

Manikganj cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT
Sewta Uday Sena defeated Billu Club by 91 runs in the Language Martyr Rafique Memorial Cricket Tournament...

Sewta Uday batted first and made 209 before being all out in 37.3 overs.
Shogah top-scored with 47 while Rasel took two wickets.

Active Chess

SPORTS REPORTER
The Active Chess Tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF), will start on February 19 at the BCF auditorium at 4pm.

Tareq designs

Table with columns: FROM PAGE 13, Mashud lbw b Hondo, Anwar not out, Alamgir c Maregwede b Hondo, etc.

Table with columns: ZIMBABWE A: Second innings, Sibanda lbw b Manjural, Gripper c Mashud b Tareq, etc.

Kiwis target Pollock



AFP, Christchurch
New Zealand's batsmen are targeting South African bowler Shaun Pollock in Tuesday's second one-day international...

New Zealand's batsmen are targeting South African bowler Shaun Pollock in Tuesday's second one-day international staged on a pitch famous for producing run-feasts.

Black Caps skipper Stephen Fleming says his side will mount a full-scale assault on the Proteas' Pollock as the New Zealanders seek to level the six-match series after going 1-0 down last week.

Tuesday's match is to be played on a 'drop-in' pitch at the Jade Stadium, and groundsman Chris Lewis is confident the wicket will be another bletcher.

The previous match on the pitch was the Test against England when Nathan Asle slammed a world record 222 off 168 balls on the final day, after a Graham Doube century and an Andrew Flintoff century.

Before that, the same drop-in pitch was used for a Test against Pakistan which saw double centuries from Mathew Sinclair and Yousof Youhana and even a century from renowned Pakistan batting bunny Saqlain Mushtaq.

Table with columns: BOWLER, O, M, R, W. Includes names like Friend, Mahwire, Hondo, Brent, Ewing, Gripper.

has been used, but it has been called upon as the Super 12 rugby competition opens in the same stadium Saturday.

"We need to keep using it because otherwise people would say, 'why have you developed it in the first place,'" Lewis said.

South Africa coach Eric Simons was impressed on first viewing and hinted he would like to continue his team's policy of batting first.

"The one in Auckland, when you knocked it there was a hollow sound, almost like it hadn't bedded in properly.

"This one's quite solid. When you hit it, it doesn't vibrate. This one looks a lot more solid than Auckland."

Fleming said New Zealand's batting would revolve around trying to upset the opposition's best bowler, Pollock.

"Pollock has slowed his pace, he uses line and length, and on a good wicket if we can break him up then we go quite a long way to breaking up their patterns," Fleming said of the former captain, poised five short of becoming the first South African to take 300 one-day international wickets.

"If we can interrupt (South African captain) Graeme Smith's routine with his bowlers, then we'll have a better chance of beating them."

BFF names

FROM PAGE 13
meeting yesterday.
But he ruled out reports that they had withheld his BFF membership.

The BFF executive committee meeting also decided to set up another committee to run women's football with BFF vice-president Sirajul Islam Bachchu as chairman and Kamrunnarh Dana secretary.

Premier Div

FROM PAGE 13
Mohammed Sporting Club renew their traditional rivalry for the second time at the same venue at 5pm.

Abahani are third with 2-1 points from eleven games while Mohammediyan have only 14 points.

Biddyaniketon

FROM PAGE 13
handed Natun Jurian KM Mainuddin High School a thumping 120-run defeat.

On the other hand Sabuj Biddiyapith defeated Sheikhdi Abdullah Mullah High School by 47 runs at the Uttara Police Lines ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Table with columns: BIDDYANIKETON, TEJKUNIPARA HIGH, RAISAL, RAYABAZAR HIGH, WILLES LITTLE FLOWER, NATUN JURIAN, AK HIGH SCHOOL, SABUJ BIDDYAPITH, SHEIKHDI ABDULLAH HIGH.

Serie A Juve stay focused



AFP, Rome
AC Milan maintained their five-point lead over Roma at the top of Serie A despite being held to a 1-1 draw by lowly Lecce on Sunday but reigning champions Juventus took advantage to get back into the title race.

Second-placed Roma wasted a golden opportunity to close the gap when they were held to a surprise 0-0 draw at bottom club Ancona.

Juventus however seized their chance to inject new life into their bid to retain their Serie A crown as they beat Reggina 1-0 with a second-half goal from Enzo Maresca to within six points of AC Milan.

The AC Milan match was preceded by a minute's silence for Marco Pantani, the 1998 tour de France champion and a passionate Milan fan who died of a suspected heart attack alone in a hotel room in Rimini on Saturday.

Anxious to move on after their humiliating midweek Cup thrashing by Lazio the European champions found themselves behind after Lecce's Javier Ernesto Chevanton struck for the 11th time this season.

The Uruguayan was brought down on the edge of the box by Alessandro Nesta and from the resulting free kick produced one of his trademark efforts which left Dida with no chance.

Milan, who were seeking their ninth straight Serie A win, had to wait until the second half to draw level.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti brought on Jon Dahl Tomasson for the break and it proved a wise decision as it was Tomasson who held up the ball for Andriy Shevchenko to volley in from just outside the box.

"It was a tough match against a side that are difficult to play with some very quick players up front," said Shevchenko, who has found memories of Lecce's Stadio Via del Mare as it was here in 1999 that he scored his first Italian league goal.

Milan though almost bagged all the points at the end but Nesta's header was cleared off the line by Jorge Bolano.

Lecce may be fourth from the foot of the table but this will have boosted their chances of avoiding relegation coming after they had put up a similarly defiant showing to hold reigning champions Juventus to an identical scoreline last month.

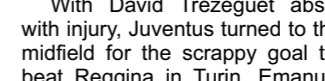
Roma, runaway winners over Juventus last week, failed to make any inroads on the league leaders after bottom of the table Ancona, helped by some crucial saves from their keeper Mancon, held them to a 0-0 draw.

With David Trezeguet absent with injury, Juventus turned to their midfield for the scrappy goal that beat Reggina in Turin. Emanuele Belardi smothered Marco Di Vaio's shot, but the ball fell to Maresca whose effort went in off the upright.

TOP SIX

Table with columns: Italian football league table on Sunday after late match between Juventus and Reggina (played, won, drawn, lost, for, against, points).

Atapattu alerts Aussies



AFP, Colombo
Sri Lanka's one-day captain Marvan Atapattu on Monday sounded a warning to Australia, saying of the world champions will find it difficult to cope with turning tracks and hot weather.

Australia have always struggled to do justice to their stature in Sri Lanka where they have so far won just three of their 14 one-dayers, including defeats in the last two big matches.

Sri Lanka stunned Steve Waugh's Australians in a triangular series final in 1999 before reasserting their home supremacy with a seven-wicket win over Ricky Ponting's team in the 2003 Champions Trophy semifinal.

"The heat and slow pitches are a factor that would be a matter of concern," Atapattu told the Daily News ahead of the five-match limited-overs series beginning with a day-night game at Dambulla on Friday.

"I am sure the climatic conditions are going to surprise them... whether we like it or not, we get turning tracks during this time of the year."

Most parts of the country are currently gripped with drought, with temperatures between 30 and 35 degree Celsius and humidity sometimes unbearable.

Atapattu said his team was geared up for the Australian challenge as victory over the world champions would be a great achievement.

"Beating Australia is the ultimate in cricket," said the 33-year-old.

"There is no greater challenge than taking on Australia. Everyone is keen to get on the park. Playing on home soil and in front of our own crowd will be our greatest strength."

Atapattu said his team would play attacking cricket to match their formidable opponents.

"Australia is more attacking than any other team in the world," said Atapattu, who led his team to victories in the West Indies and then at home against England last year.

"That has been their success story. We should try and give them a hard time. It is not that we are going to lose all five matches to them, but we can try out things and match them at their own game."

"There is less pressure on us to win against Australia because everybody knows how good they are."

Australia begin the tour with a one-day practice game on Tuesday. They will also play three Test matches after the one-day series.

Incredible India

FROM PAGE 13
only 29 but West Indies still managed a challenging total thanks to opener Xavier Marshall who scored 83.

The right-handed opener belted 15 fours and a six facing 81 balls to be adjudged man of the match.

Ireland's leg-spinner Greg Thompson was the star bowler in the match for his haul of five for 49.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the four preliminary ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup matches at different venues yesterday:

India vs Scotland

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Table with columns: INDIA, Robin c & b Young, Shikhar not out, Rayudu c Omer b Iqbal, Suresh c Omer b Coetzler, Gaurav not out, Extras: (lb-1, lb-1, nb-9, w-14) 25.

Table with columns: Routray, Lyons, Iqbal, Young, Coetzler, Omer run out, Farid c Gupta b Abhishek, Lyons c and b Abhishek, Goutie not out, Anderson not out, Extras: (lb-6, nb-4, w-7) 17.

West Indies vs Ireland

Table with columns: West Indies, Marshall b Thomson, Maraj c Thomson b Riddles, Simmonds c Wells b Thomson, Fudadin c Porterfield b Thomson, Ramdin c Blakeney b Thomson, Augustus c Wells b Riddles, Khan c Riddles b Thomson, Sebastian not out, Matthew c McKee b Riddles, Baker not out, Extras: (lb-4, lb-5, nb-6, w-26) 41.

Australia vs Canada

Table with columns: Australia, Zazi c Crosthwaite b Coyte, G Bastiampillai c Beadle b Coyte, T Bastiampillai c Beadle b Coyte, Jethi c Crosthwaite b Henriques, Keshvani b Henriques, Anjaria st Crosthwaite b Paine, Bhatti not out, Soraine run out, Baksh lbw b Paine, Carto b O'Keefe, Patel run out, Extras: (lb-4, lb-5, nb-2, w-23) 34.

South Africa vs Uganda

Table with columns: South Africa, Kintu b Pennazza, Ondeo c Silwana b Alexander, Kyobe b Alexander, Hamza b Birch, Arinaitwe c Booysen b September, Emmanuel c Jaarsveld b September, Otim b Bowyer, Bigirwa st Silwana b September, Semanda c Silwana b Birch, Ochan st Silwana b September, Ruyange not out, Extras: (lb-6, nb-2, w-25) 33.

Scotland vs Ireland

Table with columns: Scotland, Young b Gaurav, Iqbal lbw b Gupta, Cannon run out, Coetzler run out, Omer run out, Farid c Gupta b Abhishek, Lyons c and b Abhishek, Goutie not out, Anderson not out, Extras: (lb-6, nb-4, w-7) 17.

India won by 270 runs

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Dhawan (India) Toss: Scotland
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium

West Indies vs Ireland
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium

Australia vs Canada
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium

South Africa vs Uganda
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

Scotland vs Ireland
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

India won by 270 runs
Man-of-the-match: Shikhar

Result: Australia won by six wickets. Man-of-the-match: Theo Doropoulos (Aus). Toss: Australia.

Result: West Indies won by six runs. Man-of-the-match: Xavier Marshall (WI). Toss: West Indies.

Result: India won by 270 runs. Man-of-the-match: Shikhar

Result: South Africa won by eight wickets. Man-of-the-match: Andrew Birch (South Africa).

Result: Scotland vs Ireland. Man-of-the-match: Shikhar

Warne, CA deny claim



AFP, Melbourne
Test leg-spinner Shane Warne and Cricket Australia (CA) on Monday dismissed a claim that he was seen in the company of an Indian gambler during Australia's 1999 World Cup campaign in England.

Warne, 34, described as "total rubbish" allegations that he and West Indies captain Brian Lara were seen emerging from a London restaurant with Delhi-based gambler Ratan Mehta.

India's Outlook magazine has reported the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption unit suspects Mehta of fixing a match between India and Pakistan during the 1999 World Cup, which India won by 47 runs.

The magazine reports that Warne and Lara were allegedly seen in Mehta's company by an unidentified Delhi-based businessman, who has since been interviewed by members of the anti-corruption unit.

The magazine made no connection between Warne and the alleged match-fixing.

Warne, who is almost a week back from a 12-month drug suspension and is bidding to be selected in Australia's Test team to play a series in Sri Lanka next month, has denied dining or meeting with Mehta.

"This story is total rubbish and completely untrue," Warne said in a statement released here on Monday.

"The only time I have had dinner with Brian Lara in London was at the Pizza Pomodoro with his manager, David Manassi, and my good friend, (soccer player) Dwight Yorke."

"As far as Ratan Mehta is concerned, I have never even heard of him before."

Cricket Australia (CA) said it would not launch an investigation into the new claims and had no plans to speak with Warne.

"Shane Warne has emphatically denied the reports which have surfaced out of India overnight, and at this stage, Cricket Australia does not consider these current allegations credible to warrant any formal investigation," CA acting chief executive officer David Fouvy said in a statement.

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"If we are presented with any credible allegations of misconduct against Australian players or officials, these will be fully investigated."

In Colombo, Australian captain Ricky Ponting said the controversy would have no impact on the team if Warne joined them in Sri Lanka.

"I don't think it has any impact on the team because Warne's thrown it out straight away as a load of rubbish and Cricket Australia has done the same thing, they've decided they're not going to have any investigation into it," Ponting told Australia's Associated Press.

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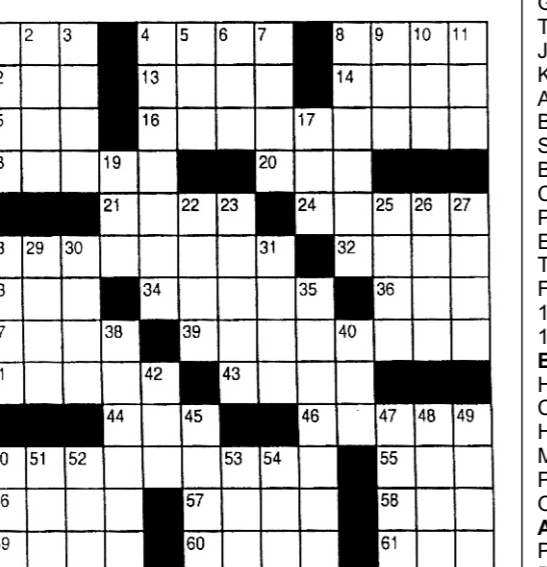
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: 1 Down: Dobbins' dinner, 4 Across: Actor 50 Mar-estrada, 8 Across: Cause of trouble in River City, 12 Previous to 57 Maleficence, 13 Speck, 14 Enticement, 15 Meadow, 16 Mixed bag, on "Jeopardy!", 18 Anorak, 20 Hostel, 21 "I have to do" Heron's cousin, 28 Temple of the gods, 32 Modern money, 33 Pub order, 34 Palm starches, 36 Pinch, 37 Rafter's realm, 39 Thick soups, 41 Regalia, 43 Approach.



CRYPTOQUIP

MT UNO FOE FZGEXR NT
TNNC NAG RXYPMK
FZGEEXY, M KOXRR ELXU
LGPX IXXA IX-EYGUXC.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE THAT ANY VETERINARIAN'S WORKDAY COULD VERY WELL INVOLVE A SPOT CHECK.

Ganguly & co

FROM PAGE 13
we can beat Pakistan," Ganguly said.

"Pakistan will be formidable rivals at home. We have to seriously think about the fitness of the bowlers."

"We should go with an off-spinner. In the absence of Harbhajan, we should find one off-spinner who can produce big turn."

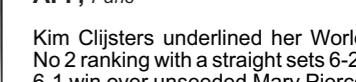
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Clijsters clinches Paris Open



AFP, Paris
Kim Clijsters underlined her World No 2 ranking with a straight sets 6-2, 6-1 win over unseeded Mary Pierce of France in a one-sided final of the WTA Paris Open here on Sunday.

It was a morale-booster for the 20-year-old Belgian who lost in the Australian Open final to compatriot Justine Henin-Hardenne in her last tournament and who has been carrying a nagging left ankle injury.

For Pierce, just reaching the final was a consolation as she attempts a comeback at the age of 29 after taking several months off to recover from injuries and regain full fitness.

But the former Australian and French Open champion will have learned how much ground she has yet to make up if she is to realistically challenge the younger players like Clijsters at the top of the world rankings.

"I knew that Mary had played a lot of sets this week and that she could be in difficulty if I moved her around," Clijsters said.

"I've always played well in Paris and I hope this can set me up well for when I come back to Paris for Roland Garros in May."



Belgium's Kim Clijsters holds the winner's trophy after beating France's Mary Pierce in the Paris Open final on February 15.