

## Ronaldo dreams of Nobel

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldo said on Saturday that he dreams of winning the Nobel Peace Prize and would do everything he could do to achieve that goal.

"I am going to work all of my life in this area and work to win the prize," the 29-year-old Real Madrid striker told Epoca magazine.

"It would give me a lot of satisfaction. It's a sacrifice worth making."

"I want to leave a good image and not just in football but also as a special ambassador for the United Nations."

## ASIA CUP

## 'Postponement not good for the region'

AFP, Lahore

The postponement of the six-nation Asia Cup will hamper the development of cricket in the region and deprive the sport of much-needed revenue, an official said Sunday.

"(postponement) is a significant loss to cricket in the continent, because the finances generated were due to be spent on development," Ashraf Haq, chief executive of the Asian Cricket Council, told this news agency from Kuala Lumpur.

The biennial event scheduled in Pakistan early next year was postponed last week over India's complaint that their players faced a grueling schedule and it would not be feasible to hold the tournament.

Defending champions Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates and Oman were due to take part in the event scheduled from February 16-28.

Hosts Pakistan, who have yet to hold the event since it began in 1982, agreed to India's request to postpone the limited-overs tournament.

## Leonie keep

FROM PAGE 12 joint runners-up securing 52 points each.

Biman outplayed Shaheed Kasem Daba 4-0 and Muktiyodha also pulled off same marginal victory against Anushillan Daba Krira Chakra.

In the day's other last round matches, Destiny 2000 beat Titus 3-0-5, BJMC beat Faith Chess Club 3-1, Narayanjanj City Chess Club outlasted Dolphin Chess Club 4-0, Farashganj beat Friends Chess Club 3-1 and Mohakhali Prodig Sangha drew 2-2 with Dhaka University.

## Afghans leave

FROM PAGE 12 edge of the penalty area to put Afghanistan ahead in the 35th minute while Abdul Maroof Gulestani doubled the lead with a 20-yard freekick six minutes later.

Table-bottomers Sri Lanka, who have lost all their matches, scored a consolation goal through Karunaratne, whose intended cross from the right flank fooled the rival goalkeeper five minutes from time.

Afghanistan, who lost 1-0 to hosts Pakistan, finished third in the group.

## 2nd Eng-Pak ODI today



AFP, Lahore

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said the super sub rule benefits teams winning the toss and his side would like to cash in on it in the second day-night one-day match against England on Monday.

"The super sub advantage lies with the team that wins the toss. Had we won the toss we could have utilised our super sub had we bowled second, so we would like a better use of it next time," Inzamam said on Sunday.

Pakistan named off-spinner Arhsad Khan as their super sub in the first of five one-day internationals on Saturday but could not use him at any stage during their 42-run defeat.

England compiled their highest one-day score against Pakistan in Pakistan -- 327-4 in 50 overs -- before reducing the home side to 285 all out in 46.5 overs.

The super sub rule -- implemented in May this year -- allows teams a soccer-style replacement

at any stage in a limited-overs international.

The replaced player will be ruled out of the rest of the match while the replacement will be entitled to assume any remaining batting or bowling duties.

England benefitted from the rule as they replaced Kevin Pietersen, who scored a brisk 36-ball 56, with debutante paceman Liam Plunkett who took 3-51.

Inzamam said Pakistan conceded 30 extra runs.

"Toss did not make difference. The main thing was that we allowed England to put a stiff target and chasing 328 was not easy even on a batting wicket," said Inzamam.

Four Pakistan batsmen hit half-centuries but none went on to finish the match.

"At one stage we were looking to chase those runs when Salman Butt and Younis Khan were playing and average was going good, but I think England bowled well after that," said Inzamam.

Butt and Younis put on 117 for the second wicket after Pakistan lost opener Kamran Akmal in the second over.

But once Butt (67) and Younis (60) were dismissed the required run-rate crept up and even Mohammad Yousuf (59) and Shoaib Malik (50) couldn't pose problems for England.

All-rounder Andrew Flintoff, who hit an unbeaten 72 in England innings, chipped in with three wickets as Pakistan lost their last six wickets in the space of just 18 balls.

Andrew Strauss, who won the man-of-the-match award for his 94, said the win was important for England after a 2-0 defeat in the preceding three-Test series.

"There is no substitute to winning and I think we are delighted to come through a pretty tough game," said Strauss, who managed just 44 runs in the two Tests against Pakistan.

Strauss agreed the super sub rule complicates matters for teams.

"It (the rule) makes selection meetings pretty difficult. I would have thought with who to sub and who not to, and when to sub, it makes things more complicated for the captain," said the left-handed opener.

## ICC hits back at Akram

AFP, Dubai

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani on Sunday hit back at comments made by former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram alleging bias by the ICC against Asian countries.

Akram had claimed that white people were dominating cricketing affairs in the ICC and that Asian cricketers were being neglected.

But Rawalpindi-born Mani dismissed Akram's views as ill-informed.

"It is a great disappointment to see this former great player, particularly as he is from my own homeland, make such ill-informed, offensive and inaccurate comments," said Mani, who was appointed ICC president in 2003.

"As a Pakistani I am honoured by the privilege given to me to lead the ICC in carrying out its responsibility to act without fear or favour to any nation."

"The reality is that what Wasim has alleged is offensive not just to me but to everybody involved with the ICC -- the directors, the umpires and referees, the staff and the many former great players from across the cricketing world, including many from Asia, who are involved with the ICC through its Cricket Committee," he said.



TERRIFIC TERRY: Chelsea players celebrate John Terry's goal during their Premiership match against Wigan at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

## PREMIERSHIP

## Chelsea, Liverpool march on



REUTERS, London

Premier League leaders Chelsea beat Wigan Athletic 1-0, Liverpool kept pace with a 2-0 win over Middlesbrough but 10-man Arsenal were cast adrift after losing 1-0 at Newcastle United on Saturday.

Captain John Terry headed Chelsea's winner in the 67th minute at Stamford Bridge, sending Jose Mourinho's runaway champions 12 points clear at the top of the table.

European champions Liverpool moved up to second place with their seventh consecutive league win, courtesy of second-half goals from Spanish forward Fernando Morientes.

Arsenal's already faint title hopes looked dashed after they lost Brazilian midfielder Gilberto to a 58th minute red card and Newcastle's Peruvian winger Nolberto Solano fired in an angled

winner after 82 minutes. Unbeaten in their title-winning season in 2003-04, Arsenal's fifth away defeat this season in an ill-tempered game kept them rooted to sixth place with 26 points.

Chelsea are top on 43, with Liverpool on 31 and third-placed Manchester United (30) hosting Everton on Sunday.

Charlton Athletic ended a run of six league and cup defeats with a 2-0 win over bottom club Sunderland, Blackburn Rovers beat West Ham United 3-2 and Aston Villa snatched a late 1-1 draw at Bolton Wanderers.

Pressure will ease on Birmingham City manager Steve Bruce after they edged Fulham 1-0 at St Andrew's, while fellow relegation battlers West Bromwich Albion also snaffed the points with a 2-0 win over visiting Manchester City.

At Stamford Bridge, Wigan put up a fight, as they did before losing 1-0 to a late winner in Chelsea's season opener in August.

Terry's header from a Frank

Lampard corner means Jose Mourinho's men have won all nine of their league games this season at Stamford Bridge.

Comparing Saturday's victory with the away game, Mourinho told Sky Sports News: "Same result, but different. In Wigan, we didn't deserve to win, today we deserved to."

It was a good day too for Liverpool as Rafael Benitez's side maintained their own superb run of form.

Liverpool came through their 10th match without conceding a goal in all competitions -- a feat not achieved since Kenny Dalglish's championship-winning side in 1987-88.

"The team is working very hard in defence and also going forward," Benitez told Sky Sports News.

"We continue to win, the players continue to do a good job and if we make a mistake (keeper) Pepe Reina can save them."

Newcastle's first victory in five games will be a big relief for manager Graeme Souness after facing opposition from a section of the club's fans.

But it infuriated Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger, who felt referee Dermot Gallagher had not protected his men and said his club would appeal against Gilberto's red card.

"It's very difficult to take, the way we lost today," he said. "We were the better team, especially in the first half."

"In the second half, they (Newcastle) decided to go more physical and I feel the referee allowed them many fouls and, on top of that, I still don't know why he sent our player off."

Down at the wrong end of the table, Birmingham's first home league win of the season was only secured with six minutes remaining when Nicky Butt headed home.

West Brom's goals came from Dromans Kamara and Kevin Campbell against a City side who finished with 10 men after a late red card for former England striker Andy Cole.

## PRIMERA LIGA

## Villarreal move up, Valencia drop points



REUTERS, Madrid

Villarreal's Argentine playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme scored a magnificent goal to set the seal on a come-from-behind 3-1 win Saturday at Real Sociedad to move his club into third place in Primera Liga.

Sociedad had got off to a flier with Turkish forward Nihat Kahveci firing them into a fourth-minute lead, but thereafter there was only one side in it - the visitors from the north-east.

Having scored a midweek winner over Lille to take Villarreal through to the last 16 of the Champions League at the first attempt Antonio Guayre was again on target from close range on 35 minutes after Riquelme, over his recent hamstring nightmare, crossed from the left. Nine minutes after the break Guayre repeated the dose from inside the six-yard box before

Riquelme nonchalantly floated home a beauty from outside the penalty area with 18 minutes left to give Villarreal 26 points from 15 games, five less than leaders Barcelona, who host Seville on Sunday.

That was enough to take Villarreal's "Yellow Submarine" outfit into third spot ahead of Valencia on goal difference and leave Sociedad in midtable obscurity.

Earlier, Valencia had to settle for a 1-1 home draw with struggling Athletic Bilbao, whose coach Javier Clemente saluted a never-say-die showing as his charges exited the bottom three.

Valencia coach Quique Sanchez Flores rued the two points dropped on home soil.

"We did all we could to win it, the draw was a bit of an accident."

On Sunday, Real Madrid, a point adrift of Valencia, head for Malaga for new coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro's first Primera Liga match in charge since replacing the sacked Vandyler Luxemburgo.

Joseba Etxebarria's header almost secured a second straight win on their travels and only a

Vicente strike 16 minutes from the end saved Valencia's blushes.

"We closed Valencia down well for the most part and they are normally a very fluid proposition," said former Spanish national coach Clemente, who took the Basques to the last of their eight league titles 21 years ago.

Bilbao's cause was not helped by the dismissal of Francisco Tarantino after an ugly challenge on Miguel Anulo.

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## Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Mariner Youngs' Club registered an exciting two-wicket victory over Surjo Tarun Club in the First Division Cricket League at the Dhaka University ground yesterday.

Karim hit 45 and Sohel added 39 as Surjo Tarun scored 176 before being all out in 42.3 overs.

Hasan was the most successful Mariner bowler with 4-22.

In reply, Mariner raced to 177 for 8 in 47.5 overs with Rabbi and Tota making 32 runs each.

## Set to see

FROM PAGE 12 been starving for success for quite sometime.

Mohammedan's bitter rivals Abahani however will rely on a team sans any brand name to live-up to their high reputation when they take on Indira Road KC at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Bangladesh Biman, buoyed by national opener Javed Omar, Shahriar Hossain, skipper Sanwar Hossain and all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman, will start their campaign against Ehsanul Haque-led Brothers Union at the Comilla Stadium.

Two-times champions Victoria, which formed a mediocre team, will play against Orient Sporting Club in another match at BKSP. Victoria however signed up Pakistani all-rounder Zafar Kuraisie to bolster their unimpressive line-up.

## Hosts' winning

FROM PAGE 12 wickets in 50 overs after being put into bat. Their innings was also in danger of falling under 200-run mark, but an unbroken 66-run ninth wicket partnership between Perara (38) and Pushpakumara (29) lifted them.

In-form Soya made 48 and Serasinghe added 45.

Left-arm spinner Mehrab Hossain captured three wickets for 42 runs and Sakib took two for 49.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**SRI LANKA UNDER-19:** 240-8 in 50 overs (Soya 48, Serasinghe 45, Perara 38 not out, Pushpakumara 29 not out, extras 19; Dollar 1-51, Sakib 2-49, Mehrab 3-42)

**BANGLADESH UNDER-19:** 226 all out in 46.5 overs (Tamim 55, Raqibul 1, Khadem 32, Sakib 77, Shamsur 24, Mehrab 2, Mushfiqur 12, Shuvo 1, Mehdi 12, Ishraq 3, Rezaul 0 not out, extras 7; Mathews 2-35, Pushpakumara 4-39)

**Result: Sri Lanka Under-19 won by 14 runs.**

## 'Go on and on'

FROM PAGE 12 Mohammad told the Times of India.

"Batsmen of shorter height always have an advantage over those who are tall. That's why guys like Gavaskar, Brian Lara, Sachin and me are able to score a lot of runs."

"Our height, about five feet three or five, helps us play fast bowlers very well. Because of our height we are able to play the short ball very easily, since the bouncers sometimes go above our heads and really do not test us."

Mohammad was the first Pakistani to score a Test triple-century, against the West Indies in 1957-58. He retired from Test cricket in 1969 with 3,915 runs in 55 matches averaging 43.98.

"Right now along with Lara, Inzamamul Haq and Ricky Ponting, Sachin is one of the top four batsmen in the game today," said Mohammad.

"But I would not club any of them with the great Don (Bradman) so soon, since he was way ahead of all of them."

Bradman scored 6,996 runs in 52 Tests averaging an astonishing 99.94, the best so far in the history of the game.

## Delhi in Murali, Kumble spin

FROM PAGE 12 dismissed. He hit nine fours in his 25th Test half-century.

Kumble got a big wicket when he had Atapattu caught bat-pad by diving Gautam Gambhir at short-leg in the day's last over. The Sri Lankan skipper hit 11 fours in his 14th half-century.

Kumble, who bagged all 10 wickets in a Test innings against Pakistan here in 1999, built on left-arm seamer Irfan Pathan's double-strike.

Pathan trapped opener Avishka Gunawardene (25) leg before with a ball that came in and then had the Kumar Sangakkara (three) caught by Kumble at gully with a delivery that kicked up.

Muralitharan was in the limelight in the morning session, troubling the Indian batsmen with his variations on a slow track to return the best figures by a Sri Lankan bowler on Indian soil.

The wily off-spinner began the slide with the dismissal of former captain Sourav Ganguly, who could add only one to his overnight score of 39 before being trapped lbw.

Muralitharan then got the prize wicket of Sachin Tendulkar (109), who smashed a world-record 35th

Test century on Saturday.

The Indian batsman hit one six and 14 fours in his 196-ball knock before being trapped leg-before attempting to sweep.

Muralitharan then made short work of the lower-order batsmen, dismissing Pathan, Mahendra Dhoni and Harbhajan Singh in quick succession.

Muralitharan bagged 5-23 off 10.4 overs in the morning session.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground in New Delhi on Sunday:

**INDIA:** First innings (overnight 245-3)

Gambhir lbw b Vaas 2  
Dravid c Mubarak b Muralitharan 24  
Laxman c Sangakkara b Muralitharan 69  
Tendulkar lbw b Muralitharan 109  
Ganguly lbw b Muralitharan 40  
Yuvraj lbw b Bandara 0  
Dhoni b Muralitharan 5  
Pathan c Mubarak b Muralitharan 0  
Agarkar not out 14  
Kumble b Bandara 8  
Harbhajan b Muralitharan 7  
Extras: (b-4, lb-8) 12

Total: (All out in 96.4 overs) 290

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-56, 3-133, 4-254, 5-255, 6-255, 7-255, 8-260, 9-271

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	22	5	77	1
Fernando	18	5	43	0
Muralitharan	38.4	8	100	7
Bandara	17	1	54	2
Dilshan	1	0	4	0

**SRI LANKA:** First innings  
Gunawardene lbw b Pathan 25  
Atapattu c Gambhir b Kumble 88  
Sangakkara c Kumble b Pathan 3  
Jayawardene lbw b Kumble 60  
Samaraweera b Kumble 1  
Dilshan lbw b Kumble 0  
Mubarak not out 10  
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, pen-5) 11

Total: (For 6 wks in 70.3 overs) 198  
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-62, 3-175, 4-179, 5-179, 6-198

To bat: Vaas, Fernando, Muralitharan, Bandara

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	16	7	20	2
Agarkar	16	4	40	0
Kumble	21.3	5	54	4
Harbhajan	15	0	67	0
Tendulkar	2	0	6	0

## Stakes not high in today's

FROM PAGE 12 light training session at the KMC ground in the afternoon under tight security.

"Yesterday, we played better than the Bhutan match in all departments. We are not yet 100 per cent to my expected level but they are improving."

"Baichung Bhutia, Mehtab Hossain and Mahesh Gawli are intelligent players. We cannot change the strategy against them just because we are in the last four. We are two tidy teams going to meet tomorrow. I believe we are level on strength. But I like the way India play ... ball on the grass, move and touch," he added.

Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin jokingly said that he would be 'passing a sleepless night' before the match.

"We need to play better because Bangladesh are playing well. Every match and every opponent is important to us and we are going to pick our best team because we have been good sporting rivals for a long time now. Before going to the semis we have to be ready for tomorrow and we are ready," said

Nayeemuddin, who knows Bangladesh players well due to his one-year stint with Dhaka Premier League champions Brothers Union.

Bangladesh captain Arif Khan Joy, who could be among the ones to be rested, said that remaining unbeaten in the tournament was important.

"Against Nepal, we started under pressure because it was a very important match for us to reach the semis. I am happy after the result because we played wonderful football. We had beaten Nepal 1-0 in the last SAFF Championship but yesterday was totally different. It proved that our improvement and unity under the coach is significant," the mid-fielder said.

Joy was superb in his role as a defensive midfielder and snatched the ball often to destroy opposition attack as well as finding his attackers with neat passes. He also made a spectacular save in the first half, diving inside their own penalty area to block a full-blooded shot from Basanta Thapa.

"I am happy with my performance because I felt that I could give what the coach had wanted.

We still have areas to improve but the way we are going, I feel we are on the right track. We also have a number of match winners. They have the big match temperament and I would rely on them to deliver the goods in the next matches. Alfaz has not scored so far but he has the ability to change the face of the game any moment.

"A Bangladesh-India match is always a prestige tie because the result will go on record. So we don't want to lose it anyway. We want to remain unbeaten in the tournament. It would be pleasant if we take the trophy home without losing."

If Joy misses the game, vice-captain Aminul will lead Bangladesh, who will again use their all-white strips. Aminul being booked, Hassan Al Mamun and second-choice goalkeeper Biplab are in the line to put on the armband.



## Did U Know?

Sir Donald Bradman concluded Test career with a second-ball duck at The Oval and a batting average of 99.94. He fell four runs short to make the average a perfect 100.



## Sachin Tendulkar

(Star Indian batsman)

"I dedicate this century to my father. My first hundred is the most memorable one but this one has been very emotional."

After scoring his world-record 3