



THIS IS MINE: While three tiny tots wrestle to reach for the ball it fell into the safe pair of hands of a future Aminul (Bangladesh custodian). The picture was taken during the opening match of the Grameen-Danone Nations Cup juvenile tournament between Narail and Chapainawabganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nations Cup football

SPORTS REPORTER

Narail, Khulna, Lalmonirhat and BFF development squad won their respective matches when the final round of the Grameen-Danone Nations Cup began at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Safaet struck twice as Narail posted an emphatic 3-1 win over Chapainawabganj in the first match. Tanmoy scored the other goal for the winners while Minhaz netted the consolation goal for the losers. Khulna earned a solitary goal victory over Gazipur. Michael netted the all-important goal in the first half. The BFF development squad blanked Narayanganj 3-0. Shahjada scored two goals after Babu opening the accounts. Lalmonirhat rode on Sagar's double strike to register a 2-1 win over Chittagong. Jewel pulled one goal back.

Teletalk cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

Nurunnabi claimed six wickets as Prajono Club secured a nine-run victory over Victoria Club in a low scoring match of the first Teletalk cricket tournament at the Khagrachari Government High School ground yesterday. Prajono Club scored 73 all-out in 21.2 over with Nurunnabi making 27 runs. Murad Hossen was the most successful bowler by picking up three wickets for nine runs. In reply, Victoria Club were bundled out for 64 runs in 21.1 overs. Mohammad Faruq scored 27 runs. Man-of-the-match Nurunnabi captured six wickets for 21 runs.

Asian Junior Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar secured two points after the fourth round games in the Continental Asian Junior Chess Championship in Colombo. Sagar so far won against Vithanage Tharindu of Sri Lanka, shared points with local Munasingha DGS and FM Tologontegin Semetey of Kazakhstan and lost against Sumant Subramanian of India. A total of thirty-nine players including seven International Masters from several countries of Asia are taking part in the competition.

Gold Cup football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Bera Al Helal Football team defeated Sirajganj's Belkuchi Palli Unnayan Shanga 3-1 goals in the opening match of the Reza Mollah Gold Cup football tournament at the Kazirhat football ground yesterday. A total of eight inter district football teams of Pabna, Sirajganj and Rajbari districts are taking part in the tournament. Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (ret.) AK Khandakar inaugurated the tournament.

Aussies' good workout

Cricket

AFP, Worcester

Australia cherished further batting practice on the final morning of their last warm-up game in Worcester before their Ashes defence begins Wednesday in Cardiff. While England's preparations in the three-day match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston were unsettled by rain and a weak opponent, Ricky Ponting has seen his probable Ashes starters truly tested against the Lions, England's A side. And the tourists have responded well, piling up 438 for four by lunch for a 444-run lead with two sessions remaining. The only minor doubt hovers over Mike Hussey, who was forced to retire hurt with a sore ankle on 62. Australia's top seven have all posted half-centuries in their two warm-up matches and, Phillip Hughes' troubles with the short ball aside, batted intelligently at New Road against a strong Lions attack and on a flat pitch expected to play similarly to Sophia Gardens next week. Resuming at 276-4, Marcus North -- who had been doubtful about his place in the side

prior to this following a series of low scores -- offered a knee-high caught and bowled chance to Stephen Harmison on 120 on the march to an unbeaten 191. Hussey's run-a-ball knock included a pulled six over backwards square leg off Graham Onions before Brad Haddin (25 not out) inflicted further misery on the Lions. Hussey -- the man known as 'Mr Cricket' -- scored 150 in the first innings to dispel any suggestion his international powers were on the wane. Australia's XI for the Cardiff opener has become clearer with North's first innings of substance on the tour cementing his position at No.6. Brett Lee, the only Australian bowler with Ashes experience in England, is expected to feature after returning figures of six wickets for 76 runs in 27 overs in the first innings, while the final place is a straight choice between off-spinner Nathan Hauritz and Stuart Clark. The England selectors, who name their extended squad for the first Test on Sunday morning, were here in Worcester keeping a close eye on Durham pair Harmison and Onions (0-74). Harmison, who on Friday said he expected to be overlooked in preference of two spinners, again returned his side's best figures of 2-55.

Andy Roddick in history's

FROM PAGE 17 face Federer in this year's final, came up one match short. Roddick, largely overlooked despite his appearances in two previous finals, beat Murray 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5), stopping the third-ranked Scot's bid of becoming the first British male finalist since the 1930s. Now Roddick is out to stop Federer from breaking the Slam record. "Obviously you can't really say enough to signify what Roger's career has been to this point," Roddick said. "I'd love to delay (the record) for another Grand Slam." Asked whether he could picture himself hoisting the trophy on Center Court on Sunday, Roddick said with a smile: "Oh, I've done that many times." Federer's 18-2 record against Roddick includes victories in the 2004 and '05 Wimbledon finals.

Roddick's only two wins came on hard courts. "I've played him 20 times, so I've had plenty of time to study his game, to understand his game," Federer said. "He's always played me quite differently every single time I've played him. I've had many different looks against Roddick. I enjoy how he leaves everything on the court. I can only marvel at how incredible his serve is. I like playing against him, not only just because of the record." For the 26-year-old Roddick, the march back to the final marks a personal turnaround. After losing in the second round last year, he said he wondered whether he still had enough to compete at the top level. "You don't go back to a Wimbledon final by accident," he said. "It certainly is a pro-

cess. And it's probably been a longer process than I would have liked. ... I didn't know if I was going to get to play a final of Wimbledon again. I'm certainly thankful to have that opportunity." Like most people, Murray and Haas figure Federer will have the edge again. "I think Andy Roddick is playing some of his best tennis that I've seen," Haas said. "But I wouldn't give him really a chance to beat Roger in the final. Maybe take a set." In their two previous finals and one semifinal matchup at Wimbledon, Roddick has won just one of 10 sets against Federer. "Obviously Roger is the favourite," Murray said. "If he plays his best and passes well, then there's no reason why he can't win."

Behind every man, stands a woman

AFP, London

Roger Federer credits his wife Mirka for helping him end his youthful, on-court tantrums while Brooklyn Decker talked Andy Roddick out of walking away from tennis. When Federer and Roddick meet in Sunday's Wimbledon final, both will acknowledge the debt they owe to their wives looking nervously on from the players' box on Centre Court. Federer, bidding for a sixth Wimbledon title and a record 15th major, believes his staggering success may have eluded him if it were not for Mirka. The couple, who met at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, married in April and are expecting their first child later this summer. As Mirka Vavrinec, Federer's wife was a regular player on the women's tour until serious injury pushed her out of the game. In the long term, that's been to the Swiss star's benefit. "She helped me considerably, as a person. I developed faster, grew faster with her. Thanks to her I was very calm in the important moments in

my career. She is always supportive. I owe her a lot," said Federer. Roddick, who ended home hope Andy Murray's dream of a final appearance, was at his lowest ebb here 12 months

Open, was a spent force, his game a relic in the new age of Federer-Rafael Nadal. But marriage to swimsuit model Decker has helped transform the American's life and his game.



Mirka Vavrinec (L) wife of Swiss star Roger Federer and Brooklyn Decker, wife of American Andy Roddick will both be in the stands supporting their beau's in the Wimbledon final today.

ago when he suffered his earliest Wimbledon exit, a second round loss to Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic. Many saw that as overwhelming evidence that the big-serving American, whose one and only Grand Slam title came back at the 2003 US

"Last year after I played here, that was a hard, hard couple of weeks," admitted Roddick. "Brook and I had a lot of talks on if I still thought I could play and at least be towards the top of the game. I definitely openly questioned

it at that point. "So this off-season, we said if you're not going to be up there, let's at least not wonder. Let's prepare yourself and give yourself every opportunity. "I did work real hard and have been committed from everything to diet to sleep to everything. I certainly gave myself every opportunity to succeed." Like Federer, against whom he has lost 18 times in 20 meetings, Roddick believes marriage in April to the 21-year-old model, has helped give him a new perspective. "I know that being happy and not having any worries away from the court, in my mind it can only help things," said Roddick. "Brook has been a very calming influence, and is someone that I can confide in and not have to put up a super brave front in front of. So it's been real good and certainly makes the (players) box better looking." There's also another reason why the 26-year-old American keeps playing. "She thought I looked cute in the shorts."

Vaas not retiring

AFP, Galle

Veteran Sri Lankan seamer Chaminda Vaas on Saturday refuted the chief selector's claim that he wanted to retire from Test cricket, saying he had not taken any decision. Chief selector Asantha de Mel had said earlier in the day that the 35-year-old left-armed did not want to play Test cricket, but was still available for one-day and Twenty20 cricket. "Chaminda has told me he does not want to play Test cricket anymore but he will continue in the shorter formats," de Mel, a former Sri Lankan fast bowler, said. Vaas, however, said he had not spoken to the selectors and denied he had made up his mind to quit. "I have not retired from Test cricket," he told AFP. "I have not even spoken to de Mel or any other selector." Vaas, a 110-Test veteran, was overlooked for the Test series against Pakistan which began at the Galle International Stadium on Saturday. The selectors did not pick him even after spin master Muttiah Muralitharan was ruled out of the first Test due to a knee injury, leaving the Sri Lankan attack short of experience. Vaas, who made his Test debut against Pakistan at Kandy in 1994, has claimed 354 wickets at an average of 29.40 with 12 five-wicket hauls, and twice took 10 wickets in a match. He also has 400 wickets from 322 one-day internationals, including a hat-trick off the first three balls of the match against Bangladesh during the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

India one step away

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Gayle agreed that his side found it difficult to get the momentum in between the rain to set India a more formidable challenge, but he felt the final target was decent. "We thought we had a chance of defending the target because it's a big outfield," said Gayle. "But their openers gave them a good start... and they were running hard between the wickets, and putting a lot of pressure on our fielders as well, so we will have to work on this, and see if we can squeeze their batsmen a bit more in the outfield." In bilateral ODI series, India have only once overcome West Indies on five previous trips to the Caribbean, and this was 2-1 in a three-match contest seven years ago. SCOREBOARD

Beausejour Cricket Ground on Friday:

WEST INDIES			
Gayle c Dhoni b Nehra	27		
Morton st Dhoni b Harbhajan	22		
Sarwan run out (Gambhir/Dhoni)	62		
Chanderpaul c Nehra b Pathan	15		
DJ Bravo c Dhoni b Nehra	13		
DM Bravo b Nehra	21		
Ramdin not out	14		
Taylor c Ishant b Harbhajan	1		
Extras: (lb-7, w-3)	10		
Total: (For 7 wickets in 27 overs)	185		
Did not bat: Bernard, Benn, Rampaul			
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-78, 3-125, 4-135, 5-169, 6-172, 7-185			
Bowler O M R W			
Ishant	5	0	35
Nehra	5	1	21
RP Singh	5	0	34
Harbhajan	5	0	35
Yuvraj	2	0	19
Rohit	1	0	7
Yusuf	4	0	27
INDIA			
Karthik run out (Rampaul)	47		
Gambhir c Ramdin b Benn	44		
Dhoni not out	46		

Yuvraj c DM Bravo b Bernard 2
Rohit c Bernard b DJ Bravo 11
Yusuf not out 1
Extras: (lb-4, w-3, nb-1) 8
Total: (For 4 wickets in 21.5 overs) 159
Did not bat: Nayar, Harbhajan, Ishant, RP Singh, Nehra
Fall of wickets: 1-84, 2-108, 3-117, 4-148
Bowler O M R W
Taylor 3.5 0 39 1
Rampaul 4 0 26 0
Bravo 4 0 27 1
Bernard 3 0 21 1
Benn 5 0 31 1
Gayle 2 0 11 0
Result: India won by six wickets.
Toss: India.
Man-of-the-match: Mahendra Singh Dhoni.
Umpires: Clyde Duncan, Nigel Llong.



Yusuf Pathan looks back as India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (R) scampers for the winning run with a ball to spare during the rain-hit third one-day international against West Indies at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in St. Lucia on Friday.

Deodhar Trophy may be revived

AFP, New Delhi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Saturday it will work out a schedule for a key one-day domestic tournament after moves to axe the event were met with angry protests. "The schedule of the Deodhar Trophy will be finalised at the board's working committee meeting in August," the BCCI said in a press release. The Indian media had reported that the Deodhar Trophy was being dropped from next year's calendar to fit in matches of the Indian Premier League (IPL), leading to protests by the right-wing Shiv Sena party in Mumbai. The party workers shouted slogans outside the BCCI headquarters, accusing the board of insulting the late DB Deodhar, a doyen of domestic cricket who hailed from Maharashtra, which is also the Sena stronghold.

DalGLISH back

FROM PAGE 20 in 1977 as a replacement for Kevin Keegan and went on to score 172 goals in 515 games for Liverpool during a golden era for the club when they won the European Cup in 1978, 1981 and 1984 after lifting the trophy for the first time shortly before DalGLISH arrived at Anfield.

Aamer impresses

FROM PAGE 17

beaten by pace and chopped the ball on his off-stump. The hosts slipped to 21-2 as Aamer removed skipper Kumar Sangakkara in his third over, forcing the star batsman to edge a short ball to Shoab Malik at third slip. Aamer should have had two more wickets but Malik dropped Paranavitana, then on four, and Akmal let off Jayawardene before the batsman had scored a run. Akmal made amends 90 minutes later when he snapped up Jayawardene off Rauf, but not before the former Sri Lanka captain had partnered Paranavitana in the rescue act. Rauf had Paranavitana caught by Misbahul Haq at first slip midway through the post-lunch session, before Younus dismissed Samaraweera through a catch by the wicketkeeper. Aamer removed Tillakaratne Dilshan (28) with the first delivery after tea as Malik took a smart catch at gully to end a 34-run stand with Mathews. Umar Gul, the only specialist bowler in Pakistan's ranks with previous Test experience, earned his first success soon after and debutant off-spinner Saeed Ajmal claimed the last two wickets.

Bowler O M R W			
Gul	14	3	45
Aamer	19	3	74
Rauf	14	1	59
Younus	7	2	23
Ajmal	24	4	79
Malik	3	1	8
PAKISTAN: First innings			
Manzoor lbw b Thushara	2		
Butt b Kulasekera	7		
Younus not out	0		
Rauf not out	0		
Extras: (b-5, lb-1)	6		
Total: (For 2 wickets in 7 overs) 15			
To bat: Younus, Misbah, Malik, Akmal, Gul, Ajmal, Aamer.			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-5			
Bowler O M R W			
Kulasekera	0	0	7
Thushara	3	2	2
Toss: Pakistan.			
Umpires: Daryl Harper and Ian Gould.			

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first Test

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Talk-show group	38 Mexican entree	41 Cribbage scorer	42 PC symbol	43 They're catching	48 Gaelic forecast	49 Charged bit	50 Nastase of tennis lore	51 What-ever's left over	52 Fox competitor	53 North Sea feeder	54 Loving women of the 1920s	55 Common Mkt.	56 One-on-one exams	57 Compete	58 Coverings	59 Arizona city	60 Kegler's pathway				
DOWN	16 Trench	20 Knocks	21 Mulligan, e.g.	22 Gardener, at times	23 Killer whale	24 Boombox sound	26 Wild	27 Still	28 Get up	29 Cachet	31 October stone	34 Pluto, once	35 Heckle or Jeckle	37 Energy	38 Layer	39 Farm fraction	40 Rolling stone's lack	41 Cook-ware	44 Plagiarize	45 Right angle	46 Cage component	47 Get a glimpse of

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	W	E	S	H	O	N	E	P	V	C	
S	H	E	T	O	N	A	L	L	I	E	
H	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O	D	A	I	O
I	L	L	M	E	A	N	I	E			
T	A	I	P	E	I	S	T				
E	L	F	S	N	L	T	I	F	F	S	
D	U	E	S	G	O	T	S	O	O	N	
S	M	E	L	T	G	E	E	O	B	I	
L	I	A	R	A	M	I	D	S	T		
B	R	I	G	T	O	E	C	B	S		
A	D	O	I	N	T	H	E	M	O	O	D
L	E	O	S	E	W	E	R	D			
D	A	D	T	E	A	R	S	E	R		

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CRYPTOQUIP

LEBYM E T SUUP ZI TZFEBS
 XB GEMNPEBSNG EBLELIMBI
 JMUJNM NZXSD, IDMG LZG
 E T Z LIEYFNMW IEYFNMW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A MARKET EMPLOYEE IS VERY SKILLED AT WORKING CHECKOUT, I GUESS HE IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals P