

## Darwin delight for Tigers



Cricket

CHIPS MACKINOLTY from Darwin

Bangladesh celebrated their second tour victory, defeating the Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI by two wickets in an exciting finish just after lunch on



PHOTO: STEPHEN CHERRY

Bangladesh quickie Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza is the toast of his teammates after the win over Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI at Darwin yesterday.

the fourth and final day at Darwin's Marrara Oval yesterday.

On a day in which the Tigers at times teetered on the brink of disaster, the winning run from the bat of captain Khaled Mahmud came as an enormous confidence boost for the world's newest Test nation as they prepare to face the mighty Australians.

Bangladesh play the first Test against world's strongest side at the same venue on Friday.

For the team, and the Bangladeshi families living in Darwin, the presentation of the Chief Minister's Cup by Northern Territory Sports Minister John Ah Kit was a small moment of triumph in the face of the huge task that awaits them. As an added bonus, fast bowler Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza was named man-of-the-match.

Even Bangladesh coach, Dav Whatmore, allowed himself a smile.

"A win's always good to have, especially when you're coming up to a very important match."

For Whatmore and his side, whose average age is the youngest of any of the Test sides, it is been a process of small steps in building individual and team strengths since he took over the reins 43 days ago.

"There is a definite trend that we're heading in the right direction a definite trend."

"We just seem to be not happy unless we're behind the opposition at some stage of the game," said the witty Sri Lankan born Australian.

"That has been a little bit evident in the AIS match (in Brisbane) and this particular game, but the real desire to fight back and get yourself back in the game and to actually chase runs in the last innings is very pleasing."

Beginning the final morning at 90-4 with another 97 runs required to win the match, night watchmen Khaled Mashud and Al-Shahriar got off to a great start, scoring nearly a run a minute and putting a



PHOTO: STEPHEN CHERRY

THE WINNING BUNCH: Bangladesh cricketers gather for photographs after their spirited victory in the tour match against Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI at Darwin yesterday.

## Odds are 17 to 1

REUTERS, Darwin

Bookmakers are offering odds of 17-1 on Australia's chances of winning the first Test against Bangladesh inside a single day.

But captain Steve Waugh has still urged his players to treat the tourists similarly to their other opponents.

Australia beat England inside three days to wrap up the Ashes in the last Australian summer but such is the enormous gulf between Bangladesh, who have never won a Test, that an even quicker victory does not seem impossible.

The result of their two-Test series already seems a foregone conclusion but Waugh has been keen to play down the prospects of a landslide win.

He stopped short of saying Bangladesh had any chance of winning the series but said they could be more competitive than most people think.

## Azad confirm super league

SPORTS REPORTER

Azad Sporting Club confirmed their super league berth in the Green Delta First Division Hockey League with a thumping 8-0 victory over Mukta Bihanga at the Moulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Sultan and Russel scored two goals each while Shahidul, Asaduzzaman, Nannu and Iqbal hit the board once apiece.

In the other game, Wanderers Club defeated Farashganj Sporting Club by 3-1 goals. Mamun, Nazmul and Maksud netted for the winners while Rana narrowed the margin.

## Brothers, Wanderers planning big



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union and Dhaka Wanderers are determined to recapture their glory days. As a first step they vowed to build formidable squads to challenge the three-club dominance in the Dhaka league.

An influential Brothers official, who played a pivotal role in forming the squad for the Gopibagh-based club, said that their only target this season was to make a number one team.

Regarded as the third force in local football during the 80s, Brothers Union won the hearts and minds for playing the game as eye-catching as their orange jersey.

During their heydays the club that turned out stars like Wasim, Liton, Bablu and Mohsin lifted the Aga Khan Gold Cup, Federation Cup and DMFA Cup.

Despite possessing all the talent they were never able to lift the coveted Dhaka League title.

Moreover, for the last few years Brothers have been fighting for survival in the elite Premier League mainly because they don't have

enough money to buy the right players.

"But we have been promised enough financial support to make a big budget team this year. Already we have been assured of Tk one crore and are hopeful of getting more funds if required," the official said.

The club is also planning to appoint a foreign coach. Brothers Union was built on the expertise of the late Gafur Balooch and selfless patronage of local people.

"Besides we are also looking for quality foreign players. Very soon a club official is expected to go to Vietnam to talk with some African players," the official added.

He also said that they already talked with a few top national players but a final decision would be made after the National League, which is scheduled to be over by August 22.

It was learnt that the Gopibagh outfit is trying its best to sign country's premier striker Alfaz Ahmed, who are now with star-studded Muktiyoddha as well as their custodian Biplob.

When The Daily Star Sport talked to Alfaz on Saturday, the mercurial marksman confirmed that different clubs had indeed

approached him but for now he was only concentrating on the National League.

On the other hand, Wanderers is also planning big to mark their return to the Premier League after a long absence.

One of the two major clubs during the pre-Liberation era, Wanderers

won the championship seven times champions including a record four in succession in the 60s.

"Money is not a big factor for us this season. We are hopeful of acquiring some key national players. And already we have contacted some players but right at the moment we cannot say whom," club general secretary Mohammed Selim said.

The struggling club is focusing on Dhaka-based foreign players.

Meanwhile, the customary four-day inter-club player transfer for the most attractive domestic competition is scheduled to start on August 30.

The season will start with the Federation Cup from first week of September while all-important Dhaka Premier League will kick off straight after that.

## Schools soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahmatullah Model High and Sunbeams recorded identical 6-nil victories over their respective rivals in the Dhaka Metropolis interschool football competition at different venues yesterday.

Rahmatullah smashed Udayan High at the Dhaka University (DU) ground while Sunbeams outplayed Junior Laboratory High at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Nabakumar Institute earned a solitary goal victory over Shahid Nabi High at the DU ground.

Meanwhile at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Saint Joseph's High thrashed Badsha Faisal Institute 5-1.

At the Basabo Club ground, Khilgaon High blanked Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla Railway High 5-0 and Shahinur Model High got walkover against Faizur Rahman Ideal Institute.

At the Police Lines ground in

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## Faridpur, Jessore through

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Jessore and Faridpur moved into the zonal final of the Pepsi 16th men's national handball championship yesterday.

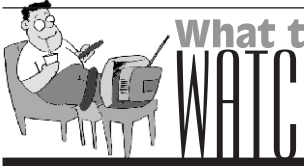
Jessore were through with a 22-20 victory over Khulna while Faridpur confirmed their passage by beating again Khulna 10-9.

The zonal final takes place at the Jessore Zilla Stadium today.



## Did U Know?

The first Pakistani batsman to score a century in one-day internationals was Majid Khan. He scored 109 versus England at Trent Bridge on August 31, 1974.



## What to Watch

BTB

Nitot-Tata Nat'l Football League

Sirajganj Mohammedan vs Ctg Mohammedan

Live at 4:00 pm

ESPN

England vs South Africa

NatWest Series Final

Repeat at 4:30 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm

West Indies vs Sri Lanka

Second Test, Day One

Highlights

Taped Version at 10:00 pm

STAR Sports

ATP Tennis Championships

Final

Same Day Delay at 4:00 pm

Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 6:30 pm



## Talk Turkey



Daniela Hantuchova

(Slovak tennis star)  
"Although tennis is my priority I'm still taking up a few modelling offers because we girls naturally like the attention this sort of thing brings. That's natural."

## Arambagh's wake up call



Football

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Arambagh Krira Sangha met the same fate as Abahani Krira Chakra when the Dhaka Premier League club had to come from behind to escape with a 1-1 draw against unheralded Jhenidah Mohammedan in the Nitot-Tata Third National Football League at the MA Aziz stadium yesterday afternoon.

Perhaps inspired by Bangladesh Army's heroics in the 1-1 draw against giants Abahani on the previous day, the team from Jhenidah led their more experienced counterparts by a lone goal in the first half, thanks to a fine header by defender Prince from a corner in the 35th minute.

Jhenidah Mohammedan looked very sharp in their attack with young striker Mehedi Hasan Ujjal playing like a man possessed. Uzzal was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

Arambagh however came strongly in the second half and got the equaliser in the 76th minute through their midfielder Bidyut, who blasted a 35-yarder into the upper right-hand corner of the Jhenidah net.

"We played well today but a certain win just slipped out of our grasps because of our inexperience. Besides, we relaxed a bit

during the last 25 minutes which was suicidal," commented Ujjal at the post-match ceremony.

Arambagh captain Himu said he was disappointing with the outcome.

"We played frustrating football today and didn't deserve a better result than a draw," conceded the Arambagh custodian after the match.

He however praised the effort of the Kenyan recruit Casius Akimo Oinu who came up with two close attempts in the last four minutes of the match. But his first shot in the 84th minute was spectacularly saved by Mohammedan keeper Mashiur while another right-footer a minute from time was denied by the woodwork.

**Yellow Card:** Quamruzzaman, Kamal and Oinu (Arambagh) and Prince (Mohammedan).

### TEAMS

**Arambagh Krira Sangha:** Himu, Quamruzzaman, Aziz Al Arman (Imrul Hasan), Shahin, Biplob, Kamal, Bidyut, Tarik Awal (Kamrul), Saiful Islam, Apu and Casius Akimo Oinu.

**Jhenidah Mohammedan:** Mashiur, Prince, Shipon, Obaidur, Arman, Tajir (Ripon), Amirul Islam, Rezaul Hakim, Mehedi Hasan Ujjal and Anwar Hossain.

**Referee:** R Alam



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Arambagh net the equaliser against Jhenidah Mohammedan in the Nitot-Tata National Football League at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

## 'We'll put on a good show'



Cricket

AFP, Darwin

Steve Waugh says his Australian cricket team aims to "put on a good show" against Bangladesh here this week.

Waugh arrived on Sunday unmoved by critics of the two-Test series between the top and bottom-ranked sides who have predicted all sorts of Test records will tumble.

Former Test batsman David Hookes said last week Bangladesh didn't deserve to be in Test cricket and urged the Australians to try to win the first Test, starting Friday, within one day.

But Waugh said speculation about how long the match would run was "more a problem for the media".

"It's exciting, it's a new venue for us all, we've never played Bangladesh in a Test before, in a Test series, so we're looking forward to the challenge of playing up here," Waugh said.

"At this stage of Bangladesh's experience to play against the supposed top five in world cricket is important."

Waugh was pleased Bangladesh pulled off a second consecutive morale-boosting victory here on Sunday when they downed the Northern Territory Chief Minister's Eleven by two wickets following a narrow win over the Australian Cricket Academy in Brisbane.

"It's good to see," said Waugh. "Emerging sides, they need a lot of match practice. They've played a couple of good games and I'm sure their form is okay."

"We haven't played much cricket in the last four or five weeks so it should be a good contest."

"We expect it to be Test match and we're going to play as hard as we can."

"I don't know what the result is going to be, but we play as if it's going to be a tough Test match."

Waugh gave little indication whether Australia would continue the tactic of playing five specialist bowlers which was used on the recent West Indies tour when pacemen Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie, Brett Lee and Andrew Bichel were joined by spinner Stuart MacGill.

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PHOTO: STEPHEN CHERRY

Three Bangladeshi kids, who live in Darwin with their parents, had plenty to be upbeat while watching the fourth and final day's play of the tour match between Bangladesh and the Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI at the Marrara Oval yesterday.