

Nat'l chess  
Reefat alone atop

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar of Biman moved atop the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Chess Championship table with a win over teammate IM Enamul Hossain Rajib in the eighth round yesterday.

With that win, Reefat raised his tally to seven points from eight matches, one more than Rajib, IM Abdullah Al-Rakib of Biman and Grand Master Niaz Murshed of Titas Club who are jointly sharing the second spot.

In yesterday's round, Rakib defeated Niaz.

In the other matches, Shawkat Hossain Pallab of Ansars beat Mehdi Hasan Parag of Titas, Fide Master Rezaul Haque beat Monjur Alam of Chittagong and Nasir Ahmed drew with Mohammad Javed.

The ninth round matches start at the same venue today at 3:30 pm.

**Today's matches:** Taibur v Javed, Reefat v Amin, Imon v Rajib, Niaz v Monjur, Parag v Rakib and Nasir v Pallab.

Relegation fight rained off

SPORTS REPORTER

Rain washed out yesterday's GrameenPhone Premier Cricket Relegation League encounter between Indira Road Kriya Chakra and Bangladesh Biman at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday after only 29 overs.

Winning the toss, Indira Road elected to bat and had scored 77 for four when rain came and stopped the match.

Weather permitting, a fresh match will be played at the same venue today.

Tarun Sangha Zia Smriti champs

BSS, Dhaka

Tarun Sangha became champions in the Shaheed Zia Smriti Cricket Tournament defeating Hazaribagh Cricket Academy by five wickets at Paltan ground yesterday.

Batting first Hazaribagh were bundled out for 73 in the rain-curtailed 20-over match while Tarun Sangha reached the mark scoring 74 for five.

CAS Cup golf

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Lt Col Ahasan clinched the 5th CAS Cup Golf tournament title at the Mainamati Golf Club of Comilla Cantonment yesterday.

131 golfers including 8 ladies and 12 juniors took part in the meet.

Chief of the Army Staff Lt General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury distributed prizes as chief guest.



**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Man United vs Liverpool  
Live at 5:25 pm  
&  
Aston Villa vs Arsenal  
Live at 7:55 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Gillette World Sports Special  
Int'l Sports News  
Taped Version at 7:30 pm  
English Premier Football League  
Southampton vs West Ham United  
Live at 7:55 pm

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 192**  
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.  
Competition closes at 8 pm April 11, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who was the man-of-the-tournament in the Cricket World Cup?  
Tendulkar    Ganguly    Lee

2. Who was the man-of-the-match in the World Cup final?  
Ponting    Bichel    McGrath

3. What was the lowest score in the World Cup?  
36    40    43

4. What was the highest score in the World Cup?  
359    345    394

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....



PHOTO: INTERNET

PARADISE CAN'T BE FAR! Australian players walk on Guyana's legendary Sea Wall on April 3.

Rebuilt Pakistan prevail

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

Pakistan's revamped cricket team under Rashid Latif made a winning start with a 68-run romp over Zimbabwe in the opening match of the four-nation Sharjah Cup here on Thursday.

Younis Khan and Abdul Razzaq hit half-centuries as Pakistan piled up 278-7 from 50 overs after electing to take first strike on the slow wicket at the Sharjah cricket stadium.

Debutants Umar Gul and Mohammad Hafeez then joined Razzaq and Danish Kaneria with identical two-wicket hauls to bowl out Zimbabwe for 210 in the 45th over.

Douglas Marillier top-scored with 59 but found little support at the other end as Pakistan earned an extra bonus point.

Pakistan were without eight senior players, including veterans Wasim Akram, Inzamam-ul Haq and Waqar Younis, who were sacked following the humiliating first round exit at the World Cup.

Their first outing with the experi-

mental side began disastrously as Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak removed openers Taufiq Umar and Hafeez in his first spell.

But Younis hit 67 and Razzaq a belligerent unbeaten 76 off 53 balls to help Pakistan recover from a shaky 69 for four in the 19th over.

Razzaq smashed seven sixes and two boundaries as Pakistan hammered 96 runs in the last 10 overs.

Latif himself chipped in with 34 during a sixth-wicket stand of 58 with Younis.

It was left to Younis to steer his side out of trouble and set the stage for Razzaq's onslaught.

Razzaq plundered 24 runs in one over from Sean Ervine, which included three sixes, and 23 in the final over bowled by Douglas Hondo.

Gul, an 18-year-old fast bowler from the north-western region of Peshawar, ensured Zimbabwe were kept under pressure from the start.

He had the seasoned Craig Wishart caught behind by Latif and then forced pinch-hitter Travis Friend to edge a catch to Taufiq at first slip.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the Zimbabwe innings in their match against Pakistan on

Thursday: ZIMBABWE

Wishart c Latif b Gul	8
Marillier b Kaneria	59
Friend c Taufiq b Gul	9
Flower c Hafeez b Kaneria	13
Ebrahim lbw b Razzaq	31
Rennell lbw Hafeez	11
Blignaut b Hafeez	24
Ervine run out	30
Taibu b Sami	1
Streak c Latif b Razzaq	7
Hondo not out	0
Extras: (lb6, w4, nb7)	17
Total: (all out in 44.1 overs)	210
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-47, 3-87, 4-104, 5-121, 6-152, 7-194, 8-197, 9-208	

**Bowler**

Sami	7	0	34	1
Gul	7	2	25	2
Razzaq	7.1	0	36	2
Kaneria	9	0	38	2
Hafeez	10	0	41	2
Malik	4	0	30	0

**Result: Pakistan won by 68 runs**  
**Man-of-the-match: Abdul Razzaq**  
**Drops: Avi Jayaprakash (IND) and Billy Doolrope (WIS)**  
**TV umpire: Kevan Barbour (RSA)**  
**Match referee: Ahmed Ebrahim (ZIM)**

Premiership preview

Victory only priority

Football

AFP, London

Arsenal and Manchester United launch their final battle for the English Premiership this weekend in the knowledge that any slip could be fatal.

Recent history proves that the team with the best away record usually wins the title.

Arsenal's double winning team of 1998 are the only side in the last 10 years to win the championship without recording the best away record in the division.

Arsene Wenger has said that Arsenal's performances at Highbury will determine the Gunners' championship chances but it's clear if they trip up on their travels they will not become the first club ever to complete the double double of the English Championship and FA Cup.

To keep that momentum going the Gunners need to play at their best this Saturday. Graham Taylor's men might not be in the best of form, but Villa Park has often proved a tricky venue for the Gunners, with last season's 2-1 result the first Arsenal victory away to Villa since 1995.

Arsenal's other away tests are at struggling Middlesbrough, Bolton and Southampton.

They face Manchester United at home on April 15, two days after their FA Cup semi-final against First Division giant-killers Sheffield United, Leeds and Southampton are their other home matches.

Injury-hit Arsenal travel to Villa without four key players -- England goalkeeper David Seaman, defender Martin Keown and forwards Robert Pires and Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

But Wenger was unfazed.

"Injuries come along at this stage of the season and they are part of the game, but I am confident we have the talent in our squad to cope with them," he said.

"Stuart Taylor has been outstanding for us. I believe that Stuart could be a future England goalkeeper himself."

Manchester face a punishing end-of-season run, starting with Liverpool at Old Trafford on Saturday and including Newcastle away, Arsenal away, Blackburn at home, Spurs away, Charlton at home and Everton away.

They also play a two-legged Champions League quarter-final with Real Madrid in April.

Defender Phil Neville, likely to lose his place to a fit-again Roy Keane on Saturday, is confident United has the strength in depth to cope with such a demanding test.

Manchester are two points off the

haven't been too clever. We must do better tomorrow because we need three points."

And for the second successive Premiership weekend, United can knock Arsenal the top rung by kick off time.

A fortnight ago Manchester United defeated Fulham 3-0 at Old Trafford to leapfrog the Gunners in a Saturday noon kick off, but the champions regained the supremacy the next day with a 2-1 home win over Everton.

Manchester are two points off the



ARSENE WENGER

"If we win all our remaining league games we will overhaul Arsenal and win it. That has to be our aim, so there is no way we can even afford to draw," he told MUTV.

But, first, they have to avenge the League Cup final defeat against Liverpool.

"In terms of the rivalry between the teams, Liverpool is the biggest game on the football calendar in England and it should be another exciting match," Neville said.

"Apart from our victory in November, our results against them

pace and a win over Liverpool would mean Arsenal need at least a point to return to the summit.

The Merseysiders have had the edge over United in recent years, winning six and drawing one of the last eight encounters between the northwest rivals.

But it was United who emerged victorious when the two sides met at Anfield in December and Ferguson will demand an equally committed performance from his players on Saturday.

Ferguson can also take heart from

the current form of strikers Ruud van Nistelrooy and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, both of whom hit the net for Holland and Norway respectively in midweek.

Liverpool in contrast could have to do without Michael Owen as a result of the back injury he incurred in England's bruising Euro 2004 qualifying win over Turkey. Milan Baros will deputise if Owen does not make it.

It's an equally important day at the bottom with form sides Bolton and West Ham both involved in winnable looking matches. Bolton entertain Manchester City while the Hammers are at Southampton.

Victories for either one or both of them will pile further pressure on Leeds, who travel to Charlton in desperate search of the points that will take them away from the drop zone.

Newcastle, waiting to pounce should the top two slip up, have a tough trip to Everton on Sunday with the blue half of Merseyside looking to reignite their bid to claim the fourth and final Champions League qualifying place.

Everton boss David Moyes faces an interesting dilemma over how to react to Wayne Rooney's superb display for England in midweek. Moyes has been keen to protect Rooney from the risk of burn-out by restricting the 17-year-old to a handful of starts.

But will the Everton supporters understand if the teenager newly established as an England starter is sent back to the bench for his club?

**FIXTURES**  
(1400 GMT kick-off unless stated)

**Saturday:** Aston Villa v Arsenal, Bolton v Manchester City (1100 GMT), Charlton v Leeds, Manchester United v Liverpool (1130 GMT), Middlesbrough v West Brom, Southampton v West Ham, Sunderland v Chelsea, Tottenham v Bolton

**Sunday:** Tottenham v Birmingham (1500 GMT)  
Monday: Fulham v Blackburn (1900 GMT)

Serie A preview

Juve need a kick-start

Football

INTERNET, Milan

After losing an important game, there is nothing most teams would rather do than get

back out there and make amends in their next match. So, these last two weeks must have been very frustrating for Juventus as they waited to bounce back from losing to Milan.

The break for internationals has hardly left their players with nothing to do, but now that their other commitments are over for the season, the Bianconeri can focus on trying to sew up another Scudetto, starting at home to neighbours Torino. On paper, this looks like a foregone conclusion as the top team in Serie A takes on the club in last place, having already beaten them 4-0 in their last meeting, especially with Alessandro Del Piero ready to make his comeback from injury. But derby games are anything but predictable.

Torino have no realistic chance of avoiding relegation despite a relatively good run of form lately, and not even beating the champions would change that, but they will be motivated by trying to stop Juve winning the league, and of course gaining revenge for the 4-0 defeat.

This match will be their first match at their Stadio Delle Alpi stadium since February, when fans rioted against Milan, earning the club a five-match ban from playing at their home ground. They can only play there now because Juventus are technically the "home" team.

Juventus have a big midweek game ahead of them as they face Barcelona in the Champions League, but Italian international Mauro Camoranesi has warned of the dangers of thinking that the Turin derby will be a walkover: "All the games from now on will be decisive and the three points will become a necessity."

It is vital that Juve do not slip up again, because if they do Internazionale are there to take advantage. However, they face a tough match against Roma this weekend, and there have already been plenty of taunts flying back and forth between the two. Roma president Franco Sensi started the war of words by claiming that he laughed at Inter when they signed Gabriel Batistuta: "That piece of business was rare because we at Roma were well aware that we had

ripped off Inter," he boasted. "The decision to release him was a master stroke on our part. Even if others thought otherwise at the time."

The Argentine striker has only scored twice for Inter, but their president Massimo Moratti has shrugged off Sensi's claim: "This is just the way they do things at Roma. I remember that they did a similar thing when they sold us Cristiano Zanetti. But let us not get too carried away with what he said. As I stated before, they often act in such a fashion. I hope that Gabriel doesn't take it too personally, they weren't offensive words." Despite what he said, Moratti would be delighted if 'Batigo' got his revenge at the San Siro on Sunday.

**FIXTURES**  
(kick-off 1400 GMT unless stated)

**Saturday:** Juventus v Torino (1700), Parma v AC Milan (1930)

**Sunday:** Brescia v Atalanta, Chievo v Udinese, Lazio v Como, Perugia v Bologna, Piacenza v Modena, Reggina v Empoli, Inter Milan v AS Roma (1930)



DIDA

Dida faces suspension

Football

AFP, Milan

A Milanese court on Thursday handed AC Milan's Brazilian 'keeper Dida a seven-month suspended sentence after judge Maria Luisa Savoia ruled he had used a false Portuguese passport.

The player's agent, former Milan

player Oscar Damiani, is to be judged at a later date on whether he should bear some of the blame.

The affair came to light two years ago when club vice-president Adriano Galliani asked police to look into the legality of the player's papers.

The 29-year-old Dida, fighting for a first team place with Christian Abbiati, joined the Serie A outfit in 2000 from Corinthians.

Primera Liga preview

No Real danger?

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid's sights are set on the Champions League encounter with Manchester United next Tuesday but before then the European champions and Spanish league leaders have the little matter of a local derby with Rayo Vallecano on Saturday.

The difference in league positions would suggest that Real should have an easy task overcoming their relegation-threatened neighbours from Madrid's industrial southern suburbs but Rayo have a few points to prove.

Rayo players and club officials are still smarting at being snubbed as an opponent during Real's centenary celebrations last season and in some cases there is even greater motivation to knock Real off their lofty perch.

"I was 15 and I had a ticket from a friend in Real youth team to see Real play Atletico, but when I got to the turnstile I was told that it wasn't valid and told to 'get lost,'" recalled Rayo defender Mario Gomez on Thursday.

"I hurt, and I vowed never to go back to the Bernabeu until I was going to play there. Seven years later, that day has now arrived.

However, dreams can easily turn into

nightmares when you are a Rayo player.

Once again they are engaged in a battle to avoid going down to the second division, and lie second from bottom with just 26 points from 27 games.

By contrast, Real have 57 points and now have a three-point lead at the top of the Spanish first division over second-placed Real Sociedad.

Real are also unbeaten in 47 league games at the Bernabeu, while Rayo have only won once in 11 visits, during the 1995-96 season.

There is no doubt that Real coach Vicente Del Bosque is more preoccupied by the arrival of Sir Alex Ferguson's Premiership giants as he suggested on Thursday that he would field a less-than-typical line up to give some players a rest.

The French midfield duo of Claude Makelele and Zinedine Zidane look set to get a respite and are likely to be replaced by the Argentine pair of Santiago Solari and Estaban Cambiasso, who were not on international duty during the past week.

The only certainty, according to Del Bosque, is that Ronaldo will play.

Real Sociedad have a difficult trip to third-placed Deportivo La Coruna, who are six points adrift of Madrid on Sunday.

Both sides need a win if they are to maintain their championship challenges but Sociedad will be without their

suspended defender Igor Jauregi while Deportivo have to fill a hole at right back as Hector Berenguer Del Pino is banned.

"This is the game that could decide the destination of the league title," said Sociedad's Darko Kovacevic, who has scored 15 goals this season and is second only to Deportivo's Roy Makaay in the list of Spanish first division scorers.

Barcelona gave up their title ambitions long ago - but under Radomir Antic they have now gone seven games unbeaten in the league since they arrived and the Catalans visit Villarreal on Saturday with the comforting thought that they have never lost a top flight game there.

However, Barca will have to get past their former first choice goalkeeper Jose Manuel Reina, who was discarded last summer.

**FIXTURES**

**Saturday (kick off GMT):** Real Madrid v Rayo Vallecano (1700), Villarreal v Barcelona (1845), Real Betis v Valencia (1900), Espanyol v Celta Vigo (1930)

**Sunday:** Alaves v Real Mallorca (1500), Racing Santander v Sevilla (1500), Athletic Bilbao v Atletico Madrid (1600), Valladolid v Recreativo Huelva (1600), Osasuna v Malaga (1600), Deportivo La Coruna v Real Sociedad (1830)

King taking

FROM PAGE 8

Indies and looked forward to receiving a formal offer," the board said.

The cricket board held a news conference on Monday to announce King's appointment, subject to negotiations, the board said.

But that could mean little as the King family prepared to talk over the offer. King works in Adelaide with the academy but his wife and three school-aged children live in Brisbane.

"Any adventure is initially exciting, particularly with up and moving, but I know there will be a lot of trepidation down the track," King said on Friday.

"There's a lot of angst, and nervousness bordering on fear."

King is highly regarded in Australia, having guided Queensland to three consecutive Sheffield Shield titles from

the 1999-2000 season after succeeding John Buchanan when he took over the Australian team.

King said the West Indies board wanted him to start in his new position in the Caribbean in the first week of July. Former Windies batsman Gus Logie is serving as interim coach for this month's home series against Australia.

No regrets

FROM PAGE 8

Olonga, a talented singer, said he had received offers of work in Britain.

"I think things are going to change (in Zimbabwe) and change quickly, and I'm looking forward to that," said Olunga, the first black cricketer to represent Zimbabwe.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>38</b> Linen fiber	<b>58</b> Path	<b>19</b> "And this affects my life how?"
<b>1</b> Not up yet	<b>39</b> History chapter	<b>1</b> "Shake —!"	<b>21</b> Museum offering
<b>5</b> Guitar adjunct	<b>40</b> Carnival venue	<b>2</b> Ironside	<b>24</b> It holds the mayo
<b>8</b> "Auld Lang —"	<b>42</b> Showing homage	<b>3</b> "Clinton's Big Ditch"	<b>25</b> Indivisible
<b>12</b> Tackle-box item	<b>45</b> Re llama territory	<b>4</b> Pour	<b>26</b> The same
<b>13</b> Round table address	<b>49</b> Everglades inhabitant	<b>5</b> Slandered	<b>28</b> Churn
<b>14</b> Snatched up	<b>50</b> "Wayne's World"	<b>6</b> Soviet space-craft	<b>29</b> Said again
<b>15</b> McCormack of "Will & Grace"	<b>52</b> Sand pile	<b>7</b> Ship's front	<b>30</b> NAFTA signatory
<b>16</b> Paid player	<b>53</b> Come in last	<b>8</b> Narrow furrows	<b>31</b> Superman foe
<b>17</b> Mysterious character	<b>54</b> "Hail, Caesar!"	<b>9</b> In the early stage	<b>36</b> Van Gogh painting
<b>18</b> Oil	<b>55</b> Sea eagle	<b>10</b> Zilch	<b>37</b> A
<b>20</b> Showed patience	<b>56</b> Sediment	<b>11</b> — out	<b>Bobby</b> twin
<b>22</b> "... — a leader be"	<b>57</b> Spiball	<b>(supplemented)</b>	<b>38</b> Raw material
<b>23</b> "Go, team!"	<b>Solution time: 28 mins.</b>		<b>41</b> Chic
<b>24</b> Startle	<b>ADDS LITO SPAM</b>		<b>42</b> Tab
<b>27</b> Catly	<b>MEAT EAU PERE</b>		<b>43</b> Reed
<b>32</b> Blackbird	<b>PETITION ETNA</b>		<b>44</b> What rodents do
<b>33</b> Cause corrosion	<b>SPACE KEATON</b>		<b>46</b> EEC
<b>34</b> Work with	<b>HOPS BURP FAM</b>		<b>47</b> Writer
<b>35</b> Spark anew	<b>HUE BLUE VICE</b>		<b>48</b> Requisite
	<b>OTT DINI ABOG</b>		<b>51</b> Eggs
	<b>UMP POEM</b>		
	<b>BELIES MAZDIA</b>		
	<b>OPAL PETUNTAS</b>		
	<b>NINE AGE DORK</b>		
	<b>ACTS TJOE ANTS</b>		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										