

## Narayanganj clinch NCC

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Narayanganj were crowned champions of the 33rd National Cricket Championship yesterday as they cruised to a six wicket victory over Faridpur at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium at Bogra yesterday.

This is the second time that Narayanganj have won the competition. Their last triumph was during the 1997-98 season.

Having played all their matches at the Dinajpur Stadium, the champions of group B, Faridpur, couldn't replicate their success in Bogra as they were bundled out for just 110.

Narayanganj's Taiabur Parvez finished with figures of five for 16 in his eight overs and was the pick of the bowlers, whereas, Sajib Dutta's three for 18 rattled Faridpur's top order.

In reply, despite a slight hiccup in the middle of the innings where they were reduced to 4 for 65, Narayanganj reached their target with ease in the 23rd over. Parvez proved to be Narayanganj's key performer with the bat as well as he top-scored with a 37-ball 29.

## KING'S CUP Arambagh play today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Arambagh Krira Shangha will begin their King's Cup campaign taking on Bhutanese side Yeedzin FC in the tournament opener at Changlimithang, Bhutan today.

Apart from Arambagh KS, Team BJMC are also taking part in the tournament where nine teams, split into two groups, will play round-robin matches and top two sides will advance to the semifinals.

Arambagh were placed in Group A along with NMB Machhindra FC and LHM Manage Club of Nepal, Mohan Bagan FC of India and hosts side Yeedzin while Group B includes Three Star of Nepal, United Shikim FC of India, Thumphu City FC of Bhutan and Team BJMC of Bangladesh.

**FIXTURES**

July 20 - Arambagh vs Yeedzin FC  
 July 23 - BJMC vs Thumphu City FC  
 July 26 - Arambagh vs NMB Machhindra FC  
 July 27 - BJMC vs United Shikim FC  
 July 29 - BJMC vs Three Star FC  
 Aug 1 - Arambagh vs Mohan Bagan  
 Aug 4 - Arambagh vs LHM Manage FC

## WI V PAK Misbah to the rescue again

**AFP, Gros Islet**

Pakistan were again indebted to captain Misbah-ul-Haq and the late aggression of Umar Akmal in totalling 229 for six against the West Indies in the third one-day international at the Beausejour Stadium on Friday.

In his usual calm, unruffled manner, Misbah compiled a top score of 75 to steady the innings after the early loss of both openers while Akmal swatted an unbeaten 40 off 31 deliveries, dominating an unbroken seventh-wicket partnership of 52 with Wahab Riaz (19 not out) to give the tourists a fighting chance on a pitch offering considerably more pace and bounce than for the first two ODIs in Guyana.

Fast-medium bowlers Jason Holder and Dwayne Bravo took two wickets apiece but skipper Bravo's decision to persist with himself over the final overs proved costly.

It was a bewildering decision given that Marlon Samuels was only allowed three overs, which cost four runs.



PHOTO: REUTERS  
**England off-spinner Graeme Swann (R) celebrates with teammate Ian Bell after dismissing Australia all-rounder Steven Smith on the second day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's in London yesterday.**

# England in control

AFP, London

Graeme Swann bowled England into a commanding position on the second day of the second Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's on Friday.

The off-spinner took five wickets for 44 runs in 21.3 overs as Australia collapsed to 128 all out in reply to England's first innings 361.

With so much time left, and not wanting to bat last on a wearing pitch, Ashes-holders England, 1-0 up in the five-match series after last week's 1-4 run win at Trent Bridge, opted against enforcing the follow-on.

Peter Siddle then gave Australia hope with a return of three wickets for four runs in five overs.

England captain Alastair Cook and Jonathan Trott both played on before Kevin Pietersen loosely carved the paceman to Chris Rogers at point.

Although England were 31 for three in their second innings at stumps, they still led by 264 runs.

Joe Root, missed on eight when wicketkeeper Brad Haddin didn't go for a chance, was 18 not out and night-watchman Tim Bresnan unbeaten on nought.

Swann was the first England spinner to take five

SCOREBOARD				
<b>ENGLAND: 1st Innings (361 all out in 100.1 overs)</b>				
S. Watson lbw b Bresnan	30			
C. Rogers lbw b Swann	15			
U. Khawaja c Pietersen b Swann	14			
P. Hughes c Prior b Bresnan	1			
M. Clarke lbw b Broad	28			
S. Smith c Bell b Swann	2			
B. Haddin c Trott b Swann	7			
A. Agar run out (Prior/Anderson)	2			
P. Siddle c Swann b Anderson	2			
J. Pattinson not out	10			
R. Harris c Pietersen b Swann	10			
Extras (b4, lb1, w2)	7			
<b>Total (all out, 53.3 overs, 230 mins)</b>	<b>128</b>			
Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-50, 3-53, 4-69, 5-86, 6-91, 7-96, 8-104, 9-104, 10-128				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Anderson	14	8	25	1
Broad	11	3	26	1
Bresnan	7	1	28	2
Swann	21.3	5	44	5
<b>ENGLAND: 2nd Innings</b>				
A. Cook b Siddle	8			
J. Root not out	18			
J. Trott b Siddle	0			
K. Pietersen c Rogers b Siddle	5			
T. Bresnan not out	0			
Extras	3			
<b>Total (3 wks, 20 overs, 88 mins)</b>	<b>31</b>			
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-22, 3-30				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Harris	5	1	12	0
Watson	4	2	9	0
Siddle	5	3	4	3
Pattinson	5	3	5	0

wickets in an innings of a Lord's Ashes Test since Hedley Verity (seven for 61 and eight for 43) managed the feat twice in 1934.

How Australia's top-order performed was always likely to be a key factor in whether they could regain the Ashes and, unlike the first Test, the tail was unable to cover up the failings of the specialist batsmen.

Australia were all out inside 54 overs and, after opener Shane Watson was out for an innings top score of 30, they lost 10 wickets for 86 runs.

Poor reviews cost Australia dear at Trent Bridge.

But Watson still asked for a referral only for New Zealand's Tony Hill to confirm Sri Lankan on-field umpire Kumar Dharmasena's decision.

Soon after lunch Rogers was lbw in bizarre fashion.

The left-hander, missed a pull at a Swann full toss, after the ball appeared to slip out of the bowler's hand, and was 'boxed'.

South African umpire Marais Erasmus gave Rogers out lbw for 15 on the left-hander's Middlesex home ground.

Rogers opted against seeking a review, although replays later indicated the ball would have missed leg stump.

## SAFF U-16 CHAMPIONSHIP 5 booters fall sick

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-16 football team were pitted in a comparatively easy group when the groupings for the SAFF U-16 Championship were made in Nepal yesterday. Bangladesh will play in Group B along with India and Sri Lanka. However, Bangladesh's path to progress to the semifinals may be a tough one as five players of the side have fallen sick.

Of those five, three players are suffering from fever while two suffered from stomach upset one day after their arrival in Nepal on Wednesday.

"So far four players are feeling a bit better than the yesterday (Thursday) while one player is still sick," said Bangladesh Football Federation's technical director BA Jubair Nipu yesterday.

Dutch coach Rene Koster slammed the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) for providing poor facilities which Koster believes caused the illness to his players, one of whom was admitted to the hospital.

"We are not being treated well. Five of my players are sick and one of them has been hospitalised. My players are sick because of poor facilities and poor hygienic condition of the hotel," Koster was quoted as saying by goalnepal.com, a Nepalese web portal yesterday.

Koster however will get three more days to get his players fit as Bangladesh will start the campaign taking on Sri Lanka on July 23 before playing the group's last match against first edition's runners-up India on July 25.

Group A consists of holders Pakistan, hosts Nepal, Afghanistan and Bhutan. Top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals of the second edition regional championship, which gets underway today through the match between Nepal and Bhutan at the Dashrath Stadium.

At the official pre-tournament conference, Koster said that he was not happy with the bunch of footballers, selected by BFF coaches, but was happy to see the attitude of the players ahead of the championship.

# Contest for revival

## SL-SA first ODI today

AFP, Colombo

South Africa and Sri Lanka are hoping to recover from recent setbacks in one-day cricket when they contest a five-match series starting in Colombo on Saturday.

Both teams were knocked out in the semifinals of the Champions Trophy in the United Kingdom despite being rated as two of the strongest contenders in the eight-nation tournament.

The Proteas lived up to their reputation as cricket's "chokers", a tag outgoing coach Gary Kirsten said was fully justified following the semifinal defeat against England at The Oval in London.

Sri Lanka, World Cup runners-up to India in 2011, fell to Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men twice in two weeks when the Champions Trophy defeat was followed by a loss in the tri-series final in the West Indies.

Dinesh Chandimal, 23, will lead the Islanders in the first two matches against South Africa after regular captain Angelo

Mathews was handed a two-match ban for his team's slow over-rates in the tri-series.

Sri Lanka will miss frontline seamer Nuwan Kulasekara, who sustained a finger injury in the West Indies, for the first two games. Batsman Jehan Mubarak was recalled after four years.

The tourists will be without the injured duo of Dale Steyn and Graeme Smith, while veteran all-rounder Jacques Kallis prolonged a self-imposed break after sitting out the Champions Trophy.

In further trouble for South Africa, fast bowlers Morne Morkel and Lonwabo Tsotsobe were doubtful for Saturday's match after picking up minor niggles at the start of the tour.

The series, which will be followed by three Twenty20 internationals, is the first assignment for South Africa's new coach Russell Domingo, who served as Kirsten's deputy till the Champions Trophy.

"Russell communicates very well and he will make sure everyone understands their role really well," said South African captain AB de Villiers, who is also the team's wicketkeeper and star middle-order batsman.

## Singer Bhajji

HINDUSTAN TIMES

Bhajji on song! During his peak, this was how commentators introduced the spinner, whenever he ran through sides. The spinner has now literally taken a step further and ventured into the music business by not only recording an album consisting of a duet, sung in association with Punjabi singer Lakhwinder Lucky, but also co-producing it.

Out of favour with the national selectors for some time and with little hope of making a comeback in the present scenario, it looks like Harbhajan Singh is already chalking out an alternate career route.

There is just one song in his album titled 'Meri Maa' produced by Bhajji and Punjab Ranji cricketer Chandan Madan.



**Australia's legendary leg-spinner Shane Warne holds the baggie green cap as he is accompanied by his partner Liz Hurley during his induction into the Hall of Fame at Lord's in London yesterday.** PHOTO: INTERNET

## Rain postpones practice game

SPORTS REPORTER

The second practice match between the Bangladesh U-23 and Bangladesh U-23 probables was abandoned at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday due to inclement weather.

The match will now take place on Sunday. Apart from the game on Sunday, the teams will also face each other today for another practice match.

The practice matches have been organised to finalize the line-ups of the two sides. Bangladesh A will be travelling to England in August to play a total of eight one day matches with domestic teams and the England Lions.

The under-23 team is scheduled to go to Singapore in August to participate in the ACC Emerging Players' Cup, which begins on August 17.

Earlier, on Wednesday the U23 side rode on a century from Liton Kumar Das to defeat Bangladesh A by three wickets in the first practice match.

## ONGC coming this month

SPORTS REPORTER

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) of India has agreed to send its hockey team to Dhaka after Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) invited three Indian clubs - Air India, Punjab National Bank and ONGC - to play few practice matches against the national team as part of its preparation for the Asia Cup.

Having confirmed the nod of ONGC, BHF member Mamunur Rashid said that they will now finalise the date of four practice matches to be held this month and confirm the schedule after discussion with ONGC within a couple of days.

## WOMEN'S CLUB CRICKET Khelaghar beat Indira Road

SPORTS REPORTER

Khelaghar SKS defeated Indira Road KC by nine wickets in the Women's club cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday in a match that was shortened to 20 overs a side due to incessant rainfall.

Batting first Indira Road finished on 53 for 6 in 20 overs.

In reply Khelaghar reached their target with ease in 6.2 overs. Sanjida Islam's unbeaten 30 powered their chase. The other two matches of the day were called off due to inclement weather.



**Narayanganj players celebrate with the winners' cheque after becoming champions of the 33rd National Cricket Championship yesterday having beaten Faridpur by six wickets at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.**

# New racquet for Fed

AFP, Hamburg

Roger Federer breezed into the quarterfinals of the Hamburg claycourt tournament Thursday and played down his decision to fly in the face of fashion by switching to a larger racquet.

The Swiss top seed, playing his second match since his shock second-round exit at Wimbledon, needed just over an hour to seal a 6-4, 6-3 win over 29-year-old Jan Hajek of the Czech Republic.

The 31-year-old Federer, with his world ranking down at five, his lowest for a decade, is playing in Germany with a larger 98 square-inch frame -- eight inches bigger than his previous racquets.

"I guess it's to a degree some more getting use to, just to see how it reacts on every single shot," Federer said.

"Clearly it reacts better to some shots.

"But it's important not to think of it the

whole time, not to talk about it all the time, but more just sort of go with it, fight for every point, have the right mindset, be optimistic about playing here now and wanting to achieve a good result and that's what I'm doing."

Federer, who faces Germany's Florian Mayer in Friday's quarter-final, squandered 10 of his 13 break points against Hajek, including five match points in the eighth game of the second set, but prevailed in 72 minutes.

Having brushed off his Wimbledon cobwebs by fighting back after losing the first set to Germany's Daniel Brand in Wednesday's second round, Federer fired down seven aces to Hajek's two.

Federer has a 31-4 event record in Hamburg, where he won the title in 2002, 2004-05 and 2007 and finished runner-up in 2008 to Rafael Nadal.

"I'm just still looking for the timing and the rhythm here, but the longer I stay in the tournament the more confident I am that I'm going to play better," he said.