A sweet Orange revenge

BU lift Fed Cup after 14 yrs

SPORTS REPORTER



An early strike by Adil Okero gave Brothers Union the Federation Cup title after 14 Enjoying superior ball posses-

years as well as a place in next year's AFC Cup with a 1-0 win over Muktijoddha Sangsad yesterday. Although the lacklustre final failed to enthrall a 10,000-strong

crowd at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, it was a sweet revenge for Brothers who had lost the Independence Day Gold Cup final to Muktijoddha last month. Muktijoddha drew early blood with Nigerian striker Paul Nwakwuchu getting possession inside the rival box even before the

match was 30 seconds old. But he failed to utilise the defensive lapse as his shot from 15 vards ran harmlessly across the pitch. Brothers settled in soon and Russian forward Victor tested Aminul with a long range shot in the fifth minute. Despite making a fine save, national number one custo-

Brothers' Moroccan striker Adil in the very next minute. Adil, who got the nod in absence of compatriot midfielder Hicham Inani -- suspended for the game -snatched the ball from Reds defender Belal at the right side and seeing Aminul out of his post, lobbed the goalkeeper outside from the box with his left foot to separate

the two sides.

dian Aminul was outfoxed by

Brothers went on to dominate the rest of the half as striker Khokon, who was dropped to the midfield by veteran coach Wajed Gazi to mark Arman, successfully handcuffed the

sion, Brothers could further increase the lead but Adil failed to convert two chances created by Victor. Victor also burst through the rival backline three times after the break, but the prolific scorer failed to finish his solo moves. Muktijoddha on the other hand,

missed Arman in the entire second half as he was forced to leave the ground following a rough tackle by Jewel Rana on the brink of halftime. Moreover, coach Shafiqul Islam Manik unnecessarily kept the ineffective third forward Enamul on the pitch for over an hour which certainly dampened the Reds' game plans, if there were any.

When Enamul was replaced by Bidyut, the midfield looked better and pressed hard in the last ten minutes for an equaliser. Their first real chance came in the 81st minute, but Kanchan's powerful volley on a long throw-in by Belal was foiled for a corner by young custodian Tarea.

Muktijoddha had twin chances one minute before regulation time but Paul's effort was saved from the goalline while Tareq pulled off a spectacular save on Bidyut's rising shot on the rebound to ensure the Gopibagh outfit's third Federation

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IT TASTES EVEN SWEETER: Brothers Union's Moroccan forward Adil Okero (L), whose lone strike separated the teams in the Federation Cup final, kisses the trophy while goalkeeper Tareq (R), who made a few outstanding saves, is the toast of supporters after the title-decider against Muktijoddha Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday

Club in Morococha, Peru, which sits 14,335





Jacques Kallis (South Africa all-rounder)

"As a youngster, I never thought I would have achieved anything like this in my career. I learnt a lot from Gary (Kirsten) and it's a bit sad that I had to overtake him, but this has been the highlight of my

After becoming the South Africa's highest ever Test run-getter.



ESPN

URFA Champions League Liverpool vs Chelsea Semifinal, Leg-2 Repeat at 11:00 am Sportscentre Live at 8:30 pm **URFA** Champions League Psv Eindhoven vs Ac Milan Semifinal, Leg-2 Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

ATP Rome Masters Series Second Round Live at 7:00 pm Sportsline Live at 8:00 pm English Premier Football League Fulham vs Newcastle United Live at 12:30 am (Thursday) Brazilian Football Figueirense vs Corinthians

Blatter cancels **South Asian** tour

SPORTS REPORTER

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has cancelled his South Asian tour this

The FIFA boss was expected to make a 24-hour visit to Dhaka during his tour of the region but Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) informed yesterday that he has cancelled his scheduled tour.

"We have been informed over telephone that he (Blatter) would not making this trip. But it was not possible to say the reasons behind the cancellation," said BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal

U-15 cricketers lose opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-15 cricket team lost their first game in the tri-nation limited-over series against hosts Sri Lanka by two wickets at the Ranasingȟe Premadasa Stadium ir Colombo yesterday.

Batting first, the visitors scored 135. The Sri Lanka Under-15s were 55-5 when rain stopped play and the home side, set a revised target of 124, reached home losing three more wickets.

Bangladesh will take on Malaysia, the other team in the tournament, in their second match today at the same venue.

It's Rahim's turn to prove

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Like everyone, young wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim was also surprised when the national selectors included him in the 16-member Test squad for Tigers' first full series in England later this month.

Rahim was in Australia with the Under-19 team when the Faruque Ahmed-led selection panel picked the Bogra stumper for the demanding tour from outside the 20

"I could not believe it when my coach (Nazmul Abedin Fahim) told me after the second match against Australia Under-19 that I have been selected for the national side. It was beyond my imagination," said Rahim, who returned home on Friday from Australia. The 17-year-old was one of the three new faces in the national squad and his inclusion was more to give long-serving wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud some respite in the warm up matches ahead of the first Test at Lords' from May 26.

Mashud is the lone man doing the job for over a decade and still nobody has stepped up to challenge the doughty Rajshahi cricketer.

Rahim also knows that very well. "No doubt I am excited with the call but realistically I know I will have to play the role of a filler because

Mashud Bhai is still the best in the business. But I am confident that I can prove my inclusion if given the opportunity to play any match during the tour." he continued.

The talent of Rahim had been

spotted when Australian trainer

Andrew Selff said after a six-week specialist training camp at BKSP that he could be a future Bangladesh wicketkeeper. "Actually the camp helped me a lot to improve my performance

which was reflected during the Bangladesh A team Zimbabwe" he added.

Rahim said that he is trying to establish himself as a top-class batsman besides a wicketkeeper.

"I met Andrew in Queensland during the recent tour and he suggested me to improve my batting to win a place in the national side. These days you have to be a batsman in addition to your wicketkeeping prowess," said Rahim, whose role model is Australian ace Adam Gilchrist

Rahim, who led the Under-19 team to nine wins down under, said that his Australian experience would help him a lot in England.

"We played on grassy and bouncy wickets which is not common in the country. Both keeping and batting was difficult in that condition. I think it was a great experience for us," he informed.

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Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani clinched the consolation third place in the Tibet 20th Federation Cup when they defeated archrivals Mohammedan Sporting Club 4-2 in the tiebreaker in yester-day's play-off match at the

tant to take part in the play-off and the rumour was rife that the two losing semifinalists, who share 15 Federation Cup titles between them, would settle for a draw and let the penalty shoot-out decide the

captain Alfaz and Abahani forwards wasting sitter after sitter, the fans was nothing but a 'pure friendly'.

dull football played by their beloved teams, chased out Muktijoddha supporters and their hired brass band out of the galleries halfway through the second half. In the shootout, Joy, Ndem

Pradeep and Ibrahim converted all their spot kicks for the Sky Blues who had beaten their archrivals 5-1 in the group match. Defenders Panel and Biplab scored for Mohammedan but Scylla was denied by Abahani goalkeeper Nizam and Asad struck the crossbar from 12 yards.

be faster

REUTERS, New Delhi

to reach his maximum speed as he England.

"To me fast bowling is so exciting because I haven't even hit my maturity as a fast bowler," he told reporters. "If you ask me if I can go faster,

cricket for more than a year, told reporters he was frustrated that he had not been selected for the team despite proving his fitness in the one-day arena following ankle surgery

has been close to 15 months since I played a Test match." he said.

established and doing well.

"Fifteen months ago they (the selectors) told me they wanted me to get my ankle 100 percent, make sure I'm taking wickets and make sure my pace is somewhere close to what it was earlier.

Lee, who ranks alongside Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar as the world's fastest bowler with deliveries around 100 miles an hour (160

Lara's 400 was on his mind

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, St. John's

Chris Gavle kept teammate Brian Lara's world record uppermost while he became the fourth West Indian to score a triple century on the penultimate day of the final Test on Monday.

Lara heads the list, with his world record 400 not out last year, and 375 in 1994 against England, both coming at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

world record of 365 not out against Pakistan at Kingston in 1958, and Gayle's fellow Jamaican Lawrence Rowe with his silky 302 against England at Bridgetown in 1974, have also reached such rare heights

for West Indies. Jamaican Gayle scored 317 out of the West Indies' total of 565 for five, which they made in reply to South Africa's first innings of 588 for

six declared.

I'M HERE TOO: West Indies' Chris Gayle raises his arms upon reaching his triple hundred or

the fourth day of the final Test against South Africa at Antigua

England

Zimbabwe

England

Australia

Pakistan

England

India

West Indies

New Zealand

New Zealand

West Indies

South Africa

New Zealand

England

Pakistan

England

England

India

St.John's

St John's

The Oval

Colombo

Bridgetown

Auckland

Peshawa

Leeds

Lord's

Lahore

Kingston

St John's

Leeds

Leeds

Multan

Melbourne

Bridgetown

Manchester

Perth

2004

2003

1997

1958

1998

1930

1990

2002

2005

1964

1965

2004

1934

Country

West Indies

West Indies

West Indies

England

Sri Lanka

Pakistan

England

Australia

Australia

England

Pakistan

England

Australia

England

Australia

Australia

West Indies

India

West Indies

Australia

HEST INDIVIDUAL

Batsman

Brian Lara

Brian Lara

Len Hutton

Mark Taylor

Don Bradman

Graham Gooch

Inzamamul Haq

Andy Sandham

Bobby Simpson

Virender Sehwag

Chris Gayle

John Edrich

Bob Cowper

(* denotes not out)

Don Bradman

Lawrence Rowe

Matthew Hayden

Sanath Jayasuriya

Wally Hammond

Hanif Mohammad

Garfield Sobers

400*

380

340

337

334 333

311

310

302

Lara made the world record score of 400 not out against England at the same ground in "I was trying to get as close as possible to 400, but it didn't happen and I'm satisfied with my performance," Gayle told a news confer-

"It would be a long way to come back if I had to start all over again. When will I reach this stage again?" Gayle's innings was the highest any batsman against South Africa and the 14th highest in Test

history But he had been focused or

Lara's milestone only. "The only record I was thinking about was the 400," Gayle said.

Gayle batted for 10 and a half hours, faced 483 balls and hit 37 fours and three sixes. He said he felt the

long innings as it dragged on. "I take it session by session and

build from there, but just after lunch I found myself lapsing and I called for some water," Gayle said. On Sunday, when he reached

184 not out, Gayle dedicated his innings to his mother, Hazelyn Gilroy. He said he had telephoned he

after Sunday's play. "She was very happy, she said,

'Go get the next one'," Gayle said. Gavle hoped his innings would

prompt the Jamaican government to allocate more resources to cricket. "They're focused on football

which has become the number one sport in Jamaica, but they could take a lot more interest in cricket," he said.

WINDIES TRIPLE-TONNERS Brian Lara -- 400 not out vs England at

St. John's, 2004 Brian Lara -- 375 vs England at St. John's, 1994 Garfield Sobers -- 365 not out vs

Pakistan at Kingston, 1958 Chris Gayle -- 317 vs South Africa at St. John's, 2005 Lawrence Rowe -- 302 vs England at Bridgetown, 1974

(Lara's 400 is the world record for

'We don't lack commitment'

AFP, St. John's

Criticism that the West Indies cricket team lack application were dismissed by Ramnaresh Sarwan, one of their century making heroes in the first innings of the fourth and final Test with South Africa.

The former vice-captain shared

an unbroken second wicket partnership of 285 on Sunday with Chris Gayle and Sarwan, who was recording his eighth Test century, said the team's critics didn't know what they were talking about. "Obviously, the people who are

making the criticisms do not know the kind of hard work we have been doing behind closed doors." he said.

"I can't find words to explain how hard we have been working in the last few months. People are free to say what they wish. They will have their own opinions, but it's incumbent upon us to go out there and perform."

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Gayle takes WI to safety

Cricket

AFP, St. John's

Chris Gayle became the fourth West Indies batsman to hit a Test triple hundred on Monday, to make the way safe for the home team in the fourth and final Test against South

Gayle hit 317, his highest Test score, to propel West Indies to 565 for five, replying to South Africa's first innings total of 588 for six declared, when stumps were drawn on the penultimate day of the match.

Gayle captured the spotlight when he turned a delivery off Abraham de Villiers' part-time medium-pace into the mid-wicket region to join the elite group of West Indies batsmen with Test triple hundreds.

He was finally dismissed about half hour after tea, when he topedged a lazy cut at a short, rising ball to slip to become the last of three wickets for 87 runs from 18 overs for Monde Zondeki, who has been South Africa's most successful

The 25-year-old Gayle showed wonderful powers of concentration throughout a marathon 10-1/2 hours of batting during which time he smote 37 fours and three sixes from

By the close, West Indies captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul, with whom Gayle added 149 for the fourth wicket, was also looking to

enter the record books. Chanderpaul has struck seven fours from 210 balls in five hours and was undefeated on 82, eveing his 13th Test hundred and second for the series, and looking to become the seventh batsman in the match to reach triple figures.

Only three times in the history of Test cricket have there been seven hundreds in a Test.

Chanderpaul, however, will rest easy in the knowledge that West Indies comfortably avoided the follow-on target of 389, and batted themselves into a position from which they should deny the South Africans, who have already wrapped up the series, a record hattrick of Test wins on the road.

Resuming on 184, Gayle was called upon to deal with the second new ball when South Africa called for it immediately, and almost did not survive it.

backfoot, was deceived by the

bounce and movement of a delivery

from Shaun Pollock and inside-

edged the ball just to the right of

Gayle, on 185, playing off the 5 (Gayle 317, Sarwan 127,

his double hundred, when playing a backfoot defensive shot to a rising

He kept his nerve and reached

wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

delivery from Ntini, he edged just wide of second slip and ran two, and eventually eliminated his previous highest score of 204 scored against New Zealand at St. George's three vears ago. South Africa, however, got back into the match, when Zondeki, the

target for much of the punishment Gayle handed out, removed century-maker Ramnaresh Sarwan for 127 and Lara for four. Lara, with 196 and 176 behind him in the two previous Tests, never looked settled. He took 21 balls before he got off the mark with a

square drive for four off Zondeki,

who soon put him out of his misery,

when he had him caught behind

trying to run a rising ball down to

BRIEF SCORES

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 588 for 6 declared (Kallis 147, Prince 131, Smith 126, De Villiers 114; Powell 2-137) WEST INDIES: First innings 565 for

Chander-paul 82 not out; Zondeki 3-

beat **MSC** again

Bangabandhu National Stadium. Both the local giants were reluc-

With Mohammedan fielding a

and critics eventually reached a verdict that the goalless 90 minutes The most notable part happened off the field when fans, bored by the

Lee can

Australia fast bowler Brett Lee said on Tuesday he believed he had still fights to regain his Test place for this year's Ashes series against

ves. I definitely do think I can go Lee, 28, who has not played Test

"It has been very frustrating. It

"I spent six or seven months getting the ankle right and I come back to a team which is pretty much

"I have done everything I have been asked to do. So it is a bit frustrating why I'm not playing."

kph), said he could bowl faster still.