School cricket begins Apr 11 Balanced on a knife-edge begins Apr 11

UNB, Dhaka

The Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket will begin across the country with the participation of under-15 school players on April 11.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Tuesday signed a threeyear contract with sponsors Standard Chartered Bank at a local

Tournament sponsor Standard Chartered Bank will provide a total of Tk 150 lakhs in three years.

BCB vice-president Aziz Al Kaiser and Head of Corporate Affairs of Standard Chartered Bank Shah Masud Imam signed the

A total of 328 school teams from Dhaka city, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions would take part in 64 divisional and 10 Dhaka city

The board will provide Tk 3,000 each for meals and transport to each participating team while quality cricket materials will be provided to each team in the final round.

BCB's game development committee chairman Khandaker Jamiluddin Ahmed disclosed this at a press conference.

Jamil said 192 talent scouts of the board would scour the tournament for players that can receive higher training under the board

CHAMPIONS TROPHY India, Aus in

same group

PTI, Dubai

India have been placed alongside Australia and England in Group A for the ICC Champions Trophy tournament slated to be played in India from October 7

A qualifier from Sri Lanka, West Indies, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh would complete the Group A, an ICC press release said here on Tuesday.

South Africa, Pakistan and New Zealand have been placed in the Group B, which will also accommo-

date a qualifier. Sri Lanka, West Indies, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh, the four nations ranked from seventh to tenth in the latest LG-ICC One-Day International rankings, will play round-robin matches to qualify for

Two teams from the round-robin first round will join the six top teams in Group A and B in the second round.

the main draw.

The top two sides from each group will advance to the semi-finals and the final will be held on November 5

Mujib Hall DU v'ball champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall lifted the men's title in the Dhaka University inter-hall volleyball competition when they defeated Shahidullah Hall in 3-1 sets at the University ground yesterday.

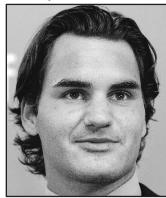
Shamsunnahar Hall beat Rokeya Hall in 3-2 sets in the women's final.

Pro vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. AFM Yusuf Haider distributed the prizes among the participants.



balls in the third ODI against England. It was his seventh century, first against England.





"I'm extremely happy. To win backto-back like this is unbelievable. I never thought I'd do it again. It really After winning the Nasdaq-100

After last week's entertaining scoreless draw in the quarter-final first leg at Benfica's Stadium of Light, Rijkaard will lead an injury-hit team out at the Nou Camp with more than one concern.

The former AC Milan defensive midfielder has spent the past two weeks wondering why the Catalan's goalscoring well has dried up just as the club look destined to go all the way in Europe's premier club competition.

CHAMPS LEAGUE

Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard's

normally calm Dutch demeanour

could be tested to the full when the

Spanish league leaders play out

their Champions League destiny

against Benfica on Wednesday.

AFP, Barcelona

Poor scoring form in the league continued on Saturday when they drew 1-1 at home to 10-man Real Madrid. Ronaldinho's first-half penalty hardly gave Rijkaard cause for huge celebration.

If Rijkaard wasn't worried then, some late injury news on Monday will hardly have cheered him.

Argentine prodigy Lionel Messi is sidelined again following a medical on Monday which showed the leg muscle he injured against Chelsea has yet to fully heal.

Defenders Edmilson and Rafa Marquez, who also missed the first leg against Benfica through injury, are still sidelined.

And to rub salt into Barca's wounds, midfielder Thiago Motta joins the injury list after picking up a knock against Real.

Benfica coach Ronald Koeman, whose late freekick blasted Barcelona towards their only previous Champions League victory, in 1992, could see his status as a club legend disappear in the event of an aggregate win for Benfica.

Koeman has injury woes of his

Nuno Gomes, the top scorer in the Portuguese league with 15 goals, missed the first leg due to suspension and is out this time

India name new

glovesman for

Abu Dhabi ties

following a knee injury picked up 15 minutes into Benfica's 2-1 away win

over Belenenses at the weekend. Koeman is expected to call on either France's Laurent Robert or Brazil's Geovanni to replace Gomes and join the two other likely forwards, Simao Sabrosa and Fabrizio Miccoli.

But for Barcelona's Portuguese playmaker Deco. Gomes' absence could be decisive.

"I don't see anyone capable of scoring as many goals at Benfica as him," he told private Portuguese

"The main thing is to create chances. The squad is not worried," the Dutchman told the club's

website www.fcbarcelona.com. "On Wednesday we have the chance to change this bad luck. We have the dream of winning the Champions League and so we want to beat Benfica.

The key to a place in the last four of the competition in this tie could come down to the respective tactical decisions of Rijkaard and



Benfica coach Ronald Koeman waves to supporters upon his arrival at the Barcelona Airport on Tuesday.

television SIC on Monday. Benfica should be quietly confident of scoring a precious away goal having ousted defending champions Liverpool from the competition with a 2-0 second leg win at Anfield.

Nevertheless Miccoli admits that they will first have to respect Barcelona to beat them. "We have to arrive in Barcelona

and really concentrate because they are a really strong team. Anything is possible though, Miccoli told private radio TSF. Despite Barcelona's setbacks.

While Barcelona are expected to unleash an offensive volley at their visitors, Benfica could come to defend, soak up the pressure and strike on the counter-attack. Van Bronckhorst is only too

potentially vulnerable, and will have to play well in every position. "In the Nou Camp, we're used to teams that defend and look for the

aware they have left themselves

counter-attack," he said. "Benfica can play that way, as we saw against Liverpool. That

should serve as a lesson for us. "We create a lot of chances but midfielder Giovanni van we also have to be very focussed in Bronckhorst said they are confident of chasing away their scoring

Raul confident



AFP, Goa

Wicketkeeper Robin Uthappa has been named in India's squad for two day-night matches against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi, a top official announced here on Monday.

The matches will be held on April 18 and 19 to raise funds for victims of last year's devastating earthquake in Kashmir.

Uthappa, 20, replaced opener currently playing a one-day series against England.

"If we win the series against England and we think some players have to be rested then we may consider other names also," said Indian cricket board secretary

Niranjan Shah. The same 15-member squad will play the remaining four matches against England, who are trailing 3-0 in the seven-match series following their 45-run defeat in the third

SQUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Mahendra Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Venugopal Rao, Munaf Patel. Shantha-kumaran Sreesanth. Harbhaian Singh, Aiit Agarkar, Ramesh Powar, Rudra Pratap Singh, Robin Uthappa.

by a delivery from Abdul Razzaq

All rounder Farveez Maharoof

(one) went Ibw and Tillakaratne

Dilshan (11) edged to wicketkeeper

Kamran Akmal to give Asif his

second five-wicket haul of the

Tailenders Nuwan Kulasekera

(six) and Malinga Bandara (four)

were dismissed by Razzaq, who

finished with three for 20 when bad

added just 12 runs before Nuwan

Kulasekera (13) was bowled by Asif

and Lasith Malinga (nine) was

caught in the covers off leg spinner

Stand-in opener Akmal -- pro-

moted after Shoaib Malik pulled out

of the match with a fever -- and

Farhat gave the tourists a sold start

in the final half hour of the morning

Yousuf (17) and Younis Khan (35)

shared a 50-run partnership for the

third wicket before Muttiah

Muralidaran struck for a second

an off break through the off side.

Younis was then caught at slip off

pace bowler Maharoof before

Muralidaran trapped Faisal Iqbal

lbw for five and bowled Razzaq for

four. Muralidaran took five for 39

from 16.4 overs.

He bowled Yousuf trying to force

as Pakistan reached lunch on 71-2.

However, Sri Lanka struck twice

After the break, Mohammad

with a 57-run opening stand.

Danish Kaneria.

Resuming on 267-8, Sri Lanka

light stopped play four overs early.

that nipped back sharply.

about World Cup



REUTERS, Madrid

Spain captain Raul believes he will be in peak form at the World Cup despite missing three months of the season with a serious knee injury and subsequently struggling to regain his place in the Real Madrid team

"The knee is feeling better and better all the time," the striker told Spanish sports daily Marca on Tuesday

"At the moment I feel brilliant and the truth is the knee hasn't given me any problems. I hope I can have a great World Cup."

The 28-year-old sustained a partial tear of the cruciate ligament and damaged the cartilage in his left knee during his side's 3-0 defeat against Barcelona in November and did not return to action until mid-

February. He has not yet been able to win back his place in the Real Madrid starting line-up and with Ronaldo Robinho, Julio Baptista and Antonio Cassano all competing for a berth up front he has been limited to bit-

Wickets go down like ninepins

Inzamam-ul-Haq was run out for

The first Test in Colombo ended

15 after a direct hit from substitute

fielder Chamara Kapugedera in the

Scoreboard at stumps on the sec-

ond day of the second Test between

Sri Lanka and Pakistan at the

Asgiriya International Cricket

SRI LANKA: First innings (over-

Sangakkara c Faisal b Kaneria 79

penultimate over before tea.

SCOREBOARD

Stadium on Tuesday:

Tharanga c Younis b Asif

Jayawardene c Farhat b Asif

Maharoof c Younis b Kaneria

Malinga c Razzaq b Kaneria

Total: (All out in 91.2 overs)

PAKISTAN: First innings

Yousuf b Muralidaran

Inzamamul run out

Extras: (lb-4, w-1, nb-2, pen-5) 12

Fall of wkts: 1-18, 2-27, 3-61, 4-142,

23

23

11

11 1 36 0

23.2

Farhat c Jayasuriya b Kulasekara23

Akmal c Jayawardene b Muralidaran 33

Younis c Samaraweera b Maharoof 35

O M R W

3 83

1 54 6 53

44

5-142, 6-178, 7-238, 8-256, 9-271.

Dilshan cAkmal b Kaneria

night 267-8)

Jayasuriya b Asif

Samaraweera b Asif

Bandara c Akmal b Asif

Kulasekara b Asif

Bowler

Kaneria

Razzad

Gul

Rao

Muralidaran not out

in a draw.

But the Real Madrid skipper, who did not play in last Saturday's 1-1 draw against Barcelona, is confident he will get more games as the season draws to an end.

'I hone to participate a bit more in the final seven games so that I can gain the match fitness I need." he said. "The World Cup starts in June. we have got three friendlies before then and I think I will be in good form.'

Spain coach Luis Aragones said that he retained full confidence in Raul even though he was not getting enough games for Real.

"If the game against Ukraine (Spain's opening game in the World Cup) was tomorrow, then Raul might not play," he told a conference on Monday.

"But I know that Raul will be playing, that he will be in the Real Madrid starting lineup for the remainder of the league and that he will go to the World Cup. He is a vital player for us."

Raul is Spain's all-time leading goal scorer with 42 goals in 92

Spain have been drawn alongside Ukraine, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia in Group H for the World Cup finals in Germany

Gul c Sangakkara b Kulasekara 4

Fall of wkts: 1-57, 2-71, 3-121, 4-

125, 5-140, 6-149, 7-162, 8-166, 9-

6 2 19 0

14 2 54

16 3 45 2

16.4 4

M 0

R W

15

11

6

39

Kaneria c Sangakkara b Muralidaran

Extras: (b-4, lb-9, w-1, nb-7)

SRI LANKA: Second innings

Total: (All out in 52.4 overs)

Iqbal Ibw b Muralidaran

Razzag b Muralidaran

Anjum not out

Asif run out

166.

13

Bowler

Malinga

Maharoof

Kulasekara

Muralidaran

Tharanga b Asif

Sangakkara b Asif

Samaraweera b Asif

Maharoof Ibw b Asif

Malinga not out

Bowler

Anjum

Razzag

Toss: Pakistan

Daryl Harper (AUS)

Asif

Extras: (lb-3, w-1)

5-57, 6-65, 7-72, 8-73.

Dilshan c Akmal b Asif

Jayawardene b Razzaq

Bandara c Akmal b Razzaq

Kulasekara c Gul b Razzaq

Total: (For 8 wkts in 24.4 overs) 73

Fall of wkts: 1-22, 2-40, 3-46, 4-56,

0

12

3

6.4

Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS) and

6

0

1

27 5

8

20

0

3

Magath livid at Klinsi

Bayern Munich coach Felix Magath on Tuesday hit out at German national counterpart Jurgen Klinsmann's policy of rotating goalkeepers before making a final selection for the World Cup.

Magath complained that their campaign was suffering by the duel between Bayern Munich custodian Oliver Kahn and Arsenal's Jens

"This affair is not only annoying but is holding Bayern back," Magath told Bavarian television.

A howler by Kahn at the weekend allowed tailenders FC Cologne share the spoils 2-2 at runaway league leader's Bayern.

Magath added that a decision on the future of Bayern midfielder Michael Ballack, whose contract is up at the end of the season, should be made shortly.

Brazil president **backs 2014** WC bid

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has given his backing to a bid by his country to host the 2014 World Cup, Brazilian football federation (CBF) chief Ricardo Teixeira announced Tuesday.

After a meeting with the president Teixeira said that Lula had agreed "that after 64 years Brazil met all the criteria to organise the World Cup and promised his backing because Brazilian football and the country

Brazil are the most successful World Cup nation with five titles in 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994 and 2002. But they have only once organised the tournament in 1950 when they lost the final 2-1 to Uruguay.

World soccer governing body FIFA's executive committee have already ruled the 2014 event will be held in South America.

During the meeting Teixeira presented a letter from FIFA president Joseph Blatter, thanking the Brazilian government for their in the Premiership this season, support in the fight against racism. FIFA congratulated Brazil

because Lula was the only head of state to request measures be taken against racism. Blatter asked me to give him a personal letter," added season, Edelman feels winning in

Police earn full points

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police defeated Dilkhusha Sporting Club in straight sets on the second day of the United Commercial Bank Limited Premier Volleyball League held at the newly built Volleyball stadium yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Water Development Board and Power Development Board also won in straight sets.

Tajikistan almost

Sri Lankan Chathura Siyaguna fired the ball over the bar in the 10th minute and Bhutan custodian Jiame Singye parried away a 30-yard scorcher from the midfielder in the

32nd minute. Bhutan went on the offensive after the break but Channa Ediribandanage's freekick hit the crossbar in the 47th minute. Galbodapayagalage could have doubled the advantage for Sri Lanka at the hour mark when he had only goalkeeper Jigme Singye to beat but failed to do so.

BRUNEI-NEPAL

Adil Mohammed Salleh put Brunei ahead after 10 minutes while Rywandi Wahid doubled the lead in the 42nd minute to give the side a 2-0 lead at the break. Nepal reduced the arrears in the second-half through Tashi Tsering's goal on the hour-mark.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

"Bangladesh are a very good side and playing at home would give them an advantage. I think it would be an open match," said Sabbah.

BANGLADESH LINEUP Aminul, Siraji, Faisal, Nazrul, Wali,

Australia FROM PAGE 12 Fall of wkts: 1-0, 2-33, 3-198, 4-228, 5-229, 6-237, 7-258, 8-275. 0 M W 26 4 78 Pollock 25.4 3 81 Kallis 18 6 44 2 19 5 65 De Villiers 0 12 0 Did not bat: J Langer Result: Australia won by 2 wickets and clinched the series 3-0. Man-of-the-match: Brett Lee.

Gunners on the verge

UEFA CHÂMPS LEAGUE

Arsene Wenger has vowed that Arsenal will seek to add to their twogoal first leg advantage as they seek to kill off Juventus in the second lea of their Champions League quarter-final on Wednesday.

An irresistible display of Wenger's exhilarating brand of football allowed the Gunners to outclass the Italian giants at Highbury last week, and their manager understandably is loathe to change the approach that delivered a famous 2-0 win.

"There was a third goal in that first game and it is a regret that we didn't get it,"Wenger said.

"The positive side is that we can completely focus on 2-0 not being enough of an advantage. Sometimes you don't prepare yourself to be positive and you don't get out of your own

One away goal for Arsenal would make life extremely difficult for Juve and, on the evidence of last week's performance, the Serie A leaders will struggle to contain opponents who managed to make some of the world's most experienced defenders look like novices at Highbury.

"We have no real choice in our attitude," Wenger added. "You can only go there and try to play to be positive to win the game. We cannot

"In this match we know it is down to us. Juventus is a big club, big team and will be nothing like: 'come on my friends go forward at us'. It will be a big tie again and we need exactly the same performance as last week.

The chances of that have been boosted by the faster-than-expected recovery of teenage midfielder Cesc Fabregas from a foot injury that had threatened to rule him out of the trip to

Defender Emmanuel Eboue, also injured in Premiership action at the weekend, has likewise been cleared for duty on Wednesday night, offering Wenger the opportunity to field an unchanged side.

The Frenchman nevertheless faces a tricky selection dilemma with Sol Campbell ready for a return to his starting line-up. Campbell has declared himself

ready to start his first match since walking out of Highbury in despair after making two bad mistakes in the first half of a Premiership defeat by West Ham on February 1. Wenger however may be reluctant to disrupt the centreback pairing of

accomodate the England defender. even if Eboue has to replaced at right-Toure has performed well in that role in the past but he was outstanding in the middle during the first leg as

Arsenal shackled the attacking threat

Philippe Senderos and Kolo Toure to

of Zlatan Ibrahimovic and David Trezeguet.

Juve's creative edge should be sharper in the Stadio delle Alpi with Czech playmaker Pavel Nedved due to return after missing the first leg through suspension.

But coach Fabio Capello must do without the midfield muscle of Patrick Vieira and Mauro Camorenesi and first-choice right-back Jonathan Zebina, all of whom are suspended

"We know what we have to do and that is create some problems for them," Capello said after watching his side labour to a goalless draw with Treviso at the weekend.

"Arsenal have a great counterattacking system with quality and pace. Its a difficult task, but it depends on how things go. We must go forward and be wary of their ability to hit us on the break." The concern Juve feel about

Arsenal's unrivalled counter-punching qualities was reflected in even starker terms by Nedved.

"We know that we cant make any mistakes at all, not one error," said the "But if Arsenal want to qualify then

they are going to have to work very hard for it on Wednesday night. Juventus are a side who always battle. We believe that we can still make it through to the semi-finals."

Success will convince Henry

"I think it's over 50percent proba-

bility he will stay with us because

CHÂMPS LEAGUE

AFP, London

Arsenal managing director Keith Edelman is hoping success in the Champions League will help persuade Thierry Henry to sign a new contract with the club.

Spanish side Barcelona are linked with a move for the 28-yearold French striker whose contract runs out at the end of next season. Although Arsenal have struggled

Henry has skippered a young side to impressive performances against Juventus and Real Madrid in With the club moving to a new stadium at Ashburton Grove next

Europe could help persuade Henry "I think that would help," he said. "We all want Thierry to stay at Arsenal Football Club. We've made him a very good offer, we'd love him

to stay and we hope he'll make that

decision before the end of the



THIERRY HENRY

and we've got a great group of youngsters who show we're a team for the future.

"I think Arsene (Wenger) has developed another great team and you're seeing it develop in front of your eyes. When you watch that and play with that it's very exciting. I think

Edelman admitted the financial rewards for doing well in Europe

"It would be worth a lot of money if we progressed in the competition, he added on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "Just for beating Juventus we'd

earn over 4 million pounds, if we got to the final but lost we'd increase our revenue by 8 million pounds, and if you go all the way it's about 12-13million pounds extra revenue. So it is a lucrative competition.

"We've been lucky because over the last few years we've automatically qualified, so when we did our budgets in the summer we knew exactly what we'd earn and we assumed we would go through all the group stages to the first knockout stage.

"That's how we've done our budgets traditionally but we also do what is known as a 'downside scenario' when we look at our business assuming we are not in Europe over the longer term, just to make sure we have our finances in shape.

Hohns quits

AFP, Sydney

criticism over a series of controversial team choices.

Cricket Australia said Hohns was quitting after a decade as chairman of the selectors' panel to devote more time to his business interests. "The change has come due to

his time due to the pending retirement of his business partner," it said in a state-No information was given about a replacement for Hohns to head the panel, though Cricket Australia said it

38 Of

coup

48 Rocky

DOWN

panel. Australia had a phenomenal Test record of 35 series won, five drawn and

iust six lost. During the same period, the selectors brought 39 players into the Test team and 46 into the one-day squad. But over the past year, there has

also been growing criticism of the panel's choices. Among the controversial decisions under Hohns was the failure to make more use of spinner Stuart McGill during last year's Ashes tour to England,

which Australia lost for the first time in 16 Waugh slammed Hohns for axeing batsman Brad Hodge from the Test team now in South Africa. He also criticised the selectors' failure to play quick Brett Lee during the Test series in New Zealand last year and the decision

Former Australian batsman Mark to drop batsman Michael Clarke, who has since been reinstated, as examples

Mansion calls off Utd deal

INTERNET, undated

Sponsorship talks between Manchester United and gaming com-

pany Mansion have been called off.

The betting and casino giant were considering backing The Red Devils as their main sponsor in a four-year deal which could have been worth close to £70 million, and would have been the biggest shirt deal in world football

A number of major companies have been linked with United since it was announced earlier this season that their current sponsor deal with Vodafone would cease at the end of the current Premiership campaign.

Mansion, though, looked to be in prime position and it was widely reported in the British press that a deal would be announced in the next

NODDMNA

CN ZXMNFS'N DXAZAXXAH

FRCPI CF'N NPMJ ZTYIAN Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ANCHORPERSON CAUSED YOU TO DOZE OFF, I GUESS YOU WERE

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.

ACROSS

1 Gravy

5 Touch

12 Relaxa-

tion

13 Lounge

about

14 Battering

device

Parade

venue

18 Hoodlum,

e.g.

20 Appear

21 Brazilian

river

23 Nour-

24 NBC

31 Hag

32 In need

35 Brass

36 College

VIP

37 Impres-

sive

grouping

repair

33 Inclination

member

soap

opera

zoologi

15 Big race

16 Rose

vessel

9 Showbiz

"We will go all out and try to win the match and group because we don't want to face Taiikistan in the quarterfinals." he added

Zahid Parvez, Arman Aziz, Rintu, Asad, Kanchan and Topu.

Man-of-the-series: Stuart Clark. Umpires: S Bucknor (WIS), A Hill (NZL). TV umpire: K Hurter (RSA). Match referee: C Broad (ENG).

Cricket

The long-time chairman of Australia's national cricket selectors, Trevor Hohns, announced his resignation Tuesday after coming under increasing

Hohns' increasing business commitments, which will occupy a lot more of

expected to announce an appointment of erratic selection. During Hohns' time on the selectors' CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

2 Scull prop 21 On

22 Bush

weight

advise 23 Court tance 4 Tough tissue 40 Barn-roof 24 Minimal attach-5 St change Bernard's ment 42 Downbeat 26 Persia, under bird 6 Exposed 43 Bridge 7 9mm sub- 27 Heavy

machine

3 Simile

8 Enraged 49 Carrots 9 Wooer's mates rendition 50 Small 10 Torched salaman-11 Type units 51 Hosp. **19** Bad personnel review

nent

20 Mound 1 Pass the stat Solution time: 21 mins

28 Exile isle less in 31 Ointments the Seine 33 Fairway bend 36 Theater 37 High 38 Shea squad 39 Beyond

40 Florisi shop iten 41 Picnic intruders 44 Bob's longtime partner 45 Whopper **46** The

whole enchilada Swabbie's

control

CRYPTOQUIP SMO

WMTH WAXAYT? C JMOTH

WATCHING A SNOOZE REPORT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals D

Roger Federer (World No. 1 tennis player)

Open title.



