

Chess League from today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Dutch-Bangla Bank First Division Chess League will begin today at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room.

A total of 16 teams will take part in the round-robin league. The participating clubs are holders Leonine, runners-up Muktiyoddha, Biman, Destiny 2000, Narayanganj CCC, Titas, BJMC, Farashganj, Mahakhali PS, Sonali Bank, Dhaka University, Friends CP, Anushilon and Dolphin Chess Club. Bangladesh's national chess team coach Edviins Kengis, the Latvian Grand Master, will play for Muktiyoddha along with Lithuanian GM Aloyzas Kveinys.

Leonine will be boosted by GM Niaz Morshed and Indian GM RB Ramesh while GM Ziaur Rahman and Reefat Bin Sattar play for Biman.

Lara poised

FROM PAGE 12

the third and final Test between Australia and the West Indies at Adelaide Oval on Friday:

WEST INDIES: First innings				
Hinds c Hayden b Lee	10			
Devon Smith c Hayden b Lee	7			
Sarwan c Symonds b Lee	16			
Lara not out	202			
Chanderpaul c Gilchrist b Symonds	25			
Bravo c Ponting b MacGill	34			
Dwayne Smith c Symonds b MacGill	14			
Ramdin lbw b McGrath	27			
Powell not out	7			
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-1, nb-5)	10			
Total: (For 7 wkts in 90 overs)	352			
Fall of wkts: 1-16, 2-19, 3-53, 4-121, 5-237, 6-263, 7-333.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McGrath	22	2	80	10
Lee	20	1	96	3
Symonds	16	5	44	1
Warne	17	1	73	0
MacGill	15	2	55	2

Toss: West Indies
AUSTRALIA: Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden, Ricky Ponting (captain), Brad Hodge, Mike Hussey, Andrew Symonds, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath. Nathan Bracken (12th man).

HP dominate

FROM PAGE 12

boundaries in his 77-ball innings, while opener Golan Rahman was the other notable scorer with a 49-ball 44 and Raqibul Islam made 41 from 83 balls.

Earlier left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain picked up four wickets for 34, as the England Under-19s were restricted for 219, with O'Shea making the team's highest score of 58 and Hamilton ending on 57.

The visitors will now play a triangular serious involving the Sri Lanka Under-19s as well as the hosts.

SCORES IN BRIEF

England Under-19s: 219-9 in 48 overs (Chopra 23, O'Shea 58, Hamilton 57, Wright 31, Thompson 17, extras 19; Mosharraf 4-34, Rezaul 2-45, Riyad 1-40, Nadiif 1-510)

HP Squad: 222-4 in 45.1 overs (Golan Rahman 44, Nazimuddin 28, Raqibul 41, Farhad 56 not out, Sonnet 18, Mazhar 15 not out, extras 20; Ali 2-48). **Result:** HP Squad won by six wickets.



Did U Know?

Matthew Hayden became the first batsman in the world to have aggregated 1000 runs or more in five successive calendar years - 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 & 2005 - a feat which virtually went unnoticed.



Hanif Mohammad

(Pakistani cricket legend)
"Inzamam is a great batsman. His second hundred in the Faisalabad Test came under pressure which shows his calibre."



AS Roma's Christian Panucci (L) and Daniele De Rossi jump to get the ball with Strasbourg's defenders and goalkeeper Nicolas Puydebois during their UEFA Cup match in Rome's Olympic Stadium on Thursday.

French pair through



AFP, PARIS

English Premiership side Middlesbrough, as well as French pair Marseille and Strasbourg, all booked their places in the UEFA Cup knockout round on Thursday.

Middlesbrough made certain of their place after a battling 0-0 draw against AZ Alkmaar in the Netherlands, Marseille defeated another Dutch side Heerenveen 1-0 while Strasbourg drew 1-1 with Roma in Italy.

Steve McClaren's Middlesbrough were in debt to goalkeeper Brad Jones who pulled off fine saves from Kenneth Perez, Shota Arvaladze and Danny Koevermans in their Group D clash.

The result was sweet satisfaction for Boro striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink who was shown the door by the Dutch side 12 years ago after failing to make an impression.

It also lifted some of the gloom after Boro had seen defender Abel Xavier banned for 18 months for a doping

offence.

Victory over Bulgarians Litex Lovech next month could see Boro top the group and earn an easier route through the latter stages of the competition.

Marseille secured entry to the last 32 when Taye Taiwo stepped up to beat goalkeeper Brian Vandenbussche from the penalty spot in the 88th minute at their Stade Velodrome home after Andres Mendoza had dramatically fallen in the penalty area under the slightest of touches from the Dutch keeper.

The result means Marseille are through to the next stage having played only two of the four games in Group F. Jean Fernandez's side beat CSKA Moscow in Russia 2-1 and still have matches to play against Levski Sofia and Dynamo Bucharest.

Heerenveen coach Gertje Verbeek was angry with the penalty decision.

"I regret that the referee was influenced by the crowd and gave the penalty," he said. "But that's football."

In Rome, Strasbourg went ahead when Habib Bellaid scored in the 52nd minute but Antonio Cassano levelled the Group E clash in the 73rd minute.

Strasbourg now find themselves in the next stage of the tournament despite struggling in their domestic league where they are bottom of the table without a win in 15 games.

Supersub Ricardo Vaz Te scored a late equaliser as Bolton drew 1-1 against Vitoria Guimaraes in Portugal to edge closer to the knockout stages.

Marek Saganowski had put the Portuguese side ahead six minutes from time with a diving header but Portuguese-born Vaz Te, set up by El-Hadji Diouf, hammered home an 88th-minute right-foot drive just one minute after coming on.

The result means that victory against Spanish side Sevilla in their final Group H game on December 14 will guarantee Bolton's place in the next round.

In Group G, 10-man Stuttgart beat PAOK Salonika 2-1 to ease the pressure on coach Giovanni Trapattoni and stay on course for the next round.

Danijel Ljuboja scored twice in the last five minutes to cancel out Hristos Karipidis's 48th-minute opener for the Greeks.

Woolmer warns of complacency

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan's coach Bob Woolmer has cautioned his players to be wary of an England backlash in the third and final Test in Lahore next week.

Woolmer said England's players were becoming increasingly acclimatized to the conditions in Pakistan.

"They batted well to win the Ashes at home. They have some dangerous players. But in a sense they were undercooked when they came to Pakistan and they got seaming wickets in the tour matches."

"But with two tests gone now I think they will have acclimatized and they will be harder to beat," he added.

England coach Duncan Fletcher has announced that captain Michael Vaughan could open the batting with Marcus Trescothick, since regular opener Andrew Strauss has returned home for the birth of his child.

England is trailing in the series, after losing the first Test in Multan by 22 runs and hanging on for a draw in the second Test in Faisalabad.

PREMIERSHIP

Portsmouth feel the heat



AFP, London

Sacking your manager 48 hours before facing the best team in the country does not sound like a reliable recipe for success.

But according to Portsmouth skipper Dejan Stefanovic, Thursday's dismissal of Alain Perrin by Pompey chairman Milan Mandaric could prove ideal preparation for Chelsea's visit to Fratton Park on Saturday.

Head coach Joe Jordan will take charge of the relegation-threatened side for the early evening encounter and Stefanovic is hopeful that the departure of Perrin will also mean an abandonment of the defensive approach he believes has contributed to the club's current position on the brink of the relegation zone.

Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho faces a

striker selection dilemma with Didier Drogba fit again after a minor knee knock and Hernan Crespo in one of his best runs off form at the club.

Crespo's volley in the Champions League win over Anderlecht in midweek was his third goal in as many games and has helped to silence the flurry of speculation about him being unsettled at Stamford Bridge.

Arsenal will be hoping to extend their impressive Champions League form -- a midweek win over FC Thun made it five wins out of five -- when Blackburn visit Highbury.

Despite trailing Chelsea by 11 points, the Gunners can still mount a challenge for the title, according to Dutch forward Robin van Persie, who is emerging as a key player for Arsene Wenger's side.

Jens Lehmann and Gilberto Silva should be back in action for Arsenal after a midweek rest while Blackburn welcome back Aussie duo Brett Emerton and Lucas

Neill after their exploits in helping their country reach the World Cup finals.

Liverpool are at Manchester City on Saturday hoping to eradicate the memory of a defeat there in April which marked City boss Stuart Pearce's first victory after taking over from Kevin Keegan.

Both clubs have taken significant strides since then and both managers believe they are now in charge of much more consistent outfits.

Manchester United are in action on Sunday, when Rio Ferdinand will run out at Upton Park, the ground where he started his career, and come face to face with his younger brother Anton, an increasingly impressive stalwart of West Ham's defence.

Gary Neville is expected to return to the United starting line-up and could be playing his first match as Roy Keane's long-term replacement as captain of the Red Devils.

Second-placed Wigan face a test of nerve after having their winning run ended by Arsenal last week when they host Tottenham, while near neighbours Bolton head to Fulham on Sunday looking for a their fourth straight win and a fourth straight clean sheet in the Premiership.

FIXTURES	
(1500 GMT unless stated)	
Saturday	
Arsenal v Blackburn, Aston Villa v Charlton, Manchester City v Liverpool, Sunderland v Birmingham, Wigan Athletic v Tottenham, Portsmouth v Chelsea (1715 GMT)	
Sunday	
Everton v Newcastle (1330 GMT), Fulham v Bolton (1400 GMT), Middlesbrough v West Brom, West Ham v Manchester Utd (1600 GMT)	

Best: Football's Van Gogh

FROM PAGE 12

Four years later, after a series of rows over missed training and his inappropriate lifestyle, he walked out on the club, announcing his retirement from the game. The club gave him a second chance but in 1974 he went again -- this time for good.

After several half-hearted attempts to return to British soccer Best played for the Los Angeles Aztecs in the North American Soccer League. He returned to England and a relatively successful spell with second division Fulham.

He was recalled to the Northern Ireland side but the dream once more began to sour. He played briefly in the US, Scotland and ending his playing days with Bournemouth in 1983.

He played 37 games for Northern Ireland, the last in 1977, but never appeared at a World Cup finals.

By the time Best retired, his marriage to model Angela Macdonald-James had collapsed. He was declared bankrupt and admitted that he was an alcoholic.

He twice had pellets implanted in his stomach as aversion therapy but, still a lover of the good life, he struggled to shake off his dependence on alcohol.

In 1984 he was imprisoned for eight weeks for drink-driving and assaulting a police officer. In February 2004 he was found guilty of drink-driving and banned from driving for

20 months.

In 2000 he spent five weeks in a London hospital with liver trouble, saying at the time after another soon-to-be-broken non-drinking pledge: "I should be dead."

In July 2002 he nearly was as, at the age of 56, he underwent a 10-hour liver transplant.

A year later he was arrested after a pub brawl near his home. He was released without charge but his new wife Alex said: "He seems to be on a mission to self-destruct and it's getting worse." The couple split up shortly afterwards.

FACTBOX

FROM PAGE 12

- 1964** - 1977: 9 goals.
- 1961** - Arrives in England to train with Manchester United.
- 1963** - September: makes debut for Manchester United as winger against West Bromwich Albion, aged 17.
- 1964** - Makes international debut for Northern Ireland against Wales after only 15 league games for United.
- 1965** - Part of United's league championship-winning side.
- 1966** - Spearheads United's 5-1 European Cup quarterfinal victory over Benfica in Lisbon. Christened "El Beagle".
- 1967** - Wins league for second time in three seasons. 1968 - United beat

Benfica 4-1 to win European Cup. Scores great individual goal in final at Wembley. Voted English Footballer of the Year and European Footballer of the Year.

1970 - Becomes United's top individual scorer in one match, scoring six in an 8-2 victory against Northampton Town in an FA Cup fifth round tie. 1972 - Announces retirement from soccer at age 26.

1973 - Makes brief comeback with Manchester United.

1974 - Transfer-listed by United in January. Plays handful of games for lowly Dunstable Town.

1975 - FIFA slap a worldwide ban on Best, then overturn it a day later. Loaned to Stockport County, scores twice in three league matches. Joins Los Angeles Aztecs and then Cork Celtic.

1976 - Joins Fulham, then in the old second division, scoring eight times in 42 league games.

1977 - Wins final cap for Northern Ireland

1978 - Joins Fort Lauderdale Strikers. Marries first wife Angela Macdonald-James. At request of English FA, Best is again banned by FIFA following a contract dispute with Fulham. Ban overturned six months later.

1982 - Declared bankrupt.

1983 - Plays five matches for Bournemouth, the last of his professional career, aged 37.

1984 - Sentenced to 12 weeks in prison for drink driving and assaulting a police officer. Serves eight weeks in jail. Formally divorces wife Angie. The couple have one son, Calum, a model.

1985 - Begins second career as television pundit and after-dinner speaker.

1992 - Discharged from bankruptcy.

1995 - Marries again, to Alex Pursey, a former air hostess.

2000 - Named in FIFA's Soccer Hall of Fame. Hospitalised with liver problems caused by years of excessive drinking.

2002 - July: Has successful liver transplant.

2003 - September: Separates from wife Alex after pictures show George drinking heavily again and media reports of repeated infidelities.

2004 - Banned from driving for 20 months and fined for drink driving. Formally divorced by Alex.

2005 - October: Admitted to Cromwell Hospital after developing a kidney infection and spends three weeks in intensive care. In mid-November, his condition deteriorates and he dies at the hospital on November 25.

PRIMERA LIGA

Luxemburgo's last!



AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Wanderley Luxemburgo will be playing for his professional life when the Spanish giants, who are currently fourth in the Spanish first division, visit Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Luxemburgo has come under fire before during his brief tenure at Real, having only taken over last December, but the club's fans called for his head during the last 10 minutes of the 1-1 draw against Lyon in the Champions League on Wednesday.

The traditional waving of white handkerchiefs to signal their displeasure was accompanied by jeering and shouts around the Santiago Bernabeu stadium of, "Out, out, out."

"The whistling was fair. If I'd have been in the stands then I would also have been whistling," said Luxemburgo.

The former Brazil national coach was given a stay of execution at a Real directors' meeting on Thursday night, which in theory was to look at the injury crisis in the first team squad.

However, Luxemburgo will have got a clear message about his future.

"I'm tough, I'm relaxed about carrying on. The president and vice-president are backing me. They greeted me and talked normally (after the game)," added Luxemburgo.

The whistles came partly, although many Real fans were in a restless mood after Saturday's 3-0 home defeat to bitter rivals and Spanish league leaders

Barcelona, because of the substitution of their favourite David Beckham.

"Beckham was in pain with his back. I'm not going to wait until he dies," commented Luxemburgo, defending his decision.

The England captain's back continued to throb on Thursday and Beckham didn't train.

Brazilian internationals Robinho and Roberto Carlos also missed the session after picking up knocks against Lyon.

Real officials said all three should be fit for Sunday's trip to Real Sociedad, who have only lost one game at home this season, but will have late fitness tests.

More doubtful for the game in San Sebastian is Ronaldo.

Having only just come back after a month out of action, the former World Player of the Year picked up an ankle injury against Barcelona and missed the game against Lyon.

Real's star striker was still working out in the gymnasium and swimming pool on Thursday, having not touched a ball in four days, and Luxemburgo may again call upon Jose Maria 'Guti' Gutierrez to go up front.

Real may be in a state of panic but their fellow Spanish giants Barcelona are buoyant.

The reigning Spanish champions are back on top of the league for the first time since they took the title back in March.

With Barca having scored 24 goals in their last seven outings, struggling Racing Santander can hardly be relish-

ing a visit to the Nou Camp stadium on Sunday.

Barca coach Frank Rijkaard has done a marvellous job of getting every player on the same wavelength.

Even the normally volatile Samuel Eto'o, the top scorer in the Spanish first division with 11 goals, has finally accepted the Dutchman's quiet authority.

The African Player of the Year didn't argue with Rijkaard's decision to keep him on the bench for Tuesday's Champions League visit of Werder Bremen.

"If Rijkaard says that I have to rest, then that's what I do," said Eto'o.

Barcelona have 25 points from 12 games but are only ahead of Osasuna on goal difference, who defend their 100 per cent home record against Alaves on Sunday.

Celta Vigo are third, two points adrift of the leading pair and two points ahead of Real Madrid, but they have a tough trip to Valencia on Saturday.

FIXTURES	
Saturday (kick off times in GMT)	
Real Mallorca v Athletic Bilbao (1900)	
Valencia v Celta Vigo (2100)	
Sunday	
Athletic Madrid v Espanyol (1600)	
Real Betis v Cadiz (1600)	
Deportivo La Coruna v Villarreal (1600)	
Getafe v Malaga (1600)	
Osasuna v Alaves (1600)	
Real Zaragoza v Sevilla (1600)	
Real Sociedad v Real Madrid (1800)	
Barcelona v Racing Santander (2000)	

SERIE A

Milan giants delighted



AFP, Rome

The return to form of Andriy Shevchenko and Adriano is good news for the two Milan clubs as they look to close the gap on Serie A leaders Juventus this weekend.

On Wednesday Ukrainian marksman Shevchenko ended a 39-day scoring drought by grabbing all of AC Milan's goals in the 4-0 victory away to Fenerbahce which left them on the brink of the Champions League's knockout stages.

And on the same night Brazilian hotshot Adriano found the net for the first time in 28 days, scoring a hat-trick in Inter Milan's 4-0 win over Artmedia Bratislava which sealed a place in the last 16 of Europe's premier club competition.

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti, whose side host Lecce on Saturday hoping to reduce Juventus' five-point advantage at the top of the table, warmly welcomed Shevchenko's four-goal salvo.

"Sheva was superb, deadly," gushed the Milan coach after his team's emphatic win in Istanbul which went some way to exorcising the ghosts of last season's Champions League final defeat to Liverpool in the Turkish capital.

"He scored four goals and could have had a couple more. On that form he's unstoppable."

Shevchenko was relieved to have rediscovered his goalscoring instincts after a barren month during which he has been troubled by a heel injury.

"To score four goals in such an important match was wonderful, unforgettable," said the reigning European Footballer of the Year.

"It was important for me after a difficult month in which I haven't been able to give my best."

The result means a draw for Milan in their last Group E match against German side Schalke 04 will clinch a place in the knockout stages provided it's not 3-3 or higher.

Roberto Mancini was equally proud of Adriano after his treble at the San Siro, which enabled Inter to win Group H.

"It was only a question of fitness and he has been working hard in training to

Tribute to the great

FROM PAGE 12

while newspapers reminisced about Best's highs on the pitch and lows at the mercy of alcohol.

Floral bouquets, Manchester United scarves and shirts, one bearing Best's name and the number seven, which he wore during his glory days, were left near the hospital's main entrance.

Best's second wife, Alex, said she would always miss the troubled star who she called the love of her life.

The couple married in 1995 and divorced in 2004.

"George was the love of my life. He was a unique and talented person who made a lot of people very happy," she

said in a statement. "I will always miss him."

Speaking at a Commonwealth summit in Malta, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said: "We all know George Best was one of the most naturally gifted footballers of his generation. Our thoughts and sympathies are with his family."

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern described Best as a football genius.

Best's family had kept an all-night vigil at his bedside.

A message on one bunch of flowers at the hospital read: "Dear George. Thanks for giving me so much joy, you were my hero as a child and as an adult."

Best of George

FROM PAGE 12

Worlds. I didn't -- it was only four. I didn't turn up for the other three."

"I used to go missing a lot ... Miss Canada, Miss United Kingdom, Miss World."

"I was in for 10 hours and had 40 pints -- beating my previous record by 20 minutes." Best on a blood transfusion for his liver transplant.

"Perhaps he saw something I didn't" Best on the bellboy who reputedly brought breakfast to his hotel room to see the drunken footballer in bed with the then-Miss World, a magnum of champagne and a large sum of cash won from the previous night of gambling. "George, where did it all go wrong?" the bellboy is supposed to have exclaimed.

"I was born with a great gift and sometimes with that comes a destructive streak. Just as I wanted to outdo everyone when I played, I had to outdo everyone when we were out on the town."

Easy win for

Gazi Tank