

Talha surprise

FROM PAGE 13
his right thumb and then a fractured toe.

But his comeback is not half as eventful as those of Mashrafe and Jubair.

The nippy Jubair shot into prominence after taking 14 wickets in his first six Tests. But having played the second match against touring West Indies in December 2002 in Chittagong, he broke down with a calf injury and then experienced repeated problems with his delicate back. Mashrafe was Bangladesh's fastest bowler before his knees gave way in dramatic style while bowling in the second Test against England in Chittagong in November 2003. It was the last of a series of freak injuries.

Faruque said they were very much aware that the two youngsters needed to be handled with extreme caution.

"We don't want to see another prolonged injury absence of these two. We are very careful about them," said Faruque which could be interpreted as a hint that there was only a slim chance of both playing in the same match.

In a significant development, the Board named former national captain and wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud as Bashir's deputy in the place of Rafiq Saleh.

Faruque said that Saleh had not met the expectations of the selectors in his role as vice-captain and that is why it was necessary to hand over the responsibility to someone with experience like Mashud, who led the side against New Zealand in Bashir's absence.

"We had high expectations regarding Rafiq's leadership quality but unfortunately he failed to deliver," said Faruque.

BCB's media committee chairman Rezauluddin Al Mamun cleared the Board's position on Mashud. An inquiry committee on Bangladesh's debacle in the 2003 World Cup had recommended against giving the chirpy wicketkeeper, who had skipped the Tigers in South Africa, any leadership roles in the future for his alleged misconduct and indiscipline. But Mamun said the Board had an opinion.

"The Board had removed him as captain after the World Cup and he had some disciplinary problems at that time. But we are not rigid. We have observed Mashud and he seems to have overcome his negative traits. We also considered his bright performances in recent time," said Mamun.

Replying to a question Faruque said Alok Kapali missed out as he has not been consistent.

"Kapali made runs in the last league match which was good news but we hope he continues in the same vein."

Leonine tighten

FROM PAGE 13
Leonine pushed their collection to 41.5 points with four rounds to go.

In the 11th round, Leonine's Dao Thein Hai defeated Fide Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Iuldashev Saidali beat Debaraj Chatterjee, Nguyen Anh Dung won against Mohammad Javed and Niaz Mursheed completed the rout with victory over Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar.

Second-placed Muktiyoddha, who are trailing the leaders by 3.5 points, blanked Tais Club 4-0 with GM Ni Hua beating Tufailuddin Lavlu, GM Igors Rausis defeating FM Jamilur Rahman, IM Vakhidov Tahir beating Monir Hossain and IM Enamul Hossain Rajib winning over Sohail Chowdhury.

Holders Bangladesh Biman, third with 35 points, dropped another vital point in a 3-1 victory against Utrardhikari Sangsara.

Biman's IM Rezaul Bin Sattar beat Abdullah Al Saif, FM Rezaul Haque won his board against Moniruzzaman Monir and Imran Ali Elia defeated Mokaddes Hussain but Biman's IWM Rani Hamid lost to Jamal Ahmed Shanto.

In the other matches, Narayan-ganj City Chess Club beat Dhaka University 2.5-1.5, Bangladesh Ansar beat Anushilan 4-0, Sonali Bank beat Friends Chess Power 3-1, Farashganj beat Star Vision 2.5-1.5 and Mohakhali Pradip Sangha beat Rajshahi Daba Unnayan Sangastha 2.5-1.5.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- The Mac-
- Donald-
- place
- Shooter's
- marbles
- Poorly lit
- Vicinity
- Medicine
- Historic
- period
- Bistro
- quail
- Cam-
- bridge
- sch.
- Goose
- egg
- Fried,
- filled
- dough
- Golden
- Fleece
- princess
- Appear
- "My Cup
- Runners
- Over-
- singer
- Call's
- go-ahead
- Edge
- "Fifth day
- of Christ-
- mas' gift
- 32 Neither
- male
- 33 Its capital
- is
- Colombo
- 35 Mid-
- month

DOWN

- Craze
- Exist
- Sleep
- phenom
- 4 Cereal
- grass-
- 5 Ski lift
- carrier
- 6 Addition-
- ally
- 7 "It - the
- best of
- times, ...
- 8 Money of
- Israel
- 9 Low-pres-
- sure circle
- 10 Eye part
- 11 Calcula-
- tor's job
- 16 Afternoon
- 51 Billboards
- affair
- 52 "And Then
- 20 Bottom
- line
- 21 NASA
- destina-
- tion
- 37 Kipling
- hero
- 38 Santa
- CA
- 39 Parka
- feature
- 40 Congre-
- gation's
- cry
- 41 Work-
- bench
- need
- 44 Swelled
- head
- 45 Sapporo
- east
- 46 Frouge
- (Fr.)
- 47 Look
- at

Solution time: 21 mins.

ACROSS

- 1 The Mac-
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- 9 Poorly lit
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Indian Ignace Tirkey (L) tries to pass the ball past Dutch defender Taeke Taekema (R) during their Champions Trophy hockey encounter at the National Hockey Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

Dutch down brave India

Abbas on target for Pakistan

Hockey

AFP, Lahore

World record goalscorer Sohail Abbas continued his amazing run as hosts Pakistan came from behind to down New Zealand 3-1 for a second consecutive win in the men's Champions Trophy field hockey tournament here on Sunday.

The Netherlands and Spain also recorded their second wins on day two of the elite six-nation tournament at the National Hockey Stadium to set up a three-way tie at the top.

The Dutch, seeking a hat-trick of titles, received a scare from valiant India before winning a high-scoring thriller 5-4. Spain brushed aside Germany's second-string team 5-2.

Abbas, 28, scored two penalty corners in three minutes to lift Pakistan after Wayne McIndoe had put New Zealand ahead four minutes after the interval.

Shakeel Abbasi equalised for Pakistan before Abbas' brace increased his world record tally to 271 goals from 220 matches amidst full-throated support from some 20,000 home fans.

"Pakistan took the match away from us between the 50th and 55th minute when they scored three goals," said Kiwi coach Kevin Towns.

"We had our chances but Pakistan showed why they are such a

dangerous side."

Pakistan's Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans, delighted at his team's second win, warned the players needed to play well all though the 70 minutes.

"The three games today were all decided in the second half," he said. "It just shows you just can't afford to relax till the end at the top level."

Earlier, the Indians, playing in the elite six-nation tournament only because Olympic champions Australia withdrew due to security concerns, recovered from their 4-0 drubbing by Spain on Saturday to score the Dutch.

The fast-paced contest produced six goals in the first half which ended with the Netherlands leading 4-2 after conceding an early lead.

India, trailing 5-3 with nine minutes remaining, narrowed the margin through Vikram Pillay but failed to get the equaliser when Arjun Halappa's superb cross from the left was wasted.

The Dutch, looking to make amends for the loss to Australia in the Olympic final in Athens in August, fell behind in the fifth minute when India's Sandeep Michael scored, but Geert Jan Derikx drew level for the Dutch five minutes later.

Taeke Taekema put the Netherlands ahead in the 16th minute, but India equalised through VSVinaya four minutes later.

Teun de Nooijer and Karel Klaver

struck in quick succession before the interval to ensure the Dutch crossed over with a 4-2 advantage.

India scored through a penalty stroke by Halappa to make it 4-3 in the 46th minute before Nooijer increased the tally for the Dutch with his second goal in the 61st.

"It was a much improved performance by the team and I am happy they fought till the end," said India's German coach Gerhard Rach.

"Like against Spain we made silly mistakes and allowed the Dutch to take a 4-2 lead.

"With two losses, we are out of the title race, but it is important we play our remaining three games well and do not finish at the bottom."

Dutch coach Terry Walsh conceded a weak defence allowed India to score four goals, but praised his team for showing the mental toughness to win.

"At the end of the day, we have six points in the bag and that counts more," said Walsh.

Spain, held 1-1 till half-time by Germany, pumped in four goals in the second half to maintain their unbeaten record.

Albert Sala starred for the Spaniards with two goals while veteran Juan Escarre, Eduard Arbos and Pau Quemada added to the tally. Florian Keller scored both goals for the Germans, fielding a fledgling team that contains just two players from the squad that won bronze at the Olympics.

Maradona takes rehab break for Xmas

REUTERS, Havana

Diego Maradona has left Cuba, interrupting his cocaine-addiction therapy to spend Christmas at home with his family in defiance of his doctor's advice.

The 44-year-old Argentinian soccer great was whisked into the airport by security personnel and avoided the press before boarding a flight to Panama, where he was expected to transfer for Argentina, a Reuters cameraman at the Havana airport said on Sunday.

Eng complete

FROM PAGE 13

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth and final one-day international between Zimbabwe and England at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Sunday:

ENGLAND					
Bell c Matsikenyeri b Rainsford	30				
Prior c Vermeulen b Rainsford	35				
Vaughan not out	90				
Strauss c Chigumbura					
b Matsikenyeri	17				
Pietersen c Nkala b Matsikenyeri	0				
Collingwood run out	5				
G Jones c Ebrahim b Chigumbura	80				
Batty not out	0				
Extras (w-3, nb-1)	4				
Total (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	261				
Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-71, 3-93, 4-94, 5-104, 6-254					
Did not bat: Wharf, S Jones, Gough					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Panyangara	10	0	58	0	
Rainsford	10	1	29	2	
Nkala	3	0	35	0	
Chigumbura	4	0	46	1	
Utseya	10	0	33	0	
Matsikenyeri	10	1	35	2	
Taylor	3	0	25	0	

ZIMBABWE

Matsikenyeri c G Jones b Gough 10
Taylor c G Jones b Gough 4
Ebrahim lbw b Gough 0

Vermeulen c Collingwood b S Jones 5
Masakadza b Collingwood 66
Taibu c Prior b Collingwood 23

Chigumbura b Bell 29
Nkala c Pietersen b Gough 7

Panyangara c Batty b Bell 12
Utseya not out 13

Rainsford b Bell 0
Extras (D-1, lb-1, w-13, nb-3)

Total (All out in 48.4 overs) 187

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-8, 3-22, 4-43, 5-118, 6-129, 7-149, 8-168, 9-187

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Wharf	6	3	14	0
Gough	8	0	34	4
Collingwood	10	0	34	2
S Jones	8	3	33	1
Batty	10	1	36	0
Pietersen	2	0	22	0
Bell	3.4	0	9	3
Strauss	1	0	3	0

Result: England won by 74 runs and won the 4-match series 4-0.

Man-of-the-match: Gerald Jones.

Player of the series: Michael

Vaughan.

Toss: England.

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia)

and Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

Zimbabwe set

FROM PAGE 13

president, told the Associated Press on Sunday.

The Zimbabwean cricket team was given six months to raise its level to Test standard after disputes between players and officials meant that several key players were unable to represent Zimbabwe. A young and inexperienced team was then trounced twice in succession by Sri Lanka.

But, Mani revealed that the six-month deadline was not "set in stone" and that there was no need for a fresh assessment at any time. Zimbabwe are set to play Bangladesh away, and South Africa early next year, and these two series are scheduled to have full Test status.

"There is no ultimatum on Zimbabwe to reach a satisfactory standard. The six months period was just loose," Mani was quoted as saying by the news agency.

When asked to clarify if this meant that Zimbabwe would once more be considered a Test team from the time they go to Bangladesh, without any assessment of their capabilities being made after then or after South Africa, Mani said: "That is the case."

Mani was making his fourth visit to Zimbabwe during England's tour of the country, and said, "I felt the need to see for myself the security and safety situation in the country and the possibility of public protests."

Man-of-the-match: Hamish Marshall.

Umpires: Steve Davis (Australia) and Rudi Koertzen (South Africa).
Next match: December 08, Sydney (D/N).

Bryan twins inspire USA

Tennis

AFP, Seville

Amid all the passion, and with 27,000 souls roaring for the other team, they needed ice in their veins - and Bob and Mike Bryan did not disappoint, beating Spaniards Juan Carlos Ferrero and Tommy Robredo to keep the United States' Davis Cup show on the road.

Seville's Olympic Stadium was a sea of Spanish (and Catalan) red and yellow, as well as Andalusian green and white, as Ferrero, brought back in place of teenager Rafael Nadal, the conqueror of Andy Roddick, and Robredo stepped out looking to

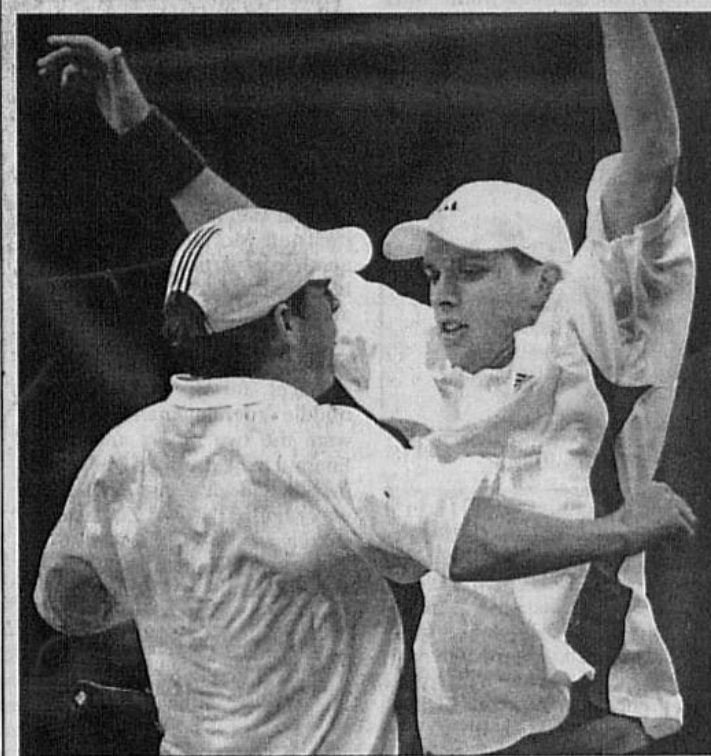
must defeat Roddick or Nadal over-come Mardy Fish to give Spain victory.

Spain win Davis Cup

AFP, Seville

Spain won the Davis Cup for only the second time here on Sunday as Carlos Moya beat Andy Roddick to give them an unassailable 3-1 lead over the United States.

Moya beat Roddick 6-2, 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (7/5).



American Bob Bryan and his twin brother Mike (R) celebrate after defeating Spaniards Juan Carlos Ferrero and Tommy Robredo in the Davis Cup doubles final at the La Cartuja Olympic Stadium in Seville on December 4.

clinch only a second title in the hosts' history.

Instead, south paw Bob and right-hander Mike, born minutes apart on April 29, 1978, took the game to their rivals from the outset, winning 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 in 1hr 39min to set up a tumultuous finale on Sunday, where either Carlos Moya

Bob Bryan insisted the Cup was still his country's for the taking - even if only six countries have ever come from 0-2 down to win the trophy.

"Andy's excited to get another shot out there. I'm really confident of Andy winning the fourth match," he said.

Coach wants Boucher back

Cricket

CRICINFO, updated

Ray Jennings, the South African coach, has hinted at a return to the national team for Mark Boucher.

"I don't really know why he (Boucher) was taken out of the equation, but I think he's paid his dues, or whatever the case may be, and I think he will definitely be back in contention for the national team," said Jennings to the SuperSport website.

"If we want to beat England, we've got to come out blazing with our best players," Boucher was left out of the South African team that toured India, and his replacement, Thami Tsolekile, hardly distinguished himself.

But, Jennings was less optimistic about Herschelle Gibbs, the opening batsman, making it back to the national team in a hurry.

"There are no guarantees," he

said. "We have found other opening batsmen, for instance, so Gibbs won't necessarily just walk

important it was for South Africa to develop world-class spinners.

"You don't know until you get there how much the ball spins," he said. "Our spinners may be called spinners in South Africa -- in India people would laugh at that. They will have to work on their skills and extend their attention to detail."

Meanwhile Graeme Smith, the captain, speaking ahead of South Africa's series against England, praised his team for their performance in India.

"We played a lot better cricket, and we extended ourselves," he said. "We took a younger side, and we performed a lot better than people had expected."

"I think we all gained something from the experience, especially the younger players -- the heat, the crowds, the intensity. I don't think you can get any more intense than in Kolkata when you're trying to get the best out of a Test match."



MARK BOUCHER

back into the team. And do we go on past performance or on current form?"

Jennings also stressed on how



NATIONAL TEA COMPANY LIMITED

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Sl. No.	Particulars	Quantity
(01)	Vibro Screen Tea Sorter	01 No.
(02)	Milling-Cum-Grooving Machine	01 No.
(03)	(a) CTC Segments (Big Size)	828 Pcs.
	(b) CTC Segments (Small Size)	468 Pcs.
(04)	Bearings of various Types/Sizes	Mentioned in Tender Schedule
(05)	Milling Cutter, Chaisers & various types of Spare Parts etc.	Mentioned in Tender Schedule

Tender documents with the full Specifications of the machines and spare parts etc., including all the terms and conditions of the Tender shall be Sold by the Finance and Accounts Department of this Company from 8th December, 2004 to 2nd January, 2005 @Tk. 500.00 (Taka Five hundred) only, or its equivalent Foreign Currency (Non-Refundable) per set on all working days during the office hours. No Tender documents shall be sold on the date of dropping the Tender. The Tenderers may quote for above one or more machine(s) and spare parts etc., the price of the Tender Schedule is remaining the same.

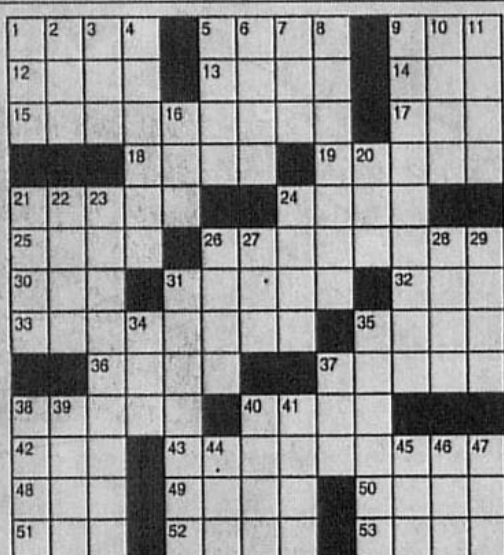
Tender shall be dropped in the Tender Box to be kept in the office latest by 2-00 P.M. (BST) on 3rd January, 2005 or, sent by post in a manner so as to reach this office within the date & time mentioned above and will be opened on the same day at 2-30 P.M. (BST) in presence of the Tenderers, or their authorised representatives (present, if any).

The Company at its absolute discretion may accept or reject any or all Tenders partly or wholly at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and also is not bound to accept the lowest Tender. The decision of the Company shall be final and conclusive.

Managing Director-In-Charge



Destiny 2000's Fide Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed (R) ponders his next move against Dao Thein Hai of Leonine during their 11th round fixture of the Dutch-Bangla First Division Chess League at the federation hall room yesterday.



CRYPTOQUIP

C N Z G H E E R G K W B B Q R Q
C J I - N C D D C E P Q W B R Q
Q W R K B H J M R Z Q C J L N R R J

D W R Z P B E L B N M R - N R R D
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY WOULD A FELLOW BREAK INTO SONG? PERHAPS BECAUSE HE CAN'T FIND THE RIGHT KEY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D 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.