

Super-charged Schumacher

Michael Schumacher's seventh world championship is in the bag after the Ferrari driver's fifth win in a row at the Spanish Grand Prix.

The flawed genius!

Cricket

Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who became Test cricket's highest wicket-taker after claiming his 521st victim on Saturday, is the world's most successful and controversial bowler.

from 110 Tests.

"Murali" has achieved the feat in only 89 Tests compared to 132 for Walsh, who retired in 2001.

At Test level, Muralitharan has a best innings return of nine for 51 and a match haul of 10 wickets or more on a world record 13 occasions.

Still only 32, Muralitharan has vowed to play on until the 2007 World Cup and wants to become the first bowler to take 600 wickets.

However, his career has been troubled by suspicions over the legality of his unconventional bowling action.

Cup and wants to become the first bowler to take 600 wickets.

He was called for throwing during tours to Australia in 1995-96 and 1998-99 and his bowling action has been likened to that of a javelin thrower by former India left-arm spinner Bishan Bedi.

While the world's governing body cleared his action following extensive bio-mechanical research on both of those instances, he was again reported for a suspect action two months ago after the conclusion of Australia's tour to Sri Lanka.

A report on the legality of his 'doosra' delivery is yet to be published.

Following investigations into the two earlier instances, scientists concluded that a congenital disability prevented his bowling arm from fully extending, coupled with an abnormally flexible wrist, created the optical illusion of throwing.



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

Moya Rome master

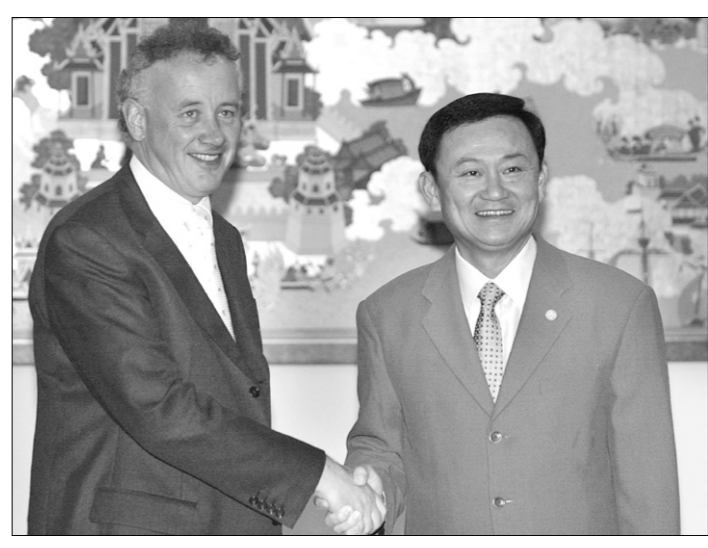
AFP, Rome

Sixth seed Carlos Moya won the Rome Masters on Sunday, beating fifth seed David Nalbandian in straight sets at the Foro Italico.

Zia takes

FROM PAGE 13

Nasir, Sayantan beat Pollab, Lavlu beat Debaraj, Sankalp beat Chanchal, Parag beat Maleq, Reza beat Rani Hamid, Arman beat Elin and Zakia beat Javed, Amin drew with Krishna and Polash drew with Sahaj.



Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (R) shakes hands with Rick Parry, chief executive of Liverpool, prior to their talks at the government house in Bangkok yesterday.

Serie A Inter improve chances

Football

REUTERS, Milan

Inter Milan's hopes of Champions League football next season were given a major boost with a 1-0 win over Parma in Serie A's penultimate round of matches on Sunday.

At the end," he told Sky Sport. Newly crowned champions AC Milan suffered only their second defeat of the season with a 2-1 reverse at lowly Reggina that secured Serie A survival for the Calabrians.

A spectacular goal in the eighth minute from David Di Michele and a 30th-minute penalty by Francesco Cozza gave Reggina a 2-0 lead over a weakened Milan side.

Antonio Cassano put Roma ahead with a cool finish after latching on to a classy flick from Francesco Totti.

Rebels working

FROM PAGE 13

future of his family farm. Their Robins Farm and Entsozokweni Safari Camp have been occupied by a large number of local settlers since Mugabe began his land reform programme in 2000.

The chronic fuel shortage blighting Zimbabwe also makes the 500-mile round trip extremely difficult for him.

But the big obstacle which still remains is that of arbitration. The ZCU refuses to countenance it, the rebels insist on it.

"We still want to go to arbitration, and mediation would be a means to that end," Gripper explained.

"This decision of ours is not set in stone. We have not changed our stance on this issue at all. Arbitration is legal binding and that's the objective and that's what we really want."

Former European-player-of-the-year Roberto Baggio scored for Brescia in his final home game before retirement, leaving Lazio three points behind Inter in sixth place.

Possession of BNS

FROM PAGE 13

under-14 or the under-16 tournament," said Helal. He also informed that the AFC would hand over the Vision Asia report on Bangladesh to the BFF in the first week of July.

Besides, Indian officials also showed their interest to introduce an inter-club competition between India and Bangladesh during the Congress. The meeting also approved Jilani and Nipu's appointments as coaches for the grassroots level in the country.

It was also decided that the appearance money for away matches in the AFC Cup would be increased to 20,000 dollars from 10,000.

Muralitharan

FROM PAGE 13

Table with 2 columns: Name and Points. Includes Shoaib (826), Harmison (802), Warne (777), McGrath (775), Kumble (751), Gillespie (746), Ntini (722), Tuffey (673), Lara (897), Dravid (892), Hayden (881), Ponting (864), Kallis (833), Gibbs (815), Inzamam (785), Tendulkar (784), Sehwag (782), Smith (759).

Wins for Rising

FROM PAGE 13

before being all out in 49 overs. In reply, Rafa were shot out for 200 in 32.3 overs.

Earlier on Sunday, Customs Sporting Club recorded a massive eight-wicket victory over Agrabad Nowjowan Club in the First Division Cricket League at the MA Aziz Stadium.

Buchanan spurs

FROM PAGE 13

"I'm sure every player and all of us think about the issues and have come their own conclusions but in the end we're invited there as cricketers."

The 10 home-based members of the Australian Test team leave on Thursday for Zimbabwe where they will meet up with Warne, Lehmann and Michael Kasprovicz, who will travel from England where they are playing county cricket.

BBCI thinking

FROM PAGE 13

Dalmiya also stated that the GCC's claim would not stand in a court of law.

"The claims have not been withdrawn. We felt that bogus claims have been raised against us and we have brought all this to the knowledge of the ICC. Of the 49-million-dollar claim, around 2.25 to 3.35 million dollars was on account of England not playing Zimbabwe, and New Zealand not playing Kenya," Dalmiya explained.

"Our lawyers have been working and we have been able to show on paper that these claims would not stand the test of law."

Lloyd looks

FROM PAGE 13

years and it is looking to 2007 World Cup 2007 to revive its fortunes. Lloyd said he hoped its dwindling economy would also be given a lift.

"Physically, new avenues of trade and tourism will develop to boost the struggling Caribbean economies besides helping the West Indies Cricket Board to lift the much needed world class cricket infrastructure."

French Open Venus doubtful

Venus doubtful

Tennis

AFP, Berlin

Venus Williams is a doubtful starter at the French Open in two weeks time after she was forced to default the German Open final on Sunday.

seed Amelie Mauresmo of France. She also won the title in 2001, after establishing herself by reaching the final as a qualifier in 1998 and then going on to reach the 1999 Australian Open final.

Williams will now return home as planned and try to prepare for Roland Garros, but she has no idea when she will be able to return to the court.

"I'll try for as soon as possible, basically," she said. "I've just got to keep the weight off my leg and see how it goes. There's a lot of swelling, and I'm waiting for the tests to see exactly what the issue is. I'm optimistic it's a strain and not anything

Witnesses avert cops

FROM PAGE 1

news agency BSS quoted Mahal as saying the incident an internal feud of the AL. But no-one of the seven he named yesterday belongs to the AL or its front organisations.

Nurul Islam Sarker of masterminding the killing and said he identified the killers. They are General Secretary of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj Nurul Islam Dipu, his brothers Shahidul Isma Shipu and Onidul Islam Tipu, Kana Hafiz, Ratan Mia, Anwar Hossain Anu, Sohel, Shohag, Jahangir, Al Amin, Faisal, Mahbub, Monir, Dulal, Bulu Mia and Syed Ahmed Majnu, he added.

"I could identify them since I was standing close to the podium that day," Motiur said, adding that all the 17 were supporters of Nurul Islam Sarker, AL and its front organisations on the plea of their involvement in the ransacking of BNP offices.

"They are identified drug peddlers of the area and were involved in the killing of BCL (AL's student front) leader Mehedi, Reazul Islam Titu and Monir," Moti told The Daily Star yesterday.

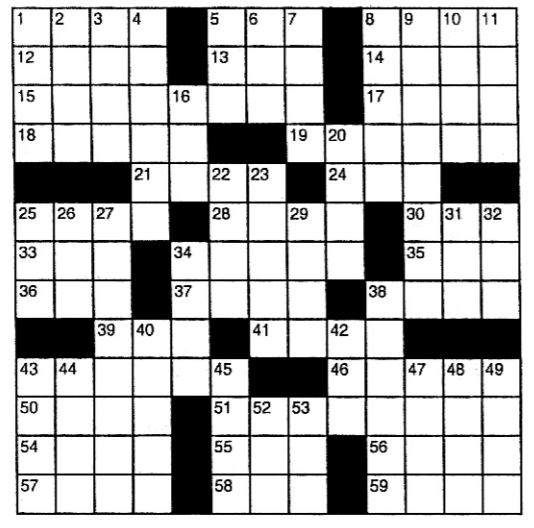
"My brother (Ahsanullah) campaigned successfully for AL candidate AKM Mozammel Haq in Gazipur municipality election (held on May 5), who defeated the four-party alliance candidate actively backed by Hasanuddin Sarker."



G L Zanacco, managing director of Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd, inaugurates the 14th Bata school handball tournament at the Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

CROSSWORD 39 IRS 2 Big namé 23 Discon- part-timer 41 Big Bad 3 Handle 25 Hallow- song Wolf's 3 roughly 25 Hallow- 5 Jackson 5 4 Maestros 26 Thrown 8 What to 43 Proof- reader's 5 "— matter head- of fact, ..." 27 Barton's 12 Winglike 6 Acknowl- edge 28 organization- 13 Old 46 In accom- paniment 29 Place 14 Lofly 50 Armoire 7 Verge 31 "Pshaw!" 15 Sunday 51 Vague 8 Peduncle 32 Shout 16 Schuss 59 Differently 20 Second- hand 44 Hitch- 25 Cow 1 Filing aids 22 Poi base 45 On in 28 Compet- 23 Solution time: 21 mins. 47 Exam 30 Brokaw's 33 Praiseful 34 Inter- weave 35 Listening 36 Peculiar 37 Kennedy 38 Wani



CRYPTOQUIP KCU XDXSUQW'B SVVIB XIU QXSU UOKHIUNW VY HIVO HK'B KCU BDCVVN VY CXIS GOVDGB. Yesterday's Cryptogram: I STARTED DENTAL SCHOOL, THEN I SOON DROPPED OUT. I COULDN'T HANDLE THE TOOTH. Today's Cryptogram Clue: I equals R