

Footballer Anwar due in Dhaka tomorrow

Bangladeshi-born British footballer Anwar Uddin will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow to visit the youth football camp at BKSP under the assistance of Canary Wharf, UK.

He will be accompanied by coach Anthony Ferguson and Canary Wharf official Zakir Khan.

Anwar, whose father is from Sylhet, will stay with the trainees and play exhibition matches at BKSP before touring Chittagong on May 11 and 12.

The defender, who currently is the captain of Dagenham & Redbridge in the English League Two, is expected to meet the BFF officials and visit top clubs in the capital. He is expected to return to England on May 14.

The 27-year-old, a youth product of East London's West Ham United, Anwar played against Abahani when the popular Bangladesh club visited the UK in 2001.

Anwar signed for Dagenham during the summer of 2004 after leaving Bristol Rovers. The non-sense defender began his career at West Ham United, working his way up through their youth and reserve teams where he was captain.

Anwar was in West Ham's victorious 1999 FA Youth Cup winning squad that defeated Coventry City. Although highly regarded, as a talented traditional English defender, he was never able to break through to the first team and in February 2002 decided to move to Sheffield Wednesday.

His stay was brief though and at Rovers, he picked up a groin injury that kept him out for long.

Inter-varsity cricket soon

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will launch the inter-university national cricket competition very soon.

Interested public universities, public engineering universities, public medical colleges and the services teams have been requested to send their entries by May 12 to the tournament committee member secretary at the BCB's management office in Gulshan.

Interested teams will have to send their entries on their own organization's pads bearing the signature of the official concerned.

Ishant fined for kicking stumps

Ishant Sharma, the Kolkata Knight Riders fast bowler, has been fined 10% of his match fee for kicking the stumps down during the IPL match against Kings XI Punjab in Mohali on Saturday. Clive Lloyd, the match referee, found Ishant guilty of a level 1 offence (clause 2) as per the ICC's Code of Conduct, which relates to abuse of ground equipment.

Ishant's is the latest in a series of penalties handed out to players over the last few days in the tournament. Harbhajan Singh, the Mumbai Indians offspinner and stand-in captain, was suspended for 11 matches for slapping his India teammate Sreesanth, who is with Kings XI Punjab. Sourav Ganguly and Shane Warne, the captains of Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals respectively, were each fined 10% of their individual match fee over a disputed dismissal in a match in Jaipur.

Inter lose

FROM PAGE 17 range before Kaka and Inzaghi combined once again, the Brazilian crossing for the Italian veteran to nod home at the near post from barely a yard out.

That seemed to spark Inter into action and Maicon raced down the right but overhit his cross into the centre with both Julio Cruz and Hernan Crespo unmarked and waiting to pounce.

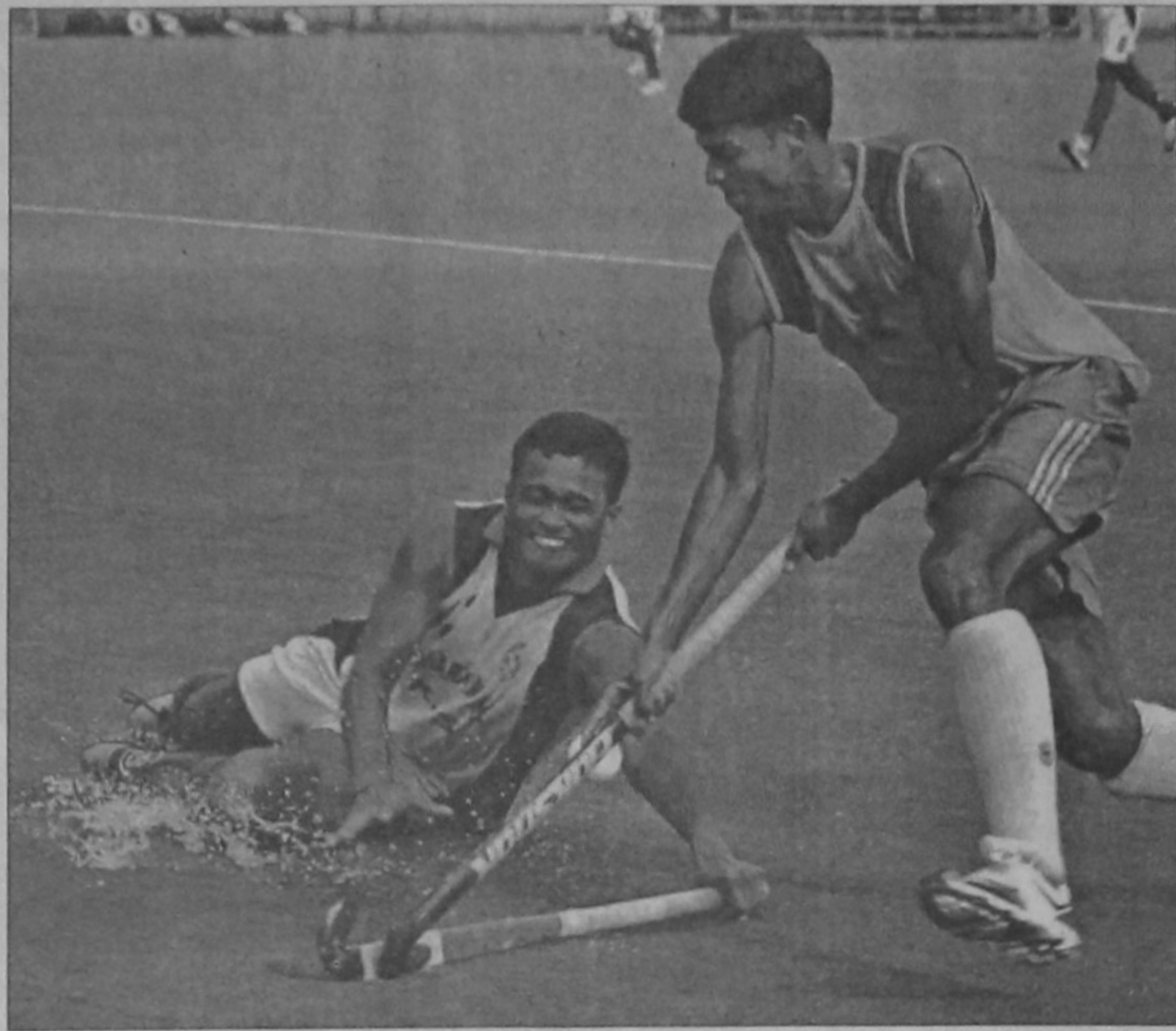
But France captain Patrick Vieira gifted Milan a second with a misplaced back-pass that Kaka gleefully accepted before firing low past Julio Cesar.

That seemed to snap Inter out of their lethargy and Portugal midfielder Maniche stung Australian goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac's hands before the Milan stopper was out quickly to block from Crespo.

Kalac then had to tip over a long range effort from Brazilian full-back Maicon before Inter coach Roberto Mancini threw on a third striker in teenager Mario Balotelli for Maniche.

Inter piled on the pressure and with 14 minutes to play Cruz curled home a free-kick that left Kalac flat footed.

Milan held on grimly though and the title and Champions League qualification race will both go on for at least another week.



Action from the Green Delta Insurance Premier Hockey League match between Sonali Bank and Sadharan Bima at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Covering the cracks



CRICINFO, undated

There were times tonight when Bangalore Royal Challengers and Deccan Chargers felt like the resistible force and the movable object. Both sides came into the game with one win and four defeats behind them; both seemed afraid of victory. And, well though Praveen Kumar and Zaheer Khan bowled at the death, it seemed appropriate that the final nails were banged into the Hyderabad's coffin by two poor leg before decisions -- one each by Billy Doctrove and Suresh Shastri.

Even then, there was time for a final twist as Anil Kumble, the most experienced man on either side, was hit for successive sixes by Sanjay Bangar with the Chargers requiring 18 off four balls. But each time the momentum appeared to swing one way in this match, it duly swung the other. "I thought, 'he can't do it again, can he?'" said Rahul Dravid, afterwards. He couldn't. Bangar managed just a single off the game's penultimate delivery and Arjun Yadav was unable to clear the ropes off the last.

Fireworks went off around the Chinnaswamy Stadium even as the batsmen completed their forlorn single and Bangalore will be hugely relieved. "I thought we deserved a bit of luck," said Dravid. Perhaps. But the truth is his side could easily have lost.

The Royal Challengers can consider themselves fortunate to have come up against a side that currently lacks the killer instinct, because -- as Dravid himself admitted -- a total of 156 for 8 was

Pollock propels

FROM PAGE 17 Shoaib Malik and Dinesh Karthik both threatened a fightback, but Mumbai weren't to be denied today. Pollock returned for a second spell and immediately had Malik scooping one to long-on as another batsman was defeated by lack of pace, while Pollock's golden touch then brought another success, as he tossed the ball to Bravo, who trapped Karthik plumb in front with his first ball. Nehra, the other stand-out bowler in the game, then took two wickets in two balls to seal the contest.

At the halfway mark, though, it seemed Mumbai's 162 would be inadequate. The absence of Sachin Tendulkar hit them hard again, especially against a new-ball bowling attack which had Glenn McGrath and Mohammad Asif. Yogesh Takawale, the 23-year-old wicketkeeper from Maharashtra who opened the innings, struggled to get the ball off the square, putting additional pressure on Jayasuriya. For a brief period, though, he responded magnificently. After starting off with a glorious cover-drive off McGrath, he flicked and lofted Asif for three fours. Yo Mahesh was greeted with a flicked six over square leg and a four to fine leg off successive balls. That, unfortunately, was as good as it got, as Takawale skied to third man, and Jayasuriya charged once too often. Those two wickets in the space of three balls suddenly pegged back Mumbai, and they struggled to recover from that double blow.

The one feature that ran through the Mumbai innings was their tendency to lose wickets every time they seemed to be snatching the momentum. Robin Uthappa struck successive sixes over long-on and midwicket, only

to throw it away by attempting a too-cheeky scoop over fine leg. Dominic Thorneley, who returned to the team after recovering from the blow to the eye off Zaheer Khan a couple of weeks back, picked off Rajat Bhatia for a straight six before falling next ball, bowled while attempting a wild slog.

The reckless approach continued, as Abhishek Nayyar moved to leg and missed a quick one from Virender Sehwag, and over square leg for three sixes. A total of 162 still seemed below par, but that was before an inspired Mumbai Indian team took the field.

SCORES IN BRIEF MUMBAI INDIANS: 162 for 8 in 20 overs (Takawale 14, Jayasuriya 34, Thorneley 30, Uthappa 22, Bravo 2, Nayar 2, Pollock 33, Tiwary 9, Raje 6 not out; Asif 1-46, Mahesh 3-33, Sangwan 1-21, Bhatia 1-22, Sehwag 1-2, Malik 1-6) DELHI DAREDEVILS: 133 all out in 18.5 overs (Gambhir 1, Sehwag 40, Dhawan 1, De Villiers 21, Malik 24, Karthik 28, Bhatia 9, Sangwan 2, Mahesh 3 not out; Pollock 2-16, Nehra 3-25, Bravo 1-27, Kulkarni 2-18, Thorneley 1-15) Result: Mumbai Indians won by 29 runs. Man-of-the-match: Shaun Pollock. Umpires: IL Howell (South Africa) and RE Koertzen (South Africa) Toss: Delhi Daredevils.

In a match riddled with doubt, Deccan Chargers appeared to be on their way to a much-needed win of their own while VVS Laxman -- finally doing a decent impersonation of a Twenty20 batsman -- and the prodigiously gifted Rohit Sharma were adding 96 for the third wicket in 11.4 overs. But with 30 needed off 19 balls and Bangalore shoulders preparing to slump yet again, Rohit plonked one down Wasim Jaffer's throat at long-on, before Shahid Afridi fell to a stunning catch in the same position, this time by Dale Steyn.

Then came the lbw howlers. There must have been some doubt in Doctrove's mind before he dispatched Laxman as to whether the ball had pitched outside leg (it had, just). But Shastri's decision to give out Scott Styris next ball to Zaheer was truly awful, the ball landing several inches outside leg. To lose to Rajasthan when Shane Warne butchered Andrew Symonds was hard enough; but this was sickening.

"It's disappointing to lose these close games," said Laxman, before exaggerating by one the number of truly close games his side has actually been involved in. "We have lost three close ones and if they had been three wins, it would be a different story altogether. Rohit's wicket was the key, but from the 16th over, we lost too many wickets. We're just not able to finish things off at the moment."

The Royal Challengers can consider themselves fortunate to have come up against a side that currently lacks the killer instinct, because -- as Dravid himself admitted -- a total of 156 for 8 was

Steve ponders retirement

REUTERS, London

Steve Harmison is likely to quit cricket if he fails to win back his England place, the fast bowler said on Sunday.

The Durham pacer was dropped after England lost the first Test in New Zealand in March and in his absence the team won two matches in a row to take the series 2-1.

"The prospect of playing for England is what drives me and if I felt my chance of doing that was gone the probability is I'd retire from first-class cricket altogether," Harmison told the Mail on Sunday newspaper.

"This is not an ultimatum or I trying to impose conditions on anyone. But I am 29 now and if I felt my England career was over I would be tempted to say I want to do something different with my life."

Although Harmison retired from one-day internationals in 2006, he is desperate to add to his haul of 212 Test wickets.

Zia's 10th nat'l

FROM PAGE 17 FIDE Masters Abu Sufian Shakil and Minhajuddin Ahmed Sagar earned 12-game IM norms, their first, from the event.

Outgoing champion GM Abdullah Al Rakib clinched third place with 9.5 points while Shakil and Sagar, level on nine points, will take part in a play-off for the fourth and fifth places.

Reefat's 6.5 points placed him at sixth, followed by FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed (5 points), FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon (4.5), FM Abdul Malek (4), FM Mohammed Javed (4), Debaraj Chatterjee (3), Monir Hossain (2.5), Pritam Priyam (2.5) and GM Niaz Murshed, who got 0.5 points from two games.

at least 15 runs below par. This is hardly surprising, since the top order, now without the classy hitting of Ross Taylor, who has gone to play for New Zealand in England, still looks desperately unsettled.

The constant tinkering with the batting line-up suggests all is not well. Five different batsmen -- Jaffer, Shivnarine Chandepaul, Bharat Chipli, Praveen and Dravid himself -- have formed four different opening partnerships, and together they have totalled 74 runs in 12.3 overs. That's one run per ball -- unacceptable when the fielding restrictions are in place for the first six overs of every innings -- and a wicket on average at the end of the second over. This is not the stuff of which firm foundations are made.

There's more. No Bangalore player has yet made more than Jacques Kallis' 54, against Delhi Daredevils. That's the lowest high score of any of the eight franchises. Of the 37 scores in the competition of 50 or more, only three have come from the bat of a Royal Challenger. They are manifestly not pulling their weight, despite Dravid's assertion last night that Jaffer has "always been a strokemaker" and has suffered from being pigeon-holed too early.

It's true that Dravid himself batted well at No. 6 for a 19-ball 26 -- the role of an innings finisher surely suits him best -- but you sense Bangalore will need to assign specific tasks to each of their top six for their remaining eight group games if they are to reach the last four.

Injury scare for Vettori

AFP, Chelmsford

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori suffered a finger injury that needed two stitches during his country's tour match against Essex on Saturday.

Vettori is likely to miss the Blackcaps' next match against England A as a precaution after he finished day two of the match at Chelmsford with a nasty cut to the index finger of his bowling hand.

The spinner sustained the injury to his left hand while fielding but, although the stitches are likely to be in place for between seven and nine days, he should be fit for the first test against England starting at Lords on May 15.

New Zealand were all out for 355 when Ryan ten Doeschate had Michael Mason lbw with his first ball to finish off a troublesome last-wicket stand.

Essex's reply was led by England batsman Ravi Bopara who hit 66 as his county reached 251-9 at the close.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 17 of this tournament in Dhaka where they finished at the bottom of their group with two draws.

"If we lose then it is still not a problem but we expect to perform to the best of our ability."

Sri Lanka became the first team to qualify for the finals from Group A with a draw against hosts Chinese Taipei and a win over Guam before thrashing contenders Pakistan 7-1 to the top position last month. DPR Korea, Turkmenistan, hosts India and Myanmar have direct entry to the finals of the tournament which helps to achieve AFC's aim of raising the level playing field within Asia besides helping to discover home grown talent.

Rimon hattrick sinks Bima

SPORTS REPORTER

Rimon Kumar struck a hattrick as Sonali Bank thrashed Sadharan Bima 6-2 in the Green Delta Insurance Metropolis Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rimon opened his club's scoring as early as the fourth minute when he easily converted a penalty corner. He then added two field goals in the 20th and 24th minutes in his kitty to complete the season's second hattrick. Abahani's Russel Hassan Rony slotted the first hattrick last Friday.

Krishna Kumar scored two more field goals for the bankers' in the 29th and 30th minutes as they took a comfortable 5-0 lead going into the break.

But Sadharan Bima staged some sort of a comeback in the second half with Avijit Kumar scoring twice in the 37th and 67th minutes. Iqbal Nader Prince slotted home Sonali's sixth in the 69th minute to seal the fate of the match.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi emerged Group A champions in the Exim Bank 19th National Women's Handball Championship beating Joypurhat 13-6 in the super three match at the Rajshahi Divisional Women Sports Complex yesterday.

The winners easily led the first half 6-1.

Earlier, the eventual champions defeated Tangail 8-3 and Joypurhat also outplayed the same opponents 13-6 in the day's second match.

Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan was the chief guest and later distributed prizes.

DIV II CRICKET

Sharif took three wickets to propel Green Leaf to a 28-run victory over Farashganj in the Second Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In a low-scoring contest, Green Leaf were restricted to 167-9 in 50 overs but that did not bother them as Sharif's fine spell got them to the victory. Farashganj were bowled out for 139 in 30.3 overs.

In the other matches, Kalindi Krira Chakra (180-7) defeated Rayer Bazar (178-8) by three wickets while Prantik (110-4) beat Kakrail Boys (108 all out) by six wickets.

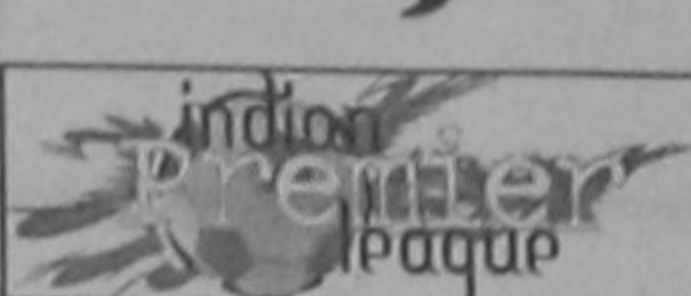
DIV III CRICKET

Mirpur Boys Cricket Club rode on Aslam's four-wicket haul to a comprehensive 50-run victory over Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra in the Third Division Cricket League at the Uttara Friends Club ground yesterday.

After the match was reduced to 43-overs-a-side, the Mirpur side went for their shots in the small ground but were bowled out for 140 in only 22.1 overs. Later though, Aslam took four for 21 to ensure that Sheikh Russell were bowled out for a meagre 90 in 18 overs.

In the other match of the day, Uttara Friends Club (187-8) beat Dilkhusa Sporting Club (130 all out) by 57 runs.

Punjab ride on Pathan



CRICINFO, undated

Incisive new-ball spells in helpful conditions by Irfan Pathan and Sreesanth ensured several trends continued -- Kings XI Punjab maintained their momentum with a fourth successive win while the Kolkata Knight Riders slumped to their fourth straight defeat. Both innings were characterised by late bursts. Punjab hit 21 off their final over which put the match just beyond the reach of Kolkata, who scored 75 off overs 15 to 19, but still fell nine short after a sluggish start.

After Sreesanth removed Sourav Ganguly, slashing to Pathan at third man, Pathan struck twice in one over to leave Kolkata reeling. Pathan has always been a dangerous bowler when he gets the ball swinging back into the right-hand batsman and Mohammad Hafeez and Brad Hodge fell in the space of five balls. Sreesanth added Debradata Das to make it 29 for 4 after five overs, the most wickets to fall in that space of time in the tournament, and when VRV Singh bowled Laxmi Ratan Shukla at 50 for 5, Kolkata seemed to be heading for a massive defeat. David Hussey and young Wridhiman Saha, however, had other ideas.

The pair started slowly, playing out a couple of overs before Hussey took Gagandeep Singh, who had bowled two very tidy overs, for 17 runs, including a massive six over long-on. There was another quiet

over before the pair really turned it on. The big hits were complemented by agile running between the wickets and they brought the equation down to 55 off 18 deliveries. James Hopes, back after missing three games, served up several full tosses which were promptly deposited into the crowd and when Gagandeep was taken for 18 in the penultimate over, the equation had come down to 19 off the last six balls, after Hussey was dismissed for a 46-ball 71.

Pathan kept his nerve and sent down a mix of yorkers and low full tosses and despite some big swings only four runs came off the first three balls. There was no fairytale ending for Kolkata.

After Punjab chose to bat, several of their batsmen failed to capitalise on their starts -- three of their top five got into double digits but didn't make it to 20. Hopes, coming in for Ramnaresh Sarwan, carved a few powerful boundaries square on the offside before top-edging Ashok Dinda to mid-on. Yuvraj Singh looked imperious, as in the previous game, plundering 14 off an Hafeez over before over-balancing to be stumped and Mahela Jayawardene lofted a huge six over midwicket before miscuing a bouncer from Umar Gul to mid-on.

Shaun Marsh, fresh from his match-winning IPL debut against Deccan Chargers, kept his composure at the other end to make a pleasing 40. There were some crisp drives in his knock, with one through the covers off Dinda early on standing out. He was stumped, missing a flighted delivery from Hussey, as Kolkata started to gain

the upper hand. When Karan Goel was run out a couple of overs later, Punjab had slid to 106 for 5 from 82 to 1.

Kumar Sangakkara, who retired on 10 with a side strain, returned to lead the fightback with Pathan. He again demonstrated the importance of timing and placement in Twenty20 before departing for 28, bowled by Gul, who at US\$150,000 is providing competition to Shane Watson for being the bargain buy of the IPL. Pathan remained unbeaten on 24, but the acceleration at the end was provided by Piyush Chawla, who hit three fours and a six off Ishant Sharma's final over.

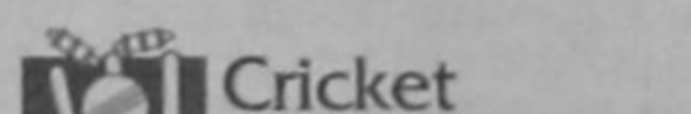
It has been a stunning resurgence from Punjab, who after being bottom of the table after two games are now tied for top spot. Kolkata, though, have gone in the opposite direction, dropping from table-toppers to four points behind the teams in the semi-final places.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 178 for 6 in 20 overs (Marsh 40, Hopes 18, Sangakkara 28, Yuvraj 17, Jayawardene 10, Goel 6, Pathan 24 not out, Chawla 21 not out; Dinda 1-24, Hafeez 1-28, Hussey 1-23, Gul 2-27) KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 169 for 6 in 20 overs (Hafeez 13, Ganguly 5, Das 5, Hodge 1, Hussey 71, Shukla 7, Saha 59 not out, Agarkar 1 not out; Sreesanth 2-25, Pathan 2-18, VRV Singh 1-31, Gagandeep 1-43) Result: Kings XI Punjab won by 9 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Irfan Pathan. Umpires: D Harper and I Shivram Toss: Kings XI Punjab.

Mark hits 99th hundred



BBC ONLINE, undated

Mark Ramprakash completed his 99th first-class century as Surrey drew with Division One champions Sussex at Hove.

The 37-year-old, resuming on 66, was watchful early on but went from 85 to 123 from just 30 deliveries.

Finally he gave spinner Ollie Rayner a return catch but Ali Brown and Usman Afzaal added a rapid 141 in 32 overs.

Having secured maximum

batting points, Surrey declared and had 35 minutes at Sussex who were 13-0 when the captains shook hands on an inevitable draw.

Ramprakash has now scored a remarkable 46 centuries for both Surrey and Middlesex.

It was also his ninth against Sussex and his sixth hundred in his last nine Championship innings. Indeed, since the start of the 2006 season, Ramprakash, who averaged only 27 in 25 Tests for England and last played in 2002, has reached three figures 20 times.

He went through the 90s with three fours against young off spinner Rayner, given a chance because of Mushtaq Ahmed's absence following keyhole surgery.

Despite the acceleration, this was the slowest of Ramprakash's tons, and it ended when he tried to hit Rayner over the top.

Rayner also collected the scalp of Surrey skipper Mark Butcher, who was caught behind pushing forward, having added 58 for the third wicket with Ramprakash.

Afzaal looked set for his second century for Surrey when he slog-swept successive deliveries from Michael Yardy for six and four, but he was bowled through the gate.

Akhtar cleared

FROM PAGE 17 hitting teammate Mohammad Asif with a bat before the World Twenty20 last year. Shoaib has the additional burden of dealing with a Rs 22 crore (approx US\$3.37 million) defamation suit filed against him by PCB chief Nasim Ashraf.

The Knight Riders franchise, which signed him for US\$425,000 in the player auctions, would welcome his arrival and hope for a turnaround in their fortunes. The team has suffered four consecutive losses after winning their first two games. Shoaib returns to one of his memorable hunting grounds, the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, where the team has five remaining home games. His was a revelation in his first Test at the venue, picking up eight wickets in a match-winning effort.



NERVOUS 99: Surrey and former England batsman Mark Ramprakash reaches his 99th first-class century against Sussex in the County Championship in Hove on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Narrate 2 Modern-day 21 Stop 1 "Zounds!" 37 Punch-bowl 1-Across 22 Top-rated 5 -relief 38 Acid neutralizer 23 Midday 8 Pop 41 Des-cartes' 24 Gem 12 Nevada city 42 Authentic 26 1944 13 Early love 43 Cop (Fr.) 27 News-paper page 14 Wading bird 44 Tim-buktu's 28 Caspian feeder 15 Make suitable for the middle class 45 49 9 to 5, for ex. 29 Un-rivaled 31 Hamilton Burr event 17 Director's call 50 Oxford or loafer instrument type 34 Stanted type 18 Apt 51 Detail, an old phone 35 Grayish red 19 Howto 52 Tit for -- 37 Young fellow 20 Currier's partner 38 Weaponry 24 Jazzy style 16 Regret 39 Bound 25 Appear 17 Work unit: 21 mins. 39 Bound 26 Hardly 28 Online business 40 Hardy cabbage 27 Yoko -- 30 Veep under 31 Meet Me -- 30 Yoko -- 31 Meet Me -- 32 Expert 32 Mensa members 44 Historic period 35 Howto 45 Pi 46 Cattle call? 47 "A mouse!"



CRYPTOQUIP CD QORZS DLFTYQG OZZJLT QG CGTCQG YLQF, TZ NZX RICGJ IL KZXFT VZXS ZG Q FZR ZD OZSLN VZKTL? Yesterday's Cryptquip: ONE COMMENT SOMEBODY COULD MAKE ABOUT LOAN SHARKS IS THAT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN INTEREST. Today's Cryptquip Clue: N equals Y