



Muktijoddha striker Wahid (C) thumps home the winner past Rahmatganj goalkeeper Ali during their B. League tie at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ali College lift Souhardo Cup

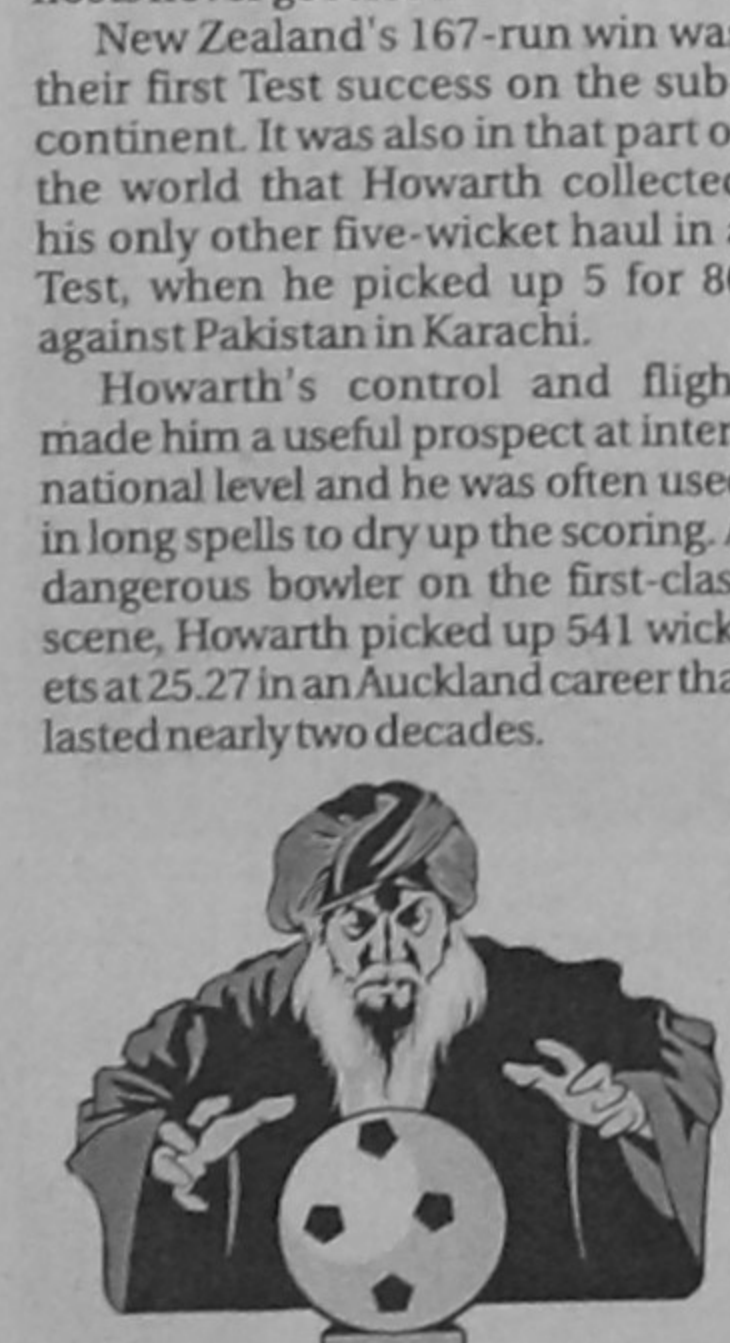
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Government Maulana Mohammad Ali College of Kagmari won the Souhardo Cup football tournament after a 1-0 win over Tangail Municipality 1-0 in the final at the local stadium here yesterday. Masud scored the all-important goal in the fourth minute of the game. Delwar of the winning side was adjudged the best player-of-the-final while Awwal of Tangail Zila Krira Sangstha was given the award for the player-of-the-tournament after scoring seven goals. On November 5, Ali College reached the final after defeating Government Saadat College of Karatia in a tiebreaker after the regulation time ended 1-1 in the first semifinal while Tangail Municipality beat Tangail Zila Krira Sangstha, also in tiebreaker after the match remained goalless in the stipulated time in the second semifinal the next day. After the final, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Mohammad Salahuddin distributed prizes among the winners.

Howarth no more

CRICINFO, undated

Hedley Howarth, who was New Zealand's leading slow bowler during the early 1970s and a key man in their first Test win on the subcontinent, has died at the age of 64. Howarth, the elder brother of the former New Zealand captain Geoff Howarth, collected 86 wickets at 36.95 in his 30 Test appearances. A left-arm orthodox bowler, Howarth occupies a significant place in New Zealand's history as the man who bowled them to victory against India in Nagpur in 1969-70. India were chasing 277 in the fourth innings but Howarth's 5 for 34, including a wonderful catch off his own bowling, ensured the hosts never got close. New Zealand's 167-run win was their first Test success on the subcontinent. It was also in that part of the world that Howarth collected his only other five-wicket haul in a Test, when he picked up 5 for 80 against Pakistan in Karachi. Howarth's control and flight made him a useful prospect at international level and he was often used in long spells to dry up the scoring. A dangerous bowler on the first-class scene, Howarth picked up 541 wickets at 25.27 in an Auckland career that lasted nearly two decades.



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LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

The 29th National Cricket Championship will begin across the country from November 10. The first round matches will be held till November 17 at eight venues with teams expected from every district. The Dhaka Division matches will be held in Tangail and Faridpur while the matches of the Chittagong Division will be held in Noakhali. Dinajpur and Rajshahi will host matches of the northern division while Khulna Division matches will be held in Jessore. Pirojpur will host Barisal Division games while Sylhet's matches will be held in the northeastern town. Dhaka are the reigning champions of the competition. DIV II FOOTBALL Ismail struck a hat-trick to power East End Club to a 6-0 win over Prantik Krira Chakra in the Metropolitan Second Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium at Kamalapur yesterday. The striker struck all three goals in the second half -- 47th, 61st and 79th minutes. In the first-half, Gafur, Shaheen and Biplob scored in the 4th, 20th and 38th minutes. In the day's other match, Motijheel T&T Club came from a goal down to beat Dhanmondi Club 2-1 at the same venue in the afternoon. Riaz put Dhanmondi ahead in the 4th minute before Jewel restored parity for the Motijheel side in the 23rd minute.

Later, Jalil scored the match-winning goal in the 67th minute. In today's matches, Police AC take on Bangladesh Boys and Basabo Tarun Sangha face Little Friends Club. DIV I HOCKEY Police Athletics Club notched up a 2-0 victory over Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha in the Green Delta First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. Khairul and Rana scored two swift field goals in the 10th and 13th minutes for the winners. In another match, Farashganj Sporting Club played out a goalless draw with Uttara Hockey Club at the same venue in the afternoon. SENIOR FENCING The Best Western La Vinci Hotel 1st Senior Fencing Championship began at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium yesterday. A total of 48 fencers including 20 women, are taking part in the two-day competition. The events are men's epee individual, women's epee individual, men's sabre individual, women's sabre individual, men's foil individual and women's foil individual. Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed inaugurated the first-ever tournament as the chief guest. BOA director and CEO Col (ret'd) M Wali Ullah, BFA vice-president Lt Col (ret'd) Harun Rashid Chowdhury and general secretary Maj (ret'd) Qamrul Islam were also present at the function.

India have upper hand

FROM PAGE 17 Katich, 92 overnight, reached his fifth century in 30 Tests in the opening hour when he steered Sharma to third-man for his ninth four. He gave a chance on 94 off Sharma, but Rahul Dravid dropped a regulation slip catch. Hussey, 45 overnight, reached his 12th half-century, and third of the series, with an edged boundary off Zaheer. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the fourth and final Test between India and Australia in Nagpur on Saturday. INDIA: First innings 441 (Tendulkar 109, Ganguly 85; Krejza 8-215) AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 189-2) Hayden run out 16 Katich lbw b Zaheer 102 Pongtong b Harbhajan 24 Hussey run out 90 Clarke b Sharma 8 Watson b Harbhajan 2

Haddin c Dravid b Mishra	28				
White c Sehwa b Harbhajan	46				
Krejza lbw b Sharma	5				
Johnson c Zaheer b Mishra	5				
Lee not out	1				
Extras: (b-12, lb-3, nb-6, w-2, pen-5)	28				
Total: (All out in 134.4 overs)	355				
Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-74, 3-229, 4-255, 5-265, 6-266, 7-318, 8-333, 9-352.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Zaheer	28	8	68	1	
Harbhajan	37	7	94	3	
Sharma	26	8	64	2	
Mishra	23.4	5	58	2	
Sehwa	18	2	38	0	
Tendulkar	2	0	13	0	
INDIA: Second innings					
Sehwa not out					
Vijay not out					
Total: (For no loss in 1 over)					
To bat: Dravid, Tendulkar, Ganguly, Laxman, Dhoni, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Mishra, Sharma.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Johnson	1	1	0	0	



Golam Kuddus Chowdhury, executive director and CEO of Transcom Beverage Limited, shakes hands with the players during the inaugural ceremony of the Pepsi-DRU cricket tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

CITYCELL B. LEAGUE Muktis win at last

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha had a reason to smile for the first time this season after beating Rahmatganj 1-0 in the Citycell B. League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. It was the Reds' first win in the competition after suffering five defeats in their last six outings. Walid struck as early as the fourth minute to take the lead and it remained that way throughout the match. Latching on to a through pass from midfielder Sentu, the Muktijoddha striker slammed home a well-placed shot from eight yards past Rahmatganj goalkeeper Ali. The win comes under new coach Atikur Rahman, who came into the setup just three matches ago, the first two of which was lost and drawn. Muktijoddha remain in last position with four points while Rahmatganj remained in fourth place despite the loss, with ten points. Abahani lead the table with 15 points from six matches while Sheikh Russel are in second place with 14 points from seven outings.

Rajib remains in 2nd place

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Hossain Rajib was sharing the second position along with 23 others with 5.5 points after the seventh round of the 12th Bavarian Open International Chess Championship at Bad Wiessee in Germany when the Bangladesh Grandmaster drew with German IM Heinrichs Thomas on Friday. The Bangladesh GM was pitted against IM Zude Arno of Germany in the eighth round yesterday. Four players shared the lead with six points each.

Booters leave for Myanmar

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh football team left here last night for the Myanmar capital Yangon to take part in the 3rd Grand Royal Challenge Cup. The six-nation tournament will begin on November 11. Bangladesh have been placed in Group A alongside Indonesia and hosts Myanmar while Group B comprises of Vietnam, Malaysia and South Korean club Hyundai FC. Bangladesh will play the hosts in the inaugural match of the competition on Wednesday and their second and last group match against Indonesia on November 13. Bangladesh won their first-ever international football trophy in Myanmar in 1995. But now they will look for a win to come out of their win drought that spans 17 international matches. It would be a chance to take revenge after a 1-0 loss in last month's Merdeka Cup football tournament in Malaysia. Talking to the reporters, national football coach Shafiqul Islam Manik expressed his optimism that the team would continue to perform consistently during the Myanmar tour. "The morale of our players is high compared to the previous occasions. We want to maintain consistency of our performance in the recently concluded Merdeka Cup," he said. The national team coach admitted that Myanmar and Indonesia were comparatively better sides, but said that his side would play positive football.

FROM PAGE 17 for me to do so with the younger guys because at this age, they don't always know about life outside cricket." Asquib Javed, his assistant, and often touted as a future national coach, has been actively involved in team trainings, going so far as to have a bowl at the tail-enders in nets today at the National Stadium in Karachi. But for now Intikhab is the head honcho and reports of his loose grasp of modern-day coaching methods may be slightly exaggerated. "I've been looking at and analysing videos of the West Indies team," he said. "They've got a good ODI side and a few new faces. As coach my work is to be fully prepared. I have to do that background work to help the captain to devise strategies for opponents and that can only happen when you have complete knowledge."

Pepsi-DRU cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Inqilab, Bangla Bazar, Channel i, Karotoa, Bangla Vision, Jugantar and the New Nation won their respective matches on the opening day of the Pepsi-DRU six-a-side cricket tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Inspired by a good performance from man-of-the-match Partha Tanvir Naved, Channel i (85-2) crushed BSS (18-5) by 67 runs. Bangla Bazar (66-0) beat Khabar Patra (29-3) by 37 runs, Inqilab (77-0) defeated Jai Jai Din (73-4) by five wickets, Karotoa (68-0) thrashed Financial Express (67-4) by five wickets, Bangla Vision (100-0) crushed Manab Jamin (14-5) by 86 runs, Jugantar (74-3) beat Desh Bangla (50-1) by 24 runs and the New Nation got a walkover after Janakantha failed to arrive on time. Organised by Dhaka Reporters' Unity, the tournament was inaugurated by Transcom Beverage Limited executive director and CEO Golam Kuddus Chowdhury.

A Ricky revelation

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting has said he was approached by a senior member of the India touring party during the acrimonious Sydney Test and asked to drop Australia's complaint against Harbhajan Singh. Harbhajan was alleged to have racially abused Andrew Symonds during the game and Ponting said that even before Harbhajan's three-Test ban was handed down it was clear the matter would not be straightforward. Ponting's recollections are revealed in his Captain's Diary 2008, an extract of which has been published in the Weekend Australian. "On the night after we made our on-field report about Harbhajan, I had a phone conversation with a senior member of the Indian touring party, who asked me straight to drop the complaint," Ponting wrote. "Why do we need to keep it quiet?" I asked. His reply had nothing to do with Harbhajan's guilt or innocence; this fellow was more concerned with how events were going to transpire and tried to convince me it might not be worth the stress of going ahead with what might well be a prolonged legal process. The conversation happened after play on Day Four, the evening before Harbhajan was suspended in a late-night hearing with the match referee Mike Procter. As it turned out, the ban was overturned, but only after a bitter period during which India considered whether to go ahead with the rest of the tour. Ponting said there was no chance he was going to back down and withdraw Australia's complaint. "I was determined to see that justice would be done but I knew from the moment I put my mobile back in my pocket that the investigation might not be as straightforward as the authorities hearing the evidence, making the right decision and then we all move on," he wrote. "It would not look good for Indian cricket for one of their senior players to be convicted of racial abuse, and from the time their officials realised we were not going to give ground -- which was probably the moment this brief conversation ended -- they set out to make sure that did not happen."

Ponting said that in Sydney he was keen to show Symonds that he had the support of his teammates and captain. He said that even though Sachin Tendulkar, who was batting with Harbhajan at the time, tried to smooth over the incident, once Ponting had mentioned it to the umpire Mark Benson it was no longer up to the players. "Benson went back to his position, while I made a point, as I walked past the two batsmen on my way to the slip cordon, to say to the Indian spinner, 'I hope you haven't said that again,'" Ponting wrote. "To which Tendulkar promptly replied, 'Leave it alone. I'll fix this, I'll sort this out.' But it was too late for that. I'd already spoken to the umpire. It was out of my hands." Ponting's recollections came barely a fortnight after Adam Gilchrist reignited debate over the Sydney Test with his autobiography. Gilchrist queried the change in Tendulkar's evidence from the initial hearing to the appeal and told of the disappointment in the Australian camp when Harbhajan's appeal was upheld.

Tigers' opening

FROM PAGE 17

"I am trying my best and practising hard and it's impossible for me to give more effort than what I am giving now. I don't think there is any problem in my technique and there is any lack of concentration. But somehow it is not happening," he observed. "You know it's hard to face the first few deliveries and interestingly I overcame the first hurdle successfully but unfortunately was not able to carry it but I hope it will happen," Tamim hoped. Tamim admitted that the opening partnership is a big headache for his side but he was excited with the way they were playing the game in recent times. "It's true that the opening is a big problem but as a team we are playing good cricket. Imrul just opened one innings and we have to give him some time," he said. Tamim believed that in the remaining matches there are main challenges would be to successfully negotiate with the pace of the South African bowlers, especially against Dale Steyn. "I think the big challenge that lies in the series is to negotiate with the pace of the South African bowlers and here a good start is very important for us," he said with a tone of caution.

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Captain has

FROM PAGE 17

Ashrafal adding that Steyn swung the ball brilliantly after taking a new ball in the 35th over. "There were a lot of positive things in the match. Our bowlers did well before the tail-end batsmen took away the initiative in the last five overs. We are looking forward to playing much better cricket in the series and we definitely will go for win in the next match," he added. And the Bangladesh captain believed that it's just a matter of time that they win matches on a regular basis if they continue their improvement. "I think the team is shaping up and everybody is working hard to get the result. It's just a matter of time that we get the result. Just need to play good and competitive cricket," observed a confident Bangladesh skipper. He has hardly any doubt that the Tigers' second trip will be much better from the first one because they have already showed the signs in the first two games in the tour.

Nasri Gunners

FROM PAGE 17 following a run of seven games without defeat.

Yet within a minute they should have reduced the deficit, Cristiano Ronaldo slotting wide from close range following a perfect lofted cross by Park. Rooney had a header saved soon after, and the visitors then introduced Ryan Giggs in place of Anderson with 18 minutes remaining in a bid to salvage something from the game. However, it was Arsenal who had the next opportunity, referee Howard Webb waving away penalty appeals as Nemanja Vidic tugged on the shirt of Nasri. Ferguson brought on Carlos Tevez in place of Rooney in a further bid to snatch an unlikely point and Arsenal were forced to take off Almunia, with Lukas Fabianski on after the Spanish keeper was injured in a challenge with Carrick. United teenager Rafael, on for Neville, gave United a glimmer of hope in the 90th minute when he chipped down a clearance on the edge of the area and volleyed left footed into the corner of Fabianski's net. But victory takes Arsenal into third place, and although Man United have a game in hand, this is a huge psychological boost for Wenger and his side.



The Bangladesh football team pose for a photograph yesterday ahead of their departure to Myanmar last night.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 Office holders	DOWN	23 Blond shade
1 Drives the getaway	40 Unusually	1 Wheel-base	24 Seesaw
42 Pronto	44 Test the waters	2 Loutish one	25 Still, in verse
6 Aussie girl	46 Duly	3 Needle holders	26 They're nothing new
12 Mysteriously	50 Defeated decisively	4 First X?	28 Dug
13 Do unstrainedly	52 Star Wars	5 Strong Dutch gin	30 Winter woe
14 Show bad posture	54 To-do list	6 Blind part	31 Piz
15 Niche	55 Scope acronym	8 List-end ing abbr.	32 Bermina, e.g.
16 Gilpin of "Frasier"	56 Of a recent time	9 Mohawk or Seneca	33 Oodles of pounds
17 Defense	57 Class-room array	10 Part of SNL	34 Flock member
19 Proof abbr.	20 Thick slice	11 Mimicked	39 Stockholder, e.g.
22 Greek cross	24 Afternoon social	12 Krasnik's claim	41 Takes ten
27 Comic-strip	29 Farlor piece	18 Touched	21 Bud's partner
32 Emulated Jack and Jill	35 Aware of	43 Venetian magistrate	45 Hebrew month
36 Pack away	37 Dine	47 Cheat at hide-and-seek	48 Sea flock
		49 "Guinness Book" suffix	51 Potent stick
		53 Pink-slip	

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CRYPTOQUIP

ILIEGDS LGM TDODVVDZ
BEZQ DRLEB NVZEXWEGQ
LSZDNQZBX BTDB DSQ XTLOJ
DZM WTQDI: "BVZJ RDERGQX."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ARMY BIGWIGS NEED TO BUY SUPPLIES, I IMAGINE THEY WOULD SHOP AT THE GENERAL STORE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals P

Did U Know?

The University of Chicago played its first college basketball game in 1894. In the very first game, they defeated the Chicago YMCA Training School nineteen to eleven.