



Did U Know?

Pakistan's 106-run win is the biggest win by runs margin at Jamshepur, eclipsing the 104-run win by West Indies against India in 1983-84.



ESPN

Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Barcelona
Repeat at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 4:30 am (Tuesday)

TEN Sports

West Indies vs South Africa
Second Test, Day Four
Live at 8:00 pm



Brian Lara

(West Indies master batsman)

"Garry Sobers made his centuries in fewer Tests than me but it was always an honour to be alongside him. It's a special feeling to go past that mark especially in front of my home crowd."

After scoring his record 27th Test century in Trinidad.

STANCHART CRICKET 7-up Quadry Happy Times' hero

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-arm paceman Quadry's devastating seven-wicket haul powered Happy Times International to a 229-run victory over Nabakumar Institution in the Standard Chartered Under-13 Young Tigers School Championship at the Residential Model School ground yesterday.

The seamer bowled out all his seven victims for 21 runs as Nabakumar were dismissed for a paltry 46 in reply to Happy Times' huge 275-9.

But Asif Ahmed continued to make the tournament his own as the Maple Leaf opener cracked his third century (136) in as many games. Imran Hossain also hammered 104 to give Maple Leaf (352-9) an 85-run victory over Junior Laboratory High (267) at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Shaheed Ramizuddin School (370-9), however, registered the biggest victory of the day when they inflicted a 307-run defeat on Blue Bird (63) at the Nabin Sangha ground.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Shekhar takes pole position

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian Grand Master Surya Shekhar Ganguly defeated his Bangladesh counterpart Ziaur Rahman in a battle of co-leaders in the seventh round to take solo lead in the United Insurance and Leasing Grand Master's Chess Tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Ganguly stretched his collection to six points while Zia shared the second place with Russian GM Alexander Fominyn, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, GM Ildachev Saidali of Uzbekistan and three Indians - IM and WGM Vijayalakshmi, IM Satyapragyan Swayangsu and Syed Anwar Shazuli with five points each.



PHOTOS: STAR
BEGINNING OF A FOOTBALL DREAM: (L) Dancers treat the audience to a display during the inauguration ceremony of the BFF House at Dhaka's Arambagh on Sunday. (R) Chief guest Asian Football Confederation President Mohammed Bin Hammam looks at posters depicting Bangladesh. (Bottom) A frontal view of the BFF House.

BFF gets official home

Hammam guarded about coaches outside Asia



SPORTS REPORTER

A year after its completion, the BFF Bhaban finally became the official headquarters of Bangladesh's football yesterday.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Mohammed Bin Hammam inaugurated the imposing complex in the afternoon marking the first delicate steps for the game's journey towards professionalism.

Financed by FIFA under its Goal Project, the BFF Bhaban took three years to build.

FIFA provided \$4,00,000 for construction of the four-storied main building, which includes a library, a gymnasium, a medical centre, players' dormitory, conference rooms and training area. The building was built on a two-bighas land that was provided by the National Sports Council.

After a brief and lacklustre opening ceremony featuring ordinary acrobatics by school children, BFF president SA Sultan said that with the unveiling of the headquarters, football in Bangladesh had entered a new era.

"We need the strength to go through a stormy journey and reach our optimum target of developing the game," said Sultan.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman called for

further assistance from football's governing body in the region.

"Now the BFF Bhaban is a reality and we need more cooperation from the AFC for the development of our football. I hope AFC will take care of us."

AFC vice-president and FIFA development officer Manilal Fernando, AFC general secretary Peter Velappan, Thai Football Association secretary Worawi Maksudil also spoke on the occasion. Football officials from India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and local organisers and a number of current and ex-footballers were present at the programme.

Hammam, who has initiated extensive programmes to develop football in Asia with his VisionAsia concept, said that he was hopeful that the second Goal Project was on its way to Bangladesh after successful completion of the first one.

"It is a historic moment not only for Bangladesh but also for the AFC and Asian football. I am honoured to be a part of it," said Hammam.

Under the Goal Project, FIFA finances infrastructural development in developing countries. The BFF is looking forward to the next project as it has plans for a technical centre or a synthetic turf.

"The future is Asia and Bangladesh is a part of it. We want

SEE PAGE 13 COL 7

Cricketers can train indoors in peace

SPORTS REPORTER

At long last different national selections can train at a facility exclusively designed for cricketers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), which is preparing their new home after handing over the grand Bangabandhu National Stadium to football, completed the indoor facilities yesterday.

The availability of indoor training facilities means that national players will longer have to practice under temporary arrangements. The Tigers are currently training at the Army Stadium ahead of the demanding England tour.

Rafiqul Islam Babu, vice chairman of the BCB's grounds committee, informed that they had installed three synthetic turfs at the venue for net practice and there are modern gym facilities for the cricketers.

"It's a modern indoor complex. Players can start training tomorrow if need be because all the work is complete. Now players can exercise round the year," Babu said.

He also said that they are preparing eight central wickets and hopefully they will be ready by this month.

"We have also prepared four practice pitches inside the venue while there are eight outside the stadium including a concrete one," he added.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar expressed his delight with

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Smith approaches ton



AFP, Port of Spain

Graeme Smith was eyeing his ninth Test hundred for South Africa, but the late wicket of Jacques Kallis left the second Test against West Indies delicately poised after the second day on Saturday.

Smith, the South Africa captain, was undefeated on 90, but Kallis was dismissed in the final over of the day to leave the visitors on 181 for three when stumps were drawn at the Queen's Park Oval.

The tourists were 165 runs behind after the West Indies had made 347 all out in their first innings with former skipper Brian Lara missing out on what would have been an eighth Test double century England tour.

Lara had been the centre of attraction during the morning period, after he continued from 159 and West Indies from their overnight position of 281 for six.

He was denied an eighth Test double-hundred when he was last out bowled by an unplayable leg-cutter from Andre Nel that wrong-footed the left-hander and clipped the off-ball.

Lara occupied the crease for just over 7-1/2 hours and struck 25 boundaries from 286 balls to mark his return to the side, after missing the first Test because of the sponsorship row with the West Indies Cricket Board that threatened his participation and six others.

BRIEF SCORES

AUSTRALIA: 215 for 4 in 50 overs (Rolton 107 n.o., Sthalekar 55, Clark 19, Jones 17).

INDIA: 117 all out in 46 overs (Jain 29, Sharma 22, Goswami 18, extras 11; Fitzpatrick 2-23, Nitschke 2-14).

Result: Australia won by 98 runs.

SA 238-4

SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Graeme Smith completed his ninth Test hundred as South Africa reached 238 for four at lunch on Day Three of the second Test against West Indies yesterday.

Smith was batting on 126 while Herschelle Gibbs was six not out.

when he was out for 196.

Left-hander Smith hit 10 fours from 195 balls in just under five hours and added 94 for the third wicket with Kallis, who was adjudged lbw to Bravo for 39 playing across the line of a well-pitched delivery.

Kallis had been fortunate to have

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



WOMEN TO THE FORE: Australian batswoman Lisa Sthalekar gears up for a cut shot during the final of the women's World Cup at Supersport Park in Pretoria, South Africa on Sunday.

WOMEN'S CRICKET WC Australia lift title

AFP, Centurion

Australia beat India by 98 runs in the final of the women's cricket World Cup, to win their fifth title in eight tournaments, here on Sunday.

Australia scored 215-4 in their 50 overs and bowled India out for 117 for a comfortable victory at Centurion Park.

Karen Rolton became only the second player to make a century in a final, her 107 from 138 balls, including 11 fours, setting up a total that India never looked like challenging.

Australia were initially struggling at 31-2 before Rolton came to the rescue.

She put on 139 for the fourth wicket with Indian-born Lisa Sthalekar, who was caught and bowled in the final over for 55.

India, appearing in their first final, began well by dismissing both openers with the new ball but were then left to rue Rolton being dropped on 62.

They removed Australia's star batswoman Belinda Clark, who had elected to bat after winning the toss, for 19 and Lisa Keightley for 5.

Then Rolton cut and pulled her way to her sixth one-day hundred while India's bowlers ran out of ideas.

Anju Jain top scored for India, making 29 as the top order struggled against the tight Australian bowling which saw the Indians collapse to 64 for six wickets and lose four batswomen through run outs.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday handed over the documents of two plots of 'khas' land in Mymensingh to two national cricketers in recognition of their contribution to the country's victory in the ICC Trophy in 1997, which paved its way to Bangladesh's entry into the 1999 Cricket World Cup.

The documents of four kathas of land each was handed over to Sanwar Hossain and Saiful Islam at a simple ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office.

State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharrar Hossain, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asgar and M Mosaddek Ali MP were present on the occasion.

The then government pledged to allocate 'khas' land to the cricketers following their victory in ICC Trophy in 1997.

PHOTO: AFP

No Indian hopes for Shoaib



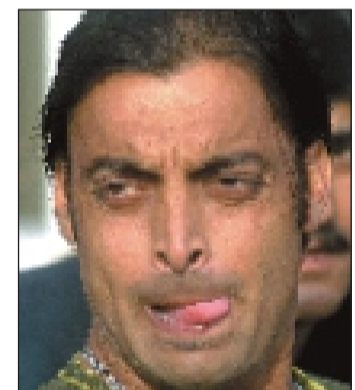
PTI, Karachi

Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's chances of joining the Pakistan cricket team on the India tour were smothered after he missed a domestic limited-overs cricket match with illness.

Shoaib, who has not played any competitive match since early January, was expected to play in Lahore on Monday for Khan Research Laboratory against National Bank of Pakistan that was to be watched by chairman of selectors Wasim Bari.

"Shoaib is sick and didn't play the match. He had to first regain match

fitness before we could consider him for selection," Bari told PTI from



SHOAIB AKHTAR

Lahore.

Shoaib, on Wednesday, took four for 22 in seven overs and later reiterated that he was fit to join the team in India, adding that the final decision on his selection would be taken by his trainer Grant Compton and selectors.

Shoaib and Shabbir Ahmed were expected to join the team for the Kanpur and New Delhi one-dayers scheduled for April 15 and 17. Shabbir, who has not played any international cricket since August last year, was last week ruled out of the tour as he lacked match fitness.

"The team management has also not asked for any replacements. If there is no request from India, I

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8