

Age Group cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Metro Blues and Khulna Division were on cruise control against their respective rivals at the end of Day One of their two-day semifinals in the Age Group Tournament at Faridpur yesterday.

Dhaka Metro scored 203 in 76.5 overs against Rajshahi Division and picked up three opponent wickets for 64 when balls were drawn for the day.

Khulna also made 203 in 74.3 overs against Chittagong Division, who scored 74 for 4 in 25 overs at stumps.

In the under-13 competition, Khulna and Dhaka Division set up a final clash after winning their respective semifinals at different city grounds.

Khulna scored 206 for 6 in 45.1 overs in reply to Rajshahi's 203 all out in 49.1 overs to earn a four-wicket victory at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Dhaka Division defeated Dhaka Metro Green by 25 runs. Dhaka Division made 227 for 8 in the stipulated 50 overs while Metro Green, in their chase, could manage 202 for nine.

The final will take place at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today.

Viakarunissa retain v'ball crown

BSS, Dhaka

Viakarunissa Noon Girls School retained the first Security Bank School Volleyball Championship title with an exciting 3-2 victory over Green Herald International School in the final at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Scholastica finished third.

Nine girls' schools of the city took part in the championship.

In the boys' section, BIT-1 became champions beating BIT-2 3-1 in the final at the same venue.

Children Academy became third.

Nineteen teams took part in the boys' section.

WHIZZ KID-208 correct answers

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score against Zimbabwe in the third ODI?

Ans: 238

2. Who clinched the First Division Football League title?

Ans: Youngmen's

3. Who won the Qatar Open tennis title?

Ans: Myskina

4. Who won the four-day National Cricket League title?

Ans: Dhaka

5. Who became U-19 Cricket World Cup Plate champions?

Ans: Bangladesh

WHIZZ KID-207 winner



Tawkir Azad

(Dhanmondi Tutorial, Dhaka)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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SA wrest initiative



AFP, Wellington

A century partnership of Jacques Rudolph and Martin van Jaarsveld steered South Africa to a strong position at 237 for three at stumps on Day Two of the third Test against New Zealand here Saturday.

Rudolph was unbeaten on 60 and Van Jaarsveld was on 48 as their unbroken stand took South Africa within 60 runs of New Zealand's first innings total of 297.

Apart from a minor collapse just before tea, when South Africa slumped from 103 without loss to 136 for three, the tourists dominated the day, cashing in on indifferent bowling and fielding lapses.

They polished off the New Zealand innings early, taking the last four wickets for 49 runs within an hour.

Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs opened the reply with a century stand, their seventh, before Smith dragged a wide attempted yorker from Chris Cairns onto his stumps and was out for 47.

Gibbs marched on to 77 before falling to Chris Martin, the destroyer of South Africa in the

second Test, and three balls later Martin had Gary Kirsten in his 101st and final Test out for one.

New Zealand were left to ponder what might have been as three catches went to ground and a caught behind appeal was turned down.

Gibbs benefitted twice, given the benefit of the doubt when television replays showed a clear thick edge went through to wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum, but umpire Asoka de Silva said no, and later he was dropped at deep mid-on by Stephen Fleming.

Rudolph and Van Jaarsveld also survived dropped catches in consecutive overs from Daniel Vettori.

With a strong northerly wind making it difficult for the bowlers to maintain their rhythm, they were chances New Zealand could ill-afford to miss.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of the second day of the third Test between New Zealand and South Africa on Saturday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings	
(overnight 248-6)	
Richardson c Boucher b Kallis	14
Papps lbw b Ntini	7
Fleming c Pollock b Boje	30
Sinclair lbw b Boje	74
Styris b Boje	1

McCullum lbw b Pollock	55
Cairns b Pollock	69
Oram st Boucher b Boje	34
Vettori c Boucher b Pollock	0
Mason c Van Jaarsveld b Nel	3
Martin not out	1
Extras: (nb-5, lb-1, b-2, w-1)	9
Total: (All out in 104 overs)	297
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-23, 3-90, 4-97, 5-163, 6-248, 7-257, 8-257, 9-264	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	29	2	85	3
Ntini	21	6	63	1
Kallis	7	5	4	1
Nel	27	9	77	1
Boje	20	2	65	4

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings	
Smith b Cairns	47
Gibbs c sub b Martin	77
Rudolph not out	60
Kirsten c McCullum b Martin	1
Van Jaarsveld not out	48
Extras: (nb-3, lb-1)	4
Total: (For 3 wts in 74 overs)	237
Fall of wickets: 1-103, 2-130, 3-136	
To bat: Kallis, Boucher, Pollock, Boje, Ntini, Nel.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Martin	13	5	34	2
Mason	13	4	59	0
Oram	8	3	10	0
Vettori	23	5	71	0
Cairns	11	2	44	1
Styris	6	2	18	0

Toss: South Africa.

Beware, Kumble is here

AFP, Multan



India's Anil Kumble, who once took all 10 wickets in an innings against Pakistan, said on Friday he looked forward to renewing battle with the arch-rivals.

The 33-year-old leg-spinner, who missed the preceding one-day series due to a shoulder injury, will spearhead India's bowling attack in the three Test matches starting on Sunday.

"It's great to be back in the fold," said Kumble, India's most successful spinner with 382 wickets from 81 matches.

Kumble emulated Englishman Jim Laker when he grabbed all 10 wickets in an innings during the second Test against Pakistan at New Delhi in February, 1999.

"I am on my first tour of Pakistan and look forward to playing here," he said.

"It is going to be very challenging series. I think the boys were brilliant in the one-day series and we can take a lot of positives from that going into the Test matches."

India came from a 1-2 deficit to win the one-dayers 3-2 following a 40-run win in the decisive fifth match at Lahore on Wednesday.

"It was a wonderful show by the team to win their first one-day series ever in Pakistan. I hope we can do the same in the Tests."

India have never won a Test match in Pakistan on five previous tours comprising 20 Tests. The hosts won five Tests while the rest were drawn.

"It is an education for international cricketers to play in different conditions around the world," Kumble said.

"We had a very good tour of Australia where we held the world

champions to a 1-1 draw in the Test series.

"The conditions will be different in Pakistan from what we had in Australia, but that tour gave us the confidence to play well anywhere."

Kumble reckoned the pitch at the plush Multan Cricket Stadium appeared to be "a good Test wicket" and hoped he will be able to extract good bounce from it.

"Pakistan has always been a strong opposition and will be an even bigger threat playing at home. But hopefully we will play to our full potential and win," he said.

Kumble goes into the first Test without a first-class game since January 6, the last day of the fourth and final Test against Australia at Sydney.

"I am not worried about the lack of match practice," he said. "I should be able to adjust to the conditions quickly since they are quite similar to what we get at home."

Lanka face whitewash



AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka faced the prospect of their first whitewash at home after a magnificent century by Australian opener Justin Langer in the third and final Test here on Saturday.

Sri Lanka, who have already lost the first two matches, were 18 for no loss at stumps on the fourth day chasing a 370-run target. They have either to salvage a draw or win to prevent a maiden sweep in a home Test series.

The hosts faced a tall order, having never chased more than 326 in the fourth innings to win a Test.

Sanath Jayasuriya was batting on 13 with Marvan Atapattu (five). Australia, trailing by six runs, were bowled out for 375 in their second innings. Langer overcame form and fitness problems to hammer a superb 166 for his 18th Test hundred and Simon Katich a solid 86 for his fourth half-century.

Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan grabbed three wickets to finish the series with 28. He now needs seven more to break West Indies pacesman Courtney

Walsh's world record of 519. Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne is better placed as he needs seven in the second innings of the match to break the world mark.

Langer and Katich put on 218 for the sixth wicket to shatter Sri Lanka's hopes of restricting Australia to a modest total. The day belonged to left-handed Langer who put his team in a winning position with his 295-ball knock, which included two sixes and 14 fours.

Langer, who had failed to make a half-century in the last five innings of the series, returned to form just when his team needed runs. Australia had slipped to 98-5 in the morning after resuming at 80-3. He completed his hundred shortly before lunch and then suffered cramps in the first over after the break, needing on-field medical attention and then a runner in Matthew Hayden.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the third and final Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground here on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 401

(Lehmann 153, Ponting 92; Muralitharan 5-123, Vaas 3-93)	
SRI LANKA: First innings 407	
(Atapattu 118, Tillakaratne 74 not out, Jayasuriya 71; Lehmann 3-50, Gillespie 3-96)	

AUSTRALIA: Second innings	
(overnight 80-3)	
Langer b Vaas	166
Hayden lbw b Vaas	28
Ponting c S'weera b Herath	20
Gillespie c J'dene b M'tharan	1
Martyn lbw b Herath	5
Lehmann c S'karab M'tharan	1
Katich lbw b M'tharan	86
Gilchrist not out	31
Warne c S'weera b Herath	0
Kasprowicz run out	3
Williams c and b Herath	2
Extras: (b-11, lb-11, nb-6, w-4)	32
Total: (All out in 106.2 overs)	375
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-79, 3-80, 4-89, 5-98, 6-316, 7-341, 8-346, 9-368	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	21	3	61	2
Zoysa	12	0	54	0
M'tharan	29	5	93	3
Herath	24	1	92	4
S'weera	15	4	40	0
J'suriya	4	0	13	0
Dilshan	1	1	0	0

SRI LANKA: Second innings	
Atapattu not out	5
Jayasuriya not out	13
Total: (For no loss in 5 overs)	18

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gillespie	2	1	6	0
K'wicz	2	1	12	0
Warne	1	1	0	0

Booters' gold

FROM PAGE 13 regional Games were staged in Kathmandu. And last January they beat them in the SAFF Championship final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The seven-team football competition began two days before the official opening of the largest sports gathering of South Asia on March 29.

BANGLADESH SQUAD
 Masud Parvez, Rashed Ahmed, Ashraf Kader, Abdullah Al Parvez, Aminul Islam, Mehedi Hasan Ujjal, Mustafa Anwar Parvez, Firoz Mahmud Hossain Titoo, Zahid Hasan Emily, Monwar Hossain (captain), Mohammed Sujon, Ziaur Rahman, Atiqul Islam Tariq, Ashraf Karim, Arman Aziz, Kamal Hossain, Haris-uz-Zaman, Zahidul Hasan Dalim, Yousuf Ali Khan and Akram Hossain.

Meanwhile, members of the volleyball, athletics, Wrestling, Karate, Kabaddi, boxing, badminton, table tennis and taekwondo teams left the city yesterday.

Earlier the first advance party comprising football, shooting, swimming and weightlifting flew out to Pakistan on March 22.

Thorpedo sunk before swim

REUTERS, Sydney

Ian Thorpe will be unable to defend his Olympic 400 metres freestyle title in Athens in August because the world record holder has been disqualified from the event at the Australian selection trials.

Thorpe overbalanced on the blocks and fell into the water before the start of his heat on Saturday on the opening day of the eight-day Australian championships at Sydney's Olympic pool.

In a scene which has already been replayed many times in Australian television news bulletins to a shocked nation, the 21-



IAN THORPE

year-old Thorpe returned to the blocks for his heat but was disqualified.

The crowd gasped in horror as a stunned Thorpe, who was a hot favourite for the 400m freestyle gold in the August 13-29 Games, walked away with the colour drained from his face.

An appeal by Thorpe was unsuccessful and the disqualification would stand. Australian Swimming (AS) chief executive Glenn Tasker told a news conference.

Singer nat'l chess from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Singer 30th National Chess Championship begins at the conference room of the National Sports Council at 3pm today.

The meet featuring 44 players, is being sponsored by Singer Bangladesh Limited.

Inter-varsity athletics

JU CORRESPONDENT

The three-day long inter-university athletics competition will begin today at Jahangirnagar University (JU).

About 150 athletics from Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Khulna University, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Islami University, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, National University and hosts Jahangirnagar University are participating in the 30 events meet.

India hold

FROM PAGE 13

that is win a Test series in Pakistan," wrote Gavaskar.

Gavaskar, the first batsman to score 10,000 runs in Tests, praised the Indian team for their determination.

"When all eleven have a single-mindedness that this team showed, then success is not too far away. The effort level was noteworthy for its fierce desire to win and that was infectious."

A unique

FROM PAGE 13

by a superb match-winning spell of nine for 86 by fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz.

However, Miandad did better in Pakistan's 200th Test against England at Old Trafford in 1992, scoring 88 and 45.

Boy returns

FROM PAGE 13

as competitive as any.

"The Pakistan team in 1989 had more experienced players like Imran Khan and Wasim Akram," he said. "The current team is younger in comparison but very competitive as the one-dayers showed."

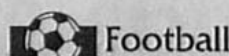
Tendulkar said he himself was content with what he had achieved so far.

"I am very happy with my life," he said. "It has been wonderful playing for India."

"Cricket means everything to me. Plenty of other things have happened around that like promoting various products, but cricket remains right up there. The rest is secondary."

"As long as I am playing well for India I am happy. It has been a tremendous journey so far and I don't want that to end yet."

Showdown at Highbury



REUTERS, London

Arsenal's seemingly unstoppable charge towards the English Premier League and FA Cup double comes up against the ultimate obstacle on Sunday in the shape of arch-rivals Manchester United.

The London club, pipped for the title by United last season after squandering an eight-point lead, will set a record of 30 top-flight matches unbeaten from the start of an English league season if they avoid defeat at Highbury.

Arsenal, nine points clear of Chelsea and 12 ahead of United, are also on course to emulate the 1999 United side that did the English double and won the Champions League.

They held Chelsea 1-1 away on Wednesday in the first leg of the all-London quarterfinal, the first of four big matches in what manager Arsene Wenger has described as the club's most important fortnight.

Sandwiched between the games against Chelsea are two meetings with United, who have not won at

Highbury since 1999 but drew 2-2 there last season. Sunday's league match is followed next Saturday by an FA Cup semifinal at Villa Park.

"The game at Highbury and the semifinal are the games that any player wants to play in," United defender Phil Neville told his club's website.

"At this club, we're probably the one team that actually enjoys playing against Arsenal," Neville added.

"You never know what might happen if we win at Highbury. Last season, they slipped up towards the end. We have seen teams slip up before with this kind of lead."

Stirring added spice into the mix is the memory of the rivals' last clash, a