B. League manager Abu Nayeem Sohag (R) shakes hands with Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu after receiving the registration forms in presence of the club's players for the 2008 season at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

Dhaka in Nat'l cricket final

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka secured an 18-run victory against Barisal to reach the final of the 28th National Cricket Championship yesterday.

Fazle made a hattrick while man-of-the-match Saroz was the highest scorer with a 49-ball 48 that featured three fours and as many sixes but it was not good enough for Barisal to win the rain-interrupted first semifinal at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium.

In the 20-overs a-side affair, Dhaka were all out for 111 with Faiyaz making highest 36. Mithun added 17 while Martin scored 13.

Fazle claimed three wickets for 18 while Pear and Masud took two wickets each.

In reply, Barisal were bundled out for 93 in 19.5 overs.

Al-Amin grabbed two wickets for 13 while Ishaq and Arif captured one wicket each.

Pioneer League

SPORTS REPORTER

Kakrail Jubo Sangha trounced Nasirabad Udayan Sangsad 4-0 in a central zone match of the Pioneer Football League at the Basabo Tarun Sangha Club ground yesterday.

Sadhinata KS secured a solitary goal victory over Khilgaon Progati Sangsad in the zone's other match at the same venue.

In south zone, GBHB defeated Dragon KC 3-1 while Tangail Football Club beat Mukta Jibon Football Club 1-0 at the Mohammadpur Idgah ground. In east zone, Bangladesh SC

drubbed Adamjee KC 4-0 at the Jagannath University College ground at Dhupkhola.

At the Outer Stadium, Lalbagh Tarun Sangha beat Golam Mustafa Lane Kishore Sangha 1-0 while Dhaka Mahanagar Football Proshikhan Kendra held RND to a goalless draw.

T20 will destroy Pakistan, says Miandad

PTI, Karachi

As the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ponders on holding its own version of the Indian Premier League (IPL), former Pakistan skipper Javed Miandad denounced the idea saying such a move would destroy the game in the country.

Miandad said the IPL is nothing but entertainment and lacks quality.

"The involvement of too much money will destroy the game of cricket. It (IPL) lacks quality and a cricketer can never get the confidence he needs as a player. Even the greatest of bowlers cannot do anything about conceding sixes and fours,' Miandad told the Dawn.

The former Pakistan coach insisted five-day cricket not twenty20 was the real test of a player's ability as there was the latter does not require players to showcase their technique.

Miandad also felt Pakistan cricket was on a downward spiral and said the absence of quality opponents in the team's schedule.

"One reason for this is that talented players are not being groomed properly. Also, we are not playing against high ranking teams and competing with the weaker sides which doesn't

improve your game. "It is contesting against quality teams like Australia and India that your potential is truly put to the test. But this is not the case at present," he said.

A Jankovic warning

French Open

AFP, Paris

World number three Jelena Jankovic warned Monday that she is ready to fill the gap left by retired queen of clay Justine Henin.

Jankovic, who reached the semifinals here 12 months ago, enjoyed a 7-6, 6-2 first round victory over Romanian lucky loser Monica Niculescu.

make the most of the shock retirement of Henin, the winner here for the last three years, after putting a series of poor results behind her to successfully defend her Rome title.

It was her first trophy of the year and sixth in total after winning four last year. "Justine was the one against

whom I always had the most trouble, so I have a better chance now," explained Australian Open semifinalist Jankovic.

"I am more mature. I have played in three Grand Slam semifinals and lost to the eventual winner.

me a lot. I really feel the improve-

Jankovic admitted that her confidence had taken a battering following a series of poor results which had lead her to consider quitting.

"Many of us go into some kind of a bad period. All of a sudden I got sick and I started losing so many times. I couldn't accept that, and I wanted to stop playing tennis. I wanted to hang my racquet on the wall and say goodbye to the sport.

"I was depressed. I didn't know And the 23-year-old plans to how to get out of it. At that time, it's very important to have a good supportive system.

"My family was very close to me, and they always believed in me and always gave me some kind of hope and belief that I can come back, and then I become even better player than I am now."

"Since then, I've been improving and only going up. So I really learned a lot from that, and sometimes the bad things are good learning experiences. They make you so much stronger in the ofachance.

"I've been playing quite well the start again Niculescu and was this Grand Slam will be the number last few weeks on clay. I'm working quickly 3-0 up before her 86th- one and the well deserved number | but fortunately for me he couldn't with a new coach, and he's helping ranked opponent began to find her one," she added.

feet on the clay of the Suzanne Lenglen Court mixing up her game with high balls and drop shots.

It was the first meeting between the two players and Jankovic admitted that she had not known what to expect.

"I didn't know her game, I didn't know how she plays, and I didn't know what to expect from her," she said. "And then I started making

little bit, because she played a very different game to the other girls. "But then in the second set, I got used to her, and was little bit

some errors and I lost my rhythm a

She next meets either Italy's Tathian Garbin or New Zealander Marina Erakovic for a place in the third round as she bids to finally go

further than the semifinals in a Grand Slam. "That is my dream -- to win a Grand Slam. So now Justine is not there, and she was the one that I had most trouble with, I never could beat her, obviously I've more

"The one who will do great here, The Serb got off to a confident who will make the results will win

Bilic eyes tactical tweak

REUTERS, Zagreb



Austrio-Switzerland friendly win over up front on Saturday and were forced to hang on in the closing stages of their penultimate warmup for the June 7-29 tournament in

Switzerland and Austria, where they

expect to at least reach the last eight. Bilic favours a 4-4-2 formation game." but a lacklustre display against the Moldovans has tempted him to consider shifting to a 4-2-3-1 strat-

Rakitic. Luka Modric and Niko on their current form. Kranjcar behind alone striker.

"Fielding that kind of line-up is a possibility and it has been in our thoughts since Rakitic broke into adjust the team's the squad," Bilic told Croatian media on Sunday.

because a last-minute shift can disrupt the team balance but we have to entertain the idea because it would, on the other hand, give us The Croatians lacked firepower more options when we are in possession of the ball.

"In any case we are ready for Euro 2008 and we will consider our final warm-up match in Hungary next Saturday as the start of our campaign because we need to raise our

Croatia 's top scorer Eduardo da Silva will miss Euro 2008 with a broken leg and none of his team

egy with attacking midfielders Ivan mates look capable of stepping up

Ivica Olic, Igor Budan and Ivan Klasnic hardly looked a threat against the Moldovans, leaving 20year old Rakitic to carry the mantle with his incisive runs from midfield.

Although he has struggled to win "I prefer having two up front a regular first team place when Croatia were at full strength, the Schalke midfielder believes he has done enough to become a starter.

"It would be stupid of me to say I don't expect to break into the first 11 because I do and I am working hard for it every day," he said.

"It's up to the coach but I am up for it and I certainly didn't put in all he effort to start on the bench." Croatia open their Euro 2008

Group B campaign against Austria in Vienna on June 8. They play Germany in Klagenfurt on June 12 and Poland at the same venue four days later.

Windies stare at defeat

MacGill

FROM PAGE 17 But Australia could not complete the demolition job before lunch, since Sammy joined Ramdin at the crease, and they batted through the last hour before the interval to stem the fall of wickets.

Wicketkeeper Brad Haddin dropped Ramdin on one off Lee, and short leg field - Phil Jaques dropped Darren Samu, n four off leg-spin bowler Stuart MacGill, but the Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-1) Aussies remained on track for victory. Australia have won 12 of the last

13 Tests they have contested against West Indies. They hold the Frank Worrell Trophy -- symbol of Test supremacy against West Indies -- and they have not lost a Test series in the Caribbean since 1991.

The second Test between the two sides starts on May 30 at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in Antigua, and the third Test starts on June 12 at Kensington Oval in Barbados.

The Aussies also contest a Twenty20 International and five One-day Internationals.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at lunch on the fifth

and final day of the opening Test between West Indies and Australia at Sabina Park on Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 431 (Ponting 158; Edwards 5-104) WEST INDIES: First innings 312 (Chanderpaul 118) AUSTRALIA: Second innings 167

(Symonds 79; Bravo 4-47) WEST INDIES: Second (overnight 46-1) Smith lbw b Clark Parchment c Haddin b C. Sarwan c Symonds b Cla Morton lbw b Lee Chanderpaul cand b Lee Bravo c Johnson b Clark Ramdinnotout Sammynotout

Total: (For 6 wkts in 49 overs) 117 Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-55, 3-60, 4-74, 5-80, 6-82 To bat: Powell, Edwards, Bowler Clark Johnson

Rajasthan take FROM PAGE 17

ttack for his much-anticipated showdown with Tendulkar. Warne varied his flight well but was competently handled by Tendulkar, who kept tucking him away to the leg side. **SCORES IN BRIEF**

MUMBAI INDIANS: 145 for 7 in 20 overs (Jayasuriya 38, Tendulkar 30, Nayar 25, Takawale 24 not out, extras 13; Tanvir 4-14, Trivedi 2-31, Warne 1-30)

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 146 for 5 in 20 overs (Patel 40 not out, Jadeja 23 not out, Akmal 18, Watson 18, Asnodkar 17, Kaif 12, extras 16; Fernando 2-27, Raje 1-37)

Man-of-the-match: Sohail Tanvir. Toss: Rajasthan Royals. Umpires: Billy Bowden and Krishna Hariharan.

Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 5

Pakistan safe for Asia Cup FROM PAGE 17

Security has been top of the agenda for international teams touring Pakistan in recent years.

Australia put off their March-April 2008 tour to the country over security fears amid a series of suicide bombings.

However security has improved since national elections held on February 18, prompting Australia to reschedule their tour in two phases. They will tour Pakistan for a

one-day series in 2009 and then for Tests the following year. Hug announced that an awards

ceremony will also be held during the Asia Cup to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ACC's formation:

"Awards will be given to top Asian cricketers and administrators of the past and present to mark the occasion and for this a fourmember committee has also been formed," said Huq.

Bangladesh runners-up

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh finished runners-up in the 3rd South Asian Women's Handball Championship when they lost the final to hosts India in Lucknow on Sunday.

On way to clinch their third consecutive title, India secured a 29-15 victory against Bangladesh in the final after leading the first half Sheela scored five goals and

Maina added four for Bangladesh. who became runners-up for third successive occasions. Pakistan finished third in the through and I'll be 38 when I've

four-nation meet beating Nepal in a play-off. Champions India received 25,000 Indian Rupees while runners-up Bangladesh got 20,000

Rupees as prize money. Meanwhile, during the compe- making his debut against New tition the executive committee | Zealand in 1994, along with 235 meeting of the South Asian Handball Federation was held in Lucknow.

It decided to hold the South | with the club by switching to Essex Asian Men's Beach Handball in 2004. However, he returned to 70-odd wickets and did pretty well-Championship in Faisalabad in Pakistan from June 27 to June 29 and the 3rd Men's Handball Championship in the Indian town of Ludhiana in the last week of December this year.

Vice-president of Bangladesh Handball Federation and team leader Principal Hamida Ali and federation assistant general secretary Nurul Islam represented Bangladesh in the meeting.

Alam creates a piece of history

BBC ONLINE, undated

Nepal's Mahaboob Alam made cricket history as he took all 10 Mozambique wickets for just 12 runs in their WCL Division Five game in Jersey on Sunday.

Alam's performance was the best bowling in a limited-overs international at any level and the first all-10 in any International Cricket Council Affiliates or Associates competition.

African side Mozambique were bowled out for 19 in 14.5 overs at Grainville as Nepal won by 219 runs.

He told the tournament website: "I never thought I would get 10 wickets." The 26-year-old continued: "I

managed to get the ball to swing for me and then I thought I was in with a chance of getting wickets. "Once I got my eighth wicket, I

thought I could get all 10 in the

match. "I did think the bowler at the end may get one or two wickets as he was getting the ball to skid on get a wicket. I am very happy."

There were nine ducks in the Mozambique innings, with only Syed Shah (nine) and Shoaib Younus (two not out) getting off the

This record overtakes the previous best of nine for 16 set by Deubu Eliaba of the Cook Islands against New Caledonia in 2002.

C'paul feared of being paralysed

PTI, Melbourne

Veteran West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul on Sunday said the fear of being completely paralysed passed through his mind after he was struck on his helmet by a deadly Brett Lee delivery in the first Test against Australia in Kingston.

The accident instantly floored Chanderpaul, batting on 86 during West Indies' first innings on Saturday, and the left-hander had no feeling in his limbs.

"I did not know where I was, my entire body went numb, Chanderpaul said.

"I could not move my hands and I could not move my feet. However, I told myself if I left the field we would have been in a bad state," Chanderpaul was quoted as saying in 'The Australian.' While his wife was in tears in the grandstands, a brave Chanderpaul, after getting medical care, recovered from the severe blow to score a muchneeded century (118) at the Sabina Park to keep his side in contention in the match.

Banking on his innings, the hosts made a good recovery and challenged the mighty Australians in the series opener.

Paying tributes to Chanderpaul's heroics, Lee compared the innings to that of Steve Waugh at the same venue in 1995, when the ex-Australian skipper was completely bruised and battered after getting his double hundred.

"When I went down to Shiv he was looking straight up and said he couldn't feel his arms or his feet," Lee said. "You have to think about when

batted on.

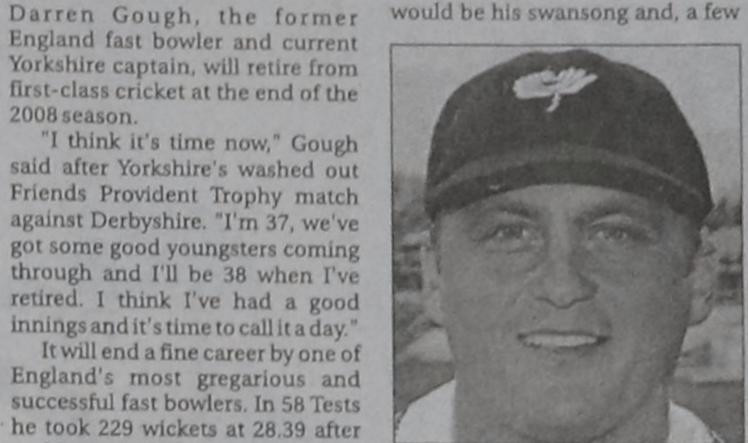
he said.

wear the great Steve Waugh, when he got underwire his 200, the stuff that he went 32 "Hamlet" through when he copped a massive blow, but he gutsed it out and 34 Kerosene lamp part 35 Muck "Full credit to Shiv and I'm partner actually really glad that there's a 36 Bucklot more protection for batsmen, wheat porridge

Headingley as captain in 2007 and enjoyed an excellent season. His retirement doesn't come as

Gough goes at year end

a surprise, however. He was "95% sure" back in January that 2008 Darren Gough, the former



DARREN GOUGH

one-day wickets. A Yorkshireman weeks ago, he told the The York through and through, it was a Press that he was keen to bow out surprise when he ended 15 years on his own terms.

"I had a great year last year. I got

- very well because I was the top wicket-taker," he said. "I've never been one for a big fanfare. When I quit Test cricket, I made my decision. I didn't tell anyone that I was retiring after the next Test, I didn't go around waving my bat in the air. I went home and I rang David Graveney, then chairman of selectors, and said: 'Thanks mate, that's it'. There was no send off. That's the

"It would be nice to finish the last game with a five-for and a century with the bat, but it doesn't

When he first arrived in international cricket, there was genuine hope he might turn into a promising all-rounder with 65 on debut against New Zealand, and a crowdpleasing 51 in Sydney during the 1994-95 Ashes. He may not have had the fleetest of footwork at the crease, but his twinkle toes were good enough for him to win the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing competition in 2005, and again in

Capello wants glory

Football

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

2008 season.

England fast bowler and current

REUTERS, London

England coach Fabio Capello has said he believes he can take England to the World Cup final for the first time since they became world champions under Alf Ramsey in 1966. "I think I can take England fur-

ther than Bobby Robson in 1990, why not? We need to be ambitious," Capello said in an FA statement. "I have always worked to arrive at the top. I have been with Roma,

Juventus, Milan, Real Madrid and

always wanted to go to the very top. I

don't understand why people feel

differently." Capello, who took over the England team in January after they

were eliminated from next month's

for two matches.

(www.thefa.com) before friendlies against the United States and Trinidad & Tobago over the next week. Since England won the World Cup almost 42 years ago the nearest they

have been to the final was 18 years ago when Bobby Robson's side lost to West Germany on penalties in the 1990 semi-finals in Italy. Capello won his first match in charge of England when they beat

Switzerland 2-1 at Wembley before losing 1-0 to France in Paris. He has three more friendlies, including a game against the Czech

Republic in August, before the start of England's World Cup qualifying

every team. My ambition is to arrive He made his statement to the at the top. You have to work to English FA's Web site change the mentality. I believe we can do that but the players must also believe. By September I will have the full picture."

He also said he was keen for the national side to start doing as well as club teams in Europe after Manchester United and Chelsea played out the first all-English Champions League final last week

"You have to transmit the same ambitions to the England team," he said.

"When a player puts on the England shirt you have to play with a certain kind of spirit and that is very important." England meet the U.S. at Wembley Stadium on Wednesday before flying to Trinidad & Tobago "We have good material here and for next Sunday's friendly.

Strauss steers England

FROM PAGE 17 his second century in three Tests when he was caught by Ross Taylor, diving low to his left at first slip, off

O'Brien to leave England 235 for England resumed in blustery conditions Monday on 76 for one, Strauss 27 not out and Vaughan

It looked as if they might get through the morning without losing a wicket until Vaughan was caught behind for 48 after a second-wicket

unbeaten on 12.

remained a threat. But Strauss and Vaughan, unlike England's batsmen in the first innings, were ran hard to take singles and turn ones into twos.

taken five wickets in the first innings,

There was a sense of momentum shifting and McCullum, in an echo of England's poor outfielding, saw a wild shy at the stumps go for four overthrows.

All-rounder Jacob Oram, whose eight first innings overs cost five runs, was brought into the attack with England 119 for one. He hadn't bowled at all Sunday

after landing awkwardly on his

shoulder during fielding practice and

injuring his neck. But the medium-

off-stump in his first over Monday. However, it was the introduction of pace bowler Chris Martin that led to a wicket when Vaughan, driving loosely, was caught behind to leave England 150 for two.

England had been in a struggling position after conceding a lead of 179 on first innings. This was the 11th straight Test

where they'd failed to reach the first innings benchmark total of 400. But Panesar, 25 of whose 101 Test wickets have come at Old Trafford, gave the batsmen a chance to make Left-arm spinner Vettori, who had amends after Taylor had set-up New

Zealand's strong early position with a career-best 154 not out. The third Test starts at Trent

Bridge on June 5.

SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test between England and New Zealand at Old Trafford in Manchester on

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 381 (Taylor 154 not out, How 64, Mills

57; Anderson 4-118) ENGLAND: First innings 202 (Strauss 60; Vettori 5-66, O'Brien 3-49) NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

114 (Panesar 6-37) ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 76-1)

pacer twice beat Vaughan outside Do-or-die for Chennai

PTI, Hyderabad



ACROSS 37 Fleet

12 Explorer

14 Philbin's

15"Hamlet"

16 Portent

17 Tease

23 Nimble

24 Midday

role

30 Under-

28 Flop

Kings face a door-die battle for Indian Premier

Chargers, who are yet to post a win on home turf, at the Rajiv Gandhi

International Stadium here today. A loss would all but end Super maiden win at home.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

21 Satan's

22 Pop

23 Binge

25 Incensed

26 Wading

27 St. Louis

29 Cross-

e.g.

31 Alias

33 PC

fill

34 Tusked

36 Friends

Inches

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44 Apply

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8 C3H7

40 Have a in the (Abbr.) 41 Eight on a sundial 4 Oral 42 "Hamlet" 5 Alkali opponent role now" 6 Old French 7 Rockco-host 49 Some

necklines and-roll

51 Trans-18 "Hurray!" mitted pound 20 Desirable 9 Flaccid DOWN 10 Duel 1 Super tool Bowl 11 Hamlet, star, for for one 25 "Hamlet" 13 One short 19 Enrages 37 Tel -2 Old

Plaines

50-

20 Moreover 38 Cere-29 Mentors Solution time: 24 mins. 39 Oodles of

four after Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super men narrowly lost the match against global success of Twenty 20. the Rajasthan Royals on Saturday.

The Chennai team has 14 points from seven wins and six defeats in the tournament so far. The visitors start favourites against the Adam Gilchrist-League as they ledhosts, who are no longer in the race take on out-of-contention Deccan for the title after losing 11 of their 13

matches and finishing last. The hosts, however, will play for pride as they aim to post their

Pietersen run out Bellnotout Collingwood not out Extras: (b-9, lb-10, nb-6) Total: (For 4 wkts in 88 overs) 294 Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-150, 3-235, 4-248 Did not bat: Ambrose, Broad, Sidebottom, Panesar, Anderson OMRW Bowler 13 1 45 1 6 0 17 0

Vaughan c McCullum b Martin 48

Strauss c Taylor b O'Brien

Cook c Marshall b Vettori

20 2 62 1 0 4 0 13 1 36 0 Oram Result: England won by 6 wickets and take 1-0 lead in the 3-Test series. Man-of-the-match: Monty

35 7 111 1

Panesar. Toss: New Zealand. Umpires: Darrell Hair and Simon Taufel.

ECB under

pressure

CRICINFO, undated

northern divisions.

The England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) board of directors will meet on Thursday to discuss radical changes to the English domestic structure, in response to Kings' chances of making the last | the hype surrounding the Indian Premier League and the huge

Among the ideas being mooted are, according to today's Guardian, a 21-team Twenty20 league and a revamped Pro40 competition of two 20-over innings per side, as well as a return to the three-day Championship. Perhaps most notable is the plan to divide the Championship into three conferences, with southern, midland and

20 21 22 26 27 33 37 | 38 | 39 44 45 46 42 43

YWVEJDVA JHEDYKNA WV EIN RJVBNNA JVO EIN LNEA

Saturday's Cryptoquip: A COUPLE OF COWS WERE RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL TODAY. APPARENTLY THEY SUFFERED UDDER FAILURE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

CRYPTOQUIP

43 Compass "EIN VNU RWHB ENJLA."

diagram, creature neighbors OJDKR VNUAMJMNH EIJE

way that I want it to be. always work that way."

Euro 2008 finals, has been in charge have been competitive against