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# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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## Did U Know?

For the first time the FIFA World Cup was staged outside Europe or South America when South Korea and Japan co-hosted it in 2002.



## Billy Bowden

(New Zealand Test umpire)  
"I believe in honesty whether it's on the field or off the field. I just think for the good of the game, for the spirit of the game, it's unfair to have someone knowing that they have not caught the ball and (the batsman) has been given out, or (the fielder) has caught the ball and (the batsman has) not been given out. I'd like to see some loyalty and integrity put back in the game."



**ESPN**  
Sportscentre  
Live at 6.30 pm  
Samsung Cricket Show  
Taped at 9 pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier League  
Fulham v Man United  
Repeat at 12.30 pm  
Sportsline  
Live at 8 pm



Green Delta Premier Div Hockey  
Ajax v War Club (3 pm)  
Maan Bangladesh GM Chess

## Zia goes to top alone

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi Grand Master Ziaur Rahman took solo lead in the Maan Bangladesh Grand Masters Chess Tournament defeating previous round's co-leader GM Uldachev Saidali of Uzbekistan in the seventh round at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

Zia pushed his collection to 5.5 points while Uzbek International Master Vakhidov Tahir followed him in the second place with five points.

Six players -- local GM Niaz Murshed, Vietnamese GMs Dao Thien Hai and Nguyen Anh Dung, Saidali and local players IM Reefat Bin Sattar, FM Talbur Rahman Sumon and Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon -- were in the third position with 4.5 points each.

In the seventh round, Emon drew with highest rated player in the event GM Dao Thien, Sumon beat Pakistani IM Mahmood Lodhi, Reefat drew with Tahir, Niaz drew

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## Ctg gets set for second Test



Cricket  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong is all set for the second and final Test between Bangladesh and India that begins at the MA Aziz Stadium on December 17. The country's second Test venue will also stage the first of the three-match one-day internationals a week later.

Both teams are expected to fly into the busy port city this morning. After arriving, the home side, who lost the first Test in Dhaka by an innings and 140 runs on Monday, will begin training at the ground.

Meanwhile, preparations for the second Test are going on at the venue that has remained out of bounds to the general public since December 7.

A four-member Indian security team visited the MA Aziz Stadium on December 8 and gave the all-clear.

A huge team of ESPN camera crews and other technicians already reached the port city on Monday while the equipment of ESPN, who would air the matches live, also arrived at the stadium yesterday. Unprecedented security mea-

sures have been taken up in and around the stadium to ensure the security and law and order for smooth holding of the matches.

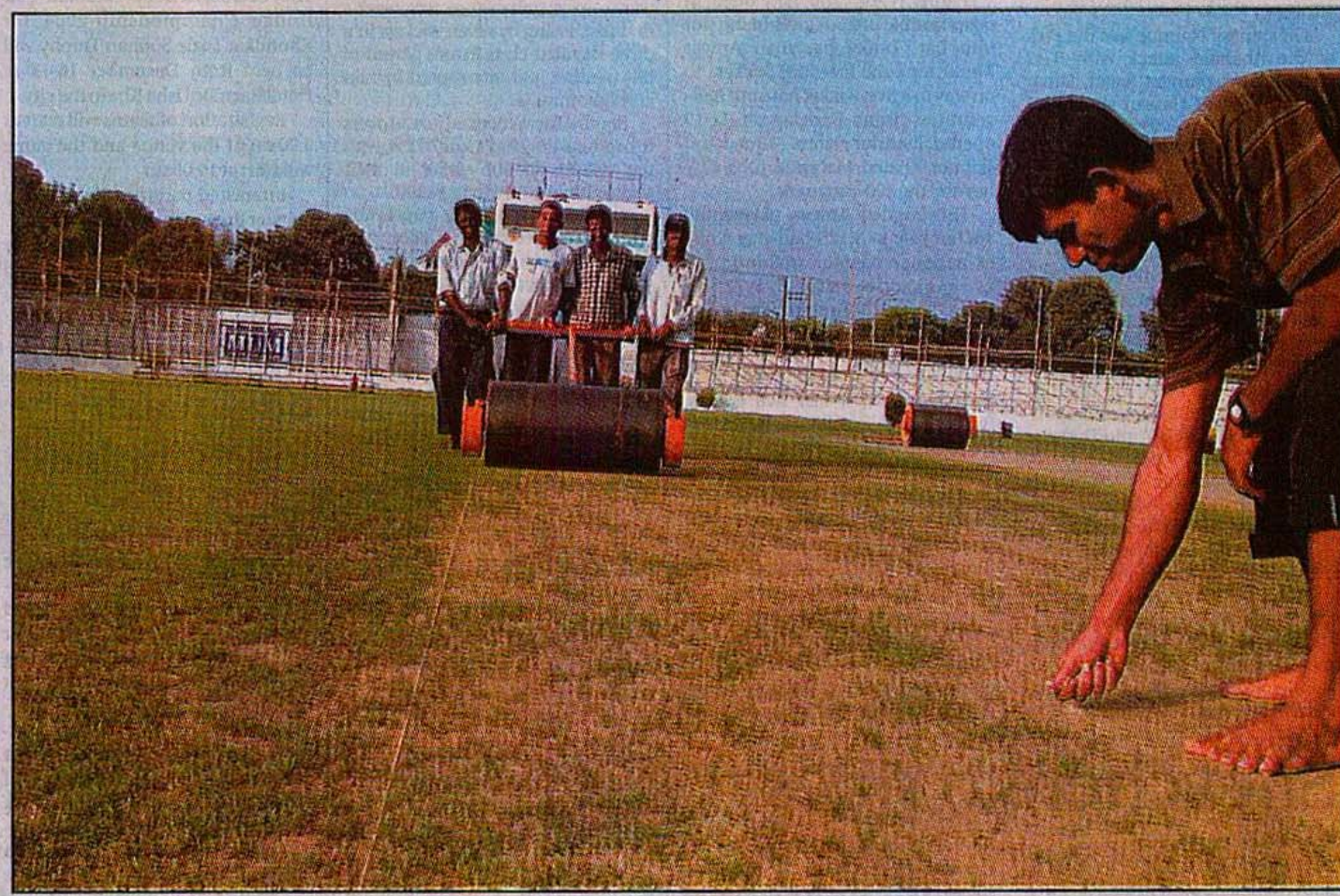
Though the security was relaxed for sometime immediately after the Indian security officials departed, it has been tightened again since December 12.

As many as eight close-circuit cameras are being set up in and around the pavilion and dressing-rooms while some 1,000 forces from police, mainly in riot gear, and other law-enforcing agencies were likely to be posted guards to ensure the safety and security of both the touring and home sides at both the teams' Hotel Agrabad and Stadium.

Besides, having both the main entrances (north and south) in front of the stadium remaining restricted for the public, Chittagong Jila Kira Sangstha (CJKS) also decided to sell match tickets from counters other than those adjoining to the pavilion and outside the stadium premises. Pitch curator Badiul Alam Khokon also arrived Chittagong and went round the pitch.

However, the curator was tight-lipped about the type of the pitch

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WILL IT BE SAME AS BANGABANDHU? A groundsman checks a portion of the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong while others roll it yesterday afternoon. The second and final Test between Bangladesh and India begins here on Friday.

## Indians shop, Tigers rest

SPORTS REPORTER

India and Bangladesh both will fly to Chittagong this morning for the second and final Test of the two-match series.

The Chittagong Test begins on December 17 but the Indian team lost a valuable day's practice due to lack of co-ordination between authorities.

India, having won the first Test in Dhaka by an innings and 140 runs inside four days, opted to train yesterday. But they had to cancel the idea as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) lost possession of the Bangabandhu National Stadium even before the fifth and the final day of the Test match.

The Old DOHS ground was arranged for Sourav Ganguly's men but they refused to train at any other venue but the BNS.

It was learned that officials of the National Sports Council (NSC), which is the owner of the Test venue, handed over the ground for the Victory Day programme even without consulting the BCB grounds committee.

Members of the Indian team finally decided to roam the city for shopping, sources said.

Number one on their list were Tangail saris and the players went to shops on Bally Road first. They also

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## Pakistan up against Australia mountain



Cricket  
REUTERS, Sydney

Australia and Pakistan have been involved in some classic cricketing confrontations but the spin doctors have their work cut out this time in trying to generate any real hype in the build-up to their Test series.

Nine years have passed since Pakistan's last Test win over Australia and there is a depressingly familiar feel about their hopes of ending their barren run.

While the Australians have been ruthlessly crushing everyone in

their path, the Pakistanis are badly out of form going into the first Test starting on Thursday in Perth.

Although they are firm favourites, however, the Australians are taking nothing for granted.

"All of us have seen Pakistan be hot and cold, whether it's a tour match or an international game, so we'll be wary of their still," Australia vice-captain Adam Gilchrist told reporters.

Despite Australia's insistence the series will be close, their domination of world cricket shows no sign of ending.

Top of the world rankings in Test and one-day cricket, they have not lost a home series in over a decade.

In 2003, they won the World Cup for the third time, the first country to do so, without losing a game.

They have lost just one of 12 Tests this year. Two months ago, they completed their first series win in India since 1969 and they warmed up for Pakistan by demolishing New Zealand.

Australia's 'biggest' competition often comes from within as players battle for selection in a squad brimming with talent.

"We can keep improving. As long as we keep trying to improve ourselves as individual players every day, then there is no limits for this team," Australia captain Ricky Ponting said.

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A Mariner Youngs attack at the Azad goalpost during their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

## Barred by male desire!



Cricket  
AFP, Mysore

Indian men's desire for brides with fair skin undercuts efforts to promote women's cricket in India, a nation otherwise besotted with the sport, the captain of the national women's team says.

"Because of Indian men's concept of beauty, so many talented players do not take up cricket because it is a gruelling sport and you are out in the sun for at least seven to eight hours," skipper

Mamta Maben told AFP.

It's tough for women like Maben to live in the shadow of the mighty men's game on the sub-continent. The women enjoy neither the lime-light nor the money big sponsors have poured in to the male version of the sport.

Women's cricket in India took off in the mid-1970s and India hosted the 1997-98 women's World Cup cricket. Today they rank third in the world.

But only a handful of spectators turned up for a women's one-day match against Australia, the leading fair sex side, in this southern Indian tourist city at the weekend. And

India lost.

In contrast, when Australia's all-conquering male heroes toured India in October, grounds were packed. South Africa followed and 50,000 turned out at Calcutta's Eden Gardens last month.

The Man of the Match generally receives a cash award of 50,000 rupees (1,086 dollars), while the best woman player during Saturday's match took home just 5,000 rupees.

"If you take men's cricket out, no other game exists in the country," concedes former Indian captain Shantha Rangaswamy.

Maben says Indian culture

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



AC Milan's Ukrainian superstar Andriy Shevchenko poses with the Golden Boal trophy in Paris on December 13 after being awarded as European Footballer of the Year by the French sport magazine France football.

## Shevchenko rules Europe

AFP, Paris

AC Milan's Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko was on Monday named European footballer of the year for 2004.

The 28-year-old becomes the third Ukrainian to win the award after Oleg Blokhin in 1975 and Igor Belanov in 1986, who both appeared for the then-Soviet Union.

Shevchenko, with 175 votes, beat off competition from two Barcelona players, Portugal's Brazilian-born midfielder Deco and Ronaldinho of Brazil, with 139 and 133 votes respectively.

"I'm very pleased to have

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

## Mariner's third win

SPORTS REPORTER

Mariner Youngs Club recorded a hard fought 1-0 win over Azad Sporting Club in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Defender Issa Mia separated the two sides from a penalty corner three minutes before half time.

It was Mariner's second win in a row. With three wins and three draws, the Arambagh outfit now have 12 points from six matches.

Azad on the other hand, stuck to one point after four losses and one draw in five outings.

In the day's other match, Railway shared points with Sadharan Bima in a 3-3 draw. Bima have two points and Railway one after five games each.

## Saqib ends Agrani run

City clip Mohammedan's wings

SPORTS REPORTER



League

Opener Saqib Chowdhury's swashbuckling century took Abahani to the top of the Green Delta Premier Cricket League table for the first time while bringing the brave unbeaten run of Agrani Bank to an end in one of the most significant matches yesterday.

While Abahani's 74-run win was being recorded, City Club were inflicting a morale crushing defeat on Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Agrani, who had won their first four matches, lost solo lead but the promotes, however, managed to stay joint top with Abahani and Old DOHS, all level on eight points after five rounds.

City Club's hero was out of favour medium pacer Tareq Aziz Khan who grabbed six wickets as the Mirpur team beat Mohammedan by 45 runs.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bima returned to winning ways with a

scrappy 16-run victory against Young Pegasus.

The league goes into an eight-day break from today and will resume on December 23.

## ABAHANI-AGRANI

Saqib smashed 102 off 107 balls as Abahani stormed to their fourth



SAQIB ... 102

consecutive win.

The young opener shared two significant partnerships to steer

Abahani to an impressive total of 262-7 in 50 overs after captain Naimur Rahman had elected to bat at the BKSP ground in Savar.

Man-of-the-match Saqib, who hit 14 boundaries during the fourth century of the ongoing league, shared 50 runs with fellow opener Imran Ahmed (22 off 38 balls) and a further 105 for the second wicket with Pakistani international Taufeeq Umar (40 off 50 balls). Saqib's hundred was the second by a Bangladeshi in this year's league.

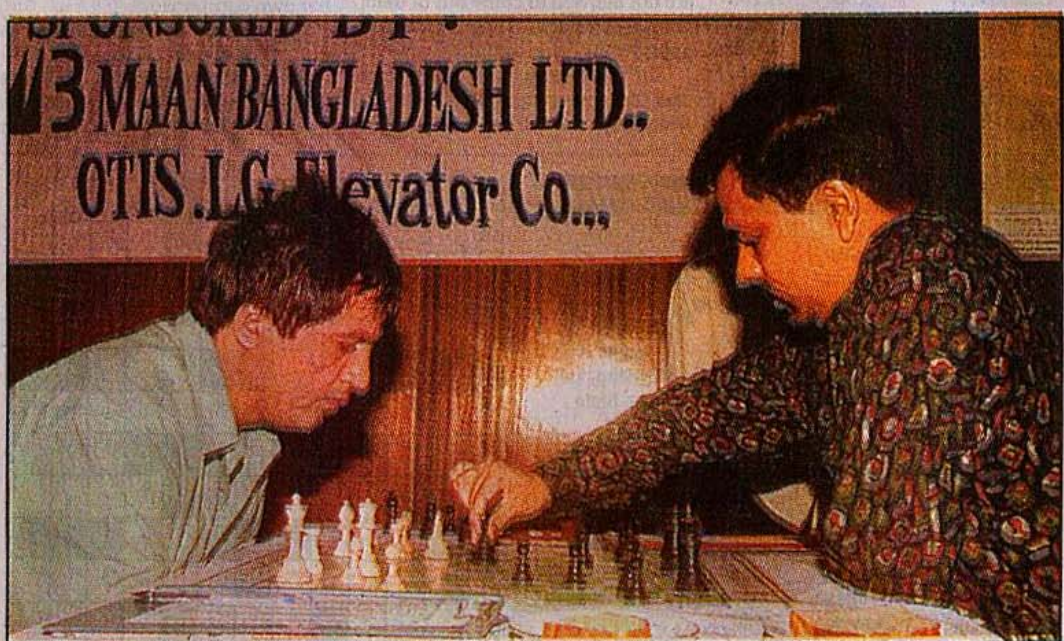
Abahani were reduced to 216-8 from a comfortable 193-2 as left-arm spinner Russell Khan returned emphatic figures of 5-51. But handsome contributions from in-form Naimur (30 off 39 balls), Neeaymur Rashid (23 off 17 balls) and Ali Arman Rajan (22 off 23 balls) saw them rattle up 42 off the last five overs.

Having lost opener Golam Mabud without scoring, Agrani came back strongly with a 77-run second wicket partnership between Rakibul Hassan (41 off 52 balls) and Islam Khan (37 off 47 balls).

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## SCORES IN BRIEF

Venue: BKSP ABAHANI: 262-7 in 50 overs (Saqib 102, Umar 40, Naimur 30, Neeaymur 23 n.o., Russell 5-51). AGRANI: 188 all out 46 overs (Rakibul 41, Islam 37, Iqbal 54; Naimur 3-42, Umar 2-48, Ahsanullah 2-30, Rajan 2-25). Result: Abahani won by 74 runs.	Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium CITY CLUB: 210-9 in 50 overs (Nafees 56, Mahmud 53, extras 43; Munir 5-56, Manjural 2-33). MOHAMMEDAN: 165 all out in 43.4 overs (Tikolo 25, Wasel 49, Sunny 36; Tareq 6-26). Result: City Club won by 45 runs.	Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium BIMAN: 182 all out in 49.1 overs (Humayun 29, Hasanuzzaman 24, Ayaz 25, Sajjad 25; Arif 2-21, Rezwanul 2-17). PEGASUS: 166 all out in 47.4 overs (Asadul 56, Junaed 23, Forhad 25; Sharif 3-22, Rubel 2-28, Humayun 2-26). Result: Biman won by 16 runs.
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Bangladesh Grand Master Ziaur Rahman makes a move against GM Uldachev Saidali of Uzbekistan during their seventh round engagement of the Maan Bangladesh Grand Masters Chess Tournament at the NSC yesterday.

## Bangladesh-India Series Quiz 6

In a test innings, which of the following is Anil Kumble's best bowling figure?

- A 10 wicket for 74 runs B 9 wicket for 101 runs C 8 wicket for 88 runs D 8 wickets for 123 runs

Answer by sending SMS\* to the number 2003

e.g. If your answer is A then write Quiz1 A and send it to 2003

For each quiz, five correct answer providers (selected by lottery) will receive attractive prizes!!

\*Charge Applicable



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