



## Did U Know?

Along with Don Budge, Fred Perry and Roy Emerson, American Andre Agassi is one of only a handful of players to have won all four Grand Slam titles, the first player to achieve this feat for 31 years.



**Roberto Baggio**  
(Italian soccer super star)  
"There are other big interests and everything else has become secondary."  
After deciding to stop playing at the end of current season.



**What to WATCH**

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
UEFA Cup  
Elitic vs Villareal  
Live at 12:55 am (Friday)

**STAR Sports**  
Sportline  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm

**TEN Sports**  
India vs Pakistan  
Second Test, Day Four  
Live at 11:00 am

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 209**

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star**. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm April 9, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards.

- Who will captain the Bangladesh football team at the SAF Games?  
Monwar    Alfaz    Rana
- How many ODI hundreds has Sachin Tendulkar scored?  
37    36    32
- Who clinched the Indian Wells ATP Masters Series title?  
Federer    Roddick    Agassi
- Who lifted the Spanish Cup?  
Zaragoza    Real Madrid    Villareal
- 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) .....

## Singer chess restarts today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The eleventh round games of the Singer 30th National Chess Championship will start today from 6:00 pm at the NSC conference room.

The eleventh round games are: Monjur vs Reefat, Polish vs Rajib, Nasir vs Parag, Zia vs Maleq, Rakib vs Niaz, Pallab vs Lavlu and Javed as Debaraj.

Meanwhile, the 25th National Junior (U-20) Chess Championship will begin from April 15 at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room.

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## CCL likely from April 20

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The first-ever Corporate Cricket League (CCL) could begin from April 20.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had earlier set April 15 as a tentative date for the start of the tournament but it had to put back the kick-off as sponsors for the competition were hard to come by.

"We are talking with two big corporate houses at the moment and we are hopeful of reaching an agreement with one of them soon. If everything goes according to plan, we may start the league from April 20," said chairman of the CCL's organising committee Khondokar Jamiluddin yesterday.

The original deadline to submit entry for the league expired yesterday but the tournament committee extended it to April 10 because of the opposition-called strikes on April 7 and 8.

Jamiluddin, also chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), informed that ten teams have already confirmed

their participation in the league, which has been hurriedly planned to compensate cricketers who have been hit hard financially with the cancellation of this season's Premier Division and First Division cricket leagues.

"Grameen Phone, Partex Group, Acme Laboratories, Gazi Tank, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), Bashundara Group, Beximco, Aktel and Biman Bangladesh Airlines have completed their registration process. These houses have also agreed to sign players as employees on 12-month contracts. The BCB's Development squad will also take part in the competition and we are expecting a 12-team final line up," said Jamiluddin.

The twelve teams will be split into two groups. The top three finishers from each group will qualify for the Cup phase and the bottom half will fight it out in the Plate competition.

The organisers were yet to decide on the format for the Cup and Plate phases but will finalise something within a short time said a BCB source.

The corporate teams will be allowed to recruit two foreign players only for the semifinals and finals.

The CCL has now become a much anticipated competition as Dhaka clubs were united against playing the lucrative senior division leagues owing to weather and expenditure related shortcomings. The local cricketers, most of whom are dependent on the money they get from clubs for appearing in the Dhaka league, have welcomed the idea of the CCL.

## Manikganj cricket

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

Gultia Juba Sangha defeated Chamta Khagrakhari National Club by 48 runs in the Shaheed Zia memorial cricket tournament at the Muljan High School playground in Manikganj yesterday.

Gultia batted first and made 132 before being all out in 20 overs. Sajib topscored with 24.

Chamta were bundled out for 85 in 20 overs. Mithu bagged three wickets.

Mithu was adjudged man-of-the-match.

## Ganguly to rejoin side

### Patel slapped with heavy fine

**AFP/REUTERS, undated**

India captain Sourav Ganguly will rejoin the team for the third and final Test in Pakistan after recovering from a back injury, a top cricket official said Wednesday.

"He has been declared fully fit. The board doctor is in agreement with the observations of the specialist," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Karunakaran Nair said on Wednesday.

31-year-old Ganguly returned to India last week for treatment after sustaining a back injury while fielding in the fifth and last one-dayer in Pakistan.

The Indian captain, who missed the first two matches of the ongoing three-Test series against the hosts, was replaced by Rahul Dravid.

The left-hander had his first training session on Monday since suffering the injury on March 24.

The last Test begins at Rawalpindi on April 13.

India, who won the opening match at Multan for their maiden Test triumph in Pakistan, are currently playing the second Test at Lahore.

Meanwhile, young India wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel was on Wednesday fined 60 per cent of his match fees after being charged for excessive appealing during the second Test against Pakistan in Lahore.

Patel was reported by umpires Steve Bucknor of the West Indies and Simon Taufel of Australia after the ill-tempered second day's play at the Gaddafi Stadium on Tuesday.

Match referee Ranjan Madugalle summoned the umpires, Patel, Indian captain Rahul Dravid and coach John Wright for a hearing late on Tuesday night where video footage of the day's play was viewed.

Patel pleaded guilty of the charge, according to Indian team manager Ratnakar Shetty, and Madugalle slapped the fine on the 19-year-old playing his 15th Test.

Patel will lose around 2,000 dollars.

The Indians appeared disap-

pointed when numerous appeals were turned down by Bucknor and Taufel against the Pakistan batsmen, who ended the second day at 355-3 in reply to India's modest 287.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between Pakistan and India at the Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday:  
**INDIA:** First innings 287 (Yuvraj 112; Gul 5-31)  
**PAKISTAN:** First innings (overnight 355-3)



**ROARING BACK:** India pace bowler Irfan Pathan celebrates the dismissal of Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq with his first delivery on the third day of the second Test in Lahore yesterday.

## Don't tour Zim: Wisden

**Cricket**

**REUTERS, London**

England's vexed tour of Zimbabwe in October should be cancelled and no other team should tour the country, the editor of cricketing almanack Wisden has said.

"The ICC has made it plain that safety and security are the only legitimate grounds for countries to call off cricket tours," wrote Matthew Engel in the editorial for the 2004 edition of Wisden that will be released on Thursday.

"On the ICC's own miserable terms, Zimbabwe should fail the Test. Visiting teams, in their effective house arrest between airport, hotel and cricket ground, would probably be 'secure'.

"I doubt if the same could be said for any accompanying journalist with a moderately enquiring mind, or even a curious spectator."

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have been caught in an diplomatic furore over whether to said their stance had been "incoherent and inconsistent".

The board wanted the game in Harare to go ahead though the players, who had received death threats, said they were not prepared to play the match because of security and moral concerns.

The ECB, who have since received a report from board member Des Wilson that humanitarian issues should play a part in the decision on whether to tour, have been under pressure to cancel it due to the British government's concerns over President Robert Mugabe's rule.

Engel added while the Zimbabwe issue had contributed to the ECB becoming alienated from the rest of the cricketing world, he believed that no team should tour the country.

"Issues of morality are irrelevant, according to the nine other countries apparently ranged



**MATTHEW ENGEL**  
tour the country since last year's World Cup when England forfeited a game against Zimbabwe and Engel



**THE BIG ONE:** Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Sami (R) successfully appeals for an lbw decision against master Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar during the tourists' second innings on the third day of the Lahore Test yesterday.

## Indian players win Pak hearts

**AFP, Lahore**

A 10-year-old Pakistani girl suffering from cancer has been offered free treatment in India following an appeal by the touring Indian cricketers.

Three leading Indian hospitals in Vellore, Bangalore and Bombay responded to an appeal by the players to treat Huba Shahid, the daughter of a Lahore-based journalist Shahid Chhina.

The girl suffers from rhabdomyosarcoma (facial cancer), the treatment for which is available at these three Indian hospitals.

The journalist met the players ahead of the ongoing second Test

## Ponting best in the world

**AFP, London**

Australian Test captain Ricky Ponting was named on Wednesday as cricket bible Wisden's first Leading Cricketer in the World.

The 29-year-old successor to Steve Waugh as Australia's skipper was recognised for his prolific batting in 2003, during which he scored 1,503 runs at an average of 100.20.

He also became the first player since Don Bradman to score three

## Waugh stands by Murali

**Cricket**

**REUTERS/AFP, Sydney**

Former Australia captain Steve Waugh has come out in support of Muttiah Muralitharan while the Sri Lankan off-spinner faces fresh allegations of chucking.

Waugh said he hoped a study conducted by an Australian biomechanist into Muralitharan's suspect bowling action cleared him of any wrongdoing.

He has applauded the ICC-ordered tests conducted in Perth on Murali.

Sri Lanka's cricket board is awaiting a copy of the official report from University of Western Australia biomechanist Bruce Elliott, who supervised the tests last week.

"I hope for the game's sake that they find he's okay because he's great to watch," Waugh told a luncheon on Wednesday.

"He is a unique type of bowler. He makes Sri Lanka competitive in world cricket, he gets people through the gate, he gets people talking about cricket."

"They are the sort of players you want in the game."

Waugh admitted Murali's delivery style made him particularly difficult to face.

"It's like an optical illusion because he has such an unusual action," Waugh said. "His wrist goes

in a different position to most bowlers, so when you face him you're almost playing a shot before the ball gets there.

"It takes about 10 or 15 minutes before you feel comfortable."

"The first 10 minutes is all about bluffing, getting your way through however you can and then getting used to the spin of the ball as it comes out of his hand."

Waugh, who retired in January as the world's most-capped Test



**STEVE WAUGH**  
player, said he thought Muralitharan's action was legal and he urged cricket authorities to change the existing laws regardless of the study to erase any doubts about his bowling.

"They need to change that rule or to eliminate it, or do something with it so that everyone's relaxed and just get on with playing the game."

"It says you can bend your arm 10 degrees from the elbow ... but how do you judge that?" he asked.

"If they (cricket authorities) like someone they'll be on their side; if they don't they'll be against them."

"Someone came up with a stat saying if they imposed that rule right now 50 per cent of all bowlers would be called for chucking."

Muralitharan (513) is locked in a race with Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne (517) to overtake Courtney Walsh (519) as cricket's leading wicket-taker.

He seems certain to reach the target on the tour of Zimbabwe that begins later this month though his preparations have been hindered after he was reported by match referee Chris Broad after taking 28 wickets in the recent series with Australia.

He was reported and cleared in the 1990s but the new allegation revolve around his 'doosra', a quirky delivery which spins the opposite way to how an off-spinner normally bowls.

But if the "doosra", or wrong'un, was found to be illegal, then the star would have to eliminate it from his repertoire "because it's unfair and he's got a big advantage over the batsman if that's the case".



**SHOT DOWN!** Real Madrid players collapse to the ground at the end of their European Champions League quarterfinal second leg match against Monaco at the Louis II Stadium in Monaco on April 6. Monaco won 3-1 (5-5 on aggregate) and qualified for the semifinal on the away goals rule.

## Waqar makes up his mind

**REUTERS, Lahore**

Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis will announce his retirement from all cricket later this week.

The fast bowler was sacked as captain and dropped from the team after last year's disappointing World Cup campaign in which Pakistan failed to qualify for the second stage of the tournament.

"He called us up and told us he'd decided to call it quits," Rameez Raja, chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), told Reuters on Wednesday.

"He asked us to organise something for him at the end of the ongoing second Test in Lahore," he said.

Waqar, 32, is not involved in the current three-match Test series against India.

Last year, the PCB offered to host a benefit match for Waqar against South Africa but he declined saying he wanted to make an international comeback.

Waqar played domestic cricket in a bid to return for the home series against India, but was not selected for the squad.

He grabbed 373 wickets in 87 Tests and another 416 in 262 one-day matches.

Waqar formed one of the most lethal fast bowling combinations with left-arm paceman Wasim Akram, who retired last year.

## Rajshahi cricket

**RU CORRESPONDENT**

Jubo Cricket School defeated Prathomic Kriya Sangastha by five wickets in the final of the Mahanagar Cricket Cup tournament at the Rajshahi Collectorate School playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Prathomic Kriya Sangastha decided to bat first and made 86 all out in 40 overs.

In reply, Jubo Cricket School reached their target easily and made 90 in 16 overs losing five wickets.

Farhat was named man-of-the-match.