

### Walkover again in JFA Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Walkover once again marred the Second JFA Cup Under-16 football tournament's qualifying rounds in Chandpur yesterday.

After Narayanjan received walkover on the opening day against Brahmanbaria at the river-port town, it was Barisal's turn to reach the zonal semifinals without dripping any sweat as their neighbours Bhola did not turn up.

Barisal will take on hosts Chandpur in Wednesday's semifinal while Narayanjan face Sylhet in the first semifinal today.

### V-DAY BASKETBALL Josephites champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Josephites came from a three-point first-half deficit to lift the Victory-Day basketball title defeating Bangladesh Navy 56-46 in the final on Monday.

Navy were leading 25-22 at the break at the Dhanmooi Basketball Gymnasium but the shooting prowess of Sayeed (20 points) and Raja (18) aided Josephites to recover and win comfortably in the end.

Rashed caged highest 20 points for Navy.

### Menjis win big

SPORTS REPORTER

Menjis Kirra Chakra brushed aside Jatrabari Sporting Club 25-5 in the Bactrol First Division Men's Handball League at the Dhaka handball ground on Monday.

In other matches, Prime Sporting Club beat Satirha Club 25-10, Bhadrirra SKS defeated Arambagh KS 22-4 and Monsoor Sporting Club outplayed Purbachal Parisad 18-2.



### Did U Know?

The fastest red card in a FIFA World Cup match was given to Uruguayan player Sergio Batista after just 56 seconds in their first round match against Scotland in 1986.



### Ricky Ponting

(Australian cricket captain)  
"There was a lot of disappointment with the Ashes tour of England (lost series 2-1) the way it was, but the way we've bounced back...has been pretty pleasing."  
**On Australia's current form.**

### Hingis wins on return

REUTERS, Melbourne

Former world number one Martina Hingis made a successful return to professional tennis with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Venezuela's Maria Vento-Kabchi at the Australian hardcourt championships on the Gold Coast on Monday.

Top seed Patty Schnyder also advanced into the second round with 6-3, 7-6 victory over France's Virginie Razzano in a late match.

Hingis, who retired in 2002 with foot and ankle injuries, dropped her serve in the opening game but soon rediscovered the touch that led her to five grand slam titles.

"I was a little nervous," the 25-year-old Swiss told reporters. "It was just a matter of time and getting the first point and the first game."

"After that I started breathing." Hingis rated her first match back an "eight out of 10" but said she knew she would need to improve her serve.

"I don't know what else I should have done today better than what I did," she said. "The scores say it all."

Hingis, who is using the Gold Coast and Sydney tournaments as warm-ups for the Australian Open that starts on January 16, will meet world number 35 Klara Koukalova of the Czech Republic in the second round.



PHOTO: AFP

**THIS ONE'S FOR YOU:** Chelsea stalwart Frank Lampard points his finger to the jeering Upton Park crowd after scoring against his former club West Ham during the two sides' Premiership clash on Monday.

### PREMIERSHIP

## Brilliant Blues nail Hammers

Football

INTERNET, undated

Chelsea continued their relentless charge towards the Premiership title with a 3-1 win over West Ham to extend their lead at the top of the table.

Second half goals from Hernan Crespo and Didier Drogba helped give Chelsea all three points after Marlon Harewood had cancelled out Frank Lampard's opener.

Chelsea started brightly and created the first chance of the game in the very first minute when Lampard saw his deep free kick tipped over the crossbar by Roy Carroll.

The contest threatened to boil over on eight minutes when Nigel Reo-Coker caught Michael Essien with a late tackle to spark a mini-brawl among players on both sides.

The visitors broke the deadlock on 25 minutes with Lampard, who was booed throughout on his

return to Upton Park, finding the way to silence the home fans with a fine strike.

Yossi Benayoun made a mess of clearing a long throw into the box with his header falling invitingly to Lampard who needed no second invitation to drive his half volley into the net past Carroll.

West Ham came flying out of the blocks for the start of the second half and caught Chelsea cold when Harewood got through to equalise.

Reo-Coker played Harewood through on goal with a fine pass and although Cech got a touch on Harewood's shot he followed up his shot to touch it over the line ahead of the retiring Geremi.

The goal stung Chelsea into action and Carroll prevented them restoring their lead just three minutes later when he kept out Lampard's close-range shot after Drogba had cleverly dummied Duff's cross to give Lampard a sight of goal.

Jose Mourinho made a change on the hour mark bringing on

Crespo for Duff and the move paid immediate dividends with the Argentine finding the net within a minute of his introduction.

Drogba robbed Carl Fletcher of possession to enable Robben to collect the ball and his pass beat the West Ham outside trap to send Crespo through on goal and the deadly striker coolly rounded Carroll before driving the ball into the empty net.

Crespo had two great chances within the space of a minute to make the game safe, but he fluffed both opportunities.

The former Milan star again broke the West Ham outside trap to get on the end of Robben's pass on 75 minutes, but he curled his shot wide of the target.

Chelsea did grab the third goal they deserved ten minutes from time when a brilliant pass from Gudjohnsen sent Drogba scampering clear on goal and he drilled his shot powerfully past Carroll into the bottom corner.

### 'Arsenal games unsavoury'

INTERNET, undated

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has insisted that Liverpool are the club's biggest and best rivals, ahead of Arsenal.

Ferguson admitted that unlike the matches against Arsenal, they are well behaved and the players get on well and compete.

"I still think Manchester United and Liverpool matches are the best in the sense of the history of both clubs, which is greater than Arsenal's" said Ferguson.

"There is an historic rivalry between the fans as well. This all makes United v Liverpool games stand out for me and I think the players will agree with that."

"The difference is United and Liverpool games have traditionally been well behaved. The players get on well and compete. There are always flashpoints in Arsenal games that make them unsavoury at times."

There has been intense rivalry since George Graham's time in 1991-92. It has not abated."

### Di Stefano recovering

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid legend Alfredo Di Stefano is making progress following the heart attack he suffered on Christmas Eve, doctors treating him said Monday.

The 79-year-old honorary club president of the nine-times European champions had emergency quadruple heart by-pass surgery following the heart attack but has since responded well to treatment in hospital in Valencia.

"Alfredo Di Stefano continues to be in a stable condition and his kidney functions have improved markedly," a hospital statement issued on behalf of doctors Anastasio Montero, Jose Luis Vicente and Joaquin Panadero said.

The statement added that Di Stefano could be transferred from the resuscitation unit to the general ward "in a few days," without specifying when he might leave hospital.

There had been concerns about the former player's kidney owing to his being diabetic.

### NZ aim to wrap

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The series is a continuation of the abandoned tour from last year when New Zealand led 1-0 before the Boxing Day tsunami hit Asia, including Sri Lanka.

New Zealand have kept an unchanged squad from Queenstown, and the Jade Stadium wicket is expected to provide another batting bonanza.

### TEAMS

**NEW ZEALAND** (from): Daniel Vettori (captain), Jamie How, Lou Vincent, Peter Fulton, Hamish Marshall, Scott Styris, Chris Cairns, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, James Franklin, Kyle Mills, Shane Bond, Nathan Astle.

**SRI LANKA** (from): Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Tiilakarante Dilshan, Upul Tharanga, Farveez Maharoof, Russel Arnold, Malinga Bandara, Muttiah Muralitharan, Avishka Gunawardene, Lasith Malinga, Chaminda Vaas, Jehan Mubarak, Ruchira Perera, Dilhara Fernando.

### Mohammedan

FROM PAGE 12

goalmouth scramble when Sohag shot the ball home after his teammate Monir's low drive came off goalkeeper Bipal.

The lead did not last long as Nakib, who replaced midfielder Khokon at halftime, relieved the Black and White fans when the former national striker received a left-side centre from Munna with his chest and blasted a volley into the back of the net.

Mohammedan, without three of their foreign players, pressed hard for the match winner and Nakib almost got one in the 66th minute but his shot from point-blank range was blocked by Al Amin.

Man-of-the-match Nakib, who captained Mohammedan in the earlier stage of the competition but had to hand over the armband to Alifaz, had the last laugh too when he stabbed a low cross by Matur Munna into the roof of the net for the winning strike.

**Yellow cards:** Khokon, Asad (Mohammedan) and Jahangir, Sohag (Samabesh).

### TEAMS

**MOHAMMEDAN:** Bipal, Rezaul, Nazrul, Hassan, Khokon (Nakib), Arman Aziz, Asad, Munna, Mintu (Kaiser), Francis and Alifaz.

**SAMABESH:** Al Amin, Farooq, Nahid, Dulal, Prashanta, Mamun, Jahangir, Moloy, Arafat, Sohag and Monir.

Referee: Abdur Rakib.

### DOHS down

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Arman 2-37, Hasan 3-37, Faisal 2-43). **ABAHANI:** 239 all out in 48.3 overs (Jahurul 54, Shamul 21, Imran 65, Faisal 27, Shadab 25, extras 10; Shahjada 1-17, Mahmud 3-37, Razzak 2-29, Enamul 1-36). **Result: Old DOHS won by nine runs.**

## Real close in on Cassano

Football

INTERNET, undated

Reports in both the Spanish and Italian press indicate that Roma's Antonio Cassano could become a Real Madrid player within the week.

The Italian international has seen his experience at Stadio Olimpico sour after refusing to sign a new deal with The Giallorossi, and looks set to leave for pastures new in the January transfer window.

With Juventus ruling themselves out of the race, Los Merengues are in pole position to sign the gifted but temperamental star - although their opening gambit of five million euros has been laughed off by the Serie A side.

A delegation from the nine-time European Cup winners is expected to arrive in Rome on Tuesday, with a mandate from president Florentino Perez to make their final offer for Cassano.

They are believed to have offered the player a five-and-a-half year contract worth 4 million euros a season, and Giallorossi coach Luciano Spalletti admits he is waiting to see the outcome of Real's pursuit.

"About Cassano's situation I'm only waiting developments, in each way they will be," said Spalletti.

"Cassano is one of the best players I've ever trained, knowing if tomorrow the player will be there or won't be there doesn't change for me."

"About his future I don't want to have an idea, I wait."

### Kallis, Prince

FROM PAGE 12

skidded across the top. It didn't offer a great deal."

Australia's new-ball attack of Lee and Glenn McGrath troubled the South African top-order with plenty of swing and sideways movement in the delayed first session.

AB de Villiers was dropped by Ponting at second slip off McGrath on two before he was caught behind off Lee for no addition to his score in the sixth over.

Gibbs, who scored 94 in the first innings of the second Test, was bowled by McGrath in the 11th over of a 12-over first spell.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the third and final Test between Australia and South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday:

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First Innings  
Smith lbw b Lee 39  
De Villiers c Gilchrist b Lee 2  
Gibbs b McGrath 27  
Kallis not out 80  
Prince not out 62  
Extras: (b-8, lb-3, nb-9) 20  
Total: (For 3 wickets in 74 overs) 230  
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-69, 3-86

To bat: Rudolph, Boucher, Pollock, Botha, Nel, Langeveldt

**Bowler**

	O	M	R	W
McGrath	20	10	39	1
Lee	17	3	42	2
Symonds	16	3	49	0
Warne	7	1	24	0
Hussey	2	0	12	0
MacGill	12	1	53	0

**AUSTRALIA:** Langer, Hayden, Ponting, Hodge, Hussey, Symonds, Gilchrist, Warne, Lee, MacGill, McGrath.

**Toss:** South Africa.

**Umpires:** Billy Bowden and Aleem Dar.

### Punishments

FROM PAGE 12

Away at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Kalabagan (219-8) registered their third victory when they beat pointless Orient Sporting Club (175-9) by 44 runs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**MOHAMMEDAN:** 128 all out in 46.3 overs (Hannan 8, Sandeep 9, Bashir 0, Shamur 15, Wasel 15, Mashud 30, Nadif 18, Sabbir 12, extras 12; Mushfiqur 4-17, Jamaluddin 2-39, Neaz 1-11, Mosharraf 2-32).

**BIMAN:** 131-2 in 34.5 overs (Javed 62 not out, Shahrar 36, extras 18; Monirul 1-22, Sabbir 1-37).

**Result: Biman won by eight wickets.**

**BROTHERS UNION:** 160 all out in 47.3 overs (Rashed Hanif 48, Arafat Sunny 21, Tapash 2-2-, Mahbulul 3-25, Rafique 2-21).

**SONARGAON:** 164-1 in 29 overs (Al Shahrar 84 not out, Ijaz 69, extras 11; Shuvo 1-34).

**Result: Sonargaon won by nine wickets.**

**CITY CLUB:** 283 all out in 49.5 overs (Rajin 90, Nafees 25, Taibu 57, Tushar 35, extras 27; Nayeem 2-36, Mowla 2-22, Saikat 2-72).

**INDIRA ROAD:** 245 all out in 49.4 overs (Junaid 37, Mowla 25, Rezaul 95 not out, extras 29; Kamrul 2-22, Kapali 3-47).

**Result: City Club won by 38 runs.**

**VICTORIA:** 297 all out in 50 overs (Faruque 75, Sakib 83, Sagor 40, Mushfiqur 41, extras 15; Imtiaz 4-30).

**AGRANI BANK:** 212 all out in 46.4 overs (Imtiaz 43, Kalim 32, Kuntal 45, extras 18; Kamrul 3-21, Saffar 2-43).

**Result: Victoria won by 85 runs.**

**KALABAGAN:** 219-8 in 50 overs (Uttam 36, Nahidul 42, Mehraz 43, extras 18; Mizanur 3-22, Nazmul 3-45).

**ORIENT:** 175-9 in 50 overs (Masum 69, Abed 24, extras 12; Zaid Ali 4-31).

**Result: Kalabagan won by 44 runs.**

## Klinsmann's mind on WC final

AFP, Berlin

Hosts Germany are so convinced they will reach the World Cup final in July that they have already booked hotel accommodation in Berlin, manager Jurgen Klinsmann has said.

"I am convinced that it will be a tremendous World Cup," Klinsmann told Monday's edition of Bild newspaper in an interview.

"We have already booked our hotel rooms in Berlin. We will go all the way because we saw during the Confederation Cup that we are getting the balance of the team right."

The former international striker has been the subject of heavy criticism over his decision to continue to live in the United States, his indecision over which goalkeeper to select and his tactical nous.

But he insists that everything is right on track.

"We are sure we are on course and we will use the next few months to fine-tune things. We will then be very difficult to beat," he said.

"It will be an especially important year for Germany," Klinsmann added "because it will be another 40 or 50 years before we once again play host to the World Cup finals."

### Lippi upbeat

INTERNET, undated

Italy boss Marcello Lippi is confident his side can put on a good show at the World Cup despite a difficult draw in the group stage.

The Azzurri were drawn in the 'so called group of death' for next summer's showpiece event in Germany, with matches against Ghana, USA and Czech Republic to determine if they will make it into the knock-out phase of the competition.

Lippi feels that he has a squad capable of going places next summer and feels that it is more important to concentrate on his own side's attributes than worry about who he might or might not face in the early part of the tournament.

He told Corriere dello Sport: "We hope it might be our year, Italy's year. We have great hope to do good things."

"We are all convinced this team has excellent technical and moral qualities and we are convinced that in all matches these qualities will be put on the pitch."

"If we believe and if we want to reach a target, it's useless analysing who we will have or we won't have to meet."



PHOTO: COURTESY  
Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar (2nd from R) receives a mobile phone handset from GrameenPhone's acting head of marketing Rubaba Dawla Matin at a ceremony in the city recently. GP presented BCB with 45 handsets and regular connections. Also seen in the picture are BCB general secretary Mahbulul Anam (R) and GP media manager Moeen Tariq.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

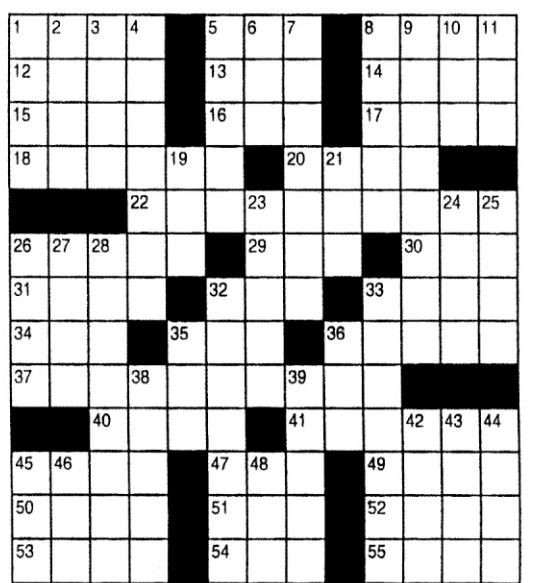
**ACROSS**

1 Eat and run?	34 Non-extremist	53 Optimistic	10 "Little Teapot" (Abbr.)
5 Blond shade	35 Hostel	55 "Pretty Woman" actor	19 Astronaut
8 Thor's father	37 The	minors, in baseball	21 Resistance unit
12 Lotion additive	40 Actress	Celeste	23 Barbera's animation partner
13 Shell-game need	41 Showing	spread	24 Welles's role
14 50% (Pref.)	45 "— go brag!"	47 One who gives a hoot?	5 Basilia sections
15 Night light?	47 One who gives a hoot?	49 "Casa-blanca" heroine	7 Dim flower
16 Frivolous one of song	17 Trojan War hero	50 Ready for picking	8 "Butterfield 8"
18 Senility	20 Links warning	51 Zilch	52 Requirement
22 Attacks from concealment	26 Cries loudly	29 Pick a target	30 Spigot
31 Reed instrument	32 Pismire	33 Walter's handout	

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

ASB	OGI
SLUE	ALOH
UTTER	DEPART
GOODS	AMARITAN
HAS	TRINA
TRIPS	WANTS
FIND	WORLD
WING	BEND
EGG	PAINE
THEBIG	BADWOLF
TRAVEL	OASIS
STONE	WRITT
AITA	NET

39 Irritates  
42 Take off  
43 Addict  
44 Put cargo on  
45 Blunder  
46 Carnival city  
48 Triumph



**CRYPTOQUIP**  
F C B H W T F I C C O C H X F P  
J H W W Z F I X W A M Z . O A S ' B F  
J F I T P J H W M I E A S W Z S V F  
"C A B F E F I Z Z F V P F T."  
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF A SELFISHLY SCHEMING MATHEMATICIAN IS CHILLY, I SUPPOSE HE'S COLD AND CALCULATING.  
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: C equals L  
The Cryptiquip 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.