

Ispahani cricket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Elite Paint crushed Seba Niketan by 81-run in a one-sided match of CJKS Ispahani Cricket League here at the MAAZ stadium yesterday.
In the day's other match at the Chittagong Medical College ground, Ochi Club beat Customs Sports Club by 75 runs.
Batting first, Elite Paint scored 174 in 43.4 overs. Top order batsmen Mujahid and Shamu scored 40 and 38 respectively. In reply, Seba were all out for 93 with almost 10 overs to spare. Only Sunny (35 off 60 balls) gained some respect from the pace duo of Joyanal (22/3) and Tutul (3/27).
Meanwhile, Ochi Club garnered 213 in 44.2 overs, with Sejan scoring highest 45. Ahmad (31), Michal (27) and Sohag (25) were the other notable run-getters for Ochi.
Customs club, in their chase, were bundled out for 138 runs, thanks to a fine bowling exhibition by Bokkor, who took four wickets conceding only 15 runs in his 7 overs.

Azam made BHF new chief

BSS, Dhaka
The government yesterday appointed Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam as president of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF).
He has replaced former air chief Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam.

Premier Div volleyball

UNB, Dhaka
Power Development Board and Water Development Board won their respective matches in the NBL Metropolitan Premier Division Volleyball League at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday.
Power Development Board earned a hard-fought 25-11, 16-25, 25-22, 25-20 points victory over Dikusha Sporting Club while Water Development Board overcame Police AC by 28-26, 25-23, 25-23 points.
Azad Sporting Club will take on Audit Krira Sangsad in today's lone match.

Friendly soccer

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) beat Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) 3-1 in a friendly football match at the BUET ground yesterday.
The match was locked in 1-1 during the first session.
Ahmed, Nazu and Maruf scored one each for the winners while Shafiq Kalim netted the consolation goal for the losers.

Venus on course

AFP, Amelia Island
Top-seeded Venus Williams became the first player to reach the semifinals of the 585,000 WTA event here on Friday with a quick 6-3, 6-1 victory over Paola Suarez of Argentina.
For the third straight day, the tournament was hampered by rain and the field will now have to play quarterfinal matches followed by the semi-finals on Saturday.
"It was fortunate that I got to play my quarter-final match tonight," the American said.
"I feel a lot more fortunate than the other players. I think the others will think about playing two matches tomorrow and feel tired."
"I think it's mostly a mental thing though and I've had to play two matches in one day before."
The remaining quarterfinal matches pit second-seeded Justine Henin of Belgium against sixth-seeded Silvia Farina Elia, third-seeded Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia against 10th-seeded Elena Dementieva of Russia and fifth-seeded Sandrine Testud against Anne Kremer of Luxembourg.
Henin played efficient enough to come from behind in both sets and secure a quarterfinal berth, posting a decisive 6-3, 6-3 third-round victory over Tathiana Garbin of Italy in one hour, 23 minutes.
"Today, I wanted a victory to go into the quarters," said Henin, a Wimbledon finalist last year.
"It was difficult conditions and it was very humid and everything was heavy out there. You had to hit hard and be aggressive. I was just glad to get it over."
Third-seeded Jelena Dokic, feeling a bit under-the-weather with a mild stomach virus, celebrated her 19th birthday with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Emmanuelle Gagliardi of Switzerland.
Farina Elia spent an abbreviated 35-minutes on court earning the first set 6-2 lead when Janette Husarova retired at that point in the match with a left thigh strain.
Testud outlasted Conchita Martinez of Spain 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 in a long three hour, six-minute battle.
Kremer scored a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 third-round win over Elena Likhovtseva of Russia.

Lanka win a thriller

Cricket
AFP, Sharjah
Sri Lanka held their nerve under pressure to score a thrilling nine-run win over Pakistan in the Sharjah Cup here on Friday.
Chasing Sri Lanka's 239-6, Pakistan appeared to be headed for victory when they were left with just 19 off the last 18 deliveries with five wickets in hand.
But seamers Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Zoysa allowed the sixth-wicket pair of Wasim Akram and Rashid Latif only nine runs in the last three overs to restrict Pakistan to 230-5.
Sri Lanka, who have eight points from three matches, will advance to next Wednesday's final if they defeat New Zealand in their last league match on Sunday.
Pakistan, left with four points, must defeat the Kiwis on Monday to stay in contention for the final.
Sri Lanka's hero was Upul Chandana, who hit a career-best 64 and then provided two valuable breaks in the field to set up his team's win.
Chandana ran out opener Imran Nazir with a direct hit from point to break a 72-run partnership for the second wicket with Yousuf Youhana.
The leg-spinner then grabbed a difficult return catch to dismiss main threat Inzamam-ul Haq (37) and end an 85-run stand with top-scorer Younis Khan (45).
Akram returned unbeaten on 36 off 29 balls and Latif was on 11 not out, but the pair faltered when it mattered most.
During the riveting encounter before a full house of 18,000, Akram surpassed the 450-wicket mark in one-day cricket and Shoab Akhtar bowled his fastest delivery ever at 159.6 km an hour.
Akram, the only bowler to take more than 400 wickets in both Tests and one-dayers, teamed up with long-time partner and current captain Waqar Younis to rip through Sri Lanka's top order.
Sri Lanka, electing to bat in the return game after winning their first

encounter against Pakistan by 41 runs, were reduced to 41-4 by the dreaded pair.
Marvan Atapattu came to Sri Lanka's rescue with an unbeaten 77, leading a dramatic revival that set Pakistan a target of 4.8 runs an over in the day-night international.
off the last ball of his fifth over to reach the 450-wicket mark.
Then with the first ball of his next over, Akram forced Mahela Jayawardena to edge another catch to Latif to open up the Sri Lankan lower order.
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Sharjah Cup one-day international between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Friday:
SRI LANKA
Jayasuriya b Waqar 23
Kaluwatharana c Latif b Waqar 7
Sangakkara c Latif b Akram 5
Jayawardena c Latif b Akram 1
Atapattu not out 77
Arnold c Nazir b Afridi 41
Chandana b Akhtar 64
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-4, nb-10) 21
Total: (For six wkts in 50 overs) 239
Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-40, 3-40, 4-41, 5-132, 6-239
Bowler
O M R W
Akram 10 3 30 2
Waqar 9 0 49 1
Akhtar 9 1 51 1
Razaq 6 0 34 0
Saqlain 10 0 40 0
Afridi 6 0 28 1

ATAPATTU...m-o-m
Atapattu, who was declared the man of the match, put on 91 for the fifth wicket with Russel Arnold (41) and a run-a-ball 107 for the sixth with Chandana.
Chandana was bowled off the final delivery of the innings after helping Sri Lanka plunder 70 runs in the last 10 overs.
English umpire David Shepherd, standing in his 100th one-day, watched from close range as Sri Lanka fought back after the early demolition by Waqar and Akram.
Waqar, thrashed for 18 runs in his first two overs, hit back by uprooting Sanath Jayasuriya's middle stump in the sixth over.
The Sri Lanka captain made 23 off 24 balls with four hits to the fence, all off Waqar.
Waqar earned another success in his next over when wicket-keeper Rashid Latif picked up a brilliant diving catch to remove Romesh Kaluwatharana for seven.
Akram, playing his 327th one-day, moved from 449 to 451 in the space of two deliveries, but was denied a hat-trick by Russel Arnold.
The left-arm seamer had Kumar Sangakkara caught behind by Latif

UNB, Dhaka
Bhola Government High School and Rahmatullah Model High School of Dhaka moved into the group finals of the final round of the Standard Chartered 20th National School Cricket tournament at Bogra yesterday.
Bhola beat T&T High of Dhaka by two wickets at the Altafunessa playground. They will take on Laboratory High of Mymensingh in the Group-B final today.
Bhola made 147 runs for eight wickets in 34.2 overs chasing T&T High's 141 for nine in 29.5 overs.
In another match at Shahid Chandu Stadium, Rahmatullah Model High defeated SM Model Govt High of Gopalganj by seven wickets. They will meet BKSP in the Group A final today.
Rahmatullah made 176 runs for three wickets in 31.1 overs in reply to SM Model's 172 for nine in 35 overs.

Cricket getting plastic pitches

UNB, Dhaka
To add a new dimension to the game in the country, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is going to introduce plastic pitches.
The portable cricketing products are marketed by FLICX International, a South African company, with the slogan "Taking cricket to where it has never been before."
BCB has bought seventy pitches at a cost of 71,000 US dollars. These pitches can easily be transported and laid on any flat surface.
Two teams of under-13 boys of Dhaka metropolis will play the first match on the plastic pitch on April 15 at the DOHS ground to see the utilities of the new product.
BCB's assistant director of development Shafiqul Haq Hira disclosed this at a press briefing yesterday. Chief executive officer of FLICX Richard Bighen also spoke on the occasion.
Bighen will also meet BCB development committee chairman Arafat Rahman on April 16 and discuss matters including sponsorship of BCB under-13 tournament for next three years.

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Last chance for Rasmussen

AFP, Malmö
Peter Rasmussen, who won the most dramatic world final of all time against a cramp-ridden Sun Jun five years ago in Glasgow, enters the last chance saloon at the European Championships in the Baltiska Stadium starting Saturday.
Rasmussen's career has been ruined by injuries since his great triumph and the acrobatic left-handed Dane will quit the professional game unless over the next eight days he has a satisfactory tournament, both in the way he plays and feels.
Rasmussen has had a foot tendon which split lengthways, puzzling medics for many months as to what the cause might be.
"There have only been about 20 previous known examples," claimed Danish team manager Steen Pedersen.
"He's had so many other injuries because the body has been out of competition for so long, and when he has pushed hard it has not really been ready. We hope he doesn't get any more or he will retire."
Rasmussen is not seeded because his ranking has fallen so far, but he could still do some damage in a men's singles event which has become extremely open since the withdrawal with a persistent knee injury of Peter Gade, the defending champion and former world number one.

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What to watch

FROM PAGE 13
Crickit Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 11:00 am
West Indies vs India
First Test, Day Three
Taped Version at 12:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Weekly Highlights
Taped Version at 8:30 pm
Serie A
Roma vs Parma
Same day delayed at 9:30 pm
Crickit Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 11:30 pm
STAR Sports
West Indies vs India
First Test, Day Three
Highlights
Repeat at 9:00 am
World Cup Soccer Mix
Repeat at 12:00 pm
Gillette World Sports Special
Intl Sports News
Taped Version at 12:30 pm
Primera Liga
Mallorca vs Valencia
Same day delayed at 1:00 pm
Crickit Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 3:00 pm
West Indies vs India
First Test, Day Four Preview
Live at 7:00 pm
West Indies vs India
First Test, Day Four
Live at 8:05 pm

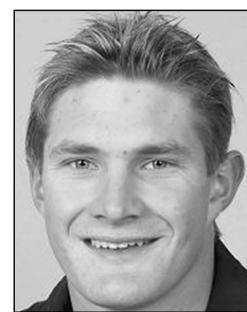
Prayerful England

FROM PAGE 13
In December he was voted BBC sports personality of the year, and was second in FIFA's world player of the year vote.
Off the pitch, he appears set to secure a reported weekly salary of 80,000 pounds (115,000 dollars, 130,000 euros) plus "image rights."
He has multi-million-pound endorsement contracts with Adidas, Pepsi, Police sunglasses and Brylcreem. He has a waxwork dummy at Madame Tussaud's in London.
Not only is he the top sporting hero, said Michele Jobling of retail giant Marks and Spencer, for which he is to promote a teenage boyswear range, "he is also a great style icon and a role model."
Beckham's private life, unlike that of some of his colleagues, seems beyond reproach. He and ex-Spice Girl wife Victoria have a son of three, with another child on the way.
"Just as Shakespeare's wastrel Prince Hal became King Henry V, the warrior of Agincourt" -- said the Daily Mail -- "so Beckham has made the journey from villain to hero."

Watson fails to impress

Cricket
AFP, Perth
Australian one-day skipper Ricky Ponting is still to be convinced on the value of all-rounder Shane Watson at international level.
The 20-year-old was heralded before the February-April tour of South Africa as the answer to Australia's quest for a genuine all-rounder.
But neither Watson, Ponting's Tasmanian teammate, nor Victorian Ian Harvey enhanced their World Cup prospects with their performances in the seven-match series against the Proteas.
Watson scored 37 runs at 9.25 while he went for just under six an over at an average of 154 in four matches.
Harvey was marginally better with the bat and despite a better return of five wickets at 46.25 with the ball, was more expensive than Watson.
"The all-rounder's spot is probably one we would like to make a little bit better," Ponting said upon arrival here Thursday after Australia's 5-1 one-day series win over the South Africans.
"The all-rounders' perfor-

mances weren't all that great in South Africa, what we need is a solid all-rounder heading into (the World Cup) next year."
But Ponting admitted Watson had shown some encouraging glimpses in his few appearances.
"I thought in the last game he



SHANE WATSON
looked really good with the bat," Ponting said.
"His bowling has a little bit of improving to do and hopefully over the next 12 months he can play some more cricket and he'll keep on improving."
But while the jury is still out on Watson, Australia's opening bat-

Nieminen stuns Safin

AFP, Estoril
Finnish player Jarkko Nieminen pulled off a surprise win over second seed Marat Safin at the 655,000-dollar Estoril Open on Friday to end hopes of a Safat family double.
Nieminen knocked out the Russian 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 in one of the biggest wins of his brief career.
Safin's 15-year-old sister Dinara Safina had earlier continued her magical run at the WTA event here by booking her place in the last four with a 6-0, 7-5 victory over Slovenia's Maja Matevzic.
"It's fantastic to have done so well," said Safina, who is competing in her
"Before this event, I thought it would be good if I could win a round. Of course I'm happy now."

Nieminen, 20, meanwhile showed that he can continue the rise which took him from 300th in the world at the start of 200 to 60th at the end of last season.
He made a breakthrough with a finals appearance at the Stockholm Open, only his second appearance in an ATP main draw.
Nieminen held up after losing the first set against former U.S. Open winner Safin, who was beaten in this year's Australian Open by Thomas Johansson, the Swede who defeated Nieminen in the Stockholm final five months ago.
The Finn levelled the match at the Estadio Nacional after breaking the Russian in the tenth game of the second and taking the set when Safin blew an easy overhead at the net.
The seed looked listless for the remainder of the contest, barely putting up a fight and resigning himself to his fate when Nieminen



Finn Jarkko Nieminen makes a backhand return against Russian Marat Safin in the Estoril Open quarterfinal on Friday.

Hooper doubles up

FROM PAGE 13
hand for a four.
He was on 118 when he survived a run-out chance. He collided with bowler Sachin Tendulkar while going for a single and lost his bat in the process, but dived full-length to beat a Sourav Ganguly throw to the wicket-keeper.
Chanderpaul, 27, completed 3,000 Test runs in style when he vigorously cut India's most successful bowler, Javagal Srinath, for a boundary early in the morning session.
He reached his second Test hundred against India when he flicked Kumble to deep mid-wicket for three runs, kissed the pitch and went on to dominate the tourists' bowling.
The West Indian batting was entertaining throughout the day as the Indian bowlers often erred in line and length and found it difficult to contain runs.
Srinath was not as effective as he was on Thursday, when he rocked the hosts with three quick wickets in his lively opening spell.
Zaheer bagged two of the three wickets that fell in the day, but not before Hooper and Chanderpaul had put their team in a position of strength.
Key Indian spinner Kumble was punished by both Hooper and Chanderpaul, conceding 140 off 43 overs for one wicket.
Sarandeep went wicketless,

Hooper doubles up

while Bangar disappointed as a third seamer as he gave away 61.
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between the West Indies and India at Bourda here on Friday:
WEST INDIES: First innings (over-night 270-4)
Gayle c Dasgupta b Srinath 12
Williams lbw b Srinath 13
Sarwan c Zaheer b Sarandeep 53
Lara c Dasgupta b Srinath 0
Hooper c Sarandeep b Kumble 233
Chanderpaul lbw b Zaheer 140
Murray lbw b Zaheer 0
Nagamotoo not out 9
Dillon not out 0
Extras: (nb-26, lb-4, w-3, b-1) 34
Total: (For seven wickets in 158.3 oves) 494
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-37, 3-44, 4-157, 5-450, 6-454, 7-494
Bowler
O M R W
Srinath 33 9 91 3
Zaheer 32 9 97 2
Bangar 24.3 5 61 0
Kumble 43 6 140 1
Ganguly 2 1 2 0
Sarandeep 21 5 80 1
Tendulkar 3 0 18 0
Toss: West Indies
Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri), Daryl Harper (Aus)
Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (Sri)

Top teams in topsy-turvy

FROM PAGE 13
Bashar c Ziaur b Anisur 9
Sanwar run out 6
Minhaz run out 15
Rashedul lbw b Rana 7
Sabbir run out 4
Rafique run out 10
Anwar lbw b Mushfiq 8
Taufeeq run out 2
Safiuddin not out 1
Extras: (b-2, lb-1, w-20) 23
Total: (All out in 49.2 overs) 255
Fall of wkts: 1-126, 2-166, 3-177, 4-203, 5-213, 6-232, 7-236, 8-248, 9-254
Bowler
O M R W
Talha 7 1 35 0
Mushfiq 7.2 0 38 1
Imran 10 0 59 0
Nahidul 3 0 20 0
Rana 10 0 35 3
Anisur 8 0 44 1
Ziaur 4 0 21 0
KALABAGAN KC
Nahidul c Rafique b Safiuddin 5
Rafiqul run out 88
Rajin c Sanwar b Taufeeq 5
Ziaur c Anwar b Taufeeq 50
Mushfiq lbw b Sabbir 41
Nasirul not out 29
Anisur lbw b Rafique 16
Mahzar not out 4
Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-11) 18
Total: (For 5 wkts in 49 overs) 256

Fall of wkts: 1-7, 2-24, 3-128, 4-170, 5-216, 6-237
Bowler
O M R W
Taposh 9 0 44 1
Safiuddin 7 0 39 1
Rafique 10 0 40 1
Sabbir 9 0 54 1
Taufeeq 10 1 48 1
Sanwar 4 0 25 0
Result: Kalabagan won by 5 wickets.
Young Pegasus vs Brothers Union
Venue: Fatullah Stadium
YOUNG PEGASUS
Sohagh c Masrur b Samsul 28
Uzzal c Sentu b Samsul 21
Bidyut run out 16
Hasan c Masrur b Imran 28
Mazed c Sentu b Imran 38
Mahabub b Mustadir 17
Tariqul c Athar b Mustadir 12
Tanvir not out 33
Saifullah c Mustadir b Morshed 5
Sohel not out 5
Extras: (lb-7, nb-7, w-10) 24
Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 227
Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-54, 3-77, 4-129, 5-149, 6-168, 7-175, 8-198
Bowler
O M R W
Morshed 10 0 45 1
Samsul 10 2 48 2
Athar 2 0 13 0
Mustadir 10 2 36 2

Jewel 8 0 39 0
Imran 10 1 39 2
BROTHERS UNION
Sajjadul c Bidyut b Soheli 71
Harun c Tanvir b Uzzal 10
Athar c Bidyut b Uzzal 4
Masrur c sub b Saifullah 27
Mustadir st. Bidyut b Mahabub 13
Mahabubur b Saifullah 27
Shovon not out 22
Jewel st. Bidyut b Soheli 3
Samsul st. Bidyut b Soheli 1
Morshed b Saifullah 0
Imran c Wahid b Soheli 4
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-3, w-3) 8
Total: (All out in 48 overs) 190
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-29, 3-88, 4-118, 5-142, 6-165, 7-178, 8-180, 9-181
Bowler
O M R W
Wahid 8 1 24 0
Uzzal 7 0 33 2
Mazed 6 0 25 0
Saifullah 9 0 29 3
Mahabub 8 0 33 1
Soheli 10 0 44 4
Result: Young Pegasus won by 37 runs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer
ACROSS
36 Detergent brand
1 Green fruit
Stagers target
8 "Lion King" baddie
12 Radiation letter
13 Expert
14 Jason's craft
15 Hearth noises
17 Greek consonants
18 1992 Oscar winner
19 1999 Oscar winner
21 Freeway access
24 Squid squirt
25 Rudiments
"Rule, Britannia" composer
30 "Great Expectations" lad
33 Woods' benchmark
34 Remained in place
35 Eggs
DOWN
59 Stationer's measure
22 -- Hari
23 Please as punch
19 Treaty
2 Continental coin
27 Saltines, e.g.
3 Composer
Khachaturian
4 Dayton entries
5 Crony
6 Lemieux milieu
7 Capone
8 Devil
9 Eccentric
10 Malaria symptom
11 Optimistic
16 Korean carmaker
20 Multi-colored
21 -- Hari
23 Please as punch
25 Mimic
26 Prohibit
27 Saltines, e.g.
29 Recognition
31 Wall climber
32 TV network
34 Prison
38 Donut, slangily
40 Compassion
42 Film director
43 Maze option
44 Sandwich treat
45 Garbage barge
47 -- of Man
48 Loud brass instrument
49 Unwanted e-mail
52 Actress
53 Sternward

CRYPTOQUIP
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20
21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32
33 34 35
36 37 38
39 40 41 42 43
44 45 46 47 48 49
50 51 52 53
54 55 56
57 58 59
CRYPTOQUIP
A T V M P T N W R W T D Z V R N
R E D Z V Y U K A D R V E , B
U V R R T V K X T N W V R N
P N M R T V V E V B X D M D Y .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS I CAME IN THE DOOR, I KEPT MY PLAID COAT WITH ME SINCE IT WAS ALREADY CHECKED.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.