Bangladesh blank Bhutan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh beat Bhutan by three goals to one in a practice football match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur in the city last night.

Forward Moni and midfielder Monwar scored one each to give Bangladesh a 2-0 lead before the breather.

In the second session, Bangladesh got one more from a suicidal goal while Bhutan pulled one back to linish the match at 3-1.

This was the second practice match for the visiting team who arrived in the city on April 21 for a three-week training mission. They drew their first match with BKSP 2-2 last week.

Bharti, BCCI on collision course?

PTI, New Delhi

The spat between the cricket board and Sports Minister Uma Bharti on the issue of playing against Pakistan, took a new turn Thursday with Uma Bharti holding back a letter to the finance ministry regarding tax exemption for the board to organise the ICC Knockout Tournament next year.

"When International Cricket Council president Malcolm Gray met me last month, I had promised all help from the government, including tax exemption, for staging the event. But when I was about to send a letter to Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha recommending tax exemption, I got the news of the cricket board's threat not to play in multi-nation tournaments.

"This only meant that if they were not going to play in the ICC Knockout Tournament, they would not be hosting it either. So I held the letter back," the sports minister said.

Asked when the letter would go, she replied once the matter was resolved.

Meanwhile, Bharti's statement on Wednesday that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had never approached her ministry formally for clarification on the Pakistan issue, seemed to have had its effect as the board got in touch with her Thursday night.

"I have passed on their query to my ministry officials and they will send the necessary clarifications," she said.

However, she reiterated that she was opposed to playing cricket against Pakistan only on bilateral basis and not otherwise.

Marsh wishes Aussies well

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australian cricket will continue to improve despite worries about the current side's advancing age, former Test wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh said on Friday.

"Every time someone leaves the Australian team and they are replaced, they (Australia) seem to get better." Marsh, currently head coach of the national cricket academy, told this news agency from Adelaide.

"We're flat out (at the academy) trying to get players to the next level," he said.

Australia's captain Steve Waugh and his twin brother, middle order batsman Mark, turn 36 in June as the side begin a demanding five-Test Ashes tour of England.

FROM PAGE 13

(captain), Chris Gavle, Leon Garrick, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Brian Lara, Ricardo Powell, Wavell Hinds, Marlon Samuels, Ridley Jacobs, Neil McGarrell, Mervyn Dillon, Cameron Cuffy, Kerry Jeremy and Nixon McLean.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Shaun Pollock (captain), Mark Boucher, Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Boeta Dippenaar, Neil McKenzie, Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Justin Kemp. lustin Ontong, Allan Donald, Roger Telemachus, Makhaya Ntini. Andre Nel. Paul Adams.

Vaughan

FROM PAGE 13

cessive day at New Road.

SCORE SUMMARIES English County Championship score summaries on Thursday (second day of four):

First Division At Chelmsford: Essex 206 (D Robinson 61; D Cousins 4-62) v Northamptonshire 119-4

Powell 64, A Dale 64, A Shaw 62 not out; R Johnson 3-99) v Somer-

At Canterbury: Kent 142 (C Silverwood 5-45) v Yorkshire 208-4 (M Vaughan 71, D Lehmann 68; M 14 games.

Saggers 3-57)

Surrey. No play Thursday (rain) Second Division At Derby: Derbyshire 171-7 (S | ferent in India.

Cook 3-53) v Middlesex

At Trent Bridge: Durham 284 (1) Collingwood 95, J Lewis 56; B Logan 4-62, Franks 3-74) v No. tinghamshire 38-1

At New Road: Worcestershin Sussex. No play Thursday (rain)

Akhtar raring to go

Cricket

AFP, karacha

"Rawalpindi Express" Shoaib Akhtar will be back on England's tracks as Pakistan's bowling advisory panel Thursday expressed satisfaction with an Australian report clearing his action.

"As per the International Cricket Council (ICC) process of dealing bowlers with illegal action the home panel has agreed with the report of Australian experts clearing Akhtar's action," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) operations director Brigadier Munawwar Rana told this news agency

The 25-year-old underwent tests at the Human Movement and Exercise Science Department of the University of Western Australia after concerns were raised about his action for a second time in New Zealand last month.

Pakistan's bowling panel comprised of Test players Ejaz Faqih and Mohsin Kamal while its third member Iqbal Sikander could not attend the meeting Thursday.

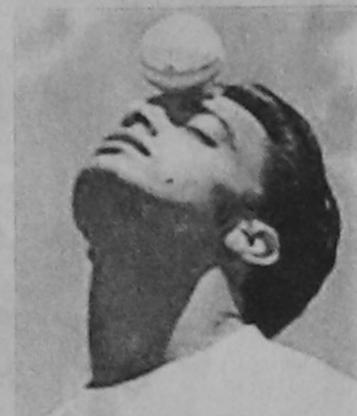
"Akhtar is declared fit as he played few matches in Australia legend Dennis Lillee also worked appear in a fitness test also," Rana Australian tour.

The Rawalpindi-based express pacer welcomed the report.

"I am delighted and hope that people will allow me to bowl without any tension." Akhtar told AFP.

Foster, who formerly coached Western Australia and English county side Kent, will continue working with Akhtar on Pakistan's forthcoming tour of England. PCB has engaged Foster as bowling coach and consultant for the England tour till a decision on the the end of Lebruary. team's main coach is finalised

Former Australian fast bowling



SHOAIB AKHTAR

but we will call him on Friday to and advised Akhtar during his

"I am grateful to Pakistan by a five-man team, including ant General Tauqir Zia who de-Australian expert Daryl Foster, spite opposition invested a lot of who in his report said "unique money and attention on me and physical characteristics" cause an my regards for Foster, Dennis illusion that he may be throwing Lillee and team of doctors," Akhtar

> "Now my every wicket will be dedicated to Pakistan and all my

well wishers," he said.

"I am feeling great and howling in the nets and look forward to play in England," he said.

Match referee Madugalle reported the matter to ICC after New Zealand's umpires Doug Cowie and Steve Dunne reported Akhtar's action during a one-day match in New Zealand at

Att att a from was hes p to I in Australia in December

em but then ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya allowed him to play in one-day internationals in Australia in February 2000. Later an ICC ruling also cleared Akhtar to play in Tests.

He missed most of the 2000 season through injury including a lucrative contract with English county Nottinghamshire.

Barisal cricket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Nabajagaran Club defeated Jordon Road SKP by nine wickets while Four-H Club outplayed Nazrul Pathagar also by same margin in the First Division Cricket League at the Shaheed Abdur Rab Serniabat Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Jordon scored 103 | by 118 runs. Akhtar's action was analysed Cricket Board chairman Lieuten-, runs in 38.05 overs losing all the

In reply, Jagaran made 107 for one in 17 overs.

In the second match Nazrul Pathagar scored 94 runs all out in

In reply, Four-H made 99 for one in 9.05 overs.

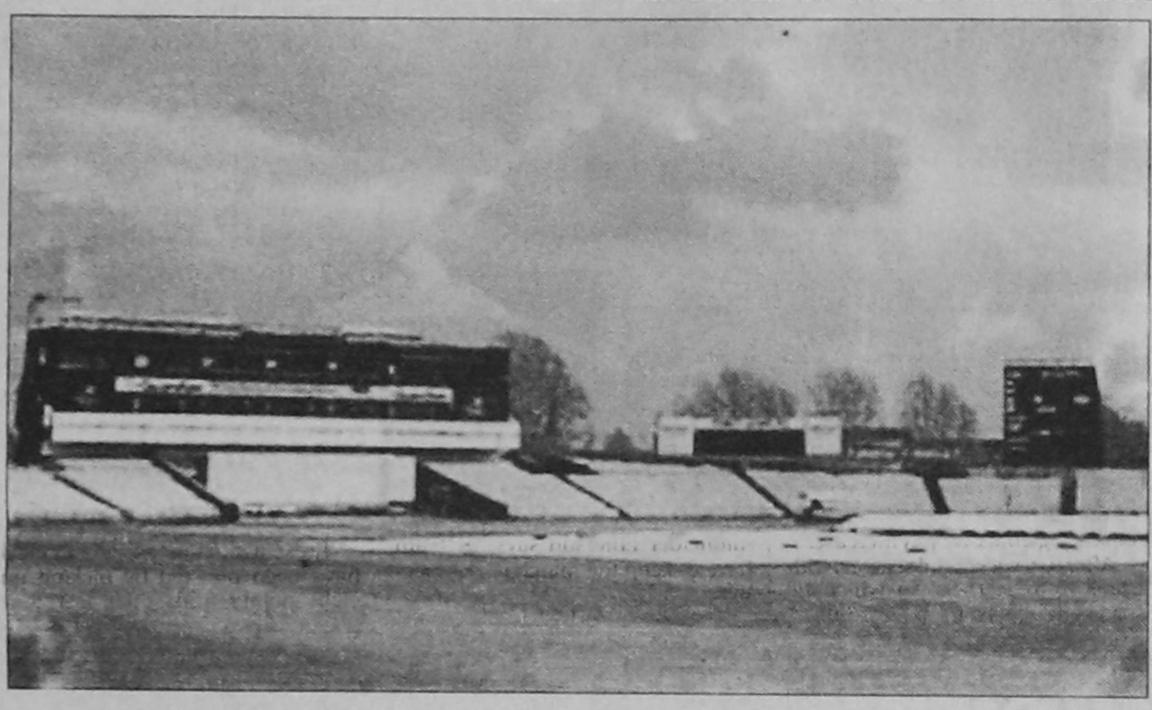


PHOTO: INTERNET

Old Trafford pitches are covered for the second successive day on Thursday.

Aussies, runaway leaders

Cricket

REUTERS, London

The 2000-01 Test cricket season drew to a close with West Indies celebrating victory and the recordbreaking Australia brooding over defeat.

Rarely can appearances have been more deceptive.

When the dust settles behind the outgoing Courtney Walsh, the stark facts will re-emerge.

Australia ended the season as they began it — as the best side in the world - while the oncemighty West Indians failed to reverse an apparently inexorable decline.

Steve Waugh's side may have gone down 2-1 in India, their world-record run of victories finally halted at 16, leg-spinner and worries may have surfaced match-fixing in December. over an ageing squad (media reto travel to England since 1909,

the return of express bowler Brett bookmakers. Lee, they remain the team to beat.

praise for their style of play. They won six of their eight Tests of the season. Significantly, none the 2,000-run, 200-wicket double. ended in a draw.

particular, will go down in history under 10 in the five West Indies as one of the all-time great games. Tests and taking eight wickets. No other major Test side was able to match their positive approach, certainly not Carl

Hooper's West Indies. Their consolation win in the fifth Test against South Africa last week is likely to prove Pyrrhic, At Cardiff: Glamorgan 330-7 (M | especially since the 38-year-old Walsh's retirement, with 519 wickets in his kit bag, will rob the team of their heart.

Kingston was their first Test victory of 2000-01 and their first in

Brian Lara and Hooper remain, At Old Trafford: Lancashire v | but the younger players have yet to make an impact.

Things could not be more dif-

The manner of their success against Australia - coming back from 1-0 down and becoming only the third side in Test cricket to win after being forced to follow on was reason enough for jubilation. But India also unearthed two

Vangipurappu Laxman, five years into a stop-start Test career, suddenly found his feet with an Lanka. Indian record innings of 281 to turn the series around. He added a century in the one-day series. Twenty-year-old off-spinner

Harbhajan Singh, however, proved the find of the season.

Once blighted by a suspect action and a suspect attitude, he took 32 wickets - including a hattrick - in the three Tests at just over 17 apiece.

India, robbed of leading bowler Anil Kumble through a long-term shoulder injury, won four of six Tests, including one against Test debutants Bangladesh.

Those performance helped soothe the hurt caused by the banning for life of former captain Shane Warne may have struggled Mohammad Azharuddin for

South Africa, meanwhile, ports suggest it will be their oldest flourished in the post-Hansie Cronje era, winning three series immediate post-war teams ex- and drawing one. Cronje was barred from the game in October But, due to be strengthened by after admitting taking money from

Shaun Pollock was the high-They also deserve unqualified light, making his maiden century against Sri Lanka in January and Australia always played to win. then becoming only the eighth player in Test history to complete

All-rounder Lance Klusener, Their defeat in Calcutta, in sadly, was the low light, averaging England claimed the title of the

most improved unit, winning Test series in Pakistan - for the first time in 38 years - and in Sri

It was not always pretty, the team's limitations forcing Nasser Hussain to opt for safety-first tactics rather than risking bold

pushes for victory. But four successive Test series wins, their best run for 22 years,

suggest the approach has merit after years of disappointment. The development of Craig White into a top all-rounder pro-

vided the cornerstone of the

team's advances.

Sri Lanka, without a Test series win, failed again to repeat their one-day exploits over five days. although their batting remains formidable while off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan and pace bowler Chaminda Vaas provide

genuine bowling class. Pakistan, meanwhile, like the West Indies, managed just one win during a season of rifts and turmoil. They ended it with a new, inexperienced captain in Wagar Younis and without a coach.

They head for England in apparent disarray. So bank on them to win the series handsomely there, as they did in 1987, 1992

Bank on no one, however, ever to match Don Bradman. Bradman, who averaged 99.94 in Tests, died in February. Aged 92. he again missed out on the magic

three figures.

President of Bangladesh Carrom Federation and Director General of Press Institute of Bangladesh Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam inaugurating the Dhaka Metropolitan Women's Carrom Training course at the National Sports Council on Friday. 10 players are taking part in the twoday workshop.

Cricketers win crucial match

SPORTS REPORTER

Young Cricketers hopes of staying in the Premier Division Cricket League were boosted when they thrashed bottom side Sadharan Bima by 118 runs in a Relegation League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

One-down Adil Ahmed scored 93 as Young Cricketers, promoted to the elite league this season, piled up 281 for seven in the allotted 50 overs.

In reply, their opponents, who have only scored two victories in the season, were dismissed for 163 in 34.3 overs. It was Young Cricketers' sixth

win for in 14 matches which raised their tally to 12 points, two more than Agrani Bank who have 10 points. Both Young Cricketers and

Agrani Bank will face each other in their last match on April 30. If the bankers lose, they will join Bima in the First Division next season. SCORES IN BRIEF

Young Cricketers: 281 for 7 in 50 overs (Adil 93, Towhid 72, Tinku

32, Zakir 1/26) Sadharan Bima: 163 all out in 34.3 overs (Hashmi 41, Rezwan 34, Babu 4/36, Shahnewaz 3/26) Result: Young Cricketers won

Maj Gen Ali, Park clinch ScanCement golf titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Major General S Ameer Ali won the ScanCement Cup Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday, Kyung Sook Park clinched the ladies' title.

President of the Kurmitola Club Lt General M Harun-Ar-Rashid teed-off in the morning. The Chief of Army Staff later gave away prizes at the club in the eve-

The tournament was participated by 285 golfers.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior Winner: Jang Seong Park; Junior Winner: Shaehan Khan; Best Gross: Rahib Bashar: Ladies Best Gross: Mrs Jung Sook Jung; 2" Best Gross: Raiyan Rab: Runnerup: Brig Gen Danial Islam; Runner-up Ladies: Mrs Aud K Sigmond; 2nd Runner-up: Sayeeful Islam; Front Nine Winner: Sved Mohammad Ali; Back Nine Winner: Arshi Haider; Nearest to Pin: Maj Gen A T M A Wahab; Longest Drive: Kawamata Takashi.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Shaheed Mintu Sangha and Young Hercules Cricket Club won their respective matches in the Wazeda Ahmed Memorial Gold Cup cricket tournament at the local stadium on Friday.

Shaheed Mintu recorded a 108 run victory over Confidence Cricket Club in the first match.

Batting first Shaheed Mintu scored 171 for six in the stipulated 25 overs. In reply, Confidence collected

63 runs losing all wickets in 24.3

In the second match, Young Hercules defeated Bazarpara Cricket Club by 5 runs.

Young Hercules batted first and made 96 runs all out in 14.4

Rajshahi cricket

Raninagar Cricket Training Academy clinched the 6th Birshrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smrity Cricket tournament title beating Al-Rashid B by four wick-

Winning the toss, Al-Rashid decided to bat first and scored 176 runs for seven in the stipulated 35

their target (177 runs) for six in

Thomann tumbles

AFP, Atlanta

French qualifier Nicolas Thomann, who upset Australian Open champion and top seed Andre Agassi, was himself ousted from

Belgium's Christophe Rochus defeated Thomann 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 in the French Open tuneup but another Frenchman, sixth seed

sixth ATP match of the 143rdrated player's career. Agassi had not lost to a qualifier since a 1999 default in San Jose and had not lost his clay opener since 1994.



Participants of the ScanCement Cup Golf Tournament are seen with the Chief of Army Staff and Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Harun-Ar-Rashid (7th from L) at the club on Friday.

ACU restarts work in SL

Cricket

AGENCIES, Colombo

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) anti-corruption investigator Friday resumed a probe into claims that two top Sri Lankan players accepted bribes to throw matches, officials said.

Sir Paul Condon, head of the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) is expected to arrive in the Lankan capital at the weekend, but his investigator Bob Smalley who arrived here Thursday has already begun preparatory work. ICC in a statement in London

Friday said that Condon, along with two members of the ACU, would spend three days in Sri Lanka, meeting cricket officials, ministers and players. It added: "The ACU team will

be focusing on allegations made against Sri Lankan players...into cricket malpractice.' "Mr. Smalley has been here before and is aware of the situation and will be making the spade work for Sir Paul's visit," a Board

of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka

(BCCSL) official said. Sports Minister Lakshman Kiriella has vowed to cooperate against India at Lucknow. with the ICC to probe allegations

Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva. "We are supporting a full and

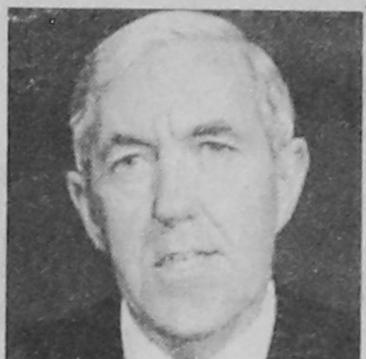
made by an Indian bookmaker, M K Gupta. Gupta had told India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that

he paid 15,000 dollars for the Sri Lankan duo to engineer a Sri Lankan defeat in the 1994 Test

comprehensive investigation and will cooperate fully with the ICC," Kiriella told parliament earlier this

month. Ranatunga and De Silva have already made written observations regarding the allegation, first

denied accepting bribes, while De-Silva said he was approached by bookmakers, but did not accept any payment. Ranatunga has re-



SIR PAUL CONDON

CBI conducted a probe into of match-fixing against former Sri match-fixing last year and their

tired but De Silva is still a member of the Test team. Cricket sources said the ICC had been less than happy with the pace of investigations undertaken by BCCSL which was sacked and replaced by an interim panel in

The ICC probe team was ini-

tially expected here in February,

but sources said that their arrival

March.

findings rocked the sport, leading

to three former national captains

- South Africa's Hansie Cronje,

India's Mohammad Azharuddin

and Pakistan's Salim Malik -

being banned for life over their

to its one and only World Cup

victory in 1996, has categorically

Ranatunga, who led Sri Lanka

links with bookmakers.

was delayed due to Sri Lanka's Test and one-day series with England. Condon, a former head of London's Metropolitan police, said: "The CBI report has been a major

step forward in the fight against corruption in cricket. "A significant part of our investigation has been to follow up allegations in areas over which the CBI has no jurisdiction - namely

prefer it to grass," said Enqvist.

"I've had some good results on the

surface. It's not my best, but I like

to play on it. There is an element

of strategy involved that you don't

not even ranked in the weekly ATP

Champions points race, contin-

ued a miracle run with a knockout

of Spaniard Alex Calatrava 7-6

The tournament suffered a tri-

ple blow in recent days with injury

who quit with stomach problems

Italian outsider Federico Luzzi,

the non-Indian players.

Spaniards roll on

Tennis

AFP, Barcelona Spanish seeds Juan Carlos Ferrero and Alex Corretja blazed a trail for countrymen, winning into the quarterfinals Thursday of the one-

million-dollar Barcelona Open.

year-old hope for the future of the Iberian game, put out Davis Cup teammate Albert Costa 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to reach the last eight. Costa was perhaps still in

shock after girlfriend Cristina pre-

Number three Ferrero, the 21-

sented him with twin baby girls, Alma and Claudia, born on Satur-Corretja, seeded fourth, overcame an annual set of recurring hometown nerves to upstage Chile's Nicolas Massu 6-4, 6-3 in

Real Club de Tenis. Despite playing here for the past nine editions, Corretja's best home showing was the 1994 semi-

The winner of 14 career ATP ti-

tles will face 11th seeded compa-

triot Carlos Moya, a former French

Open champion who beat French

their third-round encounter at the

fifth seed Arnaud Clement, this year's Australian Open finalist, 7

39 Stifle

41 Disfigure-

diving

49 Moose's

51 Part of

52 "I smell

54 Work

55 Crazy

DOWN

16 Pronghorn 56 Pinnacle

18 Allocate 57 Everything

units

R.S.V.P.

53 Columbus

ment

42 Goes

* 45 Balller

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "To Tell

5 Bkg.

brand

name

12 Highest

point

opposite

14 Saharan

15 Vegan's

no-no

20 Jagger's

band

21 Lorna

love

32 Beat

34 Anony-

mous

John

35 Expression

of relief

37 Dancer,

e.g.

13 Him's

the Truth"

panelist

Corretja admits: he'd rather be

playing anywhere than here. I'm never comfortable on the

court," admitted the 27-year-old. "There is just so much pressure from the home public. I've only been out to the club to train for two hours per day. The rest of the time, I've stayed in the hotel.'

Michel Kratochvil of Switzerland dealt Spain's Tommy Robredo a blow with a 6-1, 6-0 thrashing, while Albert Portas won a local derby over Galo Blanco 6-4,

Seventh seed Thomas Enqvist met Andrei Medvedev on court for the first time in nearly a decade and carved out a competent 7-6 (8/6), 7-5 victory. The win came nine years after

Enqvist last played the Ukrainian.

beating Medvedev in the second

round at Bolzano, Italy, an event which marked the Swede's first career title. "It was lot of fun," said Enqvist, who has now notched back-toback match wins for the first time this season. 'We've both been

around for awhile but just haven't

played.

By Eugene Sheffer

desserts

3 You love

(Latin)

5 One of

TV's

6 Corral

7 — and

8 Big oaf

10 Mature

11 Praiseful

poetry

coated

22 Old Greek

abbr.

17 Schedule 38 Chauffeur

19 Aurically 42 Picket

letters

9 Burr role

4 Go to bed

"Friends"

2 Summer- 24 Astronaut

The Swede, whose favourite surface is the faster hard-courts. owns two career clay titles out of a total of 18 and is bearing down nine hard this spring in the run-up to

"It's not that I don't like clay - I augurated the league.

next month's French Open.

Grissom

25 Blackbird

26 Ancient

brick

temple

tower

27 Adds

zest

29 Curly's

30 Ending

for

33 - even

keel

36 Customs

40 Chatter

line

43 Irene of

44 Santa's

woe

47 Oktober-

supply

(Abbr.)

50 GI's enter-

tainers

fest

48 Helper

46 2000

crosser

"Fame"

laundry

D.C. con-

brother

auction?

defections from holder Marat Safin, double French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten and Swede Magnus Norman, the second seed

BSS, Chittagong

(7/5), 3-6, 6-3.

get on a hard-court."

in the second round just two games into his match with Portas. CJKS cricket

derkilla Krira Chakra by 127 runs in the inaugural match of the CIKS Ispahani Cricket League at M A

Rising Star Club defeated An-

Aziz Stadium yesterday. Batting first, Rising Star scored 241 runs for six.

Anderkilla collected 114 for Earlier, Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in-

24 |25 |26 46 47 48

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE TEAKETTLE MANUFACTURER DECIDED HE'D LIKE TO RETIRE: HE'S RUN OUT OF STEAM.

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

CRYPTOQUIP

GX PYYC SWB MWESG-LDHYB

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals B

give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

In reply, Bazarpara scored 91 losing all the wickets in 20 overs.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

ets in the final at the Railway playground yesterday.

In reply, Raninagar reached

the 400,000-dollar ATP Atlanta Challenge here Thursday.

Jerome Golmard, advanced to Friday's quarter-finals by beating Germany's Lars Burgsmuller 6-4, 2-6, 6-1. Thomann's triumph over Agassi was a stunner in only the

Doone's 1 Tibetan departpriest ments 23 Two (Sp.) Solution time: 21 mins. 24 Graceful bounders 28 Duration 31 Single (Pref.) SARISAG