

Sport

Nat'l cricket
Sylhet march in final round

Sylhet DSA marched into the final round of the 25th National Cricket Championship with an innings and a huge 218 runs victory over Sunamganj DSA at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Sunamganj, who batted first, faced a batting collapse in the first innings — all out for only 38 runs in 17.1 overs. They also suffered a breakdown in their second innings scoring 46 runs in 20.1 overs.

Farhad destroyed the Sunamganj batting line-up claiming a total of 13 wickets for 31 in two innings — 7 for 15 in first innings and 6 for 16 in second.

Kajal captured two wickets for two while Mistu and Rupok took one each for three runs respectively in the second innings.

Russel was the only Sunamganj batsman who reached double digit making 21 runs.

Sylhet DSA, resuming with overnight score of 240 for 4 on the second day, completed their first innings scoring mammoth 302 for 9 wickets in 89.4 overs.

Parvez scored 103 off 173 balls that included five boundaries while Nahid made 94 off 151 balls with six fours.

Sulman contributed 29 runs off 43 balls with four hits across the rope.

Russel claimed three wickets for 22 runs while Bappi and Sohel took two wickets each for 36 and 46 runs respectively.

Farhad and Parvez of Sylhet were jointly adjudged man-of-the-match for their brilliant bowling and batting display.

Meanwhile, at Mymensingh, the second day's match of the 3-day national cricket regional final between Tangail and Mymensingh DSAs was abandoned. Tangail left the stadium over a "disputed" decision by the umpire.

Tangail DSA scored 36 runs for three when the match was declared abandoned.

At the Barisal Stadium, Jhalakati DSA were all out for 268 runs in 86.1 overs while Barisal DSA scored 3 runs without loss on the first day of the three-day regional final.

Winning the toss, Jhalakati opted to bat first and reached the respectable total helped by a 129-run fifth wicket partnership between Rabi and Shuvro.

Rabi scored highest 69 runs off 144 deliveries while Shuvro made 42 runs off 112 balls.

Number nine batsman Jony played another notable innings of 34 runs facing 45 balls and opener Imran added 24 off 53 balls.

Shahid picked up four wickets for 34 runs while Arun claimed three for 37 runs.

Div I cricket
Gopibagh Friends beat Azad

An unbeaten 54-run captain knock by Azim helped Gopibagh Friends Club earn a 3-wicket victory over Azad SC in the Metropolitan First Division cricket league at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Azim struck seven boundaries to score 54 off 85 balls. He completed fifty facing 74 deliveries.

Deciding to bat first, Azad were all out for 190 in 49.1 overs.

Opener Sanjoy made highest 32 off 50 balls with five fours while his partner Salauddin Hammered 27 off 26 balls with four boundaries and an over boundary.

Number six batsman Habiburrah added 25 runs off 30 balls, featuring four hits to the fence.

Raju claimed four wickets for 12 while Zafar and Shamsul took two wickets each for 18 and 31 runs respectively.

In reply, Gopibagh reached the target making 193 runs for 7 wickets with five overs to spare.

Resides in zinn, one down batsman Jafar Ali contributed 33 off 73 balls with five hits across the rope while Adil added 24 off 35 balls with two fours.

Rajib and Atiqur picked up three wickets each for 41 and 43 runs respectively.

Acme Div II cricket

Mariner Young's Club and Paschim Jatrabari KC won their respective matches in the Acme Second Division cricket league held at different city venues yesterday, reports UNB.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Mariner Young's Club defeated Nabin Sangha by 4 wickets.

Opting to bat first, Nabin Sangha were all out for 134 in 34.4 overs and in reply Mariner Young's Club reached the target scoring 137 for 6 wickets in 23.5 overs.

At the Mohakhali T&T ground, Paschim Jatrabari KC won the match against Gulshan Youth Club by an impressive run-rate.

Deciding to bat first, Paschim Jatrabari KC scored 115 for all in 29.3 overs and chasing the target of 116, Gulshan Youth Club were all out for 115 runs in 33 overs.

BRIEFSCORES
Nabin Sangha: 134/10 in 34.4 overs (Kalam 36, Kasem 17, Bulbul 15, extras 28; Reza 4/18, Jamsheed 3/27, Arman 2/17).
Mariner Young's: 137/6 in 23.5 overs (Karim 45, Ashraf 33, Haider 28, extras 19, Sajjad 5/41).
Paschim Jatrabari KC: 115/10 in 29.3 overs (Sadeq 36, Ray 14, Mondir 13, extras 18; Raju 4/24, Biplob 3/26, Ali 2/21).
Gulshan Youth Club: 115/10 in 33 overs (Nadim 52, Rongon 14; Afroz 13 (n.o.), extras 19; Russel 2/16).

ANZ Grindlays School
Press Briefing on March 8, 1999 at Bangladesh Cricket Board, Dhaka



Mohammad Ali (R), general manager of ANZ Crindlays Bank, speaking at a press conference held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

NZ A hold Proteas

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Mar 8 (AFP/Internet): New Zealand A held on for a draw in their three-day cricket match against South Africa at Lincoln Green, near Christchurch, Monday.

Requiring 360 to win, New Zealand A finished on 219 for eight with Brooke Walker 31 not out after 162 minutes at the crease and Shayne O'Connor on 17.

Steve Elworthy took three for 63 and Shaun Pollock two for 51 for the South Africans.

Earlier, Jonty Rhodes hit 106 not out in South Africa's second innings of 232 for six declared, completing two centuries for the match.

South Africa, lead by Pollock and Elworthy, looked as if they would force a win but they met resistance in the tail of the New Zealand A line-up.

The two fast bowlers removed the top three batsmen in the space of one run to have the home side reeling at 21 for three.

Further inroads were made by Elworthy and Victor Mpit-sang, and at 94 for six wickets seemed assured.

But Scot Styris with 69 supported by Brooke Walker (31 not out) and Shayne O'Connor (17 not out) stopped the rot and held on for the draw.

Gambill's maiden title

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Mar 8: American Jan-Michael Gambill beat a 46-minute rain delay and Australian teenage sensation Lleyton Hewitt 7-6(7-2), 4-6, 6-4 on Sunday to capture his first ATP Tour title, the \$50,000 Franklin Templeton tennis classic, reports Reuters.

"It feels great and even better because I knew I had to work for it," said Gambill.

Gambill's maiden win in his 34th tournament earned the 21-year-old from Colbert, Washington, 46,000 dollars. He will also jump from 45 to 32 in the latest tour rankings to be released today.

Gambill believes the title validates his presence on the tour. "I sure belong out there," he said. "And this certainly helps."

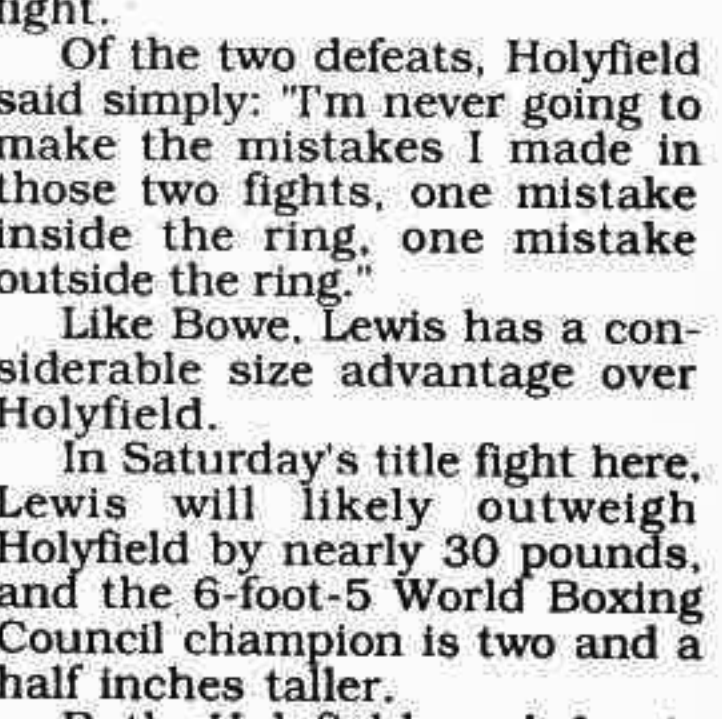
The win was an unanticipated dream come true. "I didn't come here expecting to win the tournament even though it was a dream. I feel good about it," said Gambill.

The rains interrupted play just after Hewitt levelled the match by breaking Gambill in the 10th game.

Holyfield knows what to expect

NEW YORK, Mar 8 (AFP): As Evander Holyfield prepares to take on Lennox Lewis for the undisputed world heavyweight crown, he can look back to his three fights with Ricky Bowe to know what works against a bigger, stronger opponent — and what doesn't.

Bowe handed Holyfield two of his three defeats as a professional, with Holyfield earning a measure of revenge — and his second spell as world champion — with a victory in their second fight.



EVANDER HOLYFIELD

Of the two defeats, Holyfield said simply: "I'm never going to make the mistakes I made in those two fights, one mistake inside the ring, one mistake outside the ring."

Like Bowe, Lewis has a considerable size advantage over Holyfield.

In Saturday's title fight here, Lewis will likely outweigh Holyfield by nearly 30 pounds, and the 6-foot-5 World Boxing Council champion is two and a half inches taller.

Both Holyfield and Lewis fought last September, Holyfield weighing 217 pounds for his unanimous decision over Vaughn Bean and Lewis tipping the scales at 243 pounds for his points victory over Zelikio Mavrovic.

"Strength isn't size," Holyfield said. "Strength is how you use everything collectively."

The powerful Bowe wore down Holyfield in their first fight on November 13, 1992, meeting out Holyfield's first defeat as a pro and taking the unified title.

Immediately after that first Bowe fight, Holyfield talked of retiring.

"I remember that," Holyfield said. "I was hurt more than that I was embarrassed. I hadn't lost in eight years."

"I had been looking at the scorecards and the scores

out) and Shayne O'Connor (17 not out) stopped the rot and held on for the draw.

Dropped catches by Elworthy and Rhodes off Styris and Walker probably cost South Africa the match.

But Rhodes has been in great form with the bat. Since hitting 103 not out in the fifth Test against the West Indies in January, Rhodes has been in a purple patch, with successive first-class scores of 100 not out, 22 not out, 63, 101 not out and 106 not out.

Rhodes has hit 392 runs in New Zealand, and with only one dismissal his average is the same.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day match between New Zealand A and South Africa XI on Monday:

SOUTH AFRICAN XI: First innings 403-6 decl
NEW ZEALAND A: First innings 276-9 decl
SOUTH AFRICAN XI: Second innings (overnight 98 for four)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
O'Connor	21	3	66	4
Drum	15	4	42	1
Bullfin	10	1	40	1
Styris	10	0	46	0
Walker	8	2	31	0

NEW ZEALAND A: Second innings

Lawson c Kallis b Pollock	12
Young lbw b Pollock	8
Sinclair b Elworthy	1
Bailey c Cullinan b Elworthy	17
Stead c Kirsten b Mpit-sang	15
Styris lbw b Elworthy	69
Hopkins c Elworthy b Kallis	31
Walker not out	9
Bullfin c b Adams	13
O'Connor not out	27
Extras: (lb-10, nb-7)	17
Total: (for eight wks)	219
Fall of wks: 1-20; 2-21; 3-21; 4-51; 5-78; 6-94; 7-168; 8-186	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	12	2	51	2
Elworthy	15	3	63	3
Kallis	9	4	33	1
Mpit-sang	6	1	36	1
Adams	2	7	27	1
Cullinan	3	2	0	0

Result: Match drawn.

then there," Hewitt said.

Gambill served for the match and went ahead 40-0 but Hewitt saved all three match points, finally on a fourth.

Hewitt slapped a forehand service return into the net, ending the two hour, 23 minute match.

"I tried to come back," Hewitt said. "Basically, anyone serving for the match at 40-0, that's it."

Along the way to the final, Gambill became just the sixth player to notch wins over world number one Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, who retired with a right hamstring strain in the same tournament.

"I didn't have any easy matches, they were all three sets," Gambill said. "Today was hard, hard-fought rallies and I won the war."

He added: "As for Lleyton, he a great player. He doesn't give up, he returns great and doesn't give you an inch. He'll be around for a long time."

On his way to the final, Hewitt had swept past seven opponents without losing a set, including two-time defending US Open champion Patrick Rafter and another Australian, Mark Woodforde, in the semifinals.

2000 Nations Cup Zimbabwe win review

ACCRA, March 8 (Reuters/Internet): Zimbabwe, stripped of the right to host the 2000 African Nations Cup Finals, have won a second hearing on March 14 and 15, Confederation of African Football (CAF) officials said on Sunday.

Zimbabwe's Football Association (ZIFA) held two hours of talks with CAF officials in Ghana on Saturday on the fringe of the African Youth Cup after CAF decided to take the 2000 finals away from them because they had not met required targets.

Officials said that the ZIFA team had failed to overturn the February decision but that CAF president Issa Hayatou had agreed to submit their arguments to the next CAF executive committee meeting in Guinea's capital Conakry on March 14 and 15.

"It's not an appeal. It's just a request," he said. "CAF executive committee member Ishmael Bhanjee told Reuters."

The president (Hayatou) said the decision to withdraw the rights from Zimbabwe was an executive committee decision, so he will have to go back to the executive committee.

"They have put their case forward and the president will put it before the executive who will take a decision on it."

Zimbabwe's delegation was led by its national Sports Commission Chairman David Mutambara, ZIFA chairman Leo Mugabe and organising committee chairman Brian Harry.

Mutambara said CAF provided their reasons for withdrawing hosting rights.

"Some of the reasons you can look at them and follow through," he told the news agency.

"We are going to go home and do our homework so that when we come to the CAF meeting we will have something substantial for them to make that decision."

Officials said that Ghana, who staged the African Youth Cup final, formal put forward the nomination on Friday to replace Zimbabwe as hosts of the 2000 Nations Cup.

Nigeria, hosts of April's World Youth Cup, and Morocco, who are keen to hold the 2006 World Cup, are other likely contenders.

Dhaka College sports held

The annual sports competition of Dhaka College was held at the college ground yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader distributed prizes as the chief guest.

Shahed Khan Majlish of History Department emerged champion while Mohammad Ehsan Shah of Chemistry became runners-up in the competition.

About 200 students of the college took part in nine events of the competition.

Nat'l schools cricket
ANZ Bank sponsor stars of tomorrow

Sports Reporter
ANZ Grindlays Bank will sponsor the National School Cricket Championship this season. This was revealed by Tanveer Afroz, Islan Tanna, a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) vice-president, through a press conference yesterday evening.

BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf Haque, joint secretaries Mahmud Ul Haque Manu and Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul, general manager of ANZ Grindlays Bank in Bangladesh Mohammad Ali Rumi, and the head of credit card division of ANZ bank Imran Ahmed were also present on the occasion.

Speaking to the press, tournament secretary Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul informed that a record 377 schools from 44 districts are taking part in the qualifying rounds of the championship.

The tournament has already begun at six zonal venues—Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet, Khulna, Comilla and Dhaka.

Two teams from Khulna, Rajshahi and Comilla—champions and runners-up—and the champions from Sylhet and Barisal, and four teams from Dhaka including two from Dhaka city will join Schoolastica School and Narayanganj High School, the winners and runners-up of the 1996-97 season, in the final round. The 14-team finals are likely to start in Dhaka from the first week of April.

India-Bangladesh opener SAFF Cup begins in Goa Apr 22

CALCUTTA, Mar 8: Holders India will take on Bangladesh in the inaugural edition of the second South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup at Margao, Goa, on April 22, reports PTI.

Six teams, divided into two groups, are vying for honours in the 100,000 dollars tournament. General secretary of SAFF, JS N Anandariah, told newsmen at a press conference here today.

India, Pakistan and Bangladesh comprise Group A, while Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal form Group B.

Maldives, who lost to India in the final of the first edition of the tournament at Kathmandu in 1997, will begin their campaign against Sri Lanka on April 23.

The teams will play each other in the group once, with the first two proceeding to the semifinals, to be played on April 29.

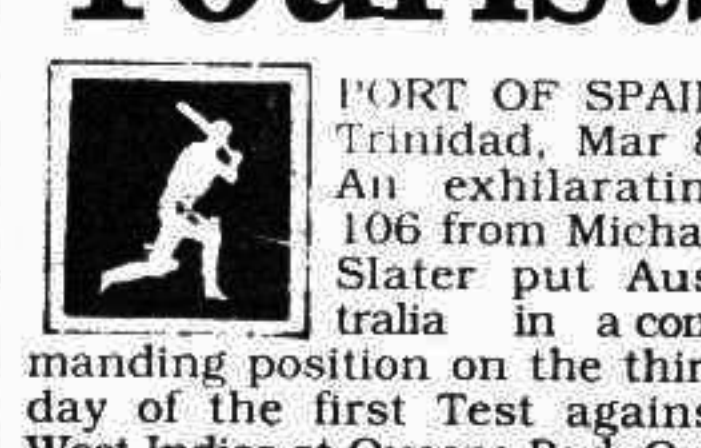
The final and the third place play-off are scheduled for May 1, he said.

The winners will receive a prize money of US 50,000 dollars, and the runners-up will be richer by 25,000 dollars, the losing semifinalist will earn 15,000 and 10,000 respectively.

Doordarshan has decided to telecast all the ten matches of the tournament live, he added.

SAFF president PP Lakshmanan, AIFF president Priya Ranjan Dasgupta, and AIFF secretary KN Mour were also present at the press conference.

Slater slams 12th ton
Tourists can call the shots



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 8: An exhilarating 106 from Michael Slater put Australia in a commanding position on the third day of the first Test against West Indies at Queen's Park Oval on Sunday, reports Reuters.

His 12th hundred in his 46th Test was his first score of any real note in five matches against West Indies. His previous best was 41 in Antigua on the 1995 tour.

The milestone came with a rush he hit Courtney Walsh for three boundaries in four balls to race from 88 to 100 each were spectacular shots as he pulled, drove over mid-off and then pulled again.

The innings continued Slater's strong showing since his recall to the Test side in India a year ago.

"It was a big breakthrough and is right up there as one of my best innings," Slater said later.

Slater should have been run out on 74 when he was sent back by Greg Blewett, but Pedro Collins failed to gather the ball

manding position on the third day of the first Test against West Indies at Queens Park Oval on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Opener Slater's fourth hundred in his last six Tests dominated Australia's second innings which reached 227 and seven at the close — an overall lead of 329 with two days left in a slow pitch which is increasingly keeping low.

Two rain breaks and the slow West Indian over rate forced play to be extended by almost an hour. Eleven overs remained when bad light stopped play.

Slater's superb effort even-

Tutal added that BCB has estimated a budget of Taka 26 lakh 90 thousand for the championship. ANZ bank will provide only Taka seven and a half lakh.

India-Bangladesh opener SAFF Cup begins in Goa Apr 22

CALCUTTA, Mar 8: Holders India will take on Bangladesh in the inaugural edition of the second South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup at Margao, Goa, on April 22, reports PTI.

Six teams, divided into two groups, are vying for honours in the 100,000 dollars tournament. General secretary of SAFF, JS N Anandariah, told newsmen at a press conference here today.

India, Pakistan and Bangladesh comprise Group A, while Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal form Group B.

Maldives, who lost to India in the final of the first edition of the tournament at Kathmandu in 1997, will begin their campaign against Sri Lanka on April 23.

The teams will play each other in the group once, with the first two proceeding to the semifinals, to be played on April 29.

The final and the third place play-off are scheduled for May 1, he said.

The winners will receive a prize money of US 50,000 dollars, and the runners-up will be richer by 25,000 dollars, the losing semifinalist will earn 15,000 and 10,000 respectively.

Doordarshan has decided to telecast all the ten matches of the tournament live, he added.

SAFF president PP Lakshmanan, AIFF president Priya Ranjan Dasgupta, and AIFF secretary KN Mour were also present at the press conference.

diligent defence. However, he ran smartly between the wickets and played some wonderful cuts, pulls and drives.

Slater's opening partner Matthew Elliott failed to score. Tied down by accurate bowling, the left-hander slashed at a wide ball from Walsh and was caught by Dave Joseph at second slip.

Justin Langer scored 24. He played a similar shot to Elliott, edging a ball from Mervyn Dillon to wicketkeeper Ricky Jacobs.

Slater and Mark Waugh had the best partnership of the innings — 81 for the third wicket — that ended when Waugh was run before to Curtly Ambrose for 33.

Captain Steve Waugh was caught behind off a thin edge without scoring but Slater and Greg Blewett put on 66 for the fifth wicket.

Once Slater departed, Ian Healy went just five balls later, lbw to Walsh without scoring and just before the close Blewett was stumped for 28 charging at Adams.

When West Indies resumed in the morning at 167 for nine, it took just one over to end their first innings without addition to the overnight score.

Glenn McGrath bowled Dillon with the sixth ball of the morning to finish with five for 50, his 12th haul of five.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between West Indies and Australia at the Queen's Park Oval on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 269 (G Blewett 58)
WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 167-9)

Carroll lbw b McGrath	9
Ragonath run out	6
Joseph lbw b McGrath	50
Lara run out	62
Adams b MacGill	13
Jacobs lbw b MacGill	6
Collins lbw b McGrath	1
Holder lbw b MacGill	0
Ambrose c Slater b McGrath	0
Dillon b McGrath	0
Walsh not out	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-11)	17
Total:	167

Fall of wks: 1-16; 2-28; 3-116; 4-149; 5-156; 6-163; 7-163; 8-163; 9-167.



Australian opener Michael Slater follows through on a pull shot on the third day of the first Test in Trinidad on March 7.

Slater followed through on a pull shot on the third day of the first Test in Trinidad on March 7.

Slater followed through on a pull shot on the third day of the first Test in Trinidad on March 7.

Slater followed through on a pull shot on the third day of the first Test in Trinidad on March 7.

Slater followed through on a pull shot on the third day of the first Test in Trinidad on March 7.

Slater followed through on a pull shot on the third day of the first Test in Trinidad on March 7.

Slater followed through on a pull shot on the third day of the first Test in Trinidad on March 7.

Slater followed through on a pull shot on the third day of the first Test in Trinidad on March 7.

Serena dumps Davenport

INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 8: Serena Williams, who won her first career title last week in Paris,

serena dumped Davenport

continued her winning ways Sunday by upsetting second-seeded Lindsay Davenport 6-4, 6-2 in the second round of the Evert Cup, reports Reuters.

The 21st-ranked Williams believes she is on the move up the ranking ladder and is brimming with confidence.

"I'll definitely see myself in the top 10, but right now, I'm not looking at that," Williams said. "I'm just trying to play every match to do the best I can."

"I know if I'm playing well, doing the best that I can do, I'm definitely going to be in the top 10, and probably the top 5, if not better."

In an earlier match, fifth-seeded Steffi Graf faced little resistance beating 61st-ranked Kventoslava Hrdlikova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-2 in the second round.

Sixth-seeded Mary Pierce of France also had an easy day, taking a 6-0, 6-3 second-round victory over American Amy

having difficulty controlling her shots with numerous forehands flying well beyond the court boundaries.

Williams had an inordinate 10 chances to break Davenport's serve in the 65-minute match and was successful on three occasions — the final game of the first set and the second and eighth games of the second set.

Davenport, who reigned as the world number one for 17 weeks starting last October, is suffering with a respiratory infection, the Evert Cup champion in 1997. Davenport is taking a second course of antibiotics to clear the congestion.

The match started with Davenport having two chances to break Williams' serve in the first game and one chance in the third game of the first set.

Failing to take advantage of those moments, Davenport was never able to create another opportunity to challenge Williams in the match.

The match marked the second occasion in the three matches they have played that Williams came out on top.

By the second set Davenport

Annual sports

BARISAJ, Mar 8: The annual sports competition of Government Women's College was held here yesterday at the college ground, reports BSS.

111 students of the college participated in 18 items of the competition this year.

Santasree Sarker and Lutfunnesa emerged champions in junior and senior groups respectively.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Overeat-er's woe
4 Spotted, a la Twenty
7 Bat two
12 Say it's OK
13 Major st.
14 "Caribbean Queen"
15 Dander
16 MTV series, with "The
18 Bird
19 Incus
20 Round number
22 Jewel
23 Rum recipe
27 Put to work
29 Forgive
31 TV role
32 For Joely
34 Lightly nauseated
35 Country song?
37 Sor
38 Laugh-a-minute
39 Shade provider
41 Advantage
45 Breaks suddenly

DOWN
24 Com-mo-tion
25 Dickens
26 Whatever number
28 Get a load of
30 Leather-worker's tool
31 Links stat
32 Singer
33 1994-95 news-making jurist
36 Carle
37 Block
40 Scottish landowner
42 Descrip-tion
43 Lost cause
44 Access
45 Carpet-buying mess
46 Unescorted
48 Urban music style
49 Blueprint wing
50 Milwaukee product
51 Caroline's portraiture

SOLUTION time: 25 mins.
APP POLO WADS
LEA ONES ORIT
FISHBANK RIDE
SOI TANKRIT
TOPIDOG RIG
GIRI HANG LUDIG
AIRS MUG TODD
DOTES GAL VEE
GPA DODGEAR
EARNMARK COT
ALICE RIDE DOWN
GIRI ON GING
TUFFIT READ SYN

Yesterday's answer
47 Nancy's helm
48 1998 Derby winner
52 Hill dweller
53 "Veronica's Closet" star
Vitamin
6 Zizag along
7 Allen Ginsberg poem
8 Word for "habitat"
9 Aachen article
10 4 qts.
11 Conclude
17 Flaccid
21 Shroud
23 Penni-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13							
15			16							
18			19							
20			21			22	23	24	25	26
27		28				29	30			
31	32	33				34				