Speed, the chief executive of the ICC, said that the former off-spinner would be recognised as one of the outstanding umpires to have stood in international cricket.

"Venkat came to umpiring after a terrific career as a player, adminis-



VENKATARAMAN

trator and media commentator," said Speed.

"He has stood the test of time in

an exceptionally demanding profession. He has seen international cricket and international cricket umpiring undergo extraordinary change and has stood up to the scrutiny that now comes with being involved in the game at the elite level.

"His integrity and passion for cricket are of the highest order and he has helped ensure that the spirit of the game remains intact for those that will follow," Speed added.

Under the two-tiered panel system used to appoint international umpires, Venkat may yet be able to move back to the secondary panel of umpires, from which the respective boards choose who stands in home ODIs. But he has yet to confirm whether he wishes to make himself available.

In Venkat's career, he has also taken on the roles of Indian team manager, secretary of the Tamil Nadu cricket association, national selector, newspaper and magazine columnist and expert TV commentator, as well as acting as an international match referee in both Test and ODI matches.

Tigers 55-4

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh top-order collapsed on the first day of the three-day match against Namibia yesterday.

Earlier left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique led the way for the bowlers with a five wicket haul to restrict the home side for 155.

Rafique conceded 45 runs while paceman Tapash Baishya captured four wickets for 28 runs and left-arm pacer Monjurul Islam took one for 21.

The Tigers, who swept the three-match limited-overs series, lost four wickets for only 55 runs when this report was being filed.

The Test babes are spending 15-days in Namibia as part of build up for the tour of Zimbabwe where they will play two Tests and five one-day internationals.

U-17 play Myanmar today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-17 footballers will take on their Myanmar counterparts in the semifinals of the BIMST-EC Youth Tournament today in Phuket, Thailand.

The young booters made a flying start outplaying Sri Lanka 5-1 in their first group match but suffered a 5-0 defeat against Thailand in the second encounter.

Final practice match today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team will play their last practice match against Nepal at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium today.

Richard McInnes' charges registered two impressive victories in the earlier games at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

New Model cruise

SPORTS REPORTER



Kawsar and Akid picked up four wickets each as New Model High School handed

Shaheed Lieutenant Selim Shykhhalaya a crushing ten-wicket defeat in one of three Dhaka metropolises qualifying matches of the Standard Chartered 22nd National School Cricket Tournament at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Opting to bat, Shaheed Lieutenant were bundled out for 81 in 23 overs. Kawsar captured four for seven while Akid claimed four wickets conceding 21 runs.

Sohel Rana hit unbeaten 43 and Rajib scored 36 not out as New Model raced home in 6.3 overs.

Elsewhere Scholars Preparatory School defeated Aftab Memorial Academy by 18 runs in a curtailed match at the Gulshan Youth ground and New Provati Times School outplayed City Laboratory School by seven wickets at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SHAHEED LIEUTENANT: 81/10 in

SEE PAGE 14 COL 3

Muktis fly to Turkmenistan

SPORTS REPORTER

An 18-member team of Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra will fly today to Turkmenistan to play in the first ever Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Cup tournament.

The leading Bangladesh club has been placed Group A in the 20-club tournament along with Nisa (Turkmenistan), Nejmeh (Lebanon) and Al-Sha'ab lbb (Yemen).

The National League champions Muktijoddha will take on Nisa on February 11. Then Nejmeh will come here to play their away match on February 25.

Coach Shafiqul Islam Manik said yesterday he was worried with the weather conditions in the central Asian country.

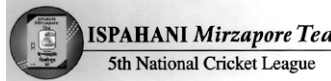
"The temperature there is minus three, so it will be a big challenge for my boys," he said.

TEAM

Aminul Haq, Matirun Manna, Hasan Al Mamun, Papel Mahmud, Prodip Poddar, Lajuk, Saiful Islam Moni, Rukunuzzaman Kanchan, Shahazuddin Tipu, Azmol Hossain Bidyut, Saiful Islam, Titumir Chowdhury, Charles Ghansa, Herry and Arcadia Teo.

Officials: Shafiqul Islam Manik (coach), Atiqur Rahman (assistant coach) and Abdus Sattar (manager).

Ctg flying high



SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong maintained their solo lead in the Ispahani National Cricket League one-day competition with an emphatic eight-wicket win over hosts Sylhet yesterday.

Fifties from openers Masum-oddola, Gazi Salaududdin and one-down Ehsanul Haque helped Chittagong, chasing Sylhet's 217 in 50 overs, reach 220-2 in 46.1 overs.

Opener Masum scored highest 81 off 124 balls with seven boundaries while his opening partner Salaududdin added 62 off 81 balls. Ehsanul chipped in with a run-a-ball 65 that featured a six and eight boundaries.

The Chittagong openers put on 115 runs before Salaududdin fell. Masum then shared 93 runs with Ehsanul before eventually perishing.

Earlier, electing to bat, Sylhet were restricted to 217-7 with captain Parvez hammering highest 41.

The victory kept leaders Chittagong atop with 12 points from eight matches while Sylhet remained on eight points from as

many matches.

RAJSHAHI V DHAKA

Hosts Rajshahi registered a hard-fought two-wicket win over Dhaka at the Rangpur Cricket Garden.

In a low-scoring affair, middle-order batsman Anisur Rahman led Rajshahi's 39-over chase of a poor Dhaka total with a 76-ball 58.

Lower-order batsman Golam Mortuza who was unbeaten on 30. Earlier, put into bat, Dhaka were bundled out for 108 with only former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud playing a real knock with 24.

Rajshahi's fifth win in eight matches placed them second in the table with 10 points, two short of Dhaka who have eight points.

BARISAL V KHLUNA

In the other match of the day, Barisal trounced Khulna by 50 runs at the Barisal Stadium.

Opener Imran Ahmed scored 69 as the home team scored 221-6.

Imran hit six boundaries in his 113-ball knock. Middle order batsman Arafat Salaududdin (48 not out) and one-down Nahidul Haque (43) were the other notable run-getters.

In reply, Khulna were all out for 171 in 40.1 overs.

Opener Shafiqul Alam scored 58

off 95 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboards of the three National Cricket League one-day matches held at different venues yesterday:

Chittagong v Sylhet

Venue: Sylhet Stadium

SYLHET					
Shishir c Ehsanul b Alamgir					0
Intiaz c Anif b Habib					5
Parvez run out					41
Sanjid st Anif b Sabbir					23
Nasirul b Ahsanullah					26
Mowla b Ahsanullah					38
Rana not out					21
Nayeem lbw b Sabbir					27
Eja not out					3
Extras: (b-5, lb-11, nb-3, w-14)					33
Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs)					217
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-22, 3-86, 4-92, 5-156, 6-159, 7-210.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Alamgir	9	1	39	1	
Habib	7	2	24	1	
Sabbir	10	1	36	2	
Ahsanullah	10	1	35	2	
Masum	4	0	18	0	
Faisal	5	0	25	0	
Ehsanul	5	0	24	0	

CHITTAGONG

Masum c Nabil b Sanjid 81

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

PM to inaugurate Shaheed Chandu Stadium today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Shaheed Chandu Stadium, which will host three Group A matches of the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup 2004, will be officially inaugurated here today.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is scheduled to open the international standard ground at 12 noon.

Also known as the Bogra District Stadium (BDS), the newly constructed venue has been recently named after Liberation War martyr Masudul Alam Khan Chandu.

The stadium, which has been built with the U/19 World Cup in mind, has a capacity of around 20,000 spectators.

Australia, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Canada have been placed in Group A. The venue will see its first match on February 15 when Sri Lanka take on Zimbabwe.

One of the striking features of the new ground is an earthen grass-top gallery in the mould of Auckland's Basin Reserve.

The venue also boasts an air-conditioned media centre that can house 200 journalists.



PHOTO: STAR

A bird's eye view of Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Waqar rubbishes claim



CRICINFO

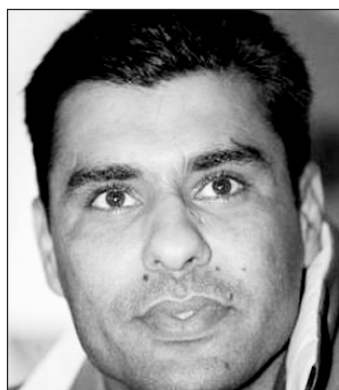
Waqar Younis has hit out at allegations that Pakistan had deliberately underperformed in one-day tournaments in Morocco and Kenya in 2002.

Responding to a letter by the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) to the Pakistan board which raised the issue, Waqar, who led the team in both competitions, emphasised that there was no truth to the allegations.

"We just did not play well and we lost quite a few close matches. Luck did not favour us. But I know everyone tried hard to win," he said on Friday, according to a Press Trust of

India report.

Waqar added that these stories



WAQAR YOUNIS

were floating around only because Pakistan had lost the one-day series to New Zealand and had an important series against India coming up.

"Whenever the team loses a few matches on a trot or an important series is coming up, you hear and read about such allegations about match-fixing. So this is nothing new for me."

"I can only say if the ACU has any evidence and is convinced any player is involved in corrupt practices, he should be exposed and punished. But simply making allegations or raising suspicions without proof is not fair on the players also."

"Pakistani people are very

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4