

BFF skating

FROM PAGE 13 of holding elections within 90 days. Yet, the AFC does not intend to hand down any verdict before January 5," he contended.

The consequences of the AFC action might prove disastrous for Bangladesh football in the long run.

The cash-strapped BFF already relies heavily on FIFA grant. So, the application to avail the lucrative one-million-dollar 'Goal Project' would be put on hold indefinitely. And furthermore the forthcoming SAFF Championship in January could be shelved.

Sri Lanka, which has already expressed its concern over the BFF-AFC wrangle, might have to pull out from the seven-national regional football show.

The National Sports Council (NSC) scrapped the 30-member executive committee headed by general secretary Harun-ur Rashid and replaced it with an ad-hoc committee with SA Sultan as its president.

Dazzling win

FROM PAGE 13
CHITTAGONG: Second innings (Overtight 18 for 1 in 81 overs)

Anisul c Sajjad b Saiful	16
Azam run out	4
Masum c Neeyamur b Naimur	38
Ehsanul run out (Bikash)	5
Akram c Halim b Naimur	30
Minhazul c & b Mosaddek	25
Sabbir lbw b Mosaddek	23
Mortuza c Sajjad b Saiful	6
Ahsanullah lbw b Naimur	0
Tariq not out	15
Safuddin b Mosaddek	2
Extras (b-6, lb-8, w-1)	15
Total (All out in 69.4 overs)	179

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-27, 3-41, 4-91, 5-101, 6-140, 7-145, 8-149, 9-164

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saiful	14	5	21	2
Naimur	26	7	67	3
Bikash	9	2	24	0
Mosaddek	12.4	2	37	3
Neeyamur	8	1	16	0

Murali makes

FROM PAGE 13
SLIPS.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo on Saturday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 586-6 declared (K Sangakkara 128, T Samaraweera 123 not out, H Tillakaratne 96, S Jayasuriya 92, C Vaas 74 not out; H Streak 3-113)

ZIMBABWE: First innings (over-night 14-1)

Masakadza ciratne b Zoysa	3
Gripper c J'dene b M'tharan	30
Carlisle c Jayasuriya b Vaas	10
Rennie lbw b M'tharan	35
A Flower b S'weera	42
G Flower ciratne b M'tharan	0
Wishart ciratne b Zoysa	21
Streak not out	26
Friend lbw b Vaas	6
Brent b M'tharan	0
Olonga lbw b Buddika	4
Extras: (lb-1, nb-6)	7
Total: (All out in 79.5 overs)	184

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-29, 3-60, 4-89, 5-105, 6-146, 7-146, 8-166, 9-167

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	24	6	63	2
Zoysa	14	6	24	2
M'tharan	26	8	53	4
Jayasuriya	1	0	4	0
Buddika	9.5	0	32	1
S'weera	5	1	7	1

ZIMBABWE: Second innings Masakadza c Atapattu b M'tharan 28
Gripper c Sangakkara b M'tharan 22
Carlisle not out 10
Friend not out 0
Extras: (lb-2, nb-2) 4
Total: (For 2 wks in 25 overs) 64

Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-58.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	7	2	29	0
Zoysa	4	1	10	0
Buddika	4	1	12	0
M'tharan	8	7	1	2
Jayasuriya	2	1	0	0

Umpires: Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka) and Riazuddin (Pakistan).



South Africa captain Shaun Pollock (R) leads his players off the field after they were comprehensively beaten by Australia in the second Test in Melbourne Saturday.

'Aussies rightfully No 1'



REUTERS/AFP, Melbourne

Two crushing defeats have South African captain Shaun Pollock stating the obvious: "Australia are justified as the number one team."

Pollock said Australia deserved to be hailed as the top team in Test cricket after crushing his side in the first two Tests of their three-match series.

Pollock said his side had struggled with the pressure they had put on themselves to topple Steve Waugh's team.

Australia retained their top ranking by winning the first Test against the second-ranked Proteas by 246 runs in Adelaide earlier this month and scoring a nine-wicket victory in the second Test in Melbourne on Saturday to seal the series.

"Their rating of the number one team is totally justified," Pollock said.

The Proteas arrived in Australia talking up their chances of dethroning Australia at the top of the International Cricket Council's

unofficial World Test Championship.

Yet in the space of a few weeks their dreams are in tatters against the hard-nosed Australians.

"It's very disappointing. We had high hopes when we came to Australia. At the end of the day we've been beaten by a better team."

"We really wanted it badly. We have got a talented bunch but I don't think we did ourselves justice."

"I don't think we've played as well as we can. I think we did put too much pressure on ourselves."

"It was billed as the championship of Test cricket and we've definitely been disappointing and maybe putting too much pressure on ourselves has caused it."

"We've been inferior to them in all parts. We have been overplayed. "The series is gone now. We can hopefully learn from our mistakes, regroup and come back fighting. Things will definitely improve."

Pollock said Australia had "better tactics for Australian conditions" and had superior skills to the South Africans.

"We were inferior in all parts of the game."

His counterpart Steve Waugh praised his players' ability to play at a consistently high level to keep South Africa under constant pres-

sure throughout the two Tests.

He said the tourists had failed to handle the relentless pressure as they crashed to a series defeat against the world's top side.

"I think we played excellent cricket all the way through," Waugh said.

"The bowling was superb -- it was a pretty flat wicket, there wasn't a lot in it, but the bowlers just kept going."

"I thought our catching was pretty good too. The intensity for the game was excellent -- overall it was an excellent performance."

"We had them under pressure constantly and it's always hard to produce the goods in that situation."

"Some of our batsmen haven't had a lot of experience in coming in against guys like (Glenn) McGrath and (Shane) Warne at their best, it's never easy to score runs, so that mentally can wear you down."

Waugh said the double-century opening stand from Matthew Hayden (138) and Justin Langer (85), their third in Australia's past five Tests, had been inspirational in Australia's first innings of 487.

The final match of the three-Test series starts in Sydney on Wednesday.

Bird sight restored

AFP, London

Former English cricket umpire Dickie Bird is enjoying a new lease of life after a complex operation to restore his failing sight.

Bird, 68, underwent a two-hour operation in Manchester earlier this month to correct a crumpled retina in his left eye.

He enjoyed a 28-year umpiring career which took him to the four corners of the world and he has been told that those years of officiating in bright, sunny climates could have caused the deterioration in sight.

Bird said on Saturday that his decision to quit in 1998 was in no way connected with sight problems.

"It has come on since I retired," he said.

"It had got that the sight in my left eye was hardly left at all."

"I have spent all my life in the sun, not only as an umpire but as a player as well," said Bird, who was a batsman for Yorkshire and Leicestershire before donning his white coat.

"I was in cricket for 50 years, including standing in Test matches abroad where the sun used to bounce off the hard pitches. When you go back to my early days in the 50s and 60s, there was no such things as sunglasses."

"I feel a lot better and a lot more confident since the operation. It has cheered me up and built me up. I was very depressed and down."

Bird said: "The operation has been a success. The sight is starting to come back into the eye. It will take a while to settle down."

Bird opened a place on the first-class umpiring board in 1970 before progressing to Test status.

He officiated at a total of 68 Test matches, 93 one-day internationals and umpired four World Cup finals.

He retired in 1998 when England played India at Lord's and was given a standing ovation as he left the field.

Thorpe, Caddick ready for India

AFP, London

Graham Thorpe and Andrew Caddick confirmed on Saturday they would be available to join England's one-day tour of India in January and the remainder of the winter itinerary in New Zealand.

The participation of Surrey left-hander and England's leading batsman Thorpe was in doubt following his early return home from England's Test series in India in December, because of marital problems.

Somerset pace bowler Caddick, who elected not to tour India with the Test party because of security fears amid the ongoing war on terrorism in nearby Afghanistan, has also confirmed he will be back for the one-day series -- which starts on January 19 -- as well as both legs of the tour of New Zealand.

Thorpe said: "The past few weeks have been a difficult time for me and my family, and I am grateful to the selectors for giving me as much time as I needed to come to this decision."

"I now firmly believe that I can commit myself fully to cricket again and I hope to play a full part in both the one-day series in India and the one-day and Test series in New Zealand."

Fu Wang Cup Golf

PRESS RELEASE, Dhaka

Brigadier General Anwar Farid won the Fu Wang Cup Golf Tournament while MH Cho emerged ladies' champion in the two-day event that ended at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday.

Rear Admiral Abu Taher, Chief of Naval Staff, inaugurated the competition, which attracted 294 golfers. Later he distributed prizes at the Club House.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior Winner: Maj Gen Mustafa Kamaluddin, Junior Winner: Faisal Farooque, Best Gross: Faisal Khan, Ladies Best Gross: Jung Sook Jung, Second Best Gross: Neam Ahmed, Runner-up: Imran Choudhury, Second Runner-up: Col Eric Rozaari, Front Nine: Air Cdre Zearat Ali, Back Nine: DS Chung, Nearest to Pin: Velsink Ludwig, Longest Drive: Rahib Bashar, Winner (Nine Hole): Capt Rahmat Ali and Runner-up (Nine Hole): Brig Gen MAB Siddiquee.

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Sathia Kelwar Kallyan Samity defeated Millenium Club 2-0 in the Radhuni Second Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

Hedayet netted both the goals for the winners.



PHOTO: KGC

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Abu Taher (seventh from left) poses with some of participants of the Fu Wang Cup Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Thursday.

Lleyton more cautious



AFP, Perth

Australia's world No 1 Lleyton Hewitt said here Saturday there were enormous pressures and expectations bearing down on him as he prepares for a new year on the world circuit.

"If there was ever one Grand Slam I wanted to win it is the Australian Open (starting January 14 in Melbourne)," said Hewitt, 20, said as he warmed up for the Hopman Cup mixed teams' tournament here.

"And going in this year as the number one seed, there will be a lot of pressure and expectation on me," Hewitt will be partnered by 20-year-old Alicia Molik (ranked 47th in the world) as the Australians attempt to win the million dollar (500,000 US) competition for only the second time in the event's 14-year history.

"Despite the pressures, I feel I am capable of doing well, and hopefully getting well into the second week (in Melbourne)," Hewitt said.

He said he had managed to rest after clinching the top world ranking at the Tennis Masters' Cup in Sydney in November.

"You put your feet up for a few weeks and it all comes together a little bit more," he said.

"It's been an incredible year - no

doubt about that. And to have finished it off the way that I did - with the US Open title, then coming back and getting to No 1 in my own country, well, it doesn't get much better."

He said his original plan had been to start winning Grand Slams when he was 23.

"It has all come pretty quickly to



LLEYTON HEWITT

me as a 20-year-old. Now that I know how to go out there and put together seven best of five-set matches back-to-back, that is the big thing."

"There is an inner belief, a self-belief, inside me now I know I have that confidence in my game."

Hewitt said there were still areas of his game - he did not say which - which were letting him down in some matches.

"I am going to work on those and get better and better as the years go on," he vowed.

His immediate aim was to get past the last 16 at the Australian Open for the first time, he said.

"That is the one I am really gunning for."

He said he had decided to prepare for the Australian Open by competing in the Hopman Cup because this event guaranteed he would play at least three singles matches over the next week - four if Australia reach the final.

"I felt I needed a change. It was such a long year, I thought a change in preparation was a good idea, and know I will get three tough matches under my belt."

Hewitt opens his Hopman Cup campaign here Sunday with a testing clash against Switzerland's Roger Federer, ranked 13th in the world.

"It will be a tough one, but good fun," he said.

"Roger has really come on as a player. Despite that, I give us a good chance, though whether or not we can win it, is another question."

"I have not played a lot of mixed doubles. I have only played a couple of times with Kim (Clijsters, his Belgian girlfriend, also playing in this tournament)."

Amazing Australia

FROM PAGE 13

Klusener, fighting for his Test place, faced 29 balls before he was bowled out to McGrath for seven, leaving the Proteas 120 for five.

Mark Boucher was out in the next over and became Warne's third wicket when he edged to Mark Waugh at slip for a second-half duck.

Henderson put up spirited resistance for 54 minutes for his 16 before he was caught by Mark Waugh off McGrath.

Donald was bowled by Andy Bichel for seven and with Nantie Hayward the last man in Kallis took it upon himself to keep the strike and stake all to reach his century.

South Africa lost openers Gary Kirsten and Herchelle Gibbs and No.3 Boeta Dippenaar in the morning session.

Kirsten completed a sorry match when he was snapped up head-high by Ricky Ponting at third slip off Brett Lee for 10 in the sixth over of the innings.

The South Africans mopped up Australia's first innings for 487 by dismissing McGrath for a duck in Pollock's opening over of the day.

SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard of the second Test between Australia and South Africa on the fourth day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 277 (N McKenzie 67, M Boucher 43; A Bichel 3-44, B Lee 3-77)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (over-night 487 for 9)

Langer c Klusener b Donald 85
Hayden c Donald b Henderson 138
Ponting c Kallis b Hayward 22
M Waugh b Donald 34
S Waugh run out (Gibbs) 90
Martyn c Kallis b Pollock 52
Gilchrist not out 30
Warne c Kirsten b Donald 1
Lee c McKenzie b Hayward 3
Bichel c Boucher b Pollock 5
McGrath lbw b Pollock 0
Extras: (lb-17, w-1, nb-9) 27
Total: (All out in 139 overs) 487

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-37, 3-74, 4-119, 5-120, 6-121, 7-157, 8-192, 9-215

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 21 6 43 2
Lee 18 5 52 2
Warne 24 3 68 3
Bichel 12.1 0 52 1

AUSTRALIA: Second innings
Langer c Henderson b Pollock 7
Hayden not out 3
Ponting not out 0
Total: (For 1 wkt in 3 overs) 10

Fall of wicket: 1-7

Bowler O M R W
Donald 2 0 4 0
Pollock 1 0 6 1

Result: Australia won by 9 wickets and take winning 2-0 lead.

Man-of-the-match: Matthew Hayden.

Umpires: Eddie Nicholls (West Indies) and Darrell Hair (Australia).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

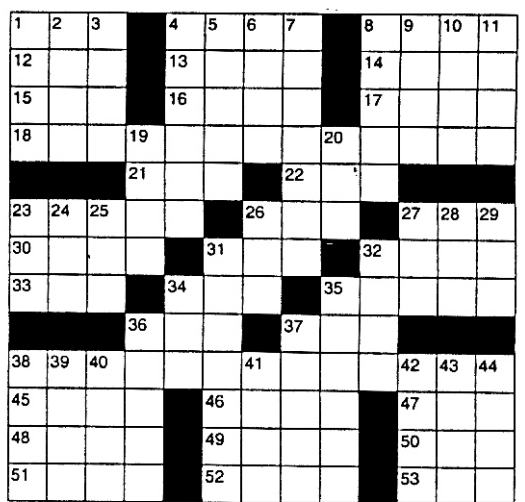
1 Navigation aid
4 Merriment
8 Bluestone section
12 Santa CA
13 "How clumsy of me!"
14 Inner portion
15 Impossible
16 Speaker of base-ball
17 Sans encore
18 Wrong idea
21 Coloration
22 Enthusiast
23 Roughly
26 Performance
27 Ploasure
30 Sundance entry
31 "Sprechen Deutsch?"
32 Green rock

33 Place-kicker's pride
34 PETA
35 no-no
36 Cacophony
37 Petrol
38 Got the wrong idea
45 Decrease?
46 "I smell"
47 Ruin the veneer
48 Hardy cabbage
49 Writer
Wiesel
50 "Eureka!"
51 Remnants
52 Fax

53 Bad hair-piece
DOWN
1 Impair
2 Oppositionist
3 Overtake
4 Escaped
5 Greene or Michaels
6 Grand-scale
7 Heart "tation"
8 star
9 Ms.
10 Not pizzicato
11 Existed
19 Friend
20 Deposit
23 Sternward

Solution time: 23 mins.

ADIS HOW CARGO
VOW AISA AGRITIN
ANIA HITGHWAYITTO
LINN AREAIS
LAIKE IDS PIISA
AATIS HEAVEN
URHAGG CLEAIT
YELITOW HOE
EPEIE EGO OUCIK
SANTO TAIN
BRITCKROAD TKE
AUDITE MID LIEE
HEIAVIE EIRS EIDS



CRYPTOQUIP

C P G Z N O B A A B L K V K H * M
J C P B M E Z H G , C D N B M M
E S K E V Z N J L I B V K J J B L

K A K N E Z I C Z D H K O S G .
Yesterday's Cryptogram: SINCE I COULDN'T PAY FULL CASH PRICE FOR THE BATTERY I BOUGHT, I HAD TO CHARGE IT.
Today's Cryptogram Clue: A equals N

The Cryptogram 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.