Daily Star shot down

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Daily Star failed to make it last four this time in the Pepsi-DRU Cricket Tournament as they suffered a 27-run defeat to Channel i in the quarterfinal match at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey stadium yesterday.

Channel i scored 68 runs for one wicket and then restricted Daily Star for 41 for three to set a semifinal clash with Samakal to be take place at the same venue today at 11am.

The first semifinal will be held at 10am between Jugantor and Bangla Vision.

Bangla Vision (77/1) defeated Naya Diganta (45/2) by 32 runs, Samakal (54/3) beat Independent(53/5) by one run and Jugantor (58/2) beat Kalerkantha (32/5) by 26 runs in the day's other quarterfinals.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

of the Badla Benefit Open National Squash Tournament, organised by Dhaka Club, which concluded on Wednesday.

Omar Bhai clinched the A Division trophy while Karim finished runner-up in the

In the under-18 year competition, Saju emerged champion and Shaheen runners-up while Irshad Hossain became champion and Mohammad Iftekharuddin finished runner up in the veterans category.

Dhaka Club president Sadat Hossain Salim distributed the trophies as a chief guest and handed over a cheque of Tk 3.35 lac to Badal Chouhan in recognition of his 31 years of dedicated service to the club.

PVT-VARSITY FOOTBALL

Independent University reached the semifinal of the Mentors Inter Private University Football Tournament beating University of Asia and Pacific by 2-0 goals at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

After a barren first half, Syed Mazdi put Independent University ahead in the 55th minute while Ali Azam Biplob doubled the winners' margin scoring one more goal in the 61st minute.

Saturday's matches: BRAC University v East West University, Presidency University v International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT).

DIVIFOOTBALL

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Patuakhali Nandan Sporting Club clinched the Patuakhali first division football league title with a 2-0 victory against Babuda Smrity Sangsad in the final at the local stadium yesterday.

Prodip struck both the goal for the winners in the first half. Md. Reaz Ahmed, Deputy

Commissioner of Patuakhali, distributed the prizes.

Aussies clear

FROM PAGE 17 humiliation of England two months later, which propelled them to second place.

The highlight of the year came in the Champions Trophy in South Africa, where they emerged triumphant to take the top spot. Finally, victory against India after trailing 1-2 has ensured a fitting conclusion to the year on the ODI circuit.

A tale of two

FROM PAGE 17 injury prone, he has missed 64 ODIs and 18 Tests since his debut through one form of injury or other. He has missed most of the matches this year, depriving him of the chance to get a firm grip on the captaincy. Any decision on Mashrafe's future as captain will have to be made considering his fitness and his availability Continuation is an important ingredient in a team's success, and that may well harm his

chances. Both players are equally deserving of the position. Shakib has put his name in the hat through the successes that Bangladesh has enjoyed in the past year, as well as his own individual performances. Mashrafe has impressed all and sundry throughout his career as a committed player who commands the respect of his team. The momentum is with Shakib having led the team well in successes, but it is Mashrafe's team that he led in

the fast bowler's absence. It is a healthy situation to have two equally deserving captains, whereas in the past Bangladesh were hard pressed to find one. The selectors will have to tread carefully when making the decision, as the next year could well tell us where exactly Bangladesh stands in international cricket, and the captaincy will play no small part in that.



PHOTO: COURTESY

John Proctor (R), director international of The City Schools, hands over the champions' trophy to the winners of the sports gala of the institution at the Gulshan Youth Club ground recently.

surgery a year ago to repair her

ing time and I am looking

forward to competing in the

Serena in the final of the sea-

son-ending WTA

Championships this month, is

of my previous visits to

Thailand and am really looking

forward to returning for the

Centennial Invitation match in

players move to Hong Kong for

the Tennis Classic team event,

which features players repre-

senting Europe, Russia, the

Americas and the Asia-Pacific.

for the opening Grand Slam of

Clement, a 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (10/8)

winner over German 16th seed

Tommy Haas, with Del Potro to

play Chilean 10th seed

Soderling kept alive his hopes

of snatching a place at the ATP

World Tour Finals in London by

defeating Croatia's Ivo Karlovic

outside the eight qualifying

berths for the year-end event

but needs to at least reach the

final here to stand any chance

of securing one of the last two

available spots and will meet

Russian Nikolay Davydenko,

currently seventh in the race to

will be countryman Gael

Monfils, the 15th seed, who beat

David Guez 6-4, 7-5, while

Croatian 12th seed Marin Cilic

faces Spain's Fernando

Verdasco after coming from

behind to beat Polish qualifier

Benneteau's next opponent

London, in the next round.

Soderling is one place

Swedish ninth seed Robin

Fernando Gonzalez.

6-4, 7-6 (8/6).

They then head to Australia

After their match, both

"I have very fond memories

Centennial Invitation.

"I am sure it will be an excit-

Williams, who lost to sister

right shoulder.

also excited.

Federer stunned

Hua Hin," she said.

Venus-Maria showdown

Tennis

AFP, Bangkok

Venus Williams and Maria Sharapova will warm-up for the Australian Open with an exhibition match in Thailand to mark the 100th anniversary of the Hua Hin seaside resort, organisers said Thursday.

The tennis superstars will spend New Year's Eve in Hua Hin before their match on January 2, which will be followed by a mixed doubles clash alongside local heroes Paradorn Srichaphan and Danai Udomchoke.

"I am delighted to be able to spend my New Year in Hua Hin, Thailand," said Sharapova, who is battling to find her best form again after arthroscopic the season.

Marat Safin's 6-4, 5-7, 6-4

defeat to fifth seed Del Potro

heralded the end of the Russian

former world number one's

career, after he announced

earlier in the year that he would

long time, until I pass into a

different world," Safin, a three-

time winner here, told the

crowd at the Bercy arena dur-

ing a special post-match cere-

the memories of my career will

beat Federer in the Basel final

on Sunday, overcame

Argentina's Juan Monaco 6-3,

the court," said Djokovic.

the last two months."

"I didn't feel that great on

"It was probably a long week

in Basel that affected that. But I

got a victory and that's what

matters most. Generally speak-

ing I've picked up great form in

Djokovic will now face

stay, all in one box."

"This day will be where all

Third seed Djokovic, who

"This day will stand out for a

retire at the end of the season.

FROM PAGE 17

Germans

FROM PAGE 17

(DFB) president Theo AFP, Dubai Zwanziger praised the courage of Enke's wife who attended a news conference to reveal her husband's illness the day after his death.

"She did it to give us a message," he said.

"We should never allow a situation that a person should give up so much by committing suicide, to feel there is no alternative but to take such a decision," he said.

Zwanziger said football needed time to reflect, and indicated the federation would learn the lessons from Enke's death. German team manager Oliver Bierhoff said no one in the squad had been aware Enke was suffering from depression.

Another top German international, Sebastian Deisler, quit the game two years ago at the age of 27 after being treated for depression. His former club, Bayern Munich, are one of the few in the Bundesliga to employ a psychologist.

Hanover's press spokesman Andreas Kuhnt said depression remained "a taboo in the Bundesliga" while Enke's longtime goalkeeping coach Joerg Sievers said: "Depression is something that is clearly seen as a weakness."

German press commentators agreed Thursday that depression, along with homosexuality, was an issue football would rather not know about but would now have to tackle more seriously.

Both subjects "don't exist in the world of strong men, Kicker magazine wrote.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung said the question had to be asked as to how much values such as care for others and sympathy counted in the world of professional sport and particularly football.

Enke's death had affected so many people in Germany because they sensed that the goalkeeper in particular embodied these values.

It has left many people deeply moved that "a person who lived these values saw no other way" than to kill himself, itsaid.

Uttara Sporting Club coasted to a six-wicket victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club in the low-scoring match of the first division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Shamsul Alma claimed four wickets for 15 and Shakib took three for 12 as Wanderers were bundled out for 86 runs which Uttara achieved in 26.1 overs by losing four wickets.

At the Jahangirnagar University ground, Jatrabari Krira Chakra defeated Indira Road Krira Chakra by seven wickets. Shafiqul Islam hit an unbeaten 50 as Jatrabari scored 187 for 3 in reply to Indira's 183 all out in 45.3 overs.

Dhanmondi Club (164-6) recorded a four-wicket victory over Bangladesh Boys (159-10) at the City Club ground.

Rameez, Inzy hail Younus

Former players Wednesday hailed Younus Khan's decision of opting to sit out the three-Test series in New Zealand and handing the captaincy to Mohammad Yousuf.

"I think it is a wise call," former captain Rameez Raja said of Younus's decision after a poor batting form which saw him score 23 runs in team's 2-1 defeat against New Zealand in the one-day series which ended in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

The 31-year-old Younus was under pressure to perform and was not been able to win a one-day series since taking over as captain in January this year -- a fact Raja believed led to his decision.

"When you are out of touch as Younus was, you tend to react to situations and it becomes a negative thought which starts to engulf the team and affect the team's performance," said Raja, a TV commentator for the series here.

"Questions were asked about Younus's batting form, so he has taken a wise decision to take time out, regain his form in domestic matches and come with a new vigour."

The 35-year Yousuf has previously led Pakistan in three Tests and four one-day internationals and was deputy to Inzamamul Haq for several years -- an experience Raja feels may come in handy.

"We have to wait and see, how he uses his experience to unite the team and help them do well in New Zealand," said Raja of the three-Test tour which starts with the first Test at Dunedin from November

Another former captain Inzamam said Younus had lost confidence with his fellow players.

"I think the biggest task a captain faces is to unite his players," said Inzamam, who retired two years ago. "Younus failed to give confidence to his fellow players which went against him."

ACROSS

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Div 1 cricket First T20 today

England in selection problems

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

England face several selection problems ahead of the first Twenty20 international against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday.

There are injury concerns about no fewer than four of the touring team's bowlers, while a poor batting performance in a warm-up game against South Africa A raised doubts about the batsmen earmarked for the 20-overs clash.

Star batsman Kevin Pietersen joined up with the squad on Wednesday after recovering from heel surgery and there may be a temptation to rush him into action, although it was expected originally that he would only be considered for the five-match one-day international series

which starts on Friday week. There may also be a discussion about tour captain Andrew Strauss, the team's most impressive batsman on tour so far, after the team slumped to 89 all out in his absence on the way to a four-wicket defeat against South Africa A in Bloemfontein on Wednesday.

Strauss, who hit 72 against the Eagles and 117 not out against the Warriors in 50-overs matches, is not due to play in the shortest form of the game.

action ahead of a 50-overs match against South Africa A in Potchefstroom on Tuesday.

the Twenty20 games because of a shoulder injury but England are hoping that fellow bowlers Graham Onions (back), James Anderson Adil Rashid, Graeme Swann, Jonathan Trott, (knee) and Graeme Swann (thigh) will be fit for Luke Wright.

England will be up against a South African team that played impressively in beating Zimbabwe by 212 runs in the second and final one-day international in Centurion on Tuesday.

South African captain Graeme Smith said he expected England to be strong opponents. "We know that there's a stiffer challenge in the summer and our focus now turns to that," he said.

The teams meet in two Twenty20 matches, with the second in Centurion on Sunday, followed by five one-day internationals and four

Smith said he did not read much into England's defeat on Tuesday.

"It's fantastic that the South Africa A side has played well and beaten England but we know from touring that it's the real international matches that really count," he said.

South Africa have named a squad of 15 for the two matches and selection convenor Mike Procter said the aim was to give every player a start. But left-arm fast bowler Wayne Parnell is struggling with an ankle injury and may be rested until the one-day series.

SQUADS

SOUTH AFRICA: Graeme Smith (captain), Yusuf Abdulla, Loots Bosman, Johan Botha, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Jacques Collingwood also said it was unlikely Kallis, Heino Kuhn, Charl Langeveldt, Ryan Pietersen would be rushed into an early return to McLaren, Albie Morkel, Wayne Parnell, Dale Steyn, Roelof van der Merwe.

ENGLAND: Paul Collingwood (captain), James Fast bowler Stuart Broad is unlikely to play in Anderson, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Alastair Cook, Joe Denly, Sajid Mahmood, Eoin Morgan, Graham Onions, Kevin Pietersen, Matt Prior,

Ponting not quitting

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting has no plans to walk away from the international game, easing the short-term fears of the selection chairman Andrew Hilditch. Hilditch has predicted Ponting's retirement will leave a gap as big as the one Shane Warne created when he stood down, but the captain remains enthusiastic after his one-day side's fine 4-2 victory over India.

While many of his teammates departed early due to injuries or fatigue, Ponting stayed till the end and has not considered retirement. "Hopefully that's a fair way away yet," Ponting, who has given up Twenty20 internationals, said in India. "I'm really enjoying cricket at the moment, I feel like I'm playing quite well.

"The day's going to come when I'm not playing anymore, but I guess my job in the next few years is ... to try to pass on some of the knowledge and as much of my experience as I can to the next around in Test cricket as well."

generation and hope that all the traditions and everything that I've learnt about playing for Australia are continued on."

The final match of the series was washed out and Ponting was due to arrive back in Australia on Thursday night. His next major engagement begins with the first Test against West Indies at the Gabba on November 26 and he wants the side to improve its status.

"Our [Test] ranking is No. 4 at the moment, but I think we're a better team than that," he said. "We'll show that when we get back to Australia. We've got Brett Lee and Peter Siddle nursing themselves through injury and Michael Clarke and Brad Haddin to come back into the side as well, so if we get those guys back and fit I think we'll play some excellent Test cricket in the next 12 months and you'll see our ranking go back up again.

"You want to be consistent in both forms of the game and our consistency hasn't been there really in either form of the game over the last 18 months. But we're starting to get that back in one-day cricket and we need to turn it

Lee's spot in jeopardy

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The push of Brett Lee and Stuart Clark to regain their Test spots at the Gabba could be in vain after Andrew Hilditch, the chairman of selectors, indicated Australia's three younger bowlers would remain the panel's preferred option. Australia's decision makers are already looking ahead to next year's Ashes series and will use the Tests against West Indies and Pakistan to groom the side for the attempt at regaining the urn.

That means Mitchell Johnson, Peter Siddle and Ben Hilfenhaus will have the inside running, leaving Lee and Clark to hope for the next berth whenever the side goes with a four-man pace attack. There is always a chance of that formation being used at the Gabba, which hosts the first match against the West Indies from November 26, but Hilditch does not see any changes to the pecking order.

"It's going to take something pretty special for Brett Lee or Stuart Clark to force their way in for a variety of reasons," he told the Australian.

15 Passbook

abbr.

"The situation has pretty much remained as is. Those three bowlers were the leading wickettakers in the Ashes. One [Johnson] has just been named international cricketer of the year, Hilfenhaus was the bowler of the Ashes and Peter Siddle was the young cricketer of the year. Despite their success they were unable to

prevent Australia from losing the series and Johnson's performances in the two defeats at Lord's and The Oval were particularly costly. Hilditch said Lee and Clark remained "very good" bowlers". "Brett has been one of our very best," he said.

"It's up to him to get back to four-day cricket and demonstrate a case to get back in." Lee has suffered in 2009 with a recovery from ankle surgery, a side strain and now an elbow problem that means he must prove his fitness for New South Wales.

While the attack appears settled, with Siddle expected to start bowling next week after a minor side strain, the batting order is less predictable. There has been a big push for the opener Phillip Hughes to return to the team, but Michael Hussey's strong performances in India have almost certainly secured his spot at the Gabba.

Another Phelps miss

French qualifier Arnaud Lukasz Kubot 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-2.

gear, but a few, Phelps included, have gone back to basic trunks in anticipation of the switch.

So a podium of any kind was abonus.

"I knew yesterday and today that this wasn't gonna be the best meet, but every now and then we need a wake up call, said Phelps. "With me not being consis-

swim just OK, I want to swim better than okay." After missing out on the 100m butterfly final, Phelps came through the 200m medley heats stylishly but admitted that "there's still a lot of work to

tent in training, this sure is a

wake-up call. I don't wanna

"The number one important thing is consistency. I don't have it. I don't have it right now. So I'm gonna work on it. It's fine. [Coach] Bob [Bowman] can do that for me."

Backed by Swedish fans who acclaimed him as if one of their own, Phelps did push Townsend hard as he went from third after the butterfly section to second following the two backstroke lengths and after a hard-fought breaststroke section the South African just clinched it with a push in the final freestyle

On Tuesday, Phelps made only one final out of the three races he contested, taking third place in the 100m individual medley.

In reaching the final of the 200m individual medley Phelps posted the second fastest time of 1 minute 56.09 seconds, behind only the 1:55.09 of Sweden's Simon Sjodin, who was wearing a high-tech bodysuit.

The Stockholm meeting is the first time that Phelps has taken part in a short-course event since 2006 and the first time in Europe since 2001. Records tumbled included

the women's shortcourse 50m butterfly, where Sweden's Therese Alshammar cheered the home crowd in setting a new world record of 24.46sec, beating her own previous mark of 24.75sec set last month in Durban.

be done. I lost command: Younus

FROM PAGE 17

of the batsmen played and he feels as if they did it deliberately to undermine him," one source told Cricinfo. "He just feels as if he is knocking his head against a brick wall, telling batsmen, senior guys, how to play and them just not listening. He is tired of the constant fighting within the team, especially when it is not clear what they are all fighting or upset about. Nobody has gone to him directly to say anything and that has upset him the most. It isn't so much the pressure of his own failures that has brought him down as this." Younus's immediate future

is unclear. It is believed that he

wants to continue playing

return to Pakistan and play some domestic cricket to set himself up for the Australia tour, beginning at the end of December. A return to captaincy seems highly improbable; neither is the PCB likely to offer it to him, having been burnt so many times, nor is he likely to take it up, given his experience this time round.

As a result, Yousuf's elevation marks a remarkable comeback for the batsman, who only recently was in exile from the national team for his involvement with the ICL. He has led Pakistan in the past, twice in Tests in Australia -- both lost -and once at home against South Africa in 2003-04, which Pakistan.

international cricket and will Pakistan won. Incidentally, he was also a replacement captain for Younus once before, for all of a day, when Younus walked away from the post ahead of the 2006 Champions Trophy, only to be convinced to come back. The buzz in Pakistan sug-

gests that former captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has also played a hand; in recent days, Inzamam has been publicly vocal about the need to dispose of Younus, openly pushing the candidacy of Shahid Afridi as ODI captain. According to some reports, Yousuf contacted Inzamam -- the pair are very close -- before accepting the job. Some are even touting Inzamam as the next coach for

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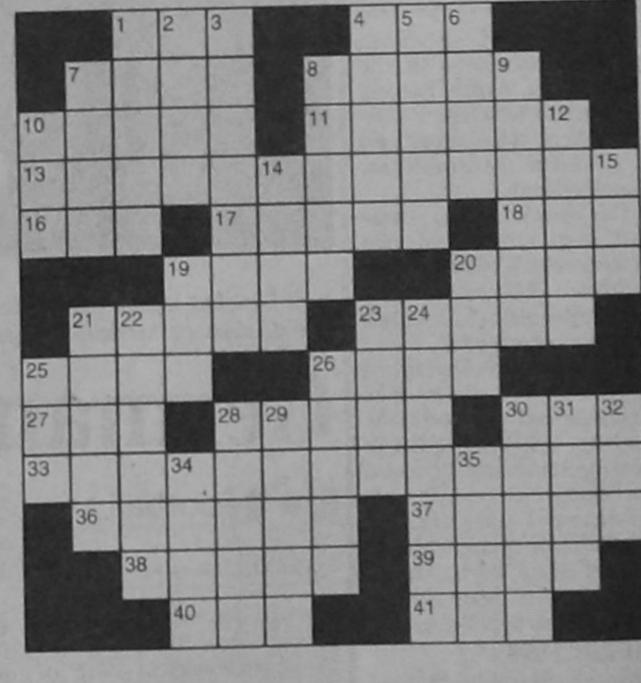
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CRYPTOQUIP

UEGT PRGM NTD NRR WSBTVEH NR USMD XDA

VPLDXJB. LV RXHZ LN AREHJ

WREHJDP!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A HORSE AND A PIG ARE NOT FEELING WELL AT ALL, DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY ARE OUT OF SNORTS?

HLNNHD

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T