SPORT

R'mati cricket

BSS, Rangamati

Shahid Abdul Ali Academy became champions defeating Rangamati Govt High by two wickets in the final of the 21st National School Cricket Competition here on Friday.

A total of six school teams of the district took part in the competition, organised by Bangladesh Cricket Board, was held at the local stadium.

Annual sports

UNB, Dhaka

The annual sports competition of Siddheswari Girls' College will be held at the college premises today. More than 150 students of the

college are to take part in various events of the day-long meet.

Blame it on poor bowling fielding

REUTERS, Hobard

England captain Nasser Hussain plamed poor bowling and fielding for England's last over loss to Australia in the triangular one-day series on Saturday.

Although England's batting collapsed spectacularly after an opening partnership of 165 between Nick Knight and Marcus Trescothick, Hussain preferred to concentrate on England's perfor-mance in the field.

Paul Collingwood dropped two catches and the England bowlers conceded 22 wides, including 11 by fast bowler Steve Harmison. "Everyone will talk about a mini-

collapse but sloppy fielding and bowling early on cost us," Hussain told BBC radio. "At two o'clock, it might seem like

just another wide but, at 10 past six, they are desperate runs you need." Hussain refused to criticise

Harmison, whose eight overs cost 58 runs. "Steve's huge asset is his pace

and bounce but the negative is that he has off-days," he said. "He has some very good days

too so I certainly won't be getting on his case."

Zimbabwe beef up security

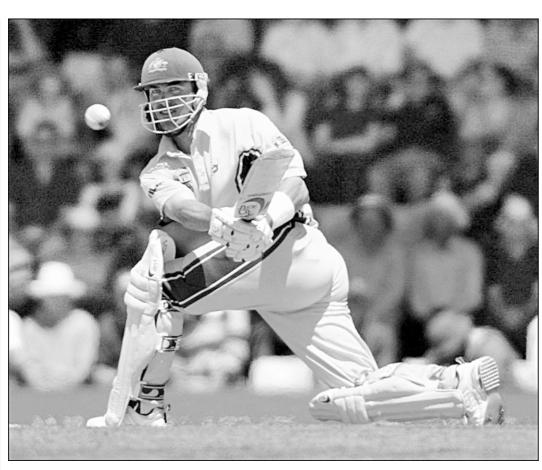
AFP, Harare

The Zimbabwe government has stepped up security in its top tourist resorts ahead of the World Cup cricket matches due to be played here next month, state radio said Friday.

Six out of 54 World Cup matches are scheduled to be played in the Zimbabwe capital, Harare and the country's second largest city of Bulawayo in February and March. Measures have been put in place

to make the country "a safe tourist destination", the radio said. It reported Home Affairs Minister

Kembo Mohadi as saying those who planned to visit the country should "ignore the falsehoods being peddled by the country's detractors" on the security situation. The England cricket team is set to play a match here on February 13 despite pressure from Prime Minister Tony Blair's government to boycott the fixture. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Thursday they would only revise their decision to send the team if the security situation deteriorated. There have been growing concerns over security here following food riots last week in Harare and Bulawavo and the murder of an Australian tourist at Victoria Falls.



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Australia's Damien Martyn sweeps one on way to scoring a century against England a Hobart yesterday.

Collingwood c Maher b Hogg

Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-2, nb-6)

Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 264

193, 4-209, 5-211, 6-252, 7-262

Fall of wickets: 1-165, 2-189, 3-

10 0 65 0

8 0 36 2

10

9

6

Result: Australia won by seven

Man-of-the-match: Damien

О М

1 31 0

0 39

0 55

0 34

16

12

3

1

R w

Stewart c Martyn b Watson

Irani not out

Bowler

Watson

Bichel

Hogg

runs.

Martvn.

Martyn

McGrath

Caddick not out

Shah c Ponting b Hogg

FROM PAGE 13 out of time to score a century, but accomplished the milestone from the very last ball of the innings as he turned a ball from veteran paceman Andv Caddick to the fine leg fence. Blackwell and fast bowler Jimmy Anderson, who took 2-40 from 10 overs, were the best in the England

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the tri-nation series one-day cricket clash between Australia and England at Bellerive Oval in Hobart on Saturday: AUSTRALIA Gilchrist Ibw Anderson Hayden c and b Harmison 21 Ponting c Stewart b Anderson 15 Martyn not out 101 В

Martyn not out Bevan b Blackwell			101 52		Next match: Jan 13, Sydney.					
Maher not out Extras: (lb-9, w-22)				49 31	TRIANGULAR TABLE					
Total: (For 4 wkts in 50 overs) 271 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-25, 3-53, 4-					REUTERS, Hobart					
171 Bowler	0	, \ М	R	w	Standings in the triangular one-da series involving Australia, England					gland
Caddick Anderson	10	0	54 40	0	and Sri Lanka after Australia beat England by seven runs on Saturday:					
Harmison	10 8	1	58	2	Team Australia	P 5	W 4	L 1	BP 2	Pts 22
Irani Collingwood	9 3	0 0	55 14	0 0	England Sri Lanka	5 4	-	3 3	- 1 1	13 7
Blackwell ENGLAND	10	1	41	1	(Note: Win v	•		~	•	
					without bonus point 5: tie or no result					

Trescothick c sub (Symonds) 3: loss but not conceding bonus 82 b Martyn point 1; loss conceding bonus point Knight b Bichel 85 Blackwell c Gilchrist b Hogg 0; the team that achieves a run rate 12 43 of 1.25 times that of the opposition Hussain b Watson shall be awarded a bonus point)

Thrilling Aussie win Where'll it land up?

ICC Cricket World Cup

REUTERS, Calcutta

Top Indian players have signed a disputed participation contract before Tuesday's International Cricket Council deadline, but doubts remain about whether they will play

in next month's World Cup. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Saturday that all 15 squad members had signed up for the February 9 to March 23 tournament, but were still unhappy about some terms in the contract

"The players have signed the agreement but with qualification on two clauses," BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya told reporters on Saturday.

India's endorsement-rich players Standings in the triangular one-day are opposing the ambush marketing series involving Australia, England and player images clauses in the and Sri Lanka after Australia beat participation terms, which arise from England by seven runs on Saturday: a 550-million-dollar rights deal P W L BP Pts signed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for its events up to 2 22 2007.

1 13 Dalmiva is unsure whether the 7 ICC will accept the conditional Note: Win with bonus point 6; win without bonus point 5: tie or no result signing

"I am not sure whether the qualified signatures on the players terms will be acceptable to IDI (the ICC's commercial arm)," he said. "We are extremely keen to

Indians have Streak claims unity dope-tests ECB decides on Zimbabwe Tuesday

AFP, Auckland

Indian cricketers currently touring New Zealand were on Friday dopetested as a precautionary measure ahead of next month's World Cup in South Africa.

A local drug-testing agency had taken the players' urine samples, which would be sent to Sydney where an International Olympic Committee-approved laboratory would examine them before giving the results.

"The results of the test will be Zimbabwean people proud," Streak said, speaking on state television conveyed only to team physio Andrew Leipus," team sources late Friday. said

The tests were ordered by the Indian board to ensure that no untoward incident takes place in February, despite the British gov-South Africa. The International Cricket to show its opposition to

Council has said that dope-testing is mandatory for all the participating teams in the World Cup because of South African government regulations. Only four nations -- Australia

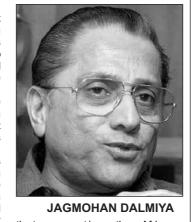
South Africa, New Zealand and England -- have a regular doping policy in place for cricketers

arrested in 2001 when his game ranch was occupied under the

participate. There is no clause to stop the players if they have signed

conditionally," he said. The BCCI, which is party to the ICC rights deal, has backed the rebellion, saying that leading players such as Sachin Tendulkar and

Virender Sehwag could be affected. The ruling body has said the BCCI will have to pay hefty compensation if it fails to send its best side to



The controversy could end up in Arbitration for Sport (CAS), an independent body set up to rule on

sporting disputes. The ICC has said it is willing to marginally reduce the ambush marketing period and reduce the period for imaging to three months from six

ICC Cricket World Cup country, but Streak dismissed these reports.

"Obviously I'm not aware of who those individuals are, if there are any, I'm wary of the fact that they haven't named anyone," he told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) Meanwhile, the decision-making

body of English cricket will decide on Tuesday whether England month, dismissing reports his should go ahead with their contro-



been affected by Zimbabwe's political turmoil -- his father was was announced on Friday. A meeting of the ECB's Management Board has been called at Lord's on Tuesday and it now appears highly likely they will decide that England will take part in the match in Harare on February 13.

A close shave Cricket for the winning single

AFP, Auckland

REUTERS/AFP. undated

Zimbabwe cricket captain Heath

Streak said Friday his team fully

supported the country's hosting of

World Cup Cricket matches next

players were divided over the issue.

World Cup and making the

"We're just focussing on the

His comments came as the

England and Wales Cricket Board

(ECB) indicated it was likely to fulfil

its match obligations in Harare in

ernment's push for a boycott in order

Zimbabwe's President Robert

"We want to go out there and really fly the flag for Zimbabwe,"

Streak said, arguing that sport and

Streak's farming family have

Mugabe.

politics did not mix.

India skipper Saurav Ganguly conceded Saturday his team nearly fumbled before completing a one-wicket victory over New Zealand in the sixth one-day international at the Eden Park.

"It should have been a comfortable win, but we kept losing wickets in what turned out to be a pressure game," said Ganguly, whose team posted 200-9 in reply to their rivals' 199-9 to win the day-night game with one ball to spare.

New Zealand, now leading 4-2, had already clinched the ongoing seven-match series with wins in the first four games.

An easy Indian victory looked on the cards when the tourists were placed at 182-3 in the 42nd over, thanks to opener Virender Sehwag's 139-ball 112 which contained three sixes and 11 fours.

India then slipped to 198-9 before last-man Ashish Nehra struck the match's penultimate delivery from seamer Andre Adams

"We were cruising along at one well. We went for guite a few runs only in the end, though it usually stage, but lost wickets in the middle

and then in the last over." said doesn't happen to us," said Ganguly. "I think we just left it too Ganguly, whose bowlers conceded late. We have never been in such a 37 in the last two overs. situation before in this series. India lost two wickets in the 49th

Fleming praised his team for nearly rallying from the brink and putting and last over, including that of Zaheer Khan who was run out off pressure on India. an Adams wide ball. said Fleming. "I think it was the

The tourists were penalised one over for their slow over-rate. Ganguly said the toss always

played a crucial role in the ongoing matches on bowler-friendly pitches. "Winning the toss is very impor-

tant in this country," said Ganguly, who put New Zealand in to bat on a drop-in pitch after winning the toss.

"I lost quite a few important score, but were disappointed with tosses on the tour which made a area we've always prided ourdifference in the series, but it is still good to win two matches in a row. selves," he said. We also need to win at Hamilton (venue for the seventh and last game on Tuesday)." nate the host attack during his fifth

Ganguly said his bowlers did well in restricting the opposition to a modest total despite Shane Bond's quickfire 31 not out off 15 balls

Andre's Kooyong hattrick

member Board to back England's trip to the southern African nation despite opposition from the British

government "I would be surprised if the Management Board determine anything other than to fulfil the commitment to the World Cup by playing in Zimbabwe," Morgan told

BBC radio. "I want cricket to stay united and I think it has to go ahead for this to happen."

The British government has urged English cricket chiefs to boycott the match because they fear it will represent a propaganda coup for Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe.

But the ECB have argued that if England pull out of the match they will be docked two points which could endanger their progress in the tournament and they could face a compensation bill of up to one million pounds (1.6 million dollars).

The losses could mount to ten million pounds if, in a tit-for-tat move, Zimbabwe pull out of a tour of

The British government on Thursday ruled out meeting the ECB's compensation claims.

may reserve the right to have future discussions with the government.

"But we are close to exhausting the process. Certainly, once the ECB Management Board have reached their decision, it will be the

"He (Bond) hit the ball really

New Zealand captain Stephen

"We came back from the dead,'

main positive that we got to the

last-over situation. We had the

opportunity to beat them, but it

Fleming said he thought a total

"We thought it was a good

of 199 was defendable, but his

team's fielding was not up to the

what we did on the field. It's the one

New Zealand paid dearly for

letting off Sehwag on 35 and 63, for

the Indian opener went on to domi-

hundred in one-day internationals.

second seed behind Lleyton Hewitt.

'This is as tough a test as you can

have anywhere. In the past, it's

proven to be great preparation for

at the tournament which should

bring him comfort. After lifting title

here in 2000 in walkover against

Mark Philippoussis and in 2001

(defeating Yevgeny Kafelnikov), he

went onto win a fortnight later at

finale to Pete Sampras, then had to

pull out before the start of the Grand

Slam a day later with a wrist injury

which compromised the first half of

A year ago he lost the Kooyong

Melbourne Park on each occasion.

Agassi owns a personal statistic

the Open.'

slipped through our fingers.'

mark.

HEATH STREAK

England later this year.

An ECB spokesman said: "We

definitive decision.'

government's controversial land reform programme. News reports have suggested that several Zimbabwean cricket players do not want matches to be The chairman of the ECB. David played in the southern African Morgan, said he expected the 15-

versial match against Zimbabwe, it





the tournament in southern Africa. the Lausanne-based Court of

Aussie Open still in Jan

AFP, Melbourne

Despite rumbles it should be slipped two months to a March slot on the crowded international calendar, the Australian Open will not be changing dates for the foreseeable future, tournament director Paul McNamee said Friday.

Speaking after the draw for Monday's start of the 10.9-milliondollar Grand Slam, the former Wimbledon doubles champion said that any move to reform and rationalise the almost non-stop tennis season is many meetings and some years awav.

"We're talking many years ahead," he said of calls this week from players that the off-season is too short, the January summer weather is too hot and injuries are too frequent.

"But the circuit is a block and we (the four Grand Slams) are a family. We would do anything all together."

McNamee tried to calm the waters as he recalled a few facts of life in the sport. "There are massive commercial implications. Any change would be a structural one. Nothing can happen over the next few years, all speculation is well into the future."

Australian official have been taken somewhat by surprise this week as their event, the seasonopening major, sets up for a Monday start.

Reports in the German press quoted International Tennis Federation president Francesco Ricci Bitti as praising the idea of moving the Australian Open, calling it "a highlight that comes too soon."

Warne still a worry

at his bowling

ICC Cricket World Cup South AFRICA 2003

AFP, Hobart

Star Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne, desperate to be in peak form for the World Cup one-day contest starting in South Africa and Zimbabwe next month, may still not be "out of the woods" after returning from a serious shoulder injury.

Australian team physiotherapist Errol Alcott said here Saturday that, while Warne had made an apparently successful comeback for Victoria in an inter-state match Friday, it was too early to be sure how his right bowling shoulder would respond.

Alcott said he doubted Warne was "out of the woods" yet because, although the shoulder was obviously stable, it could become

inflamed from a lot of use. Warne's shoulder, which was operated on a month ago after he dislocated it in a one-day international, will be assessed in Brisbane Monday, Alcott said.

He said Warne's appearance in



SHANE WARNE

Only a short time after going on the field, Warne dived to pick up a spectacular catch, falling on his right shoulder. There was no apparent damage

Alcott said that although it was

10-2-17-0 at Perth in 1985-86.

India clinch a cliff-hanger

SCOREBOARD

NEWZEALAND

Sinclair b Srinath

Cairns b Srinath

Vincentnotout

Adams b Zaheer

Tuffey run out

Bond not out

Bowler

Srinath

Zaheer

Nehra

Agarkar

McCullum run out

Harris Ibw bAgarkar

Fleming c Dravid b Nehra

Styris c Bangar b Ganguly

Mills c Dravid b Srinath

Extras: (b-4, lb-11, w-2, nb-8)

M

2

0

10 2

10 0

10 1

8 0

4 0

8

the Friday match against Western prudent not to make hasty judg-Australia was to see how he ments, it appeared Warne had responded to batsmen having a go made a good recovery.

"So now it's just a matter of how "He needed the game situation, much we want him to do," Alcott though diving to the right probably said. "If there were no further problems, there was no reason why he could not return to the Australian team.'

Warne said Saturday he was confident his shoulder would only improve.

It was the mental side of his game which now needed attention, he said. "There's no problem with my shoulder, it's just my head now, getting that right," he said.

"I suppose it will just take a few outings to get that right."

But Warne said it was too soon to say when he might return to the national side.

"As far as all that goes, I've just got to wait and see how it pulls up tomorrow and the next day, and

weigh it up from there," he said. In his comback game, Warne finished with 1-53 off eight overs after being clobbered for 26 runs off his second over.

"After the first couple of overs, I think I had 35 runs off me, and I

0

0

1

3

1

thought 'What am I going to do now?

"I just had to dig deep and come back -- my last six overs, I think I got 1-18.

"So it was pretty good, the last six. Once I got that and got a bit fired up I was alright." Alcott said he was confident a

new injury suffered by key fast bowler Glenn McGrath during Australia's seven-run win over England in Hobart Saturday would not be long-term. McGrath left the field with a back

strain after bowling seven overs in his first game after being out with a side strain.

ent from, though close to, the back problem that forced him to miss the fifth Test and Thursday's one-day international against Sri Lanka, he

said. Alcott said McGrath was not in great pain and came off the field as a precaution.

His problem was not usually long-term and would be treated with anti-inflammatory drugs. "We'll reassess him Monday, but

we're optimistic," Alcott said.

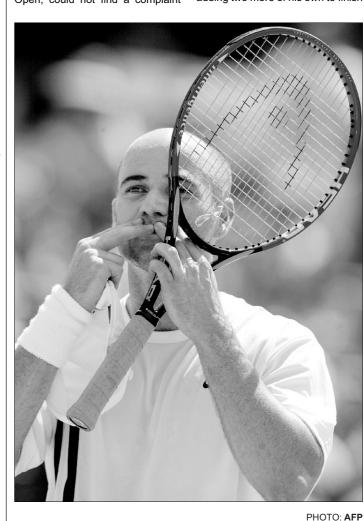
Tennis

AFP. Melbourne

Andre Agassi hit near-perfect form less than 48 hours before the start of the Australian Open, earning his third title at the Kooyong International Saturday with a comprehensive 6-2, 6-3 win over Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean.

Grosjean got a taste of Agassi's eagerness to kick-start his 19th season in the professional game with another Grand Slam trophy at the Australian Open which starts here on Monday.

Adassi, who already owns a hattrick of titles in Melbourne at the Open, could not find a complaint



American Andre Agassi blows kiss to the fans after beating Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean in the final of the Kooyong Classic yesterday

with his game as he ended his first the final on a high note. week of match play with another "To win in this field means you are playing well," said the Open's title.

"I felt good, I'm playing as well as I could expect," said the 32-year-old perfectionist. "I was hitting the ball very sharply, I felt great about that."

Agassi grabbed a break in the third game of the opening set to put world number 16 Grosjean into an immediate hole from which the Florida-based Frenchman never recovered.

The American collected the set on his second opportunity after a rare double-fault on the first.

In the second, Agassi screamed back after trailing a break down and 0-40. He won the last five games in a row, getting the break back and adding two more of his own to finish

his year. The winner of five 2002 titles added: "I felt good this week. I got a lot better a lot sooner than I was hoping for. This will hopefully translate into playing some good tennis

from next week. Grosjean said that despite the loss, his preparation in the wind and sun of Kooyong would serve him well. "I played in the wind against Xavier Malisse and it was hot out here against Agassi.

"Andre always plays well, it was tough to play my game. But I'm hoping to do well next week."

With no international dignitaries presumably present in the crowd, there was no danger of the mysterious slump Agassi experienced when he and Grosjean met at the French Open in 2001. A first-set entrance by Bill Clinton set Agassi aflutter and he lost a lead to go out to the Frenchman in four sets.

While Grosjean was going down to defeat, his up-and-coming countryman Richard Gasquet earned a hard-fought 7-5, 6-2 win over Australian Mark Philippoussis (Aus) in the third-place playoff match.

"I enjoyed this week a lot," said the French teenager. "It was good for me to play against (Philippoussis).

"He serves very well and I had to practise my returns for this match after watching him on television. I was very happy to have the chance to play against him.

"I'm still 166th in the world, they are top players. But I feel I'm ready for the Open, I didn't miss a lot and it was a good match for me. It's wonderful to beat Philippoussis," Gasquet said.

FROM PAGE 13 Zealand post a decent total on a drop-in pitch.

The hosts were struggling at 147-9 before Vincent and Bond flayed the Indian attack in an awesome display of clean and hard hitting.

Bond smashed three sixes and two fours in his 15-ball 31 not out, while Vincent scored an unbeaten 53 for his fourth half-century as New Zealand plundered 37 in the last two overs.

Vincent steadied the innings with an 80-run stand for the sixth wicket with Scott Styris (42) after the hosts had been reduced to 50-4.

Indian paceman Javagal Srinath did the maximum damage early in the innings as he grabbed three wickets, including those of Mathew Sinclair (18) and Chris Cairns (13) He looked virtually unplayable on a

pitch having both pace and bounce as he kept line, length and batsmen under control to eventually finish with 3-13 off 10 overs. Srinath returned the most economical figures by an Indian against New

Bangar Zealand in 67 one-day internationals, Ganguly

beating left-arm spinner Ravi Shastri's

Ganguly c McCullum b Adams 23 Sehwag c Fleming b Mills 112 Dravid Ibw b Styris Scoreboard of the sixth one-day Tendulkar c McCullum b Tuffey international between India and New Yuvraj c Fleming b Harris Zealand atAuckland on Saturday: KaifbAdams Bangar Ibw b Adams 14 Agarkar run out 18 Zaheer run out 0 Srinath not out 13 Nehra not out 42 53 Extras: (lb-4, w-12, nb-9) 25 Total: (For 9 wkts in 48.5 overs)200 0 0 Fall of wickets: 1-70, 2-142, 3-159, 4-182, 5-187, 6-194, 7-194, 8-197, 9-198 3 R Μ w Bowle 0 25 Bond 6 1 20 Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 199 0 46 Tuffey 10 Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-28, 3-47, 4-Adams 9.5 0 41 50, 5-130, 6-131, 7-134, 8-144, 9-147 Mills 10 1 43 RW Styris 10 1 40 13 0 6 Harris 3 53 Result: India won by one wicket. 31 34 22 31 Man-of-the-match: Virender Sehwag. Final match: Jan 14, Hamilton.

Kenya expects FROM PAGE 13

the visiting team, led by the ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed, would review security arrangements for the matches.

Kenva is scheduled to host New Zealand on February 21 and Sri Lanka three days later. Both matches will be played at Nairobi's Gymkahana club.

following a terrorist attack on a hotel in the coastal town of Mombasa in November. Fifteen Kenyans and three Israelis died in the car bomb attack. "We would like to assure the dele-

Kenva," said Rayani.

include the former New Zealand captain Jeff Crowe, who is representing the New Zealand Cricket Board, and the Sri Lanka Cricket Board chief executive officer Anura Tennekoon. Others are Australian Tim May,

who is the chairman of the Worldwide Arrie De Beer and Ben Van Deventer.

21

0 Security concerns were raised

gation that there is no place as safe as

Other members of the delegation

Players Association and two South African World Cup security officials,

McGrath's new injury was differ-