PHOTO: COURTESY

Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Professor Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir (2nd from L) hands over the winner's trophy to Archaeology department's Moon, who became champion in the inter-department badminton competition.

School football

SPORTS REPORTER

Chapain Nawabganj High thrashed blanked Sirajganj Technical School and College 13-0 at the Natore Stadium in the knockout stage of the Citycell National School Football Championship yesterday.

Later in the day, Younus Ali High School blanked Uchona Dakhila Madrasa 6-0 at the same venue also in the same format.

In Rajbari, Ankur School and College outclassed Faridpur High School 3-1.

Of the 13 matches that were held yesterday, three knock out basis matches were decided at the Natore and Rajbari Stadiums while the others were held on round robin league format at six venues.

At the Tangail Stadium, Shuti VA Pilot High School defeated Chandana High School 4-0 and Larginarayan Cotton Mill edged past Surjo Taramman Shirgangon School 1-0.

In Srimangal, Victoria High School drubbed Elliotganj High School 5-0 while Habiganj GKNHK High School edged past Shahbazpur Moulvibazar High School 1-0.

In other matches, Sangu High School, Koira Madinabag Secondary School, Azim Uddin High School, Koyagola Hat High School earned victories in their respective matches.

At the Rangamati Stadium, Shaheed Abdul Ali High School ended on a goalless draw with Govt. Nasirabad High School and in Nilphamari Mohimaranjan Smrity High School also played to a goalless draw with Hatibagdha SS High School.

Injured Lee, Watson in

AFP, *Sydney*

Speedster Brett Lee and resurgent all-rounder Shane Watson were Tuesday named in Australia's World Twenty20 championship squad despite injury clouds over both players.

Lee has not bowled for Australia since suffering foot and ankle problems in December's Boxing Day Test against South Africa, while stress fractures in his back have prevented Watson from competitive bowling since November.

Both are hoping to return to the international stage on Thursday, when Australia take on Pakistan in a Twenty20 match in the United Arab Emirates.

Chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch was confident the pair would perform with the ball at the world championship in England next month.

"Brett Lee is progressing well," Hilditch said.

"We expect it will take him a few games to regain his rhythm after the extended break, but the medical and coaching staff are very confident Brett will be back to his best for this tournament."

He said Watson added "strength and versatility" to the side.

All-rounder Andrew Symonds and "explosive" opener David Warner were also named in the squad, which will be captained by Ricky Ponting.

"At his best Andrew Symonds is one of the best Twenty20 players in the world," said Hilditch.

"In limited opportunities in the UAE he showed, during game two, his ability to win games for Australia. He also adds versatility to our squad."

His inclusion is a further sign he has been welcomed back to the fold following last summer's injury and discipline woes.

The squad features a strong bowling element, with Mitchell Johnson and Peter Siddle, who were rested from the series against Pakistan, alongside Nathan Bracken, Ben Hilfenhaus, James Hopes and spinner Nathan Hauritz

Hilditch said the side also had talent with the bat "with a mix of stroke players and players capable of being very destructive".

SQUAD

Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Nathan Bracken, Brad Haddin, Nathan Hauritz, Ben Hilfenhaus, James Hopes, David Hussey, Mike Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Brett Lee, Peter Siddle, Andrew Symonds, David Warner, Shane Watson.

Coach: Tim Nielsen.

NCC emerge Rangpur champs

SPORTS REPORTER

National Cricket Club (NCC) of Nilphamari beat Oikka Sammiloni KS by 13 runs at the Rangpur Garden to become Rangpur zone champions in the National Club Cup Championship yesterday.

In Mymensingh, locals Abahani KC defeated Silbar Sporting Club by two wickets and Jagorani Sangsad of Jessore beat Meherpur's Taposh Sriti Sangha by four wickets at the Jhenidah Stadium.

In the last match of the day, Gua Khola KC of Chandpur beat Habiganj's Modern Club by 87 runs at the SVS Noakhali Stadium.

Rajib 16th

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib finished 16th in the 11th Dubai Open Chess Championship in the UAE yesterday.

Rajib earned six points out of nine games to finish 16th on the list which betters his previous ranking of 31.

In the last round of games yesterday, Rajib drew with GM Levan Pantsulia of Georgia. He played with white pieces to open Queen's Pawn opening and played against Benoni defense of Levan. The game ended in a draw after 51 moves.

Seventeen International Masters participated in this event which is Asia's biggest open chess tournament.

SL appoints general to protect team

AFP, *Colombo*

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Monday appointed a retired army general to protect the national team during local and overseas tours.

Major General Lawrence Fernando's appointment as a security consultant comes after the national team was attacked by armed militants in Lahore on March 3 during a tour of Pakistan.

Seven Sri Lankan cricketers and an assistant coach were injured in the attack, which left eight Pakistanis dead.

The SLC said in a press release Fernando's appointment was made "due to the global security threats and after the sequence of unfortunate incidents that the Sri Lankan team had to face (in Pakistan)".

"His main concerns will be all aspects pertaining to security such as inbound, outbound tours, venues under Sri Lanka Cricket," the release added.

Sri Lanka is also grappling with its own share of security issues, with government forces on the verge of defeating the Tamil Tiger rebels after nearly four decades of ethnic conflict.

Teams in IPL hangover

First Eng-WI Test starts today

Cricket

AFP, *London*

The Indian Premier League (IPL) threatens to play a major role in the Test campaign between England and the West Indies even before a ball is bowled in Wednesday's series opener here at Lord's.

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff has already been ruled out of the two-Test series after sustaining a knee injury playing in the lucrative Twenty20 event.

And West Indies captain Chris Gayle only arrived in England following his IPL stint in South Africa in the early hours of Monday morning.

On his day, opening batsman Gayle can blast a big score against any attack.

But West Indies coach John Dyson is unhappy the left-hander, who in March led his side to a 1-0 Test series win over England in the Caribbean, has given himself so little time to acclimatise to local conditions.

However, not all players need plenty of nets and lots of rest to be at their best and Dyson is banking on Gayle's "big-match" temperament asserting itself in the first of a two-Test series.

But the former Australia opening batsman was clearly unhappy Gayle had been allowed to leave it so late before joining the team.

"Medical science says that everyone gets jet-lag. If your flying time is 10, 12 hours you probably need a couple of days to recover properly from the flight."

Sri Lanka were due to be England's opponents for this series, only to withdraw because of their players' IPL commitments.

As it is West Indies fast bowler Fidel Edwards only arrived following his IPL stint on Sunday while the other England players involved in the tournament apart from Flintoff -- Ravi Bopara, Kevin Pietersen and Paul Collingwood -- have not long been in the country either.

This will be the earliest Test ever staged in an English season and so far the West Indies have struggled to adjust to the local environment.

There is no doubt the tourists will be looking to the likes of Gayle and the obdurate Shivnarine Chanderpaul, long a thorn in England's side, to stiffen their batting.

One factor in their favour could be the Lord's pitch.

The last six Tests there have been draws but England have struggled to bowl sides out twice anywhere in recent times -- they failed to take 20 wickets in any of their 'winter' Tests in India and the Caribbean.

That has led to England freshening up their attack by calling in the likes of uncapped pace duo Graham Onions and Tim Bresnan in a 12-man squad, the first since Andy Flower was confirmed as their new head coach.

Both seamers are set to play at Lord's with Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar contesting what is likely to be the lone spot for a spinner.

Character also appears to have played a part in Bopara's selection at No 3 ahead of the likes of Ian Bell, Owais Shah and former captain Michael Vaughan.

The Essex all-rounder seized a rare Test chance to make a century against the West Indies in Barbados before considerations of 'balance' saw him dropped.

For all Dyson's concerns about Gayle's readiness, the fact remains that England -- in an era of central contracts designed to ensure their players are primed for international matches -- have now gone 14 Test series without winning the opening match.

But James Anderson, in an unaccustomed role as a senior pace bowler, insisted England, who often give the appearance of being obsessed by the Ashes series that starts in July to the exclusion of all else, were ready to hit the ground running.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Ravi Bopara, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, Tim Bresnan, James Anderson, Graham Onions, Monty Panesar.

WEST INDIES (from): Chris Gayle (captain), Devon Smith, Lendl Simmons, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Denesh Ramdin, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Brendan Nash, Dave Bernard, Darren Sammy, Jerome Taylor, Fidel Edwards, Sulieman Benn, Lionel Baker, Narsingh Deonarine, Nelon Pascal, Andrew Richardson, Dale Richards.

Umpires: Steve Davis and Asoka de Silva.

MCA team

FROM PAGE 17

XI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on May 17, 18 and 19.

Then they will travel to Khulna to play three one-dayers against Bangladesh A team on May 22, 23 and 25.

The first four-day match will take place at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra from May 28 to May 31 while the second and final four-day match is scheduled to be held in Mirpur from June 3 to June 6.

SQUAD

Harshad Khadiwale (captain), Rohan Bhosale, Ameye Shrikandhe, Sangram Attitkar, Ankit Bawne, Azhar Ansari, Ganesh Gaikwad, Rohit Motwani (wicketkeeper), Kiran Adhav, Aditya Dole, Samad Fallah, Ninad Chaudhary, Digamber Wagmare, Kedar Jadhav, Prayag Bhati, Hanuman Pujare and Jitu Patel.

SL Dev team

FROM PAGE 17

changed when Tissara Perera joined his skipper as the visitors finished the day on 373-8 in 110 overs.

The left-handed pair put the local bowlers to the sword to take away their early initiative and added 149 runs in the seventh wicket stand.

Pushpakumara punished the local bowlers as the southpaw batsman smashed 19 boundaries during his 246-ball essay while Tissara added 72 off 125 balls with the help of 11 boundaries and a six.

'England under-prepared'

Cricket

CRICINFO, *undated*

England's head coach, Andy Flower, believes that several key members of the squad to face West Indies in the first Test at Lord's on Wednesday are "under-prepared" having spent the early part of the season in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in South Africa.

The middle-order trio of Kevin Pietersen, Ravi Bopara and Paul Collingwood did not return to England until late last week, with Collingwood having failed to play a single game during his stint with the Delhi Daredevils. And Flower told BBC Radio Five Live: "They are [under-prepared], without a doubt, with regard to first-class cricket."

ANDY FLOWER

Another of England's IPL players, Owais Shah, was dropped from the squad for the first Test having failed to cement his place during the winter series in the Caribbean, while West Indies also have their own preparation concerns, with their captain, Chris Gayle, arriving in the country on Monday morning, just 48 hours ahead of the match.

Flower did not take charge of the England team until January, and was not formally unveiled as the Director of Cricket until late last month. He did not, therefore, have any say in the ECB's decision to allow its centrally contracted players a window to play in the IPL.

"That is ECB policy, that they were allowed to go to the IPL in the first place," said Flower. "But they have had a superb experience, the atmosphere of the tournament has excited them about the game and they have come back really energised for the season ahead."

Andrew wants winning start

Cricket

AFP, *London*

England captain Andrew Strauss is hoping the presence of a few new faces can end his side's four-year long failure to win the first Test of a series.

England start a two-match Test campaign against the West Indies at Lord's here on Wednesday in a match where pace bowlers Tim Bresnan and Graham Onions could both make their Test debuts.

It is now 14 series since England got off to a winning start and Strauss, speaking at Lord's here on Tuesday, said: "All I can say is that the attitude and the environment seems fantastic at the moment.

"The one advantage of having a few new faces around is that you get that exuberance. Their excitement rubs off on all of us.

"As a starting point for the summer it feels good."

But he admitted England's habit of failing to find their form in opening matches was a concern.

"I don't think we can say it's an unfortunate coincidence, it's happened in the last 14 series.

"It's something we are mindful of and any thoughts of easing our way into the Test match summer are something we are trying to avoid at all costs," said Strauss ahead of an international home season which also features an Ashes clash with Australia.

"A lot of that depends on our mindset and how we arrive at the ground tomorrow morning. We want to put that record straight, to be honest.

"It has been mentioned and we would be wrong if we didn't mention it."

Since 2000, England have played the first Test of a home series at Lord's -- Strauss's Middlesex home ground.

The last six Tests at the 'home of cricket' have all ended in draws and opening batsman Strauss, reflecting on the reasons behind England's record in series openers, added: "There are mitigating circumstances, we've played a lot of drawn Tests at Lord's but the reality is you don't want to be level or behind after the first Test in a series.

"You want to be in front and to do that you've got to hit the ground running," the left-hander said.

BFF after

FROM PAGE 17

logic to play football in a purpose-built cricket stadium. I think BFF must also be aware of the fact that the Fatullah Cricket Stadium is an International Cricket Council (ICC) approved test venue," said Younus, BCB's media committee chairman.

"Since we are in the middle of renovating and upgrading all our cricket venues for the 2011 World Cup I think this demand is totally illogical. A cricket venue can be made into a football arena really quickly but not so the other way round. There are a number of natural turfs at Fatullah where we have invested a lot of money. The stadium is being used regularly and we have some upcoming tours so the ground is pretty active in that context. If ever the BFF gets the opportunity to stage a world cup football then BCB will happily offer any venue," said Yunus.

The .6 Million Dollar Man

FROM PAGE 17

who revealed all, a coach and an idol at loggerheads, under performing and over paid stars (Brendon McCullum), as well as the much touted multi-captain theory.

After it is all said and done, the real problem has been with the leadership of the team. Shah Rukh's over zealousness has not helped the team's cause, in fact at times it is a real distraction from what the team is paid to do, play cricket. Buchanan has probably been their biggest problem, his new age techniques and quirky ideas may have made him successful with Australia, but in Kolkata he has proved to be a mess and a disaster. The first season may have been put down to bad luck, but the second season is all about bad leadership. He made a poor choice by replacing Ganguly as captain, in every sense of the word he is the spiritual centre of the team. Had this season been played in India, there is no doubt that the vociferous Eden Gardens crowd would have made their feelings heard and Buchanan may have already been replaced. In football managers are summarily sacked for a few bad performances, Buchanan has now had two bad seasons and it's time to end that relationship. Having installed a captain he could essentially control (heaven knows he never could have done the same with Ganguly) his 'batting strategy' of using all his overseas players as batsmen as failed miserably. Even the unknown Moses Henriques has got a few games as he continues to bench the mercurial and talented Mashrafe.

Things finally came to a head when after Chris Gayle left, Henriques was called up to take the last slot as the man they paid 600,000 dollars for had to continue warming the bench. Why pay top dollar for a player and then bench him, it makes no sense and neither do the Knight Riders. This story will not have a happy ending, Mashrafe will finally play a few games when they have no chance to get into the semis, but then what's the use? As the .6 million dollar man lies in waiting maybe the Knight Riders should look for new leadership. In the original 1982 Knight Rider series, the super smart car with an answer for everything was called KITT, maybe he's looking for a job. Appointing him won't be the worst decision they've made.

Mohammedan

FROM PAGE 17

four boundaries as Ansar and VDP scored 199-7 in stipulated 35 overs.

In reply, BKSP were bundled out for 91 runs in 32 overs with Aka Mollik making team highest 21.

Panna claimed three wickets for 15 runs while Sohily Akter took two wickets for 22 and Salma Akter captured two without conceding any run.

Dada edge a thriller

FROM PAGE 17

Mahmudullah Riyad (31 runs in 23 balls) in the middle besides Rokibul's half-century.

The total however appeared neither safe nor defendable in the face of a prudent yet aggressive batting display by the two Abahani openers Tamim and Rabiul Islam. Abahani were still short of 68 runs from the target when Tamim returned to the pavilion but Sri Lankan Chamara Silva played a vital knock of 24 off 18 balls that saw three boundaries.

Despite the much-needed win Abahani with 4 points from two matches stand in such an uncertain position that is not enough to ensure a semifinal berth.

Abahani will be looking forward keenly to the result of another vital group A match today between Top Sports and Brothers Union, which can turn the fate of three teams either way.

If Top Sports win today, they will book the semifinal berth as the first time with 6 points from two wins. And if Top Sports concede defeat today, it will be Brothers to have the first honour to go into semi final, ending the group race with 7 points from three matches.

Abahani is sure to pray for a Brother's victory today. And if things happen as per their wish, both the teams will ensure passage to semifinal from the group.

The option for Abahani, in case Top Sports win against Brothers today, will be to wait for tomorrow's crunch match against arch-rivals Mohammedan.

While that match will be a battle of prestige only for the black-and-whites, Abahani would stand in a must-win situation to proceed further.

SCORES IN BRIEF

TOP SPORTS: 144-6 in 20 overs (Sadat 2, Sanwar 4, Rokibul 52, Lokuaracgchchi 26, Riyad 31, Nazmul 19 not out, Weeraratne 5, extras 5; Rasel 2-17, Enamul 2-32, Talha 1-26).

ABAHANI: 146-5 in 19.2 overs (Tamim 44, Rabiul 42, Silva 24, Karuna 18, extras 8; Weeraratne 1-32, Lokuarachchi 2-24, Sunny 1-26, Sadat 1-17).

Result: Abahani won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Tamim Iqbal (Abahani)

DADA WARRIORS: 127-9 in 20 overs (Saeed 34, Arafat 25, Faisal 14, Kasif 13, extras 4; Mendis 5-33, Ridwan 2-14).

ISPAHANI: 123-7 in 20 overs (Shamsur 40, Mushfiqur 33 not out, Rabbi 20, extras 8; Kamrul 2-9, Ali 2-22).

Result: Dada Warriors won by four runs.

Man-of-the-Match: Jeevan Mendis (Ispahani).

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

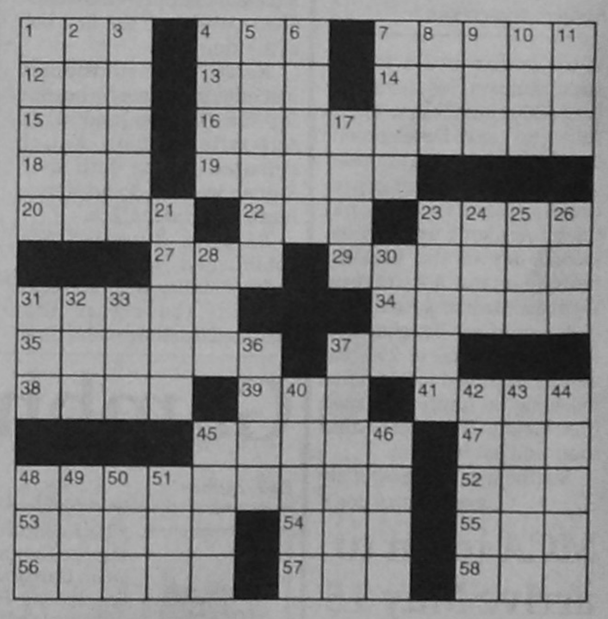
1 Suitable
4 Journal
7 Boasts
12 "Skip to My —"
13 Gorilla
14 Kidney-related
15 Under the weather
16 Eartha Kitt classic
18 — -relief
19 Calamari
20 Mosul's land
22 Work with
23 Crow's-nest cry
27 Multi-purpose truck
29 St. George's foe
31 Eagle's digs
34 "William Tell," e.g.
35 Plays for time
37 Royal insomnia cause
38 Huff and puff
39 "— the fields we go"
41 Galvanizing stuff
45 Dutch bloom
47 Long March leader
48 California city
52 Pump up the volume
53 Trojan War king
54 Luau side dish
55 "Gosh!"
56 Shrill barks
57 Conclusion
58 Mag. staffers

DOWN

1 Excuse
2 On top of the world?
3 Oklahoma city
4 Colleen
5 Not transparent
6 Category
7 Actor Pitt
8 C.S.A. soldier
9 Literary collection
10 Chatter away
11 Crafty
17 Even
21 Colorful coverlet
23 Bolivian city
24 Census datum
25 Neither partner
26 "CSI" evidence
28 — Aviv
30 Caviar, essentially
31 Cleo's slayer
32 Greek vowel
33 Operated
36 Acerbic
37 Pen
40 Split to form a bond?
42 Mirror's offering
43 Appointed
44 Manages somehow
45 Mid-lothian millinery
46 Settled up
48 Agent
49 Exist
50 Zero
51 Spigot

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	S	■	J	O	L	T	■	C	L	A	W
E	L	I	■	O	B	E	Y	■	L	O	B	O
S	I	D	E	K	I	C	K	■	O	R	E	O
■	■	E	R	E	■	H	E	R	S	E	L	F
C	O	W	A	R	D	■	S	U	E	■	■	■
A	D	A	■	S	I	R	■	G	U	I	L	E
M	I	L	S	■	G	O	B	■	P	R	A	M
P	E	K	O	E	■	B	U	D	■	O	V	I
■	■	■	L	E	D	■	S	I	G	N	A	L
M	I	D	D	L	E	C	■	N	U	S	■	■
E	R	I	E	■	B	U	R	N	S	I	D	E
G	A	R	R	■	T	R	U	E	■	D	O	G
A	N	T	S	■	S	E	E	R	■	E	C	O



CRYPTOQUIP

YJLOZ J MNGZ IXLNBZI N OZTBNJL GJBNK XTCNL, J CSZYY WXS UJCMB YNW J NU IZ-KJGZTZI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU BECOME MIRED IN GALLONS OF MELTED CHOCOLATE BARS, I'D SAY YOU'RE CAUGHT IN CANDY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals V