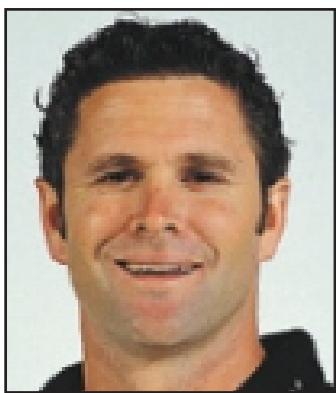




## Did U Know?

The world's first chess tournament was held at the Royal Court in Madrid in 1575. Polerio and Leonardo defeated Ruy Lopez and Ceron in a series of matches arranged by King Phillip II.



**Chris Cairns**  
(New Zealand star batsman)  
"I've closed that chapter of my career. I've still got a goal to play the next World Cup and if I play Test cricket I could ruin that."

Turning down an offer to resume his Test career.



## Div I hockey

### SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj Sporting Club edged past Shishu Kishore Sangha 2-1 in yesterday's Green Delta First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium.

### McCullum accepts Lee's apology

### CRICINFO, undated

It has taken almost a week, but New Zealand wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum has finally cleared the air over the Brett Lee beamer furore and told how he accepted his apology. The Australian fast bowler's waist-high full-toss, which hit McCullum on the hand during the third one-day international at Auckland, has dominated discussion among former players and critics, with the columnist Peter Roebuck suggesting he be sent home immediately.

But McCullum said he had given Lee the benefit of the doubt that the ball, the second similar delivery he received from him this summer, was accidental.

"He was very apologetic and that was received nicely," McCullum told the Sydney Morning Herald.

McCullum said Lee was a harder prospect to face in one-dayers than Tests because batsmen could not afford to wait for his loose deliveries.

"I think there is a difference to handling it and getting after it, it's no easyfeat," he said.

"Facing Gillespie, McGrath and Kasprowicz isn't that easy as well."

Photo: AFP

Photo: AFP

# Ehsanul powers Chittagong



6th National Cricket League

### SPORTS REPORTER

Ehsanul Haque hit his second ton on the trot as Chittagong took first day's honours against Khulna in the National Cricket League yesterday.

Fresh from his 186 against Barisal in the previous round, Ehsanul continued celebrating his new found position in the middle-order as he remained not out on 107 at stumps as Chittagong amassed 327 for five.

Bowlers dominated in the other two games with 15 wickets tumbling at Bogra in the top-of-the-table clash between Dhaka and Rajshahi while left-arm spinner's Nadif Chowdhury's five-wicket haul helped bottom team Barisal dismiss visiting Sylhet for 202.

**CHITTAGONG-KHULNA**  
Chittagong made full use of the perfect batting conditions after winning the toss following some early hiccups at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium. The home side stumped to 68-3 but Nazimuddin

and Ehsanul put on 130 runs for the fourth wicket.

The two frustrated the rival attack for 38 overs before off-spinner Jamaluddin broke the partnership by removing Nazimuddin for 76. Nazimuddin hit 13 fours in an entertaining 146-ball knock. Left-hander Faisal Hossain then raced to his third half-century during a 107-run fifth wicket partnership took the total beyond 300.

Faisal made 66 in just 89 balls cracking a dozen fours and a six before being run out.

Ehsanul, who completed his 50 in 104 balls, took another 92 deliveries to reach the three-figure mark.

### DHAKA-RAJSHAHI

Dhaka or Rajshahi have not recorded outright victories in the ongoing competition but a result was on the cards in this game.

Dhaka seamers grabbed eight wickets to shoot out Rajshahi for a meagre 140 but the hosts bounced back with Alamgir Kabir's four-wicket haul to reduce their opposition to 107-5 at close of play at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium.

Playing without captain Khaled Mashud who is serving a one-match

ban, Rajshahi opted to bat first but Dhaka's new-look attack tore through their batting.

The visitors did not miss the bowling of skipper Khaled Mahmud, who did not bowl due to a sore shoulder, as Dipojal Roy and Ashraful reduced the Rajshahi to 89 for four.

After some brief resistance, pacer Niaz Morshed and left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny took the remaining six wickets between them.

A dramatic saw the home side lose the last five wickets for just ten runs. Only four batsmen reached the double-figure with stand-in captain Hasanuzzaman Rosel topscoing with 38.

Dhaka lost wickets at regular interval with Alamgir grabbing 4-33 in a fiery ten-over spell before Mahmud's quickfire 39 off 32 balls salvaged them from a precarious 40-4. Mahmud hit seven fours and one six before being caught behind off pacer Sumon Saha.

Opener Anwar Hossain, who scored a sedate 11 in over two hours facing 86 balls, was at the crease with Neeyamur Rashid on 19.

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Chittagong's Ehsanul Haque pulls during his unbeaten 107 against Khulna on the first day of their four-day National League match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Razzaq restores Pakistan



### AFP, Dharamshala

Pakistani all-rounder Abdul Razzaq warmed up for the upcoming Test series against India with an aggressive half-century in the tour opener here on Friday.

Razzaq hammered an 82-ball 63 with two sixes and 10 fours as Pakistan were all out for 273 in their first innings after resuming at 165-5 on the second day of a three-day match against a Board President's team.

Pakistan could not get much-needed bowling practice ahead of the first Test against India as they sent down just 22.2 overs before bad light stopped play.

The hosts reached 91-1 in reply at stumps, with Test-discard Mohammad Kaif batting on 42 and opener Dheeraj Jadhav on 30.

The opening match of a three-Test series begins at Mohali on March 8.

Earlier, Razzaq held the innings together with his impressive knock and helped Pakistan add 104 runs for the last four wickets after the tourists had been struggling at 169-6 in the morning session.

Razzaq applied himself well on a low, slow pitch, using his feet effectively against spinners to help his team reach a respectable total. He punished off-spinner Venugopala Rao, smashing the bowler for two sixes.

Pakistan lost overnight batsman Asim Kamal (43) early in the day, but Razzaq steadied the innings with a 59-run stand for the seventh wicket with Kamran Akmal (34).

Razzaq was the last man to be dismissed, caught at the mid-wicket boundary by Rao off left-arm spinner Neeraj Patel.

He was the lone Pakistani batsman to gain valuable practice as none of his teammates could score a half-century in the only warm-up game before the first Test.

Pakistan's bowlers struggled after getting an early breakthrough as Kaif and Jadhav batted confi-

dently during their 74-run stand for the unfinished second wicket.

Mohammad Sami, key Pakistani paceman in the absence of injured Shaib Akhtar, conceded 28 runs in his six overs.

Pakistani leg-spinner Danish Kaneria, expected to play a major role in the Test series, could bowl just three overs before bad light stopped play in the afternoon session.

Manzur Navedul Hasan was the lone wicket-taker, dismissing opener Satyajit Parab for 11.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard on the second day of a three-day practice match between Pakistan and Indian Board President's XI on Friday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings (overnight 165-5)

Butt run out 21  
Umar Kaif b Rudra Pratap 37

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Pakistan all-rounder Abdul Razzaq drives through the covers on the second day of the three-day practice match against Indian Board President's XI at Dharamshala yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## FED CUP Wanderers book finals berth

### SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers Club qualified for the final rounds of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup Football Tournament when they came from behind to beat Victoria Sporting Club at the Birsreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Syed Hossain Surat scored in the 22nd minute to give Victoria a 1-0 first half lead but Murad Hossain Milon struck twice in the 58th and 75th minute to ensure Wanderers became Group B champions.

Youngmen's Club Fakirpool were the first team to reach the eight-final round.

The final place will be decided today when Arambagh Krira Sangha meet Bangladesh Army in the Group C final.

## MSC school cricket

### SPORTS REPORTER

Iqra Model Academy, Kurmitola High School and Motijheel Government Boys High School won their respective matches in the Mohammedian Dhaka Metropolitan Inter-School Cricket Tournament at different city venues yesterday.

Sohag smashed 130 as Iqra (262-5) handed a massive 153-run defeat on Asaduzzaman Ideal High School (109-10) at the East End Club ground.

At the COD cantonment ground, Asif's 54 helped Kurmitola High School (242-10) to pull off a huge 144-run victory over Hazrat Shah Ali Model High School (98-10).

A blazing 50 by Hasan Khan guided Motijheel Government (229-9) to a 99-run victory against hosts Khilgaon High School (130-10).

A blinding 50 by Hasan Khan guided Motijheel Government (229-9) to a 99-run victory against hosts Khilgaon High School (130-10).

Dabengwa played starring role as he hit an unbeaten half-century and grabbed five wickets.

National discarded Sanwar Hossain won the toss and decided to bat. But from a relatively good

position (181-5) to launch a final assault, the visitors failed to accelerate and were ultimately skittled out for 209 with 13 balls unused.

The second string national side made a shaky start when they lost both openers Rajibul Hasan (6) and Dhiman Gosh (18) with just 22 runs on the board. However Tushar Imran (50) and the A team skipper Sanwar (36) steadied the side with a useful stand.

Shamsur Rahman and wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, one of the stars of the Test series with a century and fifty, also added 39 and 23 respectively.

But 25-year-old slow left-arm spinner Dabengwa thwarted any Bangladeshi hopes of amassing a big total as they lost their last five

## Somerset sign Jayasuriya

### AFP, London

Sri Lanka batsman Sanath Jayasuriya has agreed a short-term contract with Somerset, as an early season replacement for Australia captain Ricky Ponting, the English county announced Thursday.

Ponting is due to lead Australia in the Ashes Test series in the second half of the English summer and 35-year-old former Sri Lanka skipper Jayasuriya, an aggressive left-handed batsman, is set to be available for four County Championship matches as well as several one-day fixtures.

# Fighting BCB XI

## Manzarul, Kapali ensure a draw



### PALLAB BHATTACHARAYA, New Delhi

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven finally showed its fighting qualities as the fifth wicket pair of Manzarul Islam Manzar and Alok Kapali held up Central Zone to enforce an unlikely draw on the final day of their Duleep Trophy match at Kamal Singh Stadium here yesterday.

Set an improbable target of 436 runs, Manzarul, who was the pick of the tourists' batsmen in the first innings and Kapali, produced 90 runs after the Bangladesh selection were reduced to 108-4. Although both batsmen departed without scoring deserved half-centuries, at least they ensured that the BCB XI reached 199-6 when play ended.

Both captains agreed for a draw after rain interrupted the game a couple of overs into the final session.

Earlier, Central Zone, resuming their second innings at 212-6, they could add just 12 runs.

Test discard Sanjay Bangar narrowly missed a century. He

added five runs to his overnight score of 91.

Bangar's chanceless innings came off 288 balls and contained 12 boundaries.

For the visitors, medium-pacer Aftab finished with a fantastic haul of seven for 39 in 24 overs, easily his career-best figures in a first-class match.

However, Bangladesh discard Al Shahar completed a miserable 'pair' when paceman Harvinder Singh removed the opener for a duck.

Fresh from his success as a bowler, Aftab (26) also shone with the bat as he along with opener Nafees Iqbal (45) put on 62 runs for the second wicket.

Despite the face-saving draw, Mohammad Ashraful's side finished their campaign without managing a single point. On the other hand,

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# BD A lose 1st one-dayer



### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A stumbled to a five-wicket defeat against their southern African counterparts in the first one-day game at the Kwekwe Sports Club in Harare on Thursday.

An all-round display by Keith Dabengwa helped the home team, who suffered 3-0 Test whitewash, draw first blood in the five-match series.

Dabengwa played starring role as he hit an unbeaten half-century and grabbed five wickets.

National discarded Sanwar Hossain won the toss and decided to bat. But from a relatively good



FLIGHT OF HISTORY: Millionaire aviator Steve Fossett's (inset) unique aircraft Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer gets above the clouds near the coast of Morocco on March 1. 60-year-old Fossett became the first man to complete a solo non-stop flight around the world when he landed at Salina Municipal Airport in Kansas yesterday. Fossett rolled to a stop after a trip which took him over the Atlantic, north Africa, Asia and the Pacific in 67 hours, two minutes and 38 seconds.

# Zim hit rock-bottom



### AFP, Cape Town