

## Panditpara clinch Club Cup title

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Local club Panditpara beat Bangladesh United of Comilla by two wickets in the final of the BCB Club Cup Challenge at the local stadium yesterday.

Batting first, the visitors were bowled out for 180 runs in 49.2 overs with Palash and Salahuddin scoring 33 each. In reply, Panditpara reached the target with five balls to spare.

Imran and Arafat both scored 30 while wicketkeeper-batsman Kadir hit an unbeaten 24 to clinch the title.

ADC (general) Mohammad Nazmul Hasan Khan was present during the prize distribution ceremony as chief guest.

## Justin bats for Marcus

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Australia opener Justin Langer says Marcus Trescothick can rediscover his best form at Somerset this season and return to the England fold.

Trescothick, 31, pulled out of tours to Australia and Pakistan after breaking down with a stress-related illness.

But he says he now wants to return and new Somerset captain Langer told Five Live: "He is an outstanding batsman.

"We all want him playing for England, but it will be a big bonus to have him at Somerset. He'll have a huge impact."

Trescothick made an astonishing return for the county in a pre-season friendly against Devon, firing 256 off just 117 balls.

And Langer admits England have sorely missed the opener in both forms of the games.

"He was always one of the guys Australia liked playing against least because we knew what a dangerous player he was," he said.

"In fact, he was the catalyst behind England's Ashes win in 2005 for me. He showed his brilliance, especially on the first morning of the second Test, and that turned the momentum in their favour.

"He is a terrific person and a fantastic cricketer and I'm sure he can have a big season for club and country."

Langer also believes Trescothick's presence will help Somerset to success this season: "The optimism here is high and everyone is hungry for success.

"We've got a very good list of players with the likes of Trescothick, Andy Caddick, Ian Blackwell and Cameron White and so on, and the competition for places is intense.

"We haven't experienced as much success of late as we'd like here but the enthusiasm and energy is there for us to rectify that this season."

## Spanish trio

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Alkmaar, who briefly held them at 1-1, as Klose rediscovered his scoring touch in style and had coach Thomas Schaaf saying 'crisis what crisis?' about his star striker, who is being chased by several clubs including Juventus.

"Miroslav always trained hard and never lost confidence," said Schaaf.

"His situation was never as catastrophic as people said.

"He knew he had not lost his goalscoring talents and today his work paid off."

## Paul slams

FROM PAGE 20  
**TEAMS**  
**MOHAMMEDAN:** James, Arif, Odafe, Biplab, Zahid (Ripon), Emeka, Mithu (Rony), Sharif (Sentu), Kamal, Paul and Farhad.  
**RAHMATGANJ:** Amjad (Apel), Mahiuddin, Sony, Shipon, Rimon, Rizvi (Hanif), Emon, Apu, Ruku, Milon and Shoaib.  
**Referee:** Abdul Hannan.

## Greg feared

FROM PAGE 17  
join the Australian Cricket Academy as its head coach.

According to reports, Chappell is a clear favourite to succeed Tim Nielsen, who leaves the job to take over the Australian team's reins from John Buchanan after the World Cup.

Chappell, however, kept the cards close to his chest and said he would reveal his future plans within three weeks.

"I am not making decisions yet but after a while I will look at the options," he said.

Chappell said over the next few days, he would be visiting friends and family in Canberra and Adelaide before deciding his future.

"I just want some time away from it all," he said in what is probably his first interview to the Australian media after returning from India.

"We are just going to spend some time catching up with family all around the country and then we will work out what happens."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury (C) visits the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur to check on the preparations for the upcoming tour of the Indian cricket team yesterday.

# LOCAL SNIPPETS

### SPORTS REPORTER

IM Abdullah Al Rakib defeated GM Niaz Murshed in the eleventh round game of the 33rd National Chess Championship at the NSC hall-room yesterday.

With this vital win, Rakib consolidates his position at the top of the table with 9.5 points. He is followed by GM Ziaur Rahman and IM Aminul Islam who are on second place with eight points.

In today's match, Rakib takes on FM Mahfuzur Rahman.

### U-14 CRICKET

The two-day match between visiting Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) and Rajshahi Division under-14 sides was drawn at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium.

The Kolkata-based side declared their first innings after scoring 260-7 in 67 overs with Dipankar scoring 63.

Masud took three wickets for the local side.

In reply, Rajshahi reached 181-7 with Shoaib scoring a patient 42.

### GAIBANDHA CRICKET

Kisholoy crushed Abahani by 170 runs in the First Division cricket league at the local stadium.

Opting to bat first, Kisholoy

reached 238-5 in 50 overs. In reply, Abahani were shot out for 68 runs in only 25.4 overs.

### DIV 1 CRICKET

BKSP beat Surjo Tarun in a crucial Kai-Altech First Division match by three wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Having scored 201 for nine in 45 overs in a rain-affected innings on Thursday, BKSP reached their target in 41.4 overs, losing seven wickets.

Hasan struck an unbeaten 80 while Nasir hit a polished half-century. Ujjal took three for 50.

On Thursday, Surjo Tarun struggled under a cloudy sky as only Nazimuddin (47) and captain Moniruzzaman (46) stood against the spin of Raihan Ahas who took five wickets for BKSP.

In another match, Orient (212-5 in 47.4 overs) beat Sadharan Bima () by five wickets at the BKSP ground.

### NAVY BASKETBALL

Titumir ship beat Shaheed Moazzem 4-35 in the final of the Bangladesh Navy basketball competition at the Isha Khan Sports Complex.

PK Goswami was adjudged the best player of the tournament after

his sterling display.

Eight teams from different Navy ships and bases took part in the five-day competition.

### OFFICERS CLUB TENNIS

AAM Moasir clinched the Dhaka Officers Club annual tennis competition at the club's tennis court when he beat Humayun Kabir in the final.

Moasir joined with Dr. SB Nasim to lift the doubles' title as well.

### NSU CRICKET

Batch 05 clinched the North South University Intra-Batch cricket tournament when they beat defending champions Batch 02 by five wickets in the final at the Banani WAPDA ground.

Batting first, Batch 02 struggled all the way to reach 161 runs in 27 overs before being bowled out in the 33rd over. Batch 05 romped to their target in 17 overs.

The day belonged to Emon as he took four wickets and scored 47 runs to make sure his batch won with ease.

For Batch 02, Rahat scored 74 while Raihan bowled well to take three wickets.

Faculty Advisor Iqbalur Rahman distributed prizes among the winners.

## No Warne for England

AFP, London

Shane Warne has ruled out acting in a coaching role to old enemy England.

The record-breaking Test match bowler, who retired with 708 wickets to his name after the 5-0 Ashes drubbing, insists that he is only concentrating on the captaincy of Hampshire ahead of the new English county championship season.

"I'm not even thinking about coaching at the moment. I have enough on my plate leading Hampshire," said Warne who added, however, that he was always keen to pass on advice to young spinners.

"I'm always happy to talk to anyone. I've never been one not to help other players if they feel I can help them.

"I talk to other spinners all the time, and I had a long chat with Monty Panesar last summer and I hope that helped him."

Warne told the BBC that with the likes of England batsman Kevin Pietersen in the side, he was confident that Hampshire could win their first county championship title since 1973.

"We're quietly confident we can go all the way. Obviously, every county thinks that at the start of the season but we believe we're one of the best sides in the competition," said Warne who will also have Australian international teammate Stuart Clark leading the seam attack.

"Stuart is one of the best fast bowlers in the world at the moment. He's a great asset and as a captain it's tremendous to have someone like him to throw the ball to and say: 'Get me a wicket.'"

The county championship starts on April 18 with Warne hoping that if England fail to make the World Cup semifinals, he can call upon Pietersen immediately.

"I'm not sure how long England will last in the World Cup, but I would be disappointed if players aren't available for their counties," said Warne.

"(England coach) Duncan Fletcher might not want them to play for their counties and ask for them to be rested.

"But the ECB pays their wages and I hope they would override him and order them to play.

"Having Kevin Pietersen around is going to help us, and I'm sure Lancashire think the same way about Freddie Flintoff and Sajid Mahmood."

"I think everyone likes to see England do well, and they may sneak into the semifinals and hit form at the right time."

## Strauss relies on pitch knowledge

AFP, Bridgetown

England batsman Andrew Strauss on Thursday labelled the Kensington Oval wicket as the 'strangest' he has ever played on but believes that will be an advantage when they face South Africa in their next crucial World Cup clash.

Strauss scored 23 before he was trapped leg-before by Bangladesh paceman Syed Rasel during England's unimpressive four-wicket win over the Asian side on Wednesday.

They now take on South Africa and the West Indies with their semi-finals destiny in their own hands.

England haven't reached the last four since 1992.

"I think we have learnt a lot about how to win on that wicket now which is going to be a pretty big advantage for us to have going into that South Africa game," said Strauss of the April 17 match here.

"It was very quick and had bounce early on and then it was pretty skiddy and low and a bit two-paced at the back end. It was one of the strangest wickets I've ever played on.

"We know we have to win both games to reach the last four. We've made it hard for ourselves. We haven't really fired as a batting unit if we are honest.

"But even when we haven't played our best we have shown glimpses that we can beat anyone."

Strauss had an unimpressive tour of Australia earlier this year and had to sit out the group matches here, only replacing Ed Joyce in the Super Eights defeat against Australia.

"It's always a bit tricky to come into the side having not played cricket for a while. But having had some time out and sitting on the sidelines for a while I feel mentally fresh," said Strauss, who made seven against Australia and 23 against Bangladesh.

"I'm really excited about these games to come. I really feel personally I have got a couple of big scores in me.

"When we take to the field against South Africa we'll be four victories away from winning the World Cup and that's what we've got to look towards," said Strauss.

"We can almost play with a bit more freedom in those games because we're in that situation and it's quite an exciting time -- it's the business end of the World Cup and this is what we play for.

## Younis refuses

FROM PAGE 17  
Shoaib Malik who could fill the top slot.

Sources in the Pakistan Cricket Board told AFP on Wednesday that Khan declined the offer because the PCB wants to put in place a new code to check so-called "player-power."

But Khan denied his decision had anything to do with a power struggle within the Pakistan set-up.

The stylish batsman also hinted he could retire from one day international cricket in the months ahead.

"As my average will reflect, I know I am a better Test batsman than a one-day player and may be in the next couple of months I only play Test cricket," he said.

Khan has scored 4,291 runs in 53 Tests with a healthy average of 48.21. In 149 one-day internationals, he had scored 3,960 with an average of 31.42.

He was captain for the Champions Trophy in India in October when Inzamam was banned for the Oval Test ball-tampering controversy last year.

But Khan initially refused the role at the time, saying he did not want to be a "dummy captain," apparently over differences with some of the senior players and over some selections.

## To bat

FROM PAGE 17  
match went, and South Africa's perceived weakness against spin, Patel is likely to get the nod.

New Zealand may also ponder whether to pick Ross Taylor or Hamish Marshall to fill the number three batting position. Taylor was the preferred choice but missed three matches because of injury and failed to score on his return against Sri Lanka.

South Africa's ability to bounce back against the West Indies after losing to Bangladesh gave the side renewed confidence and Smith said after the match that his team had resolved to play positive, attacking cricket after being tentative against Bangladesh.

### SQUAD

**NEW ZEALAND:** Stephen Fleming (capt), Peter Fulton, Ross Taylor, Scott Styris, Craig McMillan, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori, James Franklin, Jeetan Patel, Shane Bond.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Graeme Smith (capt), AB de Villiers, Jacques Kallis, Herschelle Gibbs, Ashwell Prince, Loots Bosman, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Andrew Hall, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini.

**Umpires:** Mark Benson (ENG) and Daryl Harper (AUS).

# Marshall art lives on

INTERNET, undated



One of Malcolm Marshall's last wishes was to see the West Indies team "listen and learn".

Days before succumbing to colon cancer at the age of 41 in 1999, Marshall who would have turned 49 on April 18 had he been alive, had detected this shortcoming in the team he coached in the World Cup that year.

The world has changed since, so has cricket, but Marshall's wish has not come true.

A day after Brian Lara's team was stroked out of the first ever World Cup in the Caribbean, it was probably a little insensitive to probe how arguably the greatest fast bowler from the region is remembered, though it was worth the trouble.

Whenever the Barbadians are reminded of Marshall, they pause for a while, let the grief sink in yet again, and then say in a soaked voice that there would be none like him. From the common man on the street to the Barbados Cricket Association officials to his near ones, this one sentiment runs through all.

It was kind of strange to see Michael Marshall run a seemingly

low-profile shop in a nondescript part of Bridgetown, where a portrait of the late fast bowler is the only reminder of the fact that he was the elder brother of the proprietor. Michael deals in grocery items ranging from beer to detergent bars.

"He would drop in at times in this shop and that would invariably lead to a buzz around the place," the 45-year-old said without showing a trace of emotion. "I run this shop out of my own resources and it's not that Malcolm helped me set it up. It's been 13 years that I have been at it."

The voice of the man who does not quite feel like his illustrious brother, however, trembled when asked how great a loss it was.

"We were shell-shocked. It was something you never expected. I can't believe it even today," Michael's voice belied the stern look on his face, betraying a sadness that usually comes from deep within one's self.

The picture of the bowler, who first mesmerised and then demolished all the batting line-ups that he came across in his playing days, came up at Michael's shop after he was no more.

"It's like a shrine, I can't explain what it means to me," said Michael, the only other child their mother Elinor had with her second husband.

Marshall's widow Connie, with

whom he lived for over 10 years before they married just two months before he passed away, stays here as well, though she does not like to interact with "strangers". Their son Mali and daughter Shelly also live in Bridgetown, as does Elinor.

It was strange again to see that this country, with a seemingly endless list of cricket luminaries whose names are seen at almost every second junction, does not have a road or even a crossing named after Marshall. Garry Sobers and Frank Worrell are visible on this count, though the common man associates with the fast bowler much more easily.

A Caribbean under-15 competition is named after him and the best allrounder in the first-class tournament gets a trophy bearing his name, but the only real remnant of Marshall in his homeland is a dilapidated bust at the Parkinson's Higher Secondary School, where he studied.

Of course, he has not been forgotten. He is far too big, important and still so present to be lost in memory. But the island known to appreciate cricket and cricketers like none other could perhaps have done better in terms of treasuring one who deserved to be immortalised. Maybe this will be done before it is too late.

# SLC protest irks AI

AFP, Colombo



Amnesty International on Friday accused Sri Lanka of distorting a campaign at the cricket World Cup aimed at highlighting the deteriorating human rights situation on the war-torn island.

The London-based watchdog is urging Sri Lanka and Tamil Tiger rebels to improve their rights record and asked fans in the Caribbean to sign white cricket balls marked "play by the rules."

Colombo is furious and has lodged a protest with the International Cricket Council, but Amnesty said the campaign was not aimed at the Sri Lankan cricket team or a boycott of Sri Lankan sports.

"The lives of hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans are being affected -- our campaign is about these people, not the Sri Lankan

cricket team," Amnesty's Asia Pacific Director said Purna Sen said in a statement.

"Citizens desperately need better protection and a key goal of our campaign is to press for independent human rights monitors to investigate human rights abuses and identify the perpetrators."

Rights activists have said that at least 1,000 people have disappeared in the island in the past year. In recent months, bodies have been found of people shot dead "execution-style" and dumped in swamps and roadsides.

Intensified fighting between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels has also forced over 300,000 people to flee their homes, the rights group said.

Amnesty said Sri Lankans "are rightly proud of their ethnically diverse national cricket team," but said they should also think about "hundreds of thousands of people (who) have had to flee the fighting to live in temporary shelter -- and so

are not able to live in safety let alone watch cricket."

The influential Free Media Movement (FMM), which consists of journalists and rights activists in Sri Lanka, recently rapped Amnesty's use of the tournament saying it could anger moderates and help the government take a more hardline stance.

The Tamil Tigers, on the other hand, have backed Amnesty's campaign saying it would raise international awareness among the majority Sinhalese population about "the brutality of their government against the Tamil population."

However the Tigers were also rapped again by Amnesty for continuing to forcibly recruit child soldiers, preventing civilians from leaving conflict areas and for killing "hundreds of civilians in summary executions and bomb attacks."

The Tigers have been fighting for a separate state for the Tamil minority in a bloody war that has claimed more than 60,000 lives since 1972.

## Redgrave lesson for Australia

AFP, Bridgetown

Australian captain Ricky Ponting said his team enjoyed the experience of meeting Olympic rowing champion Sir Stephen Redgrave on the sidelines of the World Cup.

"He (Redgrave) spoke with us down by the beach on Tuesday and it was a good session. He talked about himself and his career and what he thought of being a high class athlete," Ponting said of Redgrave who won gold medals at five consecutive Olympic Games from 1984 to 2000.

Australia coach John Buchanan had invited the British champion to talk to the players about the pressure of expectation.

Australia will make sure of a place in the semifinals of the World Cup with a win over Ireland here on Friday. They also face New Zealand and Sri Lanka in their last two Super Eights matches.

They are bidding to become the first team ever to win three World Cup titles in a row.

Ponting said the rowing legend told them about his experiences of being a favourite.

"He told us what he thought about the approach of being favourite going into an event, how he enjoyed that tag and about how he didn't want to be known as an underdog.

"He always wanted to be one of those stars and said he tried to cause some sort of upset. It was about dealing with how he kept going in his sport as long as he did. It was very good and I feel the older players were quite interested."

## Sports adviser

FROM PAGE 17  
May 7 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

It was learned that Tapan was also unhappy because the Bangladesh Cricket Board offices in the first floor was yet to be completed, which delayed the board's moving to Mirpur from the rented office at Navana Tower in Gulshan, which cost a huge amount of money.

Tapan also directed to hurry the renovation works and urged the NSC officials to make most use of the adjacent Kiria Palli and the swimming pool complex, which remain unemployed most of the year.

The NSC meanwhile, has ordered the 60 families of NSC staff and about eight families of BCB staff, who live in the stadium premises, to vacate the premises by April 20.

ZEALAND V SRI LANKA SCOREBOARD					
FROM PAGE 20					
SRI LANKA					
	R	M	B	4s	6s
Tharanga c Bond b Franklin	11	20	21	1	0
Jayasuriya c McCullum b Oram	64	111	80	5	1
Sangakkara not out	69	184	104	3	0
Jayawardene c sub (Marshall) b Vettori	15	21	16	2	0
Silva c Bond b Vettori	23	33	34	4	0
Dilshan not out	14	33	24	0	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, w-7, nb-8)	26				
Total: (For 4 wickets in 45.1 overs)	222				
Did not bat: Arnold, Maharoof, Vaas, Fernando, Muralidaran.					
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-130, 3-152, 4-180.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	NB/W
Franklin	8	0	49	1	nb-1, w-2
Bond	8	0	26	0	-
Gillespie	6.1	1	42	0	nb-4
Vettori	10	0	35	2	nb-1, w-1
Styris	7	1	28	0	-
Oram	6	0	31	1	nb-2
Result: Sri Lanka won by six wickets.					
Man-of-the-match: Chaminda Vaas.					
Toss: New Zealand.					
Umpires: Asad Rauf and B Doctrove.					
Match referee: Mike Procter.					