

Shakil claims Rating title

SPORTS REPORTER FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil won the Prime Bank 9th International Rating Chess competition at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hallroom yesterday.

Crowd record goes to Gabba

AFP, Brisbane Cricket Australia confirmed a record attendance for the first Ashes Test between Australia and England, which wrapped up at Brisbane's Gabba ground Monday.



Chittagong wicketkeeper-batsman Dhiman Ghosh drives on the off-side during his knock of 85 against Barisal on the first day of the four-day National Cricket League match on Monday.

Ponting pretty pleased

AFP, Brisbane Ricky Ponting expects Australia's winning form to carry through to this week's second Ashes Test as England search to resolve their selection issues ahead of Adelaide.

Sania selected as tennis beauty

PTI, Beijing The Chinese media has included Sania Mirza among the world's all-time Top 10 Tennis Beauties along with Russian star Maria Sharapova and former player Gabriela Sabatini.

Ctg ride

FROM PAGE 17 of the ball, Dhiman has opened his account this season with his knock. His innings ended when he holed out to off-spinner Ali Arman Khan.

KHULNA v SYLHET

Experienced opener Sajjadul Hasan batted for four-and-a-half hours as he held the Khulna innings together. After they lost early wickets, Khulna had Sajjadul and all-rounder Manjarul Islam to thank as these two shared a 73-run stand for the fourth wicket.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DHAKA: First innings 194 for six in 90 overs (Javed 18, Uttam 42, Anwar 20, Shamsur 36, Shahriar 13, Marshall 49*, Riyad 9, Mosharraf 1*, Shuvo 3-37, Shahjada 1-25, Mushfiqur 1-32, Alamgir 1-39).

Hair splits nothing: Huq

REUTERS, Karachi The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) does not see any split in the world game after the removal of Australian Darrell Hair from the International Cricket Council's (ICC) elite panel of umpires.

Warne, KP still buddies

AFP, Brisbane England batsman Kevin Pietersen said he bore no grudge with Australia's Shane Warne Monday after the pair clashed during the Ashes opener at the Gabba in Brisbane.

Australia go one up

FROM PAGE 17 last man out, hooking to McGrath off Clark. England had needed to defy history to get anywhere near Australia's huge lead with their highest successful fourth-innings run chase in an Ashes Test 332 for 7 in Melbourne in 1928.

England seek to fight

AFP, Brisbane England have just three days to come up with some answers after a crushing 277-run loss to Australia in the opening Ashes Test at the Gabba here Monday.

Old foes

FROM PAGE 17 tailor-made for this newest variation of the game with the focus mainly being on big-hitters Brendan Taylor and Elton Chigumbura.

Blatter rules

FROM PAGE 20 avoid relegation, not for the title. Something is wrong about this. Again without specifying who he was referring to, Blatter also criticised the increasing trend of foreign investors buying up English clubs.

which players to leave out of a winning side, if necessary, England will have to think long and hard what to do with mis-firing pace spearhead Steve Harmison.

The Durham giant stuttered from the first ball of the Test when he spectacularly sprayed a wide to second slip.

Harmison claimed just one wicket -- Shane Warne for 17 in the first innings -- in his match analysis of 1-177 off 42.1 overs.

"I think through the game Harmison got better, his spells late on the first day and second day were a lot better and he's completely a rhythm bowler and if he's a little bit out, then the radar is a little bit out," Ponting said.

"I'm sure they will be paying a lot of attention to what he's doing in the lead-up to Adelaide and they'll need him at his best going forward in this series."

Ponting was also asked at his post-match press conference to justify not enforcing the follow-on after Australia held a massive 445-run innings lead.

It was the largest lead an Australian Test side has enjoyed without enforcing the follow-on, surpassing the 380-run margin Bill Woodfull's team had enjoyed when winning against England at The Oval in 1934.

"I felt the bowlers would have been better to have a break at that stage of the game (after bowling a

total of 61.1 overs)," Ponting said. "The wicket was only going to get harder to bat on, the weather looked good going right through the game, so those cracks that were pretty predominant on the second day were only going to get worse. I thought our bowlers could exploit those well later in the game."

"Also the fact of getting England back out in the field again and maybe getting some of their bowlers, who looked tired in the first innings, to bowl again and try and wear them down."

"I make decisions on behalf of the team and what I think is best to win a game of cricket. "That's the way we decided to go and we won the game very comfortably so I'm more than happy with the decision I made."

Ponting also ridiculed suggestions that England were "undercooked" for the Gabba Test.

"Well, they couldn't have been any more than us. We had one first-class game after the Champions' Trophy in India, we've only been back in the country for a week and a half before the first Test, so if anyone was going to be undercooked it would have been us."

"I don't think they can use that as an excuse. From the start of this game we got the momentum and they found it hard to get it back in their favour."

England's hopes nosedived in the day's opening over when Pietersen was out on Brett Lee's fourth ball.

Pietersen went the same way as Collingwood (96) by getting out within sight of a century.

Lee, with the second new ball, had Pietersen out to a poor shot to Damien Martyn at short mid-wicket, with no addition to his overnight 92 scored in 228 minutes with 14 boundaries.

With him went the last remaining recognised batsman and the wickets steadily tumbled from there.

Blatter rules

FROM PAGE 20 avoid relegation, not for the title. Something is wrong about this. Again without specifying who he was referring to, Blatter also criticised the increasing trend of foreign investors buying up English clubs.

"England must be a very attractive league for investors to take over whole clubs. As long as they are promoting the game in a sensitive way, we are not concerned."

"But if they are arriving to take the best out of football, rather than to serve it, again something is wrong because when you have so much money, it leads to a distortion as far as the other clubs are concerned."

AFP, New Delhi India's beleaguered cricket coach Greg Chappell came under fire from the country's politicians on Monday for suggesting they were paid to talk and criticise.

Lawmakers, already incensed at the under-performing cricketers, were further infuriated when Chappell scoffed at their demands he be sacked from the 300,000-dollar-a-year job.

"They are entitled to make any comment they like. That's what they are paid to do in parliament," the former Australian captain was quoted as saying from Cape Town, where India lost the third one-dayer to South Africa by 106 runs on Sunday.

The defeat, following the 157-run loss in the second match in Durban after the first game in Johannesburg was washed out, was India's 10th in their last 12 completed one-dayers.

A senior federal minister suggested Chappell must face a privilege motion in parliament, where he could be reprimanded for his comments.

"If members of parliament are willing, a privilege motion can be moved against Chappell," Renuka Choudhary, the federal minister for women and child development, told a

MPs play Chappell

AFP, New Delhi television channel. Communist lawmaker Gurudas Dasgupta said the Australian great "had no business" to make such comments against members of parliament.

"Chappell does not understand the nuances of democracy," he said. Lower house speaker Somnath Chatterjee added: "Let nobody lecture us on what the MPs' job is."

Chappell, 58, succeeded New Zealander John Wright as India coach in May 2005 for a two-year term that ends after the World Cup in the Caribbean in March-April.

Niranjan Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said last week no discussions had taken place on whether Chappell's contract would be renewed.

BCCI official Rajeev Shukla, a member of parliament himself, came to Chappell's rescue, saying politicians were going overboard about what was essentially a sporting defeat.

"Chappell should definitely have refrained from making an observation about MPs, because they are entitled to speak about the performance of the Indian team," the Press Trust of India quoted Shukla as saying.

"At the same I don't feel he meant to show any kind of disrespect towards MPs. "I would request MPs also to maintain a little bit of restraint while making comments about players and coach."

"Those who follow cricket have every right to speak, but there are certain MPs who don't know the A-B-C-D of cricket and they are abusing the players and the coach. "Tomorrow, if cricket players get up and start abusing MPs then what will happen?"

Chappell said in Cape Town Sunday the onus was on the players to lift their game for the rest of the South African tour, which includes two more one-dayers and three Test matches.

"I am not sure whether there is a solution other than working hard," he was quoted as saying in the Indian media.

"We have to try and turn things around. It has got to come from the players. They've got to dig deep and find a way to do it. "Indian batting teams with better credentials have struggled under these conditions before. The ball bouncing between waist and chest is not something that happens regularly in India."

"It takes some adjusting and I don't think we are doing it well at the moment," said Chappell.

Inter rule over Palermo

FROM PAGE 20 Inter, with 33 points, maintain their unbeaten record and are now four points ahead of Roma with Palermo a further two points behind with 27.

Inter's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored after just seven minutes. Palermo levelled just before the break when Brazilian Amauri caught Inter goalie Julio Cesar by surprise.

The leaders quickly gained the upper hand after the break with Adriano breaking through two defenders to feed Patrick Vieira who fired into the net after 61 minutes.

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Meanwhile, AC Milan skipper Paolo Maldini grabbed the only goal of the game as his side beat Messina 1-0 on Saturday to help ease the pressure on under-fire coach Carlo Ancelotti.

After collecting just one point from four games, Milan desperately needed a victory.

And Maldini's 13th-minute header from Andrea Piro's perfectly-weighted free-kick provided the tonic.

"These are three important points which will ease the pressure bit," said Ancelotti.

"The side still needs to grow. We had a few problems in the first half but I'm happy with how we ended the game."

Milan went into the game still weighed down by their eight-point penalty for match-fixing as well as an injury crisis which has seen goalkeeper Nelson Dida ruled out for at least two months after damaging his left knee in Tuesday's Champions League defeat at AEK Athens.

Milan are now in 15th place in the table but 22 points behind leaders and city rivals Inter.

In other Serie A action Sunday, tailenders Reggina fought back to claim a 2-2 draw against fourth-placed Livorno as Lazio won 3-1 against Ascoli.

Chievo collected their first League win of the season defeating Udinese 2-0. Victor Obinna scored both goals.

Yousuf fires

FROM PAGE 17 Earlier, Collymore bowled Hafeez between his bat and pad, while Younis was run out while taking a difficult single off Powell, who hit the stumps on his follow through.

Farhat played a rash shot off Dwayne Bravo after hitting nine boundaries.

Pakistan kept the same side for the second Test running, keeping an unchanged 11 in the series. The West Indies brought back their vice captain Ramnaresh Sarwan in place of spinner Dave Mohammed from their second Test line-up.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Karachi National Stadium on Monday:

Table with columns: Team, Player, Runs, Overs. Includes scores for Pakistan (Hafeez b Collymore 18, Malik lbw b Bravo 47, Younis run out 20, Yousuf lbw b Collymore 102) and West Indies (Ganga 18, Malik lbw b Taylor 18, Razaq c Ramdin b Bravo 7, Akmal not out 18, Nazir not out 0, Extras (b-1, lb-6, nb-2) 9).

Kaif's house pelted

PTI, Allahabad A group of people, claiming to be supporters of the Lok Janshakti Party, on Monday vandalised the house of cricketer Mohammad Kaif after his poor show in the ongoing one-day series against South Africa.

Kaif scored 8 and 10 in the two one-dayers against South Africa who drubbed India in both the matches so far leading to strong criticism back home.

"A number of them tried to storm the house, broke some electric bulbs and plastered the name plate with mud," police said.

"They also raised slogans against BCCI Chief Sharad Pawar for persisting with Greg Chappell as the coach of the Indian team and burnt their effigies," they added.

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