



Red Bull-Renault driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany holds aloft the winner's trophy on the podium after winning the Malaysian Grand Prix in Sepang yesterday.

Huge wins for four districts

SPORTS REPORTER

Narayanganj, Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh and Jhenidah earned big wins in the 30th Inter-District Cricket Championship yesterday. In Jamalpur, Mymensingh (110-1) beat Metrokona (107 all out) by 9 wickets with Raihan taking four wickets for the winners. In another Dhaka zone match, Narayanganj (277 all out) rode on Sumon's 78 to crush Munshiganj (82 all out) by 195 runs in Faridpur. Brahmanbaria (285-8) also won by an almost similar margin when they beat Laxmipur (94 all out) by 191 runs in Comilla. In the Rajshahi zone, Nilphamari (247-8) beat Thakurgaon (208-9) by 39 runs in Rangpur and Rajshahi (166-3) defeated Natore (161 all out) by seven wickets. In Kushtia, Jhenidah (191-2) rode on Akhtar's 93 as they beat Chuadanga (190 all out) by eight wickets.

Sporting Bengal's 2nd friendly today

SPORTS REPORTER

Sporting Bengal United FC, a UK-based football club, will take on Dhaka Metropolis XI in the second of four friendly matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. The game will start at 3:30pm. Sporting Bengal, which came to Bangladesh on April 1, toured Rangpur to play their first match and won 2-1. The visitors will also play two matches in Chittagong and Sunamganj on April 8 and 10 respectively. Before the game, the officials of Sporting Bengal United FC and Bangladesh Football Association of England met the press at the Bangladesh Football Federation House yesterday. They urged the BFF high-ups to respond to their proposal that they sent earlier this month as they offered BFF to provide instructor for coaching courses, footballers exchanges in a bid to earn experience and search UK-based Bangladeshi footballers for the Bangladesh national team. "We gave some proposals to then BFF committee in 1996, but they did not respond and this time I personally met BFF president Kazi Salahuddin earlier this year when he toured England. He showed interest in our proposal and we are thinking that this time we will be able to extend our hands to develop Bangladesh football," said BFA chairman Suroth Mia. BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi said that the executive committee would consider the proposal when they will sit in a meeting soon. Dowlat Khan Babul, tour leader and founding president of Sonali Motil Club in England and Mamun Chowdhury, coach and manager of Sporting Bengal were also present.

"Without her, it wouldn't be possible," Clijsters said with a laugh. Serena Williams watched from the photographers' pit. She has been sidelined with a left knee injury since winning the Australian Open two months ago. In her absence, Venus had been the hottest player on the tour with 15 consecutive wins, her longest streak since 2004. But she took the court with wraps on both legs, which clashed with her red "Can-Can" corset -- and suggested she was less than 100 percent. The bandage on the right thigh was familiar, but the one on her left knee was new. Williams said she may have made a mistake by practicing too much.

Another one for Kim

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The crowd included her 2-year-old daughter, Jada. During the trophy ceremony, Clijsters thanked the family's nanny. "Without her, it wouldn't be possible," Clijsters said with a laugh. Serena Williams watched from the photographers' pit. She has been sidelined with a left knee injury since winning the Australian Open two months ago. In her absence, Venus had been the hottest player on the tour with 15 consecutive wins, her longest streak since 2004. But she took the court with wraps on both legs, which clashed with her red "Can-Can" corset -- and suggested she was less than 100 percent. The bandage on the right thigh was familiar, but the one on her left knee was new. Williams said she may have made a mistake by practicing too much.

Four

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before they play another tournament. The players' fitness report will also be monitored in the meantime. The importance of the tournament is not just for the players' earnings but also for preparing for the upcoming World Twenty20 Championship in West Indies which begins on April 30. The tournament final will be played on April 20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, which will host 15 matches while the Khan Saheb Osmani Ali Stadium in Fatullah will host three games.

Vettel leads Red Bull 1-2

INTERNET, undated



Sebastian Vettel of Red Bull put the technical problems that dogged Red Bull in the first two races of the season behind him Sunday with an impressive victory in the Malaysian Grand Prix. The 22-year-old German never looked back after jumping from third to first in the opening corner, coming home ahead of teammate Mark Webber and Nico Rosberg, who claimed a first podium finish for Mercedes. Robert Kubica of Renault was fourth followed by Force India's Adrian Sutil and Lewis Hamilton in a McLaren. Ferrari's Felipe Massa moves two points clear of teammate Fernando Alonso and Vettel at the top of the drivers' standings thanks to a seventh-place finish, although just six points separate the top six drivers. Defending world champion Jenson Button of McLaren, Toro Rosso's Jaime Alguersuari and Niko Hulkenberg of Williams completed the points placings. Vettel managed to pass Rosberg and Webber in the opening corner while Kubica was also able to jump two places to lie fourth at the end of the opening lap. "I had a good start past Nico," said Vettel after registering the sixth F1 victory of his career in a winning time of 1 hour 33 minutes 44.12 seconds. "I was able to gain, gain, gain. The German described the win as "a big

plus" for the team. "A lot of points and I'm very happy," he said. Michael Schumacher's race ended after 11 laps while running in sixth place due to technical problems. Although he only qualified down in 20th place, Hamilton moved up to 12th by the end of the first lap and managed to make it up to sixth by lap 17 behind Sutil, who made his first pit stop four laps later and returned in eighth place. Third-placed Rosberg pitted on lap 23 for new tyres, coming back ahead of Kubica, and was followed one lap later by race leader Vettel. Webber was next to pit although the Australian lost valuable time due to issues changing his front right tyre. However, Webber refused to blame the incident for failing to beat Vettel from pole, instead pointing to his teammate's strong start. "The first part of the race is crucial, I got a little bit of wheel spin into the first corner," said the Australian. "The result could have gone either way but in the end he did the right thing at a crucial stage." The 2010 F1 season continues on April 18 with the Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai.

TOP SIX

- 1. Sebastian Vettel (GER/Red Bull) 1hr33:48.412
2. Mark Webber (AUS/Red Bull) at 4.849
3. Nico Rosberg (GER/Mercedes GP) at 13.504
4. Robert Kubica (POL/Renault) at 18.589
5. Adrian Sutil (GER/Force India) at 21.059
6. Lewis Hamilton (GBR/McLaren) at 23.471

Mahela powers

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In the first half of the innings and scored only 24, with no sixes. Ramesh Powar, the offspinner, had restricted him by bowling into his pads from over the wicket, varying his pace and trajectory. Gayle had tried to play the sweep but his timing wasn't fluent. Finally, in the 11th over, Gayle stirred. Powar had bowled 3.5 overs for 17 runs, when Gayle advanced to his final ball and muscled it over the long-on boundary. Powar finished with 0 for 23 off four overs; his teammates were not going to be as fortunate. Kolkata were 89 for 1 when Bopara came on to bowl the 13th, and carnage was around the corner. Manoj Tiwary rotated the strike with a single off the first delivery, and Gayle heaved the second and third over the midwicket and long-on boundary, losing the ball in the construction rubble. He had sped to 50 off 30 balls, scoring 26 off his last six balls, and more was to follow. For the fourth ball, Gayle created some room, stayed low and launched it flat over the cover boundary. The fifth was lost in the long-on rubble again. Bopara, reeling from four consecutive sixes, let slip a wide which beat the wicketkeeper too. At the end of the over, Kolkata were 122 for 1, and Gayle was on 62 off 32. Gayle then skied a mis-hit off Chawla. The bowler wanted to take the catch himself and made a mess of it, much to Ganguly's mirth in the dug out. Jayawardene, however, ensured that Ganguly would not be the last one laughing on the night.

200 for three in 20 overs (Gayle 88, Ganguly 36, Tiwary 35; Pathan 1-36, Theron 1-36) KINGS XI PUNJAB: 204 for two in 18.2 overs (Jayawardene 110 not out, Sangakkara 38, Yuvraj 33 not out; Bond 1-32, Kartik 1-41) Result: Kings XI Punjab won by eight wickets Man-of-the-match: Mahela Jayawardene

29 selected for U-14 team

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation picked 29 budding footballers for the Under-14 residential camp ahead of the AFC U-14 Festival of Football in Iran. The festival will be staged from May 10 to 23. The selected players have been asked to report to head coach Abdur Razzak on April 7 at Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. The players are: M Himel, Iqbal Hossain, Tariqul Islam, Rezaul Karim, Mofazzal Hossain Sujon, Mahmudul Hasan Kiron, Shahriar Bappi, Amirul Islam Rony, Tanmoy, Ilias, Faisal Ahmed, Aynal Hossain, Mehdi Hasan, Jahangir Alam, Anik Dey, M Mithun, Sabbir Hossain, Sohel Arman Saihan, Sajid Hossain, M Babu, Anik Hossain, Ujjal Pradhan, Sajal Pradhan, Masud Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Sagar Chandra Das, Bijoy Biswas, Ibrahim Hossain Rana, Shahjada Hossain and Dalim Kumar Barman.

Another one for Kim

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"Today wasn't my best day physically," she said. "To fight errors and not feel your best, it's a mental battle." Of the 55 points Clijsters won, 30 came on unforced errors by Williams. She double-faulted twice in a row. She bounced a backhand into the net, like a table tennis shot. Her balls that cleared the net made work easy for the linesmen, often sailing several feet long. If Williams' groundstrokes were bad, so was her luck -- one shot bounced off the net cord twice before landing on her side. She repeatedly was bested from the baseline, where she won nine points to 37 for Clijsters. As the match slipped away, and the crowd groaned with each error, Williams remained impassive. After losing the 17th point in a row she slowly bent over, flexed her knees and shook her head several times, as if trying to shake out cobwebs.

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VNS post easy win

SPORTS REPORTER

Viquarunnisa Noon School recorded an easy 3-0 win over Jamila Khatun Lalbagh Girl's High School in the Citycell Dhaka Metropolis Schoolgirls Football Championship yesterday. Mariom, Habiba and Nini struck one goal apiece for the winners at the Azimpur Girl's School & College ground, which also saw the match between BIT and Azimpur Girl's High School & College ending in a goalless draw. Sir John Wilson School were declared the winners as their Summerfield International School failed to have enough players to field the starting lineup at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sport's Complex.

Pakistanis

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cricket's wife, with former Indian cricket team manager Vankenna Chamundeswarathan trying to broker peace. Chamundeswarathan today came to the residence of Sania Mirza, whom Shoaib is set to marry this month, this morning to meet the Pakistani cricketer, who flew in here on Saturday. Chamundeswarathan is expected to carry the message to the Siddiquis who have threatened to sue Shoaib if he didn't divorce Ayesha before marrying Sania. Meanwhile, Shoaib is expected to meet Pakistan High Commission to obtain an 'izazatnama' which is required for Pakistani nationals to marry someone other than a Pakistani.

Akram's good wishes to 'em

PTI, New Delhi

Former Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram has wished Shoaib Malik and Sania Mirza a happy married life but he feels the all-rounder's controversial past involving an alleged first wife Ayesha Siddiqui will do him no good. "First up, many congratulations to Shoaib Malik, although the juicy news about his previous relationship will do him no good. Whatever the facts are, I would like to wish Sania Mirza and Shoaib a good life together. Marriage is sacred," Akram wrote in a column for 'ESPN'.

Premier League from May 21

SPORTS REPORTER

The League Committee of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation retracted from its previous decision to start the Premier Division Hockey League three days after the conclusion of the season's curtain-raiser Club Cup Hockey tournament. The ongoing Club Cup Hockey is scheduled to end on April 19 and the committee yesterday decided to start the league from May 21 because they are also hosting the Asian Games qualifying hockey tournament, scheduled to be held on May 7-14 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium. "In the greater interest of making the Asian Games qualifiers a success, the committee took an unanimous decision to start the league from April 21," said a press release yesterday. Meanwhile, the season's curtain-raising tournament, Dhaka Bank Club Cup Hockey, got underway on March 28 after almost two years following the national hockey team's preparation of the 11th SA Games on home soil. Some eight nations, split into two groups, will play the qualifying matches and the top two teams will qualify for the finals to be held in China later this year.

Amol, Sharmin champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Amol Roy and Sharmin Alam Sharda won the men's and women's titles in the Runner Group Independence Day Open Tennis Tournament at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. Amol, who played under the National Tennis Complex banner, fought hard to beat arch-rival Ranjan Ram 4-6, 6-0, 6-1 in the final. Sharda also had to struggle in her final against Sathi Sarkar but prevailed as she won 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Amol and Ranjan won the men's doubles crown by defeating Dipu Lal and Alamgir Hossain while the women's doubles title went to Sharmin and Sathi. Mamun Bepari was the under-14 boys' champion, Mahin Reza the under-12 boys' champion and Rebeka Sultana won the under-12 girls' crown.

Tiger's test ahead of Masters

Golf

AFP, Augusta

Tiger Woods will face his first extended public questioning over a devastating sex scandal on Monday in a dramatic start to a tension-packed comeback week of golf at the Masters. Reporters from around the world will have the chance to seek details about the early morning crash last November that sparked revelations Woods had cheated on wife Elin, a former Swedish model, with more than a dozen women. "I tried to stop and I couldn't. It was horrific," Woods said last month. "I've done some pretty bad things. I take full ownership of it. I did it." Woods apologised by way of postings on his website, a statement broadcast worldwide in February and two five-minute March television interviews, where he detailed regret and humiliation in an epic mea culpa for all to see. "I was living a life of a lie," Woods told ESPN in March. "I was doing a lot of things that hurt a lot of people. I'm as disappointed as everyone else in my own behaviour because I can't believe I actually did that to the people I love." Now, iconic former role model and billion-dollar endorsement pitchman Woods is fighting to put the gossip firestorm behind him by ending

a layoff of nearly five months at the controlled atmosphere of Augusta National Golf Club. "It's going to be a huge event, and I think one of the positives from Tiger's perspective (is) doing his press conference Monday and getting it out of the way, for his sake and everybody's sake," South African star Ernie Els said. Woods will take questions from a jam-packed interview room mainly featuring golf writers rather than a tabloid media with little interest in the year's first major golf championship before Woods's revelations of infidelity in December. "It makes it a bit more El Entertainment, doesn't it?" said Irishman Padraig Harrington, a three-time major champion seeking his first Masters title. Mark O'Meara, a former Masters champion, expressed hope his friend Woods can begin to close the conversation about the scandal and revive interest in golf that has dimmed in his absence. "He has made a mistake and he has come forward and really taken full responsibility," O'Meara said. "Now that he has come clean and he is trying to get better, you have to respect that. You don't respect what happened, but we have to let the guy move forward." Previews of some likely answers by Woods came during the TV interviews last month.

Malik gives his

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as legally required -- by any witnesses. Arranged marriages when the bride and groom have not met before are common in Islam, but Muslim scholars dismiss the concept of a "telephone wedding". Sr Div bourse for today SPORTS REPORTER The inter-club footballers transfer for the Senior Division Football League gets underway today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium league office. Some 13 senior division clubs are expected to take part in the transfer bourse, which will continue until April 10. The footballers, who have played not more than three matches in the Bangladesh League, will be allowed to play in the Senior Division Football League. Meanwhile, no foreign players will be allowed in the league.

Samir steers

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Rahman did not hesitate to award a spot kick to Russel. Omari converted the spot kick to level his goal tally with Abahani striker Sherif Din Mohammad's 11 goals and regained the position of the top-scorer with his second goal of the match in the 66th minute. The Moroccan striker, who was set by Abdullah Parvez, darted into the box and drove a left-footer past goalkeeper Atiqul Islam Tareq. Before conceding the second, Muktijoddha Sangsad came close to levelling the margin but Russel goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel frustrated them thwarting a grounder from Amin Rana. Muktijoddha then saw a Sagno header off a Gray cross go just over the post to miss their last scoring chance. Two minutes from time, defender Kamal Hossain sealed the fate of the game netting his first goal in the league and gave Sheikh Russel their eleventh win.



Winners of the Runner Group Independence Day Open Tennis Tournament pose for photographs at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Priestly robe 4 Uncooked 7 Refused to, quaintly 12 Up to 13 Blond shade 14 Eagle's nest 15 Sapporo sash 16 Hoard 18 Chaps 19 "1984" laborer 20 Letter opener's creation 22 Mimic 23 "Behavin'" laborer 27 Attention-getting cry 29 Lots 31 External 34 Battery inventor 35 Easy-to-build house 37 Scratch 38 Coloration 39 Honest politician 41 Redact 45 Boutique 47 Away from WSW 48 Sweden's capital 52 Conditions 53 Half-diameters 54 Mid-May honoree 55 Collection 56 That is (Latin) 57 Pigs' digs 58 Attempt 25 Bottom line 26 Airport screens' org. 28 Detergent brand 30 Eventual aves 31 Make up your mind 32 Swiss canton 33 Sawbuck 36 Dog owner's ordeal 37 Dry red wine 40 Times of prosperity 42 Believer of a sort 43 Draw a conclusion 44 Irritable "SNL" segment 46 It long eluded Lucci 48 — Lanka 49 Youngster 50 Rhyming tribute 51 USSR successor

Grid for Cryptquip puzzle with numbers 1-58 in a crossword pattern.

CRYPTOQUIP

OSW EWOGME'V DWZM GSWG TDM ZWP NKDR KD GSM VOWDRKDWLKWDLMEVKTDTN "UTUMPM" ILTKZOV: TXWN TPX. Yesterday's Cryptquip: DINING OUT WITH THAT PODIATRIST IS FANTASTIC, BECAUSE AS A RULE HE WINDS UP FOOTING THE BILL. Today's Cryptquip Clue: D equals N