SPÖRI

School cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Willes Little Flower School beat Rayer Bazar High School by a massive 236 runs in a quarterfinal of Dhaka Metro zone of the Standard Chartered School Cricket at the Gulshan Youth Club Ground yesterday.

Batting first, Wills Little Flower School made 275 for 8 in their 50 overs with a hundred from Sadman Islam (101) and a fifty from Yasin Arafat (57).

In reply, Rayer Bazar High School were skittled for just 39 runs in 15.2 overs as Willes's Sadikur Rahman took five wickets for 16 runs.

In the other quarterfinal match at the Brothers Union Club Ground, Mirpur Bangla High School beat Iqra Model School and College by 6 wickets. Mirpur Bangla chased down Iqra's total of 185 for 5 in 32 overs with 6 wickets remaining.

ULAB Fairplay Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

State University of Bangladesh (SUB) beat North South University (NSU) by 96 runs in the ULAB Fairplay Cup at the University of Liberal Arts Ground yesterday. Batting first, SUB scored 186 for five in 20 overs, thanks to a 61-run innings from Rohan and a 32run knock from Maruf. In reply, NSU could score only 90 for seven in their twenty overs. Rohan, Isam and Shaon took two wickets each for SUB. In the other match of the day, Daffodil University beat ULAB by 15 runs.

Zia still in third

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Ziaur Rahman won his tenth round game in the 8th Parsynath International Open Chess Tournament in Delhi yesterday. Zia defeated Indian IM P

Karthikeyan to secure eight points from 10 games. Zia is jointly in third place. GM Niaz Murshed has six

point from nine matches. Niaz was playing his 10th round game against Shiven Kosla when the report was filed.

BOA all set

FROM PAGE 17 Amin Ahmed however defended their decision.

"Obviously, it is a huge budget. But it is also true that we don't frequently host the Games and we are going to day on 198 for three. stage it after 16 years. Our aim is to make the Games a success with an unforgettable cere-

mony," he said. It was also disclosed in the briefing that a new 100 feet high Games torch has been erected while a 30ft-by-20ft giant screen is installed at the north side of the big bowl.

Besides, the organisers have also decided to set up 32giant screens at different points of the capital so that people can also see the spectacular ceremony live.

The opening ceremony will have a 65-minute show in line with a music composition by legendary song directors Alauddin Ali and Sudoy Sen.

The 55-minute closing ceremony will have a 15minute spectacular fireworks display on February 9.

Veeru still

FROM PAGE 17

fact that they won the match in the end no matter they batted poorly in the first innings to start the New Year as expected.

"It happens to every team. Look at Australia, they got out for 120 odd runs against Pakistan and still they won the Test. The same thing happened here. We managed to score 243 in the first innings and Sachin batted very well. Because of Sachin we crossed the 240-run mark. In the second innings everybody contributed and we made 400plus runs. Finally our bowling did a great job for us," he said.

The Indian skipper also praised his bowlers especially lanky Ishant Sharma highly for brining them back in the game.

"We had a very good bowling effort and especially Ishant bowled very well. He picked four or five wickets. He is a good prospect for India," he added.

He came up with brief answers when asked about Mushfigur Rahim's hundred and sledging allegation.

"I can't do anything about that [Rahim's allegations of sledging]. Good [Rahim's innings]," he quipped.



Britain's Prince William applauds Swiss star Roger Federer after watching his game against Romanian Victor Hanescu at the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday.

Former Pak players call for WC boycott

Hockey

AFP, Karachi

FROM PAGE 17

Chittagong's first innings total

of 184 and took a 14-run lead

as they finished the second

Chittagong had started the

day on 128 for five and added a

further 54 runs for the remain-

ing wickets. Chittagong skip-

per Aftab Ahmed topscored

with 42 runs. Rajshahi spinner

Saqlain Sajib took all the last

five wickers costing 33 runs.

Then Rajshahi poised them-

selves in a strong position

courtesy of a fine batting

display from all-rounder

Forhad Hossain who

remained unbeaten six runs

short a hundred. Opener

Zahurul Islam scored 49 and

Zubaer Ahmed scored 39 as

Rajshahi ended the day on 198

for three. Chittagong medium

pacer Tareq Aziz took all the

three wickets to fall.

Former Pakistan sports captains Thursday demanded a boycott of the hockey World Cup in India next month to protest at Pakistani cricketers being snubbed by the Indian Premier League (IPL). None of Pakistan's 11 players included in the

IPL auction in Mumbai on Tuesday were sold despite their national team being the reigning World Twenty20 champions, ending hopes of Pakistani cricketers featuring in the third edition of the cash-heavy event.

"Pakistani cricketers were treated badly by India, so to keep our national pride we must not send our hockey team to the World Cup," said former Pakistan hockey captain and coach Islahuddin Siddigui.

The International Hockey Federation (IHF) event is due to be played in New Delhi from February 28 to March 13. Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will face off on the opening day of the 12-nation tournament.

Pakistan's National Assembly also cancelled a parliamentary delegation's trip to India as a protest against the IPL move, while the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) said it would follow the government's advice.

will seek the government's permission to send the national team to India," said a PHF spokes-Former cricket captain Zaheer Abbas also

"We have to follow government policy and

called for a boycott.

"We should adopt a clear policy on sports with India and if they have not allowed our players in the IPL then we must not send our hockey team to the World Cup," Abbas told a private television channel.

India stalled bilateral cricket with Pakistan after blaming attacks in November 2008 on its commercial hub Mumbai on a Pakistan-based militant group.

But they still contest other sports.

An Indian boxing team participated in an international event in Karachi earlier this month, while Pakistan has sent its snooker, tennis, wrestling and badminton teams to India in the last two years.

Manikganj's Rajshahi, Sylhet and Dhaka initiative

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

In a quest of forming a district women's cricket team Manikganj District Women Sports Association has recently started a month-long training with 25 girls at Manikganj Govt Boys' High School ground.

The training, conducted by coaches Ali Akbar Khan Mojlish and Masud, got underway on January 8 and the girls were happy to get such opportunity.

Chittagong 1st innings: 184 all out (Aftab Ahmed 42; Saqlain DWSA general secretary Romeza Akter Mahin said that Rajshahi 1st innings: 198 for they have arranged the trainthree (Forhad Hossain 94 not ing to form a good women out, Zahurul Islam 49; Tareq cricket team for the national championship.

Jabbar Smriti tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Amol Roy emerged champion in the 15th Jabbar Smriti Tennis Competition with a 2-0 win over Alamgir Hossain in the men's singles final at the **Engineers Recreation Centre** Tennis Court yesterday.

It was a fifth consecutive singles title for Amol, who also paired up with Ranjan Ram to clinch the doubles title as they handed a 2-1 set defeat to Dipu Lal and Alamgir Hossain.

Tarin became champion in the women's singles with a 2-0 win over Sharmin Alam Sharda while Rustam Ali won the U-16 boys' singles title after beating Biplob Ram by 2-0 sets.

Post and telecommunications minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju distributed prizes among the winners while **Bangladesh Tennis Federation** president Shahriar Alam, president of Engineers Institute Prof SM Nazrul Islam were among others present.

AUSSIE OPEN AT A GLANCE

AFP, Melbourne

A look at Thursday's fourth day of the Australian Open tennis championships: WEATHER: Sunny with a high of 83 degrees.

ATTENDANCE: Day: 43,650 Night: 19,891. Total: 63,541. WINNERS: Men: No. 1 Roger Federer, No. 3 Novak Djokovic, No. 6 Nikolay Davydenko, No. 9 Fernando Verdasco, No. 10 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 18 Tommy Haas, No. 20 Mikhail Youzhny, No. 22 Lleyton Hew itt, No. 26 Nicolas Almagro No. 30 Juan Monaco, No. 3 Albert Montanes.

Women: No. 1 Serena Wil liams, No. 4 Caroline Wozniacki, No. 6 Venus Wil liams, No. 7 Victoria Azarenka No. 9 Vera Zvonareva, No. 10 Agnieszka Radwanska, No. 13 Samantha Stosur, No. 16 Li Na. No. 17 Francesca Schiavone No. 22 Daniela Hanutchova, No. 29 Shahar Peer, No. 32 Carla Suarez Navarro.

LOSERS: Men: No. 17 David

Women: No. 20 Ana Ivanovic No. 21 Sabine Lisicki.

STAT OF THE DAY: 5. Number of Spanish men playing in the second round, the most of any country.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Your Royal Highness, welcome to the world of tennis. Thanks for coming." Federer welcoming Prince William, second in line to the British throne, who was a spectator Thursday evening. On Court Friday: No. 2 Rafael Nadal vs Philipp Kohlschreiber; No. 4 Juan Martin del Potro vs Florian Mayer; No. 5 Andy Murray vs Florent Serra; No. 7 Andy Roddick vs Feliciano Lopez; No. 12 Gael Monfils vs No. 33 John Isner. No. 2 Dinara Safina vs Elena Baltacha; No. 3 Svetlana Kuznetsova v Angelique Kerber; No. 8 Jelena Jankovic vs No. 31 Alona Bondarenko; No. 15 Kim Clijsters vs No. 19 Nadia Petrova; No. 27 Alisa Kleybanova vs Justine Henin. Friday's Forecast: Partly cloudy with a chance of thun derstorms in the evening High of 97 degrees.

ACROSS

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First Aussie-Pak match today

Cricket

CRICINFO, Brisbane

Ricky Ponting is a believer in one of the game's less popular pursuits. He loves 50-over matches. In this era of Twenty20 lust, that makes him a staunch traditionalist. With concerns over workload and limited attention spans of spectators, many people expect the original one-day format to die and some, including Shane Warne, argue it should be put to sleep.

When Ponting retired from Twenty20 internationals last year, it was to help him stay fresh for Tests and ODIs. He also wanted to make it to the 2011 World Cup -- remember that tournament? -- as Australia, who have not been beaten this millennium, aim for a fourth consecutive trophy. Ponting has also been let go

by Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and isn't bothered. In the current climate, ditching Twenty20s is like househunting in the desert when everyone else is looking near the beach. It is important to Ponting that the 50-over format survives and his team will attempt to show its best qualities from Friday when they face Pakistan at the Gabba. "I would hate to think

about the day 50-over cricket isn't played any more and I don't think that will ever happen," Ponting said on the eve of the five-match series. "I know it is happening in England at the moment where they are playing 40-over cricket, but I think [50-over cricket] is a wonderful game. The pinnacle of the shorter game is the World Cup, which

I have been lucky enough to play a few of, and have some of my fondest memories out of the game from winning World Cups. So long may it continue.

The Big Bash, Australia's domestic Twenty20 tournament, has attracted record crowds over the past month as it woos families and new audiences, but Australia will play only three short-form games over the next month. Television executives remain in love with the 50-over affairs and the hosts have ten ODIs against Pakistan and West Indies in a sequence that will determine how highly the spectators rate the 30-year friendship.

Apart from saving a treasured commodity, Ponting's men must also overcome a Pakistan team with more threats than the Test line-up that was just beaten 3-0. Shahid Afridi, Younus Khan and Navedul Hasan have provided the tourists with extra muscle, while Afridi and Naved have recent experience in the country after appearing in the Big Bash.

Captain Mohammad Yousuf believes his one-day line-up is "much better" than the ones put out during the Tests. "We have all young players and we haven't had much Test cricket, only in last two years," he said. "That's why we are troubled in Test cricket. We have played a lot of one-dayers, that's why this Pakistan team is much better than the Test team. "Coming in the side is

Afridi, a very exciting player, everyone knows that. He has already played Twenty20 here and performed good. I think it's a good one-day team." Ponting is wary of the unit

challenge over the next five matches. "We know Pakistan are a dangerous one-day team and at different times I am sure they will be very good," he said. "We just have to make sure we don't let a lot of their match-winning players have too much of an effect on this series." The future of 50-over

and expects them to be a

TEAMS

depend on it.

AUSTRALIA (probable): Shane Watson, Shaun Marsh, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke, Cameron White, Brad Haddin, Nathan Hauritz, Clint McKay, Peter Siddle, Doug Bollinger, James Hopes.

cricket in Australia may

PAKISTAN (possible): Salman Butt, Kamran Akmal, Younus Khan, Mohammad Yousuf (captain), Umar Akmal, Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi, Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif, Mohammed Aamer, Saeed

RU cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

Marketing department emerged champions in the Inter-Department Cricket Championship of Rajshahi University with a six-wicket win over Management department at the University stadium yesterday. After restricting

Management for 103-8 in the stipulated 20 overs, the champions reached the target in 18 overs losing four wickets.

Asaduzzaman Babu of marketing department was adjudged man-of-the-match final. Vice-chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan distributed prizes among the winners.

Gooch sees bright future for Cook

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

England's latest Test captain, Alastair Cook, has his best years ahead of him, according Graham Gooch, England's most prolific Test run-scorer and Cook's batting mentor.

Cook, 25, was awarded the captaincy after the selectors opted to rest the regular captain Andrew Strauss, as well as England's leading strike Essexlast August we worked on bowler, James Anderson, from the two-Test and three-ODI tour to Bangladesh. It was a contentious decision, especially after Cook had only recently returned to form after a lean patch, but Gooch feels Cook has entered the most productive period of his career.

"I think batsmen's best years are 25 to 35, when their experience is complemented by the physical attributes to put everything into practice," Gooch told the February issue of The Wisden Cricketer magazine. "Alastair's game will only advance. He is nowhere near full maturity yet."

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Cook's slump in form during the Ashes, where he made 222 runs in the series at 24.66, prompted his decision to work with Gooch to adjust his set-up at the crease. Firstly at Essex at the back-end of last summer, and again during the early part of the recent South Africa tour, where Gooch was working as England's batting consultant, Cook rebuilt his technique to resemble that of

"When he came back to technical things such as the way he sets himself up," Gooch explained. "People have noticed a similarity but I didn't tell him to stand like I used to. What we wanted to eradicate was the double take-away of his bat on the back-swing. You want a stable, solid back-swing to deliver the shot." Cook has clearly done

Gooch himself.

enough in his short career to foster the belief that he has the potential to develop into a Test captain, but he admits that he may, at times, have underestimated the role that Gooch has played in his development thus far.

Cricketers vow FROM PAGE 17

round-robin matches from

where the top two sides will play for gold medal while the third and fourth finishers will fight for bronze medal. About the non-

participation of Indian side, Bangladesh Olympic Association vice-president and chef de mission Mizanur Rahman Manu said that India did not send their entry because of their tight schedule in the domestic league.

He, however, later said that India were not taking part in the SA Games due to lack of co-ordination between the Indian Olympic Association and the Indian cricket board.

SQUAD

Mohammad Mithun, Nasir Hossain, Rony Talukdar, Anamul Haque Bijoy, Asif Ahmed Ratul, Sabbir Rahman, Jubair Rahman, Ariful Haque, Hamdul Islam Himel, Tanvir Haider, Subashish Roy, Emon Ahmed, Sanjamul Islam and Nazmul Islam Apu.

Officials: Ehsanul Haque (manager), Sarwar Imran (head coach), Sohel Islam (asst coach), Azmal Ahmed Mithu (physio) and M Salahuddin (computer analyst).

Mushfigur shines in ruins

BRIEFSCORES:

Mortaza 1-17)

Sajib 5-33)

Aziz 3-29)

Khulna 1st innings: 242 all out

(Tushar Imran 59, Habibul

Bashar 51; Tapash Kumar 3-60)

Sylhet 1st innings: 227 for four

(Rajin Saleh 83, Myshukur

Rahman 60: Mashrafe

Dhaka 1st innings: 295 all out

(Shuvagoto Hom 52, Nadif

Chowdhury 48; Sajidul Islam

Barisal 1st innings: 175 for

three (Asif Ahmed 86, Fazle

Rabbi 54; Mosharraf Hossain

4-60, Shohag Gazi 4-46)

FROM PAGE 17 the lunch. Whereas they

should have showed patience and tried to at least force a draw, their aggressive style of play helped leg-spinner Amit Mishra to make inroads and wrap up the innings with a four-wicket haul.

"Everyone tried to perform well. In the first innings few got out to good deliveries. Few including myself also got out to bad deliveries. I hope everyone will learn from their mistakes and won't repeat them. We lost the match in the first session of the fifth day by losing three early wickets. If we could have lasted the first session, they would have been under a lot of pressure in the next two sessions," defended Mushfigur during the postmatch briefing.

Many were surprised about the batsmen's mindset when Mushfigur informed that the instruction was there for them to play their natural game and it was difficult for them to go for a draw in the match.

"Actually Tamim, Ash, Shakib, Mahmudullah were playing their natural game. We were determined to play our natural game. We became overcautious on some occasions. And some of us played bad shots. Had we gone for draw, it would have become

more difficult for us mentally," he said.

The Bangladesh vicecaptain however praised the efforts of the tailenders who helped him get his first hundred in the five-day game in his 17th match.

"Particularly Rajib [Shahadat Hossain] deserves special thanks from me because his 24 runs were really helpful for me and you know I got a hundred with the A team due of his assistance. I was just enjoying myself in the middle and I wanted to play my natural game. Those who came to the other end, I told them to play their natural game. I told them not to worry about the result and just keep enjoying," informed Mushfigur, who was excited as the first century came against the world's number one team.

Mushfiqur, who many believe deserves a promotion in the batting order because of his solid technique, praised his side's bowling effort and said that they had the ability to take twenty Indian wickets. **SCOREBOARD**

Final scoreboard at stumps on the fifth day of the first Test between India and Bangladesh at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium

in Chittagong on Thursday: INDIA: First innings 243 (Tendulkar 105 not out, Sehwag 52; Shahadat 5-71, Shakib 5-62)

BANGLADESH: First innings 242 (Mahmudullah 69; Zaheer 3-54, Mishra 3-66) INDIA: Second innings 413-8

decl (Gambhir 116, Laxman 69 not out, Mishra 50; Mahmudullah 2-52) BANGLADESH: Second innings (overnight 67-2)

Iqbal c Dravid b Sehwag

Kayes c Karthik b Zaheer

Ashraful c Dravid b Sharma 27 Rokibul lbw b Sharma Shakib c Sehwag b Mishra 17 Mushfigur c sub (Ojha) b Mishra 101 Mahmudullah c Karthik b Zaheer Shahadat b Mishra Safiul c & b Mishra

Nafees c Sehwag b Sharma 21

Rubel not out Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-6) 13 Like his skipper, Total: (Alloutin 75.2 overs) 301 Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-47, 3-79, 4-97, 5-135, 6-145, 7-170, 8-232, 9-258. R W Bowler 0 M Zaheer 90 2

Sreesanth 12.2 53 15 48 Sharma 4 22.2 92 3 Mishra Sehwag Yuvraj Result: India won by 113 runs. Man-of-the-match: Sachin

Tendulkar.

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CRYPTOQUIP

WIXAMO CIZA BOCXN YFIO B

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GOLDFISH WON'T KEEP QUIET WITH HIS CRITICISMS, SOMEONE SHOULD MAKE HIM QUIT HIS CARPING.

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals A