counter it.

AKS take title

Aga Khan School (AKS) triumphed

over Scholastica by 1-0 to clinch the

Virgin Soft Drinks School

Champion's Trophy at the Banani

Aamer Chowdhury struck the all-

A total of twelve teams took part

in the competition, all of which were

English medium schools

Scholastica defeated South Breeze

4-0 in the first semifinal while AKS

won a penalty shootout against

Bangladesh International Tutorial in

Ball trophy as the best player while

Scholastica's Naveed Khan won the

Golden Boot, courtesy of being top

scorer. Goalkeeper Zaki Hossain of

AKS won the Golden Gloves award,

as the best goalkeeper of the tour-

nament. The Senior Vice President

of Bangladesh Football Federation

(BFF) Monir Ahmed was present as

chief guest and the managing

director of Virgin Soft Drinks Yasser

Rizvi was the special quest for the

Aamer was awarded the Golden

important winner in the second half

Chairmanbari ground vesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER

with a fabulous strike.

the second semifinal.

SPÖRT

Gilly trusts own technique

Cricket

Adam Gilchrist lost his batting aura in last year's Ashes series as England probed at his suspect technique against the swinging

Hailed as an "once-in-a-lifetime" cricketer heading into the 2005 Ashes contest with a batting average of 55.65, the match-turning wicketkeeper-batsman was brought back to the field by England's straitjacket strategy.

The confident stroke-playing of the dazzling left-hander became uncertain as he faltered against the Fnalish reverse swing and finished the five-Test series with just 181 runs at 22.62 and no score beyond

Australia lost its dependent impetus at No. 7 as Gilchrist spluttered against the English pace attack with Andrew Flintoff claiming his wicket four times.

Fourteen months on and Gilchrist is one Australian team member keen for redemption as he celebrates his 35th birthday ahead of the November 23 Ashes opener in Brisbane.

"It's going to be a tactic of theirs (England)," Gilchrist said this

"Like any tactic that an opponent has, you have to be prepared

Bond ready to

New Zealand fast bowler Shane

Bond believes he is ready to help

of the Champions Trophy earlier this

month, but Bond expects to improve

There is a lot of belief in the

team that we can do it. It's just a

matter of putting those words into

action on the field. You can talk a lot

about winning, but what really

a gauge of where we are at. What

we recognise is that if we play well

eye on the World Cup in the

we play as well as we can play, I

know we can win the World Cup.

Babloo picks

we can beat any team.

Caribbean.

FROM PAGE 17

vesterday

SQUAD

(physician).

"The Champions Trophy gave us

He added: "Everyone has their

"We have a very good side. And if

"Everyone is pumped up about it

-- everyone is doing what they can to

gear themselves up to peak in

make the tour with one player less

because we cannot include a new

name in the list," told BFF general

secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal

three senior footballers join the

under-23 teams and

Hasanuzzaman Babloo has chosen

two centre-backs -- Rajani and Nazrul -- and midfielder Matiur

Mohammedan's defensive

midfielder Arman Aziz, set to join

Muktijoddha Sangsad this season.

Goalkeepers: MN Shakil, Mazharul

Islam Himel; defenders: Rajani Kanta Barman, Nazrul, Feroz

Mahmud Titu, Ariful Islam, Arafat Ali

Rony, Waly Faisal, Jahirul Islam,

Ibnul Siraji; midfielders: Abul

Hossain, Matiur Munna, Arman

Aziz, Enamul Haque Sharif, Faisal

Mahmud; forwards: Zahid Hossain.

Zahid Hassan Emily, Mohammed

Officials: Sirajul Islam Bachchu

(team leader and manager),

Hassanuzzaman Babloo (coach)

Bayezid Alam Nipu (assistant coach), Mohammed Ali Imran

Robin and Mithun Chowdhury.

has been named captain

The tournament rules permit

counts is stepping out and doing it.

the Blackcaps win the World Cup.

play his part

INTERNET, undated

"They used it to good effect against a couple of our left-handers in England last year with the reverse-swinging ball.

"I'm sure they will try to expose that again. We've thought long and hard about it. We've chatted about it to try to come up with plans. There's no denying that teams will target that area of my game.

I'm well aware of that so I'll be doing all I can to try to counter that."

Gilchrist is the most prolificscoring wicketkeeper in Test history with 5,124 runs at 48.80 with 16 centuries in 85 consecutive

In full flow, Gilchrist is one of world cricket's intoxicating sights, ripping into the bowling with relish and lifting his team's run-rate to demoralise opponents in the tailend of the Australian innings.

He has smashed 92 sixes, 626 boundaries and has an extraordinary career run-rate of almost five

That makes England's achievement even more remarkable, considering Gilchrist's galvanising effect since he displaced lan Healy in the Australian team in November

It has been speculated that now he is 35 and with every subsequent

for it and plan how you are going to stumps soon after next year's World Cup in the Caribbean

But he is also aware, if form and fitness remain intact, he is scheduled to play his 100th Test in Pakistan in March, 2008.

If he does that he would become the first player in 130 years of Test cricket to make 100 consecutive appearances from debut.

India's Rahul Dravid made it to 94 before a fever flattened him in Ahmedabad prior to a Test against Sri Lanka.

If he maintains his current rate of just over four dismissals per Test, Gilchrist will also have overtaken Healy as the most successful Test wicketkeeper.

Healy has the record at 395 dismissals and Gilchrist trails him by 40.

But first Gilchrist has the little matter of redressing things against Flintoff's England as Australia fight to retrieve the Ashes.

"I was one of a number of batsmen Flintoff gave a torrid time to, both left-handed and righthanded," Gilchrist said.

"He's been a focal point of our discussion and will continue to be so, such is the impact he's had on the world stage in the last two or three years.

"I'll try and just get my game back to the thinking and techniques of when I've been successful.'

trip becoming more of a wrench from wife Mel and two young chuildren that Gilchrist will draw

The Kiwis reached the semifinals

'The World Cup is the huge goal,' he told The Sunday News. "We want to be the first New Zealand team to win it. And everyone is working bloody hard

"It is obviously a great achieve-

was a goal I had set myself in life.

"Hopefully I can carry on and meet the other goals."

The 32-year-old Chanderpaul

happy to make it there. Yet the game is still a Test match and you have to ere and play s

tional career against England on his home ground, Bourda in Georgetown, Guyana in 1994 and has since then scored 6,617 Test runs with 14 Test centuries.

ioved when he made his debut.

make my mark." he remembered. Chanderpaul termed Pakistan's Wasim Akram and Australian Shane Warne as the two most dangerous

'Wasim was difficult because of his ability to swing the cricket ball and also to seam off the wicket. Warne turns the ball a long way and he is one of those guys who will work you out,

He also led the West Indies in 14 to concentrate more on his batting.

keep playing

Cricket

West Indian middle-order batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul said he would be more focused and disci-100th Test on Sunday.

ment to actually make it to 100 Tests, knowing how my career has been with a lot of injuries and lots of ups and downs," said Chanderpaul, who reached the milestone in the second Test against Pakistan here.

"You can't worry about what number it is, you have to go out and play the game and play hard like always. One hundred Test matches

becomes the eighth West Indies player and 42nd in Test history to reach the milestone.

"It is very satisfying and I am

had scored only one fifty in the last

14 matches and managed just three

Lara defended Sarwan's axing

saying: "It wasn't designed as a

drop. It was a situation where the

best combination was chosen to get

also axed to make room for batsman

Runako Morton and fast bowler

Shivnarine Chanderpaul overcame

a stomach disorder and is playing his 100th Test. Chanderpaul

became the eighth West Indian and

42nd cricketer in the world to play

(130), Vivian Richards (121),

Desmond Haynes (116), Clive Lloyd (110), Gordon Greenidge (108) and

Carl Hooper (102) were the others

who have played more than 100

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second Test between

Pakistan and the West Indies at

Tests for the West Indies.

SCOREBOARD

Courtney Walsh (132), Lara

Paceman Fidel Edwards was

Middle-order batsman

and 23 in the first Test.

Daren Powell

100 or more Tests.

WI seize Pak

has to be focused and carry on," said Chanderpaul, from Guyana.
Chanderpaul started his interna-

Chanderpaul said he was over-

'I was called up to the squad and never thought I was going to play the game so when I heard my name in the final eleven to play that morning I was overjoyed and I was eager to

bowlers he had faced in his career.

said Chanderpaul.

Multan Cricket Stadium on Sunday:

Total: (For 4 wkts in 91 overs) 263

Fall of wickets: 1-83, 2-125, 3-212,

To bat: Akmal, Razzaq, Nazir, Gul,

16

14

11

WEST INDIES: Lara, Gayle,

Ganga, Morton, Chanderpaul,

Bravo, Ramdin, Collymore, Powell,

Umpires: Daryl Harper and Mark

O M R W

6 52

5 30

0

61

23

39

4

PAKISTAN: First innings

Younis c Morton b Taylor

Farhat c Lara b Bravo

Yousuf c Lara b Gavle

Extras: (b-1, lb-3, nb-2)

Inzamam not out

Kaneria

Bowler

Powell

Gavle

Bravo

Collymore

Mohammed

Taylor, Mohammed.

Toss: Pakistan.

Benson.

Hafeez c Ramdin b Taylor

Tests and 16 one-day internationals before relinquishing the job last year

Chanderpaul to

olined than ever as he played in his

Rajshahi in final round SPORTS REPORTER

Raishahi reached the final round of the National Cricket Champion-ship when they defeated Sirajganj by 11 runs in the zonal final at the Natore Stadium yesterday.

The northern giants batted first and notched up 160 for nine in the stipulated 35 overs. In reply, Sirajganj were bowled out in the final over for 149.

Opener Lal Mohon clattered 40 runs off 30 balls after Rajshahi were sent into bat by opposition captain Shakil. He found little support but there were effective contributions from Sentu (22) and Delwar (29) later in the innings. For Sirajganj Milon captured three wickets for 25 while Mamun bagged two wickets.

Sirajganj started off badly when the top-order failed to help out skipper Shakil in their chase. Number five Jewel struck 55 while Shakil made 48 but their fall marked the end of Sirajganj's hopes of a berth in the final round.

Lal Mohon, Delwar and Jony all nicked up two wickets apiece, while Liton and Saiib took one each

No int'l football this month

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club officially announced yesterday that they have postponed this month's proposed international club football tournament due to the ongoing political unrest in the country. The six-team tournament includ-

ing three teams each from Bangladesh and India were due to take part in the event starting from

The fresh date will be announced

Int'l Rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The Prime Bank 9th International Rating Chess tournament will begin at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room today.

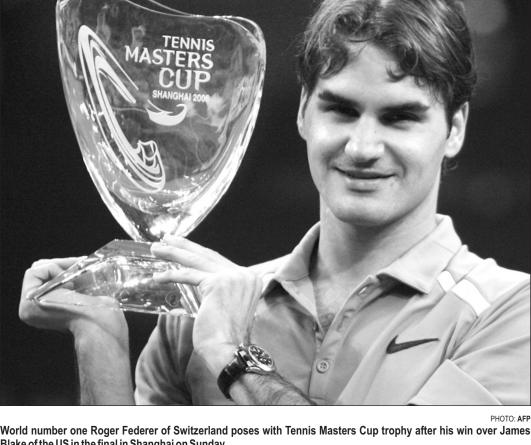
The top players, the Grandmasters and International Masters of the country are not taking part in the 9-round Swiss League meet organised by Leonine Chess Club.

C'wealth chess from todav

SPORTS REPORTER

The Commonwealth Chess Championships 2006 begin today in Mumbai with two Bangladeshi Grandmasters. Ziaur Rahman and Niaz Murshed, taking part in the 10round Swiss league competition

Both the Bangladeshi pa pants left Dhaka on Saturday for the 14,000-dollar tournament, which will end on November 29.



Blake of the US in the final in Shanghai on Sunday.

Roger ends year in style

Tennis

World number one Roger Federer rounded off a near-perfect season by demolishing James Blake to take his third Masters Cup title in straight sets on Sunday.

The 2003 and 2004 champion blasted the bottom seed to love in the first set and produced immaculate tennis throughout, winning 6-0, 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 37 minutes

The victory underlined Federer's dominance after his best year yet, winning three out of four Grand Slam finals plus another eight regular-season events, finishing with staggering figures of 92-5. The 25-year-old is also assured of

overhauling Jimmy Connors' 1974-1977 record for consecutive weeks as world number one when he reaches 161 weeks on February 26 "I think that is definitely one of the big records I've broken, maybe the

biggest so far in my career," he said. Blake was the first Masters Cup debutant to reach the final in five years. Despite the one-sided final, his performance here has raised him to a

making him the top US player. "Today there was nothing I could have done. He played too good,"

career-high number four ranking,

said the American "I've probably run out of adjectives to talk about his excellence. He's unbelievable and he steps it up

Federer also said he had exhausted adjectives to describe his performance, and said he was playing so well it even made him laugh.

"I've run out of words as well. I even had to laugh at one stage at how well I was playing," he said. "I always came up with a great

answer. I was in control all the time and pretty much everything I wanted "At this stage in my career I'm so

happy with my game, it's come such a long way, I'm also out of words." Federer started at a gallop, hitting two aces and a service win-

ner in his first game and breaking Blake twice in a row to take a stranglehold on the first set. He faced five break points in the fifth game but eventually came out

on top, breaking Blake in the next

game to take the set to love in a quickfire 26 minutes. A stunned Blake eventually held for 1-1 in the second set and had another four break points against the Swiss, but Federer conjured his eighth ace to escape and took the

set-winning break in the next game.

Federer broke twice in the third set and was serving for the title when Blake conjured his first break of the match and held to love. But the unruffled Swiss raced to three championship points in his

next game, calmly converting the first with a service winner. Federer entered the fir stretching his unbeaten round-robin record to 15-0 in five consecutive

Masters Cup appearances, drop-

ping just two sets in his five matches this year. The Swiss, who lost last year's

classic final to David Nalbandian. becomes the first player to surpass eight million dollars in season earnings, taking home 1,520,000 dollars to boost his year's total to 8,343,885 dollars.

His 29th consecutive victory makes him the first man to bag three year-ending championships since Pete Sampras completed his haul of Blake was the last to qualify for

the tournament on the back of a breakthrough season in which he took five titles and entered the top 10 for the first time. The New Yorker was the first into

the semi-finals following roundrobin wins against Nadal and Nikolay Davydenko, the world number two and three

ROLL OF HONOUR Shanghai 2006 - Roger Federer

(runner-up: James Blake) Shanghai 2005 - David Nalbandian (runner-up: Roger Federer) Houston 2004 - Roger Federer (runner-up: Lleyton Hewitt) Houston 2003 - Roger Federer (runner-up: Andre Agassi) Shanghai 2002 - Llevton Hewitt (runner-up: Juan Carlos Ferrero) Sydney 2001 - Lleyton Hewitt (runner-up: Sebastien Grosjean) Lisbon 2000 - Gustavo Kuerten

The tournament was organised by The Source, and supported by the Bangladesh Football

selection policy

PCB alters

PTI, Karachi

The Pakistan cricket authorities have rung in a major change in their selection policies in an apparent bid to reduce the powers of the captain and coach

Starting from the second Test against the West Indies in Multan. the Pakistan Cricket Board has ensured that a national selector would be present in team meetings -- for both home and away matches -to finalise the playing eleven.

This is a big change from past tradition when the selectors only finalised a squad of 14 to 16 players for a home series or overseas tour and the captain, coach and vice captain than finalised the playing eleven before every match.

"That is changed now. We are following the pattern of other countries. One selector would be present at every team meeting to pick the eleven at home and on foreign tours," Saleem Altaf, Director --Cricket Operations, said.

The move is seen by many people as the first step taken by new Chairman of the Board, Dr. Naseem Ashraf to curtail the influence of the captain and coach which have been questioned in recent times after some baffling selection decisions

Glaring examples have been the insistence of Inzamam-ul Hag and Bob Woolmer to ignore leg-spinner Danish Kaneria for the one-day games and to take pacer Shahid Nazir on tours to India and the West Indies without giving him a single playing opportunity.

Greats bat for Clarke Can KP do it again?

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

56

31

Several Australian Test greats have urged selectors to play batsman Michael Clarke in Thursday's first Ashes Test even if all-rounder Shane Watson is declared fit to face England.

The New South Wales righthander has been called into the Australian squad as cover for Watson. who is in doubt for the Test after injuring a hamstring while bowling in a domestic one-dayer last Friday.

But former Test captain Ian Chappell believes the selectors have erred in picking Watson in the first place and Clarke is the better option for the first of five Tests against the tourists at the Gabba. "I really don't count Watson's

ahead of Clarke," Chappell told Sydney's Sun-Herald newspaper Sunday. "I really think that you're talking

about two batsmen here and, if you're

bowling as sufficient enough to put him

picking a batsman then, to me, Michael Clarke was the better option." Another former Test batsman Doug Walters wants selectors to pick Clarke and abort their quest to find an all-

rounder answer to England's Andrew

They should go for the bloke who should have been there in the first place," Walters said of Clarke's claims for the No.6 batting spot.

"He hasn't done too badly given the

Walters said Australia's ageing batting line-up needed an injection of vouth and Clarke needed to be fasttracked back into the side. "We're going to be looking for some

limited opportunities he's had."

batsmen in six months and they're going to have to call him in then," he "Why not get him in now? Why wait six months? He's 25 and you

can't keep calling up 35-year-old

blokes to replace 38-year-olds."

where he celebrated reaching three figures by kissing the England badge on his helmet. Then came the Ashes where

he scored 473 runs in five Tests

against the world's best team.

starting with a pair of fifties on debut during the crushing seriesopening defeat at Lord's. Although essentially orthodox, Pietersen's ability to whip good length balls through the onside

Warne by using his reach to play sweep shots, marked him out. Come the last day of the final Test at The Oval, with the series still in the balance, Pietersen counter-attacked after a toporder collapse to score 158 and secure the draw that saw England win its first Ashes cam-

and his preparedness to attack

paign in 19 years. His audacity was evident again at Edgbaston in May when, during a Test hundred against Sri Lanka, he reverse-swept offspinner Muttiah Muralidaran for an astonishing six.

Often criticised for being

addicted to celebrity, Pietersen's fame has yet to adversely affect his cricket. For example, he scored the first century of England's Ashes

tour when he scored 122 against New South Wales last week. After the end of the last Ashes series, Pietersen insisted he would not be distracted by the

trappings of fame. "We have to make a living out of what we do and as long as it doesn't interfere with our cricket, it's okay," he told the Sunday

"Why would I want to take the mickey out of cricket? I haven't written to the newspapers and

said 'I want to be a celebrity'. "Cricket will always be my

Eng leave

FROM PAGE 17 two sixes and four boundaries coming in at No.8, the batting position that has given the tourists the

most concern on this tour.

head Steve Harmison does not recover from his injury. Wicketkeeper Geraint Jones, who will play at the Gabba because of his superior batting ability over Chris Read, made a stylish 33 off 72

Brisbane Test side if pace spear-

Mahmood will only come into the

balls before he was caught at bat Paceman Shaun Tait finished with 3-87, and bowled six overs Sunday after spending time off the ground late Saturday because of

Bailey claimed 3-128 off 28.1 overs, while wicketkeeper Shane Deitz finished with five dismissals.

PHOTO: COURTESY Players of the Aga Khan School team jubilate with the Virgin School Champion's Trophy at the Banani Chairmanbari

Another lesson

FROM PAGE 17 responsible for his downfall due to experiments, Faruque could not come up with satisfactory explana-

"What I can say is that we have been trying our best," he said. Meanwhile, the selectors announced a 13-member team led by Shahriar Nafees for the Tigers'

first Twenty20 international to be

held on November 28 at Khulna

while Habibul Bashar has been

named captain of the 12-member team for the warm-up match on November 26 at BKSP. Zimbabwe will arrive in Dhaka on

November 23

SQUADS

(For three one-dayers) Habibul Bashar (captain), Shahriar Nafees (vice-captain), Khaled Mashud, Aftab Ahmed, Tushar Imran, Mohammad Rafique, Sakib Al Hasan, Forhad Reza, Mehrab Hossain, Mashrafee Bin Mortuza, Abdur Razzak, Syed Rasel and

Shahadat Hossain

(For Twnety20 match) Shahriar Nafees (captain), Aftab Ahmed, Sakib Al Hasan, Nazmus Sadat, Mohammed Rafique, Forhad Reza, Nadif Chowdhury, Mashrafee Bin Mortuza, Shahadat Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Mushfiqur Rahim, Tapash Baisya and Mehrab

(For Warm-up game) Habibul Bashar (captain), Mehrab Hossain, Nadif Chowdhury, Nazmus Sadat, Mahmudullah Riyad, Forhad Reza, Nazmul Hossain, Tapash Baisya, Mushfiqur Rahim, Marshal Ayub, Musharraf

Hossain and Ziaur Rahman. **FIXTURES**

Nov 23: Arrival Nov 26: Warm-up match at BKSP.

Nov 28: Twenty20 int'l at Khulna. Nov 30: 1st ODI at Khulna. Dec 3: 2nd ODI at Bogra (D/N) Dec 5: 3rd ODI at Bogra (D/N).

Dec 8: 4th ODI at Dhaka. Dec 9: 5th ODI at Dhaka

4x3