Sweden's Robin Soderling plays a forehand against American Taylor Dent during their French Open second round match at the Roland Garros Stadium in Paris yesterday. Soderling won 6-0, 6-1, 6-1.

#### Senior Div football

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Youngmens Fakirerpool Club returned to winning ways after beating Wari Club 2-1 in the Bashundhara Senior Division Football League match at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Shafiqul put Fakirerpool ahead in the fifth minute before Atiur doubled the advantage six minutes from the break

Arif pulled a goal back in the 55th minute but could not avert Wari's second defeat in three matches.

## Rajib loses to Lahiri

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib lost his sixth round board against Indian International Master Atanu Lahiri in the 2nd SCS International Open Grandmaster Chess tournament in Bhubaneswar yesterday.

After the sixth round, Rajib, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and FM Mohammad Javed bagged four points each.

In the other sixth round games, Sagar lost against GM Harutjjuyan Gevorg of Armenia, Javed drew with Anwesh Upadhyaya of India and Parag beat Patil Pratik of

#### The Hand

FROM PAGE 17

Other first-round form teams to fail at the secondround stage were Soviet Union, in a dramatic 4-3 loss to Belgium, and Morocco, who topped England's group before taking West Germany to the wire -- it was not until three minutes from the end that the Germans got their winner in Monterrey.

Italy, a pale shadow of the 1982 side, were dispatched with ease by the French. France, who had won the 1984 European Championships in some style, were again many romantics' choice for the championship, though an over-reliance on Michel Platini's goal power from midfield would later prove problematic.

Brazil, themselves a shadow of their 1982 team but 4-0 conquerors of Poland, met the French in a titanic encounter in

Guadalajara. The game ended 1-1 and was absolutely jam-packed with incident. A challenge by Brazil goalkeeper Carlos on Bruno Bellone brought back painful memories of the Battiston-Schumacher incident four years earlier. At the other end, with his first kick of the game, substitute Zico missed a penalty to win the game in normal time, so it was penalties again for the French. This time, their nerve held despite Platini inexplicably blazing his spot-kick over the bar. Keeper Joel Bats was the hero as he saved first Socrates' casual effort and then Julio Cesar's strike.

Luis Fernandez stroked home the decider and the French rejoiced. The time seemed right for revenge over the Germans, who had ousted the hosts in their own shoot-out. TO BE CONTINUED

# Second string India leave for Zimbabwe

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

A second-string Indian team left for Zimbabwe on Wednesday to play a tri-series, hoping to convince the selectors they were ready for the big league. The 15-man-squad, led by

Suresh Raina, will play Sri Lanka and the hosts in a double-leg triseries that opens in Bulawayo on Friday and ends with the final in Harare on June 9. The selectors have rested

eight top stars -- captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Yuvraj Singh and Ashish Nehra -- from the tournament.

"With the senior players taking a break, this is a good time for the younger lot to make an impression and prove their worth," said Raina, 23,

# Brazilian! ahead of the team's departure.

"The seniors may be miss-

ing, but we still have a very

good team that can win the

Four members of the touring

squad -- fast bowlers Umesh

Yadav and Pankaj Singh, off-

spinner Ravichandran Ashwin

and batsman Naman Ojha -

cricket at the senior level.

have not played international

Suresh Raina (captain), Murali

Vijay, Dinesh Karthik, Virat

Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Yusuf

Pathan, Ravindra Jadeja,

Ravichandran Ashwin, Umesh

Yadav, Vinay Kumar, Ashok

Dinda, Pankaj Singh, Amit

Mishra, Pragyan Ojha, Naman

India v Zim, Bulawayo

SL v Zim, Bulawayo

India v Zim, Harare

India v SL, Harare

Final, Harare

Sri Lanka v Zim, Harare

30 India v S L, Bulawayo

tournament."

SQUAD

Ojha.

**SCHEDULE** 

PTI, Kolkata

India's star off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, rested for tour of Zimbabwe Wednesday said he would root for Brazil in the upcoming FIFA World Cup beginning June 11 in South Africa.

Harbhajan a

Harbhajan confessed while he is not an avid football follower, his favourite side is title favourite Brazil.

"My favourite side is Brazil. I hope they beat all the opposition and win the World Cup. I will support them."

With the selectors opting to test India's bench strength in their upcoming tour of Zimbabwe starting May 28th, Harbhajan is busy utilising the break to decorate his newly-built house in Jalandhar.

"Of course, it's a welcome break. I just finished my new house. I am spending a lot of time with my family and utilising the time away from cricket as we get very little

# Soderling, Venus advance

FROM PAGE 17

plan and not worry a ton about what my opponent is doing."

Like Soderling, men's eighth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was also in a hurry, taking just 89 minutes to clinch a 6-0, 6-1, 6-4 win over French compatriot and childhood friend Josselin Ouanna. Tsonga, the world number

10, will face either Spanish number 32 seed Guillermo Garcia-Lopez or Dutchman Thiemo De Bakker in the next round.

Also progressing to the third round were Croatian 11th seed Marin Cilic, who defeated Spain's Daniel Gimeno-Traver 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, and Serbian Viktor Troicki, who saw off Australian wildcard Carsten

Two-time semi-finalist Nadia Petrova of Russia, the 19th seed, breezed past Hungary's 2005 Roland Garros junior champion Agnes Szavay 6-1, 6-2. The 27-year-old Petrova will

next take on either French 15th pion in Madrid two weeks ago, or Germany's Angelique Kerber.

Later Wednesday, defending champion Roger Federer takes on Colombia's Alejandro Falla, the world number 70, who he has beaten twice in his career without dropping a set.

Top seed Federer, chasing a 17th Grand Slam title, defeated Falla at the same stage of Roland Garros in 2006.

British fourth seed Andy Murray, who escaped a five-set thriller to defeat Richard Gasquet in the first round faces gritty clay-courter Juan Ignacio Chela, one year after defeating the Argentine in the first round here.

Murray has won their last seed Aravane Rezai, the cham- five meetings without dropping set, including the second round in Madrid two weeks ago.

Women's third seed Caroline Wozniacki tackles experienced Italian Tathiana Garbin, who famously put out Justine Henin in the second round in 2004, in her second round.

Defending champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, the fifth seed, takes on Germany's Andrea Petkovic.

# Strauss serious about

great to be part of it again and

start putting in place some of

the things I've been thinking

Strauss might struggle to re-

assert his authority, with fellow

opener Alastair Cook captain-

ing the side in Bangladesh and

now injured batsman Paul

Collingwood leading the team

regrets about taking a break.

But Strauss said he'd no

"The downside was the

"I've had my break -- I can't

short-term, change of leader-

ship. Hopefully, the upside will

see myself having one in near

future, so now's the time for me

to take the reins again and keep

working on during his time off

from international cricket,

Strauss replied: "We've had

quite a lot of success over the

last 12 months -- the Ashes, the

in the world in Test and one-

day international cricket, so it's

not all about slapping each

others' backs and telling every-

need to improve on in Test

cricket. We don't make enough

big hundreds -- we'll look to

improve on that over the sum-

mer, as well as some of our

bowling when conditions are

not in our favour, and we still

want our fielding to be the best

"There are clearly areas we

Asked what plans he'd been

at the World Twenty 20.

outweigh that.

us moving forward.

WorldTwenty20.

one how brilliant it is.

in the world.

that right now."

There had been concerns

about while I've been away."

**FROM PAGE 17** 

don't win by an innings at both Lord's and Old Trafford, where the second and final Test starts a week on Friday.

But Strauss said: "We'll be marking ourselves not on win/lose, but how close we get to playing the type of cricket we want to play. "If we do it, no doubt we'll

win Tests.'

Strauss, who has been playing county cricket for Middlesex, said he was eager to return to international cricket.

"I'm incredibly excited to be among the group again, especially after what they achieved in the West Indies."

And he insisted he had no regrets about having to watch England win their first major one-day title without him.

"The reason I didn't make myself available is probably the very reason they went on and won it. The first six overs are so crucial and it's not a massive strength of mine to be whacking the ball straight over the bowler's head, which is why I didn't feel myself among the best T20 players in the country and didn't make myself avail-

"It's fantastic the likes of (Craig) Kieswetter and (Richard) Lumb, played with that freedom which is so important.

"I had no regrets at not being there, but had a huge amount of enjoyment and satisfaction out of seeing them doing so well and playing that way."

Looking at the current squad -- which contains four Twenty20 'survivors' in Kevin Pietersen, Eoin Morgan, Graeme Swann and Tim Bresnan -- Strauss added: "It's

#### No referral

**FROM PAGE 17** challenge an on-field

umpire's decision, with the third umpire using television technology to decide whether the men in the middle have got it right.

However, this option won't be available in the England-Bangladesh series, where UDRS was set to be used in England for the first time, although on-field officials will still be able to refer line decisions such as run-outs and stumpings to the third umpire.

An ICC spokesman told AFP via telephone on Tuesday: "Despite constructive negotiations with the host broadcaster (Sky) we have been unable to reach agreement on the allocation of costs for UDRS.

"The whole question of UDRS costs will be raised at the next ICC board meeting in Singapore in June and, depending on the outcome of the board meeting, we may revisit the question of UDRS for the rest of the English "But we're still number five Pakistan play Australia in a

two-Test neutral series in England in July before England take on Pakistan in a four-Test campaign. Cost issues also led to the

abandonment of UDRS in the series between Bangladesh and England in Bangladesh earlier this year. Some broadcasters who, in

certain cases, are already investing hundreds of million of pounds in both cricket rights and coverage, are reluctant to shoulder all the costs of UDRS implementation.

"You look at those areas and A Sky spokesman consay there's huge room for improvement. We need to do tacted by AFP refused to make an on-the-record comment.

## MSC's fifth draw

SPORTS REPORTER

**Mohammedan Sporting Club** came from one goal down to play out a 1-1 draw against Chittagong Mohammedan in the Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. It was the fifth draw for the

Black and Whites, who had a faint hope of winning the elusive professional league title provided Abahani lost their two remaining games, but their perennial foes completed their hattrick of league titles, beating Farashganj 4-0 in their penultimate game on Tuesday. Knowing it too well that a

win against Chittagong

Mohammedan would only increase their points, Mohammedan turned up to battle their prestige but they looked very unorgansied from the beginning in the absence of their Nigerian trio, who skipped the training because of unpaid wages over five months after their match against Beanibazar and coach Mohammad Ponir kept them out of the players' list. Mohammedan, who had

earlier confirmed a finish behind champions Abahani, went down eight minutes into the second half when Akbar Hossain Ridon played a fine one-two with Mohammad Lamin Suma to advance into the box before cracking a leftfooter past Mohammedan goalkeeper Aminul Haque.

After going down, Mohammedan refocused to press hard and struck the equalizer in the 76th minute when substitute striker Nasir Chowdhury dodged past a defender to cut it back to an unmarked Abdul Baten Komol, who sent the ball into the open net. Mohammedan now have

59 points from 23 matches while Chittagong Mohammedan raised their tally to 25 from 23 outings.

### Zim tri-series on Ten Sports

PTI, New Delhi

Broadcaster Ten Sports will telecast live the three-nation cricket series involving India and Sri Lanka to be held in Zimbabwe from May 28-June India will begin their

campaign in the series on May 28 against the hosts at Bulawayo and then play Sri Lanka on May 30 at the same The matches will be tele-

cast live both from Harare and Bulawayo, a release said today.

India's next two matches will be held in Harare -against Zimbabwe on June 3 and Sri Lanka on June 5. The final of the tri-series will be held on June 9 in Harare.

"This is going to be an exciting series involving the Indian national team Cricket fans are looking forward for the Indian national team to return to their winning ways.

# Finn wants to be McGrath

Cricket

AFP, London

England pace bowler Steven Finn wants to make his mark in Test cricket just as his idol, Australia great Glenn McGrath, has already done.

But if Finn does go on to enjoy a successful international career, he believes much of the credit will go to former England seamer Angus Fraser. The 21-year-old Finn, who played his first two

Tests in Bangladesh earlier this year after a late call-up following injuries to Stuart Broad, Graham Onions and Ryan Sidebottom, could make his home debut against the Asian nation at Lord's -- where he plays for Middlesex -- on Thursday.

At 6ft 7in tall, Finn is seen as a potential successor to Stephen Harmison and someone who could yet do well on the generally harder Australian pitches England are likely to encounter when they defend the Ashes 'Down Under' later this year.

But Finn is anxious to avoid being labelled so early in his career.

"It would be nice to have a lot of pace and be able to control it," he told reporters at Lord's here on Tuesday. "That's the ideal fast bowler. At the moment, I

am somewhere in between the two. By no means am I the finished article." He added: "I have my idols, people like Glenn

McGrath who was a fantastic bowler, best bowler in my opinion who has ever played the game. It

would be nice to play in the sort of environment he was playing in a few years ago and see how I can do."

But a more direct influence on Finn's progress has come from former Middlesex stalwart Fraser, now the county's cricket director.

"Angus Fraser who has been a very big help, is a great believer in just bowling, bowling and bowling," Finn explained. "That will get you fit and that will teach you how to bowl. I believe in that too." "At the moment I am still learning about my

game. I've spoken a lot to Gus about this. I don't want to be like anyone else, I want to be Steven Finn. "Gus has brought discipline, an analytical approach to the way I bowl," Finn added.

"There's a lot more thought process that goes in to what I do, the working out of batsmen, the way it really hurts me when I give away runs. "I hate it, just as much as Gus did. He would stand there swearing, punching himself. He's helped bring in to my game a lot more discipline

and I think that's important I carry that into any sort of cricket I play." Turning to the prospect of playing a Test at Lord's, Finn, who made his Middlesex debut as a 16-year-old, added: It's something I have dreamed of since I first came to watch a Test here

in 2001. If I get the opportunity this week, it will be a great experience. "I wasn't expecting this 18 months ago or even six months ago. I wasn't expecting an inter-

national debut in 2010, I just take each game as it comes. That's all I can do and I think it will stand me in good stead."

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

In reply, Viqarunnisa finished their 20-over quota for 52 for eight with only one player -- Sumaiya Anwar--reaching 13 runs. In the day's other match at

the same venue, Amjad Ali Sarker Pilot Girls High School-D (50-2) beat Azimpur Girls High School & College (47-10) by eight wickets. In the both innings, highest

run came from extras. DIVIBASKETBALL

#### The Gregarious Club emerged

champions of the First Division Basketball League with 28 points in the 15-team point table after Dhumketu finished second with a 93-61 win over Europa Youth Club yesterday. Dhumketu dominated the

first half 51-20 in the first half against last year's champion, who had to be content with a third place securing 27 points, a point less than the runners-up.

Sports Ahad Ali Sarker distributed prizes among the winners as Samsuzzaman Khan was named the best player while Rumel Gomes of Hornet was named the emerging player in the league. **COOLINE RUGBY** 

State Minister for Youth and

#### The Cooline AC Rugby tourna-

ment gets underway today at the Outer Stadium adjacent to Bangabandhu National Stadium with six teams taking part. The participating teams,

split into two groups, will play the round robin matches and the top team from each group will advance to the final, scheduled to be held on May 30. On the opening day,

Sonargaon Nayapur Seven Star take on Lalbagh Rugby team with State Minister for Youth and Sports M Ahad Ali Sarker present as the chief guest in the opening ceremony.

# Can Tigers prove

FROM PAGE 17

saying: "Collingwood is a very important player for England in the middle order and Stuart Broad is the best Test bowler for England at the moment, so it's good for us."

Morgan had made his name as a Twenty20 and one-day batsman and Jahurul added: "Eoin is a very good player but it's better for us because he plays shots and that will give us chances. Collingwood plays very long innings.

And as for facing Finn, Tamim said: "I faced Dale Steyn (arguably the world's fastest bowler right now) in South Africa.

"I think there won't be a problem."

For England, as is often the case in the home season preceding an Ashes tour, a big challenge will be focusing on the task at hand.

This is something that affects fans at all levels as Morgan discovered when he

met British Prime Minister David Cameron at a Downing Street reception for the World Twenty20 side on Monday.

"I think he was more excited about it (the Ashes) than I was He was just buzzing off the fact he might get a free trip!"

TEAMS ENGLAND (from): Andrew

15

Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen, Jonathan Trott, Eoin Morgan, Matt Prior, Graeme Swann, Tim Bresnan, James Anderson, Steven Finn, Ajmal Shahzad. BANGLADESH (from): Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes Mohammad Ashraful, Junaid Siddique, Jahurul Islam, Mohammad Mahmudullah, Mushfigur Rahim, Naeem Islam, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain, Rubel Hossain,

Robiul Islam. Umpires: Billy Bowden and Asoka de Silva.

Shafiul Islam, Mahbubul Alam,

# Altitude

FROM PAGE 17 "Those of us that were there

last year remember how cold it gets, as well as the rain. We're lucky enough in Italy to have nice, high mountains and we're taking advantage of them." Germany are also training

in northern Italy, while France have based themselves in Tignes in the Rhone-Alpes During a specialized train-

ing session Tuesday, Italy's players had monitors applied to their chests and held digital devices in their hands to check their heart rates as they ran laps around the field. There wasn't one drill involving a

"You can feel the elevation. When you're running or accelerating, afterward it takes more time to recuperate,' Cannavaro said. "We're trying to train at high intensity for shorter periods so we have more time to recuperate."

Castellacci said that the team have starting training at a "much slower" pace than it usually does.

> "As the body adapts more we can start training normally. The plan is that after 15 days here we'll be ready to train like we always do," Castellacci

To take full advantage of the altitude camp, Italy will travel back and forth to upcoming friendlies in Brussels (vs. Mexico) and Geneva (vs. Switzerland) on the same day, so the players

can sleep in Sestriere. Players are also being asked to sleep in Sestriere during their few days off.

"The secret is to try and stay at altitude as much as possible," Castellacci said. "We don't have much time -just these 15 days."

Italy flies to South Africa on June 8 and will open against Paraguay on June 14. The other opponents in Group F are New Zealand and Slovakia.

20

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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49 Calendar

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD I MAKE AN INTERNET SITE THAT PROMOTES PUNCTUATION

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals H

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**CRYPTOQUIP** 

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