



Pakistan batsman Umar Akmal (L) and captain Misbahul Haq (R) are in the process of taking a run as their pivotal partnership dampens West Indian plans to dismiss Pakistan cheaply on the fourth day of the first Test at the Providence Cricket Ground in Georgetown yesterday.

## Nat'l Women's Football C'ship from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The first round of National Women's Football Championship starts today at the Jessor stadium when across hosts Jessor entertain Rajbari. The first round of the meet is being participated by 28 teams divided in seven regions.

A press conference in this connection was held at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Bhaban on Saturday where Chairman of BFF's women's football committee Sirajul Islam Bacchu, deputy chairman Mahfuz Akter and FIFA consultant Roland Arqvist were present.

The seven group champions will go through to the final round where they will be joined by defending champions Ansar. The final round will be held in Dhaka in June. Duration of each match of first and final round will be 80 minutes.

The second national championship for women has a fund of Tk 25 lakhs allotted. Champions will receive Tk 40,000 while runners up will receive half the amount. Best player and highest scorer will receive Tk 5,000 each.

**Tk 6.25 lac**

FROM PAGE 16  
newspaper of the country on Thursday created enormous response from everywhere. Already a number of organisations and many individuals have expressed their desire to join the 'save Sadi' fundraising campaign.

A long-time football reporter and a keen enthusiast of the game, Sadi had recently left The Daily Star to pursue a career with the Bangladesh Football Federation as its general secretary. True to character, even as the cancer has almost rendered him helpless and frail, Sadi still fights on.

His family have already spent a lot of money on his treatment, but even so this has not been enough by any means.

And as part of our campaign to stand by Sadi we would like to continue our appeal to caring donors and acknowledge every contribution for the noble cause.

**BCB on right**

FROM PAGE 16  
looks okay," he said.

It was learned that the shortlist includes former Australian batsman Stuart Law, the current caretaker coach of Sri Lanka. Law fits the bill as far as BCB is concerned due to his stature as an international coach and also the board's inclination for an Australian.

It comes as a surprise to

## BETTING ON IPL Ex-Pakistan spinner held

AFP, Lahore



Former Pakistan Test spinner Akram Raza, fined in a match-fixing inquiry eleven years ago, was arrested over betting on lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL) matches, police said Sunday.

The 46-year-old Raza, who played nine Tests and 49 one-day internationals for Pakistan, was one of seven men arrested from a busy Lahore shopping area when police raided a gang of bookmakers who were taking illegal bets on IPL games.

"Seven men were arrested after a tip-off that they were taking bets on IPL matches, and one of them has been identified as Raza, a former Pakistan player," a police officer at Gulberg police station, who did not want to be named, told AFP.

Police said they recovered telephone sets, computers, televisions and a large amount of money in the raid, and will charge the arrested men later Sunday.

Raza, who currently stands as umpire in Pakistan's domestic matches, was one of six Pakistan players fined in a match-fixing inquiry conducted by Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum in 2000.

The former off-spinner was regarded as a close friend of former Pakistan captain Salim Malik, who was banned for life by the Qayyum inquiry. Former paceman Ata-ur-Rehman was also handed a life ban.

Pakistan's government ordered the inquiry after Australian players Shane Warne, Mark Waugh and Tim May accused Malik of offering them bribes during Australia's tour to Pakistan in 1995.

Raza, who made his debut in the same series in which Indian master batsman Sachin Tendulkar started his Test career in 1989 in Pakistan, was also part of the team in that series against Australia.

Match-fixing has rocked Pakistan cricket since the accusations by the Australian trio.

## Chittagong: Fall from

FROM PAGE 16

Cox's Bazaar impressing with his solid approach that yielded three fifties, but all-rounder Mahmudul Hasan was a let-down. "He has a good future. He is a compact player and has the basics worked out quite well," said Nobel.

Another of Chittagong's predicaments was their bowling, with only left-arm seamer Kamrul Islam picking up 17 wickets and leading the bowling pack. Though bowling has always been Chittagong's weak link, to have only two bowlers taking more than ten wickets (left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam being the other one) puts a lot of pressure on the batsmen.

Aftab's presence throughout the first-class campaign didn't help much either as the discarded Tigers batsmen contributed very little -- 117 runs at 14.62. His lean showing followed him everywhere this season, resulting in his non-selection in the initial 30-man squad for the World Cup.

Another major blow was having Faisal out of form, as the last season's hero was nowhere to be seen. His left-arm spin got him only three wickets while with the bat Faisal only hit one half-century.

It comes as a surprise to

many that Chittagong has gone down to such depths this season, despite having a Test venue at their disposal and the presence of a number of influential organisers. Yet, first-class cricket seems to be an orphan for those blinded by the success of hosting World Cup matches and the lure of the Port City Cricket League (PCL).

Though it is not clear when the PCL will be held again, players of this division have been found to be more attracted towards the glitz and glamour of the Twenty20 tournament than the NCL.

They did miss the services of Tamim Iqbal, but this particular problem (of missing national players) has hit Chittagong less than other teams such as Khulna.

**Siddikur**

FROM PAGE 16

finish in second place for a 284 total, one stroke behind the champion in the US\$300,000 Asian Tour event.

South Africa's Jbe Kruger, who finished second on three occasions last year, endured another agonizing defeat when he placed third on 285. Digvijay Singh of India was a stroke back in fourth as he secured his first top-five placing since 2003.

## Hodge powers

FROM PAGE 16  
hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals.

Leg-spinner Chawla finished with 3-16 off four overs.

Marsh's best came in the 13th over when he hammered left-arm spinner Sridharan Sridharan for 24 runs off five balls, including three sixes. He also hit five fours in his 28-ball knock.

Valthathy, who hit Australian paceman James Hopes for 18 runs in an over, smashed three sixes and six fours in his 50-ball knock.

Delhi failed to capitalise on a 52-run stand for the opening wicket between Australian David Warner (29) and Naman Ojha (28), losing five wickets in the space of 40 runs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**Kings XI Punjab** 170-6 in 20 overs (P. Valthathy 62, S. Marsh 46, D. Karthik 27; Irfan Pathan 3-28, A. Salvi 2-40) beat **Delhi Daredevils** 141-8 in 20 overs (D. Warner 29, N. Ojha 28; P. Chawla 3-16, S. Srivastava 2-39) by 29 runs.

**Rajasthan Royals** 97 in 18.3 overs (A. Maneria 31, S. Watson 20; B. Hodge 4-13, S. Sreesanth 2-16, P. Parameswaran 2-20) lost to **Kochi Tuskers Kerala** 98-2 in 7.2 overs (B. Hodge 33 not out, B. McCullum 29, P. Patel 21 not out) by eight wickets.

**This is just**

FROM PAGE 18

"Every player at this club has quality and I want to give my quality for the team."

City's triumph added another medal to Patrick Vieira's bulging trophy cabinet. The Frenchman won the Cup several times during his spell at Arsenal and he dedicated the victory to City's long-suffering fans.

"It means a lot to the players but even more to the fans," Vieira said. "They have been waiting a long time for this. It is fantastic. There has been a lot of pressure on this team. It's a really fantastic season for us."

Stoke goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen was one of the few players from Tony Pulis's team to emerge with any credit as the underdogs paid the price for a timid display.

Denmark international Sorensen, who made two superb saves in the first half, conceded that his side never got going.

"The first half was a big disappointment," Sorensen said. "The goal came at a bad time for us, just as we were getting in the game, but it's so disappointing."

"As a team we never really created any flowing play, we didn't hold the ball up well. The better team won, and we didn't play well."

## Independence

FROM PAGE 16

they headed for the tie-breakers where John, Nannu, Pushkar Khisha and Ripon converted their hits for the winning side while only Rana and Rokon managed to score for the losing side.

# Windies end two-year wait

## Cricket

### CRICINFO

Quite suitably, it took an up and down day to end an up and down Test, a cracker between two faltering sides. At the end West Indies had wrapped up their first and most significant Test win in over two years, since they beat England at the start of 2009. Ravi Rampaul and captain Darren Sammy were at the centre of it, taking eight wickets between them to lead the side to a 40-run win in Providence. Misbahul Haq and Umar Akmal battled but Pakistan had been outplayed, their batting as brittle as ash.

Though Sammy took five wickets, Rampaul was actually the key, the best fast bowler in this Test by some distance. Devendra Bishoo's arrival has taken the limelight away from Rampaul, for whom, in a normal non-dysfunctional cricket set-up, this would be hailed as a breakthrough performance. He's hustled in all game, with pace, intelligence and movement.

He was terrific yesterday and began similarly today, generating incoming swerve and then more off the surface. Asad Shafiq's charmed but vital hand was defeated early by one such delivery, coming in and going through. He gave little away in that first six-over spell. Then, after lunch as the ball softened and got old, he raced in for a spell of subtle reverse swing, dismissing the stub-

born Abdur Rehman in his second over back.

In between, Sammy took over, playing a real captain's hand. Bishoo and Kemar Roach had looked particularly flat in the morning, so Sammy brought himself in and at his gentle pace, immediately started getting some inswing. The key intervention came in his third over - two wickets in three balls turned around what was becoming Pakistan's morning. He found enough late in-drift to first trap Misbah and then Mohammad Salman lbw; the latter's leg-before took the total number of such dismissals in this Test to a world-record 18.

After tea he picked up three more in a similarly simple manner: pitch on a length on off and bring it in. Umar Gul was first and then came the killer blow, Akmal. The pair were trapped in successive overs before Saeed Ajmal was bowled to cap the win.

With Misbah and Umar putting on a breezy 52 in the morning, the game had been shifting into Pakistan's control. But the fragility of their batting is swiftly becoming legendary, especially in chasing small-ish targets. Misbah continued his extraordinary revival as captain-batsman with a seventh fifty in eight Test innings, employing a familiar method designed to frustrate and exhilarate equally. Most deliveries he blocked, as you might with the

Most Exaggerated Forward Defense in world cricket.

But he does possess a keener mind than most Pakistani batsmen and his mini-assault in the morning on Bishoo was well-conceived. Having been tied down against him through the Test, he suddenly lofted him straight for a big six. In the next over, he lofted him through midwicket for a boundary and the field spread, Bishoo a little rattled.

With him, Akmal provided such easy impetus that the surface was forgotten about. He'd already cut a faltering Bishoo, before producing a sumptuous drive on the up off Rampaul. Soon he began to look so good, cutting square, picking through the leg side as well as driving to bring the target under 100, that a rash dismissal felt inevitable, as it so often does with him.

At lunch, he was still around though, poised between his most significant Test innings and yet another pretty but futile hand, and the game was just about still on. Post lunch, he went soon enough, another of the latter in his bag, and one of Pakistan's more shocking recent Test defeats was sealed.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**WEST INDIES:** 226 (Simmons 49; Ajmal 5-69) and 152 (Ajmal 6-42)  
**PAKISTAN:** 160 (Rehman 40 not out) and 178 (Misbah 52, Umar 47, Shafiq 42; Sammy 5-29, Rampaul 4-48)  
**Result:** West Indies beat Pakistan by 40 runs.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Darren Sammy.

## Warne says sorry

PTI, Jaipur

Rajasthan Royals captain Shane Warne has apologised for publicly insulting state cricket association secretary Sanjay Dixit after an Indian Premier League match here following an internal disciplinary inquiry by the franchise.

RR chief executive Sean Morris said in an e-mail to Rajasthan Cricket Association secretary Dixit that the franchise had decided to take disciplinary action against Warne and the Australian has accepted it.

"An internal disciplinary panel was convened at earliest opportunity and met with Shane Warne to review his comments made to yourself post the prize giving. Following submissions from the player and other management staff who were present at the incident we have decided to take disciplinary action against the player," Morris said.

## Tripti stars

FROM PAGE 16  
Shafira took three wickets while Tithi, Panna and Sohel took two each.

Mahmuda (27 not out) and Panna (22 not out) took just 10.1 overs to reach 69 runs.

## Familiar foes in Rome final

## Tennis

AFP, Rome

Novak Djokovic maintained his unbeaten start to 2011 with an epic three-hour 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 victory over fourth seed Andy Murray in the Rome Masters semifinals on Saturday.

The world number two took his run to 36 straight wins this year and will face world number one Rafael Nadal, who beat Richard Gasquet 7-5, 6-1, in Sunday's final in a repeat of last week's Madrid Masters title match which Djokovic won.

Djokovic, struggling with a leg problem, demonstrated just why he has proved so hard to beat with a never-say-die attitude even when Murray was just two points from victory, serving at 5-4 in the decider.

But the Serb admitted he faces a race against time to be fit to play Nadal.

"I'll do what I can, I have a team of people who will do their utmost to get me ready, there's not much time but we'll see how I play," he said.

"The important thing will be whether I'm fit or not, that will play an important role so we'll see how fit I am [on Sunday]."

Murray, who turns 24 on Sunday, said: "I played my best tennis against the best player in the world at the moment."

"It's always very physical against Novak because he moves well. I had chances to win and probably should have done."

Just as he had done in the quarterfinal against Florian Mayer, Murray started slowly

and the only game he won was when he broke Djokovic in a marathon third game.

However a change of shirt, from white to blue, brought with it a change of fortunes.

In the first set Djokovic had been finding the corners and running Murray ragged around the back court before dropping slices just over the net and out of his reach.

But in the second Murray found a way to stay in points for longer, to make Djokovic play more shots and errors started to creep into the Serb's game.

The sixth game was crucial where both players showed signs of nerves but it was Djokovic who cracked, hitting a forehand long on break-point.

In the decider Djokovic drew first blood, breaking in the fourth game but that proved only the prelude to five breaks in six games that saw Murray turn the match on its head and lead 5-4 with his serve to come.

Three times Murray was two points from victory but he couldn't take the extra step and a double fault made it 5-5 and a sixth break in seven.

Finally both held serve and it went to a tie-break where a Murray error handed Djokovic a mini-break and then when the Serb passed the Scot at the net,