

ভলিবল টুর্নামেন্ট ২০০৮



Maj Gen (ret) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury (top left) hands over the schools volleyball champions' trophy to the captain of Viquarunnissa School at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Sreesanth's first cool exposure

PTI, Dubai

Paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth said during the tri-series in Australia he made the effort to keep his emotions under control and maintained his composure for the first time.

Sreesanth believed that his unusual composure could be because of the medicines he took to recover from his injury.

"This is the first time I have played coolly. I think it has a lot to do with the ayurvedic treatment that I underwent after my recent injury," said the Kerala pacer, who was here on a promotional trip.

"Whenever I felt like saying something I controlled myself and did my talking when I walked back to my run up," he added.

Sreesanth visited a local jail to distribute 50 air tickets to the inmates who were punished for petty crimes and did not have money to go back home.

"I was deeply touched by all of them who have been away from their near and dear ones for years. I really feel happy to be part of such a noble cause," he said.

Jahurul steers

FROM PAGE 17

Butt (23) and captain Nahidul Haque (13) crossing the double figures.

City needed just 20 overs to reach 103-3 with Zahoor Elahi (31) and Golam Mabud (18) guiding them home.

BKSP-PEGASUS

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Sabbir Rahman's swashbuckling 72 off 61 balls went down the drains as Young Pegasus failed to defend 203-8 in their 50 overs.

The Pegasus No. 7 hit ten boundaries inclusive of five sixes to give them a chance but debutants BKSP cruised to a four-wicket victory with Mahmudul Hasan's rearguard 42 not out after a decent 56-run opening stand between Mohammed Mithun (22) and Latiful Azam (48).

Mahmudul, who had taken one wicket in his single over, hit two fours in 68 balls to accomplish the mission and bag the man-of-the-match award.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ABAHANI: 286-9 in 50 overs (Jahurul 107, Hafeez 48, Sahagir 21, Nadif 10, Zia 43, Nazmul 18*, extras 18, Rezaul 2-53, Faruk 3-42, Raisul 2-46).

PARTEX: 181 all out in 44 overs (Shahin 19, Afrul 12, Hanif 78, Raisul 46, extras 18, Talha 3-20, Rafique 2-28, Nazmul 2-32, Sunny 2-11).

Result: Abahani win by 105 runs. **KALABAGAN:** 101 all out in 35.4 overs (Shabbaz 23, Nahidul 13, extras 29, Shafaq 3-23, Salahuddin 2-23).

CITY CLUB: 103-3 in 20 overs (Rabiul 10, Imran 15, Rasel 17, Zahoor 31*, Mabud 18*, extras 12, Mahmuduzzaman 2-28).

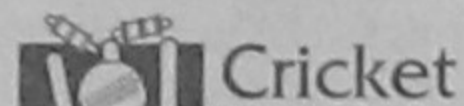
Result: City Club win by seven wickets.

PEGASUS: 203-8 in 50 overs (Izal 15, Jubair 19, Mehmood 33, Nayeem 16, Jamil 26, Sabbir 72, extras 15, Riaz 2-29, Tapash 2-33).

BKSP: 205-6 in 47.5 overs (Mithun 22, Latiful 48, Rahim 19, Mahmudul 42*, Anas 34, extras 22, Nazmul 2-26).

Result: BKSP win by four wickets.

Cricket should talk: Kumble



PTI, Dubai

Indian Test captain Anil Kumble, who led the team in the controversy-ridden series against Australia, said cricket should do the talking to counter-sledding.

"I believe cricket can do the talking. It is the best way to counter sledding," said Kumble, who was here as the brand ambassador of Manipal University yesterday.

Kumble said the war of words should be restricted to the cricket ground only.

"Word duels have always been there. It is nothing new to cricket or any sport. I firmly believe that whatever happens on the field should remain on the field," he was quoted as saying in 'Gulf News.' Asked about the team's aggressive approach, Kumble said the "approach is not new to Indian team. It is wrong to say that in the past we

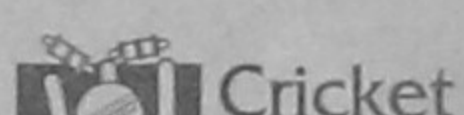
were not aggressive." Kumble praised the one-day squad for their tri-series win in Australia.

"The youngsters are highly skilful and they have done well. We have now shown the confidence and skill and executed it perfectly in Australia, especially in the one-dayers," he said.

On the large-scale infusion of money in the game, he said the "money in sport is good and I don't think it will affect the youngsters."

"Of course, when you compare cricket with other sports in India, then it is big. Now cricket can be chosen as a career option and this will bring professionalism into the game," Kumble, 59 short of reaching the milestone of capturing 1000 international wickets, said he was looking forward to do well in the home Test series against South Africa. "Right now my focus is on winning against South Africa and not reaching a personal milestone," he said.

'Let seniors and juniors co-exist'



PTI, Kolkata

The Board of Control for Cricket in India bosses and cricketing pundits may be singing paeans to youth after the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side's thumping win against Australia in the CB Series, but celebrated coach John Buchanan is certain that a combination of fresh legs and old warhorses is needed for a team's success on the cricket field.

The Aussie felt that the co-existence of seniors and juniors raises the competitive ability of a team as both try to outdo each other.

"Experience leads to knowledge that can't be expected in young

players. Youth challenges experience and knowledge. And experience challenges youth through knowledge. This mutual challenge raises the standard of a team," said Buchanan, who guided Australia to two World Cup triumphs.

Buchanan was not yet willing to draw a comparison between Dhoni's team and the Indians sides he had battled as Aussie coach in 2001 and 2004.

"I'm not really sure that the present team is better. I need to watch them in action for the next three or four years. See how they perform. How they assert themselves. Then only can I judge. One tri-series win does not mean anything," Buchanan, who turns 56 next month, told PTI in an interview.

Tim & Paul's rescue act

FROM PAGE 17

On the second ball after lunch the momentum changed when allrounder Jacob Oram bowled Vaughan for 32 and in his next over had Cook caught behind by Brendon McCullum for 44.

Kyle Mills chimed in with the wicket of Andrew Strauss for eight when he directed the ball straight to Mathew Sinclair at point and in the first nine overs after lunch England had lost three wickets for only 15 runs.

Mills was also unlucky not to get Ian Bell first ball when he sent a top edge to midwicket where Mark Gillespie completely misjudged the flight of the ball and spilled the catch.

Bell had a second life when he was dropped by McCullum and he crawled to 11 off 38 balls before McCullum made no mistake with the next edge and held a catch diving to his right off Chris Martin.

Gillespie also made amends for his dropped catch when he bowled Kevin Pietersen for 26 as the England dangerman played all around a full-length delivery and

England had lost five wickets for 57 runs.

It was the removal of Pietersen that saw the arrival of wicketkeeper Ambrose, who had displayed his tenacity and strokemaking ability when he posted 55 in England's first innings of the first Test.

Oram was the most impressive of the bowlers and finished the day with two for 25 off 22 overs.

Chris Martin, Kyle Mills and Mark Gillespie also claimed a wicket.

Banking on the pitch favouring the pace bowlers New Zealand made one change to their winning combination from the first Test with seamer Gillespie coming in at the expense of the off-spinner Jeetan Patel.

England have made two changes to their first Test line up with the under-performing Matthew Hoggard and Steve Harmison replaced by Stuart Broad and James Anderson.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second Test between New Zealand and England at the

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Purbachal Parasad defeated Wari Club 2-1 in yesterday's relegation leg of the Senior Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"Tarikul and Palash scored either side of the break for the winners while Kabir reduced the arrears for Wari."

JFA CUP

Early goals in each half by Sohail and Parvez gave Narayanganj a 2-0 win over BKSP in the final round of the 4th JFA Cup Under-15 Football Championship at the Rajshahi Stadium.

In the other match, Khulna edged Moulvibazar 1-0 with Litu notching the winner in the second half.

DRU CAROM

Jashim Uddin of Daily Star, Sameer Kumar Day of Samakal and Jai Jai Din's Mahbub Alam Lablu and Masudul Alam Tushar won their respective matches of the Dhaka Reporters Unity carom competition. Four matches will be played today.

SUJAN'S CENTURY

Gaibandha correspondent: Ghagot Kira Chakra earned a comfortable 60-run win in the Naheed Cotton First Division Cricket League against Kisholoy KC.

Sujan smashed 101 as Ghagot scored 209-8 before bowling out their opponents for 149 at the Gaibandha Stadium.

Ispahani title sponsor for BD-Ire series

SPORTS REPORTER

Ispahani won the title sponsorship of this month's three-match one-day series between Bangladesh and Ireland.

The group will spend Tk 18 lakh for the three matches to be played on March 18, 20 and 22 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Irish will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow for the nine-day trip.

Bangladesh Television will telecast all matches live.

Basin Reserve in Wellington on Thursday.

ENGLAND: First innings Cook c McCullum b Oram 44 Vaughan b Oram 32 Strauss c Sinclair b Mills 8 Pietersen b Gillespie 31 Bell c McCullum b Martin 11 Collingwood not out 48 Ambrose not out 97 Extras: (b-5, lb-7, nb-8) 20 Total: (For 5 wickets in 90 overs) 291 Fall of wickets: 1-79, 2-82, 3-94, 4-126, 5-136

To bat: Broad, Sidebottom, Anderson, Panesar

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Martin	19	1	76	1
Mills	24	2	77	1
Gillespie	17	1	70	1
Oram	22	10	25	2
Vettori	8	0	31	0

NEW ZEALAND: How, Bell, Fleming, Taylor, Sinclair, Oram, McCullum, Vettori, Gillespie, Mills, Martin.

Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: Steve Davis and Rudi Koertzen.

Viqarunnisa's 5th v'ball title

SPORTS REPORTER

Viqarunnisa Noon School girls triumphed their fifth school volleyball title on the concluding day of the South Breeze School volleyball tournament yesterday.

In the final at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium, Viqarunnisa blanked SOS Shishu Pally 2-0.

In the boys' final, Children Academy also beat BIT by an identical 2-0 margin to clinch their maiden title.

Green Herald and Emarat Hossain High School bagged third places in the girls' and boys' groups respectively.

Maj Gen (ret) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury distributed prizes as chief guest.

Bangladesh Volleyball Federation president Golam Quddus Chowdhury, sponsor South Breeze school's principal Zeenat Chowdhury and Iftekhar Ahmed, chairman of Ifad Group, were also present.

A total of 14 boys' school and ten girls' schools took part in the competition.

BFF asks clubs' reconsideration

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday requested the Dhaka professional league clubs to reconsider their decision to not take part in this month's B. League transfers and the proposed Swadhinata Cup tournament.

In a letter to the eight clubs -- Abahani, Mohammedan, Muktijoddha, Sheikh Russel, Brothers Union, Arambagh, Farashganj and Rahmatganj -- that declined to take part in the players' bourse until a new BFF executive committee is elected, the BFF said that the clubs should rethink about the decision for the greater interest of the game and the players.

It were the eight clubs who had agreed to go into the transfer from March 15 and start the league from early April in a previous meeting with the league committee, which had proposed to begin the transfer in February.

"To honour the BFF's request, we will sit to discuss this," said Mohammedan Sporting Club's general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan yesterday.

"But there is little hope of the clubs' reversing this decision," he added.

BDR make it 17 out of 18

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Rifles retained the national handball title when they defeated Bangladesh Police 28-15 in the Exim Bank 18th National Men's Handball Championship at the Outer Stadium handball ground yesterday.

The winners, who led the first half 17-8, won the trophy for 17 times to maintain their monopoly.

Bangladesh Ansar finished third with a 37-18 win against Rajshahi in the play-off.

BDR's Kamrul Islam was adjudged the player of the final.

Bangladesh Handball Federation president and Industry Secretary Dr Mohammad Nurul Amin Prodhan distributed prizes.

Pakistan want

FROM PAGE 17

Naghmi played down the suggestion Australia had postponed their Test and one-day tour with the consent of the PCB.

"If you want you can call it consent but it was a compromise for us in a helpless situation," he said.

"Either we postponed the series or shifted it to a neutral venue which we didn't want to do as it does no good for our cricket."

'They're defensive'

FROM PAGE 17

only for him, but everyone else not to get carried away.

"We need to strike that balance between staying in the present and also looking at the future. But one cannot forget that the Test team has also tasted success. We should not forget that what the seniors did in the Tests laid the foundation for the tour."

Yuvraj Singh and Wasim Jaffer were in poor form during the tour but Tendulkar said this wasn't because the two have trouble playing on bouncy seaming tracks. "Australia is not the only place in the world where there is pronounced seam and bounce and both these batsmen have scored runs on those tracks. It's a case of ups and downs and it was just a coincidence that it happened in Australia."

Tendulkar said this tour was the most special of all four he'd been on because of India's win in the Perth Test. "If one looks back at the series we challenged them more than they did us."

WI vow to keep status



AFP, London

West Indies cricket chiefs have vowed they will fight any attempts to reduce their team to that of a 'second-tier' Test match nation when the executive board of the International Cricket Council (ICC) meets at the governing body's Dubai headquarters next week.

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) are also worried about the impact of the Indian Premier League (IPL) on the game in their region, with matches in the new Twenty20 tournament, which starts next month, set to take place while Sri Lanka and Australia are touring the Caribbean.

Meanwhile the WICB said the ICC had been "insulting" in the way it had responded to its concerns regarding the treatment of leading West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor, who was removed from his scheduled appointment in the third Test of the recent series between Australia and India following Indian complaints about his performance in the second match of the series.

One plan being mooted to increase the competitiveness of Test cricket would see the top seven nations cut off from the bottom three with promotion and relegation between the two groups.

Under the current rankings, that would see West Indies, who've declined dramatically since the likes of Viv Richards, Michael Holding, Malcolm Marshall and Curtly Ambrose helped make them Test cricket's leading team from the mid-1970s to the start of the 1990s and a popular draw with fans around the world, with just Bangladesh and Zimbabwe to play in the five-day format.

"The WICB will never allow this to happen," WICB president Julian Hunte insisted in a statement from their Antigua offices on Tuesday.

"In most of the cricket playing countries of the world, we are the team they like most after their national team."

"However, we have to use this as motivation to get back to the top of world cricket. Our players must be mindful of this when they go out to play since if our standing in world cricket does not improve we might find our options and opportunities severely limited."

Hunte also voiced fears about the consequences of the IPL.

"We are deeply concerned about the future impact of leagues like the IPL on our cricket particularly when their seasons are in direct competition with our tours or our domestic season."

"We and New Zealand will be the big losers. Already it is clear that three of our players (Chris Gayle, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Ramnarine Sarwan) will have to choose between representing teams in the IPL or representing their region."

"Given the amount of money at stake, it already seems to be a foregone conclusion. We also have the ICL (the 'rebel Indian Cricket League) and again the dilemma faced by our players."

When Bucknor, Test cricket's most experienced umpire, was replaced in Australia in January, Hunte warned a dangerous precedent had been set.

Many observers accused the ICC of 'giving in' to India, because it is cricket's economic powerhouse -- a charge the world governing body denied.

Hunte, who contrasted the ICC's reaction with the way it had batted away West Indian complaints about umpiring on their 2005 tour of Australia, was unhappy with the response he'd had from Dubai regarding the 'Bucknor' affair.

One last

FROM PAGE 17

What the Australian wants from his side in the last match is that they put more runs on the board to be competitive.

"I think we need to make another 40 or 50 runs on our wicket out there to be competitive in the last ODI. There is turn for our spinners which we expect at home and that's why we have to score more runs. Obviously 170-odd twice is not good enough to beat the best or second best team in the world," said Siddons adding that the coin might not favour once again like the first two games.

And the Tigers coach was aware that something come from his skipper if they finish the tour with some consolation.

"We are all concerned about Ash (Mohammad Ashraful). He is a match-winner for us and we are trying to find a way to get him back to scoring again. We took the shackles off him a bit yesterday and it didn't quite work. Unfortunately with the way his luck is going at the moment a lot of different things are happening to him and the ball didn't clear the fence and he got out. I am definitely keen to see him perform," he hoped.



PHOTO STAR

Players of Bangladesh Rifles rejoice after they clinched the 18th National Handball Championship at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		DOWN	20 Tolu
1 Information	37 Leprechauns' dance	1 Portrayer of Wood, Todd and Wonka	provider
5 English channel?	38 Failed the white-glove test	2 One side of the Urals	21 They're a striking group
8 Pear or apple	41 Grumpy friend?	3 Diplomacy	22 "Friends" of the cast
12 Jacob's brother	42 Foolish one	4 Diving bird	23 Favorite
13 Mound stail	45 Sea eagle	5 Strong "—" and heavy	24 "— lazy river, ..."
14 Footnote abbr.	46 Walleye	6 Very dry, as champagne	25 Spasm
15 Tonic	47 The Da Vinci	7 Upper limit	26 Clappett patriarch
16 Frequent, in verse	48 Frequent, in verse	8 "My Fair Lady" colonel	27 Lemieux milieu
17 The Da Vinci	49 Frequent, in verse	9 Reel instrument	28 — good deed
18 Mr. Sajak	50 Frequent, in verse	10 Calf-length	29 Conclusion
19 Frequent, in verse	51 Frequent, in verse	11 Paradise on the map	30 Option, from Mandel
20 Flock in flight	52 Frequent, in verse	12 Paraphrase	31 Incite
21 Use a crowbar	53 Frequent, in verse	13 Paraphrase	32 Unseen problem
22 Paraphrase	54 Frequent, in verse	14 Paraphrase	33 Tragic
23 Paraphrase	55 Frequent, in verse	15 Paraphrase	34 Vicinity
24 Paraphrase	56 Frequent, in verse	16 Paraphrase	35 Collections
25 Paraphrase	57 Frequent, in verse	17 Paraphrase	36 Sexy skirt feature
26 Paraphrase	58 Frequent, in verse	18 Paraphrase	37 Remuneration
27 Paraphrase	59 Frequent, in verse	19 Paraphrase	38 Storm center
28 Paraphrase	60 Frequent, in verse	20 Paraphrase	
29 Paraphrase	61 Frequent, in verse	21 Paraphrase	
30 Paraphrase	62 Frequent, in verse	22 Paraphrase	
31 Paraphrase	63 Frequent, in verse	23 Paraphrase	
32 Paraphrase	64 Frequent, in verse	24 Paraphrase	
33 Paraphrase	65 Frequent, in verse	25 Paraphrase	
34 Paraphrase	66 Frequent, in verse	26 Paraphrase	
35 Paraphrase	67 Frequent, in verse	27 Paraphrase	
36 Paraphrase	68 Frequent, in verse	28 Paraphrase	
37 Paraphrase	69 Frequent, in verse	29 Paraphrase	
38 Paraphrase	70 Frequent, in verse	30 Paraphrase	
39 Paraphrase	71 Frequent, in verse	31 Paraphrase	
40 Paraphrase	72 Frequent, in verse	32 Paraphrase	
41 Paraphrase	73 Frequent, in verse	33 Paraphrase	
42 Paraphrase	74 Frequent, in verse	34 Paraphrase	
43 Paraphrase	75 Frequent, in verse	35 Paraphrase	
44 Paraphrase	76 Frequent, in verse	36 Paraphrase	
45 Paraphrase	77 Frequent, in verse	37 Paraphrase	
46 Paraphrase	78 Frequent, in verse	38 Paraphrase	
47 Paraphrase	79 Frequent, in verse	39 Paraphrase	
48 Paraphrase	80 Frequent, in verse	40 Paraphrase	