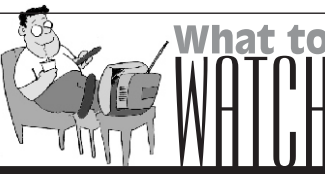




Did U Know?

George Foreman was so disgusted with his loss against Muhammad Ali in the "Rumble in the Jungle" in Zaire in 1974 that a few months later he took on five opponents in one day and knocked them all out!



ESPN

English Premier Football League
Bolton Wanderers vs Newcastle United

Live at 6:55 pm

Arsenal vs Man United

Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportline

Sport News

Live at 7:30 pm

Primera Liga

Real Madrid vs Sevilla

Live at 1:00 am (Monday)

New Zealand vs South Africa

Third Test, Day Four

Live at 4:27 am (Monday)

TEN Sports

India vs Pakistan

First Test, Day One

Live at 11:00 am



Atal Behari Vajpayee

(Indian Prime Minister)

"It is a splendid victory. The entire country congratulates the team and expresses its happiness. Our team of 11 cricket players won the

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 209

Tick the correct answers, post to
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Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm April 9, 2004 and draw

1. Who will captain the Bangladesh football team at the SAF Games?	Monwar	Afraz	Rana
2. How many ODI hundreds has Sachin Tendulkar scored?	37	36	32
3. Who clinched the Indian Wells ATP Masters Series title?	Federer	Roddick	Agassi
4. Who lifted the Spanish Cup?	Zaragoza	Real Madrid	Villareal
5. Who became man-of-the-match?			
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (if any)			

WHIZZ KID-208

winner

Rashedul Karim

(Dhanmondi Govt Boys School)
Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on April 4.

Boy returns as a man

AFP, Multan



Sachin Tendulkar goes into the three-Test series against Pakistan from Sunday determined to leave his mark in a country where he took his first tentative steps in world cricket.

When Tendulkar made his Test debut as a 16-year-old in Karachi in 1989 on India's last Test tour of Pakistan, Mikhail Gorbachev still ruled the Soviet Union and Benazir Bhutto was Pakistan's prime minister, while Rajiv Gandhi had just been ousted by his long-time ally Vishwanath Pratap Singh in India.

"It may have been a long time ago, but I can recollect every day of that tour," said Tendulkar, 30, now the senior statesman of world cricket.

He has played more Tests and one-dayers -- and scored more runs and centuries -- than anyone still playing international cricket.

Tendulkar's 9,265 runs from 111

Tests place him fourth in the all-time scorers' list behind Australians Allan Border and Steve Waugh and India's Sunil Gavaskar.

His 32 Test centuries are at par with the retired Waugh and just two behind fellow Bombay citizen Gavaskar.

"This series means a lot, but it is not different from any other," said Tendulkar ahead of the first Test starting at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

"I just want to go out there and keep it simple. Watch every ball and not bother about the result."

Tendulkar is the only player from either side to have experienced the atmosphere of an India-Pakistan Test on Pakistani soil.

The just-concluded one-day series, which India won 3-2 in thrilling fashion, helped Tendulkar notice a change in the attitude of Pakistani fans.

"On that 1989 tour there were a few ugly incidents like when a man ran onto the field in the Karachi Test and accosted our captain Kris Srikkanth," he said.

"But this time the crowds every-

where have been just fantastic. They have supported the good cricket the two teams played in the one-dayers and I think it will be the same in Tests as well."

Tendulkar was moved by the standing ovation he received from Rawalpindi fans when he scored his 37th one-day hundred.

"It may be a bit special when you are playing against Pakistan because everyone is talking about it," he said.

"But as far as I am concerned, I am playing for India and it does not matter whom we are playing. I don't fool around on the ground and give my best for the six hours I am on the field. The expectation of people is higher against Pakistan, but eventually all you are doing is playing cricket."

Tendulkar hopes to continue the good work of the one-dayers in the Tests against a team he says may be lacking in experience but is

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Sachin Tendulkar hones his batting skills in the nets at the Multan Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

India hold the edge: Sunil

AFP, New Delhi

Cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar Friday said India enjoyed a psychological edge going into their first Test series in almost 15 years on Pakistani soil.

"The one-day victory will be a great morale-booster and the return of the experienced (Anil) Kumble, the energetic Ajit Agarkar and the plegmatic Akash Chopra will only strengthen this Indian team," Gavaskar wrote in his column in leading Indian daily 'Hindustan Times'.

Leg-spinner Kumble, seamer Agarkar and opener Chopra are joining the team for the three-match series starting at Multan on Sunday.

India clinched a preceding one-day series 3-2 with a 40-run win in the decider at Lahore on Wednesday.

"The Pakistanis will be under pressure from their supporters to perform. The Indians need to capitalise and do what past Indian teams have been unable to do and

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Onus on Kapali

1st limited-overs game today



SPORTS REPORTER

Alok Kapali will desperately look to lift his own game and motivate the others to perform when the first of the five match limited-overs series between Bangladesh A and visiting Zimbabwe A takes place at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra today.

The talented right-hander Kapali has been starving for runs for quite a long time and managed to score only seven and 11 in last four-day match that the home side barely managed to hold on for a draw.

The second string Bangladesh team clinched the two-match four-day series 1-0 but not before the tourists gave them a real scare on the final day at Bogra.

Set to score an improbable 296 runs in 43 overs, Bangladesh A were at one stage reeling on 99-7 before Tushar Imran and Tareq Aziz held

their nerves under fading light on Friday.

Tushar scored a defiant 91-ball 24 and Tareq faced 13 deliveries without scoring as the pair survived the last 26 balls before the game was called off with two more overs to go.

Earlier, resuming the day on 86-1, the visitors rode on a fluent 130 from Elton Chigumbura to post 267-3 before declining in 71 overs. Chigumbura struck 14 boundaries and a six in his 190-ball knock.

Bangladesh started their second innings disastrously, losing three wickets for 34 runs with Zimbabwe young paceman Panyangara breathing fire. Panyangara dismissed both Kapali, Ashrafal (1) and Rajin Saleh (4) before Tushar joined Hannan to close the floodgates.

Hannan top-scored with 40 off 93 balls while Tushar played a more responsible unbeaten knock of 24.

The home side pulled off a

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SPIN VS PACE! (L) India spinners Anil Kumble (R) and Murali Kartik get ready for a practice session while (R) Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar bowls in the nets during their training session at the Multan Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTOS: AFP



A unique Miandad occasion

REUTERS, Multan

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad will earn a unique honour and a triple celebration on Sunday when his team start their 300th Test, a series opener against India.

Miandad featured in Pakistan's 100th Test match as a player and then captained the side in their 200th.

"It's something unique and quite an honour to have been player, captain and then coach of the team when they reached these milestones," Miandad told Reuters on Saturday.

"It feels good to know you've been around for so long."

Pakistan have won 92, lost 74 and drawn 133 of their 299 Tests.

"It would be nice if we can cap our 300th Test with a win against India," Miandad said.

He scored 16 and 19 at Melbourne in 1978-79 in Pakistan's 100th Test, which was dominated

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One-day footy

SPORTS REPORTER

Football returns to the Bangabandhu National Stadium today after a long gap with an Independence Cup one-day tournament. Four local giants -- Abahani, Mohammedan, Muktijoddha and Premier League champions Brothers -- will take part in the competition, organised by the Liberation War Affairs Ministry.

Abahani take on Muktijoddha in the Group A match at 4pm while Mohammedan face Brothers in a Group B encounter at 5:15pm in the 60-minute clash. The winners go on to meet in the final at 7:20 pm.

During the break a Bangladesh Football Federation team will play a friendly match against the Swadhin Bangla footballers.

The multipurpose venue last staged a football event in January 2003 when the Third SAFF Championship took place.

Inzy expects ton treble

AFP, Multan



Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq goes into Sunday's first Test against India hoping to notch up a third consecutive

match-winning century on his home ground.

The Multan-born Inzamam scored hundreds in both previous Tests played at the plush cricket stadium on the outskirts of his home town against Bangladesh in 2001 and 2003.

The 34-year-old knows he needs to make another tall score against the Indians if Pakistan are to win the first Test and take the lead in the three-match series.

"It is always a special motivation while playing before my own people and this is a very special occasion," said the Pakistan captain, the son of a renowned cleric in Multan.

"Probably the pressure is a bit more because the people expect a lot from me, but that will always keep me on my toes."

"I will be very happy if I can get runs here and inspire my team to win."

The solid middle-order batsman is the mainstay of Pakistan's line-up after scoring 6,680 runs from 91 Tests with 18 centuries.

Inzamam hopes to put aside the disappointment of the 3-2 defeat in the one-day series against the tourists and wants his team to make a fresh start in the Test matches.

"India may have gained the

edge by winning the one-dayers, but I am confident we can regroup and stage a comeback in the Tests," he said.

Inzamam hit centuries in the first match at Karachi and the fourth in Lahore, but Pakistan lost both games as India drew level 2-2 and then won the decider on Wednesday.

"My two Test hundreds in Multan against Bangladesh helped Pakistan win both times and I hope the same will be repeated against India," he said.

"The wicket here is usually very sporting, helping both the bowlers and the batsmen. It should be a great start to the Test series."

The second Test will be played in Lahore from April 5-9 and the third in Rawalpindi from April 13-17.



Australia's Justin Langer, who scored a massive 166 to put his side atop against Sri Lanka, here misses a sweep on the fourth day of the third and final Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Security beefed up for SAF Games

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan is installing anti-aircraft guns in the capital Islamabad to strengthen security and thwart a possible air attack during a regional athletics event beginning on Monday, a government official said.

The ninth SAF (South Asian Federation) Games, postponed three times because of a lack of preparation and security concerns will go ahead under the protection of 3,000 police and paramilitary troops.

"There is no specific threat but to avoid any, and in case of need, we are installing those guns," Tasneem Noorani, Pakistan's Interior Secretary, told Reuters.

The guns would be centred around the Jinnah Stadium, part of a sprawling sports complex in Islamabad's outskirts.

The jinxed Games, in which Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives traditionally compete, were first postponed in October 2001 after the September 11 terror attacks on the United States.



The torch for the 9th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games being readied at a sports complex in Islamabad yesterday, two days before the start of the Games.

PHOTO: AFP

Booters' gold hunt starts today

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions Bangladesh will launch their campaign in the 9th SAF Games football competition when they take on India at the Qayyum Stadium in Peshawar today at 12:30 pm Bangladesh time.

The holders have been placed in a tough group that also includes hosts Pakistan and newcomers Afghanistan. On the other hand Group B comprises 1999 runners-up Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The Maldives withdrew from this section just a few days before the football event kicked off.

Bangladesh play their second match on Tuesday against the Afghans before ending with Pakistan on April 1 at the Jinnah Stadium in Islamabad.

Midfielder Monwar Hossain, the only survivor of the 1999 winning team, will lead the Bangladesh Under-23 team in the competition.

However, this time coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo has not had enough time to prepare his charges for the event. The team played just one practice match before flying to Islamabad. Besides, they drew 1-1 on Friday against Pakistan Army in a warm-up game.

Going into the match, Bangladesh can boast of success in the previous two meetings with their next-door neighbours. First the national side eliminated the Indians in the semifinals when the

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Bangladesh Avs Zimbabwe A
First One-Day Match
Venue: Shaheed Chandu