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Did U Know?

Thirteen countries made the trip to Montevideo for the first football World Cup which took place between July 13-30 1930. The prize of the eventual winners was a 32cm (12.5-inch) high trophy made of solid gold and weighing 12lb. Designed by the French sculptor, Abel Laffleur, its sporting value was priceless and there were 13 captains all eager to get their hands on the trophy.

Because of the travelling involved, the number of European entrants totalled only four. The journey across the Atlantic in 1930 was not the easy task it is today. There were no scheduled air routes, so the journey had to be made by boat and that took anything up to month.

The European representation was not the best the continent could master. Romania, for example, were not supposed to be sending a team to Uruguay until their young King, Carol, intervened and pleaded with employers to give three months leave to employees selected for the Romanian squad. They agreed, the King set about picking the team himself and then the team began a long journey.

And as the news of Biman celebration from Jessore reached Dhaka, Chittagong captain Minhazul Abedin quickly decided not to fight for a lost cause against Dhaka Metropolis at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, where the match was declared a draw at the same time with no apparent results on the cards.

There was however little doubt regarding a Biman triumph after Habibul Bashar smashed a double century and Hasanuzzaman notched up his third ton in the League on Monday, giving the season's most entraining side a first innings lead of 200 runs.

Bashar was starting for runs throughout the League. But the national top-order batsman returned to form in the most pugnicuous way by cracking a superb 224. It was also the highest individual score by any player in the League. Bashar's teammate Pakistani recruit Imran Farhat, who made 216 against Chittagong in the first round held the distinction previously.

Hasanuzzaman completed a fantastic individual season with



TALK TURKEY



Shahid Afridi
(Pakistani cricketer)
"I knew there was no problem in my bowling action and I feel relieved on being cleared."

After a Pakistani panel okayed his bowling action on Saturday



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Star Sports
New Zealand vs Sri Lanka
1st one-day international
Live at 6:45 am
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Live at 8:00 pm

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Australia vs Zimbabwe
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2:00 pm
Manchester City vs Derby County
English Premiership
9:00 pm

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 143
Tick the Correct Answers
Post to *Star Sports*
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 2, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Which is FIFA's top ranked country?
Brazil Italy Holland

2. How many Test hundreds has Steve Waugh scored?
24 25 26

3. What is the result of the South Africa-Sri Lanka ODI series?
5-1 6-0 4-2

4. Who is the lone double centurion in the National Cricket League?
Farhat Javed Omar Aminul

5. By which margin did Bangladesh go down to Bosnia in the Sahara Millennium Cup?
2-0 3-0 4-0

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No.: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (If any) _____

Biman's *veni vidi vici*

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Biman v Khulna

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman were crowned champions of the Green Delta National Cricket League in the most emphatic fashion, when they outclassed Khulna by an innings and 55 runs on the final day of their four-day match at Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

The national flag carrier, who went into the title-deciding match with fate hanging in the outcome of the Dhaka Metropolis-Chittagong game, put the issue beyond any question when they shot Khulna out for 115 at the stroke of the lunch break.

And as the news of Biman celebration from Jessore reached Dhaka, Chittagong captain Minhazul Abedin quickly decided not to fight for a lost cause against Dhaka Metropolis at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, where the match was declared a draw at the same time with no apparent results on the cards.

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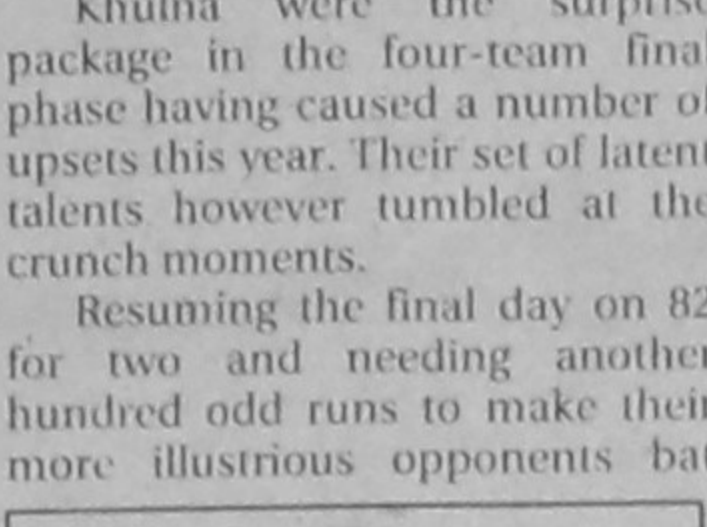
Bashar was starting for runs throughout the League. But the national top-order batsman returned to form in the most pugnicuous way by cracking a superb 224. It was also the highest individual score by any player in the League. Bashar's teammate Pakistani recruit Imran Farhat, who made 216 against Chittagong in the first round held the distinction previously.

Hasanuzzaman completed a fantastic individual season with

118. The young right-hander has been the mainstay of Biman batting especially when the chips were down.

Khulna were the surprise package in the four-team final phase having caused a number of upsets this year. Their set of latent talents however tumbled at the crunch moments.

Resuming the final day on 82 for two and needing another hundred odd runs to make their more illustrious opponents bat



BASHAR...224

again, the hosts tumbled like a pack of cards in the face of some quality seam bowling from Anwar Hossain Monir and Mohammad Sharif.

The new-ball duo of Biman shared seven wickets with Monir finishing with four for 34. Sharif took three for 38. Monir, the left-right-arm seamer of BKSP, had missed most part of the League due to injury. Sharif was one of the main architects of the Biman success with a bag of 49 wickets.

The inclusion of the 17-year-old quickie by default paid rich dividends for an otherwise aging pace attack of Biman.

The success also earned Biman, one of the two new entrant in the League this season, the enviable tag of winning an ICC recognised first-class event.

Biman, with this win, raised their tally to 50 points, six ahead of their nearest challengers Chittagong. They will play their final limited overs match against Khulna at the same venue today. But the game is left with academic interest only.

Comilla registered a comfortable 96-run victory over Rajbari in the 20th National Youth Cricket Championship at Thakurgaon yesterday.

Opted to bat first, Comilla scored a moderate 232 runs for nine in stipulated 50 overs with number five bat Bulbul contributed 58 off 67 balls with 7 hits to the fence and one over the fence.

Number seven batsman Bikash scored an unbeaten 50 runs off 75 balls featuring five boundaries while opener Simu made a useful 41 in 60 balls including three fours.

Zahirul was the most successful among the Rajbari bowlers taking three wickets for 38 in his nine-over spell with maiden while Roman claimed two for 45 in 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the four-day Green Delta National Cricket League match between Bangladesh Biman and Khulna at the Jessore Stadium yesterday.

KHULNA: First innings 289 all out in 107 overs (Rana 76, Jamaluddin 47 not out; A Wasim 3/63, Monir 2/16)

BIMAN: First innings 489 all out in 148.3 overs (Bashar 224, Hasanuzzaman 118; Jamaluddin 5/62, Rana 4/75)

KHULNA: Second innings (Overnight 82 for 2 in 31 overs)

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Nahidul c Mukter b Monir | 9 |
| Raju b Sharif | 34 |
| Salahuddin c Mukter b Monir | 11 |
| Rana c Mukter b Sharif | 3 |
| Jamaluddin b Monir | 27 |
| Salim b Monir | 0 |
| Asadullah not out | 28 |
| Tushar c sub b Sharif | 14 |
| Sohail b Ziaur | 0 |
| Al-Amin c Mukter b Ziaur | 1 |
| Monjurul run out | 1 |
| Extras: (b-8, lb-1, nb-8) | 17 |
| Total: (All out in 63 overs) | 145 |

Fall of wickets: 1/12, 2/32, 3/95, 4/96, 5/97, 6/99, 7/101, 8/140, 9/142

Bowler O M R W
Sharif 17 4 38 3
Monir 19 4 34 4
A Wasim 12 3 26 0
Ziaur 8 1 17 2
Aminul 4 0 10 0
Faruque 1 0 2 0
Hasanuzzaman 2 1 6 0

Result: Bangladesh Biman won by an innings and 55 runs.

Nat'l youth cricket

Easy victory for Comilla UNB, Dhaka

Comilla registered a comfortable 96-run victory over Rajbari in the 20th National Youth Cricket Championship at Thakurgaon yesterday.

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Zahirul was the most successful among the Rajbari bowlers taking three wickets for 38 in his nine-over spell with maiden while Roman claimed two for 45 in 10 overs.

In reply, Rajbari were dismissed for 136 in 42.2 overs with Parag making 36 in 51 deliveries hitting three fours and a six.

Two down Shipon (20), number five Roman (20) and tail-ender Rabbo (not out 19) were the other Rajbari batsmen reaching double figure.

Comilla skipper and new ball bowler Whasel grabbed three wickets conceding 25 runs in 10 overs with two maidens while James and Russel took two wickets each.

BRIEF SCORES
COMILLA DSA: 232 for 9 in 50 overs (Bulbul 58, Bikash not out 50, Simu 41, James 22, Zahir 10, extras 28; Zahirul 3/38, Roman 2/45, Parag 1/15, Mital 1/15, Sajib 1/47)

RAJBARI DSA: 136 all out in 42.2 overs (Parag 36, Shipon 20, Roman 20, Rabbo unbeaten 19, extras 27; Whasel 3/25, James 2/18, Russel 2/28, Bikash 1/26 and Moni 1/36)

Nat'l schools cricket

UNB, Dhaka

A blistering ton by Siper guided Rayerbazar High to earn huge 265-run victory over Moonlight K&H School in the 19th Standard Chartered ANZ National Schools Cricket Championship yesterday.

Siper belted 26 boundaries and two over boundaries facing 107 balls to score 169 runs helping Rayerbazar make 345 for 3 in stipulated 35 overs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Rony was another notable scorer making 83 off 69 balls.

Chasing the huge total, Moonlight managed 80 for 8 in 22.2 overs. Two of their batsmen did not appear on the ground. Karim picked up four for 17.

At the City Club ground, Bangladesh Adarsha Shikha Niketon (BASN) outplayed Dhaka Blue Sky Pre-Cadet High by 191 runs.

Batting first, BASN collected 256 runs for nine in the stipulated 35 overs.

In reply, Dhaka Blue Sky were all out for 69 in 19.5 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Motijheel Government High beat Motijheel Model High by 61 runs.

Batting first, Motijheel Govt High scored 162 runs for all in 25.3 overs and in reply, Motijheel Model were all out for 101 in 23.4 overs.

NZ, SL meet in first ODI today

REUTERS, Napier

Sri Lankan bowlers Muttiah Muralitharan and Chaminda Vass are likely to live up for the tourists when they play New Zealand in the first one-day international of a five-match series in Napier on Wednesday.

Both off-spinner Muralitharan and left-arm seamer Vass - who between them total 304 one-day internationals and 398 wickets - arrived in New Zealand carrying injuries from Sri Lanka's recent tour of South Africa.

But they bowled at practise on Tuesday and coach Day Whatmore said he would be surprised if both did not play on Wednesday.

TEAMS
NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, Matthew Sinclair, Craig McMillan, Roger Twose, Chris Harris, Jacob Oram, James Franklin, Adam Parore, Daniel Vettori, Andrew Penn, Chris Martin.

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Maivan Atapattu, Russel Arnold, Mahela Jayawardene, Aravinda de Silva, Kumar Sangakkara, Avishka Gunawardene, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vass, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Kumar Dharmasena, Ruchira Perera, Eric Upshantha.



Ehsanul of Chittagong, who scored a brilliant century against Dhaka Metropolis in the Green Delta National Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday, here sweeps one.

Metro, Ctg share spoils

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Dhaka Metro v Chittagong

SPORTS REPORTER

The four-day match of the Green Delta National Cricket League between Dhaka Metropolis and last year's champions Chittagong fizzled out into a tame draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yesterday.

The game, the last four-dayer of the season for both teams, was called off before the lunch break on the final day after the captains agreed to stop as no realistic result was in sight. Hosts Dhaka Metropolis were 177 for four in their second innings at that point.

Although the outcome was a disappointment for Chittagong, whom Biman dethroned, Dhaka however had a vengeful delight after an unfortunate episode in Comilla, where they were badly treated by Chittagong supporters in the previous round.

Chittagong's hopes of retaining the title were dashed even before the match progressed on the final day when they conceded a first-innings lead against the hosts.

The port city outfit, who faced

a lot of in and off the pitch problems during the course of the League, could manage to score 374 in reply to a mammoth Dhaka Metro first innings total of 503 for nine declared.

Their hopes deftly defied by the enterprising Dhaka.

For Dhaka, Al-Shahriar and Halim Shah put on 120 runs for the second wicket. Al-Shahriar, who missed his second hundred in the League for five runs in the first innings, scored a typically aggressive 69 off 93 balls. The right-hander hammered nine fours and a six in his 120-minute stay at the crease.

Halim scored 41 off 77 balls that included five fours.

The outcome left Chittagong with their previous collection of 44 points. Dhaka, who got four points by virtue of enjoying a first innings advantage, improved their tally to 40.

They will play their final limited overs match today. But it would not effect the standings, which has already been decided with Biman winning the title. Chittagong finished runners-up. Dhaka Metropolis claimed the third position ahead of Khulna.

SCOREBOARD
Final scoreboard of the four-day Green Delta National Cricket League match between Dhaka Metropolis and Chittagong at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

DHAKA METROPOLIS: First innings 503 for 9 Dec. (Ashraf 157, Al-Shahriar 95, Neeayamur 96, Biplob 58; Safiuddin 4/95)

CHITTAGONG: First innings 374 all out in 123.4 overs (Ehsanul 101, Akram 59, Minhazul 55, Nafis 50; Ashraf 7/99)

DHAKA METROPOLIS: Second innings (overnight 38 for 1 in 11 overs)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Ashraf c Nafis b Safiuddin | 11 |
| Halim c b S | 41 |
| Al-Shahriar b S Mehmud | 69 |
| Sajjad c sub b S Mehmud | 14 |
| Naimur not out | 15 |
| Neeayamur not out | 8 |
| Extras: (b-10, lb-2, nb-6, w-1) | 19 |
| Total: (For 4 wickets in 42 overs) | 177 |

Fall of wickets: 1/15, 2/135, 3/138, 4/159

Bowler O M R W
Anis 4 0 24 0
Safiuddin 12 3 30 1
Enamul 12 0 51 1
Rezaul 5 1 20 0
S Mehmud 9 2 40 2

Result: Match drawn.

Rafiq, Mehrab sign contract

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has brought opener Mehrab Hossain and spinner Mohammad Rafique on its payroll, extending the number of players under contract to twenty.



RAFIQUE

A source in the Board disclosed that youngsters Mohammad Ashraf and Mohammad Sharif are also on way to join the list of pool players.

Left-arm Rafique, who was not picked for the contract signed in August last year but played in the ICC Knockout Trophy in Kenya, completed the formalities

with the Board on Saturday.

On the other hand, Mehrab, who played in Bangladesh's inaugural Test against India last November having remained out of action for six months with a knee injury, signed his contract on Monday.

Both Rafique and Mehrab have been put into Grade A, and the contract would be effective from October last year. The Board pays a salary of Taka four lakh per annum for a Grade A cricketer.

New batting sensation Mohammad Ashraf and firebrand pacer Mohammad Sharif, who are already called up along with 20 others in the primary camp for Zimbabwe tour, are likely to sign contract in few days.

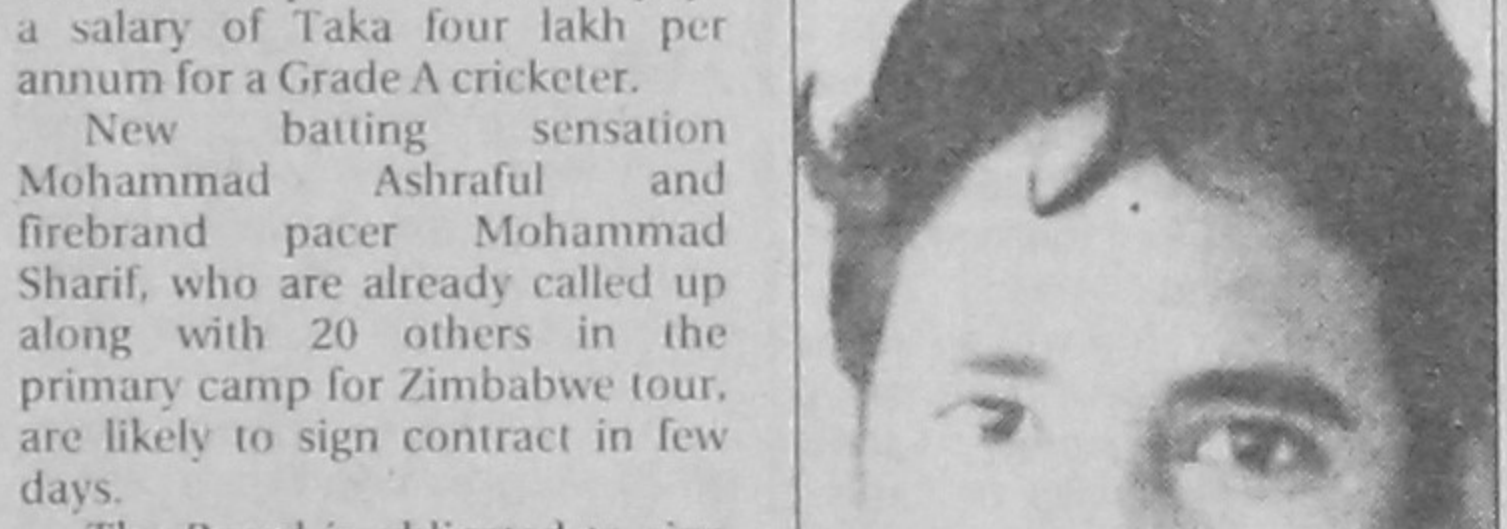
The Board is obligated to sign contract soon because of its latest decision that bars the 22 players in trial camp from taking part in Dhaka Premier League. As per the Board rule, even if Ashraf and Sharif fail to make it to the tour party of 15, they would not be allowed to play in the league.

It was gathered that the Board would put them in Grade C, cricketers of which category would get Taka two lakh per annum. Grade B cricketers would meanwhile draw a salary of Taka 3 lakh per annum.

Cricketers outside payroll however privately claimed themselves lucky as they would be earning more than twice than Grade B cricketers playing in

Dhaka League, which over the years has been the main source of earning for them.

The other 20 cricketers on payroll are: Naimur Rahman, Khalid Masood, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam, Javed Omar, Habibul Bashar, Shahriar Hossain, Enamul Hoque, Al-Shahriar, Hasibul Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Bikash Banjan Das, Rajin Saleh



MEHRAB

Alam, Nasirul Alam, Fahim Muntasir, Ehsanul Haque, Mushiqur Rahman, Sabbir Khan, Mohammad Rafique and Mehrab Hossain.

The primary camp for the forthcoming Zimbabwe tour would start from the second week of February. Bangladesh team will leave for Harare on April 1 to play two Tests and three one-day international matches.

will be slower and turn more.

"Sri Lanka too are a very hostile, noisy team. I expect everything there to be doubly difficult to what it was in Pakistan."

"Remember when Sri Lanka last played us at The Oval on a sub-continental style pitch? They bowled us out, scored at six an over and then bowled us out again."

Sri Lanka won that Test in 1998 by 10 wickets with Muttiah Muralitharan taking 16 for 220. The unique off-spinner, whose action has been a source of constant controversy, remains Sri Lanka's most potent weapon but Hussain insisted England had no special plan to combat him.

"He's a great bowler and could end up as the greatest Test bowler of all time, I know it's a cliché but people must play him as they see him."

"If guys want to get rid of the four fielders around the bat by attacking him that's fine but if they are confident in their defence then they can play him that way."

Nasser knows what's ahead

Cricket

AFP, London



NASSER HUSSAIN

England captain Nasser Hussain pulled no punches when he admitted that his team face a difficult challenge ahead of their three-Test tour in Sri Lanka.

The England team left for Colombo Tuesday and speaking at a Heathrow hotel press conference Hussain said: "Sri Lanka is a very difficult place to play. They are a tough side; it's a great place to go on holiday but a hard place to play cricket."

Away from home the Sri Lankans have been unable to reproduce the kind of form which makes them formidable opponents at home, most noticeably seen in their series defeat in South Africa.

But with the added edge of a noisy home support, Hussain said that Sri Lanka's recent disappointments will fade into insignificance as they prepare to turn the tables on England.

balance after that big disappointment.

Steve Waugh, with a cool 81 from 71 balls, kept up the momentum. At the other end, opener Mark Waugh played an elegant hand, reaching his 100 with the winning shot of the match to the boundary.

The one Zimbabwe bowler who could hold his head high was leg-spinner Brian Murphy, with a fine return of 3-52 from his 10 overs.

He struck with his very first ball when he had Symonds caught in the deep by Dirk Viljoen and then snapped up Steve Waugh lbw and had Haddin caught.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at end of Australia-Zimbabwe Carlton tri-nation series one-day match at Bellerive Oval on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE
Campbell st Haddin b Warne 124
Whittall run out 36
Carlisle c Symonds b Martyn 36

Aussies just too much

Cricket

AFP, Hobart

All-conquering Australia beat Zimbabwe by six wickets in a record-breaking run-spre by both teams in a Carlton tri-nation series one-day cricket clash at Bellerive Oval here Tuesday.

Zimbabwe, sent in when Australian captain Steve Waugh won the toss, amassed 279 for six from their full quota of 50 overs - their highest-ever total against Australia.

That was a devastating blow for Zimbabwe, who seemed to be off

With Australia's attack below par, only Glenn McGrath with 2-43 contained the Zimbabweans.

But Zimbabwe, whose attack has no depth, never looked like defending their big total.

Australia's stand-in opener Andrew Symonds made 60 from 47 balls - though he had fortune on his side. He might have been out from the first ball of the innings, a lifting delivery hurled down by speedster Heath Streak - but an appeal for a catch behind off the glove was turned down.

That was a devastating blow for Zimbabwe, who seemed to be off

But the home team, faced with their biggest challenge of the series, treated the opposition with near-contempt as they cruised to victory with six overs to spare in making 282 for four - their highest successful run chase on home territory.

It was the seventh win in a row in this competition by the seemingly invincible Australians.

Zimbabwe, on the other hand, still have only one win from six outings and are now in serious danger of missing a place in next month's best of three finals of the 210,000 dollar (120,000 US) competition.

Their last chance will come Friday when they meet the West Indies in a crucial day-night battle royal at the WACA Ground in Perth.

The winner will almost certainly earn a passport to the big showdown with Australia for the major portion of the prize money.

Zimbabwe's big total Tuesday - their best of the series - was built around a marvellous 124 from 142 balls by left-handed opener Alistair Campbell, who was named man of the match - some consolation for finishing a loser after such a superb knock.

Campbell and Guy Whittall (36) put Zimbabwe well on the road to their competitive total when they hammered 94 for the first wicket before Whittall was run out by Australia's new wicket-keeper Brad Haddin, who broke the stumps at the non-striker's end.

Andy Flower (51 from 44 balls, with six boundaries) and Stuart Carlisle (36 from 40 balls) also contributed in an even batting performance.

A Flower c Martyn b Warne 51
Streak not out 10
G Flower b McGrath 3
Viljoen b McGrath 1
Extras: (fb-6, w-8, nb-4) 18
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs) 279

Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-164, 3-265, 4-266, 5-269, 6-279

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 10 1 43 2
Fleming 10 0 46 0
Harvey 10 1 54 0
Warne 9 0 51 2
Symonds 7 0 51 0
Martyn 4 0 28 1

AUSTRALIA
Symonds c Viljoen b Murphy 60
M Waugh not out 100
Ponting c Mackay b Nkala 6
S Waugh lbw b Murphy 81
Haddin c Whittall b Murphy 13
Harvey not out 13
Extras: (b-3, lb-1, w-3, nb-2) 9
Total: (For 4 wickets in 44 overs) 282

Fall of wickets: 1-89, 2-114, 3-234, 4-258

Bowler O M R W
Streak 10 0 49 0
Strang 6 0 42 0
Nkala 5 0 33 1
Mackay 4 0 33 0
Murphy 10 0 52 3
Viljoen 4 0 28 0
Whittall 5 0 41 0

Result: Australia won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Alistair Campbell.

STANDINGS

| | P | W | L | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|----|-----|
| Australia | 7 | 7 | 14 | |
| W Indies | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| Zimbabwe | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 |

Green Delta jr hockey

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Hockey Club beat Shantinagar Club 2-1 in the tie-breaker in the Green Delta Metropolis Junior Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

After goalless stipulated 70 minutes, Shariful and Faruque scored for Dhaka Hockey Club while Shaheen netted the lone goal for Shantinagar.

Earlier in the day's first match, Diksha SC managed a solitary goal victory over PWD SC at the same venue.