

Chandpur, Khulna reach final round

SPORTS REPORTER

Chandpur and Khulna cruised to victories and emerged group champions to move into the final rounds in the Dhaka Bank Under-19 National Cricket Championship yesterday. Khulna crushed Narail by 225 runs after piling on 316 runs at the Magura Stadium. Amit smashed an almost run-a-ball 103 with 14 fours and two sixes. Narail were bowled out for a meagre 91 runs, with Bishaw picking up three wickets. At the Chittagong Divisional Stadium, Chandpur coasted to a six-wicket win over Cox's Bazar, thanks to an all-round performance by Jahid. He picked up three wickets when Chandpur bowled out their opponents for just 185. Then he was unbeaten on 58 as they chased down the target in 42 overs. Barisal, Rajbari, Kurigram, Chapainawabganj and Tangail all won their respective matches comfortably to move to the next round.

ASC president arrives today

SPORTS REPORTER

President of Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC) Sheikh Salman Al Sabah will arrive in the capital today. During the visit the ASC chief, a member of the Kuwaiti royal family, will meet the executive members of the Bangladesh Shooting Federation at Gulshan today.



SHEIKH SALMAN AL SABAH

He will lay the foundation stone of Shotgun Range at the Savar Cantonment and visit BKSP later in the day. He is expected to leave Dhaka on Thursday for Kuwait.

The “Little Bird”

FROM PAGE 20 that no single player has ever had more of a bearing on the fortunes of his team than Garrincha in 1962. His personal life had a darker side and he already had serious problems with alcohol when he arrived in England for the 1966 World Cup. Always a controversial figure, he caused a storm when he left his wife and eight children to marry a local singer. He was also in dispute with the income tax authorities and with his club Botafogo over his pay. He did help the club to five domestic titles but his drinking led to his ruin, and despite several stays in rehabilitation centres and drying out clinics, the Brazilian could never kick the habit. It finally caught up with him on January 20, 1983 when he contracted pneumonia and died in hospital. His remains were shown in the Maracanã Stadium where thousands of fans paid their last respects. His coffin was draped in a Botafogo flag as he was led to his final resting-place in the city. He played 50 times for Brazil, despite several breaks due to injury, ending his career at the 1966 World Cup against Hungary (1-3), his only defeat with the national side. In the cemetery where Garrincha is buried there is a small memorial expressing the Brazil's love for the two-time world champion. It reads: "He was a sweet child / He spoke with the birds."

On the threshold

FROM PAGE 20 potentially dangerous and that, obviously, is what the fans want to see." Diego Maradona, meanwhile, says Ronaldinho's willingness to test the boundaries of flamboyance were what thrilled him. "If he wants to try a nutmeg in a risky situation, he tries it," said the Argentinian great. "On the pitch he, he is the happiest man in the world." Ironically, the only footballing great who declines to gush unreservedly about Ronaldinho is the man widely held to be the greatest player ever -- Pele. While the three-time World Cup winner is an admirer of his compatriot, he says judgement should be reserved until Ronaldinho nears the end of his career. "For me, Zinedine Zidane has been the best player in the world for the last 10 years," he said in an interview with Britain's FourFourTwo magazine. "Ronaldinho is a good player, he has some nice skills and he's playing it well. But let's see if he can keep it up. Let's see how he plays in three or four or five years time."



PHOTO: AFP

Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan (L) and Robin Uthappa shares a light moment during practice in Spanish Town, 30km west of Kingston, on Monday.

Nimbus to start cricket channel

AFP, Mumbai

Sport marketing company Nimbus Communications said on Tuesday it will launch a 24-hour cricket channel for south and east Asia this year after securing global rights for India's matches until 2010. The channel is due to start broadcasting from October 2006 with the first international series either the seven-nation Afro-Asia Cup or the triangular one-day tournament between Sri Lanka, India and the West Indies. The channel will be shown in other Asian nations including Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and possibly the Middle East, the company said in a statement. Nimbus earlier this year secured the right to be the live coverage production company for Indian cricket until 2010, paying a record 612 million US dollars.

But it did not have its own platform to broadcast India's home series against England earlier this year. The matches were screened on another network but criticised for missing action because of advertising breaks. Nimbus chairman Harish Thawani said Tuesday the company had always intended to launch their own channel for the cricket-obsessed South Asian nation. "India is a slightly senseless country when it comes to cricket...but filling it up creatively is a challenge," he said, adding the channel would also include cricket-themed game and chat shows. Nimbus will launch another two channels in 2007, one for sports entertainment and the other a sports results and news service.

Schools soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Braces from Zakir, Sadi and Imran helped Chandpai Secondary School trounce Swarupkathi Pilot School 6-0 in the banglalink tiger trophy National Schools Football competition at the Narail Stadium yesterday. At the Kurigram Stadium, Dhiren of Bodoligachi Pilot High School notched a hattrick to blank Gohail Islamia School 4-0. Pouro Secondary School, Ulipur MF School and College, Residential Model School and Bagatipara High School won their respective matches at venues across the country.

Kapil's remedy to burnout

PTI, Mumbai

Coming out in full support of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on the player burnout issue, legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev said that those who thought they were playing too much cricket should take a break. "Cricketers are professionals and Indian cricketers are the only 100 per cent professional sportsmen in the country. They should take a break if they feel they are playing too much cricket," the former India captain said on Tuesday. "Don't want to play, then don't play," was the 1983 World Cup winning captain's mantra on the raging debate. Kapil felt the present Indian team was a very well balanced one and was well poised to not only erase the 35-year Test series victory drought in the West Indies but also come out with flying colours in the process. "The Indian team is very well balanced and is doing very well. I expect them not only to win the series in the West Indies but to win it convincingly too. A victory overseas is always a beautiful thing," he said.

player supports Inzamam as the captain. All of them respect him and look towards him for inspiration. This is the reason why there is complete harmony within the team," he said. A few former Test cricketers have suggested Pakistan should go for a change at the top considering the demanding nature of the World Cup, a contest where the bulky 36-year-old might not be fit enough to captain the former champions in a successful manner, the paper reported. "It is not important for us what those (former) players say because some of them don't like anything we do. The important point for us is what the current members of the (national) team believe and I must say that they are all for Inzamam," Zaidi said.

A senior Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official has categorically said that Inzamamul Haq was their top choice to lead the country in the next year's World Cup. "Inzamam remains our first choice captain for the World Cup, there should not be any doubt about that," PCB's director of board operations Abbas Zaidi said. Zaidi said the Board believed in Inzamam's leadership qualities and was not contemplating any options for the post. "The captain is a great cricketer and is leading the team by example," Zaidi was quoted as saying by the News. "Each and every national team

WC squads announced

FROM PAGE 20 Yasser Al-Qahtani (Al-Hilal), Mohammad Al-Anbar (Al-Hilal), Saad al-Harthi (Al-Nasr), Malek Maath (Al-Ahli). **POLAND** **Goalkeepers:** Artur Boruc (Celtic), Tomasz Kuszczak (West Bromwich Albion), Lukasz Fabianski (Legia Warsaw) **Defenders:** Jacek Bak (Al Rayan), Mariusz Jop (FK Moscow), Michal Zewlakow (Anderlecht), Marcin Baszczyński (Wisla Krakow), Seweryn Gancarczyk (Metallist Charkow), Mariusz Lewandowski (Shakhtar Donetsk), Dariusz Dudka (Wisla Krakow) **Midfielders:** Jacek Krzynowek (Bayer Leverkusen), Mirosław Szymkowiak (Trabzonspor), Radosław Sobolewski (Wisla Krakow), Euzebiusz Smolarek (Borussia Dortmund), Kamil Kosowski (Southampton), Arkadiusz Radomski (Austria Vienna), Sebastian Milla (Austria Vienna), Damian Gorawski (FK Moscow), Piotr Giza (Cracovia). **Forwards:** Maciej Żurawski (Celtic), Grzegorz Rasiak (Southampton), Paweł Brozek (Wisla Krakow), Ireneusz Jelen (Wisla Plock). **TOGO** **Goalkeepers:** Kossi Agassa (FC Metz, France), Ouro-Nimini Tchangriou (Djoliba, Mali), Kodjovi Dodji Obilale (Etoile Filante, Togo) **Defenders:** Jean Paul Yaovi Abalo (Apoel Nicosia, Cyprus), Eric Akoto

(Admira Wacker, Austria), Richmond Forson (Jeanne d'Arc Poire, France), Karim Guede (Hamburg SV II, Germany), Ludovic Assemaossa (Ciudad Murcia, Spain), Toure Assimiou (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany), Dare Nibombe (Mons-Bergen, Belgium), Kuami Agboh (KSK Beveren, Belgium), Affo Cermont Erassa (AS Moulins, France) **Midfielders:** Cherif Toure Mamam (Metz, France), Alaixys Romao (Louhans-Cuseaux, France), Thomas Dossevi (Valenciennes, France), Yao Kaka Aziawonou (Young Boys, Suisse), Junior Senaya (YF Juventus, Switzerland), Adekanmi Olufade (Al Sailya, Qatar) **Forwards:** Emmanuel Adebayor (Arsenal, England), Mohamed Kader Coubadja (Guingamp, France), Robert Malm (Brest, France), Massamasso Tchangai (Benevento, Italy), Moustapha Saïfou (Stade Brestois, France).

IRAN **Goalkeepers:** Ebrahim Mirzapour (Foolad Khuzestan), Vahid Talebloo (Esteghlal Teheran), Hassan Roudbarian (Pas). **Defenders:** Yahya Golmohammadi (Saba Battery), Mohammad Nosrati (Pas), Rahman Rezaei (AC Messina), Sattar Zare (Bargh Shiraz), Hossein Kaabi (Foolad Khuzestan), Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh (Saba Battery), Amir Hossein Sadeqi (Esteghlal Teheran). **Midfielders:** Javad Nekounam (Sharjah/VAE), Aderanik Teymourian (Abomoslem Khorasan), Mehdi

Tendulkar can't wait

PTI, Chennai

Sachin Tendulkar is eagerly waiting to join his team members on the exciting tour of the Caribbean and says he has no doubts that the team will come out with flying colours against the West Indies. The Mumbai batsman, who will miss the five-match one-day series, said he was expecting to be fit in time for the subsequent Test series but did not commit to whether he would be able to make it to the squad. "That is the reason I am in Chennai, training at the MRF. I always wanted to be there (in the Caribbean). The injury was a bit more complicated than what the doctors and myself thought," Tendulkar said. "Initially, it was thought it was going to be a shoulder surgery but my tendons were also operated on. The doctor and the physio have been quite happy with my progress," he told reporters. Tendulkar said he rated India's chances against the West Indies as very high. "We won the one-day series in the West Indies last time. The (Test) loss at Barbados was a nightmare. It took me long long time to overcome that. There are certain things which we have to keep aside and move on with cricket. "But I am much sure that our present team will put up a very good performance. I have no doubt in my mind that we will come back with flying colours," he said.

'India must adapt fast'

PTI, Kingston

India's coach Greg Chappell believes the key to success in the one-day cricket series against West Indies would lie in how quickly his team adapts to the conditions in the Caribbean. "We obviously just need to get used to the conditions, and start playing some good cricket," said Chappell after the team's first training session at Chedwin Park on Monday. The Indians are scheduled to play a practice game against Jamaica XI, which features eight players with Test experience, tomorrow before the five-match ODI contest begins on Thursday. Chappell did not think that his team lacked experienced players in the line-up. "We got some good young boys (but) we've got some good senior players as well. I think we have got a good balance between youth and experience and quite a bit of talent throughout the squad," he was quoted as saying in 'Jamaica Observer' on Tuesday. Since Chappell took over, India have set a record of 16 consecutive one-day international victories while chasing, bettering the previous mark of 14 set by the West Indies in the 1980s.



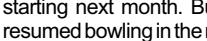
FROM PAGE 20 through the group round, we will have only sudden-death matchups," Zico told Koizumi, suggesting there could be upset victories. Koizumi jokingly responded: "You can never tell the outcome of football games and elections." Earlier in the day, the footballers were received by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Thai police to crack down on betting

AFP, Bangkok

Bangkok police put the city's bookies on notice Tuesday, announcing they have set up some 100 special units to crack down on football gambling during the World Cup in Germany. Thais are notoriously avid gamblers who bet on everything from kickboxing to cock fighting, but football betting is illegal despite its enormous popularity. "These special units will boost the existing police work to effectively crack down on football gambling by focusing on bookies," the city's police chief Viroj Chantharangsi said. He also warned that police would be punished if they failed to arrest gamblers. During the three-week Euro 2004 championships, a polling agency estimated 814 million dollars was laid down in Thailand, despite the arrest of hundreds of bookies on the tournament's first day. **Odonkor 'not dreaming'** **AFP, Berlin** Borussia Dortmund midfielder David Odonkor would have awoken a day after his shock call-up to

Shoaib ready to go to England



AFP, Lahore

Pakistan paceman Shoaib Akhtar on Tuesday said he was gearing up for a duel against English fast bowlers after overcoming fitness problems. Akhtar, who underwent twin knee operations in February, faces a fitness test in 10 days to determine his availability for Pakistan's tour of England starting next month. But has already resumed bowling in the nets. "I am bowling at 90 miles per hour and thanks to Almighty Allah I am feeling no pain in my knees," Akhtar told AFP. He has not played since the final Test win over arch rivals India in Karachi in January. "I have no fears of it recurring. I am working very hard to regain full fitness and will do extra work to avoid any recurrence," said the 30-year-old who missed the one-day series against India and the following tour to Sri Lanka. Akhtar said he was confident of proving his fitness to selectors who are due to announce a preliminary squad for the tour of England where the teams will contest four Tests and five one-day matches. The first Test starts at Lord's in London on July 13. "It would be a great battle because we have a world class bowling attack with Mohammad Sami, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul, Rana Naved-ul Hasan and myself and they too have quality fast bowlers, so it would be like a pace

war," said Akhtar. Akhtar's only Test trip to England in 2001 proved a disaster as he took just one wicket in the Lord's Test and limped out of the tour after playing a single one-day match. But when the Ashes-winning England toured Pakistan late last year, a fiery and rejuvenated Akhtar took 17 wickets in three Tests to help his team clinch the three-Test series 2-0.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 17 Mohammad Essad came down heavily on organisers, the Asian Hockey Federation, for arranging most of their matches during the heat of the afternoon. "I'm happy with the outcome because my boys were very much tired after playing most of the games in unbearable heat. It is inhumane to play matches in such kind of heat," said Essad. In the day's other matches, pre-tournament favourites Hong Kong handed a 5-1 defeat on Sri Lanka after leading the first half 2-0. Leading scorer Arif Ali and Ali Asghar struck twice while Gurdev Dhillan added one for the winners while Abeyratne scored for the losers. Chinese Taipei blanked pointless Iran 3-0 and all the goals came in the first half. Yao-Wen, Min-Kuan and Jui-Hao shared the goals.

Sri Lanka win

FROM PAGE 17 victory, even for an attack boasting champion off-spinner Muralitharan. The light also denied Sri Lanka what was an outside chance of victory, even for an attack boasting champion off-spinner Muralitharan. Sri Lanka resumed Monday on 381 for six and soon lost Chamara Kapugedera for 10. Tillakaratne Dilshan though held firm for 69 before he edged persevering fast bowler Liam Plunkett to first slip Marcus Trescothick. Sri Lanka had been overpowered in their first innings with Hoggard becoming the tenth Englishman to take 200 Test wickets on his way to four for 27. On Friday, England completed their highest total against Sri Lanka after hundreds from Pietersen (158) and Trescothick (106). The second Test is due to start at Edgbaston on May 25. **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first Test between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's on Monday: **ENGLAND:** First innings 551-6 dec (Pietersen 158, Trescothick 106, Cook 89, Collingwood 57; Muralidaran 3-158) **SRI LANKA:** First innings 192 (Jayawardene 61; Hoggard 4-27, Mahmood 3-50) **SRI LANKA:** Second innings (over-

night 381-6) Mubarak b Hoggard 6 Tharanga c Jones b Panesar 52 Sangakkara c Jones b Panesar 65 Jayawardene c Jones b Flintoff 119 Maharoor c Pietersen b Mahmood 59 Samaraweera c Jones b Mahmood 6 Dilshan c Trescothick b Plunkett 69 Kapugedera c Jones b Flintoff 10 Vaas not out 50 Kulasekara c Pietersen b Hoggard 64 Muralidaran not out 36 Extras: (b-9, lb-19, w-3, nb-5) 1 Total: (For 9 wkts in 199 overs) 537 Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-119, 3-178, 4-291, 5-303, 6-371, 7-405, 8-421, 9-526 **Bowler** O M R W Hoggard 46 11 110 2 Flintoff 51 11 131 2 Mahmood 35 5 118 2 Plunkett 31 10 85 1 Collingwood 9 2 16 0 Panesar 27 10 49 2 **Result: Match drawn.** **Man-of-the-match: Mahela Jayawardene.** **REMAINING MATCHES** **May 25-29: 2nd Test, Edgbaston.** **June 02-06: 3rd Test, Trent Bridge.**

BITS AND BOBS

Germany's World Cup squad knew it was not all a dream. The 22-year-old Odonkor was the biggest surprise in Jurgen Klinsmann's 23-man World Cup squad on Monday, particularly as he had never been called up to the full squad before. Odonkor, who has a Ghanaian father, was given the nod in the hope that his blistering pace can bring a surprise element to Germany's team at next month's World Cup. "I will go to sleep tonight and when I wake up tomorrow I hope that it was not a dream," said Odonkor after hearing the news. "I know the national coach was watching young players all season and it is an honour to jump on board for the World Cup at the final moment."

Kuranyi speechless at snub

AFP, Gelsenkirchen

Brazilian-born striker Kevin Kuranyi could not hide his disappointment at being left out of the Germany squad for next month's finals saying he would be having a lot of sleepless nights as a result of the snub. "My whole world collapsed. I just kept asking myself the question: Why me?" Kuranyi said on his official homepage. "I really am speechless and bitterly disappointed. I will have a lot of sleepless nights now." Germany coach Jurgen Klinsmann made Kuranyi his first choice forward at last year's Confederations Cup but he paid the price for a dreadful season with Schalke 04 as Klinsmann omitted him from the final 23-man squad on Monday. "I recognise that I did not have a terrific season and that my ten goals was not a great return," admitted Kuranyi. "But at the beginning of Jurgen Klinsmann's reign I scored

goals at will." The 24-year-old Kuranyi, born in Rio to a German father and a Panamanian mother, has scored 14 goals in 35 international. But Klinsmann preferred to take VfL Wolfsburg striker Mike Hanke to the finals even though the player is suspended for the first two group matches against Costa Rica and Poland. Kuranyi is on standby and will only get a reprieve through injuries.

Morientes omission a surprise

REUTERS, Madrid

Spain players have expressed their surprise at the omission of Liverpool striker Fernando Morientes and Valencia midfielder Ruben Baraja from the squad for the World Cup. "It's very strange," Baraja's Valencia colleague David Albelda was quoted as saying in Spanish daily El Mundo on Tuesday. "The midfielders that are going like (Marcos) Senna, (Andres) Iniesta and Cesc (Fabregas) have very few caps between them. (Coach) Luis (Aragones) is the one who decides and he will have his reasons, but it leaves a bad taste in my mouth that Ruben won't be going because he deserves to go to this World Cup. "He's got more caps than all the other midfielders and his absence is the one that has most surprised me." Liverpool midfielder Luis Garcia expressed similar disappointment after Morientes was left out of the 23-man squad. "It's a real shame for Morientes, because he is a great team mate and he's always ready to help the team."

Domenech explains via controversy

Ishraq, Khadem **FROM PAGE 17** psychology. They will also receive video feedback and verbal reports during their stay. Meanwhile, Nazmus Sadat and Sakib Al Hassan are already taking part in the Commonwealth Bank Centre of Excellence (CBCE) cricket programme at Brisbane. They are scheduled to come back on June 4. **Injury time** **FROM PAGE 17** Although Al-Ahed had won both legs against Brothers, they are on three points compared to Mahindra's five after deducting the points won against the Dhaka outfit. Al-Ahed must beat Muharraq to qualify.

Pippo makes

FROM PAGE 20 Mauro Camoranesi (Juventus), Simone Perrotta (AS Roma), Simone Barone (Palermo). **Forwards:** Luca Toni (Fiorentina), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus), Francesco Totti (AS Roma), Alberto Gilardino (AC Milan), Filippo Inzaghi (AC Milan), Vincenzo Iaquinta (Udinese).

World awaits

FROM PAGE 17 is sure to be severely tested by Ronaldinho and co. on Wednesday evening but Barca, who are far from impregnable defensively and have looked fatigued in recent matches, will have to be equally wary about the threat posed by Arsenal's deadly counter-attacking. Rijkaard has ruled out man-marking Henry and will take a 22-man squad including teenage sensation Lionel Messi to Paris now that the Argentinian youngster has been declared fit after a lengthy injury lay-off. Messi, who tore a thigh muscle during Barcelona's victory over Chelsea in the last 16, came through a Nou Camp training session without any difficulties, to Rijkaard's delight. The Dutch manager will only name his 18-man squad for the final on the day of the match. Although Barcelona start as favourites, midfielder Deco was anxious to play down surging optimism amongst the Catalans' fans that a repeat of their 1992 triumph is on the cards. "We've got a difficult match to play and we haven't won anything yet," Deco warned. "We've got to stay calm and play our game, and have total concentration because Arsenal are very dangerous on the counter-attack."

Two of the heroes of Arsenal's wins over Real and Juventus, meanwhile, are set to miss the final. Young Swiss centreback Philippe Senderos, who has been out of action with a knee injury, is expected to make way for Sol Campbell while Ashley Cole's recovery from injury will mean Mathieu Flamini missing out at leftback.

REUTERS, Paris

France coach Raymond Domenech has stirred controversy by saving his views on his World Cup squad for one of the team's sponsors. On Monday, owners of a 3-G mobile phone operated by the SFR network were able to watch a short video from Domenech in which he made a few remarks. Domenech notably explained how tough it had been to pick Fabien Barthez over Gregory Coupet as his number one goalkeeper. "It was 50-50 but I had to make a choice," he said. "It was not easy." Domenech bowed to popular demand by selecting Olympique Marseille's Franck Ribery, a gifted attacking midfielder whom he had so far overlooked. "We need such players who are young, a little bit reckless and will be happy whether they play 10 minutes, 15 minutes or not at all," the coach said. The biggest surprise in Domenech's squad is the presence of Wigan Athletic defender Pascal Chimbonda. In the video, Domenech briefly explained that he needed cover for the right back position. His first choice in that position is Bayern Munich's Willy Sagnol. Zinedine Zidane used a similar method to Domenech when he announced in August last year that he had decided to resume playing for France. The Real Madrid midfielder had given the news first to one his sponsors, also a mobile network opera-