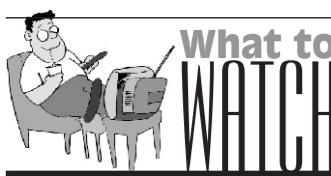




## Did U Know?

The US has hosted the most Olympics since the first modern Olympiad in 1896. (1904 in St. Louis; 1932 & 1984 in Los Angeles; 1996 in Atlanta.)



## What to Watch

**ESPN**  
Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe  
First Test, Day Five  
Live at 1:50 pm  
Sportscentre  
Sport News  
Live at 9:00 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Sportsline  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm



**Arjuna Ranatunga**  
(Former Sri Lankan cricket captain)  
"The present Australian team are unimpressive, when you look at the teams they used to have with the Waugh and Glenn McGrath. The Australian spin attack is not impressive at all when you see that we have Murali and others on our side."

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 2004**

Tick the correct answers, Post to The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm Feb 27, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. How many teams are taking part in the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup?	16	12	20
2. How many months was Shane Warne banned from cricket?	12	13	14
3. Who won the Pan Pacific Open title?	Davenport	Clijsters	
4. Who won the Tokyo Marathon?	Henin	Njenga	Osaki
	Sebastian		
Name .....			
Class .....	Roll No. ....		
School Address .....			
Phone: (if any) .....			

## Afridi recalled for India ODIs

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Saturday recalled popular all rounder Shahid Afridi in the preliminary squad for next month's one-day series against India, chief selector Wasim Bari said.

"We have included Afridi along with openers Imran Nazir, Salim Elahi and middle order batsman Naved Latif in the squad of 26," Bari told AFP.

Faisal Iqbal, Asim Kamal, Shadab Kabir and Bazid Khan have been excluded from the preliminary squad but would be considered for the Test matches, said Bari.

Afridi, who turns 24 on March 1, was dumped after Pakistan's failed campaign in last year's World cup in



Roelof van der Merwe of South Africa sweeps during his knock of 54 against India in the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Joyless Asian day

ICC U/19 CRICKET WORLD CUP BANGLADESH 2004

**SPORTS REPORTER**

India's unbeaten streak in the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup came to dramatic end at the hands of South Africa in one of the two Super League matches yesterday.

The brave Indian chase finally finished three runs short of their opponents' 226 at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium when Abhishek Sharma was yanked by left-armed Wayne Pennazza for a quickfire 43.

The charges of Robin Singh seemed dead and buried at 188-9, but that was the cue for Sharma and last man Rudrapa Singh to launch their assault in the final 12 overs of the innings.

However, defeat was not on the cards in the tournament's first day-night game for India after batting mainstay Shikhar Dhawan with two centuries under his belt gave his side a flying start, scoring 66 in a first-wicket stand of 86 in 14 over.

Earlier, the South African total was built around 54 by Roelof van

der Merwe. He struck four fours in his 68-ball knock.

Another Asian giant Sri Lanka also crashed to a 19-run defeat against West Indies at the Fatullah Stadium in Narayanganj.

The junior Lankan failed to draw inspiration from the seniors back home where Atapattu's men pulled off an exciting one-run win over world champions Australia. Chasing a modest West Indies total of 200 in the day's other Super League match, the islanders made 181 before being all out in 49 overs. The defeat margin could have been bigger had not Kulasekara and Mohammad put on 93 runs for the eighth wicket.

West Indies captain Denesh Ramdin led from the front with a 71-ball 51.

But it was Baker who was the West Indies hero of the day picking up 6-39. He also finished the match dismissing last batsman De Soysa.

In the Plate competition, Australia made a mockery of a contest when the skittled Scotland out for just 22, the lowest score of the competition so far.

The outgoing champions, who surprisingly missed out on a Super League spot, took out their frustrations on the Scots at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong. Six Scottish batsmen scored ducks with the

**FIXTURE**

**SUPER LEAGUE**

Date	Match	Venue
Feb 22	India v South Africa	BNS
	Sri Lanka v West Indies	
Feb 23	England v New Zealand	BNS
	Pakistan v Zimbabwe	BKSP
Feb 24	India v West Indies	BNS
	Sri Lanka v South Africa	
Feb 25	New Zealand v Pakistan	BNS
	England v Zimbabwe	BKSP
Feb 26	India v Sri Lanka	BNS
	South Africa v West Indies	
Feb 27	New Zealand v Zimbabwe	BNS
	England v Pakistan	FCS

**PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Feb 22	Australia v Scotland	MAAS
	Nepal v Papua NG	CDVS
Feb 23	Ireland v Uganda	MAAS
	Bangladesh v Canada	CDVS

## Ctg carry on, Dhaka falter

**ISPANHANI Mirzapore Tea**  
5th National Cricket League

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Leaders Chittagong recorded their seventh victory in the limited-overs competition of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League when they thumped Sylhet by eight wickets at the Comilla Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi coasted to an easy six-wicket win against Khulna at the Rangpur Cricket Gardens to maintain second place. Hosts Barisal completed a double over Dhaka beating the one-day kings by four wickets.

Chittagong increased their tally to 14 points, two more Rajshahi while losers Dhaka and Sylhet followed with eight points each.

Despite their impressive result it did help Barisal from sharing bottom place with Khulna. Both teams have secured six points.

The number six batsman came to the crease with the hosts struggling at 63-4 in reply to Dhaka's challenging 235 for seven in 50 overs.

But he put Barisal back on track with a 117-run sixth wicket stand with Ali Arman Rajan who made 32 not out.

They eventually got home in 46.4 overs with Rajan and Mustafizur Litu (34) combining in an unbroken seventh wicket partnership worth 55 runs.

Dhaka's total of 235-7 was built around Moniruzzaman's 53 and useful contributions by former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud and Halim Shah making 36 each.

**RAJSHAHI V KHULNA**  
Rajshahi spinner Rezwanaul Islam grabbed 5-36 to restrict Khulna, electing to bat, to 194-9.

The visitors then rode on an unbeaten 55 by Ashrafal Islam as they reached the target losing four

## CHITTAGONG V SYLHET

A 76-run second wicket partnership between Masumuddin and Gazi Salahuddin powered Chittagong in their chase of a modest Sylhet total 186 with 5.5 overs to spare.

The match was curtailed to 36 overs-a-side due to dense fog in the morning.

Man-of-the-match Masum hit an unbeaten 48 off 86 balls and Salahuddin smashed almost a run-a-ball 45 that featured six boundaries.

Earlier Sylhet thrived on a half-century by Golam Rahman to score a fighting 186-4 in the stipulated overs after being put into bat.

The one down batsman made 53 off 72 balls with five fours and a six.

**DHAKA V BARISAL**  
Arafat Salahuddin scored a fighting 65 as Barisal staged a dramatic fightback.



Australia's Gary Putland, who wrecked Scotland by taking four cheap wickets, unleashes yet another delivery during their U-19 World Cup fixture against the Scots at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

## Blighted by Blignaut

**Cricket**

AFP/REUTERS, Harare

A devastating hat-trick by Zimbabwe bowler Andy Blignaut put Bangladesh on the brink of defeat on the fourth day of the first Test at the Harare Sports Club on Sunday.

Bangladesh were already facing a mammoth task in trying to reach 353 runs for victory after Zimbabwe declared their second innings closed on 242-8.

But Blignaut, supported by a pair of wickets for seamer Douglas Hondo, destroyed any slender hopes Bangladesh may have retained.

With Hondo snatching Habibul Bashar for his third duck in succession on the tour, as well as Shahriar Hossain for just one run, Bangladesh were in ruins at 14-5.

At the close they were hanging their heads at 25-5 and needing more than a miracle.

The humiliation lasted just six overs and took less than half an hour and set up a final day on Monday that will surely be a routine mop-up operation for the Zimbabweans.

Finding themselves with a first innings lead of 110 an hour after



Bangladesh pacer Tapash Baisya successfully appeals for a caught behind decision against Grant Flower of Zimbabwe on the fourth day of the first Test at Harare yesterday.

## Andy scripts Zim history

REUTERS, Harare

Andy Blignaut claimed Zimbabwe's first hat-trick in Test history to put the home side on track for victory in the opening Test against Bangladesh on Sunday.

Fast bowler Blignaut sent Bangladesh reeling from 14 for two to 14 for five after just five overs of their second innings.

In his third over, Blignaut trapped Hannan Sarker lbw for 10, had Mohammad Ashraf caught in the gully and then removed Mushfiqur Rahman with a catch behind off consecutive deliveries.

## Willes meet AK High in final

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Willes Little Flower School and AK High School moved into the Dhaka Zone final of the Standard Chartered 22nd National Schools Cricket Championship yesterday.

The final will take place at the Dhanmondi Club ground tomorrow.

Willes Little Flower thumped down a 139-run defeat on Rahmatullah Model High School at the Mirpur Outer Stadium thanks to a blistering 99 by Mehrab followed by a five-wicket haul from Bishay.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Jewel bowled AK High School to a 124-run win over National Bangla High School with a six-wicket haul.

The AK High captain finished with six for 39 as National Bangla, chasing 254-6, were shot out for 130. Earlier, Masum scored a blistering 86 for the winners.

## MSC hammer-blow for Reds

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Muktijoddha Sangsad suffered a catastrophic bump in their bid to keep pressure on runaway leaders Brothers Union when defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club blanked them 2-0 in one of the two return leg matches of the Western Union Premier Division football on Saturday.

In the day's other fixture, Abahani beat Arambagh Krira Sangha by a solitary goal with Joy hitting the target in the 64th minute.

Abahani remained in third behind Muktijoddha's 25 points in the 10-team league. Brothers have 33. All the teams have played 13 games.

Already out of the title race, a resurgent Mohammedan continued to play for pride and it was another whole-hearted display after a 1-0 win against bitter rivals Abahani last week.

Haunted by the nightmare of their first meeting against Muktijoddha, when the holders imprudently refused to play protesting a late

## Dhanmondi can't be saved

equaliser, Mohammedan just paid back what they had received as penalty from the league's organisers.

The Dhaka Mohanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) declared Muktijoddha a 2-0 winners and deducted an extra point after Mohammedan refused to play the remaining five minutes of their first meeting on January 15. That proved to be decisive blunder by the Mohammedan management as they never recovered from there on.

On Saturday night Mohammedan not only exacted revenge but also served a spanner in Muktijoddha's hot pursuit for lifting all three major domestic crowns on offer this season.

After a barren first half, Mohammedan's Cameroonian forwards Olinga and Afala made the difference.

Olinga headed home a cross from compatriot Etigo in the 67th minute. Muktijoddha defender Papel then deflected the ball into his own net while trying to clear an Afala cross from the right seven minutes from time.

The victory improved Mohammedan's tally to 20 from 13 games and helped them pip Aram-bagh to fifth position.

**Dhanmondi can't be saved**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Sheikh Russell Krija Chakra edged past Dhanmondi Club 2-1 to register their sixth victory in the Western Union Premier Division Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The defeat put another nail in Dhanmondi's coffin. The Club is now destined to be demoted from the Premier League.

Sheikh Russell, the impressive of the two promotes, led the bottom-placed Dhanmondi 1-0 at the break. Russell's Brazilian forward Fabio scored the winner in the 39th minute before Mostafa pulled off the equalizer for Dhanmondi just after the break. Russell's Brazilian forward Fabio scored the winner in the 62nd minute.

Sheikh Russell are now holding the fourth position with 23 points while Dhanmondi stayed on their collection of three on completion of their 13 league games.

## PCB hopes peace will come

**Cricket**

AFP, Karachi

The revival of cricket between Pakistan and India next month would play a vital role in normalising relations between the neighbours, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Rameez Raja said Sunday.

"We feel that the revival of cricket brings both the countries to the threshold of many good things," Raja told AFP.

"With the ice broken... we would see multiplying effects of free travel between India and Pakistan, ease in visa restriction and trade regulations."

Cricket is a passion in both countries, who have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947. Bilateral matches remained suspended between the two countries since 2000 amid rising political tensions.

New Delhi revived sporting links in October last year, which paved the way for the Indian cricket team's first tour to Pakistan in 15 years, after Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee initiated the peace process by offering a "hand of friendship" to Pakistan in April.

The ball was set rolling on Saturday with the announcement of the itinerary of five one-day internationals and three Tests between March 13-April 17.

**ITINERARY**

Date	Match	Venue
Mar 10	India arrive in Lahore	
Mar 11	Practice match	Lahore
Mar 13	1st ODI	Karachi
Mar 16	2nd ODI Rawalpindi (D/N)	
Mar 19	3rd ODI	Peshawar
Mar 21	4th ODI	Lahore (D/N)
Mar 24	5th ODI	Lahore (D/N)
Mar 28-Apr 1	First Test	
Apr 5-9	Second Test	Lahore
Apr 13-17	Third Test	Rawalpindi
Apr 18	Team returns to India	

## No Tests at Karachi, Peshawar

But Raja also urged fans on both the sides to check their emotions, which run high when India and Pakistan play in cricket with players on the losing side face the wrath of the dejected fans.

Pakistani players received death threats following their defeat against India in the 1996 World Cup quarterfinal at



THREE MASTERS: (L-R) Bruce Elliott, a biomechanical analyst, Waqar Younis, Pakistan fast bowler, and Bob Woolmer, former South Africa coach, are currently in Bangladesh to identify bowlers with flawed actions at the Under-19 World Cup as part of ICC's new measures to deal with the problem.