Football

PRAVDA, Buenos Aires

The Russian Grand Master Anatoly Karpov Monday played human chess with Diego Maradona as part of the TV show the Argentine soccer star hosts in Buenos Aires. The match ended in a draw, but Karpov played with his eyes covered by a black strip.

Maradona moved first to later ask Karpov for a draw. The chess world champion between 1975 and 1985 accepted and the match concluded after both players had made only two moves.

After the match concluded both champions exchanged gifts.

Karpov gave Maradona a beautiful wooden Russian chess game and Mardona gave Karpov an autographed soccer ball in return.

The king of chess, gives this present to the king of soccer", said Karpov, who also remembered that he had followed Maradona's matches during the Spain World Cup of 1982.

Maradona hosts the TV show called "The night of the 10," which has turned into the most seen TV programme in Argentina. The former soccer player has recov-ered from a critical health condi-tion that put his life at serious risk in April 2004.

Karpov is in Argentina to attend



to the 2005 Chess World Cup that Argentine legend Diego Maradona (R) signs a chess board to be auctioned, along with former Russian chess world takes place in the Province of San champion Anatoly Karpov, during his weekly television show, in Buenos Aires on Monday.

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Asian University thrashed Daffodil International 11-0 in the Stamford Inter-Private University Football Tournament at the Bangladesh Army Stadium yesterday.

Masud Khan Johnny was on target eight times while Moni scored two and Masud netted one.

In the other match, Darul Ihsan got walkover against East-West University. They were declared 2-0

Ponting upbeat

Captain Ricky Ponting said Thursday he is confident Australia can bounce back against the World XI next month, dismissing the loss of the Ashes as "a hiccup".

The Australians simply needed to recover their winning "habits", he told Channel Nine.

Ponting, who faced strong criticism of his captaincy over the loss of the Ashes to England for the first time in 16 years, said the defeat would make him tougher.

"It will toughen me up as captain, if that needed to happen," he said: "I am not sure it did. Things had

been going along well for a long period of time and this has been a hiccup and something we have got to get over pretty quickly.

Ponting said the Australians needed to bounce back for the ICC Super Series next month, in which they will play three one-day games and a six-day Test against a World XI.

We got away from those habits and those little things along the way that help to win Test matches.

"It's important to get those back again and I am sure if we do you will see us win lots of Test matches."

Ponting said he and the team would be taking a hard look at themselves ahead of the Super Series

"One of the main reasons why we have been regarded as the number one team in the world is that we are all harsh judges of our own games and how we are going," he said.

All but one

FROM PAGE 16

three minutes into the second half. But two quick goals by Mozibur and Anwar Hossain broke Mohammedan hearts. With this win Soccer Club moved

into the zonal final

Away at the Faridpur Stadium, hosts Mohammedan suffered a 4-2 tie-break defeat against Janani Seba Sangha of Magura after the regulation time was locked 1-1. But at the Khulna Stadium, hosts

Town Club did not suffer the same fate like Faridpur Mohammedan. They won their zonal semifinal clash against PK Union of Satkhira 2-1 with Mithu and Hafiz scoring in Probaha Sangha scored the

biggest margin victory of the day when they beat Biplob Sangha of Gazipur 3-0 at the Jamalpur Stadium. Echo, Santa and Golap scored for the Noagoan outfit. Bangladesh Army also marched

into the zonal final when they blanked Samya Krira and Sangskritik Gosthi 2-0 at the Natore

Tennis

like taking no early chances.

Sharapova lifted the first five

games against her fellow 18-year-

old ranked 48th, in just 18 min-

brief struggle, going through five

deuces as Peer saved four

Sharapova set points before losing

from her opponent's forehand

Peer drew applause from a

stinger down the line.

But the next game became a

Ripon struck in the 46th minute before Tofazzal doubled the margin three minutes later.

BD-SL SCOREBOARD

	(100)	-	-
0	M	R	W
13	1	36	3
7	0	31	0
10	0	35	2
15.4	3	52	3
14	6	28	2
1	0	5	0
	13 7 10 15.4	13 1 7 0 10 0 15.4 3 14 6	13 1 36 7 0 31 10 0 35 15.4 3 52 14 6 28

Result: Sri Lanka win by an innings and 69 runs and clinch the two-Test series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Thilan Samaraweera. Man-of-the-series: Tillakaratne

Dilshan. Toss: Sri Lanka Umpires: Billy Bowden (New Zealand) and Steve Bucknor (West

Asian University Celebrity motors Thump Daffodil set to roar

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian football star Ronaldo can look forward to a World Cup debut of a different sort this weekend.

Brands Hatch, the southern English circuit that hosted some memorable Formula One battles in the days of James Hunt and Nigel Mansell, will kick off the self-styled "World Cup of Motorsport" - also known as the A1 Grand Prix series.

The brainchild of Sheikh Maktoum Hasher Maktoum Al Maktoum, nephew of the Crown Prince of Dubai, the new championship pits 25 national teams against each other in identical Lola cars.

It is a novel concept for motor racing and Real Madrid "Galactico" Ronaldo, the World Cup winner who will be busy with his Spanish soccer club on Sunday, is co-owner of the Brazilian team with former Formula One champion Emerson Fittipaldi.

Their driver for the first race will be Nelson Piquet junior, son of another F1 great.

"Like soccer, Al GP is a team sport," Ronaldo declared at the aunch of Team Brazil. "In soccer, we have already won the World Cup five times and it would be wonderful to win the first motor racing World Cup

The soccer link continues with Portugal midfielder Luis Figo owning his country's team with Manchester United assistant coach Carlos

"Bollywood" actor Anil Kapoor is Team India's president.

There are also familiar names from Formula One's past. Former Ferrari champion John Surtees, the only man to win world titles on two wheels and four, is backing Britain, while Australia have Alan Jones and Austria's team is led by Niki Lauda and Keke Rosberg.

Lauda's son Mathias will be in the Austrian car and 1980 champion Jones's son Christian is on Australia's list of nominated drivers. The South African team owner is businessman Tokyo Sexwale, a former

cellmate of Nelson Mandela, His car will carry Mandela's prison number 46664 on its side as well as 2010 - the year that the country hosts the soccerWorld Cup. Al say they are complementing,

rather than competing with, Formula One as a series run primarily in the quiet European winter months. "Comparisons are inevitable but the reality is that I don't think anyone

Formula One," says Mark Gallagher,

World number one Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a forehand volley to Israel's Shahar Peer during their second

Sharapova reaches qtrs

modest crowd at the Beijing tennis

centre as she won her first game

for 1-1 in the second, and broke

the top seed three times to square

Friday play against Japan's

Shinobu Asagoe, who beat

Russia's Maria Kirilenko will

provide a marker for China's

Sun, who will hope not to fall to

Kirilenko booked her place in

In later matches, third seed

earth after her crushing of

the last eight through a defeat of

Japan's Aiko Nakamura 6-1, 7-6.

American Jill Craybas 6-2, 6-4.

round match at the China Open yesterday. Sharapova won6-0, 5-7, 6-2 to advance to the last eight.

running the Irish team after years of involvementingrand prix racing.

"It is a different branch of the sport. It offers an alternative and it's a fascinating alternative."

"I think it will really take off in those countries where Formula One doesn't have a team, or a driver or a race." Formula One, with Sunday's

Brazilian Grand Prix likely to crown 24-year-old Spaniard Fernando Alonso as the sport's youngest champion, can expect to win any immediate television ratings battle. Maktoum, whose family is better

known for a love of horse racing than engine horsepower, nonetheless has considerable ambitions. This is the right concept with the

right car at the right time," he said. "And if I can pull it off... whoosh. This will be a two-billion-pound business by the time we get into the second year. Only a madman like me can comeupwithanidealikethis.

"But I've gone from being called a madman to dreamer to visionary in a

The 520bhp V8-engined cars, less sophisticated and less powerful than in Formula One but designed to encourage overtaking, will be painted is trying to set AI up as a competitor to in national colours and provided to "seatholders" on a franchise basis.

Ronaldo backs

MADRID

Luxemburgo

Luxemburgo's decision not to use wingers in his system has been slammed by Spanish critics, but Ronaldo declared: "The talk on the wings is trivial. Someone like Garrincha would not exist if he played always on the wing. Long ago people realised you do not fix players to set positions. It is necessary to rotate, for a while you are in one place and soon you move."

The Brazilian striker continued: I do not understand the critics of Luxemburgo. The system is used in modern football and does not need explanation. We used this last year and lost just two games."

would not be the best option: "I cnow little about this club because I have been here only three years, but it would be an error to change the trainer. We have one of the best and the players trust him."

-- Internet Source

BCB reveals age-group competitions

BDNEWS, Dhaka

(BCB) announced the schedule for age-group national divisional competitions and national school competitions across the country yester-

The Under-13 Young Tigers Elite National Divisional Competition begins at the end of December followed by the Under-15 and Under-17 meets in mid-January and the first week of February respec-

The Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Championship will begin with the Under-13 meet on February 22 followed by the Under-15 and Under-17 competitions on April 15 and May 20 respec-

Nat'l hockey

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Khulna won their respective matches in the National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Patuakhali defeated Narayanganj 2the other for Narayangani.

desh Police 4-1 after leading the first half 3-1. Rahat and Jhunuscored two goals each for the winners while Police's lone goal came from the stick of Kamal

swamped Jhenaidah 4-0 after dominating the first half 3-0.

Batsmen

FROM PAGE 16

generally the ground fielding, has improved although we have dropped an early chance. Also,

emotional about all these (defeats). But you just pick up the pace and have to believe in what you are doing. One or two good performances along the way come as tonic. "As soon as I feel I am not wanted

just like I did with Sri Lanka in 1996, performances.

PRIMERA LIGA

Barca barely draw

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Champions Barcelona narrowly avoided a second defeat in a row when they came from a goal down to claim a 2-2 draw at home to Valencia in the Primera Liga on Wednesday.

Valencia keeper Santiago Canizares gifted the Catalans the equaliser 10 minutes from time when he dropped a Ronaldinho cross and the ball fell to Deco who drilled home to earn his side a point.

Celta Vigo, who returned to the Primera Liga this season, moved a point clear at the top of the table after a double from Brazilian striker Fernando Baiano earned them a 2-1 victory at Villarreal who are anchored to the bottom of the table with just two points from four

Surprise package Getafe are in second place, a point behind Celta, after their 1-1 draw at home to Real

Striker Daniel Guiza put Bernd

Schuster's Getafe side ahead in the eighth minute, but Mallorca grabbed a point when Fernando Navarro scored the goal of the night firing a 40-metre rocket into the top corner five minutes from time.

Deportivo join Getafe on eight points from four games after their 1l draw at home to Real Betis.

Atletico Madrid, who had raised the hopes of their long-suffering fans with a 2-1 victory at home to Barcelona at the weekend, reverted to type when they surrendered a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 at Real Sociedad. It looked to be plain sailing for

worked goals from Fernando Torres and Mateja Kezman put them two up inside 20 minutes. But a double from Darko Kovacevic and another from his strike partner Nihat Kahveci sealed a

Carlos Bianchi's side after well

Real Madrid, who have lost two of their first three league matches and were trounced 3-0 by Olympique Lyon in their opening Champions League match, host Athletic Bilbao

morale-boosting comeback for

at the Bernabeu on Thursday.

Barca took the lead at the Nou Camp on the stroke of halftime when Ludovic Giuly raced down the right to latch on to a neat pass from Samuel Eto'o and fired into the far

But two quick-fire goals from striker David Villa early in the second half turned the game on its

The Spain striker, who joined Valencia for 12 million euros from Real Zaragoza at the start of the season, manufactured a penalty when he went down under pressure from Edmilson after a neat one-two with Vicente and then sent Barca keeper Victor Valdes the wrong way with his spot kick.

A minute later Valdes handed Villa a second when his attempted clearance rebounded off the striker's out-stretched foot and ended up in the back of the net.

But Canizares was in even more generous mood when he presented Deco with the chance to score a simple equaliser.

SERIE A

Vieira saves the day

Football

AFP, Turin

Juventus coach Fabio Capello admitted his team were lucky to escape from Udinese with all three points as the title-holders maintained their 100 per centSerieArecordonWednesday.

Patrick Vieira's 37th minute strike gave the reigning champions a 1-0 victory but they had to withstand a second-half onslaught and only a goalline clearance from Robert Kovac and a superb reflex save from Christian Abbiati kept their lead

Juventus have 12 points, while Palermo and Fiorentina are tied on 10 points after extending their unbeaten runs with precious victories.

Palermo defeated struggling Reggina 1-0 in Sicily thanks to Christian Terlizzi's fourth goal of the from a goal down at the break to score three goals in 15 second-half minutes ina3-1 winat Lecce.

Argentine defender Walter Samuel

scored on his league debut for Inter Milan in their 1-0 victory at Chievo and Emiliano Bonazzoli grabbed a brace as Sampdoria beat Treviso 2-0 for their third win on the trot.

Inter and Sampdoria both have nine points, one more than Livorno who drew 0-0 at Messina.

AC Milan, whose ageing defence came under heavy fire from the critics after their defeat at Sampdoria last Sunday, held firm as they returned to winning ways and ended Lazio's unbeatenrun with a 2-0 victory. Both goals came inside the first 14

minutes with Andriy Shevchnko and Kaka on target to lift some of the pres-sure on coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Milan join Lazio on seven points together with Roma, 4-1 winners over Parma at the Olympic stadium where Congolese striker Shabani Nonda netted twice for the 2001 champions. Empoli got their first points since

romotion with a 3-1 win over Juventus made the breakthrough eight minutes before half-time at the

right was headed down by Del Piero into Vieira's path and the France international's outstretched toe flicked the ball past Morgan De At the San Siro, European

Footballer of the Year Shevchenko put Milan in front in the 12th minute, cutting in from the left before burying powerful right-footed shot inside Matteo Sereni's near post. The home side increased their lead

two minutes later when Christian Vieri's touch did enough to prevent Sereni from easily gathering Andrea Pirlo's cross and the ball ran loose to Brazilian midfielder Kaka for an easy

Milan captain Paolo Maldini, who equalled Dino Zoff's record of 570 Serie A appearances at the weekend, was rested and will have to wait until next Sunday's match against Treviso to set a new milestone.

Samuel, who was suspended for Inter's first three league matches,celebrated his return to action by heading in his fellow former Real Madrid team-mate Luis Figo's corner

FROM PAGE 16 Blignaut lifted Anil Kumble right out of the ground for two sixes in three balls, the second one being lost somewhere in a car park and needed to be replaced.

From a starting point of 39-4 overnight Zimbabwe's task was ominous and when Heath Streak edged Zaheer Khan to slip during the second over of the morning, the writing seemed to be on the wall.

Replacement Charles Coventry was stopped in full flow when he gave a slow-ball catch to Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly off Pathan after making 25

India needed only seven of the 12 available sessions to beat Zimbabwe Zimbabwe scored 161 in their

first innings and India replied with 366. This left Zimbabwe 206 runs to make India bat again. But Ganguly said that he did not think it was all gloom and doom for

cricket in Zimbabwe. There are signs of improvement in the present Zimbabwe side. They

39 Path

of virtue

40 Common

42 Atmos-

query, Internet-

pheres

45 Keenness

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

ize

5 Frank

1 Tranquil

McCourt

fastener

book

12 Hodge-

38 Venom-

just need people to stand up and come through. They can bat and also bowl, but not perhaps consis-They quite clearly are missing

the likes of Andy Flower and Grant Flower and others, including I could say Ray Price." SCOREBOARD

Sports Club on Thursday: ZIMBABWE: First innings 161

(Coventry 37, Mazakadsa 27; Pathan INDIA: First innings 366 (Dravid 98, Gambhir 97, Sehwag 44; Streak 6-73) ZIMBABWE: Second innings (over-

Streak c Laxman b Zaheer Coventry c Ganguly b Pathan

Blignaut not out

24 Chess pc.

25 Listening

26 Cheater

of a

28 Neither

political

51 Spell-

cartoonist

By Eugene Sheffer

or Koppel 21 Standard

57 Kennedy

(Abbr.)

1 Rooster

3 Corona

additive

58 Alde

DOWN

Final scoreboard on the third day of the second and final Test between India and Zimbabwe at Harare

night39-4) Taylor lbwb Pathan Duffin c Dravid b Pathan Ebrahim cYuvraj b Zaheer Mazakadsa Ibw b Pathan Taibu c Kumble b Zaheer

Dabengwa c Karthik b Pathan Mahwire lbw b Kumble Mwayenga lbw b Zaheer Extras: (b-6, lb-5, w-2, nb-3)

Total: (All out in 55 overs) 5-42, 6-85, 7-201, 8-201, 9-203 Bowler Pathan

Harbhajan Kumble 52 Ganguly INDIA: Second innings Gambhirnotout Sehwag not out Total: (For no loss in 2.2 overs) Bowler 0 MR Blignaut 1.2 Mahwire Result: India beat Zimbabwe by 10

wickets and clinch the two-Test series 2-0. Man-of-the-match: Irfan Pathan. Man-of-the-series: Irfan Pathan. Toss: India.

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan).

YAO GXDYYRGA

DSO VDBCP ARUACZSPG, RIZURSO YAO IDGY NDNBCZO

G D B N R G X C Z S X A D V P O Q Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MATHEMATICIAN PRESENTS A RECAP OF SOMETHING, 1 GUESS HE IS SUMMING UP.



Chewy Dragee

The Freshmaker

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T The Gryptoquip 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.

Pole Marta Domachowska Shahriar Nafees scoring a 50 was Maria Sharapova piled on the first But with upset alarms no doubt takes on China's Zheng Jie. fine. He should have not got out but seven games before Shahar Peer starting to go off, 2004 Wimbledon Against Sharapova, Peer the effort he showed and reaction in champion Sharapova -- despite could find her feet but then had to showed the promise she exhibited the dressing room when he got out, struggle to finally scrape a 6-0, 4-6, striking 21 unforced errors -- put by winning the junior singles title is more I want to see. He was totally 6-2 win Thursday in her opening the brakes on the Israeli's upset at the 2004 Australian Open, a disappointed." match at the China Open. bid to advance into the quarteryear before making her WTA Being Sri Lanka's World Cup-Wary of the upset loss of holder debut last February as a qualifier winning coach who now trains the Serena Williams the previous The Russian's narrow escape in India. minnows, life could be difficult but evening, with the slumping took a shade off two hours, with 26 The Israeli has since reached Whatmore said that he wants to be American going down to the numwinners to her credit. five quarterfinals and moved from as realistic as much as he can. ber 127 Chinese player Sun Sharapova, a semifinalist at last 145th in the standings since the Tiantian, Russia's top seed looked year's inaugural edition, will Tempest" start of the year.

Sharapova is unlikely to have

serious immediate competition

for her new world number one

status, with rival Lindsay

Davenport reportedly not playing

Venus Williams will aim to save

family pride when she opens in her

Beijing debut against Nuria

Llagostera Vives of Spain.

in the autumn due to back pains which forced her Beijing with-The Florida-based Russian improved her 2005 record to 49-8 as she took a step in a bid for her 11th career title.

coach

Real Madrid star Ronaldo has hit out at critics of coach Vanderlei

For Ronaldo, a change of trainer

The Bangladesh Cricket Board

Patuakhali, Mymensingh and

1. The first half ended 1-1. Hasan netted two goals while Sajib scored Mymensingh outplayed Bangla-

In the day's last match, Khulna

"You can get a little bit down and

or I am not doing a good job, I'll go, said the Australian when asked whether he was under pressure from the Board or media back home to quit after the team's recent poor