

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Reefat Bin Sattar is in the lead along with Iranian GM Ghaem Maghami and Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Dung in the United Leasing and United Insurance eighth Grandmasters chess tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

All three have gained six points after eight rounds with Reefat winning against Pakistani IM Mahmood Lodi, Maghami beating Nasir Ahmed and Ngyuen defeating PDS Grinath of India.

IM Abdullah Al Rakib, IM Enamul Hossain and Girinath are all in second place with five points each.

**POLICE VOLLEYBALL**  
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) thumped Chittagong Range 3-0 in the final of the Bangladesh Police Volleyball Championship at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground yesterday.

Maruful Hasan of DMP was adjudged the best player of the tournament.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad was present as the chief guest.

**DIV 1 VOLLEYBALL**  
Swabolombi Society beat Madartek Mitali Sangha 3-2 in the National Bank Metropolis First Division Volleyball League at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Swabolombi fought all the way to win 25-19, 20-25, 25-21, 18-25 and 15-13 in the thrilling encounter.

**DIVISIONAL KARATE**  
Nurul Huda of Chapainawabganj and Halima Khatun of Thakurgaon won gold in the men's and women's event of the second divisional karate competition in Rajshahi.

In the 45kg event, Rangpur's Panimal Chandra and Mariam Khatun of Chapainawabganj won while in the 60kg event, Asaduzzaman of Rajshahi was victorious.

Sonn laid to rest

AFP, Cape Town

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Percy Sonn, who died last weekend following complications after undergoing minor colon surgery, was laid to rest in Cape Town on Saturday.

Hundreds of people gathered at St George's cathedral in the city centre for a funeral service, according to an AFP photographer.

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed paid tribute to Sonn, 57, the first African to head the ICC.

South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel was among the mourners.

Born on September 25 1949, Percival Henry Frederick Sonn, known as Percy, dedicated much of his life to cricket and became an administrator while still a teenager with his club side, Bellville South.

Sonn was elected ICC president in June 2006 after successfully heading the United Cricket Board of South Africa, where he played an integral part in the integration of South Africa into the world game after the end of apartheid.

Away from cricket, Sonn was a lawyer and became a legal advisor to the South African Police Service.

He leaves his wife, Sandra, and three children.

Edwards, Sammy brighten Test chance

BBC ONLINE, undated

West Indies pace duo Fidel Edwards and Darren Sammy boosted their chances of a starting third Test with England by wrapping up the MCC innings on Day Two.

With the Windies blighted by injury, compounded by Ravi Rampaul and Chris Gayle's problems on day one, Edwards and Sammy provided a welcome lift.

Resuming on 234-7, Edwards (3-66) and Sammy (2-66) cleared up the tail as the MCC slumped to 260 all out.

In reply, the Windies lost Devon Smith for just 16 to leave them 21-1.

Ruel Braithwaite was the wicket-taker, bowling the opener to end his 19-ball stay.

Earlier, Edwards and Sammy found good pace and bounce to wrap up the innings in the first morning, with Jermaine Taylor (5-43) given the morning's rest.

Katich full of hope

BBC ONLINE, undated

Discarded batsman Simon Katich has not given up hope of a return to Australia's Test and one-day teams.

The 31-year-old lost his Test place shortly after the 2005 Ashes series and gave away in the world champions' one-day side in 2006 to Matthew Hayden.

Katich told BBC Sport: "I had a run of low scores so I understood the selectors' reasons for dropping me."

"But you're never too old and should never give up hope. Just keep piling on the runs and they will take notice."



GM Reefat Bin Sattar (L) concentrates hard during his match against Pakistani IM Mahmud Lodi in the United Leasing and Insurance eighth Grand Masters' chess tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhoni given extra cover

PTI, Ranchi

Even after denying any Naxal threat to Indian superstar cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Jharkhand police have decided to leave nothing to chance and provided complete security cover for the wicketkeeper.

Dhoni, who arrived here on Saturday after visiting Delhi and Mumbai, was given additional protection on his way from airport to his residence.

Besides gun-wielding state policemen, the Central Industrial Security Force personnel posted at the Birsu Munda Airport also joined to escort Dhoni till he got into a vehicle.

The vehicle, having one policeman inside it, was escorted by a police car carrying five security men.

Deepak Kumar Ambast, in-charge of Doranda police station under which Dhoni's house falls, said the procedure would be a routine from now on whenever Dhoni was in town.

"It is quite normal to provide security to all VIPs," replied Ambast when asked whether the extra cover was given in the wake of the reports of Naxal threat on Dhoni.

"We will keep a strict vigil and accompany him wherever Dhoni visits," he added.

On May 27, Jharkhand Director General of Police JB Mahapatra had denied reports by a section of media that the cricketer faced Naxal threat.

Federer focussed on game

AFP, Paris



Roger Federer speaks fluent English, French and German but he'll be more than happy to just let his tennis do the talking if it secures him a first French Open title.

With his linguistic prowess, dealing with the press -- newspapers, radio and TV -- can take up to an hour after each match the Swiss plays.

Considering he makes a routine out of reaching finals, that's a lot of talking and the world number one has started to rein in his media obligations to concentrate on his game.

"I have definitely cut down on the interviews on off-days because I used to do more off-court activities," said Federer.

"I was trying to do all kinds of things and make everybody happy. Now it's about really trying to rest yourself and not get too tired because of doing too much media."

Federer is acutely aware of his public responsibilities.

But the prospect of finally winning a French Open, and becoming only the third man in history to hold

all four Grand Slam titles at the same time, is too tantalisingly close for him to be distracted.

"I want to enjoy coming into the press room so I think less is more now in my career," added the world number one.

"I can concentrate on my private life and the tennis court. The press is always there. They'll never go away."

Federer will be back in the Roland Garros press-room on Sunday after his fourth round encounter with Russian 13th seed Mikhail Youzhny who he's beaten nine times out of nine.

Victory there would take him a step closer to a highly-anticipated final against double defending champion Rafael Nadal, the man who stands between the Swiss and history.

But Federer, beaten by Nadal twice in the last two years here, is not looking that far ahead.

Only Youzhny is occupying his thoughts.

"He had a breakthrough last year at the US Open where he beat Rafa and played a close semifinal against Roddick," said the top seed.

"I think he's a fantastic player. He's always been famous for playing exceptionally well in practice but for some reason he couldn't tie it together in a match situation."

Pawar's no to short term

CRICINFO, undated

India's board president, Sharad Pawar, has said he will not be seeking to step in as Percy Sonn's short-term successor at the ICC, adding that the post should be filled by a fellow South African at least until Sonn's two-year tenure expires at the end of 2009.

Pawar vied for the ICC presidency with the ECB's David Morgan in March, only for the vote to be split 3-3 -- a result that led to Sonn being asked to stay on for an extra year. But his death last week, after complications following a colon operation in Cape Town, has created a power vacuum in the run-in to next month's executive meeting at Lord's.

According to PTI, the Asian Cricket Council has decided to press for an early election and has once again backed Pawar's candidacy. But the man himself is not tempted to rush into the top job.

"Sonn had a tenure of two years and since it was not completed, we feel another South African office-bearer should get the post," he told NDTV. "This is because Sonn's tenure belonged to his country. The ICC president's seat did not come to BCCI and if someone other than South Africa claims it, it is wrong."

But regardless of Pawar's remarks, which will doubtless win over the African vote that went against him at the last presidency election, the likeliest candidate to fill the vacuum on a short-term assignment is Sir John Anderson of New Zealand.

"There has been talk of Malaysia's Prince Tunku Imran being considered as acting president," said an official at the Pakistan Cricket Board, "but the ICC history is that the members always back a representative of a full member country for any prime posting, not anyone from an associate country."

Players, PCB

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team management. "We have been told that if we violate this new ruling we can be banned for a number of matches. But, the ban would be for how many matches they have not told us as yet," the player said on condition of anonymity.

"Obviously the players are not happy with the new restrictions which have come into effect more strictly after the World Cup," he said.

Sources said two days back a few players were committed to appear on a television talk show on the Geo sports channel. The channel finally had to cancel its scheduled programme after the board made it clear to the players that they could not make direct commitments with media.

Uruguay

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But Jones brought groans from the 61,000 crowd when he flapped at Giacomazzi's cross, gifting Recoba an easy headed goal to give Uruguay victory.

The Australians, testing their reserve depth ahead of their first foray into July's Asian Cup, have a final warm-up game against Singapore on June 30.

Del Piero

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Azzurri jersey." Del Piero was expected to start upfront against the Faroe Islands in their Euro 2008 qualifier and, after a spell in Serie B, finds himself facing a team made up of amateur players.

"In the Faroe Islands it really is like another world," he said. "It's curious to think that I will be marked by a carpenter."

Freddie has ankle op



AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff underwent surgery on his troublesome left ankle on Friday, according to the English and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The Lancashire player had tissue removed from the joint in what was described as a routine operation.

"Andrew Flintoff on Saturday underwent an exploratory arthroscopy on his injured left ankle," said an ECB statement.

"Early signs are that the operation was routine, and Andrew will begin his rehabilitation accordingly following successful removal of tissue contributing to anterior impingement in the ankle."

No timescale has been put on his return to action, although initial suggestions were that the 29-year-

old could perhaps hope for a return in time for a three-match Test series against India, starting next month.

Flintoff had to miss the first two Tests against West Indies and was ruled out of the remainder of that four-match series when it was announced just this week he would have to have a third bout of surgery on his ankle.

Meanwhile, former England coach David Lloyd allayed fears for Flintoff's future in the game and said he will bounce back despite being ruled out of the current Test series against West Indies.

But Lloyd, Flintoff's former Lancashire coach and now a Sky Sports commentator, believes he has the drive and determination to return and perform in with bat, ball and in the field.

"I don't think he's changed at all from when I first met him as a teenager -- he's always been very determined," said Lloyd, who signed Flintoff for Lancashire back in 1994.

"I think he'll be fine. He has got an injury that is just lingering and I think he'll come back as an all-rounder because that's what he is."

"People say he's a bowler who bats a bit these days, but that's rubbish -- he's an all-rounder. I'm sure he'll want to come back and be in the game all the time."

"He wants to bowl, he wants to bat, he wants to field, he wants to be involved at every opportunity and I don't think he would want to have just one aspect of the game to concentrate on."

Flintoff made a successful return from an ankle injury in 2005, becoming man of the series during England's triumphant Ashes series and Lloyd is expecting a similar response this time.

"When he's come back before, he's always come back faster and fitter than before and I've no doubt that will happen this time, it's just that this injury is lingering a bit," he said.

McClaren to stick with Becks



AFP, London

Steve McClaren gave David Beckham a clear hint that the midfielder has played his way into England's long-term plans after his influential display against Brazil.

Beckham took centre stage at Wembley as he marked his first England appearance since last year's World Cup by setting up John Terry's second half header.

Although Beckham was denied the perfect evening as Diego headed a stoppage time equaliser to earn Brazil a 1-1 draw, the Real Madrid midfielder's presence helped to galvanise his previously moribund team.

Now all Beckham has to do is help England to a win over Estonia in

Wednesday's crucial Euro 2008 qualifier to cement his place again just 10 months after his international career looked over.

McClaren's fulsome praise for Beckham indicates that the former England captain could well be a key figure for his country next season.

"When David is playing well there is no better right-sided player in the world and he showed that tonight," McClaren said.

"It was fitting he was involved in the goal. We thought we would have a chance of scoring on set plays. We nearly did once or twice before."

"His delivery was exceptional and JT doesn't miss from there. It was apt and just a pity we didn't get the result to go with that."

"Many people questioned the decision and there was a great debate about it this week. But we picked David Beckham because of

how he plays on the field.

"Since the New Year in his performances for Real Madrid he has looked fit and strong. He deserved his place in the team on performance."

"But our only focus now is on Wednesday. We wanted to get this game over and get a good performance. We are not looking beyond that."

Beckham worked tirelessly to close down Brazil and his precise set-pieces were by far England's most dangerous threat.

He went close with a curling effort in the first half and whipped in a perfect free-kick that gave Michael Owen a chance before picking out Terry for his goal with another perfect dead-ball delivery midway through the second half.

That ability to torment defences from free-kicks makes Beckham worth his place and McClaren is certain to stick with the former Manchester United star despite his imminent move to American Major League Soccer.

Beckham admitted he was delighted to be back and said: "I'm not sure I thought this moment would never come again, but I am very happy to be part of a historic night."

"I have always felt I had to fight for my place. I believe that wherever you are, whatever your name is, you have to fight for your place. I have done that wherever I have played."

Safarova shatters

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"I played a solid first set and then had a little bit of a let down and made a lot of unforced errors."

"I am happy the way I came back after that but it was also lousy as not a lot of people are going to allow me to get away with that."

Also through to the last 16 in the bottom half of the draw were third seed and last year's beaten finalist Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia and rising Serb seventh seed Ana Ivanovic.

German Open winner Ivanovic was a comfortable 6-2, 6-0 winner over Romania's Ioana Raluca Olaru and will next take on the winner of the tie between Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia or Anabel Medina Garrigues of Spain.

"I got a lot of confidence from Berlin, it helped me a lot," Ivanovic

said.

"I have improved in the mental side of things in the last couple of weeks and months."

"Everything is open in this tournament and I can be one the players competing for the title."

Former US Open winner Kuznetsova defeated Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-2, 6-3 and in the fourth round she will play Shahar Peer of Israel who beat Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 for a place in the quarterfinals.

Top seed and defending champion Justine Henin of Belgium won through to the last 16 late Friday with a straight sets win over Mara Santangelo of Italy and is lined up to take on Sybille Bammer of Austria on Sunday.

Rahmatganj win

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to pay back when Domenic stunned the paltzy crowd at the big bowl with a superb shot from 35 yards in the 27th minute to level the score.

After the break, substitute Mamun, who replaced Adeyinka, scored the winner in the 80th minute through a tap having capitalised on a Charles Ikogho cross.

Apart from scoring a goal, Francis was the star of the show as he came close twice -- first in the 2nd minute when he unleashed a powerful left-footer from 35 yards, which missed the target by a couple of inches and then in the 77th minute, when his right-footed free-kick from just outside the right side

of the danger zone went narrowly wide after getting a deflection from the opponent's defensive wall.

TEAMS

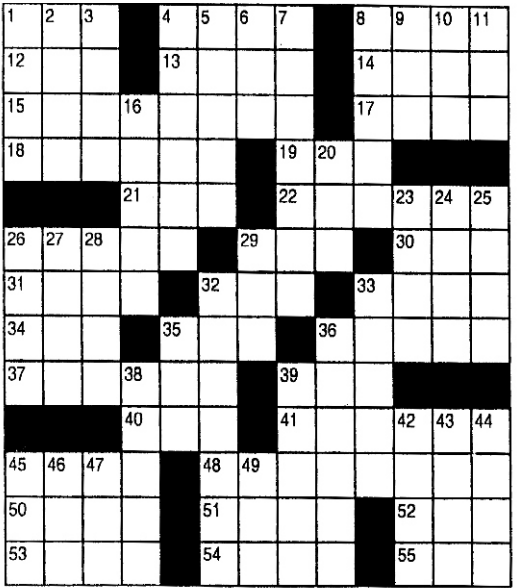
**Rahmatganj:** Anwar, Sheepon, Sonny, Jahangir (Babu), Arafat, Emu, Adeyinka (Mamun), Faisal (Mohiuddin), Apu, Francis and Ikogho.

**Arambagh:** Mitul, Monu, Ramzan, Thomas, Akram, Iddi (Morshed), Zuku, Domenic (Nurul Islam), Nicodemus, Ridan and Sumon.

**Yellow cards:** Monu (Arambagh), Emu and Francis (Rahmatganj).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS				DOWN			
1 Matlock's field	36 Put forth with	55 Make an effort	11 Type measures	1 Sites	2 Shake-speare's river	24 Burn somewhat	25 Faxed
4 Goody-goody	39 Rock-concert need	1 Nap	3 Child of the streets	4 Beat	5 Spacious	26 Sheltered	27 "Cheers" habitué
8 Put together	40 Likely	41 Tarzan's clique	6 Office-holders	7 "Whole exceeds sum of parts" theory	8 Counter-top appliance	36 Political mover?	38 Refuge
12 Eggs	42 Pressing	45 Footbal-game start	50 Sandwich shop	9 Branch	10 — good deed	39 Skiers' mecca	42 Do
13 Top-rated	51 Always	52 Cheer-leader's cry	53 Thousand —, Calif.	54 Unit of force	55 Command	43 Autocrat	44 Wan
14 Pressing	56 Always	57 Cheer-leader's cry	58 Thousand —, Calif.	59 Unit of force	60 Command	45 Big	46 Split — soup
15 Football-game	59 Always	60 Cheer-leader's cry	61 Thousand —, Calif.	62 Unit of force	63 Command	47 Wapiti	48 Wall climber
17 Opening day?	61 Always	62 Cheer-leader's cry	63 Thousand —, Calif.	64 Unit of force	65 Command	49 Wall climber	
18 Tell	63 Always	64 Cheer-leader's cry	65 Thousand —, Calif.	66 Unit of force	67 Command		
19 Father's Day gift	65 Always	66 Cheer-leader's cry	67 Thousand —, Calif.	68 Unit of force	69 Command		
21 Nursery item	67 Always	68 Cheer-leader's cry	69 Thousand —, Calif.	70 Unit of force	71 Command		
22 This way	69 Always	70 Cheer-leader's cry	71 Thousand —, Calif.	72 Unit of force	73 Command		
26 Broadway backer	71 Always	72 Cheer-leader's cry	73 Thousand —, Calif.	74 Unit of force	75 Command		
29 Pub order	73 Always	74 Cheer-leader's cry	75 Thousand —, Calif.	76 Unit of force	77 Command		
30 Right-turn command	75 Always	76 Cheer-leader's cry	77 Thousand —, Calif.	78 Unit of force	79 Command		
31 Upper House member	77 Always	78 Cheer-leader's cry	79 Thousand —, Calif.	80 Unit of force	81 Command		
32 White House monogram	79 Always	80 Cheer-leader's cry	81 Thousand —, Calif.	82 Unit of force	83 Command		
33 Verve	81 Always	82 Cheer-leader's cry	83 Thousand —, Calif.	84 Unit of force	85 Command		
34 History chapter	83 Always	84 Cheer-leader's cry	85 Thousand —, Calif.	86 Unit of force	87 Command		
35 Black-and-white seabird	85 Always	86 Cheer-leader's cry	87 Thousand —, Calif.	88 Unit of force	89 Command		



CRYPTOQUIP

FT GSN TYFRPTNKKG JKDYA  
GSNI DYIM F MNLLSMD  
GSN JSNKC JYKK RPYR  
XSSC YNIYK PGXFDAD  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER SOME BLACK INK WAS FOUND TO BE GUILTY OF A CRIME, THEY WOUND UP PUTTING IT IN THE PEN.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals U



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh batsman Javed Omar (2nd left) poses with the winners of online game Top Selector and chief technical officer of Access Tel Zaree Omar at the company's office yesterday.