Youngmen's climb up

SPORTS REPORTER

Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool thrashed Arambagh Krira Sangha 3-1 in a come-from behind win at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to climb to the third place in the Senior Division Football League.

Arambagh, whose senior side finished runners-up in the recently concluded Victory Day Club Cup, went ahead after 28 minutes through Parvez.

But Youngmen's equalised three minutes later through Khalil before Rony gave them a 2-1 lead at halftime with a 45th minute strike.

Komol's struck on the hour to put the match beyond Arambagh, who stuck to fourth place with 12 points from eight matches.

Youngmen's on 17 points also from eight games, were trailing Victoria (21 points) and Jatrabari

Badda shared a goalless draw in the day's other match at the Bangabandhu Stadium while Mohakhali and City Club also failed to break the deadlock at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Abahani champs in Gaibandha hockey

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Abahani Krira Chakra emerged champions in the Gaibandha Hockey League defeating GKSP 3-1 in the final here yesterday.

Shaheen scored twice and Shaown one for Abahani while Sharif reduced the arrears for the losers at the local stadium.

Police Super Mollah Nazrul Islam distributed trophies after the final as chief guest.

India want to play Aussies more often

REUTERS, Mumbai

India want to play top-ranked Australia more often to exploit the commercial value of the intense rivalry, a senior Indian board official said.

"I had a discussion with CA (Cricket Australia) CEO James Sutherland. Both of us have recognised that the India-Australia series should be played frequently," Indian board secretary Niranjan Shah told The Hindu newspaper on Tuesday.

"It will bring a new dimension to India-Australia cricket and it will also become a big commercial success," he added.

The Test series against Australia for the Border-Gavaskar trophy has grown bigger than the one against traditional rivals Pakistan in India, a country of 1.1 billion people with the largest global cricket audience and multi-million dollar sponsorship deals.

"This has to be incorporated in the (ICC's) Future Tour Programme. But the BCCI as a whole has to take a decision on this," Shah said. Hosts Australia won 2-1 a four-test series last month, which ended in acrimony after India spinner Harbhajan Singh was charged for allegedly racially abusing Australia's Andrew Symonds.

The Indian off-spinner was later cleared at an appeal.

T20 League's

FROM PAGE 17

Partex v Pegasus (BKSP-1)

FEBRUARY 15: Mohammedan v Kalabagn (BKSP-1), Abahani v Biman (BKSP-2), City v BKSP (DCS), DOHS v Sonargaon (BKSP

1), Victoria v Pegasus (DCS), Partex

v Surjo Tarun (BKSP-2) FEBRUARY 17: Mohammedan v Biman (BKSP-2), Abahani v City (BKSP-1), Kalabagan v BKSP (DCS) DOHS v Pegasus (BKSP-2), Victoria v Partex (DCS), Sonargaon v Surjo Tarun (BKSP-1)

FEBRUARY 19: Mohammedan v City (BKSP-2), Abahani v BKSP (BKSP-1), Biman v Kalabagan (DCS), DOHS v Partex (DCS), Victoria v Surjo Tarun (BKSP-2),

Pegasus v Sonargaon (BKSP-1) FEBRUARY 20: Mohammedan v Abahani (BKSP-2), Biman v BKSP (DCS), City v Kalabagan (BKSP-1), DOHS v Victoria (BKSP-2), Pegasus v Surjo Tarun (BKSP-1), Partex v

Sonargaon (DCS)

US Soccer

FROM PAGE 20

and Japan, touted as possible destinations, have already expressed broad opposition to the

But Scudamore remains determined to go ahead with the idea.

"Clearly, there are a lot of hurdles to overcome," he said. "We've seen how sport is globalizing; we compete in the entertainment industry. We understand it's a global sport but it's about nurturing the home game.

"This is a solidarity move where all 20 clubs want to do it. It benefits all of them and it's far better we all do it rather than allow single clubs to."



PHOTO: STAR An action from yesterday's Senior Division Football League match between Dhaka Wanderers and Badda Jagarani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Golfing in the Gulf

AFP, Dubai

Tiger Wood's breathtaking win in the Dubai Desert Classic last week has further sealed the emirate's position at the hub of world golf's rapidly-changing landscape.

The planet's best-known sportsman has firmly linked the pull of his global celebrity with the stunning entrepreneurism that has made Dubai such a magnet for the rich, famous and ambitious.

Woods chose Dubai for the site of his first venture into golf course design and he has already said that he will be back next year to defend his Classic title. The world No.1, though a golf-

ing traditionalist at heart, happily admits that he is a convert to the brash expansionism that is the mark of this desert oasis.

"What they are doing is frankly phenomenal," he said.

"I haven't seen anything like this and I don't think really anyone, anywhere around the world has seen this type of growth and golf is one component of it.

I've been coming here, the skyline keeps changing, keeps evolving and people keep coming here and thoroughly enjoy it.

"I certainly think golf is a big

Woods of course is not alone among top players in jumping onto the Dubai bandwagon.

Colin Montgomerie and Ernie Els have already lent their names and design expertise to golf course development and Greg Norman, joined their talents in drafting the stunning four course Jumeirah Golf Estates layout themed around Fire, expansionism is that some long-

FROM PAGE 20

helping hand.

at the moment.

denying the facts."

winning teams.

retain their title.

an interview with Sky Italia.

"But there's definitely some-

"I think there's a little bit of

"If the referees had the courage

Totti seems to be suggesting that

thing going on. Something in the

sense that they're having a little

psychological pressure on every-

one because they're afraid of Inter

and loyalty to say what they see, it

would be easier (for us). But they're

referees are subconsciously help-

ing Inter rather than blatantly

cheating in favour of the champi-

ons, particularly against smaller

been levelled against successful,

It is an accusation that has long

But they have never been able to

Water, Earth and Air which is still under construction.

The new additions will bring the total number of golf courses in and around Dubai up to around 20, a remarkable achievement for a country that depends on treated seawater to turn parched, barren land into glistening greenery.

It's all part of Dubai's bold plan to use golf as a vehicle to lure tourists, businessmen and developers from Europe, the United States and Asia and it appears to be working.

In a stunning development late last year, the European PGA Tour which had the foresight to spill out of its traditional frontiers 20 years ago when it organised the first Desert Classic in Dubai, announced that its longestablished Order of Merit contest would be retooled as The Race to Dubai as of next year.

The climax to that would be what is being billed as the world's richest golf tournament, a 10million dollar extravaganza known as the Dubai World Championships which will be held "Just in this area since the years for the first time in November 2009 at Jumeirah Golf Estates.

In keeping with that, the European PGA Tour has announced it is opening its new "international offices" in Dubai joining a growing exodus of sports organisations, such as the International Cricket Council, to make the move.

Already this year, the European Tour schedule has 14 events in Asia and the Middle East and only nine in Britain and Ireland sparking calls Vijay Singh and Sergio Garcia have for it to be re-named in some way to reflect this globalisation.

The flip side of this eastern

existed; it's a part of football.

Inter," added Totti.

captain.

Before it was Juve and now it's

Two seasons ago Juventus were

demoted to Serie B and stripped of

their part in a match-fixing scandal

that also saw points deductions

handed out to AC Milan,

done what Juve did. Inter are win-

ning on the pitch," added the Roma

takes because it's not easy to man-

age a game for 90 minutes and not

clear of Roma having won 17 and

drawn five of their 22 league

matches this season. Last season

they romped to the title by 22

and we didn't recover. They could

Inter are currently eight points

make a single mistake."

"I don't think Inter would have

"And referees can make mis-

Fiorentina, Lazio and Reggina.

their previous two league titles for

Muslim to play Aussie cricket AFP, Sydney established tournaments like the

SPORT

A Pakistan-born player is in line to become the first Muslim to play first-class cricket in Australia when he plays for New South Wales in their top-of-the-table match with Victoria here on Friday.

Usman Khawaja, the 21-yearold son of Pakistani immigrants. has been named for the first time in a sport traditionally dominated here by Anglo-Saxons.

"There are a lot of guys out there and a lot of young cricketers and a lot of subcontinental people in Australia too now," Khawaja said Tuesday.

"So I expect over time there to be

after a furious row about race and sportsmanship exploded during the Sydney Test between Australia and India. India's Harbhajan Singh was

Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds a monkey. The International Cricket Council's appeals commissioner John Hansen later overturned the suspension, citing a lack of evidence. But Khawaja, who came to

Australia when he was four, said he had not encountered any problems on the field because of his background.

"I have never come across any thing that could be classified as racial vilification, so it is pretty good I think, and I have played club cricket for over seven years now full

season, Khawaja tops the batting figures, with 907 runs at 60.47. He has been invited to the Australian Sports Institute's Cricket Centre of Excellence.

Shoaib, Danish face trouble

AFP, Lahore

Controversial paceman Shoaib Akhtar and leg-spinner Danish Kaneria could face disciplinary action for publicly criticising Pakistan's cricket authorities, the cricket board said Monday.

The players, who recently lashed out at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), have one week to explain their comments, the PCB said in a statement.

issued letters to Akhtar and Kaneria, seeking their explanation on their recently published articles and statement in the media," it said.

Akhtar on Friday accused the PCB of double standards in awarding central contracts to players.

The 32-year-old was dropped from Pakistan's five-match oneday series against Zimbabwe last month over fitness concerns, but was appointed captain of a domestic team for the ongoing Pentangular Cup.

fined 3.4 million rupees (about 52,000 dollars) and banned for 13 matches for a string of disciplinary offences, has been dropped from a list of 15 players who were given central contracts by the PCB.

from "B" category to "C", vented his anger in a website column. "I deserve a better deal because

I have taken over 200 wickets and my achievements are no less than Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis," the leg-spinner said, referring to the cricketers who played for Pakistan in 1980s and 90s.

Business loving it

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Millions of cricket-mad Asians are following the game over the internet through computers and mobile phones and big business loves it.

India's cricketing wealth, which is estimated to be about 50 times more than any of their rivals, dominates the game in cyberspace with millions following the national team from their homes in the United States and the United Kingdom. "Our largest markets are North

Indians, Pakistanis, UK, Australia and India," said Charlie Austin of Cricinfo, cricket's largest portal which attracts over seven million visitors every month. "We also reach hundreds of thousands of users in New Zealand, the

Middle East, Pakistan and South Africa," he told AFP. Cricket is ideally suited for cyberspace as the game is played over long hours, mostly during work hours. It is also a sport involving a

wide range of statistics.

The length of the matches and the statistics-rich nature of the game in on it. combined drives high global usage and builds loyalty," said ESPN Inc, field has given the country clout over

global sports media powerhouse, how the game is run globally," said when it bought into Cricinfo.

For nearly 15 years, Cricinfo has become a bible for fans and journal-

The portal, which was earlier owned by the Wisden Group, makes money by banner sales, along with online partnerships with cricket goods store Cricshop and fixed-odds betting with Bet365.

The explosive growth in mobile phone usage worldwide, has opened up another cash cow, with ringtones, wallpapers, live video streaming, regular bulletin updates via voice and text messages. India, with over a billion people at

America, mostly Indian expats, West home and millions scattered over the globe, currently dominates television audiences. Around 450 million people in India watch whenever the home team plays, according to industry figures.

"Any brand that associates itself with cricket, is assured of a good return," said Jude de Valliere of Right Angle Sports Marketing.

"India's biggest passion is cricket. It's an advertisers dream market." India may not be the number one team in the world, but it has enor-

affluent countries like Sri Lanka cash "India's financial muscle off the

day international match between

India and Sri Lanka at Manuka Oval

in Canberra on Tuesday:

Gambhir run out

Sharma not out

Dhoni run out

Extras: (lb-1, w-6)

Sreesanth, I Sharma.

181, 5-192.

Sehwag c Muralidaran b Kulasekara

Tendulkar c Kulasekara b Maharoof

Yuvraj c Muralidaran b Malinga

Total: (For five wkts in 29 overs) 195

Did not bat: Pathan, Harbhajan,

Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-49, 3-113, 4-

INDIA

Arjuna Ranatunga, Sri Lanka's cricket chief and former World Cup winning captain.

Even the International Cricket Council, the sport's governing body, has acknowledged India's financial prowess, saying the subcontinent powerhouse accounts for 70 percent

of the game's worldwide revenues. Broadband boom in the US, UK and Australia has lifted the sport's growth in cyberspace. But Asians have caught on to cellular technology faster and use their mobile

phones to follow the game. "In India, which is the biggest force in cricket, we are making a lot of progress on the mobile phone front, because cellular access is growing considerably faster than the internet," said Austin.

"Mobile subscribers are not shy to dial a phone number and get regular updated bulletins from Ravi Shastri. Whereas in the UK its the opposite, and the focus is on online advertising and betting."

Austin reckons the future of the game lies in China and the USA playing competitive cricket in a big mous commercial appeal, and less

Technology is booming in those countries and an uptake in cricket will send global brands clamouring

to get into those markets.

Lanka lash India

FROM PAGE 17

The pair put on 68 in just 46 balls after coming together when Gautam Gambhir, who was also looking dangerous, was run out for 35 (off 33 balls). Dhoni made 31 from 26 balls

before he too was run out attempting a risky second run. Veteran Sachin Tendulkar threatened to tear the Sri Lankan Uthappanotout

attack apart at the top of the order and played some glorious strokes, particularly through the leg side. But on 32 (from 30 balls) he tried to heave the recalled Farveez

Maharoof over mid-on and only

succeeded in getting a thick outside edge, the ball flying to deep third man. The result evened up the triseries ladder considerably, with

India on top on eight points, Australia on seven and Sri Lanka on

Scoreboard of the tri-series one-

Bowler Vaas 39 0 45 Malinga Maharoof 0 33 Kulasekara Muralidaran SRILANKA

5 0 36 0 Dilshan not out Jayasuriya c Dhoni b Sharma Sangakkara c Sharma b Harbhajan

Jayawardene not out Extras: (lb-6, w-10, nb-3) Total: (For two wkts in 19 overs) 154 Did not bat: Maharoof, Silva, Kapugedera, Vaas, Malinga, Kulasekara, Muralidaran.

Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-69. R W O M Bowler 0 48 0 Sreesanth Sharma Pathan Harbhajan 0 15 0 Tendulkar Sehwag Result: Sri Lanka won by eight wickets under Duckworth-Lewis

method. Man-of-the-match: Tillakaratne Dilshan. Toss: Sri Lanka

Umpires: Tony Hill (NZL), Bruce

Oxenford (AUS) TV umpire: Peter Parker (AUS) Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

Kiwis trounce England

FROM PAGE 17

SCOREBOARD

are actually playing really good cricket shots. Nothing looks out of

McCullum had an early life in New Zealand's run chase when he was dropped by wicketkeeper Phil Michael Mason for 29, starting a Mustard off James Anderson's rout in which they lost eight wicksecond ball but his innings was chanceless from then on.

In the paceman's second over, McCullum took 11 runs off the first three balls and Ryder followed with a boundary as they upped the

McCullum's innings included eight fours and five sixes while Ryder smashed 11 boundaries and two sixes as they massacred the England attack. It has been a remarkable turn-

around for New Zealand following the tourists' wins in the two Twenty20 matches last week. Earlier, the home side stayed calm when England openers

Alastair Cook and Mustard tore into the New Zealand attack and romped along at seven runs an The breakthrough came in the

sixth over when New Zealand bowling spearhead Chris Martin removed Cook (13) and Ian Bell in successive balls to have the tourists 41 for two.

Kevin Pietersen avoided the hattrick and, with Cook, took England to 85 for two when rain Boparac Ryder b Mills

42 February

43 Scale

44 Trusty

47 Greet

49 Fame

54 Trudges

(through)

17 Clogs the 51 Character

Zealand 53 Sketches

DOWN

1 B&B

2 Chant

forecast

member

1 Prosper-

periods

ous

6 Gloves

11 Clyde's

12 Under-

world

god

14 Canny

15 Teeny

16 Judge

19 New

20 Camera

22 Tackle

23 Epistle

24 Caught

26 Unites

firmly

28 Felonious

30 "Help!"

31 Paving

35 Rains

dogs

matter

cals and

feature

moguis

aposlie

some Z's

Lance

in-box,

maybe

compan

3 Wilde-

4 Baseball

5 Infuses

6 Stroller

wife

Harry

dance

handles

adorn-

ments

11 Bucket

13 Christ-

18 Dog

Solution time: 27 mins.

assassin? 10 Don't

slowly

pushers,

stopped play after 15 overs. When play resumed, England

were unable to regain their momentum. Pietersen lasted less than two overs before he was trapped leg before wicket by ets for 73 runs.

Cook was run out for 53 after facing 69 balls while the only other batsmen to reach double figures were Ravi Bopara and Stuart Broad, who both scored 23.

The tourists suffered from poor decision-making, with three runouts in the innings.

For New Zealand, Martin, Mason and Vettori took two wickets apiece while Jacob Oram conceded just 12 runs from his seven overs.

New Zealand won the first match in Wellington by six wickets on Saturday and have the chance to seal the series in the third match at Auckland on Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between New Zealand and England at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Tuesday: ENGLAND

Cookrunout Mustard cVettori b Martin Bell c McCullum b Martin Pietersen lbw b Mason Collingwood run out

Swann c McCullum b Vettori Broad c Mills b Vettori 23 Sidebottom run out Anderson not out Extras: (b-5, lb-3, w-3) 11 Total: (All out in 35.1 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-41, 3-90, 4-91, 5-97, 6-121, 7-126, 8-142, 9-151, 10-158. Bowler OMRW

45 1 Martin 44 2 Mason 0 29 2 12 0 Oram Vettori Styris 4 0 NEW ZEALAND

Ryder not out

McCullum not out Extras: (lb-4, w-2) Total: (For no loss in 18.1 overs) 165 Did not bat: How, Taylor, Styris, Fulton, Oram, Vettori, Mills, Mason, Martin.

Bowler M R W 38 0 Sidebottom Anderson 0 32 0 Broad 27 0 Swann Collingwood 3.1 0 21 0 Result: New Zealand won by 10 wickets under Duckworth-Lewis

method. Man-of-the-match: Jesse Ryder.

Toss: New Zealand

Umpires: Asad Rauf (PAK), Gary Baxter (NZL) Match referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 21 Pie-inthe-face noise statistics 23 Mexican

Shah b Mason

money

decks?

25 Young

27 Clear

31 Pool

33 Last

place

in the

cohort

of the

limelight

maybe

38 Sugary

44 Mulligan,

45 Option

from

Howie

Mandel

48 Dream

Team

letters

50 Favoring

41 Arctic

34 Curly's

standings

play

Across' 29 Experts

8 Stannum 32 On the

mas mail 36 Out

show org. 37 Paths

9 President boat

42

CRYPTOQUIP

RL XGWYGSY WRXXBYKKYE "UVKKVMVXXYY

"WGSUBYKRYF," QGPKE AGP XVA

UMVU'X V QVBRUVK GLLYSXY? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE MOVIE ABOUT SUPERMAN'S CELEBRATED OUTER

GARMENT: "THE GREAT 'S' CAPE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals Y

Giggs fears more slip-up FROM PAGE 20 really. They played better. inexperienced Arsenal side and "City scored at important times

"Unfortunately it's always points from second-placed Roma.

just sit back then try to catch us on pull away from Arsene Wenger's the counter-attack. Defensively we revitalised young squad and now, didn't play well. Attacking-wise, we with only 12 games left, it is the just didn't turn up." Gunners who have opened up what could be a critical advantage. Giggs admitted the City defeat was fundamentally down to

United's players not producing the goods on the day, distancing himself from assistant manager Carlos Queiroz's attempt to blame the setback on the fatiguing impact of last week's international friendlies. "The team just did not perform as they have done all season," said

The title race's tilt in favour of Arsenal has increased the stakes

at Old Trafford. "It is important to show in the next game at home to Arsenal that the City result was a one-off," recognised Queiroz.

involved in Saturday's FA Cup 5th round clash between the two sides

"We need to show we're ready to fight for the championship until the veteran Welsh winger. "It was the end of the season. We have a probably the result City deserved longrace in front of us."

however, are the players such as Ernie Els who are enjoying substantially bigger paydays and allyear round competition. "You can talk about a World Tour but The European Tour is already pretty much a world tour," the

French, Italian and Spanish Opens

are struggling to attract the big

names and doubts have been cast

Those who are not complaining,

over their futures.

South African said last week in New Delhi ahead of the inaugural Indian Masters, another new frontier for the European Tour. "I think they have done a good job, done their homework through the years and made good relationships with other tours and other

countries and I think they have the basis of that now. "Obviously if you get the purses up you will get the players to come and play there as well and it is becoming bigger.

and this region here and the Middle East, you can already play a full schedule without going to the US if you want to."

"If you look at China and Asia

World's fastest FROM PAGE 20

have with other suits and taken that technology forward, besides the fact that it is comfortable and flexible (enough) to perform in it, Hackett said.

The suits have been approved by world swimming governing body FINA and must be made available to all competitors in

Beijing in August. Totti alleges Inter bias Milan eyeing

FROM PAGE 20

"He's a player who has a great feel for the goal, in the area he commands respect and he's clini-

"He's 18 and he doesn't need

area and that makes it even more

any pressure on him right now. He's got a lot of potential and he's very talented." Paloschi is unlikely to get another run-out, though, with Gilardino coming back, Filippo Inzaghi fit again and Ronaldo likely to manage more than the 45 inef-

fectual minutes he offered on

Ramos faces

Sunday.

FROM PAGE 20 struggling in fifth in the league, will be looking to put their domestic woes behind them and restore some national pride when they host French side Bordeaux, who won all four matches to top their UEFA Cup group in the autumn. "I'm not surprised that people

consider our league to be in decline. We have a point to prove against Bordeaux. It would be good for the whole of Belgian football and the start of something new for us," said defender Olivier Deschacht. Scottish leaders Rangers host Greek giants Panathinaikos while

Sporting Lisbon play at home

against Swiss outfit Basel and

Russia's nine-time champions

Spartak Moscow play at French

side Marseille. Everton, eyeing Champions League action next season, travel to SK Brann in Norway while fellow Premier League side Bolton have their work cut out against visiting in-form Spaniards Atletico Madrid.

a lot more multicultural teams." His selection comes a month

suspended after allegedly calling

time and no problems," he said. In Sydney club cricket this

"The Pakistan Cricket Board has

Akhtar, who was in October

Instead, the maverick paceman was offered a special retainer for one year, which he refused. Kaneria, who has been demoted