

Kasprowicz shatters SL

MACKAY, Australia, Nov 25: Queensland paceman Michael Kasprowicz ripped through Sri Lanka's batting line up on Saturday, taking five for eight in just 13 balls to bundle the tourists out for 109 and giving Queensland a 273-run victory, reports Reuter.

Resuming at 59 for three, the Sri Lankan second innings lasted only 56 minutes, with only three batsmen making double figures.

Kasprowicz's career-best performance gave him 12-95 for the match, and made him Australia's leading wicket-taker this season first-class crickets.

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga said he was not too concerned by the defeat or the performance of his top four batsmen, who scored just 83 runs between them in the match.

"The thought we should have batted better from the first innings, but the most important thing for us now is to peak in the next week," he said.

"Especially the frontline batsman, they need a very good knock. They are finding it hard to get used to the wickets and get in a rhythm. It's not ideal for that to happen early but we have a bit more time.

"It's good that everything bad is happening in these games, so we can do some homework before the Test matches.

"I'm not too worried about the results at the moment. I just want to get everyone getting the right practice. We have done it in Pakistan and Sharjah on good tracks and we have to start doing it here.

"Hopefully, by the Test match we will sort out everything. At least we know where we are going wrong."

Australia and Sri Lanka play a three-Test series with the first Test in Perth next month.

Crawley crafty, Devon dull



BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 25: John Crawley made another strong bid for a Test place as England batted themselves into a powerful position against Free State on the second day of their three-day match on Friday, reports Reuter.

Moved up the order to open the innings with captain Mike Atherton, Crawley hit 10 boundaries in an unbeaten 69 to aid England to 121 for one in their second innings and an overall lead of 192.

But the man whose place Crawley is seeking, Mark Ramprakash, also batted well to reach 37 not out by the close.

Fast bowler Devon Malcolm, also seeking a return to the Test side, hardly showed the necessary form in taking one for 59 from 15 overs before Free State declared their first innings at 245 for nine.

Malcolm lacked both pace and direction and his performance was summed up by the fact that his wicket, only his second in first-class games on tour, came from an outside edge to a ball that might otherwise have been called wide.

But England manager Ray Illingworth refused to rule Malcolm out of contention. He said: "It's a very slow pitch and it's difficult to judge Devon in these conditions. But he looks the part. He rolled his sleeves, up and ran in."

The low point of Malcolm's day came when he was hooked for six by 18-year-old schoolboy Hendrik Dippenaar. In Malcolm's defence Dippenaar, who is at Grey College, the school which produced both Hansie Cronje and Kepler Wessels, current and former South African captains respectively, looked a player of rare promise.

After surviving two confident lbw shouts from Do-

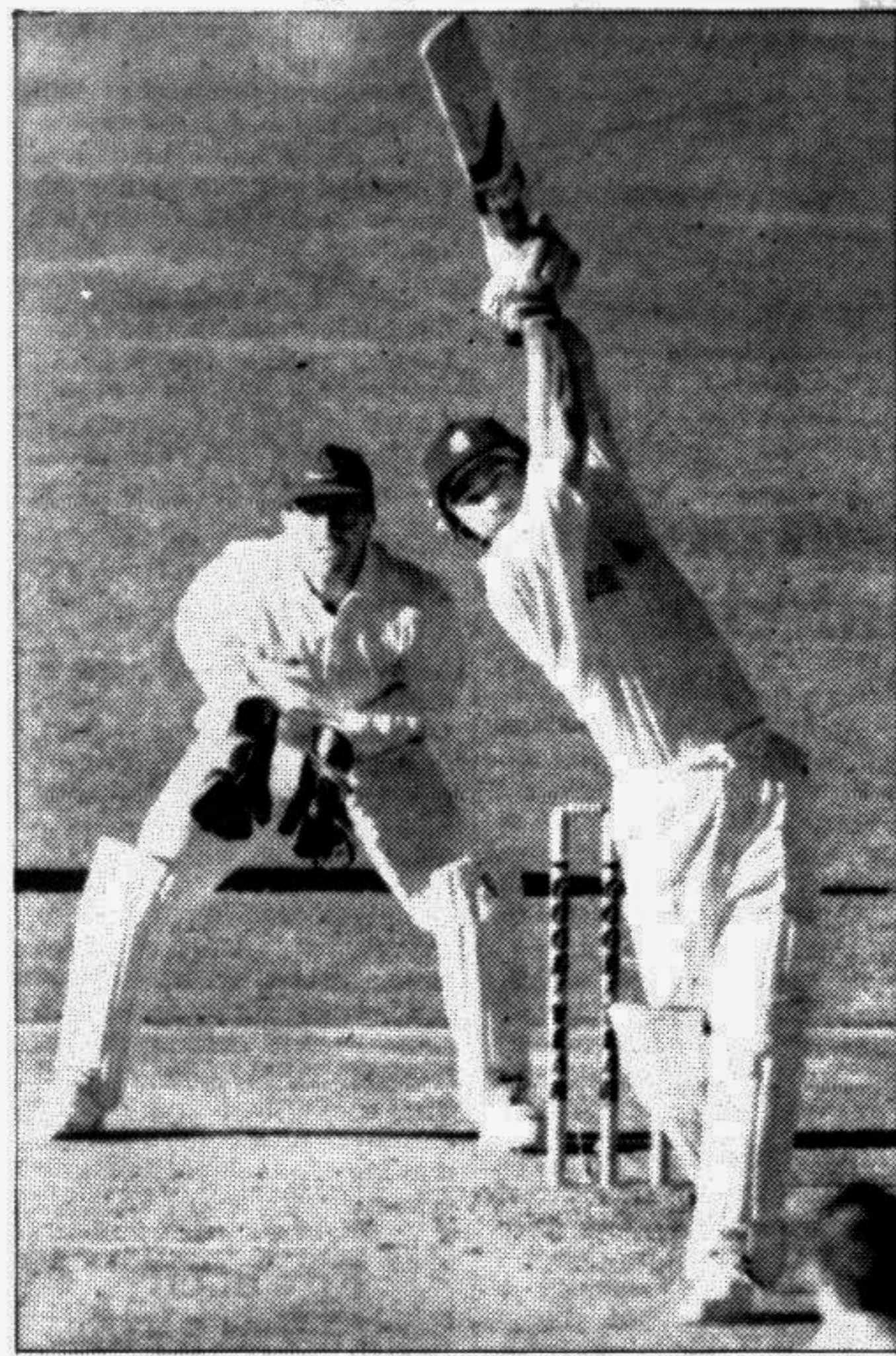
minic Cork, Dippenaar struck nine fours and a six in an innings of 46 from just 66 balls on his first-class debut.

Cork was the best of the England bowlers, bowling Cronje out for 30 and trapping Kosi Venter lbw for four. Slow left-arm Richard Illingworth underlined his importance to the side with a return of three for 50 from 19 tight overs.

When Illingworth won the second of two lbw appeals,

Cronje declared, giving England a first innings lead of 71. Atherton failed for the second time in the match when he pulled Chris Craven straight into the hands of Cronje at midwicket after making 13.

Ray Illingworth praised Crawley's innings, but intimated Ramprakash was likely to keep his Test place. But he added: "Crawley has played well all tour and his chance will come."



England batsman Mark Ramprakash hits one over the bowler's head during the second day of a three day game between England and Orange Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa, on November 24.

— AFP/UNB photo

Pakistan 49 for 2

MELBOURNE, Nov 25: Skipper Dean Jones hit his 27th century for Victoria, a state record, as his side built a 208-run first innings lead over Pakistan today, reports Reuter.

Victoria scored 362, Jones making 127 — his 45th first class century. Pakistan were 49 for two in their second innings at the close.

Jones played a watchful innings, hitting only 10 fours, on an MCG pitch which gave the blowers some assistance. His only blemish came at 39 when he was dropped by Inzamamul Haq.

"I wanted to put a price on my wickets today," he said. "The Pakistanis didn't play that well yesterday mainly because they just flashed but I really wanted to work my backside off."

The touring team's cause was not helped by the loss of opening bowler Aaqib Javed with a leg muscle strain.

Eighteen-year-old off-spinner Saqlain Mustaq was forced to do the bulk of the work, finishing with five for 107 from 40 overs and in the process earning plenty of respect from Jones.

"He's the best off-spinner I've faced," said Jones.



Winners of the women's over 83kg category — Hungary's Erika Takacs (C - gold), Taipei's Chen Hsiao-Lien (L - silver) and Finland's Karolina Lundahl (R - bronze) acknowledge crowds' applause during the prize awarding ceremony at the World Weightlifting Championships in China on Nov 25.

— AFP/UNB photo

Delight ends in blight



GUANGZHOU, China, Nov 25: China's Wan Ni dislocated her elbow after breaking the world snatch record in the over-83 kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships today, reports Reuter.

Wan, 20, broke compatriot Li Dan's world snatch record of 107.5 kg by lifting 108 kg.

But her joy was short-lived. In the clean and jerk section, her left arm gave way just as she was about to straighten her arms over her head.

Wan had been widely tipped to collect all three gold medals in her category. Coach Han Guihua said Wan would be sidelined for about two months.

On Friday, Kaki Kakiavilis of Greece took two gold medals in the men's 99 kg competition.

Taiwan's Chen Shu-Chi stunned and delighted mainland Chinese spectators by

setting two world records and winning two titles in the women's 83 kg category.

Kakiavilis won the overall contest with a 410 kg total and was first in the jerk with 227.5 but he failed to im-

prove the world mark to 230 kg.

Russian Sergei Syritso matched his Greek rival's overall total but was relegated to silver as he was 0.6 kg heavier than Kakiavilis. The rules favour the lighter competitor when identical amounts are lifted.

In the women's event, Chen lifted 133.5 and then 135.0 on the clean and jerk, to beat her own world best of 133.0 set at the Asian Championships in South Korea in July.

With an aggregate score of 240.0 she also broke the overall total world record of 237.5, set by China's Zhang Xiaoli last year.

Although she lifted the same 105.0 in the snatch as section winner Maria Isabel Urrutia of Colombia, Chen's greater body weight meant she was placed second. Urrutia was second overall, equalling the old mark of 237.5.

Kremenliev, 25, is a right back who likes to attack down the wing.

Kremenliev joins Olimpiakos

SOFIA, Nov 25: Bulgarian international defender Emil Kremenliev, who plays for champions Levski Sofia, has signed for Greek club Olimpiakos, a Levski club official said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Technical director Andrei Zhelyazkov said the 18-month contract, plus the option for a further year, would come into force from December 1 if Olimpiakos paid a transfer fee equivalent to 707,100 dollars.

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Azhar to join elite three

NAGPUR, Nov 25: When India skipper Mohammad Azharuddin goes out to toss with his New Zealand counterpart Lee Germon tomorrow in the fifth one-day international at the Vidarbha Cricket Association ground here, he would be joining the ranks of three other great players in the history of the limited overs game, reports Reuter.

Azharuddin, who would be leading India for the 100th time in one-day internationals, is set to join the illustrious clan of Allan Border (Australia), Vivian Richards (West Indies) and Imran Khan (Pakistan) as the only players to have captained their countries on 100 or more occasions.

The stylish Hyderabad middle-order batsman, would be playing his 198th one-day international tomorrow, his win-loss record so far as India's captain is 53-43 which gives him a 53.53 success percentage.

Twice he has been captain of India in matches which have ended in ties and once in an abandoned encounter.

Carom as a sport: Call for recognition

By Staff Correspondent

Carom should be recognised by the government as a sport and be established nationally in order to broader participation at home and abroad, according to Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, the convenor of the Bangladesh Carom Association.

In a letter to the Secretary of the Youth and Sports Ministry recently, the association urged the government to turn the association into a federation so that Bangladesh could participate at international level.

The convenor of the association said that despite its immense popularity in the country, carom is yet to be recognised by the government. The secretary general of the International Carom Federation visited Bangladesh during the sixth SAF Games and urged the Bangladesh Olympic Committee to organise the game in the country, Salam said.

In October 1995, the second World Carom Championship was held in Colombo where the association sent two students from the Dhaka University. But, Salam added, that due to sheer lack of interest on the part of government, the country was being deprived from participating in many other international events.

Whatever progress has been made so far has come from personal initiative of the association members and enthusiasts sportsmen. But this cannot continue for long because the resources of the association are very limited, Salam added.

Hamburg climb

BONN, Nov 25: Revitalised Hamburg climbed 40th minute penalty to clinch a 1-0 win over city rivals St Pauli and move up one place to fourth in the German Bundesliga on Friday, reports Reuter.

Dieter Spoel stroked home the penalty after midfielder Uwe Jaehning had been fouled, continuing Hamburg's run of form since World Cup legend Uwe Seeler took over as chairman and brought in former international midfielder Felix Magath as coach.

Martinez gives Spain's solid start

VALENCIA, Spain, Nov 25: Conchita Martinez gave Spain the early initiative in the Fed Cup final against the United States today by beating Chanda Rubin in straight sets, reports Reuter.

Rubin, replacing Monica Seles after the American world co-number one pulled out earlier this week to recover from injuries, battled hard but was beaten 7-5, 7-6.

Rubin, 19, who reached the French Open quarter-finals this year, came back from 5-3 down in the second set to force a tie-break which the Spaniard won 7-3.

Clearly nervous in the opening games, Rubin served a number of double faults but she gained confidence and often out-ran her heavier opponent.

Cairns' ton goes in vain



PUNE, India, Nov 25: India overcame a stunning all-round performance from Chris Cairns to defeat New Zealand by five wickets in the fourth one-day international here on Friday, reports AFP.

Cairns cracked a career-best 103 off 87 balls, and then grabbed three of the four Indian wickets to fall to the bowlers, to win the man-of-the-match award in an engrossing encounter.

But the Indians showed their much-vaunted batting strength by overtaking New Zealand's 235 for six with 25 balls to spare before a full house of 30,000 home fans at the Nehru Stadium here.

The victory gave India a 2-

1 lead in the six-match series, with one match rained off. The remaining two internationals will be played in Nagpur on Sunday and Bombay on Wednesday.

Cairns smashed 10 boundaries and four huge sixes in his maiden one-day hundred to revive the faltering Kiwi innings, after India had reduced them to 75 for four by the 27th over.

Cairns was helped in the rescue act by England-born Roger Twose, who made a defiant 46 in a rousing 147-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Chasing a target of 4.7 runs an over, the Indians began badly by losing openers Sachin Tendulkar and Manoj Prabhakar by the 11th over to two brilliant catches in the outfield.

Tendulkar, who made seven, cut Danny Morrison hard to point where Gavin Larsen plucked the ball over his right shoulder. Prabhakar was taken by Twose, diving in front at extra cover, to give Cairns his first wicket.

Vinod Kambli added 71 for the third wicket with skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, before he was run out for 43.



CAIRNS ... 103

Cairns returned to trap Azharuddin leg before for 58 and clean bowled Ajay Jadeja for 12 as India slipped from a healthy 127 for two to 179 for five by the 37th over.

But Sanjay Manjrekar and wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia gathered the remaining 57 runs without fuss to give the home side a well-deserved victory. Manjrekar remained unbeaten on 47, while Mongia contributed 36.

Cairns, whose previous best batting effort was 72 against Sri Lanka in March this year, reached his second fifty off just 26 balls as New Zealand added 145 runs in the final 15 overs.

Coming into bat after the top four were gone, Cairns launched a blistering attack on the Indian bowlers before falling in the penultimate over, stumped while trying to heave Tendulkar out of the ground.

Better late than never!

ROME, Nov 25: Italy wants to play a "peace" soccer friendly in Sarajevo as soon as their schedule and the situation in Bosnia permits. Italian Soccer Federation chief Antonio Matarrese said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The federation has decided to visit Sarajevo with the national team. Matarrese told reporters during a meeting of Third Division Serie C clubs.

"When the situation allows we will go and lay a friendly without asking for anything. It seems to me the last we can do, as a gesture of support for a people who have suffered. It is something we felt we had to do," he said.

Microscope misses the vital Sino sign



GUANGZHOU, China, Nov 25: A US television crew spilled the urine sample of a top Chinese woman competitor while filming in the doping control room at the World Weightlifting Championships, tournament officials said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The cameraman spilled the urine of the weightlifter, but the weightlifter produced urine again. There was nothing illegal about this, Tamas Ajan, International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) secretary general, said at a news conference.

Eyewitnesses said a Chinese women's team coach rushed out of the doping control room on Thursday, complaining that a cameraman for American Broadcasting Crop (ABC) had upset the urine sample of Li Yan, women's 76-kg category gold medalist.

Ajan said he could not confirm the sample was Li's. The incident sparked queries about possible complications with the testing procedures in Guangzhou and infuriated other television

crews denied access to the doping control room.

Ajan said permission was given to ABC by the president of the IWF medical team after the US network asked to film the doping control room to show whether international testing procedures were being followed.

"China is a strong country with strong weightlifters but it has no experience in doping control, so the medical president wanted to do this for the (benefit) of the media," Ajan said.

Testing procedures in Guangzhou were extensive, he said. "We are conducting 120 doping analyses, about 28 to 30 per cent of the total number of participants, the highest compared to any other World Championship," he said, brandishing a 40-page tabulation of samples taken from participants.

Ajan said the samples would be sent to IWF accredited laboratories in Cologne, Germany, and Madrid. Results could only be expected around the end of December.

Two Chinese women weightlifters were banned for life in January for using the anabolic steroid dehydrot-

tosterone at the World Championships in Istanbul in November last year.

The IWF said 64 positive dope tests had been recorded this year, a steep increase from 17 in 1994.

Because of the number of doping cases in the past, the federation introduced new weight categories on January 1, 1993 and began recording a new set of world records.

The championships in Guangzhou have drawn over 400 athletes from all over the world, the highest number ever to converge for a single weightlifting event, hoping to qualify for places at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

Britain leave it late

CAPE TOWN, Nov 25: A dramatic, last second equaliser by Sue Fraser earned Britain an unexpected draw against Argentina in the women's Olympic qualifying tournament on Friday, reports Reuter.

Britain need just a point from their final match today against bottom team South Africa to book their ticket to Atlanta.

Trailing 2-1 with only three seconds remaining, Britain were awarded a short corner and the match clock was stopped.

Captain Gill Atkins opted for a straightforward stop and strike and Fraser's shot flew over the goalkeeper and clipped the top of the backboards as the final hooter sounded.

Mandy Nicholls had given Britain a 14th minute lead before Argentine Maria Paula Castelli scored twice from short corner rebounds in the 24th and 45th minutes.

Pre-tournament favourites South Korea played mesmerising hockey against Germany as Asian skill overcame European durability in a 2-1 win.

Cho Eun-Jung put the Koreans ahead in the 15th minute from open play before Nadine Ernsting-Krienke equalised from a short corner midway through the second half.

But Lee Eun-Kyun Gwon the match with a clever flick 13 minutes before the end of move South Korea to the top of the standings.

The results confirmed Argentina's qualification along with Germany and South Korea, fifth-placed Netherlands are level with China on five points but ahead by one goal. The fifth and last qualifying place will be decided in final matches today, when the Dutch meet Germany and China play Argentina.



Taipei's Chen Shu-Chi strains every bit of energy to lift in the 83kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships in China on Nov 24.

— AFP/UNB photo

Advertisement for Bangladesh Gas Fertilizer Company Limited (বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস ফিল্ডস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড). It includes details about fertilizer products, prices, and contact information. The text is in Bengali and English.