

FBBCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo (C) inaugurates the first-ever GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. BCB president Ali Asghar (3rd from R) and GrameenPhone's sales and marketing director Mehboob Chowdhury (3rd from L) were present.

CJKS-Ispahani cricket

CU CORRESPONDENT

City Corporation Ekadas recorded a six-wicket win over Shatabdi Gosthi in the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Division Cricket League at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Put in to bat. Shatabdi Gosthi made better side. 226 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs. Wasel top-scored with 78 while Arafat remained unbeaten on 49.

Azam Iqbal of City Corporation grabbed three wickets while Masudud-Dhola, Arman and Imamul Hossain Bipu captured two each.

In reply, City Corporation rode on a Sandip Sharma century before reaching 228-4 for in 44.5 overs. Sharma cracked 105 with the help of 13 boundaries. Their other notable scorer was Azam Igbal with 55.

Nat'l youth v'ball SPORTS REPORTER

Jessore and Rajshahi DSAs were set to play in the final of the City Bank National Youth Volleybal Championship after their identical 3-0 wins against respective rivals at

the volleyball court yesterday. The final will take place tomorrow at the same venue at 4pm.

Jessore moved into the final beating Comilla by 26-24, 25-18, 25-17 while Rajshahi defeated

Tangail by 25-17, 25-14, 25-11. On Monday, Gaibanda beat Jessore 3-2, Tangail beat Munshiganj 3-0 and Rajshahi beat Rangamati 3-0.

Faisal saves

AI Shabb keep

Ispahani's

Abahani playground.

tain Minhazul Abedin.

79,6-154

Tuseya

strength. And I think our players will

only three non-

Chittagonian cricketers -- former

national paceman Saiful Islam,

wicketkeeper Mokhtar Siddiki and all-

rounder Murad Khan in the squad,

which is led by former national cap-

Did not bat: Hondo, Panganyara,

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The experienced right-hander

FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13

Alhagam (Faisal, 72nd). opposition did not read our tactics in Muktijoddha (Formation: 3-5-2): the second half and gave away Aminul, Harry, Ghansa, Sujan, Munna, Joy, Afala, Biddyut, Hassan, space. We still have a chance in the competition," said Jabr whose side Moni and Tipu (Belal, 67th). Referee: Imtiaz Ali Shah (Pakistan). have six points from four games. Al Niimeh of Lebanon, who were

due to play Nisa FC at Asghabad, Turkmenistan yesterday, led the group with maximum nine points. Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam admitted that his boys lost to a

"Technically, they were far above us," the former national fullback said after the match

"I thought that at least the Yemeni club would be a weaker side than the other two but they proved me wrong. Also, having only 13 fit players did not help matters," said Manik

Muktijoddha will take on Turkmentistan's Nisa FC on May 5 in Dhaka in their next outing. Yellow cards: Ghansa, Tipu

(Muktijoddha) and Isa, Ghorbani (Al Shabb) TEAMS

Al Shabb (Formation: 3-5-2): Obaid, Baadani, Ghanim, Nozily, Majid Ali, Isa, Akram Alwarafi (Redwan, 46th minute), Alwah, Hisham Alwarafi Ghorbani (Kasem, 88th) and

Minhaz also doubles as team coach. Thank you Taibu

FROM P?AGE 13 Zimbabwe dismayed by the loss in three overs of openers Vusi Sibanda

and Brendan Taylor for ducks, Taibu Bowler proceeded to rebuild and then, in Zoysa company with lower order batsmen Vaas Alester Maregwede and Mluleki Kalusekara Nkala, went on the offensive. M'tharan The 151 balls he faced and his modest six boundaries told the story Chandana of the crisis he faced. Arnold

Holding breath with Diego

UERZA

AUTOSEZVICIO

BARRACAS

Football

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Argentina's Diego Maradona, one of the most gifted players in soccer history, showed a slight improvement in his condition by Monday night, 24 hours after he was put in intensive care with heart and breathing problems.

Family doctor Alfredo Cahe told reporters outside a Buenos Aires clinic that the 43-year-old was still in a critical stage (in proceedings) and remained on an artificial respirator. The respirator had been turned

down to the minimum level. The medical team will issue a bulletin on Maradona at midday (1500 GMT) on Tuesday.

Argentine media ran live coverage from the clinic throughout the day along with clips of his soccer triumphs and his difficult days with drugs.

Earlier in the day, Cahe said Maradona had a lung infection and denied reports he had taken an overdose of cocaine -- an addiction he has been battling for the last decade

"It is not related to an overdose. Lately, Maradona was not (consuming) cocaine," Cahe told local radio.

After a similar scare in early 2000 Maradona's entourage initially denied cocaine was involved but his cardiologist later told anxious fans to change their placards from 'Hang in there Diego' to 'Damned cocaine'.

Maradona had arrived at the clinic on Sunday in a serious, feverish state with breathing difficulties and a swollen heart, after watching a game at his former club Boca Juniors' stadium

try their best to perform against "(I send him) a big hug, I hope he whoever they meet," he told this recovers fast." said soccer-mad correspondent over cell phone while Argentina President Nestor watching the team practice at the Kirchner. "Like all Argentines it causes me deep pain. We must stand by him ... He has made all Salman said MM Ispahani, the Argentines cry with joy. He is a great country's leading tea-manufac-turer person ' and for the past few years sponsors

Maradona's official website of the National Cricket League, had www.diegomaradona.com said the

Football

AFP, London

former Argentina captain was taken ill while eating a traditional barbecue after watching Boca at the Bombonera stadium in Buenos Aires where he made his name. Well-wishers mounted a vigil

SPORT

outside the Suizo-Argentina clinic on Monday, some wearing Boca's blue and yellow strip. Dozens of fans glued posters of 'El Diez' (No 10 shirt) in his

footballing prime on the clinic's walls Some jumped up and down singing soccer anthems at the top of their voices. "Poor little English, how Diego screwed you over!" went one jubilant song

Others, like 58-year-old cleaning lady Maria Lujan, were more solemn, praying for Maradona on the steps of the clinic. "Dear Lord, all of us Argentines

love Maradona," she intoned, gripping her pink plastic rosary. "Let him sleep well, let him rest. May all his problems be over." Local television played footage

of Maradona's greatest moments on the pitch and excerpts from past interviews.

"For Argentines who love football, Diego is nothing less than a god and the fact that something bad is happening to him brings huge sadness to us all. I wish I could speak with him," said Valencia midfielder Pablo Aimar.

"If Argentina is known by so many people it is largely due to Maradona," added Aimar, one of several players to have been

Buenos Aires slum to lead Argentina to World Cup victory, Maradona's is the ultimate rags-to-riches story in this soccer-mad country and has

world record \$7.5 million and helped transform a mediocre club into one of the best in Italy. At the peak of his form, he led Argentina to a 3-2 triumph over

West Germany in the 1986 World Cup final. . He scored twice in the 2-1 quar-

In 1984 he moved to Napoli for a

ter-final defeat of England, one the infamous 'Hand of God' goal when he fisted the ball into the net and the other a stunning solo effort as he ran

supplying many of those.

Ronaldo told SKY TV.

Barcelona in 1982 after the World seemingly glued to his left foot. Cup in Spain for \$3 million, although In 1991 he failed a dope test for his two years at the Spanish club cocaine and was banned for 15 were marred by illness and injury months

He played in his fourth World Cup in the United States in 1994 but tested positive for a cocktail of drugs the day before he was due to make his record 22nd appearance.

Maradona was admitted to an Uruguayan hospital in 2000 for hypertension and an irregular heart beat and has spent much of his time since then in Cuba having treatment for drug addiction.

Despite his well-publicised drug problems, Maradona has a wide-

New Becks style in town Porto more than a handful Support comes from Ronaldo

CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP,Porto

Most bookmakers have Deportivo La Coruna as the Champions League favourites but Porto will be trying to upset the odds when they play host to them in their semi-final first leg clash on

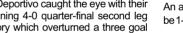
Deportivo caught the eye with their victory which overturned a three goal

opponents.

"Deportivo are a team with a great deal of heart and an impressive array of players, they have some especially dynamic midfielders and can be very dangerous down the wings," said Mourinho, with fulsome praise of his

be 1-0.'

"What we are going to do is go out and try to play calmly, and hopefully go to La Coruna with some sort of advantage, An acceptable result for us here would



on Monday

PILGRIMAGE! A man awaits news about Argentine football legend Diego Maradona beside posters and good-luck messages pinned by fans in front of the clinic where he is hospitalized on April 19 in Buenos Aires. in 1977 and then moved to through the opposition with the ball



spread fan club with 20,000 people

as far afield as Vietnam and Iceland becoming members of the 'Church of Maradona'. a musical about the ups and downs

The Paily Star

He has also been honoured with of his turbulent rags-to-riches life, fittinalv entitled: 'No 10 -- Between Heaven and Hell'

PHOTO: AFF

dubbed the 'New Maradona'. "I've no idea how he got to reach this state but everyone has to live their own life.' Maradona, the fifth of eight children of a factory worker, was given his first football as an infant and

slept with it under his arm. Rising to stardom from a grimy

gained the iconic status of Che Guevara or Evita Peron. He made his international debut

summer and reject the chance to

Ronaldo believes the former

Manchester United man has been

impressive in his debut season in

return to The Premiership.

Spain and wants him to stay.

The former Inter Milan and Barcelona marksman has netted 24

goals this term, and has praised Beckham's crossing ability for "It would be a pity to lose David

now after he has spent a year establishing himself in Madrid," "He has been a really good player for us in his first year and he expects to stay. He has made a

Wednesday. stunning 4-0 quarter-final second leg

of the old European Cup and the only

former champions in the last four, have

produced a few vintage performances

themselves in the last two rounds.

beating both Manchester United and

be two matches that are very close and

hard-fought." commented Deportivo's

He has been passing on his knowl-

"They are the type of side that are

final. Deportivo may be a richer club in

history and many supporters to cheer

the Porto squad that know about

There are also plenty of players in

"You can be sure there are going to

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FROM PAGE 13					became
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14 Golfer

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8 Sail

Taibu made history when he	Jayasuriya	8	0	31	0
became Zimbabwe's first black captain	SRILANKA				
in the match against Sri Lanka.	Jayasuriya c Ebrahim	ı b Pan	iyanga	ara	9
"I'm very proud to be captain, and	Atapattu Ibw b Ho	ndo			0
I'm looking forward to leading the	Sangakkara not o	out			73
team," Taiu told reporters.	Jayawardene c Pany	angara	abHo	ndo	5
Brendon Taylor, 18, is the only	Zoysa c Taylor b C	Chiqu	mbur	ra 1	14
white player in the team. Every other Zimbabwe team has featured more	Dilshan not out	0			35
whites than blacks.	Extras: (lb-3, w-5))			8
	Total: (For 4 wkts		overs	s) 14	4
SCOREBOARD	Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-44, 4-77				
Scoreboard of first one-day interna-	Did not bat: Kulasekara,				
tional between Zimbabwe and Sri	Muralitharan,				,
Lanka at the Queen's Sports Club on Tuesday:	Chandana		,		,
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Taylor b Vaas 0	Panyangara	5	1	22	1
Ebrahim c J'dene b Zoysa 13	Chigumbura	5	0	32	1
Taibu not out 96 Chigumbura c M'tharan b Zoysa 13	Nkala	6	Õ	34	0
Matsikenyere st S'kara b M'tharan 6	Taibu	4	õ	19	õ
Maregwede c Dilshan b Chandana 37	Result: Sri Lank	•	•		•
Nkala not out 33	(D/L Method).		<i></i> ,		uno
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, w-2, nb-3) 13 Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 211	Man-of-the-mate	h' Ta	atenc	la Tai	bu
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 211	Toose Sril onko		it	ia iai	

affairs while in Spain where he play for Real Madrid.
The show of unity some as The

The show of unity came as The Sun newspaper reported Baekham had bought his wife a 10 million pound Swiss mountain chalet.

Beleagured England soccer captain

David Beckham stepped out with his

wife Victoria at a showbiz bash in

London on Monday with Becks

around her husband, who has been

dogged by what they call "ludicrous"

allegations he has had a string off

Posh, 30, put a protective arm

sporting a newly-shaven head.

Victoria, mother to sons Brooklyn, 5, and Romeo, 19 months, fell for the mountain retreat while holidaying in nearby Courchevel in France last week when Beckham's alleged sex romps first surfaced.

When he first had his head shaved in 2000, Victoria said it made him "sexier than ever".

He had been sporting shoulderlength hair, tied up in a bow on match days, recently.

Meanwhile, Brazil World Cup winner Ronaldo has given Beckham a vote of confidence and called on anka won by 12 runs the England captain to resist a reported approach by Chelsea and stav at Real Madrid.

The Brazilian superstar is backing Beckham to stay in La Liga this

Raneiri questions



PHOTO: AFP Victoria and David Beckham pose on arrival for 19 Management's private party celebrating 19 years in

business, at the Royal Albert Hall in central London on April 19.

great asset. It has been those kind first leg deficit and put out reigning of performances that have told me champions Milan. that David is really happy at Real However, Porto, the 1987 winners

"I am delighted to be playing alongside him in Madrid.'

big difference to the way I play in

the team and the precision of his

Ronaldo dismissed newspaper reports of alleged Beckham love affairs as "sensationalist" and warned Beckham would be taking a step down if he accepted Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich's cash.

"I think Chelsea might have lots of money but they have a long, long way to go if they want to catch up with Real Madrid.' Ronaldo said.

history that comes with being successful over many decades and you cannot simply acquire

"I know that Abramovich has a lot of money but I think it will take him a long time to build a club who are like Real Madrid."

Afghanistan has disbanded its

national soccer team after nine play-

ers disappeared from a training came

in Italy last week, an official said on

Six of the players have been

Gone with the wind!

AFP, Kabul

Tuesday.

Portuguese international Jorge Andrade. Andrade has an inside track of how the home side and its coach Jose Mourinho thinks after having played for them for two seasons just prior to his

Lyon.

move across the border in the summer "We have the trophies and the of 2002. edge to his current boss Javier Irureta. that prestige overnight. going to give everything to get to the

terms of money, but Porto has a great them on," added the defender

> Deportivo from having played in Spain, notable former Barcelona goalkeeper Vitor Baia and the South African striker Benni McCarthy, who was on the books of Depor's local rivals Celta Vigo

> > Nevertheless, Mourinho was happy to play the role of the underdog

No Broad

Cricket

AFP, London

Match referee Chris Broad will not officiate in the forthcoming series between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced.

The former England batsman had been due to oversee the series, which is due to start with a one-day international in Bulawayo on Tuesday.

However, Broad reported star Sri Lankan bowler Muttiah Muralitharan after watching the Sri Lankan bowl his controversial 'doosra' delivery during the third and final Test against Australia in Colombo in March.

its Lord's headquarters Monday, the

Parag takes solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehdi Hasan Parag took a solo lead after end of the sixth round of the 25th national junior chess championship at the BCF auditorium vesterday.

Nahid Parvez was in second place with 5.5 points.

Mohammad Ali, who was the int-leader on Monday, slipped to third. He joined Minhazuddin Ahmad Sagar and Obaidul Islam Shahin on five points each.

In the sixth round Parag beat Ali. Nahid beat Masum, Sagar beat Dalim, Shahin beat Ashraf, Mahfuz beat Uzzal, Robin beat Sayed, Liza beat Mostafa, Nagir beat Newaz and Shimmi drew with Sabber

Buchanan

FROM PAGE 13

Adam Gilchrist do when he's batting, and work out how to use them in the future

"Murali and Shane are probably the two best spinners the game has ever seen. Why wouldn't we want to study them and take from them what

ICC said it was withdrawing Broad from officiating in Sri Lanka matches while Murali's 'doosra', a ball that unlike a conventional off-spin delivery turns away from the right-

handed batsman, was under initial review. But the ICC stressed that Broad was still scheduled to be the match

referee for Australia's series against Sri Lanka series in July.

ICC's chief executive Malcolm Speed said: "Once Mr Broad informed the ICC that he would be filing this report the ICC felt it would be sensible to appoint an alternate official to take charge of this series as it falls during Stage One of the review process.

The Australian added: "Mr Broad has been provisionally selected as the referee for the forthcoming Australia v Sri Lanka series in July.

And in a statement issued from

Toss: Sri Lanka. rickets: 1-0. 2-0. 3-47. 4-64. 5-CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 12 15 22 tattooed 29 Gardner 25 Development area 27 Actress Carrere 29 CDs' fore-45 46 49 50 runners 54 55 member won't go CRYPTOQUIP NGKTFW R YQREM residen ZXFF BGKEX SK SGX YXUZG? 45 Pantheor BXQGUBN SGXE R VKTFW figures 46 "- ben ΤΝΧ ZUFF VUWREM Adhem' Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO BRITISH 48 It often NOBLEMEN ARE INTENSELY MAD, DO YOU THINK THEY'LL DUKE IT OUT? 49 Undraped Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals C 50 Carey or 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.

Roman wisdom Football AFP. Madrid Manager Claudio Ranieri has

launched a strong attack on Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich, saying the Russian tycoon knows nothing about football and wanted to sack him from the moment he took control. In an interview in Spanish sports daily Marca on Tuesday the 52-year-

old Italian said Abramovich had wanted to appoint England manager Sven Goran Eriksson "Ever since he arrived at the club

Abramovich wanted Eriksson. Ranieri told Marca. "From the very start. They even met in the summer.

"But Ériksson said he couldn't leave the England team and so the next day Abramovich met me and told me: 'OK, you've done a good job these last few years and you are going to carry on.

Chelsea play Monaco in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal later on Tuesday. Ranieri said even victory in the Champions League would not persuade the club to keep him on.

"Look I already have the Abramovich sword embedded in me. I'm convinced that even if I win the Champions League I will be sacked." Marca said the interview was carried out on April 8. Ranieri said Abramovich, who

took over in July, had little understanding of the work he had done the previous season when he steered Chelsea to fourth place in the premier leaque

about football," said Ranieri. "That's the real shame. If he had understood what my side had achieved that season he would have valued me more highly. We did it all without any

money. Abramovich spent some 110 million pounds (\$197.1 million) on new players this season. Ranieri said Abramovich had no appreciation of how difficult it would be to make the team gel.

"It was a very tough job to sign so many players and get them to play together. Abramovich didn't realise that. He thought I'll sign that one and that one and then we will win.

arrested in Germany, where they sought asylum, and Italy has promised to hand them over to Afghan authorities soon, the official said, adding they would be punished for "damaging Afghans' honour".

A series of games planned in Italy, the Afghan team's first appearance in Europe for 20 years, was aimed at raising money for Afghan orphans. Kohistani said.

sought asylum was in 1996 during the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Boxer Mohammed Jawid Aman was granted asvlum.

"We have scrapped the team and plan to bring in new players instead after their shameful act." Halim Kohistani, head of Afghanistan's

football federation, told Reuters. "Italy has promised to hand over to us six of them who were arrested in

Germany and we will punish them 100 percent when they return, after con-

sulting the police and the court."

The last time an Afghan athlete

"Abramovich knows nothing