SPÖRT

Biman meet Leonine in

clash of Gms

Top-of-the-table Bangladesh Biman

face defending champions Leonine in

a crucial 11th round tie today in the

Dutch-Bangla First Division Chess

The clash of the titans will feature

two local Grandmasters for Biman in

Ziaur Rahman and Reefat Bin Sattar

while Leonine have three grand-

masters in local Niaz Murshed and

foreign recruits Iuldachev Saidali and

Biman consolidated their lead with

35.5 points when they beat

Farashganj FC 3.5-0.5 at the federa-

tion hall-room yesterday. Leonine are

third with 32 points after an identical

second with 33 points but they have

In other 11th round matches yes-

terday, Chittagong Mohammedan beat Rajshahi Daba Unnayan

Sangastha 4-0, Destiny 2000 beat

Narayanganj City Chess Club 3.5-0.5.

Titas Club beat Mohakhali Prodip

Sangha 2.5-0.5, Friends Chess Power

beat Dhaka University Chess team 3-

Sonali Bank beat Toyota Motors

Chittagong Mohammedan are

victory over Muktijoddha Sangsad.

played 11 rounds so far.

Chess Club by 2.5-0.5

SPORTS REPORTER

Safin Shukhrat.

No let off for Akhtar, Asif?

PTI, Karachi

Banned fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif may not get reprieve from the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) new appeals committee, which started its hearing Tuesday, with the World Anti-Doping Agency closely monitoring

PCB sources have said WADA was keeping a close watch on the cases of Shoaib and Asif who were banned for two and one years respectively for testing positive for hanned steroid nandrolone in the Board's internal tests conducted before the Champions Trophy.

"There is definite pressure on us in the sense that the WADA officials are keeping abreast of everything that is happening and what we have done so far," the sources said.

"I don't think there are any chances of the bans being completely removed. They might be reduced but again we are being monitored by WADA," the sources were quoted as saving in the Pakistan Media today.

The new three-member appeals committee, headed by retired justice Fakhruddin G Ebrahim, will hold its first hearing in Lahore today and is expected to make a final decision by December 1

The committee members, including Sohaib Ahmad and Dr Danish Zaheer, will finalise the procedure of hearing after a discussion with PCB chairman Nasim Ashraf.

Shoaib will refer to the case of Greg Rusedski, a British tennis player who was discharged of accusations of the same nature in 2004. The British, in turn, had used the reference of Czech Republic player Bowdo Ullrich who was cleared of the same accusations in

Pollock may quit Tests

PTI, Durban

South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock will rethink his Test career after the series with India so that he could concentrate on the shorter version of the game which beckons him with a unique double of scoring 3,000 runs and taking 300 wickets.

Pollock, who could join Pakistan's Wasim Akram as the only player to have achieved the distinction in one-day internationals during the series against India, said he enjoyed playing ODIs and was mindful of the record.

"I will see how I feel about it after this summer's three Test series," the 33-year-old cricketer said.

hope I can still play in this form of the game for a few years more.

"I should have a good, or better, indication of my Test (career) after the series against India and Pakistan. Maybe I'll consider playing for another year or two," he told

Pollock, who has made 2,849 ODI runs, needs another 151 to reach the 3,000 mark. He has already taken 354 wickets in this form of the game.

Akram took 502 wickets and made 3,717 runs in 365 ODIs.

Batting low down the order, none of them made a one-day century, but Akram made six fifties. Pollock, who has made two centuries in Test cricket, has scored 11 half-centuries

Transfer

FROM PAGE 17

were present at the meeting. Mostakur Rahman of Mohammedan, coordinator of the clubs, signed the letter on behalf of the participators

"We support the BFF action because it is difficult for the clubs to moved under these conditions." told Abahani representative and manager Satyajit Das Rupu, who was absent at the meeting.

"Even before the clubs had appealed, the BFF should have taken this decision," he added.

The transfer was due to end on December 31 and the league scheduled to start in the third week of the same month

India vow

FROM PAGE 17

"We also enjoy the anonymity of playing away from home, where we can relax and do normal things. I think the benefit of that relaxation off the field will be evident on the field." said Dravid.

The five one-dayers will be played in Johannesburg (November 19), Durban (November 22), Cape Town (November 26), Port Elizabeth (November 29) and

Centurion (December 3). The three Tests will be played in Johannesburg (December 15-19), Durban (December 26-30) and

Cape Town (January 2-6). India's Test squad will be named in the first week of December.

Jimmy to fight for place

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

James Anderson had the first Ashes Test in Australia well off his radar as he spent six weeks in a corset to cradle a stress back fracture last English

Now the Lancashire paceman is on target to play against the Australians in the opening Ashes Test in Brisbane next week after a strong bowling performance in the drawn three-day tour match against New South Wales, which finished here Tuesday.

Anderson, 24, has been given the nod by Test coach Duncan Fletcher that he will get the fourth pace bowling spot behind Steve Harmison, Matthew Hoggard and Andrew Flintoff for the November 23 First Test at the expense

Anderson claimed five match wickets (2-45 and 3-40) off a total of 25 overs to press his claims to attack the Australians at the Gabba

"When I was in the corset I couldn't even think of when my next game of cricket was going to be," Anderson said after Tuesday's play.

"But I got through that and my rehab and I'm glad to be here."

"When anyone's had a serious injury like that it's going to be in the back of your head and the first couple of times I bowled it was in the back of my mind." he said.

"But once I bowled more the confidence grew so I forgot about it." Anderson said the NSW tour game

had been a big step for him in his fightback to full confidence. "I spent nearly two days in the field and I bowled 25 overs so it's a massive

step towards my (Test) selection," he

"It was a slow wicket, but lucky for me it swung in the first innings and then reverse (swung) in the second, so there was always something there for

Anderson's first seven overs went for 39 runs in the first innings, but his second spell was considerably better with 2-6 off eight overs.

"The change of ends did a pretty good job for me," he said. "The far end was tricky with the wind in my face, but the other end it was lot easier with the

"I've only played 13 Tests (41 wickets) and I'm confident in what I can do and I'm sure most of the team know what I can do.'

Andrew Strauss put together 50, but

there were batting failures for

Marcus Trescothick (8), Ian Bell (0)

ing spells under a hot Australian

sun, with pace spearhead Steve

Harmison taking 3-95 off 20 overs

and Anderson taking five match

Scoreboard at the close on the third

and final day of the three-day tour

107, Cowan 26, Katich 68, Clarke

50, Smith 50; Giles 2-46, Harmison

ENGLAND: First innings 349 all out

in 90.4 overs (Strauss 50, Cook 59,

Pietersen 122, Flintoff 62, McGrath

2-63, Lee 2-57, Clark 3-50, Bracken

NEW SOUTH WALES: Second

innings 194 for 6 in 51 overs (Katich

55, Clarke 68, Hauritz not out 20;

Dudhia's contribution during his

he had made a lot of contribution to

give the board a professional shape. I

think I had a very good relation with

my colleagues. There was lot of news

in the press about rift between

Mahbub and me but I can only tell you

that our relationship goes back

twenty years," said Asghar, who has

advocated for an elected president in

still had the photograph of ex-Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia hanging over

his head, general secretary

Mahbubul Anam commented, "What we enjoyed most during his period

that we could worked in free-hand."

When asked why BNP chairper-

son Khaleda Zia's photograph has

not been removed according to

regulation, Mahbub informed that he

On the outgoing president, who

"I specially thank Macky because

wickets off a total of 25 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

3-95, Anderson 2-45)

Anderson 3-40)

Result: Match drawn

With regret

FROM PAGE 17

the board in future.

The bowlers got in lengthy bowl-

and Paul Collingwood (5).

Eng falter on the field

Both chances came off left-arm spinner Monty Panesar's bowling. while James Anderson dropped Simon Katich off Matthew Hoggard when he was on one on his way to

Anderson, who has been given the nod by team selectors to play in the opening Test in Brisbane next week instead of Sajid Mahmood, was on a hat-trick at one stage after dismissing O'Brien (2) and Daniel Smith (0), but youngster Moises Henriques saw off the attempt.

Anderson finished England's

best bowler with 3-40 off 10 overs. It was a useful exercise for the tourists as they sought time to acclimatise to the Australian pitch conditions in the countdown to the

November 23 Test opener at the

"We're really happy with the way it went," Anderson said. "Everyone's had a decent run-out against very strong opposition.

"The next game against South Australia will build up the intensity and I'll look to get a few more overs

"I am concentrating on getting some bowling rhythm and if I get selected for the first Test then that's great." Kevin Pietersen scored 122, but

more importantly spent 258 minutes batting, while skipper Andrew Flintoff compiled 62 in 105 minutes. Alastair Cook looked impressive

in his knock of 59 and opener



match between New South Wales AFP, Lahore and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday: **NEW SOUTH WALES:** First innings 355 for 9 dec in 101.1 overs (Jaques

West Indian captain Brian Lara said he had dinner with his friend Shoaib Akhtar and offered his best wishes after the Pakistan fast bowler was

"It is unfortunate what happened to him. I don't know much about it but I wished him the best," said Lara, who was invited by Akhtar to a Thai restaurant in Lahore on Monday night after the third day's play in the

Akhtar was banned from all international and national cricket for two years early this month after testing positive for the banned steroid nandrolone. His fellow new ball partner Mohammad Asif was banned for one year.

during the Super Series in Australia

Indian batsman said.

and I am happy to have done that, said Lara. Akhtar also paid tribute to Lara.

people I admire and I am thankful he accepted my invitation. He is a great player and a great person," said the

member panel will start proceedings on their appeals from Tuesday.

Reina concedes

FROM PAGE 20

from Anfield

the problem.

to let in. At the beginning of the game we were matching them but as soon as the second goal went in the match was finished."

The German soccer federation responded to growing criticism from many clubs Monday by saying that a March 28 friendly would be used to test potential internationals and that top players would be rested.

"We see the problem, but the solution cannot come from our side," Germany team manager Oliver Bierhoff said.

clubs are all chasing titles on several fronts. Although AC Milan is trying to make up a 15-point Serie A punishment imposed for a matchthe powerhouse sides in contention should make it to the last 16 of European soccer's most prestigious club competition.

That means they all need their

Yes, the fans get the chance to

Tired Tres quits tour

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

England Test opener Marcus Trescothick late Tuesday flew home and pulled out of the Ashes series against Australia after a recurrence of a stress-related illness, a team spokesman said

The England selectors will hold discussions over the next 24 hours about a replacement for Trescothick and an announcement will be made in due course, a team statement on the England and Wales Cricket Board's website said. "Following discussions between

staff, it was decided that Marcus should fly home at the earliest opportunity," team coach Duncan Fletcher said in the statement. "We are naturally disappointed to lose a player of his quality from our

Marcus and the England medical

Ashes squad and everyone in the dressing room hopes that he is able to make a full recovery and resume his cricketing career." Trescothick, who will be 31 next month, has played 76 Tests for

England scoring 5,825 runs at 43.79 He has failed to find form in his

two innings on the Australian tour, scoring two against the Prime Minister's XI and eight against New South Wales in the three-day match that finished in a draw here

The Somerset left-hander failed to return to the field during the NSW second innings with his England teammates Tuesday.

Trescothick suffered a stress disorder that forced him to take a complete break to recover during England's India tour last February and the subsequent English sum-

Shortly after the team's arrival for the Australian tour, Trescothick told reporters he was over his illness, but was bracing for Australian vitriol from fans in this month's Ashes

He said he had arrived in Australia feeling refreshed and brighter than when he left England's tour of India last February, when he was burnt out and unable to enjoy "It was a lot of different things,"

Trescothick said of his illness. "A lot of people have said more about it than obviously I have but I needed time to take stock and get back into it. I needed to recharge

"Not only was I trying to play

international cricket and succeed at my job, but some days I was not feeling too good and having to think about other things.

"I didn't want to show people anything was wrong -- of course I didn't -- you just want to carry on and go about your job. "You feel like a bit of a failure, if

you like. You feel like you're giving in to something, and it's got a bit of a stigma with it when you talk about stress-related illnesses and stuff. "To give in and finally come out and say what had happened was,

for me, the best thing I could do, because I got it off my chest, and I had nothing then to fear from other people." Trescothick was the secondhighest run scorer with 431 behind

Kevin Pietersen (473) in last year's Ashes but hasn't scored a century in 15 matches against Australia. Fletcher is scheduled to give a press conference here early

Wednesday before the team flies to Adelaide for its next tour match against South Australia starting on The opening Ashes Test with

Australia begins in Brisbane on November 23.

Roger survives Andy assault

Tennis

banned for doping.

Lara said he got to know Akhtar

troubled time, the master West "It was nice to spend some time

Asif and Akhtar have appealed against the bans and a three-

Champions League than in the

down by their away form this season and the defeat at Arsenal was their fifth in six league matches away

one goal away in the Premiership this term and Reina conceded that poor defending was at the heart of

"Our confidence should have been high because it was a good moment for us. But Arsenal probably played their best home match of

Clubs fear

fixing scandal, the club is doing well in the Champions League. Most of

best players available as often as Habibul Bashar and batsman possible. Friendlies like these are at Mohammad Ashraful with the best a hindrance, at worst a hazard renowned sports-gear company Reebok, who offered a lucrative

tonight, let's not let that be lost," was only going to be one winner and Federer converted his sec-

Roger Federer survived a furious onslaught by Andy Roddick to put one foot in the Masters Cup semifinals on Tuesday. The world number one

dropped the first set and saved three match points in a tense second-set tie-break before running out the 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 win-Federer, who last met Roddick

in the US Open final, extended his winning streak against the American to eight matches going back more than three years. The 2003 and 2004 champion

is all but qualified for the last four

here after the win, to go with his straight-sets win against David Nalbandian. The match also made him the first player to earn more than seven million dollars in a season,

with career earnings of more than 27 million dollars. But Federer, who has never lost a Masters Cup round-robin match, can count himself lucky after being rattled by the big-

serving American for the first two "I played well enough to win said Roddick, who has turned his season around under advisor Jimmy Connors. "I felt like I was the better

player for two sets tonight so if I can keep building on that and keep improving at the rate I have over the last three or four months, hopefully we can get over that last

little hump."

Blasting eight aces in the first set and unsettling the Swiss with frequent visits to the net, Roddick won the decisive break on a double-fault in the third game.

Roddick escaped two break

points and, serving for the set,

survived a brief attack of the nerves as he converted his third chance with a backhand volley. Federer saved another break point at 2-2 in the second and had Roddick on the ropes at 5-4, but

break points. Tension grew in the Qi Zhong Stadium as the set went to a tiebreak and Federer survived three match points.

the American escaped three

His relief was palpable when

After breaking Roddick in the

third game of the decider, there

Roddick momentarily lost his cool with a wild jumping volley on Federer's second set point, tying the match at 1-1.

ond match point with his third ace of the last game.

Federer also beat Roddick in the 2003 semifinals in Houston on the way to his first Masters Cup title. He is bidding to become the event's first triple champion.

Nalbandian was playing Ivan Ljubicic in Tuesday's later Red Group match. BHF boss

of protection. As soon as we get police for security, we will start the

FROM PAGE 17

league even if the blockade continues," Rahmatullah told The Daily Star yesterday. "We met the president (Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam) today and

he has instructed us to stick to the "We cannot violate the rules of the game and must continue the league." Rahmatullah said guoting

the BHF boss. He added that the president has called a meeting next Friday to

discuss the issue. BHF general secretary Shamsul Bari, who is now abroad, is also

expected to return home in time to join the meeting.

New South Wales batsman Michael Clarke plays a square drive on one knee during his knock of 68 on the final day of the three-day tour match against England in Sydney on Tuesday.

Pakistan take lead

Caribbean last year.

Pakistan since hitting two centuries

in the two-match series in the

Lara, who started his career at this ground 16 years ago, also notched up his best score in Pakistan. His previous best score in this country was 44 in his debut Test in 1990. Next over, Chanderpaul, who batted with discomfort after suffering

from a stomach bug for three days,

survived a stumping off Kaneria when Gul, who was the best Pakistani bowler with 4-99 for nine wickets in the match, then removed Dwayne Bravo leg-before for three and Kaneria had Denesh Ramdin caught at forward short-leg for one to leave the tourists at

with the tourists still needing nine runs to avoid an innings defeat. Chanderpaul hit Nazir for two boundaries before miscuing another pull to be caught at short mid-wicket by Mohammad Yousuf.

Pakistan took the second new ball

The 32-year left-handed batsman

252-6 at the tea interval.

hit eight boundaries during his 262minute stay at the crease Dave Mohammed avoided the innings defeat before Nazir dismissed him for 15. From the other end Gul wrapped up the innings by dismissing Jerome Taylor caught behind for eight to finish with 9-164 in the match

Nazir finished with 3-99. Resuming at 74-3 this morning, the West Indies lost nightwatchman Fidel Edwards in the eighth over of the day when paceman Shahid Nazir forced an edge to the slip where Younis Khan took a low catch. Edwards made 10. Pakistan gave Lara a reprieve on

48 when Hafeez failed to hold a low catch at gully off Gul and the West Indian captain made the home side pay for the lapse for another three

SCOREBOARD

Cyprus seek

was unaware of the circular.

opening Test between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Gadaffi Stadium in Lahore on Tuesday WEST INDIES: First innings 206 (Lara

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the

61; Gul 5-65, Nazir 3-42) PAKISTAN: First innings 485 (Yousuf 192, Akmal 78, Malik 69, Hafeez 57; Taylor4-115) WEST INDIES: Second innings

(overnight 74-3) Gayle c Akmal b Gul Ganga run out Sarwan Ibw b Gul 23 Lara Ibw b Hafeez 122 Edwards c Younis b Nazir Chanderpaul c Yousuf b Nazir Bravo Ibw b Gul Ramdin c Farhat b Kaneria Mohammed c Razzaq b Nazir Taylor cAkmal b Gul Collymore not out Extras: (lb-7, nb-5) 12 Total: (All out in 94 overs) 291

Fall of wicket: 1-16, 2-20, 3-56, 4-101 5-238, 6-248, 7-251, 8-278, 9-288. M R 99 6 29 Nazir 20 8 63 Razzad 19 29 78 Kaneria 6 Malik 14 Hafeez PAKISTAN: Second innings Hafeez Ibw b Collymore

Farhat not out

Younis not out

Extras: (lb-4)

Total: (For one wkt in 5.1 overs) 13 Fall of wickets: 1-2. Collymore 2 2.1 1 0 Edwards Result: Pakistan won by nine wick-Man-of-the-match: Umar Gul.

games, know the scale of the task awaiting them but they certainly

believe they have a chance. "It is a challenge for all of us, an opportunity to measure our abilities with a team considered one of the best in the world." said APOEL

defender Stelios Okkarides. "But sometimes, when you are up against a giant, things do go your way," he told the daily Phileleftheros.

Dhaka-Barisal

FROM PAGE 17 The other changes in the fixtures were the two away matches for Rajshahi and Chittagong who now take on their previous opponents. Rajshahi complete their away fixture with Khulna at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium and Sylhet face Chittagong at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium today.

Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 17 were not enough as Rajshahi eclipsed the total in the 46th overs,

FROM PAGE 17

0

Sentu scored 38 while his namesake in the team struck 23. This was the only match played on the day as all the others were cancelled due to the countrywide blockade programme.

Selector back

losing eight wickets in the process.

ing the sponsors logo on their bat and clothing. The selector in question, Athar, a former national opener and Reebok's distributor in Bangladesh, however completely denied his involvement in this deal.

package to the players for display-

Lara wishes

Akhtar well

last year.

Akhtar needed friends at a

with him when he was in difficulties "He (Lara) was one of the few

Premiership. Liverpool arrived at the Emirates Stadium on the back of five consecutive wins but they never threatened to extend that run against Arsenal. Benitez's men have been let

They have only one point and

the season," he said. "The second goal was a bad goal

FROM PAGE 20

At this time of the season, the top

see their national teams in action. But maybe they wouldn't mind missing out if it meant assurances that their clubs can field a fullstrength lineup this weekend when three points are at stake.