

WFM Samima Akhter Liza (L) makes a move against Nazrana Khan Eva in the second round of the 30th Parachute National Women's Chess Championship at the Federation hall room yesterday.

WOMEN CHESS
Three share
lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Sharmin Sultana Shirin of 12 Soft Solution beat reigning national woman champion IWM Rani Hamid of Titans in the 2nd round games of the Parachute National Women's Chess Championship, being held at the hall room of Bangladesh Chess Federation yesterday.

Shirin played with white pieces against Rani Hamid in the Leningrad Variation of Nimzo-Indian and won at the 47th move. Last year women runners-up WFM Samima Akter Liza of Overseas School of Chess defeated Nazrana Khan Eva, where Liza played with white pieces against Eva in a Classical system of Queen's Gambit Declined game and won on the 65th move.

Masuda Begum of Barisal beat Amana Khatun of Moulvibazer. Shirin, Liza and Masuda shared the lead in the points table with maximum 2 points each.

Zakia Sultana of Dhaka Metropolitan Chess Club beat Jahana Haque Runu, Rokshana Titli beat Protiva Talukder of Rajshahi and Farjana Hossain Anne of Mukhtjudah Sangsad K.C. beat Ahely Sarkar of Kasparov Chess School.

Mithun

FROM PAGE 17
openers for 18 runs and then left-arm spinner Elias Sunny took the initiative to wrap up Pegasus for a paltry 147 runs.

Sunny claimed three wickets conceding 29 runs in 9.2 overs.

A little resistance came from captain Abul Bashar who top scored 47 off 98 balls that contained three boundaries.

In reply, CCS rode on Shuvagoto's unbeaten 76 to reach the target of 148-4. Shuvagoto smashed 14 boundaries during his 105-ball essay.

BRIEF SCORES
GAZI TANK: 295-5 in 50 overs (Imrul 64, Mithun 169, Ashraf 37, Nayeem 29, extras 10; Mukter 10 not out, extras 19; Iqbal 2-46, Ariful 2-47)
PARTEX: 214-6 in 50 overs (Mehrab 41, Saiful 60, Mushfiqur 43, Ariful 25, Rezaul 22 not out, extras 10; Saju 2-37, Ashraf 2-40).
Result: Gazi Tank won by 81 runs.

BKSP: 141 all out in 49.2 overs (Sarker 28, Mominul 36, Zaidul 16, Imamul 25, Anamul 10, extras 13; Sajib 2-16, Sanjamul 2-26).
SURJO TORUN: 145-3 in 39 overs (Sandeep 25, Hannan 22, Rajin 50 not out, Anisur 25 not out, extras 14; Rifatuzzaman 1-27, Imammul 1-23, Asif 1-19).
Result: Surjo Torun won by seven wickets.

PEGASUS: 147 all out in 48.2 overs (Ravin 28, Bashar 47, Iftekhar 23, extras 12; Ashraf 2-18, Sunny 3-29).
CCS: 148-4 in 36 overs (Uttam 15, Shuvagoto 76 not out, extras 13; Mamun 1-37, Jubair 2-24).
Result: CCS won by 24 wickets.

Younis fights

FROM PAGE 17
Just like the Pakistani bowlers, Sri Lanka's twin-pace and twin-spin attack toiled on an unresponsive National Stadium pitch.

Both Younis and Malik occasionally jumped out to smother the little spin and hit over the top as Muralidaran failed to add to the single wicket he took by dismissing opener Salman Butt on Sunday.

Muralidaran finished with 1-92 off 34 overs, while Mendis took 1-78 in his 35 overs.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at close on the third day of the opening Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the National Stadium in Karachi on Monday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 644-7 declared (M Jayawardene 240, Samaraweera 231, Sangakkara 70, Warnapura 59; Kaneria 3-170)
PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 44-1)
Manzoor P Jayawardene b Mendis 27
Butt c Jayawardene b Muralidaran 23
Younis Khan not out 149
Malik run out 56
Misbahul not out 20
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-14, w-1) 21
Total: (For three wkts in 112 overs) 296
To bat: Faisal Iqbal, Kamran Akmal, Sohail Khan, Yasir Arafat, Umar Gul, Danish Kaneria.
Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-78, 3-227.

ROUND OF 16 FIXTURES

Tuesday	Wednesday
(Kick-off 19:45 GMT)	
Arsenal (ENG) v Roma (ITA)	Real Madrid (ESP) v Liverpool (ENG)
Atletico Madrid (ESP) v FC Porto (POR)	Chelsea (ENG) v Juventus (ITA)
Inter Milan (ITA) v Man Utd (ENG)	Villarreal (ESP) v Panathinaikos (GRE)
Lyon (FRA) v Barcelona (ESP)	Sporting (POR) v Bayern Munich (GER)

Venus conquers Dubai

Tennis

AFP, Dubai

Venus Williams returned to the world's top five for the first time in six years on Saturday by clinching the 40th title of her career with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Virginie Razzano in the final of the troubled Dubai Open.

The last time Williams played Razzano in a WTA Tour final, two years ago in Tokyo, the French player saved three match points in the second set and went on to beat her.

Now Williams was a fitter and more secure player, most of the time serving better too, and her victory in the two-million-dollar event on Saturday was rarely in doubt once she had taken the first set.

En route to the final Venus also went ahead 10-9 in the head-to-head record with sister Serena, by beating the world number one in the semifinals.

"It was a great week to be able to win against the world's best player, my sister," said the Wimbledon champion.

It prompted the question as to whether she might also replace her younger sibling at the top of the rankings.

"Well I would love to be the best in the world - and I am coming. So I am going to try."

Both the crowd and Venus showed appreciation for Razzano, who produced another spirited performance after having beaten two top five players, Dina Safina and Vera Zvonareva, along the way.

"I have to congratulate her," said Venus. "She beat some top players and played well again today."

Razzano made a fine start to the match, hitting some fierce drives, often counter-attacking brilliantly, and switching the direction of serves and drives cleverly.

She also served quite a lot to the body, denying Williams a decent swing at the returns, and applied a high proportion of pressure to the forehand side where, perhaps, there was a slightly greater chance of Williams breaking down.

But Williams was equal to the onslaught, and some rousing rallies ensued - until the seventh game, when Razzano took an injury break, apparently for a back problem.

It did not appear to have distracted or affected Razzano adversely, for she held serve for 4-4 and seemed about to reach 5-5 when she suddenly faltered.

At 40-30 she smacked a full-blooded forehand drive fractionally long, failed with a Hawkeye challenge and suddenly found herself under pressure at deuce.

This may have contributed to Razzano's net cord drive which fell short for Williams to put away and reach set point. Razzano's serve then made it possible for Williams to return adequately and follow up with a beefy forehand cross court to close the set out.

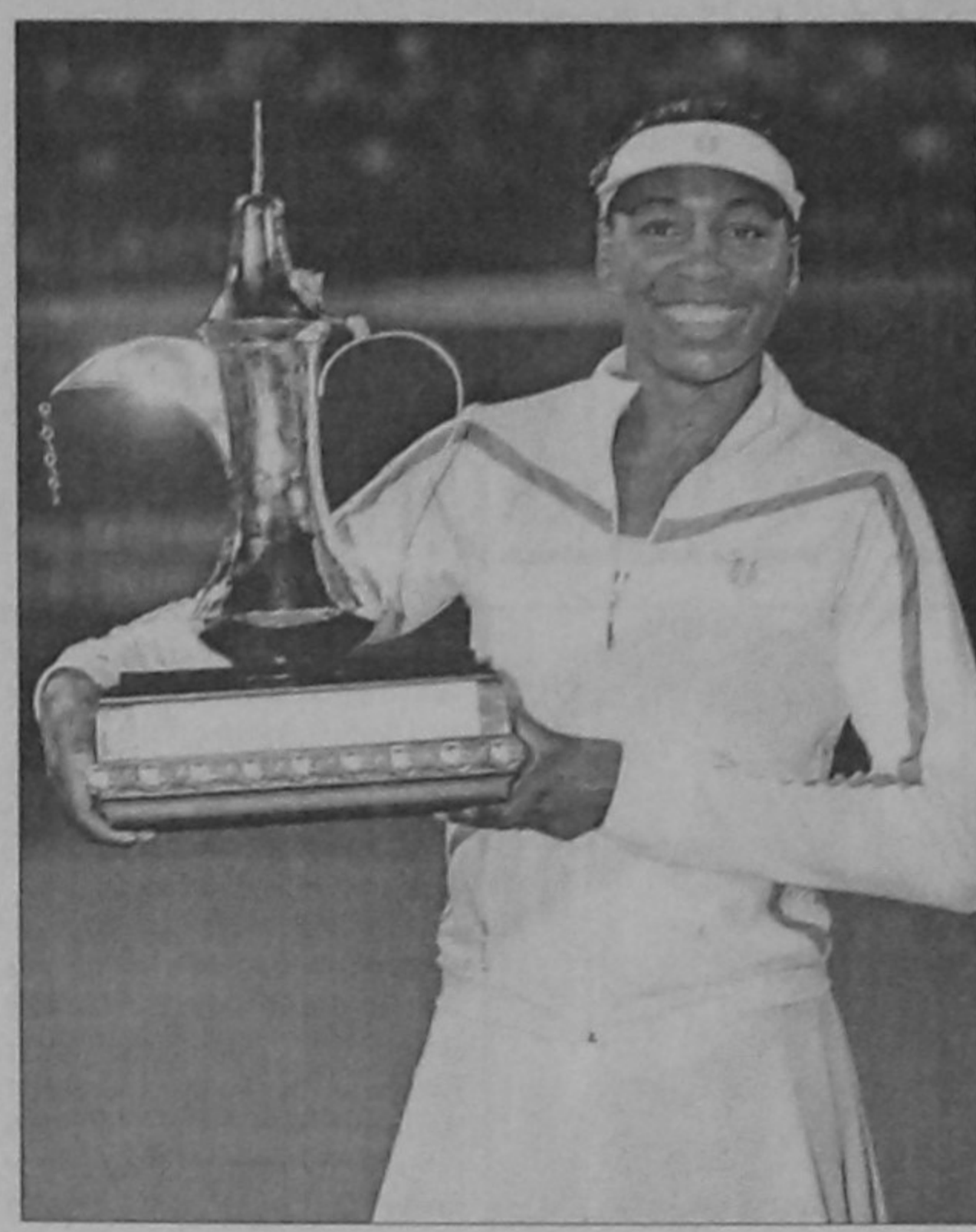
Williams then broke at once for 2-0 in the second set, with the

help of a timely Hawkeye challenge at deuce on her drive which clipped the baseline and was incorrectly called out.

Before her next service game, Razzano sought a further respite by calling for a coaching break with Cedric Nouvel, but though she fought back spiritedly from 15-40 down to deuce she could not prevent the double break which completely altered the atmosphere of the match.

Although Razzano managed to get a break point in the next game she could not convert it, but though she broke Williams serve in the next game and saved three match points altogether there was too much to make up.

This was not entirely surprising given the experience and ability of the opposition - it was the seventh time in the last eight final appearances that Venus had won.



Venus Williams of the US poses with the winner's trophy after defeating Virginie Razzano of France in the Dubai Open final on Saturday.

Bopara, Khan hit stride

Cricket

AFP, Barbados

Ravi Bopara and Amjad Khan both overcame jetlag to make good first impressions, as England dominated their warm-up match against a Barbados Cricket Association President's XI on Sunday.

Bopara hit a stroke-filled 124 that lifted England to 351 for eight declared in their first innings before Khan snared two late wickets that left the President's XI 49 for four in reply when stumps were drawn on the opening day of the two-day fixture at the Windward Sports Club.

Bopara and Khan boarded four separate flights and spent more than 40 hours travelling through various time zones from the England Lions' tour of New Zealand to arrive in the island on Saturday afternoon as cover for the injured Andrew Flintoff.

"I was called into the room of David Parson (the England Lions coach), and thought I was in trouble," he said.

"It reminded me of the headmaster at school, but then he told me Freddie has picked up an injury and I was needed in the West Indies with Amjad."

The 23-year-old Bopara admitted he had to fight to stay awake before entering the fray with England on 173 for five.

"I looked at my phone and saw it was Sunday, but had no idea what day it was when I was in LA or Miami," he said.

Bopara was dropped on 23 at deep mid-wicket, but he brought the sizeable crowd to life with some explosive hitting and took just 34 balls over his second 50.

He added 147 for the sixth wicket with England reserve wicketkeeper/batsman Tim Ambrose. He made 74 before he was caught at mid-wicket.

But his innings reassured the England team management that should Matt Prior's wife, Emily, go into labour early, he would be a capable replacement.

Prior is scheduled to return to England on March 2, and will miss the fifth and final Test at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad, but he is set to leave the Caribbean early if the baby arrives before the fourth Test, starting on Thursday at Kensington Oval here.

England captain Andrew Strauss continued in his rich vein of form with 66 before he retired out, after the visitors reached 109 for two at lunch.

They had lost Alastair Cook for 16 and Owais Shah for four to lanky 17-year-old pacer Jason Holder.

After lunch, Ambrose joined Ian Bell and they began to score freely in a stand of 64 for the fourth wicket.

But Bell was caught at gully for 44 before Prior was caught at square cover for a third-ball duck to make way for Bopara.

Ambrose was the first of three wickets England lost for 15 runs before some more power hitting from Bopara hastened the declaration.

Ryan Sidebottom made the breakthrough for England, when he had 16-year-old schoolboy opener Kraigg Brathwaite caught behind down the leg-side gloving a bouncer.

Khan then had Kofi Hurdle, who he struck on the helmet in his first over, caught behind and Roston Chase caught at second slip.

Leg-spinner Adil Rashid then trapped Kirk Edwards lbw in the final over to prompt an early close.

BRIEF SCORES
ENGLAND: 351 for eight declared (Ravi Bopara 124 not out, Tim Ambrose 74, Andrew Strauss 66 retired out, Ian Bell 44; Kevin Stoute 4-67, Jason Holder 2-31).
BCA PRESIDENT'S XI: 49 for four (Shamar Brooks 20 not out; Amjad Khan 2-22)

Kiwis gear up

FROM PAGE 17
Taylor mirrored Moles' sentiment. "Over the last 12-18 months, they have been consistent, they have beaten Australia, and things like that. Definitely they are the world's best team at the moment. It's exciting for us to play against them to see where we are at on our home turf, and hopefully have some success and show the New Zealand public a good series."

The sense of being over-awed stems from their lack of experience. Sachin Tendulkar alone has scored 3263 more Test runs than the combined New Zealand Test side. And the respect and sense of awe show. "I grew up watching them," Taylor said. "As a youngster Tendulkar was someone I looked up to. When you play at this level you probably want to put all that aside. Some of these players will be a bit star-struck, but come match day they will be fine."

The money pouring in adds to the hype. NZC will rake in approximately \$25 million New Zealand dollars from TV rights for the tour while rugby, the national obsession, gets them around \$4.8 million dollars. "I knew the figures were being bandied around, but that doesn't really play on my mind," Taylor said. "First and foremost you have your own personal standards to try and attain. Obviously that's doing well for yourself and your country. So if you do well, all the money and the rest takes care of itself."

But New Zealand also know they will be playing in conditions they know much better than their opposition, who don't have history on their side. "Certainly in the past the Indian teams haven't toured too well," Moles said. "But they put a lot of that to bed over the last couple of years. From our point of view we are really proud to play at home. We like to defend our ground, we will look to put India under pressure when we can and hope to expose the weaknesses they have."

Moles did not, however, elaborate on what those weaknesses were. "We haven't really gone down that road as yet," he said. "But if we can get the ball to bounce a little bit... and they are coming from Sri Lanka where wickets are really low. So we have to bowl well with the

newball."

Taylor said while the conditions would lend some evenness to the contest, India would do much better than last time round. "I think a lot of people made a lot of it the last time they were out here," he said. "The wickets have improved a lot since then. I don't think India need to worry a lot about green seaming wickets. I am sure over the next month or so Indians will see how the conditions have changed."

Bucknor

FROM PAGE 17
out when he was battling to save the Test.

"The body is feeling quite good and I know I could go on for another two or three years," said Bucknor.

"However, something inside me is telling me that it is time to go."

The Montego Bay-born Bucknor will also be calling time on his involvement in ODIs soon with the two games between the West Indies and England in Barbados his last limited-overs assignments.

A touch of rarity

FROM PAGE 17
since that 1999 clash won by United but the presence of Jose Mourinho, the latest in the hotseat, means a rivalry that once illuminated English football is set to be rekindled.

Mourinho, in trademark style, has already played down the significance of the game, but Ferguson knows all too well that the Portuguese will possibly prove his most dangerous adversary in attempting to retain the title.

After all, statistics show Mourinho, a Champions League winner with Porto, has got the better of Ferguson most of the time - winning six, drawing five and losing one of their 12 meetings.

"The game against United will only be important if we go on to win the Champions League," Mourinho told The Observer. "Otherwise the game will be irrelevant."

United have injury worries for the tie, particularly in defence where he is without suspended Nemanja Vidic, Gary Neville and Wes Brown and possibly Jonny Evans.

Claudio Ranieri, the man who was axed to make way for Mourinho's glittering reign at Stamford Bridge, gets the chance to remind Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich of his qualities when Juventus travel to London on Wednesday for what surprisingly is the first ever meeting between the clubs.

It will also mark the return to the competition of Dutch master Guus Hiddink, the man who steered PSV Eindhoven to the European crown in 1988.

"It's a beautiful road but a very difficult road," Hiddink, Chelsea's coach until the end of

Broad wants new ball

Cricket

AFP, Barbados

Stuart Broad is prepared to take the new ball for England in the absence of the injured Andrew Flintoff in the fourth Test against West Indies, starting on Thursday at Kensington Oval.

As the youngest member of the England fast bowling attack, the 22-year-old Broad was expected to be overshadowed by his more accomplished teammates in the series.

But he has leapt into the limelight, following the indifferent form of his more senior teammates and looks forward to opening the bowling now that Flintoff has been sidelined with a muscle strain in his right hip.

"It is a role I have always hunted in an England shirt, both in one-day and Test cricket," said the blond-haired fast bowler.

Broad strengthened his claim to fill the role, following his spell with the second new ball in the West Indies' second innings in the drawn third Test at Antigua, when he removed Ramnaresh Sarwan and Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Cork, Bayliss ally Pak fears

AFP, Karachi

Former England pacesman Dominic Cork and Sri Lanka coach Trevor Bayliss urged foreign teams to play in Pakistan, where three major events were cancelled over security fears last year.

Australia refused to go on a scheduled Test and limited over match tour in March last year.

They agreed to reschedule the tour and visit for one-day internationals in 2009 and Tests in 2010.

But earlier this month they forced Pakistan to play the one-day series at the neutral venues of Dubai and Abu Dhabi in April-May this year after the Australian government refused permission to tour.

Australia, who also played Pakistan in three Tests at neutral venues of Colombo and Dubai in 2002 over security fears, have not toured here since 1998.

India also refused to send its team across the border amid heightened tensions in the wake of attacks on Mumbai, which New Delhi blamed on militants based in Pakistan.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) was forced to move out the Champions Trophy after three top teams pulled out, saying touring Pakistan was a high risk for their players.

Cork, 37, said teams must play in Pakistan.

"My simple message to teams is 'play cricket in Pakistan'," said Cork, who is here as a television commentator for the ongoing two-Test series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan incurred a loss of 40 million dollars over the cancellation of the India series, which had been scheduled for January-February this year.

"I have taken the new ball throughout my county career and it is something I would like to do for England," he said.

"It is one of those things which is not just handed on a plate - you have to earn the right to do it."

"Obviously with Fred out there is now a chance to take the new ball, and it is one at which I would jump."

Broad's progress has been in sharp contrast to the decline of his senior fast bowling teammates.

Flintoff continues to be plagued by injuries while Steve Harmison has been inconsistent. Ryan Sidebottom has been battling for the fitness that would return him to the kind of form that made him English Cricketer of the Year, and James Anderson has been erratic.

So far, Broad has captured nine wickets at 19.77 apiece - making him England's most successful bowler - and taken a career-best five wickets for 57 runs in the opening Test at Kingston.

"You never stop developing as a bowler and I've certainly learned a lot in these last two years of international cricket," Broad said.

"Before I came here, I thought about not having to bowl at 87-88 miles per

hour. I looked at the likes of Angus Fraser, who just ran it back into off-stump and got a lot of wickets here."

Broad, whose father opened the batting for England in the 1980s and is now a respected ICC match referee, is pleased with how things have gone for him in the first two Tests.

"Bowling on these slow pitches can improve your skills for when you get back home and hopefully a tour like this can develop me as a bowler," he said.

"Certainly, my view has always been to make sure you nail your accuracy and skills, then in time your strength will develop and pace will pick up."

As a precocious teenage, Broad had ambitions of following in his father's footsteps, but he sprang up, and decided to try his hand at bowling fast.

He may never get the chance to open the batting for England in the future, but he could still fulfill his aspirations about playing a role with the bat at the pivotal No.8 position or bat as high as No.6.

He has already posted three half-centuries in his 13 Tests and an average of 28.13 is no mean feat.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17
Bangladesh Air Force by 7-1 goals in the day's lone match at Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Zahidul Islam Rajon scored three goals, Rimon Kumar netted two, and skipper Shamsuddin Tuhin and Tabibe-Noor scored one goal each for the winners. Raseuddin netted the consolation goal for the losers.

With the day's well-merited win, Usha KC shares the top slot in the league table with Bangladesh Army securing full nine points from three straight matches.

Earlier, Usha KC defeated BKSP 2-1 and Dikusha SC 2-0.

GIRLS' HANDBALL
Sunnydale School made a good start in the KFC Pizza Hut 5th Mini Girls Handball

Tournament outplaying SOS Shishu Palli by 8-0 goals after leading the first half 3-0 in the opening match at the Outer Stadium handball ground.

In the day's other matches, The Agha Khan School beat BMAR Rifles School & College by 6-3 goals (first half by 3-0), Dhanmondi Tutorial defeated Maple Leaf International School by 4-2 goals (first half 2-1), South Breeze School crushed Summer Field by 12-0 goals (first half 6-0), and Dhanmondi Tutorial beat Green Herald by 7-2 goals (first half 3-1).

The day's other match between Maghbazar Ishpani Girls School and Banani Bidya Niketan ended in 5-5 draw.

Executive Director of tournament's sponsor Transcom Foods Limited Akku Chowdhury inaugurated the

meet in the morning.

U-13 FOOTBALL
Under-13 Development football festival began at Zila School Ground in Thakurgaon.

In the inaugural match, Bogra beat Thakurgaon by 5-0 goals where Sabir and Habib of scored two goals each.

In the second match, Rangpur defeated Dinajpur 3-0 where Biplob made two goals and Maruf netted one for winning team.

Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Joypurhat and Bogra district teams are participating in the festival.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Moiar Rahaman inaugurated the festival as chief guest while former lawmaker Alhaz Fazlul Karim attended as special guest.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Cupid's specialty	DOWN	21 Actor Everett
1 Eastern (pol.)	37 Fair of (Var.)	1 Moreover	22 Stereo setup
5 Snoop	38 Guru	2 Miss Piggy's pronoun	23 Grooving on
6 Lend a hand	41 Deer, ...	3 Altir	24 Eye cosmetic
12 Protuberance	42 Last notice	4 Sovereign's abbr.	26 Mess
13 Chickening link	43 Dry ice	5 Pealed	27 Unaccompanied
14 October birthstone	44 Parker House, e.g.	6 Pub order	28 "Once a time"
15 Seeker of an honest man	45 Long cut	7 Soap that debuted in 1999	29 Progeny in 1999
17 Spanish artist Joan	51 Elbow counter-	8 Grits	34 Bulls, oxen, etc.
18 Ovum	52 Genellists' abbr.	9 Grand story	35 Santa's transport
19 Muclagli-	53 Promote in a big way	10 Caprice	37 Carlton
21 California city	54 MASCOT	11 Stratagem	38 Robin Williams
24 MGM mascot	55 Suggestion	16 Id counter-part	39 Black to poets
26 God of wine	30 Toward the stern	17 Footish one	40 Cleopatra's river
30 Toward the stern	31 Foolish one	32 Unclose, in verse	41 Lady of Spain
33 Bishops' jurisdiction	35 - qin fizzle	34 Bulls, oxen, etc.	44 Charged

Solution time: 21 mins.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51				

CRYPTOQUIP

HIVC OA KPPJI QVLDDA HLCMR
RPOVMYCS LJJPOKDYRIVN.
IV SPVR LM YM HYMI
NPSSVN NVMVQOYCLMYP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC FILM ABOUT THE HANDCRAFTING OF A FINE INDIAN STRINGED INSTRUMENT: "A SITAR IS BORN."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T