SPÖRT

Metropolis TT

SPORTS REPORTER

Eight First Division matches of AB Bank Metropolis Table Tennis League were played at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yester-

Dhaka TT Club blanked Barna TT Club 3-0, North South University outplayed New Colony 3-0 Swamibagh TTS outgunned Purbachal Parisad 3-0, Swamibagh Boys thrashed Sports World 3-0 Khaia Printing beat Khelaghar 3-1 Angels Club defeated Young Pegasus 3-1, Arka beat Riazul Smriti Sangha 3-2 while Management Net handed Mansoor Sporting a 3-1 defeat.

Aussies taking **Spirit of Cricket**

BBC ONLINE, Perth

Australia's cricketers have committed themselves to a new policy governing standards of behaviour on the field

Test and one-day captains Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting are backing the new Spirit of Cricket initiative.

It follows a warning from coach John Buchanan earlier this year that 'sledging' could undermine the national team's achievements.

"We believe we have made good progress, despite a handful of setbacks", said Waugh, who has led the team since 1999.

An elite players' code, finalised in Perth last weekend, does not condone on-field abuse or sledging, but accepts that banter between opponents is part of the competitive nature of cricket.

"We acknowledge that the intense and increasing scrutiny of Australian international cricketers on and off the field imposes very high standards on us as role models and ambassadors for the game," Waugh added.

The initiative covers the game at all levels, from schools cricket upwards.

"Nurturing and developing the Spirit of Cricket is one of the main long-term objectives of our formal business strategy, From Backyard to Baggy Green, which we announced in mid-2002," said Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland.

England

FROM PAGE 13

England's one-day squad for Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, took 6-33 on his Test debut for England against Zimbabwe at Durham earlier this year.

Saggers, making his international debut at the age of 31, is the fifth uncapped players in the England Test squad Gareth Batty, Rikki Clarke, Paul Collingwood and Kent wicketkeeper Geraint Jones are the others.

Chairman of Selectors David Graveney said: "We decided not to opt for a like-for-like replacement for Andrew Flintoff as we already have two batting all-rounders in the squad in Rikki Clarke and Paul Collingwood

"Martin had been placed on standby for the Test squad this winter and his inclusion will give us extra options in the pace

bowling department." **TOUR SCHEDULE BANGLADESH**

Oct 21-25: First Test, Dhaka Oct 29-Nov 2: Second Test Chittagong Nov 7: First ODI, Chittagong

Nov 10: Second ODI, Dhaka

Nov 12: Third ODI, Dhaka (D/N)

SRI LANKA Nov 18: First ODI, Dambulla

Nov 21: Second ODI, Colombo Nov 23: Third ODI, Colombo

(D/N)Dec 2-6: First Test, Galle

Dec 10-14: Second Test, Kandy Dec 18-22: Third Test, Colombo

Zim closer to the danger

Cricket

AFP, Perth

The moment of truth for Heath Streak's depleted Zimbabweans arrives Thursday when they take on Steve Waugh's world champion Australians in the first clash of a two-Test series.

Streak, 29, an accomplished allrounder from Bulawayo, and coach Geoff Marsh have worked wonders in the past two weeks in moulding an inexperienced 16-man squad into an efficient unit performing well above expectations in their three warm-up outings.

But there remain lingering doubts about whether the touring batsmen will have the technical skills to handle the furious pace of Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie and Andy Bichel when the major business begins at Perth's WACA Ground.

Zimbabwe will derive a crumb of comfort from the absence of Australian spearhead Glenn McGrath, sidelined for several months with a left ankle injury.

However, such is the strength of the Australian attack that the absence of a single player is often almost unnoticed.

Another encouraging development for Zimbabwe is that the WACA pitch-- often regarded as among the fastest in the world is likely to be slower than usual.

Ground curator Richard Winter said Tuesday this was because the Test had been scheduled early in

to fears of Islamic extremist attacks,

and police were extra vigilant after

the assassination on Monday of a

prominent Sunni Muslim militant

Final scoreboard of the third one-

day international between Pakistan

leader in the capital Islamabad.

and South Africa on Tuesday:

Hafeez c Dippenaar b Hall

Youhana c Boucher b Ntini

Younis c Ntini b Peterson

Igbal c Boucher b Nel

Malik c Gibbs b Ntini

Latif c Kallis b Pollock

Razzak not out

Jazz

AFP, Hamburg

Hameed c Gibbs b Peterson

Agassi, Graf

Steffi Graf, married to another

tennis legend Andre Agassi, has

given birth to her second child, a girl

named Jazz, a spokesman for her

communication agency said on

The child was born on Friday in

The 33-year-old Agassi and

Las Vegas and there had been no

complications, the spokesman

added, though the child had been

Graf, a year older, already have a

son called Jaden Gil who will be two

titles, married Agassi in October

2001 after retiring in 1999 following

one earlier this year and currently at

number four, is one of only five men

to have won all four Grand Slam

singles titles - Australian Open,

French Open, Wimbledon and the

her sixth win at the French Open.

Graf, who won 22 Grand Slam

Agassi, the oldest world number

expected in mid-November.

years old later this month.

blessed by

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN

the season the earliest summer season Test ever in Australia and cool spring weather had inhibited grass growth.

"Pace bowlers are unlikely to gain much help from the grass, and there will be less bounce than usual." he said

"I predict it will still be hard and flat, but the surface has not had the grass growth and boiling sun that produces extreme pace and bounce.'

Winter's assessment almost certainly means that local paceman Brad Williams, originally expected to replace McGrath, will now be overlooked and have to wait a little longer for a Test debut.

Instead, leg-spinner Stuart MacGill who learned his craft on the Western side of the country is likely to move into the side.

Spinners have had minimum impact in Perth Tests over the decades, but MacGill has an outstanding record here in all forms

He has proved a more than adequate replacement for banned leg-spinner Shane Warne, and the 17 wickets he snared in two Tests against Bangladesh during the winter seem to assure him of a further cap.

Zimbabwe's batting is massively reakened by the absence of the injured Grant Flower, sidelined recently with a broken thumb after he was struck in the domestic competition.

Flower, 32, a 65-Test campaigner with a respectable average of almost 30 at this level, is

SA snap Pak streak

Did not bat: Gul

Peterson

SOUTH AFRICA

Kallis b Akhtar

Smith c Latif b Razzak

Rudolph c Razzak b Malik

microscope

The International Cricket Council

(ICC) has asked Pakistan Cricket

Board (PCB) to provide video foot-

age of Sunday's spat between South

Africa all-rounder Andrew Hall and

The pair clashed in the 13th over

of Pakistan's innings in the second

one-day international in Lahore on

Sunday. Television replays sug-

gested Hall had barged into

Hall then confronted the bats-

man, touching his bat and thrusting

his face into Youhana's, who

responded angrily before umpire

Nadeem Ghouri stepped between

the players. The two were cautioned

video footage to them of the whole

match," PCB chief executive

Rameez Raja told this news agency

"We have been asked to provide

by umpire Darrell Hair.

Youhana as he was taking a single.

Pakistan's Yousuf Youhana

Gibbs c Latif b Akhtar

Dippenaar b Hafeez

Cricket

REUTERS, Faisalabad

Boucher b Akhtar

Extras: (lb-3, w-12, nb-1)

Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 243

138, 5-169, 6-181, 7-200, 8-232

Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-95, 3-128, 4-

R W

35

58

37

0 45

Zimbabwe's only current worldranking batsman following the retirement from Test ranks of elder brother Andv.

Without the Flowers at the batting crease. Zimbabwe will look to such players as Craig Wishart. Trevor Gripper, Mark Vermuelen and Stuart Carlisle to blunt the Australian attack

Wishart has been in fine touch on tour, posting scores of 15, 116, 63 not out and 100 in warm-up knocks.

The team's biggest concern has centred on openers Dion Ebrahim and Trevor Gripper, who have managed a best opening stand of 26

in five starts. Ebrahim (6, 12, 6, 8 and 6) has found Australian wickets especially

Gripper, noted for his stubborness, finally found touch in his last outing, smacking a half-

The broad-shouldered Streak will carry a massive load with the A world-class paceman with 187

Test scalps, he has shown excellent recent form and promises to test the home batsmen. Streak can expect wholehearted

pace support from all-rounder Andy Blignaut, whose first 10 Tests have earned a creditable 34 wickets at an average of 32.73. It will be Zimbabwe's first Test in

this country after a single previous Test meeting against Australia in the African country four years ago when Australia romped home by 10

Extras: (lb-2, w-6, nb-9)

4-157, 5-206, 6-206

in stipulated time.

Akhtar

Saglain

Malik

Hall-Youhana under

Gul

Total: (For 6 wkts in 45 overs) 221

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-110, 3-146,

0 M R

5

10

Result: South Africa won by 13

runs under Duckworth-Lewis

method after bad light ended play

"The impression we have got is

The Pakistan team did not file a

complaint about the incident to

match referee Clive Lloyd and

Under the ICC's Code of

Conduct, if an incident is not

reported to the match referee, the

chief executive has five days from

the close of play on the day the

incident took place to lay a charge

in June this year, following an

incident in the West Indies between

Ramnaresh Sarwan and Glenn

McGrath of Australia that was not

reported, nor brought to the ICC's

attention until after the time limit had

Rasheed said Pakistan had first

decided to complain for a level two

charge against Hall but then

dropped the idea in the better

Pakistan manager Haroon

This was increased from 24 hours

neither umpire reported it.

against a player or official.

that the ICC is to investigate the

Man-of-the-match: Jacques

0 31

0 42

0 42

0 25

0 27

0 52

Did not bat: Ntini, Peterson, Nel

Flemo makes a mistake!

AFP, Ahmedabad

New Zealand cricket captain Stephen Fleming on Tuesday was accused of insulting the memory of Mahatma Gandhi after he was photographed for a liquor advertisement in the independence leader's dry home state.

Politicians in the state of Gujarat condemned the photo shoot, for a brand of whisky, as an "insult".

"It's an insult to the people of Gujarat," said a spokesman of the opposition Congress party in the state.

"This is a dry state, the birthplace of Gandhiji who is the father of the nation. Fleming should not have done the advertisement here."

The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP), which rules the state, also criticised the visiting skipper, who will lead his team against India in the first of a two-Test series here on Wednesday. "Cricket is hugely popular in our

country and any visiting team should keep in mind Indian sentiments while playing here," BJP official Raju Dhruv

A bewildered Fleming apologised for the photo shoot, carried out in the town of Rajkot near here.

"I wasn't aware of the impact it would have on the culture and I apologise if it's offended anyone," he said.

Fletcher

But the big date on the England horizon is the next Ashes series in 2005. Australia have won the last

England captain Michael Vaughan told BBC Radio that Fletcher had been a "huge help" since he had taken over the cap-

"He's technically very astute but he's also very clever when it comes to team planning and planning the strength and weaknesses of the opposition," Vaughan said.

"We are very lucky to have him around the England team."

Fletcher took over from David Lloyd in 1999, having coached Western Province in South Africa and Glamorgan, whom he took to the County Championship title in 1997, his first season in charge of

The twist of toss FROM PAGE 13

Bangladesh Police while Jhenidah moved into the next round by getting lucky against Kushtia at the Chuadanga Stadium. Away in Natore, Thakurgaon

won the toss against Nilphamari

Mymensingh while Barguna were fortunate against Pirojpur at the Patuakhali Stadium. The tough rule will remain in use if rain continues to wash away

matches, according to the organis-

"Time is of the essence. If we stop the tournament now, it will effect the National League and some other age-group tournaments. That's why we will depend on the coins if rain does not stop," said tournament secretary Khondoker Jamiluddin vesterday **SCORES IN BRIEF**

Sirajganj v Natore

Venue: Siraigani

SIRAJGANJ: 152 for 9 in 50 overs (Maruf 35, Sabuj 20, Ripon 20, Belal NATORE: 35 all out in 10.1 overs

(Rony 12, Mamun 8-11) Result: Sirajganj won by 117 runs.

Rajbari v Shariyatpur Venue: Comilla Stadium SHARIYATPUR: 109 all out in 35

RAJBARI: 110 for 9 in 36.1 overs. Result: Rajbari won by one wicket.

Ahmedabad Test FROM PAGE 13

The New Zealand captain said he did not think the heat would affect his team's performance as they had prepared well. "It's hot, but not humid. We've no

problems and are pretty confident," he said, adding he did not believe his key batsmen were short of runs going into the match. New Zealand's Test prepara-

tions suffered a setback as their tour-opener was nearly washed out at Visakhapatnam and then batted just one innings in the second and last warm-up game at Rajkot.

Opener Mark Richardson and all-rounder Jacob Oram alone spent enough time in the middle, scoring a century apiece. "I don't read too much into the

warm-up games. We've the depth in batting to tackle the Indian bowling. The pitch looks good and it's going to be a tough contest," said Fleming

TEAMS NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen

Fleming (captain), Mark Richardson, Lou Vincent, Nathan Astle, Scott Styris, Craig McMillan, Jacob Oram, Robbie Hart, Daniel Vettori, Daryl Tuffey, Paul Wiseman, Ian Butler, Richard Jones, Michael Mason. INDIA: Saurav Ganguly (captain)

Virender Sehwag, Akash Chopra, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar Venkatsai Laxman, Parthiv Patel Anil Kumble, Harbhaian Singh Zaheer Khan, Laxmipathy Balaji Yuvrai Singh (12th man). Umpires: David Shepherd (Eng-

land) and Rudi Koertzen (South



Mayor of Dhaka Sadek Hossain(C) stands infront of the winners podium of the women's 200m butterfly event of the national swimming championships at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

London's 2012 Olympic Games bid

Wimbledon doubtful

Doubts have been cast over Wimbledon as a potential venue for London's 2012 Olympic Games bid.

Barbara Cassani, who is chairing the London bid, admits the All-England Tennis Club may not form part of the plans because grass would not be considered appropriate for disabled athletes, who will be competing in the Paralympics which follow the Olympics themselves.

A compromise would be to use Wimbledon for the Olympics but build a tennis centre with hard courts to stage the Paralympic Games.

Cassani is desperate to include Wimbledon after IOC president Jacques Rogge attended the men's final in July and expressed his desire for it to form part of London's

Wimbledon's role was already under threat because of worries it was too far from the proposed

would take competitors too long to travel there

Cassani has proposed an Olympic Village sub-centre, a plan certain to be rejected by the International Olympic Committee.

Transport is expected to be a difficult area for London's bid, which will come under the spotlight during a four-day IOC seminar for the nine bidding cities which opens in _ausanne on Tuesday.

Neale Coleman, the mayor of London's adviser on the Olympics and a member of the bid committee, will be part of the 10-strong delegation representing London in Switzerland.

He has promised that extra investment will help overcome the problem

things we have to submit," he said.

Everyone travels on it and knows

about the problems but a huge

"It is one of the most important "It is unfortunate that everyone talks our transport system down.

several times all nine could make it through to the final vote, three cities are likely to be rejected before the final bid The first hurdle for the bidding

cities is a detailed questionnaire

There has been a shortage of

investment but by 2012 there will

have been significant new money

London's first priority is to make

London, Paris, New York, Rio,

Leipzig, Madrid, Moscow, Havana

and Istanbul have entered the

battle for the 2012 Games and

although Rogge has declared

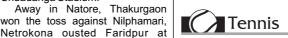
put in.'

the 'cut' next vear.

which must be submitted by January 15 next year. The IOC executive board will endorse candidate cities in May 2004, opening the way for a fullblooded assessment, including

visits by an evaluation commission. The IOC members will vote the 2012 winner in Singapore on July 6,

Shock defeat for Robredo



Tommy Robredo, the 21-year-old Spaniard who recently made the world's top 20 for the first time, suffered a shock defeat when he was beaten in the first round of the 765,000-euro ATP event here on

Monday. The sixth seed lost to local wild card player Jurgen Melzer who saved a match point before completing one of the finest wins of his career by 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/3).

Melzer was able to make up the difference in standard which was reflected by a gap of more than 60 places in the ranking, by the capacity of his hit-or-bust game to rise to new heights when boosted by an excited home crowd and heightened adrena-

The 22-year-old Austrian also played - and won - the two most spectacular and crucial rallies of the match.

One came with Melzer match point down at 4-5 and 30-40 on his serve in the final set. He saved it with the help of a stop volley which combined with an audacious lob volley landing on the baseline.

The other came in the next rally. when Melzer reached game point with some extraordinary fierce hitting after three times being obliged to run He looked to have no chance until

volley from a good position wide. "It was an excellent match and I tried to break up his rhythm," said Melzer. "My service wasn't good in the first set but it was much better in

eventually a surprised Robredo put a

the third set, especially in the Earlier British number one Tim enman's first match since parting company with coach American Larry

the third. I think I played very well in

more easily than the scoreline in his 6-2, 6-3 success over Stefano

the world's top 20.

Pescosolido, an Italian qualifier, suggested. He squandered a break in the second set before overwhelming his opponent with an enterprising

and an ambition to regain a place in

Henman might have won even

mixture of containment and attack and a commitment which suggested he enjoyed the freedom of aoina solo.



PHOTO: AFP

Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia plays a backhand against American Lisa Raymond at the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Filderstadt yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 41 Enthusi-25 What **ACROSS** 5 Low-pH TGIFers 1 Apparel astic, plus **6** — de mer 5 Gremlin 42 Resi-7 Least await

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CRYPTOQUIP

TDG RSGYS O KUYNPC J X U B F TSGUGSPY, FSD ASDRC NUBP

YKSGNPXZOJ ZOYGZOAG Saturday's Cryptoquip: I PHONED MY MOTHER WHO WAS DOWN THE HALL. I SUPPOSE THAT WAS REALLY A CLOSE CALL! Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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

Hectic schedule for Hewitt

interests of the game.

expired.

Hewitt has a full book of tourna-

The former US Open and Wimbledon champion will play at the Hopman Cup here (January 3-10) and the Sydney International (January 11-17) before the Australian Open gets underway in Melbourne on

Hewitt had a scaled-back playing end-of-season top of the rankings.

his only warm-up event for the opening grand slam of the year, in which he was knocked out by Moroccan Younes El Ayanoui in the fourth round.

But the eighth-ranked Hewitt's epic five-set victory over Swiss champ Roger Federer in the Davis Cup semifinal in Melbourne last month has the Hewitt camp confident he can again challenge for the top. 01

schedule early this year following two draining years in which he finished He opted last year to use the mixed Hopman Cup teams event in Perth as

And despite concentrating more on the grand slam events this year. Hewitt failed to win one of the four majors for the first time since 2000

AFP, Perth

Former world number one Lleyton ments heading into January's Australian Open.

January 19.