### **Fazlur** donates Tk one lakh

BDNEWS, Dhaka

State Minister for Youth and Sports lakh when he visited the residence of the former national footballer ailing Monowar Hossain Nannu on Thursday

Nannu has been suffering from

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal, secretary of the National Sports Council (NSC) S M Shibly Nazir, general secretary of Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Tipu, BFF member Amirul Islam Babu, sports editor of the The Independent Monjurul Hoque and senior journalists of the Daily Ittefaq Dilu Khondokar and Kashinath

## 'Bring on McGrath'

England batsman Ian Bell hopes Glenn McGrath will be fit for next week's deciding Test against Australia at The Oval even though his return could help boost the tourists' chances of retaining the Ashes.

By contrast, McGrath took match figures of nine for 82 when Australia won the series opener at Lord's by 239 runs.

And it was last man McGrath, together with fellow tailender Brett Lee, who heled out to deny England the final wicket they needed to win the drawn third Test at Old Trafford where a victory would have now left them an unbeatable 3-1 up in the series.

surgery, his doctor was quoted as However, middle-order batsman Bell told reporters at Lord's saving on Thursday. here Thursday he wanted to face McGrath again. board's medical panel and has

"It doesn't matter what XI is on the park and in a way it would be nice to see Glenn McGrath playing at The Oval," insisted Bell ahead of next Thursday's start at The Oval where England must avoid defeat if they are to win the Ashes for the first time since

### Tait fit

Team physio Errol Alcott reported Tait was suffering mild shoulder The player is expected to feature

in the two-day tour match against Essex at Chelmsford this weekend and to hang on to his place for the crucial fifth Test at The Oval.

# Umps to be tougher in Ashes finale

### Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Umpire Rudi Koetzen has promised to clamp down on players leaving the field too frequently in the final Ashes Test, which begins at The Oval next Thursday.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting was incensed by England bowlers taking regular short breaks at Trent Bridge.

"I always allow players to go off as long as they need to and don't abuse the system or act against the spirit of the game," Koetzen told the Guardian.

"You can't do it all the time, if that is the case I will put a stop to

Players are permitted to leave the field for a maximum of eight minutes at a time, and England have taken full advantage of the ruling, usually after bowlers have completed their spells.

Colourful official Billy Bowden will be Koetzen's colleague in the deciding Test and he confirmed

Sachin Tendulkar may not play in

the International Cricket Council's

Super Series in October due to his

slow recovery from tennis elbow

Orthopaedic specialist Anant

Joshi, who is on the Indian cricket

monitored Tendulkar's recovery in

Mumbai, told the Times of India

newspaper that the star batsman

may still need "a month and a half"

"I saw him on Tuesday and I

noticed that the muscles on his

left hand are weaker than the right

hand," Joshi said a day after

Tendulkar, 32, withdrew from the

two-Test series in Zimbabwe later

"It should possibly take a

"I doubt if Sachin will take the

month and a half from here.

Sachin too does not want to rush

risk of going to Australia in the first

week of October for the Super

Series," the newspaper quoted

to be fully fit.

back into cricket.

Joshi as saying.

Cricket

that a meeting would be held with match referee Ranjan Madugalle on the Monday before The Oval

Test to discuss the matter. 'Until then it is hard for me to talk about." he said.

England and Australia have played an absorbing series in excellent spirit, but there was some acrimony in Nottingham when Ponting was run out by substitute fielder Garv Pratt. and vented his anger at the home balconv.

Koetzen admitted he was pleasantly surprised with the conduct of the players when he officiated in the first two matches of the series.

"I was quite impressed with the

spirit the guys played in but I haven't watched the last two Tests so I can't comment on anything that has happened or whether things have changed in the last few games," he England captain Michael

Vaughan believes the issue of substitutions has been blown out

"We haven't done anything

Sachin out of Super Series?

Tendulkar is part of both world

squads, which clash with champi-

ons Australia in three one-day

matches in Melbourne on October

Sydney from October 14-19.

decides not to play.

5, 7 and 9 and a six-day Test in

Two current Test captains,

nzamamul Haq of Pakistan and

Michael Vaughan of England,

who were surprisingly omitted

from the original squads, are

standing by in case Tendulkar

batsman in modern cricket with

23,776 international runs and 72

centuries, said last month he had

important so I will not be worried if

Tendulkar had told reporters after

being provisionally selected for

"I will know how much impact

my elbow is going to take only

when I practice more. Frankly it is

too early to say when I will be

in May after a precautionary

medical check-up revealed a

August last year, Tendulkar

tendon tear in the left elbow.

Tendulkar underwent surgery

First afflicted with the injury in

it takes a couple of weeks more,

"A long-term plan is more

not set a date for his return.

the Zimbabwe Test series.

Tendulkar, the most prolific

against the laws of the game," he insisted.

"Guys have taken that much fluid on that they are just nipping off to go to the toilet and they are always back on within a minute or

"We really do not feel we are doing anything untoward.

"I do not want to get into an argument about it but it should not get in the way of a fantastic series. "How the two teams have

played has been fantastic for the game of cricket." Meanwhile Simon Katich another Australian player to launch an obscene outburst on his way back to the pavilion, has

apologised for his actions, which

stemmed from a contentious Ibw decision from Aleem Dar. Katich, who was fined 50% of his match fee, told the Brisbane Courier-Mail: "What I did was

"I shouldn't have let the emotion of it all get to me, but I did and was baited by a couple of the guys

missed a one-day tournament in

the Netherlands, the Champions

Trophy in England in September

and two home Tests against

two Tests of the series and played

further matches against South

Africa, Bangladesh and Pakistan

before the season ended in April.

that Tendulkar's recovery was

said. "There are quite a lot of

sportspersons who had to play

is that the rehabilitation process is

He returned for the remaining

Joshi said he was not surprised

"It all depends on a person," he

"In Sachin's case, all I can say

"Ideally, we want to get him into

match situation, but it all

India want Tendulkar back for

depends on him, his confidence

the gruelling season ahead, which

includes 16 Tests and a minimum

of 38 one-dayers from late

Australia in October.

with a tennis elbow.

taking a long time.

October to June.

## 7-star Brothers

Abul completed the Dipali rout blasting home the seventh goal in the 78th minute.

Brothers coach Wazed Gazi fielded a full-strength side with the only exception of reserve custodian Mohammad Ali standing under the bar. But Ali's role was more of a spectator rather than playing a part in the match. Dipali at times looked adventurous but they paid the price for being too attacking exposing their defence and conceded all the second-half goals from quick Brothers counter-attacks.

Mohammedan at the top of the tenteam table with 38 points each from

Dipali on the other hand remained glued to their previous collections of only two points.

Jewel, Masud Rana, Liton Khan, Pranotosh (Rikta), Liton (Abul), Victor, Monwar, Emily and Parvez

Tarik, Anwar, Michael, Utaka, Tajul, Farid (Uzzal), Saiful, Dowlat (Raihan), Idris and Rubel. Referee: Azad Rahman.

### **City honour** likely for **Flintoff**

BBC ONLINE, undated

Andrew Flintoff could become the first person to be awarded the Freedom of the City of Preston this

The all-rounder would be honoured for his "services and accom-plishments in the field of cricket" if the city council approves the plans on Thursdav Only 22 people were given the

honour in the last century, including footballer Sir Tom Finney in 1979 and animator Nick Park in 1997.

Mayor Bikhu Patel said Flintoff is an excellent ambassador and role

England cricket captain Michael Vaughan has called the 27-year-old, nicknamed Freddie, a sporting hero. He was named man-of-the-match over Australia at Trent Bridge.

The Prestonian was a pupil at Greenland County Primary School and Ribbleton High School, now called City of Preston High.

The honour has no real privieges and is regarded as an award to men or women of note who have lived or worked in the city.

Freemen take precedence on ceremonial occasions, such as Remembrance Sunday, when they are allowed to walk ahead of councillors in processions

FROM PAGE 16

With this win Brothers joined

BROTHERS UNION: Ali, Sujon,

DIPALI JUBO SANGHA: Shamir,

# **Only Barca for Ronaldinho**

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

World Player of the Year Ronaldinho said he never considered leaving Barcelona, after signing a contract extension which will keep him at the Spanish champions until 2010.

"I never saw myself outside Barca. I only listened to their offer and wasn't interested in what other clubs were doing," Ronaldinho told a news conference on Thursday.

"I am very happy in this side and this type of contentment doesn't have a price. I want for nothing here and look forward to staying for many

Barcelona embarked on a policy of renewing their key players' contracts after winning the Primera Liga

Striker Samuel Eto'o, midfielders Xavi and Deco and goalkeeper Victor Valdes had their deals extended until 2010 but it took some intense negotiations to finalise the Brazilian's deal, which Barcelona had hoped would keep him with them to 2014.

Barca said the player's buy-out clause had been increased to 125 million euros (\$154.8 million), while there was room in the contract to allow a further extension to

"I am very pleased it has all been resolved. I wanted to stay at the club and they wanted me too, there was never a problem. There were only a few small matters to sort out," said

was perfect for both sides.

really and my motivation remains

till 2014 but the contract we have

"There was an option to extend

"It doesn't change much for me

future with Barcelona, winning many titles."

The 25-year-old joined Barcelona from Paris St Germain on a five-year deal for a fee of 25 million

He inspired the Catalans to their first Primera Liga title in six years last season, and helped them win the Spanish Super Cup in August.



Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho (R) signs his new contract next to Barca's president Joan Laporta at the Nou Camp on Wednesday.

# Eng coming to India next year

## Cricket

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England's tour of India next year will comprise three Tests and seven oneday internationals, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said

It added the agreed outline programme, drawn up with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), provisionally has the Test series being played between March 8-29 inclusive with the one-dayers due to take place between April 4-22 inclu-

The ECB said it had been told by the BCCI that venues for all tour matches would be confirmed by mid-

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England, who play the final Test of

the Ashes series against Australia at The Oval next week, travel to Pakistan before the end of this year for a Test and one-day series. England will play three Tests -- in

Multan, Faisalabad and Lahore -and five one-day internationals during the tour from October 26 to December 21.

But they objected to playing a Test in Karachi on security grounds, opting for a one-day international nstead, and there will be no match in the north-western city of Peshawar due to its proximity to the violence-prone border with

In the aftermath of the September 11 2001 attacks, teams from

Australia and the West Indies have refused to play in Pakistan because of security fears. Karachi had earlier been rejected

as a Test venue by South Africa and India after a bomb blast outside the New Zealand's team hotel in May 2002 killed 14 people, including 11 French naval engineers.

However, during Australia's tour of England, on July 7, some 56 people, including four suicide bombers, died in four separate bomb blasts in

There was a bungled repeat on July 21 when the bombs failed to go off. But Pakistan captain Wasim Akram said the fact Australia continued as planned in England proved his country was being unfairly singled out as a security risk

# Seeds sail smoothly



AFP, New York

French Open champion Rafael Nadal reached the third round of the US Open here on Wednesday with a tough 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 victory over tena-

In a night match delayed for more than an hour by rain, the secondseeded Spaniard found himself on the defensive against Jenkins, a wild card playing in just his fifth ATP Tour level event and second Grand Slam.

round. This is my best result here," Nadal said, but he showed little of his usual flair, combatting Jenkins and the tricky winds with a largely defensive

the seeded players in action than their opponents.

Belgium's Kim Clijsters, seeded

Fabiola Zuluaga.

Kirilenko. Indian starlet Sania Mirza battled painful leg cramps to reach the third

The 18-year-old from Hyderabad defeated Italy's Elena Camerin 6-4, 1-

But she will need to fully recover physically from what was a punishing second round tie if is she is to better he breakthrough third round performance at this year's Australian Open where she eventually lost to Serena Williams.



cious US teenager Scoville Jenkins.

"I am very happy to be in the third

Maria Sharapova, the women's top seed, needed just 49 minutes to subdue 48th-ranked Dally Randriantefy of Madagascar 6-1, 6-0

favorite to lift her first Grand Slam trophy, struggled more in the swirling winds on Arthur Ashe Stadium, but emerged with a 7-5, 6-0 second-round victory over unseeded Colombian

Williams, seeded eighth, got past Colombian Catalin Castano 6-2. 6-2 to move within one match of meeting her sister. Wimbledon champion Venus Williams in the fourth round as 10thseeded Venus also advanced with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Russian Maria

round matching her best performance to date in a Grand Slam event.



approach. The difficult winds were a theme all day, providing more trouble to most of

and reach the third round. fourth but tipped by many as the

Australian Open champion Serena

6, 6-4 in a roller-coaster of a match and with France's Marion Bartoli to follow, she will harbour genuine hopes of reaching the last 16 and a likely encounter with Sharapova.

"It was a very strange match and

was very up and down," said Mirza who is playing in her first US Open.

"It was very windy today both of us were having a problem. I was just trying to get my rhythm and she was playing some good tennis. Lleyton Hewitt, the third seed from Australia, was the first to taste the

difficult conditions on the Arthur Ashe

Stadium in a 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 first-round

win over Spain's Albert Costa on Wednesday morning. "I think I just handled the conditions so much better than he did today," said

The lissome Sharapova joked that she felt she might blow right off the court and into the nearby Unisphere, the giant globe built erected for the 1964 World's Fair that is a landmark at

the National Tennis Centre. Sharapova could afford to laugh after polishing off Randriantefy, who handed her the victory with two of her five double faults on the final two points of the match.

with Germany's Julia Schruff, who beat American Lisa Raymond 6-3, 6-3. Clijsters will next face Japanese 30th seed Ai Sugiyama, who defeated Czech Michaela Pastikova 2-6, 6-4, 6-

The wind was still up when Serena

Williams took the court to open the

Sharapova advanced to a meeting

night session. But Williams, who is trying to bounce back from various injuries that have hindered her since her Australian Open triumph in January, managed to overcome the conditions and her own 25 unforced errors to book a revenge match with 25th-seeded Italian Francesca Schiavone, a 6-2, 6-2

Venus Williams faces a potentially dangerous third-round match against Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova, the 20th seed who beat Maria Emilia Salerni of Argentina 6-1, 6-0. Williams, who caused a stir by

wearing 40,000-dollar diamond

earrings in her first-round match,

winner over Finland's Emma Laine.

sported another dazzling dangling pair along with a strand of diamonds around her neck. Amid the bling, Williams showed a more sober side, pledging a 100 dollars for every ace she hits for the rest of the year to relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which has

devastated the Gulf Coast of the

United States.

**CRYPTOQUIP** RG FQMZ UKT EYQFN URE

QFNRMQ XRGQ BKFTQMRFI,

υQ BUZXXC MZKARF'

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE DICTATOR

MECCA AND CALLED IT HOME DESPOT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals E 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.

RECENTLY OPENED A HANDYMAN'S SHOPPING