#### Sumita sets national record

UNB, Dhaka

The first-ever Maxcom Athletics competition began at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday with one

national record set on the first day. Sumita Rani Das created the new national record in the 100m hurdles clocking 14 seconds to better the previous mark of 14:28 seconds.

Mohammad Shamsuddin of Bangladesh Air Force emerged as the fastest man while Nazmun Nahar Beauty of BJMC the fastest woman

clinching the 100m sprint titles. After the first day, Bangladesh Army dominates the meet with five gold

seven silver and seven bronze medals. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Army Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali inaugurated the two-day competition in the morning as chief guest.

### Sunrise's first win

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunrise Sporting Club (SSC) secured their first win in the Metropolis Senior Division Football League with a 2-0 victory over Dipali Jubo Sangha at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Sajidul Islam put Sunrise ahead in the 9th minute and Anwar Hossain Babul doubled the margin in the 61st minute.

In the day's other match, Badda Jagarani Sangsad played out a goalless draw with Agrani Bank at the same venue.

#### **BCS** Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakil smashed 71 as Bangladesh ICT Journalists Forum (BIJF) won their second consecutive match, with a 69 run win over D-Net, in the BCS Cricket Fiesta at the Kalabagan Club ground yesterday.

Batting first, BIJF piled on 123 for no loss in 10 overs. They followed it up by restricting D-Net to 54-7.

In the other match, Inpace Communications beat Daffodil Computers by 44 runs.

### Ispahani ride

FROM PAGE 17

Abahani defeated Digital Vision by 11 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Khulna beat Chuadanga by 20 runs at the Khulna Stadium and Jahangirnagar University earned a 69-run win over Tetulia at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Abahani scored 109-10 in 33.2 overs and then dismissed Digital Vision for 98 in 33.1 overs.

Jahangirnagar University put up a decent total of 205 and wrapped up their opponents for 136 runs in 24.3 overs.

Khulna scored 151-10 in 33.2 overs and restricted Chuadanga to 131-6 in their allocated 35 overs.

#### Ishant's fine

FROM PAGE 17

Andhra Pradesh to earn Delhi a draw they desperately needed was well known. But in this Test, he showed another facet: getting the ball to hold its line, and even move it a shade away. From the angle he comes in and with the bounce he can generate, that's a deadly ball when he can get the line right. It's no coincidence that all his three wickets in this Test came with that ball.

When they look up the scorecard years later, Ishant Sharma will be found to have only one entry in the wickets column in the second innings. But scorecards don't often tell the story. It was a day when Ishant Sharma shook up Ricky Ponting and set up a famous win.

#### Van Gaal wants FROM PAGE 20

In April 2007 he extended his contract with AZ to 2010, but included a clause that would allow him to leave in July 2009 if he was offered the job of coaching either Germany, Argentina, Spain, the Netherlands or England.

In November 2007 he was | impressive nine-over spell. among the candidates for the England job, before he was beaten to the post by Italian Fabio Capello.

The Dutch football federation said recently it would name a successor to Van Basten in March 2008.

Fright for

FROM PAGE 20 overhaul Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean, 4-6, 2-6, 6-0, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 in three hours eight minutes.

"That's got to be my biggest comeback. Down two sets to love, two breaks against a guy who was getting a lot of free points on his serve; 4-1 in the (fourth set) tiebreaker, 5-3 in the breaker," Blakesaid.

"It just seemed like every time there was a mountain to climb. There couldn't have been a better feeling than to accomplish what I did and come back and play so well. Berdych took out Argentine 21st

seed Juan Monaco 3-6, 6-3, 7-6

(7/5), 6-2.

# 'We must level series'

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Buoved by their stunning 72-run win in Perth inside four days, India have set themselves to square the four-Test series against Australia.

The fourth and final Test begins at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday and the Indians, winners on their previous visit to the ground, are determined to make it successive wins against the world's best team.

India were the last side to deny the they held them 1-1 in 2003-2004.

Despite being 2-0 down going into the Perth Test at a venue where few expected them to win, Indian captain Anil Kumble said they arrived with a belief they could win the last two matches.

"We came here with the attitude was perfect for the Indians, as it Warne retired.

to win a series in Australia, but we can only level the series," he said.

"That was the talk before this Test match and I'm delighted we've been able to win this Test. We will take this confidence to Adelaide and are looking forward to winning

that and levelling the series. "It's important that we take this momentum forward and ensure that we level the series. That will be the best result after what happened in the first two Test matches.'

Kumble said his team made a conscious decision to move on after the dramas of the second Test Australians a home series win, when in Sydney, where they were within a few minutes of saving a draw, suffered with some poor umpiring and then had to contend with star spinner Harbhajan Singh being suspended for three matches.

match in Canberra between Tests

enabled them to regroup out of the spotlight.

"I think it was important to move on after what happened in Sydney in terms of all the other issues surrounding the game," he said.

"When we went to Canberra

that was a good thing for us. "We sat down there and discussed how we were going to go forward and that's when we decided we'd concentrate on cricket and leave the rest of the matters to whoeverneeds to handle it.

"It was important we focussed all our efforts on playing cricket. "I'm really glad everyone responded and stepped up to the plate.

Kumble said he had never felt intimidated by the Australian team, but also conceded they were He said the timing of the tour more vulnerable after champion bowlers Glenn McGrath and Shane

# Pitch dupes Ponting

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Australia captain Ricky Ponting said Saturday his team weren't pressing the panic button following their first Test loss in two years, but admitted they erred in team selection for the third Test against India.

India snatched a memorable win by 72 runs here after Australia plumped for four pacemen and went into the match without a specialist spinner for the first time failing to pick up a wicket. in 16 years.

Straight after their defeat, which certain to make way for spinner ended a record-equalling 16 Test winning streak by the Australians, Adelaide, starting on Thursday. Ponting conceded they misread the Perth pitch, which was not anywhere near as fast and bouncy as third Test with a hamstring injury, pre-match speculation suggested.

"We probably misread the conditions leading into this game a bit," he said.

look at the wicket leading up to the sion Chris Rogers making way for

game might have thought it might have had a lot more pace and bounce in it than we did.

"We picked a team that we thought could win."

Still 2-1 up in the series after rightforAdelaide," he said. their first home Test defeat since also being beaten by India in late 2003, Australia's decision to go with a four-pronged pace attack clearly backfired.

Shaun Tait, in just his third Test, struggled and only bowled 21 overs for the match as Australia battled horrendously slow over rates, The big speedster now seems

Brad Hogg in the fourth Test in Ponting said veteran opener Matthew Hayden, who missed the

was almost certain to be available

for the fourth Test. He announced Australia had stuck with the same 12 originally "Anyone who got out and had a chosen for Perth, with late inclu-

Hayden after a modest Test debut. "I think it's pretty likely he'll play," Ponting said of Hayden.

"He's had a week and a half up his belt, so I'm pretty sure he'll be

"He's one of the all-time great opening batsmen that's ever played the game, we missed him and hopefully he can come back to Adelaide for us and make some runs down there."

Despite losing their first match since the fourth Test against England at Trent Bridge in August, 2005, Ponting dismissed any concerns Australia were now being exposed as vulnerable following the retirement of champion bowl ers Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath last year.

"I thought our preparation was great and it was just little critical moments in this Test match we faltered, and it's been a long time since we've done that, or if we have done that we've been good enough to fight our way back, and we weren't in this game," he said.

# 'We are still on top'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting refuses to believe Australia's global domination is over after their record-equalling winning streak was ended in Perth. Ponting had seen the tourists hit While India's 72-run victory gave back strongly in Kolkata in 2001 the world hope that the gap between Australia and the rest was closing, Ponting was not convinced his team was "on the slide".

Australia started the fourth day chasing 413 to keep the winning run alive, but they were controlled by a well-rounded India attack and had no excuses for the defeat. Sixteen victories may be the new four-minute mile as Ponting's side will always be level with Steve

Waugh's team of 1999-2001! Talk of reaching 17 did not disrupt the preparations and

Ponting also rejected suggestions that the controversy after the Sydney Test, which led to Australia adjusting their behavioural outlook, caused a drop in intensity. and Adelaide on the previous tour and was determined not to underestimate his opponents.

The batting was the biggest problem for Australia, who missed the injured Matthew Hayden, and they were in danger of failing to pass 300 in both innings until Mitchell Johnson and Stuart Clark combined for an entertaining 73run stand. At no stage did India worry that they would not win and

they will head east over the next couple of days looking to repeat the performance of 2003-04 and level the series.

Hayden is likely to return in Adelaide on Thursday and has been named in a 12-man squad while Chris Rogers has been dropped after scoring 4 and 15 on debut. Shaun Tait and Brad Hogg | not exactly been in peak for in retain their places, with Hogg expected to replace Tait after his disappointing performance in four-man pace attack.

SQUAD Matthew Hayden, Phil Jaques Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke, Andrew Mitchell Johnson, Shaun Tait.

## Symonds, Adam Gilchrist, Brett Lee, Brad Hogg, Stuart Clark,

## Brilliant India

return to Test cricket when he had Clark caught behind for 32.

When RP Singh (2-95) clean bowled number 11 Shaun Tait for four, the Indians had recorded one of their best wins in recent years and it sparked boisterous celebra-

Spinner Harbhajan Singh, who was dropped for the third Test to make way for Pathan in what proved to be an inspired decision, and team manager Chetan Chauhan immediately dashed to

the middle carrying Indian flags. The home side initially made steady early progress after resuming at 65 for two, but young paceman Ishant Sharma started their demise when he claimed the prized wicket of Ponting for 45, caught by Rahul Dravid at first slip, to end a

74-run stand with Mike Hussey. It was due reward for the emerging Sharma, who bowled an

bounce and troubled Ponting 4-68)

consistently as he bowled high pace off cutters that continually jagged back into the batsman.

RP Singh then trapped Hussey lbw for 46 before Andrew Symonds was unlucky to be adjudged lbw off an inside edge for 12. Australia were 177 for five and in a position from which they could not recover. India broke Australia's previous

record 16-Test winning streak when it notched a memorable victory in Kolkata in 2001. Australia hadn't lost a home Test

since December 2003, also against India in Adelaide, and was last beaten at the WACA by the West Indies in 1997.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fourth day of the third Test between Australia and India at the WACA in Perth on Saturday:

INDIA: First innings 330 (Dravid 93; Tendulkar 71; Lee 3-71) AUSTRALIA: First innings 212 He used his height to gain good (Symonds 66; Gilchrist 55; RP Singh

INDIA: Second innings 294 (Sehwag 43, Pathan 46, Laxman 79; Clark 4-61, Lee 3-54) AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 65-2) Rogers c Dhoni b Pathan

Jaques c Jaffer b Pathan Ponting c Dravid b Sharma Husseylbw b RP Singh Clarke st Dhoni b Kumble Symonds lbw b Kumble Gilchrist b Sehwag Lee c Laxman b Sehwag Johnson not out Clark c Dhoni b Pathan Tait b RP Singh Extras: (lb-6, nb-10, w-8) Total: (All out in 86.5 overs) 340

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-43, 3-117, 4 159, 5-177, 6-227, 7-229, 8-253, 9 R Bowler 95 21.5 RP Singh 16 54 Pathan 63 Sharma Kumble

Sehwag Result: India won by 72 runs. Man-of-the-match: Irfan Pathan.

## Seeds crash and burn

FROM PAGE 20

she believed was her best shot ever at the Australian Open and said she would reassess her Grand Slam preparations after failing again to bag a second major.

"Otherwise this will happen to tradition." me many times," she said.

Kuznetsova's compatriot Anna Chakvetadze was also left contemplating missed opportunities after going up a set in her all-Russian clash with Maria Kirilenko, only to become a crowd favourite. fall 6-7 (6/8), 6-1, 6-2.

no mercy to her friend, who played on the same junior circuit in Moscow as a child, hailing the win as a breakthrough in her career.

"It's quite good to win for me. Before I beat a couple of good players, like top 10, but usually I'm losing every time first round in the Grand Slams," she said. "Really it's good I broke this

With some of the major threats against her removed, Ivanovic revealed she was allowing herself to

dream about going all the way at the Australian Open, where she has She underlined credentials with Indian's ferocious hitting. Kirilenko, the 27th seed, showed a 6-3, 6-4 win over Slovenian Katarina Srebotnik, never looking

threatened as her serve clicked for

the first time in the tournament

and she fired down seven aces.

"Now, everything is possible, last year's French Open finalist said after making the second week of the tournament for the first time in four attempts. "I had good wins and my serve is

getting better, and I just want to keep this level." Williams survived a scare when she surrendered an early break to Mirza but recovered to take the match 7-6(7/0), 6-4, saying she always felt in control despite the

"I felt comfortable throughout the whole match," she said. "I think ultimately I had a little more than her and it helped me in the end."

### TV channels take all semi spots

SPORTS REPORTER

Four television channels filled up the semifinal spots to be played out on Monday in the Pepsi Media Cup six-a-side cricket tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the first quarterfinal Channel i beat Daily Destiny by 27 runs after racking up 97-1 in their stipulated six overs. ATN Bangla crushed state-owned BTV by 83 runs in the second quarterfinal.

Channel 1 beat Daily Inquilab by 34 runs and RTV put aside BD News by four wickets in the last quarterfinal.

In the semifinals, Channel i face Channel One and ATN Bangla take on RTV.

#### Home talent proceed

SPORTS REPORTER

Local boys moved to the second round in the boys' singles Group II opening matches of the Mobil ITF Asian Tennis U-14 Championship at the National Tennis Complex in

Ramna yesterday. Hasibul Haque beat Hussein Hasan of ITF team 6-2, 6-1, Sajib Passi defeated Tandin Mangchuk of Bhutan 6-3, 6-2 and Biplob Ram outplayed Wangchuck Gyalpo of Bhutan 6-0, 6-0.

In the girls' singles, Sharda Sharmin of Bangladesh advanced to the second round beating Gurung Pawitra of Nepal 6-4, 6-3.

#### Selectors

FROM PAGE 17

down under and seems to have rediscovered a bit of his wonted

More importantly the lack of form of Yuvraj Singh, to accommodate whom Dravid was asked to open Down Under in Tests, has left a huge hole in the middle order as men-in-form Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly are expected to open the innings while another middle order Test mainstay VVS Laxman is no longer in the selectors' radar for the 50-over-a-side

Virender Sehwag, who has opened the innings in the ongoing Perth Test with some success, has also come back into the reckoning

for the ODIs. The selectors would surely be tempted to give back Dravid his one-day slot, especially with young middle order batsmen Robin Uthappa and Rohit Sharma have domestic cricket.

#### Shaun fashions

FROM PAGE 17

the West Indies were in deep trouble at 79 for six in the 15th over but Bravo's attacking innings and some audacious running for byes when the ball beat the bat enabled the West Indies to make a competitive total.

"It was a good wicket to bowl on

and I knew we just needed one good partnership," added Smith who warned South Africa would have to raise their game in the oneday series. "We need to get back to the basics in this format of the game.

We'll have a good chat and a good workout tomorrow and get ready for Sunday." Rain during the afternoon made it seem unlikely that play would

start on time but there was a break in the weather at the time of the It was the second 20-overs

international of the tour. The West Indies won by five wickets in a game reduced to 13 overs a side in Port Elizabeth in December before the Test series, which South Africa won by two

matches to one.

Durban.

Pollock claimed the wicket of Rawl Lewis to finish with 15 wickets in 12 Twenty20 internationals more than any other bowler in the shortest form of the game. South Africa's pace bowlers

posed problems for the batsmen

but off-spinner Justin Ontong

conceded 25 runs off two overs, including both Bravo's sixes. Chris Gayle, the West Indies tour captain, had still not recovered from a broken thumb and the side was captained by Bravo, who led the side in the third and final Test in

#### Focus on Ghana

Coast with Didier Drogba, Nigeria

But it would be a mistake to suggest the three-week footballing feast can be reduced to a shortlist of this quartet if the lessons of the 2006 World Cup are to be learned.

Ghana and Ivory Coast. It promises to be an eventful

# Fischer: the man who made chess popular

AFP, Reykjavik

Chess legend Bobby Fischer's without too much difficulty, and victory in the 1972 "match of the century" with Soviet world champion Boris Spassky elevated the game into a Cold War weapon and turned the eccentric young board and brilliantly won the third American into a national hero.

Fischer, who died on Thursday, became the first US world chess news again, and even media never champion ever when he beat Spassky in the six-week match that started treating the Reykjavik became a symbol for the Cold War match as a top story. standoff, pitting an "individualistic" American against a "collectivist" Russian.

the time, Fischer flustered organisers in Reykjavik when he initially failed to turn up for the match.

An increasingly nervous textbooks. Spassky was seen pacing and chain-smoking in his hotel lobby, the match could finally open on victory, "King Bobby - finally" July 11, 1972, after Fischer had settled a last-minute financial

Fischer didn't show up for the second, losing him a second point.

Just as an anti-climax seemed to set in, Fischer returned to the chess

Suddenly the encounter was hot concerned with chess before

The two men drew the third game, and Fischer won the next two, setting him up to take the Already considered eccentric at chess crown, which he did with a points after a total of 21 games, many of which still feature in chess

"Bobby Fischer is greater than chess," trumpeted one American waiting for his opponent, before newspaper headline after the

The chess world went into later.

overdrive. Within a few weeks, Spassky won the first game paperbacks analyzing the encounter sold tens of thousands of copies,

a first in chess history. The American Chess Association went from 33,000 members to 100,000 straight after the match and chess sets became standard presents for children

from their parents. Fischer himself became a superstar. Russian grandmaster Mikhail Tal called the American "the greatest genius to have descended from the sky."

The Soviet establishment found it hard to deal with Spassky's defeat, and blamed him for strayfinal score of 12-1/2 to 8-1/12 ing from the Soviet school methods of chess.

Russian chess players talked about Fischer's "hypnotic glare" which they said was the American's most formidable weapon.

But Spassky was more gracious: "He was already better than I. He won normally," he acknowledged



Bobby Fischer (R) makes a move against Boris Spassky in their great battle of 1972, dubbed later as the 'greatest

### chess match of the century'. Tower toppled

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The end of the era came quickly. An Australian unit that seemed unbreakable over the past 24 months had actually been admirably masking the dints. During the past four days they could not survive any more collisions and Ricky

> toppled Through 16 wins there were many one-sided successes, but the handful of near-death experiences had stolen the energy for a worldrecord miracle. Australia have lost their first Test since August 2005 and India retain the tag as the great spoiler of baggy green parties. India's victory is a fillip for the global game, proving that the world champions can be beaten, and

Ponting's stunning tower has

forcing the hosts into further self-There will be disappointment from Australia and their supporters, especially when Perth was the most bankable venue for victory, but the team must be praised for extending the streak for so long. Three months ago they re-started a Test campaign without Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and Justin Langer, a scenario that would have floored anybody else, yet Ponting

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ACROSS 36 Cause

held his side together until the tape

could no longer handle the strain. Matthew Hayden was missing his first match since 1999, leaving two inexperienced openers for Perth, Ponting was unable to patch himself up after his failed duels with Harbhajan Singh and a new bowling group seriously missed the influence of McGrath and Warne. Events that were supposed to happen in November were delayed

until January and now the world is seeing the new Australia. Like share markets around the world, nobody knows how far they will dive, but the days of regular high dividends are gone. This record, a mark proving team substance over individual effort, must be cherished. After the Ashes defeat Ponting was able to look around his field of dream players and call for greater input. This time he has a handful of stars hovering above a core still waiting to know its

Perth will be the venue where they realised Test success is not an Australian birthright. The WACA is meant to shock visiting teams, but the home players are the ones who cannot believe what has happened. The pitch didn't bounce, Shaun Tait whimpered and the batsmen were shut down by an undermanned India attack.

# Al Amin

off to KL

UNB, Dhaka Long jumper Al Amin left for

Malaysia last night for a high per-

formance training programme. The athlete would undergo a fourmonth training in Kuala Lumpur under an International Olympic Committee (IOC) scholarship.

He is the third athlete of the coun-

try who got the opportunity after SAF

#### gold medal-winners Mahfuzur Rahman and Sumita Rani Das.

Australia fined

of the overs back.

FROM PAGE 17 of a suspension. "Eight overs down, I had to be able to claw quite a few back to get back under six, we got a few more allowances as the day went on and

with the spinners we dragged a lot

"It was definitely a concern, with a Test match on the line like it was, I wouldn't have been doing it as I was if it wasn't a legitimate concern. Ponting noted that recalled fast

bowler Shaun Tait, who was playing just his third Test, was a victim of the problem. Tait is notoriously slow and

bowled just 21 overs in the match -

including eight in the second

innings -- and failed to take a

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CRYPTOQUIP LTIDVVA "YWATLW"

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#### FROM PAGE 20 westcoast neighbours the Ivory

and Samuel Eto'o's always dangerous Cameroons.

In Germany the natural African order of things was turned on its head with traditional heavyweights like Nigeria and Cameroon making way for novices Angola, Togo,

footballing safari.

By Eugene Sheffer

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