

## Eva atop alone

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazrana Khan Eva took pole position in the Camellia 27th National Women's Chess Championship after four rounds when she defeated Masuda Begum at the BCF hall-room yesterday.

Eva, who has four points, is closely followed by Tania Parveen and Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa who are level on 3.5 points.

In the other fourth round games, Tania beat Shirin, Nipa beat Zaki, Rani Hamid defeated Mahmuda, Liza beat Evana and Moni beat Shimmi.

## Media soccer final today

SPORTS REPORTER

The final of the fourth Meril Cup Media Football Tournament, organised by Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA), will be held today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Janakantha will take on Sangbad in the seven-a-side match that will kick off at 10am.

Dhaka Mayor Sadek Hossain will distribute prizes as the chief guest. Bangladesh Football Federation president SA Sultan, Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Kutub Uddin Ahmed and Anjan Chowdhury Pintu, managing director of sponsors Square Toiletries, will be present as special guests.

## Lahore ODI

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be good series but it doesn't mean that we can turn up the next day in a hope that we will win. We have to play well in the remaining matches to win," David said.

David singled out the presence of good fielders in his side as a big plus.

"Having fielders like Kaif, Suresh Raina and Yuvraj Singh gives us edge as they are classfielders."

David said he was surprised at Inzamam's decision to bat first in the Rawalpindi match.

India is also sweating on the fitness of off-spinner Harbhajan Singh who missed the first two matches because of a finger injury.

## TEAMS

INDIA (from): Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Mahendra Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Zaheer Khan, Rudra Pratap Singh, Sri Sreesanth, Murali Kartik, Harbhajan Singh, Ramesh Powar.  
PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan, Salman Butt, Imran Farhat, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Yousuf, Faisal Iqbal, Kamran Akmal, Abdul Razzaq, Navedul Haq, Umer Gul, Arshad Khan, Yasir Arafat, Mohammad Asif. Umpires: Simon Taufel and Asad Rauf.

## Aussie avenge

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Left-arm seamer Nathan Bracken claimed 4-30 off six overs, while Symonds and left-arm spinner Brad Hogg took two wickets each.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second triangular series limited-overs final between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA  
Gilchrist c Dilshan b Vaas 0  
Katich lbw b Vaas 1  
Ponting c Vaas b Perera 124  
Martyn c Jayawardene b Vaas 8  
Symonds lbw b Vaas 151  
Clarke not out 54  
Hussey not out 23  
Extras: (lb-1, w-4, nb-2) 7  
Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 368  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-2, 3-10, 4-24, 5-320  
Did not bat: Hogg, Lee, Bracken, Clark  
Super-sub: Lewis for Martyn  
Bowler O M R W  
Vaas 10 0 56 4  
Perera 10 0 72 1  
Kulasekara 5 0 41 0  
Muralitharan 10 0 99 0  
Dilshan 2 0 10 0  
Jayasuriya 8 0 52 0  
Bandara 5 0 37 0

SRI LANKA  
Atapattu c Gilchrist b Clark 24  
Jayasuriya c Lee b Bracken 0  
Sangakkara c Bracken 13  
Jayawardene b Hogg 50  
Arnold not out 64  
Dilshan c Ponting b Symonds 13  
Kapugedara run out (Clarke) 1  
Vaas c Clarke b Hogg 0  
Bandara c Clark b Symonds 0  
Muralitharan c Lewis b Bracken 27  
Perera c Ponting b Bracken 0  
Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-3) 9  
Total: (All out in 36 overs) 201  
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-26, 3-74, 4-116, 5-139, 6-145, 7-146, 8-147, 9-200  
Super-sub: Bandara for Kulasekara  
Bowler O M R W  
Lee 8 0 42 0  
Bracken 6 0 30 4  
Clark 5 0 28 1  
Lewis 5 0 30 0  
Symonds 5 1 32 2  
Hogg 7 0 35 2

Result: Australia won by 167 runs and level the series at 1-1.  
Man-of-the-match: Andrew Symonds.

Toss: Australia.  
Umpires: Peter Parker and Mark Benson.

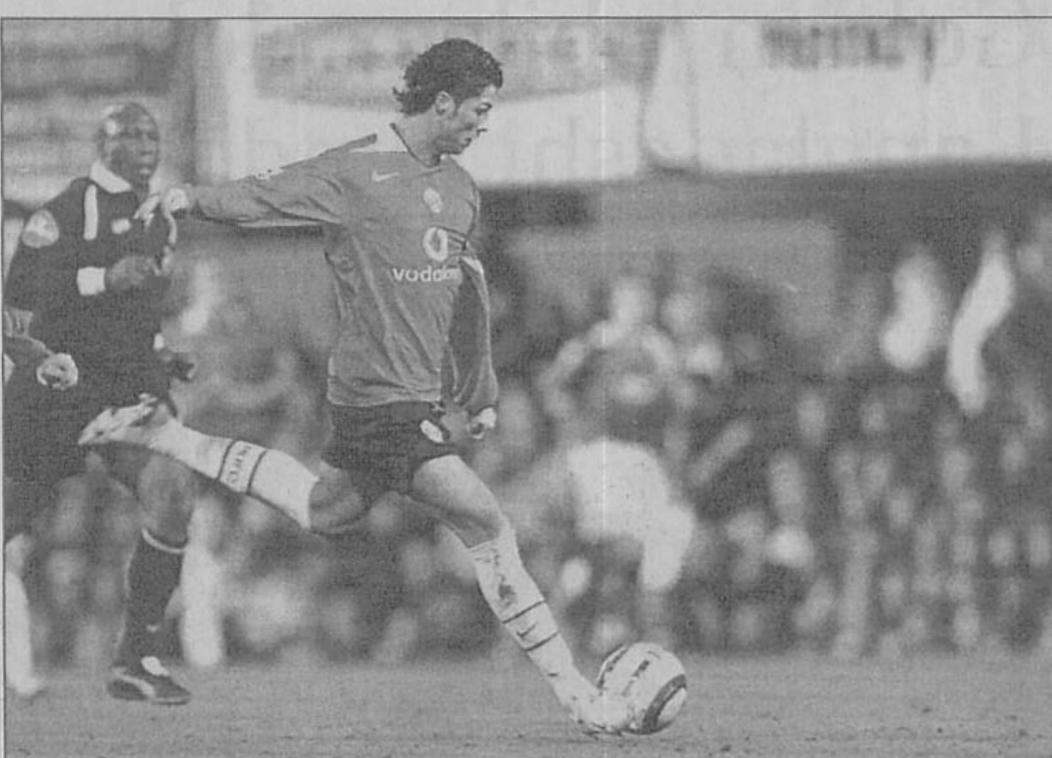


PHOTO: AFP  
Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo is about to shoot in the second goal during their Premiership match at Portsmouth on Saturday.

## PREMIERSHIP

## Boro stun Mourinho's men

## Football

REUTERS, London

Middlesbrough applied the brakes to Chelsea's Premier League title express in spectacular fashion on Saturday by humbling the champions 3-0 at the Riverside.

It was Chelsea's second league defeat of the season and only the third since coach Jose Mourinho took charge in 2004. It also equalled the worst defeat of Mourinho's coaching career.

Manchester United took advantage of Chelsea's rare slip by cutting the London club's lead to 12 points with a 3-1 victory at second-from-bottom Portsmouth. Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice before half-time.

Third-placed Liverpool won 1-0 at Wigan Athletic to end a run of three defeats in four games, while fifth-placed Arsenal needed a stoppage time equaliser from Brazilian Gilberto to salvage a 1-1 home draw with Bolton Wanderers.

Relegation-threatened Boro, without a home league win for six matches, made a perfect start when Fabio Rochemback punished some slack defending to score inside two minutes.

Chelsea were hampered by the

loss of William Gallas to injury and they slipped further behind on the stroke of halftime when Stewart Downing's shot beat Petr Cech.

Any hopes of a Chelsea comeback vanished after 67 minutes when Nigerian Aiyegbeni Yakubu powered past defender John Terry and rifled a shot past Cech.

"We worked very hard and showed a lot of character after the midweek defeat by Charlton," Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez told Sky Sports. "It was an important win."

United ran riot in the first half. Ruud van Nistelrooy nodded in his 22nd goal of the season after Ryan Giggs had hit the crossbar following a dazzling run. Ronaldo then hit a vicious shot past Dean Kiely and struck again to make it 3-0.

Portsmouth dominated the second half and pulled one back through Matthew Taylor but are now eight points from safety.

"If Chelsea have a bad spell, who knows what might happen," United boss Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports.

Injury-hit Arsenal looked to be heading for a third defeat of the season against Bolton after Kevin Nolan lobbed the visitors ahead at Highbury in the 11th minute.

Arsenal had forward Jose Reyes carried off on a stretcher before half-time as a result of a poor tackle by Abdoulaye Faye, but they grabbed a deserved equaliser when Gilberto converted a cross by Cesc Fabregas.

## Ivorians greet their football 'heroes'

AFP, Abidjan



Beaten African Nations Cup finalists Ivory Coast returned to a rapturous welcome here on Saturday the day after they lost to hosts Egypt 4-2 on penalties, the match having finished 0-0 after extra-time.

Several thousand fans were at the airport to greet 'The Elephants', who narrowly missed out on landing the country's second African Nations Cup title.

"You have lost but we remain proud of you," adorned many of the banners displayed by the fans, whose only salvation from the political turmoil in their country comes from the football team which brings together the north and the south albeit briefly.

The fans fought to catch a glimpse of the squad -- who beat bitter rivals Cameroon and Nigeria on their way to the final --

with people climbing onto roofs of cars and on the shoulders of friends.

Ivory Coast's outstanding goalkeeper Jean-Jacques Tize was overcome by their reception.

"We weren't expecting such an extraordinary welcome," Tize told AFP.

"That only goes to prove the unique bond between the people and the team."

The football team has always tried to set an example to the rest of the country and after they had all but sealed their place at the World Cup finals last year, captain Didier Drogba led them in a peace prayer for the nation.

"Ivorian we beg you for forgiveness. Let us come together and put this war behind us."

Drogba, who missed an open goal and then a penalty in the shootout against Egypt, was embraced by famed Ivorian singer Aicha Kone at the airport.

"Oh! look at him, he is so sad" said Kone, receiving simply a

thank you from the 27-year-old Ivorian captain, whose effigy was brandished by a lot of the supporters.

The team was due to meet with President Laurent Gbagbo -- who gave them a house each after they qualified for the World Cup finals -- in his palace after taking a motorcade through the capital.

Ivorian police desperately tried to clear a way for the motorcade as it threatened to be swamped by the crowds and it took four hours for it to edge its way through to the main stadium -- several supporters tried to climb onto the truck and shake hands with the players, who were smiling and some of whom were barechested -- where hundreds more fans awaited them.

As the motorcade made its slow progress it left a slew of detritus in its wake with hundreds of plastic sandals, Turkish slippers and shoes as well as the corpse of one fan, who was dressed just in the national flag.



PHOTO: COURTESY  
Winners of the Dhaka Bank 20th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Tournament are seen with chief guest Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas (C) during the prize giving ceremony on Friday.

## SERIE A

## Sensini stalls Lazio on debut

AFP, Rome

Nestor Sensini's debut as coach of Serie A club Udinese ended in a 1-1 draw away to his former club Lazio on Saturday.

Sensini, supported by former Como coach Loris Dominissini, took over team affairs on Friday following the sacking of Serse Cosmi.

Sensini, who won a league winners' medal with Lazio in the 1999-00 season, chose to sit in the stands while Dominissini occupied the dug-out.

Lazio took the lead in the 20th minute when Tommaso Rocchi headed home Massimo Oddo's right-wing cross.

Udinese levelled six minutes later when Vincenzo Iaquinta scored a penalty after Rocchi had clumsily fouled Jose Vidigal.

A draw for Lazio maintained their unbeaten home record and lifted them up one place to eighth. Udinese climbed one place to 11th.

In Saturday's early match Chievo boosted their chances of a UEFA Cup place next season by winning 2-1 at relegation-threatened Treviso.

## Guus wants part-time England job

INTERNET, undated

Gus Hiddink will only take the England manager's job if he can do it part-time for the first 12 months.

Sweden's Eriksson will end his reign as England coach after this summer's World Cup in Germany.

Dutchman Hiddink was one of the leading contenders to succeed Eriksson until Premier League chairman Dave Richards, one of the men who will pick the next England coach, said he wanted the next boss to be British.

Hiddink is currently Australia's part-time manager and is under contract with his club, PSV, until summer 2007.

He told the News of the World: "I will not break my contract with PSV but it is possible to take on the England duties as well for the first 12 months."

"It is something I have been able to do with the Australian national team."

"London is only one hour from where I live in Eindhoven, so the distance will not be a problem."

"I am used to living out of a suitcase. It has worked for me in the past."

## Door open to England: Trap

INTERNET, undated

Italian legend Giovanni Trapattoni has suggested he would like a move to England.

The former Italy national coach has won virtually everything in the game, with eight league titles, a European Cup, three UEFA Cups and a Cup Winners' Cup to his name.

Trapattoni has just left his job with Stuttgart after a poor run of form and now the former Juventus, Milan, Internazionale, Fiorentina, Cagliari and Benfica coach is considering a shock switch to the Premiership.

The veteran coach was not too disheartened about leaving Germany as he said he would have left in the summer anyway.

"June I'd have come back anyway, I'd have closed with Stuttgart," he told La Stampa.

"It was an environment that became unsustainable."

"I'd like to try an experience in England, it is a different world that I don't know but I'd like to know."

"I've always had the enthusiasm to continue doing good things elsewhere."

## City Bank to sell

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"We have struck a one-year contract with the bank which means it will cover three home series," said Mahbub.

## TICKET RATES FOR BOGRA

ODI: Tk 50 (Gallery), Tk 500 (Club House), Tk 200 (Special Enclosure), Tk 1000 (VIP), Tk 1500 (Non A/C hospitality box, 3rd Floor), Tk 2000 (A/C hospitality box), Tk 1000 (Non A/C hospitality box, ground floor), Tk 1500 (VVIP).

TEST: Tk 20 (Gallery), Tk 100 (Club House), Tk 40 (Special Enclosure), Tk 200 (VIP), Tk 300 (Non A/C hospitality box, 3rd Floor), Tk 500 (A/C hospitality box), Tk 200 (Non A/C hospitality box, ground floor), Tk 500 (VVIP).

## TICKET RATES FOR CHITTAGONG

ODI: Tk 30 (Gallery), Tk 100 (Special Enclosure, East and West), Tk 500 (VIP), Tk 20,000 (A/C hospitality box, Package).

TEST: Tk 20 (Gallery), Tk 40 (Special Enclosure, East and West), Tk 100 (VIP), Tk 20,000 (A/C hospitality box, Package).

## CRYPTOQUIP

Q G Y K N G Y K N A Z W Y U M Z Y M U

M Q L Q Y Y Q X , U Q W F Z I D B

B Q H D I U Q A K Q Q J W D U A Q Y

U Q L D F Z H Z Z Y Y D Z U Q I .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A LAND PARCEL IS

GROWING TONS OF WEEDS, I SUPPOSE YOU

COULD SAY "THE LOT THICKENS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals C

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.

## PRIMERA LIGA

## Real bounce back&lt;/div