

STANCHART CRICKET
Shaheed Nabi outdo Udayan

SPORTS REPORTER

A five-wicket haul by Shahidul Islam guided Shaheed Nabi High to a massive 189-run victory over Udayan in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers Under-13 National School Cricket tournament at the Nabih Sangha Club ground yesterday.

Shaheed Nabi scored 334 while Udayan were bundled out for 145.

In the day's other matches, Rayer Bazer High (114/2) beat Sourav Smriti High (110/10) by 8 wickets, Mirpur Adarsha Bidya Niketon (112/2) defeated Islami Adarsha High (109/10) by 8 wickets, Matuail Multilateral High (196/7) beat Natun Jurain KM Mainuddin High (194/10) by 3 wickets, Loreto (252/10) defeated National Bank Public (129/10) by 123 runs, Motijheel Govt. High (299/10) beat Willes Little Flower High (230/10) by 69 runs, West End High (219/7) defeated Sunnydale (218/10) by 3 wickets and Rahmatulla Model High (214/10) beat Adarsha Bidyapith (149/10) by 65 runs.

Sourav attends hearing over slow bowling

REUTERS, Jamshedpur

India captain Sourav Ganguly was summoned to a hearing by ICC match referee Chris Broad on Saturday for his team's slow over rate in the third one-day against Pakistan, an Indian cricket official said.

Indian bowlers took almost 30 minutes more than the allotted three-and-a-half hours to complete their 50 overs.

Ganguly could face a heavy fine or even suspension if found guilty, adding to the pressure on his captaincy due to his poor batting form.

In November, he was given a two-match ban for his team's slow over rate during a one-day defeat against Pakistan in Kolkata, but successfully appealed to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

BFF Bhaban opens today

SPORTS REPORTER

The much-awaited opening ceremony of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Bhaban takes place today.

President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Mohammad Bin Hammam Al Abdullah, who is due to arrive this morning, will formally inaugurate the FIFA-financed building in city's Arambagh area of the city at 11:30 am.

Partex squash

SPORTS REPORTER

Touhid Firoz became champion of B Division beating Misha of Cadet College Club 3-2 in the Partex Open Squash tournament at Gulshan Club yesterday.

Shirish Chouhan of Squash Cadet Federation emerged champion of C Division defeating Jintu of Cadet College Club 3-2 while Nour Mohammad of Dhaka Army Club became champion of Under-18 Division beating Bablu of Gulshan Club 3-1 sets.

The final matches of the Premier Division and the Above-40 Division will be held today.

BCB to award

FROM PAGE 12

In order to vote, a GrameenPhone subscriber has to send an SMS to a number (2233). SMS from other networks will not be accepted. The charge for SMS is Tk 2.

Voting begins on April 11 and will continue until April 28. The award ceremony will be held on April 30 at the Sonargaon Hotel.

Four BCB sponsors -- GrameenPhone, Sonargaon Hotel, Partex Group and Global Online -- will provide the money for the awardees, who will each receive 1,000 dollars.

Lara top WI

FROM PAGE 12

always an honour to be alongside him. It's a special feeling to go past that mark especially in front of my home crowd.

"But the records are not important. My aim was to get runs and stay at the crease as long as possible."

Lara celebrated passing Sobers's mark by embracing batting partner and new skipper Shivnarine Chanderpaul who had taken over as captain when Lara was dropped from the squad for the first Test in a bitter contracts row with the West Indies Cricket Board.

The left-hander, who is now level with Border, is still seven centuries behind the all-time record holders -- Tendulkar and Gavaskar on 34.

Also ahead of Lara on the list are Steve Waugh and Sir Donald Bradman who made 32 and 29 Test centuries respectively.

Fireworks promised at Bernabeu today



REUTERS, Madrid

England striker Michael Owen will start Real Madrid's crunch league game against arch-rivals Barcelona on Sunday, coach Wanderley Luxemburgo has said.

Luxemburgo said he had decided to play Owen alongside Ronaldo and Raul in attack and drop former Barca winger Luis Figo to the bench for the game at the Bernabeu.

"I don't like the fact that people have found out the team I was trying out in training, but I'm not going to lie about the line-up," Luxemburgo told a news conference on Saturday.

"Owen, Raul and Ronaldo will start."

Second-placed Real trail leaders Barcelona by nine points in the league with eight matches left and must beat their rivals if they are to

have any chance of depriving them of the title.

The Brazilian laying down the significance of playing Figo on the bench but said he expected the Portuguese midfielder, who has been one of Real's most effective players this season, to be upset at the decision.

"It would be understandable if Figo is angry because he has a great track record and has been an international," said Luxemburgo.

"But putting Figo to one side, my concern was that Owen has to play and to do that I had to sacrifice either Raul, (Zinedine) Zidane or Figo.

"Owen has been training well, I saw him play two good games for England and he was in good form against Albacete last week. That means he has played three good games in a row and that's why I thought it was time to give him a chance."

Owen has scored 10 league goals this season from 12 starts,

including last week's winner against Albacete, while his rivals for a place in the team have been in poor form.

Ronaldo is going through one of the most barren periods in his career, scoring just once in the last 11 league games, while Raul has found the net just six times all season.

Luxemburgo's decision to drop Figo came as a surprise and has fuelled speculation the winger may be on his way out of the club.

However, the coach said he alone had been responsible for Figo's omission.

"I have a lot of respect for the club president (Florentino Perez), but I decided to do this and no one else was involved," he said.

"When I came to Real Madrid I made it clear that the well being of the team was more important than any one player or his prestige."

2nd New Zealand, Sri Lanka Test starts Monday

REUTERS, Sydney

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming wants the umpires to swap their black trousers for light coloured pants when the second Test starts against Sri Lanka at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on Monday.

Fleming's unusual request followed complaints by his batsmen in the first Test that they could not properly see some balls from Sri Lankan pacesman Lasith Malinga, who bowls with an unorthodox round-arm action.

The batsmen said that because his deliveries are released in front of the umpires they find it hard to pick them out against the backdrop of dark trousers.

Malinga captured nine wickets in the drawn first Test in Napier including five in the second innings when the Kiwis collapsed to be all out for 238.

Sri Lanka's Australian-born coach John Dyson says Malinga's unusual action makes him difficult to play and could turn him into a potential match-winner in the absence of Muttiah Muralitharan.

The Kiwis will be without their key spinner Daniel Vettori who is nursing a back injury and Fleming said it was up to the rest of the team to respond.



PHOTO: INTERNET

CAN THEY GET THEIR ACTS TOGETHER? A file image of the Real Madrid shirts worn by the superstars.

Last chance to shine



THE GUARDIAN, Madrid

Ronaldo has insisted that Sunday's "clasico" with Barcelona is just like any other game rather than being Real Madrid's last chance of salvaging the season.

The Brazilian is a supremely laid-back footballer who kindly reminded his inquisitors that he has lived with intense pressure ever since he began playing. And yet his words can mean one of two things: either he is lying through his teeth or he is immune to the tangible air of nervousness surrounding the Real camp.

Certainly, Ronaldo's approach differs from that of his coach. There is a hint of desperation about the fact that Wanderley Luxemburgo will play his most attacking hand: Michael Owen will get the opportunity he craves in the match that matters more than any other. Not in place of Ronaldo, who has not scored for a month, or Raul, whose drought has dragged on twice as long, but of Luis Figo.

How Madrid need his goals; last weekend's winner against Albacete was another reminder. Like all classics, Real Madrid versus Barcelona is an epic full of twists and subplot, and Sunday is no exception. It is not just about saving the season; it is about averting a crisis: avoiding a second successive season in which the self-proclaimed greatest club on earth finishes empty-handed. Real Madrid have not gone two seasons without a trophy since 1992.

Madrid have already committed what the Spanish press have described as 'galactico'. They trail the league leaders Barcelona by nine points, with just eight league games remaining. They would at least salvage some pride with a victory, but if they lose it would be the club's darkest nightmare. To see Barcelona's players dance across the Bernabeu turf celebrating what would effectively be a first league title in five years would cut deep. It would also spark Florentino Perez into action.

If there is one thing the Madrid president hates it is the finger of blame pointing at him. His galactico policy, one that places financial gain over goals, has become a source of amusement and growing anger. So inflated have Perez's Madrid become that they were bound to burst.

But bursting against Barca would be the final straw. Perez must seek scapegoats; he is already on his fifth coach in two years. As one galactico confided: "It's vital we don't change coach again, but this is Real Madrid."

Perez's Real Madrid to be precise - and if firing Luxemburgo helps prevent the president's position, he will fire him.

Madrid's coach could survive. However, some of Madrid's players know the axe will be hanging over. "Everyone has to prove their worth. If not, the club will decide who comes and who goes," said Ronaldo.

Luis Figo's absence hints at a future elsewhere, and others may join him, although offloading the stars does not suit Perez's plan to, in his words, "evangelise" the world to the "universalism" of Real Madrid. Nor will it be easy: few will pay what Madrid demand.

Besides, Perez remains more concerned with bringing in new faces and selling optimism (as players have been explicitly told to do recently). New players are vital, yet Madrid's bad habits are still evident, especially if a victory over Barcelona blinds them to their own failings.

Brazil's Robinho, yet another creative midfielder, is all but signed from Santos. Perez, apparently having failed to learn from the Michael Owen episode, also wants another striker. And Joaquin Sanchez of Real Betis and Arsenal's Jose Antonio Reyes top the shopping list: two wingers for Luxemburgo, a coach who has publicly insisted that he does not want to play wingers. But then, this is Real Madrid.

Hit-man Drogba



REUTERS, Cobham (England)

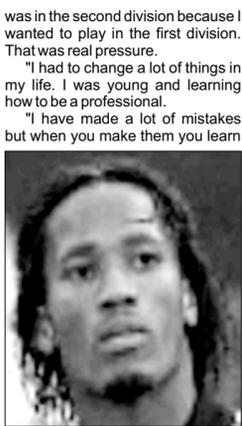
Didier Drogba is reveling in the pressure of spearheading Chelsea's triple trophy challenge despite having struggled for his best form this season.

The Ivory Coast striker has been hampered by various fitness problems since joining the English Premier League leaders in a 24 million pounds (\$44.88 million) deal last July from French club Olympique Marseille.

However Drogba, who was named player-of-the-year in France last season, was back to his best as he helped Chelsea beat Bayern Munich 4-2 in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal on Wednesday.

"I don't get too carried away now because a few years ago I was in the (French) second division on the bench at Le Mans," he told reporters on Friday.

"It helps me to realise how fast life can change. Life can turn you up and down and for me the pressure



DIDIER DROGBA more. I learnt how to lead to prepare mentally to be a top professional because I wasn't being very good. "I was playing well one game and the game after I was terrible. It was not the way you should be if you

want to be strong in your career.

"The fee (from Chelsea) has not put me under pressure. Everything I'm doing is what I have done last year. When you play for a club like Marseille, you can play anywhere you want without pressure."

Drogba has struck 14 goals in all competitions this season to keep Chelsea on course for a treble comprising the Premier League title, the Champions League and the League Cup which they won in February.

He is adamant, though, that the best is yet to come.

"I'm not at 100 per cent and haven't been all season. It has been frustrating because every time I was near to my real top level I had an injury so I had to rebuild everything."

"I have been more like 70 per cent but I still give my all. The Premiership is very physical and it has not been easy to adapt."

"I have had a lot of injuries so I am happy to have scored 14 goals."

"I hope there is a lot more to come from me because the fans haven't seen the best of me yet."

Williams sisters go down

AFP, Amelia Island

Second-seeded Serena Williams and her ninth-seeded sister Venus found double-duty too much on Friday, as both were ousted in the quarterfinals of the \$85,000-dollar WTA tournament here.

Both Williams sisters notched third-round victories on a busy day at the rain-disrupted claycourt tournament, but each came up short in later quarter-final matches.

Venus Williams completed a weather-disrupted third-round match against Polish qualifier Marta Domachowska in the morning, but fell to well-rested world number one Lindsay Davenport, the top seed and defending champion, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

On Thursday, Domachowska won the first set against Williams 6-3 and the American won the second 6-4 before thunderstorms caused play to be suspended.

On Friday morning, Williams won the decisive third set 6-2, to set up her match with Davenport, who had cruised past Czech qualifier Kveta Peschke on Thursday.

In the third set, Davenport broke early to take a 4-3 lead.

Williams had three break points in the eighth game, but couldn't convert any of them.

Davenport next faces seventh-seeded Russian Nadia Petrova, who beat Jelena Jankovic 6-3, 7-6 in the third round and later won a see-saw battle against Japan's Shinobu Asagoe 6-0, 6-6, 6-2.

Asagoe had reached the final eight by upsetting third-seeded Russian Anastasia Myskina earlier in the day 7-6, 7-6.

Serena Williams defeated Mary Pierce of France, the 1998 Amelia Island champion, 7-6, 6-4, in a third-round match on Friday.

But after winning the first set of her quarterfinal against Italian Silvia Farina Elia 7-5, she sprained an ankle in the second set and, after dropping the tiebreaker 9/7 withdrew from the match.

Lara back with a bang



AFP, Port of Spain

Brian Lara marked his return to the West Indies team following the sponsorship dispute that threatened his participation with a majestic, record 27th Test hundred on the opening day of the second Test against South Africa on Friday.

The left-handed batting genius, who turns 36 next month, was undefeated on 159 that was the backbone of the West Indies first innings total of 271 for six when stumps were drawn at his home Queen's Park Oval pitch.

Lara cracked 20 fours from 236 balls in almost six hours of batting to help the West Indies recover from a poor start when they had been 13-2 after choosing to bat on a helpful pitch.

Lara added 95 for the third wicket with fellow left-hander Wavell Hinds and the same number with another left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who has succeeded Lara in the post of West Indies captain.

Makhaya Ntini was the most successful South Africa bowler with four wickets for 59 runs from 19 overs in humid weather under overcast skies.

Three wickets after tea derailed West Indies though.

Chanderpaul meekly surrendered for 35 when he offered a return catch to left-arm spin bowler Nicky Boje, and Donovan Pagon, playing his second Test, became the last of Ntini's wickets when he was bowled for a duck.

The wicket of all-rounder Dwayne Bravo bowled by Andre Nel for five was another setback for West Indies, but Lara and his close friend, Courtney Browne, batted out the last 1-1/4 hours to ensure no more drama unfolded.

Earlier, West Indies had recovered from a shaky start to reach 71 for two at lunch with Lara already making his intentions clear.

After West Indies had slumped to 13 for two inside the first half-hour, Lara blazed away with the sedate Hinds in tow.

The left-handed Lara, one of four changes to the West Indies line-up from the first Test, played some rasping strokes, including a crunching pull off a Monde Zondeki short ball.

West Indies had suffered two early setbacks, when Chris Gayle and Ramnaresh Sarwan gifted their wickets to Makhaya Ntini with ill-advised cross-batted strokes.

But Lara took control after tea and soldiered on, despite the lack of support from his teammates.

Gayle, Sarwan, Lara and Bravo were the four changes to

the West Indies line-up, as they replaced Devon Smith, Daren Ganga, Ryan Hinds and Narsingh Deonarine.

South Africa brought in Ashwell Prince and Monde Zondeki for Andrew Hall and Charl Langeveldt.

The four-Test series is still level 0-0, after the opening Test at Georgetown ended in a draw.

Tribal soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) regional team trounced northern regional team 10-2 in the second match of the Adivashi (tribal) Football Tournament at the local stadium here yesterday.

Barun Dewan and Ronbeer Chakma both scored hattricks while Kingshuk Chakma and Mong Uoi Sui Ching Marna netted two each for the winners.

Romesh Borak and Tarun Pahan scored one each for the losers... The final will be held tomorrow.

Young Aussie cricketer dies

AFP, Sydney

Tasmanian cricketer Scott Mason died Saturday after complications arising from heart disease at the age of 28, an official said.

Mason was taken to Royal Hobart Hospital two days ago after collapsing and he died there early Saturday, a Tasmanian Cricket Association official said.

The left-handed batsman underwent open-heart surgery last October after playing 28 first class matches for Tasmania state.

Khulna cricket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khulna Abahani Krira Chakra defeated Flying Pigeon Club by 46 runs in the AB Bank Siraj Memorial Cricket Tournament at the Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Abahani batted first and collected 255 runs in 49.1 overs after being all out. In reply, Flying Pigeon managed 209 for eight in 50 overs.

It's Naved after Butt

FROM PAGE 12

Dravid (28) to ensure a comfortable victory for his team.

Pakistan were indebted to Butt for scoring a challenging total after electing to bat.

The left-handed opener, 20, put his team on the right track with a 145-run stand for the second wicket with Shaohab Malik (75). He hit 10 fours in his second century before being run out.

Butt's previous hundred also came against India at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata last year.

His stand with Malik came off 154 balls after opener Afridi was caught in the slips by Dravid off left-arm seamer Ashish Nehra.

Nehra also dismissed Inzamam (23) with the first ball of his second spell before accounting for Naved to finish with 3-57.

Malik batted aggressively in his 79-ball knock, hitting seven fours and two sixes. Yousef Youhana scored a brisk 43 off 31 balls.

The remaining matches will be played at Ahmedabad (April 12), Kanpur (April 15) and New Delhi (April 17).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between India and Pakistan at the Keenan Stadium in Jamshedpur on Saturday:

PAKISTAN

Butt run out	101
Afridi c Dravid b Nehra	17
Malik c Tendulkar b Sehwaig	75
Inzamam c Pathan b Nehra	23
Youhana c Dravid b Harbhajan	43
Razaqat Dhonei b Yuvraj	18
Akmal not out	14
Younis c Dravid b Zaheer	9
Sami run out	6
Naved c sub (Mongia) b Nehra	0
Kaneria not out	0
Extras: (lb-6, w-5, nb-2)	13
Total: (for 9 wickets in 50 overs)	319
Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-176, 3-219, 4-239, 5-287, 6-291, 7-308, 8-316, 9-317	

Bowler O M R W

Pathan	8.2	0	67	0
Nehra	10	0	57	3
Zaheer	10	0	48	1
Harbhajan	10	0	57	1
Tendulkar	4	0	25	0
Sehwaig	6	0	49	1
Yuvraj	1.4	0	10	1

INDIA

Sehwaig c Afridi b Naved	2
Tendulkar c Younis b Sami	6
Dhonei c Akmal b Naved	28
Ganguly c Younis b Sami	4
Dravid c Younis b Sami	28
Yuvraj c Akmal b Naved	1
Kaif c Younis b Kaneria	32
Pathan c Akmal b Naved	64
Harbhajan b Malik	2
Zaheer not out	27
Nehra b Naved	3
Extras: (lb-3, nb-8, w-5)	16
Total: (All out in 41.4 overs)	213
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-11, 3-20, 4-54, 5-66, 6-82, 7-143, 8-152, 9-204	

Bowler O M R W

Sami	8	1	41	2
Naved	8.4	1	27	6
Razaqat	6	0	35	0
Kaneria	10	0	45	1
Malik	7	0	42	1
Afridi	2	0	20	0

Result: Pakistan won by 106 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Navedul Hasan.

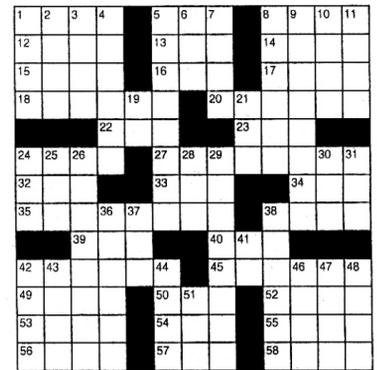
Toss: Pakistan.

Umpires: Billy Bowden and K Hariharan.

Fourth ODI: April 12, Ahmedabad.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	42 Will subject word	45 Zorba's place	49 Lose weight	50 Mound tally	52 Stream-let	53 A Calif. gazer	54 Flee cohort	55 Writer Kingsley fuzzi	56 Basin (artistic illusion)	20 Tags	22 Lummo	23 Moment	24 Huck's craft	27 New Zealand port	32 — King	33 IRS employe	34 Shaft of light	35 Ascots et al.	38 Advantage	39 Prior to	40 Announcer Pardo	2 Contrite one	3 Hydrox rival	4 Wood-chuck's kin	5 Competitor's countenance	6 Past	7 Rid of rind River	8 Sher-man's "Jeffersons"	9 Hours-worked record	10 Olympic runner	11 Not even close	19 Ma's mate	21 Send invitations	24 Took off	25 Brewery product	26 Camera hogs rack it up	28 — Lazy River	29 Gin, for one	30 Kutch co-star	31 Turn red?	36 "Seinfeld" role	37 Drenched	38 Pep	41 On the other hand	42 Being, to	43 Lento	44 Grown-up elvers	46 Green acres	47 Family	48 "Desire Under the —"	51 "Sis boom bah!"
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CRYPTOQUIP

Y ICCF PRIWF IQV KYVKWH

C FCGMPZOH . RC PFF NZQR

OMC GQQV KVCPOVCH

RQVN IQV GCPZWOH

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IRISH SONG CONCERNING A FELLOW WHO ALWAYS SMILES WARMLY: "THE WEARING OF THE GRIN."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals E

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.