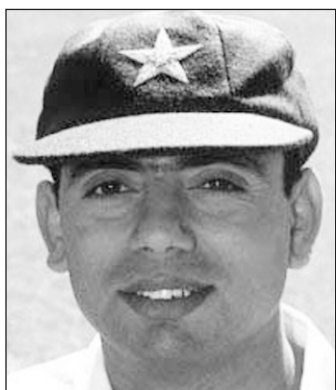




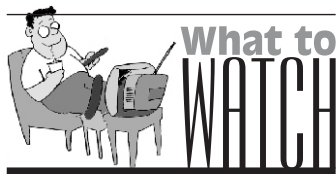
Did U Know?

India's one-day series win against Pakistan was their first-ever on Pakistani soil after five failed attempts between 1978 and 1997.



Saqlain Mushtaq

(Pakistan off-spinner)
"There is no survival without variation."
While talking about the new weapon in his repertoire.



ESPN

UEFA Cup
 Barcelona v Celtic
 Repeat at 6.30pm
Sportscentre
 Sports News
 Live at 8.30pm
 Here We Go
 Football Show
 Same day delay at 9pm
 Goals
 Repeat at 10.30 pm
Saturday
English Premier League
 Birmingham v Leeds
 Live at 6.25pm
English Premier League
 Chelsea v Wolves
 Live at 8.55pm

STAR Sports

Sportslive
 Sports News
 Live at 8pm
New Zealand v South Africa
 Third Test, Day Two
 Live at 4:27 am (Saturday)
English Premier League
 Manchester City Vs Fulham
 Live at 8.55pm

TEN Sports

Friday
Sri Lanka v Australia
 Third Test, Day Three
 Live at 10am
Saturday
Sri Lanka v Australia
 Third Test, Day Four
 Live at 10am

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)

Rookies rule Day Three

4-dayer heading for draw



SPORTS REPORTER

Both Rajin Saleh and Mohammad Ashrafui missed centuries but Bangladesh A still came within 29 runs of Zimbabwe A's imposing first innings total on the third day of the four-day match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Set to climb a mountain after the tourists posted 407, the home side, resuming on 171-3, raced to 378 before being all out in 107.4 overs.

Rajin could add 15 runs to his overnight total of 71 before the stubborn fourth-wicket stand finally fell at 210. Ashrafui departed for 82. But there was plenty of batting to follow after yet another disappointing show from Alok Kapali (7) as young Faisal Hossain and wicketkeeper Dhiman Gosh produced an absorbing 119 runs for the seventh wicket.

Left-handed Faisal celebrated his first call up in any national

selection with 83 off 162 balls. The Chittagong batsman, who came into the reckoning for his ability to time the ball with great authority during the recent National League, showed plenty of that hitting nine boundaries. BKSP boy Dhiman was equally impressive for his 69-ball 54 that featured six fours and a six.

Zimbabwe A were 86-1 at stumps, taking the lead to 115. But the tourists will require a special effort on the final day if they are to win the game and make it all square before the five-match one-day series. They lost the closely fought first four-dayer at Rajshahi by five runs.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 15-men team for the limited-overs series, which starts here on Sunday.

They are Alok Kapali (captain), Rashedul Haq, Al-Shahriar, Mohammad Ashrafui, Tushar Imran, Dhiman Gosh, Manjarul Islam, Jamaluddin, Tareq Aziz Khan, Alamgir Kabir, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain, Faisal Hossain Ehsanul Haque and Gazi Alamgir.

SCORECARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the four-day match between Bangladesh A and Zimbabwe A at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday:

ZIMBABWE A: First innings 407 all out in 136.5 overs (Ewin 100, Maregwede 90, Sims 80; Tareq 5-91, Enamul 2-59)

BANGLADESH A: First innings (overnight 171-3 in 44 overs)

Hannan b Nicolle	4
Jamal c Panyangara b Gripper	18
Tushar c Matsikenyer b Gripper	9
Rajin b Nicolle	86
Ashrafui lbw b Mwayenga	82
Kapali b Panyangara	7
Faisal b Panyangara	83
Dhiman lbw b Chigumbura	54
Alamgir c Maregwede b Chigumbura	4
Enamul c Maregwede b Chigumbura	1
Tareq not out	5

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Ganguly glad

REUTERS, Lahore



India captain Sourav Ganguly was thrilled with his team's historic one-day series win in Pakistan on Wednesday, the first in six attempts.

India beat Pakistan by 40 runs in the fifth and final one-day international to clinch the five-match series 3-2 after piling up a total of 293 for seven.

"It's always good to be part of a historic win," Ganguly told reporters. "I rank this victory very highly because it's our first on Pakistani soil."

The Indian skipper described his team's backs-to-the-wall win in the fourth one-dayer on Sunday, when they chased 294 after struggling at 94 for four, as the turning point of the series.

"That victory gave us a lot of confidence and we knew we could win the final," he said. "I've always believed that one-day finals are pressure games and today we handled the pressure better than Pakistan."

Ganguly paid tribute to his young bowling attack, who came back well in the last two games to make up for the absence of injured spinners Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

India batsman Vangipurappu Laxman, who scored 107, said he was delighted to contribute in such a crucial match.

"It was not easy to bat out there but I kept myself composed," he said.

Disappointed Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq blamed his top-



SOURAV GANGULY

order batsmen for the defeat.

"I'm very sad but I think we need to appreciate India played the better cricket in the last two games," he said.

"We should have wrapped up the series in the fourth match but we lost our chance."

Pakistan lost early wickets on Wednesday and were struggling at 96 for seven before Moin Khan and Shoaib Malik fought back with a 99-run seventh-wicket stand.

"The early loss of wickets put us out of the game. The batsmen should have played more responsibly," Inzamam said.

But the Pakistan skipper said his real concern before the three-match Test series, starting in Multan on Sunday, was the form of his bowlers.

"I'm worried about the bowlers," he said. "They were never at their best in the series. The rhythm was just not there. I'm hoping they can come back in the Test matches. It's a different game and I've a lot of confidence in their ability."

India are in Pakistan for their first full series in more than 14 years.

India hails its heroes

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi



their cricket team for its historic one-day series victory over arch-rivals Pakistan.

Sourav Ganguly's men beat Pakistan in the fifth and final one-day international by 40 runs in Lahore on Wednesday night to clinch the series 3-2.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has also announced 50 lakh rupees as bonus to the triumphant team.

"It is a splendid victory. The entire country congratulates the team and expresses its happiness," Vajpayee said.

"Our team of 11 cricket players

won the match as well as the hearts," he said in a message late Wednesday to the team.

As soon as the match ended, the people delirious with joy came out on the streets and lanes and by-lanes setting off fireworks, hugging each other and distributing sweets to mark India's first ever one-day series win against Pakistan in Pakistani territory. The jubilation of fans continued even until yesterday across the country.

The official residence of Vajpayee here turned into a scene of celebrations as soon as the last Pakistani wicket fell. The Prime Minister, along with his family, was glued to the television set watching the momentous occasion. Kalam, Vajpayee as well as top opposition leader Sonia Gandhi promptly congratulated the Indian team for their victory.

Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani, who was in the midst of electioneering in the northern state of Haryana, spoke to Indian captain Sourav Ganguly over

telephone and congratulated him and his boys for their memorable win. Advani also enquired about Ganguly's injury sustained while fielding and wished him speedy recovery.

Scenes of jubilation were witnessed in front of the residences of Ganguly in Kolkata, Sachin Tendulkar in Bombay and Mohammad Kaif in Allahabad as ecstatic cricket fans danced and fed each other sweets late into the night.

An elated BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya announced that Rs 50 lakh as a bonus to the victorious team. He conveyed the decision to Ganguly over phone.

The most talked-about aspect of last night's match was VVS Laxman's century and Tendulkar's brilliant catch to dismiss Pakistan skipper and danger man Inzamamul Haq.

It has indeed been a memorable

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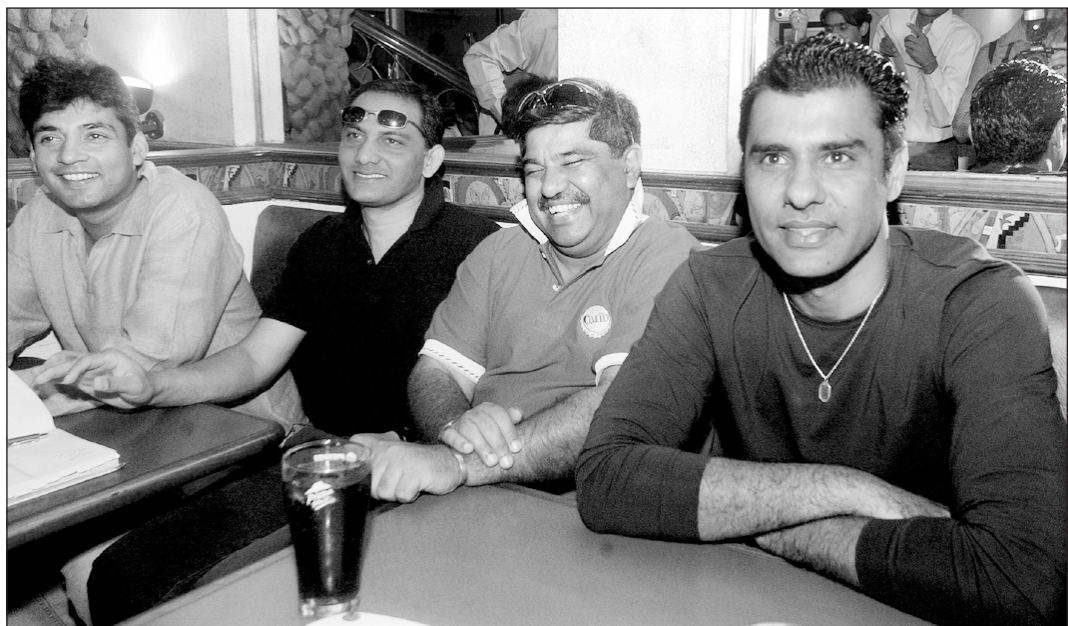


PHOTO: AFP

Former Pakistan cricket captain Waqar Younis (R) sits with former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin (2nd from L) and former Indian players Ajay Jadeja (L) and Ashok Malhotra after a friendship match between the two countries called 'Border 2004' in New Delhi yesterday.

Rafique called up

SPORTS REPORTER

The selectors yesterday called up Mohammad Rafique when they named a preliminary list of 24 for the tour of West Indies in May.

The left-arm spinner recently found himself in hot water after his bust up with Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar a day before the final one-day against Zimbabwe at Harare. Rafique, the leading wicket-taker of the country in both versions of the game, was promptly sent home to face a disciplinary hearing.

But after a week of suspense, it seems that the wily southpaw will be let off lightly on the evidence of his national call up.

The list of probables however provided little surprises except for the inclusion of two fresh faces and the return of seasoned opener Javed Omar Belim.

Faisal Hossain worked his way into the list after a productive National League for Chittagong. The left-hander celebrated his maiden entry into the initial squad with a fine 83 in the four-day match at Bogra on Thursday. Abdur Razzak also drew the attention of the selectors for a good showing with both bat and ball for Khulna. He is also the lone orthodox right-arm spinner in a team dominated by quick bowlers.

Javed, who missed the tour of Zimbabwe due to injury, is set to make a comeback. The doughty right-hander last played in the

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Sourav may miss 1st Test

REUTERS/AFP, Multan

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly may miss the first Test against Pakistan, starting on Sunday, due to a back injury.

Ganguly sustained the injury when he landed awkwardly while attempting to stop a shot in the fifth one-day international, which India won on Wednesday to clinch the series 3-2.

The 31-year-old was carried off the field on a stretcher and did not return until the match ended.

"Sourav went to see a doctor today and investigations are still going on," Amrit Mathur, the Indian team's media manager, told Reuters by phone from Lahore on Thursday.

"He and physio Andrew Leipus will stay on in Lahore tonight to meet another doctor. A final decision on his availability for the match will be made after we get an opinion from the specialist," Mathur added.

The tourists flew into the central Pakistani city of Multan for Sunday's first Test without Ganguly, who was forced to stay in Lahore to undergo scans on his injured back.

The scans could not be carried out on Thursday because Ganguly "was sent to a wrong doctor in Lahore," a team source told this newsagency.

Ganguly and Leipus, who fixed an appointment with a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)-nominated doctor for Thursday morning, found out he was the wrong man to treat the injury.

"The whole day was wasted trying to locate the right man who was a specialist in back injuries," the source said.

"One was eventually found late in the evening. Ganguly and Andrew will see him and both will join the team on Friday."

Athens gets on the road

AFP, Olympia

Olympic organisers, facing a race against the clock to get ready for the Athens Games, heaved a sigh of relief Thursday when the Olympic torch ceremony went off on cue.

Security was tight around the ruins of Ancient Olympia, where the Games were born in 776 BC, when Olympic high priestess Thalia Prokopiou, a 32-year-old actress performing for the third time, summoned the sacred light of Apollo, with the help of a parabolic polished metal mirror.

Athens is racing to get venues ready following delays in the construction of key Olympic sites and transport networks.

The last time the flame was lit first time was for the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics.

The ceremony was preceded by an address from the International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge and organising committee president Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki.



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka opener Marvan Atapattu pulls one on way to scoring an unbeaten 109 on the second day of the third and final Test against Australia in Colombo yesterday.

Atapattu replies for SL



AFP, Colombo

Marvan Atapattu slammed a solid century as Sri Lanka made a strong reply in the third and final cricket Test against Australia here on Thursday.

The opening batsman scored an unbeaten 109 to help Sri Lanka reach 239-2 at stumps on the second day in reply to Australia's first innings total of 401. He struck 17 fours in his 12th Test century, the first against Australia.

Mahela Jayawardene was batting on 29.

Sri Lanka made a blazing start as Atapattu and Sanath Jayasuriya (71) put on 134 for the opening wicket, smashing the Australian bowlers to various parts of the boundary.

Part-time left-arm spinner

Darren Lehmann stopped the run-spree when he had Jayasuriya caught by Jason Gillespie at mid-on. He then dismissed Kumar Sangakkara (22) to complete a superb all-round performance.

Australia, resuming at 314-6, were all out in the last over before lunch. Their total owed much to Lehmann, who made an impressive 153.

Even leg-spinner Shane Warne was unable to stem the flow of runs as he gave away 58 in 18 wicketless overs, still nine victims short of retired West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh's world record of 519.

His closest competitor, Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan (510), now needs just 10 wickets in the second innings to break the world mark at home, a feat achieved only by Englishman Jim Laker and Indian Anil Kumble in Test history.

Put up or shut up: ICC

AFP, London



in the ongoing Pakistan-India series, saying it needed evidence not speculation before it could treat the claims seriously.

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed said in a statement Wednesday: "We have all seen the opinions of various people that have been aired in the media and they all share a common theme -- they are all long on speculation but short on evidence."

His comments came after former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif

alleged the fourth one-day international against India was fixed.

Latif went on television on Monday night to claim that Sunday's game was "fixed" after India fought back from the brink to win by five wickets and level the five-match series 2-2.

It was an amazing match with India recovering from 94 for four to pass Pakistan's seemingly unbeatable 293 for nine with five overs to spare.

But Speed, a lawyer by profession, added: "If these allegations are to be treated seriously the people making these claims need to substantiate their claims or withdraw them."

"To attack the integrity of the game and the players taking part in this series without proof is entirely inappropriate and does nothing to actually address the threat of corruption," the Australian added

Jayasuriya and Atapattu played the Australian attack, exploding with a flurry of boundaries against new-ball bowlers Gillespie and Michael Kasprovicz. They plundered 50 in less than 10 overs.

Atapattu set the tone by driving Gillespie for two fours in the opening over. He went on to gather runs comfortably and completed 4,000 runs in his 71st Test.

Jayasuriya also played his shots with freedom on a batting pitch, racing to his 27th Test half-century off just 59 balls with seven fours. He eventually fell attacking.

He had already hit a four off Lehmann before getting out trying another big shot, with Gillespie taking a well-judged running catch. He smashed one six off Warne and nine fours in his rapid-fire 78-ball knock.

There was no stopping

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after India earlier Wednesday won the decider in Lahore by 40 runs.

And Speed rejected suggestions that the ICC's Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) lacked the resources to properly supervise international matches.

"The ICC now has in place an experienced and well-resourced team to deal with these types of issues," he said.

"Like every match on the international calendar, every game in this series has been closely examined and a thorough report will be prepared for the ICC as it is for every international series."

"The ACSU team is in Pakistan and it is alert to the dangers posed by the amount of betting that is taking place on these matches."

"In this series, like every other series in international cricket,

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Younis, Afridi released

REUTERS, Lahore



in Multan on Sunday.

The country's national selectors on Thursday announced a 16-man squad with Younis, all-rounder Shahid Afridi and medium-pacer Naveedul Hasan, left out after taking part in the one-day series, which India won 3-2 on Wednesday.

They have been replaced by batsmen Misbahul Haq and Asim Kamal, medium-pacer Umar Gul and leg-spinner Danish Kaneria.

Pakistan's chief selector Wasim Bari said Younis, who has played 28 Tests and 101 one-day internationals, and Afridi had not been considered for the first Test because of their inconsistent form in the one-day series.

Afridi, a hard-hitting opener, managed just 89 in the one-dayers, while Younis also disappointed with a tally of 140 runs.

"This is the best possible selection we could come up with," Bari told Reuters.

"We've given the team a four-man pace attack, two quality spinners in Saqlain Mushtaq and Danish Kaneria, two all-rounders and seven specialist batsmen," he said.

Pakistan and India will be playing a Test on Pakistani soil for the first time since 1989-90 when the teams played four draws.

Kaneria, who has a Test record of 65 wickets in 16 matches, and Gul played in the recent Test series in New Zealand.

Kamal made his Test debut against South Africa in Lahore last year in November, scoring 99 runs, while Misbah's last Test appearance was in against Australia in 2002.

Bari said Pakistan's loss in the one-day series, after they held a 2-1 advantage, was disappointing.

"We should've won the one-day series comfortably but I think we lost the script in the first and the fourth games. Hopefully, things will be different in the Tests."

India have already announced their Test squad for the three-match series with experienced leg-spinner spinner Anil Kumble, medium-pacer Ajit Agarkar and opener Akash Chopra joining the team on Thursday.

"We are delighted to have the three back with us," said vice-captain Rahul Dravid. "They will have a lot to contribute in the series."

One-day specialists Mohammad Kaif, Hemang Badani and Amit Bhandari, who were not picked in the Test squad, will return home later on Thursday.

The Pakistan team for the remaining two Tests will be named later.

The second Test will be played in Lahore from April 5 and the third

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