



Did U Know?

Frank Marshall (1877-1944) was the first American to defeat a Soviet chess player in an international tournament. He did it in New York in 1924.



Marcus Trescothick
(Just retired England batsman)
"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time playing for England, and I am very proud of having been selected for 76 Test matches and over 120 ODIs." While announcing his retirement from international cricket on Saturday.



Orient, Brothers post easy wins

SPORTS REPORTER
Newaz fell one short of a hundred but still Orient Sporting Club thumped Young Pegasus B by 113 runs in the First Division League at the Dhaka University ground yesterday. As Orient scored 217-10 in 47.3 overs, Newaz faced 107 balls for his 99 but off-spinner Rafiyan Sharif removed him after he had struck three sixes and ten boundaries. In

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Eves' run amok

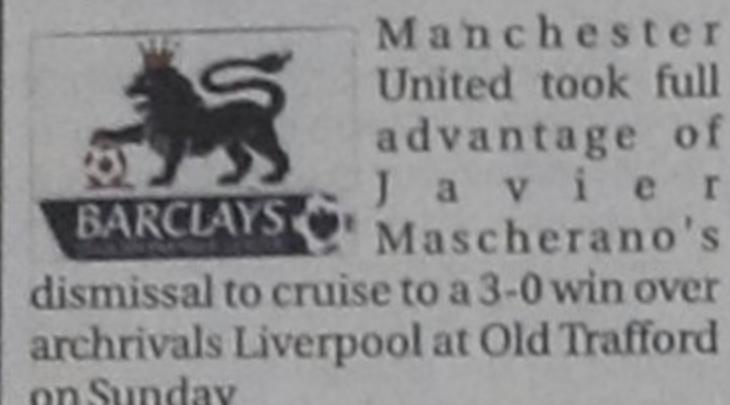
SPORTS REPORTER
Salma Khatun snared four wickets as Bangladesh romped to an eight-wicket victory over Hong Kong in the first one-day at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Visiting Hong Kong were bowled out for a meagre 38 runs in 22.2 overs and Bangladesh took only 13.2 overs to surpass the target. Salma's 6.2 overs yielded five maidens as she only conceded two runs to take the four scalps. Titu Rani and Shamima Akhter took two wickets each. Only captain Neisha Pratt scored 16 as the rest of the Hong Kong line-up struggled to find their feet.

When the home side replied, Shathira Zakir scored 22 off 45 balls.

MU maul 10-man L'pool

EUROSPORT, undated



Manchester United took full advantage of Javier Mascherano's dismissal to cruise to a 3-0 win over archrivals Liverpool at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Wes Brown put the hosts ahead before Mascherano was sent off for a second yellow card just before half time. Cristiano Ronaldo then netted his 34th goal of the season with just over ten minutes remaining before substitute Nani completed the scoring two minutes later.

The result puts United six points clear at the top of the Premier League table - at least until full time in Arsenal's clash with Chelsea later on the day.

The role Steve Bennett would play at Old Trafford had featured heavily in pre-match sparring between the two camps, and the referee's name is certain to feature in most of the post match analysis after he reduced Liverpool to ten men.

Mascherano had been booked for a wild lunge on Paul Scholes as early as the 11th minute and his subsequent

quent protestations over the booking showed the Argentine knew he would now be walking a tightrope for the remainder of the match.

But if that was the case, he soon appeared to forget when, just before half time, he received his marching orders for needless dissent following the booking of Fernando Torres.

The Spaniard had been shown yellow for protesting too loudly over a Scholes challenge, prompting Mascherano to race over to the scene and deliver his verdict on the scoring two minutes later.

It was not the first time the Liverpool midfielder had been in referee Steve Bennett's ear during the first half, and with the official clearly in no mood to take any nonsense he promptly brandished a second yellow, quickly followed by red.

In the light of this week's calls to stamp out disrespectful behaviour towards officials, Mascherano's actions were the last thing the Football Association wanted on such a high profile day and his exit from the pitch, when he had to be restrained by teammates, will only have deepened that disappointment.

Liverpool had started the game well, enjoying the better of possession during the opening stages, although it was United who fashioned the better chances.

Wayne Rooney - one of eight changes following the midweek win over Bolton - squandered two decent chances early on, Pepe Reina in the Liverpool goal twice making saves.

It proved to be a strange afternoon for Reina, who was guilty of some atrocious kicking and uncertain handling early on yet still managed to pull off some tremendous stops after the break to keep the scoreline respectable.

The source of the opener could not have been more unlikely. Brown - still yet to commit his future to United - put the hosts into the lead in the 34th minute with just his second league goal of a career which has spanned 12 seasons.

Considering his contract situation, it is unclear whether Brown will score another goal in United's colours, but if he does, it is unlikely to be a more important one. The England defender rose above Martin Skrtel and ahead of Reina to

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PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool's Spanish goalkeeper Jose Reina (L) makes an acrobatic save before Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney could pose any threat during their English Premier League match at Old Trafford yesterday.

PREMIER HOCKEY TRANSFER

Issa leaves Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Abahani roped in national team's penalty corner specialist Russell Khan Bappy although they have only included four national pool members out of maximum six. Abahani retained Mahbub Ehsan Rana and the remaining pool player is Mosharraf Hossain Kuti, who left Mariners for the Dhanmondi outfit.

They have recruited young Wari custodian Ainiul, which makes Bappy's stay uncertain although club officials refused to disclose which two players they have in their mind.

Apart, the Dhanmondi giants have retained key players Rajib, Faruk, and veteran Shahidullah Khokon while signing Feroz from Azad and Rony from Mohammedan.

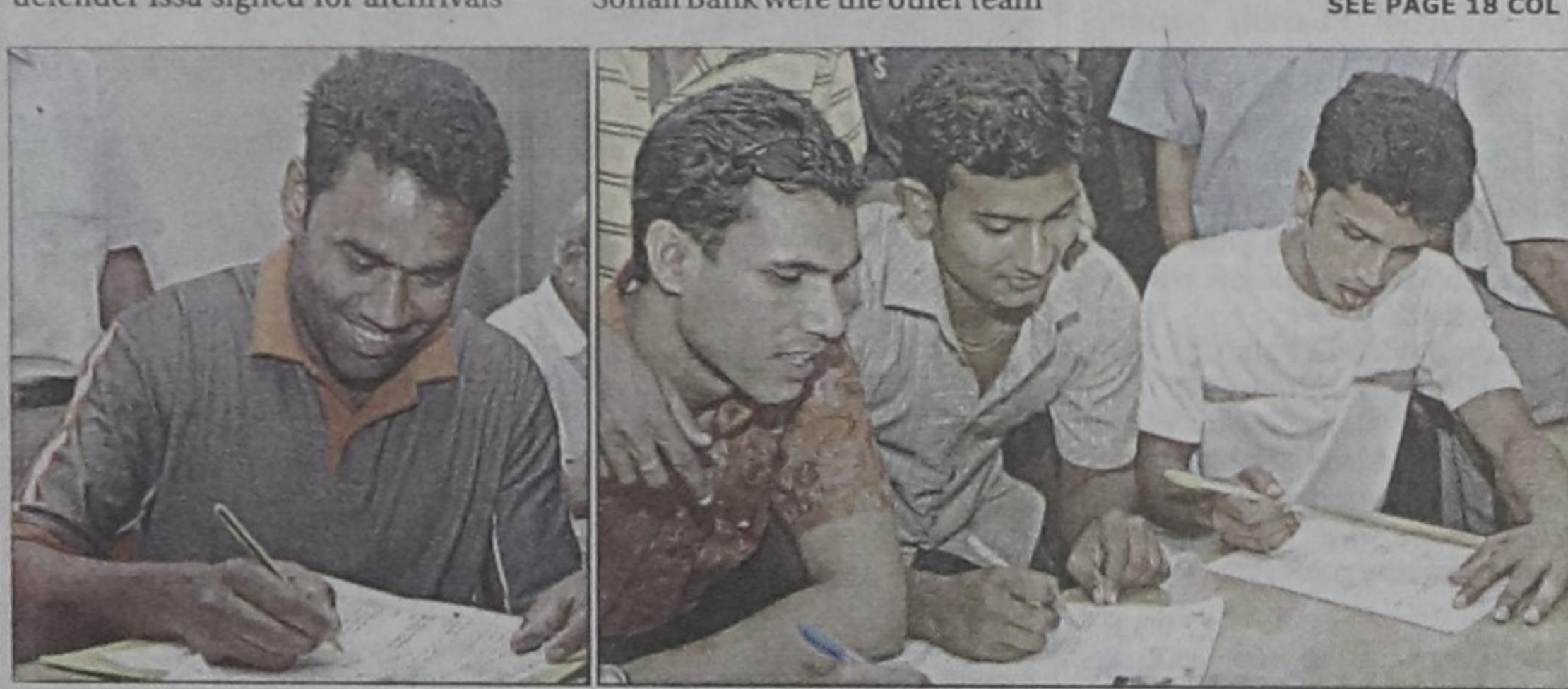
Sonali Bank were the other team

and his old club Mohammedan. Abahani have also yet to ensure their long serving national goal-keeper Russell Khan Bappy although they have only included four national pool members out of maximum six. Abahani retained Mahbub Ehsan Rana and the remaining pool player is Mosharraf Hossain Kuti, who left Mariners for the Dhanmondi outfit.

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The transfer, which will close tomorrow, has already become an ordeal for the players, especially the national stars. With only three teams -- Abahani, Mohammedan and Usha -- expected to come out with big budget, the quota of six national players per team will only

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PHOTOS: STAR

Issa Miah (L) signs for Mohammedan while old Abahani players Rana and Jimmy (R) flank their new recruit Chayan on the opening day of the Premier Hockey League transfer at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Malinda's lone battle

Cricket

APP, Providence

Three wickets in the final period, including the scalp of Malinda Warnapura for a maiden Test hundred of 120, wobbled Sri Lanka after their batsmen revelled in the opening Test against West Indies on Saturday.

Left-hander Warnapura, opening the batting, maximised ideal conditions to give Sri Lanka a solid base, but West Indies struck back in the final period to leave the visitors on 269 for four in their first innings when stumps were drawn on the opening day.

But he edged a loose drive in the next over from Taylor and was caught at slip without addition to his score.

Thilan Samaraweera managed to avoid a first-ball duck, when he kept a low delivery from hitting the base of his stumps, but he had no control, when he turned the next ball from Taylor to the short mid-wicket and was caught to leave Sri Lanka on 243 for four.

Nerves then became to creep into the batting of the Sri Lankans, and Tillakaratne Dilshan - in particular -- was fortunate, when he pulled a delivery from Taylor -- in his 17th over -- to mid-wicket and a sprawling Benni failed to get his hands to the ball.

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Malinda was caught down the leg-side, when he fended at his short, rising 226th delivery from Dwayne Bravo about half-hour after tea to leave Sri Lanka on 205 for two. He batted for close to 4-1/2 hours and struck 14 boundaries.

But Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene came to the wicket and kept his side on track with his deputy Kumar Sangakkara before Jerome Taylor struck twice in the space of three balls in his 16th over to drag West Indies back into the match.

Sangakkara, who was dropped on 44 at short mid-off off Taylor, flicked Test newcomer and left-arm spin bowler Sulieman Benn through backward square leg for a single to reach 50.

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh's Salma (L) celebrates one of her five wickets in the first of the three-match one-day series against Hong Kong at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Ashraful attends disciplinary hearing

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Sunday called skipper Mohammad Ashraful for a disciplinary hearing following his scuffle with a fan last week. The board's Disciplinary Committee may give its verdict today.

The transfer, which will close tomorrow, has already become an ordeal for the players, especially the national stars. With only three teams -- Abahani, Mohammedan and Usha -- expected to come out with big budget, the quota of six national players per team will only

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Ashraful hit the headlines for slapping a jeering fan during Bangladesh's practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium ahead of the three-match one-day series against Ireland on March 16.

Although Ashraful apologised for his action the following day, the board called a belated hearing apparently in an effort to stop the ICC, the game's ruling body, to step into the case.

According to ICC players' code of conduct, the act of the Bangladesh skipper was an offence under its clause 4.2 which states that a physical assault on another player, umpire, referee, official or a spectator is a level 4 offence. The penalty for a level 4 offence shall be a ban of between five Test matches or ten ODIs up to a life ban for the player or official concerned.

BCB's media committee chairman Ahmed Sajjadul Alam said that they had called Ashraful along with left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal and pacer Shahadat Hossain for the hearing but ruled out any involvement of the ICC over the incident.

"We called them for hearing and definitely we will take some actions against them," said Alam without elaborating.

He however said that the board had already penalised Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Mortaza, left-arm spinner Abdur Razzaq and left-arm paceman Syed Rasel by deducting 20 per cent of their match fees for taking French leave.

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Trent takes break from int'l cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Ireland captain Trent Johnston has announced that he is taking a break from international cricket.

Johnston announced his decision after playing in Ireland's third one-day defeat by Bangladesh on Saturday.

"I've been struggling with various injuries and my body's telling me it's time for rest," said Johnston.

The 34-year-old will play no part in Ireland's Friend Provident Trophy campaign but could return for the Intercontinental Cup later this year.

"I've been a bit of a passenger in the field, and it's not fair on the rest of the team.

"It's been no secret that I've been contemplating this for some time.

"International cricket places a great strain not only on the body, but also on family life, and with a wife and two young children, I've got to prioritise.

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Sidebottom sinks NZ

Cricket

APP, Napier

An inspired spell of precision bowling by Ryan Sidebottom pulled England off the ropes and put them in charge of the third cricket Test against New Zealand as 15 wickets fell here Sunday.

As batsmen contrived to make the placid McLean Park wicket look dangerous, England reached stumps on the second day of the series decider at 91 for two, holding an overall lead of 176.

Although Ashraful apologised for his action the following day, the board called a belated hearing apparently in an effort to stop the ICC, the game's ruling body, to step into the case.

New Zealand raced to 103 for one in reply before Sidebottom grabbed the initiative and New Zealand's last nine wickets tumbled for 65 runs with the left-arm quick claiming a career-best seven for 47.

The carnage continued when England started their second innings with Chris Martin having Michael Vaughan caught behind by Brendon McCullum for four in the first over.

Alastair Cook and Andrew Strauss then put on 72 for the second wicket before Cook was caught behind by McCullum leaving Strauss not out 40 and Kevin Pietersen on seven.

As momentum swung between sessions New Zealand were firmly in control in the morning, polishing off the last three England batsmen for 13 runs and then pounding the England bowlers, Sidebottom apart, to go to lunch at one for 93.

Central to the New Zealand batting onslaught was Stephen Fleming who joined Jamie How in the middle when Sidebottom removed Matthew Bell with the third ball of the innings.

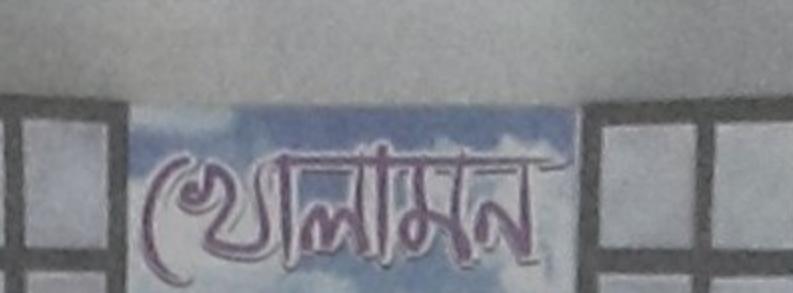
Fleming, in his final Test, was particularly harsh on James Anderson, and belted him out of the attack early as he raced to 59 off 72 balls, including nine fours and a six, before falling to Sidebottom three overs after lunch.

It was a disappointing end for Fleming -- caught at second slip by Paul Collingwood -- as he again failed to convert a half-century into a 100.

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7-UP SIDEBOTTOM: England paceman Ryan Sidebottom yells after dismissing New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Brendon McCullum (not in the picture) during the second day of the third Test at McLean Park in Napier yesterday. Sidebottom took 7-47.

আজ দুপুর ২টা ১৫ মিনিটে
উপস্থাপনা : RJ মুদ্রাত



অতিথি
ত্রপা মজুমদার

(6), Brendon McCullum (9) and Daniel Vettori (14) while Stuart Broad claimed Ross Taylor (2), Tim Southee (5) and Jeetan Patel (4).

Teenager Southee had earlier announced his arrival on the international scene with a five-wicket haul on debut as he wrapped up the England firstinnings.

When England resumed at 240 for seven, the 19-year-old Southee removed Stuart Broad with the first ball of the day, caught by Brendon McCullum for a Test-best 42.

He then finished the innings

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