

## 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.

It 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"

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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 Maracana 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 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 share 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.

## Inzy PCB's 1st choice captain

Cricket

PTI, Islamabad

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

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.

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 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.

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## Schools soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Braces from Zakir, Sadi and Imran helped Chandpur Secondary School trounce Swarupkathi Pilot School 6-0 in the bangali tiger trophy National Schools Football competition at the Narail Stadium yesterday.

At the Kurigram Stadium, Dhiren of Bodolgachhi Pilot High School notched a hatrick to blank Gohail Isiamia 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," he was quoted as saying in 'Jamaica Observer' on Tuesday.

"Don't want to play, then don't play," was the 1983 World Cup winning captain's mantra on the year's World Cup.

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.

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## 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 on 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 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.

"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," he was quoted as saying in 'Jamaica Observer' on Tuesday.

"Don't want to play, then don't play," was the 1983 World Cup winning captain's mantra on the 1980s.

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.

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