SONALI BANK সোনালী ব্যাংক

Biggies face elimination

With the battle-lines for the super league drawn, now familiar teams like Surjo Tarun, Bangladesh Biman and Kalabagan Krira Chakra are fighting for survival in the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League.

The three powerhouse teams are currently stuck at the foot of the 12-

took part in the first round along with the 12 teams but they were not awarded any points and will not be playing in either the super or relega-

Surjo Tarun, who had players like Minhazul Abedin, Al-Shahriar, Khaled Mashud playing for them just three years back, have won only two out of their 12 matches and finished the first phase in last place.

in the six-team relegation league will be Indira Road Krira Chakra who finished equally with Uttara Sporting Club and Brothers Union having 32 points each but failed to get the fifth or sixth spot because of their inferior net run rate.

Orient Sporting Club and Young Pegasus are the other candidates for the relegation league.

Holders Victoria Sporting Club finished with highest 56 points followed by Abahani and City Club who earned 50 points each.

Mohammedan Sporting Club are fourth while Uttara and Brothers also qualified for the Super League. Both the super and the relega-tion league will begin on March 28.

Booters in HK

SPORTS REPORTER

Kanta Barman flew to Hong Kong yesterday to play two Group D Asian Cup preliminary round matches against Laos and Hong Kong.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) had initially formed two separate teams comprising 15 players for both events but the postponement of regional Games enabled the BFF to reorganise the team.

March 27 while their meeting against the hosts is billed for March 30

Hong Kong open their Group D campaign against Laos tomorrow. All matches will be held at the Mongkok Stadium in Hong Kong at

The winners of the Group D preliminary round will earn a berth in the qualifying round that is scheduled to start from mid August. **SQUAD:** Aminul Haque, Biplab Bhattachariya, Abdul Qaiyum Sentu, Rajanai Kanta Barman (captain), Saifur Rahman Moni, Mustafa Anwar Parvez, Faisal Mahmud, Maksudul Alam Bulbul, di Hasan Uzzal, Matiur Rhamn Munna, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Monwar Hossain, papel Mahmud, Mohammad Arman, Arif Khan Joy, Mohammad Sujon, Rokonuzzaman Kanchan, Ariful Kabir Farhad and Firoz Mahmud Hossain Tito.

Shahinur Hossain (team doctor).

Catch us if you

wicket," going about our business, under-stated skipper explained.

"Seventeen straight wins doesn't mean much. What does mean much is the standards we set for ourselves. They are high and we set new standards today.



Win attractive prizes

March 28, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

Who clinched the Shahjalal Bank International Rating

Lovlu

2. New Zealand beat South Africa in a World Cup Group B match

9 wkts 102 runs 3. How m_lany runs did

South Africa in the World Cup Group B match? 120 108

Bangladesh score against

4. Bangladesh lost to Canada in the World Cup Group B match

Class...... Roll No......

SPORTS REPORTER

team elite league after completion of the first round.

The BCB Development Squad

Kalabagan and Biman and won just four and three matches respec-tively to finish in the tenth and

However, the most unlucky team

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Independence Day.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is going to hold an exhibition

match involving national cricket-

ers on Tuesday to celebrate the

The 50-over-contest between BCB Red and BCB Green will be

held at the Dhanmondi Cricket

Khan will lead the Red while expe-

rienced all-rounder Khaled

Mahmud will captain the Green.

Former national captain Akram

Skipper Khaled Mashud, who

The game will mark the first

who returned home on

But chief selector Aliul Islam

tested formula of only four specialist bowlers pace trio Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra as

well as off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

Chappell who, prior to the game,

Anil Kumble.

think further.

chance of winning

That was despite advice from

Even though India's quicks took a

"It all depends if the fifth bowler is

Several international captains

But left-handed batsman

The Indian skipper also said his

"They bowled too short on that

The first over of the match,

"It was a very poor start and it kept

"359 is a big total. It was always

But the Indian captain insisted he

going to be a really Herculean task.

Getting seven, seven and-a-half-an-

was nevertheless proud of his side despite the way in which Australia

became the first team to win three

World Cups, stretching their world

record of consecutive one-day

international wins to 17 in the pro-

over is never easy," Ganguly said.

bowled by Zaheer, went for 15 runs

and set the tone for what followed.

on going after that," Ganguly said.

By then it was too late.

terrible hammering from the

Australia top order, Ganguly insisted they had got the balance right.

an all-rounder who can contribute

have lost or given up the leadership

of their teams in the wake of World

Ganguly insisted quitting was not on

the agenda. "I'll keep on going until I

much-vaunted pace trio's inability to

find the right length had cost them a

Champs can

February 5 after five defeats in six

games in South Africa.

Last year's runners-up

A 20-member Bangladesh national football team led by defender Rajani

decided to quit the captaincy after leading Bangladesh to a woeful campaign in the 2003 World Cup, will stand behind the wicket in the Akram-led Red team. appearance of the national cricket-

The current SAF Games and SAFF Championship winners, take on Laos in their first match on

Zahurul Haque (team leader), Mainul Islam Movna (deputy team leader), Alhai Dastgir Chowdhury (manager), Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu (coach) and Dr. Sheikh

FROM PAGE 8

 $part in \, his \, team's \, performances.$ "We've just done it fairly quietly,

Ganguly, however, insisted he had made the right call. "There was quite a bit in the wicket early on if we had put the ball in the right places. You saw in the afternoon that 300 was chaseable," he said.



The Baily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm

"We've played well. And the important thing is that we've learned

"I thought after winning the toss

praise afterwards. "Ponting played an important role," he said. "I would

Ponting's majestic performance came in two distinct parts. His first 50, full of clever pushes and glides and

The next 47 deliveries saw him hit

enough was enough, having got to his half-century. The next two balls he faced from Harbhajan Singh both disappeared into the back of the midwicket stands.

there at regular intervals as Ponting,

opener Athar Ali Khan (Red) to manage the sides. "It will be a test case for them to deliver goods in different capacity," said the chief selector. The

(Green) and former national

appointment of Faruque and Athar was made in a bid to find a replacement of ASM Faruque, he added. BCB Green: Khaled Mahmud

(captain), Mohammed Ashraful, Javed Omar, Rashedul Haq, Tushar Imran, Nazimuddin, Habibul Bashar, Alok Kapali, Sanwar Hossain, Mohammed Selim (wicketkeeper), Arafat Sunny, Taposh Baishya, Tarek Aziz Khan, Talha Jubair and Enamul Hoque.

BCB Red: Akram Khan (captain), Mehrab Hossain, Shahriar Hossain, Sajjad Ahmed Shipon, Mazharul Huq, Aftab Ahmed, Aminul Islam, Naimur Rahman, Anwar Hossain, Khaled Mashud (wicketkeeper), Manzarul Islam, Mushfiqur Rahman, Monjurul Islam, Anwar Hossain Monir and

Aliul also picked former Mohammed Rafique.

The Hong Kong-bound Bangladesh national football team at the Zia International Airport before its departure yester-

indicated by not considering three

national caps that it would not be a mere exhibition match.

Sarker and Ehsanul Haque have not been included in the list of 30.

Mashrafee-bin Mortaza, who

twisted his right ankle during the

World Cup and was forced to return home early, was not also

"The failure of our openers mainly responsible for our disas-

trous campaign in the World Cup.

We have picked some fresh and experienced openers for the prac-

tice match on the basis of their

performance in the domestic cricket. But that does not necessar-

ily mean the three players have been left out," said Aliul to the

He however said that

Wednesday's game is aimed to find a probable combination for the

coming tri-nation tournament and

Dhaka will host a three-nation

the two Tests against South Africa.

one-day tournament also involv-

ing India before the Test series in

we had a fair chance but everybody has an off-day.

"Being man of the series, I'd prefer it if we won today," he added.

Waltzing Matilda

winning captain Steve Waugh was

making no comment on Monday The 37-year-old Test skipper was

dropped from the national one-

their (the team's) day in the sun,

"As far as Steve's concerned, it's

While Sunday's match result

The 28-year-old Tasmanian

aring an unbroken stand of 234

came too late for Australia's major

metropolitan newspapers over-night, the local press were at least

able to feast on Ponting's century.

struck a masterly 140 not out.

The country's only national broadsheet daily The Australian

ran a main sports section headline "Ponting pummels India".

took his domination of Australia's

post-Waugh limited-overs era to new heights yesterday by smashing the highest score in a World Cup

Damien Martyn) just kept taking

"It was in the last 15 overs where

"I would surely rate this innings

Ponting shared in an unbroken

234-run third-wicket stand with

Martyn, who hit 88 not out. They

scored 143 runs in the last 15 overs

Award could

FROM PAGE 8

it really took off.

as one of the best

Cup final

It continued: "Ricky Ponting

with Damien Martyn (88 not out).

-year-old Test skipper was

' Waugh's manager Robert

FROM PAGE 8

day side a year ago.

Joske told Reuters.

picked by the selectors.

Daily Star last night.

Opener Al-Shahriar, Hannan

BCB gearing up

Mixed feelings

Hope, excitement and anticipation gave way to disbelief and despair as the Aussies thumped six after powerful six to notch up 359 for two at the end of their allotted 50

And when Indian batting star Sachin Tendulakar was caught out in the first over, the dream was over. India eventually made 234 all out.

"India go down with a fight' said the Times of India, which added in a sub-heading, "At 359, Aussies too tough to match.'

An editorial in the same paper said, "The Indians gave it their best shot, but the Aussies simply packed too much firepower."

There would be criticism on Indian captain Saurav Ganguly's decision to field first "but the fact is that the best team in the world deservedly won the tournament," the paper said.

While Sunday's setback would silence those hailing the present squad as India's best one-day squad ever, "It's only fair to acknowledge that this is an exciting mix of explosive strokemakers, canny run rotators, hostile pacers and worldclass spinners.

Div I cricket

FROM PAGE 8 Australia captain Ricky Ponting for his innings of 140 not out, the

both innings with 33 contributing to the Bangladesh Boys total. Mr. highest score ever made in a World Sundries, with 30, topped list for Dhanmondi. "Ponting played an important role," he said. "Ťhey (Ponting and

Bangladesh Boys opener Biplob's knock of 29 was the highest coming from the bat.

Bangladesh Boys: 134 all out in 46.2 overs (Biplob 29, Mustakim 17; Tushar 3-20, Shahriar 3-26)

Dhanmondi Club: 135 for 7 in 45.1 overs (Kabir 27, Anisul 27; Rabiul 2-16, Hossain 2-18)

Result: Dhanmondi won by 3

Billion broken hearts

As against Pakistan earlier in the tournament, when Tendulkar had scored a lightning, match-winning 98 and shredded the nerves of strike bowler Shoaib Akhtar in the process, Tendulkar had made a bold statement of intent by taking first strike.

This time, though, it did not work. You could have heard a pin drop among the 31,000 crowd as Tendulkar trudged off. Virender Sehwag's bold run-a-ball 82 and Rahul Dravid's 47 were reduced to footnotes as India were dismissed for 234. Ricky Ponting (140 not out) and

the softly spoken, broken-fingered Damien Martyn (88 not out), coincidentally, put on exactly that figure for the third wicket during Australia's magnificent 359 for two. Tendulkar was generous in his

surely rate this innings as one of the

nudges, took 74 balls and contained one boundary.

eight sixes a World Cup record three more fours and 90 runs. No man had ever scored as many in the sport's greatest showpiece. It was almost as if he decided

Whoever bowled, the ball returned

all quick-silver hands and dancing feet, made a 13th one-day century. Tendulkar, honoured as the man

of the tournament by Garfield Sobers after the match at The Wanderers, has made a world-record 34 hundreds in the shorter form of the game. But he would probably have swapped them all for an innings of

Ponting's quality and significance on

Sunday. "It was my most satisfying innings, no doubt about that. To do it today when it really mattered was something very special.'

Those words, India had hoped, would be spoken by their idol. It must have tortured them to hear them uttered instead in Ponting's Tasmanian twang.

Primera Liga

Real go clear

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madid gave themselves some breathing space at the top of the Spanish first division, thanks in part to the self-destruction of second-placed Real Sociedad, and extended their lead to three points after their win over Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday.

Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo got the goals in a game which Real coach Vicente Del Bosque had described as, "the true start to the championship.

After several missed chances by Real, a minute before half time the Brazilian World Cup winner sent the ball across the face of the goal and Zidane had no problems sending it into the back of the net.

Four minutes after the break, the roles were reversed with Zidane provising the service through two Deportivo defenders and finding Ronaldo on the edge of the box.

The World Player of the Year then blasted the ball past a helpless Francisco Molina in the Deportivo The European champions now have 57 points from 27 matches, with Real Sociedad three points in

arrears after their 2-2 draw with Deportivo are third with 51 points while Valencia were held to a 1-1 draw by Espanyol and are

now a distant fourth with 47 points. Sociedad threw away their chance of going back to the top of the Spanish league, albeit only for a few hours, earlier on Sunday when they conceded two goals in injury time after being 2-0 ahead.

for the season to 15, before Villarreal staged their incrediable fightback. Two minutes into injury time Victor Fernandez headed one back for Villarreal and a minute later Jorge Lopez's scrambled an

equaliser with all 22 men in the

Darko Kovacevic got both goals for Real Sociedad, to take his tally

Sociedad box. Valencia went behind when Espanyol's David Garcia put the Barcelona-based side ahead after eight minutes but Spanish international Ruben Baraja equalised on



Real Madrid Superstar Ronaldo (C) keeping Deportivo la Coruna's Hector (L) and goalkeeper Jose Francisco Molina on their toes at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on March 23.

the hour for the reigning Spanish

Elsewhere, Egyptian striker Mido needed little time to settle in at Celta Vigo and took just 19 minutes to score in the Galicians' 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao.

Mido - real name Ahmed Hossam - only arrived in Vigo on Monday after the sport's governing body FIFA had sanctioned his ground-breaking loan from Ajax just three days before. The move was approved despite

being outside the winter transfer window because Mido will replace Celta's Sebastian Mendez, who is out for the rest of the season with a serious knee injury. Senior sports lawyers have said the move could revolutionise the

transfer market in similar fashion

to the 1995 Bosman ruling, with players now becoming eligible to

move at any time of the year.

Mido's goal also had the effect of helping thwarting Athletic's quest for their 1,000th victory in the top flight of Spanish soccer, despite going a head after eight minutes with a goal from Asier Del Horno. The Basques are one of only three clubs to have been ever

present in the Spanish first division

since its formation in 1928, the others being Real Madrid and Celta's winner came thanks to a stunning volley from second half substitute Benni McCarthy after 77

Barcelona fans held an anti-war protest at the Nou Camp prior to the Catalan club's 6-1 mauling of

Some placards read "Barca for

peace" and "stop the war" as the Catalan supporters made their

feelings known about the conflict

On the pitch Dutch stars Patrick Kluivert and Marc Overmars both scored twice as Barca extended their streak to 13 games without defeat, including two friendies and four Champions League matches, since Radomir Antic took over at the helm last month.

TOP SIX

Spanish league table after Sunday games (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Real	27	16	9	2	61	26	57
Sociedad	27	15	9	3	47	34	54
Deportivo	27	15	6	6	43	29	51
Valencia	27	13	8	6	42	21	47

Salute Aussies

FROM PAGE 8 likes of Jason Gillespie as well as the absence of star spinner Shane Warne, whose positive drugs test was revealed on the morning of Australia's first match of the tournament against Pakistan, was a tribute to the character of the

'We've been tested throughou this World Cup with injuries and

the Warne issue "Andrew Bichel and Andy Symonds have had sensational World Cups. The guys who have come in, well done to them.'

Ponting hit eight sixes and four boundaries to compile the highest score in the final of cricket's show-piece, surpassing West Indian Vivian Richards 138 not out against England in 1979.

"It's the most satisfying," Ponting told reporters when asked

if it was his best innings. And the Tasmanian batsman said he knew from early on that his side had the edge.

"The Indians body language

was pretty ordinary for most of the day. It was important Damien Martyn and I kept our partnership Martyn (finger) and Andy Bichel (shoulder) were only passed

fit on the morning of the match and Ponting said: "They are two very important players. It was important they looked me in the eye and told me they were right to

Australia's only real moment of worry came when rain forced a 25minute stoppage before 25 overs had been completed in India's innings.

Had that mark not been reached, the final would have been replayed from scratch on Monday, Australia's innings counting for nothing. "There were lots of things going through my mind," Ponting admit-

ted. "But the rain held off long enough for us to get there. Australia won all their 11 matches in the 2003 event to take their unbeaten streak in one-day cricket to an unprecedented 17 games. inaugural tournament in 1975 when innings were played over a maximum of 60 overs



Football Focus Live at 6:30 pm Western Union World Football Repeat at 8:00 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm STAR Sports **Sportsline Tonight** Sport News Live at 8:00 pm

Football

AC Milan threw themselves back into the Italian title race after defeating league leaders Juventus 2-1 at a sold-out San Siro on Saturday but Inter Milan failed to

take advantage as they slipped to a 2-1 reverse in Udinese. Juve lead the way with 57 points from 26 matches - three clear of Inter with AC Milan two points further back - despite the "Zebras'

loss at the San Siro.

SerieA Fillipo Inzaghi's 14th goal of the season for the Milanese settled a thrilling contest after Juve's Czech star Pavel Nedved had levelled

Andriy Shevchenko's early goal. Inter slipped back after Czech midfielder Marek Jankulovski gave Udinese an early lead before Vincenzo Iaquinta doubled the

advantage in the 59th minute. Inter woke from their slumber to halve the deficit in the 73rd minute through Ivan Cordoba, but despite a rousing second-half display the visitors were kept at bay by some excellent goalkeeping from Morgan De Sanctis

CROSSWORD

37 Narcs'

39 Actress

Pinkett

Smith

38 Littlo

ACROSS

1 Trade

5 Kolly

comic

strip

9 Arbiter

12 Poker

hand

Mick

32 Perfect

33 Gibson

36 Like

garnish

34 Idled the

time away

28 Hypnotic

EUROPEAN SCENE

Italian league table before Sunday's late match between Udinese and Inter Milan (played,

won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals

agamot, pomto).							
Juventus	26	17	6	3	49	18	57
Inter	25	17	3	5	52	27	54
Milan	26	15	7	4	46	20	52
Lazio	26	11	12	3	45	27	45

Bundesliga While the Italian race is hotting up and promises a thrilling finale there is hardly an air of expectation in Germany, where Bayern Munich are 15 points clear of defending

champions Borussia Dortmund with just eight games left to play. Bayern thanked an own goal from Rostock defender Michal Kovar for their 1-0 home win on Saturday which had coach Otmar

Hitzfeld admitting that "it wasn't much of a game. Dortmund could only draw 0-0 at Arminia Bielefeld and stay a point clear of Stuttgart, who sur-prisingly went down 2-0 at home to

struggling Nuremberg on Sunday.

German football league table after Sunday's matches (played, won,

drawn, lost, goals for, against):

26 19 5 2 57 16 62

26 12 6 8 40 27 42

Bayern

Ligue 1 In France, Monaco hammered Le Havre 3-0 away to stay clear of Marseille on goal difference, the

Stuttgart 26 13 7 6 40 29 46

thanks to Daniel Van Buyten's late A Juninho goal handed titleholders Lyon a 1-0 success at fading Nice to cut the gap on the

latter winning 2-1 at Montpellier

frontrunners to just one point. PSG saw off Sedan 2-0 at home to stay seventh in the table

French league table after Sunday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

TOP SIX

Monaco 31 15 10 6 49 24 55 Marseille 31 16 7 8 34 27 55 31 15 9 7 53 35 54

DBAHIKJY ABCSKBYT OYJ N J E E - D B C T K Y I D K J U

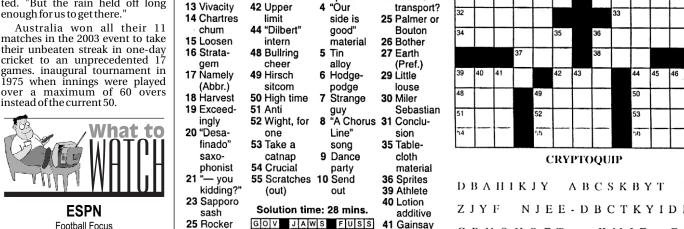
OCUнмвтнмвү Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BOOK ABOUT FAILURE HARDLY SELLS AT ALL, DO YOU

KMJF

CBNOUOFT.

THINK IT HAS BEEN A SUCCESS? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals A

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



43 Wheel

shaft

now

slowly

nized

47 Recog-

49 Dead

46 Leak

By Eugene Sheffer

start

1 Impetus

opera

DOWN

2 Ebb

3 Verdi

56 From the 11 Efferves-

20 Bamboo

22 Appomat-

24 Witch's

signature