

Sport

Ajax Div Two
cricket champs

Sports Reporter

Ajax Sports Club became champions in the Second Division cricket league when they posted a facile six-wicket win over Gopibagh Friends Association in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Both Ajax SC and Gopibagh Friends booked their places in next year's Milnars First Division cricket league after finishing at the top of their respective groups of the six-team super league play-off, leaving the final of merely an academic interest.

Ajax reached the victory target of 130 runs for the loss of four wickets in 36.2 overs after bowling the Gopibagh cricketers out for 129 in 37.4 overs.

Bhola and Babu, who tore the Gopibagh innings apart, finished with three and four wickets respectively. Saiful was the only Gopibagh batsman who could withstand the stormy Ajax attack making 41.

In reply, Ajax cantered to 130 with Moni and Dola, forming the mainstay of the victory charge with an unbeaten 60-run stand for the fifth wicket. Moni scored 46 and Dola 31.

Azhar replaces
Ian Bishop

LONDON, Apr 8: Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin has replaced injured West Indies bowler Ian Bishop as Derbyshire's overseas player for the coming English season, reports Reuter.

Derbyshire had hoped Bishop would spearhead their new-ball attack with England fast bowler Devon Malcolm, but the 26-year-old Trinidadian ruled himself out because he could not guarantee his fitness following a year out of the game with a spinal stress fracture.

Azharuddin returns for his second season at Derbyshire after playing for the county in 1991 when he topped their batting averages with 55.40 and scored 1,773 runs in the county championship.

Bishop, who topped the first-class bowling averages in his second season for Derbyshire in 1990, hopes to sign a new contract with them when his current one runs out at the end of this season.

Lara joins
Warwickshire

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 8: West Indian Brian Lara signed for England county team Warwickshire on Thursday and immediately told his new teammates: "I'm expecting a lot from you," reports Reuter.

The brilliant batsman put pen to paper at Kensington Oval after completing his preparations for today's fourth Test against England.

Lara is already looking forward to spending an English summer on the county circuit.

"I always play to win and I will expect a lot from the other guys in the Warwickshire team," said the 24-year-old Trinidadian. "I hope they expect a lot from me and I'll try to produce for them."

Lara has been in brilliant form during this series, scoring a memorable 167 in Guyana. He was approached by Warwickshire when their first choice stand-in for South African Allan Donald, Indian all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar, broke down with a back injury.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Marceau character	37 Suspend-ing pair	38 reggae	39 Resort	40 Chartres chum	41 "Rug"	42 Type of two-master	43 "Rug"	44 "Rug"	45 Type of two-master	46 "Rug"	47 "Rug"	48 Worn pair	49 "Rug"	50 Fine	51 Several in a row?	52 Oscar Wilde's sine qua non	53 "You Bet Your life" host	54 Korea's Syngman Rhee	55 Cousin of	56 "Rug"	57 "Rug"	58 "Rug"	59 "Rug"	60 "Rug"	61 "Rug"	62 "Rug"	63 "Rug"	64 "Rug"	65 "Rug"	66 "Rug"	67 "Rug"	68 "Rug"	69 "Rug"	70 "Rug"	71 "Rug"	72 "Rug"	73 "Rug"	74 "Rug"	75 "Rug"	76 "Rug"	77 "Rug"	78 "Rug"	79 "Rug"	80 "Rug"	81 "Rug"	82 "Rug"	83 "Rug"	84 "Rug"	85 "Rug"	86 "Rug"	87 "Rug"	88 "Rug"	89 "Rug"	90 "Rug"	91 "Rug"	92 "Rug"	93 "Rug"	94 "Rug"	95 "Rug"	96 "Rug"	97 "Rug"	98 "Rug"	99 "Rug"	100 "Rug"	101 "Rug"	102 "Rug"	103 "Rug"	104 "Rug"	105 "Rug"	106 "Rug"	107 "Rug"	108 "Rug"	109 "Rug"	110 "Rug"	111 "Rug"	112 "Rug"	113 "Rug"	114 "Rug"	115 "Rug"	116 "Rug"	117 "Rug"	118 "Rug"	119 "Rug"	120 "Rug"	121 "Rug"	122 "Rug"	123 "Rug"	124 "Rug"	125 "Rug"	126 "Rug"	127 "Rug"	128 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