

## Easy wins for Boys, Orient

SPORTS REPORTER

Experienced opener Masumuddowla anchored Orient Sporting Club to a four-wicket victory over Young Pegasus B in the Kai-Altech First Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Opting to bat first, Young Pegasus B only managed 191-7 in 50 overs to which Orient replied by winning the game with 10 balls to spare.

Pegasus captain Sajed Ali Khan scored a polished half-century but only received support from Omar Faruq (42\*). Anifur Hasan took 3-34 while Raihan picked up two wickets.

In reply, Orient relied on their opener Masumuddowla who stuck around till the end, hitting 72 off 127 balls. He struck six boundaries. Off-spinner Sajed was the pick of the bowlers, taking 2-25 while seamer Sajjadul Karim picked up one.

Rezwanaul Islam picked up three wickets as Bangladesh Boys notched up an easy win by five wickets against Dhanmondi at the Dhaka University ground.

Boys bowled out Dhanmondi for only 162 runs in 45.4 overs with Rezwanaul creating most of the damage. Only captain Shahriar Alam batted with sincerity, scoring 40 runs. Anifur Rahman then hit a solid 58 to propel Boys to the easy win.

## Rayed's day in the sun

SPORTS REPORTER

Rayed's half-century and four-wicket haul was enough to give Uttara High School a huge 121-run victory against Tejgaon Government High School in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers School Cricket competition at the Dhupkhola Jagannath University ground yesterday.

Batting first, Uttara scored 193 in 42.2 overs with Rayed scoring 56. Then he helped skittle Tejgaon out for 72 runs in 18.3 overs with impressive figures of 4 for 9.

At the adjacent East End Club ground, BLS High School beat Dr Md. Shahidullah Adarsha Vidyaipith by 34 runs while Lalmatia Housing Society School trounced Badda Alatumnesa High School by 70 runs at the Uttara Friends Club ground.

Wills Little Flower rode on Bibek Das (55) as they defeated Alhaj Modhu Bepari High School by 60 runs at the Dhanmondi Club ground while at the Iqbal Road ground, Sher-e-Bangla Government Boys High School beat Gulshan Model High School by 22 runs.

## Visitors on top

FROM PAGE 17  
Enamul claimed the day's last wicket trapping Prior leg before wicket to finish with figures of 2-67 in 28 overs.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**BANGLADESH A:** First innings 209 all out in 86.5 overs.

**ENGLAND A:** First innings 268-6 in 91 overs (overnight 0 for no loss in 1 over) (Jefferson 38, Compton 23, Yardy 34, Carberry 70, Davies 37, Prior 3, Loudon 25 not out, Bresnan 21 not out, extras 17; Dollar 1-59, Enamul 2-67, Mosharraf 2-62).

## United go

FROM PAGE 20  
return to the club that he established as a Premiership force over the course of 15 years at the Valley.

"We are in desperate need of a win and we're hoping it will come on Saturday," the Hammers boss said ahead of his head-to-head with Alan Pardew, who took over at Charlton after being sacked to make way for Curshley at Upton Park.

With the relegation battle now looking like it will be played out between the bottom four clubs, Wigan entertain Newcastle on Sunday.

Portsmouth are at Blackburn later the same day while Tottenham's claims to be worthy of a place in the top five will be put to the test when Martin Jol's side entertain Bolton, who currently sit 5th in the league.

## Inter to dump

FROM PAGE 20  
real reason behind his snubbing was because the former Parma youngster had not recovered from his 25th birthday celebrations three days earlier.

Adriano is no stranger to this kind of Milan nightlife controversy, but Il Corriere dello Sport suggests that Inter have now had enough.

Although chief Massimo Moratti denied that Adriano would be fined for his latest misdemeanour, the paper insists the international will be hit in the pocket.

Now it is understood that Moratti is ready to sell the Emperor at the end of the season, possibly in a swap deal with Real Madrid's Adriano Cassano.

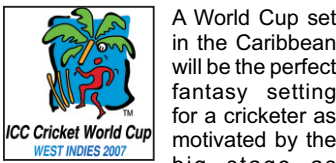
The Nerazzurri are also being linked with moves for Cristiano Ronaldo of Manchester United and Lionel Messi of Barcelona.



PHOTO: STAR  
GrameenPhone assistant general manager Mir Nawbut Ali speaks as Bangladesh Tennis Federation general secretary Md Sanaul Haque and GrameenPhone media manager Moin Tareq look on during a press conference at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

# Perfect for Pietersen

REUTERS, London



Kevin Pietersen.

Pietersen's boundless talent is matched only by his ambition.

He left his native South Africa openly disgruntled with a quota system for black players. Disenchanted with Nottinghamshire he moved to more congenial surroundings in Hampshire.

Called up for the England one-day side, he promptly defied a hostile reception to strike a century against his native country.

Then on promotion to the Test side, he targeted Australia's matchless pace and spin bowling pair Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne with audacious half-centuries in a losing cause at Lord's.

Finally he launched an astonishing

ing counter-attack in the final Test at The Oval, London's other showpiece ground, hitting seven sixes in an innings of 158 and hooking Brett Lee off his forehead into the crowd to ensure England drew the match and won the 2005 Ashes.

In the following English summer, Pietersen scored heavily against Sri Lanka, including an unforgettable reverse sweep for six off Muttiah Muralidaran. He was England's best batsman in the dismal Ashes series in Australia before leaving the tri-series early after he was injured by McGrath.

Throughout the fraught Ashes campaign as the euphoria of 2005 vanished in a 5-0 series reverse, Pietersen was targeted relentlessly by his opponents, the crowds and, finally, by Australian coach John Buchanan, who said he was not a team player.

He was also criticised when he was bowled around his legs trying a sweep shot against Warne when England collapsed to a humiliating

defeat in Adelaide. "I enjoyed the cricket. The challenge was fantastic, the rivalry on the field was magnificent," Pietersen told the Sunday Times. "I loved it but you don't need people giving you a hard time, you're coping it off the field, you're coping it in taxis and walking to the bus."

England's Ashes humiliation was followed by victory in the tri-series, which at least gave them some hope for the World Cup and provide further motivation for Pietersen.

Friendly West Indian pitches and short boundaries will suit Pietersen and he clearly thrives on responsibility. Like all champions, reverses only spur him on in his quest to become a truly great batsman.

"There's records to break, runs to be scored," he said. "World Cups to win and more...."

# Sister knows best!

BBC ONLINE, undated



Ed Joyce.

It may come as a surprise to many cricket fans to find out Ed Joyce is not the first member of his family to play in a Cricket World Cup.

He is in fact the third -- after his twin sisters Isobel and Cecilia represented Ireland Women.

And they will be offering advice to their 28-year-old older brother as he prepares to head off to the Caribbean with the rest of the England squad on 2 March.

"Isobel and I will be travelling in Australia but we'll be following the Ireland boys and Ed from Oz," Cecilia told BBC Sport.

"We both love Australia and were out there for the Melbourne Test although we missed Ed's maiden one day century against Australia in Sydney. It was our first ever holiday abroad because cricket has always come first."

Ed initially helped Ireland qualify for the World Cup, averaging nearly 100 in the ICC Trophy and scoring 60 against Denmark to seal Ireland's passage to the West Indies.

The Middlesex star was subsequently feted in Ireland, but then switched to England colours -- as he qualifies by residence -- and it

hasn't engendered any bad feeling in his home country.

"Most people in Ireland hope Ed does well, and they want England to win the World Cup because realistically Ireland can't expect to get beyond the group stages.

"There's a sense of 'the boy done good' and lots of Irish cricket fans are proud that Ed has the ability to mix it with the best in the world."

"Ireland face Pakistan, West Indies and Zimbabwe, and I think the goal will be to claim one scalp, and that could well be Zimbabwe."

Cecilia hopes Ireland's men's team will find the going easier in the Caribbean than the women did in South Africa two years ago.

Ireland's women finished bottom of the table against tough opposition. Cecilia spent 80 balls making just eight runs against eventual winners Australia.

"It was a complete step up. Fast bowlers like Catherine Fitzpatrick bowled at twice as fast as anything I'd seen before."

"Just as in the men's game Australia have been so dominant. You can't help but admire them."

"But their men's one day form has slumped for some reason and I think the World Cup is set up to be really open and exciting."

## Lee blow

FROM PAGE 17  
"The bowling group are obviously a bit down in confidence at the moment. The big key for the World Cup is to get that back up to the levels that it can be."

Lee sent Clark a text message Friday wishing him good luck for the tournament.

"It's really disappointing for Brett, because he's a friend in the team and a friend outside of the team as well," Clark told reporters.

"It's hollow, but I'm still excited about going to the World Cup."

Without the 30-year-old spearhead, Australia's bowlers were battered by New Zealand's batsmen in the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy series.

They took a total of just 13 wickets while conceding two of the three biggest run chases in one-day history - 336 and 346 -- in crashing to a disastrous series sweep on grounds similar in size to those Australia will experience in the Caribbean.

Lee ranks behind Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne as Australia's third all-time leading wicket-taker in one-day internationals, with 267 wickets in 150 matches.

Clark, who was Australia's Ashes bowling hero against England with 26 wickets, has taken 35 wickets in 24 one-day internationals, conceding 5.49 runs an over.

Australia still have injury concerns concerning allrounder Andrew Symonds (bicep) and opener Matthew Hayden (broken toe) ahead of the World Cup.

## Int'l tennis coming to town

SPORTS REPORTER

Five countries including hosts Bangladesh will take part in the Junior Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone pre-qualifying tournament from February 26.

Boys from Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore will travel to Dhaka for the round-robin matches of the premier boys' tennis competition, according to a press conference where GrameenPhone officials Mir Nawbut Ali and Moin Tareq and Bangladesh Tennis Federation general secretary Md Sanaul Haque were present at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

They also announced that the same zonal matches for the junior Federation Cup, the girls' event, would begin on February 28.

In the girls' competition, Bangladesh will play Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka, also in round-robin matches.

The tournament will end on March 2.

## SL issues WC stamps

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka on Friday issued two commemorative World Cup stamps in a bid to boost its cricketers ahead of the tournament starting in the Caribbean next month.

"What we are trying to do is to encourage the players. We don't want to put any undue burdens, but just to show the players that the entire nation is behind them," Sports Minister Gamini Lokuge said.

The diamond-shaped stamps, worth five rupees and 50 rupees, have been issued by the Philatelic Bureau of the Department of Post and Telecommunications in collaboration with Sri Lanka Cricket.

Former Sri Lanka captains Michael Tissera, Bandula Warnapura and Duleep Mendis were present when the stamps were issued by Postmaster General Shervin Senadira at Sri Lanka Cricket headquarters here.

One million five-rupee stamps and 500,000 50-rupee stamps will soon be available.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17  
Evana and Mimi won their respective first round bouts.

**ANNUAL SPORTS DAY**

The annual sports competition of Mohammadpur Preparatory and Higher Secondary School will be held at the school premises today.

## Ctg hang

FROM PAGE 17  
The departure of Nafis saw another mini collapse as the visitors lost two more wickets within a run before Ehsanul Haque (63 not out off 104 balls) and Dhiman Ghosh (32) salvaged the party by adding 60 runs in a sixth wicket stand.

Sunny took three wickets giving away 86 runs in 32 overs. Meanwhile, Chittagong trailed by 211 runs in the first essay.

**KHULNA-BARISAL**

Chasing a huge target the home team rode on a 137-run opening partnership between Kamrul Islam and Imrul Kayes to make 226 runs for 5 wickets to settle the issue in a draw.

Kamrul batted patiently to score 49 off 150 balls that featured six fours while Imrul smashed 83 off 103 deliveries with the help of eight fours and three sixes.

Barisal left-arm spinner Tariqul Islam took two wickets in the second innings to finish with a match haul of ten wickets which brought him the man-of-the-match award.

**BRIEF SCORES**

**DHAKA:** 500 all out  
**CHITTAGONG:** 289 and 229-6 in 78 overs (overnight 6-2) (Sunny 0, Nafis 49, Tareq 5, Nazim 53, Ehsanul 63 not out, Faisal 0, Dhiman 32, Nadim 14 not out, extras 13; Mahbubul 2-22, Nazmul 1-31, Sunny 3-86).

**Result: Match drawn.**  
**BARISAL:** 272 and 329-7 dec.  
**KHULNA:** 234 and 226-5 in 82 overs (overnight 2-0) (Kamrul 49, Kayes 83, Nahidul 13 not out, Fahim 30, Manjarul 22, Salim 4, Jamaluddin 15 not out, extras 10; Tariqul 2-73, Raisul 2-8, Ariful 1-28).

**Result: Match drawn.**

## Scudetto

FROM PAGE 20  
last two games, were rocked by the news on Wednesday that Francesco Flachi had tested positive for cocaine.

The 31-year-old striker has been suspended and could face a ban of up to two years if a second test confirms he used a banned substance.

# Lara's last shot at glory

REUTERS, Miami



of their captain and leading batsman Brian Lara.

At 37 years of age, this is likely to be Lara's last chance to win the competition and end a mixed career as captain.

There are no questions, however, over his legacy as a batsman.

Lara holds the record for the highest Test score, the highest first-class tally and he has scored more Test runs than any player in history.

He has achieved all that during an era when he has carried the responsibility of captaining a great cricketing nation during years of decline.

When Lara made his debut for the West Indies in a one-day international against Pakistan in Karachi in Nov. 1990, Desmond Haynes opened the batting and Malcolm Marshall led the pace attack.

The years when their battery of quick bowlers and flamboyant stroke makers made West Indies such feared opponents were coming to an end but in Lara they had found a genuine successor to Viv Richards, a batsman who could transform a game by taking total command at the crease.

Lara's exciting and attacking approach to batting first grabbed global attention when he made his maiden Test century against Australia in 1993. Not content with making three figures he went on to score 277.

In 1994 he rewrote the record books. First he broke Gary Sobers's long-standing world record Test score of 365 when he slammed England for 375 at St John's, Antigua. He followed that up when, playing in English county cricket, he set a world record for a first class total with his 501 not out for Warwickshire against Durham at Edgbaston.

Everything seemed to come so easily and so naturally for the Trinidad-born left-hander but captaincy presented a tougher challenge.

He took the reins of the side in 1998 and things started well when he

led the team to a 3-1 home Test series victory over England. Trouble soon followed.

Lara was sacked as captain when a players' revolt over pay delayed the start to tour of South Africa and although he was reinstated after four days of talks, the incident was the opening to years of difficulties on and off the field for Caribbean cricket.

In 2000, Lara stood down as captain and took a four-month break from the game and when he returned it took time for him to rediscover his form and fitness.

He was reappointed captain in 2003, the same year that Australian Matthew Hayden broke his Test record but it did not take long for Lara to regain that crown and his reputation.

Once again it was at St John's and once again it was England who were the victims as Lara's fluent stroke play battered their attack on his way to a majestic 400 not out.

As he reaches the final stages of a career littered with individual success, Lara now has the perfect stage to gain glory as a captain.

# Henin reaches Dubai final



AFP, Dubai

French Open champion Justine Henin produced her best performance since her comeback after her marriage breakdown, making a brave recovery from a set down to beat Svetlana Kuznetsova in the semi-finals of the Dubai Open.



PHOTO: AFP

Belgian star Justine Henin acknowledges the crowd after winning her semi-final match against Svetlana Kuznetsova at the Dubai Open on Friday.

## Anyone can win: Sobers

FROM PAGE 17  
Sobers said Australia's current woes after a spectacular 3-0 rout by New Zealand were a "wake-up" call for the world champions, but added that they remained a force to be reckoned with.

"Australia were without their top players in New Zealand," he said. "The return of Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist and Andrew Symonds will make a huge difference."

"The recent losses, however, have given them a chance to look at their weaknesses and given other teams reason to go to the World Cup with renewed vigour."

Sobers retired in 1974 as the game's greatest allrounder, with 8,032 runs at 57.78 and 235 wickets at 34.03 in 93 Tests. He also scored 26 Test centuries, including a then world record score of 365 not out.

The record books credit him with having played a single one-day international, in which he did not score a run but Sobers insisted he never took part in limited-overs cricket.

"We defeated England in the Leeds Test of 1973 in three days and officials organised a one-day match

to make up for the loss of two Test match days," he said.

"We were never told it was an official one-day international. So I refuse to admit I have played in one."

Sobers, however, said he would have relished playing the shorter version of the game.

"I would certainly have enjoyed it," he said. "But it would not have made a lot of difference to my style because I was always an attacking batsman, whether it was a Sunday afternoon game or a Test match."

"Twenty20 cricket is entertainment, which you need to get people to the venues. But it can't help develop players for Test cricket."

Asked to rank the current allrounders, Sobers said: "There are not many around who can walk into the team either as a batsman or a bowler."

"What I had not heard before was a wicketkeeping allrounder. That's a new one for me. Clyde Walcott was a great batsman and he also kept wickets but they never said he was an allrounder. But Adam Gilchrist is called one."

## COLLATED RESULTS

FROM PAGE 20  
**At Tel Aviv**  
Maccabi Haifa (ISR) 1 (Colautti 14) CSKA Moscow (RUS) 0  
Maccabi Haifa win 1-0 on aggregate  
**At Parma**  
Parma (ITA) 0 Sporting Braga (POR) 1 (Diego 69)  
Sporting Braga win 2-0 on aggregate  
**At Newcastle, England**  
Newcastle (ENG) 1 (Martins 68) Zulte-Waregem (BEL) 0  
Newcastle win 4-1 on aggregate  
**At Paris**  
Paris St Germain (FRA) 2 (Frau 42, Mendy 90+1-pen) AEK Athens (GRE) 0  
PSG win 4-0 on aggregate  
**At Vigo, Spain**  
Celta Vigo (ESP) 2 (Nene 19, Jonathan 78) Spartak Moscow (RUS) 1 (Titov 88)  
Celta Vigo win 3-2 on aggregate  
**At Athens**  
Panathinaikos (GRE) 0 Lens (FRA) 0  
Lens win 3-1 on aggregate  
**At Seville**

Sevilla (ESP) 1 (Kerzhakov 45) Steaua Bucharest (ROM) 0  
Sevilla win 3-0 on aggregate  
**At Amsterdam**  
Ajax (NED) 3 (Leonardo 4, Huntelaar 60, Babel 74) Werder Bremen (GER) 1 (Hugo Almeida 14)  
Werder Bremen win 4-3 on aggregate  
**At Glasgow**  
Rangers (SCO) 4 (Ferguson 24, 73, Boyd 35, Adam 90) Hapoel Tel-Aviv (ISR) 0  
Rangers win 5-2 on aggregate  
**At Pamplona, Spain**  
Osasuna (ESP) 1 (Nekounam 120) Bordeaux (FRA) 0  
after extra time; Osasuna win 1-0 on aggregate  
**At Barcelona**  
Espanyol (ESP) 2 (Lacruz 16, Coro 49) Livorno (ITA) 0  
Espanyol win 4-1 on aggregate  
**Note: Tottenham qualify directly for last 16 following Feyenoord's exclusion from this season's tournament**

## Sachin helps ailing referee

PTI, Kolkata

A pair of gloves worn by Sachin Tendulkar during the Multan Test in Pakistan in 2004 on Friday fetched Rs 1.11 lakh in an auction with the proceeds going for the treatment of an ailing soccer referee.

Tendulkar, who could not make it to the function organised by the Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club, showed a noble gesture by sending in his gloves, which he had donned during an innings of 194 not out in Multan, for the auction.

Bollywood superstar Mithun Chakrabarty came forward to conduct the auction by giving a starting bid of Rs 50,000.

The bid price soon went into the six figures and finally was won by a city-based industrialist.

The cheque was handed over to the wife of the ailing FIFA referee Pradip Nag.