

SPORT Yuvraj ready to open

AFP, Milan

Italian football icon Paolo Maldini,

who has only ever played for one

club -- AC Milan -- in his whole

career, has signed a new contract

extending his love affair with the

Serie A champions until 2006, club

insiders revealed Friday. Maldini

made his debut for Milan in 1984/85

-- helping them to seven of their 17

championship titles under the reign

Maldini, who has a record 126

appearances for Italy, also has four

Champions League crowns, four

European SuperCups, an

Intercontinental Cup and one Italian

Cup on his bulging curriculum vitae.

international retirement after the

2002 World Cup but he has been

under intense pressure from Italy

coach Giovanni Trapattoni, and his

adoring public, to put his retirement

on ice and play in the Euro 2004

"I first have to talk with Trapattoni

and then I'll decide. We've agreed to

talk after the end of the season." the

finals in Portugal.

legendary defender said.

The 36-year-old announced his

of president Silvio Berlusconi.

The Daily Star

the ball down and slot it into an empty

It was the Dutch striker's first goal in

US joins WC hosts' fray

AFP, Bridgetown

The United States officially lodged its application to host matches in the 2007 cricket World Cup, along with ten Caribbean nations, when the bidding process closed here on Friday.

The USA, who want to stage matches at a purpose-built stadium in Florida, joined Antiqua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bermuda, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

No submission was received from the Bahamas, the only other country that had indicated their intention to host matches in 2007. A minimum of eight stadiums are

required to stage the event. Inspectors will now visit each

bidding country between May 24 and June 7 to inspect the facilities. The World Cup host venues are

scheduled to be announced on July 2 with the award of matches set for July 12.

Ariful 9-ball champ

PRESS RELEASE

Ariful Islam clinched the second National 9-ball Championship title beating Jamal Khan in the final on May 7.

Seventy-two competitors from all over the country took part in the meet.

Wega Zone, a billiard centre, organised the tournament under the supervision of Bangladesh Billiard and Snooker Federation (BBSF). General secretary of BBSF

Sayeed Mahbub was present as chief guest on the prize giving ceremony while chairman of Wega Zone, Sajedul Hossain Chowdhury was present as the special guest.

Murali mark

FROM PAGE 13									
Taibu	8	1	27	1					
C'bura	12	2	44	1					
ZIMBABWE: S	Second	innin	gs						
M'yeri c M J'de	11								
Taylor c M'thara				4					
Ebrahim c P J'c	dene b Z	Zoysa	a	2					
Taibu Ibw b Zoy	/sa			0					
Chigumbura c	P J'den	ebZ	oysa	0					
Maragwede ca	and b M	'thara	an	22					
Nkala c M J'der	n	24							
Utseya b Maha	0								
Mahwire c P J'o	a	2							
Hondo not out		15							
Panyangara c M J'dene b J'suriya18									
Extras: (lb-2, nl	b-2)			4					
Total: (All out in 32 overs) 102									
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-15, 3-17,									
4-17, 5-18, 6-6	3, 7-64,	, 8-64	, 9-7	2					
Bowler	0	Μ	R	W					
Vaas	8	2		1					
Zoysa	10.5	2	30	5					
M'tharan	8.1	1	27	2					

Cricket

PTI, New Delhi

tional pressure"

Sehwag.

in the Test side.

shoot.

various spots in the team.

the mantle alongside Virender

time and again expressed his faith in

the abilities of the Punjab batsman

but also maintained that Yuvraj

should be prepared to open the

innings if he was to retain his place

Test team. I don't think opening puts

any additional pressure on you. If

the team management feels I

"I am glad I have made it to the

Skipper Sourav Ganguly has

sive about tackling the new ball and said, "Opening requires a game plan and I don't see any problem with it." Vice-captain Rahul Dravid said

Blessed with unflinching support of the home series against Australia his skipper, Yuvraj Singh is supreme later this year would dish out some confident of retaining his place in the Indian Test side and does not find

opening the innings as an "addi-"I am verv confident of my place in the side. I have a Test hundred." said the left-handed batsman here on Friday dismissing suggestions that there was competition for Yuvrai, who has played in just four Tests and is vet to open the innings, does not find the job of an opener a tough one and indicated that he was not averse to donning

YUVRAJ SINGH

exciting cricket. "It will be a very good series between two good cricketing sides," he said but disagreed that it would be an unofficial World Championship.

"It will depend on who is number one at that time. It will be a very important series though," he said.

should open, I will," said the Yuvraj The right-hander said he would who was here along with teamutilise the two-month break from mates Rahul Dravid, Parthiv Patel, international cricket to work on his Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh and fitness. Mohammad Kaif for a commercial

Upcoming paceman Irfan Pathan said it would be wrong if he

Yuvraj was also not apprehensaid he was trying to become an all rounder "I am in the team as a bowler.

have to concentrate on bowling first although it is my heartfelt desire to do well as a batsman. But I don't want to put pressure on myself by thinking about my batting."

He also said his failure in the Lahore practice match did not discourage him but helped him come back strongly.

"I was not discouraged. I did not bowl well in that match and I did not get to play the first two one-dayers. I accept that. I worked hard after that and when I got the opportunity I was determined to do well.

Meanwhile, Harbhajan Singh, who missed the historic series against Pakistan due to a finger injury, yesterday said that he has recovered completely to play in the upcoming Asia Cup in Sri Lanka "I am looking forward to play in

the Asia Cup, which is starting in three months time." Harbhaian told reporters at a function here.

The off-spinner, who played in the first Test against Australia at Brisbane before pulling out of the tour due to the injury that he was carrying since the World Cup, said that he was looking to play some county cricket in England before playing international cricket again.

"I am talking with the Lashing Club in Kent. I am considering the option and may join them soon," he said

The Asia Cup, the biggest oneday tournament involving teams

Getting us all in a spin!

elaborating on how this new delivery

STATS SO FAP

one-day international in Adelaide,

prompting the Sri Lanka team to

leave the field in protest. Subse-

quent tests show that Muralitharan

bowls with a bent elbow due to a

congenital deformity but he con-

forms to the rules because he does

not straighten his arm during deliv-

1999: Named as one of Wisden's

mystery ball.

finished yet.

ll behave

FROM PAGE 13

the legality of his action.

against New Zealand

against England.

FROM PAGE 13 bowlers have claimed they are

coming out with new tricks to surprise the opposition. Australian leg-spin genius Shane

Warne said he had been working on a new ball before the Sri Lanka Test series, his first after serving a 12month suspension for taking drugs.

Muralitharan was no exception as the media had often quoted him as saying before every fresh series that he would try another "mystery" ball. Former Australian captain and

renowned coach, Bobby Simpson, summed it up nicely when he said there was no "mystery ball" in cricket. "After watching the first two one-

day internationals between Sri Lanka and Australia (in February), I am sure Muralitharan is as big a trickster as Shane Warne," Simpson wrote in his column in an Indian sports magazine.

"For almost a decade, prior to the start of each season, Shane would announce he would be introducing a mystery ball. The media fell for it every season and the mystique of Shane Warne grew bigger each vear

"In reality, there was never a

mystery ball. While Shane may

five cricketers of the year. First have fine-tuned some of his variations, I don't believe he added any county cricket appearance for Lancashire

2000: Takes 300th Test wicket "I believe the same thing applies against South Africa. to Muralitharan. His mystery ball is a hybrid of Saqlain's discovery." 2002: Becomes the youngest and

The "mystery ball" saga has not quickest player to reach 400 Test wickets, reaching the mark in Sri Mushtaq recently said he had Lanka's third Test against Zimbanow been working on a 'teesra' (a bwe, only the 72nd Test of his Hindi word for the third one) without career

2003: Joins county side Kent.

2004: Becomes only the third man after Courtney Walsh and Shane Warne to take 500 Test wickets in Sri Lanka's second Test against Australia in Kandy.

Australian umpire Darrell Hair, prompting continuing debate about 1997: Takes 100th Test wicket 1998: Takes 200th Test wicket right-handed batsmen. Called again for throwing during

for his sixth wicket to match former West Indies nace howler Courtney Walsh's world mark of 519 Test victims.

There are also many other worldclass football events and tourna-521st wickets as Sri Lanka wrap up

Maldini knows | Premiership only AC Milan **Draw satisfies Chelsea**

Football

AFP, Manchester Chelsea bounced back from their

Champions League heartbreak to claim second place in the Premiership after a 1-1 draw with Manchester United here on Saturday. Jesper Gronkjaer's second goal in the space of four days was cancelled out by a late Ruud van Nistelrooy

equaliser after Chelsea had been reduced to ten men by the sending-off of German defender Robert Huth. But the point was still enough to

play much further part in the match. guarantee Chelsea's best finish in the league since the club won its one and to win a penalty with a dive under only English title in 1955, as well as pressure from Claude Makelele, the direct entry to the money-spinning England midfielder was hauled off by group stage of next season's Sir Alex Ferguson to avoid the possi-Champions League. bility of him being red-carded and

That may not be enough to save Claudio Ranieri from the sack but the Italian can bow out at Stamford Bridge with his head held high having taken the club from fourth last season to a creditable second behind an Arsenal side that will take some overhauling next season.

United may have avoided the penaltv ignominy of a tenth league defeat of the season but they will still pay a heavy price for their poor form this season by being obliged to play a potentially treacherous Champions low to his right. League qualifier in August.

Gronkjaer's 19th-minute goal was content to control the game and they every bit as spectacular as one he had looked set fair to take all three points scored against Monaco in midweek before Huth received his second with the crucial difference that this one yellow card for a clumsy trip on van was intended. Nistelrooy as the Dutch striker turned

It came after Chelsea were awarded a hotly-disputed corner. Television replays indicated that goalkeeper Tim Howard had in fact

Politicians urged

FROM PAGE 1 political parties in Bangladesh had a responsibility to break links with crime and should work together to eradicate corruption in police.

"We are concerned about abuse of the Special Powers Act and deplore the mass arrests taking place in the last weeks, just as we deplore the antidemocratic and extra-constitutional tactics of the opposition party played out in the streets and by political

threat "she said Referring to the assassination of opposition lawmaker Ahsanullah Master on Friday, Wallich said, "Yesterday's tragic events are a sobering reminder of the cost to country and family. of continued violence."

"Decisive leadership, breaking the links between criminals and their political patrons, making the streets, the schools, and the business establishments safe for living, and for making a living, could be the most popular ment." measure that this government could

level Cudicini fumbled an innocuous succeeded in keeping the ball in play as he slithered along the damp turf but looking cross from Mikael Silvestre the linesman flagged that it had gone and van Nistelrooy was there to bring over the touchline.

van Nistelrooy's lay-off, was not to

suspended for the FA Cup final

After that let-off, Chelsea were

against Millwall on May 22.

O'Shea's through ball.

After being booked for attempting

corner of the net.

Geremi's corner was headed clear by Wes Brown but only as far as Joe Cole, who immediately picked out

the league since February 11 -- a Gronkjaer just inside the box with an statistic that goes a long way towards explaining why United find themastute header. The Danish winger stepped to the selves finishing in third place. The FA Cup still holds the potential right of Paul Scholes and curled a wonderfully precise shot into the top

for some silverware but it promises to be a summer of significant change at Scholes, who had earlier tested Old Trafford. Carlo Cudicini with a crisp volley from

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Moyenuddin Smriti Sangsad and Haque Sporting Club won their respective matches in a cricket tournament at the Magura Stadium vesterday.

Scholes was replaced by Louis Both teams moved into the final. Saha, who quickly made an impact by Moyenuddin defeated Rawtara winning a penalty. The French striker Crescent Cricket Club by eight nicked the ball off the toes of Huth. wickets while Haque Sporting beat who was unable to avoid bringing his Independent Cricket Club by five opponent down and conceding wickets

SCORES IN BRIEF

Van Nistelrooy's strike from the Rawtara Crescent Cricket Club: spot was executed in near textbook 107 all out in 25 overs (Showkin 26, fashion but Cudicini guessed right and Asad 16, Pradip 12; Faisal 4/8, Avijit 3/4. Suman 2/7) was able to touch it away at full stretch

Moyenuddin Smriti Sangsad: 108 for 2 in the 25 overs (Avijit 39, Rajib 25, Rusel 10; Rubel 1/21, Monirul 1/12). Independent Cricket Club: 132

all out in 25 overs (Mansoor 28. Sajal 15, Biswa 12; Gora 4/25, Litu 2/18, Firoz 1/20)

Haque Sporting Club: 134 for away from him to chase John five in 25 overs (Firoz 62, Ami 17, Litu 18; Sajal 2/22, Anup 1/16). Four minutes later. United were

asking the opposition to collaborate "Yet it appears that the government with the government in strengthening is again considering inappropriate and human security and police reform. restrictive legislation for NGOs.'

Mentioning that 'corruption drains On micro-credit. Wallich said the public resources, including donors', and 'Bangladesh's best-educated government should not interfere with elites prosper abroad and despair of or set ceilings on micro-credit interest change at home', Wallich urged the government to put the Anti-Corruption "We are also concerned about Commission into operation and appoint commissioners of the body in alleged corruption in the selection of

six months. NGOs by some government depart-"A full timetable for implementation ments for implementation of donorof the Anti-Corruption Commission Act funded projects.' is needed by the end of the year."

She also called for 'transparency, Remarking that the act will not be enough, Wallich said: "A comprehendue process, and an early conclusion sive national anti-corruption strategy, to the investigation into certain NGOs', backed by both parties, is needed. A saying, they were holding up service broad consultative process to develop delivery to thousands of poor benefithis strategy, improving law and order and giving up patronisation of ciaries criminalised politics should be the number one priority of this govern-

"For Bangladesh to prosper economically, across-the-board political and economic governance change are needed. Without them, growth will be less -- Bangladesh will not reap the full benefits of recent reforms -- and could even fall behind in the society of nations," she said.

"The government has how-

mate severance benefits to them

in a very transparent way," he

governance and law and order

and combating corruption still

remained key challenges of the

ise that "an independent Anti-

Corruption Commission is being

recently merged four ministries

into two and adopted a few more

decisions to reform civil service

which include merit-based pro-

International Monetary Fund

"The government has most

set up within a few days."

The finance minister

He admitted that improving

added.

April: Reported for a suspect action by match referee Chris Broad after home Test series against Australia. Broad says he is only worried about legality of special Muralitharan delivery which turns away from

May 6: Takes six for 45 off 24.2 overs on first day of first Test against Zimbabwe, bowling Douglas Hondo

Blatter said the decision to play the tournament in Japan further emphasised the role Asia has to play in world football.

"In 2002. Japan and Korea hosted a wonderful World Cup. May 8: Captures his 520th and

2005 World Club meet in Japan **REUTERS**, Kuala Lumpur

Japan will host a revamped World Club Championship in 2005, FIFA president Sepp Blatter announced on Saturday. He said the tournament would feature the top teams from each

continental body to determine the number one club side in the world. Japan has traditionally hosted the Toyota Cup, an annual clash between the champions of Europe

and South America for the unofficial title of best club in the world. "You have to include the rest of

the world to make it a true world championship," Blatter told delegates and guests at the Asian Football Confederation's annual

In 2000, FIFA sanctioned an

international club tournament in

South America that proved unpopu-

lar with the clubs involved. It caused

controversy in England when then

European champions Manchester

United pulled out of the English FA

Cup to take part in the event.

Congress on Saturday. "How can Europe versus South America be known as a world club championship?"

M'tharan 8.1 Maharoof 4 0 18 1 0 1 1 Jayasuriya Result: Sri Lanka won by an innings and 240 runs.

Peace process

FROM PAGE 13

cancel their contracts with the ZCU unless the board agreed to binding arbitration. The board offered mediation, which is not binding, and which the players had rejected until Friday.

An International Cricket Council spokesman said on Friday: "If these reports are true it is a very welcome step and we would encourage both the ZCU and the rebel players to work through this process of mediation to resolve their differences."

Zimbabwe had to select a weakened team for the one-day internationals against Sri Lanka, who won the series 5-0. A similar Zimbabwe side was struggling badly again on Friday on the second day of the first Test between the two teams.

CROSSWORD By Eug

40 Trinity

41 Pumps

up the

43 Take out

of con-

text?

45 Deejay's

bribe

48 That

surface

man's

54 Freudian

concepts

49 Adage

55 Sailing

56 Catch

57 Writer

58 Choir's

59 Encoun-

tered

vessel

sight of

Buscaglia

repertoire

Solution time: 24 min

volume

member

hend

ACROSS

Million

piece

4-Across

tance unit

13 Therefore 47 Rink

aire"

4 Parlor

9 Used

12 Resis-

14 Parisian

15 "Amen!"

pal

17 Tie up

the

phone

18 Blunder

19 Chinese

21 Yanni's

tive

tastes

awfull

ending

31 Unhappy

33 Muppet

35 Elusive

eagle

36 Quartet in

Missis-

sippi?

38 Prohibi

destiny

26 Superla-

tive

28 Frock

25 "This

nut tree

aenre

24 Colloquial

affirma-

AFP, Buenos Aires

Diego Maradona, recovering from a life threatening heart and lung condition, was under sedation in hospital on Friday as his family continued discussions over their next step for the fallen soccer idol.

was admitted to hospital for a second time, the authorities refused to issue a medical bulletin. However, family sources told

AFP that Maradona is suffering from

How to deal with Diego?

ery.

Football

on Wednesday, is thought to be going to a drugs rehabilitation centre but that has yet to be officially confirmed. His departure has been delayed because of discussions between his

For the first time since the player would prefer he stayed longer to bring about a complete recovery The 43-year-old 1986 World Cup

> winner for Argentina however is said to want to return to the luxurious ence at General Rodriguez,

Aires, where he spent his time between hospital stays.

a public statement on Maradona's health on Friday though on Thursday they said he was responding well to treatment

Maradona has been battling his cocaine addiction at a specialist apparently agreeing terms last drugs center in Cuba for the past four years. said that they were now waiting for

ments hosted in Asia. And this is the Test by an innings and 240 runs another one of them," he said

Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo

is waiting for Scottish champions

Celtic to open talks over a move to

Parkhead, his agent revealed

Celtic manager Martin O'Neill

has said that he is interested in

signing the 32-year-old former AC

Milan and Barcelona midfielder with

a view to strengthening his side to

take them beyond the group stage

of next season's Champions

English Premiership Bolton, despite

week, and his agent, Carlos Arime,

Rivaldo has stalled on signing for

for Celtic

AFP, Glasgow

Saturday

League.

take, for the citizens of Bangladesh," Wallich said. **Rivaldo waits**

"The government should make human security a priority. We urge the police reform proposal under discussion be agreed by July," she said,

Speaking on non-governmental organisations, she said, "NGOs must be allowed to operate free of political interference and undue bureaucratic control. We strongly urge consultations with NGOs, experts, and donors before any regulations are finalised.

Donors concerned

FROM PAGE 1 Dhaka Metropolitan city and its positive impact on the overall law and order situation is already visible.

Saifur said. "...broad-based political support is a prerequisite for implementing successful and sustainable economic and good governance reforms. All transitional democracies face challenges in mobilising this support from political opposition and vested interest groups. We are no exception. But the unhealthy. intolerant and destructive political opposition we have been facing in our endeavor...is unprecedented.'

But echoing the views of 32 donors at the BDF, Praful said, "Ordinary citizens do not trust the legal system -- the police and the courts -- to deliver fair and speedy justice."

"The very businessmen and businesswomen Bangladesh needs to attract to accelerate and diversify the economy are driven away by such events," he said

"Ordinary citizens...need to be reassured as they walk in the street or sit at home with their children. Are they safe? All these perceptions and realities can only come to undermine the present economic successes. Reversing these alarming events is a challenge as such behavior has become well-rooted in society," Praful added.

Terming the anti-corruption commission as important, he said guaranteeing its independence was equally important.

"Steps underway on judicial and police reform are another beginning. The new approach to public procurement offers the promise of transforming opportunities for corruption in contracting.

Bangladesh needs to ensure greater transparency in the legal and judicial systems, businessfriendly institutions and courts, people-friendly law and order and to empower the citizens to build public confidence, he said.

"Both investors and the average citizens need an environever been very careful about the ment in which they feel a day-toneed for creation of alternative day sense of personal security; a employment opportunities for predictable security that is reasworkers who lost their jobs and suring and even-handed." also ensured payment of legiti-

The donors also expressed deep concern over the new tension between the government and the NGO community and said the recent draft update on the law governing NGOs had serious flaws in both process and substance.

government. Both the government and NGOs have to be accountable to described a number of reform citizens and transparent in their measures taken to improve the actions, they commented. situation and reiterated the prom-

Praful lauded Bangladesh's economic achievements, saying it showed indicators among the best in South Asia after Sri Lanka in terms of the Millennium Development Goals. He. however, said Dhaka needed an aggressive plan of action to address some major impedi-

motion and developing specialisation in the civil service," Saifur "What kind of nation does added. Bangladesh want to be? An outward-looking and open econ-(IMF) Advisor for Asia and the omv? Another Malaysia or Pacific Department Nisssanke Thailand? A niche actor in world

"If the citizens of this country are its strength...then bringing government closer to the people can greatly enhance public accountability," Patel said.

"I would suggest that strengthening local government, making government more open and accountable to citizens at the local level, is an agenda for public reform that is overdue ... "

Saifur illustrated the government's economic successes amid an uneasy political environment and said the growth was likely to exceed 5.5 percent projected for this year. In the first six months of the current fiscal year, the agriculture sector grew at 4.2 percent and industry at a

record 7.3 percent. He said by significantly downsizing state-owned enterprises, the government was able to reduce fiscal drain and stimulate private sector growth

	ell as severe psy													guez ienos
By Eugene	e Sheffer	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
DOWN	20 Weight	12				13		+				14		
1 Rapture	allow-													
2 Cry of	ance	15	Į.		16							17		
surprise	21 Un-		ł	1	18			_	40		00			
3 Ostrich's	draped				10				19		20			
cousin	22 Counter-	21	22	23					24		-	1		
4 Set a	parts	-												
price (for)		25	1			26	1	27		28			29	30
5 Paris	Across		1					_						
Hilton,	23 "Oh,	31			32		33		34		35			
e.g. 6 Moreover	yeah?"	36			+	37		38		39		40	+	
7 With	27 Bill 29 Coin	30	1			31		50		100		40		
aloofness				41	1-	1	42		43	-	44		+	1
8 Tended a	30 "Auld													
stubborn	Lang	45	46						47					
shoelace	"	10	_	_		10	-	100			+		150	50
9 "Smile!"	32 Interoffice	48				49		50	1	1		51	52	53
10 Asian	note	54	+		-	55		+				56	+	
nurse-	34 Fourth													
maid	president	57	Τ			58		T				59	Τ	Τ
11 NFL	37 Stomp		1											
running	in a						יסע	PTC		IID				
back	puddle					Ì		110	λųτ					
Barber	39 Sum-	ΤA	1	DN	4 W	(O M	I I	νM	Ŋ	(F)	LΜ	P T	ΓKΙ
16 Bounding							•							
main	42 Charlie	K	īγ	RI	R		Т	0	W	FR	R		V C	Y
ne: 24 mins.	Brown's	n	5 1	IC I	ι,			X		1 1			, 0	
UBORBS	sister 44 Pasture-	V	к. т. т.	ХJ	т	Р	Б	17	C N	1 11		C 1	7	М
NEMALI	land	V	IVI V	W J	1	Р	г	v	Cr	VI VV	Q	CΝ		IVI .
D A A N O N O N T H I C K	(Var.)		_				-		~			-		
BOA	45 Silvers or	Y			. M							D .		
JAYREF	Donahue									ERY	FEV	ΝM	ON'	ΓHS,
IGHOME	46 Staffer			DSE	-	'HA'	-	PIL				FAC	CTU.	RER
G SOYUZ RHO	50 Comic	SH	00	LD I				-					_	
BITTHIN	DeLuise			То	day'	s Cr	ypto	quip	o Clu	ie: N	1 equ	ials	0	
OVEICE	51 Doctrine	The	Cng	ntoqui	in is a	sub	etituti.	on cin	horin	n whi	h on	o lotta	ar sta	nds fo
RATVOW	52 Born													out th
ELLENS	53 Compre-													troph
	la sur d	abu		duor	to lo	ontin		vole 9	Poluti	on ie	by tri	อไ อก/	1 orro	

Seven lead FROM PAGE 13 beat Mehdi Hasan Parag, Roktim beat Monir Hossain, Saptarshi beat

FM Rezaul Haque, Shakil beat Sanklap Modwal of India, Savanta Dutta of India beat Krishna Thapa of Nepal, FM Khandker Aminul Islam beat Arman Monir, IM Dinesh Kumar Sharma of India beat compatriot Sahaj Grover, Gupreet Pal Singh of

India beat Debaraj Chatterjee, Arghyadeep Das of India beat Aminul Islam Palash, Shawkat means postponing the tournament Hossain Pallab beat IWM Rani from its late May slot.

> Association still needs to find a sponsor, but hopes the matter will be resolved

said: "The series is on and we want to make it an annual feature because it can lift the game in our country manifold. 41st minute but Alam levelled in the

pounds to each nation as guarantee money.

penalty shootout at Bhola after regulation 90 minutes ended 0-0. development seminar.

from behind to beat Gaibanda 3-2, At Gopalganj, Rajbari scored a comfortable 3-0 victory against

Pakistan, Lanka may play in

the approach from O'Neill.

BBC ONLINE, undated

Malaysia wants to host a threematch one-day series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, even if it

MCA president Tunku Imran

Imran was in Pakistan to attend the Asian Cricket Council's two-day

He will meet officials of both the At Nilphamari, the hosts came Sri Lankan and Pakistani cricket boards to finalise the details of the

May 27, 29 and 30.

Malaysia

The Malaysian Cricket

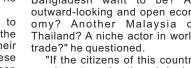
locked at 1-1 in the regulation time. Rony put the winners ahead in the

The MCA has paid 27.8 million

The match between Bagerhat and Borguna was also decided in

Kuala Lumpur staged a cricket tournament in the 1998 Commonwealth Games, in which a first-choice South Africa side beat

ments



Weerasinghe praised Bangladesh's economic performance, saying growth was expected to hit 5.5 percent this year. "This economic growth is

supported by a rebound in exports and good harvests. But unforeseen increases in import prices have pushed up inflation. which is set to reach 6 percent. Buoyed by the strong performance of exports and enhanced remittances, official reserves have increased over the last year, to the equivalent of three

months of imports," he said. A difficult political atmosphere and capacity constraints have slowed down the pace of reforms in some areas like in the SOEs. he said, adding headway was made with nationalised commercial bank reform, but at an uneven pace.

Tiebreaker order into the group final with a 5-3 tiebreaker victory after the teams were

series -- tentatively scheduled for

hosts Gopalganj. Swadhin struck twice late in the game after Habib had put Rajbari ahead in the first-Australia in the final.

Maradona, who initially spent 11 days in the Suizo-Argentina clinic Maradona's ex-wife Claudia last month before being readmitted Villafane, his private doctor Alfredo Cahe, plus relatives and hospital staff have all been involved in discussions as to where Maradona will be going.

Hamid

FROM PAGE 13

69th minute

Bagerhat won 4-3.

also in tiebreaker.

half.

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

on the third day.

The hospital has so far not made family, who want him to check out immediately, and hospital staff, who