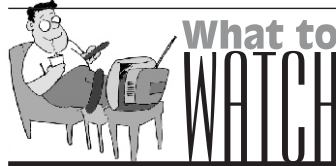




Did U Know?

India's total of 349 for seven against Pakistan at National Stadium, Karachi on March 13, 2004, is now the highest innings total without an individual century in a 50-over innings.



ESPN

English Premier Football League

Tottenham Hotspur vs Chelsea

Live at 7:55 pm

Primera Liga

Real Madrid vs Albacete

Live at 12:00 am (Sunday)

Barcelona vs Villareal

Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League

Newcastle United vs Everton

Live at 7:55 pm

TEN Sports

World Cup Soccer Qualifier

Brazil vs Paraguay

Repeat at 12:00 pm

FA Cup Semifinal

Man United vs Arsenal

Live at 4:30 pm

West Indies vs England

Third Test, Day Three

Live at 8:00 pm



Jagmohan Dalmiya

(President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India)

"It is a historic win. The boys displayed a superb temperament to win the first Test in Pakistan."



Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

April 9, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who will captain the Bangladesh football team at the SAF Games?	Monwar	Alfaz	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 in the fifth and final one-day international between India and Pakistan?			
Name			
Class			
Roll No.			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Nehra boost

AFP, New Delhi

Fast bowler Ashish Nehra will rejoin the Indian team for the last two Tests against Pakistan, television channels reported Friday.

Nehra, who returned home after the third one-dayer in Pakistan due to a hand injury, was scheduled to leave for Lahore later Friday.

The left-arm paceman is being sent as cover for Zaheer Khan, who suffered a hamstring injury during the opening Test at Multan.

Foujia's leap of silver

SPORTS REPORTER



9th SAF Games in Islamabad yesterday.

The shooters also shone to some extent on another barren day at the regional meet when Shabrina Rahman and Fawzia Karim combined to win bronze in the 50m small bore free rifle 3 position 3X20 shots.

Foujia captured the silver medal with a leap of 6.07 metres in the women's long jump at the Jinnah Stadium Sports Complex. India's Jetty Joseph jumped to gold with 6.30m.

Bangladesh's other worthwhile performance on the opening day of a limited track and field programme came in heat one of the men's 200 metres where Mohammad Masudul Karim progressed to the next stage.

Elsewhere, in swimming Jewel Ahmed won bronze in the men's 50 metres butterfly final at the Pakistan Sports Complex Swimming Pool.

Jewel clocked 25.19 seconds to ensure Bangladesh added another

bronze to their overall tally. Sri Lankan Anthony Francis won the event with a time of 26.11 seconds.

But the story of the pool as far as Bangladesh was Karar Samedul Islam's disqualification in the heats of 100m breaststroke.

The experienced Bangladesh Navy natant, who on Thursday led the 4x100 relay team capture silver, was eliminated after making a false start.

His compatriot Mohammad Niaz finished fourth in the event that saw a new Games record being set by Indian Puneet Rana.

He smashed the mark with a time of 1:07.93, beating the 1999 record of fellow Indian Deepak Singh (1:09.03).

In volleyball Bangladesh's hopes of glory were laid to rest with a 25-14, 25-19, 25-18 defeat by hosts Pakistan in one of the semifinals at the Liaquat Gymnasium. India disposed of Sri Lanka also in straight sets in the other semi.

Bangladesh's dismal showing in kabadi continued with a resounding 21-9 loss at the hands of Pakistan.



PHOTO: AFP

An airborne Foujia Huda of Bangladesh during the long jump final at the 9th SAF Games yesterday. She captured the day's only silver medal for the country.

Murali awaits results

Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan will receive a verbal report in the next few days following tests on his suspect bowling action, an Australian human movement specialist said on Friday.

"We are in the process of analysing the data," University of Western Australia biomechanist Bruce Elliott told the news wire in a telephone interview.

"When we've had that, we'll have a meeting with Murali and (bowling advisor) Daryl Foster, who is organising the trip on the behalf of Sri Lankan cricket. We will give the (data) numbers to them."

Muralitharan's bowling was assessed after the off spinner was reported to the International Cricket Council (ICC) by match referee Chris Broad during the recent Sri Lanka and Australia test series.

The legality of his "doosra" delivery, which spins in the opposite direction to his stock ball, has been called into question.



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lankan spin bowler Muttiah Muralitharan is measured by biomechanics researcher Jacque Alderson at University of Western Australia in Perth on April 1.

Ganguly might play in 3rd Test

PTI, Kolkata

The injury suffered by Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly was not serious and hopefully he should be fit for the third Test against Pakistan, the specialist doctor who examined him said Friday.

"Yes, I examined Ganguly Thursday evening at his home immediately after he arrived here and from preliminary investigation it appears that the injury is not serious," said Dr Kalyan Mukherjee, a leading orthopaedic.

He said the treatment would start after Ganguly underwent an MRI scan, blood tests and x-ray Friday afternoon.

"If my initial understanding of Ganguly's injury matches the test reports then he should take only a few days to recover fully to rejoin the team in Pakistan for the third and final Test beginning at Rawalpindi on April 13," he said.

This should come as a major boost to the captain who had already expressed his keenness to rejoin the team in Rawalpindi.

Ganguly's enthusiasm could be gauged by the fact that he has left his personal luggage and cricketing gear behind in Pakistan.

The left hander flew in her Thursday evening for treatment after watching the Rahul Dravid-led Indian team register a historic Test victory, their first on Pakistan soil at Multan Thursday.

Eng 73-4

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Fidel Edwards' inspired bowling rocked England before lunch on the second day of the third Test at Bridgetown, Barbados yesterday.

Edwards, who dismissed out of form opener Marcus Trescothick on Thursday, was again in the thick of things adding the wickets of England captain Michael Vaughan (17) and Mark Butcher for five before Corey Collymore got in on the act.

He bowled Nasser Hussain through the gate to leave the tourists struggling at 73-4 at the interval. West Indies were bowled out 224 in their first innings.

Razzak rules Zim A

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak Raj baffled Zimbabwe A into submission as his devastating seven wicket burst propelled Bangladesh A to a 60-run victory in the third limited-over match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The gangling Khulna bowler returned career best figures in any form of cricket as he took seven for 17 in eight overs to prompt a collapse for the touring side who crashed to 227 all out in 46.1 overs after being 216 for five chasing 288 to win. The home team now lead the five-match series 2-1.

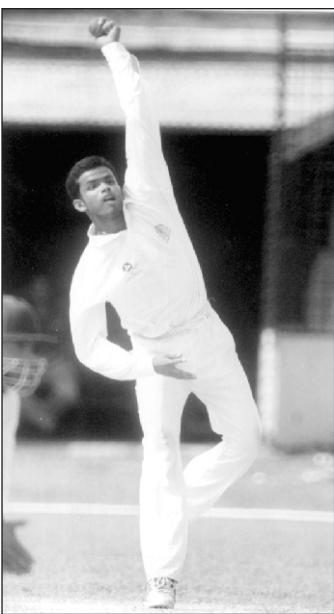
The second string Bangladesh side had earlier thrived on two splendid half centuries by opener Al-Shahriar (62) and Faisal Hossain (61 n.o) to amass 287 for 7 in the allotted 50 overs after captain Alok Kapali had decided to bat first.

But the Zimbabweans appeared unruffled by the huge task as openers Peit Rinke and Trevor Gripper smashed the two new ball bowlers Alamgir Kabir and Tareq Aziz Khan to all parts of the ground in their 99-run stand that came in just 14.4 overs. However, things changed with the introduction of Razzak who dismissed both openers by accept-

ing return catches. Inciden-tally, both batsmen fell on 49.

Bowling a mixture of flat, fastish deliveries and occasional flighted ones, Razzak also accounted for number three Visumuzi Sibanda (9) as he finished his first six-over spell for 14 runs. Fellow Khulna man and left-arm slow bowler Manjarul Islam Rana aided him with two wickets.

Richard Sims and Stuart Matsikenyire briefly raised hopes for



RAZZAK ...7 for 17

Phil Simmons' charges but Razzak came back to take four wickets for two runs in his second spell, which included the scalp of Matsikenyire (48) as Jamaluddin Babu pulled off a one-handed blinder at gully. Kapali ended the Zimbabwean chase when he castled number ten Jordan Nicolle.

In the morning, the A side's batting had set up the match. Al Shahriar made a long-awaited return to form with an uncharacteristically sedate knock that saw him play 92 balls before he was run out. Left-hander Faisal, who has been one of the new faces along with Razzak to be called up for the Tigers' preliminary camp for the tour of the West Indies, continued to impress in his undefeated 67-ball innings that had four hits to the fence.

Skipper Kapali, coming off a ton in the previous match, contributed a 52-ball 33 while wicketkeeper Dhiman Gosh provided the flourish towards the end. The Bangla-desh under-19 wicketkeeper's 38 came off just 24 balls and featured four fours and a six.

The last two matches of the series will be held in Khulna on April 5 and 6.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Chappell sees whitewash

AFP, New Delhi



India could complete a clean sweep in the ongoing three-Test series in Pakistan after their historic victory in the

opening match, former Australian captain Ian Chappell has said in a column.

India won Thursday by an innings and 52 runs in the first match at Multan for their maiden Test triumph in Pakistan, triggering celebrations in the cricket-crazy country.

"India are currently as dangerous as a bubbling volcano and if the team erupts again in Lahore (venue for the second Test), they could easily win the series three-nil," Chappell wrote in his column in the Hindustan Times.

"There is now a spirit and determination about this Indian team that is second only to Australia in world cricket. Like all strong cricket teams, India are coping with setbacks."

India went to Pakistan without key off-spinner Harbhajan Singh,

who was ruled out due to a finger injury.

The tourists lost captain Sourav Ganguly before the opening Test because of a back injury and left-arm fast bowler Zaheer Khan (hamstring) after the first innings of the match.

"There are not many sides that could overcome the loss of their captain and not even miss a beat, but India performed at a high level throughout the first Test," Chappell said.

He praised stand-in India captain Rahul Dravid, saying he had set the tone and established the team priority by declaring with Sachin Tendulkar just short of his second successive double-century.

"This was the correct decision as it showed his team, a blending of

IAN CHAPPELL

Media hails 'em

AFP, Lahore



Pakistan's media on Friday put aside the prevailing sombre mood over India's maiden cricket Test win on its soil to

hail the arch-rivals as the "best Indian team ever."

Lambasting the home side following India's innings and 52-run victory in the first Test at Multan on Thursday, the media unanimously declared Rahul Dravid's men a better team.

"This is without doubt the best Indian team ever," Pakistan's best-known cricket commentator Omar Kureishi wrote in the 'Dawn' newspaper.

"This is a team that has come with a mission. It is not distracted, it

remains focussed.

"We were lulled into believing we had the edge over them with our bowling."

In previous tours of Pakistan between 1954 and 1989, India had lost five Tests and drew the remaining 15, prompting claims of a "mental block" when playing against the Pakistanis.

That India won in Multan without regular captain Sourav Ganguly and strike bowlers, Harbhajan Singh, Ashish Nehra and briefly Zaheer Khan, did not go unnoticed.

Stand-in captain Dravid "was his own man," declared Kureishi. "He provided the kind of leadership that moves mountains. He got the respect of team-mates, a sign that the players are loyal to Team India and not to individuals."

Dravid will lead India again in the second Test, starting at the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Singer chess Zia takes the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman took solo lead with five points after the end of the sixth round games of the Singer 30th National Chess Championship at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Grand Master Niaz Murshed and International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar jointly shared the second position with 4.5 points each.

SIXTH ROUND RESULTS

Zia beat Shwakat Hossain Pallab, Niaz beat IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, Rakib beat IM Reefat bin Sattar, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed beat Mohammad Javed, Saif Uddin Lavlu beat Md Monjur Alam, Abdul Maleq beat Mehdi Hasan Parag and Aminul Islam Polash drew with Debaraj Chatterjee.



IRFAN PATHAN

Faith carries Pathan

PTI, Multan



and his humility.

In just three weeks in Pakistan, young Irfan Pathan has become a household name and even among the cricket stars, he is a star in his own rights.

Pakistani greats such as Imran Khan, Wasim Akram and former Australian captain Ian Chappell are gushing the superb performance of the left-arm seamer in one-day internationals and the Multan Test match where he made an impressive contribution to India's win.

Many of those who saw Pathan are reminded of young Akram and predict that he has the potential to become a top fast bowler. He is much in demand by autograph

hunters and journalists but all this has not gone to the head of the 19-year-old Baroda speedster.

"I will never be carried away with the attention I am getting. I am keeping my feet very much on the ground and Insha Allah I will keep doing it," he says.

It has been a phenomenal rise for the youngster ever since making his Test debut against Australia in the second Test at Adelaide late last year, having improved by leaps and bounds after every match.

Pathan believes that there is no shortcut to success and whatever he has achieved so far has been because of his hard work. "Yeh sab Allah kim meherbani hai (It's all due to God's grace)," he says.

The big-hearted Pathan Picked up a career-best haul of 4 wicket for 100 runs in the first innings and bowled an outstanding spell in the second innings to claim two wickets to play his part in India's historic Test win on Pakistani soil.

The strapping paceman who comes from a religious background says his faith in the Almighty helps

him do better in the field.

"Offering *namaj* (prayers) not only makes a person humble but it also helps me in concentrating better. That is one way I keep improving my performance," he says.

Pathan took the vital wickets of Taufeeq Umar, Yasir Hameed, Abdul Razzak and Saqlain Mushtaq, all dangerous batsmen in their own rights and then had Moin Khan leg before in the second innings before claiming the last wicket of Yousuf Youhana to bring about India's moment of glory in this dusty city steeped in history.

"With every match, I am getting mentally stronger. I am gaining a lot of confidence, which is very important for a fast bowler. But I still have to improve a lot," he says modestly.

Pathan, on his part, credits his remarkable rise to the encouragement from his family members and his teammates. "It is because of the support of my family members and the encouragement of my seniors that I have been able to achieve whatever I have."

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5