

## NB v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Titas Club maintained their all-win record in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League outplaying Diluksha SC 3-0 at the volleyball court yesterday.

Titas secured full 21 points from seven matches while Diluksha suffered third defeat in five encounters.

Earlier, Bangladesh Rifles defeated Azad SC 3-0 Friday night.

In the First Division, league, Fire Service beat Chand Textile while East End Club beat East End Boys 3-1.

Sunday's Premier Division matches: Bangladesh Rifles vs WDB, Bangladesh Bank vs Brothers Union.

First Division matches: Fire Service vs Jibon Bima KS, East End Boys vs Dhaka Sabu.

## Saurav becomes media-wise

PTI, Kolkata

Indian cricket captain Saurav Ganguly has advocated the need for appointing a media manager for the team, saying it will ease the pressure on the captain and the players considerably.

"Most of the teams have a media manager these days which makes the job much easier for the team. Only the teams in the sub-continent don't have one. I think it is very necessary," Ganguly said in an interview to Doordarshan.

Ganguly said the captain has to answer a lot of questions during a series and often the media misreport the statements, which gives a totally different meaning.

"When statements are distorted, people who read the reports have a different idea of the situation. If we have a media manager it will ease the pressure on the captain, coach and the manager," he said.

The India captain, who appeared for the first time in a joint interview with wife Dona, spoke on a wide range of subjects covering some of the controversies during the recent series against Australia and his family life.

Ganguly said the series of controversial articles and misreporting in recent times had prompted him to be more reticent and choosy while handling the media in the country.

"After some time, you come to know who is doing the right thing and who is not doing. You have to judge for yourself," he said.

## Pak spinners

FROM PAGE 13

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-71, 3-88, 4-118, 5-134, 6-141, 7-161, 8-163, 9-171.

Bowler O M R W  
Akram 6 4 5 1  
Akhtar 6 2 20 0  
Razzaq 7 1 37 1  
Waqar 3 1 10 0  
Saqlain 18.3 7 37 4  
Mushtaq 15 3 41 4

Result: Pakistan won by an innings and 26 runs.

## Rivals

FROM PAGE 13

In 1999, India, after their 1989 Test tour, have cancelled four visits to Pakistan, the latest earlier this year because of restrictions by the government which has refused to give permission to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for bilateral matches.

The government has clearly said for a multilateral tournament it has no objection at all," BCCI president AC Muthiah told Reuters from Lahore.

Sporting relations between India and Pakistan remain strained because of political tension over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir.

India also skipped April's one-day triangular tournament in Sharjah, a move that angered Pakistan's cricket authorities who had said they would boycott the Indian team in future. Both decisions were made on the orders of the Indian government.

Since then, cricketing relations have soured.

Zia said all four countries had committed themselves to signing a binding agreement to honouring the agreed schedule of matches.

Although the improvement in the political relationship undoubtedly contributed to the resumption of cricketing ties, officials had always been quietly confident that the two countries would find a way of playing each other again.

Cricket is by far the most popular sport in both countries and they can ill afford to do without each other.

The Indian government recently indicated that it would not prevent the cricket team from playing Pakistan in multilateral tournaments — a concession it had little option to make to ensure India could play in the 2003 World Cup.

While cricketing relations have been strained, India and Pakistan have maintained ties in other sports, notably field hockey and squash.

## Alec, Alex in charge

Cricket

REUTERS, London

bowlers at Bristol where Worcestershire scored 298 for six against Gloucestershire.

Graeme Hick, omitted from England's one-day squad, was out for four but Phil Weston struck 84 and Australian all-rounder Andy Bichel an unbeaten 71.

## BRIEF SCORES

English County cricket scores on Friday:

At Bristol: Worcestershire 298-6 (W Weston 83, A Bichel 71 not

out, M Butcher 52) v Essex

At Headingley: Yorkshire 300-5 (M Vaughan 133) v Northamptonshire

## Division Two

At Derby: Leicestershire 314-6 (W Kendall 94, I Pratipati 81, D Kenway 57, N Johnson 53) v Derbyshire

At Bristol: Worcestershire 298-6 (W Weston 83, A Bichel 71 not

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