

**Tania Rokeya Hall's best**

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Tania Afrin, a Masters student of the Islamic History and Culture department, emerged champion in the annual sports competition of Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University, held yesterday. Afrin Afroz, a 4th year student of the mathematics department, finished runner-up in the daylong meet. DU pro-VC professor Dr Shahid Akhtar Hossain distributed prizes after the meet.

**Delhi chess**

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
GM Niaz Murshed beat IM Saptarshi Roy of India in the ninth round of the 11th Delhi International Open Chess Festival in Delhi, India. Niaz won with white pieces against Saptarshi. The win lifted Niaz to 6 points from 9 games. Earlier in the eighth round, Niaz lost against IM Vakhidov Jahongir of Uzbekistan.

**TOUR OF S AFRICA  
Pakistan drop three Akmals**

**ANI, Islamabad**  
Pakistan selectors have named a 16-member Test team for their upcoming series against South Africa with Akmal brothers, Kamran, Umar and Adnan getting the axe. Opener Nasir Jamshed, batsman Haris Sohail and pace bowlers Mohammad Irfan and Ehsan Adil were included in the squad for the Test series, starting from February 1 in South Africa, the Daily Times reports. Pakistan would play three Tests against the world number one team in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Centurion. Nasir and Irfan secured their places in the team with good performances during the short tour of India while young Ehsan has been inducted for his outstanding domestic performance. Haris was part of the ODI squad to India but did not get a game. The selection committee has also recalled wicketkeeper-batsman Sarfraz Ahmad and batsman Faisal Iqbal.

**SQUAD**

Misbahul Haq (captain), Mohammad Hafeez, Taufiq Umer, Nasir Jamshed, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq, Younus Khan, Sarfraz Ahmad (wicket-keeper), Umar Gul, Junaid Khan, Mohammad Irfan, Ehsan Adil, Saeed Ajmal, Abdur Rehman, Harris Sohail and Faisal Iqbal.

**Brothers break**

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Francis. But the numerical disadvantage did not deter Brothers as they kept pressing to kill the game, and the second goal came at the hour-mark when Nigerian striker Kingsley Chigozie dribbled past two defenders from the left flank before placing the ball at the back of the farpost. Brothers' assistant coach Arif Khan Pannu said it was a relief for his side to break the duck after six matches. "We are relieved that we have got the first points in the league, which eased some of the relegation fears," said Pannu. "The coach (Ladi Baba Lola) is a modern coach with a lot of brilliant ideas and likes attacking football. The thing is, the players cannot convert his ideas into play for their lack of application and understanding, which has let us down often."

**Brothers' assistant coach Arif Khan Pannu**

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**Australian Bernard Tomic poses with the Sydney International trophy after he won the final against Kevin Anderson of South Africa on Saturday.** PHOTO: REUTERS

**Tomic's first ATP title**

**Tennis**  
**AFP, Sydney**  
Rising Australian star Bernard Tomic clinched his first ATP Tour title with a fighting win over South African Kevin Anderson in the final of the Sydney International on Saturday. Tomic claimed his eighth straight win of the year in downing the 36th-ranked Anderson 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 6-3 in one hour and 55 minutes, setting himself up for the Australian Open, which begins Monday, and saying he felt "unstoppable". Tomic is the first Australian winner of the Sydney tournament since Lleyton Hewitt in 2005 and the first 20-year-old event winner since Roger Federer in 2002. "I couldn't ask for anything more. It's an amazing feeling," Tomic said. "Now that I know what it feels like to win a tournament, and it's the best feeling in the world. "I'm so happy I won. I can't stop here now. Now I've got to look to the next tournament and keep playing the tennis I've been playing." He will head the Australian Open in Melbourne with his ranking down to 43 and with a chance of facing the 17-time Grand Slam champion and second seed Federer in the third round. Tomic begins with a match against Argentina's Leonardo Mayer on Tuesday. "I've got a good opponent in the first round and I'm playing great tennis. I feel unstoppable. I feel like I'm playing great tennis," he said. "When you know that no one can beat you, not even the No.1, you've got a good feeling. "It's amazing stepping on court. You're so confident. That's going to be taken down to Melbourne and I'm going to use that for every match I play there." Tomic began confidently, breaking Anderson's opening service game and holding a break point in the sixth game before wrapping up the set in 28 minutes. But he encountered stiffer opposition from Anderson in the second set, fighting off a break point on serve in the eighth game before taking it to a tiebreaker, which the South African dominated to make it one set all. Tomic had the Anderson serve under pressure in the third set, breaking in the eighth game on his fourth break point when Anderson double-faulted. Tomic confidently served out for the match for his first career senior title. It was his second victory over Anderson. The confident youngster has begun 2013 in blazing style starting with three wins in the mixed teams Hopman Cup, including a triumph in Perth over world number one Novak Djokovic. "I'm really fit and that's why I feel fine," Tomic said. "It's just amazing what I've done the last few months and got my body to where it is and my tennis is improving each day. "To get all these matches under my belt is a big confidence and this is what you need in this sport." Anderson, 26, was the first South African to reach the final of the Sydney International.

**Papon unfazed by Zaka reaction**

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The BCB boss also informed that they have not made any specific decisions about a date for the tour during their discussion in Delhi but said that they will send a security team as soon as possible. "I firstly explained our position to him about why we could not send the team and I thought he understood our problem. He was reasonable and his hospitality was really good. We have not made any specific decisions about a date for the tour," said Papon. "We talked about a time slot, which will be between the end of March and the start of April. I told Zaka that we will send a security team as soon as I return to Dhaka and we think it is time to send a second security team. A lot of time has passed as the inspection team last visited in March last year. Over the next few days, we will sit with the government about forming the team so that we can send the team as soon as possible," he added. Papon responded strongly when asked about Kamal's comments about there not being any unconditional commitment to tour Pakistan and also said that they will ask the game's governing body for clarification on the comments. "I don't say anything without confirming and without knowing," said Papon, mentioning the exact dates of letters sent and quoting the exact language. "On April 12 last year, a letter was sent from the BCB, [which mentioned that] we were going there to play, but that tour didn't happen due to a court ruling. The second letter was sent from here on October 8 where a timeline of December 12 to 20 was given for touring. "Both these letters were sent during his [Kamal's] time. The directors told me they don't know anything about the letter. Our CEO [Nizamuddin Chowdhury] made all the communications on behalf of the board. He told me that it was Kamal bhai who asked him to send the letters," he said. Showing the minutes of the April 15, 2012 ICC meeting to the media, Papon continued, "We go back to April last year when we sent a letter on the 12th. In the April 15 ICC meeting, it was written in the minutes that Bangladesh will go to Pakistan and even if the ICC don't send match officials due to security concerns. We cannot cancel the tour, we have to go. "I don't know if there can be any more difficult conditions for touring. And for your information only Mustafa Kamal was present from Bangladesh in that meeting. Now if the minutes of the ICC meeting are challenged by the ICC as he is now vice-president, we would like clarification on this issue. We would also ask them why such a thing was written in the minutes when the vice-president himself is saying such a thing was not discussed," he said. He ended with 'so what he said was completely wrong. I have all the proof'. Papon also said that they will send a letter to Kamal, who recently criticised the changes made to the BCB constitution, asking him what the flaws are and why he approved it himself knowing about them.

**Newcomers count on local force**

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responsibility. Also in the team is Ireland's most prolific hitter, Kevin O' Brien, who was signed up for 45,000 dollars. While he may not have played an innings similar to the magical century against England in the 2011 World Cup in the recent past, his hard-hitting ability is bound to play a positive role. West Indian pacer Fidel Edwards will also feature for the Riders this year. Edwards, who has a great record against Bangladesh in Test cricket, will no doubt play a crucial role. **BEGINNERS' LUCK** Rangpur's team management claimed that they were still in the hunt for a pacer and a good all-rounder during the team's unveiling yesterday. With just six foreign players, Rangpur will want the lesser known Pakistani cricketers in the side to churn out a surprise. The underdogs of the competition, Riders will hope to ride on beginners' luck. **POSSIBLE COMBINATION** With just 15 players in the side, there isn't much that Razzak and Co can do. Junaed and Shamsur Rahman are expected to bat up the order, while Nasir and O'Brien can provide the impetus in the middle order. Razzak and Edwards will be expected to lead the bowling attack and the Pakistan trio of Sharjil Khan, Raja Ali Dar and Anwar Ali will most likely fill the remaining foreign spots, unless the franchise gets more players.

**Four Indians keen on PSL: Pak official**

**ANI, Islamabad**  
An official from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has claimed four Indian players have submitted applications to participate in their upcoming domestic Twenty20 tournament, the Pakistan Super League (PSL). The PSL looks set to kick off from March 26 at two different venues in Pakistan, possibly Lahore and Karachi, the Express Tribune reports. Both India and Bangladesh have refused to send their teams to Pakistan for bilateral series, but the official claimed top cricketers from both the countries are keen to play in the PSL. While refusing to share the names of those foreign players interested in the league, the PCB official confirmed that the interest was there. The official said the Bangladesh board doesn't want to send its national team to Pakistan but some top Bangladesh players have contacted them to become a part of the PSL. The official added that four Indian players are also interested in playing and have already submitted their applications to their board and their Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises to allow them to take part.

**SA in**

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The left-handed Elgar, struggling to establish himself in a strong South African batting line-up, played some fine attacking shots, particularly against off-spinner Jeetan Patel.

**SCOREBOARD**  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings (over-night 325-4)  
Peterson c Patel b Bracewell 21  
Smith c Watling b Wagner 54  
Amla c Watling b Boult 110  
Kallis c Watling b Bracewell 8  
De Villiers c Williamson b Patel 51  
Du Plessis c McCullum b Munro 137  
Elgar not out 103  
Peterson c Patel b Munro 8  
Steyn c Patel b Bracewell 5  
Kleinveeldt not out 7  
Extras (b-6, lb-8, nb-3, w-4) 21  
Total: (For 8 wickets dec, 153.5 overs) 525  
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-121, 3-137, 4-223, 5-336, 6-467, 7-481, 8-508

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Boult	32	5	108	1
Bracewell	34	6	94	3
Wagner	33	4	135	1

**'We should have won'**

**Cricket**  
**INTERNET, Rajkot**  
India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was gutted after losing the first ODI against England in Rajkot on Friday, after they nearly chased down the 326 required and lost by nine runs in the end, saying his side should have won. India looked on track to chase down the big score on the belter of a track, but while their batsmen got into the fifties more than once, they could not push on, and Dhoni felt that if he had stayed in the middle then they would have won. The disappointed skipper, who made 32, said: "Frankly we should have got that - it was a very fast outfield. You got value for your shots and if you found the gaps more often it hit the boundary. "I don't want to sound arrogant, but it was quite easy if me and [Suresh] Raina had stayed. I should have batted a few more overs and we would have got them. "I think when me and Raina were batting we had a good chance, but once he got out followed by me it made it very difficult." At the other end of the spectrum, England skipper Alastair Cook was obviously delighted with the win, saying it gave the side confidence after their previous series in India saw them destroyed 5-0. The batsman said: "It is important, for the main reason that it gives us the confidence. I mean it's pretty much the same squad that we had last time out here when we lost 5-0. "So to get an early win, especially in the first game, it proves to them that they can play in these conditions. You know it's hard, you know it's tough and it's different -- but I thought the way we fought out there, we're going to have to do that again in the other games." He then added: "I think we're still clear underdogs just because of the fact that this is India's home conditions and they're so strong at home." The second ODI will be played in Kochi on January 15.

**Phil eyes another ton**

**Cricket**  
**AFP, Sydney**  
Phil Hughes is looking to score another century in Sunday's second ODI against Sri Lanka after becoming the first Australian in the format's history to hit a ton on debut. Hughes's sparkling 112 in the series opener in Melbourne Friday helped Australia (305 for 5) overpower Sri Lanka to post a 107-run win and the diminutive left-hander is looking for a repeat on the batting-friendly Adelaide Oval pitch. "The team manager came up and told me when I got out. It's flattering to hear that," Hughes said after becoming the eighth player ever to achieve the feat. "There's been some great players before me. My confidence is quite high. "I really can't wait to get there on Sunday and hopefully score another big one and set up another win. "First game, so I had a few nerves there. It was nice to get the three figures on debut today." The former NSW opener has made a big success of his switch to play in South Australia this southern summer which helped him regain his Test place. Hughes shared a 140-run partnership for the third wicket with stand-in skipper George Bailey (89). Australia's selectors had rested skipper Michael Clarke, opener David Warner and wicketkeeper-batsman Matt Wade for the first two matches while vice-captain Shane Watson is recovering from a calf injury.

**BFF signs MoU with Dutch**

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The financial details of the deal were not disclosed, but it is expected to be around Tk 7 crore over two years for the two coaches. However, Salahuddin said they did not differ on the financial terms, rather it was things such as benefits, holidays, bonuses, severance clause and other such minute details that they wanted to be settled. The man at the centre of attention, De Kruijff, was reticent yet ambitious about his reading of Bangladesh football and his target. "We are happy with the agreement, but it was a tough one nonetheless. We would like to work in this country, we have a lot of plans and ideas about how to develop football here," said the 43-year old former coach of Nigerian outfit Heartland. De Kruijff also said that he will be willing to go to other countries to scout for talented players of Bangladeshi origin. The coach is said to be contracted with Dutch club PSV Eindhoven till May and expected to be free after that. "Today we will have to go back and negotiate with the club where I am under contract. I can't give you the right answer at the moment but I hope that I will succeed in that area," said De Kruijff. De Kruijff will be aided in his work by Koster as assistant coach apart from his primary job of being the head coach of Sylhet BKSP Football Academy. The 33-year old coach was looking forward to the challenge of grooming the next generation of national footballers. "For me it's a big challenge to head the project of a soccer academy. But I have the experience of developing the youngsters in Holland. I will try my best to develop the players for the national team," said Koster. However, the two coaches had expressed some dissatisfaction over the state of the academy which they visited on Thursday. But the BFF president quelled their fears by saying that it will be a European standard academy, come June. "My commitment to Koster is I will have the academy as good as any European academy. It will be absolutely ready by June," said Salahuddin. The BFF boss said he was especially impressed with Kruijff's reading of the game and if he can apply that reading to our football, good things are bound to happen. For the moment though, the national team will have to wait at least six more months to see good things to start taking place. The two coaches left the country last night, ending their fruitful 5-day visit.

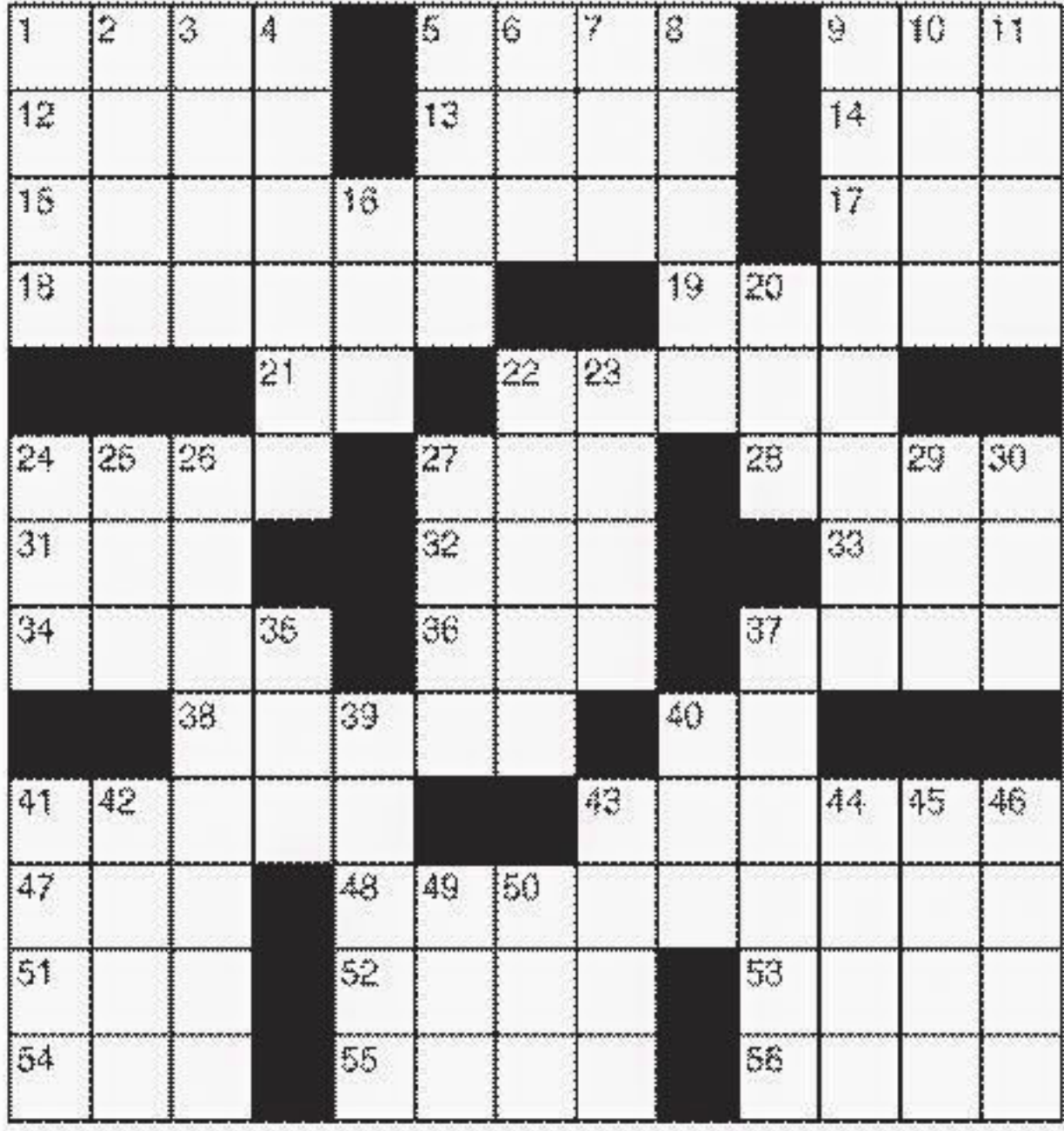
**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**  
1 From one end to t'other  
5 Egg  
9 Potential syrup  
12 Vast time  
13 Water barrier  
14 Biz deg.  
15 Fast  
17 Foreman foe  
18 Diamond round-trippers  
19 Stair part  
21 Qua  
22 Weak soup  
24 Present  
27 Island garland  
28 Buy stuff  
31 Lubricate  
32 Past  
33 Rage  
34 Use an old phone  
36 DIY buy  
37 Leftovers recipe  
38 Lucky number

**DOWN**  
1 Rotation gauge, for short  
2 Villian's adversary  
3 Wander  
4 Oust from office  
5 Likelihood  
6 See 38-Across  
7 Guitar's cousin  
8 Paris subway  
9 Big success  
10 Competent  
11 Twosome  
16 Store-front sign abbr.  
20 "Monty Python" opener  
22 Start  
23 Laugh-a-minute  
24 Deity  
25 "Richard —"  
26 Sudden assembly that  
27 Michigan, for one  
29 Raw rock  
30 Church seat  
35 Writer Buscaglia  
37 "Who cares?"  
39 Fodder plant  
40 Simpson's interjection  
41 Dissolve  
42 Assistant  
43 "Hey, you!"  
45 Sitarist's rendition  
46 Mast  
49 Fish eggs  
50 Literary collection

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

A	J	R	A	D	O	M	S	I	C	O	T
S	P	A	T	I	O	N	A	T	O	N	E
C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R	I	N	C	A
I	N	T	E	N	D	K	E	N	N	E	L
A	T	E	S	A	K	I					
E	T	C	O	R	H	R	E	V	E	L	L
R	O	O	T	Y	E	T	R	E	V	E	S
G	E	N	R	E	P	R	O	R	E	D	
B	R	U	I	S	H	A	D	S			
B	R	U	I	S	H	A	D	S			
I	T	E	M	A	R	E	S	E	N	E	
L	A	R	S	N	E	D	A	I	N	E	W



**CRYPTOQUIP**  
M E M X ' G P M G O H T Z L Z P X K Q X  
G H R Z E M G K U Z L Z E M V V M I B ,  
X K Z W T Z L W U Z F F R M B K X  
K Q T Z V Z Z I O H P M I Q F M Z .  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU NEED A NEW WALL SOCKET, I THINK YOU COULD PROBABLY PURCHASE ONE AT ANY OUTLET STORE.**  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals I