AFP, Indian Wells

World number one Rafael Nadal will try to add the first Masters Series title of 2009 to his Australian Open crown when he meets Andy Murray in the final at Indian Wells on Sunday.

Nadal, titlist here in 2007, defeated home favourite Andy Roddick 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) to reach the final, while world number four Murray ousted world number two Roger Federer 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

Nadal reached his third final of 2009, the first being his memorable triumph over Federer in the Australian Open championship match.

He was beaten by Murray in the championship match in Rotterdam, and said the 21year-old Scot poses demanding challenge.

In addition, Nadal said, Murray's mental game has improved over the past year.

Nadal, owner of 11 elite Masters Series titles, leads their career head-to-head 5-2.

PWD, Swadhinata promoted to Div II

SPORTS REPORTER

PWD confirmed promotion to next year's second division when they emerged champi ons in Super League Group A of the Citycell Third Division Football League yesterday.

PWD defeated Tongi KC 1-0 in a play-off to determine the group winners after both finished on five points after three matches in their group.

Farhad Hossain struck the all important goal in the 55th minute at the Shaheed Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. Swadhinata KS are the

other team to have confirmed promotion after winning Group B.

PWD and Swadhinata will play in the final on March 26 for the championship.

T20 meet

FROM PAGE 17

to the World Cup so that the players can prepare well at home and hopefully it will take final shape in the next board meeting," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain, chairman of the BCB's tournament committee, vesterday.

The board shifted its focus to a tournament, which was not in its annual calendar, after the home series against Pakistan was postponed due to security concern. Pakistan were scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on March 7 to play two Twenty20 games and five oneday matches but BCB postponed the series following the carnage at Dhaka's BDR headquarters last month and terror attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team bus in Lahore earlier this month.

Although the board failed to arrange any sponsor for this year's Premier League, it is planning to involve corporate houses as promoters of the six clubs in the Twenty 20 tournament.

"We have a plan to make it big. We will try to lure the corporate houses in this tournament," said Jalal Yunus.

But Gazi Ashraf, the former national captain, said that one of the main problems to hold a real Twenty20 tournament is the lack of floodlight facilities at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Hundred 100s

FROM PAGE 20

will come, Tendulkar has no preference for where he bats well.

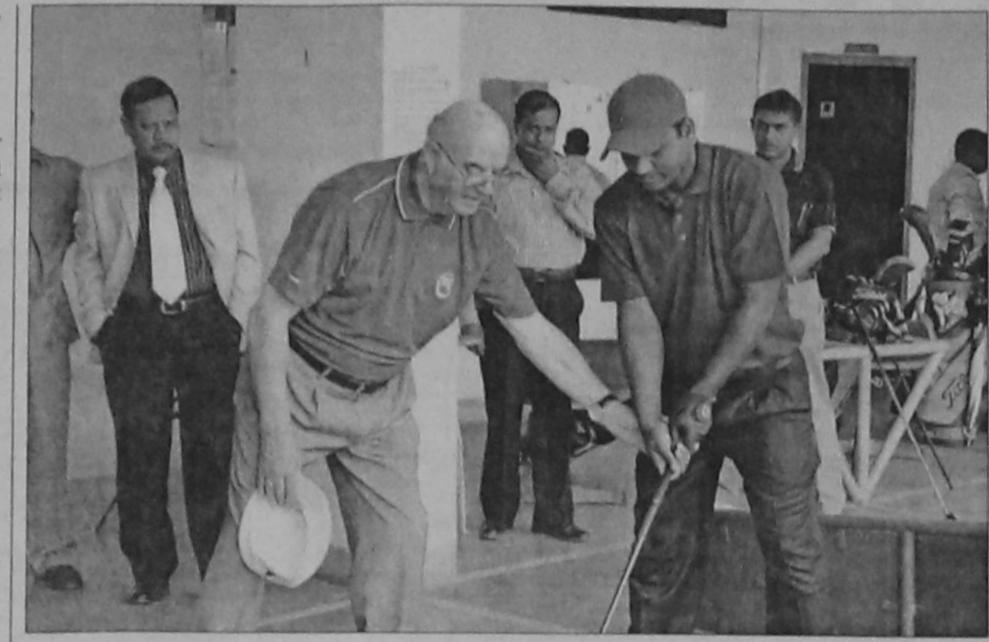
"Home conditions, one is supposed to know them better than foreign conditions but eventually, after being around for a while, I know exactly when to pace myself and when to back off a bit."

If for whatever reason Tendulkar does not reach the ultimate milestone, it may be a

long time before someone does. His nearest challenger is Australian captain Ricky Ponting, two years Tendulkar's junior, and a distant second with 63 hundreds (37 in Tests, 26 in ODIs).



Two basketball leagues - the National Basketball League (NBL) and the Basketball Association of America (BAA) - merged in 1949 to become today's National Basketball Association (NBA).



LITTLE TIPS: English golf coach John Little (L) imparts his world of experience to a Bangladesh golfer preparing for next year's SA Games at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. Little is in the city following an invitation of Bangladesh Golf Federation. He will train the Bangladeshi players till March 31.

became Harris' third victim

Australian vice-captain

when he holed out to mid-on.

Michael Clarke made a fight-

ing 47 before he was bowled

off an inside edge by Steyn,

armed with the second new

time a decision by Bucknor,

standing in his last Test match

before retirement, was over-

Final scoreboard on the fourth

day of the third and final Test

between South Africa and

Australia at Newlands on

150, Kallis 102, Morkel 58)

Hughes c Kallis b Harris

AUSTRALIA: Second innings

Katich c Duminy b Harris 54

Ponting c Boucher b Steyn 12

Hussey c Duminy b Steyn 39

Haddin c Duminy b Harris 18

Siddle c De Villiers b Harris 0

Extras: (b-8, lb-2, nb-5, w-2) 17

Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-76, 3-

138, 4-146, 5-191, 6-218, 7-

Result: South Africa won by

Man-of-the-match: Paul

Man-of-the-series: Mitchell

brought some respect City's

total by scoring a quickfire 45 off

31 balls hitting eight bound-

both their openers in the third

over with the score on 12. The

third wicket fell after only add-

ing five runs to the total which

brought all rounder Akil Arshad

to the crease who top scored

with 27. Victoria lost three more

wickets in the space of 13 overs

and 50 runs when wicket keeper

Mohammad Selim and all

rounder Arafat Salahuddin took

their team over the finishing line

player of the match for his all

round performance of 3-6 and

ened their claim to stay in the

Premier League by winning the

match and bringing their points

tally upto eight. The third team

in the relegation phase Young

Pegasus are at five points and

need to win both their games to

Pegasus on March 24 and

Victoria plays Young Pegasus on

March 27 in the rest of the rele-

gation league matches at

City Club will meet Young

stay in the League.

Victoria has now strength-

Akil Arshad was adjudged

in 22.3 overs.

27 runs.

Mirpur.

midfield.

Victoria started poorly losing

an innings and 20 runs.

City sink

FROM PAGE 17

96

66

88

14

127

McDonald c De Villiers b Harris

Hilfenhaus c Prince b Harris

Total: (All out in 121.5 overs)

381, 8-381, 9-387, 10-422.

It was the fourth successive

ball, shortly before tea.

Johnson delays defeat

FROM PAGE 17

the boundary in an invitation to Johnson to take a single and expose new batsman Bryce McGain.

But Johnson pulled the second ball for six to raise a maiden Test century. In the same over Johnson

called for a suicidal second

run and McGain was run out at the bowler's end. Johnson finished on 123 not out off 103 balls with 11

fours and five sixes.

Only 40 runs were scored during the morning for the loss of Simon Katich's wicket but three wickets fell between lunch and tea before McDonald and Johnson came together.

South Africa had to wait 98 minutes before Harris had Katich caught at mid-off after Katich and Mike Hussey dug in with cautious batting, adding just 36 runs from the start of play.

Katich was out for 54, adding 10 runs in 60 balls before playing a loose drive. He could have been out without adding to his overnight 44 when Harris put down a straightforward chance at gully off Steyn in the ninth

over of the morning. Hussey was caught at gully off Steyn four overs after lunch for 39 and Brad Haddin

England lift women's WC

FROM PAGE 17 vice-captain, it was only an injury to premier all-rounder Jenny Gunn that meant her lastminute inclusion. It proved a

stroke of fortune for England.

The final had promised to be a much tight affair with the best two sides in the competition contesting the ultimate honours, but Shaw's wicket burst helped keep New Zealand to a modest total and then England's big batting guns had just too much firepower when it counted.

Their all-round game was a credit, the bowlers taking wickets when it mattered, the fielders the catches and then their batsmen took advantage of bowling that was both too short and too full at times. And the most important thing was that, even though they went on to lose a few wickets, they held their nerve at the crucial point.

innings, kickstarted by Shaw who removed the dangerous Suzie Bates, then Amy Satterthwaite off successive balls. New Zealand went on to lose 6 for 92, Shaw dismissing form batsman Haidee Tiffen and Nicola Browne, becoming the first woman to take four wickets in a World Cup final.

The wicket of Browne was an important one -- she had offered New Zealand some hope, along with Lucy Doolan in an eighth-wicket stand of 62. Together they boosted their side from 7 for 101. Partnerships were badly lacking for New Zealand, in initial contrast to England who found themselves on 1 for 74

Russel play Farashganj

FROM PAGE 17

Kabir, Emeka Lucky, Khokon, Mamun and Enamul all converted their chances from the spot while Idris, Kaba and Jahangir hit the mark for Rahmatganj for whom Felix fluffed a penalty.

Farashganj, however, could have settled the issue in the first 90 minutes. Discarded national striker Enamul, who got the first chance, saw his effort from 15 yards deflect wide of the post after 11 minutes. The Farashganj striker went closer during the resulting corner but failed to keep his header under the bar.

Khokon then forced a diving save by Ali at the Rahmatganj goal before Idris Kaseriy, Rahmatganj's 13-goal Ugandan forward in the B. League, headed onto the post after Jahangir had picked him up unmarked at the far post from a corner.

Enamul fluffed another good chance seven minutes from halftime when he intercepted a back-header by rival defender Shipon inside the area but fired over with only Ali to beat.

Farashganj goalkeeper Sujan made a superb save at his near post when he was almost stunned by Jahangir's 40-yard drive in the 77th Idris.

Seven minutes later, reffrom the right flank.

Yellow cards: Emeka, Rajib (Farashganj)

TEAMS

FARASHGANJ: Sujan, Ramjan, Emeka, Mamun, Uttam, Rajib, Kabir, Khokon, Emon (Rintu), Enamul and Yousuf (Mutubi). RAHMATGANJ: Ali, Jahangir, Rimon, Kaba, Shipon, Babu, Hanif, Kabir, Felix, Francis and

AUSTRALIA: First innings 209 SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 651 (De Villiers 163, Prince

(overnight 102-2)

Clarke b Stevn

Johnson not out

McGain run out

Bowler

Morkel

Harris

Kallis

Harris.

Duminy

Stevn

Ntini

Sunday:

turned on referral.

SCOREBOARD

The key passage of the game came in the New Zealand

in their reply.

eree Abdul Hannan ignored an appeal for a penalty when Mostafa Kaba felled Farashganj substitute Idris Mutubi inside the area. Mutubi should have scored four minutes from time but his header took a bounce to sail over the bar following Khokon's pin-point centre

Rahmatganj, who finished above Farashganj in the B. League, clearly suffered for a change in coach after the professional league and squandered the best chance of the day in the fourth minute of extra time when Sujan made a one-handed save on Idris's shot on one-on-one. The rebound went to Francis but the Rahmatganj captain tapped the ball over the open goal from six yards as they bowed out of the tournament without a single win.

for semis, final SPORTS REPORTER

Foreign referees

Abdur Rahman, a referee from Qatar, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to officiate the second leg semifinals of the ongoing Citycell Super Cup.

Rahman will conduct today's Abahani-Brothers and tomorrow's Dhaka Mohammedan-Chittagong Mohammedan matches with help of local assistant referees.

An Iranian trio, however, will be in charge of the March 27 final.

The three Iranians --Faghani Alireza, Sokhandan Reza and Fouroughi Rasoul -are due in Dhaka before the final.

The decision to appoint foreign referees was taken in the wake of different teams' complain against poor refereeing.

BCB Academy-U 19s to play exhibition

SPORTS REPORTER

A limited overs exhibition match between GP-BCB National Cricket Academy and Bangladesh Under-19 will be held on March 26 on the occasion of the Independence Day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced a 14member squad for the match yesterday with Marshall Ayub leading the Academy side and young wicketkeeper batsman Mohammad Mithun captaining the Under19s.

GP-BCB NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY: Marshall Ayub (captain), Shamsur Rahman (Vice Captain), Zahurul Islam, Forhad Hossain, Nasiruddin Faruque, Nadif Chowdhury, Sahagir Hossain (Wicketkeeper), Robiul Islam, Mohamed Azim, Sajedul Islam, Arafat Salahuddin, Sohrawordi Shuvo, Arafat Sunny, Nabil Samad

BANGLADESH UNDER 19: Mohammad Mithun (Captain/Wicketkeeper), Saikat Ali, Amit Majumder, Asif Ahmed, Nasir Hossain, Sabbir Ahmed, Rony Talukdar, Noor Hossain, Ariful Haque, Shaker Ahmed, Alauddin Babu, Dewan Sabbir, Kamrul Islam and Tasamul Haque Rubel

Day of shocks FROM PAGE 17

Leighton Baines had curled in a free-kick to give Everton a fourth-minute lead but two Peter Crouch headers sealed the points for Pompey.

Stoke dragged themselves out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win over second-frombottom Middlesbrough. Ryan Shawcross's 84th-minute strike, predictably set up by one of Rory Delap's long throws, made the difference and ensured Newcastle kicked off their evening clash with Arsenal in the relegation zone.

Stoke's win ensured Blackburn finished the day in a worse position than they started it, despite a battling display to earn a 1-1 draw with West Ham at Ewood Park, substitute Keith Andrews cancelling out Mark Noble's first half strike for the Hammers.

West Brom's chances of hauling themselves off the bottom look bleak after they could only draw 1-1 with Bolton, who were volleyed into a deserved lead by Matt Taylor, mid-way through the second half. An own goal by Danny

Shittu ensured a point for the Baggies but they remain adrift at the bottom with time rapidly running out.

BFF assured

people including players, "I had a meeting with

Cantonment yesterday.

"He (Moeen) said he would take care of it. I placed other matters before him and also got positive response."

that Gen Moeen has promised to increase facilities at the Bangabandhu National Stadium and improve the pitch at the Shaheed Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. "I have also sought his

support to allot the district stadiums to the Football Associations for a certain period of the year to hold the district leagues," former national football captain Salahuddin added.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

Nabajagarani Sangha finished

runners-up. Fuad of Bhai Bhai

and Rajib of Nabajagarani

Mahfuzur Rahman witnessed

the last matches as chief guest

and distributed prizes among

EXIMBANK HANDBALL

Jessore mauled Kushtia 13-0 in

the first semifinal match of the

EXIM Bank 20th National

Women's Handball Competi-

tion in the Madaripur Stadium.

Madaripur defeated Narail 13-

5 and will play Jessore in the

final today at the same venue.

Sadar Upazila team clinched

MUNSHIGANI

FOOTBALL

In the second semifinal,

Chairman of ATN Bangla

were named the best players.

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police AC emerged champions in the National Bank Dhaka Metropolis Premier Division Volleyball League beating Power Development Board (PDB) 3-2 (23-25, 25-12, 25-21, 20-25, 15-12) in an exciting last league match at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

This is the maiden Premier League crown for the policemen who had earlier finished runners-up for three years in

Monir of PDB and Shaheen of Police were jointly adjudged the best players-of-the-league. In the First Division League, Bhai Bhai Sangha emerged champions while

Abahani, Gazi

winners.

bowlers in their last two big from the losing streak. games against Mohammedan and Biman. But the holders still managed to go into the League but we are now looking Super League with a four point forward to get back into the advantage by winning both the matches.

"True we lost both this season's encounters against Gazi but I believe this time we will turn the tables on them. We have been suffering from an injury problem but still I believe that we can win the match because we proved it by winning two big games without our main bowlers," said Mashrafe, who bowled offspin in the last two games due to back pain.

do their job properly," he national opener at number added.

comers Gazi Tank, who have isfied with the Tigers showing. 12 points from 11 matches in the first phase, lost the rhythm once they had confirmed their Super League berth but Ashraful believes that his side Mashrafe.

is now ready to bounce back

"We were a little bit relaxed after confirmation of the Super rhythm. There is no injury problem in the team and we are hopeful that we can continue our success against Abahani,' said Ashraful whose side thrashed the holders by eight wickets in the Twenty20 match and registered a six-wicket victory in the 50-over match. Ashraful expressed his

satisfaction over the performance of the national batters in the first phase despite the fact only one batsman (Zunaed Siddiqui) made his "I think the batsmen must way in the top-ten (with the ten). Tigers vice-captain On the other hand new- Mashrafe was however dissat-

"At least four batsmen should be in the list. I think the national players were far away from the expectations," said

the Munshiganj DC Cup football title beating Sirajdikhan Upazila team 5-3 in tiebreaker after the final match ended goalless in regulation time at

the Munshiganj Stadium. Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Khondakar Shawkat Hossain was the chief guest in the final and distributed prizes

among winners. DIVIIHOCKEY

Dilkusha SC notched their second successive victory in the Green Delta Metropolis 2nd Division Hockey League beating Dhaka Young Star 6-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Skipper Khwaja Shabab struck twice while Siraj Monir, Al Amin, Mohammed Jewel and Khwaja Firoz Reza netted one goal each for the winners. Sajib Das scored the consola-

tion goal for the vanquished. In the day's other match, Tejgaon Agragami defeated Udity Club 4-3 after leading the first-half 3-2 in a keenly contested match at the same venue.

DIVIIIFOOTBALL

PWD Sporting Club emerged Group A champions to reach the final of the Citycell Metropolis 3rd Division Football League beating Tongi KC by a solitary goal in a playoff at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium at Kamalapur.

Farhad scored the matchwinner for PWD in the 55th minute of the match, arranged to settle the group champions as both the teams had secured five points from three group encounters.

PWD will now play the final against Group B champions Swadheenata KS on Thursday to decide the league champi-

Both the finalists, PWD and Swadheenata have earned the right to play in the Metropolis 2nd Division League from next season.

players such as Mahendra

Singh Dhoni and Sachin

Tendulkar as well as interna-

tional stars such as Kevin

Cricket in India (BCCI) said the

sport's tour calendar made it

impossible to reschedule, and

the decision to move abroad

was made after several meet-

authorities confirmed they had

been approached by the BCCI

for exploratory talks about

South Africa's cricket

ings with the government.

The Board of Control for

Pietersen.

Security fears force IPL

FROM PAGE 17

teams against each other in the short-form Twenty20 format of the game, was eagerly awaited by millions of fans in India after its inaugural event last year proved a huge success.

IPL commissioner Lalit Modi said the 59 matches in the event would be scheduled so that they still fell at 4pm and 8pm in India, prime time for the massive cricket audience in this nation of more than one billion people.

Manohar said he wanted to "apologise to the people of India for moving the tournament," but stressed India's cricket board was not left with any other option.

"The tournament generated a lot of interest last year and we wanted the same to happen this year. It will still be popular, whether it is watched at the ground or on television, he said.

Indian authorities declined to release security forces needed to guard the tournament due to the five-phase parliamentary elections that

1 Toss into 35 Love of

8 Scattered 37 Wrestler's

36 Pickle

45 Cat cal

47 Conk out

49 Building

brand

refrain

52 Jailer's

53 Family

the mix

4 Speak

13 Work

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on the

15 Beatnik's

interiec-

16 "American block

17 Erstwhile 50 Pussy-

18 Lara Croft partner

portrayer 51 Yuletide

tion

21 Chicken-

22 Deleted

hound's

clues

Ferrell

movie

23 Blood-

will take place from April 16 to themselves with India's adored Federal Home Minister P. Chidambaram said last week that the elections were "un-

questionably" first priority for the government. "I can't exempt any state government from giving to the election commission the forces they have promised, Chidambaram said. "I have also made it clear that I cannot

spare any central paramilitary forces (for the IPL)." At stake was a tournament that has generated more than 900 million dollars in television rights, and tens of millions of dollars in advertising, players fees, merchandising and tick-

As the government's position became clear, advertisers and sponsors had expressed concern over the prospect of AFP, Cape Town losing their big chance of the year to reach fervent cricket fans in India and around the world.

Coca-Cola and Vodafone are among the IPL's major sponsors, keen to associate

SA ready to host IPL South Africa will enter into negotiations which could lead

hosting the tournament.

Cricket SA chief executive Gerald Majola. Less than 24 hours after dismissing talk of hosting the IPL as 'rumours', Majola said an official approach had been made by the Board of Control

to the country staging the

second season of the Indian

Premier League, according to

for Cricket in India (BCCI). Majola's statement came after it was reported from India that a BCCI working committee had decided the tournament would be held outside India. An unnamed IPL official

was quoted as saying the matches would take place in England or South Africa. Majola said in a statement: We received an official

approach this morning to be one of several options they are considering to host the tournament outside India. We do not know what the other options are and it is not for us to comment on that."

ons Bangladesh Police at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday. 1 Mater 23 Have bills lead-in 24 Benicio 2 James Toro Howard 25 Lummox 3 Tinkling 26 Broomsound 4 Photocloset Tattooed peak 28 Stolen Lady 6 Informed 29 Ostrich's about 42 43 44 7 Informal 31 Virginia 8 Left one's seat 32 Galvaniz-9 Vaccine ing

PHOTO: COURTESY

CRYPTOQUIP

QXBAO Z KQMV "QZM'B BRQB

KZMVZMV ZB BLL. ZB'K

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE OCTOPUS NEEDED OUTERWEAR TO KEEP ITSELF WARM, I

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals O

Brothers' uphill task Oranges are one of two teams import in their tent but

FROM PAGE 17 Although the manager informed about their attacking approach, Abahani are likely to field an extra holding midfielder in Pranotosh

beside Joy.

tournament with five goals, will join three-goal Emily in the attack. foreigner -- Ghana's Tette -- in the squad but his ITC (international transfer clearance) was

Emeka, top scorer in the

yet to reach Dhaka as of this report. be cautious if they make the midfielder said. final pairing as Joy and Emeka are both on two yellow cards, each one short of being sus-

pended for the grand finale. Brothers manager Amer nents. They looked positive Khan knows that his side face a very tough task. But the

"We defeated Abahani 2-0 wait for the arrival of his ITC.

in the first leg of the B. League. So repeating that is not impossible. We lost the first-leg semifinal in the last ten minutes when we made a few mistakes," said Amer. "Bringing an attacking

Abahani have their fourth player (Rony) in place of Liton was a mistake. But our players' moral is high and they are raring to go. We have been playing attractive football recently and we will put on our Abahani, however, have to best tomorrow," the former

"Starting this match a goal down is not a disadvantage because it will inspire our boys to go hard against the oppoduring today's training.' Brothers also have a new

that have beaten Abahani this Nigerian striker Okono, who plays in Maldives, will have to time, we will gamble by play-

> the right partner yet, in place of Tapu." Brothers though, as fullback Arup recovered from injury and will take his place at the right side of a five-man

> (Quaye), who has not found

TEAMS ABAHANI: Biplab, Nazrul,

"If the ITC is available in ing him beside Henry

There was good news for

Sujan, Samad, Waly, Abul, Joy Pranotosh, Mamun, Emeka and Emily. BROTHERS: Zia, Ariful,

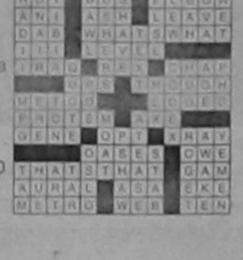
Shuvra, Mishu, Arup, Zahid, Matiur Munna, Rikto, Shakil, Henry and Tapu.

FROM PAGE 17 accommodate at least 100 coaches and other staff.

National Sports Council (NSC) chairman General Moeen U Ahmed today. It was very satisfactory and he has given me positive hopes," Salahuddin told after his meeting with the Army Chief at Dhaka

The BFF chief informed

26 Encountered 27 Definite article 30 Break of a habit 31 Allurmative action? 32 Go like 90 T 33 Will



merchan can modify dise janglers 36 Gem 11 Beezer member 19 Deserve 37 Gershwin Solution time: 27 mins. 38 Congre-

10 Web

page

ATN Bangla chairman Mahfuzur Rahman (C) hands over the NBL

Premier Volleyball League trophy to players and officials of champi-

material

34 Chum

35 Block-

buster

44 Congers

Q KRQDA," LBRAOK KBQOBAF-BRA XQBK FLDZML AXXAWB

Zealander RECKON IT PURCHASED A COAT OF ARMS.