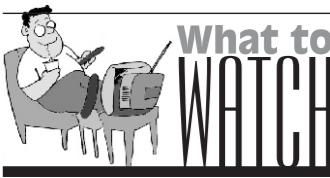




## Did U Know?

Tracy Caulkins is the only swimmer ever, man or woman, to own American records in every stroke.



**BTV**  
ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup  
Super League First Semifinal  
India vs Pakistan  
Live at 1:30 pm  
**ESPN**

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe  
Second Test, Day Four  
Live at 1:50 pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football  
League

Portsmouth vs Newcastle United  
Live at 8:55 pm  
**Primera Liga**

Real Madrid vs Celta de Vigo  
Live at 12:00 am (Monday)

**TEN Sports**  
Sri Lanka vs Australia  
Fifth ODI



**Lennox Lewis**  
(Former heavyweight champion)  
"I'm a genuine champion because I  
know what it is to lose. And I know  
what it is to come back."



Tick the correct answers,  
The Post to  
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm  
March 12, 2004 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1. How many runs did Bangladesh  
score in the first innings of the  
first Test against Zimbabwe?  
331 400 390

2. Who is the first Zimbabwe  
bowler to have claimed a  
hat-trick in Test?  
Bitignaut Olonga  
Hondo

3. Who was man-of-the-match in  
the second ODI between Sri  
Lanka and Australia?  
Vaas

4. Who clinched the Rotterdam  
World tennis title?  
Hewitt, Federer

5. Who won the African Nations Cup  
final?  
Name .....  
.....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
.....  
Phone: (If any) .....

**Rajib, Rakib  
Active chess  
champs**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

International Masters Enamul  
Hossain Rajib and Abdullah Al-  
Rakib became joint champions in  
the Active Chess competition  
securing six points each.

Monir Hossain finished second  
with 5.5 points.

A total of 57 players took part in  
the competition held at the NSC  
chess hall on Friday.

# Battle Asia today

## Australia play Ireland



**SPORTS REPORTER**

The stakes could not be any higher as India and Pakistan lock horns in the first semifinal of the ICC Under-19 World Cup today.

The clash of the junior titans ahead of the next month's much-awaited India-Pakistan series has created a lot of excitement among the country's cricket lovers. The day-night contest will start at 1.30 pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with Bangladesh Television providing live coverage.

Although India suffered a blow after losing their captain Ambati Rayudu through suspension, coach Robin Singh it would not dampen the fighting spirit of his boys.

"It was too harsh but we will have live with it. The boys will definitely miss him in the middle, but I believe they will make every effort to ensure that Rayudu plays one more game in the tournament," said Singh, the former Indian all-rounder.

Rayudu was banned for one game after he was reported for wasting during the last group match against Sri Lanka.

Singh, who was involved in an epic chase in 1997 when India toppled Pakistan's massive 314 at the same venue, said that even at junior level this team has shown its potential for fireworks. He was clearly referring to run-machine Shikhar Dhawan. The Delhi southpaw has already slammed three hundreds and one fifty in six innings. He has scored 497 runs

at a staggering average of 99.40. "Nothing would be more pleasing then to see another big hundred by Dhawan. But we have plenty of other players who can

strike the ball. The most important thing we have learned is how to play under pressure which I think will help them to overcome Pakistan," said the Indian coach.

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Singh's Pakistan counterpart Aaqib Javed however was not intimidated at the thought of the opponents' depth in batting.

"We have plenty of weapons to counter the free-scoring Indians. There are as many as seven players in the side who have got the ability to take wickets when required. I also want to see how the Indians cope with the reverse-swing which won't be in short supply," said the former Pakistan pace bowler.

Besides, Aaqib was keen to avenge the defeat in last year's four-nation tournament on home soil.

Riaz Afridi will be the key Pakistani bowler whom Aaqib will pin his hopes on. The tall right-arm quick has already captured 16 wickets to make him joint-highest in the meet.

While the Asian heavyweights fight it out for a place in the March 5 final, away at Chittagong's MA Aziz Stadium Australia meet Ireland in the first Plate Championship semifinal.



PHOTO: STAR

**DOWN AND OUT!** India's captain Ambati Rayudu (sitting C) and teammates watch coach Robin Singh explain something during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Rayudu will miss today's semifinal against Pakistan because of a suspension. Dinesh Karthik (C standing) will take over the captaincy for the match.

**PHOTO: STAR**

## Warne reunited with team



**REUTERS/AFP, Colombo**

Shane Warne was reunited with the Australia team on Saturday for next month's three-Test tour of Sri Lanka after completing a 12-month drugs ban.

Warne was suspended last year for taking a diuretic and missed the World Cup but was immediately recalled to the national team after playing just one first-class match.

The world's most successful spin bowler arrived at the team hotel with other members of the Test squad during the early hours of Saturday to be greeted by his one-day teammates, who are already in action in the island nation.

The 34-year-old's first official practice with the team will take place on Sunday while the one-day team play their final game. Australia lead the five-match series 3-1.

The first Test begins in Galle on March 8.

Warne said he was delighted to be back in Sri Lanka, the scene of his first triumph as an Australia cricketer on the 1992 tour.

"To come on this tour is a bonus as this is a special place for me," Warne told a news conference.

"Sri Lanka holds some fond memories as when I came 12 years ago it was my first tour away with the Australia team."

Warne snatched three wickets for no runs during a match-winning spell in the first Test that saw Australia clinch a dramatic 16-run victory.

"To this day that first Test in 1992 was my favourite Test," said Warne. "I did have a tough time on that tour though, getting hit all over the park, but since then when I have visited I have done well."

"I feel confident about playing here and if I am lucky enough to get a game that would be a bonus as well. I am ready for whatever challenge lies ahead, whether that is mixing the drinks or playing."

Warne was selected for the Test leg of the tour after just two limited-overs matches and one first-class game for Victoria, during which he proved himself to the selectors by taking six wickets.

"The bowling is going sensational and I am fitter than I have ever been," he said.

"I feel very fresh mentally and that's important because one of my biggest keys as a player is the way that I think. I always have a plan when I am bowling."

"In the last Pura Cup game against Tasmania I was more happy with the way I got my wickets than the wickets themselves."

Warne has 491 Test wickets and,

forward to playing international cricket after serving a 12-month drug suspension.

Before embarking on the tour, Warne had a dig at Murali's former skipper Ranatunga.

"Arjuna, he's probably slotting himself around at 150 kilos at the moment, is he?" Warne had said. "Swallowed a sheep or something like that?"

Ranatunga had reportedly retorted by saying that it was better to eat meat than to consume the banned substances that the Australian had been ingesting.

Warne was whisked away by the team management Saturday when local media tried to ask him about his spat with Ranatunga.

Warne did not talk about his recent verbal jousting with Ranatunga, but said he looked

forward to playing international cricket after serving a 12-month drug suspension.

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PHOTO: AFP

Coming-back Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne (L), along with a team official, arrives at a press conference in Colombo yesterday.

## Mega deal for Indo-Pak series

**AFP, Karachi**

Pakistan has secured sponsorship and television deals worth 21 million dollars for the next month's historic cricket series against India, a top cricket official said Saturday.

"We have deals of around 1.200 million rupees with some seven million dollars coming from the Indian companies ... the sum is more than what we expected," Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan said in a press briefing.

"Since the series has so much life in it we received a huge response," said Khan, a former foreign secretary and an ambassador.

Another one million dollars is expected from ticket sales, Khan said.

Pakistan hosts India for five one-day games and three Tests between March 13 and April 17 the first Indian series on its grounds in 15 years.

South Korean electronic giant Samsung, which has a huge share in India, won the title sponsorship of the series for four million dollars while Hero Honda will co-sponsor the series for 1.49 million dollars.

Dubai-based TEN Sports (Taj Entertainment Network) paid 13.3 million dollars for the television rights to the series.

The PCB appointed a bidding committee to finalise the deals and tried to strike a balance between Pakistani and Indian companies.

"Some of the offers were restricted for Pakistani companies so that the series does not look an Indian show and we are satisfied that we struck a balance," said Khan, who managed Pakistan's team on their last tour to India in 1998-99.

Shaharyar said surveillance cameras would be used to identify troublemakers.

The PCB chief urged fans to match the spirit of the crowd in Chennai which gave the winning Pakistan team a standing ovation in

minor crowd disturbances such as stone or bottle throwing.

"One stone can't call off the tour and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed say that both the boards will take into account the seriousness of any incident," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan told a press conference.

"Crowd reactions are common in cricket and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) or Indian players can't call off the tour unilaterally," said Khan, who took over as cricket chief in December last year.

"It's a qualitative series (and) has lots of political implications and repercussions at the highest level of the governments," said Shaharyar, a former foreign secretary and manager of Pakistan team on its last tour to India five years ago.

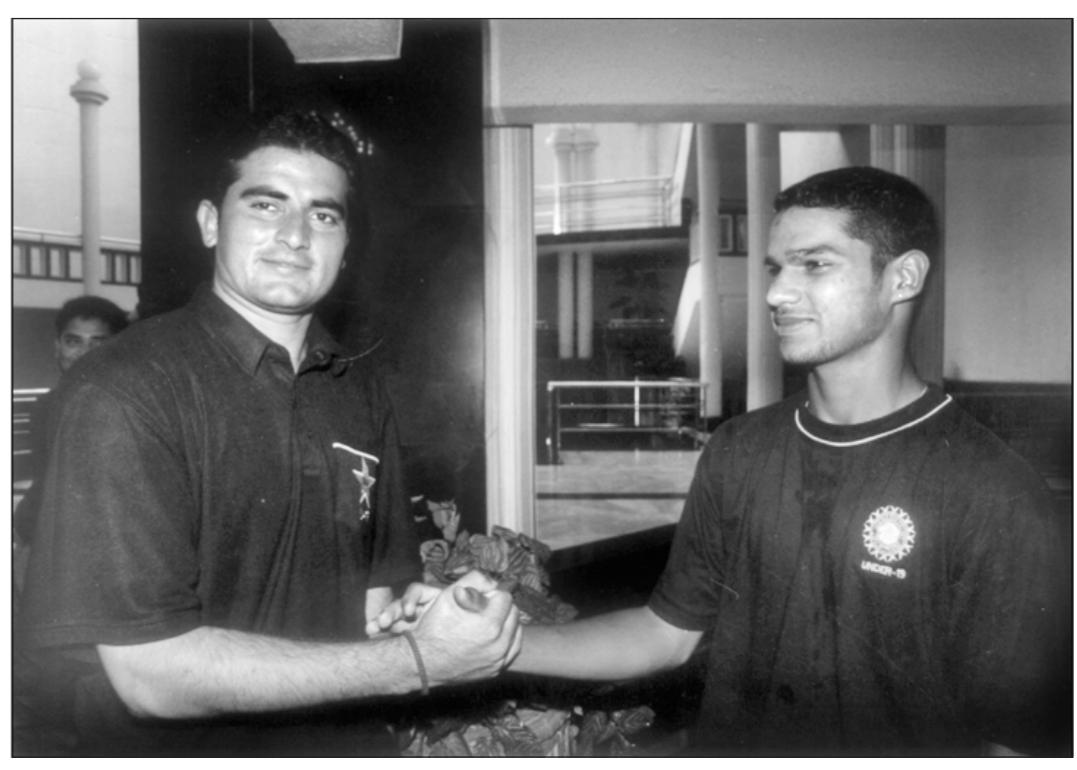


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Rain halts Zimbabwe



**AFP, Bulawayo**

Bangladesh were reeling on 88-5 in their first innings of the second Test against Zimbabwe when a rainstorm sent the players in for early tea and play was later abandoned at Queens Sports Club here on Saturday.

Play began 90 minutes late on the third scheduled day after two days were washed out when rains damaged several parts of the outfield.

With mop-up operations completed, Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak won the toss and sent Bangladesh into bat.

Although the wicket was seen to be ideal for batting, he believed it was his only chance of a victory in the short time available.

Hannan Sarker and Shahriar Hossain started well enough. They were not concerned with scoring runs and Sarker took 32 balls to get off the mark.

It was not until the ninth over that a run was scored off the bat. After eight overs, the score was 2-0, emanating from a no-ball and a wide bowled by Douglas Hondo.

But with the departures of the Bangladesh opening batsmen, the middle order went into a slump. With the scoreboard showing 64-0, five of their batsmen were plundered by the Zimbabwe pace attack for only a further 24 runs.

Hossain's 31 and Sarker's 25 were made to look respectable compared to the efforts of Habibul Bashar, Rajin Saleh and Mohammad Ashraful who followed them.

Bashar's effort of only four runs followed a run of three ducks and he must now be wondering what has gone wrong for him on this tour.

Streak was magnificently rewarded with just one wicket that of Bashar for his two fine spells. Sean Ervine captured both the openers, Hondo was erratic but eventually successful with Sarker's wicket and Ashraful fell victim to Travis Friend via a jugged catch at slip by Stuart Carlisle.

There is no possibility of a result in

this match as the rains got heavier through the afternoon, and soon after bringing the players off umpires David Orchard and Neil Mallender made the decision to abandon play, with the fourth day now also in doubt.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Saturday:

**BANGLADESH:** First innings  
Shahriar c Tabu b Ervine 31  
Hannan b Ervine 25  
Bashar c Friend b Streak