

## Left-armers rule the day

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Slow left-armed Enamul Hoque returned a six-wicket haul as Mohammedan Sporting Club thrashed their bitter rivals Abahani Krira Chakra by 203 runs in their GrameenPhone Premier Division Super League match at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

The veteran spinner had figures of six for 41 as Abahani, set to score an improbable victory target of 403 on the final day of the four-day competition, were shot out for 192 in 60.1 overs.

Starting the day on 25 without loss, Abahani never even looked like saving the match let alone win it after their opener Al-Shahriar and Hannan Sarker were removed by experienced paceman Hasibul Hossain.

Discarded Pakistani opener Imran Nazir fought a lost battle with a stroke-filled 72 off 71 balls that included eight fours and a six. But he got little support at the other end. Abahani also badly missed their inspirational captain Akram Khan, who is now in the national camp.

The victory completed a delightful double for Mohammedan against their Dhanmondi opponents after prevailing in a tied match in the League's first phase last month.

The win also placed Mohammedan firmly back in the title race with leaders Victoria Sporting Club.

### VICTORIA VUTTARA

Defending champions Victoria also had a smooth sail against Uttara Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi

Cricket Stadium yesterday.

They won the one-sided encounter against Uttara by an innings and 108 runs and with a day in hand.

Victoria dictated every aspect of the game. Both skipper Azam Iqbal and wicketkeeper batsman Mohammad Salim converted their overnight 88s to hundreds.

Azam scored a superb 124 off 193 balls studded with a dozen boundaries. Salim also struck 12 fours and a six in his 123-ball 104. Together they put on

204 runs for the fifth wicket as Victoria amassed 525-9 in their first innings quota of 100 overs.

Uttara, who scored 225 in their first innings, crumbled to 192 in their second essay against a marauding Manjarul Islam.

The left-arm spinner destroyed Uttara to finish with 7-28. Manjarul also captured four wickets in the first innings. His match haul of 11-57 also earned him the man-of-the-match award.

### SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the four-day GrameenPhone Premier Cricket Super League match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra 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:** First innings 311 all out in 84.5 overs (Hannan 119, Imran 31, Neeeyamur 31, Enamul 3-70, Sharma 2-39, Hasibul 2-48)

**MOHAMMEDAN SC:** second innings 279-7 dec. (Naimur 86, Aftab 81, S Sharma 49; Suja 4-93)

**ABAHANI KC:** Second innings (over-

night 26 for no loss in 5 overs)

Hannan lbw b Hasibul	14
Al-Shahriar lbw b Hasibul	12
Imran c Anwar b Fahim	72
Asadullah b Enamul	5
Sajjad c Anwar b Enamul	20
Towhid c Aftab b Enamul	0
Neeeyamur c Aftab b Enamul	33
Arman lbw	20
Nuruzzaman b Enamul	0
Bikash b Naimur	0
Suja not out	0
Extras: (b-6, lb-7, nb-3)	16
Total: (All out in 60.1 overs)	192

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-60, 3-71, 4-128, 5-129, 6-132, 7-189, 8-189, 9-192

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sandeep	10	1	46	0
Hasibul	8	0	28	2
Enamul	20.1	8	41	6
Monir	2	0	13	0
Naimur	12	3	39	1
Fahim	8	2	12	1

**Result: Mohammedan SC won by 241 runs.**

### SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Premier Cricket Super League match between Victoria Sporting Club and Uttara Sporting Club at the Fatullah

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## TVS Cup on top alert

REUTERS, Dhaka

Security will be beefed up during the triangular TVS Cup one-day series involving India, South Africa and Bangladesh starting later this week, officials said on Monday.

Bangladesh face India in the tournament's opening match on Friday.

"The authorities have accepted our appeal to deploy adequate security forces during the series," Nurul Kabir Shaheen, a Bangladesh Cricket Board official, told Reuters.

Security is a priority following protests against the US-led invasion of Iraq in the country over the last two weeks.

At least 500 police and other security personnel will be deployed in the Bangabandhu National Stadium match venue and players' hotels.

The India and South Africa teams are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on Wednesday.

A total of seven one-day internationals in the tournament will be played under lights, with the top two teams meeting in the final on April 20.

## Teams, officials due Wednesday

UNB, Dhaka

India and South Africa will be arriving here tomorrow to take part in the TVS Cup triangular one-day cricket tournament that begins on April 11.

The Proteas, who are scheduled to play in a two-match Test series against the hosts after the tri-series, arrive in the capital by Emirates at 8:40 am.

World Cup finalists India will land at 12:10 pm by Bangladesh Biman.

Match referee Clive Lloyd was scheduled to arrive here last night, but the West Indian great could not come for unexplainable reasons.

Umpires Billy Bowden of New Zealand and Aleem Dar of Pakistan are due in the city on Wednesday.

## India coming with coach Malhotra

**Cricket**

REUTERS, New Delhi

Former Test batsman Ashok Malhotra will coach India in the early games of the one-day tri-series starting in Dhaka on Friday.

Malhotra will do the job until John Wright, in New Zealand following his father's death, returns to take over, according to Karunakaran Nair, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The BCCI had earlier said Wright would miss the whole April 11-20 tournament, in which South Africa and hosts Bangladesh are also taking part.

Nair denied media reports that captain Sourav Ganguly may not travel to Dhaka because of a back strain.

"He has not told us anything," he said. "He will be leading the team."

India, who lost to Australia in last month's World Cup final, will be without batsmen Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and seamer Ashish Nehra due to injuries, while fast bowler Javagal

## Reefat marches ahead

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Reefat bin-Sattar continued to lead the table at the of the eleventh round in the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Championship yesterday.

Reefat defeated Md Javed to collect 9.5 points.

Grand Master Niaz Murshed stayed in touch after beating IM Enamul Hossain Rajib. Niaz has nine points.

IM Abdullah Al Rakib is in third position with 8.5 points while Rajib occupies fourth place with 7.5 points.

Rakib beat Sawkat Hossain Pollab, FIDE Master Nasir Ahmed beat Md Monjur Alam, FIDE Master Taibur Rahman Sumon beat Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon and Kh. Aminul Islam beat FM Rezaul Haque.

## Pioneer football

BSS, Dhaka

Narayanganj Football Academy outplayed Chalantika Krira Chakra 4-1 in the HHTextile Pioneer Football League at Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Mithu scored a hat-trick for Narayanganj Football Academy, while Nandan Das added one. Khokon grabbed a consolation goal for the losers.

In the other match of the day, Abhijatrik and RND Krira Chakra drew 2-2.

## Good news for McGrath

**Cricket**

AFP, Sydney

Glenn McGrath is expected to make an announcement this week about rejoining the Australian cricket team in the Caribbean after receiving positive news about wife Jane's cancer, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said on Monday.

The premier Australian fast bowler returned home last week from the West Indies after his wife had been diagnosed with a secondary cancer infection in her hip.

It was her second battle against cancer in six years.

ACB spokesman Pat O'Beirne said ACB general manager Michael Brown had a telephone conversation on Monday with McGrath, who said he accompanied his

wife to a cancer specialist in Sydney on Friday.

"Jane has seen the specialist and the news is good," O'Beirne said.

"The visit brought a good prognosis and she will have radiation therapy which is expected to treat her condition."

"As far as the McGraths are concerned it is great news."

Prior to Friday's trip to the specialist, the McGraths released a statement which said: "All indications are that with treatment, she (Jane) will have a full recovery".

O'Beirne could not confirm reports that McGrath, 33, would miss at least the first two Tests against the West Indies.

McGrath's manager Warren Craig said English-born Jane, 36, a former flight attendant and mother of James 3, and Holly, 18 months, had been troubled by back problems.

## Lanka out cheaply

**Cricket**

REUTERS/AFP, Sharjah

Andy Blynnat and skipper Heath Streak shared six wickets as Zimbabwe bowled out Sri Lanka for a modest 193 in the Sharjah Cup on Monday.

Streak set the tone for the Zimbabwe attack by clean bowling Sanath Fernando (14 not out) and Prabhath Jayasuriya in the first over for a duck to spoil the Sri Lankan skipper's 300th outing in one-day cricket.

With Zimbabwe bowlers maintaining a tight line and length, Sri Lankan batsmen struggled to pace their innings despite making good starts.

Hashan Tillekaratne, playing his 200th match was top scorer with 31 off 52 balls.

Avishka Gunawardene (24), Marvan Atapattu (29), Kumar Sangakkara (25) and Kaushal Lokuarachchi (28) all

chipped in but failed to build substantial partnerships.

Sri Lanka expected another good innings from left-hander Sangakkara who scored unbeaten back-to-back centuries in the previous two matches, but this time he failed to convert a good start into a big knock, falling in the deep while trying to step up the scoring.

The last Sri Lankan pair of Buddhika Fernando (14 not out) and Prabhath Jayasuriya (11) scored a brisk 25 off as many balls to give their bowlers some score to defend.

Dion Ebrahim led Zimbabwe's spirited display in the field with two splendid catches to dismiss Gunawardene and Lokuarachchi.

The winners will take on Pakistan in the final on Thursday.

### SCOREBOARD

First innings scoreboard in the Sharjah Cup one-day international between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe on Monday:

### SRILANKA

Jayasuriya b Streak	0
Gunawardena c Ebrahim b Blynnat	24
Atapattu c Taibu b Ervine	29
Sangakkara c Flower b Price	25
Tillekeratne c Rennie b Streak	31
Lokuarachchi c Ebrahim b Hondo	28
Dharmasena c Streak b Rennie	16
Jayawardena c Taibu b Blynnat	4
Buddhika not out	14
Muralitharan c Taibu b Blynnat	0
Nissanka lbw b Streak	11
Extras: (lb-1, w-5, nb-5)	11
Total: (All out in 49.1 overs)	193

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-51, 3-58, 4-106, 5-129, 6-158, 7-163, 8-168, 9-168

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Streak	7.1	1	36	3
Blynnat	10	0	33	3
Hondo	10	0	43	1
Ervine	8	1	20	1

## Brad, Jason stake Test claim

**Cricket**

REUTERS, Georgetown

Brad Hogg and Jason Gillespie boosted their chances of making the Australia team for next week's first Test against West Indies with impressive bowling displays in a warm-up game with a Guyana XI on Sunday.

Leg-spinner Hogg, who is battling with Stuart MacGill for the spinner's job in the absence of the disgraced Shane Warne, captured four wickets for 23 as the Guyana Board President's XI collapsed to be all out for just 132.

Fast bowler Gillespie, playing his first match for Australia since being sent home from the World Cup with a heel injury, collected two for nine from 13 tight overs,

enhancing his chances of a recall after Glenn McGrath went home to be with his sick wife.

Steve Waugh declined the chance to enforce the follow-on after their opponents finished 245 short of Australia's first innings total of 377-3 declared, deciding instead to give his lower order some valuable batting practice ahead of the first Test.

Reversing the order, the Australians made a slow start but managed to finish the day in a commanding position at 180-8, an overall lead of 425 with a day to go.

Darren Lehmann followed up his first innings of 44 with a tidy 42, while Martin Love -- who will be promoted to number four in the Test after Damien Martyn was forced out with a broken finger -- posted his second half-century of the match to finish unbeaten on 55.



CRICKET DISLIKES WAR: Fans raise a placard reading 'No War Enjoy Cricket' during the Sharjah Cup match between Kenya and Sri Lanka on April 6.

## SL in search of a new captain

**Cricket**

INTERNET, Sharjah

Sanath Jayasuriya is expected to offer his resignation once again as Sri Lankan captain shortly after the Sharjah Cup concludes on Thursday.

Anura Tennekoon, chief executive of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL), told BBC Sport he fully expected Jayasuriya to give up the role.

Tennekoon said: "He has indicated that he would like to relinquish the captaincy but he has not officially informed us yet."

"On his return from Sharjah he is likely to indicate what his position is."

He said that assuming Jayasuriya does now resign, appointing a new captain would be entirely down to the selectors.

On Sunday, Jayasuriya told TEN Sports that the time had come to look to

the future and hand over the leadership.

He initially tendered his resignation soon after the World Cup but was persuaded to stay on by the sports minister and selectors for the Sharjah Cup.

"I was asked to continue for Sharjah

but after this they will have to find someone else to do the job," said Jayasuriya.

"I have made my decision and I will continue as a player."

Explaining his decision, he said: "After the World Cup I thought the time had come to groom someone for the 2007 World Cup."

The 33-year-old believes Marvan Atapattu, the current vice-captain, is his natural successor.

"My personal thinking is that Marvan should take over he has a lot of experience and has been vice-captain for some time now."

Meanwhile, Tennekoon is hoping to name a new coach to succeed Dav Whatmore by the end of April.

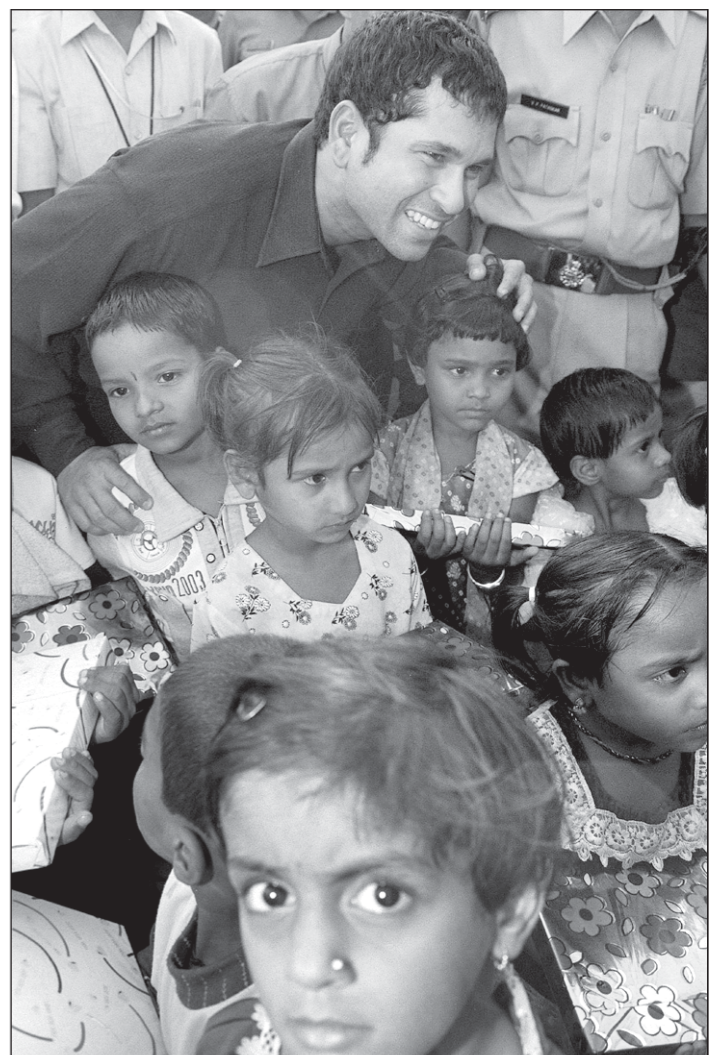
He said: "So far we have spoken to quite a few people just making preliminary inquiries on whether they are interested."



SANATH JAYASURIYA



GIVING UP? Enamul Hossain Rajib having a lazy look as Niaz Murshed make a move during their 11th round engagement of the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Championship yesterday.



India superstar Sachin Tendulkar poses with children who have been resettled from a slum area during the inauguration of a sports ground in Bombay on April 6. Tendulkar donated 300,000 rupees towards the completion of the sports ground which is located next to the resettlement, and launched summer coaching classes in various sports for destitute children.