

## Pegasus stay in Premier

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-wicket burst from pace-man Mukhtar Ali helped Young Pegasus stay afloat in the Premier League after they registered a massive 91-run victory over Sonargaon Cricketers in the last relegation playoff match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Mukhtar removed former national opener Mehrab Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman and Shahadur Rahman for ducks as Sonargaon were skittled out for 118 in 34.1 overs, in reply to Young Pegasus's 209-9 in 50 overs. He finished with three for 20 while captain Jubair Ahmed took three wickets for 50.

Only Ejaz Ahmed scored a 36-ball 26 with his customary one six. The loss confirmed Sonargaon go down to First Division where Kalabagan Krra Chakra will join them next season.

Earlier opting to bat first, Young Pegasus made a bright start and rode on solid knocks from Rabiul Islam and their Pakistani recruit Nayeem Hafiz. Opener Rabiul anchored the innings till the 32nd over, scoring 40 off 85 balls with the help of five boundaries. Nayeem, coming in at number three, stroked nine boundaries in his 94-ball 73 that took Pegasus past the 200-mark. For Sonargaon, Mohammad Azim and Elias Sunny took three wickets each.



## Did U Know?

The tallest person to play tennis at Wimbledon ever, was and is, Ivo Karlovic, at 6 feet, 10 inches.



Shaun Tait

(Australia fast bowler)  
"I get annoyed with the media. They cause a hell of a lot of problems in general. I don't think the media realise what they do to people's lives. They ruin people."  
Who is almost ready to come back from his self-enforced break.



**Neo Sports**  
India v South Africa  
Third Test, Day 2  
Live from 10:00am

**TEN Sports**  
West Indies v Sri Lanka  
Second ODI  
Live from 8:00pm

**ESPN**  
English Premier League  
Bolton Wanderers v West Ham  
Live from 7:55 pm

**Primera Liga**  
De Huelva v Barcelona  
Live from 1:55am (Sunday)

## Victoria ride on Omar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Omar made unbeaten 50 as Victoria Club registered a four-wicket victory against Bangladesh Cricket Academy and School (BCAS) in the Colonel Malek Smriti First Division Cricket League at the Shaheed Miraj-Tapan Stadium yesterday.

Victoria scored 145 for six in 28.3 overs in reply to BCAS's 144 all out in 38.3 overs.

Atik was the other notable scorer for the winners with 39 runs. Earlier, Rony took three wickets and Atik captured two to wrap up the BCAS innings cheaply.



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal drives towards long-on during his strokeful 60 in the second one-day international at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad yesterday.

## Hosts on top

SPORTS REPORTER

**Grameenphone Academy Cup**  
Nayeem Islam carried his good form with a back-to-back century as BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) tightened their grip on South Africa Academy on the third day of the second and final four-day Test at the Beer Shreshtha Shaheed Motiur Rahman Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

The right-hander, who slammed 136 in the first match at Jessore, remained not out on 150 as the one-up home team finished the day on 274-4 to extend their lead to 339 runs.

Left-arm pacer Mthokozisi Shezi initiated the early damage by taking two wickets as NCA were reduced to 47 for three but Mehrab Hossain joined Nayeem to take

away the visitors' early initiatives as the pair added 124 runs for the fifth wicket stand.

Off-break Richard das Neves impaired the partnership by removing Mehrab, who made 53 off 107 balls with the help of three fours and a six, but Shamsur Rahman made sure there was no further damage scoring an unbeaten 25.

The story was, however, all about Nayeem who kept his cool to occupy the crease for five hours to smash 17 fours and four sixes.

Earlier, BCB Academy posted a first innings lead of 65 when their South African counterparts were dismissed for 259 after resuming the day on 243 for seven.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
BCB ACADEMY: 324 and 274 for 4 in 77 overs (Jahurul 17, Kayes 21, SEE PAGE 18 COL 5)

## BANGLADESH'S TOP BATSMEN

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful moved to the top of Bangladesh's batsmen in one-day internationals during his innings against Pakistan in Faisalabad last evening.

	M	I	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50
MAshraful	113*	107	2188	100	22.5	73.0	1	13
HBashar	111	105	2168	78	21.7	60.4	0	14
SNafees	57*	57	1839	123*	35.4	70.3	4	10
AAhmed	77*	77	1832	92	25.8	83.6	0	14
KMashud	126	110	1818	71*	21.9	54.8	0	7

## Tanima unbeaten champion

SPORTS REPORTER

WFM Tanima Parveen clinched the title of the Prime Bank Women 3rd International Rating Chess tournament when she maintained her unbeaten run at Hotel Media International in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Tanima beat Jahanara Haque Runu in the last and seventh round

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## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

The Brac Bank Club Cup Hockey begins today at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium with Mohammedan Sporting Club and Sadharan Bima playing the opening match.

Brac Bank vice-president and head of marketing & corporate affairs Abedur Rahman Sikdar will formally open the 13-day meet as chief guest.

Nine clubs, split into two groups, are taking part in the first phase of the league basis matches.

Later, two top teams from each group will play in the semi-final on April 23. The final will be held on April 25.

The champions will receive Tk 25,000 as prize money while the runners-up Tk 15,000.

Of the total budget of Tk 1.85 lakh, sponsors Brac Bank will provide Tk 1.82 to run the competition.

Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Sajed A Adil disclosed the details at a press conference at the federation conference room this (Friday) afternoon.

Abedur Rahman Sikdar, Brac Bank vice-president and head of marketing & corporate affairs, and Ehtesham Sultan, secretary of senior division hockey league

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## Ishant stands tall

Cricket

AFP, Kanpur

Teenage paceman Ishant Sharma and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh shared six wickets as India restricted South Africa to 265 in the third and final Test here on Friday.

South Africa were comfortably placed at 152-1 before losing their way on a spin-friendly pitch. Skipper Graeme Smith (69) and Hashim Amla (51) led the way with solid half-centuries.

The 19-year-old Sharma, who missed the first two Tests of the three-match series due to finger and toe injuries, grabbed the vital wickets of Amla and Mark Boucher (29) to finish with 3-55 on a day when spinners did the bulk of the bowling. Harbhajan took 3-52.

Piyush Chawla, a 19-year-old leg-spinner playing only his second Test since his debut in 2006, finished with 2-66, while part-time spinners Virender Sehwag and Yuvraj Singh each bagged one wicket.

South Africa lead 1-0 in the series following their emphatic victory by an innings and 90 runs in the second Test in Ahmedabad. The opening match ended in a draw in Chennai.

"You have to work hard against spinners on these sorts of wickets and try to hang in as much as you can. There was a lot more turn here than in any other wicket on the first day, so you need to be patient as well," said Amla.

"We lost too many wickets in the end. Now we will have to pick up early wickets when India come out

to bat. There is turn in the wicket, but slow. We have a game at hand. I think as the match goes on spinners will come into play.

"Ishant bowled well and he has got some variations. There were encouraging signs for our bowlers. The bounce was low and there were cracks and they will open up a lot more. I think there will be more variations in bounce too."

India hardly felt the absence of skipper and ace leg-spinner Anil Kumble as specialist and part-time spinners halted South Africa's march towards a big total.

Kumble was ruled out after failing to recover from a groin strain, with Mahendra Singh Dhoni becoming the first wicketkeeper to lead India in a Test.

South Africa began strongly after winning the toss, with Smith putting on 61 for the opening wicket with Neil McKenzie (36) and 91 for the next wicket with Amla.

The visitors' slide started in the afternoon session when they lost three wickets in the space of nine runs.

Left-handed Smith, who swept powerfully and used his feet well against spin, was the first to go after lunch when he was caught off his gloves by diving short-leg fielder Wasim Jaffer to become Yuvraj's victim.

The South African captain scored comfortably during his 134-ball knock, reaching his 22nd Test half-century with a six off Chawla and then hoisting Yuvraj for a second six. He also hit eight fours.

Amla also countered spin remarkably well as he patiently waited for loose deliveries during his eighth Test half-century before

being bowled by Sharma in the afternoon.

India were right back in the game when second-Test century-maker Jacques Kallis played a Harbhajan delivery onto his stumps after scoring just one.

The Indian spinners continued to keep pressure on the batsmen, with AB de Villiers, Ashwell Prince, Boucher, Morne Morkel, Paul Harris and Dale Steyn falling in the closing session.

De Villiers, who cracked a maiden double-century in the last Test, mistimed a pull off Chawla and was caught by Sourav Ganguly at short midwicket while Prince was trapped leg-before by Sehwag.

India struggled for wickets in the morning session, grabbing only one, when Chawla had McKenzie stumped in his opening over.

McKenzie had been looking solid during his 57-ball knock before losing his patience. He stepped out to drive the leg-spinner but was beaten by the flight, with Dhoni completing an easy stumping.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the third and final Test between India and South Africa at Green Park in Kanpur on Friday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings	
McKenzie st Dhoni b Chawla	36
Smith c Jaffer b Yuvraj	69
Amla b Sharma	51
Kallis b Harbhajan	1
Prince lbw b Sehwag	16
De Villiers c Ganguly b Chawla	25
Boucher b Sharma	29
Morkel c Dravid b Harbhajan	17
Harris b Sharma	12
Steyn c sub (Kaif) b Harbhajan	0

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West Indies hero Shivnarine Chanderpaul reaches the crease as Sri Lankan seamer Nuwan Kulasekera waits for the ball during the closing moments of the first one-day international at the Queen's Park Oval on Thursday.

## Shiv's 6 seals win

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

Chaminda Vaas lost his nerves, but Shivnarine Chanderpaul kept his, and struck a four and a six off the last two balls to hand West Indies a sensational one-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the first One-day International here Thursday.

Chasing 236 for victory from their allocation of 50 overs, West Indies entered the final over at Queen's Park Oval needing 13 runs to win.

Sri Lanka turned to Vaas, their most experienced bowler, to deliver the last over, and he restricted the West Indies last wicket pair of Chanderpaul and batting bunny Fidel Edwards to three runs from the first four balls of the over.

But Vaas, whose line and length had been unerring throughout the match, delivered a full length delivery and Chanderpaul drove him through mid-off for four.

Sri Lanka would still have favoured their chances with West Indies needing a six off the last ball when Vaas ran up and delivered a full toss which Chanderpaul duly dispatched over the wide long-on boundary to spark massive celebrations in the stands.

Chanderpaul was undefeated on 62 from 63 balls which included five fours and one six.

The victory gives West Indies a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series

which continues at the same venue on Saturday before ending next Tuesday with a day/night fixture at the Beausejour Stadium in St. Lucia.

A record sixth-wicket stand of 159 between Chamara Silva and Chamara Kapugedera had helped Sri Lanka reach a respectable 235 for seven off their allotment of 50 overs, after they were sent in to bat on a hard, true pitch under partly cloudy skies.

Kapugedera struck seven fours and three sixes in the top score of 95 from 117 balls and Silva collected seven boundaries in 67 from 96 balls to get Sri Lanka back on course, after Dwayne Bravo triggered a slump that restricted them to 49 for five in the 15th over.

Then openers Chris Gayle and Devon Smith emerged from an uneasy start to give West Indies a solid foundation of 53 for the first wicket.

Kulasekera made the breakthrough, when he gained a dubious lbw verdict to dismiss Smith for 14, but television replays showed the delivery had pitched outside the line of the leg-stump and umpire Clive Duncan may have erred with his judgement.

Sri Lanka were made to toil for almost 13 overs before they scalped another wicket, as Ramnaresh Sarwan joined Gayle and they added 56 for the second wicket.

But Sri Lanka savoured a purple patch, when they captured three wickets -- two to Kulasekera -- in the space of seven balls to leave

West Indies 110 for four in the 28th over.

ODI newcomer Ajantha Mendis had Gayle lbw for 52 with the last ball of the 27th over, Sarwan was caught behind for 35 off the third ball of the next over from Kulasekera, who also had Marlon Samuels adjudged lbw for a duck off the last ball of the same over.

But Sri Lanka could not turn the screws, as Dwayne Bravo joined Chanderpaul and added 59 for the fifth wicket to put West Indies back on track before he was run out in the 39th over for 36 which included an extraordinary six over extra cover off Ishara Amerasinghe which hit a news agency photographer in her head.

Sri Lanka looked to have collared West Indies, when the home team lost five wickets between the 45th and 49th overs before the real party started with Chanderpaul's mighty blow.

ODI newcomer Ajantha Mendis bamboozled the West Indies batsmen with his clever variations to collect three wickets for 39 runs from 10 overs, and Nuwan Kulasekera bagged three for 43 from 10 overs.

Earlier, Kapugedera joined Silva and they established a new Sri Lanka record for the sixth wicket in ODIs.

Silva however, was dismissed in the 47th over, when he was caught at mid-wicket to become the last of Bravo's career-best four wickets for 33 runs from 10 overs which made

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Navy Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, chief guest of the concluding ceremony of the 25th Lancer Cup Golf tournament, is seen with the winners after the prize giving ceremony at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. Special guest Toshihiko Hattori, corporate general manager of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, and Rangs Group Chairman A Ruff Chowdhury are also seen.