



Did U Know?

Harold I, King of England (1035-1040) was known as 'Harefoot' due to his running speed.



What to WATCH

ESPN


Sportscentre
Sports News
Live at 8:39 pm
UEFA Cup
Villareal vs Roma
Live at 2:25 am (Friday)

STAR Sports


Sportslive
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
UEFA Cup
Celtic vs Barcelona
Live at 1:55 (Friday)
New Zealand vs South Africa
First Test, Day Three
Live at 4:00 am (Friday)

TEN Sports

India vs Pakistan
Warm-up Game
Live at 10:00 am
West Indies vs England
First Test, Day One
Live at 8:30 pm



Talk Turkey



Zaheer Khan
(Indian pace bowler)
"I don't want to say that I am leading the attack but there is definitely additional responsibility on me and I will try to carry out my job as best I can."



Star WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION 207

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

**Competition closes at 8 pm
March 12, 2004 and draw**

- How many runs did Bangladesh score in the first innings of the first Test against Zimbabwe?
- Who is the first Zimbabwe bowler to have claimed a hat-trick in Test?
- Who was man-of-the-match in the second ODI between Sri Lanka and Australia?
- Who clinched the Rotterdam World tennis title?

331	400	390
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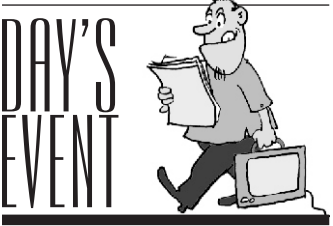
Vaas	Hayden	Ponting
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Name

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

School Address

Phone: (If any)



DAY'S EVENT

Western Union World Football
Sheikh Russell vs Dhaka Wanderers (3:00 pm)
Arambagh vs Victoria (5:00 pm)



PHOTO: AFP
Bangladeshi skipper Habibul Bashar plays one on the outside during the third one-day international against Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

BANGLADESH-ZIMBABWE SCOREBOARD					
Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club on Wednesday:					
BANGLADESH	R	B	4	6	
Alok Kapali c Taibub Hondo	9	21	1	0	
Shahriar Hossain c Rogers b Streak	2	23	0	0	
Habibul Bashar c Ebrahim b Flower	61	80	7	0	
Rajin Saleh c Hondo b Ervine	57	107	4	1	
Mohammad Rafique run out (Ebrahim)	6	13	0	0	
Mohammad Ashraful not out	51	32	5	0	
Mushfiquir Rahman run out (Taibu)	0	1	0	0	
Khaled Mahmud run out (Price)	22	16	2	1	
Khaled Mashud not out	11	9	1	0	
Extras: (lb-6, w-11, nb-2)	19				
Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs)	238				
Did not bat: Tareq Aziz, Tapash Baisya.					

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

Eyes on Russell

SPORTS REPORTER

WESTERN UNION Literally speaking, it doesn't qualify as a massive match but when Sheikh Russell take on Dhaka Wanderers Club in their last Western Union Premier Division Football League encounter today, rest assured the whole country's football fraternity would be closely following the outcome at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

A win for Russell would ensure a nerve-racking last encounter of the season between Brothers Union and Muktiyoddha Sangsad tomorrow. Any other result and Brothers can start celebrating a first ever Premier Division title early.

The Russell boys for the first time will leapfrog the big spending Gopibagh outfit if they bag full points against Wanderers as is expected and if Brothers fail to draw atleast, then Russell will be crowned league champions.

The promotees have secured 35 points from 17 matches to Brothers' 37 from the same number of games.

"I said my boys don't be excited and just play your own game. I think Brothers' have been too tense in the last few games and that's why

they find themselves in an awkward situation now," said Russell coach Wajed Gazi yesterday.

The veteran coach, however, expressed his firm determination to maintain a hundred percent record over Wanderers to keep it interesting till the last.

"We beat them in Federation

Cup and the first leg of the league, so I don't think they will be a difficult hurdle for my players," he added.

But whatever happens in the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE							
Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Points
Brothers Union	17	11	4	2	43	11	37
Sheikh Russell KC	17	10	5	2	20	8	35
Abahani	18	9	6	3	35	16	33
Muktijoddha	17	9	5	3	25	11	32
Mohammedan SC	17	7	8	2	26	8	28
Arambagh KS	17	6	5	6	15	19	23
Dhaka Wanderers	17	6	4	7	14	25	22
Victoria	17	5	2	10	12	26	17
Badda Jagarani	18	1	2	15	5	39	5
Dhanmondi	17	-	3	14	13	43	3

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

Leading goalcorers: 12 goals- Etigo (MSC).. 10 goals- Victor (BU) and Khokon (Abahani), 9-goal Okelo (BU, 6 goalsAlfaz, 5 goals- Maxim (Abahani), Sandro (Abahani), 4 goals--Alfaz (Brothers Union), Kannedy (Dhanmondi), Toe (Muktijoddha), 6 goalsFarhad (MSC), Hasan (Abahani), Kaba (Arambagh)



PHOTO: AFP
Australia's Shane Warne celebrates with teammates after bowled Sri Lanka's Upul Chandana (not in the picture) on the third day of the first Test at Galle yesterday.

Welcome

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul Haq and coach Javed Miandad Wednesday welcomed Indian cricketers on their arrival in Pakistan for the first time in more than 14 years.

"It's a great moment in Pakistan cricket and we welcome them on the tour to Pakistan with open arms," Inzamam told AFP by phone from Karachi, where his team are warming up ahead of the opening one day match on Saturday.

India's 15-man team flew into the eastern city of Lahore at 1:47 pm where they will play a warm up match Thursday and before flying to Karachi Friday.

The 40-day tour, including five one day matches and three Tests, is the first by India to Pakistan since December 1989. Pakistan last toured India in 1998-99.

"We are ready for them on the field but off it they will find us hospitable and accommodating," said Inzamam, 33, who assumed the captaincy last year.

He considered the two sides equally balanced.

"In the next few days we are going to see exciting and positive cricket with no quarter spared."

Coach Javed Miandad said he hoped the series would be viewed as a sporting event and nothing more.

"Our guests have arrived and we welcome them," he told AFP. "I urge the teams and the fans to take it as a cricket series and nothing else."

Miandad was on the Pakistani team when India last undertook a full tour of Pakistan in 1989-90.

Pakistan team manager Haroon Rasheed, who played for Pakistan in the 1970s and 1980s, said players from both sides shared good relations.

"The Indians have finally arrived and we are very happy that they are here," he said. "There are going to be some moments stored in the history of Pakistan and Indian cricket."

"Pakistan is known for its hospitality so we will prove that, but on the field we promise some tough cricket."



PHOTO: AFP
Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly, flanked by Pakistani security personnel, arrives to attend a press conference in Lahore yesterday.

They are in Pakistan

AFP, Lahore



India's cricket captain Sourav Ganguly vowed Wednesday to make his nation's first Test tour of Pakistan in 15 years a successful one, both on

and off the field.

"We are here to play well," Ganguly told AFP in an interview, soon after his 15-man squad touched down in this eastern city for the ice-breaking 40-day tour.

"We want to make friends in Pakistan, but our focus will be to win on the field," he said, brushing aside any security concerns for the team.

"We would not be here if the government had any worries about our safety."

India begin the tour with a warm-up match here on Thursday before the first of five one-day internationals gets underway in the southern port city of Karachi on Saturday.

Imran's one-day money on India

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani cricket great Imran Khan has tipped India to win the historic one-day series with Pakistan because of their strong batting lineup.

However the legendary former all-rounder was quick to head off protests from Pakistani fans by predicting the home side would triumph in the Test match series.

In an interview with AFP, Khan said Pakistan had a trump card in fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar but that he would only have 10 overs in each match in the one-day series, which begins on Saturday.

"The team which has strong batting, which India does have, will have an edge in the one-day games," Khan said.

However, he warned there would be no walkovers for any side and he predicted spectators would

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

"Pakistan is obviously a special tour because we have not played here for a long time. But once the matches start, cricket will be the key and we do not want to finish second-best."

Ganguly said the team was delighted at meeting Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee before the team's departure from New Delhi earlier on Wednesday.

"It's not everyday that we meet the prime minister, so it was a very special moment for all of us," the Indian captain said.

"He encouraged us to not only try and win matches, but also win friends. We will do that ... We are ambassadors of our country whenever we travel abroad to play."

Ganguly, a stylish left-hand batsman, said he was not concerned about India's poor track record in Pakistan, where they have not registered a Test win in 20 previous attempts.

India have also not won a Test series outside the sub-continent since beating England in 1986 under Kapil Dev.

"History does not worry me,"

Ganguly said. "It has been a long time since we played a Test in Pakistan. In fact, Sachin (Tendulkar) is the only one in our team to have played a Test here, in 1989.

"This is a new set of players, a young team, just like Pakistan have," he said.

"I am encouraged by the way we have played over the last few years and the recent tour of Australia gave us confidence of doing well in all conditions.

"This tour of Pakistan is a major tour, but it is not the ultimate test. It can't get tougher than the Australian tour or the World Cup and we did very well in both."

India reached the World Cup final in South Africa a year ago and held formidable Australia to a 1-1 draw in the four-Test series down under earlier this year.

Later at an overcrowded media conference here, Ganguly said his team was happy to be in Pakistan and keen to play positive and exciting cricket.

"The boys are excited at the opportunity of playing here. I am

sure the crowds will like the way we play.

"I do not believe in any team being favourites. In an one-day international it depends on how well a side plays on a particular day. In a Test, it is the five days that matter," he said.

"It is important to win the series and equally important to play our part in the goodwill issue.

"I feel this team has a great opportunity to achieve what no other Indian team has been able to do in Pakistan."

Asked how the Indians plan to tackle fiery fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, who is nicknamed the Rawalpindi Express, Ganguly said: "We will try to pull the chain and stop the train midway."

India begin the tour with a warm-up match here on Thursday before the first of five one-day internationals gets underway in the southern port city of Karachi on Saturday.

The one-day series, which ends on March 24, will be followed by three Test matches at Multan, Lahore and Rawalpindi.

Saved only by Govt. policy

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

England will risk a two million dollar fine and suspension from international cricket if they fail to tour Zimbabwe later this year under tough new sanctions announced here Wednesday.

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani said after a two-day board meeting of the sport's world governing body that any team failing to fulfil its touring obligations would be severely punished.

"Touring teams are expected to fulfil their touring obligations and failure to do so would result in a penalty of a minimum two million dollars and possible suspension from the International Cricket Council," Mani told reporters,

insisting the new regulation was not "England specific".

England have delayed confirming their trip to Zimbabwe in October amid strong British government pressure to scrap the tour in protest at the policies of the country's leader, President Robert Mugabe.

Crucially, however, the British government has stopped short of formally ordering the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) not to send a team -- one of only two ways that a body can avoid punishment by the ICC for not touring.

Under ICC rules, barring a government ban, the only other way for the ECB to withdraw without paying compensation is on security grounds.

ECB chairman David Morgan hinted however that the English cricket body was now studying legal advice that separate British

government statements viewed together could represent a formal directive not to tour Zimbabwe.

He said they believed three statements, including a letter from Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, amounted to force majeure or an event beyond their control, and if so they could not tour and would escape the new penalty.

"That clearly needs to be tested," Morgan told reporters.

"Originally I had been led to believe that the Foreign Secretary's letter did not constitute a force majeure situation. Overnight I have had information to suggest that it might."

But Zimbabwe Cricket Union chairman Peter Chingoka told AFP the ICC decision meant "there is now an obligation on members to fulfil their part of the deal and tour and they have to stick by those regulations."

No room for losses

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's field hockey great Shahbaz Ahmed says he cannot wait for India to play cricket in his country.

"I am as excited as anyone else," Shahbaz told AFP as Pakistan awaited the arrival of Sourav Ganguly's squad later on Wednesday for the ice-breaking tour of five one-dayers and three Test matches.

The tour is the first by an Indian team to rival Pakistan since 1989.

"India have not played a Test in Pakistan in 15 years so this is obviously a very special moment for our two countries," Shahbaz said, predicting that the contests would be as intense as they were in hockey.

"Look, India and Pakistan just don't want to lose to each other, be it cricket or hockey or any other sport.

"Our mindsets are like that. The

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Matthew Hayden pounded Sri Lanka's spinners with an unbeaten 106 as Australia fought back to seize control of the first cricket Test here on Wednesday.

The stylish left-handed opener adjusted well on a slow turning pitch to keep the Sri Lankan spinners at bay during his 18th Test hundred as Australia, trailing by 161 runs, reached 193-2 at stumps on the third day.

Australia are now 32 runs ahead with eight wickets in hand. Damien Martyn was batting on 10 with Hayden.

The Australian batting revolved round Hayden, who put on 91 for the opening wicket with Justin Langer (32) and 84 for the second with skipper Ricky Ponting (28).

Hayden's superb century ensured that Australia's batting order avoided a repeat of the dismal first-innings performance which saw the tourists bundled out for a meagre 220.

Australia could have finished the day on a better note had they not lost their captain at the wrong time. Ponting was run out going for what would have been Hayden's 100th run, shortly before the close.

Hayden turned spinner Sanath Jayasuriya to short mid-wicket and took off for a single, but Ponting failed to beat fielder Upul Chandana's fast and flat throw to wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara.

Ponting's dismissal was a penalty to do so would result in a penalty of a minimum two million dollars and possible suspension from the International Cricket Council," Mani told reporters,

Sri Lanka were earlier all out for 381 in reply to Australia's modest total after leg-spinner Shane Warne had roared back with five wickets to move within four scalps of the magic 500 barrier.

Warne (496) claimed three of the four remaining wickets after the hosts had resumed at 352-6.

Australia then turned in a vastly-improved batting performance in the second innings, thanks to Hayden who kept the one end intact for more than two sessions.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5