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Free Radio

Dhaka stumble at home

Mashrafee marvels for Khulna once more



SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi leapfrogged over Dhaka to the top of the one-day table of the Ispahani Sixth National Cricket League when the visitors handed the home side a 35-run defeat at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

While Dhaka, also the leaders of the four-day competition, tumbled at their own backyard after successful away engagements against Chittagong last week, Khulna and Sylhet seized the opportunity to join them in the crowded second position with victories over Chittagong and Barisal respectively.

Khulna rode on a blazing 60 by Mashrafee-Bin-Mortuza to overcome an injury-hit Chittagong by four wickets at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

Sylhet, on the other hand, thrashed a pointless Barisal by five wickets in a rain-reduced 29-over-aside match at the Sylhet Stadium.

RAJSHAHI-DHAKA

Set a modest target of 208 to win, Dhaka were never up to the chase after young paceman Shafaq Al Zabir rocked top-order. He dismissed national opener Javed Omar for one in his very first over and then got rid of Mohammad Ashraful for 28. The gangling right-armer also delivered the decisive blow when he



HASANUZZAMAN... 58

Mahmud, who was looking to take the match away from Rajshahi with

> Shafaq, a member of the Bangladesh A team that toured Zimbabwe recently, finished with 3-38 in 10 overs as Dhaka were bowled out for 172 in 43.4 overs.

Earlier, Hasanuzzaman hit a fine 58 off 84 balls in Rajshahi 207. The middle-order batsman struck three boundaries in his workmanlike innings after opener Moniruzzaman and Mushfigur Rahman contributed 37 runs each.

It was Rajshahi's fifth win from six games and took their tally to 10

KHULNA-CHITTAGONG

Away at Khulna, Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar returned to action after missing the last three rounds but it was his national mate Mashrafee who continued to excel with the hat

The emerging all-rounder, who scored a maiden first-class hundred

tract with a different sponsor, SEE PAGE 13 COL 1 Digicel, the biggest in West Indies cricket history and worth about 20

million dollars over five years. On Thursday, lawyers advised the WIBC that of the seven players only Lara could now be considered for selection because he had entered into his deal with Cable and Wireless as an individual and not a member ofWestIndies' team.

WICB invites

Lara to play

Brian Lara has been called up by

West Indies for the first Test against South Africa starting next Thursday

after initially being left out of the

squad along with six other senior

from the home series against South

Africa and Pakistan, was sent an

invitation and match contract on

Friday for the Test in Guyana, the

West Indies Cricket Board (WICB)

until he was omitted from the squad,

had asked for 24 hours to respond

and the naming of the team had

therefore been postponed until

Lara and the six other players

with personal sponsorship deals

were not sent invitations and con-

tracts when the WICB sent out 22

The WIBC said then that it

needed first to be satisfied the deals

did not infringe on the team con-

etters to players on March 4.

They added that Lara, captain

said in a statement.

Lara, dropped earlier this month

cricketers after a sponsorship row.

REUTERS, London

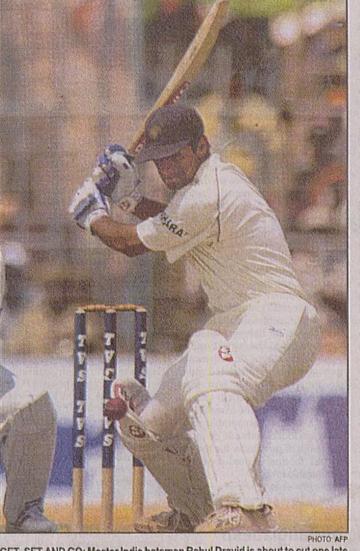
Exhibition v'ball Navy defeat Afghanistan

victory over Afghanistan in an exhibition volleyball match at the Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Navy beat Afghanistan 25-12, 18-25, 25-16, 25-18.

Earlier, Ambassador of Afghanistan in Bangladesh Akmal Ghani witnessed the match as the

Classy Dravid sets up Eden for grand finale Pakistan made a Dravid's 20th Test hundred in 88 bold attempt to chase a stiff 422-



GET, SET AND GO: Master India batsman Rahul Dravid is about to cut one late on way to scoring a superb 135 on the fourth day of the second Test yesterday.



ond Test against an India inspired by Rahul Dravid at the Eden Gardens here on Saturday. Shahid Afridi smashed a run-a-

ball 59 and Taufeeq Umar an unbeaten 29 as Pakistan reached 95-1 at stumps on the penultimate day. Younis Khan had yet to score.

Dravid, 32, earlier completed a century in each innings of a Test as India posted 407-9 declared on top of a first-innings lead of 14.

The stage is set for an exciting final day on Sunday. Pakistan now need 327 more runs in 90 overs on a slow turning track where the odd ball kept a little low.

Only three teams -- the West Indies (2003), India (1976) and Australia (1948) -- have so far scored more than 400 in the fourth innings to win a Test in the history of the

Afridi hit two sixes and nine fours to give his team a brisk start, putting on 93 for the opening wicket with

India heaved a sigh of relief when Afridi was caught by Sourav Ganguly at fine leg while trying to sweep legspinner Anil Kumble in the penulti mate over of the day.

The hosts were indebted to Dravid for setting a challenging target as the stylish batsman followed his first-innings 110 with a chanceless 135.

This was only the sixth instance in Indian cricket that a batsman had scored a hundred in each innings of a match. Sunil Gayaskar did it three

times, Dravid twice and Vijay Hazare

matches came just when his team

needed along innings. India were in trouble in the morning but Dravid came to the rescue with a 165-run stand for the fifth wicket with young Dinesh Karthik, who cracked a career-best

The hosts lost captain Ganguly after adding just 21 to their overnight total of 133-3 and then saw VVS Laxman retire hurt after scoring

India were only 170 ahead when Laxman left the field with a swelling over the left eye, suffered while trying to fend off a rising delivery from fast bowler Mohammad Sami. He later returned to make 24. Dravid, called 'The Wall' for his

rock-like defence and consistency. lived up to his reputation with yet another elegant knock which shattered Pakistan's hopes of restricting India's lead. There was never a moment of uncertainty in Dravid's stroke-play

as he cut and drove on his way to a century. He hit 15 fours in his 283ball knock. When Dravid was caught in the deep by Asim Kamal off leg-spinner

Danish Kaneria, India were safe with alead of 335. Karthik, 19, batted sensibly

under pressure to provide valuable support to his senior partner. Playing only his seventh Test, the

wicketkeeper looked set to score a deserving maiden century when he was bowled by Kaneria going for big shots before the declaration. He struck 13 fours in his 140-ball knock.

The Test was wide open in the SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Ronny double baffles BU

Abahani amble past F'pool

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj Sporting Club caused the first upset in the Independence Day Gold Cup when the old-town outfit came from two goals down to hold giants Brothers Union 2-2 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium vesterday.

While Premier and National League champions were left stunned by the First Division outfit, there were however no such hiccups for Abahani. The Sky Blues sailed 3-0 over over Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool in the first Group B match at the same venue.

BROTHERS-FARASHGANJ Ronny Islam spoiled the Gopibagh

DD Sports & TEN Sports

India vs Pakistan

Second Test, Day Five

Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

English Premier Football League

Birmingham City vs Aston Villa

Live at 5:55 pm

Liverpool vs Everton

Live at 10:00 pm

Brazilian Football

Corinthians vs Palmeiras

Live at 1:00 am (Monday)

New Zealand vs Australia

Second Test, Day Four

Live at 4:30 am (Monday)

STAR Sports

Primera Liga

Real Madrid vs Malaga

party when the super-sub of when he headed home a Felix cross Farashganj produced two stunning second-half goals after the Orange men took a 2-0 lead at the breather.

Star-studded Brothers started strongly as expected and it took them 18 minutes to go in front with their Russian forward Edward unleashing a powerful left-footer from inside the box. Eight minutes later Abul Hossain

increased the margin heading home a Parvez Babu flag-kick.

But a feisty Farashganj refused to give up and Ronny, who came on to replace Kamrul in the 54th minute, made an almost instant impact with a sudden right-footer from just outside the box that screamed past Brothers keeper Mohammad Ali in the 57th minute. But Ronny was not finished yet.

and with that Brothers were stunned

ABAHANI-YOUNGMEN'S

Farhad scored the other as Abahani made a flying start in the competi-The popular Dhanmondi club, who donned black armbands as a

mark of respect for their inspirational manager and former national captain Monem Munna, had to rely on their local stars to cross the Youngmen's hurdle. Both their Latin American booters Chilean defender Felix and Argentine midfielder Scojavy were surprisingly below par on their Dhaka debut.

His final act came in the 73rd minute

Mehedi Hasan Ujjal struck twice and his striking partner Ariful Kabir

Abahani led the first half 1-0 when shaven-headed striker Farhad

BDNEWS, Dhaka Bangladesh Navy registered a 3-1

chief guest.

The visitors will play against Air Force today.

Bucknor press-ed

AFP, Kolkata



Umpire Steve severely criticised on Saturday by the Indian media for ruling

Sachin Tendulkar out in a controversial manner in the second Test against Pakistan here. The star Indian middle-order

batsman was on 52 when he was declared caught behind in fading light off seamer Abdul Razzaq on the third day of the ongoing Test at the Eden Gardens on Friday. TV replays, however, suggested

the batsman had not nicked the ball. Newspapers ran front-page

headlines and photographs too in response to the decision, which left a section of the crowd shouting slogans against the West Indian umpire. National newspaper the Indian

Express was scathing, carrying a boxed front-page report with the headline "Bucknored" along with a photograph of the umpire and

"Bucknor pokes finger in Indian pie", continued the attack on its main sports page while another page carried a record of India in Tests featuring Bucknor as well as previous doubtful decisions by the umpire against India. Bucknor leaves Tendulkar

speechless," screamed a headline in the Telegraph. Bucknor took to his 100th Test,

at the Eden, having apologised twice for poor decisions. "It will be appropriate if cricket's

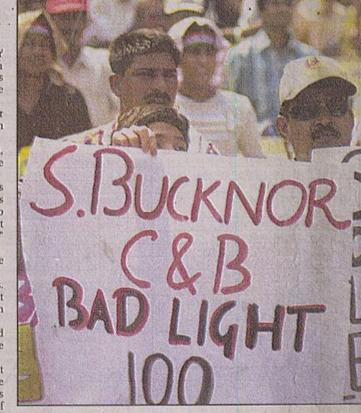
most experienced umpire tenders one more apology -- this time to Tendulkar, given out despite the bat making no contact with the leather," the paper said.

"Bucknor blunders," said the Times of India.

"All umpires make mistakes. Bucknor made one on Friday that nipped Tendulkar's 35th century in the bud," said the newspaper. The umpire, standing in a record

100th Test, said he had not seen the TV replays. "I haven't seen the replays, but those who have, told me that I made a wrong decision," Bucknor was quoted as saying in the Times of

Tendulkar was ruled not out by SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



INDIA'S ENEMY NUMBER ONE: A fan yesterday holds a poster to protest Steve Bucknor's Friday's ruling to give Sachin Tendulkar out.

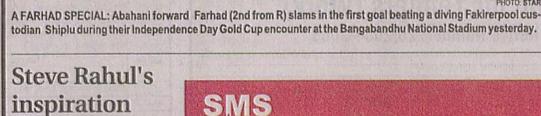


Sachin Tendulkar -- 94 at Mohali and 52 & 52 at Calcutta - for the first time has produced three fifty-plus innings in a row



spahani Sixth Nat'l Cricket League (Four-Dayer, Day One) Dhaka vs Reishahi Venue: FCS Sylhet vs Barisal

Venue: Sylhel Stadium Khura va Chiltagong Venue: KDVS Independence Day Gold Cup lijodoha vs Arambagh (3:00 pm ammadan vs Sheikh Russel KC



AFP, Kolkata

Indian batsman Rahul Dravid, who Saturday completed the feat of scoring a century in both innings of a Test match, said he was inspired by the example of former Australian captain Steve Waugh. "I've always wanted to score twin

hundreds in a match, with Waugh's feat at Manchester in England at the back of my mind," said Dravid, who followed his first-innings 110 with 135 in the second Test against Pakistan here.

Waugh, who retired from Test cricket last year, made 108 and 116 in the third Test against England in "I was focussed as I knew I had a

job to do," said Dravid, whose 20th Test hundred helped India set a challenging 422-run target for Pakistan. The tourists were 95-1 at stumps

on the penultimate day.

fifth and final day on match is a good advertisement fo Test cricket. The pendulum has swung regularly, which is great. Now all the results are possible and

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Dravid said any result was possi-





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