

DHAKA WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3, 2005, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

BD A FLOOR LANCS Another 3dayer from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Fresh from a seven-wicket one-day victory against Lancashire on Monday, Bangladesh A play their third three-day game against Yorkshire that begins today at Headingley

Dashing top-order batsman Tushar Imran cracked 93 as the second-string national team pulled off its first victory on the England tour.

The right-hander, with a hundred against Gloucestershire in the first three-day match, clobbered 11 fours and a six off 91 balls as the tourists, who were always in control in pursuit of the 155-run revised winning target, eventually reached it with 12overs to spare at Liverpool.

Bangladesh began the chase on the wrong foot when they lost captain Shahriar Nafees (7) with the score on 12. But a 61-run second wicket stand between one-down Tushar and Nafees Iqbal steadied the innings. Nafees made a patient 21 from 43 balls

Tushar's magnificent knock ended with the team just six runs away from victory

Experienced Alok Kapali (23 not out) 23 guided the side home.

Earlier, left-arm spinner Abdur Razzaq picked up three for 25 and paceman Shahadat Hossain took two wickets for 22 runs as Lancashire were bowled out for 149 after being sent into bat

SCORES IN BRIEF

LANCASHIRE: 149 all out in 45.4 overs (AR Crook 23, PJ Horton 46, Russel 1-16, Talha 1-39, Shahadat 2-22, Razzak 3-25, Kapali 1-12). BANGLADESH A: 155 for 3 in 34.1 overs (Shahriar 7, Nafees Iqbal 21, Tushar 93, Kapali 23 not out, Mehrab 1 not out, Newby 1-28, SP Crook 1-28, Thompson 1-2). Result: Bangladesh A won by seven wickets.

Akram quizzes security fears

AFP, New Delhi

Former Pakistan cricket captair Wasim Akram on Tuesday criticised England's decision not to play a Test match in Karachi later this year saving his country was being unfairly targeted in security matters.

"Our cricket boards ought to be stronger. Once we have promised foolproof security, there is no point in bowing down to the pressure tactics of visiting teams," Akram told

the Press Trust of India (PTI). England refused to play a fivecity of Karachi during their forthcoming tour of Pakistan in October-December, preferring to opt for a one-day international there.

Russel-4, Mukti-0

SPORTS REPORTER

aside heavyweights Muktijoddha

Sangsad 4-0 in yesterday's match at

the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

account from the very first attack of

the embarrassingly one-sided affair

but the winners could have left the

field with a bigger victory had the

Moroccan striker not wasted a

It was Muktijoddha's biggest

league defeat in 13 years since their

Majid Burjuga opened Russel's

Premier Bank

series of sitters

style.

Kottan, their Austrian coach who took over from Shafigul Islam Manik Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra midway through the league, thought that his boys must have been tired. finally won their first big match of

"I am not concerned about the the season and they did it in some result at all. I am trying to build a team for the future. I have tried different combinations but today, they Last year's runners-up, who have had a rather poor season and were not moving at all. They looked tired but I can't find a reason. I must failed to improve their mid-table give credit to the opposition," Kottan position in the Premier Football said after the humiliating defeat. League, were inspired by a hattrick from Maksudul Alam Bulbul to brush

Russel, who conceded two goals in the last ten minutes to give away a 1-0 lead against Abahani in their previous encounter, were back to full strength after return of Moroccan captain Egir Moha-mmed and goalkeeper Biplab who served twomatch bans. And they went ahead after nine minutes when Majid stabbed the ball into the near post with a header after compatriot Rachid's drop-volley on a crossfield pass by Tanvir came to him near the

goalmouth 5-0 loss to Mohammedan. George

Majid, who now has six goals, set up Tanvir two minutes later but the Russel winger miskicked the ball from six yards

With the pathetic Muktijoddha backline chasing shadows, goalkeeper Aminul -- the national number one who returned after missing two matches through injury -- looked half fit and survived two close calls from Majid.

The lanky Moroccan fired the ball wide in a one-on-one situation before his weak placing shot past Aminul was cleared off the line by Belal in the 25th minute. But he made amends to his earlier gaffes three minutes later when he spectacularly controlled a left side lob from Egir and set up Bulbul who tapped home from a handshaking distance.

It should have been 3-0 in the 32nd minute but Majid, picked up at the far post by Tanvir, unbelievably SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

A dream come true

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nazmul-Us-Saadat gets a chance to 'Bend it with Beckham' after the man from Feni was one of the four winners of the Gillette Award 2005. He joins winners from Sri Lanka,

Nepal and Maldives who will all fly to the Spanish capital of Madrid in September to shake hands with the Real Madrid and England captain David Beckham. The chance of a lifetime came

Nazmul's way after he correctly answered some simple questions regarding the footballer and why he preferred Gillette's products. The competition programme aptly titled 'Bend it with Beckham' ran from January 16-April 15.

Addressing a ceremony organised by MGH Group, the sole distributor of Gillette razor blades, at a city hotel yesterday, Nazmul said he couldn't wait to see the celebrity footballer in person.

"I'm really excited that I'm going meet my idol," said Nazmul adding that Real Madrid was his favourite team because of Beckham.

NFL qualifiers from Sept

Football League will kick off in the second week of September with the preliminary rounds at six venues across the country.

The six zonal champions will join holders Brothers Union, runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad and popular outfits Abahani and Mohammedan. So far, 44 district league champi-

ons and five service teams have entered for the qualifiers, told tournament committee secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu at a press conference yesterday.

Tournament committee chairman Matlub Ahmed, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) vicepresident and general secretary Abdur Rahim and Anwarul Hoque Helal were also present.

Nitol-Tata, which is sponsoring the event for the last time as part of a three-year contract, hopes to extend its association in future.

Malu, also the deputy general secretary of the BFF, said that ten venues have applied to host the preliminary rounds and nine venues have applied for the final rounds. The first phase of the finals will

AFRO-ASIAN CRICKET SERIES begin at four venues in the first week of October and the second and final phase will be held at the Bangaban



The BFF has earmarked a Taka

PHOTO: STAR



HOW WILL I SIGN SO MANY AUTOGRAPHS? Bangladesh cricket captain Habibul Bashar obliges the autographhunters outside the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur after a training session on Tuesday.

AFRO-ASIA CUP Hira happy with own role, one representative

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Shafiqul Haque Hira, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) nominated selector in the four-member panel that on Monday picked the Asian XI for the three-match Afro-Asia Cup one-day series against an African XI, was elated with his role despite the Tigers managing just one spot in the 15-man side in the form of Mohammad Ashraful.

While the country's cricket fraternity and some national players also, have expressed their disappointment that Khaled Mashud, arguably the finest wicketkeeper in Asia and Mashrafee bin-Mortuza, the impressive fast bowler, did not make it, Hira was apparently of the opinion that NatWest tri- series in England.

Cricket

The inaugural Afro-Asian cricket

series to be played in South Africa later

this month was plunged into contro-

versy on Tuesday when former India

captain Sourav Ganguly protested at

becoming the third batsman after

compatriot Sachin Tendulkar and

Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq to score

reporters in this Buddhist town which is

Ganguly, only 33 runs away from

AFP, Dambulla

his omission

one representative from Bangladesh was enough.

Lankan wicketkeeper Kumar

Sangakkara edged him because of

his better record as a batsman. We

have two players (Mashud and

Mortuza) in the stand-by list and that

has been possible only because of

home yesterday after selecting the

for his recent performances in the

"Ashraful's inclusion was reward

"It was the best possible Asian

my strong voice.

side in Dubai.

Meanwhile, Ashraful was con-"I have done a tremendous job in gratulated by his colleagues and getting one Bangladeshi player coach Dav Whatmore during pracincluded. I had first mentioned the tice at Mirpur yesterday. name of Khaled Mashud but Sri "It would have been nicer if we

added Hira

had more players in the Asian side. But everybody loves Ashraful and he has the ability to make the country proud," said Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar.

Vice-captain Khaled Mashud, always a pragmatic character, said he was not disappointed at being named as a reserve only.

side. I even had to fight for Ashraful. I don't want to mention any names "I am not frustrated. Sangakkara is a very good batsman and that is but there were some tough contenders in his position." said the former his big plus point." Bangladesh captain, who returned

Mortuza usually keeps his feelings to himself but the team selection left the big man with a bit of grudge

"I have had a very consistent last SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Easy win for Sri Lanka

HATTRICK HERO: Sheikh Russel's Bulbul (C) tries to dodge past Muktijoddha defender Riad (L) during their Premier

Cricket

established players -- it was another They had started accelerating comprehensive loss following the when Sangakkara perished to a defeat by India on Sunday boor shot, hitting Narsingh Scoring proved difficult for the Deonarine straight to Shivnarine Chanderpaul at cover, before the same bowler had Dilhara stumped. Atapattu then paid for attempting a second run on Butler's fumble at long-off, only to see the paceman to throw accurately to keeper Denesh Ramdin, who ran him out by some distance. Mahela Jayawardene's innings was exciting -- and short. After slogging Lawson over mid-wicket for six, he was cleaned up by Smith's yorker. When a direct hit from Smith at point rant out Tillakaratne Dilshan cheaply, Sri Lanka were 205-6 and in danger of folding in a hurry. But Russel Arnold and Chandana batted sensibly to help set a decent total which was put into perspective when the Windies top order collapsed in spectacular fashion.

SPORTS REPORTER The fifth edition of the National

UK cricket forum formed

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket has another global forum when The UK Bandladesh Cricket Fans Society, which intends to be the voice of cricket lovers living in the United Kingdom, was launched.

It arranged a programme at the Officer's Club vesterday to outline the organisation's aims and objectives.

National cricketers including Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar, Khaled Mahmud and Khaled Mashud were present.

"There are more than five lakh Bangladeshi expatriates in the United Kingdom and most of them are passionate followers of Bangladesh cricket that's what inspired us to form the forum," said Sabbir Hossain, coordinator of the Society.

Bashar said that it would be fantastic if the forum creates opportunities for Bangladeshis to play on the English county circuit and gives them financial support.



TEN Sports Sri Lanka Tri-Series India vs Sri Lanka (D/N) Fourth ODI Live at 2:30 pm



Premier Football League Dhaka Wanderers vs Dipali Sangha (4:00 pm) Abahani vs Farashganj (6:00 pm) enue: Bangabandhu National Stadium **BBC ONLINE**, Dambulla

Sri Lanka eased to a 50-run win over West Indies in the Indian Oil Cup tritoss series despite some big hitting from

Dwayne Smith Captain Marvan Atapattu (70) and Kumar Sangakkara (79) put on 138 for the second wicket as the hosts made 241-6 in the third match of the meet on Tuesday.

Farveez Maharoof took 3-9 in 10 overs as the West Indies collapsed to 39-5 in reply and a rout looked on Smith restored some respectabil-

ity with two big sixes in his 68 but Muttiah Muralitharan (2-45) bowled him as Sri Lanka claimed their second victory.

the cards.

third successive game at the Rangiri Stadium and Sri Lanka suffered an early casualty after Atapattu won the

Bank Premier Football League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

After a square drive for four. Upul Tharanga -- playing in place of the injured Sanath Jayasuriya -- was soon on his way after missing an attempted pull off a delivery from fellow debutant Deighton Butler which kept lower than he expected.

Atapattu and Sangakkara struggled to get the ball away in a cautious opening, although the captain thrashed two Butler deliveries through the off-side for boundaries

in the ninth over. Sangakkara played a lovely cover drive off Jermaine Lawson and an authoritative pull off Tino Best as he got into his stride.



PHOTO: AFP Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara pulls one for four during his knock of 79 against West Indies in the Indian Oil Cup at Dambulla on Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Indian Oil Cup one-day international between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the Rangiri Stadium in Dambulla on Tuesday **SRI LANKA** Tharanga lbw b Butler 6 Atapattu run out 70 Sangakkara c Chanderpaul b Deonarine79 Lokuhettige st Ramdin b Deonarine 9 Jayawardene b Smith 16 **Dilshan run out** 4 21 Arnold not out Chandana not out 15 Extras: (b-6, lb-4, nb-4, w-7) 21 Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 241 Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-149, 3-171, 4-191, 5-194, 6-205 Did not bat: Muralitharan, Fernando, Maharoof ο R W Bowler М 10 2 25 Butler 1 63 Lawson 10 1 0 10 39 Best 1 0 9 39 Smith 1 1 10 Deonarine 0 55 2 0 10 0 Powell WEST INDIES Marshall c Sangakkara b Maharoof Ramdass b Maharoof Joseph c Maharoof b Dilhara 9 Deonarine b Fernando 23 Chanderpaul c and b Dilhara 14 Powell b Maharoof 2 Smith b Muralitharan 68 29 Ramdin b Chandana Best lbw b Muralitharan 1 13 Butler not out Lawson st Sangakkara b Dilshan 8 Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-6, nb-3) 17 191 Total: (All out in 45.1 overs) SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

1.07 crore budget and Nitol-Tata will provide Taka 60 lakh. The BFF is looking forward to find co-sponsors to meet the demands.

Collingwood called up

AFP, London

England cricket selectors performed a U-turn on Monday and called up inform Durham all-rounder Paul Collingwood into their squad for Thursday's second Ashes Test.

Collingwood received the good "disgusted" at being left out of the 15news after England coach Duncan man Asia squad. Fletcher and captain Michael Vaughan inspected the Edgbaston pitch as England seek to level the hosting a tri-series between India. Sri series after a crushing 239-run Lanka and the West Indies. defeat at Lord's.

"It is a raw deal. I may not have Chairman of selectors David scored in my four one-dayers this year. SEE PAGE 13 COL 5 but does anybody's selection any-

where depend on four matches?

"What about the nearly 10.000 one-day runs I have got? Don't they have value? Am I always to be the whipping boy?

"I am disgusted."

The made-for-television Asia versus Africa one-dayers, granted official status by the International Cricket Council. will be played in Centurion, Pretoria on August 17 and at Kingsmead, Durban on August 20 and 21

Both squads were announced on Monday night.

The Asian squad, captained by Inzamam, includes six Pakistanis, four 10,000 one-day runs, said he was each from India and Sri Lanka and one Bangladeshi, "It is a raw deal," Ganguly told

Ganguly, replaced as India captain by Rahul Dravid after being banned for slow over-rates against Pakistan in April, said Inzamam deserved to lead

"I am happy Inzy has got the captaincy and I would not have had a

problem playing under him," he said. "What I can't understand is why the chief selectors of the four Test-playing nations did not do the choosing and picking?"

The Asian selection panel included Majid Khan of Pakistan, Ravi Shastri of India, Graeme Labrooy of Sri Lanka and Shafiqul Haque Hira of Bangladesh, none of whom currently serve on their respective national

selection committees. Media reports, citing unnamed sources, said Majid and Shastri threatened to walk out of the panel when one of the Asian officials suggested that

Ganguly be included in the squad. Africa named a provisional 19-man squad with Shaun Pollock leading in the first two games since his South African captain Graeme Smith is serving a two-match ban for slow overrates

Smith will captain Africa for the third match

