

## Nat'l chess from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Holder Grand Master Ziaur Rahman will face FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil in the opening round of the Mercantile Bank 32nd National Chess Championship which begins today at the BCF hall-room.

The number draw was held at the same venue on Thursday.

A total of 14 players are competing in the championship. They are (according to the number draw): GM Ziaur Rahman, Syed Mahfuzur Rahman, IM Reefat Bin Sattar, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, IM Abdullah Al Rakib, FM Mehdi Hassan, GM Niaz Murshed, Delwar Hossain, Hasan Imam, Abdul Maleq, Enayet Hossain and FM Abu Sufian Shakil.

## Nat'l cycling from Mar 17

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The 30th National Cycling Championships will begin here on March 17.

Over 100 cyclists from 11 districts and four organisations are expected to take part in the four-day meet, Bangladesh Cycling Federation general secretary Hasan Parvez told at a press briefing on Wednesday.

A total of 21 events will be held in the competition.

## Bangladesh eves lose 10-0

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh lost their second successive match in the AFC Youth (Under-19) Women's Football Championship qualifying round when they crashed 10-0 to hosts India in New Delhi yesterday.

India, who led 6-0 at the break, moved into the final round with two wins from Group 3.

The Bangladesh eves earlier lost 6-0 to Kyrgyzstan.

## Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Mohammedan Sporting Club handed a 51-run defeat to Gaibandha Cricket Coaching Centre in Thursday's Naheed Cotton First Division Cricket League at the Gaibandha Stadium.

In reply to Mohammedan's 218 all out, Gaibandha CCC were bundled out for 167. Deep, who scored 55 for Mohammedan, was adjudged man-of-the-match.

## Pietersen

FROM PAGE 16 and unwell seamer Shanthakumar Sreesanth. England replaced left-arm spinner Ian Blackwell with seamer Liam Plunkett.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second Test between India and England at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali on Thursday:  
**ENGLAND:** First innings Strauss c Dhoni b Pathan 18 Cook lbw b Pathan 17 Bell b Kumble 38 Pietersen c and b Patel 64 Collingwood not out 19 Flintoff not out 4 Extras: (lb-1, nb-2) 3 Total: (For four wickets in 50.3 overs) 163  
 Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-36, 3-117, 4-157.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	16	3	54	2
Patel	11.3	1	44	1
Harbhajan	6	0	15	0
Chawla	5	1	20	0
Kumble	12	3	29	1

**Toss:** England  
**Umpires:** Darrell Hair (AUS) and Simon Taufel (AUS).

## Rajshahi keep

FROM PAGE 16 Mawla 1-17, Nabil 1-19).  
**Result:** Rajshahi won by five wickets.

**CHITTAGONG:** 245 all out in 49.1 overs (Masum 31, Nazimuddin 37, Faisal 32, Ilias 46 n.o., Alamgir 26, extras 24, Sharif 3-52, Mehrab Jr 4-37, Rezaul 2-41).

**DHAKA:** 216 all out in 47.3 overs (Uttam 31, Shahriar 60, Riyad 40, Mehrab Jr 33, Sharif 23, Alamgir Kabir 1-49, Kamrul 1-44, Faisal 4-25, Yasin 1-31).

**Result:** Chittagong won by 29 runs.  
**KHULNA:** 246-6 in 50 overs (Sadat 98, Sahagur 50, Manzarul 44, Sajid 2-59, Salahuddin 1-32, Nadif 1-25).

**BARISAL:** 247-4 in 46.2 overs (Imran 58, Hannan 52, Faruque 63 n.o., Marshall 50 n.o., Razzak 1-52, Sadat 3-30).  
**Result:** Barisal won by six wickets.

### ONE-DAY TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts
Rajshahi	8	8	0	16
Dhaka	8	4	4	8
Chittagong	8	4	4	8
Barisal	8	3	5	6
Khulna	8	2	8	4
Sylhet	8	2	6	4



Real Madrid's Guti (C) and Ronaldo (L) vent their frustration at the end of their Champions League fixture against Arsenal at Highbury on Wednesday.

## Gunners bid Real adieu



AFP, London

Arsenal will be the Premiership's sole representatives in the quarterfinals of the Champions League after Wednesday's goalless draw at Highbury completed a 1-0 aggregate victory over Real Madrid.

This was no dull stalemate though, rather a vibrant game that almost reached the attacking heights people dreamed it might.

That it remained goalless was simply baffling.

From the off, this was breathless stuff. Ronaldo could have given Real Madrid the lead as early as the third minute, as he was left weirdly untended at the back post.

He met Thomas Gravesen's cross with a downward header, but Jens Lehmann reacted sharply to shovel the ball wide.

It would not be the German's last contribution.

Ronaldo's previous appearance on an English ground had ended with him being substituted to rapturous applause at Old Trafford after scoring a hat-trick, but if Arsenal fans feared a similar master-class, their concerns proved groundless.

He was more effective than at the

Bernabeu a fortnight ago, but this was still the disaffected Ronaldo who has spoken of his lack of rapport with the Madrid fans.

That said, it took a quite magnificent challenge from Gilberto to deny him in his shooting stride on the quarter-hour.

After that nervous opening, Arsenal came to have the better of the first half, repeatedly advancing to the edge of the Madrid box only for their final ball to let them down.

When they are allowed to play, there are still few better teams than Arsenal, even if they do have a frustrating tendency to over-elaborate.

With David Beckham's call for a pressing game having evidently gone unheeded, Arsenal were given licence to form great strings of passes.

A marvellous move that saw the ball moved from Thierry Henry to Alexander Hleb to Fredrik Ljungberg before arriving with Cesc Fabregas was only denied glorious fruition by the thigh of Roberto Carlos, and it was Michel Salgado's back that got in the way of Jose Antonio Reyes's effort after an Henry cutback just before the half-hour.

The same combination that created the best chance of the half two minutes before the break, Henry perhaps delaying his pass fraction-

ally too long, leaving Reyes to snatch at his chance.

He beat Iker Casillas, but his drive thumped against the crossbar.

Having failed to score when they had the advantage, there were always going to be nervous moments for Arsenal in the second half, none more so than the incident on the hour.

Raul, arriving on the edge of the box, smacked his shot against the inside of the post, but gathered the rebound, only for Lehmann to rise from his prone position and shove his follow-up wide.

Yet still Arsenal had the better of the chances.

Hleb drove just wide and Casillas produced a superb diving save to his left to deflect an Henry curler round the post.

As Casillas came up for a corner, Robert Pires even had a 60-yard shot cleared off the line by Roberto Carlos.

The goal that would have given them breathing space, though, never came, and by the end Arsenal were clinging on.

Every defensive header, every clearance was cheered, until at last, at the final whistle, there came the biggest cheer of all.

Arsenal's season is still alive.

## Lyon's revenge over PSV

AFP, Lyon

Former Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier avoided the fate of his successor at Anfield, Benitez by guiding French champions Lyon into the last eight.

Leading PSV Eindhoven 1-0 from the first leg, Lyon turned the screw on the Dutchmen with Portuguese midfielder Tiago scoring twice in the first half to give his side a 2-0 lead on the night.

PSV's Dutch international Phillip Cocu was red carded just before the interval.

Former Arsenal striker Sylvain Wiltord added a third in the 71st minute as Lyon gained sweet revenge for their defeat to Guus Hiddink's side in the quarterfinals last season.

Brazilian star Fred added a fourth in the last minute and celebrated by pulling out a baby's dummy to celebrate the birth of his baby daughter.

"We have beaten a very good team even if the score makes it look easier. Now we have to do better than Paul (Le Guen his predecessor) and reach the semifinals," said Houllier.

## Cech pays homage to Ronaldinho

AFP, Prague

Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech paid homage to Barcelona's Ronaldinho after the brilliant Brazilian set the English side spinning out of the Champions League on Tuesday.

"Ronaldinho is an excellent player, he again has scored the decisive goal," the Chelsea keeper told the Czech press.

Ronaldinho scored in the 1-1 draw at the Nou Camp which gave his side a 3-2 win on aggregate in their last 16 second leg tie.

He eased past three Chelsea players before beating Cech with a precise shot.

"He narrowed his eyes and hit the ball with the outside of his foot with all his power," recalled the keeper.

"The ball went to the right but then turned towards my left."

## Baby delight for Flintoff

BBC ONLINE, London

England captain Andrew Flintoff went into the second Test against India with the news his wife Rachael has given birth to their second child, a boy.

Corey Flintoff was born 13 days early, weighing 6lb 14oz, a younger brother for 18-month old Holly.

With Rachael expected to give birth on 21 March, Flintoff had made plans to miss the third Test to return home.

But he opted to remain in India for the whole series after being named captain when Michael Vaughan injured his knee.

"The situation dictates what I'm doing," Flintoff told the BBC at the time.

"It is a sacrifice I have had to make, but I feel I am very much making the right decision."

"It is a hard decision, but Rachael is very supportive of it. She is very proud I have been made captain."

Vaughan's injury followed a catalogue of injury setbacks suffered by England ahead of the series.

Flintoff became a national hero when he helped England to victory with both bat and ball in last summer's Ashes victory.

He scored 402 runs at an average of 40.20 against Australia and took 24 wickets at 27.29.

## Milan crush sorry Bayern



AFP, Milan

Filippo Inzaghi scored twice as AC Milan thrashed Bayern Munich 4-1 here Wednesday to storm into the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

A resounding victory for last season's beaten finalists in front of a capacity crowd of 78,000 sealed a 5-2 aggregate win over the German champions after the first leg of their last 16 tie had ended 1-1.

Inzaghi gave the Serie A side an early lead at the San Siro before Andriy Shevchenko doubled their advantage with a flicked header just seconds after missing a penalty.

Valerien Ismael reopened the contest for Bayern before half-time, but 'SuperPippo' eased Milan's jitters soon after the restart, capitalising on a defensive mix-up to claim his second of the night and his 32nd Champions League goal.

Kaka ensured there would be no way back for Bayern, slamming home Milan's fourth goal near the hour mark.

Inzaghi refused to accept all the praise for Milan's passage into the last eight.

"I'm fortunate to play for a fantastic team and it's wonderful to see Milan play this way," he said. "I couldn't have done it without the help of my teammates."

Bayern coach Felix Magath moaned about the first goal being offside but was blunt about the overall result for his side, one that will have done little to persuade his one true world class player Michael Ballack to stay on after this season.

"This is a disappointing night without reservations," said the former German international.

"It is a sad evening for Bayern Munich."

Milan's Brazilian keeper Nelson Dida, who twisted his right ankle in the first leg and had to be stretchered off in the 66th minute,

returned in goal. Alberto Gilardino was dropped to the bench and the in-form Inzaghi, scorer of 10 Serie A goals this season despite not playing regularly, partnered Shevchenko in attack.

Returning to the scene of their Champions League final win in 2001 when they beat Spanish side Valencia, Bayern were under the cosh from the very start and they fell behind in the eighth minute.

Serginho found himself in space out on the left and his cross to the back post found Inzaghi whose angled header went across Oliver Kahn and into the far corner.

Johann Vogel volleyed wide before Milan were awarded a penalty when Ismael brought down Inzaghi in the 23rd minute.

The normally reliable Shevchenko, scorer of the decisive penalty when Milan won a shoot-out against Juventus in the 2003 final but who missed one in last year's shoot-out against Liverpool, fired wide to keep Bayern in the tie.

But less than a minute after his error Shevchenko made amends, steering Jaap Stam's cross wide of Kahn with a flick of his head for his

42nd goal in 75 Champions League games.

Bayern looked dead and buried, but they pulled themselves off the floor in the 35th minute.

Dida failed to hold on to Bastian Schweinsteiger's stinging free-kick and Ismael banged home the loose ball.

The home fans breathed a sigh of relief two minutes before the break when Dida acrobatically clawed away Ballack's point-blank header.

Milan didn't have to wait long to restore their two-goal cushion, regaining the upper hand two minutes into the second half.

Ismael and Bixente Lizarazu made a hash of clearing Serginho's left-wing cross, and the ball fell kindly for Inzaghi who nudged the ball over the line from a yard out.

Brazil international Kaka put the game out of Bayern's reach in the 59th minute, rifling home a right-footed shot after racing on to Shevchenko's through-ball.



AC Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi celebrates after scoring against Bayern Munich at San Siro on Wednesday.

## Super Pippo puts pressure on Lippi



REUTERS, Milan

AC Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi, whose two goals helped knock Bayern Munich out of the Champions League, has produced a streak of scoring form that puts him back in the reckoning for a place in Italy's World Cup squad.

Inzaghi, having at last recovered his form following months of injury setbacks, took his tally on Wednesday to nine goals from the last seven games in Serie A and in Europe.

"It was a great night, a night that I have dreamed about," said Inzaghi after Milan's impressive 4-1 win at San Siro dumped Bayern out of the competition 5-2 on aggregate and drove Milan into the last eight.

"I am enjoying a golden moment and playing in a fantastic team. It's great to see Milan playing like that. Everything seems to come easily for me at the moment. My legs are flying and my head is in the right place," he said.

Inzaghi's goals took his personal tally in all European competitions to 50 -- four goals short of his strike partner Andriy Shevchenko.

Lippi witnessed Inzaghi's display on Wednesday but was careful with his words when asked whether he was there to keep an eye on the player he had under his charge at Juventus.

"I'm here to watch a top international match," he told reporters.

Inzaghi has scored 21 goals in 48

## A lesson for

FROM PAGE 16 think the captain is the best judge. Another thing is Upul bated brilliantly and he played almost a chanceless innings," he explained.

Former national captain Faruque also conceded that bowlers were tired which was one of the reasons behind Sri Lanka's leaving the field with two wickets intact.

"You can raise question whether we were one bowler short. But I think we are not in a position to field a team with five specialist bowlers because of our brittle batting. Rajib (Shahadat Hossain) was also struggling with groin problem," he said.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at close on the second day of the second Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on Thursday:

**BANGLADESH:** First innings 234 (Bashar 69, Omar 35, Rafique 32, Muralidaran 5-79)  
 **SRI LANKA:** First innings (overnight 25-2)  
 Vandort lbw b Rasel 0  
 Tharanga not out 160  
 Bandara c Iqbal b Shahadat 2  
 Samaraweera c Mashud b Shahadat 20  
 Sangakkara lbw b Shahadat 0  
 Jayawardene c Rahim b Ashrafu 49  
 Dilshan b Rafique 33  
 Mahroof c Bashar b Enamul 7  
 Fernando lbw b Enamul 5  
 Malinga not out 12  
 Extras: (b-5, lb-3, w-2, nb-4) 14  
 Total: (For eight wickets in 101 overs) 302  
 Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-13, 3-43, 4-43, 5-167, 6-232, 7-251, 8-263.

**Bowler** O M R W  
 Rasel 19 8 42 1  
 Shahadat 20 2 81 3  
 Rafique 32 9 84 1  
 Enamul 26 3 71 2  
 Ashrafu 4 1 16 1

**Toss:** Bangladesh  
**Umpires:** Asad Rauf (PAK) and Krishna Hariharan (IND).

## Ronaldo hits out at Pele



AP, Madrid

Real Madrid striker Ronaldo criticized fellow Brazilian Pele on Wednesday for saying "stupid things," rebuking Pele for his comments last week in which he said the three-time FIFA player of the year gets "distracted."

"We don't need to pay any attention to him," Ronaldo told radio station Cadena SER after Madrid's elimination by Arsenal in the Champions League's second round.

The comments by Ronaldo come following a series of criticisms by soccer luminaries and jeers from Real Madrid fans, which have led the 29-year-old striker to say recently he may leave the 29-time Spanish champion at the end of the season.

Pele had said that off-the-field

problems were affecting Ronaldo's career and his personal life had been "very mixed up."

"Ronaldo has shown he is a good player, and has won a lot of titles but he tends to get distracted," Pele said during a World Cup promotional trip in Shanghai, China. "He could have been a better player if he hadn't been affected by off-the-field problems."

On Wednesday, Ronaldo responded by saying that when he retired, he didn't want to be "a bitter type of person, making comments, saying stupid things."

Ronaldo said Wednesday this season "had been one of the most difficult years" of his life, yet gave no hint about whether he would continue with Madrid next season.

Madrid is close to ending its third season without a title, which hasn't happened for 50 years.

## 'Barcelona laughed at Mourinho'

INTERNET, undated

Rafael Marquez has revealed that the Barcelona squad laughed at Jose Mourinho's attempts to wind them up before the encounter with Chelsea.

The Mexican believes that Mourinho's words had no effect on them and dismissed the Portuguese manager's efforts to create controversy after the first leg of the UEFA Champions League tie.

Marquez stressed instead that the Chelsea boss only managed to cause amusement amongst Frank Rijkaard's players.

"It made everyone laugh in the dressing room when we heard what he had been saying," he explained.

"Nobody was angry with him."

"I am not really interested in any of the problems with Mourinho, it's something that was not about the game, it was not in the context of football."

## Styris stars Day One



AFP, Auckland

Scott Styris starred for New Zealand Thursday, backing up an unbeaten century with two wickets in three balls to even the honours on the opening day of the first Test against the West Indies.

Styris joined Nathan Astle to pull New Zealand out of the mire when they were four for 69 and helped them to respectable 275.

Then, when the West Indies were 47 without loss, it was Styris who joined Chris Martin in a lethal nine-ball spell which saw three wickets fall for just three runs.

At stumps the West Indies were 51 for three with Ramnaresh Sarwan on three and master batsman Brian Lara yet to score. The intended nightwatchman Ian Bradshaw was out for nought.

When Shivnarine Chanderpaul won the toss and elected to bowl he was immediately rewarded. New Zealand's experimental novice top order failed, and captain Stephen Fleming could do no better as the hosts slid to 69 for four.

The innings was salvaged by 103 not out from Styris, his fifth Test century, and 51 from Astle, with the next

highest score coming from 26 extras.

Jamie How and Hamish Marshall, opening a Test for the first time, were both out for 11, Peter Fulton made 17 on his Test debut, and Fleming was out for 14 as the West Indies controlled the first session.

Apart from How, who was run out when a straight drive from Marshall deflected off Bradshaw's hand on to the stumps, the other three batsmen were all guilty of rash shots rather than exceptional bowling.

Astle wrested the momentum back for New Zealand as he raced to 51 in quick time after lunch. He then became a victim of his expansive style when an attempted drive off Dwayne Smith saw an edge fly to the safe hands of Denesh Ramdin.

Styris kept up the charge but received little support from the other end, apart from a flurry from Brendon McCullum who hit four boundaries in his brief stay at the crease for 19.

As he ran out of partners, Styris was forced to step up the pace and took 15 off one Bradshaw over including a six.

With only last man Chris Martin for company he blasted 14 runs and reached his century with a cover drive to the boundary before Martin was out without scoring.

Smith, with three for 71, and

Bradshaw who took three for 73, shared the bowling honours.

Chris Gayle, who had been out of sorts in the recent one-day series which New Zealand dominated, looked more at home in his Test whites as he and Daren Ganga saw off New Zealand's opening bowlers.