The Daily Star



out for a long time. It will be nice to

play some sort of competitive cricket," Lara, 33, who has played in

"It's a cricketing decision really.

Lara hasn't played for three months,

he has been practising yes, but it

makes sense for him to get the neces-

sary match practice," West Indies

Cricket Board president Wes Hall said.

declared fit and he too needs the

"Dillon has only recently been

Dillon is returning from a lower

Lara was hospitalised with

The exact nature of his illness

has not been revealed but he was

last month cleared for inclusion in

the West Indies' 15-man World Cup

Sidelined with an injury for the

Recently, there have been calls

"Everyone has his opinion and

past year, the Trinidadian said he

was grateful to the selectors for

suspected hepatitis during the ICC

Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka.

two World Cups. said.

match practice."

back injury.

squad.

GrameenPhon Int'l tennis

from Jan 13

BSS, Dhaka

GrameenPhone Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship will be held at the Ramna Nationa Tennis Complex from January 13 to 17. A total of 57 boys and 34 girls

from 16 countries are taking part in the meet. The countries are: Austria, Australia,

Chinese Taipei, Great Britain, India, Japan, Korea, Kazakhstan, the Maldives, Portugal, Rumania, Thailand, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Singapore and hosts Bangladesh.

Earlier, Bangladesh Tennis Federation announced a 15member Bangladesh team. comprising eight boys and seven girls, for the competition SQUAD

Boys: Amal Roy, Ranjan Ram, Syam Ahmed, Shah Newaz Ahmed, Alamgir Hossain, Mahmudul Haque, Dipu Lal, Akhter Hossain. Girls: Shefat Nusrat Baishakhi Ishrat Sultana, Nowrin Afroz, Mushfika Shams, Selina Mahbub, Rifat Sargin, Asma Khatun

Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Maroon Krira Chakra defeated Nabochetona Krira Chakra by 10 runs in the Dr Jogesh Chandra Dev Smrity cricket tournament at the Islamia High School ground yester-

day. Batting first, Maroon made 92 runs all out in the stipulated 20 overs.

In reply, Nabochetona were all out for 82 runs in 18.2 overs. Earlier on Wednesday,

a brilliant knock and helped us win the match," said Zaheer, named Munshipara Sporting Club beat man-of-the-match for his all-round Anirban Sporting Club by 22 runs. show in the day-night game at the Munshipara deciding to bat first Westpac Stadium.

scored 92 runs for eight wickets in 20 overs. In reply, Anirban were all out for

70 runs in 16.2 overs.

STANCHART CRICKET

Meanwhile, Standard Chartered 21st National School Cricket Competition (Gaibandha Region) will begin at the Gaibandha Govt. Boys High School ground from today.

CU soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Arts Faculty and Social Science Faculty won their respective matches of the inter-faculty football tournament of the Chittagong University (CU) at the Central playground on Wednesday.

Arts beat Commerce 1-0 in the series before the one-dayers. first match of the day. Mong scored restricting New Zealand to a modest the winning goal. total, grabbing three wickets for 30

On the other match of the day, Social Science defeated Science 5-Ferrero in last four

Warne comes back today

GrameenPhone 17th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships

PRESS CONFERENCE



PHOTO: STAR

first three days ago (at Queenstown

series). It was good to expose our

The New Zealand captain con-

"We conceded too many extras

ceded his bowlers made mistakes

and that was the main difference,"

said Fleming, whose bowlers gave

which cost his team dearly.

Bangladesh Tennis Federation president Tawfiq M Siraj briefs the newsmen about the GrameenPhone Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Zaheer being humble runs off eight overs.

Cricket

fifth one-day international here.

"I just wanted to hang around

Tail-ender Zaheer scored a

career-best 34 not out under pres-

sure as India notched up 169-8 in

reply to their rivals' 168 for their first

win in the ongoing seven-match

wrapped up the series by winning

54 and shared a vital 44-run stand

for the eighth wicket with Zaheer

after his team had been reduced to

the first four matches.

New Zealand had already

Yuvraj top-scored with an 85-ball

"It's a fabulous day for us," said

"Everyone in the team is very

happy that we have finally tasted a

win on this tour. If we win the remain-

ing two one-dayers, it will be a moral

India had already lost a two-Test

Zaheer also played a key role in

there with Yuvrai Singh, who played

AFP, Wellington

series.

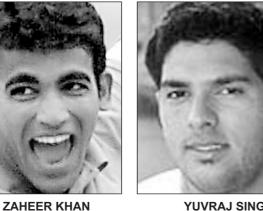
116-7.

Zaheer.

victory for us."

"I really enjoyed bowling first as the pitch helped a lot of movement early in the match. The ball was moving off the wicket and it suited me," said Zaheer, who took two India's Zaheer Khan said Wedneswickets off successive balls in his day he was just content with playing

opening over. a supporting role in a match-winning New Zealand skipper Stephen stand against New Zealand in the Fleming said he elected to bat on a



batsmen.

difficult pitch because he wanted to test his batting before next month's low-scoring match. World Cup in South Africa. "It was not an easy wicket," said

Fleming, whose side was reduced "Batting first was not advisable, but we wanted to test our batting before the World Cup. The impordames.

named a 15-member squad for the World Cup.

"I certainly would not have batted

tant thing is there was not too much

pressure on our side throughout the

series and we have now got a fair bit

to 3-3 and then 51-5.

of idea.

SAF welcomes Afghanistan

AFP, Islamabad

War-ravaged Afghanistan is set to enter the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games ahead of Thursday's opening ceremonies in host Pakistan for the ninth regional games.

"Afghanistan is attending the meeting and would be formally included in the Games due to be held in March-April this year," said Games spokesperson Yahya Ghaznavi.

"Later Thursday evening President Pervez Musharraf will officially launch the Games due to be held from March 29 to April 7 in Islamabad."

Afghanistan will be represented by a three-member delegation to the South Asian Sporting Federation (SASF) meeting. "We feel its a great honour to be

included in the SAF Games and it would immensely help the rehabilitation of Afghanistan in the sports arena," Saeyd Mahmmod Zia Dashti, President National Olympic Council of Afghanistan, told AFP.

Afghanistan was approved for inclusion at the SAF games at last year's Asian Games in South Korea, responding to a special request by the Olympic Council of Asia and International Olympic Council. Dashti said Afghanistan will field

teams in volleyball, basketball, where the hosts clinched the karate, table tennis, bodybuilding and regional martial art of wushu. "Even ravaged by war, around 30

percent of people are keenly interested in sports," he said. "The most followed sport is football but cricket is coming up.

SAFF

FROM PAGE 13 expires in April

Earlier, on his arrival, Bin Hammam was received by Fazlur Rahman at the Zia International Airport in the morning. He then visited the National Mausoleum and BKSP in Savar.

ECB may

government has no powers to stop hem.

inspection team to Zimbabwe to assess its safety and security sta-

giving Stephen Fleming (New Following the publication of the team's report last month, the ICC Africa. decided to press ahead with the Zimbabwe matches although it one-dayers (against India) at all." reserved the right to pull out if the

But as it stands at the moment, teams will be docked World Cup points if they fail to play in Zimbabwe whose President Robert Mugabe has been lambasted for his treatment of white farmers and opposi-

Hosts aware

FROM PAGE 13 moment is picking the two attackers who will feature in our 3-5-2 formation. Alfaz is still not fully fit. I may to select the two Kanchan and Uzzal. "When Alfaz joined the camp two months ago, he was in no shape Although I have improved his fitness level but he is still struggling for form. I am very doubtful whether he can make it to the first team."

ICC Cricket World Cup a good team performance is necessary in the World Cup. "The young batsmen, Ram-

AFP/REUTERS, Port of Spain

Double world record holder Brian

Lara hopes he can regain full fitness

for next month's World Cup in the

West Indies training camp which

which sidelined him from the West

Indies tours of India and

go out there in the middle." Lara was

quoted as saying on local Channel

India and Bangladesh proves the

Cairns said Thursday he hoped to

have recovered sufficiently from a

knee injury to bowl at next month's

to international cricket after a long

lavoff in the fifth one-daver of the

ongoing seven-match series

against India, but as a specialist

and building up for South Africa,"

am very hopeful of bowling in the

World Cup. I am working towards

Zealand captain) an option in South

scored 3,639 runs with four centu-

ries in 152 one-day international

"But I won't be bowling in these

"I am now just bowling in the nets

"I still have four weeks to go, so I

Cairns on Wednesday returned

World Cup in South Africa.

Lara is recovering from illness

"I am medically fit and ready to

begins in Antigua on January 12.

Bangladesh.

Spain

website.

World Cup.

AFP, Auckland

batsman.

said Cairns.

Lara looks forward

naresh Sarwan, Marlon Samuels and Chris Gayle are all coming forward now looking to establish themselves and the World Cup will be the ideal opportunity.'



keeping faith in him. The left-hander will miss the start for the exclusion of Lara from the team. we have to respect that," said Lara.

Lara, a left-hander, holds the world records for the highest Test innings of 375 runs and first-class

WC on Cairns' mind

ICC Cricket W South Africa 2003 // ICC Cricket World Cup next game and so on," he said.

The all-rounder said he was just happy to be back despite scoring only 25 against the tourists at Ace New Zealand all-rounder Chris Wellington.

"I think I was probably a little bit too aggressive," said Cairns, who



CHRIS CAIRNS Cairns, 32, is considered one of the best all-rounders in the world, cracked four boundaries in his 32having captured 154 wickets and ball knock

"I just wanted to go there and make a mark. It is good to get on the since making his debut against road and I now have to get down to work. I am just happy to be back. It was just great to be back in the middle, even though we lost," he

two-Test series 2-0.

and the potency of Shane Warne.

Waugh was highly impressed:

"To get three big hundreds in a

losing side against probably the

best attack in the world, and playing

away from your own country, that's a

great performance and one of the

attack on the faster, bouncier

He started slowly but was into

England at home in 1990-91. Cairns said he believed that the dayers. injury was still playing on his mind in Passing the Ashes test



youngsters are coming through and score 501, all made in 1994. four-day game because I have been

> "It was quite a different feeling "I'd be lving if I say it wasn't, but the only way to get rid of the fear is actually because we had already by playing. I can go a bit more in the won the series.'

New Zealand had wrapped up the seven-match series before Wednesday's day-night game by

winning the first four one-davers. Cairns conceded that batting had not been easy in the ongoing series because the pitches favoured the oowlers more.

"Batting has been a lot of hard work because of the seaming wickets, but they have been like this all

summer," he said, adding the consistency in bowling was the key to his team's success.

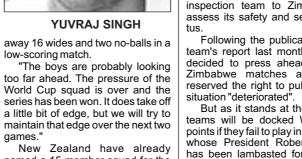
"I think both sides have had the same conditions for bowling, but New Zealand were more consistent," he said.

"The biggest thing I have seen is that they (New Zealand seamers) have put the ball in the right areas. In the past, we have had guys coming in and bowling in helpful conditions

but not putting the pressure on. "So the consistency has been the biggest factor. We have been working on it for the last couple of years and New Zealand cricket is reaping the rewards now.'

New Zealand fast bowlers Daryl Tuffey, Shane Bond and Jacob Oram all played big roles in their team's victories in Tests and one-

The hosts had also clinched a



New Zealand have already

FROM PAGE 13

In November, the ICC sent an

tion politicians.

the comeback match

REUTERS, Melbourne

Shane Warne will captain Victoria in a one-day match against Western Australia in Melbourne on Friday, 26 days after dislocating his shoulder while playing for Australia against England.

Warne dislocated his right bowling shoulder fielding a ball during a limited-overs international in Melbourne on December 15, casting doubt on whether he'd recover in time for the World Cup, starting February 9.

Warne, Australia's leading wicket-taker in tests and limitedovers internationals. had an operation the next day and team officials

said his chances of playing in the tournament would depend on how guickly the injury improved. The 33-year-old was chosen in

Australia's 15-man squad for the World Cup after selectors were told they could still replace him if he didn't recover in time, but the Australian management has said he might be rested for the first half of the tournament to save himself for the finals.

Sanath smashes

FROM PAGE 13

Gilchrist b Vaas Hayden c J'wardene b Fernando35 Ponting c T'ratne b P Gunaratne 15 Martyn b Jayasuriya 40 Bevan c T'ratne b Jayasuriya 41 Symonds c T'ratne b M'tharan 4 Lee b Jayasuriya 20 Maher c J'wardene b Jayasuriya15 Watson not out 35 Hogg st S'kara b M'tharan 4 Bichel c S'kara b Gunaratne 28 Extras: (lb-12, w-4 nb-5) 21 Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 264 Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-35, 3-78, 4-143, 5-150, 6-152, 7-188, 8-188, 9-201 0 Bowle M R w Vaas 6 0 29 0 54 Gunaratne 8.3 2 46 Fernando 9 0 40 De Silva 0 0 M'tharan 44 10 2 10 39 4 Jayasuriya

Result: Sri Lanka won by 79 runs. Man-of-the-match: Sanath Jayasuriya Next match: Australia v England,

Tennis

AFP, Sydney

Juan Carlos Ferrero senses a big month in Australia could propel him towards the world No.1 ranking as he closes in on the Sydney International title.

The Spanish world No.4 is the only seed remaining into Friday's semifinals in the Australian Open leadup tournament following his victory over Thailand's Paradorn Scrichaphan and the injury withdrawal of top seed Marat Safin.

Safin cited an inflamed shoulder joint for his withdrawal on Thursday, but said he was hopeful of playing in next week's Grand Slam. Safin, the world No.3, com-

plained of an inflamed rotator cuff in his right serving shoulder and pulled out giving Korean Lee Hyung-Taik a walkover into the semi-finals. Ferrero, playing only his third

with the quality of his performance as he outplayed seventh-seeded Paradorn, 6-3, 6-1. The 22-year-old Spaniard, who

took world No.1 Lleyton Hewitt to five sets in the final of the Masters Cup in Shanghai last November. now has a match against German Rainer Schuettler, who ended the giantkilling run of American qualifier Mardy Fish, 7-6, 6-4

South African Wayne Ferreira was scheduled to play Franco Squillari of Argentina in the remaining men's quarterfinal later Thursday. Ferrero, who finished 2002 in the

top five of the rankings for the second consecutive year, is working on improving his hardcourt game to complement his outstanding clay court form.

"I know that if I play good here I can go up to the No.1 ranking," said Ferrero, nicknamed the 'Mosquito'.

"Marat retired today and I won



PHOTO: AFP MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya acknowledges the crowd's applause after he reached three-figures during yesterday's tri-series match against Australia at Sydney.

I'm closer to No.3 (Safin's ranking).

"So I go step-by-step and if I play good here this month I will have many chances to go up (in the rankings)."

Ferrero practised on a similar hardcourt surface for two weeks in December at his academy in his hometown Villena, near Alicante.

He rated this his best start to a season after missing last year's Australian Open with a knee injury.

Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters resume their friendly yet serious rivalry in a semi-final of the Sydney International after convincing victories in the women's quarter-finals on Thursday

Henin reversed a 0-2 losing record with Amanda Coetzer to knock over the energetic South African, 6-4, 6-4, while Clijsters brushed aside American seventh seed Chanda Rubin, 6-1, 6-2.

Kottan also disclosed that Aminul would be his first choice under the bars. Captain Rajani assured that all his teammates were aware of their responsibilities in the tournament.

"We know what people expect from us. Everybody is mentally ready to take up the challenge. We have no other option but to win the trophy on own soil because Bangladesh have never won any international tournament at home," said Rajani.

Bangladesh will begin their SAFF Championship campaign with their Group B opener against Nepal tomorrow morning.

Draw order of the dav

FROM PAGE 13 Fall of wicket: 1- Bowler Tareq Ashiq Aftab Ahsanullah Sabbir CHITTAGONG:	0 7 13 3 17 8	M 1 2 0 2 0	R 22 50 8 67 29	W 0 2 0 1 0	Nac Piju Anis Extr Tota 134 158
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SYLHET: First in					Rez
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Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

Michael Vaughan arrived in Australia at the start of the Ashes like any other promising young English batsman; hoping to do well, but expecting a baptism of fire.

He was right about the baptism of fire but he needn't have worried about doing well. After a slow start, the Yorkshire opener finished the series as the leading run-scorer and the brightest prospect in English cricket for years.

England captain Nasser Hussain said Vaughan had shown he had the makings of a future Test skipper while Australia captain Steve Waugh said he had the potential to become one of the all-time great batsmen

"He looks an excellent player, he can achieve anything," Waugh said. "As long as he doesn't get too carried away, he can do anything he wants.

Hussain said: "Michael Vaughan

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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is a verv. verv solid character lation win in the final test "Sometime in the future, he'll probably Just as importantly, he scored his runs quickly and efficiently and was

make a very good England captain." never overly troubled by the likes of Despite playing in a side nagging accuracy of Glenn McGrath thrashed 4-1, Vaughan was a unani-



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

mous choice as player of the series after making 633 runs at an average of 63.30.

He made 177 in the second test n Adelaide. 145 in the fourth test in Melbourne then a masterful 183 in Sydney to lead England to a conso-

CRYPTOQUIP

UJ MWLLV RLLY MWLSKURF, INO MOVVNML GWLI YN WLSY MGKSUFWG JNK GWL

ESS MWNV

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A MAN WERE ROBBED OF HIS UNDERWEAR, I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S BEEN DEBRIEFED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals A

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophi give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



best probably in Ashes history." Vaughan had come into the series with a big reputation after making a mountain of runs in the homes series with India and Sri Lanka. But the quietly spoken 28-yearold said he was unsure of how he'd stand up to the fearsome Australian

stride by the second test, making centuries at the Adelaide Oval and then in Melbourne to finish 2002 as the world's leading run scorer with 1.481 runs as well as breaking Dennis Amiss' long-standing record for the most runs in a year by an

Englishman

pitches.