

Rising Star off to a flier

CU CORRESPONDENT

Holders Rising Star Club got off to a flying start in the CJKS Ispahani Premier Division Cricket League defeating Chittagong Port Authority Sports Association by 56 runs at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Chittagong Port Authority won the toss and decided to put their opponents into bat in a match reduced to 33 overs-per-side. A damp outfield forced the game to start after lunch.

Rising Star scored 193-9 with Sanwar Hossain hitting highest 54 while his teammate Ahsanullah made 34. Mahmudul Islam of Port Authority captured two wickets.

The stiff total proved too much for Chittagong Port Authority who ended their chase at 137-8 in 33 overs. Halim Shah was top-scorer 30 while Sajjad Ahmed added 25. Nesarul Haq, Kashif Naveed and Ahsanullah each bagged two wickets for the winners.

On Sunday heavy showers forced the opening match to be abandoned.

Chittagong City Corporation Junior play Satadal Club Junior at the same venue today.

PCB's cause

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"We want the ICC to put in place a code for former players and officials who tend to cause a lot of damage by making match-fixing allegations against a team without evidence," he said.

The PCB has asked its disciplinary committee to look into possible action against former captain Rashid Latif, who hinted that Pakistan had intentionally lost the fourth one-day international against India last month.

"Even a common man could observe that the players were acting on a script because the body language of the players was not as it should have been," Latif said on the local Indus television channel.

Latif, who had first made match-fixing charges against some of his teammates in 1995 during a tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa, has denied making any direct allegations this time.

"I have only expressed my suspicions," he told this news agency.

Raja said making serious allegations without proof was upsetting for the players.

"That's why we want to involve the ICC in this matter. This is a serious issue and needs to be tackled because it's causing damage to the image of cricketers and the sport," he said.

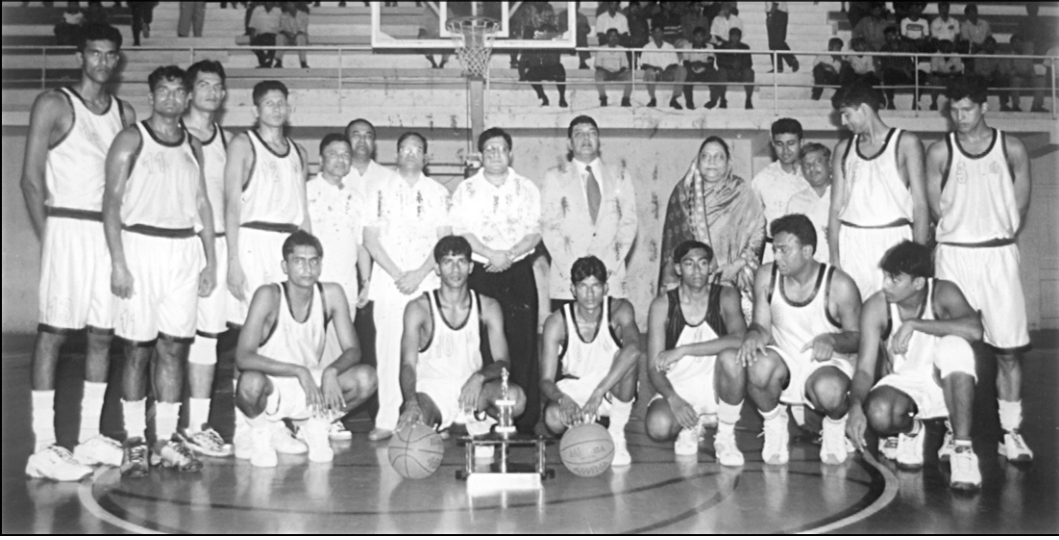


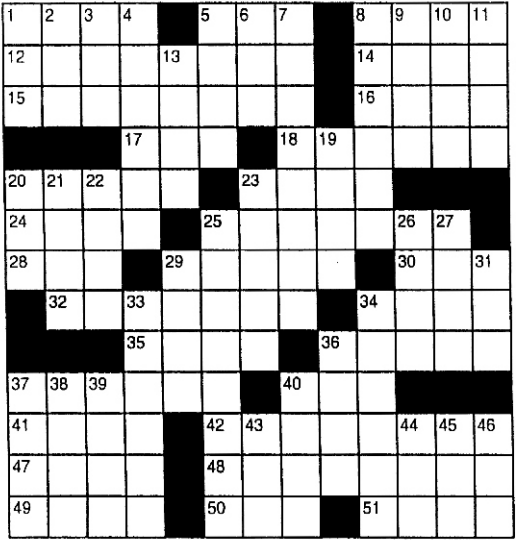
PHOTO: COURTESY

Members of the Bangladesh Navy team, who clinched the Maple Leaf Independence Day basketball title, pose with the chief guest Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Skinflint 37 Inspiration for Strauss 5 Turf 8 "The Georgia Peach" 12 Utter destruction 14 Wheel-base terminus 15 Gilbert & Sullivan's ship 16 Broadway brightener 17 Airborne Dracula 18 Strut about 20 Leading man in the theater? 23 Action 24 Earth 25 "Tommy" contest 28 Wiedersehen precursor 29 Composer Thomas, et al. 30 LummoX 32 Nitwit 34 Crazy 35 Apiece

DOWN 1 Napoleon's title (Abbr.) 2 Mai — 3 Ensigns' org. Solution time: 24 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

SI QUD`TH GHTYUDK UI AH WSGA UG N RUTKH. QUD PSARW RNYH KUPH PUDGWSGA WHGKSUG. Saturday's Cryptquip: IF THE OLD PROSPECTOR IS FORTUNATE, I GUESS HE COULD FIND HIMSELF A PLOT OF GOLD. Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals T

What has Elliot seen?



REUTERS, Melbourne

Sri Lanka's cricket board already know the results of Muttiah Muralitharan's suspect bowling action assessment but are yet to publicly release the details.

University of Western Australia biomechanist Bruce Elliott, who supervised last week's tests, said on Monday he had spoken to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) to pass on key data information.

Elliott said he would complete a written report later this week and send it to the board.

"They know what the numbers are," Elliott told this news agency in a telephone interview from Perth.

"Just the pure numbers at the elbow. That's the key to the issue I suppose but that's where we are with that."

"I don't know what the Sri Lankan board will be doing. I would hope they would tell me that they would let us make it public or they would make it public."

"Now really it's up to the Sri Lankan cricket board and the ICC."

Muralitharan's bowling was assessed after the off-spinner was reported to the International Cricket Council (ICC) by match referee



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

Chris Broad during the recent Sri Lanka and Australia Test series.

The legality of his "doosra" delivery, which spins in the opposite direction to his stock ball, has been called into question.

Elliott's team analysed data relating to six "doosra" deliveries from a testing session in Perth

during which the slow bowler wore only reflective markers on his upper body.

Muralitharan has taken 513 wickets in 88 Tests and is six wickets shy of West Indian Courtney Walsh's world record.

The 31-year-old took 28 wickets in the home series against Australia last month, while Australia leg spinner Shane Warne grabbed 26 to move to 517 in total.

Sri Lanka's cricket board is responsible for reviewing and, if necessary, remedying Muralitharan's bowling action with the assistance of an ICC-appointed expert before submitting a report to the ICC within six weeks of Broad's March 28 announcement.

Muralitharan's action has been the source of controversy since he was no balled for throwing by umpire Darrell Hair in a Test match at Melbourne in December 1995.

He was later cleared by the ICC after a University of Western Australia biomechanical analysis, which concluded that the bent-arm action created the "optical illusion" of chucking.

Singer chess Nasir holds Niaz

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman maintained his solo lead with eight points after the end of the ninth round games of the Singer 30th National Chess Championship at the NSC conference-room yesterday.

Grand Master Niaz Murshed and International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib jointly hold the second position with seven points each. International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib was in the third position with 6.5 points

NINTH ROUND RESULTS

Zia beat Saifuddin Lavlu, Rakib beat Debaraj Chatterjee, Niaz drew with FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Rajib drew with IM Reefat bin Sattar, Mehdi Hasan Parag beat Md Monjur Alam, Mohammad Javed beat Shawkat Hossain Pallab and Aminul Islam Polash beat Abdul Maleq.

Rafique let off

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versions of the game, lost his composure during the final practice session and was involved in a row with Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar in Harare on March 13. He was forced to catch the first available flight back home after the team management ruled him out of the fifth and final one-dayer as a disciplinary measure.

U-14 Football

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witnessed in the match as players came forward to nurse their injured rivals by sending the ball outside.

And the teenaged footballers were found apologising to the referee for their offences.

Substitute right-winger Rashedul Islam Biplob put Bangladesh ahead in the 39th minute with a fine touch from very close after successfully dodging three Lankan defenders.

Gul couldn't

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"When Wasim bhai was playing for PIA, I used to watch him more instead of bowling myself and the coach had to remind me that I was not there as a fan, but as a player," Gul said.

Now, Gul is bowling and others are watching him.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the second Test between India and Pakistan on Monday:

INDIA: First innings				
Chopra lbw b Sami	4			
Sehwag c Akmal b Gul	39			
David c Inzamam b Gul	33			
Tendulkar lbw b Gul	2			
Laxman c Umar b Gul	11			
Yuvraj c Farhat b Kaneria	112			
Patel lbw b Gul	0			
Agarkar c Akmal b Akhtar	2			
Pathan c and b Kaneria	49			
Balaji c Akmal b Sami	0			
Kumble not out	6			
Extras: (b-6, lb-8, nb-9, w-6)	29			
Total: (All out in 64.1 overs)	287			
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-69, 3-75, 4-94, 5-125, 6-127, 7-147, 8-264, 9-265				
Bowler O M R W				
Akhtar	16	1	69	1
Sami	23	1	117	2
Gul	12	2	31	5
Kaneria	13.1	1	56	2
PAKISTAN: First innings				
Farhat not out	25			
Umar b Balaji	24			
Hameed not out	4			
Extras: (lb-6, w-1, nb-1)	8			
Total: (For 1 wkt in 23 overs)	61			
Fall of wicket: 1-47				
To bat: Inzamam, Youhana, Kamal, Akmal, Sami, Akhtar, Gul, Kaneria				



PHOTO: AFP

American Andy Roddick celebrates after winning the ATP Masters Series trophy in Miami on April 4.

Roddick wins at Coria's cost



AFP, Key Biscayne

American second seed Andy Roddick won the ATP Masters Series best-of-five hardcourt final here 6-7, 6-3, 6-1 when Argentina's third-seeded Guillermo Coria retired with a back injury.

The 22-year-old hometown hero captured the \$33,350-dollar top prize at the 3.45 million-dollar tournament with his tour-best 26th victory of the year against five defeats. Coria fell to 17-3.

Coria, winless in three matches against Roddick, received medical treatment after the 11th game of the

first set for back pain that began after he lunged for a backhand.

But cheered on by a flag-waving and hard-cheering group of supporters he showed no sign of trouble in ripping to a 5-0 lead on his way to claiming the tie-breaker.

"I knew I was not going to be able to finish the match," Coria said through a translator. "I knew I would not be able to run the way I must in order to win but I didn't want to disappoint the crowd."

"I'm a little disappointed, but I felt like I was playing in Argentina."

Roddick broke Coria in the third and final games of the second set, which he claimed on the South American's first double fault of the match.

Ranatunga this time a govt MP

AFP, Colombo

Former Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga has been re-elected to parliament, but this time he will be on the government side, officials said.

Ranatunga, 40, was elected to parliament from the district of Colombo after contesting under President Chandrika Kumaratunga's leftist Freedom Alliance which won 105 seats in a hung parliament.

He first entered parliament in December 2001, a year after retiring from international cricket, saying he felt he owed "something to the nation" and wanted to improve not only cricket and athletics, but other sports as well.

Do not blame Lara: Sobers

AFP, London

West Indies legend Gary Sobers has lent his support to Brian Lara saying that the under-fire captain should not be made a scapegoat for the Caribbean team's first home series defeat by England for 36 years.

"Brian's contribution has been tremendous. His record in South Africa and Zimbabwe was very good and he came back as the world's number one batsman," said Sobers. "The captaincy didn't affect his form in South Africa. He shouldn't be replaced -- who is there to replace him anyway? We haven't reached the standard yet where we can afford to replace him."

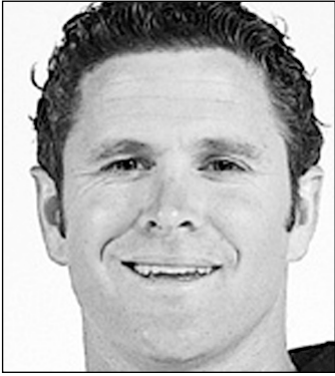
Another cheerless

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while Foujia Huda, who made headlines with a silver in the long jump a few days ago, was sixth with 12.57.

Taekwondo finally came into the reckoning when Mizanur Rahman lost in the semifinals to Pakistan's Muhammad Akhtar to secure a bronze. Earlier, Mizan overcame Nepal's Ghanshyam in the middle-weight division at the Rawalpindi Army Gymnasium.

In kabadi Bangladesh secured another victory when they downed Sri Lanka 30-11 at the Army Stadium.



CHRIS CAIRNS

"In the recent Test series against South Africa he became one of only six cricketers to ever reach 3000 Test runs and 200 Test wickets."

"He was the second fastest cricketer to achieve this milestone next to England's Ian Botham."

"This achievement is even greater when you consider his career has on several occasions been adversely affected by injury," Snedden said.

Cairns' last Test will be played at Trent Bridge starting on June 10.



PHOTO: COURTESY

British High Commissioner David Carter hands over a bat signed by the England cricket team to Raisul Amin of Standard Chartered bank after being named man-of-the-series after they won a six-a-side tournament played among the members of the British Business Group at the British American Tobacco Company Bangladesh ground recently.