

Brothers Union's Ghanaian player Steven Kwesi (C) tries to make his way through Arambagh's Kabuye Dominic and Akram Hossain during their Citycell Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Inter-district football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Chudanga District Eleven recorded a solitary-goal win over Khulna Winners Club in the Inter-District Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup tournament at Magura Stadium yesterday. Murad struck the decisive goal for Chudanga in the first half. Narail will take on Rajbari today at the same venue.

## Abahani

FROM PAGE 17  
layoff of the Bangladesh League following the SAFF Championship in December prompted Abahani to release Alvaro before the expiry of the contract.

Replying to a query, Rupu said that players were not supposed to face fitness problems during the layoff as Alvaro has made a training schedule to maintain their fitness. It may be mentioned here that, Alvaro used to draw a salary of 2000 US dollars per month from the Sky Blues.

## Gayle made

FROM PAGE 17  
off due to the player strike Gayle is simply keen to return to any form of cricket.

He has had mixed results as captain, winning three Tests out of 14 and 13 ODIs out of 38. He led West Indies to two series wins in one-dayers, including an away victory against England last year, and against the touring Sri Lanka. He presided over a surprise win in the first Test against South Africa in Johannesburg but his side went on to lose the next two games and the series. His other Test wins came against Sri Lanka in Port-of-Spain to level the two match series and a deciding win over England at home earlier this year, before West Indies handed back the Wisden Trophy when they toured just after.



## Did U Know?

The UEFA Champions League started in 1955 and Real Madrid dominated until 1960. After that Benfica took charge in 1961.



**Brett Lee**  
(Australia fast bowler)  
"I certainly have not ruled out playing Test match cricket and that is definitely the most important thing that I want to achieve -- to get back in and play Test match cricket."

## 'England series 'huge'

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

England's tour of South Africa is going to be "huge" according to South Africa coach Mickey Arthur and he has vowed that his charges won't be caught cold as they were in the recent Champions Trophy.

Host nation South Africa failed to reach the knockout stage of the Champions Trophy, with a defeat against England putting an end to their chances.

"We were rusty going into that tournament," said Arthur. "Any series against England is huge and we want to make sure we are well prepared for our matches against them."

England, whose limited overs squad arrived in South Africa Sunday, will be up against South African players who have been playing domestic cricket and will face Zimbabwe in two one-day matches before taking on the Andrew Strauss-skipped tourists.

England will play South Africa in two Twenty20 internationals, five one-day internationals and four Tests.

Arthur admitted there may have been some justification for critics who said South Africa's predictability had contributed to their

Champions Trophy downfall after going into the tournament ranked number one in the world.

"Things had worked so well for us in one-day cricket that maybe we were a bit predictable," he said. "We are looking for more flexibility against England."

The Champions Trophy came after South Africa's first extended break in more than two years, but Arthur promised England would come up against players who were hungry and should be in top form.

All the national players with the exception of Jacques Kallis, who has a side strain, will be involved in domestic cricket before the one-day squad assembles in Johannesburg Friday.

They will play Zimbabwe on November 8 and 10, with Arthur admitting the matches had been arranged to give the South Africans a chance to play together and work on new combinations ahead of the England series.

"The Zimbabwe matches will get us playing together again as a unit and we want to go into the England series hot," said Arthur.

England flew to the central city of Bloemfontein soon after their arrival and will prepare for four days before playing 50-over matches against the Free State Eagles and Eastern Cape Warriors franchise teams and a 20-over match against South Africa A.

The first Twenty20 international is at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on November 13.

## Series win is the goal

FROM PAGE 17

"They are not fully recovered. It's not sure if they can play. But, we will wait for them till the match starts," said vice-captain Hamilton Masakadza yesterday.

Today is a do-or-die affair for the Africans and Masakadza admitted that they would try their best to pull a rabbit out of the hat.

"We will try to win today and equal the series to turn the 5th match into the deciding one," he said.

The match will be a special one for the venue as the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium is waiting for ICC recognition as one of the venues for the World Cup 2011 to be held in the subcontinent.

And one man who will understand that value more than most is local boy and dashing opener Tamim Iqbal.

"I always look forward to playing at home and it will be a fantastic thing for Chittagong if the World Cup comes here," he said.

"It will be a renaissance for cricket here and youngster will have renewed enthusiasm to become cricketers. Remember there was a time when there were as many as nine players from Chittagong in the national team. Now I am the only one. So the World Cup could be a massive boost."

## Aussies draw

FROM PAGE 17  
miss out on his 10th half-century, being caught behind off Harbhajan for a 52-ball 49 containing six fours.

The next match will be played in Hyderabad on Thursday.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between India and Australia at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali on Monday:

**AUSTRALIA**  
Watson c Dhoni b Harbhajan 49  
Marsh lbw b Nehra 5  
Ponting run out 52  
Hussey c Sharma b Yuvaraj 40  
White run out 62  
Henriques st Dhoni b Harbhajan 6  
Johnson b Nehra 8  
Manou run out 7  
Hauritz not out 9  
Siddle c Jadeja b Nehra 1  
Bollinger run out 0  
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-9) 11  
Total: (All out in 49.2 overs) 250  
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-88, 3-123, 4-196, 5-217, 6-226, 7-236, 8-241, 9-247.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Kumar 9.2 0 41 0  
Nehra 8 0 37 3  
Sharma 5 0 42 0  
Jadeja 7 0 27 0  
Harbhajan 10 0 48 2  
Yuvaraj 10 0 54 1

**INDIA**  
Sehwag c Watson b Bollinger 30  
Tendulkar lbw b Hauritz 40  
Kohli c Manou b Bollinger 10  
Yuvaraj run out 12  
Dhoni c Manou b Bollinger 26  
Raina b Hauritz 17  
Jadeja run out 7  
Harbhajan c b Watson 31  
Kumar c Manou b Watson 16  
Nehra c Hauritz b Watson 7  
Sharma not out 3  
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-20, nb-1) 27  
Total: (All out in 46.4 overs) 226  
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-78, 3-94, 4-113, 5-145, 6-156, 7-177, 8-204, 9-217.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Johnson 9 0 74 0  
Siddle 5 2 15 0  
Bollinger 9 2 38 3  
Henriques 7 0 33 0  
Hauritz 9 1 31 2  
Watson 7.4 1 29 3  
Result: Australia won by 24 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Shane Watson.

## Hadlee's fear for burn-out

CRICINFO, undated

Legendary New Zealand all-rounder Richard Hadlee fears that too much cricket could shorten the careers of top-class athletes. Against the backdrop of all the talk about an overkill of cricket in the last few years, Hadlee urged the ICC to address the matter in order to prolong careers and preserve Test cricket.

"Now if someone plays for 10 years, it should be considered a very long career. The frequency of injuries to players is perhaps a sign of overdose of cricket," he told the Hindu. "Maybe the players are not in a position to complain on this front for there are huge rewards in playing in any format of the game now. It is imperative to retain its (Test cricket's) sanctity."

Hadlee, 58, was concerned that a hectic cricket calendar would especially take a toll on the bodies of fast bowlers. "It is particularly harsh on fast bowlers," he said. "I can only advise the current generation to be patient, keep working hard with greater focus on scientific physical conditioning programme on the advice of medical experts."

## School h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Scholastica registered a 7-1 win over British School in the boys' event of the 18th Bata School Handball tournament at the Dhamond Sports Complex yesterday.

In the same group, Marie Curie beat Oxford International School 5-1, Rahmatullah Model High School defeated DPSS 7-3, Narinda Government High School thrashed Sunnydale 17-8, BAF Shaheen School & College crushed South Breeze 22-3 and BIS overwhelmed South Point 16-1.

In the girls' group, South Breeze blanked Oxford International School 8-0, DPSS defeated Summerfield 4-0, BIS crushed British School 6-1 and Marie Curie played out a 1-1 draw against Radiant International School.

## Under-19s

FROM PAGE 17  
seemed to lift the Bangladesh's innings. But soon after the two fell quickly and the next two falling victims of unnecessary run-outs, the innings crawled to 224 for 9 at the end of 50 overs.

Haggart proved the wrecker-in-chief as he took three crucial wickets conceding 21 runs in 7 overs.

The English too had a good start as they put on 52 runs for the first wicket maintaining a run-rate of over 4. Both the openers, who have been in good form, contributed with useful runs. But it was the 63-run innings from Ateeq Javed in the middle that ensured English youths got home with 3 wickets in hand and 8 balls to spare.

Bangladesh skipper, after falling for a second-ball duck, bowled an excellent spell of 10 overs taking three wickets and conceding only 33 runs. But he found little support from the others to change the course of the game.

## Stalemate

FROM PAGE 17

Arambagh coach Wazed Gazi. Brothers coach Wasim Iqbal was also satisfied with the team's performance as well as a point earned from the match.

## Sino support for India

Cricket

AFP, Mohali

The Indian team received rousing support from curious locals here on Monday with members of China's national women's cricket squad cheering raucously from the stands.

They inevitably drew a lot of attention from curious locals at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium, hosting India's fourth game of a seven-match one-day series against Australia.

The 15-member squad is here to learn the nuances of a sport unfamiliar in their country as they prepare for the Asian Games, to be held in the Chinese city of Guangzhou from November 12-27 next year.

"We love Sachin Tendulkar," the girls screamed in unison when asked to name their favourite Indian player.

Team coach Mamatha Maben, a former India women's international, said cricket was virtually unknown in China a decade ago but the girls were learning the sport fast.

"They have an incredible desire to learn the game," Maben told AFP as she joined the players in the packed stands.

"You will be surprised by their knowledge of the game and their zest to catch up with the rest of the cricket-playing world."

"We are not looking at winning medals next year at the Games but in the next five-six years we are confident of being pretty competitive."

In a Twenty20 tournament organised by the Asian Cricket Council in Malaysia last

year, the Chinese women reached the semifinals before losing to Thailand.

They are being taught only Twenty20 cricket because that format will be played at the Asian Games, where the sport is making its debut.

China have gained automatic qualification in both the men's and women's competition by virtue of being the hosts next year.

"The girls have a fair idea about 50-over cricket though," said Maben, who took over as the national coach in March.

"They have been overwhelmed by the craze for the game in India. To see thousands of fans pouring in to watch this game is pretty exciting for them. They didn't know cricket was so big in this country."

"A part of our training in China involves watching a lot of cricket DVDs. That way the girls get to see quality cricket and learn the game as well. But to see a match in person has been an unbelievable experience for them."

Captain Mei Chun Hua, who understands English but can speak only a little bit, like most her squad members, said the team will go back home richer in experience.

"We will love to meet Tendulkar or (Virender) Sehwag if they agree," she giggled. "They play big shots and are very daring."

The squad are in Mohali as guests of Punjab Cricket Association chief Inderjit Singh Bindra, an adviser with the International Cricket Council who is charged with making cricket a global sport.

The ICC sees China as the next big market for cricket and regularly sends coaches and officials there to popularise the sport.

Former Pakistan international Rashid Khan coaches China's men's team.

## Serena lifts Doha title

Tennis

AFP, Doha

Serena Williams won her second career WTA Championships title on Sunday with a commanding 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) victory over sister Venus, a triumph which earned her a cool 1.55 million dollars.

Serena, who will finish the season as world number one, also won the trophy in 2001, making her just the second player after Justine Henin in 2007 to capture two Grand Slam titles as well as the WTA Championship in the same year.

Serena won all five matches at this event, including a group stage win over defending champion Venus, and such was her dominance in Sunday's final that she gave up just seven points on serve.

The 85-minute romp was her 13th victory in 23 meetings

with her sister, a family rivalry stretching back to 1998.

"It feels fantastic. I definitely wasn't expecting to win when I came here because I hadn't been practicing very well," said Serena.

"I kept fighting against a really tough player but Venus kept hitting the ball back. That's never easy and it's really frustrating."

Venus, who also lost her Wimbledon title to Serena this year, said she did all she could in the final.

"I gave 100 per cent. It's the end of the season. It's been a good week and I have no complaints. Serena played a great match. She didn't make many errors," said Venus.

With the last of her 41 career titles coming nine months ago, it will be little consolation for the 29-year-old that she will end 2009 at six in the world, up from seven.

In a symbol of this injury-hit, desert money-spinner, which

had seen four players end their campaigns prematurely through various aches and pains, both sisters arrived on court nursing knicks.

Serena had her left thigh heavily strapped while Venus had protection on her left knee which was treated several times during her semifinal win over Jelena Jankovic.

But Serena was the fresher of the two in the first set, a legacy of having spent three and a half hours less on court than her sister in reaching this stage.

Breaks in the third and seventh games gave the new world number one the opening set.

Serve dominated the second set before Serena stretched to a 5-2 lead in the tie-breaker. An ace set up match point and the title was secured with a crunching forehand winner.

Victory -- the 35th title of her career -- added to Serena's capture of the Australian Open and Wimbledon titles in 2009.

The 4.55 million dollar WTA Championships, intended to showcase the top eight players in the world, were hit by a series of injuries.

Dinara Safina saw her world number one spot swept away by a flood of tears which accompanied her withdrawal because of a back injury after just two games and 12 minutes on court against Jankovic.

Caroline Wozniacki, who overcame crippling cramps to beat Vera Zvonareva, was forced to quit her semifinal against Serena to avoid further damage to her thigh and side.

The Danish teenager played 90 minutes in 2009.

Victoria Azarenka was also unable to complete a match, handing victory to Agnieszka Radwanska, who had herself started the week as the second alternate but replaced Zvonareva who had moved into the draw instead of Safina.



American Serena Williams poses with the winner's trophy after beating her sister Venus in the Qatar Open final in Doha on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

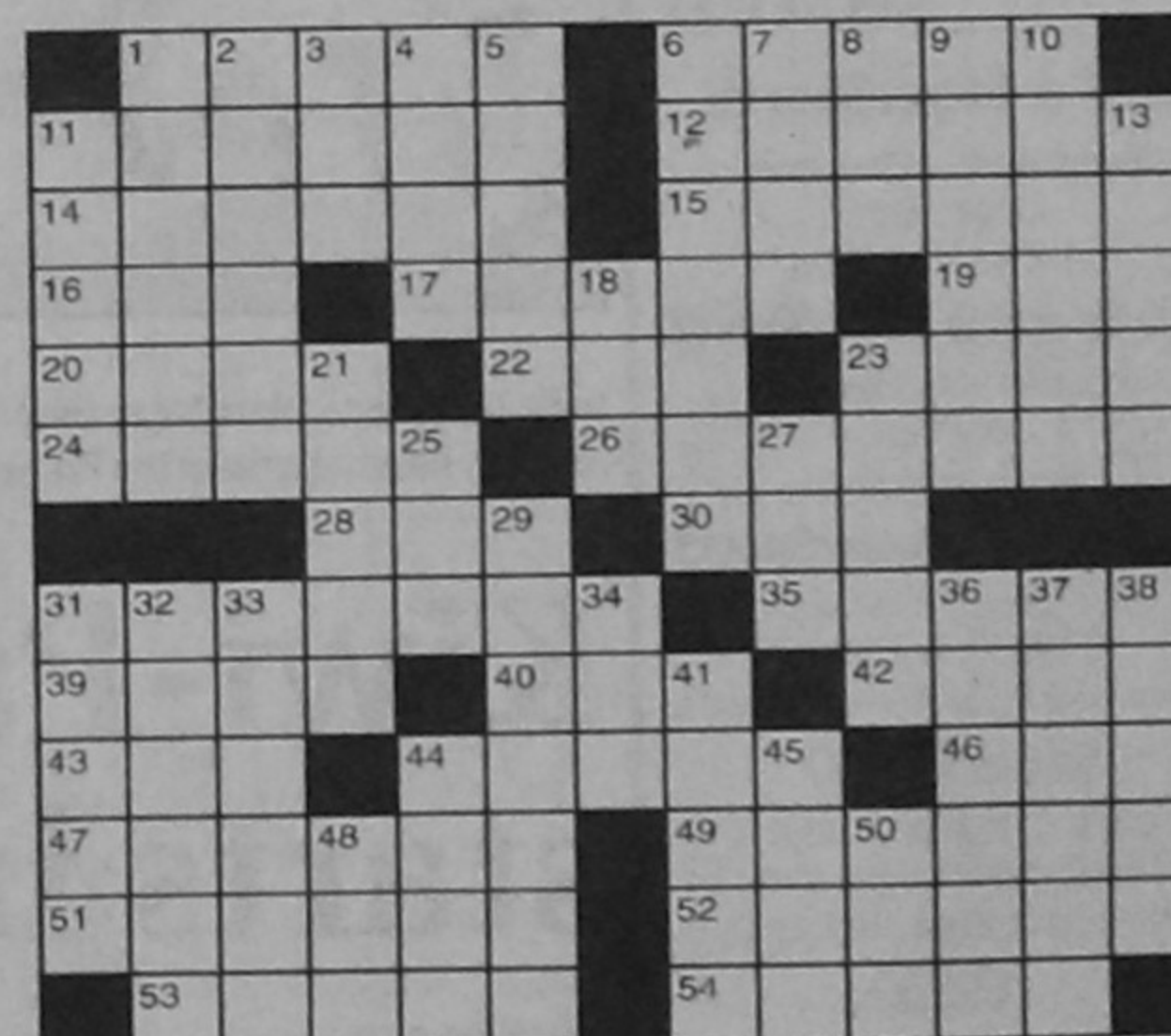
## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Artery  
6 Subject  
11 Dempsey, the  
12 Fairy king  
14 "Out of —"  
15 "Friends" role  
16 Rather or Marino  
17 1971 Jane Fonda movie  
19 Drunkard  
20 Desertlike  
22 From — Z  
23 Trim  
24 Less important  
26 Diplomats' place  
28 Ultramodernist  
30 Cul-de —  
31 Napes  
35 Figure of speech  
39 Gridlock sound  
40 Bear hair  
42 "Beowulf," e.g.

**DOWN**  
2 Go to bed  
3 Inventor Whitney  
4 Do some spooning  
5 Refrain syllables  
6 Hand-beaten drums  
7 Clarinet's cousin  
8 Corral  
9 Van Gogh painting  
10 Winter warmers  
11 " —"  
13 Neat and trim  
18 Multi-purpose truck  
21 Treat for Homer Simpson  
23 Mother-of-pearl  
25 Ump  
27 Cudgel  
29 Informal  
31 Watt's power  
32 Rib-related  
33 Speakers' platforms  
34 Seek restitution  
36 Making up one's mind  
37 Jigsaw puzzle parts  
38 Brilliance  
41 Grating  
44 "Lion King" villain  
45 Manicurist's device  
48 Mid-afternoon hour  
50 Trail the pack

Solution time: 27 mins.

ACTOR OF AFB  
PROMO SOP LEA  
RIPEN TOP COAT  
INDEED HOST  
AHA OVA HEFTY  
DART ALDEN  
STYRON ONE TWO  
ESSAY YODA  
MAYBE REM PST  
ODIE DENIRO  
TOPKNOT DINAR  
ORE ASH STYLE  
RES PEA TEMPT



## CRYPTOQUIP

COJOZRO QIIFBZOU HMF MQR  
A O O Z S Z F H Z I F C B W Z S  
T D O Z I U F J A F I I D O C P W Z O B Q D  
H Q I O B : T O B B W O B P Q R F Z .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DID THE TWO  
MAGNETS START DATING? IT COULD BE  
BECAUSE THEY HAD A MUTUAL ATTRACTION.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals O