SPORT

spot, his 15th goal this season

ending a scoring drought of nearly

On Saturday, AC Milan beat last-

Before the kickoff of weekend

matches, players and fans

observed a moment of silence in

memory of Italian intelligence

officer Nicola Calipari, who was

killed in Iraq when American troops

fired on the car which was taking

Italian officers and freed hostage

Giuliana Sgrena to Baghdad's

TOP SIX

Italian league table after Sunday's

matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals

Six years after a famous United

semi-final victory at Juventus paved

the way to their 1999 Champions

League title, Rooney and Van

Nistelrooy know what is expected of

for, goals against, points):

Iran to stage **Eves' Islamic** Games

BSS, Dhaka

A six-member Bangladesh team, comprising four athletes will take part in the Fourth Women Islamic Games in Iran next September.

Bangladesh will send two shooters, one swimmer and one athlete along with two officials to the Games, a BOA official said yesterday. The meet will be held from

September 22-28 in the Iranian capital of Tehran The expenses of the Bangladesh

team will be borne by the organis-

Murali might

FROM PAGE 13 was unlikely to be fit in time to play the two Test matches in Napier (April 4-8) and Wellington (April 11-15), Clarke said.

"Murali's shoulder is still stiff," the physiotherapist said. "He will start rehabilitation and bowling again around March 17 but the New Zealand tour is unrealistic."

The off-spinner claimed a world record 532 victims in 91 Tests before the injury, but was later surpassed by Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne who has so far grabbed 566 wickets in 120 Test matches.

The Sri Lankan, who is getting married to an Indian girl later this month. has also been contracted to play county cricket for Lancashire during the first half of the English summer

But Clarke declined to confirm if Muralitharan will be able to play in England from the last week of April.

"His suitability for England depends on the rehabilitation period," Clarke said.

Independence

FROM PAGE 13 Next day, Abahani will launch their campaign against Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool and Brothers Union play their first match against Farashganj

Sporting Club. The semifinals are scheduled to be held on March 25 while the final is on March 28.

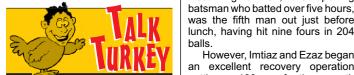
The unresolved

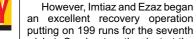
FROM PAGE 13

He has already claimed 189 wickets FROM PAGE 13 in 43 Tests and is improving with The visitors, facing a 197-run firstevery match. innings deficit, resumed the final "I understand my role in the team day comfortably placed at 127-3

and can't wait to begin my job of and stretched that to 437-8 taking wickets." said Harbhaian. That's not encouraging news for

Sylhet began badly losing three Pakistan who are set to face, not wickets including Moniruzzaman, one, but two talented spinners. who was dismissed for 73. Resuming on 51, the opening batsman who batted over five hours,





them.

FROM PAGE 13

partition.

Indian city of Ambala," said

Ruqqaya, 65, who migrated to

While trying to wipe out the lead,

PHOTO: STAR

Players and officials of Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra pose prior to departure for Kolkata yesterday to play Indian giants East Bengal in a first round away leg AFC Cup match.

wickets in three Tests last year.

Sami said he believed he would

do better in this year's series

because the type of balls used in

India, made by local company

Sanspareil Greenlands (SG),

as far as the seam is concerned, so

hopefully it will move more," he said.

Navedul Hasan and all-rounder

Abdul Razzaq the remaining two

Barisal used as many as eight

bowlers to break the partnership

and finally, wicketkeeper Shahin

Hossain removed the two centuri-

Chowdhury was adjudged man-of-

the-match after taking eight wickets

in the match and hitting an unbeaten

Scoreboards on the fourth and final

day of the fourth-round matches of

the National Cricket League yester-

iret inninge 461

Barisal's left-arm spinner Nadif

ons when he took the cherry.

SCOREBOARD

CHITTAGONG-KHULNA

Kaneria being the lone spinner.

below his potential.

Emphatic win for Ctg

64

Pakistan are likely to give

appeared to seam more.

Sami raring to go

Cricket

AFP, Mohali

Pakistan's Mohammad Sami said Monday he is relishing bowling in the first Test against India on a seaming pitch -- conditions he believes will help him atone for last vear's series loss. "The pitch has grass on it and it

seems to have more for fast bowlers than we have expected," the 24year-old strike bowler said before Tuesday's Test

Sami is expected to play a major role in the absence of his new-ball partner Shoaib Akhtar, who is suffering from a hamstring injury and only expected to return for the third and final Test of the series.

"Your partner's absence does make a big difference but I'd like to overcome that and look for early wickets." said Sami, who like Akhtar has breached the 100-mile-perhour barrier.

eight-wicket haul in his debut Test "At the back of the mind there is a against New Zealand at Auckland realisation that I did not do well four years ago, Sami has been against India when we lost at home. So I want to atone for that," said plagued by poor form and fitness Sami, who managed just seven problems.

He had to return home after playing the first two of three Tests in Australia last year due to heel and back problems. But Pakistan's English coach

Bob Woolmer backed Sami, saying he was due for some luck. "This looks a slightly different ball "I don't agree that Sami has

performed below his potential. He has come close to getting wickets on numerous occasions and is now due for some luck. May be it's his time," said Woolmer. Inzamam agreed Sami was

fast bowling slots, with Danish capable of delivering the goods.

"Naved has been bowling well "I think in Akhtar's absence India and we supplement each other. I has taken a chance of keeping know my role has become more vital some grass on the pitch and if i remains there on Tuesday morning and my responsibility has increased." said Sami, whose tally see Sami taking vital wickets for us, of 48 wickets in 18 Tests is regarded said the Pakistan captain Since taking a match-winning

Ziaur c Masum b Ilias

10-327.

Bowlers

Ehsanul

Habib

Alamgir

llias

Yasin

Faisal

Extras: (b-19, lb-5, nb-4, w-5)

Total: (All out in 106.3 overs)

Fall of wkts: 1-5, 2-66, 3-83, 4-168,

5-172, 6-195, 7-201, 8-211, 9-327,

0 м

13 6

22

20

22 10

22.3

CHITTAGONG: Second innings

Tamim c Salim b Dollar

Masum not out

6

3

4

2

М R W

23

0

4

0

13

39

52

0

1

33

327

R w

35 2

72

71

73 - 3

33

19 0 Sania climbs

INTERNET SOURCE. undated

Teenage sensation Sania Mirza has jumped up by 20 places to move to a career-best 77 in the latest WTA Tour tennis rankings following her quarterfinal appearance in the Dubai Open and is set to become only the fourth tennis player to have a signature line of her own. Sania, who defeated much

higher ranked opponents including US Open Champion and world's number six Svetlana Kuznetsova in the Dubai Open meet, took her points tally to 472 to reach the 77th spot in world ranking.

Sania, 18, starting the week on the 97th place, got the better off seventh ranked Jelena Kostanic in the first round before accounting for Kuznetsova for a place in the quarterfinal. The Indian. however. lost the quarterfinal match to Jelena Jancovic in straight sets. Having re-written many a

records in the last two months Sania Mirza is now set to become only the fourth tennis player to have a signature line of her own. She became the brand ambas-

minutes later with defender Ivan sador of Lotto Sports Italia and the Ramiro Cordoba scoring with a company said it would soon launch a signature line series Mihailovic.

SL seek to hold

As Adriano, Obafemi Martins and Dejan Stankovic squandered several scoring chances, Inter

Serie A

Football

Inter Milan beat Lecce 2-1 on a late

penalty kick by Brazilian Adriano,

and Sampdoria downed Chievo 1-

0 on a lucky deflection by Andrea

Gasbarroni on Sunday to stay near

with 47 points, one more than

league title, but both are trying to

secure one of the top-four spots

and a berth in next season's

Juventus won hard-fought away

matches Saturday to stay atop the

standings with 60 points each.

Co-leaders AC Milan and

At San Siro, midfielder Alex

Pinardi put Lecce ahead in the 21st

minute, but Inter hit back five

header off a corner kick by Sinisa

Sampdoria held onto third place

Neither team is likely to win the

the top of the Serie A standings.

fourth-place Inter.

Champions League.

AP. Rome

needed an 89th-minute penalty to sink Lecce.

Adriano breaks duck

Adriano, bandaged but still bleeding from a head injury, netted Inter's winner from the penalty

Inter Milan ace Adriano points to the heavens after scoring the winning goal against Lecce at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on March 6.

PREVIEW: FIRST KNOCKOUT ROUND LEG 2 **England against Europe**

Real Madrid's pursuit of a 10th European crown continues at the Delle Alpi stadium in Turin, where the Spaniards' 1-0 first-leg lead faces a demanding test from Juventus

Chelsea, whose Russian owner Last season's runners-up Roman Abramovich has lavished Monaco are in the same boat as 220 million pounds (\$420 million) on Juventus, trailing 1-0 after their players since July 2003, would game at PSV Eindhoven and needsettle for a 1-0 victory at Stamford ing to turn the tie around at the Bridge and a place in the last eight on away goals. Striker Didier Drogba misses out

them.

Inter Milan's second leg against holders Porto will be played on after being red-carded in Barcelona. March 15 because the San Siro while Samuel Eto'o and Ronaldinho stadium they share with Milan is should provide a challenge for the being used by their neighbours on tightest defence in English soccer. Arsenal's suspect defence will

Carlo Ancelotti's side were impressive at Old Trafford and Argentine striker Hernan Crespo, on loan from Premier League leaders Chelsea, rounded off a great night for the visitors by scoring after a bad fumble by United goalkeeper Roy Carroll

Milan's defence, superbly led by skipper Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Nesta, was rock solid and their attack could be strengthened by the return from injury of European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko and Filippo Inzaghi.

Barca will look to protect their 2-1

lead from the first leg at the Nou

Camp, in which they trailed until the

game turned after Didier Drogba's

Maxi Lopez and Samuel Eto'o

fired the Spaniards to their narrow

lead, although Ronaldinho felt the

margin of victory could easily have

am still 100 per cent confident that

we will go through to the quarter-

Chelsea and I'm certain that we will

score at Stamford Bridge to take us

the Nou Camp but our performance

edges Chelsea are a well-organised

extremely difficult to break down,"

he said. "Jose Mourinho knew how

to keep it tight against us and

deserved better than 2-1."

against me in particular."

"Having seen Chelsea close up I

"We have a better team than

"Chelsea gave us a hard game in

But the 23-year-old acknowl-

"Chelsea's defence were

dismissal

been greater.

through

side

finals," he added.

Liverpool's inspirational captain Steven Gerrard. In Turin, France striker David Trezeguet should be back for Juventus and could feature in a three-man attack with Alessandro Del Piero and Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

almost certainly have to keep a

clean sheet if they are to stand a

chance of using the same rule to

Leverkusen must pull off the

same feat at the BavArena if they

are to go through, with an already

difficult task being made harder by

the return from suspension of

gualify with a 2-0 win at Highbury.

Ronaldinho predicts Ronaldo is the best, says coach

BARISAL: First innings 399 SYLHET: Second innings (over night 127-3) Rahman c Shahin b Hannan 68 Moniruzzaman b Mosharraf 73 Hasibul b Nadif 0 Mabud Ibw b Nadif 0 Sadikur c Imran b Mosharraf 19 Mawla Ibw Nadif 20 Imtiaz c Hannan b Shahin 103 Ezaz b Shahin 120 Rezaul not out 15 Nabil not out

Extras: (b-11, lb-5, nb-1, w-2) 19 Total (For 8 wkts in 134 overs) 437 Fall of wkts: 1-97, 2-98, 3-104,

A week of misery lies in store for

August In Sri Lanka this year but was postponed in the wake of last December's tsunami disaster. The island nation was one of 12 countries badly affected by the catastrophe. If the new time does not coincide

with any other international competitions, BOA may agree to the proposal, the official added

BSS, Dhaka Sri Lanka wants to stage the 10th South Asian Games, the biggest

from April 18-28 next year. Hemasiri Fernando, the

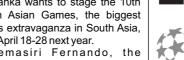
English football if AC Milan, Barcelona and Bayern Munich have

CHAMPS LEAGUE REUTERS, London

Olympic Association (BOA) seeking to know Bangladesh's view, a BOA official said yesterday. The Games were scheduled for

SAF Games in **April 2006**

sports extravaganza in South Asia.



President of South Asia Olympic Council, sent a letter to Bangladesh

their way in this week's Champions League first knockout round. The high hopes of Manchester

lead to Germany's Bayer Leverkusen.

against the Bundesliga leaders.

Seven quarter-final spots hang in the balance on Tuesday and Wednesday, with one seemingly reserved for Olympique Lyon after their 3-0 away win over Werder

Milan's defence kept United striker Wayne Rooney and substitute Ruud van Nistelrooy firmly under wraps in a 1-0 victory at Old Trafford, while Barcelona ran out 2-1 winners over 10-man Chelsea at the Nou Camp

Arsenal lost 3-1 to Bayern at the Olympic Stadium, their faint hopes left clinging to a late away goal after a poor defensive performance

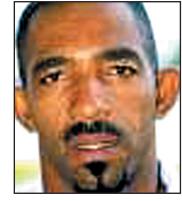
Stade Louis II. United, big-spending Chelsea and champions Arsenal were all dented by first-leg defeats a fortnight ago. leaving only Liverpool to take a 3-1 Tuesdav

Milan 27 18 6 3 46 17 60 PHOTO: AFF 27 18 6 3 45 16 60 Juventus 27 14 5 8 31 20 47 Sampdoria Inter 27 10 16 1 49 32 46 Palermo 27 11 10 6 30 21 43 Udinese 27 12 6 9 36 27 42

place Atalanta 2-1 on an injury-time goal by playmaker Andrea Pirlo, and Juventus won 2-1 at AS Roma on disputed goals by Fabio Cannavaro and Alessandro Del Piero.

airport.

three months



Phil Simmons (Zimbabwe cricket coach)

"There was no talk about taking them out of Test cricket. It happens teams get bowled out. If I didn't believe this team had the potential to improve I wouldn't be in this job." While rubbishing calls to strip his team of Test status.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 33 Cowboy's 51 Charon's 11 Dazzle 1 Uppe nickname river 19 Grandsor limit 34 Enjoyment 52 Siblingless of Methu-53 Of long 4 Exchange 35 Winning selah 8 Walton 36 Churchill's 20 Cape ---standing and 'so few N.J. Waterston (Abbr.) DOWN 23 Protrude 12 Insepa-37 Back 1 Spring 24 Noshed rable 38 "Baby, wind? 25 TV 13 Arizona Love Your 2 Con network tribe Way' 3 Chilear 26 Garfield's singer 14 Slightly monev owner 15 "Monty 45 Count 27 ---4 III will Pythor 5 Handle Montana counter opener part effectively 28 OAS 16 Mad king 46 Jam in-6 Asian member nursemaid 29 Roam of literaaredient? 47 Mimic 7 Confusing ture about 17 Llama land 31 Bewilde 48 On the contradic 18 Eponym briny 32 Buy stuff tion 49 Jim of an 8 Oversen-34 Some-Idaho jazz Carrey as timental where 9 Drive the festiva Fletcher out there 35 Weaponr 21 U.K. ref. Reede. getaway bk. store e.q. car 50 See 46-22 Rotation 10 Painter house duration Across Joan 36 Take it 23 "Pacific easy Solution time: 27 mins Overtures' 37 Deadly setting 38 Carrots 26 Co-host of mates "The 39 Right on View the map 40 Low club 27 Moonshir holde 41 Devas 30 Beehive tation 42 Mexican State 31 Indulge in entree 43 Octobe fisticuffs 32 McGwire stone 44 Dweeb competito

CHITTAGONG: wicket. Coming together just at the KHULNA: First start of the second session with KHULNA: Se Sylhet precariously placed 201-6, night 148-3) the pair sent the opposition attack Sadat c Masum on a leather hunt for 35 overs, Shafiul cArafat sharing 32 boundaries between Sazzadul c Rab Salahuddin c S Imtiaz, a top-order batsman who Monirul b Alamo came in at number seven, hit 12 fours and two sixes in his 102 off 162

Asadullah c Ral Jamal c Rabbi b balls while Ezaz was more aggres-Salim cArafat b sive, striking 16 fours and two sixes Manjurul not out in a sparkling 120 off 115 balls. Dollar b llias

| 5. FII SUITITII 195 40 T | | Nazimuuummotout | | |
|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|-------|-----|
| t innings 182 | | Extras: | | |
| cond innings (over- | | Total: (For 1 wkt in 7 overs) | | |
| J | | Fall of wkt: 1-0 | | |
| n b Ilias | 55 | Bowlers | 0 | Μ |
| t b Ehsanul | 1 | Dollar | 4 | 1 |
| bbi b Habib | 55 | Ziaur | 3 | 0 |
| Salahuddin b Ilias 4 | | Result: Chittagong won | | |
| gir | 30 | wickets. | - | |
| abbi b Habib | 17 | Man-of-the-n | natch | : E |
| b Ehsanul | 11 | Haque. | | |
| b Habib | 9 | | | |
| ut | 49 | BARISAL-SYLHET | | |
| | 63 | SYLHET: First innings 202 | | |

0 29 von by nine Ehsanul ngs 202

overwhelmed. "We have no friends or

relatives here, but we feel that every

"The past is past. Both the coun-

Telephone company sales execu-

"One day III take my family along

tive and father-of-two Yasir Hussain.

32 was going with five friends for the

too to show them India as they all want

to. But for now I am going with friends.

It's our first visit and we want to relax

said there was "love and affection" in

the air before the start of the three-Test

the same when it comes to love and

Lahore last year it was like a carnival

and although the number of Pakistani

feeling of love and brotherhood in the

Mohali after India announced it would

7,000 tickets of the first Test for

dence-building measures between

India and Pakistan and naturally we

relaxed all restrictions for the cricket

visas." said Dr Ramesh Chandra.

press consul at Indian embassy in

full of warmth for the Pakistani team

and fans and the people of India are

ready to welcome Pakistanis with

"The atmosphere there in India is

"Cricket is one of the major confi-

give 10,000 visas to Pakistani fans.

Cricket lovers thronged the special

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq

"People of Pakistan and India are

"When the Indians thronged

one is our relative or friend," he said.

tries have opened a new chapter."

entertainment.

series

air.'

and enjoy," said Yasir.

affection." he said

Pakistani fans.

Islamabad told AFP.

open arms and hearts.'

166, 5-180, 6-201, 7-400, 8-433. 0 М RW Bowlers 25 5 92 Sonnet 19 6 54 Shuvro 31 11 86 Mosharraf 2 26 8 78 0 Nadif Hannar 13 7 29 0 20 5 0 Imran Tarigul 10 1 37 0 1 25 5 2 Shahin Result: Match drawn Man-of-the-match: Nadif

Chowdhury (Barisal).



FROM PAGE 13 the BFF was embarking on an

ambitious plan even though they have to arrange the bulk of the expenses from local sources for the two coaches and the fitness trainer. "The AFC (Asian Football Confederation) has already agreed to provide US\$ 6,000 for coaching purposes but we will need three times the amount to ensure the services of the three men. It is also a mighty task for us to acquire the funds from different sources. We have given that responsibility to our team management committee. We have to take these challenges if we want to improve the standard of

football in the country," said Helal. The BFF general secretary believed that the return of football

permanently to the Bangabandhu National Stadium could only help them in attracting sponsors. As per preliminary arrangements, Rodriguez will receive a monthly salary of US\$ 8,000 while

Cruciani will get US\$ 4,000 besides fans here may be less, there is a accommodation and other facilities. The trainer will get US\$ 2,000.

"We will spend 2,000 dollars from the AFC grant for two local ageoffices in Lahore last week to get visas for group coaches while the rest of the money will be spend on the under-23 coach," informed Helal. The Indian cricket board had sent

Replying to a question, Helal said that the main responsibility of the head coach would be to prepare a development programme beside his commitment with the national side.

"We will try our best to utilise their services to the full. We are already planing to run a professional league in the country and we believe their presence will boost the initiative."

Helal also said that the federation was working on a yearly calender which is a basic need for any professional structure.

English doom

think any of the English sides will do * UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, London

Barcelona striker Ronaldinho claims all four English clubs will be eliminated from the Champions League this week.

His sights are set on Chelsea. and the Brazilian, FIFA's World Player of the Year for 2004, feels the Premiership best will not be good enough against continental European opposition.

Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United all trail from the first legs of their last-16 ties although Liverpool lead Bayer Leverkusen 3-1.

Arsenal have to recover from 3-1 down to Bayern Munich and United go to AC Milan a goal behind.

Ronaldinho can see no way back for Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday.

"I'm sure that Barcelona will reach the quarter-finals," he told the Daily Mirror.

"My predictions would be Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, or AC Milan and maybe Inter to challenge. I don't

AFP, Madrid

Ronaldo earned himself a pat on the back from coach Wanderley Luxemburgo after the Brazilian World Cup winner spectacularly ended his two-month goal drought for Real Madrid.

Ronaldo's 27th minute strike gave Real a 1-1 draw at defending champions Valencia on Saturday to keep alive their hopes of catching Barcelona at the top of the Spanish championship.

It was also a relief for the Brazilian whose 12th goal of the season was his first since Janaury 16 - an agonising wait of 453 minutes.

"Ronaldo is the best in the world at what he does," said Luxemburgo "I knew he would return to scoring.

The goal, which equalised Pablo Aimar's opener for Valencia, came after some good work by Guti who freed Ronaldo in the box but the Brazilian still had plenty of work to do before passing a defender and the goalkeeper to score.

It was also a timely moralebooster ahead of Wednesday's Champions League trip to Juventus where Real are defending a 1-0 first leg lead.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered, Bangladesh, Osman Morad (C) is seen with four athletes of Bangladesh Army (wearing track suits) who took part alternately in a four-leg marathon competition titled Greatest Race on Earth, which was sponsored by the internationally-reputed bank. The race was held in four cities -- Nairobi, Singapore, Mumbai and Hong Kong.

My husband and children will go to the match while I plan to spend time with so-comfortable bus ride from the

CRYPTOQUIP TZPH IWJXLYPO CJXIZE

WPNVLXWEP VJHPC JTPO, N EXRRJEP IZJEP S W P

RSCVPHIE OPYNHDXPHI Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A LOCAL TAVERN HAS THIS MOTTO IN ITS ADVERTISEMENTS: "THIRST COME, THIRST SERVED.'

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals P

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

Mohammad Rafique, 23, is already

was travelling from her home in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore. "I've come here not only to watch

Pakistan with her parents at the time of cricket but also to see the warmth and "I am not much interested in cricket. affection of the Indians." said Pakistani fan Iffikhar Bhatti, who braved a not-

Home away from home my relatives," added Ruqqaya, who border