The Sawai Mansingh

Stadium remained a fortress

for Rajasthan Royals, who

made it eight out of eight at

the venue by bulldozing

Kings XI Punjab with five overs remaining.

Opener Michael Lumb pummelled 83 off 43 to

deliver Rajasthan their third straight win, which

lifts them to joint second spot, an unlikely

position for a team that was written off after

season in the first five overs (65), after Punjab

had mucked about to gather the least runs in

the final five overs (27), reflecting the gulf

between the two sides. Punjab reverted to

being the bumbling bunch that has been

entrenched at the bottom of the table all sea-

son: the batting lost fizz after a bright start, the

fielding was the usual butter-fingered effort

Mahela Jayawardene top-scored again, and

Yuvraj Singh briefly showed off his awesome

hitting, but with the rest failing to contribute

anything substantial Punjab ended up with an

The variety of sweeps against the spinners

and the trademark carves behind point off the

quicks were the highlight of Jayawardene's

innings in which only seven runs were scored in

front of the wicket. He had some luck as well, a

leading edge six to third man off Aditya Dole,

reprieved when Shane Warne reacted slowly to

a caught-and-bowled chance and dropped by

continuing, it was Yuvraj who provided some

support for him. Warne was at his bewitching

best in the previous game, but had no answer to

Yuvraj today. First, Yuvraj muscled him over

midwicket for a six, and two overs later clob-

bered two flat sixes and a four to take 24 runs off

With Kumar Sangakkara's poor tournament

expected, and the bowling lacked inspiration.

Rajasthan sprinted to the highest total of the

starting with three defeats in a row.

CRICINFO, undated

PREMIER LEAGUE

inadequate total.

Dole at deep square leg.

Lumb knocks out Punjab

Dhaka, Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka became zonal champions after their 34-run win over Mymensingh in the 30th Inter-District Cricket Championship in Jamalpur yesterday.

Batting first, Dhaka were bowled out for a modest 184 from 45 overs with Faiyaz making 40. In reply, Mymensingh never found it easy as they were bowled out for 150 from 42 overs.

wickets to win the man-of-the-

In Comilla, Cox's Bazar beat Khagrachhari by nine wickets while Khulna defeated Jhenidah by 98 runs in Kushtia.

Our Pabna correspondent adds: Rashahi became zonal champions when they beat Chapainawabganj by three

Chapainawabganj scored 243-9 with Sharif scoring 88 and Sohel 61.

In reply Rajshahi chased down the target in 48.5. Mahbub scored 62 while

Pabna police superinten-dent Md. Jamil Ahmed distributed prizes among the winners after the final match.

Fine start for India

yesterday.

India established their solo dominance in the first half having scored 22 goals while

After the break, India Singh scoring 14 goals. Fuldev Chowdhury scored four goals for the losers.

will take on a Bangladesh Football Federation XI in a friendly match at the Bangabandhu National

3.30pm.

Impossible

Guardiola brought on Yaya midfield but their concentra-

Except for a shot soon after the break, Messi faded from the game and Arsenal had the majority of the better chances and actually had themselves to blame for not getting back in

culprit with his slow movement allowing Rafa Marquez to clear on one occasion and then he hit the post with a clear header from point blank range, although he was judged off

As the Barca defence dozed Tomas Rosicky too stole in but blazed over the crossbar.

Messi, though, wrapped up his match winning performance by tucking the ball past Almunia from a tight angle.

Cyclones

FROM PAGE 17 ATN Records, who got the event marketing rights, also signed a deal with Destiny2000, which earned the title sponsorship

rights spending Tk 1.5 crore. Gazi Ashraf Hossain, BCB's director and chairman of the tournament committee, informed that five matches would be held under floodlights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur despite the country going through a severe power crisis.

"First of all I apologise for the delay. We believe that it would be a successful event and helpful for the national players before the World Cup. Despite power crisis five matches will be day-night affairs," said Ashraf.

Former national skipper Roquibul Hassan was moderator in the programme.

zonal champs

Paceman Shahin took three

match award.

Mohaimanul made 52.

SPORTS REPORTER

Favourites India got off their IHF Handball Challenge Trophy campaign in style when they posted a massive 44-11 win over Nepal in Group A at the Shaheed Shurawardi Indoor National Stadium

Nepal managed only five.

added another 22 to finish the game 44-11 with Samsher In the day's other match,

Yemen defeated Afghanistan 35-24 after leading the first half 17-10. Yemen's Abdullah Ahmed Ali was the highest scorer with seven goals followed by his Fadhl Mohammed and Murtaza, who struck five goals each.

Ahmed Zobair and Moqbel Ahmed scored five goal each for Afghanistan, who lost both their matches after going down to Bangladesh in the first match on Wednesday.

Friendly soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Myanmar Army football team Stadium today.

The match will begin at

FROM PAGE 17 and through on goal clipped the ball over the keeper for the

Toure to strengthen the tion on defence led to them taking their foot off the pedal.

pened around 7am this morning in the presence of a qazi," he said. Rasool said they had been working for the last five days as the entire community was the game. upset with the controversy. "A Bendtner was too often the lot of muck was thrown at each

other. There were allegations and counter allegations and it was getting dirty. "We have not taken sides and [have] resolved it peacefully. We

worked all through last night and about 10-15 people were involved in it. The end result is a happyresult," he said. Rasool said both families

had gone through a very rough time. "Ayesha's father is a heart bypass patient and her elder sister was going through pregnancy," he said.

Sadiqua Babar, a friend of Ayesha and whose father was involved in working out the compromise deal, said it was a great relief that the marriage rowhad ended.

Shoaib divorces "He [Malik] signed it [divorce paper] this morning. Everything happened in an

Saeed Ajmal and Mohammad

Hafeez could inflict heavy

damage on the best batting line

with the response of players

during the ongoing training

camp, adding that if they main-

tained the same momentum,

Pakistan would surely lift the

to the recent fine and punish-

ment imposed on players by

the Pakistan Cricket Board

(PCB) that the cricketers were

the team in the past and I have

never seen that high level of

interest shown by players in

training and fitness and I believe

it is a very good sign because total

commitment and promise is

needed to achieve our set goals

in the Cup," The Daily Times

quotedWaqar, as saying.

"I have been associated with

responding well in the camp.

He said it was probably due

Waqar said he was pleased

up in the world.

T20 title.

amicable manner. "She [Ayesha] and all of us are relieved that finally it ended. Everyone is happy that

the trauma is over. "My father [Shams Babar] brokered the deal between the two families. There was no money involved, name was involved. Clearing of her name

was very important." The development brings to an end the prolonged marriage row between the Malik and

Siddiqui families. Ayesha claimed that the former Pakistani cricket captain had married her on the telephone and later dumped her due to her weight problems without taking a formal divorce.

She had produced copies of a nikahnama to support her

Malik, on the other hand, maintained that he never committed himself to Ayesha as he was sent photographs of a different woman while they were courting on the telephone and the internet.

Big two keep

FROM PAGE 17

minute when the younger brother of striker Emily latched a right-footer inside the box past goalkeeper Atiqul Islam Tareq.

Shakil finally made the result safe with a spectacular drive in stoppage time as the winger drove a high cross from Ariful home from inside the box to strike his league's second goal.

TEAMS:

MOHAMMEDAN: Aminul Haque, Wali Faisal, Nasirul Islam, Mofazzal Hossain

Saikat, Mamunul Islam, Ariful Islam, Enamul Haq Sharif, Abdul Baten Komol (Arman Aziz), Zahid Hossain (Shakil Ahmed), Nasir Chowdhury (Alamgir Rana) and Zahid Hasan Emily. MUKTIJODDHA: Atiqul

Islam, Amit Khan Shuvro, Ashraf Hossain, Prodeep Kumar Poddar, Jalal Uddin (Shahajuddin Tipu), Azmol Hossain Biddut, Rony Islam, Amin Rana, Raphael Sagno, Fuard Ali (Tazul Khan), Eugene Jiah Gray. Referee: Tayed Hasan

hard decision. The reality is that other bowlers have seized the opportunity over the last six months in both Test and limited-overs cricket." Australia host England for the five-Test Ashes series from November and will aim for their third successive World Cup title in South Asia in February-March.

Fast bowlers Ryan Harris and Clint McKay,

"It is disappointing for Stuart Clark and

"Not renewing their contracts was a very

wicketkeeper-batsman Tim Paine, all-rounder

Steven Smith and batsman Adam Voges all won

Nathan Bracken who have not received con-

CONTRACTED PLAYERS

selection for the first time.

tracts for 2010-2011," Hilditch said.

Sonali Bank goalkeeper Probir Kumar Ghosh sprawls on the ground to make a save against an Usha

Bracken, Clark axed

attacker during their Dhaka Bank Club Cup Hockey match yesterday.

for Ashes

Australia Wednesday culled fast bowlers Nathan

Bracken and Stuart Clark from their roster for

next season, when they will try to regain the

Selectors also dropped batsmen Brad Hodge

Fellow fast bowler Shaun Tait, a Twenty20

"We see him as an important member of the

Ashes from England and defend the World Cup.

and David Hussey, and wicketkeeper Graham

Manou, from the list of 25 centrally contracted

players for 2010-2011 but retained veteran quick

specialist, was also kept on for this year's ICC

ICC World Twenty20 squad and (he has) a real

chance to force his way back into the Australian

50-over side," said selection panel chairman

chance to make amends for last year's disap-

Batsman Phillip Hughes, 21, was given a

spinners: Waqar

Brett Lee, despite his move to retire from Tests.

World Twenty 20 in the West Indies.

Andrew Hilditch.

pointing Ashes tour.

Cricket

Defending champions

Pakistan would be banking

upon its spinners to retain the

ICC T20 World Championship,

the team had spinners who

could pocket the coveted title

of bowlers but I think we have

an edge in the spin department

and we will be depending upon

our spinners to play a key role

in team's success to defend the

title," Waqar told reporters on

the sidelines of the ongoing

training camp at the National

bowlers like Shahid Afridi,

"Whatever has been done has

been done according to our

religion and sharia. After nego-

tiations all through last night,

the divorce proceedings hap-

He pointed out that slow

Cricket Academy here.

FROM PAGE 17

for a second consecutive time.

Waqar said he believed that

"We have variety of all types

coach Waqar Younus has said.

ANI, Lahore

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Doug Bollinger, Michael Clarke, Callum Ferguson, Brad Haddin, Ryan Harris, Nathan Hauritz, Ben Hilfenhaus, James Hopes, Phillip Hughes, Michael Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Simon Katich, Brett Lee, Shaun Marsh, Andrew McDonald, Clint McKay, Marcus North, Tim Paine, Ricky Ponting, Peter Siddle, Steven Smith, Shaun Tait, Adam Voges, Shane Watson, **Cameron White**

They're Pakistan to bank on already married?

AGENCIES, Hyderabad

In another twist to the ongoing saga involving Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik and Indian national Ayesha Siddiqui, reports in media say that Sania Mirza and Shoaib Malik may have already married at a private ceremony in Dubai.

According to a report in The Times of India, there were unconfirmed reports of their marriage since the hotel in Hyderabad was booked only for reception and not for nikaah. This led to a speculation that Malik may already have wedded Sania and was in Hyderabad only for the recep-

The report also says that Sania Mirza's wedding card has only the reception date and has no mention of the nikah. However, local community members say that the Mirzas probably want to keep the nikah a private affair and thus do not wish to invite all those they have called for the

reception. This development comes in the wake of reports in the media, which say that the wedding may be postponed. The report says that Local community members say that Malik's stay in the Mirza house prior to the wedding and Sania sticking to the cricketer despite allegations against him do seem to suggest they are not just engaged but possibly a married couple.

There is no official confirmation of the report yet.

Viquarunnissa meet Agargaon in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Viquarunnissa Noon School & College and Agargaon Ideal High School moved into the final of the Citycell Metropolis School Football Championship today. Viquarunnissa, the current

runners-up upset defending champions Sir John Wilson School 3-0 in tie-breaker after the normal time's play of their semifinal clash ended goalless at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex yesterday. In the other semifinal at the

same venue, Sumi Akhter scored a 16th minute winner for Agargoan against Bangladesh International Tutorial to book final berth. The final will take place at

the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 4pm. Water Transport Minister Shahjahan Khan will witness

the match as the chief guest, while David Lee of Pacific Telecom Limited will be the special guest at the final match.

Usha power past Sonali

SPÖRT

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra warmed up well for the semifinals of the Dhaka Bank Club Cup hockey tournament when they beat Sonali Bank 2-0 at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Goals from Krishna Kumar and Mazharul Islam set up the win for Usha who now await the winner of the muchawaited Abahani-Mohammedan clash today to know their semifinal opponents as Usha became group champions with their third consecutive win. It was an evenly contested

affair but the match started tilting towards Usha mid-way through the first half. In the 23rd minute, forward Krishna latched on to a minus from Sheikh Mohammad Nannu and stroked the ball in the back of the net as Usha went into the half-time break with a 1-0 lead. Usha almost doubled the

margin in the 41st minute, captain Maksud Alam Habul missed an open net chance when he shot wide after receiving a ball from the first goalscorer Krishna. But seven minutes later,

Mazharul only had to tap in a

powerful low pass from

Krishna and it was 2-0 in favour

of Usha. Sonali Bank had two late penalty corners but they failed to convert any of them as Usha walked away with a dominating performance.

16 coaches get A licence

SPORTS REPORTER

As many as sixteen Bangladesh coaches got the AFC 'A' licences after they succeeded in the first-ever AFC 'A' licence certificate course in Bangladesh.

Iranian instructor Masoud Eghbali conducted the onemonth course in January-February with AKM Saiful Bari Titu and BA Jubair Nipu, both AFC A-licensed coaches, assisting the Iranian.

The successful coaches are Syed Golam Gilani, Mahtab Hossain, Mohammad Sagir, Mahabub Hossain Roxy, SM Zakaria, Shafiqul Islam Manik, Abu Yousuf, AKM Maruful Haq, Swapan Kumar Das, Mosharraf Hossain Badal, Amit Kumar Roy, Abdur Razzak, Sheikh Zahidur Rahman Milon, Ujjal Chakrabarti, Paritosh Dewan and Kazi Jasimuddin Joshi.

Easy wins for Tiger, Biltu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Tiger Sporting Club defeated Manikganj United City by five wickets in the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at the Government Boys' High School playground here yesterday.

were all out for 122 runs in 22.3 overs. Pappu scored 27 runs, Ziko 22 and Kawser 18. Hira picked up four wickets while Shiba took two wickets. In reply, Tiger Sporting

United City batted first and

reached 125-5 in 20 overs. Jewel remained not out on 46 runs from 25 balls and Johnny made 45 from just 22 balls.

In another match, Biltu Club defeated Balaka Sporting Club by 98 runs.

ACROSS

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15 Wrench-

17 Memori-

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19 Prayer

21 Parsley

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24 Algerian

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12 Sandwich 37 Sound

Singh said

It is part of the game. If Sachin had stayed at the wicket for 15 overs, the story would have been different," Harbhajan said at the postmatch after his side lost the match by 24 runs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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51 Catherine

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47 Benicio

46 Greek

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35 Overly

37 Plant

28 Unless

29 Head

an oath

of office

McEntire

"We have to give them lot of encouragement for what they have done. They have won a lot of games for us. This is one of the games that they did not click. We have lot of faith in them. They are all young and exciting cricketers. I am sure they will do better in our future games," he

He gave credit to Chennai for their fine bowling and fielding performances.

"The track is little on the slower side from what I have seen from the last two three games. When I was batting it was pretty slow. May be they have been playing lot of games on this strip. I think 166 is still was a very good bowling effort

bowled very well and their fielding was also brilliant. They played better cricket than us.

run out after racing down the track for a second run which his partner, Irfan Pathan, was not interested in. Watson varied his length and pace well towards the death, and Siddharth Trivedi's steady servings of slower deliveries proved hard to score off, so much so that Punjab couldn't hit even one boundary in that

Ravi Bopara pottered about before being

The match turned in the next over from

Dole: he had Yuvraj dragging a short ball onto the stumps and Jayawardene edged to a wide

slip. That sucked all the momentum out of the

Punjab innings, and they never recovered.

period. The Punjab score looked insufficient, but it was not as measly as Lumb and Naman Ojha made it seem. The match was essentially decided after the fourth over of the chase, in which Lumb lashed fast bowler Rusty Theron for 20 runs to blast Punjab to 55 for 0.

The template was set in the first over, when Ramesh Powar made a hash of a simple fielding chance to give away two extra runs, and Sreesanth followed that up with gift of a short ball that was pulled for four by Lumb.

Sangakkara shuffled his bowlers around but to no avail: Lumb picked off the spinners with a bunch of sweeps and reverse-sweeps, while showcasing his full range of strokes against the quicks. The 100 came up in the ninth over when Irfan was caned for four fours, and Lumb was also eyeing his century. He was dismissed in the next over, but Ojha, who has been quiet when Lumb was blasting, took charge of the chase, and with the help of Yusuf Pathan finished off the game in the 15th over.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 153 for six in 20 overs (Jayawardene 44, Yuvraj 28, Irfan 24; Trivedi 2-22, Dole 2-36) RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 157 for one in 15 overs

(Lumb 83, Ojha 44 not out, Yusuf 21 not out; Bopara 1-18) Result: Rajasthan Royals won by nine wickets

eight balls against the Rajasthan captain. Man-of-the-match: Michael Lumb

Michael Lumb of the Rajasthan Royals sweeps on way to scoring 83 against Kings XI Punjab in the Indian Premier League Twenty 20 match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur yesterday.

'Sachin's cramp cost us'

INTERNET, undated



Indians player Harbhajan

his side could have chased done the target set by Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday if Sachin Tendulkar had not suffered cramp due to dehydra-

"Sachin is better now. But his coming out due to cramp was the cause for our loss. Youngsters like Ambati Rayadu and Saurabh Tiwari were out quickly and we were not able to put up good partnerships.

hoped that they would do better M u m b a i intheremaining matches.

and we should have got that. "I must say that Chennai

youngsters failed to perform but Hats off to them for their performance. Hopefully, we will get our acts together and go back to the winning ways," the offspinnersaid.

KKR upstage

FROM PAGE 17 21 balls) milked 94 runs in the first 10-odd overs to give the home side a perfect start before the Daredevils bowlers put a brake on the run rate.

SCORES IN BRIEF KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 181 for 3 in 20 overs (Ganguly

56, Mathews 46 not out, Gayle 40, Tiwary 26 not out) **DELHI DAREDEVILS: 167 for** 8 in 20 overs (Sehwag 64,

Gambhir 47, Karthik 20, Vettori 12 not out; Dinda 2-21, Mendis 2-22)

Result: Kolkata Knight Riders won by 14 runs. Man-of-the-match: Sourav

Ganguly.

39 40 45 46 47

PCXQD YD KRTDP GXNKDIDJ UICDXJ'P GXCHGKP, H S UGTRICND

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING A GADGET

COULD DETECT A BAD-WORD BLEEPER'S PRESENCE, WOULD IT BE A CENSOR SENSOR?

JDPPDIN

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S

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