

India off to World T20

PTI, Mumbai
After a gruelling stint in Indian Premier League (IPL), the national cricket team on Wednesday left here for the West Indies to take part in the ICC World Twenty20 scheduled to be held there from April 30-May 16.
The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led team boarded an Emirates Airlines flight at the international airport this evening and will reach the West Indies via Dubai.
The 2007 ICC World Twenty20 Champions, who have been placed in Group C, will open their campaign against Afghanistan on May 1 and will play South Africa the next day in St Lucia.

Nat'l women's chess

SPORTS REPORTER
Sharmin Sultana Shirin and WFM Shamima Akter Liza shared the lead in the 31st National Women's Chess Championship after Nazrana Khan Eva slipped up to lose her sole lead at the close of the fifth round at the Narayanganj Club Auditorium yesterday.
Sharmin and Shamima beat WI Rani Hamid and Jahana Haque Runu respectively to secure 4.5 points each from five matches while Eva lost to Masuda Begum to remain glued at four points.
In the day's other matches, WFM Zakia Sultana beat Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury Moly, Protiva Talukder drew against Rokshana Titi while Dilara Jahan Nupur beat Aeon Sarker.

Manikganj cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj
Kulfa Goshthi defeated Green Valley by 22 runs in the Colonel Malek Smriti First Division Cricket League at the Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.
Kulfa batted first and were bowled out for 163 runs in 29.1 overs. Rocky scored highest 66 runs. Ajmir picked up four wickets while Pappu took three for Green Valley.
In reply, Green Valley were all out for 141 runs in 35.5 overs. Mithun scored 64 runs from 42 balls while Arpan scored 28 and Aminur added 23. Rabbi and Rocky picked up three wickets each for Kulfa Goshthi for the winners.
DIVII CRICKET
Meanwhile, Tiger Sporting Club defeated Bewtha Mukul Fouz by 3 wickets while Retired XI defeated Manikganj Cricket Centre by 18 runs to move into the final of the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at Manikganj Government Boys' High School playground yesterday.
In the first match, Mukul Fouz were bundled out for 134 runs in the 25 overs. Omar top-scored with 40. Rana picked up three wickets.
In reply, Tiger Sporting reached 135 for 7 in 23.2 overs. Jewel scored 32 runs and Tanvir added 19 runs.
The final will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

Nabil in for Enamul

SPORTS REPORTER
Left-arm spinner Nabil Samad has replaced Enamul Haque, the other left-arm spinner of Bangladesh A for the second unofficial Test against South Africa A starting at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) from today.
Enamul sustained an injury to his left hand during a practice session yesterday.

President Cup fencing

SPORTS REPORTER
The First President Cup Fencing Championship got underway at the Shaheed Sohrwardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.
Zahid Ahsan Russel, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sports, inaugurated the championship where some 50 competitors, split into three groups, will fight for medals.

What to WATCH

SuperSport3
UEFA Europa League
Barcelona v Inter Milan
Live from 1:00am (Friday)
SuperSport3
UEFA Europa League
Fulham v Hamburg
Live from 1:00am (Friday)



GP-BCB Academy captain and wicketkeeper Mohammad Mithun (C) is about to stump M Mosehle of South Africa Academy off spinner Saqlain Sajib on the first day of the four-day match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

India or Pakistan, predicts Akram

AFP, Karachi
Famed Pakistani pacesman Wasim Akram tipped India and Pakistan on Wednesday as joint favourites to win the World Twenty20, saying the sub-continental giants have the talent and passion to triumph.
Pakistan will defend their title in the third edition of the World Twenty20, which starts in the West Indies on Friday. India won the first edition held in South Africa in 2007.
Wasim said both India and Pakistan are eager to win.
"Pakistan have been starved of cricket, so they have the thirst to win the title again," Wasim told AFP before leaving for New Delhi where he is booked as an expert television commentator for the World Twenty20.
Wasim said Pakistan have a leader in Shahid Afridi.
"You need someone like Afridi as captain in Twenty20 cricket. He has aggression needed in a leader and in a short Twenty20 match he will always sparkle," said Wasim, a member of Pakistan's 1992 World Cup winning team.
He said Pakistan can rise to the occasion despite being short on international cricket.
"Pakistan has played very limited international cricket and their players were not in the Indian league, then they have off-field problems resulting in bans, but whenever there is a World Cup Pakistani players rise to the occasion.

"Look at the available talent, Afridi can single-handedly win a Twenty20 match as he is equally lethal with bat and ball, and then the depth in bowling makes Pakistan favourites."
Wasim said India was also eager to win.
"What I have seen is a remarkable passion in the Indian players as well as in the public to win this title, and they too have a very good team," he said.
The famous left-arm pacesman, who has never played a Twenty20 international as the format started after his 2003 retirement, took 414 Test and 502 one-day wickets, and also played for Lancashire county with distinction.
"You cannot rule out an Indo-Pak final, which will do a world of good for international cricket."
Pakistan is placed in Group A alongside Bangladesh and Australia, while India is in Group C with South Africa and Afghanistan. Two teams from each of four groups will qualify for Super Eight Stages.
Wasim said Australia and South Africa were also strong.
"Australia and South Africa are also capable of winning but the nature of the West Indies pitches make Pakistan and India favourites, because they will help sub-continents spinners," said Wasim.
"But to win a Twenty20 match you need to play good cricket for three and a half hours because the match can swing with one good performance, so teams on their toes all the time have good chances," said Wasim.

Federer falls early

Tennis
AFP, Rome
World number one Roger Federer insisted he was not worried by his second round defeat to Ernests Gulbis at the ATP Rome Masters 1000 and said it might even help him.
Federer began well in his first clay court match of the season but his game then totally deserted him as he suffered a shock 2-6, 6-1, 7-5 defeat to the 40th ranked 21-year-old Latvian.
But the Swiss master seemed relaxed when talking about his match afterwards and even suggested that such a defeat isn't a bad thing.
"It is easier to take because I'm used to getting so much so that sometimes when you get a loss ... you can't always win and sometimes it takes a loss to wake up and sort of shake your mind up and think about how you're going to approach next week," he said.
"Because sometimes when you win it's just too easy and too simple. When you lose, you actually realise how tough it is to dominate this knock-out system we have in tennis which is brutal."
Having begun his clay court season relatively late, Federer said he was pleased he had already decided to play in Estoril next week and then Madrid after that as he looks to build up some clay form ahead of the French Open.
"I'm not too worried, I'm more curious to see how next week goes. It always goes like that when you touch a new surface and you play your first match."
"If you lose early you can't wait for the next tournament to come around. That's the way I feel."
"It's frustrating ... because I think there could have been good tennis at the back end of the tournament but I didn't get the chance to build any momentum and confidence so I'll have to do some hard yards now and win some ugly matches.

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Ansar & VDP

FROM PAGE 17
On 95, the rest of the batting order collapsed adding only 12 more runs in the next five overs as they got bundled out in 36.4 overs with 107 runs on the board.
Ansar and VDP's reply was a solid one and they never looked under pressure as they chased down the paltry total quite comfortably. Most of the credits should go to opener Ayesha Akter who played a patient knock of 54 from 109 balls including six boundaries to see her side home, despite having cramp mid-way through her innings and playing for the rest with a runner. Two-down batswoman Panna Ghosh played some attractive shots including the match-

INTER-DISTRICT CRICKET
Dhaka, Khulna reach final

SPORTS REPORTER
Dhaka and Khulna have qualified for the final of the 30th Inter-district Cricket Championship which will be held at the Jessore District Stadium on May 3. Both teams topped their respective groups with six points from three matches.
At the Jessore venue yesterday, Khulna registered an eight-wicket victory over Barisal. The losers batted first and were bowled out for 137 in 42.3 overs. Bishwanath took four for 20 for Khulna. In the chase, Khulna rode on Zobaer's unbeaten 59 and Saiful's 51 to reach the target with eight wickets in hand and 9 balls left.
In the other match, Comilla beat Hobiganj by five wickets at the Myensing venue. Comilla surpassed Habiganj's total of 102 in 26.3 overs losing five wickets, thanks to an unbeaten fifty from Abul hasan.
winning boundary over long-on to finish on 25 not out. Ansar and VDP reached the target with eight wickets to spare and five overs unused.
Ayesha Akter got the player-of-the-match award and Tk 1,000 for her match-winning knock while Rumana Ahmed Ripa of Mohammedan got Tk 3,000 for becoming player-of-the-tournament for her all-round efforts in the tournament. She scored 182 runs and took 11 wickets in the tournament. The champions got Tk 25,000 while runners-up got Tk 20,000 as prize-money. Bangladesh Cricket Board president AHM Mustafa Kamal handed over the prizes to the teams at the end of the final.

Olic fires

FROM PAGE 17
fans' drums replaced the roar of the home support and they grew even louder when Bastos spurned a superb chance for an equaliser by volleying wide from six yards.
Puel introduced Gomis at half-time and the former Saint Etienne striker sent a thumping volley high over the Bayern crossbar when a left-wing cross fell to him at the back post shortly after his introduction.
Bastian Schweinsteiger flashed an eye-catching half-volley narrowly over as Bayern looked to kill the game off, before Lloris produced a fine save to push away Robben's low curling effort.
Lyon's evening went from bad to worse shortly before the hour when Cris received his marching orders, picking up two yellow cards in the space of a minute for fouling Olic and then sarcastically applauding the referee's decision to book him.
The hosts responded with a stinging shot from Govou that Hans-Joerg Butt palmed away before Olic killed off any lingering hopes of a comeback by scampering onto Hamit Altintop's pass and beating Lloris with a crisp finish.
Olic secured possession of the matchball in the 77th minute when he nodded home Philipp Lahm's cross from the right.

BCB Academy

FROM PAGE 17
(52). But apart from that there was no other considerable score in the total.
BCB Academy's reply started well and they reached 46 before losing opener Rony Talukder for 33 and few runs later Nazimuddin Mintu for 16. Skipper Mohammad Mithun (33 not out) and Shubhagoto Hom (20 not out) steadied the ship.

Memorable exit for Abu Faisal

SPORTS REPORTER
Farashganj SC's former national defender Abu Ahmed Faisal hanged up his boots after playing his last Bangladesh League match against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
It is rare in Bangladesh for footballers to say goodbye through playing a game and the former Mohammedan player, who played for the Black and Whites for eight years, put an end to his 21-year football career having played 22 minutes yesterday.
He was overwhelmed by the response of both Mohammedan and Farashganj players, who together lifted him over their heads to take him outside the playing area as play was nearly halted for five minutes.
He was also accorded a good reception outside the playing arena as the Mohammedan supporters and the officials of Farashganj and the Bangladesh Football Federation greeted him offering flowers and BFF vice president Badal Roy on behalf of the federation handed over a crest.
Faisal, who has been with Farashganj for the last six years, will now act as the coach of Farashganj, who on Wednesday terminated its coach Abu Yousuf.
Faisal, who is a 'Dhaka University blue', was a member of Bangladesh's winning football team squad in the Kathmandu SAF Games.

Div 1 b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER
Dhumketu Club and Josephites Club won their respective matches in the Premier Bank First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.
Dhumketu recorded a massive 121-36 victory over Old DOHS after dominating the first half 50-24. Mithun top-scored with 31 for Dhumketu followed by his teammate Sajid, who scored 20 points. Nibir scored 12 points for Old DOHS.
Josephites registered a hard-fought 58-52 win over Contonious Club after leading the first half 25-15. Michel and Mujib scored 14 points each for the winners while Mostafa caged 20 for the losers.

Kalu breaks

FROM PAGE 17
When Mohammedan defender Dami brought down Farashganj's national striker Touhidul Islam Sabuz in the forbidden zone.
TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN - Aminul Haque, Mamun Mia, Ariful Islam Arif, Wali Faisal, Arman Aziz (Abdul Baten Komol), Enamul Haque Sharif, Zahid Hasan Emly, Alam Bukola, Mamunul Islam (Shakil Ahmed), Nasir Chowdhury (Zahid Hasan) and Dami Emanuel.
FARASHGANJ - Sujon Chowdhury, Emeke Lucky Uti, Rejal Karim Reza, Arafat Ali Rony, Abu Ahmed Faisal (Mahfuzur Rahman), Imroj Chowdhury, Mezbabul Haque, Victor Chukwuekwe (Ismail Jahid), Intiaz Sultan Jitu, Kalu Johnson and Touhidul Alam Sabuz. Referee: Azad Rahman.

Zim stun Aussies!

AFP, Bridgetown
Australia suffered a stunning one-run loss to outsiders Zimbabwe in their opening World Twenty20 warm-up match in St Lucia on Tuesday.
Zimbabwe made 173 for seven, featuring a dashing 76 from Elton Chigumbura, in their 20 overs before holding Australia to 172 for seven.
Opener David Warner top-scored for Australia with 72 and Twenty20 captain Michael Clarke made 49 but, even though left-arm quick Mitchell Johnson had earlier taken four wickets for 23 runs, Zimbabwe denied Australia victory.
Australia needed 13 off the final over but Clarke was dismissed off the penultimate delivery before Johnson, one of several Aussies to be run out, was exited off a wide.
Brett Lee's leg-bye off the last ball was not enough for Australia.
Earlier, Chigumbura's runs came from just 35 balls with six sixes and five fours in an innings where Australia all-rounder Shane Watson's two overs went for an expensive 34 runs.
"Obviously we would have liked to have won," Johnson said.
"It's disappointing to lose in a practice match but we've just got to keep going forward, keep working hard in our training sessions and make sure we're ready for the World Cup."
Clarke's side were without the rested duo of fast bowler Shaun Tait and vice-captain Cameron White.
But the duo are set to return for Thursday's second and final warm-up game against the Windward Islands.
Australia's opening match of the tournament proper is against defending champions Pakistan in St Lucia on Sunday.
In their warm-up matches, New Zealand proved too strong for minnows Ireland in a 40-run victory in Guyana.
Kiwi opener Jesse Ryder made 64 and Martin Gupitll 50 as New Zealand compiled a total of 187 for five in their 20 overs.
Ireland, in reply, struggled with captain William Porterfield's 34, the top score in a total of 147 for nine. Nathan McCullum led New Zealand's attack with three for 25.
The Black Caps are in action against Sri Lanka, last year's losing finalists, and Ireland face hosts the West Indies in a 'double-bill' that will open the tournament in Guyana on Friday.
Pakistan overwhelmed the Windward Islands by 68 runs in a warm-up match in St Lucia.

SCORES IN BRIEF
PAKISTAN: 160-7 in 20 overs (Hafeez 57).
WINDWARD ISLANDS: 92-4 in 20 overs.
Result: Pakistan won by 68 runs.
ZIMBABWE: 173-7 in 20 overs (Chigumbura 76; Johnson 4-23).
AUSTRALIA: 172-7 in 20 overs (Warner 72).
Result: Zimbabwe won by 1 run.
NEW ZEALAND: 187-5 in 20 overs (Ryder 64, Gupitll 50; Dockrell 3-24).
IRELAND: 147-9 in 20 overs (McCullum 3-25).
Result: New Zealand won by 40 runs.

Malik crosses fingers

AFP, Karachi
Pakistan's former captain Shoaib Malik expressed hope Wednesday that his highly publicised wedding to an Indian tennis star can turn around his flagging cricket fortunes.
The 28-year-old, who married Sania Mirza earlier this month, is serving a one-year ban imposed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for indiscipline while on tour in Australia and New Zealand.
He was also fined two million rupees (24,000 dollars). His appeal against the sanctions will be heard by a retired high court judge on Friday.
Malik said Wednesday he was hoping that lady luck would smile on him.
"When you marry, your luck changes and I am also wishing my luck changes and I am able to revive my career," Malik told AFP by telephone before leaving for India to continue his honeymoon.
Malik's 11-year career badly suffered in 2008 when he was removed as Pakistan captain after a 2-1 one-day series loss at home to Sri Lanka.
Manager Yawar Saeed and coach Intikhab Alam labelled Malik a "loner" and questioned his ability to lead, prompting the PCB to replace him with Younus Khan.
Malik was also branded a "disruptive influence" on the team during Pakistan's recent tour of New Zealand and Australia from November to February.
The PCB formed a committee to investigate the team's dismal performance after they lost all three Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 match in Australia.
The committee, which also took into account various off-field problems on the preceding tour of United Arab Emirates, indefinitely banned former captains Younus Khan and Mohammad Yousuf, and banned Malik and Navedul Hasan.

Lee out of World T20

AFP, Sydney
Veteran Australian fast bowler Brett Lee has been ruled out of the World Twenty20 competition in the West Indies after straining an arm muscle during a warm-up match, officials said Wednesday.
Lee, 33, will be sent home after suffering the strain in Australia's shock defeat to Zimbabwe, adding to a long line of injury woes. Team officials have asked for permission to call up a replacement.
"It's a muscle strain on the inner side of the elbow of the right arm," a Cricket Australia spokesman told AFP, adding that it was separate to the elbow problem which recently required surgery.
"It was scanned but it will need to be looked at tomorrow," he said.
Lee, who has also battled foot, ankle and rib problems, retired from Test cricket in February to prolong his career in the shorter forms of the game.
WC ticket
FROM PAGE 17
The two quarterfinals will take place at Dhaka on March 23 and March 25.
The proposal for the opening ceremony and local marketing agency also approved during the LOC meeting and they will go for tendering process after getting the approval from the International Cricket Council (ICC).
Jalal Yunus also informed under that they had fixed the rates for the galleries.
TICKET RATES
Eastern Gallery (Category D) USD 3.00
North Gallery (Category C) USD 6.00
South Gallery (Category C) USD 6.00
Club House (North-South) USD 10.00
International Gallery (North-South, Category A) USD 30.00

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Odds and —
5 Cigar residue
8 Campus hangout
12 Hawaiian volcano
14 — Minor (constellation)
15 Kathleen of the Obama cabinet
16 Hebrew month
17 Sternward
18 Unexpected
20 Winter garment
23 Dalmatian detail
24 Cause a surge
25 Ken of the Obama cabinet
28 — Aviv
29 Felonious monk in "The Da Vinci Code"
30 Hillary of the Obama cabinet
34 Scallopini meat
35 Rotate
36 Private journal
37 Sushi condiment
40 — relief
41 Bottom of a boat
42 Timothy of the Obama cabinet
47 Needle case
48 Famous aria from "Carmen"
49 Spiritual discipline
50 Bath locale
51 Mormon state
Solution time: 24 mins.

DOWN
1 Type squares
2 Dundee denial
3 Fix the sound-track
4 Furtive
5 Settled down
6 Old French coin
7 Knows what to do, maybe
8 Watch crystal, maybe
9 Language of Pakistan
10 Pronto, on a memo
11 Blowgun ammo
13 — Romeo (sports car)
18 19
19 Feathery neckwear
20 Portion (Abbr.)
21 Guinness or Baldwin
22 Hot dog holder
23 Chic shop
25 Be acceptable
26 Vicinity
27 Posterior
29 Cold-shoulder
31 Aviate
33 Roma's land
34 Hindu pre-server god
36 Information
37 Curds' partner
38 Car
39 Hit hard
40 Lettuce variety
43 Water (Fr.)
44 Trawler need
45 Historic time
46 "Go, team!"

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

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CRYPTOQUIP

EDBOL ZGDE DZLC DE ZVV
PUJKL ZV RDZ OVC RVJZU QPM
VB ZGL EGLR, D'W EUM
DZ'E DP-PLWKL-DQPL.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A FAB FOUR MEMBER HAD EVENTUALLY TAKEN UP PHOTOGRAPHY, COULD HE HAVE BEEN A CLICK BEATLE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals O