chess Sports Reporter

Syed Ejaz Hossain of Maple Leaf took the solo lead in the Standard Chartered Bank School chess tournament with full five points on completion of the fifth round at the NSC Chess Room yesterday.

Ejaz, who was sharing the top slot along with three other players at the end of the fourth round on Tuesday, shrugged off his rivals when he posted an exciting win over Mostafa Bhuyian of Mymensingh City Collegiate School in this round.

When Ejaz extended his allwin record, the other two challengers from across the boarder Puneet Jaswal and Soham Das lost their first half points to remain contented with the second slot, both having collected four and a half points.

On the other hand, the defeat against Ejaz pushed Mostafa. the holder of the national subjunior title, down to the third position.

Cute h'ball Victory for Victoria

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club got off to a flying start in the Cute First Division Handball League with a 21-11 win over Monsur Sporting Club yesterday

The opening match of the league at the handball court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium looked an evenly contested one with Monsur Sporting trailing the eventual winners by 7-9 in the first half.

But Victoria picked up their game in post-lemon session with Noor Nabi leading his side from the front with highest 11 goals to shut out Monsur boys.

Earlier, Faruque Khan, MP. a senior vice-president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, declared the League open in a colourful ceremony.

Masood plays

From page 13

Mushfigur c Raju b Jamaluddin MK Masood c Raju b Salahuddin Sanchay b Salahuddin Mustadir batting Nayan c Salim b A Kamal Ripon batting Extras: (lb-3, b-15, nb-5, w-5)

Total: (For 7 wickets in 92 overs) 204 Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-28; 3-

34; 4-115; 5-124; 6-139; 7-160 Bowler: R W Khairuzzaman 14 Al-Amin Ahmed Kamal 10 Salahuddin 7 63 Jamahaddinosii 14 am 2 //30 a Sohailardo tobulovo Q 127 1995 when Lippi allowed Juve:

Hamilton Test

From page 13

healed totally, that's the main hing." McMillan said, though dding he may not take up his usual fielding position in the gully as a precaution.

His only look at the West Indies attack was at the World Cup in May when he top-scored with 32, against two of the bowlers he is likely to face Thursday in Walsh and Mervyn Dillon. Otherwise, he admits to

knowing little about his opponents.

"We really haven't played them much the last three or four years, so it's going to be interesting for both teams, just seeing each other and having a good look," he said.

The weather forecast is fine for the first day.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (From): Stephen Fleming (captain). Matthew Horne, Gary Stead. Craig Spearman. Nathan Astle. Craig McMillan, Adam Parore, Chris Cairns, Dion Nash, Daniel Vettori, Andrew Penn Paul Wiseman, Shayne O'Con-

WEST INDIES (Possible 12) Brian Lara (captain). Sherwin Campbell, Adrian Griffith, Shivnarine Chanderpaul Jimmy Adams, Ricardo Powell Ridley Jacobs, Nehemiah Perry Franklyn Rose, Courtney Walsh, Mervyn Dillon, Pedro Collins.

Umpires: Doug Cowie (New Zealand), David Shepherd

36 Roman

37 Poultry

leaders?

purchase

40 Essential

41 From the

42 Electrical

46 Traditional

48 Cattle call?

49 Praise

50 Infini-

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51 Moreover

1 Calendar

America's 47 "Dies -- "

top

3 Cain role

4 Liniment

targets

prosperity

7 Hamilton's

8 Respiration

9 Cracker

10 Derma-

tology

11 "Coming

16 Director

19 Leaves

20 Dinner,

21 Jason's

22 Cautious

Solution time: 23 mins.

ALIMPETER

Yesterday's answer

Kazan

subject

of Age

in Samoa"

5 Time of

6 Screw

23 Minne-

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26 "Green

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Lilacs,"

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28 Appre-

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30 Biggers

sleuth

34 This and

that?

Hoosier

38 Sulawesi

territory

40 Blueprint

39 Llama

42 Took

43 Spoon-

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Turcotte

45 Affirmative

action

44 Jockey

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ACROSS

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Bombeck

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broke his

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14 Lestat's

creator

southern

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Kapital"



At the winners podium: (L-R) Nadeem Kamran, Shahriar Haider, Disha Islam and Sathi Sarker pose for photographers on the concluding day of the Joy Bangla National Tennis competition at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday. - Star photo

Target to tame Klusener



EAST LONDON. Dec 15 (Internet report): England emerged from the second cricket

South Africa a lot better than from the first Test.

Coach Duncan Fletcher and captain Nasser Hussein are both satisfied that their men put up a good performance at St George's Park. All they have to work on

now is a way or means of getting 28-year-old South African Lance Klusener out of their In just two innings.

Klusener, batting at No 7, has plundered 256 runs off their attack - killer blows of 72 and 174, and nobody knows better than Fletcher that if Klusener's bat isn't blunted, his bowlers could be in for a long, hot sum-

"We probably just let the game get away from us a little bit when Klusener got in," said Fletcher of the drawn second

"When you've got Klusener. Pollock and Boucher batting at seven, eight and nine, it's like having to bowl a side out twice." said Hussain.

While Boucher also played a significant role in South Africa's first-innings recovery from 146 for five wickets to 450 Klusener was always the dominant factor

"We are going to discuss it again," said Fletcher, who be-

lieves Klusener can be tamed. "Some of the bowlers thought they bowled to a plan, but we've had a look at the statistics and where he scored off wasn't to

"So we are going to have to sit down and get the bowlers to think about it.

But just where is the seemingly invincible Klusener vulnerable? "That's something



LANCE KLUSENER

which I think we must just keep to ourselves at the moment, said Fletcher. "Yes, I think he has a weak-

ness. It's something they know about in South Africa and it's been discussed," said Fletcher. "The guys must just be more consistent when they bowl to

After a rather busy fortnight. Fletcher has given his squad a couple of days off and then, as he says, it starts all over again with the Boxing Day Test in Durban as the next major objective. Outside of Klusener, the two

sides are running very similar courses at the moment with Alan Mullally (England) on the one hand and Jacques Kallis (SA) on the other almost certain to be in the third-Test bowling frame.

They are also both experiencing problems with their lefthanded opening bats. England's Mark Butcher and South Africa's Gary Kirsten have yet to turn in convincing perfor-

"It is a bit of a worry," said Fletcher of Butcher's ongoing struggle. "He's batting well in the nets, but he's got to transform that out into the middle. We want to give guys a good run. We don't want to be seen to be chopping and changing." The same applies to Kirsten,

whom most of the SA camp believe is perhaps just one innings away from a really big score. "Gazza is that sort of player," says former SA team-mate and

"Just when you think he's going through a lean time he bounces back at you with a biggie. And believe me he is also invaluable in the dressingroom and out in the middle with Herschelle Gibbs.

spinner Pat Symcox.

"The two know each other well. Herschelle listens to him. That's important."

Rudi gets vote of confidence



JOHANNESBURG. Dec 15: Umpire Rudi Koertzen will not be withdrawn from the England versus South

Africa Test series despite admitting he made mistakes in the drawn second test.

The 51-year-old South African will stand, as scheduled, in the fifth and final Test at Centurion Park from January 14, South African director of umpiring Brian Basson told Reuters.

"Rudi Koertzen has been appointed to officiate in the fifth test and, whatever I may have been quoted as saying in other newspapers, he will be standing in that match regardless of whatever the match referee or captains may say in their reports from Port Elizabeth," said Bassen.

"One has to understand that umpires are human and that as such mistakes can occur." Koertzen's role in the re-

mainder of the series was questioned in the British media after his decisions in England's second innings in the drawn Test in Port Elizabeth.

England were unhappy with decisions for catches Kourtzen awarded against batsmen Michael Vaughan and Chris Adams as well as a leg before wicket decision against Mark

Koertzen conceded on Tuesday he may have made two mistakes. "If I say I didn't make mistakes I would be a liar.

"I can recall two - I missed the lbw on Gary Kirsten and maybe the decision against Chris Adams. There was a noise but if he didn't hit it then I'm sorry ! had it wrong."



RUDI KOERTZEN

Basson added: "Not only Rudi but also Steve Bucknor were criticised at Port Elizabeth but if one looks at the current ICC ratings, the fact remains that we had two of the best umpires in the world standing in that test.

"Michael Atherton had a (poor) test at the Wanderers when he got a pair but he remains a very good player. The England selectors had faith in him and that was justified when he scored a century in Port Elizabeth.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 20 21 22 23 27 Patronize the library 38 39 33 Radiated CRYPTOQUIP 37 Announce

a billiards U L B D UQBERGBQ VZGGE K QBVSFFBDC RLZR EKFAGO

ATR LKF LSG.C. SD Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MANY WAITERS ARE HIGHLY LIKELY TO THINK THAT MONEY GROWS ON TRAYS. Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals R

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

"The fact that Rudi or Steve may have had a bad test match doesn't mean to say that the ICC or myself will not appoint him for the next test. He remains a good umpire."

South Africa lead the five Test series 1-0. The third test starts in Durban on December

Ntini stays on the right track

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 15 (Reuters): South Africa's first black Test cricketer Makhaya Ntini, cleared of rape on appeal in October, has boosted his chances of a Test return by being named to play England in two tour matches.

The 22-year-old pace bowler will spearhead a combined Border/Eastern Province attack in a limited-overs game on Thursday and in a four-day match starting on Saturday.

Ntini was sentenced to six years in prison in April when he was found guilty of raping domestic worker Nomengezi Matokazi in a toilet at his home cricket ground of Buffalo Park in East London. He was cleared in October

when the Grahamstown High Court ruled the case had not been proved beyond reasonable The case became a cause of

uproar in South Africa with anti-rape and women's' groups outraged by the United Cricket Board of South Africa's (UCBSA) decision to stand by the player after his initial con-

viction. He remained on a UCBSA contract although he was dropped from South Africa's World Cup squad.

Since being cleared he has appeared in four first class matches for Border and became the first non-white South African to take a hat-trick in first class cricket in a Super Eight match against Free State on December 5.

"He has developed a natural aversion to the media but in general terms he has been brilliant." Border coach Graham Barlow told Reuters on Wednesday. "He began steadily, bowling

line and length, but has got his speed back now and I would say that at the moment he is probably back up there as a contender for the Test side." Ntini played the first of his

four tests against Sri Lanka in the 1997-98 season and has taken 10 Test wickets at an average of 35.80.

Transfer ISTANBUL, Dec 15 (AP):

Galatasaray striker Tugay Kerimoglu said Tuesday he had reached agreement to sign with Glasgow Rangers next season. We have come to an agree-

ment in principle, the rest is up to the two clubs to sort out," he told reporters on his return from Scotland.

UEFA Cup round 4

Arsenal,Leeds get tough draw

GENEVA, Dec 15: Spanish table-toppers Deportivo La Coruna go up against Arsenal, while English Premiership leaders Leeds United will take on AS Roma of Italy in the UEFA Cup fourth round, reports

Deportivo are five points clear in the Spanish First Division and were comfortable 5-3 aggregate winners over Panathinaikos of Greece in last week's third round. Arsenal, who were demoted

to the UEFA Cup from the Champions League, knocked out Nantes of France in the third round on a 6-3 aggregate after winning their home leg 3-In other top matches from

Wednesday's draw here, Juventus of Italy were paired with Celta Vigo of Spain, French league leaders Monaco take on Real Mallorca of Spain and Germany's Werder Bremen got title holders Parma of Italy.

Monaco coach Claude Puel said of Mallorca: "they are a very good team and it should be an open game."

Werder Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf said "Parma are the title holders and naturally that means it is a tough match for us. Italian sides are always hard to beat."

The last 16 groups four Spanish sides and four Italian. along with two from France. two from England, two from Germany and one apiece from Turkey and the Czech Republic.

The first leg matches will be on March 2 with the return leg on March 9.

Parma (Ita) v Werder Bremen Juventus (Ita) v Celta Vigo

UEFA Cup fourth round

AS Roma (Ita) v Leeds Utd Mallorca (Spa) v Monaco

Slavia Prague (Cze) v Udinese

Borussia Dortmund (Ger) v Galatasaray (Tur) Atletico Madrid (Spa) v Lens

Arsenal (Eng) v Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) First leg to be played March 2. second leg March 9

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Azad Sporting Club, Anirban Sangha and Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) began their Acme Second Division cricket league campaign on winning note at different city venues yesterday.

A fine half-century by opener Koton followed by a four-wicket haul by medium pacer Monir propelled Azad Sporting Club to a comprehensive 103 run win over Azad Boys Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Koton smashed 61 off 53 balls including five boundaries as Azad Sporting, sent into bat, scored 216 before being all cut in 38.3 overs. Among others opener Shahadat chipped in with run-a-ball 41 and Kafi scored 36. In reply, Azad Boys were

shot out for 113 in 33.3 in the face of some devastating bowling from Monir, who finished with four for 10 from his seven overs. Razzak and Sajib of the winners meanwhile took two wickets each. Away at the Mirpur Outer

Stadium, Anirban Sangha beat Lalbagh Union Sporting Club by six wickets. Chasing a paltry Lalbagh

total of 146 in the stipulated 40 overs, opener Kashem scored 50 off 54 balls as Anirban raced to score 147 in only 28.4 overs with six wickets in hands. Opener Nayan, with 35, was the other notable run-getter for Anirban

Earlier, electing to bat first Lalbagh were all out for 146 in 35.4 overs with one-down Kamal scoring highest 36.

In day's other match, GMCC recorded an exciting 2-run win over Cricket Coaching School Blues. Middle-order batsman Sajib

Bhoumik scored an unbeaten 93 as GMCC, batting first, scored 193 for 8 in the allotted 40 Sajib laced his 104-ball in-

nings with two sixes and seven fours. In reply, CCS Blues

marginally fell short of the target as they lost their last wicket at the score of 191. Middle-order batsman Ibrahim kept the Blues hopes afloat with a gritty knock of 52-ball 64.

Monsur Sporting.



the Chess Room of the National Sports Council yesterday. - Star Photo

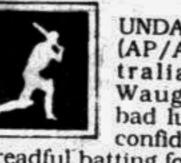
Mark needs a bit of luck

contributed to his loss of form.

well in the nets but I've just been

getting out," said Waugh

"I've been hitting the ball



Waugh blamed had luck and low confidence for his dreadful batting form but said he hoped to avoid the selection

"I've had a good career, but I precedented slump.

The 34-year-old has reached 13 just three times in his past 14 Test innings and if the drought continues then even the support of the likes of former national captain Mark Taylor and Prime Minister John Howard may not be enough to save him.

about his fate when he arrived in Perth on Wednesday for a Sheffield Shield match for New South Wales.

posted a world record fifthwicket partnership with brother Steve. But Waugh is under pressure

"I haven't really thought about whether that will be it if I'm not selected," Waugh said.

while and get the confidence go-Waugh scored a century in the opening Test of the summer in Brisbane, but managed just five runs in three other innings

would be nice to be there Boxing He has a Test career average Day, but it's up to the selectors." of 41.30, with 17 centuries, but Waugh said watching videos has scored only 439 runs at

> Meanwhile, John Howard urged the Australian selectors to give Waugh another chance. "He's having a very bad trot. But others have done it," Howard, a self-confessed

23.10 in his last 12 Tests.

cricket fanatic, told commercial radio. "Greg Chappell went through a very bad trot at one stage in his career. Mark Taylor cer-

tainly did. "Mark Waugh has given an enormous amount to Australian cricket and he still remains in my opinion the most graceful batsman to watch of

the current era of players. "I would certainly want to see Mark have another couple of opportunities."

Australian captain Steve Waugh said he hoped his twin brother would follow the lead of Justin Langer and Ricky Ponting fight his way back into form. "Everyone has had a rough

trot. Justin (Langer) was copping it, Ricky (Pointing) was copping it and now it's Mark's turn," Steve Waugh said. "Before the Hobart Test everyone was saying Justin should be dropped and I said he would be all right and he then

got two hundreds and the same

with Ricky Ponting before

Perth." Aussies to face 'own' music

MARK WAUGH

luck, stay at the crease for a

"Hopefully, I can get a bit of



15 (AFP): The chucking controversy bedevilling international

cricket seems set to continue, with Australia's fastest bowler Brett Lee considered almost certain to line up against India in the

second Test. Unsourced reports from India - carried widely in Australian newspapers - suggest the 23-year-old firebrand from New South Wales has a suspect action. But the indications are the Australian authorities will ignore the reports and choose the right-arm express for the Melbourne Test starting December

As far as is known, there have been no official complaints about Lee's action. According to reports in Aus-

tralia, Lee may not straighten his arm fully because of a previously broken elbow. Australian captain Steve Waugh has made it clear he would like to see Lee in the team

to provide even more firepower

to an attack which crippled the

Indian batting twice in the first

Test here, won by the home team by a resounding 285 runs Tuesday. Lee's action had never been questioned until the unsourced Indian reports raised the issue immediately after he had destroyed the Indian line-up with a withering 4-25 from 10 overs when playing for the Prime

Minister's X1 just before the opening Test. The tourists were all out for 170, losing by a massive 164

Lee has yet to make his senior international debut. He was 12th man for Australia in the third Test against Pakistan in Perth last month, missing out at the last minute to the more experienced Queenslander Michael Kasprowicz, who also played in Adelaide. But Kasprowicz had an ordinary game here, failing to take a

Lee's chances of selection are boosted by the probability of the Melbourne pitch providing considerable bounce - conditions alien to Indian batsmen reared on featherbed strips which play low and predictably.

men," Waugh said on Wednes-"In recent years it has been pretty good for quicks to bowl

chance of getting picked." Waugh, who is becoming increasingly forthright as he grows in confidence as the leader of an all-conquering side, has expressed his disquiet over cricket administrators'

The day before the Adelaide Test he took the International Cricket Council (ICC) to task for not getting to grips quickly with the problem. "Blokes who have got ques-

round in circles and no-one is

The Lee allegations came only a week after fresh questions surfaced about the legitimacy of Pakistan express bowler Shoaib Akhtar's action. Footage of Akhtar's action is reportedly being studied by the

said he views him as a quality young bowler - "quick, exciting and good for cricket".

He said: "You don't want to take these guys out of the game -Lee or Shoaib Akhtar. "Hopefully, people can see Lee in that light, rather than

think he may throw the odd

Psychologist's gift for India cricketers

HOBART, Australia, Dec 15: Indian officials threw the book at the beaten cricket team Wednesday, reports AP.

After a 285-run thrashing by Australian in the first Test of a three-match series, the Indian players were each given a book called The Psychology of Cricket, by Australian sports psychologist Graham Winter. Indian coach Kapil Dev de-

nied his side's confidence had

been shattered by the heavy

Test defeat but said an improved mental approach was required. "A loss is a loss by either 100 runs or this or that," Kapil said. "Of course I was surprised, I don't expect that. Cricket is one

go by the book. Kapil pledged that spectators at the second Test in Melbourne. starting December 26, would witness an improved showing from the tourists.

game where everything doesn't

"No two ways about that," Kapil said. "The only thing is you can improve and you can bounce back. "Looking at the positive side, what we gained in the Test

match was our bowlers bowled a fabulous line and put pressure back on Australia India play a four-day match against Tasmania in Hobart

starting Friday. French 1st Div Caveglia seals

Nantes win PARIS, France, Dec 15: Alain Caveglia marked his debut for his new club by scoring the winning goal in the final minute as Nantes scored a 2-1 victory away to Lens in a French league relegation battle on Tuesday night, reports AFP.

The veteran former Lyon star, who was reluctant to leave the big spending titlechasers, set up Nantes' first goal after just three minutes when his fine cross from the left was swept home by Frederic Da Rocha. Lens hit back with an 11thminute goal from Cameroon in-

who struck a splendid leftfooted shot from 25m out - but Caveglia had the last word. The win enabled Nantes to

ternational Joseph-Desire Job -

move three points clear of the relegation zone, but Lens champions two seasons ago -Action from yesterday's Cute First Division handball League match between Victoria and remain mired in the bottom - Star photo

Students of different schools, including some from Calcutta, engage in cerebral warfare at

UNDATED, Dec 15 (AP/AFP): Australia's Mark of his batting in the nets convinced him it was reasons other than faltering technique which

still think I've got a lot of cricket left in me." said Waugh, who is in the middle of an un-

Waugh appeared relaxed

He was hoping to regain his touch at the WACA ground where he averages over 50 and

to make the team for the second Test against India starting in Melbourne on December 26.

"I'm only a cricketer and it's a spot in a cricket team - it

against Pakistan and then made five and eight in the first Test against India.

"I'm pretty sure he'll come into calculations for Melbourne, where it is a bit bouncier and suits the pace-

on, so he would be a very good

inaction on the chucking allegations.

no-one really knows whether they throw or not, and no-one seems to be willing to make a judgement, either," he said. "So the process just goes

tion marks over their actions -

clear on anything.

In support of Lee. Waugh has