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Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 5, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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Did U Know?

The USA have clearly dominated Olympic basketball since the game became an official Olympic sport in 1932, when James Naismith, its inventor, was invited to toss the opening jump ball in the first game. Up to 1964, the country had won 54 consecutive games, often by 50 or 60 points. In 1968, most of the top players chose to protect their professional careers, so the USA presented a team of university team players. This presented the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia with the chance to close the gap in the forthcoming games and, as a result, the gold medal was finally won in 1972 by the Soviet Union in a much-contested final. It was not until 1992 that the International Basketball Federation allowed professional players to participate in the Olympics, giving way to the formation of what has since been called the "Dream Team", which won the gold medal that year with ease. Nevertheless, as the win against Lithuania in Sydney 2000's semifinal showed, the superiority of NBA players may be hotly contested in the near future.



What to Watch

ESPN (Monday)
Pakistan vs England
Second Test Day Five
Highlights
1:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
11:30 pm
(Tuesday)
Western Union World Football
5:00 am
World Cup Qualifier
Spain vs Bosnia-Herzegovina
11:30 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Pakistan vs England
Second Test Day Five
Highlights
9:00 pm
Star Sports (Monday)
Pakistan vs England
Second Test Day Five
Highlights

SEE PAGE 14



Duncan Fletcher
(England cricket coach)
"He seems to have taken a liking to quite a lot of bowling."
On Michael Vaughan.

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 151
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
June 15, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who lifted the European Champions League soccer title?
Valencia | Man United | Bayern Munich
- Who became champions in the World Team Cup tennis?
Russia | America | Australia
- Who clinched the German Open tennis title?
Hingis | Pierce | Mauresmo
- Who became Hamburg Masters Series champion?
Ferrero | Kuerten | Portas
- Who clinched the Spanish League title?
Barcelona | Alaves | Real Madrid

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Muktis storm into final

SPORTS REPORTER

A magnificent performance from midfielder Matur Rahman Munna helped favourites Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra storm into the Nitel White Cement 17th Federation Cup final with a 4-1 demolition of the season's surprise-pack Farashganj Sporting Club in the second semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by a solitary goal. Munna was instrumental in setting up all the goals for the all-reds. Nigerian forward Emece Achilefu struck twice, his attacking partner Mizanur Rahman Don and super-sub Farhad added one each.

For Farashganj, national striker Maksudul Amin Rana scored the consolation goal through penalty during injury time. With two popular outfits Abahani and Mohammedan already out of the tournament, Muktiyoddha are left with another surprise-setter to overcome before lifting the trophy. The 1994 champions will take on this season's giant-slayers Arambagh in tomorrow's final at the same venue at 5:30 pm.

After a brief but heavy afternoon shower that delayed the start by one hour, both teams could not

play their normal game on the wet outfield and resorted to long passes instead.

However, it was Farashganj who could have taken the lead in the 21st minute had not skipper Askar Babu's volley from the top of the box hit the cross bar.

After surviving the close call, the all-reds, led by their midfield general Munna, gradually took the control of the match. Playmaker Munna, after receiving a through ball from Asif in the 34th minute, sent a neat cross from the right wing to the other end. Emece wasted no time in tapping the ball home from two yards. This was the first goal that Farashganj's goalkeeper Biplab had conceded in the Federation Cup after being unconquered for 484 minutes.

Munna sent an identical cross at the same direction in the 55th minute, it was Don this time who leaped into the air to head home the second goal.

The tall midfielder then changed his position from right to left, only to set up opportunities for two more goals with a couple of neat crosses. His first cross was headed home by Emece in the 76th minute (3-0) while substitute Farhad, who replaced Don midway through second half, then scored the last goal with a brilliant left-foot volley in the 79th minute (4-0).

Muktiyoddha seemed to have

run out of gas after that goal, letting Farashganj take full advantage of their tiredness in the late second half.

Farashganj earned a penalty in the injury time after Amin Rana was brought down by Muktiyoddha defender Prodeep inside danger area.

Rana himself took the spot-kick that went into the right hand corner of the net (1-4).

TEAMS
Muktiyoddha Sangsad: Aminul (Abir), Hasan Al-Mamun, Prodeep, Rajani, Abdullah, Matur Munna, Rakib, Asif, Don (Farhad) and Emece (Manju).

Farashganj SC: Biplab (Aminul), Shafi, Shawkat, Sohel Rana, Badal, Chandan (Amirul), Askar Babu, Kallol, Mithu (Palash), Jalaluddin and Amin Rana.

Referee: Ibrahim Nesar.

Duplicate bridge

PRUSS RELEASE
The annual team and pair Duplicate Bridge competition will start at the Bangladesh Bank Club from Friday. Picnic Bridge Club is organising the event.

Interested players have been requested to complete their entry formality by 9 am on the starting day of the meet at the club behind Modhumita Cinema Hall. Winners in both events will receive cash awards.



Don (No 10) of Muktiyoddha evades a tackle from behind by Badal of Farashganj during their Federation Cup semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Tickets of final devalued

SPORTS REPORTER

After sensing a low turnout, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has reduced the price of tickets for the Nitel White Cement 17th Federation Cup final tomorrow.

The match between Premier Division champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Arambagh Kriya Chakra starts at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 5:30 pm with the Betar providing running commentary.

According to a BFF press release on Monday, the rate of tickets for Western Gallery has been fixed at Taka 20 from Taka 25 while the eastern gallery ticket at Taka 10 from 15.

A VIP gallery ticket will cost only Taka 40.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will witness the final as chief guest and distribute the prizes after the match.

BFF calls up 23 for SAF Games camp

SPORTS REPORTER
The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Monday called up 23 booters for the SAF Games camp, which will start the day after the Federation Cup final on Wednesday.

The Austrian coach of the national team George Kottan, who has been keenly following the ongoing Federation Cup, has selected the players.

The camp will run at the Bangabandhu National Stadium for four days before the Premier Division League kicks off on June 12.

The ninth SAF Games will commence in Islamabad on October. But this time only players below the age of 23 would be able to take part in the regional event.

The players are: Papel, Monwar, Saiful, Liton, Aminul, Rajani, Motiur Munna, Prodip, Lajuk, Moni, Johnny, Kingshuk, Jalal, Biplab, Kallol, Amin Rana, Titu, Sujon, Asad, Ritu, Kanchan, Hassan and Parvez.

Anxious time for Gibbs

INTERNET, Johannesburg
The disciplinary hearing to decide whether an earlier suspended sentence handed to cricketer Herschelle Gibbs will come into operation will be held on Thursday.

A disciplinary committee of the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa met on Friday evening along with chief executive officer Gerald Majola to discuss the issue of a suspended sentence which was handed down to Gibbs on May 12 last year.

Gibbs was given a three-match ban and a 15000 rand fine last year but the suspension and 10000 rand of the penalty were suspended for one year. Gibbs, however, along with five of his colleagues, were fined a further 10000 rand after having been caught smoking dagga (marijuana) in a hotel room in the West Indies.

The UCB will now decide whether the suspended sentence from last year will be enforced. Gibbs has been advised that he is entitled to representation when he appears at the hearing, which will take place in Johannesburg and which will be presided over by Advocate Michael Kuper, SC.

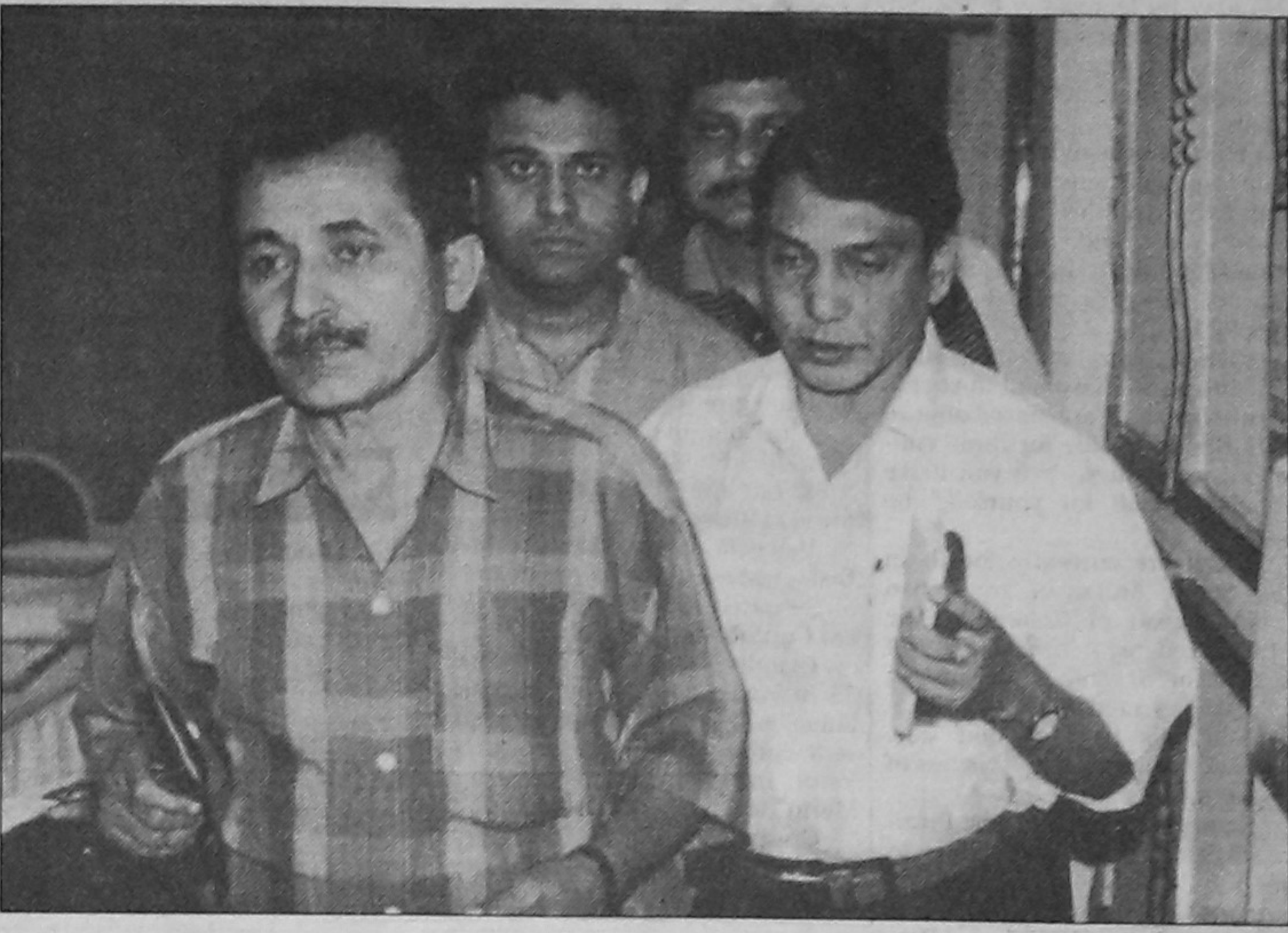
Surrey ride on Ramprakash

REUTERS, London
An unbeaten 85 from Mark Ramprakash guided Surrey to a four-wicket win over Northamptonshire in their National League match on Sunday.

Replying to the hosts' total of 213 for six, Ramprakash and Mark Butcher (55) were in fine form and steered Surrey to victory with two overs to spare.

Hussey posted 80 for Northamptonshire. Half centuries from Jon Dakin and Dan Marsh helped Leicestershire to victory over neighbouring Nottinghamshire at Oakham.

There was a thrilling finish to the game between Kent and Somerset at Tunbridge Wells, which ended in a draw. Replying to Kent's 181 for nine off 45 overs, Rob Turner (56 not out) could not clinch victory despite having two wickets to spare.



Bangladesh Cricket Board's controversial director Sheikh Nizamuddin (R) coming out of the Board of Directors' meeting along with his associates at the BCB office yesterday.

Saber eying early polls

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury hinted at mid-term elections when the adjourned first meeting of the Board of Directors ended at the BCB office on Monday.

Having failed to deliver a promised corruption-free cricket administration, Saber apparently has launched a new campaign to appease critics of the February 26 elections.

"We want to make necessary amendments in the our constitution. And after that I will recommend an early election after the next AGM, which is likely to be held in September or October this year," the BCB boss told waiting journalists.

The May 21 meeting adjourned for two weeks, however, failed to make sense of the much-publicised inquiry committee, formed by the Sports Ministry in response to alleged malpractice and show of arm in the run up to the polls.

It was alleged that Zafar Imam-led District Forum engineered a "cash for vote" scheme with Sheikh

Nizamuddin acting as a 'toll collector' from the aspirant Dhaka based candidates.

But the three-member probe committee, headed by BKSP director general Ahsan Habib, was unable to unmask a single culprit or spell out major anomalies in their second report. Their initial findings were sent back by the State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader for further evaluation.

Talking about the recommendations on the report, which was discussed in the meeting, Saber said that it contained no punitive measures rather a guideline to mend loopholes in the constitution.

"The committee did not find any serious fault in the election so there is no question of dissolving the current board or revoking a director's membership," he said.

In response to a query on whether his desire to start with a clean image was fulfilled or not, Saber responded diplomatically by saying "This was not the way I wanted, but perhaps the meeting set a course to go move ahead."

He acknowledged that a director was warned in the report. Bat Saber declined to disclose the name, reportedly being Sheikh Nizam.

Although Nizam did not turn up on May 21 on 'health ground', the organiser from Satkhira made his presence felt at the BCB office during the proceedings.

Saber has asked the constitution scrutiny committee headed by Enayet Hossain Siraj to submit their proposals the day before the June 12 Board meeting.

Thirty days after that Board meeting, a general meeting would be called in which Saber was expected to present a draft constitution for approval at the next Annual General Meeting.

The BCB president said that he would announce the other fourteen standing committees shortly.

Regarding the appointment of a new chief executive in light of Ali Ahsan's refusal to take the job, Saber said that a suitable person either from home or abroad was yet to be found. But he insisted by next September that key position would be occupied.

Besides, the head of the BCB confirmed that Mobashsher Hossain, director-elect, had withdrawn his resignation letter.

A leading official of Brothers Union, Mobashsher earlier tendered his resignation in protest against allegations of his involvement in the election scam.

England play for draw

Cricket
AFP, Manchester

England were 196 for two at tea on the fifth and final day of the second Test against Pakistan here at Old Trafford Monday, the match seemingly destined for a draw.

Pakistan still needed to take eight wickets for victory, England another 174 runs from a minimum of 32 overs.

Somerset left-hander Marcus Trescothick was 112 not out, Gra-

ham Thorpe 10 not out. Trescothick, 88 at lunch, spent nearly an hour in the 90s, before a single off Abdur Razaq gave him his second Test century and his first in England. He had faced 218 balls including one six and 12 fours.

Still on 100, Trescothick survived a pad-glove chance taken at short leg by Younus off the bowling of off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq, English umpire David Shepherd rejecting the appeal.

Younus threw the ball down in disgust and Saqlain put his

hands on his head in bewilderment. Surrey star Saqlain had bowled unchanged from the Warwick Road end since the start of the day's play. However, on a pitch still good for batting but offering turn he had yet to take a wicket in England's second innings, his Monday figures an otherwise impressive 29-11-38-0.

Television replays suggested Pakistan had a case but such decisions are notoriously difficult for the officials.

Shepherd had already spoken to Pakistan captain Waqar Younis after some of his players appeared to spend too much time talking to the batsmen.

It was a counter-productive approach as Pakistan needed all the time at their disposal to bowl England out in a match they had to win to level the two-match series at one apiece.

But Pakistan got the second wicket they so badly wanted soon after Trescothick's escape when Michael Vaughan, a first innings centurion, was caught behind for 14 by wicket-keeper Rashid Latif as he fenced against a delivery from medium-pace Abdur Razaq.

England were now 174 for two in the 68th of a minimum 90 overs. Vaughan had been in for 80 minutes, facing 62 balls, his scoring rate and that of Trescothick's too slow for England to sustain what was always an outside chance of victory.

Their target of 370 would be the third-highest fourth innings total in Test cricket history, surpassing Australia's 369 for six against Pakistan at Hobart in 1999-2000.

The most England have made batting last to win a Test is 332 for seven against Australia at Melbourne in 1928-29, while their highest chase on home soil happened nearly a century ago when they made 262 for nine against Australia at The Oval in 1902.



England opener Marcus Trescothick, who scored a century yesterday, square-cuts one on Sunday.



Ze Maria (L) of Brazil pats Japanese star Hidetoshi Nakata after their draw at Kashima on June 4.