

GrameenPhone Int'l tennis from Jan 13

BSS, Dhaka
GrameenPhone Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship will be held at the Ramna National Tennis Complex from January 13 to 17.



PHOTO: STAR

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.

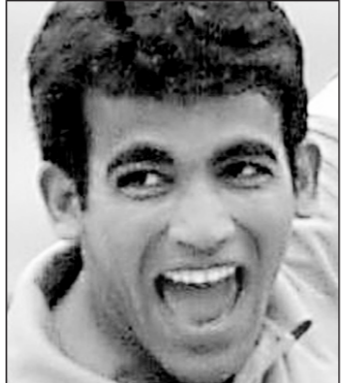
Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT
Maroon Krira Chakra defeated Nabochetona Krira Chakra by 10 runs in the Dr Jogesh Chandra Dev Smriti cricket tournament at the Islamia High School ground yesterday.

Zaheer being humble

AFP, Wellington
India's Zaheer Khan said Wednesday he was just content with playing a supporting role in a match-winning stand against New Zealand in the fifth one-day international here.

runs off eight overs.
"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 wickets off successive balls in his opening over.



ZAEHER KHAN



YUVRAJ SINGH

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.

Ferrero in last four

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

match of the year, surprised himself 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 gaintkilling run of American qualifier Mardy Fish, 7-6, 6-4.

Warne comes back today

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.

Lara looks forward



AFP/REUTERS, Port of Spain

a good team performance is necessary in the World Cup.
"The young batsmen, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Marlon Samuels and Chris Gayle are all coming forward now looking to establish themselves and the World Cup will be the ideal opportunity."



BRIAN LARA

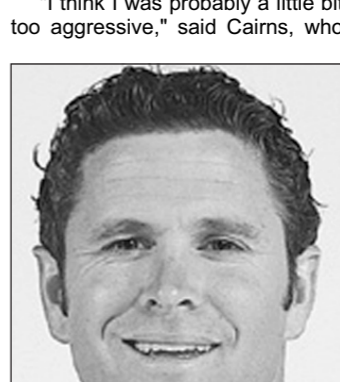
The left-hander will miss the start of a World Cup training camp to play for Trinidad North in a Gerry Gomez memorial four-day match at the Queen's Park Oval, along with paceman Mervyn Dillon and opening batsman Daren Ganga -- a World Cup reserve.

WC on Cairns' mind



AFP, Auckland

"I'd be lying if I say it wasn't, but the only way to get rid of the fear is by playing. I can go a bit more in the 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 Wellington.



CHRIS CAIRNS

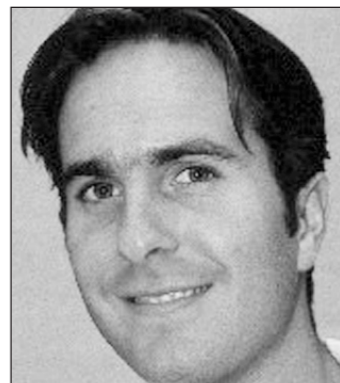
cracked four boundaries in his 32-ball knock.
"I just wanted to go there and make a mark. It is good to get on the road and I now have to get down to work. I am just happy to be back. It was just great to be back in the middle, even though we lost," he said.

Passing the Ashes test



REUTERS, Sydney

is a very, very solid character.
"Sometimes in the future, he'll probably make a very good England captain."



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

mouse choice as player of the series after making 633 runs at an average of 63.30.
He made 177 in the second test in Adelaide, 145 in the fourth test in Melbourne then a masterful 183 in Sydney to lead England to a consolation win in the final test.

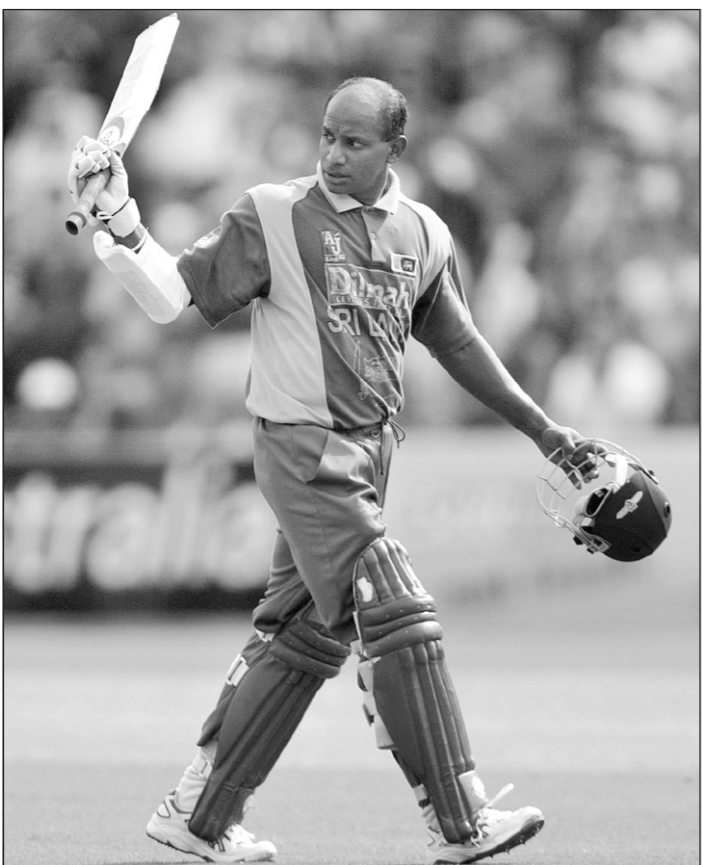


PHOTO: AFP

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.

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.

SAFF

FROM PAGE 13
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

FROM PAGE 13
Following the publication of the team's report last month, the ICC decided to press ahead with the Zimbabwe matches although it reserved the right to pull out if the situation "deteriorated".

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 opposition politicians.

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 have to select the two from Moni, Kanchan and Uzuzal.

"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."

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 our 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 day

Table with columns: FROM PAGE 13, Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists players like Pijush, Anisur, Ashiq, Aftab, Ahsanullah, Sabbir, etc.

Table with columns: Nadif run out, Pijush not out, Anisur c Ejaj b Parvez, Extras, Total, Bowler, O, M, R, W, Result: Match drawn.

Sanath smashes

FROM PAGE 13
Hayden c J'wardene b Fernando 35
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 Jayasuriya 15
Watson not out 35
Hogg s't 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

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 21 mins.

Cryptogram puzzle with grid and clues. Includes solution: UJ MWLLV RLLY MWLSKURF. YN INO MOVNML GWLI. WLSY MGKSUFVG JNK GWL.