Don't rule out

trying to nurture and progress them together as a group, but with someone of Harmy's class, ability and stature in the game, you'd be foolish to ever rule out the possibility of him getting another crack."

He added: "As far as I'm aware he's still up for England selection. I haven't talked to any of the national coaches but I know Harmy is just as driven as ever and he just wants to take wickets.

"I think he still believes he can do it and as long as he still thinks he can he'll be steaming in and taking wickets for us, which is great for Durham."

2nd phase

FROM PAGE 17

any points in the second-leg matches when Mohammedan take on Feni Soccer Club at Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni today.

"We are still four points short of Abahani and we have no way to lose any points in the second leg if we want to clinch the first-ever title of the professional football league," Maruf told The Daily Star from Feni yesterday.

No doubt, coach Maruf will have his fingers crossed so that Abahani lose points to come close to them and make the league exciting till the last game between them.

Maruf also thinks that the Bangladesh League is being affected because of not holding the senior and first division leagues in the last two seasons as the same players have been playing the professional league for three seasons and most of them have no quality to play in such a level.

There is a whisper in the sports arena that the top teams and bottom teams could trade points in the second leg in a bid to clinch the title or avert the relegation and both of the coaches said that they have no idea about it, but they learnt it from others.

Abahani arrest

FROM PAGE 17

hattrick in the 14th minute through a penalty corner -combination of Amit Kumar, Moshiur Rahman Biplob and himself.

Later, Chandan struck the fourth goal from a penalty stroke in the 25th minute while Police pulled one goal back one minute later through a field goal from Rana.

After the breather, Hasan Jubair made it 5-1 for Abahani and Chandan converted two more penalty corners to finish it 7-1.

Top Sports

second edition of the Port City league first time being held overseas. Satellite channel ATN Bangla is beaming all the matches of the weeklong tourney live from the venue. BRIEFSCORE

CTG MOHAMMEDAN: 124 for

7 in 20 overs (Ashraful 37, Faisal 35; Mukhtar 2-18, Nasir 2-16). TOP SPORTS: 126 for two in

16.4 overs (Umar 47, Nafees 39 not out) Result: Ctg MSC won by eight

wickets. Man-of-the-match: Taufiq

Umar

Zlatan edges

FROM PAGE 20 provided the breakthrough on 62 minutes with Carles Puyol's stabbed shot fumbled by Dudu Aouate and Ibrahimovic was on hand to smash the ball

home. Ibrahimovic then released a superb pass using his back, reminiscent of Ronaldinho's days at Barca, to lay the ball to Messi whose fierce shot was tipped over.

Messi should have wrapped up the game in the final few minutes but shot over when well-placed.

Real Madrid must now respond with a win at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday as they aim to maintain their impressive record against their rivals.

Atletico have not beaten Real in the league in over a decade and are in eighth place after a turbulent season.

Third-placed Valencia could not capitalise on Mallorca's defeat falling to a 3-0 loss at struggling Real Zaragoza on Saturday although they stay six points clear of Mallorca in fourth.

Juve fans

FROM PAGE 20

league games this season and have been bundled out of the Champions League, Europa League and Italian Cup.

At the start of play they sat sixth in Serie A, six points behind Palermo in the crucial fourth spot but with a game in hand and face the very real risk of missing out on Champions League football next season.

FROM PAGE 17



McLaren-Mercedes driver Jenson Button (C) of Britain celebrates defending the Australian Grand Prix title in Melbourne yesterday. Button claimed the title when he led for the second half of a compelling race to beat Renault's Polish driver Robert Kubica (L) by 12 seconds with Ferrari's Brazilian driver Felipe Massa (R) 2.4 seconds away in third.

Button wins a thriller

INTERNET, undated

World champion Jenson Button won a thrilling Australian Formula One Grand Prix the second straight year on Sunday as long-time leader Sebastian Vettel was

stopped by a problem again. Button got his eighth career win in a McLaren despite a far from perfect pit

stop early in the race and riding into the gravel afterwards while the pole sitter Vettel had to retire after 26 of 58 laps with what he said was a broken brakes disc in his Red Bull. Robert Kubica took second place in a Renault and Felipe Massa was third in a

Ferrari an action-packed race at Albert Park which made up for the processionlike event at the season-opener in Bahrain two weeks ago. The Bahrain winner Fernando Alonso

placed fourth in the second Ferrari to retain first place in the drivers' standings with 37 points from Massa (33) and Button (31) after two of 19 season races. Button was awarded for gambling with

a seventh-lap pit stop for slicks on a quickly drying track after a shower, while team-mate Lewis Hamilton was fuming about being called in for a second stop which possibly cost him a place on the podium. "We could have had a first one-two. I

did want to stay out," said Hamilton who was lying third with Kubica in his sight at the time.

Button said it was his decision to come in early and that he had the right formula

"It was my call. When I got into the pit lane I thought it was catastrophic decision because it was soaking there. But the pace was good then and it was the right

"I never thought of putting on another set. My pace was not great but consistent. We couldn't have done a better strategy." Victory was sweet for Button as he got

the first for the McLaren team (which is still equipped by Mercedes engines) 12 months after starting his title run with a Melbourne win for Brawn GP.

"It is very special. I feel I am building in confidence," the Briton said. Team boss Martin Whitmarsh said: "It

was a fantastic race by Jenson, in truth he called that first stop and it got him the win, it was his bravery to make that call. With Lewis we made a team call which disadvantaged him but it was a fantastic job by Jenson." The boredom of Bahrain was instantly

forgotten in Australia with Massa roaring from fifth on the grid to second behind Vettel, who won the start from pole on a wet track.

Behind him, three world champions did not get around the first turn unscathed, with Button and Alonso touching, the Spaniard spinning around 180 degrees and Michael Schumacher damaging his Mercedes GP front wing beyond repair in the incident as well. The record champion Schumacher did

not fall far behind as the safety car was out before the end of the lap after Kamui Kobayashi crashed his BMW-sauber into Nico Huelkenberg's Williams, but had to

settle for 10th in the end in a modest showing. "We were faster today," said

SPÖRI

Schumacher, adding about the first-turn incident "I don't know who did what. It was a little chainreaction. That's racing."

Button was the first to change to slicks on a rapidly drying track and almost all others followed two laps later. And the Briton was first when Vettel

had to retire in the 26th lap, two weeks after an engine problem cost him victory in Bahrain. Kubica stormed from ninth place on the grid into second once the early dust

had settled, with Massa and Alonso following in fourth and fifth but Hamilton roaring up from behind. But Alonso had the last laugh when Hamilton tried to overtake Alonso in the penultimate lap and Mark Webber drove

his Red Bull into Hamilton's McLaren. The incident allowed Nico Rosberg to slip into fifth place. Hamilton at least salvaged sixth while Webber had to go to the pits again for a new front wing and finished ninth.

Button crossed the line in 1 hour 33 minutes 36.531 seconds, 12 seconds ahead of Kubica and almost 15 clear of Massa, who was delighted to get the second podium in as many races in his return from a life-threatening crash in Hungary last July.

"It is fantastic to have second and third place. I know how important it is for the

championship," the Brazilian said. The F1 season continues next Sunday

Toni blows

for Milito to prod home from inside the six-yard box, although television replays showed there had been an offside in the build-up.

But just as Inter looked to be taking control, a miscued shot from substitute Rodrigo Taddei fell to Toni, who shot home into the bottom-right corner from 15 vards on 72 minutes.

Inter threw everything at Roma and came within inches of equalising deep into injury time when Milito crashed a shot against the left-hand upright.

In the day's late game Palermo maintained their grip on fourth place and Champions League qualification as Fabrizio Miccoli scored a hat-trick in a 3-1 defeat of lowly Bologna.

Federer cruises

Tennis

AFP, Miami

Roger Federer preserved dignity among the elite at the Miami Masters Saturday, earning a comfortable opening victory after world number three Andy Murray crashed out to unheralded Mardy Fish.

World number one and top seed Federer quietly dominated Nicolas Lapentti, vanquishing the Ecuadoran 6-3, 6-3 in 66 minutes.

But it was another story for Murray, who fell 6-4, 6-4 to the 101st-ranked Fish.

Federer is the sole survivor of the top three as Murray's early exit followed that of secondseeded Serbian Novak Djokovic on Friday.

Federer admitted that seeing Djokovic and Murray bow out before he had even taken the court had given him pause.

"It worries me as well, being the top seed, seeing high seeds fall out of the tournament. I haven't even started playing yet, and there's two big names out of the tournament already."

But Federer said a solid service game was all he needed to steady his nerves. "I came through because I served very well. I

had a good start into all my service games. I always knew I was going to have a couple of

chances at least on the return games," said Federer, who needed only two breaks of Lapentti to earn his 12th victory of the season.

Federer lined up a third-round clash with Frenchman Florent Serra, a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 winner

over Spain's Albert Montanes. Federer is beginning a bid for a third Miami

title after winning here in 2005 and 2006. Swedish fifth seed Robin Soderling, the French Open runner-up, progressed to the third

round with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-0 win over Australian Peter Luczak. Croatian number seven Marin Cilic accounted for Stephane Robert of France

6-3, 6-1. Spain's 10th seed Fernando Verdasco saw off Israel's Dudi Sela 6-1, 6-2 while 13th-seeded Russian Mikhail Youzhny eased past Santiago

Giraldo of Colombia 6-0, 6-1. Murray, the defending champion, looked to be sleepwalking through his 90-minute match in

a city which he uses as a second home. The defeat came in the wake of the Scot's contention that training in the brutal South Florida heat would be key to a possible title

Whatever Murray's problems on the day, Fish was delighted with the victory.

"He's a grand slam finalist (Australia) this year already, his results speak fo themselves," said the winner.

Taylor fights alone FROM PAGE 17 launched three sixes in a row

In the first session Taylor received help from the opener BJ Watling, who worked hard over his 46, but that was the second highest score as the rest were unable to contribute more than Tim Southee's late 22. When Taylor was around boundaries rained and his fireworks were more suited to a one-day or Twenty20 instead of a lazy Test Sunday in Hamilton. Having been missed on 7,

53 and 92, he knew it was his day so he kept on swinging, majestically at times and wildly at others. A fierce cut through point took him to 99 and the century came with a slice over the slips cordon. He mixed some memora-

ble boundaries -- his driving between mid-on and cover off the fast bowlers was delightful -- with streaky shots, but the combination made it an exceptional performance. Following his third reprieve, when Watson missed a regulation edge at first slip, Taylor quickly brought up his century and things really got ugly for the visitors.

Nathan Hauritz, the offspinner, was pounded for 25 in an over as Taylor

over midwicket, the sightscreen and midwicket again. It would have been worse if Watson hadn't taken a catch on the boundary edge and thrown it back into the field athletically before he crossed the boundary, saving five runs. New Zealand hadn't passed Australia's total at that stage and were six down, but the Australian shoulders were slumping during the onslaught. By the end of the day their outlook was much brighter than the conditions.

The first miss came when Taylor edged Ryan Harris between Watson and Ricky Ponting, with neither man going for the ball. He followed up by driving Johnson for four through the offside twice in two balls in a brutal response to a costly fielding error. Taylor continued to leap

forward and pulled Watson to midwicket before bringing up his half-century with a six to midwicket. The milestone arrived in an astonishing 34 balls and he didn't slow much on the way to his fifth Test hundred.

Hauritz came on in the first session to goad Taylor, who swiped at his third ball, and

Johnson missed a relatively simple chance above his head at mid-on. The second life led Taylor to add to Australia's misery by slashing three offside boundaries off Doug Bollinger's next over. Ponting was starting to scowl and chew his fingernails, but a strong second innings on the third day can eliminate his con-

Lumped with the tail, Taylor was responsible for scrapping as many runs as possible but the task eventually became too risky. His innings ended when he attempted to pull Bollinger and collected an under-edge that was taken by Brad Haddin. Originally given not out, his decision was referred to the third umpire and Hot Spot showed the fine nick. It was so fine Taylor didn't think he'd touched it and he shook his head as he departed.

BRIEF SCORE AUSTRALIA: 1st Innings-231

all out (Katich 88, Clarke 28; Vettori 4-36, Southee 4-61) **NEW ZEALAND: 1st innings-**264 all out (Taylor 138, Watling 46; Johnson 4-59, Harris 3-50, Bollinger 3-57)

for one (Watson 28 not out)

AUSTRALIA: 2nd innings-35

Runner Group independence Day

14

Bangladesh Tennis Federation general secretary Ishtiaq Ahmed (4th from L) receives the title sponsorship cheque from director of Runner Group Mohammad Ali Deen (3rd from R) at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday. Runner Group is sponsoring the weeklong Independence Day Open tennis tournament, starting today.

13

12

Seventh heaven for Chelsea

LOCAL SNIPPETS

from 28 clubs from all over

Bangladesh are going to take

Ahad Ali Sarkar will inaugurate

the tournament along with

Runner Group chairman

SPONSOR FOR TENNIS

Biplob Ram and Rustam Ali,

two young tennis players, are

to be sponsored by Runner

paid Tk 1,60,000 to the

Bangladesh Tennis Federation

tennis racquet, shoes, socks,

strings and nutritional well-

The company has already

It would provide for their

This is the first time that a

Minister for Youth and Sports

part in the meet.

Hafizur Rahman Khan.

PLAYERS

Group for a year.

for the two players.

FROM PAGE 17

FROM PAGE 17

the competition.

present.

TENNIS

Ramna.

Group Sultan Ahmed, secre-

tary of Pabna DSA Abu

Ishaque Shamim were also

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Runner Group Independence

Day Open Tennis competition

will begin tomorrow at the

National Tennis Complex in

Mohammad Ali Deen

announced this at a press

tributed as prize money with

the men's winner receiving Tk

20,000 and the women's cham-

As many as 281 players

pion picking up Tk 10,000.

Tk 1,24,800 would be dis-

conference yesterday.

Tournament director

Twelve teams took part in

Samir Nasri's goal nine minutes from time appeared to have sealed victory for Arsenal only for Kevin Phillips to equalise in the closing moments.

"It was a bad one for Arsenal to drop points so late in the game today," said Ferguson. "They're now four points behind us."

Frustrated Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger criticised the St Andrew's playing surface. "It's very difficult to play

football on this pitch but we

will fight until the end," Wenger said. Fourth-placed Tottenham maintained their bid for

Champions League football with a 2-0 win at home to Portsmouth that pushed the visitors to the brinkofrelegation. Elsewhere Stoke piled the

pressure on West Ham manager Gianfranco Zola with a 1-0 win at Upton Park thanks to striker Ricardo Fuller's 69thminute goal. A second home defeat in a week, their sixth straight loss,

left the Hammers above the

relegation zone solely on goal

difference after fellow strug-

Fulham.

"It think it was better than the way we played the other day but it wasn't good enough to win the game. I'm so disappointed," said Zola who later admitted he was considering his position as manager of the troubled club.

Meanwhile Wolves and Everton shared the points in a goalless draw. At Stamford Bridge,

Lampard gave Chelsea a 15thminute lead when he struck at the far post following Florent Malouda's centre. But Villa, who face holders through another Pompey old

Chelsea in next month's FA boy, Niko Kranjcar. Cup semifinal, equalised when Norway striker John Carew turned in Ashley Young's cross in the 29th minute. Lampard restored

Chelsea's lead a minute before half-time with a penalty after James Collins tripped Yuri Zhirkov. Malouda then made sure of

the points when the France winger turned in a cross from Zhirkov in the 57th minute.

Lampard had his hat-trick when he scored his second

glers Hull won 2-0 at home to Zhirkov by Richard Dunne. Villa conceded another

tennis player in this country

are given a personal promoter.

Ikramul Haq Siam defeated

Abdullah Al Saif 2-0 in the

playoff final to clnch the Prime

Bank 30th National Sub-

Junior Chess trophy at the

Sankar Govinda Chowdhury

Stadium premises in Natore

This was a second consecu-

tive title for the student of

Motijheel Model High School

who earned 8.5 points from

nine games. Abdullah, who

also collected the same num-

ber of points, became run-

In the girls' competition

Tahmina Akhtar became

champions while Tanzina

Akhtar bcame out second.

yesterday.

ners-up.

UNDER-16 CHESS

when Malouda scored his 13th of the season after being played in by Lampard. Salomon Kalou made it 6-1 and there was still time for Lampard to score his fourth. In the other FA Cup semifi-

nal dress rehearsal, between

Tottenham and Portsmouth, former Pompey striker Peter Crouch opened the scoring in the 27th minute when he headed past fellow England international David James. Spurs doubled their lead four minutes before the break

Defeat nudged Portsmouth nearer relegation and was made worse by what appeared to be an Achilles injury to defender Hermann Hreidarsson. Hull's Jimmy Bullard

scored against his old club Fulham from the penalty spot in the 16th minute after Jozy Altidore was brought down by Chris Smalling at the KC Stadium.

The Tigers made it 2-0 three minutes after the break when 34 Trucker Craig Fagan looped a header over Australia goalkeeper penalty following a foul on MarkSchwarzer.

FROM PAGE 20

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS DOWN 21 Frat-party 35 Cain's 1 Dined victim 1 Mattergarb 4 Last 36 Snapshot horn or 22 Deadly Jungfrau 37 Canine 23 In due year's frosh 2 Golfer's time sounds 25 Vatican 8 Actor Pitt 40 Burn prop 12 Hawaiian 3 Having VIP somegarland what 26 Pertaining only two 13 Greek choices 41 Formerly, to trees 4 Temptress 27 Encounter formerly vowel 14 Continen-5 "My bad" 28 Frizzy 42 Long, tal coin hairdo slender 6 Sch. org. 15 Collar 7 — Solo 30 Steakcigar style house 8 Carrier 17 From the Ha'i" 9 Ladder order 47 Com-33 Pleasingly beginning part 18 Hastens 10 Neighborplump poser

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Solution time: 25 mins. ASH 30 Helicopter

MOLD NUT TRIO HELD NEAR VAR RULE UNRIPEEGOS VOLLEYBALL MABELYAMBOO ARESVIMBLAB REDJONSUEDE VALLEYGIRL IOTANOBODY W A N E G O D O G E E A G E S E W E U R A L DONS REX SELL

format 39 Norway's capital 40 Winter 42 Spot on a die

forecast 43 Time of your life?

34 Converse

Bartletts

star Jack

37 "Dragnet"

38 Exam

36 Boscs

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44 Falsehood

45 Illustra-

tions

19 22 23 27 28 25 30 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 42 43 44 45 **CRYPTOQUIP**

AOU JRKMAVDU SRTVKM ERZA

SZLUS TZKAF AR BVKG Z KUT LZSUUS. OU DQFA EU

ERSUG RQA RB OVF FLQJJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THOSE THIEVES DECIDED TO STEAL THE BIG BLANKET, COULD

YOU SAY THEY WERE TAKING COVER? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals E