

BHF eye Asian hockey meet

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is keen to win the bid to host next year's 8th Asia Cup.



Members of the Indian women's cricket team celebrate their Asia Cup triumph in Kurunegala yesterday.

Think local, act global



CRICINFO, undated

By the end of this Indian Premier League season, Yusuf Pathan should have an identity of his own. He strikes the ball cleanly and with breathtaking power, a lot like his brother really.

built from the bottom have been rewarded, while those with mediocre Indian contingents prop up the table.
For Bangalore, the failure of Jacques Kallis, Shivnarine Chanderepaul and Cameron White will be the subject of much heartburn.

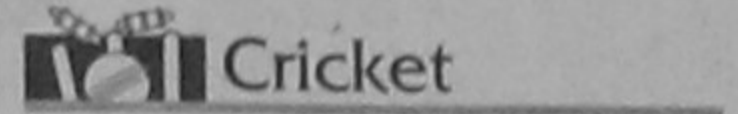
Vaughan vows Ashes return

AFP, London
Michael Vaughan has warned Australia that England now has the strength in depth to win back the Ashes next year.

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP India's 4th title in a row

PTI, Colombo
India clinched their fourth successive women's cricket Asia Cup title by thrashing Sri Lanka by a massive 117 runs in the final at the Welagedara Stadium in Kurunegala yesterday.

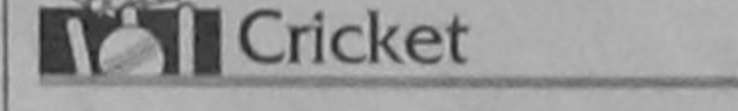
Return of Hoggard



AFP, London
Yorkshire seamer Matthew Hoggard was recalled by England for this week's first Test against New Zealand at Lord's.

national selector.
'I know Paul and the England medical team will be doing everything to ensure he's given the best chance of taking his place in the side but should he not be fit to play we have options available.'

Ross breaks Kiwi mould



INTERNET, undated

A batsman wouldn't normally stand out in a Test touring party simply by being talented. But as it is New Zealand who are playing in the first Test at Lord's on Thursday, Ross Taylor does stand out.

New Zealand in the first place? Indigent cousins have to be looked after, but to play them from February until the end of June is too much of a bad thing. To contest the Ashes next summer England now need opposition-former fibrous.

Ganguly all around

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length and served up a series of full tosses -- was carved over midwicket.
Hussey joined in on the fun too, gauging the pace of the pitch immediately and striking it cleanly from the get-go.

mark and resulted in four overthrows.
After such a battering in the field, Deccan's only hope was for Adam Gilchrist to fire -- especially since Shahid Afridi wasn't in the line-up -- but he only managed 24 before miscuing a pull off the impressive Ashok Dinda.

Glory gets Red

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And Marcus Bent providing a muscular, awkward threat up front.
The enigmatic Jason Koumas also started, and soon set about peppering Edwin van der Sar's goal with 30-yard shots.

Balaji swings out 5

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lofted one towards long-off for an easy catch, and the hat-trick was completed when VVRV Singh managed to back away and top-edge one straight to Mahendra Singh Dhoni.
Badrinath, a local boy like Balaji, and Dhoni had earlier threatened to take the game away as Michael Hussey had done in the previous encounter between Chennai Super Kings and Kings XI Punjab, but Punjab's bowlers did well to restrict the flow of runs in the final five overs of the innings.

the rampaging batsmen. Sreesanth had bowled a good first spell in which he removed Chennai's openers and his final one -- the 16th of the innings -- went for just five, James Hopes and VVRV took the cue and targeted the blockhole, and the run-scoring abated. Chennai got 181, but will be disappointed at not having been able to go past the 200-run mark, which looked likely at one stage.
SCORES IN BRIEF
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 181 for 4 in 20 overs (Viduyt 8, Fleming 1, Raina 26, Badrinath 64, Dhoni 60 not out, Morkel 7 not out; Sreesanth 2-29, VVRV Singh 1-35, Chawla 1-36)
KINGS XI PUNJAB: 163 for 9 in 20 overs (Marsh 58, Hopes 14, Goel 1, Sarwan 20, Yuvraj 2, Jayawardene 8, Pathan 40, Chawla 17, Gony 1-38, Morkel 1-25, Amarnath 1-35, Muralidaran 1-32, Balaji 5-24)
Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 18 runs.
M a n - o f - t h e - m a t c h : Lakshminath Balaji.
Umpires: AV Jayaprakash and BG Jerling (South Africa)
Toss: Kings XI Punjab.

G-Team lift sixes title

SPORTS REPORTER

G-Team clinched the WECCA six-a-side cricket tournament beating Cavaliers by two wickets at the Jagannath Hall ground on Saturday.
Chasing 61 to win in the final, former Premier League star Azam Iqbal struck an unbeaten 32 although Sajal Chowdhury, another former national player, took two wickets conceding no runs in his single over.



Players and organisers of the WECCA Sixes tournament pose after the final at the Jagannath Hall ground on Saturday.

Aussies off to Windies

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's cricketers flew out of Sydney on Saturday bracing themselves for a tough tour of the West Indies.
The Australians are overwhelming favourites to win the three Tests and five one-day internationals but captain Ricky Ponting said the players were not expecting an easy time.
'I think they are starting to turn things around there a little bit better at the moment,' Ponting told reporters at Sydney Airport.
'Their bowling attack probably in particular is definitely a lot stronger than the last time we played them in Test cricket.'

Jamie meets

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platform to overcome this perennial problem, he observed.
Ashraf also believed that there is nothing better than playing matches ahead of any international tournament.
'If someone spent three hours at the middle it would be equal to seven days of net practice. Nothing is better than playing matches, said Ashraf who made match-winning unbeaten 70 against Surjo Torun in the first game.
'I am looking forward to scoring more runs and I am hopeful because my main target is to spend time in the middle,' he promised.

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last laugh, snaffling him at midwicket.
Venugopal Rao played a brave hand with a 42-ball 71 and spoilt the figures of Murali Kartik by smashing three sixes in an over, but that only ensured the margin of defeat wasn't an embarrassing one. With four wins from eight games, Kolkata are back in the reckoning for a semi-final berth. Deccan still have a mathematical chance of making the top four, but given their form so far, that will be a miracle.
SCORES IN BRIEF
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 204 for 4 20 overs (Butt 4, Chopra 24, Ganguly 91, Hussey 57 not out, Taibu 9, Shukla 14 not out; Vaas 1-36, Vijaykumar 1-21, RP Singh 1-59)
DECCAN CHARGERS: 181 for 7 in 20 overs (Gilchrist 24, Gibbs 4, Teja 10, Sharma 33, Styris 5, Rao 71 not out, Bangar 2, Vaas 9, RP Singh 6 not out; Dinda 3-33, Gul 1-43, Ganguly 2-25, Shukla 1-16)
Result: Kolkata Knight Riders won by 23 runs.
M a n - o f - t h e - m a t c h : Sourav Ganguly.
Umpires: IL Howell (South Africa) and AM Saheba.
Toss: Kolkata Knight Riders.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a message to be deciphered.