

## Al-Hilal fly on Sami's wings

BEIRUT, Feb 27: Saudi Arabian international Sami al-Jaber was the hero again as Al-Hilal reached the semifinals of the Asian Club Championship on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Al-Jaber scored two and set up a third for his club to qualify for the semifinals, where they will face defending champions Pohang Steelers in Hong Kong, with a 3-1 win over hosts Al-Ansar.

The semifinal is a re-run of last year's Asian Super Cup when Al-Hilal, the current holders of the Asian Cup Winners' Cup, defeated the Asian Club champions 2-1 on aggregate.

## Courier sent crashing

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 27: A Canadian qualifier better known for his doubles accomplishments upset fifth-seeded Jim Courier 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 Thursday night to move into the quarterfinals of the Advanta Championships, reports AP.

# Horne, Astle flay tourists



AUCKLAND, Feb 27 (Reuters/AP): Sparkling centuries and a record fourth wicket partnership by Matthew Horne and Nathan Astle put New Zealand in total command on the second day of the second cricket Test at Eden Park today.

New Zealand added 372 runs during the day to finish on 441 for nine, a lead of 271 over Zimbabwe's first innings of 170.

The second Test in the two-match series is following a similar pattern to the first Test in Wellington which New Zealand won by ten wickets.

Horne's 157 was the highest score by a New Zealander against Zimbabwe and the 243 he and Astle added in partnership was also a record against that country.

Horne smashed four sixes, including two in successive balls off leg-spinner Adam Huckle, and 19 fours.

It was his second century in three Tests, following up his century against Australia in Hobart last year.

Zimbabwe's spinners, Huckle and Paul Strang, attacked him on leg stump from around the wicket but all it did was enable him to pepper the boundary with his trademark sweep shot.

Horne was annoyed that he squandered an opportunity of a double hundred in front of his family.

"I didn't actually feel that tired but I got into overdrive and tried to smash everything

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## BU, F'ganj share points

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union and Farashganj Sporting finished their Premier Division football league campaign fourth and fifth respectively with a 1-1 draw in their last Super League clash at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Rabi put Farashganj ahead in the 39th minute while Bakhtiar levelled the margin for Brothers in the 60th minute. With the draw, Brothers and Farashganj finished the league with 24 and 20 points respectively.

Zia Smriti cricket

## Shaheb Bazar clinch title

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Feb 27: Shaheb Bazar Sporting Club became champions in the 10th Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament.

Shaheb Bazar defeated Khela Nie Kotla by 34 runs in the final today at the Rajshahi Government College playground.

Winning the toss, Khela Nie invited Shaheb Bazar to bat who made a glorious 183 runs for nine wickets in the stipulated 33 overs.

Labu, Saad and Rashed scored 52, 34 and 21 runs. Ujjal, Titus, Situ and Shipu of Khela Nie captured two wickets each.

In reply, Khela Nie Kotla went all out collecting 149 runs in 32.4 overs.

Tapan, Ujjal and Shahin made 49, 14 and 15 runs. Jony, Saad, Sayed and Rashed of the winner team captured four, one, two and one wickets.

Labu of Shaheb Bazar was adjudged as player-of-the-match.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu distributed prizes among the winners.

A total of 100 teams took part in the tournament begun on Dec 12 last year.

Khulna cricket

Khulna, Feb 27: Khulna Wanderers Club moved into the final of the Rupsha-Shivali DSA Cricket Cup tournament defeating Savor Club by seven wickets in a semifinal match played at the local stadium, reports BSS.

Wanderers won the toss and put Savor in to bat who scored only 73 runs losing all the wickets.

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## Bat & ball evenly balanced in Durban

# Rookies dominate the day



DURBAN, South Africa, Feb 27: Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar produced a devastating spell as Pakistan took a 28-run first innings lead.

With his next ball he trapped Andrew Hudson lbw for a duck. Later Shoaib had a spell of three for 17 from 20 balls when he bowled Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener and Fanie de Villiers, beating them all for pace.

It was a remarkable performance for the bowler from Rawalpindi, playing in his third Test.

Only two weeks ago he had been diagnosed as having a serious knee ligament injury and was expected to return home.

On Thursday, he was hit on the left hand by a ball from Klusener and needed extended treatment.

Pakistan bowled and fielded with great discipline and South Africa found it difficult to score runs until Pollock played some attacking shots in partnership with Donald.

Leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, who in tandem with Azhar Mahmood, restricted Klusener and Ackerman to 10 runs in 15 overs in the hour before lunch, took three for 71, including the key wickets of Ackerman and South African captain Hansie Cronje.

Ackerman, 25, provided much needed stability in the South African top order and batted with composure in scoring his 57 in 228 minutes off 155 balls with six fours.

He fell to a sharp catch at silly mid-off by Mohammad Wasim off Mushtaq.

Pollock, who reached his fifty off 74 deliveries, made his 70 in 163 minutes off 106 balls with five fours and two sixes.

It was his third Test half-century.

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Pollock 2-55, Klusener 2-67).

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings  
Bacher c Moin b Akhtar 17  
Kirsten c Mahmood b Akhtar 0  
Kallis b Akhtar 43  
Ackerman c M Wasim b Mushtaq 57

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