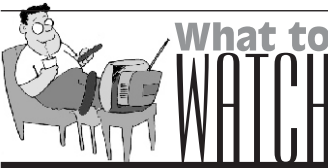




Did U Know?

About 42,000 tennis balls are used in the plus-minus 650 matches in the Wimbledon Championship.



What to WATCH

ESPN
Australia vs India
Second Final
Live at 7:55 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Malaga
Repeat at 5:30 pm

STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Man City vs Birmingham City
Live at 7:55 pm
Chelsea vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 10:00 pm
Primera Liga
Zaragoza vs Real Sociedad



Waqar Younis
(Former Pakistan cricket captain)
"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."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 20

Tick the correct answers, Post to 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 Parveen Sultana	Rani Hamid	Zakia
2. Who lifted the Hopman Cup tennis title?	Australia	America	
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 Football League
Mohammedan vs Sheikh Russel (5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Mirzapore Ispahani Tea Nat'l Cricket League (Day-2)
Chittagong vs Sylhet
Venue: Sylhet Stadium
Dhaka vs Rajshahi
Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden
Khulna vs Barisal
Venue: Barisal Stadium

Hasan gives AKC hope

SPORTS REPORTER



A 34th minute goal by Mahmudul Hasan kept Abahani Krira Chakra's hopes alive in the title race of the Western Union Premier League with a 1-0 win against Victoria Sporting Club at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The diminutive defender relished his magical touch when he blasted the ball home with a lethal left-foot from the top of the box as the popular Dhanmondi outfit returned to winning ways after a disappointing draw against newcomers Dhaka Wanderers after the Eid break.

It was Hasan's third league goal but more importantly showed his uncanny ability of scoring goals when the chips are down. He grabbed the match-winner in the Dhaka derby against Mohammedan and also punched in the decider in an exciting 3-3 draw with runaway leaders Brothers Union.

Hasan was lurking outside the box when Parvez lobbed in a curling corner that Victoria custodian Raju fisted in no certain terms. Hasan's first attempt off the loose ball came off the Victoria

wall, but he did not miss a second chance firing it into the top right-hand corner of the net.

Although it was the only goal that Abahani produced on a chilly Saturday night, the Sky Blues could have won by a bigger margin against a team they beat 2-0 in the first-leg.

Abahani's leading marksman Khokon was deprived of a golden opportunity of scoring his ninth league goal after his Brazilian mate Sandro set him up with a wicked square pass. But his grounder was spectacularly parried by a diving Raju for a corner.

Sandro, a classy midfielder and arguably the standout among the foreign players featuring in the Premier League this year, spoiled a second chance to double the lead for Abahani midway through the second half. He did all the running after winning a ball from quick counter-attack, but shot straight to Raju despite having all the time in the world and all the space to put the ball anywhere he fancy.

The victory raised Abahani's tally to 21 points from 11 games, six points behind leaders Brothers Union.

They are now occupying the third position behind Mukti-gdha who have 24 points.

Yellow cards: Sharif (Victoria) and Parvez (Abahani).

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Nizam, Osamanu, Nikolai, Masud Rana, Hasan (Shawkat), Parvez, Joy, Sandro, Rakib, Khokon and Maxim (Pranotosh).

VICTORIA SC: Raju, Gobinda (Afzal), Jet, Ramzan, Israfil, Rintu, Rintu, Polo, Idris, Sharif, Fakrul and Sohagh.

Referee: M Hannan.

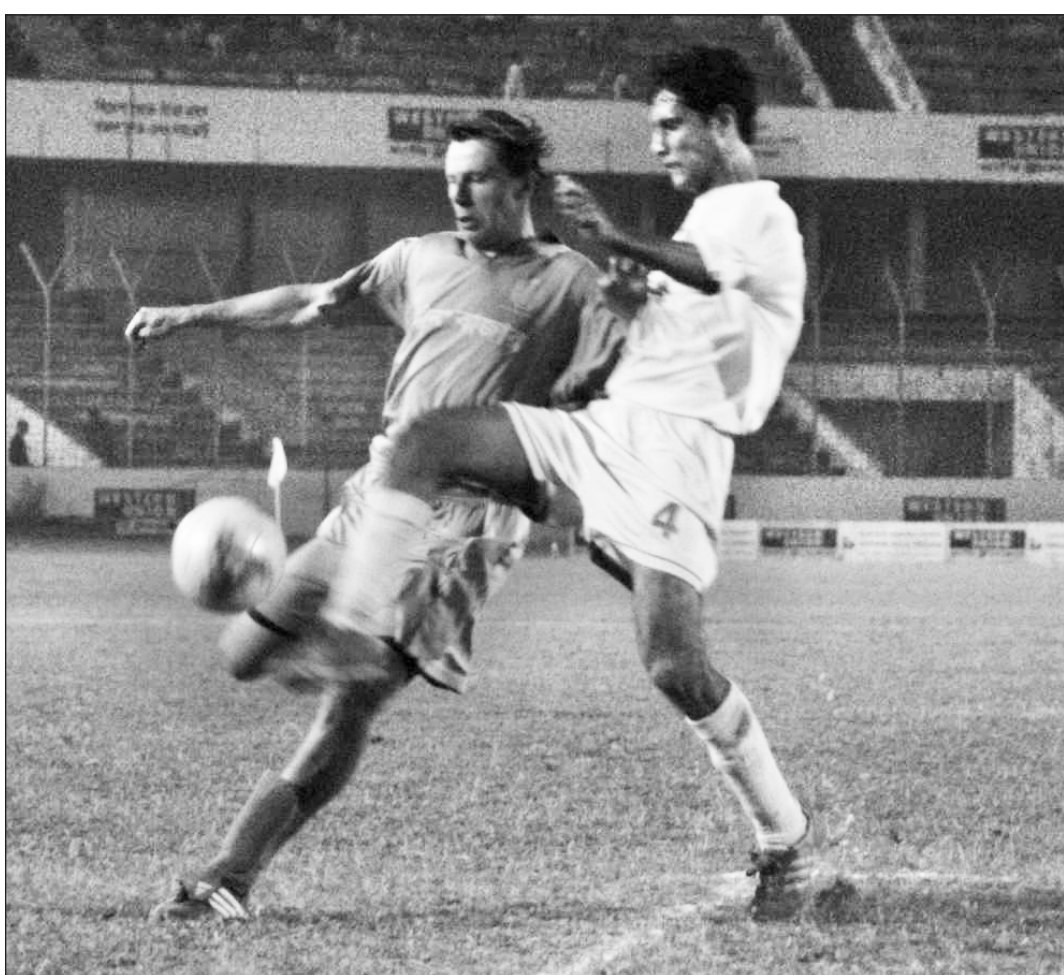
ARAMBAGH WIN

Lightweights Arambagh Krira Sangha continued their impressive run with 3-1 thrashing of Dhan-mondi Club in the first game of the day.

Arambagh's foreign trio of Dominique, Mostafa Kaba and Oeinu scored once each in a match where a relegation-threatened Dhanmondi failed to put up any decent fight despite scoring an early goal.

Al-Amin scored for Dhanmondi in the 20th minute. But the lead lasted only two minutes before Dominique equalized from a free kick. Kaba doubled the margin ten minutes after the break and Oeinu slammed home the third in 62nd minute.

The win lifted Arambagh to fourth on 18 points while their opponents were rooted at the bottom of the table with two points.



Victoria defender Jet (R) clears the threat from Abahani striker Anatoly during their Western Union Premier Division Football League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PM opens Shaheed Chandu Stadium

BSS, Bogra

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Saturday called for sincere and tireless efforts by the sportsmen and organisers to attain success in the international arena.

She was speaking after inaugurating the Shaheed Chandu Stadium here amidst fanfare and festivity.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the new stadium only two days ahead of the formal opening of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup.

The stadium, built in only seven months at a cost of Taka 7.5 crore, will host three Group A matches of the juvenile tournament.

Known as Bogra District Stadium, the country's newest cricket venue has been renamed after Liberation War martyr Masudul Alam Khan Chandu.

The 20,000-capacity stadium will stage its first match on February 15 when Sri Lanka play Zimbabwe.

The Prime Minister also announced that floodlights would be installed soon.

Chaired by State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, the function was also addressed by Whip Rezaul Bari Dina MP, Golam Mohammad Siraj MP, Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lulu MP, Dr Ziaul Haq Molah MP, Kazi Rafiqul Islam MP, Bogra district BNP president advocate AKM Mahbubur Rahman and acting Secretary of Youth and Sports.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

VB Series Second final today



AFP, Sydney

India's batsmen would have to rediscover their hunger for making runs if they were to go to beat a buoyant Australia in the finals of the triangular international one-day cricket series, their captain Sourav Ganguly said here on Saturday.

India will meet the Australians in the second match of the best-of-three finals series at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday after the home team took a 1-0 lead with a convincing seven-wicket win in Melbourne on Friday.

Ganguly said his players needed to dig deep but also noted that the tour had been long and tiring for India and it had already achieved some good results.

"It's been a pretty successful tour. You talk about Test cricket being the real cricket and we've done wonderfully," he said.

"We've lost this (first) final -- it's been a one-sided final -- but if you go through the rest of the series it's been pretty hard-fought and I don't think any side who's been to Australia... for the last three of four years have been able to put up such a show."

Ganguly said he might bat higher up the order again, where he's had the most success.

"I've scored my runs at the top and I'll soon be back at the top," he

said.

The Australians believe they are peaking at the right time and pace bowler Brett Lee, who has had a dramatic return to form, has the Indian top order intimidated.

Lee returned to torment the batsmen when Australia played India in the final qualifying match on a lively wicket in Perth last Sunday, taking 3-22.

He and the rest of the Australian pace attack, comprising Jason Gillespie and Brad Williams, also had the Indians on the backfoot early during Friday's win over India in the first final.

"I really believe intimidatory bowling -- Brett Lee consistently bowling 150km/h-plus has been a huge strength for our side. His aggressive style has really helped us out," opening batsman Matthew Hayden said Saturday.

"I'd be very surprised if you don't see Brett Lee steaming in tomorrow (Sunday) trying to bowl as quick as he can in front of his huge home crowd."

Hayden said a combination of Australia finally executing its bowling plan and India tiring at the end of a long tour had also helped the home side and he thought India might be feeling gun-shy after the past two matches against Australia.

"They've had an enormous run of form over the past three months and they've toughed it out over the last couple weeks... they might be a little intimidated and let's hope so," he said.

"The Australian bowling line-up is an intimidating attack and if they're feeling that pressure and they're under the pump because of it, that's exactly where we want them to be."

Hayden admitted Australia had been coasting earlier in the one-day series but was now at top form for the finals.

"We're on fire at the moment, we're just clicking as a group," he said.

"I think Australians love the big games -- it's a great atmosphere, we've got everything to play for and that's why we're lifting."

Hayden said Australia was keen to win the finals series 2-0 without playing a third match to earn a few days off before the Allan Border Medal cricket awards on Thursday and a flight to Sri Lanka for a Test series on Friday.

"We don't want to go into a third game," he said.

PROBABLE TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Simon Katich, Ian Harvey, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Brad Williams.

INDIA: Sourav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, VVS Laxman, Rahul Dravid, Yuvraj Singh, Hemang Badani, Ajit Agarkar, Irfan Pathan, Anil Kumble, Lakshmi Prasad Balaji.

Tigers bite back

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh thrived on three half-centuries to stage a remarkable turnaround on the second day of their three-day match against Namibia in the capital Windhoek yesterday.

Resuming on 72-5, the Tigers posted 316 before being all out just after the tea break thanks to some stubborn resistance by the lower half.

All-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman led the fightback with a fluent unbeaten 79 after Mohammed Ashraful stopped the slide with a mature 60.

Wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud also hit form with 65 and left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique used the long handle to score a quick-fire 30.

The collective effort gave the tourists a first-innings lead of 161 runs. The home team were batting when reports last came in.

Namibia scored 155 in the first innings.

Earlier, opener Shahriar Hossain and captain Habibul Bashar scored 23 and 20 respectively.

The match is the final practice for Bangladesh before they head to Zimbabwe for two Tests and five one-day internationals. Bashar's men had earlier won all three limited-overs warm up matches against the ICC associate member nation.

England, Canada due today

SPORTS REPORTER

England and Canada will arrive today to take part in the ICC Under-19 World Cup to be held at eight different venues across the country from February 15.

The English boys will be the second squad to fly into the city this morning after Nepal arrived here on January 31. The Canadians, whose seniors pulled off an upset win against Bangladesh in the 2003 World Cup, are expected to land later in the day.

The remaining participants -- regaining champions Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Zimbabwe, Ireland, Uganda, Scotland and Papua New Guinea -- will arrive by different flights tomorrow.

The teams are coming early to attend the grand opening ceremony at the Bangabandhu National

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

U-17 booters crash out

SPORTS REPORTER

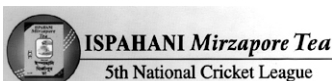
Bangladesh crashed out of the BIMST-EC Youth (under-17) Football Tournament when neighbours Myanmar handed them a 3-0 defeat in the semifinals in the Thai city of Phuket yesterday.

It was the second consecutive defeat for the Bangladesh boys in the tournament after a 5-0 whitewash against hosts Thailand.

They will now play the third-place-deciding match against the losers of the other semi between India and Thailand.

The under-17 booters made a good start in the tournament beating Sri Lanka 5-1 in their opening group.

Saifullah spins Dhaka out



SPORTS REPORTER

Leader leaders Dhaka found themselves on the receiving end from Saifullah Khan as the Rajshahi off-spinner captured five wickets on the opening day of their Ispahani Mirzapore Tea fifth National Cricket League match yesterday.

Dhaka crashed to 90 all out in 44.4 overs after Khaled Mahmud won the toss at the Rangpur Cricket Gardens. By stumps, however, Rajshahi had slumped to 113 for six.

After new-ball bowlers Mohammed Shahjada and Shafaq Al Jabir picked up two wickets each it was left-arm spinner Saifullah who wrapped up the Dhaka innings. He conceded only 30 runs from 15.4 overs.

Number nine batsman Fahim Muntasir was Dhaka's top scorer with 18.

Later young right-arm pacer Mohammad Ashraful brought Dhaka back into contention claiming three wickets for 28 runs in 12 overs but it couldn't prevent Rajshahi from taking a valuable 23-run first innings' lead.

Rajshahi opener Humayun Kabir scored 28 off 107 balls and Nuruzzaman added 27 off 85 balls.

SYLHET V CHITTAGONG

Away in Sylhet, Ahmed Sadiqur and Golam Mowla added 91 runs for the fourth wicket as the hosts scored 235 after deciding to bat against

Chittagong at the Sylhet Stadium.

Ahmed's 59 contained eight boundaries while his partner's half-century featured seven fours and a six.

Spinners Ahsanullah Hasan and Yasin Arafat shared six wickets for Chittagong.

KHULNA V BARISAL

At Barisal, Khulna's young left-arm pacer Syed Russel stole the show sending back eight Barisal batsmen. But the hosts had number eight batsman Arafat Salahuddin to thank when he hammered a half-century as Barisal, put into bat, were eventually dismissed for 193.

Russel, the 19-year-old pacer, finished with eight for 67 in 27.4 overs while spinner Abdur Razzak Raj and pacer Al-Amin took the other wickets.

Salahuddin scored 59 off 132 balls with eight boundaries.

In reply, Khulna made 41 without loss in 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards on the first day of the three National Cricket League four-day matches held at different venues yesterday:

DHAKA: First innings
Rashdul c Mortuza b Shahzada 2
Mehrab c Mortuza b Shafaq 9
Jahangir lbw b Saifullah 15
Halim Shah c Nuruzzaman b Shafaq 2
Mazharul b Shahzada 7
K Mahmud b Saifullah 10
Arafat c & b Saifullah 9
Naimur b saifullah 3
Muntasir c & b Imran 13

Elias not out 3
Ashrafu c Shafaq b Saifullah 1
Extras: (b-6, lb-3, w-2) 11
Total: (All out in 44.4 overs) 90
Fall of wkts: 1-13, 2-20, 3-23, 4-30, 5-43, 6-53, 7-57, 8-86, 9-86, 10-90.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahzada	17	4	33	2
Shafaq	10	4	16	2
Saifullah	13.4	1	30	5
Imran	4	3	2	1

RAJSHAHI: First innings
Kabir b Mahmud 28
Parvez c Fahim b Neeyamur 5
Murad lbw b Ashrafu 2
Nuruzzaman c & b Ashrafu 27
Anisur c Mazharul b Ashrafu 0
Ashrafu not out 13
Mortuza lbw b Mahmud 0
Mahbub not out 31
Extras: (b-21, lb-5, nb-3, w-2) 37
Total: (For six wkts in 43 overs) 113
Fall of wkts: 1-9, 2-27, 3-87, 4-87, 5-93, 6-101.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ashrafu	12	3	29	3
Neeyamur	5	2	9	1
Arafat	9	3	13	0
Muntasir	8	3	12	0
Elias	4	1	9	0
Mahmud	5	2	12	2

BARISAL: First innings
Imran c Salauddin b Russell 9
Nayan c Selim b Al-Amin 5
Nahidul c & b Russell 1
Prosenjit c Asadullah b Russell 13
Touhid lbw b Russell 25
Mustadir c Razzak b Russell 5
Mofizur b Razzak 20
Saifuddin b Russell 59
Arman c Selim b Russell 28

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

U-19s thrash Nepal again

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team completed 3-0 whitewash of Nepal when they outplayed the visitors by ten wickets in their last practice match at the Fatullah Stadium in Narayanganj yesterday.

Even without former skipper Nafees Iqbal, rested after two brilliant innings including a century, Richard McInnes' charges had plenty of firepower in reserve with Nazimuddin and Naeem leading the charge.

Nazimuddin hammered a run-a-ball 72 and his opening partner Naeem hit 57 as Under-19s romped past the target scoring 143 in 28.1 overs.

The right-handed Nazim smashed five boundaries and three over-boundaries while Naeem hit six fours and a six in his 98-ball knock.

Earlier left-arm spinner Nadif Chowdhury grabbed four wickets for 23 runs in his quota of ten overs as Nepal were bundled out for 140 in 48.3 overs after electing to bat.

Pacemen Nazmul Hossain, Rubaiyat Haq and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque captured one wicket each.

The Under-19s won the opening practice match by 191 runs and the second game by eight wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

SCORE IN BRIEF

NEPAL U-19: 140/10 in 48.3 overs (Chaugai 35, Munik 16, Sashwanta 34, Sakti 12, Ratan 12 n.o., Nazmul 1-24, Rubaiyat 1-26, Enamul Jr 1-20, Nadif 4-23).

BD U-19: 143/0 in 28.1 overs (Naeem 57 n.o., Nazimuddin 72 n.o.). **Result: Bangladesh Under-19 won by ten wickets.**

'Elite' Asoka axed Dar, Mallender on ICC panel



AFP, London

Aleem Dar will become a Test match umpire in April, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said Friday after promoting the Pakistani to its elite panel of officials.

Dar, who is set to become a Test match umpire at the relatively young age of 35, is joined on the panel by Neil Mallender, the former England medium-pace.

However, the ICC confirmed that following its annual performance review Sri Lanka's Asoka de Silva, South Africa's David Orchard and Zimbabwe's Russell Tiffin had all been dropped from the panel whose members alone are now allowed to stand in Tests.

The announcement came just a day after the ICC confirmed that experienced Indian umpire Srinivasaraghavan Venkataraghavan, the former India captain and off-spinner, was retiring from the panel.

"I'm very pleased to be given this opportunity. Making this panel was my aim and having made it to this level I will now be aiming to do my best," said Dar, a former Lahore and Railways leg-break bowler.

Meanwhile Mallender, 42, who played two Tests for England, said: "I was quite shocked when I was told.

"To umpire at this level was my aim but it has come around sooner

than I expected it would."

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said: "Over the past two years we have seen a strong group of new umpires emerge... Now Aleem Dar and Neil Mallender have also demonstrated that they are ready to take the next step in their careers."



ASOKA DE SILVA

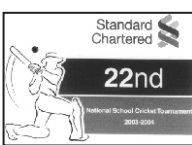
Both Dar and Mallender face a heavy workload as, after Venkat's retirement, the number of umpires allowed to stand in Tests will have dropped from eleven to nine.

THE PANEL

Brent 'Billy' Bowden (NZ), Steve Bucknor (WI), Aleem Dar (Pak), Darrell Hair (Aus), Daryl Harper (Aus), Rudi Koertzen (SA), Neil Mallender (Eng), David Shepherd (Eng) Simon Taufel (Aus)

Massive win for Tejgunipara

SPORTS REPORTER



Zakir Hossain hammered a brilliant century as Tejgunipara High School

recorded a massive win against Khilgaon Government High School in one of the six Dhaka Zone matches of the 22nd Standard Chartered National School Championship at different city venues yesterday.

Zakir scored 109 in Tejgunipara's massive total of 298-8 in the stipulated 35 overs at the Uttara Friends Club ground. The Khilgaon boys in their chase could manage only 148-9 to present Tejgunipara a 150-run victory. It was also the highest margin victory of the day.

But Nawabpur High School posted the highest total when they amassed 299-5 against Mastermind at the Mirpur Outer Stadium thanks to beefy half-centuries from Nasirul (93) and Hakim (82).

In pursuit of a mind-boggling total, Mastermind were all out for 213.

The day also saw an exciting battle between two reputed English medium schools where Loretto won by two wickets against Scholastica.

Chasing 175 for a win, Loretto reached the target off the penultimate delivery of a reduced 30-over-a-side match. Navid starred for Loretto scoring highest 44 and

claiming two wickets.

Daffodil Kindergarten, Little Jewels International and Bidyanikaton Pre-cadet High School also advanced into the next round with victories against Agradut Bidyanikaton, Bangladesh International Tutorial and Matrichaya Pre-Cadet School respectively.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Scholastica v Loretto</