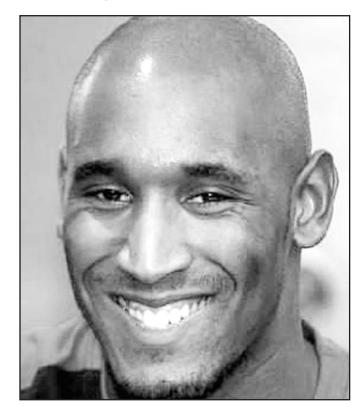




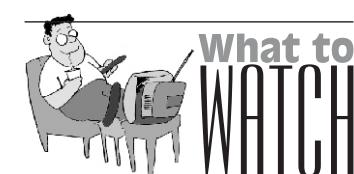
## Did U Know?

Sugar Ray Robinson's career record stood at 201 fights, 174 wins, 19 losses, 109 knockouts, 6 draws and 2 no-contests.



### Nicolas Anelka

(French soccer star)  
"I am very happy here and want to stay. I have a contract with Manchester City and I am playing for them at the moment and next season I think I will still be with this club."  
Denying any rumours of a transfer.



**ESPN**  
Sportscenter  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
UEFA Cup  
Barcelona vs Celtic  
Live at 1:55 am (Friday)  
**STAR Sports**  
Sportsline  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm  
UEFA Cup  
Roma vs Villareal  
Live at 1:40 am (Friday)  
New Zealand vs South Africa  
Third Test, Day One  
Live at 4:27 am (Friday)

**TEN Sports**  
Sri Lanka vs Australia  
Third Test, Day Two  
Live at 10:00 am  
  
**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..... Roll No.....  
School Address.....  
.....  
Phone: (If any) .....



Bangladesh A vs Zimbabwe A (Day Three)  
Second Four-Day Match  
Venue: Shaheed Chandu

## Laxman saves best for last

AFP/REUTERS, Lahore



Venkatesai Laxman roared back into form with 107 off 104 balls as India scored 293-7 from 50 overs in the decisive fifth one-day against Pakistan here on Wednesday.

Laxman's sixth one-day hundred steadied the tourists after Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq won his fifth toss in a row and elected to field in the day-night game.

Pakistan face a target of almost six runs an over under lights at the Gaddafi Stadium to break the 2-2 deadlock and gain a psychological edge ahead of the three-Test series starting on Sunday.

The total is identical to what Pakistan made in the fourth one-day at the same venue on Sunday which India won with five overs to spare.

The 29-year-old Laxman, who managed just 27 runs in three previous innings in the series, struck 11 boundaries and raised his century with a single to long-on off spin bowler Shoaib Malik before departing in the 46th over, miscu-

ing an attempted pull off Malik while trying to force the pace.

India plundered 19 runs in the last two overs due to belligerent batting by tail-enders. Irfan Pathan, with a brisk 20 not out, and Lakshmi Pathak Balaji, who hit an unbeaten 10 off six balls, gave the team a boost in the final overs with some unorthodox, but effective, hitting.

Mohammad Sami, who claimed 3-63, led a fightback by the Pakistan bowlers, whose five wides and as many no-balls were a vast improvement on the 58 wides and 40 no-balls they conceded in the first four matches.

Lanky seamer Shabbir Ahmed finished with 2-56 while Shoaib Akhtar and Malik claimed one wicket apiece.

Among the 25,000 fans at the overflowing stadium was Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, who watched the match for an hour alongside Indian industrialist Nusli Wadia, the grandson of Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

The Bombay-based Wadia was a special invitee of the Pakistan government to the match, part of India's first full tour of the neighbours since 1989.

Openers Virender Sehwag

and Tendulkar gave India an explosive start, Sehwag cutting paceman Shoaib Akhtar over point off the second ball of the innings and Tendulkar clipping Shabbir through the on-side for an early boundary.

But India lost both of them by the 15th over, at which time they had put 79 runs on the board.

Shabbir hit back, though, in the sixth over when he had Sehwag caught behind for a 22-ball 20.

Tendulkar, one-day cricket's most successful batsman, failed to make 50 for the sixth successive time in a major final when he edged Sami to wicketkeeper Moin Khan after making 37.

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly added 92 for the third wicket with Laxman when he was dismissed by Akhtar for 45.

Rahul Dravid fell for four, Yuvraj Singh for 18 and Mohammad Kaif for 16 as the Indian middle-order failed to cash in on Laxman's efforts.

The one-day series will be followed by three tests, starting in Multan on March 28.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Indian innings in the fifth and final one-day interna-

tional against Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Wednesday:

### INDIA

	20
Tendulkar c Moin b Shabbir	37
Laxman c Sami b Malik	107
Ganguly c Moin b Akhtar	45
Dravid b Sami	4
Yuvraj c Inzamam b Shabbir	18
Kaife Umar b Sami	16
Pathan not out	20
Balaji not out	10
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, nb-5, w-5)	16
Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs)	293

Did not bat: Kartik, Zaheer

Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-79, 3-171, 4-183, 5-227, 6-253, 7-276

### Bowler

O	M	R	W
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Akhtar	10	1	47	1
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Shabbir	10	1	56	2
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Sami	10	1	63	3
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Razzaq	10	0	54	0
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Malik	10	0	67	1
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**PAKISTAN:** Inzamam, Hameed, Umar, Youhana, Younis, Malik, Razzaq, Moin, Akhtar, Sami, Shabbir.

**Toss:** Pakistan.

**Umpires:** David Shepherd (England) and Nadeem Ghauri (Pakistan).



PHOTO: AFP

**BAT OF GOLD:** India's wristy genius VVS Laxman raises the bat after reaching his hundred in the fifth and final one-day international against Pakistan at Lahore yesterday.

## Five added to A team

SPORTS REPORTER

Selectors yesterday called up five additional players to join the Bangladesh A team in Bogra to play two one-day matches against visiting Zimbabwe A.

The players are Al Shahriar, Ehsanul Haque, Manjarul Islam Rana, Rashidul Haque and Shahdat Hossain.

The first two games of the five-match limited-overs series will take place at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium on March 28 and 30.

## Singer nat'l chess starts Sunday

SPORTS REPORTER

The final phase of the Singer 30th national chess championship begins at the NSC conference room on Sunday.

Some of the country's leading players including Grand Masters Ziaur Rahman, Niaz Mursud and three International Masters -- Reebat bin-Satar, Enamul Hossain Rajib and Abdullah Al Rakib earned direct entry in the meet while the other nine participants had to qualify.

During a press briefing yesterday, it was revealed that sponsors Singer Bangladesh Limited is providing Tk two lakh for the event. Presided over general secretary of Bangladesh Chess Federation Syed Sajauddin, the briefing was addressed by director and chief operating officer of Singer Bangladesh Limited, Hamim Rahmatullah and company's advertising and sales promotion manager Sushil Sutradhar.

Chess enthusiasts can even follow the tournament by logging on to [www.bsc-online.org](http://www.bsc-online.org).

## Lehmann puts Aus atop

### Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Colombo

Darren Lehmann scored his fifth Test century to help Australia pile up 314 for six on the opening day of the third and final Test against Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

Skipper Ricky Ponting led from the front in the first two sessions with an aggressive 92 and found support from Lehmann, who continued throughout the evening to finish unbeaten on 104.

Ponting and Lehmann stole the initiative with a 121-run partnership for the fourth wicket after Australia had slipped to 96 for three in their first innings shortly after lunch.

"It's good to get some runs... and making up for lost time. You have got to have a plan (in Sri Lanka) and my plan seems to be working at the moment which is good," said Lehmann.

"I am quite confident coming down the wicket and I think you have to back yourself to do that over here."

"In the past teams have come here and let the spinners dictate but we have certainly gone about it in a different way and had some success doing so."

Experienced left-armers Vaas was the pick of Sri Lanka's bowlers, probing away on a good batting pitch to finish with three for 76

from 20 overs.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan was repelled for much of the day but picked up two wickets in the evening, extending his career tally to 507 as he finished with two for 84.

Sri Lanka's morning started badly when left-arm paceman Nuwan Zoysa broke down with a calf injury after bowling 3.3 overs with the new ball.

However, the hosts remained hopeful he would bowl later in the match after ultrasounds revealed no serious muscle damage.

Australia's openers put on 43 before Vaas had Justin Langer caught at mid-wicket for 19.

All-rounder Thilan Samaraweera replaced Zoysa and removed Matthew Hayden for 25 when the opener miscued a lofted drive and was caught at mid-off.

Australia reached lunch on 96 for two but then lost Damien

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

## Saqlain's teesra trick

### Cricket

REUTERS, Lahore

Saqlain Mushtaq, who introduced the off-spinners' googly or the "doosra" (the other one) to international cricket, is developing a "teesra" (the third one) in a bid to win back a place in the Pakistan team.

Saqlain, 27, said he hoped the new variation would help him return during a three-Test series against India, starting in Multan on March 28.

"I've realised it's necessary to keep on bringing variations into your bowling to survive in the hectic world of international cricket," he told Reuters on Wednesday.

"There is no survival without variation."

Saqlain, who has grown a beard and leads the prayer congregations of the Pakistan team, has a haul of 207 Test and 288 one-day wickets but has played just one Test and one one-day for Pakistan since September last year.

He says he is willing to bide his time because his renewed interest

"Shane Warne, Muttiah Muralitharan and Anil Kumble have also been successful and consistent because of the variations they keep introducing into their bowling."

Pakistan's chief selector Wasim Bari said Saqlain was being considered for the Tests against India.

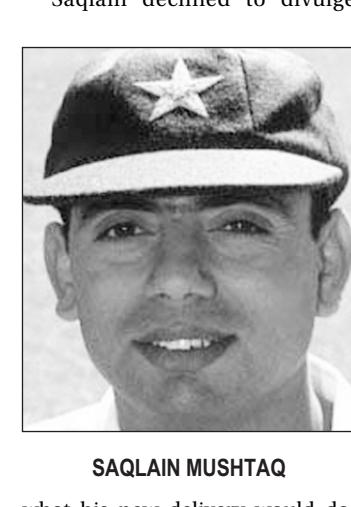
"You can't just ignore a bowler of his calibre," Bari told Reuters. "I don't think he's been handled properly in the last one year since the World Cup. We are ready to back him when the time comes."

Saqlain has been in and out of the Pakistan team since the 2003 World Cup and has not played a Test since grabbing two wickets for 70 against Bangladesh in Multan last year.

In his last one-day appearance, against South Africa in October, he went for 52 runs in eight overs.

India, on their first Test tour of Pakistan since 1989-90, have never won a Test in 20 matches in Pakistan, losing five and drawing 15.

The last time the countries played a Test series in India in 1999, Saqlain finished with 24 wickets in three matches including four five-wicket hauls.



SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ

what his new delivery would do.

"I'm still perfecting it," he said.



PHOTO: AFP

HOME AWAY FROM HOME: Indian female fans enjoying themselves during the fifth and final one-day international against Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.