Sport

The Daily Star

"We have played well all winter in

two matches in St. Lucia. In the last few

overs of our innings and their innings.

we have not played too well. If we can

learn from these experiences and

England face a home summer

They play a three-way series with

New Zealand and West Indies, start-

ing in June, and then host the ICC

improve, we can get better.'

programme full of ODIs.

Nat'l jr athletics starts tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The two-day Milk Vita 21st National junior athletics meet begins tomorrow at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Some 400 athletes, including 175 girls, representing 40 teams, are expected to take part in 39 events. Milk Vita will provide Tk 2.5 lakh out of a total budget of taka five lakh.

Abdus Salam, president of Bangladesh Athletics Federation, informed the pressmen that they have a plan to pick up one male and one female athlete from district level for long-term training and introduce inter-school athletics meet at divisional-level from next year.

Replying to a query, he told the reporters at the NSC that they are yet to select athletes for the Asian Junior Athletics meet billed for Malaysia

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT Moyenuddin Smriti Sangsad

defeated Rawtara Cricket Club by 32 runs at the Magura Stadium yesterday. Winning the toss, Moyenuddin

batted first and scored 176 in the stipulated 25 overs after being all out.

In reply, Rawtara collected 144 all out in 24.4 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF MOYENUDDIN SMRITI SANGSAD: 176 all out in 25 overs (Avijit 25, Shaheen 13; Rubel 3/41, Pradip 2/23, Asad 2/29) **RAWTARA CRICKET CLUB: 144**

all out in 24.4 overs (Pradip 20, Nimai 16, Asad 14; Tushar 4/37, Sohan 2/17, Rajib 2/40). Result: Moyenuddin Smriti Sangsad won by 32 runs. Man-of-the-match: Avijit

Rebels withdraw

FROM PAGE 13 The players' proposals for arbitra-

tion conducted by two independent international figures was rejected by the ZCU in a letter to their lawyer Chris Venturas. The ZCU said they would not

Tennis agree to arbitration and continued to offer internal mediation.

The players' spokesman Grant Flower said this was not acceptable. He now expects the issue to end up in the courts with each side suing for breach of contract.

weekend after his hotel was swept The immediate result of the final by a fire that killed three people. bit failure of both sides to reach an the dust in the first round of the accommodation is the withdrawal of Streak, Price, Ervine and Gripper. Rome Masters here on Tuesday.

The quartet played in the Zimbabwe A team against Sri Lanka in a three-day match at the Takashinga Club, Highfield, Harare, which ended Monday.

End of road



Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar speaks to PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan in Lahore yesterday over the prospects of the medical commission report. Shoaib, along with wicketkeeper Moin Khan and all-rounder Abdul Razzaq, on April 28 appeared before the four-man medical commission to investigate excessive injuries in the team during Pakistan's 2-1 Test series defeat against India.

Another Lord's innovation!

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Cricket's headquarters has unveiled a high-tech solution to one of the sport's perennial problems -- how to ensure batsmen can be seen and not disturbed.

Lord's, already home to a spectacular, pod-shaped media centre, has installed a plastic sight-screen coated with a special film that makes it function like a one-way mirror.

AFP, Rome

"It's the best of both worlds," Lord's spokesman lain Wilton said on Tuesday. "It gives the batsman a clear view of the ball against the sight-screen and it enables people

Number two seed Andy Roddick,

lucky to escape with his life at the

The American world number two

served poorly and produced 35

unforced errors on his way to a

crushing 7-6, 6-1 defeat to

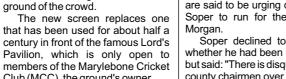
unseeded Argentinian Guillermo

Roddick, 21, said Saturday's

blaze - during which he rang his

mother in Florida to ask for her

Canas at the Foro Italico.



Club (MCC), the ground's owner. "For the spectators behind it just looks like a tinted piece of glass, and for the players it looks very much like a conventional sight-screen," Wilton added

that built my confidence as the

match went on," said the 26-year-

old, who missed eight months of

action last year after surgery on his

Federer had no such difficulty,

easing into the second round with a

straight sets victory over veteran

moved out of second gear but still

Australian Open champion will meet

conditions for his lacklustre perfor-

Albert Costa in the second round.

The world number one barely

The reigning Wimbledon and

Federer blamed the blustery

Swede Jonas Bjorkman.

won 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

mance.

Swiss number one seed Roger

Roddick bows out

right hand.

action. Without a screen the ball

would be lost against the back-

to see the cricket clearly."

AFP, London The future of England and Wales Cricket Board chairman David Sight-screens allow the batsman Morgan is in doubt over the way he to pick out the ball as it leaves the has tackled Zimbabwe tour problems bowler's hand but they often and his review of the domestic game, The Guardian reported on obscure the spectators' view of the

ECB chief

in trouble

Wednesday. Officials representing the counties are said to be urging chairman Mike Soper to run for the post against

Soper declined to comment on whether he had been urged to stand but said: "There is disguiet among the county chairmen over the way things are being handled at Lord's.

"The domestic review group proposals were not popular, particularly as there was only a single representative of the counties on the group, and we have agreed to set up our own review.

where I had a few match points."

Spaniard Tommy Robredo, who

triumphed in Barcelona last week.

knocked out Australian ninth seed

Mark Philippoussis and will play

time Grand Slam winner Lleyton

Hewitt is perilously close to going

out to Italian wild card Andrea Seppi.

match led 7-5, 3-3 before rain

stopped play. The match will restart

wrist injury restricted him to playing

13 tournaments last year, defeated

Italian Stefano Pescosolido 6-4, 6-

2000, will play Thailand's Paradorn

on Wednesday.

Australian 15th seed and two-

Seppi, looking to win his first ATP

Russian Marat Safin, whose left

Safin, US Open champion in

unseeded Croatian Ivo Karlovic.

MSC, Rising Star

post wins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An allround show by Rashedul Haq Sumon helped Mohammedan Sporting Club to earn a 62-run victory over Shatadal Junior in a Super Six match of the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Cricket League at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Mohammedan amassed 329 for eight in 50 overs with opener Sumon hammerind 126 off 114 balls and Ziauddin Adil followed him with 60.

In reply, Shatadal made 267 with Raihan notching 88 and Hasan Jamil 52. Suman grabbed three wickets for 22.

In the day's other match at the MA Aziz Stadium, defending champions Rising Star recorded a fourwicket victory over City Corporation Ekadosh.

City Corporation scored 201 for eight in 50 overs. In reply, Rising Star reached the

target in 46.5 overs thanks to an unbeaten 88 from Pakistani recruit AshrafAli

'We're stronger in Test' Cricket much international cricket.

AFP, Bridgetown

The England Test team is stronger than the one-day side, admitted England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff on Tuesday

England, who won the preceding four-Test series 3-0, trail West Indies 2-1 in the ongoing rain-marred ODI series

They won the opening match at Georgetown by two wickets with three balls to spare, endured three noresults because of rain, and lost backto-back contests at Gros Islet this past weekend.

"I'd have to say the Test side is much stronger because the players that make it up have been around longer," Flintoff told reporters on Tuesday

"We know the game and we know how to play Test cricket. The ODI side is exciting and we have a lot of good young blokes. They are still learning and many of them have not played too

"We are improving and building towards the World Cup in 2007. We need to get as much cricket under our belts, so that we can know our game.'



ANDREW FLINTOFF

Flintoff, however, believes it is important for Michael Vaughan's side to win the last ODI.

series and let them avoid defeat in an ODI series for the first time on Caribbean soil.

It would give England a share of the

Champions Trophy in September. "I am looking forward to the summer, although there is a lot of cricket to be played these days," Flintoff said.

"With the international calendar, we do not get too much of a break, but that's just the way it is right now and we have to get on with it. We just have to try and stay fit, and try to perform every time we play."

British Premier points finger at the ICC

REUTERS, London

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair has pointed the finger of blame at the International Cricket Council (ICC) in the stand-off over whether England should tour Zimbabwe later this vear.

The England and Wales cricket board (ECB) has been embroiled in a political battle with the government and the ICC over October's tour

"We would prefer them not to go but there is a difference between doing that and ordering them not to go, which I think would step over the proper line," Blair told parliament on Wednesday "I think many people, however,

believe rightly that the problem actually resides with the ICC," he said.

The ICC, the sport's governing body, said last month that it would suspend any country refusing to fulfil its tour obligations for anything other than security reasons or governmental direction and fine them 2 million dollars.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw will meet chiefs from the ECB on Thursday but Blair indicated they would not get what they most want a government instruction not to tour, which would allow them to escape ICC sanctions.

Murali's Test

FROM PAGE 13 "Look at his record, it's outstanding

the Test matches, won the Test series in the Caribbean 3-0, and everything went well." he said. "As a team, it is important that we do not lose this ODI series because we played a lot of good ODI last summer we want to keep improving. "As a team, we can learn from the



FROM PAGE 13

In a sport with an increasing emphasis on youth, the inclusion of Gough in the England side was seen as the possible exception to the trend. The older head, a legend to encourage the young guns, to lead by canny example. Even though he still has enthusiasm by the bucketful, he simply cannot hack it where it matters.

It might be foolish to write him off --many have done so in the past, only to have to eat their words. This time, however, there is a feeling that the writing really is on the wall.

He should be allowed a final tilt at the windmill, and despite mediocre performances he ought to play at Bridgetown, bowing out in front of a full house and, hopefully, with respectable figures. He deserves nothing less.

advice on what to do and then offered to buy the firemen pizzas if they rescued him and several other guests - had been playing on his mind, but refused to use it as an excuse for his straight sets loss.

"I wasn't concentrating for one reason or another, but I don't think it was that (the fire)," said the 2003 US Open winner, who blew three set points in a tight first set.

"It's tough to put a thing like that out of your mind, but the bottom line is I played badly. 'It's no secret that clay is not my

favourite surface and that is something that I've got to work on.' Canas, who will face Spaniard David Sanchez in round two, said

Roddick's wayward serving swung the match in his favour. "Andy served badly today and

"It was very windy out there and yesterday's rain made it very slippery," said the 22-year-old, who hit four aces and 25 winners.

"I had the chance to break early and I didn't take it and that made me more defensive. I didn't believe too much in my shots.

"You can get frustrated very quickly on clay and that's what happened to me.

Federer, who lost last year's final here to Spaniard Felix Mantilla, said he would have to cut down on the errors if he was to get past clav court specialist Costa, the 2002 French Open winner.

"I think I can improve many things and I will have to play a lot better to beat Costa," he added.

"I'm looking forward to the match and I'm hoping to get revenge on him - he beat me in Miami last year

Srichaphan in the next round. Czech number 12 seed Jiri Novak needed a third set to shake off unseeded American James Blake, while Chilean number eight seed Nicolas Massu saw off Italian

Massimo Dell'Acqua. Defending champion Mantilla produced an heroic display, saving four match points before shaking off Robby Ginepri of the United States. Mantilla, who eventually won 5-

7, 7-5, 6-0, said his comeback would boost his confidence for when he plays Argentine Mariano Zabaleta in round two.

"I played badly but luck was on my side today," he said. "I never really got going, but I was happy with the way I stayed motivated and never gave up."

Whatmore

FROM PAGE 13

"I have a couple of options. We are trying to find a proper opening combination but everything will be decided once the series gets started. Actually I am still in the process of finding out the right people for a solid 13member team and it is not an easy task. Once I sort them out, they will serve Bangladesh for a long time.'

Whatmore also wasn't ready to grant southpaw Faisal Hossain a spot in the playing eleven straightaway but liked the in-form batsman's attitude.

"I always love to work with such players. But I can't give you an assurance on whether he will play a match or not.'

The coach brushed aside the unfortunate incident involving ace left-arm spinner Mohammad D Rafique in Zimbabwe that saw him sent back home for breaching the players' code of conduct. "That will not play on the

minds of the players. Things like that happen all the time in a team environment. It's no big deal."

Whatmore also felt that the presence of chief selector Faruque Ahmed, who is travelling with the squad as operations manager, can only help in creating a good team.

- he's just a very good bowler," said Marsh, who played down Muralitharan's run-ins with the International Cricket Council's throwing police.

"He has gone through all the right channels, they've cleared him, and that's it."

SQUADS

ZIMBABWE (from): Tatenda Taibu (captain), Tinashe Panyangara, Vusi Sibanda, Elton Chigumbura, Prosper Utseya, Mluleki Nkala, Brendan Taylor, Mark Vermeulen, Blessing Mahwire, Dion Ebrahim, Douglas Hondo, Alester Maragwede, Stuart Matsikenyeri.

SRI LANKA (from): Marvan Atapattu (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Saman Jayantha, Thilina Kandamby, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Nuwan Kulasekara, Farveez Maharoof, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Rangana Herath, Thilan Samaraweera, lan Daniel, Prasanna Javawardene.

Draw pleases

FROM PAGE 13 an incident of handling the ball inside the box during the first half and there was another close call. Still we played well but unfortunately could not win the game,' Manik said.

The former national player said that this championship was a good exposure for the players despite the poor results.

"We might have been eliminated at the preliminary stage but our participation in the championship showed that we are not inferior to some other clubs of the continent." said Manik adding that Mohammedan Sporting Club should not have opted out from the competition for the sake of football in our coun-

Yellow card: Moni (Muktijoddha) TEAMS

Muktijoddha (Formation 4-4-2): Aminul, Papel, Sujan, Harry (Pradip, 42nd minute, and Belal 77th), Hassan, Saiful, Ghansah Matiur Munna, Moni and Liton.

Nisa FC (Formation 4-4-2): Pavel, Kamil, Gurbangeln, Yewgeniy, Artyom, Vugar, guvanch, Didar, Boris, Nazar, Dovletmurad. Referee: VGA Silva (Sri Lanka).

By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD

41 401(k) ACROSS 60 Shafts of 20 Meadow 1 Intimidate alterna light 21 Pal 22 Ashcroft's 4 Ratio 61 Prior to tive 42 Greek phrase predeces-8 Sharpen DOWN cross sor 12 Scrooge's 44 Base-1 Letter-23 Shade ball's Tom man's provider cry 13 Repast 46 Novelist workplace 27 Newton 14 Crosby 2 Cereal flavor Tom 29 Cosmos co-star 50 Easter grain 15 Playegg need 51 Charles 3 Mystery 30 Undraped 31 Culture wright 4 Take Tom Lamb undue medium 17 Largest of pseudo-33 Progress advanthe seven impedi nym tage 52 Game 18 "Scooby-5 Vast ment expanse 35 Greek show 19 Magnum host 6 Sailors consoportrayer Tom 7 Bygone nants 56 A util 38 Mai ---Tom 8 Ahab 21 "Top Gun" 57 Shaving et al 40 Sills 9 Firetruck 43 Open, in star Tom cream 24 Born additive necessity a way 58 Baltimore 45 Agree 10 Grand-25 Coop scale tale occupant newsment 26 North 11 Shipbuildfrom 6 paper Pole 59 Unpleasing wood Down 16 Roast-pig 46 Saxoemplovee antiv 28 Island phonist's side dish moist sliver near Solution time: 25 mins. Venezuela 47 Earthen 32 Les ware pot 48 Artesian Ftats-34 Oater sta well? 49 Actress Tom 36 Unfore-Ward 53 Triggerseen problem happy 37 Choral fellow? 54 "--- Town" composi tion 55 Away 39 Hodaes from SSW or Gerard

12 15 22 25 32 CRYPTOQUIP VRWWI DΡ R PNBHVRIM PNB FNKTANGB, R IGAANIH NTH VNGWF VRWW

DM R KHMMHB BHANBM Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DON'T YOU THINK A

SLEEPING BAG COULD DEFINITELY BE THOUGHT OF AS A "NAPSACK"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

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.