

## Daily Star in quarters

SPORTS REPORTER

The Daily Star stormed into the quarterfinal of the Walton-DRU Six-a-side Media Cricket with all-wicket win over Jai Jai Din in their last group match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a modest target of 67, the former champions The Daily Star, raced to 72 in just 3.4 overs, thanks to a whirlwind innings from opener Fazlur Rahman who remained unbeaten on 35 featuring two sixes and four fours and was adjudged man of the match for the second time in the 34-team tournament.

Opener Rakib Ahmed also played a scintillating innings scoring unbeaten 20 while Wasim Bin Habib struck a massive six in his unbeaten 12-run to take the side home.

In the day's other matches, Shakaler Khabor beat Bhoror Kagoj by nine runs, GTV beat UNB by 62 runs, Naya Diganta beat Shamakal by 16 runs, Amader Arthoniti beat Banglabora by 38 runs and Diganta TV beat Arthoniti Protidin by 74 runs.

## Milan show

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Gokhan Inler was unmarked and over 30 metres from goal when Marek Hamsik's pass arrived but the Swiss midfielder's left-foot strike wrong-footed Abbiati in the Milan net.

Lorenzo Insigne doubled Napoli's lead on the half hour when he swivelled on Christian Maggio's pass from the right to beat Abbiati with a shot which bobbed through the keeper's legs.

Napoli and Milan both went on to waste scoring chances, and the hosts were soon counting the cost when El Shaarawy struck a tremendous ninth league goal of the season in the 44th minute.

Kevin Prince Boateng was given time down the left and sent in a pass which El Shaarawy, lurking on the edge of the area, hit first time from 18 metres to beat a helpless De Sanctis.

It was a lively second half, with Spanish forward Bojan and Christian Maggio missing chances to put their respective sides ahead.

## A big-hearted

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brought a sigh of relief for the national selectors who had earlier stated that they were worried about Bangladesh's pace-bowling department. "There's no doubt about Rubel's ability. He is a very good bowler. I was a little scared for him since he was returning to cricket after an injury. But he performed well in the second innings and it was his wicket that turned the tables for Bangladesh," said BCB chief selector Akram Khan.

With the wicket at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna expected to be another flat deck, Rubel's sporadic bursts on the field will no doubt play a major part in Mushfiqur Rahim's bowling plans for the upcoming Test.

## NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, we could not print the CROSSWORD today. We regret any inconvenience.

-Sports Editor



England skipper Alastair Cook celebrates his century against India on the fourth day of the first Test at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Captain Cook's fight

### Cricket

PTI, Ahmedabad

Captain Alastair Cook led a remarkable England fightback with a heroic unbeaten 168 as the defiant visitors wiped out India's mammoth first innings lead with a gritty batting display to raise hopes of saving the first cricket Test in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

The 27-year-old Cook displayed immense concentration and skill to not only notch up his 21st Test century under pressure but also keep his team in the game as he steered England to 340 for five at close on the penultimate day which saw the Sardar Patel track ease out quite a bit.

The England captain found an able ally in Matt Prior (84) as the duo put on an unfinished 141-run partnership to leave the Indians frustrated.

The spinners, who were expected to do the bulk of the damage, found it

difficult to get the wickets. England, who conceded a mammoth 330-run first innings lead and were asked to follow-on, have now taken a lead of 10 runs, setting the stage for an interesting fifth day's play tomorrow with all three results possible.

India will look to claim the remaining five wickets as quickly as possible tomorrow and push for a 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

England, on the other hand, will try to bat as much as possible and may even put pressure on India by taking a substantial lead on a tricky fifth day track.

Resuming at the overnight score of 111 for no loss, England lost the wickets of Nick Compton (37), Jonathan Trott (17), Kevin Pietersen (2), Ian Bell (22) and Samit Patel (0) but it was Cook who stood like a rock to hold the English innings together showing superb endurance.

Cook batted the whole day with exemplary patience, determination

and composure to remain unconquered.

Cook, who has faced 341 balls and struck 20 fours, was given splendid support by Prior, who was not out on 84 that came off 190 balls and contained 10 fours.

#### SCOREBOARD

**INDIA:** First innings 521 for 8 declared (Pujara 206 not out, Sehwag 117, Yuvraj 74, Gambhir 45; Swann 5-144)

**ENGLAND:** First innings 191 (Prior 48, Cook 41, Broad 25, Bresnan 19, Pietersen 17; Ojha 5-45, Ashwin 3-80)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings (overnight 111-0)

	O	M	R	W
Cooknotout	168			
Comptonlbw b Khan	37			
Trott D'ohonib Ojha	17			
Pietersenb Ojha	2			
Belllbw b Yadav	22			
Patelllbw b Yadav	0			
Priortnotout	84			
Extras: (b-4, lb-6)	10			
Total: (For 5 wkt in 128 overs)	340			
Fall of wickets: 1-123, 2-156, 3-160, 4-199, 5-199				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Yadav	19	1	60	2
Ojha	44	13	102	2
Ashwin	41	9	104	0
Sehwag	1	0	1	0
Zaheer	18	3	38	1
Tendulkar	1	0	8	0

## Lanka gain slim lead

### Cricket

AFP, Galle

Mahela Jayawardene cracked an impressive 91 to lead Sri Lanka's fightback on an absorbing second day of the opening Test against New Zealand in Galle on Sunday.

Sri Lanka were in deep trouble at 50-5 following fast bowler Tim Southee's three-wicket burst in the morning before posting 247 in their first innings in reply to New Zealand's 221.

The tourists reached 35-1 in their second innings at stumps after losing hard-hitting opener Brendon McCullum, caught by Nuwan Kulasekara off-left-arm spinner Rangana Herath, who was pressed into the attack after three overs.

The match is evenly

poised at this stage, with New Zealand nine runs ahead with as many wickets in hand.

Skipper Jayawardene and vice-captain Angelo Mathews (79) earlier propped up the innings with a 156-run stand for the sixth wicket.

The hosts looked like gaining a big lead when they reached 206-5 but lost their last five wickets, including those of well-set Jayawardene and Mathews, for 41 runs.

The tourists, who went wicketless in the afternoon, came back strongly to take five wickets in the last session, with off-spinner Jeetan Patel striking three times to finish with 3-55.

#### SCOREBOARD

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 221 (McCullum 68, Flynn 53; Herath 5-65, Eranga 3-51)

**SRI LANKA:** First innings (overnight 9-1)

Paranavitana b Southee 0  
Karunaratne lbw b Southee 0  
Randiv Guttill b Southee 9

Sangakkara c McCullum b Boult 5

M Jayawardene c Van Wyk b Patel 91

Samaraweera lbw b Southee 17

Mathews c Van Wyk b Franklin 79

Jayawardene c Bracewell b Patel 4

Kulasekara c b Patel 8

Herath not out 11

Eranga c Bracewell b Boult 4

Extras: (b-9, lb-8, nb-2) 19

Total: (All out in 80.2 overs) 247

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-9, 3-18, 4-20, 5-

50, 6-206, 7-215, 9-242.

**Bowler**

Boult 16.2 3 46 2

Southee 18 4 46 4

Bracewell 16 1 67 0

Franklin 7 2 16 1

Patel 23 7 55 3

**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings

Guttill not out 13

McCullum c Kulasekara b Patel 13

Williamson not out 9

Total: (For 1 wkt in 10 overs) 35

Fall of wicket: 1-18

**Bowler**

Kulasekara 4 0 17 0

Eranga 1 0 4 0

## Failure the pillar of success

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rather than long term goal.

Once upon a time a decade or two ago, Bangladesh used to fight hard against these opponents. However, countries like Thailand have gone from strength to strength in the intervening period as a second-tier powerhouse in Asia as professionalism was installed while Bangladesh still remain in the third-tier football due to irregular football activities for most of the time till late.

Bangladesh have suffered even more humiliating defeats against sides Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Iran in the past, which only shows the gulf of difference. However one feels there is no shame in losing these friendlies, even if losing badly, because it will only help the players to get matured and strengthen them mentally.

India could be used as a classic example in this case. Once belonging at our standard not too long ago, the neighboring country

took their status to enormous heights in the last decade through playing against their superior sides. Initial results were not encouraging, but they stuck to their long term plans and are now reaping the rewards as they compete in earnest against teams like Kuwait, Qatar, Syria, Jordan, Uzbekistan.

However, playing the FIFA friendly is a new concept for the national team and the game's governing body should continue to arrange such games whether the squad win or lose and playing such international friendly will certainly encourage the new generation to be footballers.

Bangladesh will play another FIFA friendly against Malaysia on Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur and may suffer another heavy defeat, yet the football loving people will be hoping that long term goals are implemented so that these defeats will be a thing of the past in future.

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## Players search for clubs

### Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

With only four days to go to the start of the Premier Division Chess League, some of the top players of the country are yet to find clubs as some of the big clubs have opted to form low-budget sides due to financial crisis.

IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, IM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Debaraj Chatterjee, FM Nasir Ahmed and FM Mohammad Javed are among the top players whose participation in the upcoming 10-team league hangs in the balance as three top outfit -- Biman, Destiny2000 and Air Destiny -- reportedly decided to form mediocre sides.

Biman is reportedly in trouble with its sports wing following allegation of misappropriation of fund while Destiny2000 and Air Destiny are in struggling to maintain its sports wing after the parent company's activities were frozen by the government.

"I never faced such problem before regarding finding clubs. This time I have talked with a couple of clubs but no

assurance from any club yet," said IM Sagar, who last season played for Destiny2000 and was reportedly not paid remuneration of six months.

IM Sagar, FM Javed, FM Debaraj, IM Medhi Hasan Parag and GM Reefat Bin Sattar also played for Destiny2000 last season while IM Shakil played for Biman. Reefat is set to be a part of new outfit Duranta Rajshahi, which is also set to rope in GM Abdullah Al Rakib, GM Enamul Hossain Razib and FM Taibur Rahman. Duranta Rajshahi earned their right to play in the league after buying out premier division side Chittagong Chess Academy.

"The last few seasons had four to five title contenders, but this time it looks like the battle will be between two teams (Mohammed and Duranta Rajshahi) because Biman, Destiny2000 and Air Destiny are not forming strong sides," said Sagar after playing his game of the ongoing national chess championship yesterday.

GM Niaz Mursheed and GM Ziaur Rahman are set to be part of holders Mohammedan which is also bringing two Gregorian Grandmasters to defend their title.

## LOCAL snippets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The 2nd Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament was inaugurated at the Shaheed Mohammad Ali Stadium in Thakurgaon on Sunday.

Kieron Pollard takes over as vice-captain in Bravo's absence. In addition to Pollard and Roach, all-rounders Andre Russell and Dwayne Smith, wicket-keeper Devon Thomas and opener Lendl Simmons will join the one-day squad.

#### SQUAD

Darren Sammy (captain),

Kieron Pollard (vice-

captain), Tino Best, Darren

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