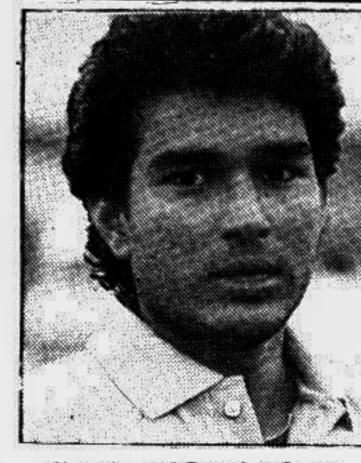
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ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS SPORTS



Sanjay Manjrekar (Former India cricketer) "The fire is not burning

While announcing his retirement from first-class cri-

Jagannath Hall

Sports Reporter Babul Das and Harilal Devnath emerged champion and runner-up in the annual athlet-

ics competition of Dhaka Uni-

versity Jagannath Hall held at the hall ground yesterday. In the 17-event competition, Babul won three golds while Harilal bagged two golds.

Prof A K Azad Chowdhury. Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, later gave away the prizes. Prof Durgadas Bhattacharya, the provost of Jagannath Hall was also present on

the occasion. Earlier in the morning, Dr H B M Iqbal MP inaugurated the annual meeting as the chief guest.

ATP rankings

PARISFeb 17:(AFP): Leading ATP Tour rankings issued on

Monday Player Points Sampras 3700 Korda 3484 Rafter Bjorkman 30.22 Chang Kafelnikov 2765 Rios 2702 2551 Corretia Rusedski 2493 2457 Krajicek Kuerten 2202 2188 Bruguera Mantilla Kucera 2014 Ivanisevic Philippoussis 1809 1766 17. Henman 18. Pioline 1703 Berasategui 20. Moya

Another record falls to Haile

BIRMINGHAM, Feb 17; Haile Gebrselassie, watched by hundreds of Britain's Ethiopian community, rewrote the world indoor 2,000m record at the Grand Prix meeting when he clocked 4 mins 52.86 secs at the international gala here Sunday, reports AFP.

The Olympic and world 10,000m champion sliced more than one second off the 11-yearold record of 4:54.07 set by Ire-

land's Eamonn Coghlan. It was the 12th world record of Gebreselassie's career and the Ethiopian was mobbed by fans who broke through the security cordon to approach their 24year-old hero.

Elsewhere British triplejumpers Jonathan Edwards and Ashia Hansen both set national records on their way to victories that augur well for the European indoor championships

in Valencia later this month. Edwards shrugged off a persistent flue bug to finally shatter the 17-year-old British indoor record by soaring to 17.64m to beat Keith Connor's record by a massive 33cms despite nearly withdrawing from the event after feeling "dreadful" during the warm-up.



Action from yesterday's Premier Division football league match between Muktijoddha and -Star photo Brothers Union at the Mirpur Stadium. Muktis won 3-1.

Muktis start impressively

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra began their Premier Division football super league campaign in style with a comfortable 3-1 win over

Brothers Union Club at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. National striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib struck twice and Nigerian midfielder Aliyu Rahman added a third in the space of 24 minutes into the first half to give the all reds

their 13th win in the marathon For Brothers, Tutul pulled one goal back at the stroke of the final whistle Nakib broke the evenings duck in the tenth minute after a dull and insipid First Division relegation league match between Police Athletics Club and Wari Club, which

ended in a goalless draw. Muktijoddha came out firing all four cylinders right from the word 'go'. And their relentless effort eventually put paid when Nakib, capitalising on a common ball tussle between Aliyu and Brothers defender Govinda at the top of the box, made no mistake to send the ball past an advancing custodian Milan for his ninth goal in the league.

The tall marksman then struck his second goal six minutes later. Latching on a defence-slicing pass from Aliyu, Nakib dodged past a couple of

defenders before slotting the balls the home with a cool placing into the far corner of the

With yesterday's double strike, Nakib, the top scorer in the Premier league last season with 13 goals, moved atop the individual scorers' list with ten goals, one more than Alfaz Ahmed and Don, the deadly duo of Mohammedans.

Aliyu, the lone foreign recruit of Muktijoddha and was instrumental behind those quick blows from Nakib, then sealed a defeat on Brothers quite prematurely, adding the third goal in the 24th minute. After being nicely fed by Iqbal. the nimble playmaker slipped past his marker to race down the flanks before unleashing a power-packed right-foot grounder past a diving goalkeeper Milan.

Muktijoddha resigned to a casual approach after that unassailable lead. But Brothers, who had earlier hold Muktijoddha to a goalless draw in their previous meeting, failed to cash on to wrest the initiative.

After the breather, Muktis were seen mainly concentrating on Nakib to let him score the first hattrick of the league.

But the crafty marksman, who was provided with at least two good set pieces, failed to do so because of his poor imagina-

In the 60th minute Nakib headed over the post from close range following a left side attack launched by Rakib while his 87th minute shot from a goalmouth melee did not find any gap and hit the leg of an unidentified defender.

After surviving Nakib's second attempt, Brothers staged a late second half rally and pulled one back with Tutul heading home an Imadul cross from the left side at the stroke of the final whistle.

Muktis, with their 13 win in 19 outings, remained second in the table having raised their tally to 43 points, one point adrift of holders Mohammedan Sporting Club. On the other hand, Brothers,

who suffered their eighth defeat against six win and five draws. remained glued to their previous collection of 23 points. Yellow cards: Chanchal and Shamim (Brothers Union)

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA SANG-SAD KC: Aminul, Hasan-Al-Mamun, Rajani, Jewel Rana, Tito, Masud Rana, Iqbal (Gaus), Swapan (Rupu), Rakib, Aliyu (Reaz) and Nakib

BROTHERS UNION: MI lan, Chanchal, Monir (Swapant, Amer Khan, Imadul, Govinda, Shamim, Yousuf, Tutul, Asad (Uttam) and Jamal. Referee: Ehsanul Haque.

European soccer scene

UNDATED, (AP/AFP): Liverpool wasted a golden opportunity to close in an English Premiership pace setters Manchester United on Saturday while in Italy Juventus beat Sampdoria 3-0 to stay four points clear at the top of the Serie A Sunday night despite a five-goal victory by rivals Inter Milan over Lecce with Ronaldo inspiring his team with a hat-

And Real Madrid edged one point clear of bitter rivals Barcelona in the race for the Spanish title thanks to a nononsense 3-0 home victory over struggling Sporting Gijon, Barcelona, who have a game in hand, shared a 0-0 home draw with Majorca.

There was no change at the top in France with the trible front runners — Marseille, Metz and Monaco - all scoring impressive wins, but Paris St Germain plunged deeper into crisis when they crashed 1-0 at home to Nantes - their third consecutive home loss and a result which put manager Ricardo's job on the line.

ENGLAND: Liverpool wasted hattrick from 18-year-old

Michael Owen and got only a 3-3 draw at Sheffield Wednesday. The draw moved Liverpool into second with 46 points behind United with 50.

In two other Premier League games Saturday, Derby won 2-1 at Everton as Everton played with 10 men for most of the match, and Tottenham and Leicester drew 1-1.

ITALY: Juventus scored twice and both sides had a man sent off in a fiercely-fought first-half at the Delle Alpi Stadium in Turin.

Alessandro Del Piero surged into the Sampdoria area and squeezed a shot inside the near post after seven minutes and Filippo Inzaghi volleyed home Antonio Conte's cross just six minutes later.

Sampdoria then had Frenchman Pierre Laigle sent off for a second bookable offence, but the Zebras later lost Mark Luiliano for felling a goalbound Giuseppe Signori.

SPAIN: All of Real Madrid's goals came in a ten-minute blitz early in the second-half with Savio opening the score and Suker then adding two more.

In other matches Athletic Bilbao crashed to a shock 3-0 home defeat against Valencia whose scorers were Ilie (37, 55) and Mendieta (75), and Celta Vigo beat Real Sociedad 2-1 thanks to goals from Djorovic (42) and Revivo (86).

FRANCE: French pacesetters Marseille came away 4-0 winners from Toulouse, thanks to goals from Dugarry (22), Roy (78), Gravelaine (79), and Ravanelli (85).

A 58th minute goal from Jager ensured Metz a 1-0 home win over visiting Strasbourg.

Monaco beat visiting Le Havre 2-0 — their goals coming from Trezeguet (53) and Ikpeba

But Paris St Germain gave manager Ricardo two matches to bring some success after a latest 1-0 home loss to Nantes. It was PSG's third consecutive home defeat. Bordeaux finally ended their

victory drought, after four winless matches they saw off visiting Montpellier 3-1.

And at the foot of the table Cannes beat Bastia 1-0 in a match in which four players were sent off.



Marcelo Salas (L), Chile's super striker and Argentina's national coach Daniel Passarella holding their trophies awarded for being voted America's best soccer player and coach respectively by journalists at a ceremony in Montevideo, Uruguay on Feb 15.

-AP/UNB photo

Women's chess qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Masuda Begum of Barisal, Zakia Sultana of Narayanganj and Nazrana Khan Iva of Manikganj were leading the 19th national women's chess championship qualifiers at the end of third round at the NSC

chess room yesterday.
In the third of the five-round Swiss league, Zakia beat Nurun Nahar while Masuda and Iva drew their board to remain top of the table with each having two and a half points.

Besides, Zahan Ara Haque Runu, Farzana Khan Ava, Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira, Sayeeda Irani and Darnel Khan Oliva, were in second spot with two points each at the end of the round.

Bima book Premier berth

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima moved into the elite Premier league when the office team celebrated their fourth consecutive victory in the First Division Super league at the expense of Dhanmondi Club vesterday.

BRIEF SCORES

DHANMONDI CLUB: 177 all out in 49.4 overs (Masud 39, Azam 30 not out, Monirul 23, Hakim 22; Bipul 2/23, Khokon 2/27, Ismail 2/36)

SADHARAN BIMA: 178 for 5 wickets in 34.5 overs (Kamal 41, Rahman 38 not out, Masiur 25, Ismail 22 not out; Rajib 4/48)

Result: Sadharan Bima won by 5 wickets.

CITY CLUB: 210 for 9 wickets in 50 overs (Prince 82 Majed 33, Obaidur 22 not out Rahman 3/38, Jewel 3/29) DHAKA WANDERERS:

163 all out in 47 overs (Rahman 82, Tapan 23, Jewel 21; Prince 6/39, Majed 2/26). Result: City Club won by 47 runs.

In a low-scoring affair at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Sadharan Bima, chasing a modest Dhanmondi total of 177 in the stipulated 50 overs. scored 178 for five in only 34.5 overs to finish at par with Orient Sporting Club, who had confirmed their promotion to the 12-team Premier league with 22 points from 13 outings.

The two promotees will now face each other in the championship-deciding match tomor-

Opener Kamal, who seored a fine 41, gave his side a rollicking start, putting on 84 runs in 17.1 overs with Moshiur.

Moshiur scored a sedate but useful 25 off 55 balls before becoming the second victim of Rajib, the most successful Dhanmondi bowler with four for 48 runs in his share of 10

But after a sudden slide with Bima losing four wickets for 41 runs, one-down Rahman played the sheet anchor role to propel his side's victory with an unbeaten 38.

Earlier, sent into bat first. Dhanmondi could manage 177 before being all out in the final over. One-down Masud topscored with 39 and opener Monirul Islam chipped in with 23. But it was fower-order batsman Azam, who guided Dhanmondi to a face saving total with breezy unbeaten 30 off 32 balls.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day between two no-hopers at the City Club ground, hosts thumped down a 41-run defeat on Dhaka Wanderers. Thanks to a fine allround performance from Prince, City Club defending an impressive total of 210 for 9 in the stipulated 50 overs, shot out the Motifheel outfit for a meagre 163 with three overs to go.

The middle-order bat scored a dazzling 82 off 117 balls embellished with eleven hits across the rope to lay the foundation of City Club after they lost three wickets for only 38 runs on the board.

Prince then ripped through the Dhaka Wanderers batting line-up to finish with fantastic figures of six for 39 in his 10 niggling overs to overshadow yet another brilliant performance from the Wanderers opener Rahman, who scored a swashbuckling 82 with the help of 11 fours and a couple of sixes.

Barisal cricket

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From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Feb 17: Barisal Cricket School beat Babugani Club by 37 runs in the First Division cricket league at the local stadium today.

Batting first, Cricket School scored 171 runs losing all the wickets in 39.2 overs while Babuganj Club managed 134 runs losing all the wickets in 27.3 overs. Shanta hit highest 31 runs for his winning team while Suvendu made highest 23 for the losers.

Tomorrow Jardan Road SKP will face Batajore Club at the same venue.

TODAY'S MATCHES Janakantha Premier

Cricket League: Abahani KC vs Kalabagan KC (Dhaka Stadium) Premier Division Football

Relegation League: Arambagh KS vs Victoria SC (Mirpur Stadium, 5 pm) First Division Football Su-

per League: East End Club vs Mirpur Chalantika (Mirpur Stadium, 3 pm)

No ball bowled on Day Four



JOHANNESBURG, Feb 17 (Reuters/ AFP): Play on the fourth day of the first Test between South Africa and Pakistan was abandoned at lunch today

without a ball being bowled. Heavy overnight rain continued into the morning, saturating the Wanderers outfield. Neither team even left their ho-

tel as prospects of play receded. South Africa had been due to start their second innings with a lead of 35 after scoring 364 and then bowling Pakistan out On Monday, a fighting cen-

tury by all-rounder Azhar Mahmood enabled Pakistan to reach a total of 329 all out before bad light stopped play.

Although the floodlights were on, the South African in-

nings did not start and the umpires took the players off for bad light. The 22-year-old Azhar, who made 128 not out on his Test debut against South Africa in

son, hit 136 before being last man out. It was his first Test innings outside his home country and he now has a Test batting average of 81.60 in his seventh match. He batted for 304 min-

utes and faced 214 balls, hitting

Rawalpindi earlier in the sea-

16 fours and two sixes. Azhar weathered some fierv fast bowling early on, being hit on the helmet when he missed a hook against Allan Donald

when he was on 11. He gave his first chance on 95 when he was dropped by Daryll Cullinan at

first slip off Lance Klusener. After reaching his hundred he hooked Shaun Pollock for a six and slammed Klusener for six over extra cover before being dropped by captain Gary Kirsten at deep mid-off when he was on 132.

For the third day in succession there was controversy over the interpretation of the new

Akbar SA bound

ISLAMABAD, Feb 17: Paceman Fazli Akbar will leave for Johannesburg on Wednesday to reinforce the injury-hit Pak-istan team currently playing their first Test against South Africa, officials said Monday, reports AFP.

The team's problems were compounded after off-spinner Saglain Mushtag and strike bowler Mohammad Akram were injured in an attack by muggers outside the team's hotel in the suburbs of Sandton late Wednesday, Qamar Ahmed, secretary, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said.

Captain Rashid Latif was already injured.

Akbar, born in the northwestern city of Peshawar, topped the bowling averages with 80 wickets in the ongoing domestic first class season, the PCB sources said.

floodlight provisions by um-pires Cyril Mitchley of South Africa and Peter Willey of Eng-

Play was stopped when Pakistan were on 299 for nine, at the end of an over from Klusener in which last batsman Shoaib Akhtar was felled by a bouncer. A few minutes earlier the umpires had called for the floodlights to be switched on. After a 23-minute stoppage the

players returned. With 21 overs still due to be bowled, the players went on the field for the start of the South African second innings but before a ball was bowled they went

off again. Under a new provision of the International Cricket Council. floodlights may be used to aug-ment natural light but on all three days of this match, play has stopped because of bad

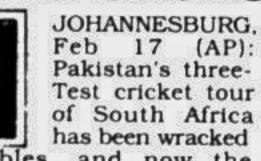
On the first day, play was stopped before the lights were switched on.

Pakistan were in early trouble after resuming at 106 for four, with Ijaz Ahmed being caught at deep fine leg off Don-ald from the last ball of the second over of the day.

Azhar and wicketkeeper Moin Khan put on 107 for the sixth wicket in just over two hours with some bold stroke-

Moin was dropped twice in making 46. With Mushtaq Ahmed also being put down, the Africans dropped five catches altogether.

Clouds over Pak tour



has been wracked by troubles, and now the players say privately they want to go home. Two bowlers were injured last Wednesday in what they told police was a mugging out-

Sandton suburb. But persistent rumours that the players actually were hurt in a brawl at Club 69. a private bar featuring strippers, have bruised feelings and led to a dispute with police investigators. The injuries delayed the first Test by a day, to last Saturday.

side their hotel in the posh

Rain caused several delays the first three days and cancelled play on Tuesday, ensuring that the Test will end in a draw. On Tuesday, senior team members said they voted unanimously to go home because of

the controversy over the attack

that injured medium paceman

Mohammad Akram, and off spiriter Saglain Mushtag. The players, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they would tell Pakistani officials of the decision made at an hour-long meeting. The players

were to have been in southern Africa for about two months. "We don't feel comfortable at all. The last week has been one hell for us," a player said. "The players' families want them to return home. They don't think

it is safe to remain in this coun-Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said Tuesday he had received no indications the Pakistanis would abandon the tour. He said Majid Khan, the head of the Pakistani cricket board, assured him the

"He (Majid) said that possibility hasn't even contemplated or even considered. He spoke to the captain and asked the captain to lift the spirit of the team," Bacher said. "The tour

will proceed." Akram and Mushtaq said they were assaulted by three black men 20 metres away from their hotel as they went out for

Taylor counts on his trump card

PERTH, Australia, Feb 17: Leg-spinning wizard Shane Warne will be a crucial component in Australia's armoury in the approaching three-Test series in India, Australian captain Mark Taylor said here today, reports AFP. "He will give us a dimension.

we did not have 16 months ago when we lost the one-off Test in Delhi," Taylor said. Warne, 28, one of the greatest spinners of all time, has 303

wickets at an average of 23.81 from 64 Tests. After snapping up 39 Test victims in six games over the Australian summer, he was rested from the brief, just-completed tour of New Zealand for a series of one-day games, but will be among the Australian

The three Tests will be completed by March 29. "The Indian tour will be brand new challenge for the Australian side," Taylor said. "I think there will be good wickets

team leaving for India Friday.

and it will be a good contest." Australia, accepted as the world's unofficial Test champions, have beaten New Zealand 2-0 and South Africa 1-0 in Test series at home this summer to complete nine successive series

But police who spoke to Akram and Mushtaq that night failed to obtain a sworn statement. As rumours of a nightclub brawl surfaced, police said they had yet to find any witnesses or evidence to corroborate the mugging story.

Akram and Mushtaq also declined to make sworn statements Monday night without their lawyers present, according to The Star, a Johannesburg "We'll wait, we're not in a hurry anymore," a police

spokesman, Capt Andy Pieke,

was quoted as telling the Star.

"The truth hopefully will come out, and it will be good for a lot of things.' Pakistani tour officials have denied the nightclub allegations, and the manager of Club 69 has denied the players were

there. News reports have repeatedly referred to unidentified witnesses who say Pakistani players were at the adults-only club on both Tuesday and

Wednesday nights, Pakistan's players didn't go to the Wanderers cricket ground on Tuesday, staying in their hotel and holding their meeting.

Another problem for Pakistan has been the neck injury to captain Rashid Latif that knocked him out of the first lest and will require surgery that will keep him from playing

for three weeks. Latif has a collapsed disc between the third and the fourth

vertebrae of the neck. Pakistan was scheduled to play three Tests against the hosts and participate in a oneday triangular series that also includes World Cup champions Sri Lanka. Before the one-day series, Pakistan was to tour neighbouring Zimbabwe while South Africa play Sri Lanka in



Scene from the third round engagements of the 19th national women's chess qualifiers at the NSC yesterday. -Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 2 Cartoonist 11 Chime sound 3 Options list 19 Raised 20 Whatever number 23 Collection 24 Census datum 25 Negligent 26 Chi squad 27 Beatnik's 28 Way back when 8 Succeed- 29 Benzoyl peroxide target 31 Motorcycle attachment 32 Wolfman's

GYJ YKXFDR WIZBKGJD UAMIL GI BDIFDEZZJD GEMAXF NR LZEUU NRGJL Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD YOU SAY THAT

A CONTENTED CHEMIST WAS IN HIS ELEMENT? Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals B

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.

CRYPTOQUIP