

NAT'L HANDBALL

BJMC women retain title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) clinched the Exim Bank 23rd National Women's Handball title beating 14-time champions Bangladesh Ansar by 27-20 goals in the final at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

The winning team led the first half 12-10. Shahida was the top scorer with 10 goals while Khaleida netted six, both for BJMC. Ismat Ara scored nine and Rawshan Ara netted four goals for Ansar. BJMC's Shahida was adjudged the best player of the tournament.

This is the second successive and seventh overall national title for BJMC.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar distributed prizes as the chief guest among the winners.

Snr Div TT

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel KC notched up their sixth consecutive win in the Dhaka Metropolis Table Tennis League yesterday when they defeated Wari Club in 3-0 sets at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Wooden Floor Gymnasium. In the other matches, Mariner Sporting Club and Biman Bangladesh also won in 3-0 sets against Molar TT and Destiny TT Club respectively while Palalik Club beat Ajax SC by 3-1 sets and Armanitola JS defeated Cicerone TT Club by 3-2 sets.

Div I cricket

FROM PAGE 16

ground and Dhaka Wanderers Club beat Orient Sporting Club by 26 runs at BKSP.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AGRANI BANK CRICKET CLUB: 229-7 in 50 overs (Maruf Reza 68, Saddam Hossain 55, Jobairul Islam 53; Moinul Islam 3-42).

MAGNUM CRICKETERS: 233-4 in 36.3 overs (Mehedi Hasan 106, Soheli Rana 82; Aatur Rahman 2-52, Saddam Hossain 1-13).

Result: Magnum Cricketers won by six wickets.

TASIN HASIN CRICKET ACADEMY: 254 all out in 47.5 overs (Rusel Mia 57, Arifur Rahman 43, Sajib 40, Rahatul Fuad 35; Nirjon Bhadro 3-42, Monirul 3-33).

KATHALBAGAN GREEN CRESCENT CLUB: 234 all out in 48 overs (Rezwan Tanim 42, Proshenjeet 38, Nirjon Bhadra 36, Minhaj Khan 35; Raihan Uddin 6-44, Rahatul Fuad 2-40).

Result: Tasin Hasin Cricket Academy won by 20 runs.

BIMAN: 127 all out in 49.2 overs (Abdullah-Al-Mamun 34, Proshanto Das 27; Humoyun 3-16, Omar Faruk 2-24, Nihaduzzaman 2-15).

PARTEX SPORTING CLUB: 130-2 in 17.4 overs (Salahuddin Pappu 59, Aslam Hossain 27, Robiul Karim 22; Rashedul Islam 2-38).

Result: Partex Sporting Club won by eight wickets.

DHAKA WANDERERS CLUB: 160-9 in 46 overs (Faruq Hossain 52, Asadul Habib 42; Ali Hossain 3-20, Imrul Karim 3-29).

ORIENT SPORTING CLUB: 134 all out in 44.2 overs (Mosharaf Babu 39, Ikhtedar Nazees 30, Faysal Bin Mostak 3-24; Faisal Ahmed 2-23, Saddam Khan 2-31).

Result: Dhaka Wanderers Club won by 26 runs.

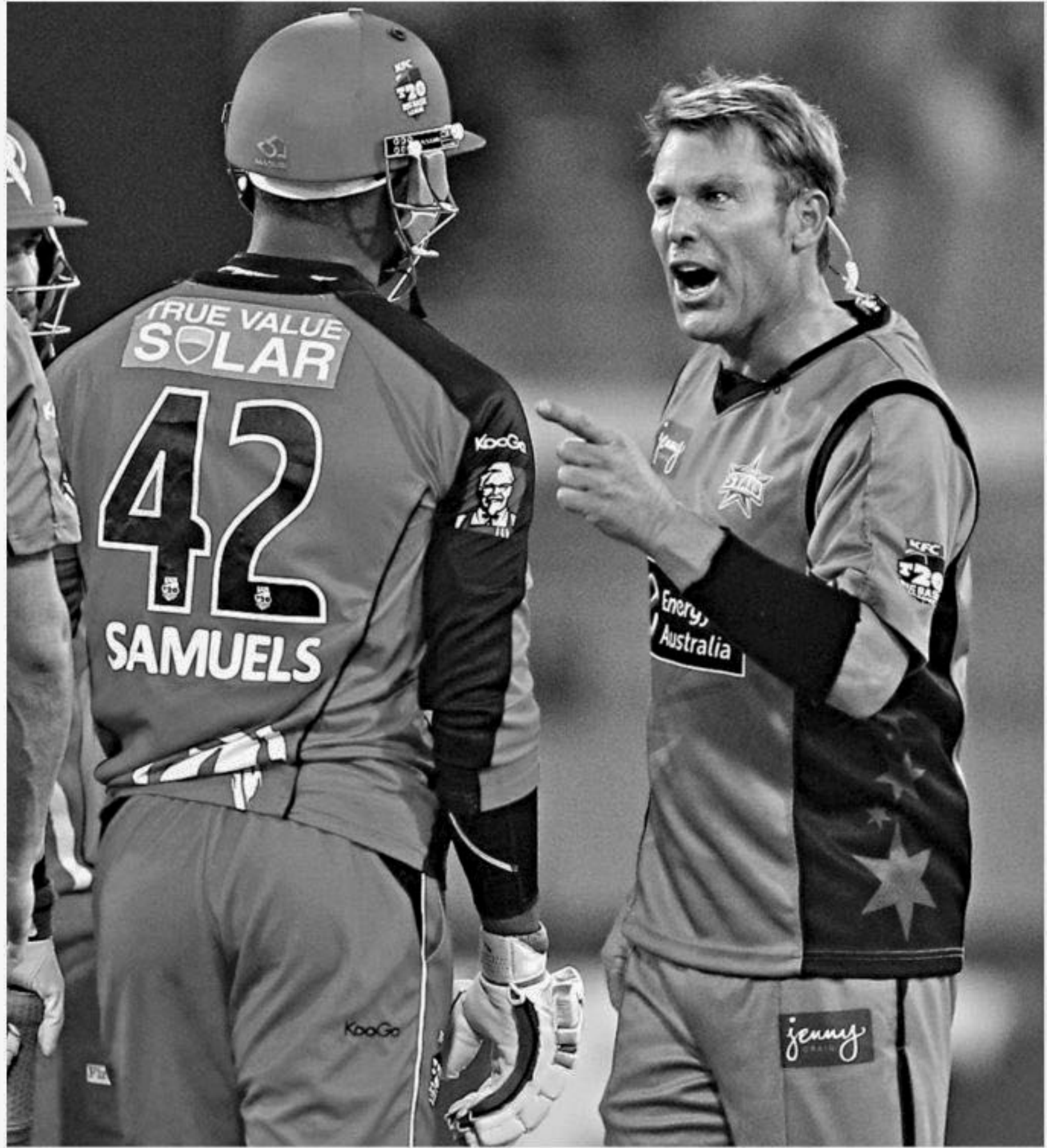


PHOTO: INTERNET

Australian spin legend and Melbourne Stars captain Shane Warne (R) loses his cool against Melbourne Renegades' Marlon Samuels in their Big Bash T20 League match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. Warne was handed a one-match ban for, among other things, using abusive language while wearing a microphone.

Warne's guilty feeling

Banned, fined for ugly clash with Samuels



AFP, Melbourne

Australian star Shane Warne admitted Monday he went too far after being banned for one match and fined 4,500 Australian dollars for an ugly, foul-mouthed clash with West Indian Marlon Samuels.

The spin legend, captaining the Melbourne Stars against city rivals the Renegades in the domestic Big Bash tournament on Sunday, was furious that Samuels pulled back David Hussey when the batsman was turning for a second run.

Then when Samuels was batting later in the game, Warne confronted the West Indian with the words "Fuck you, Marlon".

In the next over Warne, in the field, threw the ball at the Jamaican's chest and Samuels reacted by tossing his bat down the pitch towards the Australian.

The two players squared up and had to be separated by the umpires.

Samuels was later forced to retire hurt when he top-edged a Lasith Malinga delivery into his eye. With blood gushing from his face, he needed hospital treatment.

Cricket Australia on Monday charged both players with multiple breaches of its code of behaviour and in Warne's case found him guilty of three of four offences.

The veteran leg-spinner was sanctioned for dissent at an umpire's

decision, using obscene language and deliberate physical contact.

But he was cleared of another charge of throwing the ball at or near the West Indian in an "inappropriate and/or dangerous manner".

Samuels faces two breaches -- deliberate physical contact and unbecoming behaviour -- but it is not clear when the charges will be heard as he is nursing a suspected serious eye injury.

Stars' batsman Cameron White was also charged with dissent and received a suspended 1,000-dollar fine. The Renegades won the game by nine wickets in front of a record Australian domestic Twenty20 crowd of 46,581.

Warne, who cannot play in his team's Tuesday night clash against Sydney Thunder in Melbourne, initially claimed he had been harshly treated.

"I'm disappointed in some of my actions last night. Also I'm pretty disappointed with the severity of the penalties too," he said after the hearing.

"I think that was pretty harsh."

But he later backed down, saying his behaviour overstepped the mark.

"I have decided to accept my penalty of a one-match ban. Let's hope the boys can win tomorrow and we can make the semi-finals," Warne tweeted.

"Thanks for support guys, sport can be emotional and at times very passionate too. I went to far in trying to stand up for the team."

Dutch duo is here

FROM PAGE 16

"This is the age of internet and you can find everything there. You know I was a coach in Nigeria. I saw that three of my ex players -- Ude Demain [Mohammed], Joseph Ozurumba [Muktijoddha Sangsadi] and Chinedu Ezimorah [Sheikh Jamal DC] -- are playing in Bangladesh league."

"We came here to improve the game in Bangladesh. And, of course, do something and make everything and everyone a bit better over here, that is our first goal," said de Kruif. "We want to make the players better which is typically Dutch and we want to do that here."

De Kruif believes he can take Bangladesh to at least 50 steps higher in the FIFA rankings -- to something between 100th and 120th position -- after a year of work.

"The FIFA rankings depend a lot on the number of games a team plays. As far as I know Bangladesh has a busy year ahead. In that case, the team can be lifted up to the 100th to 120th position."

Echoing the sentiment

of de Kruif, his assistant Koster, who is supposed to take charge of the BFF Academy in Sylhet, said his aim would be developing football in Bangladesh as he had experience of working in academies with youngsters.

Ctg DC Gold Cup

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Feni Jilla Krira Sangstha defeated Laxmipur Jilla Krira Sangstha 2-0 in the opening match of the Chittagong Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament at the Bhasha Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni yesterday. Javed Khan and Nigerian recruit Lucky scored for the winning side. Earlier, Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong, Sirajul Haque Khan inaugurated the tournament.

Rangamati has been selected as the other venue of the tournament. A total of six teams, split into two groups, will compete in the two venues before the top four make it to the semifinals in Feni.

Good day for Asians

AFP, Sydney

Former champion Li Na and Zheng Jie starred on a successful day for Asian players on Monday at the Sydney International, the last major lead-in tournament to next week's Australian Open.

Fourth seed Li had a straight sets victory over American Christina McHale, while fellow Chinese world number 42 Zheng upset Samantha Stosur in the night match in three sets.

But it wasn't plain sailing for Li, who came from an early break down to beat McHale 7-6 (7/2) 7-5 in two hours to set up a second round meeting with Japanese qualifier Ayumi Morita.

Li, who won the Shenzhen Open title last week, had her breakthrough year in 2011 where she won in Sydney before reaching the Australian Open final and going on to win the French Open.

Morita continued the Asian success when she fought back after dropping the opening set to oust Slovak Daniela Hantuchova 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Zheng, who became the first Chinese player to reach a grand slam semi-final at Wimbledon in 2008.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Azarenka, Djokovic top seeds

AFP, Sydney

World number ones Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka were named the top seeds on Monday for next week's Australian Open in Melbourne.

Djokovic, who beat Rafael Nadal in five sets in last year's final, will be bidding for his third successive Australian Open title at Melbourne Park.

Roger Federer, who has a record 17 grand slam titles in 24 finals, is the second seed ahead of US Open champion Andy Murray and Spain's David Ferrer.

Nadal will miss the year-opening grand slam as he is suffering from a stomach virus.

Aamra to partner BSJA

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) signed an agreement with Aamra Networks Ltd (ANL), one of the leading internet service providers of the country as its IT partner yesterday.

As per the deal, Aamra will provide all the IT solutions for the sports journalists' organisation including high speed internet connection.

BSJA general secretary Saidur Rahman Shamim and ANL's managing director Syed Farhad Ahmed signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations at the BSJA office.

Mashrafe

FROM PAGE 16

playing in the domestic leagues. But I think the BPL and IPL are a bit similar, except that the BPL has a 'homely' atmosphere, since I know all the players," he added.

Also present in the press conference was Mohammad Ashraful who hoped to revive his fortunes through the second edition of the BPL. "I performed well in the couple of T20 matches that I played for the national team. I hope I can serve the team's needs," said Ashraful.

Veteran slow-left arm bowler Mohammad Rafique was named the assistant coach of the team while former national player Sanwar Hossain was named the team manager.

Misbah blames weather

CRICINFO, Delhi



Pakistan's captain Misbahul Haq has said changes in conditions through the course of the day were responsible for India securing a 10-run victory in the third ODI in Delhi on Sunday. Defeat for Pakistan, who won the series 2-1, came after their attack put on another quality display, restricting India to 167, but their batsmen failed to chase down the target.

Delhi had recorded another cold day, the minimum temperature dipping to 1.9 degrees late into the night, which made the run chase difficult for the visitors.

"The weather made all the difference. Survival became difficult as the fog descended," Misbah said. "The pitch, which looked like a batting track, changed its behaviour as the temperature dipped. I did not expect such moisture. So weather played a crucial role."

At the toss, Misbah had said Pakistan were used to playing in cold conditions because Lahore also has similar weather conditions at this time of the year. But the fog along with the cold made it more difficult for his batsmen to settle down during the chase.

"It was very cold. We played under such conditions during our domestic T20 league back home and when we were

preparing for the India series, but [we've not experienced them] in international matches on the subcontinent," he said. "It was very difficult to bat on. It will be difficult for India and England in the coming series to play under such cold conditions."

"When we started the run chase, the Indian seamers got movement and swing, the spinners got the required turn and bounce. When they batted, only Mahendra Singh Dhoni could manage to score runs, when we batted it was open to Nasir Jamshed. Apart from the duo, no other batsman from both the sides could score runs."

Jamshed and Dhoni were the only batsmen with more than 100 runs in the series, making 241 and 203 respectively. While Dhoni's knock of 113 not out in Chennai was in vain, Jamshed's hundreds in the first two matches ensured Pakistan's victory and earned him the Man-of-the-Series award.

Pakistan's failure to capitalise on the start they got in Delhi, thereby missing out on a cleansweep, was a source of some frustration for them but Misbah credited India's effort. "We missed the chance to sweep the series," he said. "The Indian bowlers exploited the conditions well. Their fielding was great as they saved at least 30-35 runs. It was an exceptional bowling and fielding effort."

Inconsistency costs SL



CRICINFO, Sydney

Sri Lanka coach Graham Ford said his side had positives to take from a 3-0 drubbing in Australia, but had ultimately been undone by inconsistency, after Australia completed the whitewash with a five-wicket win in Sydney. Previously in the series, Sri Lanka had been close to achieving a draw in Hobart, where they were bowled out with only 10.4 overs remaining until stumps on day five, but had also sunk to their third-heaviest defeat in the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

The visitors could not dominate Australia throughout the series, and also conceded substantial first-innings deficits in each match. The batsmen could only muster one score in excess of 300, and only once batted out a session without losing a wicket.

Sri Lanka were also sloppy in the field, particularly in Melbourne where five chances went down in Australia's innings, and did not sustain pressure on Australia with the ball. Their poor use of the DRS also contributed to their failure.

"We've got to look at ourselves and accept there were areas where we were

short and consistency is an important thing," Ford said. "There were periods when we were every bit as good as the Australians, but we weren't able to sustain that. We had the odd session every now and then when we set ourselves back quite badly."

Ford said Sri Lanka were encouraged by their performance in Sydney, particularly as their batting in the last Test was driven largely by contributions from the side's young batsmen. Twenty three-year-old Lahiru Thirimanne's 91 was the highest score in the first innings, while Dimuth Karunaratne, 24, top-scored in the second innings with 85. Dinesh Chandimal, 23, then helped his side recover from a middle-order collapse, as he batted with the tail to take Sri Lanka's lead to 140. He made 62 not out, having forged a 41-run partnership with Nuwan Pradeep for the last wicket.

"A couple of the young guys who have been given opportunities have shown that they can play at this level. What I was happy with on the final day was the pride and the passion and the way they went out and fought. A lot of people didn't feel the Test would continue for as long as it did. A chap like Nuwan Pradeep going out and handling some nasty pace he wasn't

equipped to handle -- he really showed some character, along with young Chandimal. The boys certainly never gave up in the field until the last run was scored."

Niaz in 2nd position

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Niaz Murshed was in second position, along with 18 others, with 3 points after the 4th round of the 11th Delhi International Open Chess Festival in Delhi, India yesterday. In the 4th round Niaz drew with Ram Krishnan of India.

Liza, Shirin take lead

SPORTS REPORTER

WIM Shamima Akter Liza and Sharmin Sultana Shirin jointly took the lead yesterday after the 8th round of the Sultana Kamal 33rd National Women's Chess Championship with 6.5 points each. WFM Zakia Sultana was in 2nd position with 6 points. Liza beat Hamida Khan, Zakia lost to Mahmuda Hoque Chowdhury Moly while Shirin got walk-over against Arifa Khatun in yesterday's matches.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Strait-laced

6 Makes dirty

11 Not wobbly

12 WWII fleet

14 Chinese dumpling

15 Chocolate treat

16 As well as

17 Flood preventer

19 UN workers' org.

20 Unembellished

22 Turf

23 Took off

24 Practical joke

26 Lacking a cover

28 Energy

30 "Piggy"

31 Mercurous chloride

35 Is capable, Biblically

39 Follow orders

40 Felon's flight

42 Big truck

43 Historical period

44 Cagney's TV partner

46 Very long time

47 Castle's inner tower

49 2012 Olympics site

51 Zen enlightenment

52 Score

53 Motherless calf

54 Ai or unau

DOWN

1 Pothead

2 Caribou country

3 Illustrations

4 "American—"

5 Units of force

6 Work on manuscripts in Britain

7 Reed instrument

8 Charged bit

9 Chemically unstable

10 Fur pieces

11 Morass

13 Hemingway's "The — of Kilimanjaro"

18 Abbr. on a book's spine

21 Representative

23 Dog bane?

25 A Kar-dashian

27 A Dwarf

29 Actress Griffith

31 Dorm denizens, often

32 Overseas

33 Shed

34 Varnish ingredient

36 Has no obligation to

37 Level

38 Lacking resonance

41 Dissolves

44 Actress Singer

45 Loud, long, mournful cry

48 Trot

50 Ultra-modernist

Solution time: 27 mins.

TERRA	SAW	BAS
SNAIL	ELI	RNA
PENAL	RANGO	ON
GLEVER	RODE	
PAH	YON	GAMER
IGET	CANED	
CORONA	OMERTA	
WELSH	DAWN	
CARAT	COG	NOD
AGAR	COWERS	
RANDALL	TEARS	
GIG	DID	UNCUT
ONE	OPS	POKEY

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CRYPTOQUIP

Y R G W F J M P Y K M G L P J Y F

HYQQYR GEYG RJQQR TIFMVEGR

Y P H D Y D L V F Y P H R K W T Q H

D J K Y Q Q J H I Q Y P W I M Y P W .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE FOLKS

REALLY LIKE PLAYING EIGHTEEN-HOLE ROUNDS

WAY DOWN SOUTH IN THE GOLF STATES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T