#### Biman maintain

Al-Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib won their respective boards agains Zaker, Mohammad Ali and Moniru Haque while IM Reefat-bin-Sattar drewwith Mahatabuddin.

With yesterday's win, Biman remained atop the table with 11.5 points from three games, 1.5 points more than Bangladesh Ansars who are following the national airliners with ten points.

In the third round, Ansars posted a 3-1 win over Fighter Krira Chakra.

In the day's other matches, Titas Club beat Anushillan Krira Chakra by 3-1 points, Loenine Chess Club beat Sonali by 3.5-5 points, Destiny 2000 Limited beat Nakhalpara Jubo Kalayan Sangha by 3-1 points, Farashganj Sporting Club beat Kamalapur Samaj Kalayan & Krira Sangha by 2.5-1.5 and Rajshahi Daba Unnayan Sangstha beat Narayanganj City Chess Club by 3-1

The other match between Dhaka University Chess Team and Monipur Chess Club ended in a 2-2 points.

The fourth round will start today  $at 3\,pm\,at \,the \,same \,venue.$ 

The matches are: Nakhalpara v Prodeep Sangha, Monipur v Biman, Farashganj v Dhaka University, Anushillan v Kamalapur, Narayanganj v Titas, Fighter v Rajshahi, Sonali Bank v Ansars and DestinyvLeonine.

#### Curator's verdict FROM PAGE 13

"It's got a very consistent grass cover, it has rolled out exceptionally flat, there are no waves in it, it's very consistent down the middle.

"I think the pitch won't be responsible for a batsman's dismissal and I think it's going to have good consistent carry, which is what batsmen and bowlers want."

The forecast is for the possibility of showers on Friday followed by fine weather for the rest of the Test.

#### A team leaving

#### FROM PAGE 13

Hannan Sarker, Moniruzzaman, Rajin Saleh, Manjarul Islam, Jamaluddin, Anwar Hossain Munir, Mazharul Haque, Mohammad Ashraful, Ehsanul Haque, Shahriar Hossain, Alamgir Kabir, Tareq Aziz Khan, Mohammad Salim and Mosaddek

### Even going

#### FROM PAGE 13

including a fit-again Nasser Hussain and Kirtley in place of fast bowlers Matthew Hoggard and Richard Johnson.

Sri Lanka brought in Dilshan for leg-spinner Upul Chandana.

Scorecard at stumps on the opening day of the second Test between Sri Lanka and England at the Asgiriya Stadium on Wednesday

SRI LANKA: First innings Atapattu lbw b Kirtley Jayasuriya c Read b Giles Sangakkara run out Jayawardene c Kirtley b Giles Dilshan c Trescothick b Flintoff Tillakaratne not out 45 Samaraweera lbw b Gile Vaas lbw b Kirtley 32 Dharmasena not out Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-2) 11 Total: (For 7 wkts in 90 overs) 277 Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-76, 3-84, 4-187, 5-201, 6-206, 7-270

To bat: Muralitharan, Fernando M R Bowler 0 Kirtlev 20 6 75 Flintoff 3 48 5 85 2 12 C'wood 3 39 ENGLAND: Vaughan, Trescothick, Butcher, Hussain, Thorpe, Flintoff, Collingwood, Read, Batty, Giles, Kirtley. Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and Daryl Harper (Australia).

42 Trail

43 Card-

44 Hima-

46 Com-

47 Base-

49 Emcee

51 Place for

52 Galahad's

nymph

venues,

maybe

53 Forest

54 Tennis

DOWN

1 Mate

ball's Bob

table call

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 

6 Steak

11 Bowling

12 Kennedy

14 Inter-

Bob

15 Sitcom

16 Trench

17 Sill

19 "Hail,

20 Unre-

assassir

star Bob

Caesar!

paired

Deutsch?"

22 "Sprech-

23 Females

24 Saudi city

number

Street uni

ceremony

(Abbr.)

31 Initiation

35 Tropical

39 "What

40 Mischiel

parrot

count

28 Tulsa

30 Wall

26 Atomic

pollutant

# Inzy exudes confidence

#### Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq on Wednesday expressed confidence that his team would maintain its winning streak in the upcoming tour of New Zealand.

Playing in New Zealand under different conditions will not be easy, but my players have the capability and resolve to perform successfully," Inzamam told this news agency as his players set off on the 40-day tour early on Thursday morning.

A young Pakistani side on a rebuilding track since the country's first round exit from the World Cup in March this year has shown signs of maturity, with home wins over Bangladesh and South Africa.

Pakistan also completed a 5-0 rout of an understrength New Zealand team without seven of its key players including regular captain Stephen Fleming in a oneday series which ended earlier this

"New Zealand will be back at full strength, but we have Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Sami and fast bowlers win matches in New Zealand," said the 33-year-old Inzamam on his first tour as cap-

Chris Cairns, who led the Black Caps' tour of Pakistan, has warned his opponents they will face a tough test in New Zealand despite injuries to ace pace bowler Shane Bond, opening batsman Nathan Astle and Fleming.

Pakistani openers Imran Farhat and Yasir Hameed set a new world record of four century stands in successive one-day matches to finish as stars of the recent win over

The prospects of New Zealand

cricket captain Stephen Fleming

being fit for the first Test against

Pakistan were clouded

Wednesday, as the selectors looked

Fleming remains troubled by a

stomach muscle injury sustained

He was examined by New Zealand Cricket's medical panel

which declined to give him the all-

clear to play in a provincial match this weekend, and at the same time

Bucknor is not

know that. Everyone makes mis-

Bucknor, a veteran of 83 Tests,

"I give myself enough time to

has always taken a long time to

make his decisions, particularly

think about my decision, to replay

just about everything about that

delivery, and by so doing I should

in the end be able to make that

(correct) decision. Sometimes it

"It's not because my brain is

"Once the hit is made I have a

Bucknor said he had no

thoughts of retirement and aimed

fair idea of what my decision is, it's

a matter of seeing whether some-

thing else could have happened."

doesn't go that way," he said.

working slowly.

the West Indies.

By Eugene Sheffer

2 Hole-

cement

3 Illustra

4 Fervor

5 Quartet i

Missis-

6 Brooklyn-

sippi

1957

7 "Gotcha"

bristle

9 Hogan's

10 Time for

outta

here!

nudity

topper

13 Shun

18 Chip

Solution time: 27 mins.

11 "Get

heroes?

8 Plant

Ground early next month.

21 "Ivanhoe"

23 Knap-

25 Bush's

27 Resist-

29 Led in or

31 Counter

32 Off the

33 Lobster

claw

34 Swab

36 Ament

37 University

Georgia

38 Tourist's

query

44 Russian

river

land

48 Indis-

(spacey)

pensable

50 Uncouth

confusion

41 Site of

spokes-

Fleischer

takes including myself.'

to shore up the injury-hit side.

on last month's tour of India.

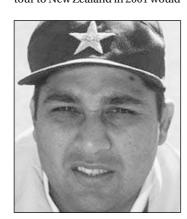
Cricket

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand.

"The way our openers have performed we are sure that our top order problems are solved, its now up to them and other batsmen to how grit in New Zealand," said Inzamam

The captain dismissed the idea that Pakistan's problematic last tour to New Zealand in 2001 would



INZAMAMUL HAQ

## SCHEDULE

Dec 14: 3-day match Vs Auckland at Eden Park Dec 19-23: 1st Test Match at Westpac Park Hamilton

Dec 26-30: 2nd Test Match at Basin Reserve Wellington Jan 1: Warm-up match Vs Wellington at Basin Reserve Jan 3: 1st ODI at Eden Park, Auckland

Jan 10: 3rd ODI at Jade Stadium Christchurch Jan 14: 4th ODI at McLean Park Napier Jan 17: 5th ODI at Westpac Stadium Wellington (D/N)

There were also fears the injury

could be a hernia and the New

Zealand Press Association said

Fleming was to see a specialist on

STEPHEN FLEMING

If the news is bad he could

Although Fleming is still hoping

require an operation that would

sideline him for three to four

Flemo not yet fit

Jan 7: 2nd ODI at Queenstown Events

Pakistan lost 3-2 in the one-day series and squared the three-match Test series 1-1 with current wicketkeeper Moin Khan as captain and former star batsman Javed Miandad as coach.

Shoaib's bowling action was reported as suspect during the one-day series, while experienced paceman Wasim Akram, opener Saeed Anwar and all-rounder Abdur Razzaq returned home mid-way through the tour due to

Sami, who took eight wickets on debut to lead Pakistan's win in the first Test in Auckland, and skipper Moin had to sit out the Hamilton Test due to injuries and an Inzamam-led Pakistan side crashed to an innings defeat.

Worse, coach Miandad accused some players of throwing matches deliberately and was sacked on team's return

"It's history and if there was anything bad in that we are no more bothered. It's a new beginning and we are on track of becoming a formidable side," the Pakistani captain said.

All-rounder Azhar Mahmood is accompanying the side as 17th

#### **SQUAD**

Taufeeq Umar, Imran Farhat, Saleem Elahi, Yasir Hameed, Yousuf Youhana (vice-captain), Inzamamul Haq (captain), Asim Kamal, Younis Khan, Moin Khan (wicketkeeper), Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Malik, Danish Kaneria, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami Shabbir Ahmed, Umar Gul, Azhai

Coach: Javed Miandad and Haroon Rasheed (manager).

to prove his fitness before the Test

team is named on Sunday,

frontline fast bowler Shane Bond

and batsman Nathan Astle are

definite non-starters because of

Astle is down with a recurring

knee problem which flared up on

the India tour while Bond has been

sidelined with a stress fracture and

NZC's medical coordinator,

both have been ruled out of the

Warren Frost, said it was difficult to

put an exact time frame on Bond's

return to cricket but it could be

deputised as captain during the

recent one-day series against

Pakistan in Pakistan, but Craig

McMillan has been suggested as

the likely Test captain should

Cairns has to prove he is fit

enough for the rigours of a five-day

match after being kept out of Test

cricket for nearly two years

The first Test against Pakistan is

scheduled to start on Friday,

Khulna with 43 off 85 balls that

featured six boundaries. Abdur

Razzak made 34 off 91 balls with

After his good work with the bat,

Razzak also claimed both the

Scorecards on the first day of the four-

day matches in the Mirzapore Tea Fifth

National Cricket League at different

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Svlhet wickets that fell on the day.

Fleming fail to get fit in time.

The injury-prone Chris Cairns

Pakistan series.

several months.

#### **Emirates sponsors** website for WC preliminary draw

PRESS RELEASE

Dubai-based Emirates Airline has reinforced its commitment to its FIFA World Cup in Germany, by becoming title sponsor of the website for the preliminary draw for the qualifying rounds.

And, in a move that's sure to attract some 60 million visitors to the site, Emirates has come up with the innovative new idea of giving away -via the internet -- the first VIP tickets for the opening ceremony and matchin Munich on 9th June 2006. On 5th December, football fans

can follow the draw for the qualifying rounds live on www.fifa.com or www.fifaworldcup.com and have the chance of winning this fantastic prize not otherwise available for purchase.

Six times Formula One World Champion Michael Schumacher and a team of celebrities from the world of sport will be making the

While the site is open until the end of March, the competition closes on 15th January 2004.

Emirates is one of the Official Partners of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, joining adidas, Avaya, Budweiser, Coca-Cola, Continental, Deutsche Telekom, Hyundai, McDonald's Philips, Toshiba and Yahoo!

Emirates' Chairman, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, said: "Emirates is very pleased to be an Official Partner of the 2006 World Cup Germany and to have this opportunity to sponsor the

#### **BAF** athletics

BSS, Dhaka

BAF Base Zahurul Haque retained the inter-base Athletics Championship title of the Bangladesh Air Force as they finished with 11 gold, nine silver and eight bronze medals at the Kurmitola Athletics ground on Tuesday.

BAF Base Matiur Rahman became runners-up with seven gold, seven silver and four bronze

AC-2 Lokman of BAF Base Zahurul Haque was adjudged the best athlete of the meet.

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam gave away prizes among the winners as chief guest on the concluding day.

## Attab joining

FROM PAGE 13 bowed to his mother's wish as it was his third and last chance to appear in the SSC examinations. According to the system of the Education Board, his registration would be cancelled if he doesn't appear this time around after failing to pass the last two examina-

"We need him badly because we have invested a lot on him. Coach Richard McInnes has also agreed to

Aftah was absent from the since Bangladesh Under-19 team returned from Pakistan on

Hasanuzzaman c Sami b Nabil

Asadullah lbw b Naveem

Raj c Shishir b Naveem

Babel c Hadi b Tapas

Al Amin c Hadi b Nabil

Monjurul lbw b Nayeem

Extras: (b-3, lb-6, nb-2, w-4)

Total: (all out in 76.5 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-17, 3-49, 4-72, 5

14 6 22

O M R W

80.6-83.7-97.8-139.9-148.10-160

Bashir not out

**Bowlers** 

take back Aftab," Jamil said.

## Cricket

Wanderers Stadium here Friday. The visitors will be seeking to

five Tests. Edwards, 21, has made a dramatic start to his international career, with 14 wickets in his first three Tests, but Rampaul, 19, has

The youngsters are likely to spearhead the attack together with veteran Mervyn Dillon.

Taylor has had to return home with a back injury, while Vasbert Drakes and Corey Collymore have both had injury problems.

Drakes has been out of action after suffering a side strain during the tour of Zimbabwe last month but he is expected to be fit for the

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurates the National Cricket League at the Dhanmondi

the bouncy green Gabba pitch and

taking a psychological 86-run innings lead over the vaunted

Australians playing on a wicket that

was tailor-made for Steve Waugh's

through for his maiden Test cen-

tury against Australia with a spir-ited 144 in India's 409 off 120.1 overs and Virender Sehwag, VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid showed

enough to suggest that they will

trouble the weakened Australians

blast back here after his controver-

sial leg before wicket decision for a

Australia's bowling clearly

missed the authority of injured pace pair Glenn McGrath and Brett

ee and along with the drug sus-

pension of Shane Warne, cricket-

watchers here are getting a glimpse

of what things may be like a few

with the positives that came out of the Gabba draw, but has urged his

side to continue to seek improve-

ment against the world's best

151-Test wicket-taker Harbhajan

Ganguly was largely thinking of

Skipper Ganguly was pleased

Sachin Tendulkar is expected to

in the remaining three Tests.

deflating duck in Brisbane.

years down the track.

cricket team.

Yet Saurav Ganguly broke

Hosts better bowling

Collymore did not bowl in a four-day warm-up match against Free State last weekend because of a hamstring strain.

Edwards, short of stature but

against Sri Lanka in Kingston, Jamaica, in June and claimed another five-wicket haul in the first Test against Zimbabwe in Harare last month.

left-arm strike bowler Zaheer Khan, who captured 5-95 in Australia's first innings, although he is being troubled by a stiff ham-

Singh when demanding more from

The turbaned finger-spinner

was largely an anonymous figure in

A standout for the tourists was

the Gabba Test taking 0-68 and 1-

string leading up to the Adelaide Waugh was fuming over the media treatment of his bizarre first innings when he ran out partner

Damien Martyn and then two balls later was out for a duck, hit wicket when his back leg dislodged a bail. Waugh claimed the first Test finished 50-50, and batting-wise

Australia performed well Justin Langer hit 121, Matthew Hayden 99, Ricky Ponting two halfcenturies, Martyn a second-innings 66 not out and Waugh chimed in with an unbeaten 56 second time around.

The Australians have never lost to India in Adelaide five wins and two draws and their last defeat here was against England, cap-tained by Michael Atherton, in

# Onus on the WI rookies

Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Cricket

Australia are expected to beef up

their new-ball attack with the

inclusion of tearaway Brad

Williams for Friday's second

cricket Test against India after being surprised by the ease with which the tourists handled condi-

tions in the Brisbane series opener.

starting eleven to make way for

Test debutant left-armer Nathan

Bracken at the Gabba, and made

his feelings known, but it is the 18-

Test campaigner Andy Bichel and

Bichel, a wholehearted per-

former for Australia, did not handle

the conditions of his home pitch

and went for 1-130 off 28 overs in

claimed four wickets in his only

Test appearance against

Zimbabwe in Sydney last October.

He was summoned to Adelaide on

Wednesday to be ready for match-

eve practice at the ground on

India dispelled a few concep-

Williams has genuine pace and

not Bracken who is feeling the

Williams was left out of the

AFP, Adelaide

selection heat.

India's first innings.

**AFP,** Johannesburg

Injury-ridden West Indies may be forced to gamble on greenhorn fast bowlers Fidel Edwards and Ravi Rampaul in their first Test against South Africa starting at the

reverse memories of a crushing defeat inflicted during their last tour of South Africa in 1998-99 when they were hammered in all

vet to play in a Test.

West Indian fast bowler Jerome

While Collymore was forced out

of the action in Bloemfontein Rampaul took five wickets for 55 runs in the first innings against Free State to suggest to the tour selectors that he was ready to take a step up in class.

able to generate considerable pace with a slingy action reminiscent of former Pakistan star Wagar Younis. was selected for the West Indies after playing in only one first-class match for Barbados.

He took five for 36 on debut

In addition to Taylor, offspinner Omari Banks and batsman Marlon Samuels have been ruled out of the tour during the past eight days because of injuries. Only one replacement, left-arm spinner Dave Mohammed, who arrived

Tuesday, has joined the squad at

this stage. With the Wanderers pitch seldom helping spin bowlers, it would be a surprise if Mohammed was rushed into the Test side. which suggests Edwards and

The West Indies were beaten in all five Tests on their previous tour of South Africa -- one of the darkest

episodes in their cricketing history. Between 1997-98 and their tour of India in the 2002-03 season, the West Indies lost 23 out of 28 Tests away from home, winning only twice, but star batsman Brian Lara, in his second term as West Indies captain, is determined to lead a

The players from the Caribbean have won three of their most recent four away Tests but they have played against Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, the two weakest Test nations. South Africa will provide

much sterner opposition. It is an important series for the home side, who will be led for the first time in South Africa by

Graeme Smith.

## NCL on with no batting joy Tushar Imran top scored for

five hits across the rope.

SCOREBOARD

venues yesterday:

**BARISAL:** First innings

Dhaka v Barisal

(DCS)

because of injury.

December 19.

#### FROM PAGE 13

The younger brother of Rajin Saleh, who will fly to Karachi with the Bangladesh A team today to play in the inter-departmental championship in Pakistan, finished with five

for 45 runs in 23.5 overs. to umpire at the 2007 World Cup in Nayeem's more illustrious He will leave to officiate in Sri partner and national right-arm Lanka's current home series paceman Tapash Baisya also against England before returning played his part in the demolition to umpire in Steve Waugh's farewell Test at the Sydney Cricket

One-day specialist batsman

CRYPTOQUIP					
RY DZMAM SMAM	M T ERC				
R F K A M T B M R	F DZM				
N A R K M II Y	СННВМ				
YMTDZMAB, XHS	F SHIPX				
EM IN.					

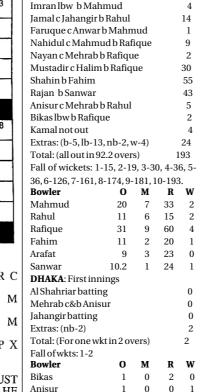
# BE VERY ITCHY ALL THE TIME, BECAUSE HE KEEPS GETTING THE HIVES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals O

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.



Khulna v Sylhet

Venue: Sylhet Stadium

KHULNA: First innings

Raiu c Shishir b Tapas

Salauddin lbw b Sami

Sazzadul c Parvez b Naveem

25

Faisal

rupus	- 1	0		_	
Sami	10	1	15	1	
Nayeem	23.5	8	45	5	
Nabil	16	4	45	2	
Wadud	6	3	11	0	
Imtiaz	7	2	13	0	
SYLHET: First inn	nings				
Shishir lbw b Raj	O			14	
Imtiaz batting '				14	
Parvez b Raj				0	
Sami batting				0	
Extras: (b-4, lb-4)				8	
Total: (for two wid		12 ove	ers)	36	
Fall of wkts: 1-36,			,		
Bowler	0	M	R	W	
AlAmin	5	0	18	0	
Monjurul	5	2	10	0	
Raj	1	1	0	2	
Bashir	1	1	0	0	
Rajshahi v Chitta	agong	_	_	-	
Venue: Comilla S	tadium				
RAJSHAHI: First	innings				
Rafigul lbw b Arai	fat			17	
Zunaed c&b Alam				26	
Humayun lbw b A	~			29	
Zahurul c Sabbir b Arafat 33					
Nuruzzaman c Anisul b Arafat 39					
Mashud c Minhazul b Alamgir 16					
Anisur c Debobrata b Arafat 23					
Shahjada c Masum b Arafat 18					
Aminul not out				0	
Sohel not out				0	
Extras: (b-3, lb8, r	nb-6. w-	2)		19	
Total: (For eight wkts in 92 overs) 230					
Fall of wkts: 1-30					
174, 6-184, 7-230,		0 01,	1 110	,, 0	
Bowler	0-230	M	R	w	
Alamgir	17	6	37	3	
Debobrata	12	2	32	0	
Arafat	34	9	60	5	
Hasan	17	5	42	0	
Masum	5	1	15	0	
Fairel	5	1	15	0	

25