maybe the club look like they mean

business and are going places," he

Houllier expected him to move

expects me to go abroad at some

stage and I certainly would not rule

play at the highest level but there is

no reason that can't be with

clubs (Arsenal, Chelsea and

Manchester United) have opened

up a gap over us and things have to

Finishing fourth and getting into the

Champions League is a must, but

been a bad season. We have taken

a step back and now we need to

this summer's European

Championships in Portugal and

despite facing favourite's France in

their opening fixture on June 13, he remains confident of his country's

"We are one of half-a-dozen

"France are the favourites but I'm

select sides who can win it." Owen

not backing them. We are certainly

not scared of them and know we are

a very good side which has probably

been a bit young in previous cham-

he signed a new kit and boots spon-

"We certainly need to improve.

"When the dust settles it has still

Owen is also looking forward to

be done to bridge that.

we cannot settle for that.

take two steps forward."

anything out.

abroad at some point in his career.

However Owen said he knew

"I read that the manager says he

"I am very ambitious and want to

"It is obvious the other three big

Schools handball

SPORTS REPORTER

Eleven matches were held in the 14th Bata schools handball tournament at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

In the boys' group matches, Narinda Government High School drubbed Rahmatullah Model School 23-4, Dhaka Government Collegiate School beat St Judes 16-5, Ansar VDP School defeated Mirpur Bangla School 18-13, Bandura Holy Cross School thrashed Scholastica 21-1 and Baruakhali School recorded an impressive 20-8 win over Banani Bidyaniketan

Willes Little Flower snatched a 9-8 win over BAF Shaheen College, who beat BIT 8-6 in their day's first

In girls' group, Dhanmondi Tutorial edged Qamrunnessa Government School 4-3, Loreeto blanked Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf School 4-0 while Banani Bidyaniketan defeated Lake Circus School by a solitary goal.

BIS and Mohammadpur shared a 3-3 draw in the day's other match.

Baptism by fire

Wilkinson, Sylvester Joseph, Lendl Simmons, Ryan Hinds, Austin Richards Jr, Carlton Baugh Jr, David Bernard Jr, Pedro Collins, Jermaine Lawson, Dwight Washington.

Nat'l ir tennis

FROM PAGE 13

Tennis Complex yesterday. Prithul trounced Nurul Islam 6-1,

6-0 in the quarterfinals. Raihanul and Rajan Ram reached the semifinals of the boys'

U-13 competition. In the quarterfinals, Raihanul beat Zahid 6-0, 6-4 while Rajan

eliminated Hasibul Haque 6-1, 6-2.

Big win FROM PAGE 13

wicket victory over Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Sports Association at Chittagong Divisional Stadium. Batting first, CPA made a moder-

ate 162 in 42.5 overs. Shariful Islam made 47 and Shamim Mahmud 46. Arafat captured four wickets for

42 for the winners while Jems and Arif grabbed two wickets each.

In reply, Satabdi reached 163-5 in 32 overs. Wasel Uddin was the top scorer for Satabdi. Opener Arif notched 40.

Imam Hossain bagged two wickets for the vanguished.

Dhaka ride

FROM PAGE 13

venue, Jamalpur's national striker Rokonuzzaman Kanchan's double strike went down the drain as he ended up on the losing side against

Kanchan gave his side the lead twice only to see Robin and Shahinur cut them off. Kishoreganj then won the match 5-4 in tiebreaker after the 90 minutes ended 2-2.

The evil still

FROM PAGE 13 by the Asian Cricket Council.

The series, scheduled for May 25, 27 and 29, was postponed after the MCA failed to get the title sponsorship for the event. "We wanted to host the event for

the development of the game in Malaysia but without the title sponsorship it was unwise to stage such an event." said Imran

He said he hoped that the ICC. the ACC and other top playing countries would help promote the game in Malaysia.

39 Brit. ref.

bk.

40 Prune

42 "Becker"

star

45 Breathe

49 Gifford

50 Venom-

52 Malefi-

cence

successor

ous viper

immunity

emblem

quantity

cartoons

56 LePew of

58 Messes

up

DOWN

stuff

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Cows

and

5 Cribbage

scorer

8 Incite

12 Indiana

13 Hold the

14 Singer

deed to



His last chance

Football

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Diego Maradona faces a last chance to cure himself of drug addiction after being forced to enter a private clinic against his wishes, his personal doctor says.

Maradona's family transferred him on Sunday from an intensive care ward where he was treated for heart and lung problems to the Clinica Privada for drug addiction treatment on the outskirts of the

"We have to preserve him as an idol, but we must think in human this is the last chance we have," his personal doctor Alfredo Cahe told Cahe said his treatment would

take "a very long time." Since 2000, Maradona, 43, has

been living at a spa in Cuba where he has been undergoing a drugs rehabilitation programme. While on a visit to Argentina last month, Maradona was rushed to

breathing problems and he spent two weeks in intensive care, including a week on an artificial respirator. After a slow recovering, he suddenly discharged himself and

hours later played night-time golf

hospital with a swollen heart and

with glow-in-the-dark balls. Days later he was taken back to hospital in an ambulance with breathing

The clinic said on Monday that Maradona's health was stable. Maradona's reputation for being

a difficult patient led many clinics to refuse to admit him, worried about the media entourage and noisy fans who follow his every move.

The Clinica Privada, situated in a wooded area, was heavily guarded by police and private security. Only hours after his arrival on Sunday, small groups of onlookers and fans gathered nearby, some hanging 'Get Well" messages on a gate.

Hammam wants Blatter's job

Football

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Mohamed Bin Hammam of Qatar said on Monday that his ambition is to become the next president of world soccer's governing body FIFA when his "good friend" and incumbent Sepp Blatter eventually steps down.

Hammam, 55, has been the president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) since 2002 and had his four-year tenure as a FIFA Executive committee member extended until 2007 at the AFC Congress on Saturday.

Although the one-year extension would allow him to bid for the 2007 FIFA presidency without necessarily being tied to the AFC, Hammam said Blatter had indicated to him that he would seek another term.

Blatter was elected FIFA president in 1998 and re-elected for a second term in 2002. His current term of office expires in 2007 when he will be 71. "Until this moment, I am support-

ing my good friend president Blatter and encouraging him to go for another term for the good and the benefit of football," Hammam told Reuters When asked about his own

position should Blatter decide against running in 2007, Hammam said: "Yes, yes, for sure I would be interested, provided I get the support of Asia and the Asian confeder-

"I would also have to test the mood of national associations and confederations all over the world -but I think the president will go on for a third term.'

Hammam's profile has risen

Apart from being a FIFA **Executive Committee member since** 1996, he is chairman of the FIFA Goal Bureau, which provides financial aid to poor national associations. His Vision Asia programme to

since he became AFC president.

raise the standard of football in Asia at all levels has also captured the attention of other continental governing bodies looking for a model development system. Since it was founded in Paris 100 years ago this month, FIFA has only had eight presidents. Seven of them have been from Europe, the exception being Brazilian Joao Havelange, Blatter's immediate predecessor, who held office from 1974 until 1998 when he retired at the age of 82.

Coincidentally, Havelange and Bin Hammam share the same birthdate of May 8.

> 0 49

0 45

0 39 0

0 43

10

10

Sajjad b Rubel

Adil b Arafat

Masudur not out

Sohel run out

Suja not out

Bowler

Russell

Elias

wicket.

Moniruzzaman b Rubel

Tikolo Ibw b Humayun

Al-Amin c and b Anisur

Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-5, w-5)

Azam c Rashedul b Sanwar

Neeyamur st Kadir b Humayun 35

Total: (For 9 wkts in 49.3 overs)287

Fall of wkts: 1-46, 2-47, 3-107, 4-

122, 5-181, 6-206, 7-237, 8-265, 9-

Parvez b Humayun

42

15

29

36

49

Beximco win a thriller

decided to bat on a placid wicket. **SCORECARD** Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone

Corporate Cricket League (Cup) match between Beximco and Bangladesh Biman at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yester-

Humayun c Adil b Tikolo

Sajjad c Parvez b Tikolo Arafat c Masudur b Al-Amin Elias st Moniruzzaman b Neeyamur Rubel not out

Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 286 Fall of wkts: 1-56, 2-127, 3-210, 4-214, 5-250, 6-285

By Eugene Sheffer

5 Breakfast 29 Toddler's

25 Fr. biz

26 Dr. Seuss

28 Tikkanen

hockey

31 Coming

36 Used-

honoree

car lot

"What

can -

41 Function-

42 Plumbing

plains

constantly

certainty

a Jim

Carrey

3 "Desire

51 Without a

film title

Under the

44 Com-

46 State

47 Half

problem

38 Orb

for you?

2 Frau's

mate

3 Pennsyl-

vania

port

4 Time off

treats

6 Lamb's

7 Rodents

do it

8 Breast-

9 Top-40

10 Military

11 High-

subdivi

calorie

19 Dog tag,

21 Improve,

1 Detail, for 24 Schedule 43 Staffer

abbr.

Solution time: 25 mins

as wine

bones

renditions

for many

Ashraf st Moniruzzaman b Tikolo68

Sanwar not out

Extras: (b-2, lb-10, nb-1, w-12) 25

Al-Amin Neeyamur Masudur Suja Sohel **BEXIMCO**

				5	6	7		8	9	10	11
				13				14			
				16				17			
			19			20	21				
		22					23				
25	26			27	28	29				30	31
				33		Г			34		Τ
		36	37		T	\vdash		38		T	T
	39		Г			40	41				
43				44		45		Г	46	47	48
		┰		50	51			52		Γ	T
\vdash				54				55			T
	\vdash	\vdash		57	\vdash	\vdash		58			T
		39	25 26 36 39 39	22 25 26 36 37 39	22 27 33 36 37 39 43 44 50 54	22 27 28 33 36 37 39 44 50 51	22 27 28 29 33 40 44 45 50 51 54 16	16	16 17 19 20 21 23 25 26 27 28 33 38 39 40 41 44 43 44 45 55	16	16 17 20 21 22 23 25 26 33 34 36 37 39 40 41 43 44 45 46 47 54 55

CRYPTOQUIP

H GCYRS Z MZWFUM QYWU RCWU LCNWUS ZW WFU

WZHTCM'N NFCL: "QTCNUS

GCM ZTWUMZWHCRN. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE ACADEMY'S DOORS ARE MADE ENTIRELY OF IRON. IT'S THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W 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.

0 53 Anisur 54 Rubel 0 38 Sanwar 0 37 Humavun 30 0 17 Arafat Result: Beximco won by one

8.3

0

53

Gazi Tank turn

FROM PAGE 13 of Gazi Tank bowlers with three for 30 from 10 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

GAZI TANK: 219-6 in 50 overs (Nishan 110, Murshed 27, Alamgir Kabir 1-66. Rezaul 1-25. Nabil 1-40. Tanveer 1-41, Sohel Rana 1-23) CITYCELL: 159-10 in 48 overs (Rezaul 24, Hasanuzzaman 53 Maruf 22, Sumon 3-30, Moniruzzaman 2-27, Murad Khan 2-

Result: Gazi Tank won by 60 runs.

Euro success scares Sir Alex!

BBC ONLINE, Manchester

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson admitted that English success in Euro 2004 would hamper the start to the Reds Champions League campaign.

Up to nine members of his squad will be in Portugal this summer, including possibly five for England. The final is on 4 July with the first Champions League tie on 11

"Past experience has taught me that when a player appears in a big tournament they need a full month off," Ferguson told MUTV.

August.

"If you don't give players that month, the team suffers later in the

"My problem is that we have so

many players away and the time is United could lose Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt, the Neville brothers and possibly Wes Brown to England, as well as Ruud van Nistelrooy (Hol-

Saha (France), Cristiano Ronaldo Ferguson will also be without Uruguay's Diego Forlan and Brazilian midfielder Kleberson to the Copa America, while Tim Howard and Eric Djemba-Djemba also have World Cup qualifying commitments in June and July.

land), Mikael Silvestre and Louis

Libya to bid alone for 2010 WC

AFP. Monaco

Libya remained defiant declaring it was still a candidate to host the 2010 World Cup finals despite FIFA president Sepp Blatter having said their joint bid with Tunisia was a

The Libyan football federation hosted a press conference here, just five days away from FIFA deciding on which African nation should be the first from the continent to host the finals, and made no mention of their joint bid with Tunisia.

Instead in a statement they declared their intention to invest billions of dollars and that they were well-prepared to start building the "Libya are ready to invest nine

billion dollars and we are ready to start work immediately. "We envisage eight new stadia in six cities which would be finished by

Saadi Kadhafi, the son of Libyan leader Moamer, declared in a statement read out by Fabio Crovi, the Italian in charge of promoting the bid, that he had every faith in their

campaign. "I am confident and optimistic about our chances of winning," the

Gerrard Sven's man

BBC ONLINE. London

England coach Sven-Goran Friksson expects Liverpool's Steven Gerrard to fill the left-flank role at Euro 2004.

Gerrard has been outstanding in central midfield this term but Eriksson plans to use him in his problem position. He said: "I think we have solu-

tions, and maybe the best solution so far is when we play with a diamond system and use Steven Gerrard to the left side. "He always played very well for

us there so that might be a solution," Eriksson www.leaguemanagers.com.

He added: "You have other players. You have Kieron Dyer who could play there, you have Joe Cole, who plays there for Chelsea a lot of times and is doing very well. "So I think we have solutions but

maybe so far the best one is Gerrard." Eriksson also hinted that he may

use England captain David Beckham in a more central role, which the former right-sided midfield man has become accustomed to with Real Madrid.

"He has showed all this season that he can play in a central role and he's doing a very good job there. "It will depend a little bit on who

are the other players available for the first game, second game and so on in Euro 2004.

court over this. "I think the move to Real Madrid "We were just finalising our did David Beckham good because he now shows that he is the complete midfielder.

Gray quits Leeds

REUTERS, London

Eddie Gray has left his post as caretaker manager of relegated premier league club Leeds United.

The 56-year-old former Leeds player, who replaced Peter Reid as manager last November, will remain at the club as a consultant on a onevear-contract. "We had a very productive

meeting with Eddie today and the decision was amicable," chairman Gerald Krasner said on Leeds' official website on Monday.

Owen makes Anfield pledge

Football

AFP/REUTERS, Liverpool

England striker Michael Owen pledged he would still be playing for Premiership giants Liverpool next season.

The 24-year-old has a year left on his present contract and he insisted he was willing to sign a new one even though Liverpool have endured another trophyless season despite more heavy spending by

amicably next summer.

"I won't just up and leave on a Bosman," added Owen, who has had a mixed season himself scoring 15 goals in 28 Premiership appear-

However Owen did say there was a long way to go before he settled on a new contract.

"Inevitably, the talks are complex though and don't get done in just a

"But I certainly see myself at Liverpool next year. Why not?



MICHAEL OWEN

manager Gerard Houllier.

They could even lose out on the last Champions League spot if Newcastle win their two last matches which climaxes with them hosting the Magpies on Saturday.

"I have the rest of this season and all next left on my contract but talks have already started on a new one," said Owen, who has been linked with Spanish heavyweights Real Madrid and Barcelona

"I'm not in football for the money. And that is largely what it means when players sit out their contracts

of trophies already, but I want more and that's the main thing in my With Thai Prime Minister Thaksin

Shinawatra expected to invest

around 100 million dollars in the

club, his ambition may be realised.

pionships. "I feel we can beat anyone on our "l've got a reasonable collection day now. Owen's pledge came on the day

chances.

sorship deal with manufacturers Umbro, reportedly worth 15 million pounds over 15 years.

'Calamity Kahn'

Football

Germany's Oliver Kahn is widely regarded as one of the best goalkeepers in world football but recent lapses in high-profile matches have seen his reputation wane at home

and abroad. On Saturday Bayern Munich custodian Kahn spilled a harmless pass from Brazilian Ailton allowing Ivan Klasnic to open the scoring for Werder Bremen and help them to dethrone the champions with a 3-1

win at the Olympic Stadium. The embattled Kahn said he was ready to give up his captain's armband after a costly blunder.

"If I have to take less responsibility to do my goalkeeping job well again, then I'll do it," he told Tuesday's issue of Munich daily tz. Kahn's much-publicised blun-

ders are also worrying his national coach Rudi Voller. "It is an error that does not normally even happen to him in train-

ing," said Voller. "Kahn blunders in an important match once again," headlined Bild. "The Ronaldo goal against Brazil, the Roberto Carlos error

against Real Madrid and now this." Indeed the 34-year-old is developing a reputation for making mistakes when the stakes are at their

Spilling Rivaldo's shot in the

Brazil will haunt Kahn for the rest of his days but particularly worrying for Germany and Bayern is that such errors are creeping in more and

In Bayern's two biggest games of the campaign a Kahn calamity has



OLIVER KAHN

cost Munich dear. Firstly there was the Champions League match in February with Real Madrid when Kahn let Roberto Carlos's strike slip up under his body

to make it 1-1.

The away goal helped Real eliminate their German rivals in the Spanish capital.

Then came the howler on

2002 World Cup final defeat by Saturday which calmed Bremen's nerves and left Kahn's earlier com-

> "We will be champions because I will not concede any more goals,

> championships in Portugal, as he

"No that will not happen to him. He is too experienced," added a supportive Voller.

over the tabloids on Monday with it coming to light that he had split with his girlfriend Verena, 23, after the match.

festival The German international has also been plugging his forthcoming autobiography entitled 'num-

and show that he truly is the numher one when Germany travel to Portugal for the 2004 European

However, another costly error could see him stuck with the nickname 'Calamity Kahn.'

AFP/REUTERS, Harare

tive Chris Venturas confirmed that the players will go to court over the sackings after the ZCU decided they had violated an ultimatum laid down by the governing body ordering them to make themselves available for selection.

"We are taking them (ZCU) to

The players' legal representa-

letter to the ZCU agreeing a mediation on the dispute when they dropped this bombshell on us. "We decided right away we

possible "We knew about their ultimatum

"We were talking about officially accepting mediation and we were going to make ourselves available the rebels, told Reuters.

cott last week and made them-

"Then we got a phone call to say Carlisle said the ZCU did not appear to have acknowledged that the players suspended their boy-

selves available, albeit tempo-

The ultimatum was given to the players three weeks ago by 7CU chairman Peter Chingoka, who told them if they didn't resume practice and make themselves available for selection by May 7 action would be

said the sacking was because the players had failed to respect the ultimatum. "As a result the contracts of

A statement issued by the ZCU

taken against them.

ing employment.

these 15 players have been terminated," it stated. In practice, however, there are only 12 cricketers involved as three have already gone overseas seek-

The ZCU statement, approved

Monday, offered any of the players who are individually committed to apply for their jobs back, "subject to form and fitness But Venturas said he did not

by the board of directors earlier on

expect this to happen. Sri Lanka will now face up to a similar team of young and inexperienced cricketers whom they beat by an innings and 240 runs in Harare on Saturday when they meet in the second and final Tests at Bulawayo's Queens Sports Club on Friday.

The dispute began on April 2 when former captain Heath Streak verbally objected to certain members of the national selection panel

He was immediately fired by directors who publicly expressed

Collingwood or whoever to come in to that middle order." Botham said.

ments looking foolish.

Kahn had claimed in the build-up. The knives have come out for the former Karslruhe man in the domestic media with suggestions that the German captain should not be first choice for the 2004 European

could let the errors play on his mind. Kahn's face was plastered all

There had been claims that Verena had took away Kahn's focus with the pair seen together in nightclubs and the Munich beer

ber one' which has proved an inept title of late. Kahn will aim to bounce back

Championships in June.

Rebels axed, to sue ZCU

Cricket

Twelve white Zimbabwe cricketers are to sue the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) after being sacked on Monday and will issue a writ in a few days time alleging breach of con-

would go the distance and an advocate will be briefed as soon as

to return to duties by May 7 but this was a shock in view of our impending written acceptance of mediation, which we were going to deliver on Tuesday morning and which they knew was going to

for practice," Stuart Carlisle, one of our contracts have been terminated."

their anger. In response all the white players, with the exception of Mark Vermeulen, demanded his reinstatement together with changes to the selection panel. The group also demanded arbitration on Streak's removal from the captaincy. A five

The latest and perhaps decisive

move by the ZCU has triggered a

legal process which is expected to

weeks old impasse developed.

take many months to conclude. Botham calls

Hussain's head **AFP**, London

tor

England great Ian Botham has called on the selectors to drop Nasser Hussain and bring in a new middle-order batsman. Botham is worried that with

Hussain 36, Graham Thorpe 35 in August and Surrey teammate Mark Butcher 32 the same month, England will be confronted by several retirements from their middle order in quick succession unless they take action now to blood a younger player. And legendary all-rounder Botham told BBC Radio Five that

the one to make way for the likes of either Middlesex left-hander Andrew Strauss or Durham allrounder Paul Collingwood. "Despite everything he (Hussain) has done for us, I think it's time now for a Strauss, a

former captain Hussain should be

"Because it's much easier for someone to come in and settle down when he's got players like

Thorpe and Butcher around.

an eye

33 General on a Chinese menu 34 Anger 35 "Eye for 38 Wound

27 Set free 32 Carnival

