

## Manikganj cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Ranadia Ora Egara Jan Club defeated Joka Sabuj Sangha by seven wickets in the Shaheed Zia memorial cricket tournament at the Muljan High School playground here yesterday.

Joka Sangha batted first after winning the toss and were bundled out for 56 in 15 overs. Akhtar was chief destroyer with five wickets.

The winners romped to victory scoring 57-3 6.1 overs with Ujjal hitting highest 22.

## B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Dawra Cricket Club and Nabarun Cricket Club posted victories in the Shaheed Freedom Fighter Ranga Mia cricket tournament at the Shahjadapur Junior High School playground here yesterday.

In the first match, Dawra defeated Khelaghar CC by 10 runs.

Winning the toss, Dawra batted first and scored 120 all out. Reaz was the top-scorer with 58. Khelaghar reached 110 in the stipulated 40 overs.

In the day's other match, Nabarun beat Progoti CC by 20 runs.

Progoti chasing 106 for victory, were dismissed for 85. Earlier a half-century by Ashiqur propelled Nabarun to 105 before they were all out.

## Navy hockey

UNB, Khulna

The annual hockey championship of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at the BNS Titumir playground here Wednesday.

A total of eight teams belonging to different ships and establishments of the Bangladesh Navy took part in the competition.

BNS Titumir defeated Frigate Squadron by a solitary goal in an exciting final.

Commodore Commanding Khulna, Commodore Mustafizur Rahman distributed prizes as chief guest.

## Nat'l 9-ball pool starts today

PRESS RELEASE

The national nine-ball pool championship begins at WEGA Zone, billiard centre in the city today. The meet has been organised by the Bangladesh Billiard and Snooker Federation (BBSF).

Seventy players divided into sixteen groups, will take part in the first round. The top two players from each group will advance to the knockout round.

## Fernando

FROM PAGE 13

Lanka suffered their whitewash at home against Australia, who won the three-Test series 3-0 last month.

**ONE-DAY SQUAD**

Marvan Atapattu (captain), Mahela Jayawardene (vice-captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Saman Jayantha, Thilina Kandamby, Chaminda Vaas, Dilhara Fernando, Nuwan Zoysa, Nuwan Kulasekera, Farveez Maharoof, Mutiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Rangana Herath.

## Miandad may

FROM PAGE 13

appointment of anyone who could do a better job.

"I've never asked to be appointed coach of the senior team. The board have always come to me to help out in a crisis," he said.



Scene from yesterday's eleventh round match in the Singer 30th National Chess Championship between Aminul Islam Pallash and International Enamul Hossain Rajib (R).

## Waiting in the wings

Cricket

Zimbabwe's Tendata Taibu insisted on Thursday that he is ready to tackle the challenge and the pressure of becoming the youngest ever international captain in the history of the sport.

Taibu will still be 20 when he leads Zimbabwe out to face Sri Lanka in the first Test in Harare on May 6 -- the current record was set by the Nawab of Pataudi who was 21 years and 77 days old when he captained India against the West Indies in Bridgetown in 1961-62.

"When I was made the vice-captain, I was just 19 and I was surprised," said wicket-keeper Taibu who has succeeded Heath Streak after he quit in controversial circumstances last weekend.

"I am ready. I am always ready for the tasks I am given and I want to make the best out of each opportunity that comes my way."

Despite his tender years, Taibu, one of the few black players to have made the senior Zimbabwe team, believes he is the man for the job although he will probably lead out a team stripped of other senior players who are unhappy at the loss of Streak.

"It's a setback to lose him," Taibu told the Wisden website.

"In the last four years you will see

that Zimbabwe has been only rebuilding, rebuilding and rebuilding. It is nonstop, the outcome being we are struggling.

"Playing and losing is very frustrating. No player likes to lose. So we need to put a stop to this. If we keep on rebuilding we will never move ahead."



TATENDA TAIBU

As well as leading a spirited Zimbabwe, Taibu knows that he will find himself at the centre of a political storm -- not only over Streak but also the continuing doubts over whether or not England will tour later this year.

"I need to wait to see what are the problems before I tackle them," said Taibu.

"I never sat at any of the meet-

ings between the team officials and the board, so I am unaware of any of the issues which caused the friction.

"I prefer to keep my mouth shut with the way the things are happening. The important thing is the team has remained united. As a captain one needs to completely know each individual in the team, how the player responds to various situations and what can bring the best out of him.

"So obviously all that has to be in the captain's mind if he has to successfully handle the players. For that you need to get well acquainted with each guy and study him carefully.

"I don't think there's a problem with the colour issue in the dressing-room. In the last few years the team has been made up of two colours, and so it's not an issue really.

"We are caught on the back foot at the moment and I know the team will have some disturbing things on their minds," said Taibu who must also face Australia in a home Test and one-day series in May.

"I would only tell them to forget about these things as we can't do anything to avoid them. We need to play the game and put up a good fight, that's all I ask."

"He (Bevan) has been a great player for Australia and I still think he's got a lot to offer Australian cricket, so it was a bit of a shock actually.

"He's not the first person to get dropped and he won't be the last one, but I think hopefully he will play for NSW.

"But he's done a great job for Australia in one-day cricket and I think in Test cricket he was a bit unlucky. I think he should have played a lot more Test cricket."

While acknowledging Bevan's massive contribution, chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said this week his panel was looking to the future and trying to form a core group of players for the next World Cup.

Waugh, who played international cricket till he was 37, said there always seemed to be pressure to promote young players.

## What inspires Clarke

Cricket

Australian Test batting prodigy Michael Clarke says he is relishing the prospect of playing under the captaincy of Shane Warne at English county Hampshire.

With Warne as skipper, 23-year-old Clarke hopes to get plenty of opportunities to convince the Australian selectors of his Test credentials.

Already a one-day international, Clarke leaves for England on Friday for a stint at Hampshire where both Warne and Simon Katich have played in recent years.

Clarke wants to play as much first-class cricket as possible after playing mainly one-day cricket in the last Australian domestic season.

Since November, the dashing right-hander has played 25 limited-overs games and just three first-class fixtures.

"Ninety per cent of the reason why I am going (to Hampshire) is to have the opportunity to play four-day cricket and bat for long periods," Clarke said on Thursday.

"When I look at last season, I didn't have the opportunity to play too much four-day cricket, obviously playing one-day cricket for Australia is something I've always wanted to do.



MICHAEL CLARKE

"But I didn't get to play too many four-dayers for NSW, so I think it's a great opportunity for me to get over there and play the longer form of the game."

Clarke said the prospect of an Ashes tour in 2005 was not a major factor in his decision to play in

England this year, but rather the fact that Warne would be Hampshire captain.

"Obviously, Shane going played a big part in me signing. I've heard a lot about him as a captain and I think he will be great for my cricket," said Clarke, who has never played with Warne at any level.

Although a regular in the Australian one-day team -- he has played 25 matches to date -- Clarke was overlooked for the recent Test tour of Sri Lanka when the retirement of captain Steve Waugh left a vacancy in the middle order.

With a first class career average of 38 and just 74 runs at 18.50 for NSW in two matches last summer, Clarke knew what he needed to do to push his Test claims.

"I need to score more runs for the selectors to look at me, I think that's the answer," he said.

"I didn't get the opportunity to play too much four-day cricket last year.

"But I look at my numbers in four-day cricket and they can definitely be better -- they can definitely improve, so that is my goal, to score more runs."

## Moin & Razzaq out of 3rd Test

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan wicketkeeper Moin Khan and all-rounder Abdul Razzaq have been ruled out of next week's third and final Test against India due to injury.

Moin is suffering from a groin problem and Razzaq from a back strain.

The pair also missed the second Test, which Pakistan won by nine wickets on Thursday to level the series 1-1.

"Moin and Razzaq have not recovered and will not be able to play the final Test," Samiul Hasan, media manager of the Pakistan team, said.

"They have been released from the Pakistan squad and their replacements will be named tomorrow," he added.

## Waugh bats for Bevan

AFP, Sydney

Mark Waugh says dumped Australian one-day star Michael Bevan should still have a future in international cricket.

Waugh on Thursday expressed surprise at Bevan's sacking, insisting age was irrelevant and performance must always be the main priority.

Waugh, who retired from first-class cricket last month, was a long time state and national teammate of Bevan.

The prolific left-hander's illustrious 10-year international career this week was all but finished when his Cricket Australia contract was not renewed.

Waugh, when asked if he thought 33-year-old Bevan's time in the Australian one-day side was up, said: "I still thought he had plenty of cricket ahead."

"He (Bevan) has been a great player for Australia and I still think he's got a lot to offer Australian cricket, so it was a bit of a shock actually.

"He's not the first person to get dropped and he won't be the last one, but I think hopefully he will play for NSW.

"But he's done a great job for Australia in one-day cricket and I think in Test cricket he was a bit unlucky. I think he should have played a lot more Test cricket."

While acknowledging Bevan's massive contribution, chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said this week his panel was looking to the future and trying to form a core group of players for the next World Cup.

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## 2002 WC final rematch in September

AFP, Frankfurt

Germany will play Brazil in a rematch of the 2002 World Cup final at the Berlin Olympic stadium on September 8 to mark the reopening of the stadium after renovations for the 2006 World Cup.

The German federation also said Germany would play Argentina at Dusseldorf next February 9 in their first match of 2005 when they tour South America at the end of the season.

## Shiliguri tour

FROM PAGE 13

**SQUAD**

Saifi Moazzem (vice-capt), Tamim Iqbal Khan, Azharuddin Babu, Mehdi Hasan, Sumon Kumar, Marshal Ayub, Sohrawardi Shuvon, Humayun Kabir Shaheed, Sirajullah Khadem, Dollar Mahmud, Rumman Islam, Ariful Haq and Prangon Gosh.

**Stand-by:** Raihan Uddin, Rafat Anwar, Ashraf Aziz and Ahad Hossain.

Kent last summer and made 66 against a Carib Beer XI in Barbados last month -- his only appearance on the current tour to the West Indies.

"Geraint has kept very well in the three-day game in Sri Lanka and he did well in the three-day game here," admitted Fletcher.

"He got a 60-odd, batted very well and looked pretty impressive."

## Can Read it

FROM PAGE 13

do that on a regular basis it means that you are not ready for this."

But he backed the team to restore some pride in the final Test against England in Antigua.

"You cannot allow yourself to be disgraced, if you may call it that particular word," he said.

"We have found some individuals who can play the game.

"We need individuals who are clear thinkers of what needs to be done and to work around how it should be done."

## Vivian vexed

FROM PAGE 13

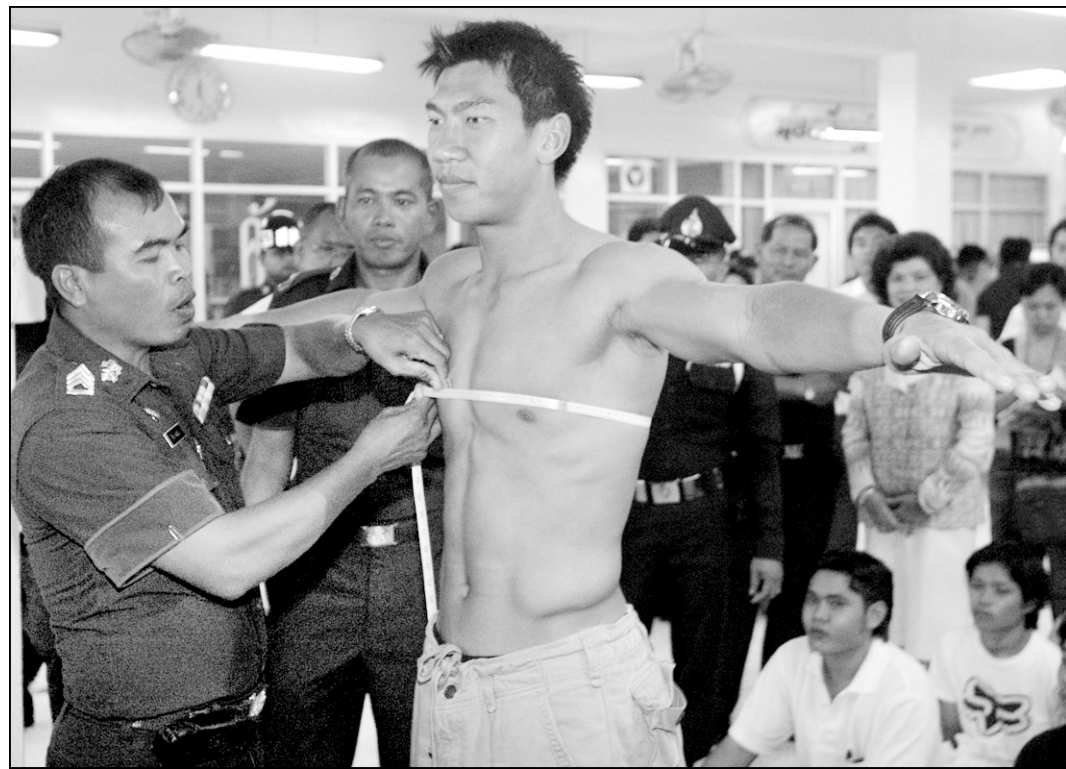
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A military officer measures the chest of Thai tennis star Paradorn Srichaphan at an army recruitment centre in Bangkok on April 7.

## Paradorn escapes draft

Tennis

AFP, Bangkok

Thai tennis sensation Paradorn Srichaphan escaped having to serve in the army after the number of volunteers exceeded the military's quota for new recruits.

Paradorn, wearing khaki shorts, a grey T-shirt and tennis shoes, was among several hundred men who reported for the annual draft selection after using his exemption as a physical education teacher to avoid military service for the past three years.

"It was an exciting experience, and I felt relieved and satisfied because it doesn't concern me anymore," the smiling tennis ace told reporters as he clutched a document clearing him from army service.

The Asian number one and world number 12 spent hours waiting to be called after he and 501 other men passed their physical examinations to go into the selection draw.

Those who draw a red card out of a barrel are required to serve a year in the armed forces.

About 1,000 people packed the centre in a Bangkok suburb and applauded when Paradorn was called, with new recruits boisterously chanting "red, red, red" as he demonstrated how to draw a card.

The army wanted 63 men for the unit which Paradorn reported to, but 65 had already volunteered, making Wednesday's draft call a ceremonial affair.

"If I was not a tennis player, I would be an army officer or policeman," said the 24-year-old Paradorn.

"When I am done with my tennis playing career I would be glad to serve the nation," he said.

The draft ceremony clears clouds of media speculation over Paradorn's willingness to serve in the military.

All Thai men must report for national service before turning 26. Teachers and other civil servants can apply for exemptions but they must spend at least 18 hours a week in the classroom to qualify.

The Thai press has frequently questioned whether Paradorn spends that much time at the privately-owned primary school on the outskirts of Bangkok where he says

he works as a teacher.

The tennis pro said he had planned to attend recruitment last year but had to compete in the 2003 Davis Cup in Uzbekistan and could not return home in time.

Another recruit, 20-year-old Kraison Jehyode, said he was excited to be in the same call-up as Paradorn, but was glad the tennis hero was not drafted.

"I want him to be a tennis player, because he can do more important things for the nation than being a soldier," he said.

Some people at the army centre said they wanted Paradorn to serve in order to set an example to the young.

"I want Paradorn to be a soldier because he can help the nation in another way and be an example for our people and our boys who want to run away from recruitment," said grocery store owner Thawat Kampa, who watched the draft.

Paradorn is set to represent Thailand against Uzbekistan at Friday's Davis Cup match in Bangkok.

## Serena sails

Tennis

REUTERS, New York

Second seed Serena Williams scored a crushing win while title holder Elena Dementieva was forced to retire from her second-round match at the 585,000 dollars Amelia Island WTA championship in Florida on Wednesday.

Former world number one Williams, playing in only her second tournament of the year, defeated former Amelia Island winner Mary Pierce of France 6-3, 6-1.

Fifth seed Dementieva was trailing Croatia's Jelena Kostanic 7-6, 1-0 when a hip strain forced the Russian to retire.

"I'm really disappointed, especially because I won my first (WTA) title here and this tournament is very special for me," Dementieva told reporters.

"I first hurt it in Miami (last week). That was a long tournament for me, which made it tough. During my match today, it just got worse and I

felt that I couldn't finish the match."

Williams, looking for her first title on clay since her triumph at the 2002 French Open, now meets Croatia's Karolina Sprem, who put out 15th seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-2, 6-4.

The American missed eight months due to knee surgery but then beat Dementieva in the final of her comeback event in Miami.

"I just thought I was going to come back and hopefully win at least a few matches," Williams said.

Third seed Amelie Mauresmo of France, playing for the first time in more than two months following a back injury, recorded a 6-0 6-3 victory over Japan's Akiko Morigami.

Sixteenth seed Conchita Martinez moved within one win of becoming only the seventh player in the Open Era to reach 700 victories when she downed fellow Spaniard Anabel Medina Garrigues 6-3, 6-4.

"I think we have a really good chance of doing that if you look at the way we have played in the last three Tests.

"If we can carry that into this Test then I don't see why we can't win."

Harmison has arguably been England's best performer in their first series win in the Caribbean since 1968.

His 22 wickets have come at an average of just 11.3 runs each -- a run of form that has seen the Durham paceman shoot to third in the world rankings.

Even if he fails to break the record, Harmison will have cause to claim a moral victory.

Both Fraser (1998-99) and Snow (1967-68) amassed their hauls in five-Test series.

The fourth Test gets under way in Antigua on Saturday.

## Steve wants whitewash

BBC ONLINE, undated

Steve Harmison insists a whitewash over West Indies remains his top priority despite being in sight of an enviable bowling record.

The in-form England paceman needs to take six wickets in the final Test in Antigua to break the England record for a series in the Caribbean.

It is jointly held at 27 by Angus Fraser and John Snow.

Harmison said: "It would be nice to break the record but first and foremost I would like to win 4-0."

He added: "I am aware of the record but it's not something I've really set my heart on."

"England are 3-0 up in and we would like to win 4-0 and that is the first thing on our mind.

"I think we have a really good chance of doing that if you look at the way we have played in the last three Tests.

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## Egypt's pyramid promise

AFP, Cairo

Egypt will build a paper pyramid made up of messages expressing support for its bid to host the football World Cup in 2010, Sports and Youth Minister Ali Eddin Helal said Wednesday.

The pyramid will be unveiled on April 30 near the three renowned pyramids of Giza, just south of Cairo, Helal told a press conference to mark the beginning of a campaign to collect the hand-sized messages.

He expected 20 million messages to be filled and said cars would travel across the country to collect them.

An Egyptian sports official expected the pyramid to be 15 meters (50 feet) high and 12.5 meters (41 feet) wide.



India wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel plays one on the on-side during his face-saving knock of 62 not out that helped his side avoid an innings defeat against Pakistan in the second Test at Lahore yesterday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Plead  
4 Metric measure  
8 Ready for action  
12 Past  
13 Top-notch  
14 Not injected  
15 Considerable extent  
17 Tirre supply  
18 Understood  
19 "Later"  
21 Not so friendly  
24 Greek consonants  
25 Sapporo sash  
26 — Mahal  
28 "Fear Factor" host Joe  
32 C-H connection  
34 Follow  
36 Sushi wrap  
37 — the Tiger  
39 Throttle  
41 Erstwhile acorn  
42 — the fields ...  
44 Ignite

**DOWN**

1 Suitcase  
2 Freudian concept  
3 Wealthy one's existence  
4 Useful item  
5 Wade opponent  
6 Pc. of wordplay  
7 Crenshaw, e.g.  
8 Game-show pioneer  
9 Speedy sled  
10 Creche refrain  
11 Otherwise co-star  
16 Flop  
20 — Miss Brooks'  
21 Body of laws  
22 Follow orders  
23 Scott Joplin's genre  
27 Moonshine container  
29 African cape  
30 Kazakhstan  
31 "Just do it" company  
33 Zoologist  
35 Run up the phone bill  
38 Not masc.  
40 Ladies' garment  
43 Carried on  
45 Apprehend  
46 Formal dress  
47 Bread spread  
48 Leer  
49 PBS science show  
53 Tin Man's need  
54 "Hollywood Squares" win  
55 Barbie's beau

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

O N A I U T A H J A P E  
 R A M O M E U R A L  
 A I M S P I T I M I L K  
 P R I O N G P U B  
 O R E L G L O V E  
 B U T T E R U D E K E D  
 O N E W I N G S T R A  
 A D A M E G G O R E A M  
 O R I O N S O R E  
 S A Y O H H E E S E P S I L  
 A R E A L Y O N U P N  
 L E A P L E N S R Y E

**CRYPTOQUIP**

B W D S J K A H F R R A W U K A  
 U F L J L D K F I R U D S A S A I  
 O A H D L O Q J U K A W A B Q U A R  
 J D B F H H B D W J K A S  
 Y E S T E R D A Y ' S C R Y P T O Q U I P : I F Y O U H A D A N  
 E X T R E M E L Y M I N D L E S S B E A S T O F B U R D E N , I  
 G U E S S I T M I G H T B E A N O X Y M O R O N .  
 T o d a y ' s C r y p t o q u i p C l u e : R e q u a l s D

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.

## Inzy's reply

**FROM PAGE 13**

Tendulkar lbw b Sami 8  
 Laxman b Gul 13  
 Yuvraj c Akmal b Sami 12  
 Patel not out 62  
 Pathan c Umar b Akhtar 0  
 Agarkar c Umar b Kaneria 36  
 Kumble st Akmal b Kaneria 0  
 Balaji lbw b Kaneria 0  
 Extras: (lb-8, w-1, nb-6) 15  
 Total: (All out in 62.4 overs) 241  
 Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-15, 3-43, 4-88, 5-105, 6-160, 7-160, 8-235, 9-241

**Bowler** O M R W  
 Akhtar 17 4 62 3  
 Sami 26 6 92 2  
 Gul 13 1 65 1  
 Kaneria 6.4 2 14 3

**PAKISTAN:** Second innings  
 Farhat c Yuvraj b Balaji 9  
 Umar not out 14  
 Hameed not out 16  
 Extras: (nb-1) 1  
 Total: (For 1 wkt in 7 overs) 40  
 Fall of wicket: 1-15

**Bowler** O M R W  
 Pathan 4 0 25 0  
 Balaji 3 0 15 1

**Result:** Pakistan won by nine wickets and level the 3-match series at 1-1.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Umar Gul.  
**Toss:** India.  
**Umpires:** Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Simon Taufel (Australia)  
**Third and final Test:** April 13-17, Rawalpindi.