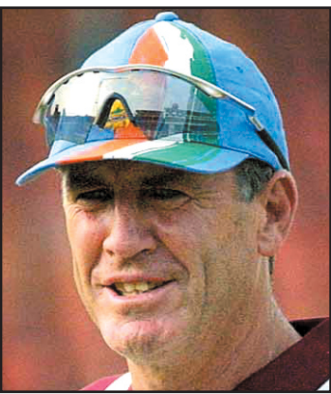




Pakistan, for the first time, recorded four victories in a row in an ODI series in India. The only previous occasion when Pakistan won four games in a row in a series against India, was in 1998 at Toronto.



John Wright
(Former Indian cricket coach)
"I can cope with defeats, but when I see carelessness and lack of effort, it's hard to tolerate."
After losing the ODI series against Pakistan.

What to WATCH

ESPN
Football Focus
Live at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Middlesbrough vs Fulham
Live at 12:55 am (Wednesday)

STAR Sports
Sportline
Live at 8:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Bolton Wanderers vs Southampton
Live at 12:55 am (Wednesday)

Nebitchi arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

Nebitchi FC of Turkmenistan arrive in Dhaka today to play their AFC Cup away match against Mukti-joddha Sangsad Kiria Chakra. The match will be taken place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Muktijoddha officials said yesterday that the Turkmenistan club was scheduled to reach Dhaka on Monday.

Muktijoddha won the first encounter by a solitary goal.

SLC to begin coach hunt

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka will start the hunt for a new cricket coach next week after the completion of John Dyson's 20-month contract.

The new government-appointed committee in charge of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), headed by businessman Jayantha Dharmadasa, is due to meet officially to discuss the issue on Monday, although preliminary talks have already taken place.

"As John Dyson's contract has now expired the recruitment of a new coach is a very high priority and will be discussed in the coming week," board secretary Tryphon Miranda told Reuters.

"We want to recruit a new coach as soon as possible for at least a two-year tenure so we can start our thinking and planning for the future."

A fresh contract for Australian Dyson is a possibility with the board due to contact him this week to discuss what his terms would be for an extension.

"We want to talk to as many possible good candidates that are interested before making our final decision," Miranda added.

Former Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore, who left Sri Lanka after the 2003 World Cup to take up a two-year assignment with Bangladesh, is one name that will be discussed.

Whatmore is in the frame for the India job, available after John Wright's departure, and has been offered a contract extension by Bangladesh.

Former Australia captain Steve Waugh has also been linked with the Sri Lanka job.

A Red & Orange Fed Cup?



SPORTS REPORTER

With Muktijoddha Sangsad and Brothers Union rapidly gaining strength, popular colours like the Black and White and Sky Blue have started to fade away from the limelight of domestic football.

In recent years, traditional powerhouses Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani have become accustomed to turning up with weak teams, resulting in takeovers by Muktijoddha and Brothers who have already played in the final of the season's first tournament.

As another tournament begins within a couple of days, Red and Orange once again look well tuned to become the final pairing of the Federation Cup, pushing the bigger names to the backseat.

If Brothers were the dominant force last season by winning two titles, in-form Mukti's look like the team to beat this year after lifting the Independence Day Gold Cup with a 2-0 win over their rivals from Gopibagh.

Muktijoddha's impressive run in the AFC Cup will also make the Fed Cup holders hot favourites to retain the prestigious trophy.

But Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who has a number of match winners in his side and probably possesses the most solid

defence, is not thinking about the Federation Cup at all.

"All our concentration is now on tomorrow's AFC Cup game against Nebitchi. We feel that the nation has a lot of expectations on us after our away win against them in Turkmenistan," Manik told The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

"We have time in hand and we will start thinking about the Federation Cup two days later. I know, there will be a lot of expectations on us to go all the way but my first target is reaching the semifinals," said the former national footballer in a humble tone.

"It could be anybody's game in the knockout stages," he added.

Brothers manager Amer Khan saw some positives in the their defeat to the Mukti's in the Independence Day Cup final.

"I think it was better that we lost. The players were over confident in the rematch after scoring early in the postponed game. We had our chances but conceding a goal in the dying moments probably unsettled the whole team," told Amer.

"We missed Edward but the Russian striker is now fully fit. We have the right team to face the challenge in a tough group involving Muktijoddha and Sheikh Russel and whatever the result is, playing more games before the league will help us," the former Brothers midfielder said.

Drawn in the same group, both

Abahani and Mohammedan tents feel that their foreign players were a letdown in the Independence Cup.

Mohammedan sacked Korean coach Man Young Kang and two Korean booters after their elimination from the semifinals while Abahani also sent their South American players packing.

"We are trying to recruit a coach and two footballers from Nigeria but I don't think they will be here before the final," informed Mohammedan manager Amirul Islam Babu.

"We will have to continue with local players. We had a few injury problems but all are fit now. We have to win at least two group matches to make it to the semis and if we reach the final, then we might use foreign players," he added.

Abahani, who suffered their worst defeat in domestic football in 30 years when they crashed 4-0 to Brothers last month, have strengthened their squad bringing in Cameroonian midfielder Ndem Kiyek.

"Ghanaian striker Audu Ibrahim is due to arrive in Dhaka today and we will have our key defender Pradip Poddar back from suspension in the Fed Cup," told Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu.

Pradip was banned for five matches and has to sit out one more game but the Sky Blues are hoping

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STANCHART CRICKET BKSP-B run riot again

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP-B continued their run feast in the Under-15 Standard Chartered Young Tigers School Championship as they outclassed Tejgunipara High by 335 runs in their second match at the Lalmatia Housing Society School ground yesterday.

Fresh after their mammoth 621 runs against Scholastica, BKSP-B rode on a 113-ball 157 by Sanjib Das to amass 422 and then wrapped up Tejgunipara for 87.

In the day's other matches, Sabuj Bidyapith High (90) beat Junior Laboratory High (89) by 8 wickets, Mishu Pre-Cadet & High (322) defeated Manarat International (252) by 70 runs, Scholastica (291) outplayed Badda Alatumessa High (149) by 142 runs, Nabakumar Institution (124) managed a one-wicket victory over BSMAR Rifles College (123), West End High (180) beat National Bank High (169) by 11 runs, Uttara Bidyaniketon (121) defeated Bangladesh International (85) by 36 runs, Government Laboratory High (137) beat Dhanmondi Tutorial (136) by nine wickets, Blue Birds International (266) defeated Paramount High School (219) by 47 runs and Adhunik Bidyalaya (248) beat Cephalon International (244) by 2 wickets.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

A file photo of Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar who played a brilliant innings for a West Indies selection on Sunday.

Bashar bashes Proteas



AFP, St. Augustine

Half-centuries from two guest players helped the University of the West Indies' Vice-Chancellor's XI hold out against South Africa in a two-day match.

Habibul Bashar, the Bangladesh captain, top-scored with an undefeated 77 and Indian youngster Shikhar Dhawan supported with 66, as the Vice-Chancellor's XI reached 250 for five, replying to South Africa's first innings total of 395 for six declared on Sunday.

Bashar hit 15 boundaries from 86 balls in 2-1/2 hours to hold the top order batting together, after opening batsmen Tishan Maraj and Ryan Ramdass were dismissed cheaply.

He added 86 for the third wicket with West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels, who scored 36, before Nicky Boje made the breakthrough when he bowled Samuels.

When Dhawan was caught close to the wicket to become the second of three wickets for 51 runs from 11 overs for Charl Langeveldt, and Shirley Clarke was lbw to same

bowler to leave the Vice-Chancellor's XI 155 for four, it looked like the visitors might have their way.

Bashar and Jacobs batted through tea to frustrate the South Africans, who were going through final preparations for the third Test, starting at Bridgetown on Thursday.

Earlier, South Africa continued from their overnight total of 349 for three and declared after batting for close to an hour.

They lost three wickets, all to unorthodox left-arm spin bowler Dave Mohammed, who ended with five wickets for 115 runs from 27.1 overs.

Boeta Dippenaar, who was last out, top-scored with 184 that contained 21 fours and two sixes from 278 balls in 6-1/2 hours batting. It helped to earn him the man-of-the-match award.

Mark Boucher also used the relaxed atmosphere to score 63 before being caught in the deep, and Jacques Kallis was stumped for 12.

SCOREBOARD				
Scoreboard of the two-day tour match between South Africa and a University of the West Indies' Vice-Chancellor's XI on Sunday:				
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings				
De Villiers b Mohammed	12			
Dippenaar c Dhiwan b Mohammed	184			
Prince c Samuels b Best	32			
Gibbs st Jacobs b Mohammed	81			

Boucher c Samuels b Mohammed	64
Kallis st Jacobs b Mohammed	17
Hall not out	1
Extras: (b-2, w-1, nb-1)	4
Total: (For 6 wickets)	395
Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-106, 3-229, 4-367, 5-392, 6-395	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Edwards	10	3	38	0
Best	9	1	39	1
Mohammed	27.1	4	115	5
Browne	12	2	47	0
Samuels	14	1	48	0
Dhawan	11	0	36	0
Clarke	17	0	70	0

UWI VC's XI: First innings	
Ramdass c de Villiers b Ntini	29
Maraj c de Villiers b Langeveldt	0
Dhawan c Boucher b Landerveldt	66
Samuels b Boje	36
Bashar not out	77
Clarke lbw b Landerveldt	4
Jacobs not out	28
Extras: (lb-2, nb-8)	10
Total: (For 5 wkts)	250
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-52, 3-138, 4-142, 5-155	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Langeveldt	11	1	51	3
Ntini	5	1	23	1
Zondeki	12	2	48	0
Kallis	6	3	11	0
Hall	13	2	59	0
Boje	10	1	47	1
Prince	3	1	8	0
Boucher	2	1	1	0

Result: Match drawn.

Sourav may appeal again!

6-match ban against Indian captain stands



PTI, Kolkata

Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president Jagmohan Dalmiya on Monday indicated that India captain Sourav Ganguly may go for an appeal against the decision of International Cricket Council (ICC) Appeal Commissioner Michael Beloff on the six-match ban slapped on him.

"The match is not yet over," Dalmiya told reporters immediately after emerging out of a meeting with Ganguly and senior lawyer Siddhartha Shankar Ray.

AFP adds from London, Ganguly has no further right of appeal within the ICC as their Code of Conduct states that the decision of the appeals commissioner shall be final and binding.

Earlier, Ganguly's appeal against a six-match one-day international ban was rejected by the ICC on Sunday.

However the world governing body said, in view of the disruption caused by the uncertainty over Ganguly's availability, the last two matches of the recently concluded six-match series against Pakistan would count as the first two games of the ban.

The remainder of the ban should take effect during India's participation in August's triangular one-day series in Sri Lanka, also featuring the West Indies.

Ganguly's appeal was against a sentence imposed by Match Referee Chris Broad.

The former England batsman, who had already fined him 70 per cent of his match fee for the team's slow over-rate in the third interna-



SOURAV GANGULY

In his judgment Beloff, a leading English lawyer, said he did not accept the argument put forward by Ganguly that heat was the reason for failing to achieve the over rates.

"Cricket is a game played in all kinds of climates; it cannot be right that the mere fact of the heat and humidity will excuse a failure to achieve the minimum over rate," his judgment said.

Ganguly had requested the hearing be heard via video-

tional in Jamshedpur, imposed the ban after India fell three overs short in the following match in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Pakistan won both matches to square the series at 2-2 before going on to win 4-2 after a 159-run victory at New Delhi on Sunday a match batsman Ganguly missed, even though as his appeal was pending he was eligible to play, following poor recent form.

Beloff endorsed Broad's decision in a 23-page written judgment provided to the India captain earlier Sunday.

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed, explaining the decision to take the last two games of the India-Pakistan series as the first two games of the ban, said: "The initial decision of the match referee to impose this ban clearly had an impact on the ability of the Indian team to determine and select the make-up of its side."

"In light of this, the last two matches of India's series against Pakistan, where the possible suspension of the Indian captain impacted on the selection decisions of the (Indian) Board, will count as the first two matches served under this sentence."

Collins out of third SA Test

AFP, St. John's

A slight back injury will sideline West Indies fast bowler Pedro Collins for the third Test against South Africa, starting on Thursday in his native Barbados.

Collins, who has become the spearhead of the attack over the last year, has missed out on selection previously because of the back injury.

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PHOTO: AFP

FLYING AGAIN: Real Madrid superstar Ronaldo celebrates with a substitute near the team's bench after scoring the first of his two goals against Lavente at Valencia on April 17.

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