

M'singh cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Al-Helal Athletic Club defeated Asit Memorial Club by two-wicket in the Navana Premier Division Cricket League at the Mymensingh Circuit House ground yesterday.

Batting first Asit Memorial Club collected 131 runs in 43.3 overs after being all out.

In reply, Al-Helal scored 133 for eight in 21 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AL-HELAL AC: 133/8 in 21 overs (Fayaz 23, Shaker 20, Nadim 18; Suman 34/3 and Noman 25/2).

ASIT CLUB: 131/10 in 43.3 overs (Suman 36, Mintoo 20, Ashraf 14, Asim 16/5 and extra 37).

Result: Al-Helal AC won by 2 wickets.

Mini handball

BSS, Dhaka

Sunny Dale, Dhanmondi Tutorial and BAF Shaheen School won their respective matches on the opening day of the second Sunny Dale Mini handball tournament (boys) at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Sunny Dale outplayed Rahmatullah High School 12-1 in the one-sided inaugural match.

Dhanmondi Tutorial earned an 8-1 win over Hope International while BAF Shaheen College defeated The British School 7-2.

The other match between Green Herald and St. Judes International ended in a 2-2 draw.

Ten teams are taking part in the competition.

Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Shafik Smriti Sangsad moved into the final of the Econo Football League defeating Sreerampur Friends Club 4-2 in a tie-breaker in the second semifinal at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Liton, Grey, Kamrul and King scored one goal each for the winners while Chanchal and Mamun reduced the margin netting one goal each for the losers.

The milestone

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has made a habit of breaking re-

cords and is likely to finish his career as the most prolific batsman in Test history as well.

Tendulkar's 9,265 Test runs puts him fourth on the all-time list, behind India's Sunil Gavaskar and former Australian captains Steve Waugh and Allan Border.

He also has 32 Test hundreds, fast closing in on Gavaskar's world record 34.

The reclusive Tendulkar is almost as much a hero in Pakistan as he is in India.

The crowds that packed Karachi and Rawalpindi for the first two one-day internationals were there as much to get a rare glimpse of his master class as to watch the two south Asian neighbours battle it out on the cricket pitch.

Tendulkar's god-like status in India forces him to stay away from the limelight.

He is passionate about sports cars but can only drive late at night for fear of being mobbed.

When he visits a temple near his house in a Bombay suburb, it is always in the wee hours of the morning.

Tendulkar was disappointed his 141 on Tuesday could not ensure an Indian victory, the visitors losing by 12 runs after he had kept them in the hunt for what would have been a world record 330-run chase.

"A hundred is always better than the team wins," he said.

But with the five-match one-day series tied 1-1 and a much-anticipated Test series looming, India will welcome the fact that their best batsman is in prime form.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh shooters fix their targets at the Gulshan Shooting Complex yesterday and part of their preparations for the ninth SAF Games in Islamabad.

Gilchrist pulls Aus back

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manage."

Gilchrist, batting at Ponting's number three position, rose to the occasion as he shared a record 195-run partnership for the unfinished third wicket with Martyn after his team had lost two early wickets.

Their stand was Australia's best for the third wicket against Sri Lanka, surpassing 158 between Allan Border and Tom Moody at Brisbane in 1989-90.

Gilchrist was in punishing mood from the beginning as he swept off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan to reach his half-century and then firmly drove left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas through the covers to reach his hundred.

Gilchrist's century came off just 128 balls, with two sixes and 14 fours. He has so far hit three sixes and 19 fours. He played a big role in keeping Muralitharan at bay with his attacking approach.

The Sri Lankan, who on Tuesday became the third bowler in Test history to take 500 wickets, had a rare off-day as he gave away 81 runs in his 22 wicketless overs.

Martyn was all elegance, driving the ball fluently through the covers on the way to his 16th Test half-

century which included eight fours.

Australia were left to claw their way back into the match after a record 79-run stand for the last wicket between Sri Lankan tail-enders Vaas and Muralitharan.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy on Wednesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 120 (M Hayden 54; M Muralitharan 4-48, N Zoysa 4-54)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 92-7)

Atapattu c Gilchrist b K'wicz	9
Jayasuriya lbw b K'wicz	1
Gunawardene lbw b K'wicz	13
Sangakkara c Symonds b Gillespie	5
Jayawardene c Symonds b Warne	17
Tillakaratne c Gilchrist b Warne	16
Dilshan lbw b Warne	0
Vaas not out	68
Zoysa c Gilchrist b K'wicz	4
Lokuarachchi c K'wicz b Warne	15
Muralitharan c Symonds b	

Warne				43
Extras: (b-8, lb-9, nb-3)				20
Total: (All out in 63.1 overs)				211
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-34, 3-39, 4-49, 5-67, 6-67, 7-88, 8-111, 9-132				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gillespie	12	4	25	1
K'wicz	24	5	83	4
Warne	20.1	3	65	5
Symonds	2	1	1	0
MacGill	5	1	20	0
AUSTRALIA: Second innings				
Langer c Sangakkara b Zoysa				9
Hayden c and b Vaas				5
Gilchrist not out				140
Martyn not out				64
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1)				3

Total: (For 2 wickets in 59 overs) 221

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-26				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	14	3	55	1
M'tharan	22	2	81	0
Zoysa	9	2	35	1
L'rachchi	8	1	26	0
J'suriya	5	0	16	0
Dilshan	1	0	6	0

Premier Div v'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Dilkusha Sporting Club registered their third victory in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League with a three set to love victory against Fire Service team at the outer stadium volleyball court yesterday.

With the outcome Dilkusha increased their tally to 14 points while Fire Service suffered their consecutive eighth defeat.

Confident Tigers

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with Bashar the day before the final game.

But Bashar said that the untoward episode involving him and Rafique was still bugging him.

"It was a team management decision but it is true that I feel depressed whenever I recall that incident," said Bashar without elaborating.

But apart from the incident, Bashar claimed his first assignment as Bangladesh captain a successful one.

"We had a chance of winning our first series but unfortunately we failed to fulfil the dream. I think there were a lot of positives in the series that will help us to do better in the future. The series gave us the confidence that we can win against anybody," said Bashar, who took over from Khaled Mahmud after the home series against England.

"But, I battled at number seven position because I was not getting runs up the order. On the other hand, we were having experiments in the opening position to find out a solid pair," he ended.

Sachin

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Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	9	1	49	3
Shabbir	9	0	65	0
Sami	9.4	1	41	3
Malik	10	0	59	1
Afridi	8	0	57	2
Razzaq	3	0	22	0

Result: Pakistan won by 12 runs. **Man-of-the-match:** Sachin Tendulkar.

Toss: Pakistan.

Pakistan bring

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agency.

Umer, 22, is regarded as Pakistan's best Test opener with 1,518 runs in 19 matches, but has not been considered for the shorter version of the game since last year's World Cup.

The 16-man squad was pruned to 15 with seamer Rao Itikhar and batsman Misbahul Haq omitted without being given a chance against the Indians.

SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (captain), Yousuf Youhana, Shahid Afridi, Yasir Hameed, Younis Khan, Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Malik, Moin Khan, Shabbir Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Rana Naveedul Hassan, Taufeeq Umer, Imran Farhat.

Collins in for Edwards

AFP, St. John's

Fast bowler Fidel Edwards has been ruled out of the West Indies team for the second Test against England starting in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad on Friday because of injury.

Left-arm paceman Pedro Collins, the half-brother of Edwards, returns to the squad in the only change from the side which was crushed by 10 wickets in the first Test in Jamaica to take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

Edwards took three England wickets at Sabina Park but was then sidelined with a strained back from the third morning onwards.

The 27-year-old Collins has not played for the West Indies since the corresponding Test against Australia last year.

He is the leading bowler in the West Indies first-class championship this year with 37 wickets at 18.45 apiece in six matches for championship favourites Barbados.

Collins regains his place after bowling steadily this year and developing a useful in-swinging delivery that was the bane of many batsmen in the championship.

He has taken 55 wickets at 40.32 in 19 Tests, including a best of six for 76 against New Zealand at Bridgetown, and offers West Indies some useful variation.

The West Indies are looking to keep England waiting for their first series victory in the Caribbean since 1968.

SQUAD

Brian Lara (captain), Chris Gayle, Devon Smith, Dwayne Smith, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ricardo Powell, Ryan Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Corey Collymore, Adam Sanford, Tino Best, Pedro Collins.

Libya to host next World Chess C'ship

AFP, Moscow

The next world chess championship will be held this summer in Libya, the Russian president of the chess world governing body FIDE said Tuesday after talks with Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi, ITAR-TASS reported.

FIDE president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov said the championship will be held between June 18 and July 13 and involve 128 grandmasters. It has a prize fund of 1.58 million dollars (1.28 million euros), the news report said.

The tournament's winner will receive "The Kadhafi gold cup," ITAR-TASS said. It was not immediately clear who has confirmed participation in the event.

The world of chess has been in turmoil for years, with some of the top players, including world number one Garry Kasparov quitting FIDE and starting a rival organization.

FIDE's number one is the Russian Ruslan Ponomarev.

'Take wickets'

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37th one-day century, and passed 13,000 one-day international runs but could not prevent Pakistan winning as Shoaib and Sami grabbed three wickets each.

Miandad attributed Tuesday's victory to the effort put in by his bowlers to reduce the number of extras they conceded.

"We put in a lot of work with the bowlers after the first match and it gave results," he said.

Pakistan sent down 20 no-balls and 10 wides in Karachi but improved significantly to deliver only seven no-balls and six wides in Rawalpindi.

Bhandari takes

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Test series starting on March 28.

Nehra was supposed to have missed Tuesday's play as well after an old ankle injury flared up again on the eve of the match and the team management declared his unavailability for the game.

But the bowler, whose spot-on final over won India the first one-day at Karachi on Saturday, was surprisingly retained in the team and finished with 3-44 in Pakistan's total of 329-6.

Pakistan won the match by 12 runs to level the five-match series 1-1.

The third one-dayer will be played in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Friday.

Bhandari, Nehra's Delhi teammate, made his debut against Pakistan at the Asia Cup in Bangladesh in 2000 and was discarded after being smashed for 2-75.

He was recalled for one match during the recent tri-series in Australia and fared better by picking up 3-31 against Zimbabwe at Perth.

Murali looks beyond 600



AFP, Kandy

Controversial Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has set his sights on creating a virtually unsurpassable Test bowling record, saying he is capable of taking more than 600 wickets.

The off-spinner, who turns 32 next month, on Tuesday became the youngest and fastest to reach the magical 500-mark against Australia on his home ground here in his 87th Test.

Retired West Indies paceman Courtney Walsh holds the world record with 519 wickets in 132 Tests, followed by Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne (501 in 108), who only achieved the feat last week in the previous Test against the hosts at Galle.

Muralitharan said Tuesday he was capable, health permitting, of going beyond 600 before he quits international cricket. His aim does not sound hollow considering his amazing strike-rate.

"I might finish with about 600-650 Test wickets as I plan to continue playing till the 2007 World Cup. I will have nearly 30 Tests to do that," he said.

Federer reaches last eight



AFP, Indian Wells

World No. 1 Roger Federer beat Mardy Fish in straight sets 6-4, 6-1 on Tuesday, advancing to the quarter-finals of the ATP/WTA Indian Wells tournament for the first time.

The 22-year-old Swiss native wasn't at the top of his game but still claimed his 24th victory in the last 25 matches with a win over American Fish at the 4.9 million dollars hard-court tournament in the California desert.

"In the end I thought overall I was the better player and that is what counts," said top seed Federer.

Federer, who is 19-1 this year, served 55 percent, blasted seven aces and hammered 18 winners.

Federer said he had trouble settling in at the start of the 71-minute match.

"There was no rhythm. I couldn't get the returns in," said Federer.

Worried business leaders

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FBCCI will meet on March 21 to discuss the opinions of all apex bodies that emerge from today's meeting, which it will make public through a formal statement to be issued the same day.

"We will look into the matters from a broader perspective, but our main focus will be the attacks made on Major Mannan's businesses," said Mintoo.

Although the leaders of the trade and business bodies said they would voice their opinions on the issue under the umbrella of FBCCI, they however did voice individual concerns at the attacks while talking to The Daily Star.

Sharing his personal thoughts on the attacks, Mintoo said, "I am really sad and disappointed at the attacks. I believe a person can be political or apolitical, but no organisation can ever be identified as apolitical or political."

"It is sad and disappointing if an

Muralitharan already holds the double world record of 13 hauls of 10 or more wickets in a Test and 41 off five or more scalps in an innings.

Still missing from his impressive list of achievements is a hat-trick and all-10 wickets in a Test innings, but cricket followers believe that the twin feats are not beyond his reach.

"He will get more wickets," said Sri Lankan captain Hashan Tillakaratne.

"He can do it as he is a great bowler. I have not seen any change in him since he started playing. He is a great teammate. He has the same old passion for the game."

Muralitharan is one of the most feared spinners in the world, having the extraordinary talent to turn the ball hugely even on flat pitches. His disconcerting bounce also adds to batsmen's woes.

And he has added a deceptive and highly effective weapon to his armoury: a delivery which leaves the right-handers instead of coming in to them like a traditional off-break.

Pakistani off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq was the first in recent times to bowl that deceptive ball, but Muralitharan has nearly perfected it.

Muralitharan has played a big role in making Sri Lanka a formidable force in international cricket as

he is a match-winner capable of producing wicket-taking balls at unexpected moments.

His successes are celebrated by his fans, but also raise eyebrows in certain quarters. He is an enigma, triggering debates whether he is a true or flawed genius.

His bowling action has come under scrutiny on a few occasions, with Australian umpires thrice calling the Sri Lankan spinner for "chucking".

Former India left-arm spinner Bishan Singh Bedi is still unconvinced about the legality of Muralitharan's bowling action and has gone as far as calling him a "javelin thrower".

"If Murali does not chuck, then show me how to bowl," Bedi once said.

Criticism has, however, failed to crush Muralitharan's spirit and he continues to tease and torment batsmen all over the world after being cleared of any irregularity by the International Cricket Council.

"I have a deformity on the elbow because it's bent. I can't straighten it whatever is said and done. I can't change me," he said.

Muralitharan appears to have accepted his fate. He will be criticised; he will be praised; but he can never be ignored.

Russian Mikhail Youzhny 7-5, 6-2.

Third seed Lindsay Davenport defeated fellow American Meghann Shaughnessy 6-1, 6-3 on the women's of the draw.

Joining Davenport in the quarter-finals is top seed Justine Henin-Hardenne, fourth seed Anastasia Myskina, of Russia, Spanish 11th seed Conchita Martina and France's Nathalie Dechy.

Federer was the hottest player on the Tour in 2003 winning seven titles. His 78 wins last year was the most any other player.

Since his last appearance at Indian Wells, Federer captured his first two Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon and this year's Australian Open.

Federer and Chela have faced each other once in each of the last two years with Federer winning both times.

Davenport, who has 39 career singles titles, is making her 11th appearance in the past 12 years at Indian Wells.

industries from terror-mongers."

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Acting President AM Mubash-shar said, "We should've spoken about the matter before, now we (business organisations) are waiting to collectively deal with the issue."

Mubash-shar personally denounced the attacks, which he said should never occur in the first place. "We believe these attacks are endorsed by the government since they occurred immediately after Mannan resigned from the ruling party," he added.

"The government has committed a heinous act by damaging and forcing closure of his business operations and depriving the labourers."

Speaking of today's meeting with FBCCI, Mubash-shar said all business bodies would decide on a programme and their statement on the attacks.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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