

## V-Day soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Manikganj

Manikganj district police won the Victory Day football tournament title with a 7-2 goal-fest against Sattaria Upazila in the final at the Police Lines ground in here yesterday.

Police made the contest all but over when they took 5-1 lead in the first half.

Nigerian player Ameca, who scored a brace for Police, was adjudged the best player and got Tk 2000 as prize money.

Manikganj Police Superintendent Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hasan gave away prizes among the winners. Chairperson of Victory Fair freedom fighter Iqbal Hossain Khan was also present on the occasion.

## Winter Bridge

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Winter Bridge Carnival will start at the Engineering Institute Club, Dhaka on Thursday. The tournament is being sponsored by Grameenphone and organized by Dhaka Metropolitan Bridge Association (DMBA). Interested teams, pairs and individuals have been asked to register their entries.

## Lou eyeing NZ place

CRICINFO, undated

Almost two years after he gave up a New Zealand Cricket contract to join the Indian Cricket League, Lou Vincent has returned to the country and revealed his desire to return to the national side.

Vincent, 31, has been living mainly in Britain since moving on from the unofficial ICL and could also potentially qualify to play for England in less than two years. However, given the comeback Shane Bond and Daryl Tuffey made after they were granted amnesty on quitting the ICL, Vincent has reason to be optimistic about a New Zealand call-up.

"I'm still classified as an overseas player there [in England] until I get my residency and passport," Vincent told the Herald on Sunday. "That means I could play as a local on the county scene. That's an option but I'm going to test myself in New Zealand first."

Vincent played for an Auckland club side Takapuna on Saturday and hoped to join the Auckland squad next week. His first assignment for Auckland will be the one-day competition, before the domestic Twenty20 tournament in the following month.

"Cricket's been back on my mind in recent months. I want to get back to the top level. It's time to give it one more crack. I wanted to come back and play rather than have a holiday. I can't guarantee a place with Auckland this summer but I'm going to be training every day to prove my worth."

## No Bangladesh

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interest ahead of SA Games," said BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi after the emergency committee meeting at the BFF House yesterday.

Sadi said that SA Games was a big event in this sub-continent and BFF had to pave the way for the renovation works as well as the rehearsal at the BNS.

He also said that they would sit with representatives of all 13 participating teams tomorrow (Monday) before taking final decision about the venue.

The Bangladesh League only resumed on Saturday after a one-and-a-half month break due to Eid-ul-Azha and the SAFF Championship.



Chris Gayle

(West Indies cricket captain) "At the moment when [Nathan] Hauritz is bowling to me, it's like I'm bowling to myself." Dealing Australia's lead spinner a low blow.



Winners of Gemcon Victory Cup Golf Tournament pose for photographs at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Saturday. Brig Gen SK Abu Bakr (red) and chairman of Gemcon Group Lt. Col (red) Kazi Shahed Ahmed, MP, are also seen with the winners.

## Gayle not surprised

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting will warn his players to tone down their on-field behaviour after Chris Gayle declared he wasn't surprised by Shane Watson's over-the-top celebrations because he "didn't expect anything better" of him. Watson was the third Australian player to be fined by the match referee during the Perth Test, which also featured a two-ODI suspension for Suleiman Benn, and left Australia's players embarrassed by their actions.

The West Indies camp was upset by the disparity in penalties and has not ruled out pursuing the matter further, and Gayle's feelings were plain when he declined to comment on Benn's ban. "I might be the person getting the ban as well, you might not get anymore interviews," he said. However, Gayle said he was not shocked by Watson's antics when he had Gayle caught behind and then moved close to the batsman and cheered excessively.

"Not really, he's that sort of person," Gayle said. "I didn't expect anything better, so that's typically Shane Watson, he's a passionate person. That's how he expresses himself but maybe he just overdid it a bit, but that's Shane Watson."

Watson was fined 15 per cent of his match fee, while Brad Haddin and Mitchell Johnson were slapped 25 per cent and 10 per cent respectively after their run-in with Benn. Johnson clashed physically with the West Indies spinner and Haddin inflamed the situation by pointing his bat angrily at Benn and engaging in a verbal stoush.

The reports followed a reprimand in Adelaide

for Doug Bollinger, who had kicked the ground in anger when he had an lbw appeal denied. Ponting said the three men who were fined in Perth knew they had crossed the line, but he would sit down with the entire squad before the Boxing Day Test against Pakistan to reinforce how they should behave.

"We all have responsibilities," Ponting said. "It's one of my responsibilities as the captain to make sure that guys aren't overstepping the mark. Definitely this week when we get down to Melbourne as a group together it will happen in our first team meeting, we will go over some of the events of this week."

"I'm not proud of the fact, I'm sure the players aren't proud of the fact either, that we've had three guys reported in the one game. Reports are something we've been really strict on the last couple of years, that's amongst the player group ourselves. And we've actually got a good record on that over the last couple of years. I know all the guys are a bit embarrassed probably and know they've overstepped the mark."

Despite the incidents, Gayle insisted the match had been played in the right spirit and aggression was a good thing for the game. There was certainly plenty of passion and fierceness from his 200-centimetre spinner Benn, who did not back down when he was targeted verbally by Haddin. Benn is often seen singing when not playing the game and was described by the Australians as "unusual".

"He is unusual," Gayle said. "Benny has always been himself, that's how he plays cricket out there. He will talk and these things give him an extra drive to be competitive. He's a competitive person. He's sometimes miserable at times, too."

## Can Mohammedan

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attack may play a significant role in deciding the ultimate outcome.

Shakib is also looking to forget the memories of their first meeting. "This is a new game and a winner-take-all situation. Whoever plays well on the day, will win it. It doesn't matter now what happened in the earlier phase. We are playing good cricket at the moment and we will be giving our best shot." Shakib's own performance this season has not been up to the scratch but he is pumped up before the match and feels: "yes, my performance hasn't been great so far. And one performance will not surely turn it

around. But if I can play a big role in winning this match tomorrow (Monday), that will be great from the team's perspective."

There are no injury worries for Abahani and the team that played in the last game against Cricket Coaching School will be playing today while Mohammedan will have hero of the previous game between the two sides Aftab Ahmed back who sit out Friday's match against Kalabagan.

Mohammedan skipper Mashud, who steered Surjo Torun to a second-place finish last season, wants to go one better and end the title drought for the men in black-and-white. But he is aware of

the challenge ahead.

"It's a different ball game altogether. But we will be happy if we can put in such a commanding performance this time too. Abahani are playing very good cricket at the moment," said the former Bangladesh skipper.

When asked whether they have any special plans for Abdur Razzag, Mashud said: "No special plans about him. Every member is important and we have to concentrate on everyone, not single out one or two."

In the other two matches of the day, third-placed Biman will take on Cricket Coaching School at Fatullah while Kalabagan will take on Victoria at BKS.

## Aussies do it easily

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but quickly became competitive. Australia's next engagement is the first game of the three-Test series against Pakistan starting on Boxing Day.

## SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard on the fifth day of the third and final Test between Australia and the West Indies at the WACA in Perth on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 520 for 7 declared (Watson 89, Katich 99, Hussey 82, Haddin 88, North 68; Roach 2-104)

WEST INDIES: First innings 312 (Gayle 102, Dowlin 55, Nash 44, Sarwan 42; Bollinger

5-70, Hauritz 3-66, Johnson 2-92)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 150 (Watson 30, Clarke 25, Haddin 23; Bravo 4-42, Benn 3-29)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 308-9)

Gayle c Haddin b Watson 21

Dowlin c Clarke b Bollinger 22

Sarwan c Haddin b Hauritz 11

Deonarine b Watson 82

Nash b Bollinger 65

Bravo c Hussey b Johnson 1

Ramdin b McKay 14

Benn c sub (Doropoulos) b Johnson 33

Rampaul c McKay b Johnson 10

Roach c Haddin b Bollinger 17

Toone not out 23

Extras: (b-9, lb-9, w-1, nb-5) 24

Total: (All out in 94.3 overs) 323

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-52, 3-68, 4-196, 5-197, 6-231, 7-245, 8-279, 9-279

Bowler O M R W

Bollinger 20.3 3 71 3

Johnson 16 5 67 3

McKay 14 2 56 1

Watson 14 5 30 2

Hauritz 23 7 61 1

North 7 1 20 0

Result: Australia won by 35 runs and won the 3-Test series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.

Man-of-the-series: Chris Gayle.

Umpires: Billy Bowden and Ian Gould.

## Big guns absent

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the opening overs, where not one man has been able to put the slightest pressure on Upl Tharanga or Dilshan. Old-ball mastery won them the game in Rajkot, but raggedness with the new one left them with too much to do in the second match.

Ever since Yuvraj established himself as one of the bulwarks of India's one-day batting, rarely has a series gone by without him playing at least one defining innings. An injured finger and flu kept him out of the opening two games, but if his Twenty20 blitz in Mohali was any guide, he certainly isn't lacking form. Against an attack missing Dilhara Fernando, Muttiah Muralidaran and Mathews, his nonchalant heaves over midwicket could well prove decisive.

The slow bowlers have traditionally enjoyed Cuttack. When India beat West Indies

in the run-up to the last World Cup, India's contingent took six wickets in a low-scoring encounter, and last year it was Harbhajan Singh and Yuvraj that were the difference in a free-scoring match with England.

Dinesh Karthik will take Dhoni's place, while Virat Kohli, despite a sprightly 54 in the last game, will have to make way if Yuvraj recovers fully. There could also be a rejigging of the pace attack, with Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra both far more comfortable with the old ball. Praveen Kumar lacks the pace to hustle batsmen early on, especially in conditions where there's little or no movement, and that could see Ishant Sharma take his place.

Given their injury concerns, it's hard to predict Sri Lanka's line-up. But Mathews's absence does pave the way for Sanath Jayasuriya's return, especially

in low and slow conditions where his left-arm spin could be a big factor. Suranga Lakmal didn't impress much on debut, and there could be a recall for Nuwan Kulasekara. The big plus though would be Malinga's return. In Fernando's absence, Sri Lanka have lacked a bowler who can hurry the batsmen.

## TEAMS

INDIA (probable): Virender Sehwag (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh/Virat Kohli, Suresh Raina, Dinesh Karthik, Ravindra Jadeja, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Ashish Nehra.

SRI LANKA (probable): Upul Tharanga, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Thilina Kandamby, Sanath Jayasuriya, Suraj Randiv, Nuwan Kulasekara/Suranga Lakmal, Ajantha Mendis, Chanaka Welegedara, Lasith Malinga.

## SA name side for 2nd and third Tests

AFP, Centurion

The South African selectors on Sunday named a squad of 14 players for the second and third Tests against England, in Durban from December 26 and Cape Town from January 3.

The squad included the 11 who played in the first Test at Centurion, plus batsman Alviro Petersen, all-rounder Ryan McLaren and fast bowler Dale Steyn. Dropped from the original 15-man squad for the first Test was left-arm fast bowler Wayne Parnell.

Steyn was due to play at Centurion but was withdrawn from the side because of a tight hamstring on the morning of the match.

## SQUAD

Graeme Smith (captain), Hashim Amla, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, Friedel de Wet, JP Duminy, Paul Harris, Jacques Kallis, Ryan McLaren, Morne Morkel, Makhaya Ntini, Alviro Petersen, Ashwell Prince, Dale Steyn.

## Mathews to return home

CRICINFO, undated

The injury crisis in the Sri Lankan camp has deepened, with the all-rounder Angelo Mathews set to return home after straining his right quadriceps muscle during the second ODI in Nagpur on Friday. The Sri Lanka Cricket media manager Brian Thomas has confirmed to Cricinfo that the Wayamba all-rounder Thissara Perera will join the squad in India on Sunday for the three remaining ODIs.

Mathews' injury is likely to take up to four weeks to heal, thereby putting him in doubt for the tri-series in Bangladesh starting on January 4. He suffered the injury while setting off for a run during his match-winning unbeaten 37, but continued his innings with the aid of a runner (Chamara Kapugedera).

## Sponsors off Woods

AFP, New York

An embattled Tiger Woods faced a dwindling roster of sponsors Saturday, after Swiss watchmaker Tag Heuer said it was dropping its US advertising campaigns featuring the golf champion.

Tag Heuer's move came in the footsteps of consulting firm Accenture ending its six-year deal with the golf superstar and razor-maker Gillette dropping him from its advertising, after the 33-year-old Woods took an indefinite break from the sport and acknowledged infidelity.

"We recognise Tiger Woods as a great sportsman but we have to take account of the sensitivity of some consumers in relation to recent events," Tag Heuer chief executive Jean-Christophe Babin told Swiss newspaper Le Matin on Friday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

## ACROSS

1 Resistance

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8 Terrible

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14 Mature

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16 Sample

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18 Impudent

20 Heavy

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28 Montana

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32 Bear

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33 Yoko —

34 Frat party

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36 Feminine

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37 Garbage

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39 Wallet

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45 Taj Mahal

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48 Facility

49 A few

50 Cranberry

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51 Altar

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53 Acorn

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54 Blackbird

## England near safety

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

Jonathan Trott and Kevin Pietersen steered England towards safety with a century partnership on the fifth and final day of the first Test against South Africa at SuperSport Park on Sunday.

England, set 364 to win, were 169 for three at tea. Trott, who came to the wicket after the dismissal of nightwatchman James Anderson in the third over of the day, was unbeaten on 53 after facing 148 balls.

Pietersen was more aggressive in making 80 not out off 136 deliveries but the batsmen showed no serious intention of trying to chase down an unrealistic victory target. The pair had added 142 for the fourth wicket.

South African hopes were raised early in the day when Anderson gloved Friedel de Wet down the leg side to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

Alastair Cook defended resolutely for 79 minutes and 56 balls, scoring 12 runs, before he too was caught off a glove, when a ball from left-arm spinner Paul Harris went to

Graeme Smith at leg gully off his glove and pad.

But Trott and Pietersen dug in on a pitch which did not provide as much unpredictable bounce as it had on the previous two days.

Only one delivery truly misbehaved, a ball from De Wet which shot through low and trapped Pietersen, on 39, plumb in front of his stumps. But umpire Steve Davis no-balled De Wet for overstepping.

When he was on 31 Trott played a ball from Harris onto his boot and it was caught by Smith at a wide slip.

The umpires sought a review and Trott was given not out when it showed the ball had made contact with the ground before bouncing to Smith. In the same over Pietersen, on 57, pushed a ball from Harris dangerously close to Hashim Amla at short leg.

In virtually the only other alarm for England, Morne Morkel had a loud shout for leg before against Trott turned down by Davis when the batsman was on 45. After a discussion the South Africans decided not to call for a television review and replays showed the ball would have missed leg stump.

With the other bowlers

unable to break through, Jacques Kallis came into the attack shortly before tea.

He had said before the match he did not expect to bowl because he was recovering from a rib injury. He bowled three unthreatening overs.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fifth day of the first Test between South Africa and England at SuperSport Park in Centurion on Sunday.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 418

ENGLAND: First innings 356