### 1-run win for Rupali

SPORTS REPORTER

Rupali Bank made sure the opening day of First Division Cricket League had a tight game when they prevailed in a curtailed-over game against an experienced Cricket Coaching School (CCS) at the Dhaka University ground yesterday.

Fog delayed all five matches and it was no different at the DU ground where Rupali Bank opted to bat first after winning the toss. They rode on 98 from Rezwan as they made 228-7 in 45 overs. Asadullah's 69 was not enough as CCS fell short by just a single run as they reached 227-8 in the final ball of the innings.

Former national paceman Saiful Islam, who is still plying his trade as a player-coach, struck an unbeaten 44. Rupali's Monir and Imtiaz took two wickets each.

At the Jahangirnagar University ground, Uttara Sporting Club beat Sadharan Bima despite Rezaul Islam's century by four wickets while in BKSP, big guns Gazi Tank and Dhanmondi Club won their respective matches.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium where the league was officially inaugurated by former BCB member Reza-e-Karim, Indira Road beat newcomers Badda Ekota by 45 runs.

### LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Hossain Rajib won his fourth round match in Group A2 at the Aeroflot Open International Chess Festival in Moscow on Sunday when the Bangladeshi International Master defeated Russian IM Viktor Kuznetosov.

Rajib took his tally to 2.5 points while Grand Master Abdullah Al Rakib, who lost to Philippines' IM Julio Catalino Sadorra, remained on 1.5 points. On point, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed lost to WIM Ekaterina Karashuta of Russia.

#### WOMEN'S CHESS

Shamima Akhter Liza maintained solo lead in the 2nd Begum Laila Alam Women's FIDE Rating chess tournament after beating Shamima Sharmin Shimmi at the chess federation hall-room yesterday.

Liza had 4.5 points after five rounds. Shirin, Zakia and Hamida followed the leader with four points each.

#### BRIDGE

The National Pair Bridge Championship for the Khandokar Fazle Sobhan trophy will begin on Thursday at the conference room of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institution in Gulshan. The participants have been requested to report at the venue by 9am.

### **SCHOOL CRICKET**

Satkhira Correspondent: Satkhira Government High School defeated Karima High School by 33 runs in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers School Cricket Championship at the local stadium.

Batting first after winning the toss, Satkhira School scored 124 all out in 35.5 overs. Kader top-scored with 35 for the winners. In reply, Karima High School were all out for 91 in 25.1 overs.

Gaibandha Correspondent: Gaibandha Government High School recorded a facile five-wicket win over Shahabullah Sarker High

School at the local stadium. Shahabullah School, who beat Kanchipara School by 84 runs on the previous day, bundled out for 69 in 26 overs. In reply, the Gaibandha boys needed 17.4 overs to reach 72-5.

### Pathan shrugs off distraction

PTI, Adelaide

Left-arm paceman Irfan Pathan today denied the team was distracted by the imminent bidding for the Indian Premier League and promised that it would come out firing in the crucial tri-series encounter against Sri Lanka.

As players have been in dialogue with two members of the IPL governing body in Australia -- Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri -- it was deemed to have had an effect on their focus in yesterday's game.

Pathan said the team discussed the areas which required improvement after their 50-run defeat against Australia yesterday.

"It was a useful meeting in the sense everyone discussed the areas where the team needed to improve. It was useful and I'm sure the positives from it would be seen on the field tomorrow," Pathan told | that's how it turned out. He's fan-

reporters. Indians badly bungled in chasing down a meagre target of 204 against Australia, a defeat that has put in balance their chances of No I athletically save his well-

qualifying for the finals. The Baroda bowler, who returned figures of 4-41, hoped the miserable show by the batsmen

would not be repeated. "In a way it is good. The team is young and the boys are going to learn from it. It's not that you immediately are going to find your feet in international cricket. It's going to take some time," he said.

But Pathan did not agree that the poor performance was the result of any let up in their commitment.

"When you write you don't | Emanuel Pogatetz's close-range Trafford. think about your family and | header was blocked in what was friends. Similarly when we play cricket, we only play cricket,"



Acting secretary general of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Kutubuddin Ahmed (2nd from R) addresses a press briefing in connection with the 2nd Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games at the Conference Room of the National Sports

2ND INDO-BANGLADESH BANGLA GAMES

# All set for opening

SPORTS REPORTER

Council yesterday.



of the Indo-Bangla Games Banani. kicks off at the

target ten more gold medals than the inaugural event hosted by Kolkata. Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin day.

Ahmed will declare the five-day meet open on Friday amid fanfare but the Tk 3 crore-plus event will have no torches lit.

Bangladesh had won 30 gold because there will be no closing medals against West Bengal's 38 in ceremony," Kutubuddin told in the first version of the Games between Bengali speaking citizens from either side of the border but guished formally. this time, the hosts want to use the home conditions and dominate.

A total of 67 gold medals will be at stake for the two contingents -about 469 athletes and officials including 231 from West Bengal -and outside the capital.

Although dubbed the Games of Mission and BOA deputy secretary Friendship, the events will mostly be held at spectator-unfriendly venues. Especially, the choice of Army Stadium ahead of the expensive new tracks at the volleyball, kabaddi, kho kho, foot-

his innings was mixed with good

fortune and some brilliant shots.

excellent shots but could been out

thrice for some sluggish attempts.

Captain Shakib Al Hasan strug-

gled but remained not out on 20

while Rokibul Hasan accompanied

Scoreboard on the second day of

the three-day warm-up match

between visiting South Africa and

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI

at the Fatullah 'Cricket Stadium

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

The right-hander played some

FROM PAGE 17

him with 13 runs.

SCOREBOARD

(overnight 329 for 8)

Duminy c Rahim b Rasel

Amla c Zunaed b Enamul

Kallis c Forhad b Enamul

Morkel c Rahim b Forhad

Steyn c Rasel b Enamul

Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-13)

Total: (all out in 109.3 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-35, 3-159, 4-

169, 5-227, 6-272, 7-272, 8-274, 9-

on their hands to beat him and

Then Preston substitute Neil

Mellor, like James a former

Liverpool player, saw the England

Smith lbw b Rasel

Prince c & b Aftab

Bouchernotout

De Villiers b Forhad

Bothalbw b Forhad

Ntini c & b Sajidul

Did not bat: Nel.

FROM PAGE 20

struck curling shot.

tion battle."

belied their league position.

tastic.

Bangabandhu National Stadium as venue for the most exciting discipline of athletics will deprive the second edition fans from watching the competition properly as communication is Bangladesh a big problem for the stadium in

Bangladesh Olympic Bangabandhu Association (BOA) acting secre-National tary-general Kutubuddin Ahmed, Stadium this however, said the venue was choweekend, sen as the organisers felt commu-Bangladeshi nication for the athletes from BKSP athletes will would be easier.

> He was addressing a press conference in connection to the Games at the NSC conference room yester-

It can be mentioned that BKSP, where the athletes will stay, has its own standard tracks. "We are not lighting the torch

reply to a question. A Games torch has to be extin-Kutub added that Tk 1.10 crore

out of the total Tk 3.17-crore bud-

get has been spent for training of the Bangladesh team. "We have prepared well than the first time and looking forward to who compete in nine disciplines in bag 40 gold medals," said Bangladesh team's Chef-de-

> Chunnu. The disciplines are athletics, swimming, shooting, basketball,

> > 15.3

BCB XI: First innings

Zunaedc&bNtini

Aftab lbw b Morkel

Rokibul not out

Shakib not out

Sajidul, Rasel.

227, 5-232.

Bowler

Steyn

Ntini

Morkel

Botha

Kallis

Smith

Pompey survive a scare

Duminy

Nadir Shah

Toss: South Africa

103

Nafees c Boucher b Ntini

Saleh c Boucher b Morkel

Nazimuddin lbw b Botha

27 10

Extras: (b-2, lb-7, w-2, nb-11) 22

Total: (For 5 wkts in 64.3 overs) 263

To bat: Rahim, Forhad, Enamul,

Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-66, 3-142, 4

Umpires: Mahfuzur Rahman and

5 106

79

93

20

20

R W

65

48

46

16

20

73

Fine ton by Zunaed

265, 10-397.

Bowler

Sajidul

Enamul

Rasel

Reza

Aftab

Rokibul

general Ashrafuddin Ahmed

ball and cricket, which is making its debut in the form of Twenty20 version of the game.

BOA vice-president Mizanur Rahman Manu, deputy secretaries general SM Imtiaz Khan Babul and Ishtiaque Ahmed Curren and hosts' general team manager Anisur Rahman Dipu were also

A four and half hour opening ceremony will begin at 3.30pm and four paratroopers of Bangladesh Army carrying the flags of Bangladesh, India, BOA and Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games will land at the venue after the arrival of the chief guest.

BOA and National Sports Council boss and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed, BOA's Bengal's State Minister for Sports and Transport Subhash Chakraborty will address at the opening, which is expected to feature a laser show.

Leading band singer Ayub | winners. Bachchu, who will later perform in a live concert, will present the theme song. Teams of local Shilpakala Academy and Kolkata will perform cultural shows before the programme is rounded off with fireworks.

The West Bengal team will arrive in Bangladesh by road on February

### Delegation off to KL to meet Hammam

SPORTS REPORTER

Four organisers left Dhaka yesterday for Kuala Lumpur to meet Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Mohammad Bin Hammam to present the case of (BFF), which faces opposition from different quarters in following the guideline of FIFA to form the football associations (FA).

BFF's president SA Sultan, inactive for over two months and Bangladesh Olympic Association chief operating officer Col (retd) M 50-run win over India. Waliullah left for the Malaysian capital yesterday afternoon while former national captain Badal Roy and Forum leader Mohiuddin Bulbul departed last night.

The four-member delegation is involvement in the FAs and soften the world's football governing body, which has barred any government association in the elections of FA and the BFE.

### Ronak sweeps boys' events

SPORTS REPORTER

India swept all the honours in the Dhaka Bank 22nd Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships which concluded vesterday.

After India's Poojashree Venkatesh won the girls' singles and doubles titles on Sunday, it was her fellow countryman Manuja Ronak's turn to conquer double crown in the boys' group at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna. After gunning down Taipei's

Chen I-Ta 6-0, 5-7, 6-3 in the singles final in the morning, Ronak dashed Bangladesh hopes in the doubled final in the afternoon.

Pairing with Ahuja, Ronak took acting secretary general and West | the match 6-3, 7-5 against Bangladesh's Ranjan Ram and his Taipei partner Lin.

Special assistant to Chief Adviser Brig Gen (retd) mA Malek distributed trophies among the

### Test squad

FROM PAGE 17

As for the third seamer's spot, allrounder Forhad Reza is ahead of left-armers Syed Rasel and Sajidul Islam because of his batting abilities. The new-ball pairing of vicecaptain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shahadat Hossain is likely to be keptintact.

A surprise can also be expected in the form of a player who was not in the 17-member squad that have been practicing at the Mirpur venue in the last two weeks.

# Gilchrist to play on

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Australian coach Tim Nielsen said Monday that star wicketkeeperbatsman Adam Gilchrist was not in doubt for the remainder of the tri-Bangladesh Football Federation | series, despite injuring his left Nielsensaid. thumb against India on Sunday.

Gilchrist will retire from international cricket at the completion of the one-day tournament and when it happened which can be a appeared to suffer a nasty injury when standing up to Australian quick Stuart Clark during his side's

with the hand for the rest of the there's no fracture. innings and it seemed his 'farewell tour', as it has been dubbed, might him he's not playing the rest of the course of the week."

come to a premature end. Nielsen, himself a former first-

class wicketkeeper, admitted the thumb had suffered a bad blow, but said there was little danger Gilchrist would miss the rest of the series.

"I spoke to the physio this morning, it was a bit sore last night and we'll wait to see how he pulls up,"

"It was pleasing to see afterwards he was able to catch OK ... He got hit right on the 'drumstick' bit fleshy and get a bit bruised.

"Keepers are a pretty tough breed as well so he'll be right, hopefully over the next couple of days Gilchrist was clearly concerned he'll have an X-ray that shows

series, so until we know more about it, unless it's pretty much chopped off, he'll be right.

Gilchrist has returned to his hometown of Perth, with the Australian players having been given a few days off.

Team physiotherapist Alex Kountouris also said he didn't have any major concerns about the wicketkeeper.

"Adam did receive a knock on the hand while wicketkeeping last night and while it was quite sore at the time he is expected to be fully fit to take part in Friday's Commonwealth Bank Series match against Sri Lanka,

Kountouris said. "No medical investigation has been undertaken and at this stage "You'd be a brave man to tell there is no plan to do so over the

## expected to meet the AFC boss today in a bid to convince him about the need of government of the



AFP, Sydney

Five Australian cricketers were expected to finalise their contracts to play in India's lucrative IPL sors. Twenty20 competition late Monday, an agent said.

The Indian Premier League's said. Australian agent Neil Maxwell said the players, who had been granted an extension to the deadline, were checking all details before commit-

ting to the billion-dollar series. "I need to present the final through them." signatures to India overnight," Maxwell told Australian Associated last five players to sign, but said week's general election before Press (AAP) on Monday.

"With all that's going on the Australians.

players haven't had a lot of time to takeitallin," he said. "They've been playing matches,

arrangements with Cricket ShaneWarneandCameronWhite. Australia regarding existing spon-

for their own peace of mind," he entire competition from April 18 to

"We've got fundamental and Gillespie. approval from Cricket Australia issues they're happy to work security concerns.

AAP named the IPL contracted players as Nathan Bracken, Michael Clarke, Adam Gilchrist, so they need time to digest some of Jason Gillespie, Brad Haddin, Matthew Hayden, Mitchell Maxwell said the players needed Johnson, Simon Katich, Brett Lee, to assure themselves that they were Glenn McGrath, Justin Langer, not in breach of any contractual Ricky Ponting, Andrew Symonds,

The retired players Warne, McGrath, Langer and Gilchrist are ."They also need to clarify things expected to be available for the the end of May, along with Katich

The others may be available for that they're happy with the IPL the first three weeks if the proposed agreement, and if there are any tour of Pakistan is called off over

Cricket Australia is waiting for a Maxwell declined to name the security assessment following this they are among the initial draft of making a final decision on the Pakistan series.



The winners of the Dhaka Bank Bangladesh 22nd Junior Tennis Championships pose for a photograph with chief guest Brig Gen (retd) MA Malek, special assistant to the Chief Adviser, and other dignitaries on the concluding day of the week-long meet at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

## India's pressure mounts

FROM PAGE 17

India with Australia all but in the finals. "Now it's like a two horse race to get into the finals," Jayawardene said.

India had to realise the reason Australia were sitting pretty, despite playing inconsistently, was because they had prospered on the mistakes of their two opponents. "We are not pushing the advantage. Australia haven't played good cricket. I don't think the two other teams are capitalising on their weaknesses. He said it was Australia's experience and their bowling that had saved them from hinted last evening that he had losing twice over.

of the reasons behind India's inconsistent display with the bat. Dhoni's young batting line-up, be tempted to go with an extra especially the middle order, has batsman to guard against an immiproved to be thin on patience nent collapse. whenever they have found themselves in a tricky situation and Australia proved it right on Sunday while defending a small total. Irfan that game, looked at the flipside to

start thinking of what they need to do and learn from it, Pathan explained. "Some guys in the mid-He also felt both Sri Lanka and dle order are young. We have to give them time, no one is going to come and show maturity [immediately]."

The Indians opted out of a

practice session today but they will

be busy working out the right combination considering how crucial tomorrow's match is. On Sunday India played with five bowlers but following the loss, it remains to be seen if they will stick to the same combination. Dhoni intended to play five bowlers Lack of experience might be one against Sri Lanka. But now with Virender Sehwag expected to be fit for tomorrow's game, Dhoni might

If that were to happen the only change would be Munaf Patel or Sreesanth making way for Sehwag. It is likely that the team manage-Pathan, who took four wickets in ment will pick Sreesanth because though Munaf bowled within the squad's inexperience. "It is himself on Sunday, if he has an off

day he becomes a liability with his inability to perform with the bat or in the field. Sreesanth, on the other hand, despite proving expensive gives the promise with his aggres-

Jayawardene felt the five-bowler theory has worked for teams thereby suggesting he might be thinking of sticking to that policy. Fast bowler Ishara Amerasinghe, who had to sit out of the last two games after an impressive beginning in his first two games due to side strain, comes in for Nuwan Kulasekara. TEAMS

INDIA (likely): Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Rohit Sharma, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Robin Uthappa, Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Ishant Sharma. SRI LANKA (likely): Sanath | Jayasuriya, Tillakaratne Dilshan,

Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela

Jayawardene, Chamara Silva,

Chamara Kapugedera, Farveez

Amerasinghe, Lasith Malinga,

Maharoof, Chaminda Vaas, Ishara

for City SPORTS REPORTER

First win

City Club registered their maiden victory in the Senior Division Football League when they edged Dipali Juba Sangha 1-0 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Masud slammed the all important goal in the 51st minute.

City Club pushed their collection to seven points, three ahead of bottom-table Dipali. Wari defeated Agrani Bank 4-2

in the day's other match to secure the sixth place with 15 points and keep their hopes to reach the super league. Robin put Agrani ahead after

ten minutes but their first half

lead was cut by an own goal from

Jewel before Wari rode on goals by Afsar, Jamal Sr and Jamal Jr. Pashbon scored the other goal for Agrani, who stuck to ten

points. Today's match: Mohakhali v

Purbachal (3pm).

### Youths off to a flier Roma are in poor form as they

FROM PAGE 17 Adams put on a match-winning them. stand of 44.

58 while Adams made 26 not out after West Indian captain Shamarh Brooks had rocked the middle order with 4-39 in a group B match. The West Indian total revolved

around half-centuries from opener Kieran Powell and Devon Thomas, who scored 53 apiece, and a brave 41 from Shacaya Thomas lower down the order. Sri Lanka were aided in large superb 82. Greg Morgan was the

display by Sachith Pathirana to overcome spirited Nepal by 61 runs in a group C match in Penang. Nepal were dismissed for 175 in overshadowed by Daniel Landman the penultimate over chasing 237

the Sri Lankan spinners who 123 all out. pair of Rilee Rossouw and Roy shared seven wickets between

Rossouw returned unbeaten on finished with 3-31, off-spinner Umesh Karunarathna took 2-40 Kavikara claimed 2-22. Zimbabwe by 98 runs in a group A

game in Johor after struggling early with the bat. down to 39-3 before Corey GroupB

team's total of 221-8. Masvaure claimed 3-37 but he was who took 2-41 and then played a for a win, their batsmen done in by lone hand of 51 in a poor reply of Lumpur.

**SCORES IN BRIEF** 

Muttiah Muralidaran.

Scores from the ICC Under-19 Left-arm spinner Pathirana World Cup matches in Malaysia on Monday: GroupA

and another left-armer Navin NEW ZEALAND: 221/8 in 50 overs 40, Navin Kavikara 2-22) (Anderson 82, Morgan 27; New Zealand defeated Masvaure 3-37, Landman 2-42) ZIMBABWE: 123 all out in 42.4 Group D overs (Landman 51, Southee 5-11) Result: New Zealand beat The Kiwis found themselves Zimbabwe by 98 runs in Johor.

Anderson rebuilt the innings with a WEST INDIES: 222-8 in 50 overs (Powell 53, Thomas 53, Thomas 41; part by an impressive all-round next highest scorer with 27 in his Parnell 3-37, Pienaar 3-36) SOUTH AFRICA: 223-7 in 43.5 Zimbabwe captain Prince overs (Rossouw 58 not out, Adams 26 not out; Brooks 4-39)

Indies by three wickets in Kuala

Group C SRI LANKA: 236-9 in 50 overs

(Subasinghe 46, Pathirana 62, Perera 41; Bhattarai 4-42) NEPAL: 175 all out in 48.5 overs (Pathirana 3-31, Karunarathna 2-

Result: Sri Lanka beat Nepal by 61 runs in Penang.

BANGLADESH: 260-8 in 50 overs (Ashraful 51, Nasir 84, Ashiqul 69 not out; Jones 2-64) BERMUDA: 82 all out in 26.1 overs (Shuvo 3-9, Hasan 3-12)

Result: Bangladesh beat Bermuda by 178 runs in Kuala Lumpur. TUESDAY'S MATCHES

Group A: Pakistan v New Zealand

Result: South Africa beat West Group B: India v South Africa Group C: Australia v Nepal Group D: England v Bermuda

## week they wouldn't be in a relega-

ing his appointment as successor Championship Southampton.

replay against a Preston side that quarterfinal draw.

United striker James Beattie hit the last kick of the game. outside of the post for the hosts just before half-time with a free-kick Huddersfield 3-1 while from the edge of the box. Boro almost won the game in beaten finalists, thrashed Premier

Sheffield United manager follow-

to Bryan Robson.

Sunday's results meant that four clubs from the Premier League (Middlesbrough, Chelsea, Manchester United and Portsmouth), four from the second-tier Championship (West Brom, Barnsley, Cardiff and Sheffield United) and one from Redknapp admitted his team third division League One (Bristol had been fortunate to escape a Rovers) would feature in Monday's

Barnsley made it through on "They didn't deserve to lose that Saturday courtesy of a dramatic 2-1 game. If they played like that every victory away to five-times European champions Liverpool, coming from behind at Anfield to At Bramall Lane, Sheffield score the winner with virtually the Holders Chelsea beat

Manchester United, last season's stoppage time when defender League leaders Arsenal 4-0 at Old Bristol Rovers, the lowest-Kevin Blackwell's first match as ranked club left in the draw,

enjoyed a 1-0 win at home to

SPORTS REPORTER Rubel slotted a hattrick as Tangail

ers yesterday.

Chuadanga brush aside Narail 4-0 at Khulna while Kurigram edged Nilphamari 2-1 at Dinajpur. beat Kishoreganj 3-1 after a goalless

### No friction, insists

and a gesture can be taken in certain way, but things were contained and the moment has passed."

face the Spanish champions after a defeat against Juventus that has seen them fall 11 points behind leaders Inter. "The game against Real Madrid

back," Spalletti claimed. "When you are going through a of this importance it gives you a chance to send a clear message to

Bernd Schuster is a great Coach and they played well even in their

"Real worry me as a squad

of Nepal's capital.

are Pakistan Army, winners of their

FROM PAGE 17

## JFA CUP Rubel slams hattrick

second day of the 4th JFA Cup Under 15 Football Championships qualifi-At Jamalpur, Rubel scored in the 10, 45 and 62 minutes while Masum added the other as Tangail trounced Mymensingh 4-1. Riyaz reduced the

recorded an impressive win on the

arrears for the vanquished. BholaVenue: Today in this venue, Barisal bagged the biggest win of the day, hammering Patuakhali 5-0 with a brace from Rimon and one goal each from Mahtab, Mashiur and Roman at Bhola.

Sylhet needed the tiebreakers to

Two-goal Manik helped

draw at Moulvibazar. Manikganj correspondent adds: Abdullah scored twice as Narshingdi shot down Shariatpur 4-0 at the local stadium. Sohag and Saddam added the rest for the winners.

### FROM PAGE 20 "It can happen that a few words

is the perfect chance to bounce

period like this and you get a game everyone.

latest defeat.' Abahani face

national competition. All the matches will be played at the Dashrath Stadium at the heart

## actually good for the players and the team in a way because they will