

Ethiopia's Haile Gebrselassie crosses the finish line on way to win the Berlin Marathon with a time of 2hrs 03min 59sec yesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh

Eight Bangladeshi players won their first round matches in the Commonwealth Chess Championship in Nagpur, India vesterday.

The players are Grandmasters Ziaur Rahman, Enamul Hossain and Niaz Murshed, FIDE Masters Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar Mohammad Javed, Taibur Rahman and Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon and Debaraj Chatterjee.

In the first round, Zia beat Anprite Patel, Rajib beat Devangi Patankar, Niaz beat VN Ghate, Sagar beat Anjana Kirshna, Taibur beat Nandhidhaa, Emon beat Sunyasakta Satpathy, Debaraj beat Chandak Shubh and Javed beat Akash A Satpathy and Parag drew with Ajinkya Ingale.

A total of 272 players are taking part in the 11-round Swiss-league competition including eleven Grandmasters.

FRESH BLAST IN DELHI

#### India tightens security for Australia

AFP, New Delhi

Security measures for the Australian team on tour in India will be increased in the wake of the latest bomb blast in New Delhi, a cricket board official said Sunday.

A blast in a crowded market on Saturday left two dead and 22 injured, raising fresh security concerns ahead of the four-Test series that begins in Bangalore on October 9.

New Delhi is to host the third Test from October 29.

"We are in touch with the Home Ministry," Rajiv Shukla, the chairman of board's media committee, said.

"The security provided to the Australian team will be increased,' he was quoted as saying by Cricketnext website.

"An advisory has been sent to all state governments hosting the Tests. For now, the Delhi Test is on.

There is no need to panic." Saturday's blast came a fortnight after 24 people were killed in

a series of five bomb blasts in New "If we have to do anything

besides the normal security drill we will do (it) only after getting instructions from Cricket Australia," team spokesman Matthew Slade told the media in Jaipur where the visitors are playing a practice match. Their second practice match is

against an Indian Board President's XI in Hyderabad over October 2-5.

### BFF preparing

FROM PAGE 17 executive committee and FIFA.

The five-member BFF disciplinary committee, headed by Mezbahuddin Ahmed, is expected to finalise the draft in its next meet ing and send to the executive committee for approval.

Sohag informed that the draft code will comprise of 138 articles including sanctions applicable to legal persons and natural persons, ban on playing a particular stadium, playing a match on neutral ground, relegation to lower divisions, deduction of points, temporary suspension, return of award, reprimand, warning, fine, caution, expulsion, match suspension, ban from dressing room or the substitute bench, ban on taking part in football related activities, playing a match without spectators. ,

It will also include infringement of laws of the game, offensive and racist behaviour, intimidation,

corruption and doping. The parties, however, would be able to appeal against any verdicts of the disciplinary committee.

## Bright start for Gebrselassie betters WR

**Athletics** 

AFP, Berlin

Ethiopia's Haile Gebrselassie was delighted to put his recent calf injury behind him to break his own world record on Sunday at the Berlin Marathon for the second consecutive year in the German capital.

The 35-year-old brushed off a calf injury he suffered in training two weeks ago to come home in a time of 2hrs 03min 59sec.

He took nearly half a minute off his own previous world record of 2hrs 04mins 26sec set here twelve months ago to fulfill his own confident pre-race prediction of setting a new best mark.

This was the sixth time the behappy. world record has been broken in Berlin on the traditionally flat course.

"I am so, so happy, everything was perfect, the weather was perfect, the spectators were perfect, everything-I am so happy" said the Ethiopian. "Two weeks ago I had a bit of a

problem with my calf muscle, but I took a week off. "It gave me a few worries coming here, but I forgot about it as the

race wore on. "I knew before I came here I could do something special, if you look from the beginning, everyone in Berlin seems to come and watch

the race, it's a wonderful feeling." The twice Olympic 5000m champion has plenty of reasons to

As well as breaking the 26th world record of his career he will receive 50,000 euros (73,000 US dollars) for winning on top of his estimated 250,000 euros (365,000 US dollars) fee for racing here.

It was his sixth victory in his ninth marathon and this was the 35th Berlin marathon.

Kenya's James Kwambai finished second in a time of 2hrs 5mins 36secs and his compatriot Charles Kamathi was third in 2hrs 7mins 48secs.

Germany's Irina Mikitenko, who won the London Marathon earlier this year, won the women's race in a time of 2hrs 19mins 18secs which was a personal best and the fastest time in the world this year.

## Roddick, Jankovic winners

Tennis

AFP, Beijing

Andy Roddick held off a fierce challenge from Israeli underdog Dudi Sela to win the China Open final Sunday as top seed Jelena Jankovic sealed the women's title.

Big-serving Roddick, the second seed in the Beijing tournament, overcame 92-ranked Sela 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 while Jankovic thumped Svetlana Kuznetsova in straight

Pushed throughout by his unfancied opponent, Roddick failed to take two match points in the second set tie-break as Sela recovered to level the match.

In the third and deciding set, Sela, who showed a willingness to come into the net throughout, continued to impress with the range of his shot-making, but could not force the break from Roddick.

Instead it was the world number eight who made the crucial breakthrough in the sixth game and despite further scares, he took the set 6-3 in a match lasting just over two hours.

"I think he was definitely playing well this week and I thought he played well today also," Roddick said of Sela, who earlier in the tournament put out top seed David Ferrer and Tommy Robredo.

"At the back of my mind (I knew) I'd played in 38-40 finals and I knew this was his first one so I knew that had to count for something. So I wanted at least to stay in there and compete even though he was the hot player for the majority of the day," he added.

The Israeli was pleased with his performance in the final and said the 524,000-dollar tournament had given him a major confidence

"I've shown myself that I can play with these big players and hopefully it will continue like that," he added.

In the women's final, top seed and 2007 runner-up Jankovic beat Russia's Kuznetsova, the 2006

winner, 6-3, 6-2 in one hour, 14 Both players fended off break

point chances midway through the first set before Jankovic made the breakthrough in the seventh game, forcing another break to take the

Fourth seed Kuznetsova could not match the intensity of Jankovic's play in the second set as the Serbian took a 5-1 lead.

Although Jankovic faltered when serving for the match, a succession of errors from the Kuznetsova racket in the following game gave her another chance and she took the set 6-2.

Jankovic's victory in the 600,000-dollar women's tournament takes her to within a handful of points of world number one

Bobby Reynolds, from the United States, 7-5, 6-4

## Shakib's twin targets

FROM PAGE 17

"The main problem of our batting lies in our mindset. If our top order batsmen can bat with responsibility, anything can happen as we are going to play in our own condition. We are training hard and I believe we get the results soon.

Shakib showed his character on debut against Zimbabwe in July 2006 with an unbeaten knock of 30 and never looked back, cementing his place in the side.

It has been often told that his presence in the team makes a difference, which was evident during his absence in the three-

Shakib hardly thinks what he

who passed the HSC examinations this year, has a desire of becoming a student of Dhaka University. "You know it's my dream to be a student of Dhaka University because in my opinion it's still the best institution in the country for higher educa-

hardly any chance to attend the Djokovic to win the Thailand Open

because of international commitment," said Shakib adding, "only the authority can help me fulfill the

"But I will definitely complete graduation because education is very important even in cricket."

#### Thailand Open goes to Tsonga

AFP, Bangkok

"But it gets difficult as I have Jo-Wilfried Tsonga stunned Novak on Sunday and help erase his loss to the Serbian in the final of this year's Australian Open.

Tsonga, ranked 20 in the world, fell to his knees after the 7-6, 6-4 victory against the world number three in only his second tournament back at the top after missing three months from knee surgery.

The win, in only his second career final, was sweet revenge for the Frenchman after he lost the Grand Slam final eight months ago to the Serbian.

The hard-fought victory, which came in 92 minutes, denied Djokovic his fourth trophy of the season and the chance to move closer in the rankings to world number two Roger Federer.

Tsonga saved two break points member Hassanuzzaman Khan in the final game, falling to his knees in joy as Djokovic sent a return long on match point.

The defeat was the 14th of the season for Djokovic against 58 wins and left the 21-year-old 10-6 in career finals.

Aussies start with a draw AFP, Jaipur

Rookie bowlers Doug Bolligner and Jason Krejza picked three wickets each as the Australians drew their two-day warm-up match against a local side here on Sunday.

3-9 while off spinner Kreza picked | his long-term goal was to identify 3-35 to help their side bowl out the the best team possible for the 2011 RCA Centre of Excellence team for | World Cup, while his immediate 122 an hour into the post-lunch session, after which the game was called off by mutual consent.

Paceman Brett Lee (2-17) and Peter Siddle (1-7) also tasted success with the ball and provided | in Sri Lanka where several senior initial breakthroughs.

The Australians had made 218 in their first innings with Simon Katich top-scoring with 73.

The local batsmen struggled with the bat, Gagan Khoda being the highest scorer with 33.

The match was played under flexible conditions, with the teams deciding not to start a second innings. The Australian batsmen opted to practise against their own bowlers in the afternoon.

The visitors are slated to play another practice match against an Indian Board President's XI in Hyderabad from October 2-5 before the start of the first Test in Bangalore on October 9.

**BRIEFSCORES** AUSTRALIANS: 218 (Katich 73;

Gajendra 5-58) RCA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE XI: 122 (Bollinger 3-9, Krejza 3-35; Khoda 33)

#### Clarke still gets on well with Symonds

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Clarke, the Australian vice-captain, has said the decision to send Andrew Symonds home ahead of the recent home ODI series against Bangladesh in Darwin was a collective one, and not made by him alone.

Symonds was punished by the team's leadership group for missing a team meeting -- he was out instead on a fishing trip -- but the move fuelled speculation that the sanction was made by Clarke.

"When I was given the vicecaptaincy, I knew part of that role was making sure you put the team first. The one thing that has probably been misinterpreted is that I didn't make the decision to send Andrew Symonds home on my own, it was the leadership group,' Clarke told the Age.

The leadership group also included Ponting, coach Tim Nielsen and team manager Steve Bernard, but it was Clarke who faced the media soon after the

decision was made. Clarke denied rumours of a rift between the two. "We believed and still believe it was best for the team and best for Symmo as well. I have made clear that I am still great friends with Andrew and I will be until the day I die. I want him back playing because I love playing cricket with him."

Symonds is not part of Australia's touring party in India, a place where Clarke announced his arrival on the Test scene. The first of four Tests will be at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore, the same ground where he had scored a century on debut. "I want it to feel the same," Clarke said. "Four years ago for my debut, it was tough cricket but my mindset was just about absolutely soaking up every chance of playing Test cricket for my country.

"I don't think that has changed, even if my role in the team has changed a little bit."

## Be professional

FROM PAGE 17 support while playing for the

"Now we are offering them support as much as we can at the moment. We hope that they would be more serious about playing for the national team. We also want them to be similarly serious in the domestic scene. From now on, we will keep our eyes on the players' performance on and off the field.

Badal said the NTMC members were happy watching the national squad in training at BKSP. "They looked sincere but it would take at least four-five days more to make any comments on the condition of the team."

New coach Shafiqul Islam Manik has been preparing the boys for the October 15-25 Merdeka Cup with 28 players although he had called 30 for the preliminary squad.

"(Mehdi Hassan) Ujjal had informed us that he would not be available due to personal reasons but (Arif Khan) Joy hasn't told us why he is absent," Badal said replying to a question. The NTMC has appointed its

Babloo, also a former national footballer and coach, to look after the team at BKSP. The camp will end on October 8 as the players have agreed to give up their Eid vacation. Manik will

trim the side to 20 by October 10.

# Long-term goal is 2011 WC

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Former Indian opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth, who was appointed the new chairman Left-arm seamer Bollinger took | of selectors on Saturday, has said priority was to choose the best side for the series against Australia.

> The series against Australia gets underway on October 9 in Bangalore and follows a 2-1 defeat members of the Test squad struggled for form. Srikkanth, however, said that

> seniors would be critical against Australia. "S Badrinath, Rohit Sharma and a few others have the talent but it is not ability alone that makes a

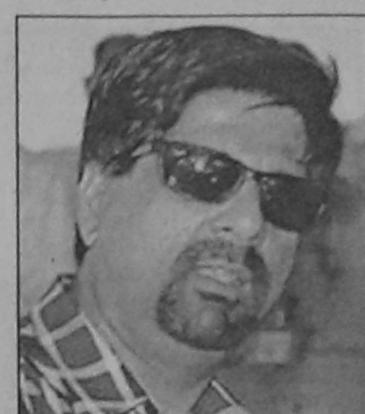
player tick at the highest level,"

the "mental strength" of the

Srikkanth told Deccan Chronicle.

"Mental strength is critical and cannot be taught, it has to be within, and the likes of Sachin [Tendulkar], Rahul [Dravid] and Anil (Kumble) have shown the way over a good period of time. It will be important to groom the youngsters under them.

"An eye for the future is equally



KRISHNAMACHARI SRIKKANTH

important. Hard decisions might have to be taken in the future. The current Test team is one of the best India has ever had and it will not be

easy replacing them." The previous selection committee, headed by Dilip Vengsarkar. picked different squads for the Test and ODI formats, a policy which Srikkanth said was "spot on" because it required "different skill sets to excel in each form".

"With Twenty20 also coming into the mix it is crucial to identify talent for each form and nurture them," Srikkanth said. "The team has had some good results in the recent past and it's important to keep the good work going.

"I thank the Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] for having faith in me and I am sure this new committee will meet the high expectations," Srikkanth said. "As a selector my accountability is even greater and I will strive hard and ensure the best Indian team takes field in every single game."

# Dilip to give full support

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Dilip Vengsarkar, who was replaced by Kris Srikkanth as chairman of India's national selection committee, has pledged his "full support" to his successor. Vengsarkar told Cricinfo he will soon have a discussion with his 1983 World Cup teammate to pass on information that will help in picking the Indian team for the home Test series against Australia.

Vengsarkar looked back "with satisfaction" at his stint as chief selector and defended the controversial ouster of senior players, including Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly, during his two-year tenure, saying those decisions have "yielded fruit".

"There was nothing personal against any player," Vengsarkar said. "And I am sure they understand that too. I have always done my job with courage and convic-

tion, and nobody can question me

on that. As you can see, all those decisions have yielded fruit now." He said that those "tough"

decisions, which "created a lot of new options for the Indian team", would not have been possible without the backing of his colleagues, Venkatapathy Raju, Sanjay Jagdale, Ranjib Biswal and Bhupinder Singh, all of whom were replaced on Saturday. "It's probably for the first time in Indian cricket that we have had selection committee meetings which saw no arguments, or heated words, or even voting of any kind." The new selection committee is

October 9. "Srikkanth called me after being appointed as the chairman, "Vengsarkar said. "He said that he will call again to ask for my inputs to select the Indian team for the Australia Test series. And I have told him that he can call me anytime, day or night, and I will be there."

scheduled to meet next week to pick

comment on the new eligibility teewill take it up from here."

rules for national selectors, especially the one that bars them from holding dual posts, which ruled him out of a third year at the helm. Vengsarkar is currently a vicepresident of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).

Asked whether he was disappointed at being replaced, Vengsarkar said, "Why should I be? I am happy with whatever I have been able to contribute over the last two years. I will now take time off to relax, spend more time in my cricket academy, and will focus on a role in the media.

"I have enough reasons to look back with satisfaction. During the the team for the first Test against tenure of our selection committee, Australia starting in Bangalore on India has risen from No. 7 to No. 2 in the world rankings, and they are now very close to Australia," he said. "We have created a lot of new options for the Indian team. The India A team is now very strong, and we have watched and promoted youngsters across the board. The results are there for all to see, and I However, Vengsarkar refused to am sure the new selection commit-

## Lyon extend lead

AFP, Paris



Karim Benzema hailed Lyon's great start to the season following their

2-1 win over Nancy on Saturday to shoot them six points ahead in the French league while Paris Saint Germain and Marseille stumbled.

France international Benzema

orchestrating a strong, first-half surge, scoring the opener and involved in the second goal, though he had to go off in the 59th minute with an ankle injury that did not prove serious. Benzema heralded the wonder ful start to the season of the seven-

time reigning French league champions. "We are happy to have won the game and we have had a great start to the season. We aren't conceding many goals and we are scoring a lot," Benzema said.

"We are also still unbeaten and we must hope that that continues for as long as possible."

Second-placed Marseille could only draw 1-1 at the season's surprise-package Le Mans while PSG fell 1-0 at home to promoted Grenoble in the late match.

Benzema, the country's leading goalscorer, oozed confidence and composure to drive a low effort under Gennaro Bracigliano in the 30th minute, as the 20-year-old

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fulfils his tag of the new Zidane. Lyon, without star Brazilian

By Eugene Sheffer

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45 Cherished

46 Poi base

48 Afternoon

50 Cock and

51 Firma-

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Africans

heart

39 Gumbo

40 Dutch

34 Gorilla

dye

6 "Father of 30 Always, in

opposite 36 Assertion

Juninho and suspended Sidney Govou, made it two six minutes later when Fred latched onto a snappy pass to double the lead.

The Brazilian Fred, linked with a

he bagged his second of the season. The advantage was not to last, however, as Nancy hit one back from the kick-off, when Pascal

Berenguer punished lazy Lyon defending with a well-taken shot. Lyon coach Claude Puel said after the match that Benzema's

ankle injury was not serious. his right ankle and there has not been a twist," Puel said. "We will take stock on Sunday but I don't think there is a worry about his participation against Bayern in the

Champions League on Tuesday." It was Marseille who got off to the perfect start when Hatem Ben Arfa gave them the lead with a

strong, seventh-minute strike. The rising France international held off brusque challenges and finished off a mazy penalty box run to slot the opener past Yohann Pele. But Le Mans, fifth in the championship, levelled after 11 minutes

when new Norwegian signing

Thorstein Helstad pounced on a defensive error. attacking sterility and surprised by a long-range strike from Nassim Akrour for the goal, suffered their first defeat of the season at home to

Grenoble.

Etienne, PSG suffered another league setback and are having trouble continuing their previous,

As if the result was not enough move to the English Premier bad news, PSG midfielder Ludovic league, will have done his contract Giuly had to leave the field in the talks no harm with the athletic way 64th minute, clutching his left hamstring, having asked coach Paul Le Guen to substitute him. It was a good night for national

promising start to the season.

another of his young hopefuls, Jimmy Briand, fired Rennes to a 1-0 home win against Nice. Mevlud Erding scored a late and lifeline-giving - equaliser for "He is suffering from a knock on bottom team Sochaux against Lorient, while Caen cruised 3-0 to

second-bottom Nantes. Auxerre

had a well-deserved 3-0 win over

coach Raymond Domenech, as

strugglers Le Havre.

Pilot goes

FROM PAGE 17 many years and I have a lot of experience to pass on to the youngsters. I have talked with the BCB and I would like to contribute to the development of the youngsters," informed Mashud, who also heads a sports

academy in his hometown Rajshahi.

follow, especially his glovework

which remained exemplary

Mashud will be a hard act to

throughout his 12-year career and PSG, a victim of their own his doggedness with the bat in moments of crisis.

His retirement would mark the end of another generation of cricketers, after Khaled Mahmud, Habibul Bashar and Mohammad A week after losing 1-0 to St Rafique had left the scene.

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O

38 | 39 | 40 CRYPTOQUIP

DLJSX MSWF MSA PMX'L

Cryptoquip: EVERYWHERE BELOW MY MOUTH, BUT NOT AT ALL ABOVE, I SUPPOSE I WAS HARMED TO THE TEETH.

Yesterday's

5 dismissals v Kenya in Nairobi, 2006 This remains the best wicketkeeping performance in a one-day match by

Asia Cup in Pakistan. "I don't think about these

has done so far rather his main goal remains to be the best in anything. And that was the reason Shakib,

nation series at home and in the admission tests in November

Five of his best

and 34 with Mohammad Rafique and made sure Bangladesh went close to 200. The three-hour knock typified his time as captain.

103\* vWest Indies in Gros Islet, 2004 It was about time for Mashud to reach a maiden Test ton after Mohammad Rafique had struck one in the first innings. Bangladesh took a first-innings lead for the first time but fell into trouble in the second dig, before Mashud took over, guided the tail and took Bangladesh to safety and a well-earned draw.

Possibly his best one-day innings, that too against the high pace of Brett

Lee, Jason Gillespie and Mike Kasprowicz. Bangladesh had again lost the

against it against an international=class bowling attack at the Big Bowl

With the team reduced to 72 for five. He added 60 with Mushfigur Rahman

top-order before he joined hands with newbie Shahriar Nafees. They added 94 before Mashud cut loose and took Bangladesh to 250.

71\* v Australia in Canterbury, 2005

any Bangladeshi till date. That it took him eleven years before he gave a signature feat was a surprise. He removed Maurice Ouma, Jimmy Kamande, Hitesh Modi, Collins Obuya and Hiren Varaiya that included two stumpings.

SerenaWilliams. Meanwhile in the men's doubles final, Australia's Stephen Huss and Britain's Ross Hutchins beat Australian Ashley Fisher and