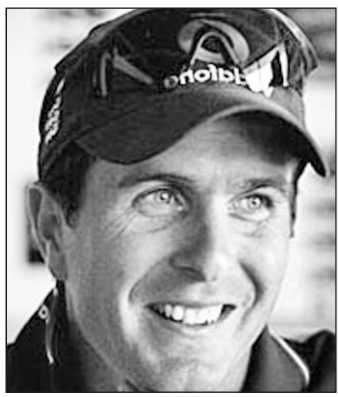




## Did U Know?

The title "Grandmaster" was created by Russian Tsar Nicholas II who first awarded it in 1914 to five players after a tournament he had funded in Saint Petersburg.



## Michael Vaughan

(England cricket captain)  
"You expect a bit of chin music when you come to these parts."  
On the Caribbean tour.



## What to Watch

**BTV**  
India vs Pakistan  
Fourth ODI (D/N)  
Live at 3:00 pm

**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Portsmouth vs Southampton  
Live at 10:00 pm

**Primera Liga**  
Barcelona vs Real Sociedad  
Live at 2:00 am (Monday)

**STAR Sports**  
New Zealand vs South Africa  
Second Test, Day Five  
Live at 4:27 am (Monday)

**TEN Sports**  
India vs Pakistan  
Fourth ODI (D/N)  
Live at 3:00 pm

**West Indies vs England**  
Second Test, Day Three  
Live at 12:00 am (Monday)

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 208**  
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.  
Competition closes at 8 pm March 27, 2004 and draw.

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score against Zimbabwe in the third ODI?	230	242	238
2. Who clinched the first Division Football League title?	Farashganj Victoria	Youngmen's	
3. Who won the Qatar Open tennis title?	Hings	Henin	Myskina
4. Who won the four-day National Cricket League title?			
Name .....			
Class .....			
School Address .....			
Phone: (if any) .....			

## U-13 cricket

**UNB, Dhaka**  
An unbeaten half-century by Arif helped Ankur Cricket Academy beat Cricket Coaching School (CCS) by 10 wickets in the Azim Group second U-13 cricket tournament at the Kalabagan Cricket ground yesterday.

Batting first, CCS scored 101 before being all out. Sunny and Sanjan were the main scorers with 39 and 22 respectively.

Ankur Cricket Academy reached the target making 105 without losing a wicket. Arif was 52 not out and Imran made an unbeaten 43.

# Shantoo sees gold

## Booters fly to Pakistan tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER



retain the coveted SAF football title.

The former national goalkeeper expressed the view two days before the 20-member team fly to Pakistan capital Islamabad, which will host the 9th edition of the regional Olympic competition from March 27 to April 7.

"You can never expect good results after such a poor preparation but the individual skills of my boys has given me fresh hope," said Shantoo during his side's one and only practice match against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Kamalapur Stadium last night.

The Bangladesh coach was very unhappy with the state of the affairs since taking over the job last month. Shantoo hardly got enough time to work with the full squad and that was his main complaint as the clubs were reluctant to release their players during the course of the Premier League.

"The match against Mohammedan was the first time I watched them in action after a week's training and they looked

pretty lively, which is inspiring," said Shantoo, whose side won 4-3.

But his main concern before the Islamabad extravaganza is the fatigue of the boys after the gruelling league.

"The players looked burnt out after the Premier League and I've to think of ways to build their stamina," he said.

Bangladesh will get four days before they launch their title defence. They won the football gold in Kathmandu in 1999.

Shantoo will only be able to formulate his game plan after the revised fixture is finalized on March 23.

The organizers of the 9th SAF Games agreed to announce a new fixture following Bangladesh's protest of being placed in one group with India Maldives and Bhutan. According to the standard rules both losing semifinalists of the last edition India and Maldives should not have been placed in the same group.

Monwar Hossain, the lone survivor from the 1999 SAF Games gold medallist team, will lead the Under-23 team as the event for first time allowed only three over-aged booters in the competition.

"When I last played for the national team in Nepal I was the junior member. This time I am most experienced campaigner and

I am also excited at the prospect of winning the title again," said Monwar.

But the hard working Brothers Union midfielder, whose second-half goal against Mukhtijoddha gave the men in Orange their maiden League title, said that the boy's of 1999 were technically better footballers than the present lot.

Jewel Rana, who captained Bangladesh to glory in Kathmandu, was also disappointed at the selection policy.

"How could they ignore players like Kanchan, Moni and Hasan? It's not only a weak team but has had a poor build up before such a big event," said the Mohammedan central defender.

But when the point about the missing trio was raised, Shantoo said that Kanchan and Moni were reluctant to play in the SAF Games because they failed to attend the training sessions.

"I think Parvez and Kaiser are better options than Hasan at left-back."

**SQUAD**  
Masud Parvez, Rashed Ahmed, Ashraf Kader, Abdullah Al Parvez, Aminul Islam, Mehedi Hasan

Ujjal

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PHOTO: AFP

HOW DO YOU DO? India captain Sourav Ganguly (L) shakes hands with the son of Pakistan skipper Inzamamul Haq while the senior Haq (R) and Indian opener Virender Sehwag look on during a practice session at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday. Hosts Pakistan take on India in the crucial fourth one-day international here today.

# India fans storm Lahore

AFP, Lahore



Pakistan in a do-or-die clash here on Sunday.

Some 4,500 Indian fans, who have travelled by road, rail and air, will be at hand to witness the last two day-night games at the Gaddafi Stadium here over the next four days.

Ganguly's men, who trail 1-2 in the five-match series, must win Sunday's fourth match under lights to prevent Wednesday's last game from being a formality.

India will also play three Test matches on their first full tour of Pakistan since 1989, but fans from across the border can't wait for Sunday's match to begin at 2:00pm (0900 GMT).

"We have not come here to see India lose," said Delhi college student Rima Verma, who flew into

this eastern city on Thursday with a group of friends to watch the matches.

However it's not all cricket for many.

"Cricket is secondary, I am here to make friends in Pakistan and enjoy their traditional hospitality," said Satwinder Singh, a motor car spare parts dealer from Delhi's historic Chandni Chowk area.

"But you can be rest assured we will all be at the Gaddafi Stadium on Sunday and will not hide our support for Sachin Tendulkar and company."

For Bombay-based executive Kumar Dhananjay, part of a tour group, his most memorable moments in the three one-dayers so far have come off the field.

"The cheers from the Karachi fans after India won the first match and the standing ovation around the Rawalpindi stadium for Tendulkar when he reached his century brought tears to my eyes," he said.

"This is what sport is all about, this is what India-Pakistan cricket is all about."

Few care to remember the

unfortunate incidents during India's last Test series here almost 15 years ago, when a fan rushed to the field at Karachi and lunged at the then Indian captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth.

The cricket tour which was okayed by the Indian government following a thaw in diplomatic relations with the warring neighbours, has proved to be a boon for the cash-strapped tourism industry in Lahore.

Five-star deluxe hotels are charging an exorbitant 20,000 rupees (330 dollars) a day, up from the usual 100 to 120 dollars, while smaller hotels have also hiked their rates from 30 dollars to 150 dollars.

The Indian team camp, meanwhile, was busy devising plans to stop the rival batsmen from their limited attack that is missing four injured frontline bowlers, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Ajit Agarkar and Ashish Nehra.

"It's five actually," said Ganguly. "We had (Javagal) Srinath at the World Cup but he has now retired. And Zaheer Khan is struggling to find his rhythm after a three-

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# Javed does not like Sourav's comments

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad says India captain Sourav Ganguly's comments calling into question Shoaib Akhtar's bowling action could create bad blood between the teams.

Ganguly raised doubts about Shoaib's action on the eve of the third one-day international at Peshawar, which Pakistan won to take a 2-1 lead in their five-match series.

"I would advise both team captains to avoid giving such contentious statements as it can create ill-feelings and spoil the mood of the series," Miandad told this news agency on Saturday.

"I look at Ganguly's comments as a way to put pressure on Shoaib but we've told him to bowl flat out

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## 100mph Sami

AFP, Lahore

Amidst the hype about how fast Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar bowls, teammate Mohammad Sami's 100 miles an hour feat against India barely created a ripple.

Television speed guns clocked two deliveries by Sami at over 100mph (160 kilometres an hour) during Friday's third one-day international at Peshawar which Pakistan won by four wickets to lead 2-1 in the five-match series.

Yet, few took notice of the rare feat that is not recognised in the record books of the International Cricket Council (ICC), but generates a lot of interest among cricket lovers.

So far, only Akhtar had been timed at that pace in a one-day international when he clocked 100.2 miles per hour in the World Cup game against England at Cape Town last year.

Even Sami himself was not aware of what he had achieved. "I don't know, I am not aware of any records," the slim fast bowler said.

An executive of the television company bearing the matches conceded errors were possible in the reading of speed guns, even though the Australian company that makes them guarantees 98 per cent accuracy.

## England 8-2, rain sets in

BBC ONLINE, undated

Rain stopped play on the second morning in Trinidad with England struggling on 8-2 in reply to West Indies' 208 all out in the second Test.

Touring captain Michael Vaughan was lbw to Pedro Collins for a duck and Marcus Trescothick caught off Tino Best for one with just eight runs on the board.

Earlier, play began half an hour early on the day as an Ashley Giles throw saw Ridley Jacobs run out for 40 in the third over.

Steve Harmison bowled last man Collins for 10 to finish with figures of 6-61.

# Make or break for India

AFP, Lahore



ahead of their crucial one-day clash here.

Sourav Ganguly's India team, who trail 1-2 in the five-match series, must win Sunday's fourth match under lights at the Gaddafi Stadium if they are to push for victory at Wednesday's last game at the same venue.

"Both teams are under pressure," the Indian captain conceded. "Pakistan have a lot at stake in front of their home crowd. They too need to win tomorrow and we will try and stop that from happening."

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq, whose team took the second and third one-dayers after losing the opener at Karachi, hoped the winning momentum will continue.

"It is good to have two consecu-

tive wins behind us, but we will again have to play really well to wrap it up on Sunday," he said.

"It is a very important game. My main worry is to ensure the bowlers do not concede too many wides and no-balls."

"It cost us 30 runs at Karachi and 27 at Peshawar on Friday. We can't afford to let that happen again."

"India's bowling is not as bad as everyone thinks. We have to work hard to get the runs. I have told the team not to get complacent."

The Indians, meanwhile, were busy devising plans to stop the rival batsmen with their limited attack that is missing four injured frontline bowlers, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Ajit Agarkar and Ashish Nehra.

"It's five actually," said Ganguly. "We had (Javagal) Srinath at the World Cup but he has now retired. And Zaheer Khan is struggling to find his rhythm after a three-month lay-off due to injury."

"The bowlers we have here have failed to get their act together. The pacers have to be more aggressive. Where are the bouncers and yorkers to unsettle the batsmen?"

Ganguly asked.

Indian coach John Wright, however, exuded more confidence than the captain.

"We're still not out of the series," he said. "Pakistan surely have the advantage but we can't just lose hope."

"This is turning out to be a very close series. We have to be clinical and play well under pressure. Our goal will be to live till the last game," Wright said.

If India's practice match at the Gaddafi Stadium on March 10 is any indication -- Pakistan's A team overhauled the tourists' mammoth 335-6 with four overs to spare -- a high-scoring thriller is on the cards on Sunday.

**TEAMS**  
PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Yousof Youhana, Yasir Hameed, Shahid Afridi, Taufeeq Umar, Imran Farhat, Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Mo'in Khan, Abdul Razaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Naveedul Hassan, Saqlain Mushtaq.

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# Long Aussie wait ends



AFP, Kandy

Australia ended a six-year wait to clinch a Test series in the sub-continent when they halted Sri Lanka's record chase to win the second Test by 27 runs here on Saturday.

Australia, who last won a Test series in the sub-continent in Pakistan in 1998, grabbed the remaining three Sri Lankan wickets for 23 runs to complete an exciting win for an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne took two wickets and fast bowler Jason Gillespie one to complete the job.

Sri Lanka, needing 51 more runs to win with three wickets in hand, were bowled out for 324 in their second innings after being set a record 352-run target.

The highest-ever total chased by Sri Lanka in the fourth innings to win a Test was 326, against Zimbabwe at Colombo in 1997.

Sri Lanka were in a position to make history when they resumed at 301-7, with Chaminda Vaas and Kaushal Lokurachchi at the crease.

But Warne and Gillespie swung the match in Australia's favour by sharing three wickets in just 6.1 overs.

"He (Warne) was fantastic again," said Australian skipper Ricky Ponting.

"When you have got somebody like Warne, you know he is going to bowl enough good balls to get wickets."

"It was a great game of cricket. It was pretty tense, came right down to the wire. We knew they would be under pressure trying to win a Test on the last day."

Warne was named man-of-the-

match for his fourth successive haul of five wickets. He finished with 5-90 to take his tally to 511 wickets, behind only retired West Indies paceman Courtney Walsh (519).

"I don't think I could have bowled better than I had in the last couple of Tests," said Warne.

Ponting opened the day's proceedings with his two best bowlers, Warne and Gillespie (4-76), and both of them rose to the occasion.

Vaas did not curb his strokes in pressure situation as he inside-edged Gillespie for a lucky four, the ball missing his stumps by a whisker. He then produced an authentic straight-drive for a boundary.

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PHOTO: AFP

WELL DONE, MATE: Australia captain Ricky Ponting (L) pats leg-spinner Shane Warne after the end of the second Test against Sri Lanka at Kandy yesterday.

# Cairns crushes Proteas



AFP, Auckland

A Chris Cairns batting blitz put New Zealand firmly in command of the second cricket Test against South Africa here Sunday, as the powerful all-rounder cracked a

boundary-filled 158 runs.

His magnificent innings, which included more than 100 runs in one session of play, led New Zealand to 584 for eight at stumps, a lead of 288 runs with two days remaining.

In a day of records, Cairns and Jacob Oram set an all-time record New Zealand seventh wicket partnership of 225, while Scott Styris

with 170, set the highest Test score by a New Zealander against South Africa.

Styris was at the crease for more than five hours and faced 220 balls, while the big-hitting Cairns plundered 18 fours and seven sixes in his innings of 171 balls in a New Zealand batting spree that saw 387 runs scored in the day.

His rollicking innings saw Cairns attack to Shaun Pollock and Jacques Kallis with the second new ball, taking 16 off one Pollock over as his first 40 came off 24 balls, and he reached his 21st Test 50 off 41 balls in 64 minutes.

In the after tea session, Cairns pounded 105 runs until his dismissal about 15 minutes before stumps.

He fell mistiming an attempt to drive Graeme Smith over the boundary and was caught in the deep by Kallis.

Supporting Cairns and Styris were Jacob Oram, who was bowled by Makhaya Ntini on 90 and Craig McMillan who fell to Shaun Pollock for 82.

The weather was ideal for batting and New Zealand made the most of it.

With a cloudless sky and hard wicket, there was little assistance for the bowlers, and the South Africans were unable to extract any of the movement that assisted Chris Martin who took six wickets for New Zealand in cloudy conditions on Friday.

But just when it appeared South African skipper Smith was running out of options, he delayed taking the second new ball which saw Nicky Boje make the morning breakthrough just before lunch when he lured Styris into edging a ball to Pollock in the 81st over.

Smith later brought himself on as the eighth bowler used in a desperate attempt to break up the

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PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns raises his arms after reaching his century on the third day of the second Test against South Africa at Auckland yesterday.