Akram forecasts change in Pak cricket squad

KARACiil, Mar 5: Pakistan oricket skipper Wastm Akram. said Thursday that changes would be made on his side for the coming tour of the West Indies which he expects to be very difficult, tough and hard, reports AFP.

Speaking to reporters at the airport here on his team's return from a tour of the United Arab Emirates, South Africa and Zimbabwe, Akram said he would like to have an additional spinner, a medium pacer and couple of middle order batsmen.

The 24-year-old skipper, who took over last month, said he was hopeful that his batch of sentor and young cricketers would do well in the West Indies and rejected suggestions the team would be under heavy psychological pressure on the coming tour because of its recent defeats against the West Indies in Australia and South Africa.

Asked how he felt as captain, of the side for the first time, Akram said it had been challenging and educational. " have learnt a lot on the tour," he said.

Meanwhile, former Pakistan cricket captain Javed Miandad said that if Pakistan wanted to maintain its status as a leading cricketing nation it must appoint former senior Test cricketers to run its affairs.

The team is expected to leave for the West Indies next

Pioneer soccer Sports Reporter

Four goals in a row by Mithu powered Mirpur Nabaran Sporting Club to a big 8-0 victory against Sonali Krira Chakra in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Mirpur Outer Stadium yesterday. Mithu opened the floodgates for Nabarun Sporting when he found the mark in the 13th minute (1-0). He doubled the margin in the 17th minute and completed his hattrick in the 29th minute (3-0).

Mithu netted the fourth goal of the match two minutes into the second half (4-0).

Taking the cue from Mithu the day's hero, Farid scored the fifth goal in the 20th minute while Rana got the sixth in the 24th minute (6-0). Farid netted his second goal

of the match and the seventh for Nabarun Sporting in the 26th minute while Rana completed the tally for the winners two minutes from time (8-0).

At the Lalmatia Boys' High School ground, Kashaituli Samaj Kallyan Parishad outplayed Bikrampur XI by four goals to one.

Md Faruk netted twice and Md Shakil and Ali Ahmed Mahbub got one each for Kashaituli while Ziaul Karim pulled one back for Bikrampur

Aganagar Palli Mangal Samily got the better of Dhoopkhola ground by three

goals to nil. Farid netted twice and

Jewel one for Aganagar.

Sutrapur Sporting Club edged past Monsur Sporting Club 1-0 at the same venue. Mamun was the scorer.

Makimbazar Krira Chakra shared points with Red Sun Krira Chakra in a goalless draw in the other match at the same venue.

At the Mahakhali T & T ground, Dipali Juba Sangha defeated Rampura Natun Kuri by two goals to nil.

Bashir was the scorer. At the Bashabo ground, Motifheel T &T Club beat Manda Sangsad by two goals to

Ashish scored both the goals for T &T Club while Babar reduced the margin for Manda Sangsad.

Matuail Udayan Sangsad shared points with Kendrio Kishore Kafela in a one-all

draw at the venue. Kamaluddin scored for Matuail Sangsad and Iqbal found he net for Kishore

Nawabpur Krira Chakra beat Khwaze Dewan Samaj Kallyan Sangha by two goals to nil at the Dhanmondi ground.

Zahurul Kabir and Malek were the scorers.

At the Outer Stadium Amligola Tarun Sangha edged past Rainbow Athletic Club of Narayanganj by two goals to

Arfan Ahmed and Shafigul Islam scored for Amligola and Rashedul Alam narrowed the gap for Rainbow.

Argentina eyes 2004 Games

BUENOS AIRES, Mar 5: Argentine President Carlos Menem wants his country to host the Olympics in 2004. reports AFP.

Government spokesman Raul Burzaco said that Menem would make the bid official during a meeting of the Pan-American Sport Organisation (ODEPA) from March 8-10 at Mar Del Plata, 400km south of Buenos Aires.

Sweet revenge for GMCC

Sports Reporter

Mamun, the other opening Ashok Malhotra's batsman, and Sohel defled the maiden Navana GMCC bowlers for a while be Premier Division league ton proved fore Mamun went for a nonexistent single and was run out inconsequential for 22. Arun Lal, Malhotra's in the end as Bengal teammate, was uneasy Gulshan Youth went down to from the very start and without the Greater Mymensing adding anything to the team Cricket Club (GMCC) by seven

wickets in their super league

opener at the Dhaka Stadium

A MALHOTRA ... 106

born cricketer who now plays

for Bengal, did the brickwork

for an impressive Gulshan

Youth total of 231 for eight in

45 overs with unbeaten 106

only to see GMCC sauntering to

the victory target of 232 losing

only three wickets in 43.2

overs. It was sweet revenge for

GMCC who lost to Gulshan in

Tariquzzaman Munir, for-

mer national opening batsman,

decided to field after winning

the toss and that was possibly

the start of GMCC's good for-

Saiful Islam, the quickest

bowler in the country, drew

the first blood with the fourth

delivery of the very first over of

the match. The slender

medium-pacer, who opens the

attack for the national side as

well, won Liton's edge when

the Gulshan Youth opener

fished at an away swinger. The

WELLINGTON,

Mar 5: A strong

ship followed up

by some flashing

strokemaking

from captain Martin Crowe put

New Zealand on top against

Australia on the second day of

the second Test today, reports

at 237 for three, having taken

their score from 18 without

loss after a rain shortened first

New Zealand ended the day

opening partner

score then read O.

the first league.

Malhotra, the obese Delhi-

to the pavilion. With Gulshan Youth precartously placed at 29 for three wickets Ashok Malhotra walked in and it was mainly due to his one- man show that his side could go all the way to a respectable total of 231.

total the bearded former

indian Test opener returned

Malhotra held one end up till the end of Gulshan Youth's quota of 45 overs. In that space only Ehsan could come up with any substantial support. With Ehsan Malhotra added 77 runs for the sixth wicket to pull the Gulshan side out from 73 for five to 150.

Ehsan played a useful 51. ball knock of 34 before a Sanjeeva Weerasinghe spinner fooled him to give wicketkeeper Pappu enough space and time to whip the bails off. Nasu, the Gulshan Youth skipper, scored 15 in a 36 - run stand with the former Indian Test cricketer. At the end Asif, who made

when the overs ran out Malhotra's 106 was made at almost run-a-ball speed. His 108 -ball innings featured ten shots across the fence. For GMCC Raman Lamba and Weerasinghe returned

eight, remained with Malhotra

identical figures of two for 35 from nine overs each. GMCC, in their turn, were

given a better start than their opponents with the opening pair putting on 39 runs for the first wicket before Munir was sent back to the pavilion for 10. That was to be Gulshan Youth's only success for a while as Rownakul Islam Tutul and Lamba proved too hard nuts for the bowlers to crack. The two. occupying the crease for the next 69 balls, never let the bowlers to get on top. They drove, cut, pulled and hooked at will to take the score to 147 before Lamba mistimed a Malhotra spinner to give Arun

delivery seaming back into him

the first Test defeat, then

Crowe launched into the

Australian attack with a majes-

in 188 minutes off 122 balls

tic collection of pulls, cuts and

Crowe posted his 62 not out

Crowe, under pressure after

off a length.

off-drives.

Lamba, playing with an extra runner after pulling a mus cle, made 58 in 62 balls. Sanwar, the next man to come, featured a short knock of 11 before being run out on 162. That was the last GMCC wicket to fall on the day. The only other batsman to go back to the pavilion was Tutul who had to limp off the wicket with a



S WEERASINGHE

Weerasinghe and Anisuddin Bhuiyan Pika stayed together till the match was wrapped up. The pain put on 70 runs for the fourth wicket. Weerasinghe dominated the stand with a breezy 41-ball 60 which was punctuated by nine fours and a huge six. Pika made 20 off 23

GMCC, like Gulshan Youth now have 16 points from 11 encounters, so have defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, who tasted their third defeat in this year's league Thursday at the hands of Bangladesh Biman.

Gulshan had entered the six super league in joint second place alongwith Mohammedans after the 10match first leg. Abahani topped the first leg with 18 points, losing only once to GMCC.

TODAY'S MATCH Abahani vs Biman (Dhaka

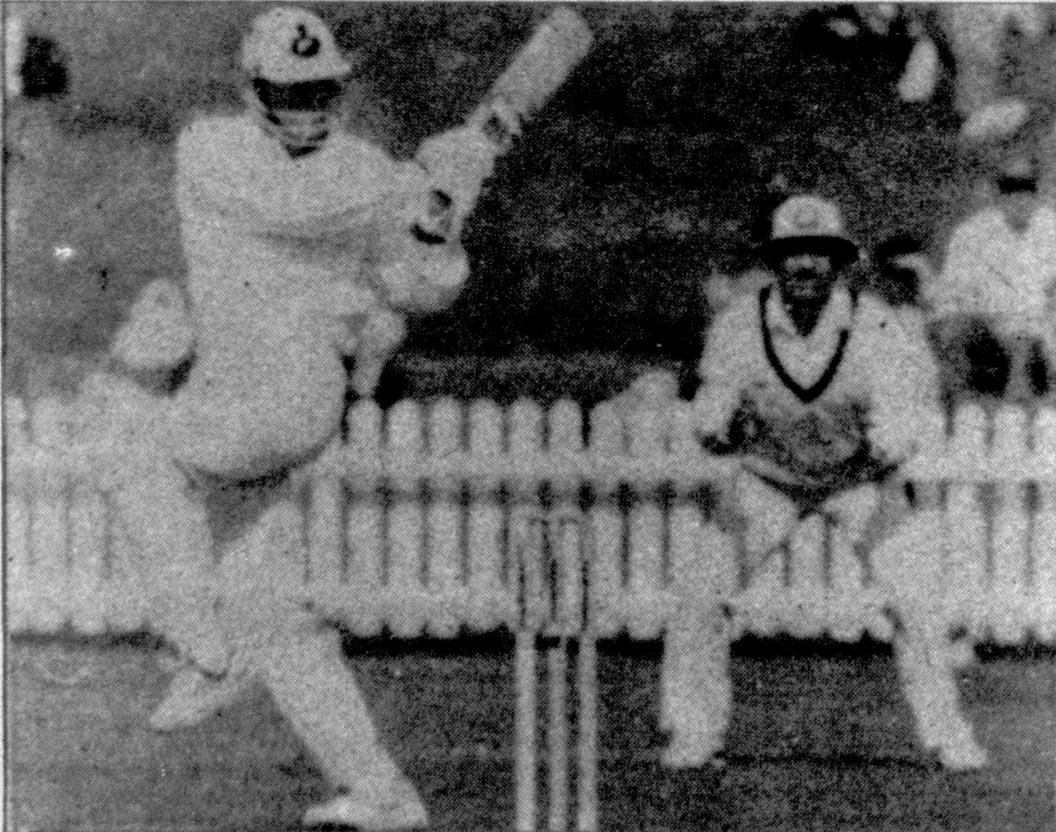
Spirited start by Kiwis 56th over proved fruitless for the Australians and Warne was later punished severely by

Crowe for bowling short and

strode to the crease as the sun wide. came out fully on the pic-Warne finished with none turesque Basin Reserve pitch for 29 off 16 overs and Allan Border was forced to turn to for the first time in two days. the medium pace of the Waugh After taking his time to settle in on the mottled pitch, brothers, Steve and Mark.

Reiffel was the pick of the Australian bowlers on a day when both other fast bowlers struggled to make the opening left-handers play the ball.

Reiffel finished the day with



New Zealand skipper Martin Crowe pulls one to the fence during his unbeaten knock of 62 on the second day of the second Test against Australia at the Basin Reserve, Wellington yesterday. His counterpart Allan Border, who eclipsed Indian Sunil Gavaskar's record of 10,122 runs in the first Test at Christchurch, is also seen. The Kiwis were 237 for three at - AFP photo stumps.

Australia's bowlers had few answers on an occasionally inconsistent pitch offering little to a pace attack that struggled early on to find a tight line against New Zealand's lefthanded opening pair.

Mark Greatbatch and John Wright scratched through a collection of half-chances and unsuccessful appeals to post an opening partnership of 111 before Greatbatch fell to Australia's most accurate bowler of the day, Paul Reiffel, caught at second slip for 61.

Wright proved the initial anchor of the innings, battling through to 72 before being caught behind off an otherwise wayward Merv Hughes.

Andrew Jones continued his run of bad form established in Christchurch where New Zealand were crushed by an innings and 60 runs in the

first Test. Jones also fell to Reiffel, bowled for four runs by a tight

and hit 10 fours and one pulled six off leg spinner Shane Warne.

Despite a typically shaky start, New Zealand's Ken Rutherford finished the closing session on 14 not out.

Australia's opening bowling attack of Craig McDermott and Hughes began the morning in slightly straighter fashion than in the 12 overs bowled before rain stopped play on Thursday.

McDermott had both openers playing and missing regularly while Hughes' sharp lifting deliveries occasionally looked dangerous and later he felled Crowe after hitting him on the helmet with a bouncer.

Wright lived dangerously at times. On 26 gave Steve Waugh a chance in the gully off Hughes but survived to make

The introduction of first Test leg-spinning man-of-thematch Shane Warne in the

2-38 off 20 overs, including eight maidens.

SCOREBOARD

Scorebord on the second day of the second cricket Test between Australia and New

Zealand today: NEW ZEALAND: First in-

nings Greatbatch c Taylor b Reiffel 61 Wright c Healey b Hughes Jones b Reiffel Crowe not out 62 Rutherford not out 15 Extras: (w-1, nb-8, lb-11, b-4)

Total: (for three wickets) 237 To bat: Blain, Cairns, Patel, Morrison, Watson, Owens Fall of wickets: 1-111, 2-120, 3-191

Bowling: O M 26 25 McDermott 57 67 Hughes 20 38 Reiffel S Waugh 15 28 29 Warne 5 M Waugh

Amarjyoti, DWC win in Div II super league

Sports Reporter

An unbeaten 51 from Rashed helped Amartyoti Club register a two-wicket victory against Shantinagar Club B at the Dhanmondi Club ground in the Second Division cricket league which began at two city venues yesterday.

At the Mirpur Pallabi ground Dhaka Wanderers Club also made a good start in the super league when they beat Ajax Sports Club by 85 runs. Ten teams in two groups

are participating in the super league with the group champions earning promotion to the Milnars First Division league next year The teams are Amariyoti,

Shantinagar B, Wari Krira Chakra, Kathalbagan Three Star Club and Nirman XI in Group X and Gandaria Cricketers, Bangladesh Boys Club, Ajax Sports Club, Wanderers Club and Young Pegasus Club A in Group Y.

Coming back to the mutton, at the DCG, the Shantinagar Club B skipper Milon won the toss and elected to bat first.

Shantinagar B amassed 174 for the loss of nine wickets from their quota of 40 overs.

Wicket keeper Nehal, who opened the innings with Sujan, topscored with 79 off 131 balls, a knock inclusive of seven fours, and Sujan made 25 with the help of tow boundaries and an over-boundary while extras added 29 to the total

Sami claimed three wickets for 26 and Zahid two for 20 while Ahmed, Imtiaz and Raja took a wicket apiece.

Amarjyoti reached the target making 175 for eight wickets in 38.1 overs. Rashed made an unbeaten

50-ball 51, hitting four sixes and a couple of fours and Nipu scored 22 and opener Imtiaz and Raju 19 and 14 respec tively. Mamun bagged three scalps

for 27 and Bappi and Happy took tow wickets each giving away 11 and 37 respectivly for Shantinagar Club B. Dhaka Wanderers Club recorded a facile 85-run vic

Mirpur Pallabi ground in the other match of the day. Sent in to bat, Wanderers Club piled up 198 losing seven wickets in 40 overs with skip-

tory aginst Ajax Club at the

per Jahangir topscoring with 47 from 75 balls, an innings that included four hits across the fence and one over it... Gouri scored a 33-ball 34 with the help of three fours

unbeaten on 29 Shafiq and Nripen chipped in with 22 and 19 respectively Rassel and Torique took

and a six while Babu remained

two wickets each for Ajax Club. In their turn Ajax were bundled out for 113 in 32.3 overs with Sohel making 32 and Montu and Bobu getting 20 and 17 respectively.

Rana claimed three scalps conceding 22 and Nitai two for 18 while Liton and Jahangir took one wicket apiece.

TODAY'S MATCHES Gandaria Cricketers vs

Pagasus A (Mirpur Pallabi) Wari KC vs Three Star (DCG)

Rajshahi cricket Sports Reporter

Bright Star moved into the final of the Rajshahi Bhorer Kagaj First Division cricket league beating Town Club by 67 run in the second semifinal

at the Rajshahi Stadium yes-

terday.

Bright Star will play Raninagar Club in the final next Monday, March 8. Batting first Bright Star

made 168 for the loss-of nine wickets in the stipulated 40 overs with Golla topscoring with 65 and Apel, Ehtesham and Mukul getting 22, 10 and 10 respectively. Zafar claimed three scalps

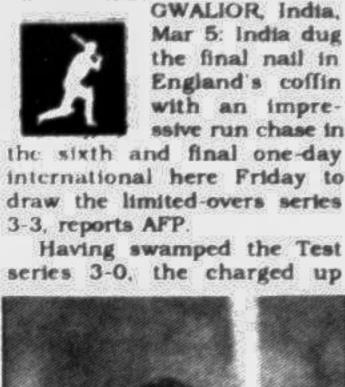
for 27 while Azad and Kacku shared four wickets between them for 27 and 36 respectively.

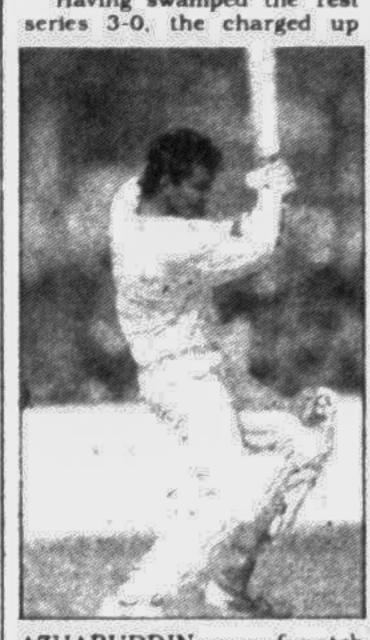
Town Club were skittled out for 101 in 34.3 overs with Kachu making 17 and Diplu and Azad 15 each. Litu claimed four wickets

for 23 and Apel got two for 23 for Bright Star.

Azhar and his men dazzle in final one-dayer

England denied a consolation





AZHARUDDIN-man-of-match

indians won the final match of England's 10-week tour by four wickets after making light of a still run-a-ball target.

Skipper Mohammad Azharuddin smashed an un beaten 95 and allrounder Manoj Prabhakar contributed 73 as the Indians overcame England's mammoth 265 from 48 overs with eight balls to spare in a heart stopping fin-

Some 25,000 excited home fans at the packed Roop Singh Stadium here witnessed India score two back-to-back wins in thrilling fashion on successive days to come back from a 3-1

The final match produced superb one-day cricket just like Thursday's encounter when India successfully chased another big England score of 256 in 50 overs. India made a shaky start

when Thursday's century

maker Navjot Sidhu was caught in the slips off Chris Lewis for 19 and Vinod Kambli was dismissed for 22 to make the hometeam 99 for two in the 24th over. Prabhakar and Azharuddin

put on 67 runs in 11 overs to take the score to 166 by the 34th over when Prabhakar was bowled by Paul Jarvis in trying to loft him out of the ground. India still needed 100 runs

from 80 balls but the fourth wicket pair of Azharuddin and Sachin Tendulkar (34) put the issue beyond doubt with a sparkling stand of 79 off just 53 deliveries. England made a last-ditch

recovery when Chris Lewis removed Tendulkar in the 44th over and Jarvis accounted for both Kapil Dev and Ajay Sharma in the 45th, but Kiran More helped his captain achieve the target without trouble.

When More pulled Dermot Reeve for the winning boundary, spectators lit bonfires and burst crackers to celebrate India's well deserved success over the beleaguered tourists. "It was an easy wicket, but

England's Zimbabwe-born batsman Graeme Hick is deceived by a Maninder Singh left armer as it pops during the sixth and final one-dayer against India at the Roop

Singh Stadium, Gwalior yesterday. Hick hit a magnificent ton but the day belonged to Azhar's men as they pulled an impressive four-wicket victory chasing a mammoth 265 in Star TV photo 48 overs.

the Indians were superb in chasing such a big score," said a dejected English captain Graham Gooch after the match.

Azharuddin, later named man-of-the-match, gave credit to the entire team for the victory and also congratulated England for putting up "a grand show. "It was a close match where

either side could have won. We planned our innings well and came out on tops," a delighted Azharuddin said Leading the English charge in the highscoring game were

Zimbabwe born Graeme Hick with an unbeaten 105 - his first one-day century and Robin Smith who followed a 129 Thursday, with a strokeful The pair added 116 for the second-wicket from 140 deliv-

eries after Alec Stewart (11)

was caught behind off seamer

Javagal Srinath in the 10th

over at the score of 42. Hick, lucky to pass double figures after wicket-keeper Kiran More missed a simple stumping off left-arm spinner Maninder Singh, returned unbeaten with seven boundaries

and two sixes against his name. Smith hit seven boundaries and a six before being caught on the long-on fence off Maninder in trying to loft a second six off successive deliv-

Alter Smith's departure, prolific left-hander Neil Fairbrother cracked a breezy 41 to add 88 for the third wicket with Hick.

England, whose last seven wickets crashed for 10 runs Thursday, learnt their lessons as well as the batsmen plundered 64 runs in the final eight overs. Seamer Javagal Srinath, veteran Kapil Dev went for 48 runs, Maninder 62 and legspinner Anil Kumble 58 in their quota of 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the sixth and final one-day international between England and India at

the Roop Singh Stadium here

Friday ENGLAND: Smith c Sharma b Maninder Stewart c More b Srinath Hick not out 105 Fairbrother c Kapil b Srinath Gatting c Sidhu b Srinath Lewis not out Extras: (lb8, nb2, w17)

Total: (for fur wickets, 48 oversl Did not bat : Gooch, Reeve, DeFreitas, Jarvis, Malcolm. Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-

158, 3-246.

Bowling: 48 0 52 Prabhakar 0 37 Srinath 10 0 62 Maninder Kumble 58 INDIA: Prabhakar b Jarvis Sidhu c Hick b Lewis Kambli c Reeve b DeFreitas 22 Azharuddin not out Tendulkar c sub (Taylor) b Lewis Kapil Dev c Reeve b Jarvis Sharma c Gooch b Jarvis More not out Extras: (lb1, nb2, w7) Total: (for six wickets, 46.4 Did not bat: Kumble, Srinath,

Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-99, 3-166, 4-245, 5-251, 6-253 Bowling: Malcolm Lewis Jarvis Recve 0 56 10 DeFreitas

Result: India won by four wick-

Lankans may prolong England's woe

with three for 37 from nine

overs, was the only Indian

bowler to command respect as



COLOMBO, Mar 5: Shri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga on Friday said his team has the potential to

beat England after they were devastated by Indian spinners this winter, reports AP. "We can win and we have to win," said Ranatunga, the country's most experienced

cricketer who has competed in 39 of Shri Lanka's 42 Tests. But, he admitted, that beating England would be dif-I think England will be a tough side to beat. Though

drubbed in India, they could be

a different side here,

Ranatunga, a pugnacious all-

rounder, told reporters. After their nine-week tour of India, the England team, led by wicketkeeper Alec Stewart, arrives in Colombo Saturday for a fortnights trip to play one Test and two one-day internationals.

Preparing for the matches, the Shri Lankan team has been keenly watching videos of the England-India matches. England lost the Test series 0-3, mainly because of their inability to play the leg spin. India, after trailing in the

six-match one-day international series, came back strongly to win the last two matches on Thursday and Friday in Gwalior. Regular captain Graham Gooch, having played his last

overseas match Friday, will fly back home, handing the reins to Stewart. Since Shri Lanka became a Test playing nation, they have clashed with England in only for Tests, losing three of them.

One was drawn. Of the nine

one-day internationals,

England have won eight and Shri Lanka one. But Englands nightmares

could continue in Shri Lanka

against the unorthodox spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who tormented the New Zealand team last year, left arm spinner Don Anurastri and off-cutter Javananda Waranweera. Neil Fairbrother, Ian Salisbury and Richard Blakey had come to Shri Lanka with

ago while Michael Atherton came as captain of the young England cricketers in 1987. Zimbabwe-born batsman Graeme Hick toured Shri Lanka with his native team in 1983/84 before qualifying for

the England A side two years

England. In that match, Phillip DeFreitas returned his career best figures of 7 for 70 and Stewart hit his maiden Test



President Abdur Rahman Biswas with the participants, sponsors and organisers of the United Insurance Grandmasters' chess tournament which concluded at Purbani Hotel yesterday.

— Star photo - Star photo