

## DC Gold Cup from Aug 23

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The second DC Gold Cup football tournament, jointly organised by District Administration and District Sports Association (DSA) will begin on August 23 here at the Khagrachhari Stadium.

A total of eight upazilas -- defending champions Khagrachhari sadar, Panchhari, Dighinala, Matiranga, Ramgong, Manikchhari, Mohalchhari and Laxmichhari -- will compete in the tournament that targets to develop the game, footballers and build up relations among all footballers of the hill district.

The first DC Gold Cup was in July 2005.

## Six eves asked to join camp

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday asked more players to join the ongoing women's football camp at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

The six players -- Shraboni, Hashi, Diana, Nishu, Reshma and Baby -- have been requested to report to coach Abu Yusuf tomorrow at 4pm.

The Bangladesh women's team are now training for the exhibition match against visiting Orissa state team on August 20.

## Huge win for nat'l hockey team

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh national hockey team crushed Bangladesh Air Force 7-0 in the first practice match of the preparatory tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The tournament is organised by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation ahead of the Asian Cup to be held on September 1-9 in Chennai in India.

The final of the single-league basis tournament will be held on August 9, also at the same venue.

The 18-member Asian Cup final squad is expected to be announced on August 9 after the meet.

Eleven teams, split into two groups, will participate in the Asian Cup.

Bangladesh have been placed in a strong Group B along with hosts India, Korea, China, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

The other group comprises Pakistan, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore.

## The youngsters

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the graduates from Manchester City's youth academy.

Micah Richards, 19, has already been capped by England; while Stephen Ireland, 20, and Michael Johnson, 19, have shown

glimpses of the skill they will bring to midfield if allowed to blossom.

Two other young English players could take a great leap forward this season.

Aston Villa's lightning-quick winger Gabriel Agbonlahor, 20, should thrive under Martin O'Neill's astute coaching, while at Derby, Giles Barnes, a 19-year-old winger, has the chance to show why he is already been watched by the several leading clubs.

## Schalke delight

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opponents played a full part and made us work for everything."

Hamburg's Dutch international and captain Rafael van der Vaart grabbed his side's first goal against third-division Holstein Kiel in the Bundesliga team's 5-0 win.

Fellow Bundesliga side Eintracht Frankfurt had a comfortable 4-1 win over third-division side FC Union Berlin as 24-year-old midfielder Alexander Meier bagged a hat-trick.

Newly promoted Duisburg had a 4-0 win over third-division Babelsberg while fellow Bundesliga new-boys Karlsruhe needed extra-time to see off fourth-division Neustrelitz.

Bundesliga sides VfL Bochum and VfL Wolfsburg are also in next Sunday's second round-draw after comfortable wins.

Bayern Munich play their first-round tie at third-division Wacker Burghausen on Monday.

## Mourinho

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the sides in possession terms but we made the clearer chances and for that reason we deserved to win.

"They missed Drogba, there's no question about that. He is a very important player for them."

"But it doesn't matter if both sides had played their strongest team it wouldn't have given you any real information other than to say both will contest the Premier League title and possibly Liverpool and Arsenal will join in."

Ferguson was delighted to see Van der Sar emerge as the hero after a shakey end to last season.

"I think his experience came through there," he added. "He studied Lampard's penalty-taking and that experience has got the result for us today."



PHOTO: PID

NSC chairman and Chief of Army Staff Gen Moeen U Ahmed (R) hands over a check for flood victims to the Chief Advisor Fakhruddin Ahmed at the Chief Advisor's office yesterday.

## McGrath boost for ICL

### Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Glenn McGrath says he wants to play in a breakaway Indian Twenty20 cricket league, even though confirmed high-profile signings are scarce.

Former West Indies captain Brian Lara is the only prominent contemporary player to confirm he has joined the Indian Cricket League, which is proposing to run a Twenty20 series in October in direct opposition to a one-day series between India and Australia.

McGrath and his former Test teammate Shane Warne, who both retired from Test and one-day cricket earlier this year, have been linked with the ICL, but negotiations

continue and so far neither of them has signed on.

"It's tempting," McGrath said Monday, two months after he bowed out of international cricket by taking a record 26 wickets at the World Cup.

McGrath, 37, said a short-term Twenty20 tournament would be ideal to give him his "fix" of cricket without taxing him.

"Obviously, you can make a little bit of money. Probably a month of cricket, get back, give me that fix of playing again -- it might be all I need."

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is determined to ensure the failure of the rebel ICL, which is bankrolled by the country's largest listed media house, Zee Telefilms.

The BCCI has not only refused to

let out stadia for the ICL's inaugural Twenty20 competition, but has also threatened to bar rebel players from representing India in official tournaments.

Despite a possible dabble with the ICL, McGrath said he was satisfied he had made the correct decision to quit top-level cricket.

"I think I played as long as I could mentally. Physically the body feels great, but the mental side of it is another thing," he said.

"Previously, watching other teams playing made me want to get out there. I couldn't wait for the season to start. Now I think I'm glad I'm not out there."

"For me it's been the right decision, and I've had time to get used to it. To finish on a high -- I couldn't have asked for much more than that."

## Roddick ends Isner's dream

### Tennis

AFP, Washington

US top seed Andy Roddick won his third ATP Washington Classic title, defeating upstart John Isner 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) Sunday to end a fairytale run by the unheralded, 416th-ranked American newcomer.

Roddick, who also won at Washington in 2001 and 2005, captured his 23rd career singles crown and second of the year at the 600,000-dollar tune up for the US Open, the year's final Grand Slam event that begins in three weeks.

"I was happy with the way I could control things with my serve," Roddick said. "I was putting pressure on him. I was making him serve well out of jams. I returned well. If I was putting a racket on it I was putting it on the court."

Wild card Isner missed out on a perfect ending to a week that saw him win five matches in a row in third-set tiebreakers, thought to be an unprecedented feat, after making the field only because wild card Fernando Gonzalez withdrew.

"The whole week has been a dream come true. It's amazing," Isner said. "I will always remember playing Andy Roddick in an ATP final. It's a big honour. I will never ever forget it. It's unbelievable."

Fifth-ranked Roddick took the \$4,250-dollar top prize while 6-foot-

Roddick said, "I thought he recovered pretty well."

In the tie-breaker, Isner sent a backhand long to give Roddick a 3-1 lead and the veteran rode it to the finish, which came on a forehand winner after 81 minutes.

"He kept me off-balance with his serve the whole week," Isner said. "I'm tired. I need a rest. I don't know how much I had left in the tank after five matches. But even with a full tank, I don't think so."

Roddick won his only prior title this year at Queen's in June. His only other final was in February at Memphis, where he lost to Tommy Haas.

Roddick, who turns 25 later this month, improved to 42-10 for the year with his 10th victory in a row at Washington, where he is 23-3 lifetime. Roddick missed defending his 2005 title last year due to an abdominal strain.

Isner, who would have been the third-lowest-ranked winner in ATP history, lost his ATP debut July 9 on grass at Newport and won a Challenger event last week in Lexington before his wonder run.

"It does wonders for my confidence," Isner said. "I feel like I can go out there and compete with anybody."

Roddick, who fired 14 aces in the match, was impressed at how well Isner, who blasted 12 aces, handled the humiliation to hold serve.

"He kept his composure,"

## India stumble in final warm-up

AFP, Leicester

India stuttered to a draw with Sri Lanka A at Grace Road on Sunday in their last tour match before the decisive third and final Test against England begins at The Oval on Thursday.

Chasing 294 to win off 57 overs, India struggled to 187 for six as the match petered out into a tame draw with only Wasim Jaffer (55) and Gautam Gambhir (53 not out) managing half-centuries.

Dinesh Karthik, Mahendra Dhoni and VVS Laxman were all dismissed cheaply for the second time in the game.

India were 122-5 after 33 overs and when skipper Rahul Dravid was lbw for 15, the tourists were in trouble.

But Gambhir and Ramesh Powar (14) steered them safely through the next 12 overs at which point both sides settled for the draw.

"I feel in good form. I have got a few good scores and now I want to try to turn those into a big score in a Test match," said Jaffer.

"Everyone knows how important the Oval test is and we are all in a good frame of mind for it."

"It was a good workout for the bowlers against Sri Lanka A. The bowlers who are going to play in the Test match were given a rest while the batsmen all had good knocks."

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India stumbled in final warm-up

game in the squad to go to South Africa," Graveney added at The Oval, where he announced both squads.

### SQUADS

**Twenty20:** Paul Collingwood (captain), Ravi Bopara, Stuart Broad, Andrew Flintoff, James Kirtley, Darren Maddy, Kevin Pietersen, Matthew Prior, Chris Schofield, Owais Shah, Ryan Sidebottom, Jeremy Snape, Vikram Solanki, Chris Tremlett, Luke Wright.

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Having reviewed the team's performances in the Twenty20 matches against the West Indies, the selectors felt it was necessary to include a number of players with greater experience of this format of the game.

Chairman of Special Olympics Bangladesh Ashraf-ud-Dowla also spoke on the occasion.

Freddie back in Eng fold

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## Atapattu wants to quit

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's former captain Marvan Atapattu has asked to be released from his contract with the national team, cricket officials said Sunday.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) chief executive officer Duleep Mendis said that Atapattu had sent a letter requesting to be discharged from the team.

Mendis said the SLC, the governing body of the sport here, would take a decision at its committee meeting Monday.

Atapattu's current contract with the SLC runs until March 2008 and he is one of the six players with 'A' graded contracts. He is also playing for the Lashings' World XI in England.

Atapattu was overlooked by the Sri Lankan selectors for the entirety of the World Cup in the West Indies and the subsequent tour to Abu Dhabi for the one-day series with Pakistan.

The former captain, who has scored more than 5,300 runs in 88 Tests with 16 hundreds and more than 8,500 runs in one-day internationals with 11 hundreds announced his unavailability for the home series against Bangladesh.

Atapattu's request, cricket sources say, has come at a time when his name has been linked with the lucrative breakaway multi-million-dollar Indian Cricket League.