

U-19 CRICKET WC
Enamul in
umpires'
panel

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Haque Moni has been included in the umpires' panel to conduct matches in the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup beginning on February 17 in Malaysia.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the 18-member list yesterday including the former Bangladesh left-arm spinner to officiate matches in seven venues of three cities -- Johor, Kuala Lumpur and Penang. Former Indian pacesman Javagal Srinath will act as match referee along with Mike Procter and Chris Broad.

Kolkata veterans
end on high note

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Kolkata Veterans Sports Club ended their successful tour of Bangladesh when they defeated Manikganj Sonali Oit Club 3-2 in an exhibition football match at the Shahid Miraz-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

The Kolkata side, who began their tour with a goalless draw in Dhaka and beat Chittagong Sonali Oit 2-0 on Saturday, were leading 2-0 at the break of the hour-long match.

Supriya Das struck twice, in the 21 and 30 minutes, while Krishna Gopal Chowdhury made it 3-0 for the foreigners after five minutes of the second half in their last match of the trip. Goals by Mosharaf Hossain Badal and Sudev Saha in the 53 and 60 minutes reduced the arrears for the local side.

Manikganj Deputy Commissioner Ataur Rahman, Manikganj Police Superintendent Intiaz Ahmed, NDC Hedaat Ullah Mandal and Manikganj DSA general secretary SMM Ikhla Hossain witness the match.

Jashimuddin
Hall sports
held

SPORTS REPORTER

The annual sports competition of the Kabi Jashimuddin Hall of Dhaka University was held yesterday at the university's central playground.

More than hundred students took part in 20 events with Mohammad Shahadat Hossain of Bangla department emerging individual champion and Faruque Ahmed of Social Science becoming runner-up.

Dhaka University vice-chancellor Dr SMA Fayed inaugurated the meet.

Podolski suffers

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Hitzfeld will also be without midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger, who has a bruised thigh, and Andreas Ottl, muscle strain.

But the news of Podolski's injury is not good for Germany's coach Joachim Loew with key midfielder Torsten Frings also struggling to be fit after aggravating an old knee injury.

Germany face Austria in a friendly international in Vienna on February 6.

Aussies way

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the best Test teams in the world and we have beaten them both here.

"I am very comfortable with the makeup of the group."

However, Kumble dismissed Ponting's comments, pointing to the performance of India's unheralded attack in the series as proof of the depth in their cricket.

He said the Indians firmly believed they were the side to challenge Australia in the future.

"You have a few people who might not be a part of the Test squad in a couple of years, but then every team goes through that," he added.

"The talent that we have and the experience that these young bowlers and a couple of batters have had in Australia will certainly hold them in good stead whenever that transition happens."

Serbia toast

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the year to reach the women's semifinals, where she was also defeated by Sharapova.

With the win, Djokovic closed the world rankings gap on Swiss world number one Roger Federer, whom he beat in the semifinals in Melbourne, and number two Rafael Nadal of Spain.

"Serbs, welcome to the history of world tennis!" splashed the daily Vecernje Novosti.

Under a banner that read "Djokovic the Great," the tabloid Alo said: "Nole became the first Serb to win a Grand Slam and since he is only 20, the decade ahead of us could belong to him."

"Our hearts have never been filled with such cheer and pride as they are now," said the newspaper Politika.

SA Games
venues
inspected

SPORTS REPORTER

A Planning Commission committee visited the sports venues of Dhaka yesterday as part of preparation for the 11th South Asian (SA) Games to be held here in 2009.

"We have visited venues at Bangabandhu National Stadium, Mirpur Krirapally and at Dhanmondi," said National Sports Council (NSC) director Abdur Rahman, who is a member of the five-man committee formed to scrutinise the project.

"The NSC has given us a list of venues that need renovation in large scale for such an international event," Rahman added.

The renovation of the sports structures across the city will take about Tk 29 crore according to the NSC budget.

The committee, headed by Planning Commission's joint-chief Mohammad Shahidullah, is expected to give its report within a week.

"The venues have not gone through any renovation for long. The Planning Commission will allocate the fund according to the committee report," said Rahman.

The NSC has also requested for Tk 17 crore for buying new equipment for the SA Games including timing devices for athletics and swimming and other sports gear.

SELECTION CHESS
Monir has the
last laugh

SPORTS REPORTER

Moniruzzaman Khan became unbeaten champion in the Metropolitan Selection Chess Tournament when he won the ninth and last round board against Giasuddin Mithu at the federation hall-room yesterday.

Moniruzzaman bagged eight points while Syed Abdul Zaker, who led throughout the competition but for the final two rounds, finished runner-up with 7.5 points after he drew in the last round with Sheikh Anwar.

The top 16 players from the meet will qualify for the preliminary phase of the 34th National Chess Championship.

Meanwhile, the 29th National Junior (Under-20) Chess Championship will begin today at the same venue.

New evidence

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come of the appeal.

India are still considering their response should the appeal fail, having already threatened to cancel their tour.

After the Test series, the Indians are scheduled to face Australia and Sri Lanka in a triangular one-day tournament.

Under International Cricket Council guidelines, the appeal should have been held within seven days of Justice Hansen's appointment, but instead it was delayed until after the Test series.

They claimed they'd been promised 3,000 dollars but had only received 2,500.

Life after Gilchrist

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are around 30, but the boys are now faced with doing the job of some of the greatest men in world cricket. While Australia worries, the rest lean forward in the hope that more teams will have a chance.

If the Pakistan tour goes ahead in March, the latest version of the new look will be paraded and it will be a tough initiation. Of the fresher faces only Symonds and MacGill have played Tests overseas in the past couple of years and the challenges away from home will be much more difficult. Australia will be treated like mortals instead of being feared as all-conquering superheros.

The spin bowlers will be attacked and the selection of the recovering MacGill or the strug-

gling Hogg will be as risky as looking to the off-spin of Dan Cullen. Each fast man and part-timer has already had to take on more work because of the lack of success against India and Sri Lanka. The fears of life after Warne have been proved and Gilchrist's decision has suddenly increased a host of other concerns.

Following Pakistan there is a tour to the West Indies before a short series against Bangladesh in Darwin. At least then the reinforcements will be able to escape harsh local examinations as the winter football codes take precedence in the home supporters' minds.

Australia hold a large lead in the ICC rankings but the advantage is already starting to close slightly after the resistance provided by

It wasn't to be for Gilly

FROM PAGE 17

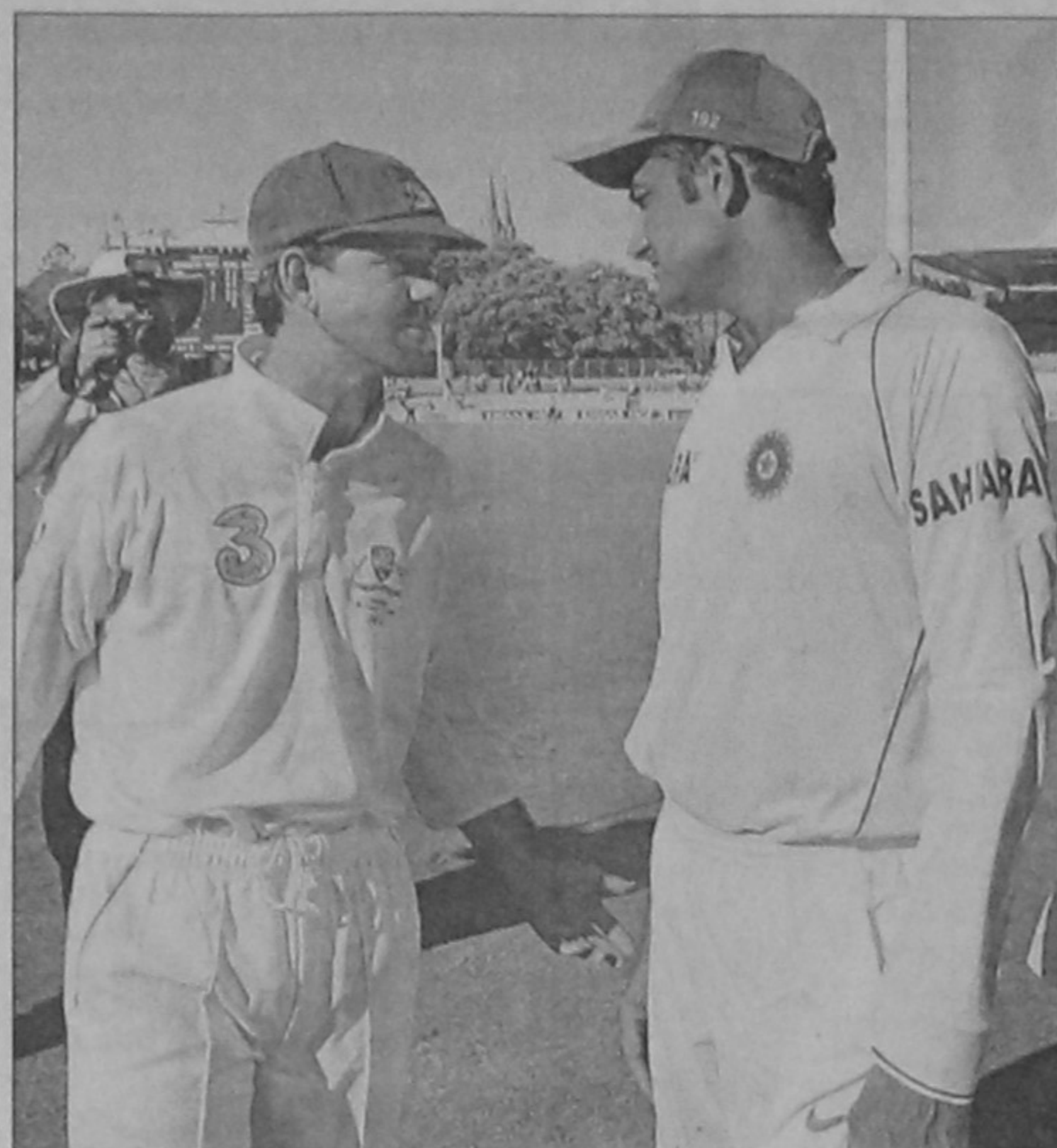
There was more drama on the first ball faced by Tendulkar, who drove a ball firmly into close-in fieldsman Phil Jaques. The ball rebounded to Symonds, who claimed a catch.

The decision was referred to the third umpire, but replays showed the ball bounced in front of Jaques before ricocheting off his shin.

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He played some glorious shots, reaching his first hundred since



YOU'RE LUCKY THIS TIME: Indian captain Anil Kumble (R) and his Australian counterpart Ricky Ponting talk after the drawn fourth and final Test at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

Victoria
top table

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria Sporting Club grabbed the top spot in the Senior Division Football League yesterday with a solitary goal win over bottom-table Dipali Juba Sangha.

Prolific striker Mithun slammed the match winner in the 65th minute at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur to ensure Victoria's fourth win in six matches, taking their tally to 14 points.

Jatrabari, who have played one match less, are in second place with 12 points.

Dipali stuck to one point but Mohakhali XI took their collection to two points when they drew goalless in the day's other match against Badda Jagarani.

Badda remained fourth in the table with nine points.

Purbachal are pitted against City Club in today's match at the same venue.

Scandals, drama

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One coach at this African Nations Cup who has always had a prickly relationship with the media is Roger Lemerre, the former France coach who guided Tunisia to the 2004 African Nations Cup title on home turf.

The Frenchman stormed out of one press conference after being angered by Senegalese reporters, then on Friday he confiscated a tripod belonging to a Tunisian television crew.

He said he'd return it if they hand him video footage of a training session.

The Zambia camp meanwhile have had to publically deny that there players staged a protest before their game against Cameroon on Saturday over bonuses.

They claimed they'd been promised 3,000 dollars but had only received 2,500.

NZC dumps

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It means Bond will be out of contention to play England, who arrived in New Zealand Monday, in three upcoming Tests and five one-day internationals.

Bond's New Zealand contract, which was not due to expire until May, had been terminated by mutual agreement, NZC said in a statement.

Bond originally asked for a release to play for the ICL in October last year and NZC had indicated this would be possible if the speedster fulfilled his national team obligations until his contract ends.

But at the end of October the International Cricket Council (ICC) ruled no contracted international player could be released for the rebel league.

"This is a difficult situation and we must comply with ICC regulations and support other member countries, and as a consequence can no longer entertain Shane playing for New Zealand," NZC chief executive Justin Vaughans said.

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Dropped catch

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keep doing what it takes to maintain that level."

Gilchrist said he went back to his hotel room that night and discussed retirement with wife Mel, reaching his final decision.

Having started his international career with one-day cricket, Gilchrist said it was fitting that he bid international cricket farewell in the same way.

At one stage he toyed with dropping one-day cricket to prolong his Test career, but said he was looking forward to saying goodbye to Australian fans during the tri-series in what will be an emotional farewell.

Gilchrist signed with the Indian IPL Twenty20 tournament and said he was looking forward to being a part of the rich new competition -- proof he has no intention of retiring from all cricket.

Bangladesh
win U-19
series

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 team clinched the three-match series against their Nepalese counterparts after a three-wicket victory in the third and final encounter at the BKSP cricket ground yesterday.

The home team won the series 2-0 as they outclassed the visitors by 111 runs in the first one-day match at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. The second game was abandoned due to rain.

In the curtailed over match due to wet outfield, Nepal U-19s won the toss and decided to bat first but were bundled out for a meagre 109 in 38.1 overs.

Captain and left-arm spinner Sohrawardi Shuvo and pacer Rubel Hossain caused the damage by picking up three wickets each for nine and 19 runs respectively. KM Shakil bagged two wickets while Subhashis Roy and Mahmudul Hasan took one wicket each.

Pushpa top scored with 25 for the tourists.

Bangladesh Under-19s had to fight hard to chase down the moderate target as they lost seven wickets in 36.3 overs to reach 113, thanks to a 42-ball 30 by Mohammad Mithun who smashed three boundaries and six.

As part of the ICC Under-19 World Cup, the home side will now get involved in a four-match one-day series against West Indies Under-19s, who are due in Dhaka today.

Ansars clinch
Open eves'
cricket title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar and VDP became champions in the Parachute Women's Open cricket tournament after a two-wicket victory against Ispahani Sporting Club in the final at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The star-studded Ansars recovered from early hiccups to score 115 for eight in 32.3 overs in reply to Ispahani's 114-5 in the stipulated 35 overs.

Captain Panna Ghosh, player of the final, associated in a 51-run stand with Tithi Rani Sarker for the fifth wicket to ensure the victory after the winners had stumbled to 39-4.

Panna scored 25 off 43 deliveries with a boundary while Tithi played 38 balls to make 25, hitting two fours.

Ispahani captain Salma Khatun, who was adjudged player of the tournament, grabbed two wickets for 14 from seven overs.

Rumana Ahmed also captured two for 18 while Manjila Khatun and Tahin Tahera bagged one wicket each.

Earlier, Suktara Rahman made 28 off 70 deliveries with two boundaries for the inserted Ispahani.

Salma, one-down Rumana Ahmed and Jahanara Alam each chipped in with 17 runs.

Khadija Akhter was the most successful Ansars bowler by claiming three wickets for 14 from seven overs.

ITF Junior
Tennis on

SPORTS REPORTER

The Amicus 6th BKSP ITF Junior Tennis Championship, which got underway at the BKSP Tennis Complex on Sunday, was officially opened yesterday.

Managing Director of sponsor Amicus Property and Development Ltd Abu Mohammad Masum declared the inauguration of the six-day meet as chief guest.

A total of 129 junior players, including 83 boys and 46 girls, from 21 countries are taking part in the competition.

The participating countries are Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, France, Great Britain, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and hosts Bangladesh.

I-Ta Cheng (Taipei) and Anna Morgina (Russia) are the top seed boys and girls players of the meet.

CCDM groups
Div 1 clubs

SPORTS REPORTER

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) finalised the groupings of the Metropolitan First Division Cricket League yesterday.

The participating 20 teams have been divided into two groups by lottery.

Group A: Indira Road, Rupali Bank, Gazi Tank, Sadharan Bima, Dhanmondi Club, Kathalbagan GCC, Uttara SC, Jatrabari KC, Cricket Coaching School, Badda Ekata SKS.

Group B: Brothers Union, Azad SC, Agrani Bank, Orient SC, Lalmita Club, Dhaka Wanderers, Bangladesh Boys, Young Pegasus B, Dhaka Mariner Youngs and Khelaghar SKS.

Not a Sachin day either

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Indian star Sachin Tendulkar's last Test innings on Australian soil came to an abrupt end on Monday when he was run out on the fifth day of the fourth Test.

India were 210 for four in their second innings at tea on the final day, an overall lead of 173 with just one session remaining. Australia were on course to win the series 2-1 with the game headed for a draw.

Opener Virender Sehwag was on 132 and Mahendra Singh Dhoni on five.

Tendulkar, who made 153 in the first innings, survived a third umpire decision from the first ball he faced, but was run out for 13 by a direct hit from Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson in his follow-through.

Tendulkar had dropped the ball

down on the leg side and took off, but was sent back by Sehwag and was well out of his ground, with Johnson having time to steady and throw accurately.

After resuming at 45 for one, India's first setback as they bid to secure a draw was a finger injury to number three Rahul Dravid, who was forced to retire hurt for 11.

Dravid was struck on the middle finger of his right hand by a rising ball from pacesman Brett Lee. He received attention on the field and batted on for a couple of overs, before deciding to retire hurt and go for X-rays.

There was more drama on the first ball faced by Tendulkar, who drove a ball firmly into close-in fieldsman Phil Jaques. The ball rebounded to Andrew Symonds, who claimed a catch.

The decision was referred to the third umpire, but replays showed the ball bounced in front of Jaques before ricocheting off his shin.

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He played some glorious shots, reaching his first hundred since June 2006 in 175 minutes off just 123 balls, hitting 11 fours and two sixes.

Sehwag adopted a more watchful approach at the crease after hitting his century.

Retiring Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist gave the local crowd something to cheer when he completed dismissal 415, catching VVS Laxman (12) down the leg side off Lee's bowling.

Sania Asia's
number one

PTI, New Delhi

Controversies, injuries and inconsistent form have threatened to derail Sania Mirza's career time and again but the Indian star continues to rise nevertheless, touching a new high today by becoming Asia's number one woman tennis player.

After her third-round appearance at the Australian Open, Sania gained three spots to rise to the 29th position with 931 points to become Asia's new numero uno player in the latest WTA rankings overtaking Chinese ace Na Li, who dropped to the 32nd position.

Sania, who lost to Wimbledon champion Venus Williams in the third round, however, slipped in the doubles rankings, losing five places to drop out of top-20 and be placed 23rd in the latest list.

She had teamed up with Australian Alicia Molik in the Australian Open and the duo had been knocked out in the third round.

Becoming the Asian number one is yet another remarkable achievement for the 21-year-old Hyderabad, who has been India's lone flag-bearer in women's tennis after a breakthrough season in 2005.

Pato stakes

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bit of composure but he keeps getting in scoring positions."

That result moved Milan up to seventh in the table as they chase Fiorentina for the crucial fourth spot and final Champions League qualification position.

The Viola gained their fourth straight victory with a vital 2-0 success at lowly Empoli thanks to former Chelsea forward Adrian Mutu's goal five minutes from time and Giampaolo Pazzini's injury-time clincher.

Fiorentina moved level on points with third-placed Juventus, who were due to play at Livorno in Saturday's late game.

Milan remain 10 points behind Fiorentina but with two games in hand, the next of which they play in midweek at Reggina.

Titanic clash

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Championship side Barnsley. 5th rd draw: Bristol Rovers v Southampton Cardiff City v Wolverhampton Wanderers

Sheffield United v Middlesbrough Liverpool v Barnsley Manchester United v Arsenal Preston North End v Portsmouth Coventry City v West Bromwich Albion Chelsea v Huddersfield Town Ties to be played on the weekend of February 16-17

India now the
second best
Test team

AFP, Dubai

India have risen to second in the International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings despite losing 1-2 to Australia on Sunday in their latest Test series.

India had entered the series in fourth place, just behind South Africa and Sri Lanka, but South Africa's 2-1 series win over eighth-placed West Indies earlier this month relegated it to fourth position and put Sri Lanka second, a fraction of a ratings point ahead of India in third spot.

Following their impressive 72-run victory in the third Test in Perth and the drawn match just finished in Adelaide, India have moved ahead of Sri Lanka and now sit in second place on 111 ratings points, two ahead of their south Asia rivals and three in front of the Proteas.

Below is the ICC Test Championship table (as of January 28):

Pos	Team	Pts
1	Australia	141
2	India	111
3	Sri Lanka	109
4	South Africa	108
5	England	107
6	Pakistan	94
7	New Zealand	93
8	West Indies	79
9	Bangladesh	2



Ansar and VDP players celebrate with the trophy after beating Ispahani Sporting Club in the final of the Parachute Women's Open cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Giants warmed up

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Division League while Belal and midfielders Mithu and Ripon are also unavailable.

Manik has invited goalies Shakil and Zia, veteran defender Jewel Rana and midfielders Faisal Mahmud and Monwar from Brothers Union and Chittagong Mohammedan's Saikat to feel in the gaps. Nigerian forward Charles Figo is the only foreign recruit.

"Abahani and Muktiyodha are in better shape. Sometimes the hosts have to sacrifice and I feel we are not under pressure to win this. It would be a prestige issue for us as the three teams in our group are in form, having been playing in the Senior Division."