

Scene from yesterday's second round of the 4th Metropolitan Deaf Chess Tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hallroom.

BOA chief condoles Samaranch's death

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association president General Mohammad Abdul Mubeen expressed his condolence at the death of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the former president of International Olympic Committee (IOC).

"We are deeply shocked and hurt to hear the heart rending news about the former IOC president. Mr. Samaranch indeed was a great personality with vision and dream, who translated his prophecy to reality and transformed those to right perspective with sturdy initiatives, courage and superb leadership," the BOA president wrote to IOC president Jacques Rogge in his condolence letter.

"This is certainly an irrevocable loss for Olympic movement and at this very hour of grief, our feelings and thoughts are with the greater sports fraternity.'

The BOA president also prayed for the departed soul and conveyed fortitude to be bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Manikganj

FROM PAGE 17 In the first match, Tiger

Sporting batted first and made 147 for seven in 25 overs. Emon top-scored with 42 runs from 33 balls and Shiba added 36 runs from 37 balls. Prince, Rassel and Pallab took two wickets each for Biltu Club.

In reply, Biltu Club managed 144 for nine in the 25 overs. Rassel scored highest 62 runs from 67 balls while Sumon added 25. Shiba picked up three wickets while Rana and Sabuj took two wickets apiece for Tiger Sporting.

Ali Memorial were bowled out for only 81 runs in 23 overs. Mahidul scored 35 runs from 55 balls. Lotus picked up four wickets while Sahidul took three wickets for Retired XI. Lotus did not concede any runs from his three overs.

In the other match, Sir Sadat

In reply, Retired XI reached 85-4 in 16 overs thanks to Ashraf's 33.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 17

Faisal Hossain negotiated for the rest of the day adding another 54 runs as they remained unbeaten.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: First innings 346 all out (Nafees 45, Shamsur 84, Junaed 1, Nazimuddin 48, Faisal 23, Farhad 38, Sahagir 6, Nur 49, Shahadat 29, Enamul 7 not out, Rabiul 2, Extras 14; Der Wath 2-51, Tsotsobe 1-76, Philander 1-28, Tshabalala 0-80, Elgar 2-73, Van Zyl 4-37) SOUTH AFRICA A: First

innings 676-9 in 136.5 overs (Petersen 116, Vandiar 51, Kuhn 191, Tsolekile 140, Extras 36; Noor 2-109, Farhad 1-57, Faisal 5-183)

BANGLADESH A: Second innings 148-3 in 41 overs (Nafees 51, Shamsur 38, Nazimuddin 17 not out, Faisal 33 not out; Elgar 2-24)

Kaka returns

FROM PAGE 20

Barcelona striker Thierry Henry struck his first goal in over two months as defending champions Barcelona beat nine-man Xerez.

Following an opener from Jeffren Isaias, Henry, given a rare start, then found the back of the net for the first time since he scored against Racing Santander in mid-February.

Mission as captain

AFP, Karachi



Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi's roller-coaster international career has reflected the fortunes of his team -- brilliant, baffling and controversial. From the time in 1996 when

he hit the fastest one-day century off 37 balls against Sri Lanka in Nairobi, Afridi has never been far from the headlines. A big-match player, the 30-year-old was the

player of the tournament for the inaugural edition of the World Twenty20 in 2007 and last year led Pakistan to the title with match-winning performances in the semifinal and final. "Pakistan are a team in the making at the

moment and Shahid Afridi is quite a force in the shorter form of cricket," said Pakistan Test legend Mushtaq Mohammad. "He won us the Twenty20 last summer. He is a

very positive cricketer and we need somebody to lead Pakistan from the front." Afridi, who gave up Test cricket in 2006, inherited the T20 captaincy after former skippers, and

star batsmen, Younus Khan and Mohammad Yousuf were banned by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after the disastrous tour of Australia ended without a single international win for the visitors.

Even Afridi didn't escape censure.

He was fined 35,000 dollars by the PCB for ball-tampering in a one-day match against Australia in Perth in February, although he appealed saying it was unfair to punish him twice after he was hit with a two-game ban by the International Cricket Council.

Afridi has played 27 Twenty20 internationals scoring 475 runs with a highest score of 54 not out. He has also taken 37 wickets with a best of 4-11 and a miserly average of 16.32.

Afridi believes his team, who are in Group A for the first round with Bangladesh as well as old rivals Australia in the Caribbean, have the right balance to retain their title.

"I have a well balanced team in batting and bowling, and we have to further lift the standard of fielding. Fielding is crucial in this fastest version of the game and a lot of hard work was done to raise the standard," said the captain. "But we have got a lot of firepower in our

batting Misbahul Haq, Abdul Razzaq, Umar Akmal, Khalid Latif and Salman Butt. As we expect spinning tracks, we have good options in Saeed Ajmal, Mohammad Hafeez and myself. In the pace department we have Mohammad Aamer, Mohammad Sami, Mohammad Asif and Abdul Razzaq."

Afridi also told www.cricinfo.com that it was "mission as captain, with the support of players and team management, to keep the team away from any controversy."



PHOTO: COURTESY

CL T20 in

S Africa

CRICINFO, undated

South Africa will host the next

Champions League Twenty20,

to run from September 10 to 26,

the tournament's organisers

have announced. The tourna-

ment chairman Lalit Modi

confirmed the decision, follow-

ing a board meeting in Mumbai

where it was formally agreed to

accept Cricket South Africa's

immense scrutiny over the

ongoing IPL mess, was not

present at that meeting, which

However, Scott Parker eased

the pressure on Hammers boss

Gianfranco Zola with a 25-yard

after Sunderland won 1-0 at the

KC Stadium thanks to Darren

Bent's seventh minute tap-in,

with two games to play and a

hugely inferior goal difference,

could have equalised before

half-time but Jimmy Bullard's

card late in the first half after

Hull's US striker Jozy Altidore

and Sunderland's Alan Hutton

twice as already relegated

Aruna Dindane scored

Both sides received a red

The Tigers, six points adrift

his 25th goal of the season.

penalty hit the post.

clashed.

Hull were all but relegated

drive in the 77th minute.

However Modi, under

invitation to stage the event.

Members of the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club, who became champions in the Banglalion Challenge Cup and Pro-Am Golf Tournament, receive the trophy from the chief guest Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday.

BCCI suspends

FROM PAGE 17

two days negotiators - including two franchise owners have been working on Modi to resign. On Sunday evening, though, the die appeared cast - hours before the final got under way, Modi tweeted his decision to attend Monday's meeting, a reversal of his earlier stand. Later in the evening the IPL secretariat sent out a mail from Modi.

"On the agenda will be a discussion on any complaints received in writing from members of the governing council against the chairman, other members of the council and/or the BCCI," it said.

"Members of the governing council have been requested to give all such complaints in writing with the requisite supporting documents at the meeting to the chairman so

they can be replied in full." Now that seems to be irrelevant. One member of the governing council told Cricinfo the BCCI president was vested with the powers to suspend any member. "Under the provisions of the BCCI constitution, the president can utilise Article 32 to suspend a member and an enquiry committee will be

took place at the BCCI headinstituted to probe the matter quarters on Saturday. further." A two-horse

FROM PAGE 20

Race to the death

FROM PAGE 20

French midfielder Franck Ribery, who is being investigated as part of the under-age call-girl scandal rocking the French football team, played the full game, but was booed on occasion at the sold-out Borussia Park.

Bottom side Hertha Berlin are now almost certain to be relegated at the end of the season after Schalke captain Heiko Westermann scored their winner on 87 minutes,

putting his side level with Bayern on 64 points. "It wasn't a good game for either side," said Schalke

coach Felix Magath. Werder Bremen are third in the league having beaten Cologne 1-0 with a lastminute goal as captain Torsten Frings scored a 91st-minute penalty after defender Pedro

Geromel gave away the spot kick with a handball. Geromel was also red-carded.

Bayer Leverkusen are fourth after a 3-0 win over struggling Hanover.

Germany striker Stefan Kiessling hit the opener on 26 minutes while Turkey midfielder Burak Kaplan added the second on 64 minutes, before Kiessling scored his 21st league goal of the season with a penalty on 87 minutes.

Dortmund stayed in the hunt for third place, and a potential Champions League place for next season, with a 3-2 win at relegation candidates Nuremberg as striker Lucas

Mid-table Mainz were held to a 3-3 draw at home to Eintracht Frankfurt.

deaf chess SPORTS REPORTER

Metropolitan

SPORI

Eight players are jointly on the top of the points table at the close of the second round of the 4th Metropolitan Deaf Chess Tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hallroom yesterday.

All eight players -- Fazlul, Faruk, Quddus, Samajpati, Saiful, Rauf, Salim and Mosarraf -- won their respective second round matches to secure maximum two points from as many matches.

Div I b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammadpur Basketbal Club came from behind to record a hard-fought 51-48 win over Wraiths Club in the Premier Bank First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Mohammadpur were trailing by three points after the first half, which ended at 29-26 points, but the winners staged a superb performance in the second half to overcome Wraiths.

Dhumketu Club handed a 88-78 defeat to Hornets SC after leading the first half 40-27 while The Gregarious thrashed Cantonions Club 68-24 after dominating the first half37-13.

Asian chess

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Ziaur Rahman registered his third victory in the 9th Asian Continental Individual Chess Championship in Subic free Port City in Philippines yesterday.

Zia beat IM Duong Anh of Vietnam to earn three points from five matches.

Bhajji wishes Sachin well

CRICINFO, undated

Indian cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Mahendra Singh Dhoni have paid tribute to Sachin Tendulkar, who turned 37 on Saturday. According to Harbhajan, age was "just a number for Paaji [Tendulkar]" while Dhoni said he often joked there was a chance that he might retire before Tendulkar.

Tendulkar is presently recovering from a split webbing and is hoping to be fit for Harbhajan said winning the title would be "a wonderful gift from the team and a beautiful way of saying thanks."

"Just look at his [Tendulkar's] wealth of accomplishments in the last six months. The way he is going about his business is just unbelievable, Harbhajan told Times of India. "His hunger for runs is getting bigger by the day and he is also very consistent. He is still enjoying his game and it will be no exaggeration to say that he is leaving all the youngsters behind. To me Sachin is just like a 17-year old. And I want him to be around for as long as possi-

Dan's beginning of end

AFP, Wellington



When Daniel Vettori leads New Zealand into the World Twenty20 it will start a long and calculated farewell across the world stage by New Zealand's cricket figurehead.

While most of his contemporaries plot their exit by bowing out of Test play to spend their twilight years chasing the Twenty20 dollars, Vettori's roadmap heads in the other direction.

One of only two cricket millionaires in New Zealand, along with Brendon McCullum, thanks primarily to playing Twenty20 in the Indian Premier League, Vettori will concentrate on the less lucrative but pure form of Test cricket.

His route to retirement will see him captain New Zealand in the West Indies and later in the year on tours of Bangladesh and India as well as the ODIWorld Cup in the sub-continent in 2011. Then he will relinquish the captaincy to focus

on being a Test all-rounder for four more years

with the target of being the second player behind the great Kapil Dev to achieve the double of 400 Test wickets and 4,000 runs. "I've always thought I'd play until I was about 35

and Test cricket is the part of the game that I want to persevere with," said the 31-year-old Vettori who already has 325 wickets and 3,962 runs. When compiling a list of the best in New

Zealand cricket, almost every question in the modern era has the same answer -- Daniel Vettori. The bespectacled captain is pivotal in the

rounder, arguably the best batsman, as well as being a selector and de facto coach.

He is "an inspiration to his team and to New Zealand cricket fans," according to New Zealand Cricket chief executive Justin Vaughan.

Vettori's Test goals were "a great endorsement of his character, but we don't want him quitting one-day cricket any time soon," said Vaughan, before adding: "Daniel is statistically aware and knows Test cricket is where you make your name as a player".

Vettori's international career began 13 years ago when he became New Zealand's youngest Test player at the age of 18 years 10 days. Although never considered a leading turner

of the ball, his speed and flight variations have made him one of the most successful spinners with averages of 14.51 in Twenty20, 31.22 in ODIs and 33.86 in Tests. He has also transformed himself from a

gangly tailend batsman into a highly respected all-rounder who is a recognised number six with a Test batting average of 30.71. To underscore how he relishes leadership,

Vettori has batted at an average 44.07 in the 26 Tests since he replaced Fleming as captain in November 2007. "I wasn't comfortable with where my batting

was at and I was disappointed with batting so low and my average and I wanted to turn that around," he said on reaching 100 Tests against Australia last month.

"That'll be one of my prouder achievements in those 100 Tests is being able to turn myself New Zealand team as the best bowler, best all-from a guy who started 11 to a genuine No 6.

Lanka want it now

AFP, Colombo



Sri Lanka, world champions in the 50-over format in 1996, are desperate to add the Twenty20 title to their collection in the Caribbean after a series of nearmisses.

Captain Kumar Sangakkara's men lost the World T20 championship by eight wickets to Pakistan at Lords last year. Two years earlier, the Sri Lankans lost to

Australia in the final of the World Cup while the same opponents went on to denythem a semi-final place in the inaugural World Twenty 20 later in 2007. "Our focus is to bring the cup home this time

after we lost to Pakistan last year. A Twenty20

World Cup will be good for our collection," team

manager Anura Tennakoon told AFP. Sri Lanka have gone for a blend of youth and experience for the Caribbean World Twenty20

that runs from April 30 to May 16. The squad boasts one of the most lethal bowling attacks on the international scene, from the pace of Lasith Malinga to the spin of Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis.

The tropical Indian Ocean Island will also

look to Tillakaratne Dilshan to reproduce his

starring role of 2009 when he captured the Player of the Tournament award. Sangakkara says the team is in a transition period where some seniors are reaching the end of their careers while younger players are mak-

ing a push to fill the gaps. "We now have to try and get the combinations right and the players right. So it's tough but

it's also interesting," Sangakkara said. Sri Lanka's 15-man squad has barely practiced together, with most of the players contracted to the Indian Premier League.

"Most of the experienced players were in India and that has hampered our preparation. I think if we can get everyone together and perform, our chances are pretty good," said Tennakoon. Sri Lanka make up Group B alongside New

Zealand and Zimbabwe and former skipper Mahela Jayawardene says neither team can be taken lightly. "New Zealand has got a really good all-round

team which can be totally devastating. Zimbabwe has done well, especially in the West Indies and have got some explosive players who can really take it away from you," he said. The last time Sri Lanka played in the

Caribbean, Jayawardene led them to the final of the World Cup in 2007. This time round, he hopes the team can go all the way and bring home the silverware.

"You have to make sure that on a match day, you turn it on and get the job done. So, we have to really take one game at a time, get through the group stage which is very important and then try to continue all the way." Uncapped batsman Dinesh Chandimal is the

only rookie in the 15-man squad that includes the world's leading Test and one-day wicket taker Muralitharan. The squad also includes veteran batsman Sanath Jayasuriya, who turns 41 in June. Tennakoon says big names like Dilshan,

Jayawardene and Sangakkara are in good form, along with youngsters like all-rounder Angelo Mathews and Mendis. Sri Lanka take on New Zealand in the opening

match on April 30 at the Guyana International Stadium, where Malinga made history in 2007, taking four wickets in four balls against South Africa.

Sunday's IPL final between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings. Malinga alive & kicking

AFP, Colombo



The untamed bleached blond locks have been dyed black as Sri Lanka's sling sensation Lasith Malinga tempers his looks and polishes his west indies 2010 armoury for the World

Twenty20 in the Caribbean. Short and squat, his unorthodox action, with a low point of release against the backdrop of the umpire's chest or head, makes it hard for even the world's finest batsmen to duck his yorkers or sight the ball.

"He was off for a while nursing injuries. But he's on the mend now, working hard on his game, raring to make his mark in the World Twenty 20," Sri Lanka team manager, Anura Tennakoon told AFP.

A career-threatening right knee injury left him out of action in 2008 and early 2009, until he spend five days with Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse's spiritual healer Eliyantha White.

"He (White) works with supernatural powers and herbs," said Malinga, whose tattooed

biceps, distinctive, unruly, streaked-blond hair and eyebrow-ring earned him the title of cricket's sexiest man during the 2007 World Cup.

After a late start in 2009, Malinga marked his return to active cricket in the Indian Premier League where he was among the top bowlers, having grabbed 13 wickets in his first 11 matches conceding 287 runs.

Malinga changed his hairstyle to marry Tania

in a fairytale wedding in January. "Tania's certainly calmed him down," laughs Tennakoon, referring to the muchphotographed wild hairdo.

Statistically, Malinga has been average in Twenty20 games, picking up 65 wickets in 56 matches for 1,318 runs.

But he is one of those bowlers who can never be dismissed lightly.

"Once he gets going, Lasith's a crowd-puller, one of the key bowlers to watch for," said New Zealand's wicket-keeper/batsman Brendon McCullum ahead of the World Twenty20 that

runs in the Caribbean from April 30 to May 16.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 35 Gun the DOWN 23 Hindu

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals S

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N E O N D E B T O N O O M E G A O V A R E M O T E C O N T R O L Portsmouth came from 2-0 32 Noise down to draw 2-2 away to Barrios scored a hattrick. B I S T R O D R A W L E L E G Y O U T S 33 Part of Bolton Wanderers while N.B. ORENEE Wolves, still not mathemati-34 Corral cally safe, and Blackburn Rovers drew 1-1 at Molineux.