Schools b'ball

UNB, Dhaka

St Gregory's earned a massive 100-45 victory over Scholastica in the Inter-School basketball tournament at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday

The winners led the first half 48-

Pulak and Parvez caged 28 points each and Pankaj 19 for St Gregory's while Omar scored 17, and Iftekhar and Faisal eight each for Scholastica.

In the second boys' match. Sunbeams defeated BIT 47-35 points after dominating the first session 25-15

Shahbab contributed 32 points, Sha'n six and Jahin five for the winners while Taisir caged 20 and

Tanveer eight for the losers. In the day's other boys' match, St Joseph's defeated European Standard School 69-48 points after

leading the first session 36-21. Utsaw scored 30 points and Dibya 22 and Atanu eight for the winners while Towfig made 33 and Shams 10 for the losers.

On Thursday in girls' group matches, South Breeze outplayed BIT 50-09 (first half 18-02) while Maple Leaf beat Sunny Dale 42-39 points (first half 23-20).

In the boys' division, Sunny Dale defeated South Breeze 61-50 points after leading the first half 29-20.

Eng look for **Anderson's** substitute

BBC ONLINE, London

England will decide in the next couple of days who will replace James Anderson for the Bangladesh Tests.

The Lancashire fast bowler has been ruled out of the two Tests with a knee injury. Sussex's James Kirtley is favour-

ite for a call-up, although Somerset's Richard Johnson, Surrev's Martin Bicknell and Worcestershire's Kabir Ali are also in the frame.

The first Test is in Dhaka and is set to start on October 21.

Kirtley was a surprise omission when the original touring squad was He took 13 wickets against South

Africa before shin splints ruled him out of the final Test at The Oval. Johnson also impressed in an England shirt but his summer was

beset by injury problems. Veteran bowler Bicknell took six wickets in the final Test on his

county ground. And Ali could also come into

contention after a successful county

Wet start

FROM PAGE 13 Sehwag not out

Total: (For no wkt in 10.1 overs) 23 To bat: Shiv Das, Laxman, Yuvrai, Sriram, Ratra, Powar, Bhandari, Trivedi

0 13 Butler NÉW ZEALAND: Fleming, Richardson, Astle, McMillan, Vincent, Styris, Hart, Vettori Wiseman, Butler, Mason

Saurav rubbishes

followed by India (35), Sri Lanka (32), New Zealand (31) and Australia (29). Boycott said too many one-day

internationals could kill interest in the shorter version of the game. "We're going to kill the goose that

lays the golden eggs," said the former England opener, who was here for a new TV show along with Gavaskar and Ganguly.

"It's an easy and cheap way of running the game for the administra-

product

38 Violinist's

stroke

pressure

Spelling

46 Reduces

48 A Baldwin

brother

49 Raw rock

50 Vivacity

51 Steven-

52 "Le Coq

DOWN

1 Elite

alterna-

son villain

abbr.

45 Actress

42 Tire-

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

need

5 Resort

12 Teenv

14 Guitars

15 Dances

17 Arduous

18 Bother

21 Figure

22 Zero

19 Torched

20 Autocrats

head?

23 Concen

26 Election

30 Wagon

31 Lustrous

black

topper

32 Toast

33 Actor

35 Michae

daisv

36 Promptly

tration

follow-up,

(Abbr.)

journey

13 Ad-

8 Caffeine

amoun

rich drink

By Eugene Sheffer

23 Airwaves

(Abbr.)

24 Trireme

prop 25 Weep

26 Cath. or

Prot.

28 Born

29 Rocky

31 Face

34 Drag

35 Charily

37 Change

38 Home of

National

material

Zion

39 Leisure suit

short

40 Raised

41 Modern-

dav

coin

44 B&Bs

46 Massa-

12 Princely

pastime

43 Convince

chusetts

47 Cotillion

peak

part

(Abbr.)

2 Brassy

Bailey'

4 Existed

Lebanon

7 Calendar

8 Behaves

wildly

9 Gumbo

need

10 Groucho

look

11 Requests

16 "Sound of

Music"

setting

20 First X7

21 Is unim-

22 Profit

Solution time: 21 mins

pressive

maker's

doa

6 Sulk



Australian Sandy Gordon delivers a lecture on the third day of a six-day ACC Sports Medicine and Fitness Seminar at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

'It's for friends, fans'

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

Rashid Latif, Pakistan captain one day, back in the ranks the next, insists he did not resign or quit international cricket under pressure from the Pakistan Cricket Board

"There was no pressure on me from the Board. But I only decided to continue my international career as a player after coming under pressure from my friends, fans and wellwishers," Latif told this news "Since it became public on

Wednesday that I had resigned and quit cricket, I was flooded with phone calls and e-mails and some people also came to my house demanding that I should not quit at Latif, who completed a five-

match ban at the weekend over a disputed catch during the third Test against Bangladesh, took back his decision to quit the game late on Wednesday.

On Thursday, he was named in the 16-member squad to face South Africa from October 3 in the one-day series. He will play under Inzamamul Haq, back in the ascendancy again.

On Thursday afternoon, more

than 200 supporters held a demonstration outside the Karachi Press Club demanding Latif's reinstate-

The demonstrators chanted slogans and held placards, supporting the former captain's stance against match-fixing.

The chief organiser of the protest, Mohammad Saleem, said a match-fixing and betting "mafia" was again active and wanted to see Latif out of the team.



RASHID LATIF

Latif blew the whistle in 1995 on his former captain Salim Malik and other teammates in South Africa and Zimbabwe, accusing some of them of fixing matches.

His revelations eventually led to a judicial inquiry and Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum placed a life ban on Malik and fined five other players, including Wasim Akram, Wagar Younis and Saeed Anwar

Latif also upset the PCB during the tour of England in July and August when he wrote directly to the International Cricket Council (ICC) warning them of the menace of match-fixing and asking them not to give up the fight against corruption in cricket

The PCB reprimanded him for writing directly to the ICC and releasing a statement to the press. This eventually led to a fall-out with the establishment during the home series against Bangladesh.

But Latif insisted no-one had put pressure on him to resign on Wednesday as captain or quit the

"It was my own decision. I was under a lot of pressure and I was not happy with some of the things. So I decided it is best to step down. knew Inzamam could manage things well against South Africa," he

Latif has had a controversial career since making his Test debut in 1992 against England. He quit in 1995 while touring South Africa and Zimbabwe, protesting against match-fixing.

He was reinstated for the 1996 World Cup and later appointed captain in 1998.

However, after being dropped in late 1998 he made a comeback to the team in April 2001 in England and was named captain after the World Cup this year in the rebuilding process of the Pakistan team.

He said on Thursday: "It was not a hasty decision to step down as captain. I thought it out. But I had to reconsider my position as a player."



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurates the Philips National Tennis Tournament at the National Tennis Complex in the city yesterday.

SAARC nations carrom begins

UNB, Dhaka

The Seventh SAARC Countries' Carrom Championship began at the National Sports Council gymnasium

Holders India, runners-up Sri Lanka, six-time hosts Maldives and two teams from hosts Bangladesh (Red and Green) are taking part in seven events men's, which are singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles, men's team and women's team, and mixed

Land Minister M Shamsul Islam inaugurated the four-day meet. State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman presided over the inaugural function.

'No conspiracy behind his resignation'

AFP, Karachi

New Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq insisted Friday there was nothing sinister behind the sudden resignation of previous incumbent Rashid Latif ahead of the crucial series against South Africa.

"I assure everyone there was no controversy behind Latif's resignation," Inzamam said after some 150 supporters voiced anger Thursday that a 'match-fixing mafia' was responsible for the veteran wicketkeeper's departure.

Waiting on

some serious efforts to add a touch flair to go with Brazilian midfielder

An upbeat Ashraf-Uddin Chunnu expressed the same view as others on chasing foreign players.

"Although we have two players (Sandro and Nigerian defender Syila), we need to buy more quality footballers but we won't recruit foreign players without weighing all the options," said the Abahani football secretary.

For Mohammedan their case is unique. Seriously affected from the transfer dealings, the popular Motijheel club are trying their best to plug the gaps in their squad. The black and whites after losing

a host of key players were forced to sign up quite a few mediocre play They are desperate to get hold of

some quality foreign players but haven't found one yet. Mohammedan were the first

team to launch their conditioning sessions at the Savar-based BKSP on September 24.

'Don't tour

FROM PAGE 13

move which would have had disastrous financial implications for the

As part of the bridge-building which ensured the Zimbabwe tour went ahead, England agreed to a reciprocal tour at the end of 2004. Vodafone chairman Lord

MacLaurin, who was previously chairman of the ECB, said the company was concerned about the possibility of bad publicity arising from a tour. "We do not want to support a side that goes and plays in a country

with the sort of regime that is reviled not just by this company but by many in the country," McLaurin told The Guardian. "To do so would be abhorrent

and would be good for the brand image neither of Vodafone nor England cricket. "We have told the ECB that we

would rather the team did not go to Zimbabwe. We believe in the cold light of day, and having had the experience of the World Cup, that it would be inappropriate for the tour to take place and as major sponsors we would certainly urge them to

Moya toppled

CUFOR QFTI QMUT FOYIGY F YNLHZU ND POGTBR, PN

IMGTB IMUX MUFP

HNZFO Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WAS THINKING: COULD A SPECIAL AUSTRALIAN BEER BE PRODUCED WITH KANGAROO HOPS?



Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals R

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Tennis

AFP, Bangkok

Spanish third seed Carlos Moya was dumped out of the 550,000dollar Thailand Open by Finland's Jarko Nieminen here Friday, losing a three-set battle 6-7, 6-4, 6-4

Nieminen drew rapturous applause from the local crowd as he bowed in a traditional "wai" to all four corners of the court after scoring the biggest upset of the event. Nieminen, 37th in the world

pounced on his opportunities at the Impact arena against a Spanish opponent who has been suffering with a sore throat this week. When the drama ended after two hours. 12 minutes, the man from the

bow to tradition. Nieminen moved into a semifinal for the first time since Munich last

north further charmed fans with his

May. The 22-year-old from Masku, seeded fifth, also handed the inaugural edition of the tournament its first surprise after four days of predictable victories by seeds.

Moya, seventh in the race for a

spot at the eight-man seasonending championships in November, holds three titles in 2003 from Buenos Aires, Barcelona and Umag - all on clay. He still holds an enviable victory

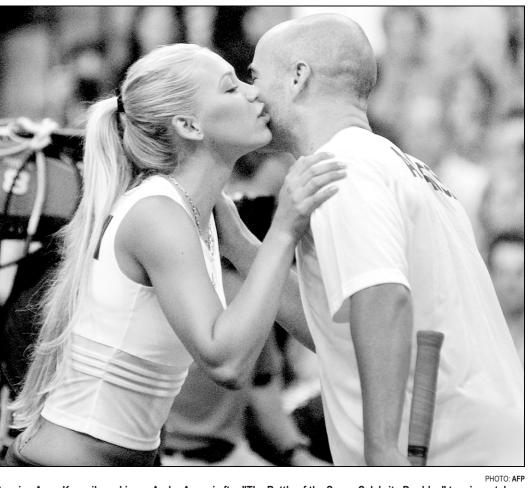
record, with 51 wins and just 18 defeats. Nieminen improved to 39-23 on the year as he moves towards a possible first career title. Moya won the first set in a tie-

breaker after Nieminen saved a set point, but put a backhand wide to

But the Finn rallied in the second set, breaking in the third game. Moya, in Bangkok with his parents

the Spaniard's return wide. Nieminen continued his run of form in the third with a break to start. The Spaniard, a former world number one, earned the break back in the sixth game to return to level-pegging

Nieminen fought like a tiger from that point on, finally earning a 5-4 lead on a return winner after a desperate Moya saved three other



Russian Anna Kournikova kisses Andre Agassi after "The Battle of the Sexes Celebrity Doubles" tennis match on September 25 at the Fleet Centre in Boston. Kournikova paired up with Chanda Rubin to play against British pop star Elton John and Agassi. The men won 5-3 in a tie-breaker. The charity event raised money for Elton John's AIDS

Smith clarifies

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Cape Town

South Africa's initial refusal to tour Pakistan was based only on security concerns, captain Graeme Smith said on Friday.

"Let me clear one thing up straight away. This is not, and never has been, an issue about Pakistan," Smith wrote in his column for the Cape Times newspaper. "It is an issue about security, it's

as simple as that. I'm sure I don't need to remind Capetonians about the spate of bombings that so badly affected the city three or four years ago; I had friends who wouldn't go to the movies, literally." The United Cricket Board (UCB)

of South Africa decided on Tuesday that the team would tour Pakistan on a revised itinerary after initially cancelling the six-week trip last Saturday following a bomb blast in

In the revised itinerary Karachi

the border of Afghanistan, were removed from the schedule. South Africa will play two Test matches instead of three and play five oneday internationals.

"In such circumstances I wouldn't blame any sports team if they wanted to know what the situation was and whether they would be safe or not," Smith said. "Excuse me for being blunt, but I

intended for someone else will hurt just as much as one intended for "To say the bomb in Karachi wasn't serious because it was a business conflict misses the point

completely. The question should be

can't help thinking that a bomb

about the general stability of a "All I ask is for people to remember we are just people, some with children, one with a pregnant wife and the rest hoping to start a family

"We are very proud South Africans and we hope to fulfil a proud ambassadorial role in

Pakistan as well as playing good cricket.' The Pakistan Cricket Board

(PCB) have said that there will be top level security for the South African team and it is expected that they will be provided with security cover usually reserved for state "We know how much everyone is

ooking forward to the series and those responsible for the security have been advised to keep it strong but very discreet," PCB chief executive Rameez Raja told Reuters.

Meanwhile, the South African team will arrive in Lahore next week the PCB announced Friday.

The team was earlier expected to arrive Monday via Karachi. They start their tour with a warm up oneday game against City Nazim XI in Lahore on October 1.

Smith, team coach Eric Simmons and manager Cassim Docrat will address a press conference on Tuesday afternoon, the PCB said.

Desperately seeking

FROM PAGE13

Not having a single batsman with similar qualities has often forced Bangladesh to send tail-enders like Mashrafee-bin Mortuza or Mohammad Rafigue to accelerate the scoring. The ploy hasn't worked

So what prevents perfectly strong and fit youngsters like Saleh, Kapali, Mushfigur Rahman or Tushar Imran from adding that extra dimension to their game?

There's no point in blaming the

players for their inability to play big

shots as often as we would like or

more importantly, the team would like. They are just products of a system that is inadvertently destroying the natural flair in individuals. Big hitting is an art and it is very different from slogging. You can't teach or coach a player to hit sixes,

the urge has to come from within

But that urge is being strangulated. The ever-growing popularity of cricket has seen a mushroom growth in the number of coaching clinics and coaches all over the country. Most of the coaches are forcing their pupils to bat straight and in an orthodox way while discouraging anything other than the ordinary. The result is a generation of 'decent' batsmen who play by the book but don't have the heart to be adventurous.

Our batsmen can't take the advantage of the first fifteen overs when only three fielders are allowed outside the 30-yard circle as they are afraid of going over the top. In the middle of the innings, they get stuck and the run rate begins to come down when it should be pushing up. They are found seriously wanting again in the slog overs when a few sixes can do a world of good.

The hard fact is that even if they have all their wickets standing, this Bangladesh team won't get past the 250 mark in 50 overs nine times out of ten. That is never an adequate total against any opponent considering our limited bowling resources. The same theory applies if we are chasing a target. Given this glum scenario, it's difficult to see a win in the abridged version in near future unless we are extremely lucky. Whatmore must be anxious to

unearth a couple of youngsters who can really whack the ball before the start of the one-day series against England but he'll have his work cut Looking around the domestic cricket scene, there are only three

cricketers who come to mind who

can still do the job for the Tigers--

the estranged former Bangladesh

captain Naimur Rahman, Abahani's all-rounder Rahul Neeyamur

Rashid and the out of favour opener Al-Shahriar. Incidentally, all three are prod-

ucts of the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) where their natural aggressive qualities were never ignored by coaches who understood the importance of power-play. The trio can clear the fence with

effortless ease but they are in their late twenties and are the last torchbearers of the big-hitting breed. The rest of the cupboard is frighteningly bare. You could actually count the number of over-boundaries hit by local batsmen in all domestic competitions last season with your fingertips and that's no exaggera-

Cricket in this country has gone through some radical changes over the last decade with the focus shifting to technique and perfection. That's fine as long as we don't compromise with God-given talent.

Not everyone can hit sixes at will. t requires a special kind of talent and guts to throw caution to the wind. Maybe Whatmore is already working on a plan to change the misconception that good basic and big hitting don't go together. Maybe the search for the illusive braveheart will not take us that long.



Minister for Land M Shamsul Islam (L) and State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman enjoy a board of carrom during the opening ceremony of SAARC Countries Carrom Championship at the NSC gymnasium yesterday.