

Army's eighth

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Army rallied back from one set down to beat Bangladesh Navy 10-15, 15-9, 15-9 and 15-9 on their way to winning the national volleyball championship...

Earlier in the morning, Navy were to ensure the passage to the final when Bangladesh Rifles, who were one point away from victory in a violence-marred semifinal when undesired intrusion by spectators put an end to Monday's proceedings...

Biman Cup U-14 soccer result

Sports Reporter
Gaibandha DSA beat Bandarban DSA 3-1 in the final round of the Biman Cup under-14 football championship at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday...

Rubel put Gaibandha ahead in the very first minute. Mozammel widened the margin when he put the ball in six minutes later.

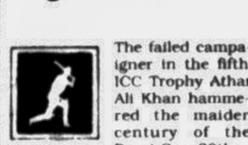
Office league

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Air Force edged past Bangladesh Army 2-1 in the Sonali Bank office hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Corretja cruises

BARCELONA, Spain, Apr 5: Spain's Alex Corretja defeated Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-4 Monday on the opening day of the dlr's 900,000 Conde de Godo ATP tournament...

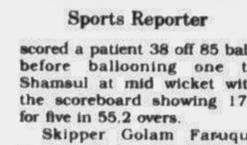
Athar Ali blazes with a superb ton Sylhet comfortably placed



ATHAR 104

The failed campaign in the fifth ICC Trophy Athar Ali Khan hammered the maiden century of the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship's two-day final to lead Sylhet to an awesome 305 against Dhaka University at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Athar reached his fifty in 96 balls, playing with caution but the way he completed the century was simply fabulous.



ATHAR 104

then joined Selim and accelerated the Sylhet run rate, going after almost every delivery that came his way.

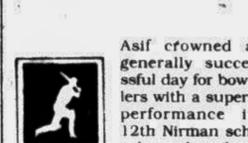
Golam Faruque, who hammered a match-winning 75 not out in the semi-final, scored a quick-fire 42 off 49 balls with three huge sixes and one boundary.

batmen, Sanwar contributed 21 runs from 26 deliveries while Ahmed and Hanif remained not out on 11 and six respectively to make sure Sylhet accumulated a far-reaching 305 in 80 overs.

Morshed Ali Khan and Mamun Abdur Rashid finished with two wickets each. Morshed Ali Khan gave 49 runs while Mamun conceded 56 runs in their individual quota of 16 overs each.

Dhaka University, who lifted the coveted title for a record six times, will face a daunting task of scoring 306 runs to win when they start their innings today at 9:30 am.

Asif crowns a bowlers' day

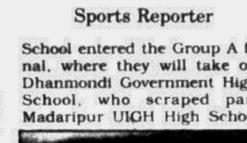


ASIF ... 8 for 11

Asif crowned a generally successful day for bowlers with a superb performance in 12th Nirman schools cricket championship yesterday.

Originally scheduled for April 3 but not held on that day for the unplayable condition of the ground, caused by the recent persistently inclement weather, the match proved to be an utterly one sided one.

Sajal was the pick of the Faridpur bowlers with a bag of three wickets for 25 runs.



ASIF ... 8 for 11

School entered the Group A final, where they will take on Dhanmondi Government High School, who scraped past Madaripur UIGH High School

then bowled their opponents out in 29.1 overs for 90. Comilla Zilla School beat Pabna K School by 53 runs in another Group D match played on the western portion of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

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Pabna were all out for 105 in 28.5 overs to concede a comfortable defeat.

Independence Day kabaddi on

Sports Reporter
Khilgaon Sriyani Sangsad outplayed Suryakamal 46-19 in the opening match of the Independence Day kabaddi competition, held under the auspices of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation at the Outer Stadium court yesterday.

Bangladesh Bank Club will take on Anirban Sangskritik Sangsad today.

No place for Kapil

BOMBAY, Apr 5: Kapil Dev, the highest wicket-taker in cricket history, has been dropped from the Indian cricket team for the six-nation Australasia Cup in Sharjah later this month, selection committee chairman Gundappa Vishwanath said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

He said Kapil Dev, a veteran of 131 Tests and 220 one-day internationals, had written to the Board of Control for Cricket in India asking for a break to rest his injured shoulder.

Others dropped from the team that recently finished a short tour of New Zealand, are batsman Sanjay Manjrekar and Pravin Amre and medium-pacer Manoj Prabhakar who injured his leg.

De Silva to miss Australasia Cup

COLOMBO, Apr 5: Experienced batsman Aravinda de Silva has failed a fitness test and has been dropped from the Sri Lankan squad for this month's six-nation Australasia Cup tournament, selectors said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The Sri Lankan cricket board said prolific opener Roshan Mahanama would replace De Silva as vice captain for the one-day tournament starting on April 13 in Sharjah. It gave no details of De Silva's fitness problems.

Arjuna Ranatunga has been retained as captain despite criticism of his handling of the Indian tour in February when Sri Lanka lost all three Tests by an innings.

The Australasia Cup also features Pakistan, India, New Zealand, Australia and International Cricket Conference (ICC) Trophy winners United Arab Emirates.

WI XI give England no solace



Zimbabwean-born English middle-order batsman Graeme Hick executes a short-arm pull during the four-day match against the West Indian Board XI on Monday. Hick made 59.



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Earlier on Monday England's tale of woe reached new depths as they lost eight wickets for a mere 25 runs to be facing defeat on the final day of their four-day match against a West Indies Board XI.

Their last seven wickets fell in the space just 10 runs as they collapsed to be all out for 165 in their second innings, leaving the Board XI needing 172 to win.

side's openers saw them reach 47 without loss by the close and the ground announcer saying over the public address: "Come and see us beat England tomorrow."

"The tickets will be half price." That in itself was fair comment on yet another England performance that was worth

without scoring. Graeme Hick and Mark Ramprakash recovered from that in some style, adding an accomplished 140 for the second wicket. But then the innings disintegrated.

Hick clipped teenage leg-spinner Rawl Lewis to mid wicket to be caught for 74. Matthew Maynard made only one before slicing the same bowler to cover and when Ramprakash fell to a leg side catch for 67 all further resistance disappeared.

Batsman Graham Thorpe was saved from being part of the debacle by being confined to his bed with tonsillitis.

Scoreboard on the third day of the four-day cricket match between a West Indies Board XI and England on Monday: ENGLAND: First innings 319 (Ramprakash 91, Stewart 65, Hick 59)

WEST INDIES BOARD XI: First innings (overnight 260-5) Simmons b Malcolm 18 Williams c Stewart 30 Watkin 30 Wallace c Hick b Watkin 25 Holder c Hussain 25 b Tufnell 116 Campbell c sub b Tufnell 5 Jacobs b Tufnell 41 Browne c Ramprakash b Malcolm 30 Cummins c Hick b Malcolm 1 Gibson c sub b Malcolm 0 Antone lbw b Tufnell 16 Extras: (b-1 lb-1 nb-14) 16 Total: 313

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Fall of wickets: 1-40; 2-62; 3-100; 4-121; 5-174; 6-271; 7-273; 8-273; 9-286. Bowling: O M R W Malcolm 18 2 81 4 Igglesden 23 3 84 0 Tufnell 29.4 7 87 4 Watkin 12 1 43 2 Hick 5 0 16 0 ENGLAND: Second innings 0 Smith lbw b Cummins 0 Ramprakash c Jacobs 67 b Gibson 74 Hick c Wallace b Lewis 67 Maynard c Browne b Lewis 1 Hussain c Lewis b Gibson 6 Stewart c Jacobs b Lewis 1 Watkin c Wallace b Lewis 0 Tufnell run out 1 Igglesden not out 0 Malcolm b Gibson 0 Thorpe absent ill Extras: (lb-6 nb-9) 15 Total: 165

Atherton puts a brave face



ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Apr 5: Embattled new England skipper Michael Atherton declared here on Monday he wanted to carry on as England captain next summer, reports AFP.

Atherton has led his side on a disastrous tour of the Caribbean which has seen them lose the first three Tests of the series against the West Indies.

But, with home series against New Zealand and South Africa coming up during the English season and a tour of Australia to follow, Atherton pledged not to quit.

Speaking during England's four-day game against the West Indies Board XI in Grenada, he said: "I'd love to carry on and get it right."

"It's a learning process, but I feel I'm improving as a captain and my batting is better and hopefully in the future I'll continue to improve."

and Ray Illingworth, who has just been named as chairman of selectors, and what they feel is in the best interests of the side.

"It remains to be seen what the selectors want, but I'll be happy to go along with them and happy to do the job."

Atherton's form has been one of the few bright spots of a depressing tour so far, with the captain collecting 862 runs in all matches at an average of 50.60.

And he said: "The pressure has not got to me. I'm happy I can take it on my shoulders and I have got no regrets about taking the job."

Atherton also commented he was pleased at the way his players have responded to his leadership.

that would be nice." More immediately, there is the fourth Test in Barbados, starting on Friday, to consider, and Atherton gave a hint of the tour selector's thinking when he said: "I wouldn't have thought there would be big changes."

"After all, we were three days in charge in Trinidad and then we were blown away, and to make changes on the back of that would be wrong."

He said Devon Malcolm, now back in action after knee surgery, is by no means certain to play in Bridgetown.

"Devon is in the reckoning, as he is our one strike bowler of genuine pace. But it is difficult to say whether he will be match-fit for a Test after key-hole surgery, so he maybe a risk."

"And it's not as if the three seamers in Trinidad bowled badly, in fact they bowled well, so I would be happy to stick with them."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 21 mins and a solution key at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a key: Z X O S U U I J S U J C A K - I W Y X O S M M S H C I S I S C P

CRYPTOQUIP
Today's Cryptoquip clue: K equals P
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Schultz's double misfortune

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla, Apr 5: Playing with the knowledge that her mother was gravely ill, Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands failed to survive the first round of the Bausch and Lomb tennis tournament Monday, reports Reuter.

The eleventh seeded Schultz lost 6-1, 6-2 to Joannette Kruger of South Africa seeded 108th at the 400,000 dollars Bausch and Lomb championships.

"When I went on the court, I said, 'She's going to beat me today,'" Kruger said, unaware of Schultz's predicament. "I wasn't going to give her anything. If she was going to win, she was going to have to smack me off the court which she didn't."

Schultz's mother suffered a heart attack on Sunday evening and remained in intensive care. Schultz left immediately after the match to catch a plane home to the Netherlands.

American Chanda Rubin, the 12th-seeded, advanced to the second round with a hard fought 7-6 (7-4), 1-6, 6-3 win over clay court specialist Sandra Cecchini of Italy.

Date moves into 2nd round

TOKYO, Apr 5: Top-seeded Kimiko Date won the last four games without losing a point as she beat Japanese compatriot Hiroko Mochizuki 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 Tuesday in the first round of the dlr's 1.21 million Japan Open tennis championships, reports AP.

Meanwhile, Shuzo Matsuoka, Japan's top male tennis player, was ousted by American qualifier David Pate, ranked No 888 in the world, in another first-round match.

The 18-year-old Mochizuki, who turned pro in March, took a 3-2 lead in the final set with powerful ground strokes to the corners before Date's explosive finish to the nearly two-hour match.

more offensively, but I played defensively," said Date, who is seeking her third straight Japan Open women's title.

Pate, now a doubles specialist, scored a 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 victory over Matsuoka, ranked 105th in the world, on the hard courts of Ariake Colosseum.

Matsuoka took the first three games, including a service break in the second game, but Pate bounced back and won six of the last seven games in the first set.

strongest weapon, putting in only 50 per cent to Pate's 61 per cent.

In second-round matches, seventh-seeded Patrick Rafter of Australia, the highest men's seed in action Tuesday, beat Swedish qualifier Thomas Hogstedt 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic, the No 12 seed, trounced Robbie Weiss of the United States 6-1, 6-4.