

Column One DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT cricket in Italy was not much to brag about in the 1980s. In fact, the standard of their appalling bowling could be judged from an injury to their captain, who was hit by a wide while fielding at gully.

And you thought Bangladesh bowlers had a problem.

SPORTS TALK



Shane Warne

(Australian leg-spinner)
"I'm going to have a serious think about what I want to do in the future. But I'm not going to jump into any quick decisions."

After being dropped for the final Test against West Indies.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-113

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
April 9, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Asian Test Championship title?
India [Sri Lanka] Pakistan
- Kevin Keegan is the manager of
England [Scotland] Wales
- Warne is a
leg-spinner [off-spinner] medium-pacer
- Who is the first Bangladesh batsman to score an ODI century?
Mehrab [Shahriar] Hasibul
- How many half-centuries has Akram Khan scored?
4 5

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

BCB XI go down in opener

Sports Reporter

The touring Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven will take on Customs in their second group league match of the President's Cup One-day cricket tournament at the Karachi National Stadium today.

The visitors lost their first match against Karachi Cricket Association by 50 runs on Sunday.

According to a belated faxed message received here on Sunday night, BCB could manage 193 before being all out in 43.3 overs in reply to a fighting Karachi total of 243 for seven in the stipulated 50 overs.

The BCB, however, got off to an excellent start with skipper Habibul Bashar and opener Imran producing 136 runs for the second wicket. Bashar scored 56 while young Imran hammered a brilliant 73 off 123 balls.

But once the two were separated in the 32nd over with the scoreboard reading 146 for three, there was none to carry the good work.

Faruque Ahmed made only 10. Al-Shahriar and Mahabub Rahman returned to the dressing room without troubling the scorers and the fragile tail perished in no time. Only Mushfique stood among the ruins with an unbeaten 11.

Jhalakati v'ball

JHALAKATI, Apr 5: Titus Club became champions of the volleyball tournament organised by Jhalakati District Sports Association, reports APB.

In the final match played at the local stadium today, Titus Club defeated Azad Club 2-1.

Later, Additional District Magistrate Nikhil Ranjan Mandal distributed the trophy.

Teams suspect attempts to delay league

Suspicious role of umpires aid MSC's refusal to play

Sports Reporter

The fate of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League is now uncertain as joint-leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club (MSC) refused to play their opening return-leg clash against Azad Sporting, scheduled at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday afternoon. MSC claimed that the condition of the astro-turf at the ground was unplayable. Hence the MSC-Azad match was not played.

The ground at the Moulana Bhasani had been rendered partially soiled by a mixture of dust and ferric water.

The drama continued when the umpires of the day's second match, that between Usha Krira Chakra and Farashganj Sporting Club, refused to conduct the game, also stating that the ground conditions were unplayable. But, ironically, both Usha and Farashganj were ready to play the match.

Mohammedan, the popular Motijheel outfit, who had been demanding a cleaner playing surface before the start of the return leg for the last couple of days, appeared at the ground yesterday five minutes after the scheduled time of 2:15 pm. Azad Sporting Club were already warmed up and ready to play the game.

When umpire Aslam Omar Belim called both the team captains for the toss, Mohammedan captain Mitul refused to field his team citing the 'unplayable' parts of the ground.

The umpires remained on the ground for another ten minutes before finally leaving.

Later the umpires, Aslam Omar Belim and Latifur Rahman, stated in their report that the match could not be played because of the 'unplayable condition of the ground', on which the last match played was the first-leg clash between Mohammedan and Usha.

In this regard, League Committee secretary Habibur Rahman Yousuf, who was present on the ground, said that a portion of the astro-turf was dirty but not unplayable.

Secretary Yousuf added: "They (Mohammedan) don't have their four Pakistanis, who will not be available before the third week of this month. That's why they are doing all these things. The ground is absolutely alright. Matches were played here a week before and that time Mohammedan did not lodge any complaints as they



had four foreigners and were winning matches".

One Azad official remarked that had this been done by any small club, it would have been scratched from the league.

The most ridiculous thing of the day happened 90 minutes later when the day's second match was scheduled to start.

Both Usha and Farashganj players were ready for the game when umpires - Mir Monwarul Islam and Abdur Rashid Khan - entered the ground.

When both the skippers went to the umpires for the toss, this time the umpires were reluctant to start the match.

And, all on a sudden, the two umpires beckoned the police and almost ran away from the ground, much against the will of the Usha and Farashganj players.

Later, the umpires also echoed the view of the umpires of the first match. This time they blamed Farashganj skipper Abdullah Piru for raising the point about the unplayable condition of the ground.

After hearing the initial verbal report, League Committee secretary Yousuf rushed to both Usha and Farashganj captains, who denied having re-

fused to play.

Yousuf then rushed back to umpire Mir Monwarul Islam, who was by then ready to leave the stadium having already changed his clothes. When Yousuf requested Mir Monwar to start the match as both captains were ready, Monwar repeated that Farashganj skipper Piru raised the complaint, following which he was bound to postpone the match.

"I never said that my team will not play. This is absolutely rubbish. I did not tell (umpire) Monwar that the ground was unplayable," said Farashganj skipper Abdullah Piru after his team and Usha jointly staged a protest against the 'conspiracy' of the umpires.

When contacted, Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Shamsul Bari told The Daily Star that the ground was a bit dirty but not unplayable.

"I have seen many international matches played on dirtier grounds elsewhere in the world. This ground is not unplayable. You can say this ground is a bit dirty," said Bari.

But the Ground Committee chairman and former national player, Protap Shankar Hazra, thought that the ground was alright for a league match.

"I am not saying this is absolutely clean and perfect. What I want to say is, you can play if you wish," said Hazra.

When asked how much time he needed to clean the ground, Hazra revealed that it would take another seven to twelve days to make it fully clean.

Meanwhile, Usha Krira Chakra has threatened to boycott the league if appropriate action was not taken against those who have endeavoured to delay the league.

Had the second match been played as the teams were ready, the 'mighty' Mohammedan would have been in serious trouble, commented one dejected hockey fan while leaving the ground.

A meeting of the league committee was going on till our filing of this report late last night.



NOVEL PROTEST! Usha Krira Chakra and Farashganj Sporting players throw their sticks to express their indignation at the umpires who left the ground, although they were ready to play at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Saiful slices through Biman

Sports Reporter

Saiful Islam returned with a haul of six wickets to help Mymensingh attain a strong position against Bangladesh Biman on the second day of the three-day semifinal of the 25th national cricket championship at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The out of favour former national right-arm seamer took six wickets for only 32 runs as Biman, chasing the Mymensingh first innings total of 225, were bundled out for a paltry 149 in 52.5 overs.

Mymensingh then scored 72 for two to take an overall lead of 149 runs at stumps on the second day.

Earlier, Mymensingh, resuming on 225 for nine, were all out without adding a single run to their overnight score when off-spinner Shariful Haq had Ashraf stumped by Atiar in the third over of the day.

But their early morning disappointment turned into delight when Saiful ran over the Biman batting line-up with the new ball. Saiful was ably supported by Nasim, who took two wickets for 45 runs.

Meanwhile, in the other semifinal of the day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Jessore took a first innings lead of 40 runs over Sylhet DSA.

Jessore were 237 for six in 80 overs before the stumps were drawn for the day. The Jessore total was built around a potential match-winning stand of 122-runs for the fourth wicket between Jamaluddin and Raju.

Jamaluddin, who took four wickets for 54 runs on the first day, scored a brilliant 61 with the help of five fours while Raju scored a fine 54.

Earlier, Sylhet, resuming on 179 for nine, added 18 runs to their overnight total before being all out in 97.3 overs.

National chess qualifiers

Sports Reporter

The qualifying round for the 25th National Chess Championship begins at the NSC Chess room from April 8 afternoon (3 pm).

Interested players have been requested to enrol their names at the Bangladesh Chess Federation office before 8 pm on April 7.

Hosts wilt after Lara's scintillating hundred

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 5 (Reuters/Internet): Master batsman Brian Lara lashed the third-fastest century in West Indies Test history on Sunday.

Lara left Australia gasping on the second day of the fourth and final Test with an 82-ball 100, beaten only by Viv Richards and Roy Fredericks.

The truly gifted West Indies captain had arrived at the crease in all too familiar circumstances - his team struggling on 20 for two in reply to Australia's first innings of 303.

By the time he had finished West Indies were 136 for three, a total extended to 197 for six by the close. 106 behind. Carl Hooper was unbeaten on 40.

Lara, dropped by Colin Miller on 14 then almost run out, rode his luck and smashed three sixes and 15 fours in another demonstration of devastating batting.

His first 50 came in 61 balls with eight fours and a six. The second 50 was from just 21 balls with another seven fours and two sixes.

It was his 13th hundred in 63 Tests and the second time he had made three centuries in successive Tests.

The century took only 96 minutes but his concentration suddenly deserted him after he reached the mark and wicket-keeper Ian Healy took a one-handed catch on the leg side off paceman Glenn McGrath.

But while Lara was at the crease the scoreboard rocketed. The man who cracked 213 in Jamaica and followed up with his superlative unbeaten 153 in Barbados to turn the West Indies into a team of also-rans into 2-1 series leaders hit precisely 100 of the 116 scored.

Third wicket partner David Joseph was simply content to stay in the teens and watch in awe as his partner flayed Australia's attack.

Miller, able to deliver both medium pace and off-spin and a replacement for leg-spinner Shane Warne, blotted his copybook by dropping Lara at mid-on.

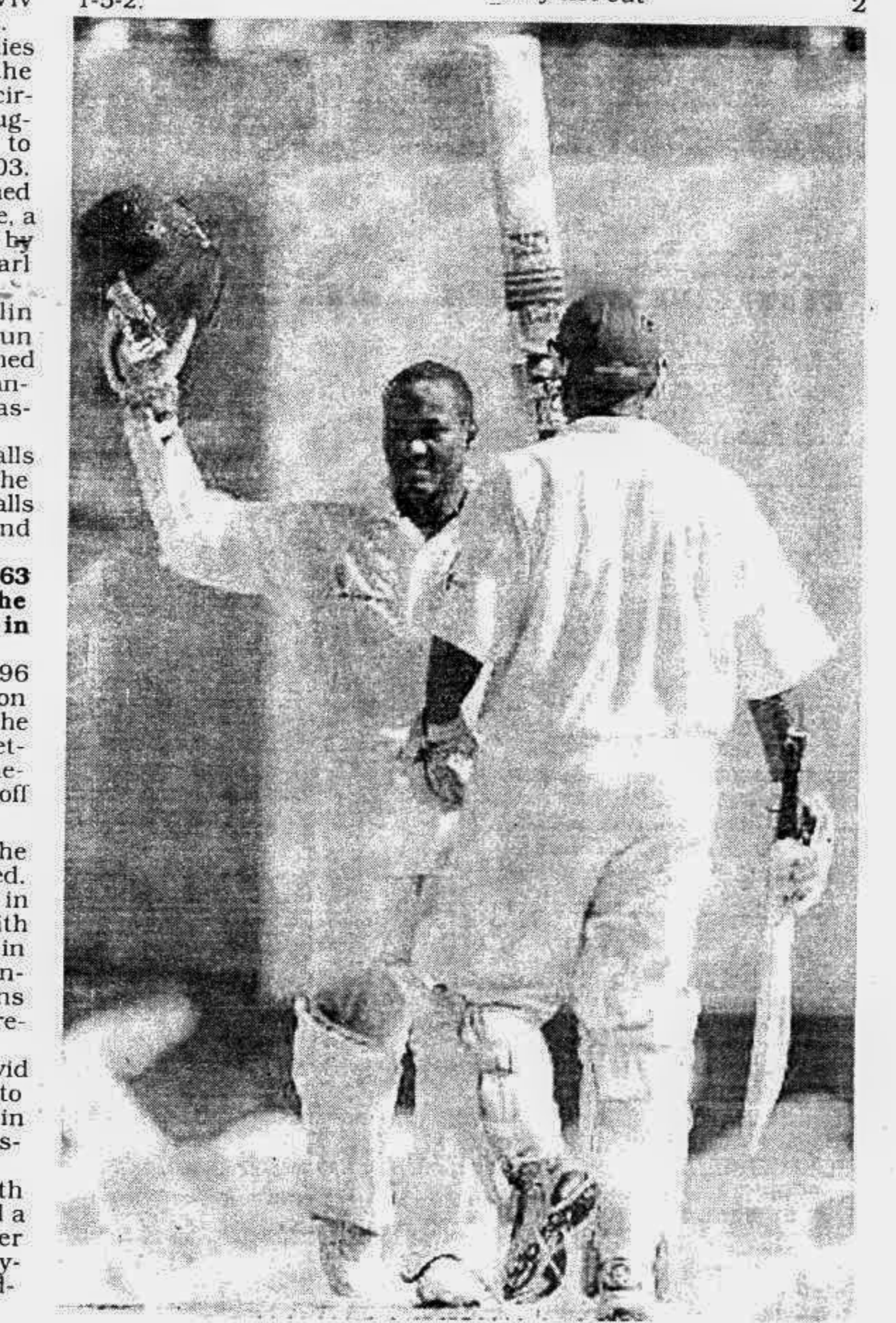
Miller's innings included

two pulled sixes off paceman Curtly Ambrose, pick of the West Indies bowling with five for 94.

Then Miller, playing his first game of the series, removed West Indies opener Adrian Griffith (9) and Sherwin Campbell (8) in a splendid opening spell of medium pace that was rewarded with figures of 4-1-5-2.

WEST INDIES: First innings

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| Campbell | c M Waugh | b Miller | 8 |
| Griffith | c Healy | b Miller | 9 |
| Joseph | lbw | b Dale | 28 |
| Lara | c Healy | b McGrath | 100 |
| Hooper | not out | | 40 |
| Adams | c Healy | b Dale | 0 |
| Jacobs | lbw | b MacGill | 4 |
| Perry | not out | | 2 |



West Indies captain Brian Lara responds to the crowd's applause after his sparkling century against Australia on the second day of the Antigua Test on Sunday.

Adam Dale, another newcomer, finally had the stubborn Joseph leg before for 28 and followed up by removing Jimmy Adams, caught behind without scoring.

Skipper Waugh contributed 72 not out as he led from the front in Australia's battle to save the series. Once again he was his country's top scorer.

Ambrose took his wickets haul to 366 in 88 five-day games and moved above Pakistan's Imran Khan as the seventh best Test wicket-taker.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the fourth and final Test between West Indies and Australia on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 221 for five)

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------|-----|
| Slater | c Joseph | b Perry | 33 |
| Blewett | c Jacobs | b Collymore | 32 |
| Langer | run out | | 51 |
| M Waugh | c Hooper | b Walsh | 11 |
| S Waugh | not out | | 21 |
| Ponting | lbw | b Ambrose | 72 |
| Healy | c Hooper | b Ambrose | 6 |
| Dale | c Hooper | b Ambrose | 1 |
| MacGill | c Joseph | b Ambrose | 4 |
| Miller | c Joseph | b Adams | 43 |
| McGrath | c Jacobs | b Adams | 5 |
| Extras | (lb-5 nb-19) | | 24 |
| Total | (All out 111.5 overs) | | 303 |

Fall of wickets: 1-60; 2-76; 3-96; 4-155; 5-211; 6-226; 7-232; 8-242; 9-295.

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|---|----|---|
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| Ambrose | 29.5 | 6 | 94 | 5 |
| Walsh | 26 | 1 | 67 | 1 |
| Collymore | 25 | 6 | 49 | 1 |
| Perry | 15 | 5 | 36 | 1 |
| Adams | 6 | 1 | 18 | 1 |

Extras: (nb-6) 6
Total: (For six wickets) 197
Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-20; 3-136; 4-176; 5-178; 6-192

| | | | | |
|---------|----|---|----|---|
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| McGrath | 23 | 8 | 48 | 1 |
| Dale | 18 | 7 | 67 | 2 |
| Miller | 17 | 5 | 39 | 2 |
| MacGill | 10 | 3 | 43 | 1 |

National Youth Cricket Faridpur enjoy upper hand

Sports Reporter

A brilliant half-century from Sohan put Faridpur in the driving seat against Chandpur in a final round match of the 19th National Youth Cricket Championship played at the Sathkira Stadium yesterday.

Sohan scored 55 as Faridpur, put into bat first in the two-day affair, piled up a huge 250 before being all out in 72.3 overs.

Sohan apart, Masud hammered 49 while Babu chipped in with 45.

For Chandpur, Nitul was the most successful bowler, returning with five for 44.

In reply, Chandpur were in thick soup as they lost four wickets for 34 runs in the day's remaining 17 overs.

Faridpur's Simon claimed two wickets for three runs to put Chandpur in the back seat. Away at the Kushtia Stadium, Sylhet earned a walkover against Habisganj as the latter did not turn up.



Former Indian cricket captain Krishnamachari Srikanth (R) and filmstar Mahima Chowdhury holding the World Cup during media preview at New Delhi yesterday.

— AFP photo