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# Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY DECEMBER 17, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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## Did U Know?

Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was banned from boxing after biting a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear during a title bout in 1997.



**Ricky Ponting**  
(Australia cricket captain)  
"It's been a frustrating sort of Test year for me just because it's been so stop-start. I've missed a few games in a few series and obviously missed the first part of an unbelievably satisfying tour to India as well."



**ESPN**  
Bangladesh v India  
Second Test, Day One  
Live at 9.30 am  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8.30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Australia v Pakistan  
First Test, Day Two  
Live at 8.30 am  
South Africa v England  
First Test, Day One  
Live at 2.30 pm  
Sportsline  
Live at 8 pm

**DAY'S EVENT**

Four-day Tour Match  
BCB HP Squad v SL Cricket Academy (FCA)

Green Delta Premier Div Hockey  
Railway SC v Mariner (1.15 pm)  
Sonali Bank v Azad SC (3 pm)  
Pepsi V Day Volleyball

## Pepsi V'Day volleyball

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh Navy and Kathmandu Metropolitan City reached the semifinals of the Pepsi Victory Day Volleyball Tournament from Group A.

In the last group match at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, Navy beat the Nepalese outfit 25-17, 25-15, 25-17 to emerge group champions. Kathmandu Metropolitan City, who defeated Bangladesh Police in the opener, finished runners-up.

Both the semifinals will be played today.

## Tigers all paced up

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh as expected, have decided to go with three specialist pace bowlers into the second and final Test against India which starts in Chittagong today.

This will be one of the rare occasions in their four-year Test history that Bangladesh will field three fast men in a home Test. The last time a trio of pacers played in the same match was back in 2002 when Monjurul Islam, Talha Jubair and Tapash Baisya bowled together against the touring West Indies also in Chittagong.

The selectors yesterday named a 12-man shortlist by leaving out Rajin Saleh -- who got a pair in the Dhaka Test which Bangladesh lost by one innings and 140 runs -- and all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman

whose gentle medium pace was treated with disdain by Tendulkar and company. Saleh's place went to local boy Aftab Ahmed while Mushfiq was preferred to one of the quicker bowlers.

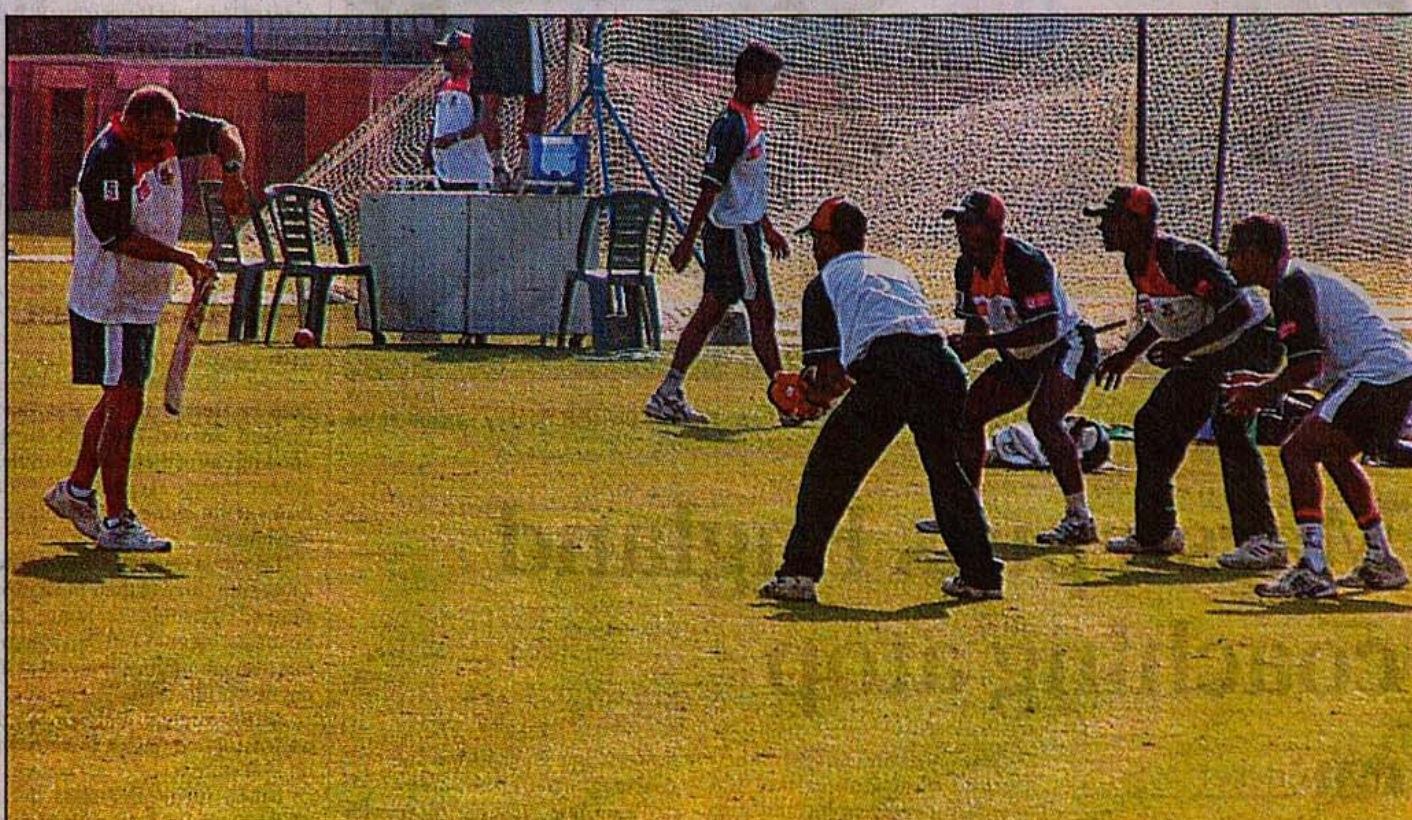
The only doubt concerned opening bowler Baisya who was reportedly

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## TEAMS

**INDIA:** Sourav Ganguly (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Dinesh Karthik, Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan.

**BANGLADESH (from):** Habibul Bashar (captain), Javed Omar, Nafees Iqbal, Mohammad Ashraful, Aftab Ahmed, Khaled Mashud, Manzanur Islam Rana, Mohammad Rafique, Tapash Baisya, Mashrafe Mortaza, Talha Jubair, Nazmul Hossain.



**DON'T DROP ANYMORE CATCHES:** Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore (L) giving away close catches to his charges during a practice session at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOABER HOSSAIN SIKDER

## Four-day match Muttaliph multiplies BCB HP's woes

**SPORTS REPORTER**

A century by opener Ishan Muttaliph consolidated Sri Lanka Cricket Academy's position on the opening day of the four-day match against Bangladesh Cricket Board BCB High Performance (HP) Squad yesterday.

After being put into bat at the Fatullah Stadium, the visitors amassed 322 for nine at stumps in their first innings with Muttaliph scoring 113 off 187 balls.

After an early loss, the Lankans reached 116-3 at lunch with Muttaliph on 62. The opening batsman, who smashed 18 boundaries and two sixes before being caught by Tareq Aziz off the bowling of HP Squad captain Enamul Haque (Jr), shared two significant partnerships in his four-and-a-half hour long essay.

He put on 61 with skipper Harsha Vithane (17) for the second wicket and a further 88 for the fourth wicket with Chanak Wijaysinghe (39).

Wicketkeeper Gihan de Silva, knocking at the door for a Test cap, scored second highest 43 from 100

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## Abahani back to top

**Hockey**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Abahani Krira Chakra regained the lead in the Green Delta Premier Hockey League when the defending champions put an end to Usha Krira Chakra's winning run yesterday.

Indian striker Prakash Calke returned to the domestic hockey scene with a brace either side of the break as Abahani beat Usha 2-1 in an exciting battle at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium.

Usha, who came to the sixth

round tie with an all-win record, pulled one goal back through Tabil-e Noor in the second half but could not find an equaliser despite putting tremendous pressure.

With five wins and a draw, Abahani now have 16 points, just one ahead of Usha.

Prakash, Abahani's hero of last month's Club Cup final with a hat-trick in their dramatic 4-3 win over Mariner, arrived in Dhaka almost two weeks ago but had to wait for his league debut due to unavailability of clearance papers.

Usha and Abahani both missed good chances early in the match but

Prakash, who placed his first chance wide, did not make the same mistake when he put the Sky-Blues ahead on the half-hour mark. Titu sent the ball inside the box after a free hit from the left and the diminutive Indian forward deflected home from close range.

He was again on target three minutes into the second session with a cool finish. Titu had a hand in Abahani's second goal as well when he found Prakash on the right of the box and the Indian, having dodged the rival keeper, hit the board from an acute angle.

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## Records beckon three Indians

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Will records tumble in Chittagong during the second Test between Bangladesh and India like the first Test in Dhaka?

The question hovers around as at least three Indian cricketers are on the verge of crossing or equalling milestones. They are batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar, skipper Sourav Ganguly and fast bowler Zaheer Khan.

And the name of MA Aziz Stadium will enter the game's history books if everything goes as per the trio's wish.

Firstly, little master Tendulkar requires another ton and exactly 157 runs to join the 10,000-run club as well as go past compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's 34 centuries to become Test cricket's highest centurion.

If Tendulkar does, that he will become the fifth batsman to reach five digits after Gavaskar, Allan Border, Steve Waugh and Brian Lara.

A personal milestone is also beckoning the Indian captain in this port city who stands close to the 5,000-run mark. Ganguly, who hit 71 in Dhaka, is only 187 runs behind the landmark.

Meanwhile, left-handed pacer Zaheer who bowled menacingly in the first Test to take three wickets needs just a single victim to get his 100th Test wicket.

The fans in Chittagong are eagerly waiting to watch three precious records with their own eyes.

## Tuffey drafted for SL ODIs

**REUTERS, Wellington**

Seam bowler Daryl Tuffey was recalled to the New Zealand squad on Thursday for the one-day series with Sri Lanka which starts later this month.

Tuffey, who missed the recent tours of Bangladesh and Australia because of a leg injury, is now back to full fitness, said New Zealand coach John Bracewell.

The main casualty of the squad that toured Australia is middle-order batsman Craig McMillan, who has been dumped after failing to perform. Change bowlers Andre Adams and Tama Canning have also been dropped.

The squad has been reduced to 12 for the first three games of the series to allow as many players as possible to play in the domestic first class competition, Bracewell said.

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## Atapattu's ambition

**Cricket**

**REUTERS, Colombo**

Sri Lanka captain Marvan Atapattu believes his side are capable of becoming the best one-day international team in time for the 2007 World Cup.

The skipper wants his players to continue their development on the

tour to New Zealand which starts on December 17. The visit includes a five-match series of one-dayers followed by two Tests.

Sri Lanka have a 71 per cent win ratio under Atapattu, having triumphed in 25 of the 35 matches played since he took over after the 2003 World Cup.

That run of success has lifted them into second place in the International Cricket Council's

official ODI Championship behind Australia. New Zealand are third.

"We want to be the number one team in the world," Atapattu told reporters before the squad flew out on Thursday.

"But we'll have to work really hard towards that objective."

"We cannot do that overnight but we can during a set period and the aim is to be there by the 2007 World Cup."

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## Langer defies Pakistan

**Cricket**

**AFP, Perth**

The long-awaited showdown between two of the world's best pace attacks did not disappoint here Thursday when first the ball, then

the bat dominated proceedings on the opening day of the Test between Pakistan and Australia.

At stumps at the WACA ground, Australia were back in control after opener Justin Langer guided his side to 357 for eight with a gritty and at times commanding 181 not out.

Tail-ender Michael Kasprovicz

was with him at the crease on four not out.

It was a remarkable recovery after Pakistan had grabbed the contest by the scruff of the neck from the very first ball and refused to let go throughout the morning session, skittling four Australian wickets before lunch and a fifth almost immediately after.

Pakistan, firm underdogs before the Test started after losing two of their opening four matches, had hoisted their colours from the outset, selecting four specialist bowlers and an all-rounder.

The move paid off when captain Inzamam-ul-Haq won the toss and sent the home team in to bat -- giving his lightning quick pace duo of Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Sami the first crack on a green-top wicket renowned for favouring fast bowling.

Akhtar did not disappoint, striking the first blow when he trapped opener Matthew Hayden lbw for four with the score at six. It was a far cry from Hayden's last Test effort at the ground in October, 2003 which saw him smash the then world record of 380 runs against Zimbabwe.

With captain Ricky Ponting coming to the crease, it seemed like the early loss may have proved an aberration, although he never looked entirely comfortable as he and opener Justin Langer carried the score to 56.

But it was then that Sami, who showed he has the pace to match Akhtar and the durability to outlast him by bowling 12 straight overs throughout the morning session, struck the definitive blow, clean bowling Ponting for 25.

Hometown hero Damien Martyn followed almost immediately caught behind by Kamran Akmal off Sami for one and then it was veteran Darren Lehmann's turn to feel the heat.

THE 34-year-old shuffled awkwardly across his wicket to be bowled by Akhtar for 12.

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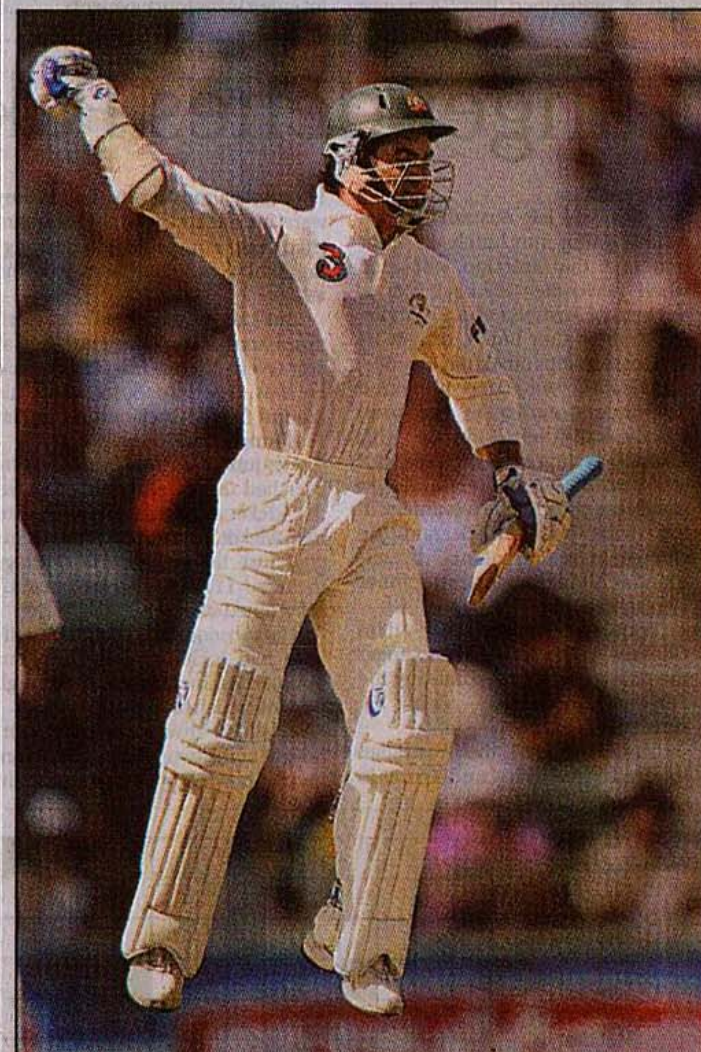


PHOTO: AFP

**AIR LANGER:** Australia opener Justin Langer jumps for joy after scoring his century against Pakistan in Perth yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

**REMEMBER, THIS IS A NEW TEST:** Master Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar (L) talks to left-arm paceman Irfan Pathan during a break from training at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

## Series of serious questions First Eng-SA Test starts today

**Cricket**

**AFP, Port Elizabeth**

South Africa and England start a five-Test series at St George's Park Friday with question marks over both teams.

South Africa, hoping to end a sequence of disappointing results, have worries about the fitness of key players, while England are short of form going into one of the most intensive Test series of all time.

Five Tests will be played in the space of 40 days with no other matches in between.

South Africa are likely to be without Nicky Boje, their vice-captain and only spin bowler, who is struggling to prove his fitness after a recent operation to remove a cyst from his left shoulder, while star all-rounder Jacques Kallis may be unable to bowl because of an ankle injury.

The balance of the South African side depends on the final fitness assessments.

There is no other spinner in the squad, and no-one on standby, so if Boje does not play South Africa will be forced to field an all-seam attack, backed by the occasional spin of Graeme Smith and Jacques Rudolph.

If Kallis is unable to bowl, South Africa will have to leave out one of the batsmen in their 13-man squad in order to accommodate an extra bowler, virtually ensuring that untried fast bowler Dale Steyn will make his Test debut.

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## Bangladesh-India Series Quiz 8

Who is the only Indian to have more than 10,000 runs in test cricket?

☐ A M Azharuddin   
 ☐ B Sunil Gavaskar   
 ☐ C Sanjay Manjrekar   
 ☐ D Rahul Dravid

Answer by sending SMS\* to the number 2003  
e.g. If your answer is A then write Quiz1 A and send it to 2003

[ Quiz 7 answer: B ]      For each quiz, five correct answer providers (selected by lottery) will receive attractive prizes!!      \*Charge Applicable

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