



## Did U Know?

Golf is the only sport that has been played on the moon when on 6 February, 1971 Alan Shepard hit a golf ball.



**Waqar Younis**  
(Pakistan bowling great)  
"There should be some credibility with the umpires. They should be questioned, too."

Questioning umpiring standards.

## First-class Mahmud



SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Khaled Mahmud slammed his maiden first-class century enabling Dhaka Division to enforce a draw against Sylhet Division while Khulna Division was the only team that recorded an outright victory in the first round of the four-day Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Sixth National Cricket League yesterday. Mahmud, the former Bangladesh captain, remained undefeated on 141 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium as Dhaka collected four points after the home side took a slim nine-run first innings' lead whereas Sylhet got two points.

Elsewhere on the last day, there was also another century-maker when Jamal Uddin (116) guided Khulna to a four-wicket victory over lowly Barisal.

Meanwhile, the four-dayer between Chittagong and Rajshahi ended as a draw with hosts Rajshahi earning four points by virtue of a first innings' lead.

All the teams will now switch to the limited-overs competition today.

### DHAKA v SYLHET

When Mahmud walked into the middle, his side was struggling at

74-5 but he then called upon all his experience to rescue the situation.

Resuming on 70-4, Dhaka lost their fifth wicket in the third over of the day when overnight Anwar Hossain (9) was trapped lbw by pacer Hasibul Hossain.

Mahmud joined his young national mate Mohammad Ashraf (58 off 113 balls) and the pair produced 54 runs for the sixth wicket.

Further contributions down the order by Mohammad Rafique (21) and Arafat Sunny (20) aided Dhaka's rebuilding process as they were eventually bowled out 304 in their second essay, a lead of 313 runs.

For a change Mahmud was initially very watchful in reaching his fifty from 128 balls with six boundaries. However, the right-hander moved into top gear once he got the measure the opposition attack. His second fifty took only 45 balls.

In his 215-ball knock, Mahmud hammered 14 boundaries and a six. He offered only one chance on 99 but Sylhet wicketkeeper Golam Mabud failed to effect a stumping off Sadiqur Rahman.

The diminutive all-rounder was delighted by his maiden ton in the first-class competition and hoped his continued good form would lead to a Test call-up.

"I'm really excited because it was my first longer-version century. Actually I've had little opportunity to

score big runs in the national side batting at number eight or nine," said Mahmud.

"I'm still hopeful of reviving my Test career but I'll have to score more than six hundred runs in the League," he added.

Sylhet Division experienced a mini-collapse as they lost three wickets before finished 70-3 when the match ended.

Out of form Alok Kapali hit a strokeful 36-ball 40 before being trapped lbw by Mohammad Ashraf.

Besides, first-innings centurion Golam Rahman was fined Tk 2,500 for misconduct while returning to the dressing room after 160 in Sylhet's 316.

### KHULNA v BARISAL

Resuming the day still needing 145 runs for victory, Khulna rode on Jamaluddin's 116 at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

Khulna, who began on 85-2, reached the target scoring 232-6 in 98.3 overs.

National discard Jamal clobbered 14 fours and two sixes in 229 balls while his overnight partner Shaful Alam added 62.

The third-wicket pair contributed 146 runs.

Barisal spinners Arafat Salahuddin captured two for 24 runs and Mosharaf Hossain took two wickets

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FINALLY IT COMES: Dhaka captain Khaled Mahmud salutes the crowd upon reaching the hundred, his maiden in first-class cricket, in the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 6th National Cricket League yesterday.

## Kalabagan take a step upward

SPORTS REPORTER

Kalabagan Krira Chakra overcame a big hurdle in their quest to regain the Premier League place when they pulled off an exciting five-run victory against Gazi Tank in the First Division Cricket League at BKSP in Savar yesterday.

The outcome gave Kalabagan solo lead with 24 points from 15 matches while Gazi Tank remained to 22, with both having two matches in hand.

Uttam Kumar smashed 55 before Raju Parvez remained unbeaten on 65 off 94 balls as Kalabagan scored 229 for 8 in 50 overs after deciding to bat.

Gazi Tank came close to their target before running out of deliveries as they made 224 for 9. Number seven batsman Habib hit team-high 44 off 48 balls.

At another ground in the sports institute, Dhanmondi registered their ninth victory when they handed Azad Sporting Club a 34-run defeat.

Dhanmondi stuttered to 187 before being all out in 50 overs while Azad, in reply, were bundled out for 153 in 45.4 overs.

It was Azad's ninth defeat in 15 matches.

In another match, Rupali Bank defeated Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by 70 runs.

Eskaton were bowled out for 166 in 41.2 while chasing Rupali Bank's 236 in 49.4 overs.

Meanwhile, the match between Surjo Tarun and Partex had to be called off after 16 overs due to excessive noise at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium as a function of the Muktiyoddha Jadughar was being held at the other corner of the venue.

## Div I hockey

UNB, Dhaka

Victoria Sporting Club registered a 2-1 victory over Bachelor Sporting Club in the Green Delta First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Mohon Kumar and Yusuf scored for Victoria in the 15th and 34 minutes respectively while Latif pulled one back in the 50th minute for the losers.

In the day's other match, Farshaganj Sporting Club out-classed Shantiganaj Sporting Club 8-0 at the same venue.

## Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gaibandha Cricket Coaching Centre recorded a massive 149-run victory over Abahani Krira Chakra in the First Division Cricket League at the local stadium yesterday.

Coaching Centre scored 208 all out in 48.2 overs. In reply, Abahani were bundled out for 59 in 23.5 overs.

**DAY'S EVENT**

**Ispahani 6th Nat'l Cricket League**  
(One-day)  
Dhaka v Sylhet  
Venue: BNS  
Rajshahi v Chittagong  
Venue: Bogra  
Khulna v Barisal  
Venue: KDS

## Sachin, Brian Viv's picks



CRICINFO, undated

Vivian Richards, the West Indian legend, has named Sachin Tendulkar as his favourite overseas player and Brian Lara as his best in the Caribbean.

Writing in a newspaper column, Richards stated that Tendulkar had invited less controversy than his counterpart Lara, though Rahul Dravid was the most stylish batsman around.

"They are different people...because of the different culture they come from. Lara, being a left-hander, is flashy and elegant," Richards was quoted by news agency Press Trust of India.

"There is a certain panache about his batting -- his bat comes down on the ball with a high backlift. Tendulkar stands still at the crease but loves to attack and is very posi-

tive."

Tendulkar, who is currently nursing a tennis elbow, is expected to be fit for the Pakistan series. But in recent times his career has been wracked by frequent injury.

But Richards reckoned that while Tendulkar's passions still ran high, if he could maintain his fitness level, he could continue playing for another four years.

Richards recalled the first time he had heard of Tendulkar. In 1990, on India's tour of England, Tendulkar had smote Ian Bishop over his head for six in a game against Derbyshire -- an experience the bowler shared with Richards later, adding that the little man (Tendulkar) was dangerous.

The comment surprised Richards, for Bishop was not one who praised easily.

Richards wrote that Tendulkar was a batsman of rare ability and has become an icon over the years. He acknowledged that Tendulkar's

knock of 241 against Australia in Sydney was resilient and full of character.

If you could score against Australia, Richards reckoned, you could score anywhere. "This kid has been brought up on pressure. Ever since he was young, he shouldered responsibility. When he was captain, I always thought a big burden had been placed on somebody so young."

Many people over the years have drawn comparisons between the two greats, but Richards wrote that it was misleading to place them beside one another.

"If he was to walk off the field today, without ever lifting a bat again, he would still be one of the icons, a true legend. Let's not confuse things by comparing him with Viv or anyone else. He is a giant in his own right."

## Nat'l chess on 'Pace out India'

SPORTS REPORTER

The preliminary phase of the Mercantile Bank 31st National Chess Championship began at the federation hall-room yesterday.

In the opening round, 52 players earned full point. A total of 112 players including 78 rated players are taking part in the 11 round Swiss League competition.

## Vaughan will be Aussies' target

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former England cricket academy director Rod Marsh predicts that Australia's bowlers will focus on captain Michael Vaughan in the coming summer's Ashes series.

Marsh told BBC: "Vaughan will be targeted, I'm sure, when the Australians get to England."

"He's proved that he can make good Test runs. However his record as a batsman since he's been captain has not been as good as it was previously."

Vaughan was world number one after England's Ashes tour of 2002-03.

Australian seamer Glenn McGrath named Vaughan as his target for that series but the Yorkshire batsman proved equal to the task on that occasion.

England may have lost the Ashes, by a significant margin of 4-1, but

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AFP, Islamabad

Former cricket great Imran Khan said Friday Pakistani fast bowlers could edge out hosts India in the forthcoming series between the two South Asian arch-rivals this month.

"Pakistan must depend on pace, because it's pace which can earn Pakistan a win in India, not spin. The world's best spinner Shane Warne of Australia has been a failure in India," Imran told this news agency. Pakistan are to play three Tests and five one-day games in India on their first tour in six years starting February 25, once both countries have resolved a row over playing a match in the volatile city of Ahmedabad.

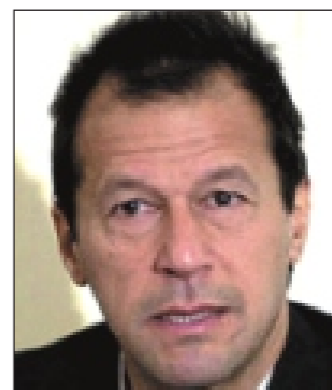
Indian batting is more adept against spinners, said Imran, who led Pakistan during their first series win in India in 1987.

"India has a strong batting lineup and they are very strong against spin so as in our last series in India in 1999 we must depend on fast bowlers," he said.

"I would like to see Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Sami firing all cylinders."

Pakistan are likely to announce the squad on February 18 but a big question mark hangs over Shoaib's fitness and the form of Sami.

Sami had to return home after the second Test in Australia in early



IMRAN KHAN

January and has since regained fitness, but has been suffering a lack of form.

Shoaib is still recuperating from a hamstring injury which forced him to return home from Australia late last month and also faces disciplinary action on charges of going to discos while on tour.

A final decision on Shoaib's disciplinary hearing is likely next week.

Imran said Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq had to inspire the team and make it mentally strong. "I criticised Inzamam for not playing the two Tests in Australia because for me it was strange for a batsman to sit out and now he needs to inspire the team from the front."

Imran said Pakistan must learn from their mistakes during

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PHOTO: AFP

**PLOUGHING FEROSH SHAH KOTLA!** New Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla Cricket Stadium is undergoing a massive renovation programme. The fifth and final one-day international between India and Pakistan is to take place here in the first week of April.

## Kenya deeper in trouble

AFP, Nairobi

A court intervention aimed at resolving the current leadership crisis in Kenyan cricket will have to wait a little longer after an inter-party hearing failed to start on Thursday.

Nairobi High Court Judge Milton Makhandia had issued a summons to Kenya Cricket Association (KCA) officials and the interim committee appointed by the Sports Minister Ochilo Ayacko in a bid to reach a solution to the stalemate.

But the hearing failed to kick off due to a busy court timetable.

"The case will now be heard on March 7," said Walter Amogo, a lawyer for the government-

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