

MSC, Victoria run riot

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra were facing an uphill task to save their GrameenPhone Premier Division Super League match against perennial rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

On the penultimate day of the four-day game, Abahani were 25 for no loss in their second innings after Mohammedan set them a victory target of 434 runs.

Resuming the day on 265 for six and still needing another 50 runs to avoid the follow on, Abahani were tantalisingly close to reaching the mark before being all out for 311 in 84.5 overs.

But Mohammedan, instead of enforcing the follow on, decided to bat on and scored 279 for seven in their second innings to take the overall lead to 433.

Former national captain Naimur Rahman led the second innings charge for Mohammedan with his second half century of the match.

Naimur, who scored 67 in the first

innings, smashed 86 yesterday in 130 minutes with a six and eight boundaries to lay the foundation of a big total.

Together with one-down Aftab Ahmed, Naimur shared 128 runs for the third wicket stand before Aftab was out on 81.

Aftab hit seven boundaries in his patient 220-minute stay at the crease.

Among others, Mohammedan's India recruit Sandeep Sharma added



NAIMUR RAHMAN

49.

VICTORIA VUTTARA

In the other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Victoria Sporting Club were in total control over Uttara Sporting Club on Day Two.

Fifties from Wasim Nayeem, Rafiqul Islam, Azam Iqbal and Mohammad Salim helped Victoria to a mammoth 406 for four at stumps in reply to Uttara's 225.

Wasim scored highest 97 while Rafiqul made 81.

Azam and Salim were batting on 88 runs each.

Together, the duo shared an undefeated 171-run fifth wicket stand.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the four-day GrameenPhone Premier Cricket Super League match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club at the BKSP ground yesterday:

MOHAMMEDAN SC: First innings 465 for 8 in 100 overs (Nafees 135, Sandeep 82, Naimur 67, Aftab 40, Suja 4-176)

ABAHANI KC: (overnight 265 for 6 in 78 overs)

Al-Shariar c Anwar b Hasibul	5
Imran b Enamul	31
Sajjad c Hasibul b Enamul	22
Asadullah b Monir	15
Towhid run out	30
Neyamur b Enamul	31
Arman b Sandeep	1
Nuruzzaman c Enamul b Hasibul	26
Bikash run out	9
Suja not out	0
Extras: (b-7, lb-9, nb-3, w-3)	22
Total: (All out in 84.5 overs)	311
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-46, 3-83, 4-112, 5-199, 6-260, 7-273, 8-275, 9-311.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Monir	12	2	45	1
Hasibul	9.5	1	48	2
S Sharma	10	2	39	2
Enamul	28	7	70	3
Fahim	17	2	67	0
Naimur	8	1	26	0

MOHAMMEDAN SC: second innings	O	M	R	W
Nafees c Towhid b Neyamur	2			
Sandeep lbw b Suja	49			
Aftab c Asad b Imran	81			
Naimur c Neyamur b Suja	86			
Minhazul c Neyamur b Suja	25			
Fahim run out	6			

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Still Reefat

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Reefat Bin Sattar maintained his solo leading in the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Chess Championship at the end of the tenth round yesterday.

The talented player drew with FIDE master Taibur Rahman to raise his tally to eight and a half points.

Grand Master Niaz Murshed stayed hot on Reefat's heels with eight points. Niaz did not have to sweat as he got a bye after fellow GM Ziaur Rahman had withdrawn from the competition earlier.

In other results, third-placed IM Enamul Hossain Rajib defeated FM Nasir Ahmed to raise his tally to 7.5 points. IM Abdullah Al Rakib occupied fourth place with 7 points.

Australia A make it 2-0

AFP, Canberra

Brad Hodge excelled with bat and ball as Australia A beat their South African counterpart by 25 runs in the second match of their limited overs cricket series at Manuka Oval here on Sunday.

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STRONG AS EVER: Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Khaled Mashud flicks one off his pads on his way to a superb 109 during a practice game at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Mashud, who led Bangladesh in the World Cup, showed that he had not lost his appetite for runs despite giving up the captaincy.

PHOTO: STAR

Wright pulls out of Dhaka trip

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

India coach John Wright will not travel to Bangladesh for a triangular one-day series starting in Dhaka on Friday following the death of his father in New Zealand.

"He is not going. We will announce a replacement for the event in a day or two," the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Karunakaran Nair said on Sunday.

The former New Zealand captain

had flown directly home after last month's World Cup in South Africa to be with his ailing father.

The new-look India squad, featuring four uncapped players, are scheduled to leave for Dhaka on 9 April.

The World Cup finalists, who have played non-stop for the last 18 months, then have a break from action until the home series against New Zealand in October.

India, South Africa and hosts Bangladesh will participate in the nine-day tournament.



JOHN WRIGHT

Ton-up Marillier

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

Douglas Marillier hit an exact 100 as Zimbabwe avenged their World Cup defeat against Kenya with a hard-fought five-wicket win in the Sharjah Cup here on Saturday.

Marillier's maiden one-day century and his 130-run stand for the third wicket with Grant Flower enabled Zimbabwe surpass Kenya's 225-6 with six balls to spare in the day-night international.

Flower made 59, his first run taking him past the 6,000-run mark in one-day internationals. Retired elder brother, Andy Flower, is the only other Zimbabwean to achieve the feat.

Kenya, the first non-Test playing nation to reach the World Cup semi-finals last month, had thrashed Zimbabwe by seven wickets in the Super Sixes round of cricket's showpiece in South Africa.

But Marillier ensured there was no further humiliation for his team, who

had lost to Pakistan on Thursday in the opening match of the four-nation event also featuring Sri Lanka.

Zimbabwe suffered a minor scare when three wickets fell for 10 runs to make it 208-5, but captain Heath Streak and Sean Ervine kept their cool to steer their team home.

Streak ended the match off the last ball of the penultimate over with a six over-long-off.

Earlier, David Obuya hit 57 to lead Kenya to 225-6 from 50 overs after electing to take first strike in the day-night international.

Thomas Odoyo chipped in with 46 and skipper Steve Tikolo made 37 to enable Kenya recover from 55-2.

Streak gave his team an early break when he had Kennedy Otieno caught behind in his second over.

Douglas Hondo clean bowled Brijal Patel before David Obuya and Tikolo retrieved the situation by adding 59 for the third wicket.

Left-arm spinner Raymond Price dismissed both batsmen in the space of three overs, but Odoyo

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SANATH JAYASURIYA

Jayasuriya in 9,000 club

Cricket

REUTERS, Sharjah

Sanath Jayasuriya became just the fourth person to pass 9,000 runs in one-day international cricket on Sunday.

The Sri Lankan skipper, playing in his 299th match, was on 8993 runs before the Sharjah Cup match against Kenya and he took 13 balls to score the seven runs needed to join his former team-mate Aravinda de Silva and India's Mohammad Azharuddin and Sachin Tendulkar as the only players to

pass 9,000 runs.

Tendulkar, named man of the World Cup, leads the list of leading scorers with 12,219 runs from 314 matches.

TOPTEN

1. S Tendulkar (India)	12,219	314
2. M Azharuddin (India)	9,378	334
3. Aravinda de Silva (SL)	9,284	308
4. S Jayasuriya (SL)	9,000*	299
5. Inzamamul Haq (Pak)	8,957	298
6. Saeed Anwar (Pak)	8,823	247
7. S Ganguly (India)	8,720	229
8. Desmond Haynes (WI)	8,648	238
9. Mark Waugh (Aus)	8,500	244
10. Brian Lara (WI)	7,797	209

Again Sangakkara

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

Kumar Sangakkara hit a second consecutive century to fire Sri Lanka to 256-5 from 50 overs against Kenya in the Sharjah Cup here on Sunday.

The left-hander, who made 100 against Pakistan on Friday, reached the three-figure mark again with a boundary off the final delivery to enhance Sri Lanka's bid to avenge their stunning World Cup loss to the Kenyans in Nairobi in February.

Sangakkara finished with an unbeaten 103 off 108 balls, his second one-day century studded with nine hits to the fence.

Kumar Dharmasena made 16 not out, having helped Sangakkara add 36 valuable runs off the last three overs.

Openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Avishka Gunawardena put on 53 in 12 overs after Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bat, before both batsmen departed in the space of nine runs.

Jayasuriya became only the fourth batsman in the world to complete 9,000 one-day runs - after India's Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin and Sri Lanka's recently retired Aravinda De Silva - when he reached seven.

But he fell for 36, trapped leg-before by Tony Suji, soon after Gunawardena was caught off Thomas Odoyo for 24.

Leg-spinner Collins Obuya removed Marvan Atapattu for 19 before Sangakkara and Hashan Tillekeratne added 93 for the fourth wicket.

Tillekeratne made 43 before he became Obuya's second victim and Kaushal Lokurachchi was bowled by Tony Suji for eight to make Sri Lanka 220-5.

Kenya, the first non-Test playing nation to reach the World Cup semi-finals, face a stiff victory target of 5.2 runs an over under lights.



KUMAR SANGAKKARA

The Kenyans lost to Zimbabwe by five wickets on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

First innings scoreboard of the Sharjah Cup one-day international between Kenya and Sri Lanka on Sunday:

SRI LANKA	O	M	R	W
Jayasuriya lbw b T Suji	24			
Gunawardena c D Obuya b Odoyo	36			
Atapattu c Odumbe b C Obuya	19			
Sangakkara not out	103			
Tillekeratne c Odumbe b C Obuya	43			
Lokurachchi b T Suji	8			
Dharmasena not out	16			
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-2, w-3)	7			
Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs)	256			
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-64, 3-98, 4-191, 5-220				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Odoyo	10	3	39	1
Luseno	4	0	26	0
Ongondo	4	0	23	0
T Suji	8	0	52	2
C Obuya	10	1	38	2
Odumbe	10	0	56	0
Tikolo	4	0	20	0

KENYA: Steve Tikolo, Hitesh Modi, Thomas Odoyo, Kennedy Otieno, Collins Obuya, Peter Ongondo, Tony Suji, Alfred Luseno, David Obuya, Brijal Patel, Maurice Odumbe.

Toss: Sri Lanka
Umpires: Kevan Barbour (ZIM) and Avi Jayaprakash (IND)



Leader Reefat Bin Sattar makes a move against FIDE master Taibur Rahman during their tenth round engagement of the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Championship yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Olonga going to England

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, London

Exiled Zimbabwe pace bowler Henry Olonga is expected to arrive in England this week, after he was granted a work permit to play for all-star side Lashings.

The Kent-based side, whose regular stars include former West Indies captains Richie Richardson and Sir Viv Richards, hope Olonga will overcome knee trouble to star in a packed summer schedule.

Olonga retired from international cricket after the World Cup, and said he could not return to Zimbabwe because he feared for his safety.

In the opening match of the tournament, he and Andy Flower issued a statement condemning President Robert Mugabe's government and wore black armbands to mourn "the death of democracy".

Olonga has since been staying at a secret location in South Africa, but campaigns have grown in New Zealand and Australia as well as England to gain him asylum.

The Mail on Sunday reported a work permit was granted to the 26-year-old after representations were made by former Conservative cabinet minister Anne Widdecombe.

Olonga told the newspaper the move was "A dream come true".

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Gayle dropped

Cricket

INTERNET, Bridgetown

West Indies opener Chris Gayle has been left out of the squad for the first Test against Australia, starting in Georgetown on Thursday, as doubts over his eligibility remain unresolved.

Left-hander Gayle, who has 28 Test caps, opted out of the final of the West Indies first-class championship to play in the Double Wicket World Championship in St Lucia this

weekend.

West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) rules state that a player may only be selected if he is available to his first-class team "in a competition immediately preceding the selection of a senior West Indies team".

The WICB left the door open for a possible U-turn before the match, which begins in Georgetown, Guyana on Thursday.

The board said it believed Gayle was eligible to play and would make a final ruling after hearing from the player himself.

Gayle decided not to represent Jamaica in the Carib Beer Challenge final against Barbados.

Instead he chose to partner former West Indies captain Carl Hooper in the double wicket competition, which carries a first prize of \$65,000.

Newly appointed West Indies vice captain Ramnaresh Sarwan will miss the first Test against Australia after failing to recover from a finger injury.

Sarwan, who was to deputise for the re-appointed Brian Lara throughout the series, injured his finger while practising with the Guyana squad last month and failed to recover in time.

The 22-year-old, who topped the West Indies batting averages at the 2003 World Cup, could also miss the second Test in Trinidad from April 19 to 23.

Hooper retained his place in the side named on Saturday. The side includes three new caps, wicketkeeper Carlton Baugh and batsmen David Bernard and Devon Smith.

SQUAD

Brian Lara (captain), Carlton Baugh Jr, David Bernard Jr, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Pedro Collins, Vashbert Drakes, Mervyn Dillon, Daren Ganga, Wavell Hinds, Carl Hooper, Ridley Jacobs, Jermaine Lawson, Marlon Samuels, Devon Smith



CHRIS GAYLE



RAMNARESH SARWAN

Waugh on song

Cricket

REUTERS, Georgetown

Captain Steve Waugh and Matthew Hayden blasted centuries as Australia reached 377 for three at the close of the first day's play in their three-day match against a Guyana Board XI on Saturday.

Waugh was unbeaten on 106 and opener Hayden made 102 as Australia made a confident start in their only match before their four-Test series against the West Indies starts in Guyana on Thursday.

Opener Justin Langer (60), Martin Love (56) and Darren Lehmann (44 not out) also looked comfortable.

Waugh, Langer and Love were not part of Australia's World Cup-winning team in South Africa last month.

The trio showed they had not lost touch while playing in Australia's four-

day championship in recent months after Waugh led his side to a 4-1 Ashes Test series win over England in January.

Waugh hit 13 boundaries and a swept six onto a nearby tennis court on Saturday at the Everest ground.

The 37-year-old reached his hundred in 145 balls while left-hander Hayden did so in 120 deliveries aided by the fast outfield.

Waugh produced a century in his most recent Test appearance, the fifth Ashes test in Sydney, and has also hit three for New South Wales in limited overs and four-day matches since New Year.

Love, who made his Test debut in December when Lehmann fell ill before the fourth Ashes test, is expected to join the left-handed Lehmann in the middle order for Thursday's first Test.

World Cup hero Damien Martyn was ruled out on Friday with a broken finger and remained at home in Perth.

Un capped 22-year-old Michael

Clarke is en route to Guyana as a replacement for Martyn, a veteran of 33 tests.

Australia rested fast bowler Brett Lee and vice-captain Ricky Ponting from their opening four match.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the first day's play in the three-day tour match between Australia and a Guyana Board XI on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings	O	M	R	W
Hayden c Black b Mohammed	102			
Lehmann not out	60			
S Waugh not out	106			
Love c Baugh b Deonarine	56			
Lehmann not out	44			
Extras: (b-2 lb-2 nb-3 w-2)	9			
Total: (for 3 wks)	377			

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