

### Pool players hit out at three big clubs

**Sports Reporter**  
 "We want freedom," speakers of the Welfare Association demanded at a press conference at the Dhaka University swimming pool yesterday. The association, upset by the formation so-called 24-player pool by the three leading clubs of Dhaka football — Mohammedan SC, Abahani KC and Brothers Union, termed it as another nail into the comatose football of our country.

The convener of the newly-formed 25-member committee, Nurul Haque Manik, a victim of the 21-player pool, who read out the association's stand on the issue said, "If the three leading clubs do not comply with the players' demand to free them to choose their own club, they will go for a greater movement."

But he failed to clarify what would be their next action. A furious Shabbir, among the seventeen pool players attending the press conference, said I have every right to choose my own club but what the clubs are doing is just a way of toying with the players' rights. A player can never be at his best once he starts feeling he is under some sort of bondage. If the clubs are running short of money they can always agree upon the maximum amount they would like to offer a player. What they have planned to do is not doing the game any good.

With Monem Munna, Satyajit Das Rupu, Gaus and Swapan — the four other pool players not attending the meeting, the association vowed to uphold the players' demand at any cost.

Earlier, the three leading clubs unofficially struck a deal not to harm each other's interest by luring away members from the pool of the respective clubs. The proposed players are: Shabbir, Tito, Arman, Jewel Rana, Barun, Kaisar and Naqib of Mohammedan SC; Munna, Rumi, Gaus, Swapan, Masud Rana, Mamun Joarder and Zakir of Abahani; Moon, Ataur, Pijush, Rakib, Rupu, Riaz and Mizan (Brothers).

### Independence Day kabaddi result

**Sports Reporter**  
 Bangladesh Bank Club defeated Anirban Sangskritik Sangsad 47-32 in the Independence Day kabaddi competition at the Outer Stadium court yesterday.

The winners led the first half 23-9. Bank got two lonas against Anirban's one.

Azad Sporting Club take on Faruque Smriti Sangsad today.

### Sonali Bank stun Bima

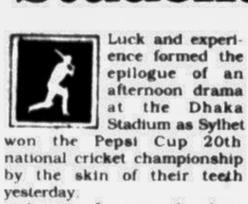
**Sports Reporter**  
 Sonali Bank recorded a 2-0 win over Sadharan Bima in the Sonali Bank office hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners led 1-0 in the first half. Haider Alam put the bankers ahead in the 10th minute from a field goal.

Shimul rounded up the tally for the winners also with a field goal in the 65th minute. The defeat virtually leaves star-studded Bima out of contention as they have managed only five points from four matches.

Bank's collection stands at four points from as many matches.

## Drama ends in delight for Sylhet as Students melt in the heat



Luck and experience formed the epilogue of an afternoon drama at the Dhaka Stadium as Sylhet won the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship by the skin of their teeth yesterday.

In an unforeseen, absorbing struggle between two former champions, Sylhet were smiling on by the lady luck at the most opportune moment when national cricketer Athar Ali Khan, bowling the last ball of the match, stretched his hands up to pluck a nervous, wonky sweat by Mamun and star-studded Sylhet came out of the jaws of defeat to achieve a most savoury one-run win.

Chasing 306 from eighty overs for an outright win, Dhaka University needed nine runs from the final over. Things looked absolutely under University's control as Mamun, a competent batsman in his own right and a promoted Morshed Ali Khan were out there in the middle.

Mamun, who, many felt, should have been promoted, executed a rousing cover drive for a four of the fifth ball as Athar's attempted yorker turned into a juicy half-volley. But the tall allrounder, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match by former national cricketer Waheedul Ghani, had the last laugh.

Even without his coup de grace, Athar was the most likely choice as the player of the final (and the cash award of Tk 3,000). He was instrumental for Sylhet's total of 305 for eight wickets, hitting a splendid 104 off 157 balls on Tuesday.

His contribution with the ball to Sylhet's victory was even more crucial. He got rid of a resourceful Ziauddin Ahmed before dismissing Mamun to culminate a photo finish.

However, day's proceedings, barring the last hour of the match, never augured well for the eventual winners. With the little less than fit Selim Shaheed and doughty Javed Omar in groove, a massive DU win was always on the cards.

Shahed, the elegant right-handed batsman, announced his intention with a delightful punch off Athar that surprised a on-the-way, Sylhet skipper Golam Faruq enroute to the long-on boundary.

While Javed held the DU innings together with a 212-ball 90 inclusive of four fours, Shahed lofted, caressed the ball disdainfully to make a solid

79 off 90 balls. The recently baptised Bangladesh international struck four sweetly timed boundaries before missing the line of a ball from his national peer Aminul Islam.

Aminul Islam also had the pricey scalp of Javed, who rode his luck before top-edging a sweep to Sanwar at short fine leg — ten short of his what would have been the second ton of the match.

Sylhet's resurgence began once Golam Faruq left the field more out of hopelessness than the seriousness of the displayed injury, leaving national skipper Faruque Ahmed handle the woefully limited resources. One of the palpable targets of public wrath follow-



ATHAR... man-of-the-match

ing Bangladesh's debacle in the fifth ICC Trophy, Faruq who did not go out to receive the individual medal, handled the bowlers well and the man, who responded to his call most, was Mahubur Rahman.

Neglected and shabbily treated from time to time by the national selectors Mahubub who opted this time to play for Sylhet rather than his native Mymensingh, bowled his leg spinners superbly on an unresponsive track to capture two for 42 on top of a brilliant running catch that sent back a dangerous looking Zia.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, gave away the prizes with champions Sylhet becoming richer for Tk 20,000 and runners-up Dhaka University Tk 15,000.

**SCOREBOARD**  
 Scoreboard in the final of the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship, held at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

**SYLHET DSA**  
 Athar c Sohail b Mamun 104

Sumon c Robi b Mamun	11
Faruque c Robi b Rupom	10
Aminul c Zia b Shamsul	38
Mahboob c Zia b Shahed	36
Golam Faruque c Shahed	
b Sumon	42
Sanwar lbw b Zia	21
Nasir c sub (Atik)	
b Ibne Shaheed	7
Ahmed not out	11
Asif not out	06
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, wb-12)	19
Total: (for eight wickets in 80 overs)	305

Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-69; 3-169; 4-175; 5-255; 6-264; 7-277; 8-290.
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<b>Bowling:</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Sumon	16	2	49	2
Ibne Shaheed	16	3	55	1
Mamun	16	1	56	2
Rashid	16	1	52	1
Shamsul	13	1	63	1
Javed	1	0	14	0
Shahed	2	0	9	1

<b>DHAKA UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Sumon b Ahmed	3			
Javed c Sanwar b Aminul	90			
Rashid run out	54			
Shahed b Aminul	79			
Zia c Mahboob b Athar	19			
Sohel c Asim b Mahboob	27			
Ibne Shaheed st Nasir				
b Mahboob	03			
Sumon not out	04			
Mamun c & b Athar	05			
Extras (lb-6, wb-14)	20			
Total: (for eight wickets in 80 overs)	304			

Fall of Wickets: 1-7; 2-102; 3-228; 4-246; 5-280; 6-290; 7-295.
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<b>Bowling:</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Golam Faruque	7	2	22	0
Ahmed	9	0	29	1
Asif	3	0	18	0
Athar	16	2	61	2
Sanwar	10	0	51	0
Mahboob	10	0	42	2
Aminul	16	0	27	2
Sumon	3	0	18	0

Result: Sylhet won by one run

Man-of-the-match: Athar Ali Khan.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

<b>Year</b>	<b>Champions</b>
1974-75	Comilla
1975-76	Faridpur
1976-77	Comilla
1977-78	Bangladesh Biman
1978-79	Dhaka University
1979-80	Dhaka University
1980-81	Bangladesh Biman
1981-82	Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

1982-83	Sylhet
1983-84	Dhaka University
1984-85	Dhaka University
1985-86	Dhaka University
1986-87	Dhaka University
1987-88	Bangladesh Biman
1988-89	Chittagong
1989-90	Dhaka University
1990-91	Was not held
1991-92	Chittagong
1992-93	Chittagong
1993-94	Sylhet

### Aussies 242 for six

CAPE TOWN, Apr 6: Australia, bolstered by two innings-building partnerships, hit up a competitive 242 for six Wednesday in the sixth one-day international against South Africa, reports AP.

The visitors batted first, shrugged off the shocking start the innings got off to — losing two wickets for 10 runs — as opener Mark Taylor and Mark Waugh shared a century stand for the third wicket.

Taylor, forced into the lineup after opener Michael Slater was ruled out with a gastric infection, provided the backbone of the innings while Waugh played a characteristic cameo innings.

Medium paceman Craig Matthews continued with his outstanding form in the one-dayers, sending back left hander Matthew Hayden (0) with the third ball of his first over and then won an appeal for a catch behind against Dean Jones (8), 10 runs later.

Hayden, like Taylor, was a last minute inclusion for David Boon, who is nursing a troublesome knee.

The early loss of wickets didn't deter the third-wicket pair. They maintained a healthy run rate throughout the partnership — 123 runs in 197 balls (112 minutes) — before Taylor was run out.

Waugh on 57 drove McMillan to extra cover only to see Adrian Kuiper floor a sitter, but was quick to underarm a direct hit at the bowler's end as Taylor backed up too far.

Taylor hit four boundaries in his 63 and faced 100 balls. Waugh was hard on Hansie Cronje, taking 21 off his three overs but failing to capitalise on the two dropped catches. The second dropped catch was just three balls after Taylor was dismissed, Jonty Rhodes at point failing to secure a low catch.

He eventually charged Matthews and had his leg stump removed. He faced 99 balls and hit five boundaries in his 71 runs.

Australia lost Waugh's twin brother Steve (23), 30 runs later as the visitors gradually lost momentum.

But skipper Allan Border with an unbeaten 40 (48 balls), shared 62 runs with Ian Healy (26) for the sixth wicket. Twenty two of his balls were in the last two overs.

Matthews finished with his second four-wicket haul in the series, four for 47.

### U-16 booters leave for S Arabia today

**Sports Reporter**  
 The 24-member Bangladesh team leaves Dhaka today for Saudi Arabia to take part in the sixth Asian Under-16 football championship, scheduled to be held from April 12 to 16 in Dahrain.

Bangladesh are placed in Group One along with hosts Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Malaysia.

Bangladesh will take on Saudi Arabia on April 12 in their first match. Their second match against Kuwait will be held on April 14 while their last group match against Malaysia will be played on April 16.

The players are: Mohiul Hasan Shahjada (captain), Risat Shamim Abir, Murad Ahmed Milon, Shahid Miah, Amiruzzaman Matin, Mizanur Rahman Dawn, Asaduzzaman Sagar, Iqbal Hossain, Nazrul Islam, Abdul Qayyum Santu, Ariful Kabir Farhad, Lutfar Rahmap Nayan, Ripon Bhawal, Rezaul Karim, Anwar Hossain, Anwarul Islam, Sabir Hossain, Prodip Kumar Poddar, Asaduzzaman Asad and Mohammed Azim.

M Nazrul Islam will be on the tour as manager with M A Azim as his deputy. The other two officials are coach Sadek Hossain and assistant coach Swapan Kumar Das.

### Biman Cup football

**Sports Reporter**  
 Sylhet outclassed Mymensingh 6-0 in a final round match of the Biman Cup under-14 national football championship at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Belal Ahmed and Abdullah al-Kafee scored twice each while Shaiful Islam and Shaifur Rahman got one goal apiece for the winners.

Samir Roy and Murad Ali of Mymensingh were cautioned with the yellow card.

### Heiko buries Bayern

BONN, Apr 6: Substitute Heiko Herrlich struck twice in the closing minutes to earn Borussia Monechengladbach a 2-0 win over Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich on Tuesday, reports Reuter.



Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), handing over the coveted Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship trophy to Sylhet skipper Golam Faruque Chowdhury at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Sylhet won the title after a decade defeating Dhaka University by one run.

## England hope for the best

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 6: A thoroughly humiliated England cricket team return to Kensington Oval for the fourth Test on Friday, desperate to salvage some pride after three dismal months in the West Indies, reports Reuter.

After collapsing to an eight-wicket defeat before lunch, this time against an inexperienced West Indies Board XI, the team were ordered back into the nets on Tuesday to use the final two sessions for batting practice.

"It's been very disappointing. We have not done very much right either batting, bowling or fielding. We knew it was going to be very hard out here and it's certainly proving so," tour manager Mike Smith said.

West Indies have already won the five-test series, with three convincing victories behind them, including the last Test in Trinidad where they bowled the visitors out for 46 in the second innings — England's lowest score this century.

Smith said the morale of the team was "good enough" but added there was not much more to be done to revive their fortunes.

"You just carry on in the manner which you think best," he said.

England received another blow when wicket keeper Jack Russell went straight to bed after their arrival in Barbados, complaining of a sore throat and temperature.

The management hope he will be fit for Friday but have yet to name a team.

West Indies have confidently named an unchanged lineup, including the deadly Curtly Ambrose, architect of England's third-Test collapse.

Collaps has been the story of the tour. England have frequently found themselves in a quite promising position, only to throw away the advantage.

In Jamaica, a first innings score of 121 for no wicket was tossed away and then West Indies were allowed to recover from 23 for three.

In Guyana, 173 for two became 322 all out. And in Trinidad, having worked hard for what should have been a decisive first in-

nings lead, fielding lapses allowed the home team to engineer a victory that crushed England's spirit.

It adds up to a catalogue of largely self-inflicted disasters, even after giving West Indies credit for their all-round brilliance and mental toughness.

England might find a glimmer of hope in the fact that the last time they played at Kensington Oval, seven weeks ago, they won the first one-day international.

Since then they have lost both the one-day and the Test series.

"I only hope the players can motivate themselves when the Test starts on Friday," team manager Keith Fletcher said. "We've got to break out of the losing habit... but it's hard to see it happening."

### TEAM

Richie Richardson (captain), Desmond Haynes, Phil Simmons, Brian Lara, Keith Arthurton, James Adams, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Junior Murray, Winston Benjamin, Curtly Ambrose, Kenneth Benjamin, Courtney Walsh, Anderson Cummins.

## English plight continues

ST GEORGES, Grenada, Apr 6: Opener Stuart Williams hammered five successive fours off left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell to put England out of their misery in their match against a West Indies Board XI on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Williams's blazing stroke-play took him to his hundred and ensured that England's embarrassment would not stretch beyond the opening session of the final day.

Resuming on 47-0, the Board XI made light of their 172-run target as they cruised home by eight wickets.

The main damage had been done 24 hours earlier when England inexplicably collapsed from 140-1 to 165 all out, their last seven wickets falling for just 10 runs.

England's slim hopes of a similar collapse by the home side quickly disappeared as Williams plundered runs almost at will.

He and Philo Wallace took their first wicket stand to 81 before Wallace (40) flicked a catch to square leg.

England's only other success came at 130 when Phil Simmons was caught behind by wicketkeeper Alec Stewart for 19.

Williams, dropped twice by Stewart, hammered 15 fours and a six in his 102 to heap further humiliation on an England side bowled out for just 46 in their third Test de-

feat by West Indies last week. Selecting a team for the fourth Test beginning in Bridgetown on Friday is going to be far from easy.

"This match was the same as the Tests — we played well in patches but threw away good positions in both of our innings," said England manager Keith Fletcher.

"I can only hope the players motivate themselves when the Test starts on Friday. We've got to break out of the losing habit... but it's hard to see it happening."

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the four-day cricket match between a West Indies Board XI and England on Tuesday.

**ENGLAND:** First innings 319 (M Ramprakash 91, A Stewart 65, G Hick 59, R Lewis 5-95)

**WEST INDIES BOARD XI:** First innings 313 (R Holder 116, D Malcolm 4-81, P Tufnell 4-87)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings 165 (G Hick 74, M Ramprakash 67, R Lewis 4-51)

**WEST INDIES BOARD XI:** Second innings (overnight 47-0)

Williams not out 102  
 Wallace c Smith b Watkin 40  
 Simmons c Stewart b Igglesden 19  
 Campbell not out 5  
 Extra (lb-6) 6  
 Total: (for two wickets) 172

Fall of wickets: 1-81; 2-130

<b>Bowling:</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Malcolm	6	0	30	0
Igglesden	8	0	52	1

Tufnell 14.5 5 63 0  
 Watkin 8 2 21 1  
 Result: West Indies Board XI won by eight wickets.

### SA want full-time referees

CAPE TOWN, Apr 6: South African cricket officials, unhappy with a decision in their last one-dayer, have called for full-time referees for international fixtures, reports AP.

Alli Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said Tuesday that he wants referees to be entrusted with wider powers to deal with complex problems.

This follows match referee Donald Carr's decision not to handle an Australian complaint about the lighting that arose in Port Elizabeth Monday in the sixth one-dayer against South Africa.

Carr said the protest was a matter for the umpires. The Australians dropped the protest, deciding not to blame the lights for a 26-run defeat.

"I am probably one of the few people who are strongly in favour of the match referee system. He needs wider power and this is the type of situation he should be in charge of," said Bacher, a former South African skipper.

Carr has been criticised for favouring South Africa during their series against Australia.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	36 Gear part	<b>DOWN</b>	22 Aegean island
1 Old portico	37 Post horse?	1 Hoosgow quality	23 Over-proper one
5 Painter	38 Hayseeds	3 Chooses	24 Garden
9 — Jima hdg.	40 Compass	4 Having missed the boat	25 Kanga's kid
12 A-number-1	41 Nut-bearing tree	5 Fatman's partner	26 Blocking pair or
13 Jason's craft	43 Figures	6 Vase	27 Paar or
14 Silent assent	47 Enactment	7 Past	29 Dander
15 Aware	48 Unaware	8 "It's — Never"	30 Blue
17 Ring decision, for short	51 — glance	9 Circulating topic	35 "Attack, Fido!"
18 Do a cobbler's job	52 Lyricist's	10 Obeyed the alarm	37 Lea
19 Different	53 Wild party of old	11 Stench	39 Youngster
21 House component: abbr.	54 San Francisco, e.g.	16 Freddy's street	40 Yon maiden fair
22 Binge	55 60 grains	20 Actor	41 Spill the beans
24 Cheese-board choice	56 Sagacious	Solution time: 22 mins.	42 "I could — horse!"
27 Pickle holder			43 A son of Noah
28 Speaker's place			44 Equal: comb. form
31 Eternity			45 Work units
32 " — Blue?"			46 Terrier type
33 George's brother			49 Neither's partner
34 Kids often connect them			50 Dam good idea of '33: abbr.

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24	25	26		27			28	29	30	</