

Women's nat'l cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Farhana Haque smashed 73 runs to help her side Rajshahi win against Dhaka by 100 runs in the Women's national Cricket league yesterday. Depending on Farhana's knock, Rajshahi scored 174 runs in 49.1 overs. In reply, Dhaka got bowled out cheaply for 74 runs in 37.5 overs. In the other match of the day, Khulna chased down a 55 run-target without losing a wicket to hand Chittagong a 10-wicket defeat. Shuktara and Salma took three wickets each for Khulna, and later Shuktara remained unbeaten on 26 to guide her side to this easy win.

Pakistan call Younus out?

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan's failings with the bat in Melbourne have prompted the team management to send out an SOS for Younus Khan. The former captain, who has kept a low profile since he abruptly relinquished the leadership in November, is believed to be keen to respond and may even arrive in time for the second Test in Sydney, due to begin on January 3.

Pakistan were dismissed for 258 on an unusually docile MCG track, and only Umar Akmal and Misbahul Haq batted with any authority against a disciplined and bustling Australian pace attack. That continued a run of poor performances in Younus's absence on the New Zealand tour, where Pakistan relied heavily on Umar as they drew a three-Test series 1-1.

But the team management has been keen on getting Younus over since before the Melbourne Test began. After the opening day at the MCG, they called up Iqbal Qasim, Pakistan's chief selector, and said they needed Younus. Since then it is believed there may have even been direct contact between Mohammad Yousuf, the Pakistan captain, and Younus.

Cash reward

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each while Bronze medal winners would get Tk 5,000 each, said a press release from Bangladesh Swimming Federation yesterday. It may be mentioned that Shaheen gave away Tk 1,00,000 in reward to Shahjahan Ali Rony, the lone gold-medal winner in the 2006 SA Games.

Football draw

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Aziz Stadium while the semifinals and final and all Group A matches will be held at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

In women's football event, five teams -- hosts Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan -- will play round-robin matches and the top two teams from there will advance to the final which will be held on February 8 at BNS.

Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur will host both the women's matches in the opening day. The remaining group matches will be held at Bangabandhu National Stadium. On January 29, hosts Bangladesh will launch their campaign against Nepal while India will face Sri Lanka.

BFF's senior vice president and SA Games football committee chairman Salam Murshedy, BFF vice presidents Manzoor Hossain Malu, Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir, Kazi Nabil Ahmed, BFF women's committee secretary Mahfuza Akter Kiron, BFF member Golam Rabanni Helal were, among others, present on the draw ceremony.

Abahani's six

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This win takes Abahani to the top of the 13-team points table with 18 points, three clear of title-contenders Mohammedan Sporting Club, who however have a game in hand.

Chittagong Abahani, on the other hand, have five points from six outings after their third successive defeat as they also lost to giants Dhaka Mohammedan and Sheikh Russel KC in their previous two matches.



Did U Know?

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali was nicknamed 'The Greatest'. In 1999, he was crowned 'Sportsman of the Century' by Sports Illustrated and 'Sports Personality of the Century' by the BBC.



Stylish England batsman Ian Bell (R) raises his bat after scoring a century during the fourth day of the second Test against South Africa at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday.

Watson thanks Rauf

CRICINFO, undated

Shane Watson is lucky Pakistan are one of the worst fielding teams in world cricket as his first Test century was in the hands of Abdur Rauf, but only briefly. On 99, Watson cut hard to point where Rauf misjudged the easy chance and spilled the ball, one of five catches put down by Pakistan during the match, allowing Watson a single to achieve his milestone.

It was a dramatic way to end an agonising stay in the nineties for Watson, who spent 67 minutes, plus the 40-minute lunch break, searching for those ten important runs. Pakistan didn't make things easy; once he reached the nineties they bowled well wide of off stump and the message was if you want it, you've got to take the risk and chase it.

"It took me a long while to get through the nineties," Watson said. "It didn't help my cause scoring freely with the Pakistanis bowling the line they did, it worked nicely for them, stopped my scoring. It meant there was a lot of time spent in the nineties."

"It was nice to see the ball drop out of Mr Rauf's hands, and then I scampered through for the one. I actually didn't get much of a chance to think about it because I hit it really well, before I knew it, it was straight at him. I hit the ground, I didn't have much of a chance to see it. Lucky enough he dropped it for me."

That the missed opportunity came off the bowling of Mohammad Aamer was especially pleasing for Watson, after Aamer peppered him with fast bouncers on the third afternoon. It would have been the sixth wicket for the impressive teenager Aamer, who Watson described as easily the toughest of the Pakistani fast men to face.

Their battle was intense and featured a

Pakistan not giving in

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not bowled a ball all summer to that point, but promptly had Akmal dropped by Hauritz at mid-on with his first delivery and almost stumped a ball later. Akmal survived, however, ensuring the Australians an uncomfortable night's sleep, given the difficulties they have encountered bowling teams out on the fifth day.

Two themes from this young series -- Watson's nerves in the nineties and Pakistan's woes in the field -- were brought to bear in the second session as Australia positioned themselves for a victory charge. Watson, whose issues converting half-centuries to three figures this summer have been well documented, was dropped by Abdur Rauf at gully off the bowling of Mohammad Aamer on 99, scampering through for a single on the misfield to seal his maiden Test ton.

For the third time this summer, Watson endured a nervous journey through the nineties. He headed to lunch unbeaten on 98, having cautiously seen off a maiden from Saeed Ajmal to close out the session. More anxious moments were to follow after the break, as Watson chased a succession of wide offerings outside off stump. Pakistan's tactic -- complete with an 8-1 off-side field -- appeared to have worked when the right-hander slashed a full, wide Aamer delivery to Rauf in the

gully, only for the embattled fielder to turf the chance and hand Watson his century: 66 minutes after he had entered the 90s.

Pakistan's fifth dropped catch of the match ensured Watson became the first Australian batsman since Michael Hussey at The Oval to reach triple figures in a Test, breaking a team sequence of 20 unconverted half-centuries. In 12 innings as Australia's Test opener, he has now scored 716 runs at the eye-catching average of 65.09. Phillip Hughes will have a while to wait yet.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 454 for 5 declared in 128 overs (Katich 98, Watson 93, Hussey 82, Hauritz 75, Ponting 57; Asif 2-86) PAKISTAN: Firstinnings 9 Farhat lbw b Johnson 45 Butt lbw b Watson 15 Iqbal c Clarke b Hauritz 22 Yousof c Haddin b Siddle 15 Umar c Ponting b Johnson 51 Aamer c North b Bollinger 65 Misbah not out 12 Kamran c Haddin b Bollinger 3 Aamer, Rauf, Asif, Ajmal 4

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bollinger	20	6	50	3
Siddle	24	7	77	2
Hauritz	20	3	58	1
Johnson	22	10	36	3
Watson	13	3	30	1

AUSTRALIA: Secondinnings Watson not out 120 Katich c Kamran b Asif 2 Ponting c Butt b Aamer 12 Hussey lbw b Aamer 4 Clarke c Kamran b Aamer 37 North b Aamer 8 Haddin c Kamran b Aamer 0 Johnson run out (Asif/Ajmal) 22 Hauritz st Kamran b Ajmal 8 Extras: (lb-2, w-3, nb-7) 12 Total: (For 8 wks decl 73.1 overs) 225

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-32, 3-40, 4-143, 5-161, 6-161, 7-198, 8-225 Did not bat: Bollinger, Siddle

PAKISTAN: Secondinnings				
Farhatlbw b Bollinger	12			
Butt lbw b Johnson	33			
Iqbal b Hauritz	48			
Yousof not out	45			
Umar not out	27			
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-1, nb-2)	5			
Total: (For 3 wks in 45 overs)	170			
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-80, 3-				
116				
To bat: Misbah, Kamran,				
Aamer, Rauf, Asif, Ajmal				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bollinger	10	3	31	1
Siddle	8	3	26	0
Hauritz	15	2	62	1
Johnson	10	2	36	1
Katich	2	0	13	0

England gain upper hand

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Off-spinner Graeme Swann struck two early blows for England as South Africa set out in their quest to avoid defeat on the fourth day of the second Test against South Africa at Kingsmead on Tuesday.

South Africa, trailing by 232 runs on the first innings, were 37 for two at tea, still 195 short of avoiding an innings defeat. Swann continued his uncanny knack of taking a wicket in his first over of an innings when he dismissed Ashwell Prince with his second ball.

He followed up two overs later by bowling Hashim Amla in the last over before tea. Swann was brought on after Prince and South African captain Graeme Smith had taken the total to 27 in nine overs without any major alarms.

He had Prince caught for 16 by Ian Bell off bat and pad at silly mid-off. Amla made six before missing a drive against a ball which spun sharply to hit his off stump.

Bell earlier hit 141 as England made 575 for nine

declared, adding 189 runs for the loss of four wickets on Tuesday.

Bell and Matt Prior (60) put on 112 for the sixth wicket in a partnership which wrecked South African hopes of making a breakthrough early in the day and ensuring that the deficit would be less than 100 runs.

Bell and Prior had no difficulty in seeing off Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel, South Africa's main strike bowlers, at the start of play.

With the pitch playing easily under an overcast sky, Smith was soon forced on the defensive.

Bell and Prior gradually increased the tempo and Prior seemed set to go on a major assault when he raised a 77-ball half-century with a six off left-arm spin bowler Paul Harris. He hit one more boundary but was then bowled by off-spinner JP Duminy when he chopped an attempted cut onto his stumps.

Bell, whose place as a number six batsman had been questioned by several commentators because it left England with only four specialist bowlers, justified the confidence shown in him by the team management with a composed, confident innings.

After posting his fifty on Monday off 65 balls, Bell was more circumspect on Tuesday, reaching his ninth century off 172 deliveries when he went down the pitch and lofted Harris over mid-on for his eighth four. He also hit a six.

It was Bell's first Test century since he made 199 against South Africa at Lord's in July 2008.

England went on the attack immediately after lunch, adding 62 runs for the loss of three wickets in nine overs before Andrew Strauss declared.

England batsman Paul Collingwood, who made 91 on Monday, dislocated his left index finger during fielding practice before play. He was sent for X-rays which revealed no fracture. He did not field at the start of the South African second innings.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the second Test between South Africa and England at Kingsmead in Durban on Tuesday:

SOUTH AFRICA: Firstinnings 343 all out in 108.3 overs (Smith 75, Kallis 75, De Villiers 50, Steyn 47, Boucher 39; Swann 4-110, Broad 2-44, Anderson 2-75) ENGLAND: Firstinnings

(overnight 386-4)	
Strauss b Morkel	54
Cook c Kallis b Morkel	118
Trott c Boucher b Morkel	18
Pietersen lbw b Harris	31
Collingwood c Boucher b Duminy	91
Bell not out	119
Prior b Duminy	60
Broad c Kallis b Duminy	20
Swann c Prince b Steyn	22
Anderson not out	1
Onions not out	2
Extras: (lb-10, nb-1, w-6)	17
Total: (For 9 wks decl in 170 overs)	575
Fall of wickets: 1-71, 2-104, 3-155, 4-297, 5-365, 6-477, 7-536, 8-565, 9-569	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	34	6	94	2
Ntini	29	4	115	0
Morkel	31	6	78	3
Kallis	14	1	43	0
Harris	38	4	146	1
Duminy	24	1	89	3

SOUTH AFRICA: Secondinnings

Prince c Bell b Swann 16 Smith not out 15 Amla b Swann 6

Total: (For 2 wks in 132 overs) 37

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-37

To bat: Kallis, De Villiers, Duminy, Boucher, Morkel, Harris, Steyn, Ntini

Disability

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Khan drew attention to making opportunities for the PWDs on international platform of sports and entertainment.

People with disabilities should be given equal scope to take part in all sorts of social programme to recognise their potential, he added.

Speakers also said persons with disabilities should be given opportunities in every sphere of life and the opening should be equal to them as the 'disability' is a human diversity, not a deficiency.

Managing Director of Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation Gazi Md Nurul Kabir also spoke at the programme.

ASIAN CHESS

Bangladesh finish sixth

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's men's and women's team both finished sixth in the Asian Team Chess Championship that ended on Monday in Kolkata. The men's team earned eight points from seven rounds, winning four matches and losing the other three. In the last round, they had beaten Nepal by 3-1 points. India A became unbeaten champions in the

men's section with 14 match points. Vietnam became runners-up and Iran became third with 11 points each. Bangladesh women's also finished sixth with six match points. They won 3 matches, drew one, got a bye and lost the other three. In the last round, Bangladesh women's team beat Sri Lanka by 3-1 points. Vietnam became unbeaten champions in the women's section with 13 points while India A became runners-up with ten.

Take notice of Aamer

FROM PAGE 17

"I've bowled good spells and been a bit unlucky a few times so it was good to get the wickets this time. I've felt in good rhythm through this Test and really enjoyed my spells. Australia is a big team and to make a mark here is always important. If it can help my team in any way then it will obviously feel much better."

And though he was particularly happy with the way he dismissed Clarke today, the prize scalp was that of Ricky Ponting the day before. He had spoken of wanting Sachin Tendulkar's wicket before the Champions Trophy and went on to get it. He had spoken of Ponting's wicket before they arrived here. The plan had been to use the Chris Gayle method, to bowl short, and its success pleased Aamer no end. "It's a great feeling because he is such a big player, the best batsman in the world," he said.

"I was happier that I got him out according to a plan. I got a lot of confidence from that, because in cricket it shows me there is no batsman too big or bowler too big. You only need to use your brain and have some confidence. Seniors tell you how to go about it and if you follow that, you shouldn't be in trouble. Obviously I was really happy because he is a big player but also happy because a captain is depending on you, setting a field for you to bowl to and succeeding in that and whether it is Ponting or any other batsman, it is a great feeling."

Gradually, since his international debut at the World Twenty20, Aamer has also bulked up; Akram and a number of others have advised him to put on some weight to protect a naturally frail body. Work with David Dwyer, Pakistan's Australian trainer, has helped put on the muscle

and the pace has since increased. He has crossed 150kmph a few times at the MCG, on what is still thought to be a sluggish surface.

"Maybe my pace has increased," he said. "It happens sometimes when the more you play, the more your arm gets used to the load and the looser it gets. Maybe it also has to do with the fact that it is a big series and I am striving harder. I don't really feel it that I am bowling faster but the speeds are there."

"I have built up my body a little. I've worked hard with DD (David Dwyer) on it and have increased my weight from 72kg to 75kg. I've added a bit of muscle to it. If we have rest days between matches, maybe four to five days, then I spend time in the gym, but in back-to-back Tests that is difficult to do. On any day off, we work to whatever plan DD gives us."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

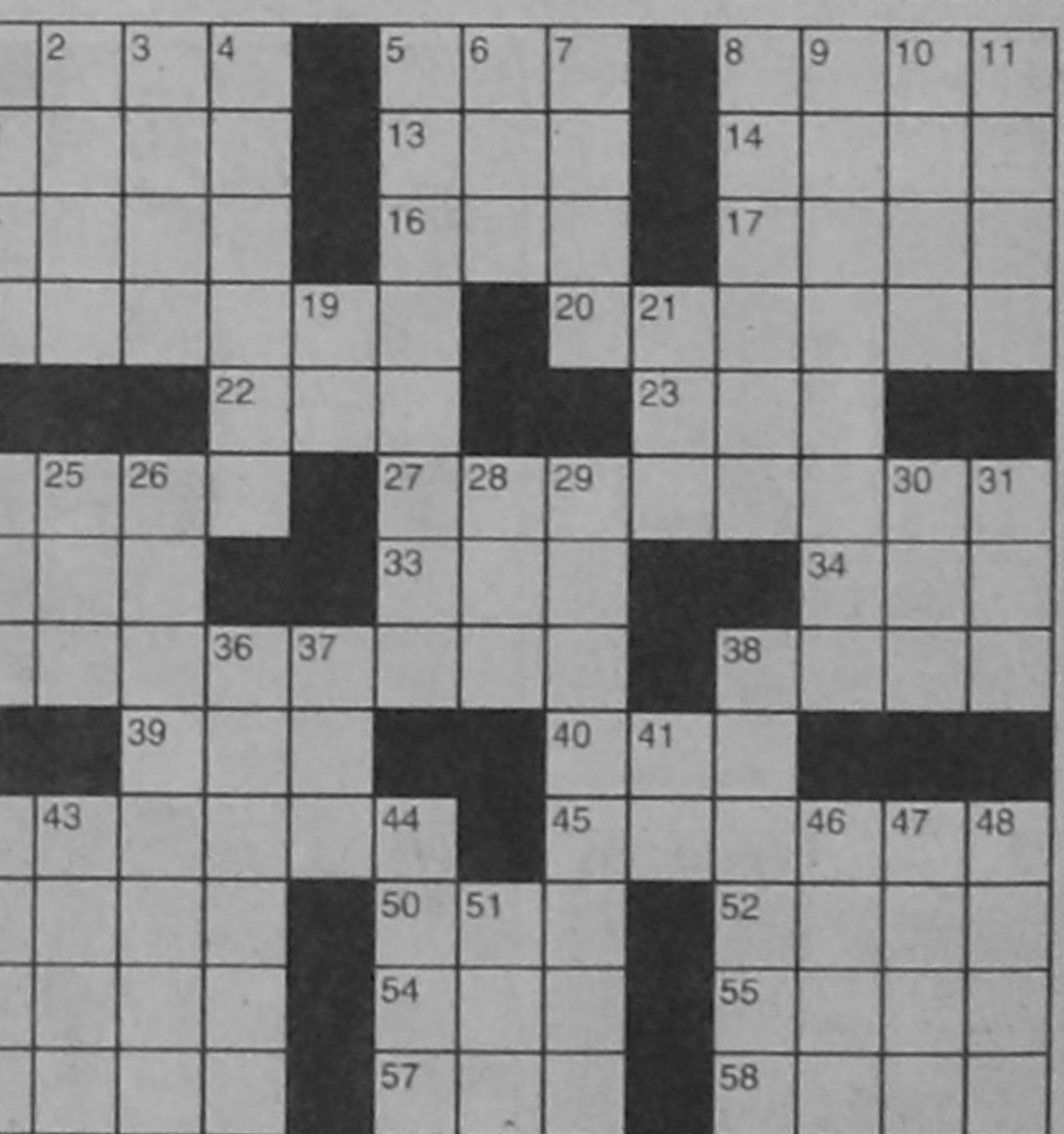
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Solution time: 25 mins.

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RIOT AVE ROSA
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CRYPTOQUIP

QK FGL ARVT GRT R SROOQPI
KPV TRQVC FVLRFO, Q FGQIM
GL T SVPARAZC AL IRYLT
Y Q Z M OGRML - OSLRVL

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PLANNING TO BUILD HUGE ROYAL TOMBS, I BELIEVE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS HAD TO DEVISE PYRAMID SCHEMES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals D