

## Rajib still unbeaten

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Hossain Rajib remained unbeaten in the Kolkata Open Grandmaster Chess Tournament when the Bangladeshi International Master defeated compatriot FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil in the third round at the Gorky Sadan yesterday.

Rajib extended his lead to 2.5 points while Grandmaster Niaz Murshed, who lost to Armenian GM Tigran Petrosian after wins in the first two rounds, stuck to two points.

Petrosian shared the lead with two GMs, Tiviakov of Holland and Alon Greenfield of Israel with maximum three points.

IM Abdullah Al Rakib and Shakil were on 1.5 points each while GM Ziaur Rahman, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and Debaraj Chatterjee have so far collected one point each.

In the third round, Zia tasted his first victory after two defeats when he edged P Priya but Rakib lost to local player Rathnakaran while Parag, who upset French GM Oliver Renet in the opening round, crashed to Indian IM DP Singh.

## Effortless win for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh put behind the frustration of losing their opener to Pakistan when the hosts blanked Jordan 3-0 in the second round match of the Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania zone yesterday.

Omar Faruk Sunny beat Ahmad Hamez of Jordan 6-2, 6-4 while Mufazzal Hossain defeated Fawwaz Samer in the singles before the local pair downed their Jordanian rivals 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 in the doubles at the Ramna Tennis Complex.

Singapore maintained their winning run, defeating Malaysia 3-0 in the day's other match for their second consecutive victory.

Bangladesh are pitted against Malaysia while Jordan face Pakistan in today's fixture.

The Junior Fed Cup will begin today with Bangladesh taking on Sri Lanka and Pakistan playing Singapore.

## Noble Akram

AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan great Wasim Akram said Monday he was setting up an organisation to spread public awareness about diabetes and how patients should counter it.

The former left-arm paceman, himself a diabetic, announced a seven-member committee which includes his former captain and cricket legend, Imran Khan.

"We would raise funds through charity matches between Pakistan and Indian film stars, and the first match of this (kind) will be played in Dubai on April 6 this year," Wasim told AFP.

Wasim, who took a world record 502 one-day wickets and 414 Test wickets during his career, was hit by the disease in 1997 but managed to continue playing until 2003.

He said a study revealed Pakistan would have the world's fourth-largest population of diabetes sufferers by 2025, and his foundation would fight to minimise this in the coming years.

"Around 80 per cent of sufferers don't know they have this disease, so we want to create awareness and then help them fight it," said Wasim, now a commentator with Hong Kong-based television.

## Ctg scale

**FROM PAGE 17** as Khulna posted 254, 30 runs short from Sylhet first essay.

Leg-spinner Alok Kapali claimed three wickets conceding 48 runs while Shihran Sharif captured two wickets for 53 runs.

Sylhet made good start in the second innings when they finished the day on 24 without loss in six overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**DHAKA:** First innings 357 all out in 112 overs (overnight 329-6) Ulltam 11, Rashedul 6, Anwar 105, Shamsur 31, Riyad 48, Sharifulah 1, Sajjad 130, Arafat 12, Rashedul 1, Talha 0, Azim 0 not out, extras 12; Shahjada 2-67, Mushfiqur 2-79, Forhad 5-70, Mahbub 1-36).

**RAJSHAHI:** First innings 201-6 in 66 overs (Zunaid 53, Raqibul 1, Hasanuzzaman 4, Naim 2, Anisur 48, Mashud 2, Mushfiqur 25 not out, Forhad 39, extras 27; Talha 2-34, Azim 3-53, Sharifulah 1-24).

**CHITTAGONG:** First innings 622-8dec in 141.5 overs (overnight 362-3) (Salahuddin 165, Nafis 6, Sunny 74, Nazimuddin 92, Ehsanul 44, Faisal 9, Dhiman 81, Palash 88, Sabbir 38 not out, extras 25; Arafat 3-74, Anifil 1-76, Ali Arman 1-102, Humayun 1-63, Tariqul 1-202).

**BARISAL:** First innings 156-3 in 39 overs (Imran 75 not out, Hannan 43, Raqibul 11, Nayeem 10, Ali Arman 10 not out, extras 7; Alamgir 1-24, Sabbir 1-27, Ehsanul 1-12).

**SYLHET:** First innings 284 and second innings 24-0 in 6 overs (Saif 12 not out, Imtiaz 12 not out).

**KHULNA:** 254 all out in 94.4 overs (Monirul 56, Hasan 14, Imrul 0, Nahidul 5, Manjarul 9, Jamaluddin 103, Montasir 19, Salim 16, Kabir 5, Mahmood 0, Shibli 0 not out, extras 27; Sharif 2-53, Kapali 3-48, Saif 1-13, Nabil 4-71).



Indian cricket captain Rahul Dravid (R) speaks at a press conference in Mumbai in connection with the Cricket World Cup yesterday.

## Stage again set for Sachin

AFP, New Delhi



If there is an Indian batsman whose temporary lapse in form can spark a heated debate across the country, he is Sachin Tendulkar. And he himself is responsible for it.

The little genius has set such high standards in his illustrious 17-year international career that even a minor slip can disturb millions of his fans and send media into an overdrive.

Tendulkar was just 16 when he played his first one-day series in 1989 in Pakistan, giving glimpses of his courage and amazing shot-making ability. And his countrymen still expect him to relive the old magic.

He will turn 34 during the World Cup carrying the burden of expectations on his shoulders after scoring nearly 15,000 runs with more than 40 centuries in one-day internationals, both world records in the shorter version of the game.

It is not easy being a Tendulkar in India and retired Australian leg-spin magician Shane Warne was not off the target when he said he

admired the Indian for what he had gone through in his career.

"One of the hardest things when you've been a successful player is everybody else's expectations. They can wear you down after a while," Warne said in praise of Tendulkar.

"I really admire Sachin for what he has to go through everyday in India, with a billion people wanting him to do well."

Tendulkar recently came under fire for losing much of his flamboyance, but gave a fitting reply to his critics with a 76-ball hundred against the West Indies in the fourth and final one-dayer at Vadodara in January.

India expect him to continue in the same vein because his form will be vital and he is expected to fire irrespective of his batting slot.

Even the Indian team's think-tank realise the significance of Tendulkar and has often changed his batting position, confident he is an experienced and extraordinary batsman who can deliver at any slot.

Tendulkar has scored bulk of his runs as an opener, but showed that he was also comfortable in the middle order when he hammered a rapidfire century against Brian

Lara's team recently.

He may have been plagued with various injuries in recent years, but remains a batsman the opposition fear in both forms of the game. He is still creative although he has become selective in stroke-making.

Tendulkar has had a long love affair with the World Cup, starting with 1992 edition in Australia. He is the tournament's highest scorer with 1,732 runs in 33 match with four hundreds.

The occasion brings the best out of him. He was a bowlers' nightmare in the 2003 tournament in South Africa where he emerged as a leading scorer with 673 runs in 11 matches.

Tendulkar was instrumental in his team reaching the final after two decades and his failure in the title-clash against Ricky Ponting's Australians severely affected India's chances.

He now has nothing to prove after amassing more than 25,000 runs in international cricket, but will be keen to be a member of the World Cup-winning team, the only missing accolade in his long career.

Tendulkar may not be there when the next World Cup arrives in the sub-continent in 2011.

## Inzy's eyes Tugga feat

AFP, Karachi



Many believed Inzamamul Haq's career was over in 2003, but now he is not only leading Pakistan's challenge in the

Caribbean but also seeks a Steve Waugh-style Cup swansong. Former Australia captain Waugh, affectionately call as Tugga, was on the winning side in his first World Cup in 1987 before leading his team to glory in his last in 1999.

"It would be a great achievement and I dearly want a what Steve had," said Inzamam, who not only had to step down as vice-captain but was also dumped after scoring just 19 runs in six World Cup matches in 2003.

Eleven years before, in 1992, Inzamam had a meteoric rise at international level when he heralded his arrival with a 37-ball 60 against New Zealand in the semifinal and then a robust 42 when Pakistan beat England in the final.

At 22 he became one of Pakistan's most recognised cricket heroes.

One of Inzamam's early admirers,

and his 1992 captain, Imran Khan compared him with batting geniuses Brian Lara of the West Indies and India's Sachin Tendulkar.

"When I saw him batting in the nets I realised he had the potential of a Lara and Tendulkar and given the confidence he was one of our stars in the 1992 World Cup," Imran said.

Inzamam established himself as one of the most attractive strokeplayers in the game. His deft drives, powerful pulls and cuts have forced many bowlers around the world into submission.

A team man to the core, 17 of Inzamam's 25 Test hundreds have come in the winning cause -- and it was also for the squad that he shed 15 kilos (33 pounds) to get fit for the 2003 World Cup.

Ironically, the loss of weight accompanied an unfortunate loss of form.

Those were Inzamam's darkest days in an otherwise illustrious career.

So miserable was his form that he hit just two boundaries as Pakistan were unceremoniously ousted in the first round of the World Cup in South Africa.

Despite fears he would never play again, it took just six months for him to

regain his spot.

A match-winning Test hundred from a losing position against Bangladesh in his hometown of Multan revived his career. A month later, he was appointed captain and things were looking up.

Former captain and 1992 team-mate Rameez Raja said Inzamam had earned respect with his performances.

"When Inzamam came he was like a sleepy young man but his looks were deceptive and he proved an explosive batsman. Now he commands respect in the dressing room and younger players look to him as a role model," said Raja.

## West Bengal

**FROM PAGE 17** Stadium. The West Bengal girls also ensured good winning the first two matches 1-0 and 2-0.

Despite failure in football and basketball, the Bangladesh kho kho and kabaddi teams won gold medals.

The kho kho team won the last match 19-18 while the kabaddi team blanked the West Bengal rivals 3-0.

## B.League TV

**FROM PAGE 17** services of seven more footballers yesterday.

Although the big guns have already made their respective squads public, they will have to complete the formality within the next couple of days.

Among the giants, and only Brothers Union have registered three players, mainly to kill rumours of two of their chosen ones linked to other clubs.

Sheikh Russel Kirra Chakra are expected to make their squad official today.

Meanwhile the BFF, which will have total control of the opening ceremony including the ticket selling rights of the opener between Abahani and Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, will charge Tk 30 for gallery tickets.

VIP tickets will be sold for Tk 100 (Gate 3), Tk 60 (Gate 2) and women's gallery (Gate 10) for Tk 50.

Women's tickets will be available at the entry while other tickets will be available at the stadium tickets counters from 12 noon.

The BFF has already taken steps to ensure presence of the ex-national players since the 60s and ex federation officials.

The opening match will kick off at 5.50pm after a gala ceremony and the day's events would be rounded off with a concert featuring star singer Ayub Bachchu.

## Canada bring more misery for Bermuda

AFP, St John's

Man-of-the-match Abdoool Samad smashed 83 off 86 balls to lead Canada to a three-wicket win over Bermuda in the tri-series tournament on Monday.

It was Bermuda's second defeat in two games having lost their opening match to Bangladesh and it left them in no doubt about the huge task which awaits them in their World Cup debut next month.

It was Samad's highest international score and sent the Canadians into their final match with Bangladesh, whom they beat in the 2003 World Cup, here on Wednesday in a confident mood.

Winning the toss and electing to bat, Bermuda made 206 for 8 with middle-order batsman Lionel Cann top-scoring for the second match running with 42.

Kevin Hurdle made a quickfire 22 to help Bermuda edge past 200.

Seamer Umar Bhatti was the pick of Canada's attack taking 4 for 45 from 10 overs.

When Canada batted, they lost two quick wickets but Samad and Ian Billcliff (48) steadied the ship with a third-wicket stand of 82.

Dwayne Leverock grabbed 4-30 but Canada made it home with six overs to spare.

The 2007 World Cup gets underway on March 11 with Canada in Group C with New Zealand, England and Kenya while Bermuda will play in Group B against Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh.

## NATIONAL TT Ansars new men's champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar dethroned Bangladesh Biman as national men's team champions with a 3-1 win in the final of the Palolic 28th National Table Tennis Championships yesterday.

Ansars' Mostafa defeated Pappu 11-6, 6-11, 11-6, 7-11 and 11-8 in the exciting first set but Biman bounced back and levelled the scores with Hamlet winning 11-9, 11-13, 11-7 and 11-4 over Mahub.

That was all for Biman as veteran Kachi gave the advantage to Ansars beating Edison 3-2 before Mahbub wrapped up the show when he blanked Pappu 3-0 in the final set.

Earlier, Biman stormed into the final outplaying Dhaka in straight sets while Ansars ousted Feni 3-1 in the semis.

The boys' team title went to Narail, the breeding ground of table tennis in the country, who beat Gaibandha 3-1 in the final.

Ansars stayed on course for more trophies as Soma and Rumi cruised to the women's doubles final beating Patuakhali's Lopa and Rahima 4-2.

They will take on Jessore duo Saleha and Jayati, who knocked out Biman pair Tumpa and Tinni 4-1, in the final.

## Emphatic win

FROM PAGE 20

Real chief Ramon Calderon knows he'll probably have to spend well over 30 million pound to have any chance of landing Ronaldo.

The mid-table visiting team pulled a goal back through Brazilian midfielder Fabel in a goalmouth scramble in first half stoppage time.

Simao wrapped up the scoring when he headed Benfica's third inside the far post following a nice cross by Italian Fabrizio Miccoli after 65 minutes.

## 1983: Surprise!

FROM PAGE 17

be the Sri Lankan De Mel and Binny, with his gentle medium-pace?

The total amount of the Prudential Assurance Company's sponsorship was 500,000 pounds, and the gate receipts came to 1,195,712 pounds. The aggregate attendance was 232,081, compared with 160,000 in 1975 and 132,000 in 1979. The surplus, distributed to full and associate members of the International Cricket Conference, was in excess of 1,000,000 pounds, this being over and above the prior payments of 53,900 pounds to each of the seven full members and one of 30,200 pounds to Zimbabwe.

In addition to the Trophy and silver-gilt medals for each player, India received 20,000 pounds for their victory. As runners-up West Indies won 8,000. The losing semi-finalists, England and Pakistan, each won 4,000. There were also awards of 1,000 pounds to the group winners, plus Man of the Match awards (200 pounds for the group matches, 400 for the semi-finals and 600 for the final).

At their meeting which followed the World Cup, the ICC asked for tenders, to be submitted by the end of 1983, from countries wishing to stage the competition when next it is held.

—Compiled by Al Musabbir Sadi

## Imran issues Warne-ing

AFP, Doha



Australia should have talked Shane Warne out of retirement and included him in their World Cup squad, former Pakistan captain Imran Khan has said on Tuesday.

Imran, who is in Doha as a speaker at the Forbes CEO Forum, told the Gulf Times newspaper that Warne would have come in handy for the Australians at the World Cup considering their recent one-day debacles and injuries to key players.

"Had I been the captain of Australia, I would have asked Warne to be there for the World Cup," Imran said.

"I would have told him to forget the retirement thing. He fits very well in the one-day side considering the situation.

"With Brett Lee as a match-winner not playing because of his injury, Australia should have fallen back on Warne. They would have become stronger."

Warne had already retired from one-day internationals and bade goodbye to Test cricket as well after the recent Ashes series against

England which Australia won 5-0.

But Imran, who led Pakistan to World Cup glory in Australia in 1992, also warned that the Australians will be itching to bounce back after being beaten by England in the Tri Series finals and suffering a 3-0 whitewash against the New Zealanders.

"Don't go by what you have seen of late," said Imran.

"The Aussies are sure to bounce back and in Ricky Ponting they have an aggressive captain who will make all the difference for them.

"Remember how Australia thrashed England 5-0 in the Ashes after losing the previous series in England."

Imran said Pakistan's chances would depend on the fitness of fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif who are also under suspicion for doping, having tested positive for nandrolone last year.

"There's a big question mark over the fitness of our match-winning bowlers. Till that is not known we cannot evaluate our chances. However, if they make it, we will also be the favourites after Australia," said Imran, who played 175 ODIs for Pakistan.

Imran also added that he would like leg-spinner Danish Kaneria to

be used more frequently in one-dayers.

"Danish should bowl more often in ODIs. I always relied on leg-spinners. We were the first to introduce leg spin in the 1983 World Cup. The first leg-spinner to bowl in a World Cup was Abdul Qadir.

"Our strength has been leg-spin. "In the 1992 World Cup, which we won, Mushtaq Ahmed played a leading role. He was the key to our success."

He had a word of advice for Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq as well.

"If he wants to make the team fight he has to lead from the front. All captains do that.

"He cannot come in at number five or six and hope he can become a big factor. He has to follow the examples of Ponting and (New Zealand captain) Stephen Fleming. I consider them as good captains."

Imran also disagrees with the notion that minor nations at the World Cup have devalued the tournament.

"You have to give smaller teams a chance. This is the platform from where they can improve, said Imran.

## Yousuf's baptism by WC

AFP, Karachi



M o h a m m a d Yousuf may be high in the world's Test batting rankings, but the World Cup will prove whether or not he can translate his form into the one-day arena and help Pakistan lift the trophy.

In 2006, the 32-year-old plundered a calendar year record of 1,778 Test runs and the world record of nine centuries in a year, including six in five consecutive Tests.

He single-handedly dominated

Pakistan's series against India, England and the West Indies last year. Besides captain Inzamamul Haq and vice-captain Younis Khan, he is one of the three pillars on which Pakistan's batting rests.

Yousuf's dreamy drives and precise timing has earned him the reputation of being one of the most graceful batsmen to watch in modern day cricket.

Skipper Inzamamul Haq rates him as the best batsman Pakistan has produced, surpassing even Hanif Mohammad and Javed Miandad.

But when it comes to one-day cricket Yousuf has rarely played a leading role for Pakistan, a quality

which Javed mastered in his hey-day.

With 7,853 runs in 233 one-day internationals, Yousuf has also proved his credentials in the shorter form.

Yet still he is criticised for not finishing off the match when the team is in pursuit of a target.

Intikhab Alam, former captain and coach of Pakistan's World Cup winning team in 1992, believes Pakistan need a batsman like Javed who anchored the batting in the triumph in Australia.

"There can never be a comparison. Even if I compare, I see Miandad as a fighter and a selfless batsman while Yousuf has not been able to win one-day matches for Pakistan," Intikhab said.

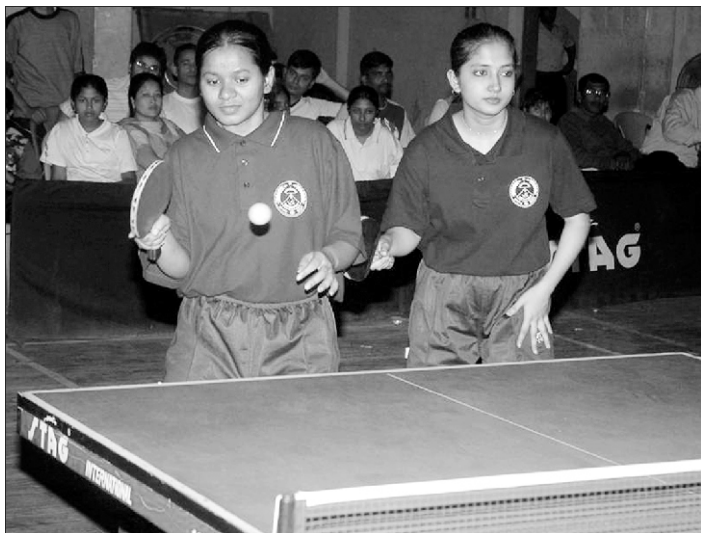
"Miandad made a huge impact in 1992, not only did he score runs when needed but he also encouraged a young Inzamam and others to give their best. Yousuf needs to put the team before himself and only then can Pakistan win in the Caribbean," said Alam.

Miandad, who played a record seven World Cup tournaments, made 437 runs to help Pakistan win their only world title 15 years ago.

In contrast, Yousuf has managed just 331 runs in two World Cups with just two fifties -- against Scotland in 1999 and the Netherlands in 2003.

Of his 12 one-day hundreds, Yousuf has managed just one while battling second and getting out between overs 35 and 42 is the biggest chink in his armour.

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer said Yousuf realises the weakness and is eager to improve.



Bangladesh Ansars' Rumi (L) and Soma in action during their women's doubles semifinal against Biman at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium yesterday.

## C' Ron wants United are

FROM PAGE 20

Real chief Ramon Calderon knows he'll probably have to spend well over 30 million pound to have any chance of landing Ronaldo.

But with his team labouring to reclaim past glories and many stars from the Florentino Perez era now gone, Ronaldo could be the man to bring back the star quality to the club.

United meanwhile have stated repeatedly that the player is not for sale, and that will probably mean a bitter and protracted battle for his services this summer.

If Ronaldo did quit for Madrid it would be the third time United had lost one of their top names to the Spanish club in recent years.

David Beckham left for Real in the summer of 2003, and Ruud van Nistelrooy did likewise in 2006.

## A man

**FROM PAGE 17** He is always a delight to watch when on song, capable of stepping up the run-rate with his aggressive batting. His over-the-top hitting in initial overs has often driven the opposition to the verge of despair.