# SPÖRT

### Reefat's golden opportunity

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Reefat Bin Sattar will get a perfect opportunity to fulfil his dreams by bagging the desired rating points to become the third Grand Master of the country when the Greenwich University FIDE Rating Chess Competition begins today at the National Sports Council conference

The 31-year-old Reefat earned his much-awaited third and final Grand Master norm in last April but he still needs 2500 rating points to fulfil the criteria. He is still eight points short of the mark.

After the tournament, the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) will ask the FIDE Presidential board to approve his Grand Master status reviewing his ratings and

The BCF general secretary Syed Sujauddin Ahmed said at a press conference yesterday that the nineround Swiss League meet would be a great chance for Reefat to notch the remaining points.

"Actually, it was our target to create an opportunity for Reefat and I hope he can avail it," he said.

A total of one hundred players will play in the tournament split into two groups. Players rated higher than 2150 will compete in Group A which contains GMs Niaz Murshed and Ziaur Rahman. They are expected to fight it out with three International Masters and the FIDE Masters.

On the other hand, the below 2150-rating players will be placed in Group B.

Overseas Study Counseling Limited, the official representative of the British-based the University of Greenwich in Bangladesh, provided Tk 1.20 lakh to sponsor the meet.

"We are eyeing to continue sponsoring the event for at least five years and the amount could be doubled the next year," said Mushfiqur Rahman Mohan, the managing director of the local

#### **Premier League** now resumes tomorrow

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Poor ground condition at the Bangabandhu National Stadium following heavy seasonal rain has forced the Dhaka Metropolis Football League Committee to delay restarting the Premier Football League for another day.

The league, which was due to resume today after a day's break, will now start tomorrow with the much-awaited Abahani-Brothers

The extra day will give both title contenders an opportunity to see their key injured players. Brothers defender Masud Rana and Abahani goalkeeper Nizam, regain full

The gap will also help Abahani, now third in the table with 14 points two points adrift of holders Brothers -- settle their minds on completing the quota of foreign players by recruiting their third import.

Looking for a defender to strengthen their suspect backline. Abahani have to choose between Ghana's Osie Neil, who has already trained with the Sky Blues, and Cameroonian Naga, expected to arrive in the city today.

#### Mixed delight for Bhupathi, Pierce

AFP, London

India's Mahesh Bhupathi and France's Mary Pierce won the Wimbledon mixed doubles title on Sunday with a 6-4, 6-2 win against Paul Hanley of Australia and Tatiana Perebiynis of the Ukraine.

The 55-minute win on Centre Court brought the curtain down on the 2005 Championships.

The unseeded Bhupathi and Pierce had knocked out third seeds Jonas Bjorkman and Lisa Raymond 7-5, 6-1 in the semifinals earlier in the day while Hanley and Perebiynis beat fourth seeds Kevin Ullyett and Liezel Huber -- the latter having earlier won the womens' doubles -6-3, 6-4.

#### IOC not swayed by glitz 'n' glamour

AFP, Singapore

IOC president Jacques Rogge made it clear Monday he is not impressed with the mass of sports stars being flown into Singapore by cities bidding for the 2012 Olympics.

London's top star is football millionaire David Beckham. New York has Muhammad Ali. France is bringing in basketball star Tony

They are all hoping the celebrity 'A list' will held sway IOC members when they decide on Wednesday

who will win the 2012 Games. London, New York and Paris are going up against Madrid and Moscow in the most hotly contested Olympic race in history.



SEARCHING FOR A LIFE-PARTNER? Brazilian superstar Ronaldo (L) looks at a model wearing an outfit by Brazilian designer Amir Slama for Rosa Cha during the 2006 Spring-Summer collection of the Sao Paulo Fashion Week, in Sao Paulo on Sunday.

## Liverpool losing Gerrard?

Football

Steven Gerrard may be on the verge of leaving Liverpool after a reported training-ground bust-up with manager Rafael Benitez.

The England midfielder is unhappy Liverpool have yet to make him an improved offer following last season's UEFA Champions League success, opening up the possibility of a big-money move to Chelsea or Real Madrid.

He has two years of his current deal to run but it has been rumoured that he is unhappy because the Reds did not open talks as quickly as he had hoped.

Gerrard indicated his desire to stay at Anfield in the immediate aftermath of Liverpool's stunning European Cup triumph over AC Milan in May and thought the issue

'He's the greatest talent of all time,"

Grand Slam finals. He's the first

man since Tony Trabert in 1953-

55 to win his first five major finals.

Federer improved to 5-0 in

"I amaze myself how incredi-

ble, actually, I use my talent to

would have ever thought it would

be this extreme, basically domi-

nating the game, winning three

fantastic.' When you end up win-

ning three, you're really starting to

"One, you think, 'Wow, that's

The title was the eighth this

vear for Federer, whose game

remains unrivaled in its versatility.

He can attack or play from the

baseline, depending on the oppo-

nent and surface. Each of his

shots -- serve, forehand, back-

hand, volley -- ranks with the best

in the game. He possesses an

uncanny knack for rising to the

occasion, winning in his past 21

player I've played against,"

become so solid mentally. ... If he

keeps up this level. I don't know

many people in history who would

in the years to come. He has won

36 consecutive grass-court

matches, and next year he'll try to

break Borg's record of 41. With

Federer will be chasing history

"He's the most physically gifted

"But with that, he has just

tournament finals.

Roddick said.

'What have I done

win," Federer said.

McEnroe said.

Wimbledons

wonder,

Peerless Federer

"Nobody

would be dealt with almost instantly. Instead, just nine days away from Benitez's men beginning the defence of their trophy against Welsh minnows Total Network Solutions, Gerrard looks further away than ever from agreeing a new

Chief executive Rick Parry knows unless his future is resolved one way or another this summer, his vast market value will begin to plummet. Liverpool spokesman Ian Cotton

talisman. "Our position is very clear." he said. "We want Gerrard to stay at the

giants do not want to lose their

Gerrard has received no improved pay offer from Liverpool and no more talks are planned, according to The Sun, who report Gerrard had a stand-up row with Benitez on Saturday

Sampras won his fifth major title a

month before his 24th birthday,

which means Federer -- who turns

Not that Federer is unbeatable.

24 on August 8 -- is right on pace.

As he noted during the trophy

ceremony, he lost this year in the

semifinals of the Australian Open

times in a row, and he's 9-1

against Roddick. He'll be the

favourite to repeat as champion at

the US Open in two months, and

oddsmakers already list him as an

8-15 favorite to win Wimbledon

"Obviously for the next few

"It doesn't mean necessarily I'll

Among those searching for a

way to challenge Federer's

supremacy is Roddick. He has

lost to Federer at Wimbledon

each of the past three years,

including in last year's final

Against everyone else, he's 32-0

say 'too good' sometimes -- hope

he gets bored or something,"

"I have loads of a respect for

him, as a person as well. I've told

him before, 'I'd love to hate you,

You just have to sit back and

rears, I'll definitely be a huge

favourite for this tournament,"

But he has beaten Hewitt eight

and the French Open.

Federer said

take them all.'

on grass since 2003.

but you're really nice."

The Daily Mirror reports Gerrard has broken off all contract talks and also claims an "angry exchange" between the player and his manager at Melwood training ground.

Chelsea will now launch a British transfer record bid in excess of 30 million pounds for Gerrard, according to the Daily Star, while the Daily Express report Gerrard's patience snapped as the Anfield club dragged their feet over a new deal.

But last week Spanish reports claimed that Gerrard had admitted insisted Sunday the Merseyside to Benitez his interest in a move to Real Madrid, who are said to be willing to more than double his wages to over 8 million pounds a

> The Daily Mail also say Gerrard's long association with Liverpool is drawing to a close and that Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has been

### Paris, London

FROM PAGE 12

Wimbledon titles the next two years, he would match Borg's vened," Rogge said. modern record of five in a row. And then there's Sampras' record of 14 Grand Slam titles.

> most of the headlines as he undertook a hectic series of meetings. Blair refused to say which members he had met, or even the number. because of campaigning

make it clear that the bid has complete and total political support," Blair told reporters during a brief break

are Australian swimming champion lan Thorpe, and former Romanian gymnast queen Nadia Comaneci, who are both backing New York.

cycling legend Miguel Indurain and basketballer Pau Gasol were all in town. At the national level, Spanish Queen Sofia was also already in Singapore while Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero was due to arrive on Tuesday.

English football captain David

Beckham was expected to arrive in Singapore later Monday to lobby for London, as was New York's trump

card, boxing great Muhammad Ali. also on his way for Moscow

'No one has gone over the line. If anyone had, I would have inter-

Elsewhere the public relations campaign of all five cities' bids kicked into overdrive with Blair grabbing

rules, but his spokesman conceded later that he had "as packed a diary as I have seen" for the next 48 hours. "The basis of the bid is the strength of the bid. What I can do is

from his lobbying. Among the sporting celebrities in Singapore to lobby for various cities

For Spain, football star Raul,

With US President George W Bush not coming to Singapore, New York Senator and former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will provide her city's political muscle. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov was

PHOTO: COURTESY

Members of the Scholastica handball team pose for photographs with its chairperson Yasmeen Murshed on the eve of the team's departure for Italy on Saturday.

**Ganguly set for** 

quick India trip

BBC ONLINE/PTI, undated

Glamorgan county face the prospect of losing Sourav Ganguly later in July as the Indian captain prepares to join a training camp in Bangalore.

Ganguly is expected to join his ndian teammates on July 13 following a demand from coach Greg Chappell.

But Glamorgan, who have no cricket between July 12 and 16, hope he will not miss any games for them.

Press Trust of India quoted an

wants him to be there for a few days." The camp began on June 27 with an eight-day programme for the pacemen and does not end until July

Indian official as saying: "The coach

Top 15 fast bowlers will be joined here today by another group of probables for the twin physical conditioning and skills camps, ahead of the cricket tri-series in Sri Lanka starting July 30.

The speedsters completed a week-long camp, which focused on their fitness, at the National Cricket Academy.

From Tuesday till July 12, they will continue with their physical conditioning along with new entrants Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Mohammed Kaif, Yuvraj Singh, VVS Laxman, Gautam Gambhir, Suresh Raina, Venugopala Rao, Neeraj Singh Dhoni. Dinesh Kaarthick Parthiv Patel, Anil Kumble, Murali Kartik, Sridharan Sriram and Hemang Badani

Ganguly, Dinesh Mongia, Harbhajan Singh and Irfan Pathan, who are busy playing county cricket, are slated to join this expanded group on July 13 when the final phase commences focusing on

#### Prior given Eng ODI call-up

CRICINFO, undated

Matt Prior has been named in England's 15-man squad for the threematch NatWest Challenge against Australia, which starts at Headingley on Thursday. He replaces Kabir Ali from the

NatWest Series squad and will provide Duncan Fletcher with more flexibility when it comes to choosing a substitute as per the new regulations in one-day internationals.

Chris Tremlett, who was called up as cover for Simon Jones, retains his

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said: "We were delighted with the team's strong performances during The NatWest Series and have made only one change to the squad for the NatWest Challenge."

#### **SQUAD**

Michael Vaughan (captain), Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Darren Gough, Steve Harmison, Geraint Jones, Simon Jones, Jon Lewis, Kevin Pietersen, Matt Prior, Vikram Solanki, Andrew Strauss. Chris Tremlett. Marcus Trescothick.

#### Scholastica girls h'ball team in Italy

SPORTS REPORTER

Scholastica and Viqarunnissa Noon school handball teams will participate in the 33rd Interamnia World Cup to be held in Teramo, Italy from July 4-10.

Scholastica, who left Dhaka on Saturday with a 15-member team, will take part in the Under-16 group featuring 31 teams. Viqarunnissa

## Steamy secrets revealed

Football

English league footballers admit they could have a different girl every night in their celebrity lifestyles.

"It wasnt as often as a different girl every night, but it could have been," Scotland striker Frank McAvennie, who moved to London in 1985 when West Ham signed him from St Mirren, recounts in a new book, Playing Away - The A-Z of Soccer Sex Scandals.

The book has England icon David Beckham on its cover possibly to generate even more interest considering the share of sex scandals involving the Real Madrid superstar over the last couple of "Frank was mobbed wherever

Spencer," Anita, his girlfriend at the time, said. "We used to go on holiday to places like Ibiza and there would be one topless girl after another coming to talk to him as if I wasnt there." Former Portsmouth and

he went, even in Marks and

Newcastle striker Micky Quinn was another Eighties star with a regular supply of goals and girls. "Women would throw them-

selves at me." he says

"I felt like Rod Stewart. When I was at Portsmouth I actually had four birds on the go at one time. They were all barmaids, which says a lot about the life I was lead-Dwight Yorke was sold to

Blackburn Rovers when Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson finally lost patience with the strikers socialising. Shortly after moving to Old

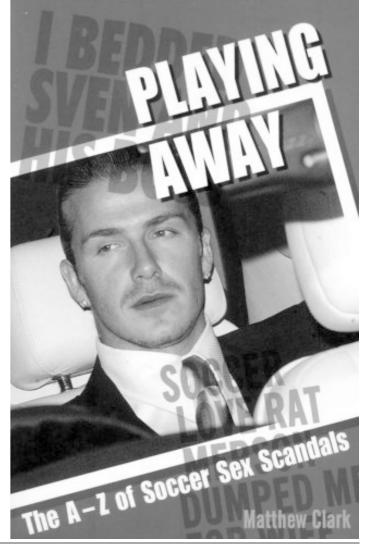
Trafford in 1998, the Trinidad and Tobago international teamed up with Mark Bosnich, his former Aston Villa colleague, for an orgy with four women that he videoed

Anxious to avoid detection, he threw the tape into his rubbish bin but it still ended up in the hands of a national newspaper, which printed a

picture on its front page. But Yorke was not known to everyone. He convinced one of his

nightclub conquests that he was postman named Brian.

"People were coming past and saying hello to him and he said it was because he delivered their letters. I believed him. He seemed a lovely bloke," she said.



## Lee in trouble again

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Brett Lee's tendency to bowl beamers has again landed him in the spotlight after he unleashed one early on in Saturday's NatWest Series final, leading to a severe reprimand from David Shepherd, the umpire, and another defence from his captain, Ricky Ponting. Lee was slammed after bowling

beamer to New Zealand's Brendon McCullum earlier in the year and, although he apologised after sending Marcus Trescothick sprawling early on in England's innings, questions were again

There is no doubt that Lee did not intend bowling such a dangerous delivery - he was attempting a yorker but got his bearings wrong. And, indeed, rather than unsettling the English batsman, according to Ponting the ball appeared to have more effect on Lee.

"It knocks the confidence out of him straight away," Ponting said. "If you look at him after that beamer that he bowled, he's holding back and (bowling) within himself immediately after that because he just can't keep his front foot (from slipping). That's why he moved around the wicket. It's just a really difficult thing for Brett. Someone that's running in that fast and trying to bowl that fast, if you can't keep your front foot then I guess it's going to happen every now and again

"I'm not trying to defend it or anything, but if you could slow it down and have a look at his front foot you'd understand he's slipping a lot. There didn't seem to be any hard feelings out on the ground Trescothick accepted the apology and everyone got on with it from

38 Sends

out

whole

match

41 Adagio

43 The way

46 Lustrous

fiber

50 Spheres

game

hastily

56 Grandson

of Eve

bills

58 Gasoline

(Abbr.)

59 Zilch

55 Melody

57 Has

51 Parlor

54 Eat

shooting

we were?

**39** The

invitations

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Bob's

pal

5 Hiatus

8 Does

12 Blood-

clue

13 Actress

14 Nickel-

15 Parlor

game

17 Mideast

aulf

18 World-

19 Elf

21 Booty

24 Coop

25 Stance

30 Spindle-

33 Joan of

stairs

chapter

35 History

34 Down-

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28 Rid of rind

spillage

longtime

arithmetic

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Carrere

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"Explorer

At the time of the incident with McCullum, Peter Roebuck, in his

syndicated column, called for Lee to be sent home from New Zealand. "His beamer was merely the latest in a series of violent deliveries sent down by a pace bowler at best reckless in his approach and at worst utterly unwilling to remain within long-accepted parameters governing conduct on the cricket field," he fumed. "If Australia's captain, coach and

manager did not have sharp words with Lee after the match then they stand in dereliction of their duties.

#### **Prasad** supports rotation policy

The cricket careers of India's top batsmen -- like Sachin Tendulkar -and bowlers could be extended by adopting a rotation policy which allows players to be picked according to importance of any series, feels former India paceman Venkatesh Prasad.

"The rotation policy will definitely reduce the injury factor involving fast bowlers," Prasad said here. feel batsmen should also be rotated depending on the importance of the series....We can see Sachin playing for a longer time.

Asked if Tendulkar is in the prime of his career, he said the master blaster has been playing well and has done a lot for the country and the team.

"I don't think it's right for anybody to question his (Tendulkar's) performance," he said. "Everybody goes through ups and downs. May be it (injury) just happened at this time of

By Eugene Sheffer

Broadway 20 "That's a

seating?

relief!

22 Pinnacle

23 Big winds

25 Zero-star

review

partner

29 Winning

31 Annoy

32 Part of

34 Bound

38 Play

streak

UNLV

bundle

reveille

pendicula

42 Hobbit foe

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maids all

43 Newsom

44 "... pretty

45 Con job

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48 Unyield-

49 Being, to

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52 With it

47 "But -

40 Isn't per-

26 Plata

DOWN

1 Flop on

3 Marvin

Gaye's

footstep-

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daughter

Blank"

muscle

6 Be below

up the

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8 Put on

9 Parlor

game

10 "Phocey!

11 Logical

Solution time: 21 mins.

pedestal

5 Pontiac

car

7 Picks

4 "-- Pointe 27 Parlor

2 "American

### team leaves for India today

Women's kabaddi

**BDNEWS**, Dhaka

A 14-member national women's kabaddi team including four officials will leave Dhaka today for Hyderabad, India, to take part in the first Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship.

The 3-day meet begins on July 8. A total of eight countries are taking part in the meet. They are: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal Japan, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand and

## Tigers' camp

FROM PAGE 12

eye on the progress of certain players who are travelling to England next week with the nitely consider the performances of the Bangladesh A players.

The chief selector said that lefthanded opener Shahriar Nafees Ahmed, Nafees Iqbal, Tushar Imran and Aftab Ahmed, who all returned home from England on Sunday, would join the ongoing Bangladesh A camp at the BKSP for just two days before the team leaves Dhaka on July 15.

In the absence of coach Shaun Williams, who is now in Australia on a personal visit, newly appointed Bangladesh Under-19 coach Allister de Winter was looking after the camp. Former Bangladesh opener Nurul Abedin Nobel has been appointed assistant coach to Williams who is expected back on

The Bangladesh A team will play five three-day and four limited over games against different English county opponents during their tour.

CRYPTOQUIP

TGPXSB YZF'L TLRX

JMZNGFD LRSOGMF'T VRROT. G EGFN LIMP YRPXSMLMSB

IRVVGL-ERJPGFD Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO FIND YOUR SINGING PARTNER, YOU'LL

PROBABLY BE A DUET-YOURSELFER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals O 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.

36 Neither will compete with 21 teams in the 37 Skating Under-14 group.