

Mini h'ball ends today

UNB, Dhaka

Scholastica, BIS, Play Pen and Banani Bidya Niketan moved into the semifinals of the Sunnysdale 5th Mini Handball (boys') tournament eliminating their rivals at the Dhamondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

In today's semis, Scholastica will play BIS while Play Pen meet Banani Bidya Niketan in the morning. The final and the third place-play-off will be held in the afternoon.

In the day's matches, Scholastica beat Loreto 10-2, Play Pen defeated East Khilgaon Primary 9-3, BIS beat Siddique's International School 4-0, Banani Bidya Niketan outplayed Canadian International School 17-1. Play Pen beat South Breeze 9-7, Scholastica defeated South Point, Sunnysdale beat Siddique's International School 9-4 and Loreto beat Mary Curie by 10-2 goals.

Sagar, Saif share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Holder Minhauddin Ahmed Sagar shared the lead with national sub-junior champion Abdullah Al Saif after the sixth round of the 29th National Junior (Under-20) Chess Championships yesterday.

IDE Master Sagar and Saif, who defeated Shamina Akhter Liza and Sharon respectively at the federation hall-room, were level on six points. They will face each other in today's seventh round.

PCB can scrap Aussie series, won't shift it

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Nasim Ashraf is ready to scrap the home series against Australia but would not shift the matches to a neutral venue or Down Under, sources said yesterday.

A senior PCB official told PTI that Ashraf is slated to meet Creagh O'Connor in Dubai at an ICC meeting which will scrutinise the candidates for the chief executive's post.

"On the sidelines, the meeting with O'Connor is very significant for us and we have made up our minds that Australia must fulfil its obligation of touring Pakistan in March-April to play the Test and one-day series," the official said.

"Under no circumstances are we going to play the series at a neutral venue or have it shifted to Australia," he added.

The Australian's tour is under doubt after Cricket Australia and some players have expressed apprehensions over the security situation in Pakistan.

The official said O'Connor is expected to give details and dates of the delegation that will be sent by CA to inspect the security facilities and conditions in Pakistan soon after general elections on February 18.

CA has said it would rely on feedback from the delegation to decide if it is safe to play in Pakistan.

Day Two

FROM PAGE 17

impossible for me to take the pressure in this season," said Shakib.

The familiar environment in BKSP however forced wicket-keeper Mushfiqur Rahim to play for the sports institution although many believe it is the proper time for the young stumper to play domestic cricket under pressure.

A total of 39 players appeared in the second day for signing with Premier Division clubs while 84 players took part in the First Division bourse.

Hamilton

FROM PAGE 20

"This is a clear breach of FIA principles and any repetition will result in serious sanctions."

Reports in a number of Spanish papers said Hamilton was booted and insulted whenever he made his way from the team motor home and into the pits on Saturday for pre-season testing at the Barcelona circuit.

"It is not right the way he is being treated," McLaren test team manager Indy Lall was quoted as saying.



Did U Know?

The record for the world's longest badminton match is 124 minutes, between Peter Rasmussen of Denmark and Sun Jun of China.

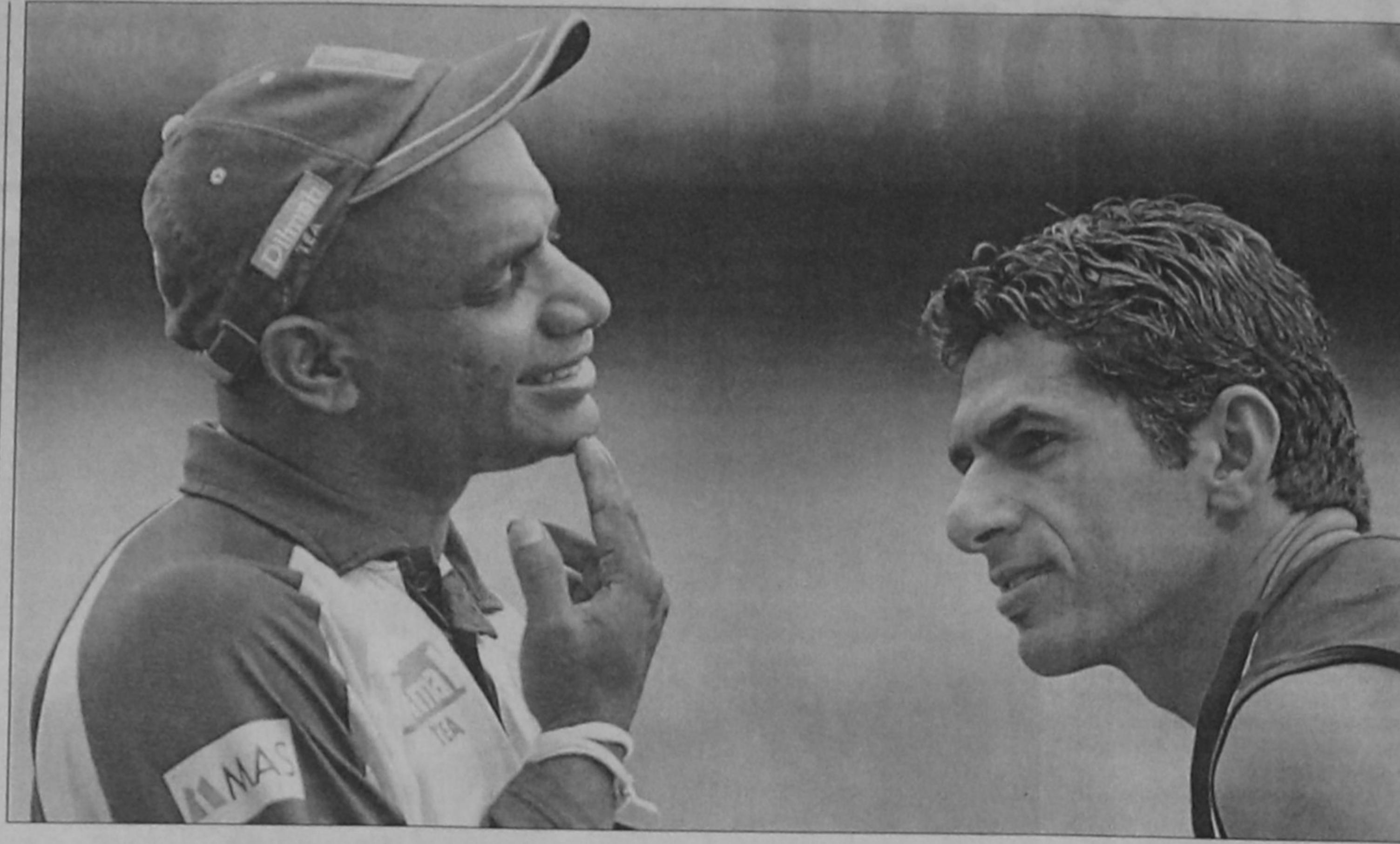


PHOTO: AFP

Lanka to follow Aussies

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

game to the Australians in recent clashes.

"India showed after all the mishaps they got together and performed really well -- that's the way forward for other teams (against Australia)," he said.

"You just block everything out -- that's our attitude.

"That's the way you can actually challenge these guys (Australia) on the field."

Sri Lanka were given a boost Monday when scans cleared veteran opener Sanath Jayasuriya of a jaw injury after he was hit in the face while batting against Tasmania in a tour match.

If Australia fail to make the finals, the Sri Lankans will overtake them at the top of the one-day rankings.

"We are heading into the right direction," Jayawardene said.

The skipper said his side had looked at how India had taken the

incident in Hobart in which spinner Muttiah Muralidaran and team officials had eggs and abuse thrown at them by a group of drunks.

Muktijoddha crash out

FROM PAGE 17

After two efforts to shoot on goal were spoiled by opposition challenges inside the penalty area, Ujjal rolled the ball back towards Zahed whose low left-footed drive from 20 yards gave Aminul no chance at the goal.

Abahani came close to make it 2-0 in the stoppage time but Tipu's curling freekick was brilliantly palmed over the bar by Aminul.

Aminul saved a drop-volley by Tipu while Alifaz shot the ball over in an otherwise dull second half when the sky-blues played the waiting game in a bid to hold onto the slim lead.

It paid off when a sudden burst by Zahed helped Abahani seal the victory in the 77th minute. The diminutive winger, adjudged man-of-the-match, chased a long pass

from the midfield and sent a crossfield centre from the right flank for an onrushing Emily to nod the ball into Aminul's left-hand post.

Down and out, Muktijoddha never had the steam to come back from two goals down and avoid a premature exit.

Yellow cards: Pradip, Abul, Tipu (Abahani) and Kanchan, Deen Mohammed, Maruf, Arman Aziz.

TEAMS

Abahani: Biplob, Siraji, Pradip, Nazrul, Wali, Zahed, Joy, Abul, Ujjal (Robin), Tipu (Pranotosh) and Emily.

Muktijoddha: Aminul, Hassan Al Mamun, Deen Mohammed, Rajani, Saiful (Titu), Parvez, Arman Aziz, Maruf (Manju), Arman, Kanchan and Alfaz (Enamul).

Red cards: None.

Yellow cards: Tipu (Muktijoddha) and Zahed (Abahani).

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Assistant referees: Md. Shariful Islam and Md. Shariful Islam.

Fourth official: Md. Shariful Islam.

Umpires: Md. Shariful Islam and Md. Shariful Islam.

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