

## Sonargaon smite DOHS

SPORTS REPORTER

**ACTEL PREMIER DIVISION CRICKET LEAGUE 2005-6**  
Sonargaon Cricketers came out with all guns blazing to give a wicked twist in the title race with an emphatic six-wicket win over runaway leaders Old DOHS in the Aktel Premier Division Cricket League at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Akram Khan-led DOHS went into their second Super-Six match against a big-spending Sonargaon to repeat their feat in the first phase and take an unassailable lead in their hot pursuit for a second successive title. But the holders came unstuck against an assault from Sonargaon that the league this year has not experienced before.

It appeared a fairly defensible total when the holders put on 265-8 on a wicket where batting second was not an easy task. But it was fireworks all the way for Sonargaon after opener Al Shahriar started it all with a blazing 74. Mohammad Ashraf struck a captain's knock of 53 and Indian Sridharan Sriram hammered an unbeaten 93 as Sonargaon toppled the target with 7.4 overs to spare and six wickets in hand.

The victory, their sixth in a row, brought the best of the star-studded Sonargaon since the club slapped financial punishment on its leading players for poor showing at the start of the league.

The win also took Sonargaon four points behind DOHS along with Mohammedan with 18 points each. But with three more matches in hand DOHS, on 22 points,

needed one more win to close in on their second successive league crown.

Mohammad Sporting Club also kept their title hopes alive after their five-wicket success against Victoria Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Away at BKSP, Biman won the other Super-Six against Brothers Union by seven runs.

**SONARGAON-DOHS**

When Golam Rahman dropped Al Shahriar at extra cover he virtually threw the match away. Shahriar, then on 24, plundered 74 off 73 balls before being out in the 23rd but not before putting 138 runs on the board. With Al Shahriar in his aggressive best, Sonargaon saw 32 runs coming in first three overs.

The stylish batsman, who was

stripped of his captaincy after a poor run of form, swept veteran left-arm spinner Enamul Haque to post his team's 100 in only 14.4 overs before being dismissed by Abdur Razzak after completely missing an attempted paddle sweep.

His fourth half-century contained nine savage hits across the rope. Ashraf carried on the thunder after Shahriar's departure, hitting a 39-ball 53. The champion right-hander struck five fours and a mid-wicket six against left-arm spinner Manjarul Islam before being bowled by experienced paceman Hasibul Hossain.

But it was Indian discard Sridharan, who made a memorable Sonargaon debut with a composed 93.

The 29-year-old left-hander only punished the bad deliveries to take Sonargaon to victory. He struck nine fours and one six in his chanceless 103-ball innings.

"Still DOHS are in a comfortable position but the defeat at least brought some excitement in the title race. We are looking forward to win the remaining match which is our main target," said an excited Ashraf.

Earlier, the DOHS total was built around two half-centuries by wicketkeeper Shahin Hossain (60) and Steve Tikolo (69). It was Tikolo's seventh fifty in the league.

**MOHAMMEDAN-VICTORIA**

A 79-run unbeaten sixth wicket stand between Khaled Mashud and Dhiman Gosh helped Mohammedan to record their second successive victory in the Super-Six after a 13-run win against Biman.

Victoria thrived on half-centuries by Alam Mustakim (51)

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SONARGAON CRICKETERS' AL SHAHRIAR, WHO MADE A 73-BALL 74, CUTS ON THE BACK FOOT DURING HIS SIDE'S SUPER SIX MATCH OF THE AKTEL PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE AGAINST OLD DOHS AT THE FATULLAH CRICKET STADIUM ON MONDAY.

PHOTO: STAR

## UAE ONE-DAYER BD Academy easy victors

SPORTS REPORTER

A blazing 87 by Sakib Al Hasan steered Bangladesh u-19 cricket team to an emphatic six-wicket victory over visiting United Arab Emirates in the first limited-overs match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

The promising left-hander smacked 12 fours and a six in his 71-ball knock as the home side, which is playing under the banner of Bangladesh Academy Team, romped to 167-4 in 30.5 overs in reply to UAE's paltry 166 all out in 49.5 overs.

This was the first time that a match was held under lights at the venue which is awaiting international recognition.

Fahad Usam top scored with 55 for UAE.

Left-arm spinner Mehrab Hossain grabbed three wickets for 32 while Nabil Samad took two wickets for 25.

The two teams meet again in another day-night affair at the same venue today.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

UAE: 166 all out in 49.5 overs (Bongso 32, Fahad 55, extras 26; Dollar 1-27, Nabil 2-25, Sakib 1-21, Mehrab 3-32, Shuvro 1-28)

**BANGLADESH ACADEMY:** 167-4 in 30.5 overs (Tamim 2, Raqibul 1, Sakib 87, Shamsur 15, Mehrab 24 not out, Mushfiqur 29 not out, extras 9)

Result: Bangladesh Academy won by six wickets.

## Young Pegasus & Partex earn promotions

SPORTS REPORTER

Bijoy hammered 103 as Cricket Coaching School outplayed Gazi Tank by six wickets in the First Division Cricket League at BKSP yesterday.

And Gazi Tank's fourth defeat in 14 matches ensured promotions of table-toppers Young Pegasus and second-placed Partex Sporting Club to the Premier League Cricket.

CCS scored 232-4 in 49.5 overs in reply to Gazi Tank's 227.

In the day's other matches, Lalmitia Club (97-0) outclassed Dhaka Mariner (96-10) by 10 wickets at the City Club ground and Young Pegasus-B (227-6) defeated Prantik (223-7) by four wickets at the Dhaka University Ground.

## Federer survives a scare

AFP, Melbourne

World number one Roger Federer survived a major scare to beat unseeded German Tommy Haas in a gripping five-set fourth round match at the Australian Open Monday.

Federer looked headed for defeat when the 41st-ranked German came roaring back from two sets down to take the match into a fifth set, but the Swiss champion prevailed in the dramatic final set.

He finally came through 6-4, 6-0, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2 in 2hr 58min on Rod Laver Arena.

Federer remains on course to land his second Australian Open crown and seventh Grand Slam title and will play Russian fifth seed Nikolay Davydenko in the quarterfinal on Wednesday.

The reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion was keen to address a painful loss to Haas at the same stage at the 2002 Australian Open when Haas won 10-8 in the fifth set after the Swiss held a match-point at 5-6 in the final set.

Haas also posted a victory over Federer in the lead-up Kooyong Classic exhibition tournament here, but that loss doesn't count in official match records.

back into shape and regaining his place on merit.  
New Zealand coach John Bracewell said Cairns would be missed.  
"He is very much the elder statesman within the team and plays an important role in mentoring"

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## Mashrafe can play for India

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club released ace paceman Mashrafe-Bin-Mortuza to play for India Road Kira Chakra in the Aktel Premier Division Relegation League.

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), which earlier ruled out Mohammedan's plea to allow the right-arm pacer to play for them citing by-laws bindings, allowed him to play for India Road, who will take on Orient Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today.

"I have also learnt about it, but everything depends on our physio-therapist Paul's (Close) clearance. But it is for sure that I will not play the first match tomorrow (Tuesday)," said Mashrafe, who was out of competitive cricket for the last four months due to a back injury.

The 22-year-old pacer was also included in the Bangladesh A team to play UAE at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

## Dhaka in JFA Cup semis

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Jewel Rana slammed a hat-trick as Dhaka moved into the semifinals of the JFA Cup Under-16 Football Tournament crushing Gaibandha 6-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Rashed Biplob scored twice and Rubel added the other for the winners while Shahin netted the consolation goal for Gaibandha.

In the day's other match, Rangamati beat Bagerhat 2-1 at the same venue.

Gyan Chakma and Masud Parvez netted for the winners while Parag Moni scored for the losers.



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Live at 5:00 pm  
Sportscentre  
Live at 9:30 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Australian Open  
Men's/Women's Qtrs  
Live at 6:00 am

## Cairns calls it a day

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand's Chris Cairns announced his retirement from all international cricket Monday, putting an end to a stellar career spanning 15 years as one of his country's finest all-rounders.

Cairns, who notched a world record 87 Test-match sixes and is one of very few batsmen to average more than one six per Test, said his last match will be a Twenty20 encounter against the West Indies in Auckland next month.

"I feel that the time is right for me to retire from international cricket," said Cairns, the Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 2000.

"I still enjoy playing for the Black Caps and want to leave at a time when that enjoyment has not diminished, and when I feel that I am still performing at the top level and contributing to the success of the team."

The 35-year-old, who has limited himself to one-day internationals in recent seasons, is pulling up stumps just 50 runs short of the 5,000-run, 200-wicket double achieved by just two players in the limited-overs game -- Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya and South Africa's Jacques Kallis.

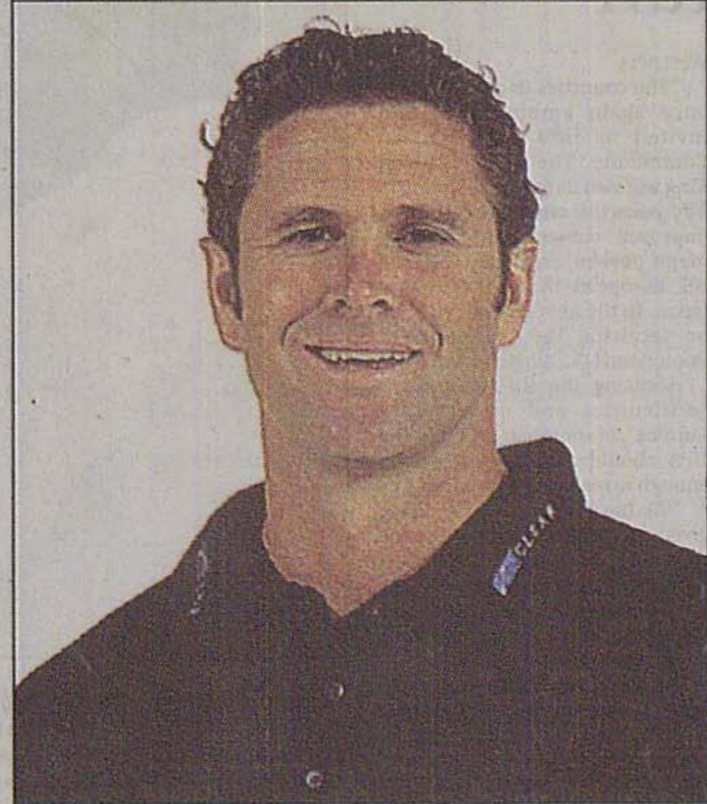
Before retiring from Test cricket in 2004, he became only the sixth player in world Test cricket to score 3,000 runs and take 200 wickets.

Cairns was one of the game's great entertainers, mixing powerful batting feats with some right-arm, fast-medium bowling spells.

In 215 one-day internationals dating back to 1991, he scored 4,950 runs at an average of 29.46 and took 201 wickets at 32.80.

As a Test cricketer, he scored 3,320 runs at 33.53 and took 218 wickets at 29.40.

Those numbers could have



BATTING AND FIELDING AVERAGES											
Class	M	Inns	N/O	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	4s	6s	CT
Tests	62	104	5	3320	158	33.53	5	22	365	87	14
ODIs	215	193	25	4950	115	29.46	4	26	345	153	66

BOWLING AVERAGES											
Class	M	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BB/I	BB/M	Ave	Econ	4/W	5/W	10/W
Tests	62	11698	6410	218	7/27	10/100	29.40	3.28	11	13	1
ODIs	215	8168	6594	201	5/42	5/42	32.80	4.84	3	1	0

## Hingis faces Clijsters next

AP, Melbourne

Martina Hingis took another step on the comeback trail Monday, beating Samantha Stosur 6-1, 7-6 to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals.

Hingis, in her first tournament since coming back from a three-year retirement, converted on her fourth match point, showing the same savvy she used to win five Grand Slam titles.  
"I started off very well. I knew

that I had to be right there from the start -- we both probably were very nervous," Hingis said. "I knew I couldn't give her any momentum."

The 25-year-old Swiss star next faces her biggest challenge so far against second-seeded Kim Clijsters, who has spent nearly all of her off-court time getting worked on by trainers.

Clijsters showed no signs of the back and hip pain that has bothered her for the last week as she beat 15th-seeded Francesca Schiavone of Italy for a 7-6, 6-4.

Hingis blunted Stosur's strong ground strokes with an often-stunning blend of perfectly placed

baseline shots, crisp volleys and soft drops that had the Australian dashing to the net for a pickup only to see the next shot lobbing over her head.

Stosur, ranked 98th, seemed befuddled and almost on the verge of tears at times in the first set, giving the partisan crowd little to cheer about as she impatiently tried to hit winners.

In a sign of things to come, Hingis won the first point on a net court that dribbled over for a winner. She ran off the last five games of the first set, finishing it off in just 23 minutes.

But the second set was tougher,

with Hingis getting the first break on a running forehand crosscourt pass that left Stosur virtually flat-footed.

Both struggled with their serves, trading breaks four times in 12 games.

Hingis had chances to serve for the match at 5-4 and 6-5, but was broken both times.

Stosur, feeding off the crowd's energy and finally showing the form that got her through three matches, refused to wilt.

Stosur pulled ahead 5-2 in the tiebreaker. This time, it was Hingis' turn to rally. She ran off four

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India's Mahendra Dhoni (R) and Irfan Pathan leave the field unbeaten at the end of third day's play of the second Test against Pakistan at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Monday.

## Dhoni takes India to safety

AFP, Faisalabad

Wicketkeeper Mahendra Dhoni and skipper Rahul Dravid hit contrasting centuries to pull India out of trouble in the second Test against Pakistan at the Iqbal Stadium here on Monday.

Dhoni smashed 116 not out off 123 balls for his maiden century and Dravid scored a patient 103 as India posted 441-5 in their first innings by stumps on the third day.

Dhoni batted with authority to spare India's blushes during a defiant 160-run stand for the unbroken sixth wicket with Pathan to consolidate the good work by Dravid and Venkatesai Laxman.

India were comfortably placed at lunch on 227-1 but lost Laxman (90), Dravid, Yuvraj Singh (four) and Sachin Tendulkar (14) in the space of 45 runs in a dramatic collapse.

"It was a good performance under pressure and I am happy my players showed courage and character after we were in a bit of trouble," said Dravid.

option.

"We need to get the remaining five wickets soon if Pathan and Dhoni continue to bat well, the game will end in draw," said Woolmer.

Dravid and Laxman put on 197 runs for the second wicket to deny Pakistan a breakthrough in the extended two-and-a-half-hour morning after resuming the day on 110-1.

Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria provided the break in the third over of the second session when he had Laxman caught behind by wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal off an attempted cut.

Laxman, 28 overnight, hit 11 boundaries during his four-and-a-half-hour stay at the crease.

Dravid, who resumed at 46, cut leg-spinner Shahid Afridi to point for his 16th boundary to complete his 22nd Test hundred but two overs later he failed to beat a direct throw from substitute Imran Farhat from square-leg and was run out.

Pakistan claimed the second new ball as soon as it was due in the 81st over and met with success when paceman Mohammad Asif forced Yuvraj to hook straight into the hands of deep fine-leg.

Shoaib Akhtar, bowling at hostile pace, had Tendulkar caught behind by Akmal as the batsman fended a short-pitched delivery.

At 281-5, India were in a spot of bother but Dhoni took the attack to the Pakistani bowlers in the last session, reaching the three-figure mark with a punched drive off Akhtar for his 12th boundary.

Dhoni, who has so far hit 14

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When play was called off five overs early due to bad light, Dhoni and Irfan Pathan (49 not out) were together at the crease with India 147 runs behind Pakistan's total of 588.

Dhoni, whose previous best Test score was 51, remained unfazed after Pakistan grabbed four quick wickets in the post-lunch session to reduce India to 281-5 chasing a follow-on target of 389.

"I think Dhoni played one of the best innings under pressure and did not hesitate to attack the bowling."

"It should help him gain confidence for the future."

"There are still 180 overs left in the game and in this part of the world the match changes quickly," said Dravid.

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer said a draw was the most likely

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