

Ian Healy the legendary Australian wicketkeeper holds the record for effecting the maximum dismissals. By taking 195 catches and stumping 39 batsmen he has a tally of 234 dismissals, which is still to be





Zinedine Zidane

(Real Madrid's French super star) "Today I am sure that I will end my career at Real Madrid. It's the best thing I can do. It's unlikely that I'll play for another team and carry on



Football Focus Live at 6:30 pm Sport News Live at 8:30 pm

ESPN

STAR Sports

Futbol Mundial Repeat at 3:30 pm **Sportsline Tonight** Sport News



Jan 16, 2004 and draw

Who clinched the Leonine Grand Masters chess title? Zia Reefat Rakib

Who won the Pepsi Nat'l volleyball women scrown?

Who won the European footballer-of-the-year award?

Who became World Youth football champions? Holland

5. Who won the FIFA women's player-of-the-year award?

Class...... Roll No.....

Phone: (If any)



(4:30 pm)

Nat'l Cricket League (Day-4)

Dhaka vs Sylhet Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket

Chittagong vs Barisal Venue: Comilla Stadium Khulna vs Rajshahi

Blame it on the ref

Abahani, Muktijoddha stalemate

SPORTS REPORTER

মানি ট্র্যাপফার Union Premier

The blood and thunder Western Football League

clash between title aspirants Abahani and Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra ended in a goalless stalemate at the Sher-e-. Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday but there was no short-

An error-happy referee Tayeb Hassan infuriated players and fans during the match that ultimately triggered the first violent clash of the season with police forced to confront hundreds of Abahani supporters even after the game had ended.

The policemen were called into action after a section of the Ahahani faithful went on a rampage inside the stadium after the final whistle. They baton-charged the unruly supporters, few of vhom received minor injuries ncluding Abahani official and ormer national booter Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul.

Fighting also spilled outside the stadium area and at one point a microbus belonging to satellite channel ATN Bangla was damaged. Police had to lob tear gas shells to dismantle the incensed crowd.

Tension started brewing in the 75th minute when referee Hassan signaled goal after a Maxim free kick from the right top corner of the

box brushed past the side netting. The shell-shocked Muktijoddha players understandably demanded cancellation of the goal but substitute midfielder Tushar went overboard and landed a kick on the

Hassan eventually revoked his decision after consulting assistant referee Abdul Hannan and signalled a goal kick. He also showed Tushar the red card. The game had already stopped for eight minutes.

Now there was another 10minute delay as Hassan tried to convince the Abahani booters that t wasn't a goal. A visibly dejected Maxim even took off his shirt and wanted to leave the ground but teammates restrained the Russian and the match resumed. Abahani were furious once

again towards the end of the match when Russian midfielder Nikolai was apparently fouled by Muktijoddjha defender Din Mohammad inside the D. But the referee overlooked Abahani's appeals for a penalty.

When the match finished, Abahani players and officials led by manager Monem Munna challenged the referee but police rescued Hassan before anything untoward could happen.

The quality of football in the much-anticipated encounter never reached the desired level.

With Muktijoddha missing four key playersProdeep, Harry, Riyadh and Moni, Abahani had the more options to attack.

Although they came close to scoring on a couple of occasions, brilliant goalkeeping from country's number one custodian Aminul Haque prevented the Sky Blues from breaking the deadlock.

Aminul magnificently gripped a blistering rightfooter from Maxim in the very first minute of the match diving to his right. Aminul again had the ball in his control to deny Maxim's goal bound attempt in the

Muktijoddha also had two good chances in the second half but failed to cash in. Substitute Bidyut's shot from the top of the box missed the side bar in the 53rd minute while Ghansha's header from a Matiur Munna free kick went over the cross piece in the

Despite the draw, Abahani remained atop the table with archrivals Mohammedan Sporting Club on 13 points from seven matches. Muktijoddhas are trailing



Muktijoddha defender Hasan Al-Mamun (L) and Abahani midfielder Abdullah Parvez fight for the ball during their Western Union Premier Division Football League clash at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Captains day out



SPORTS REPORTER

It was a rare day for the captains to shine in the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League at different venues across the country yesterday.

Sylhet skipper Parvez Ahmed thwarted leaders Dhaka's attempt for a quick kill with an unbeaten half-century at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on the penultimate day of the four-day match.

At the Comilla Stadium, former national captain Minhazul Abedin led a Chittagong recovery after his Barisal counterpart Anisur Rahman ripped through the toporder with a fiery spell of pace

It was another captain in the thick of things at the Jessore Stadium when Nuruzzaman scored a half-century to give Rajshahi an edge over defending champions Khulna.

DHAKA V SYLHET

Parvez salvaged his side from a horrible 12-3 with an unbeaten 63 after hosts Dhaka took a first-innings lead of 79. The gritty righthander shared 81 runs for the unbroken sixth wicket with Golam Mowla as Sylhet finished the third day on 145-5, a lead of 66 runs.

Dhaka's young right-arm paceman Ashraful Khan did the early damage to finish with three for 26

Earlier, Dhaka, resuming the day on 245-6, raced to 326 thanks to a polished 55 by Neeyamur Rashid

Neeyamur dominated the morning session after centurion Sanwar Hossain returned to the pavilion adding 13 runs to his overnight score of 104.

Left-arm seamer Rezaul Haq was the most successful Sylher bowler with 6-60 in 26 overs.

CHITTAGONG VBARISAL

Veteran left-arm paceman Anisur Rahman captured four wickets as Chittagong crashed to 136 in their second innings, setting the stage for a close finish at Comilla.

The spectacular collapse now left Chittagong, who scored a

commanding 300 in their first essay, with a vulnerable lead of 198

Barisal were 21-1 at stumps, needing 177 runs to win on the final

Although the port city outfit fell like a pack of cards after Barisal added 47 runs to their overnight first-innings score of 186-7, Minhazul Abedin stood among the ruins with a crafty 59.

The former national captain struck four boundaries in his 105balls while batting at number

Anis, a former national cap, finished with 4-26 while the spin-ning duo of Ali Arman and Mustadir Litu evenly shared four

KHULNA V RAJSHAHI

Spinner Saifullah Khan grabbed three wickets as hosts Rajshahi took a commanding position against Khulna on the third day.

The southpaw broke through the top-order as Khulna were reduced to 97-5, a lead of 20 runs opener SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Bangladesh A on the wane

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A's poor run with the bat continued as they were bowled out for a meagre 118 in the first innings by Pakistan Customs on the opening day of the four-day Patron's Trophy match at Karachi's National Stadium vesterday.

Stephen John was the wreckerin-chief as the left-arm mediumpacer captured six wickets for 44 in 15 overs that included a hattrick. He dismissed Moniruzzaman, skipper Tushar Imran and Halim Shah in successive deliveries.

But right-arm pacer Alamgir Kabir brought some relief for the tourists by claiming three wickets as the local side reached 150 for six when the bails were drawn for the

Alamgir bagged claimed three overs while left-arm pacer Monjurul Islam took one for 32 in 10 overs and Fahim Muntasir captured one for 5 in 3 overs.

Earlier one-down Nasiruddin SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Rani keeps winning

SPORTS REPORTER

International Women Master Rani Hamid continued her solo lead with maximum eight points after the end of the eighth round games of the Igloo 25th National Womens Chess Championship at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Shabana Parveen Nipa followed the leader with 6 points. Zakia Sultana, Nazrana Khan Eva and Shamiha Sharmin Shimmi jointly shared the third position with 5

In this round, Rani Hamid beat Shamima Akhter Liza, Nipa drew with Eva, Shimmi drew with Kishwara Shajrin Evana, Zakia beat Dilara Jahan Ńupur, Masuda Begum beat Arifa Khatun Moni. Afroza Khanam Bably got walk-over against

Cute handball

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles outplayed Old Ideals 29-8 in the Cute Premier Division Handball League match at the Outer Stadium Handball Ground yesterday.

The winners led the first half by

Zahid scored highest eight, Waliur six and Sharif five for the winners while Adam netted five for

In the day's second match, Bangladesh Police scored an impres-sive 40-25 victory over Dhanmondi Club at the same venue. The winners led comfortably 25-12 at the breather.

Siddiqur Rahman with eight, Nurul Islam and Preeti Mohon with seven goals each were the main scorers behind police's bigwin.

Deba Bhattacharjee and Ripon scored five goals each for the losers.. Victoria Sporting Club beat Dhaka Wanderers Club 26-15 in the coach Barry Dancer. "In terms of penetration we did well but our overall performance is Wanderers trailed 9-12 at half

A Vision for Bangladesh

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

A five-day seminar on 'Vision Asia -- Pilot Project' began in the city yesterday to assist the country in developing its football to international standards under an inten-

sive programme. Top-ranking officials of the world body FIFA and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) are taking part in the deliberations being held at the Sheraton Hotel.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mohammad Fazlur Rahman addressed the inaugural function as chief guest. State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milan, AFC president Mohammed Bin Hamman and BFF president SA Sultan also spoke on the occasion.

Fazlur Rahman thanked the AFC president for including Bangladesh in Vision Asia and said that the country now entered a new era of developing soccer.

The proceedings began with AFC general secretary Dato' Peter Velappan making a video presen-

The ambitious Vision Asia project was launched in September 2002 after Hammam was elected AFC president. He believed that the continent could attain world standards in football through appropriate planing.

"We had conducted hundreds of courses but there was no outcome, there was no track record and follow up as well. We also funded national associations for coaching and development but without result. But this time we have come up with a complete

"So we need a proper plan for each national association so that the activities continue despite the change of leadership in those associations," he said.

The AFC supremo the strategy behind the Vision that since Asia is the largest in terms of population, so they want to develop grassroots football in the

For this purpose, he said the AFC has selected eight Asian countries -- China, Hong Kong, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia,

Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Replying to a query, Hamman said three millions dollars would be spent for the pilot project in those countries over the next ten vears.

The Vision Asia will work on eleven elements -- administration, marketing, coach education, youth development, refereeing, sports medicine, competitions, women's

football, futsal, media and fans. The historic 'Vision Asia Pilot programme for Asia was launched first in China last November. Experts from UEFA, England and Germany are helping to make it a

The 25-member Vision Asia team have held a programme in Hong King and India before coming to Bangladesh on Sunday.

This morning the high-powered delegation will meet officials of the district sports associations (DSAs) and football clubs based in the



AFC president Mohammed Bin Hammam delivers his speech during the opening ceremony of Vision Asia Conference at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

Azlan Shah Cup

Australia earn full points



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's aggressive play failed to top a still rusty Australia, who beat the hosts 3-2 in Azlan Shah Cup field hockey played here Monday.

It was the Australians first win of the tournament after losing their first match to Spain 3-1 and drawing 1-1 with South Korea in earlier

"We tried some players out of position today and the experiment worked well," said Australian

still not up to expectations. Our

defenders were guilty of ball watching but we look forward to a better display against India.' Australia will clash with the

South Asian giants on Tuesday, and hope to take all three tournament points from that encounter.

"It is going to be a totally different ball game against India and we are not treating the match lightly,"

Australia opened scoring in the 11th minute when Grant Schubert and Ben Bishop combined well to set up Travis Brook, who had the easiest of tasks guiding the ball into

an empty Malaysian goal with keeper S. Kumar well beaten. But Malaysia threw caution into the wind and took the game to the Aussies, scoring the equalizer in the 18th minute when Keevan Raj

pounced on a rebound off the pads of Australia keeper Mark Hickman to scramble the ball over the goal A lapse in the Malaysian defence cost the home team dearly

when Troy Elder converted Australia's first penalty corner in the 31st minute to give Australia a 2-1 lead going into the breather. Kumar, who has been having a good tournament so far, was guilty

of gifting Australia its third goal when he padded the ball straight to Elder, who scored in the 52nd Malaysia reduced the deficit

two minutes later when Azlan Misron caught a loose ball in the Australian semicircle to score, but they failed to get their third goal and had to settle for a loss.



Brothers Union vs Sk Russell KC Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Venue: Jessore Stadium Patron's Trophy (Day-2)



SPORTS REPORTER

The probables of the Zimbabwebound Bangladesh squad scored a massive 117-run victory over Richard McInnes' Under-19 team in their first practice match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

But despite the easy sail, Dav Whatmore's charges showed little sign of improvement in their mental makeup as well as fielding in the

50-over contest. The seniors might have scored a huge 297-5, but all the five batsmen virtually threw their wickets away after being settled in the middle and at the top of it they dropped as many as four easy catches while

Trevor Chappell, who is making a return visit as a specialists field ing coach, must have been pulling his hair out watching the comical catching by Bashar, Rajin, Alok and Hannan that enabled Under-19 team to score 180 all out in 48.5

It was not an encouraging sign ahead of Tigers' second trip to the southern African nation and SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



during a practice match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

day's third fixture.

Bangladesh Under-19 cricketers gather to celebrate the fall of national team's star batsman Habibul Bashar's wicket