Nat'l TT starts from Jan 20

The 24th National Table Tennis Championship will be held in the northern city of Rangpur from January 20-26. reports UNB.

Fourteen events have been included in the meet, organised by Rangpur District Sports Association under the anspices of Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF).

Events: Men's team. women's team, boys' team, men's singles, women's singles, boys' singles (under-18), boys' singles (under 16), men's doubles, women's doubles, mixed doubles, boys' doubles (under 18), boys' doubles (under 16), boys' singles (sub-juniors under 12), girls' singles (sub-juniors

Interested players and teams have been requested to send their entry by January 15.

India going to Zimbabwe May 25

NEW DELHI. Jan 3: India's cricket chiefs on Wednesday changed the itinerary for a tour of Zimbabwe in May, wiping out one Test match from the origi-nal schedule issued only a few hours earlier, reports AFP.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) clarified the tour would comprise just two Test matches, and not three as announced earlier in the day.

The 43-day tour, commencing on May 25, will also feature a limited-overs tri-series between India. Zimbabwe and the West Indies, BCCI secretary Jayawant Lele said.

Lele said a previously rejected itinerary had been released mistakenly by the BCCI

According to the revised programme, the Indians will start the tour with two threeday matches at Harare and Motare.

The first Test will be played at Harare from June 7, followed immediately by the second at Bulawayo from June 15.

The tri-series starts on June 23 with the final scheduled to be played at Harare on July 7.

ITINERARY

May 25: Indians arrive in Harare May 28-30: Tour match

CFX Academy, Harare June 2-4: Tour match v

Zimbabwe A. Motare June 7-11: First Test, Ha-

June 15-19: Second Test, Bulawayo Tri-series:

June 23: Zimbabwe v West Indies, Harare

June 24: Zimbabwe vs India. Harare

June 27: Zimbabwe v India. Birlawayo June 30: India v West In-

dies. Bulawayo July 1: Zimbabwe v West

Indies. Bulawayo

July 4: India v West Indies.

July 7: Final, Harare Conciliatory

cricket

SYDNEY. Jan 3: An Aboriginal cricket team will play a side hand picked by the Prime Minister in a match April 5 aimed at promoting reconciliation

between black and white Australians, reports AP. Prime Minister John Howard and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) chairman Geoff Clark announced the Canberra match at a joint press conference

Wednesday at the Sydney

Cricket Ground. Howard, frequently condemned by Aboriginal leaders for refusing to apologise for inistreatment of Australia's indigenous people since European settlement in 1788, said the match would form part of celebrations to mark Australia's centenary of federation.

Current fast bowler Jason Gillespie has revealed he has some Aboriginal ancestry, although only a handful of Aboriginal cricketers have competed at first-class level.

A team of Aborigines from Victoria state was among the first ever touring teams to represent Australia, visiting England in 1868 when Australia consisted of six separate colomes under British rule. The colonies formally feder-

ated to form the Commonwealth of Australia on Jan 1, 1901 and celebrations to mark Australia's 100th anniversary of nationhood are planned throughout

The Aboriginal tourists gained fame for their cricketing skill but also for their general athletic prowess, with cricket matches often punctuated by demonstrations of boomerang throwing and running

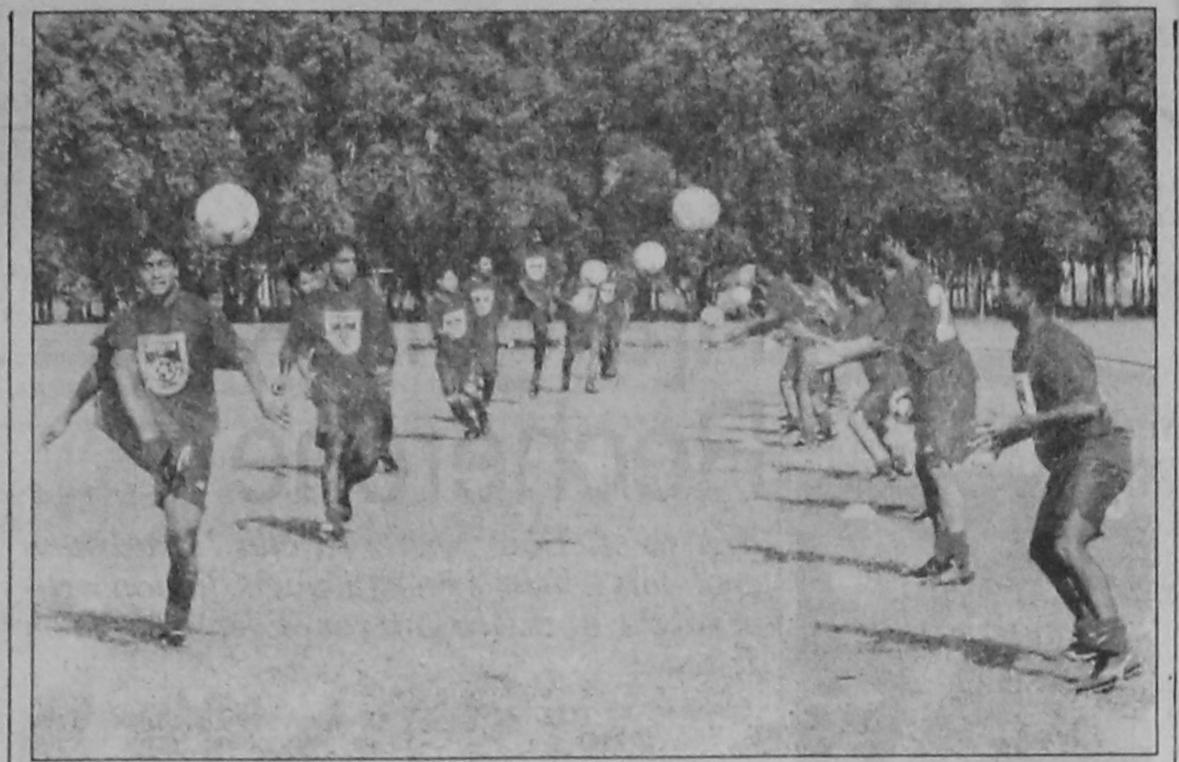
Steve steadies

From page 13 235. 7-240, 8-240, 9-252 OMRW Bowler 19 7 43 McGrath 16 4 44 Gillespie 37 11 104 MacGill Miller 30.1 8 73 AUSTRALIA: First innings

Slater c Samuels b Nagamootoo Hayden c Lara b Walsh Langer e Jacobs b McLean 20 M Waugh run out (Campbell) 22 S Waugh not out Ponting not out Extras: (b-1. lb-1. nb-8)

Total: (For 4 wkts in 87 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-55, of a player.

3-109, 4-157 Bowler OMRW Walsh 2 38 Stuart 12 Nagamootoo 2 77 22 2 58 McLean 14 14 2 38 Adams 0 Samuels



Bangladesh booters preparing themselves at the BKSP in Savar on Tuesday for the forthcoming Millennium Cup in India. The 16-nation meet will be held from January 10 to 25. -Star photo by Anisur Rahman

SA's mission forget-Hansie

hind them and "go places", according to the country's new cricket chief Ger-

There definitely is a new era in South African cricket -- there is life after Cronjegate," Majola, the United Cricket Board's (UCB) new managing director.

said on Wednesday. "We need to realise that what's done is done and cannot be undone, and we need to look to the future," he said during the second test against Sri

Lanka at Newlands. recover from the corruption scandal that broke last April when former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje admitted taking money from bookmakers for match information. He has been banned for life from

director to organise the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

has promised leadership of a place in Auckland on Sunday.

SYDNEY, Jan 3

been involved in three run-outs in Tests.

in this summer's Test series

another catastrophic mix-up

22 after previously cruising

along unruffled in a third-

Mark Waugh was run out for

cost a wicket here Wednesday.

CAPE TOWN. Jan lower profile.

saying it's better or worse, just Ngam. different." national selector. He helped ers of colour, we just picked our

Kiwis call for backup

WELLINGTON, Jan 3 (Internet report): Spinner Paul Wise-Wellington on Thursday

Wiseman comes in for Chris portedly suffered a spell of mates hearts. Majola officially took over on light-headedness yesterday and play in the match.

Majola, the first black man Caps' embarrassing 70-run remained friends. to run South African cricket's defeat at the hands of the tourday-to-day affairs, though the ists in Taupo on Tuesday. The ply was as quick and well di-UCB has had black presidents. final match of the series takes

Slater couldn't care less

against the West Indies after only an error was going to picking it up, so then I called

But Slater hesitated and

called out forcing Waugh to do

a double-take. Waugh could

not beat Sherwin Campbell's

throw to keeper Ridley Jacobs

to be out when he looked set for

at Slater throughout the series

for his jack-rabbit running be-

tween wickets. His opening

partner Matthew Hayden has

been run out twice, in the first

there was nothing wrong with

I've been involved in six run-

outs and that's over the course

tioned down the wicket without

his running between wickets.

of eight years," said Slater.

partner's body movement.

But Slater was adamant

"In 67 Test matches I think

The finger has been pointed

- that he has had been dismissed in the 90s two.

started off for a run.

a big score.

and third Tests.

(AFP): Michael Sla- and was later frustrated to be with his body movement

it was caught going for a boundary thought it must have been hit-

unfortunate - when four runs short of his ting the gap and if got past

but nothing else hundred - the ninth time he Sherwin there was going to be

Waugh hit behind point and found short.

African XI to include three non-3 (Reuters): South "I've probably got a different white players in opener Africa are deter- management style to Dr Herschelle Gibbs and fast bowlmined to put Bacher's," Majola said. "I'm not ers Makhaya Ntini and Mfuneko

"It never crossed our minds Until Monday, Majola was a that we had selected three playpick the team playing the sec- best side," Majola said. "That is ond Test here -- the first South a very positive indication that we are going places in South African cricket.

Majola was confident Shaun Pollock -- he took over from Cronje last April -- was the man to lead South Africa along its fresh path.

"Shaun has matured tremendously since he became man and uncapped batsman captain," Majola said. "I know Jacob Oram have been called what it feels like to take up a South Africa are striving to into the New Zealand squad for new challenge, and he has the second one-day interna- made a fine job of accepting the tional against Zimbabwe in challenge of leading the South African team."

Although Cronje's shadow is Cairns, still recovering from a steadily fading from South Afriknee injury, while Oram is can cricket, he still has a place cover for Nathan Astle who re- in some of his former team Evidence of that came when

Monday from Ali Bacher, who was taken to hospital for tests. Allan Donald was asked before has resigned as UCB managing Astle, however, is expected to the first Test against New Zealand in Bloemfontein last No-The changes follow the Black vember whether he and Cronje The veteran fast bowler's re-

rected as his feared bouncer:

"I was watching Mark and

Slater was on 63 at the time yes. I couldn't see the angle and

Earlier it had been apparent when I looked over Sherwin was

break up the blossoming part- 'No', but we had both commit

nership between Slater and ted too far and unfortunately

Waugh, and it came in the 30th for Mark he was going back to

over at 109 for two when the danger end and he was

"It's unfortunate that I've both of us were at fault, but it

been involved in three this was a shame because our part-

Slater said Waugh had mo- gain momentum.

"I was awaiting his call of ture of both of us.

India pull out of Malaysia tri-series

KARACHI, Jan 3: India have refused to take part in a trination cricket tournament in Malaysia because Pakistan is also competing, a Pakistan Cricket Board official said Tuesday, reports AFP.

"The Malaysian Cricket Association has informed us that the planned tri-series between Pakistan, India and Malaysia has been cancelled because of India's refusal to play," Brigadier Munawwar Rana told this news agency

Malaysia had invited Pakistan and India to join them for a tri-series tournament from January 28 to February 9 in Kuala Lumpur.

"They (India) have said that time was short but it is not an appropriate excuse," Rana said, adding the real reason was that they did not want to play with Pakistan.

"It's disappointing that India has turned down the invitation because this would have given a tremendous boost to cricket in Malaysia.'

Malaysian cricket chief Tunko Imran visited India last month to invite India for the

Earlier the Indian government refused to allow its cricket team to tour Pakistan because of political tensions between the two countries. The government has refused to review the decision despite pressure from the International Cricket Council

"Pakistan would still love to play India anywhere in the world because the contests between the two generate a lot of interest and following," Rana

"India's continued refusal to play Pakistan will affect the ICC's 10-year programme because Pakistan will lose financially every time India refuse to come." he added.

The ICC plans to finalise the cricket itinerary for the next decade in its meeting next month in Melbourne. However, Rana said he was

hopeful that the April tri-nation series in Sharjah involving Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka would go ahead as planned. "There should be no problem

for the tri-series in Sharjah because it is held every year and is planned well before

Rios survives a scare

the former world number one. began the new year with a new bride and a surprising new attitude, but with an old target in the 975,000-dollar ATP event here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

who fought off a surprisingly fierce challenge from the Yugoslav qualifier Nenad Zimonjic by 6-4. 3-6, 6-1, reckons that his 17-year-old Puerta Rican wife Juliana can improve his longterm frame of mind and help him regain the pinnacle.

"Having a wife so young is fun, and being on the tour is not always fun - it can be boring," said the man who three times in a row won the French Open's prix de citron award for the tour's most miserable player.

as he described his current mood. "Last year was not a great tennis year for me, but it was for me personally, and this

a lot more in my life and every step I take helps me mature. It's a difficult thing to say that I can be number one again but it is my goal and what I did once I can do again, if I play well."

for much of the time, despite a double fault contributing to the only break of serve in the second set. His ground strokes were fluent, weighty and hard to read, and he remained focussed during the periods when an inspired Simonjic played above himself.

calling and he went off his waste. A run out is a cheap Seles was sitting courtside

after the match when a middleaged man tapped her on the shoulder to seek an autograph. Witnesses say Seles, who was stabbed by a German fan

while sitting courtside in 1993. was upset by the approach and immediately American playing partner Jan Michael Gambill, who ushered her from the area. There was no immediate

officials at the Burswood dome ushered the man from the scene, but there was no action taken against him. Seles was the world's topranked player on April 30, 1993 when, during a changeover in

Seles missed 18 months of tennis and has never regained

the No. I ranking. After arriving in Australia for the Hopman Cup on Friday, Seles said the German incident

year," she said. "Obviously a lot of tournaments have moved to 38 Florida Germany and I'm not playing them. That is going to hurt my 41 Say it's rankings a little.

Seles, Gambil gun Russians down



their hopes of

Russia in a bruising six-and-ahalf hour duel here Wednesday. reports AFP.

Monica Seles and confrontation, Seles and Gam-Jan-Michael Ga- bill edged out men's world boosted number two Marat Safin and reaching the Hopman Cup ten- clinch the crucial tie 2-1 after ms final while ending those of the singles clashes had been Monday.

of the eight nations in the



Jan-Michael Gambil and Monica Seles are all smiles after beating Marat Safin and Elena Likhovtseva in the mixed doubles match of the Hopman Cup vesterday. --- AFP photo

During a thrilling deciding round-robin contest, beat the Jan 3: Americans 105-minute mixed doubles Russian pair -- seeded second -

- 4-6, 6-2, 6-2. It was the United States' second win in the competition. partner Elena Likhovtseva to following their sweeping 3-0 drubbing of the Slovak Republic

Russia registered their sec-The Americans, third-seeded and successive loss, having gone down 1-2 to Belgium in a shock result on the same day.

Safin, 20, had kept the Russians in the tie at the Burswood Dome when he defeated 23year-old Gambill, ranked 33rd in the world, in the men's singles in three sets, 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 after Seles had overcome Likhovtseva in the women's singles.

Seles, 27, ranked fourth in the world, used her vast experience to grind down a plucky Likhovtseva, 25, ranked 21st. Seles, the former world

straight sets. 6-3, 6-3. "I am playing pretty well and I am happy with my form." Seles said.

number one, got home in

"I just hope I am not going to get into top form too soon -because I want to be playing well in two weeks during the Australian Open.'

Seles said she would love to help her adopted nation win the Hopman Cup, having helped to guide her native country. Yugoslavia, to the title 10 years ago when she partnered Goran

In that success the Yugoslav pair defeated the United States. represented by David Wheaton and Zina Garrison, in the final.

Safin was relieved to wear down the hard-working Gambill in the singles after he had lost to Belgium's Olivier Rochus two days earlier. "I just wanted to win today

and I managed that, even though it was a difficult match." he said. "I am happy, though sometimes I was making a lot of

mistakes. Jan-Michael is a good player, and he was a bit un-

Seeds sent packing



here on Tuesday, reports AFP. 3, 7-6 (7-3).

ond seed and world No. 14 shots and he was serving great 4), but it wasn't easy. Franco Squillari of Argentina and playing cleanly." was stunned by another teen-

Swedish top seed the voungest player in the made a difference. "Dent had Magnus Norman, tournament. Youzhny, ranked 99 places and enjoyed himself. In my

world was shoc- below Squillari, won 6-7 (4-7), case, if you're not 300 per cent, 6-1, 6-2 to throw open the you can lose to anyone.

France's Cedric Pioline was "You have to stay cool if you nearly the third upset of the 400.000-dollar Indian Open want to be a champion," said day, but he took his time after a Norman later. "I said yesterday slow start and got past Spain's Dent won in straight sets 6- that Dent was a dangerous Galo Blanco. Pioline, a semicustomer and I was not mis- finalist last year and the third In another major upset, sec- taken. I was mistiming my seed here won 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-Blanco made some great He added that Dent's having looping top spin drives in what was basically a baseline duel. Pioline could not convert his first match point with Blanco serving 30-40, 4-5 in the final set, and tried to slice and keep the ball low.

nothing to lose, he went out

He succeeded in the end to frustrate Blanco, who made errors at crucial points in the tie-break, netting a backhand return to give the Frenchman his second matchpoint and

then sending down a doublefault to end the matter. Pioline said he was happy to win the match, despite the manner in which the win was accomplished.

Another Frenchman to win Tuesday was Jerome Golmard. The defending champion let up a little to lose the second set tie-break after closing out the first set, but made short work of Switzerland's George Bastl in the third to win 7-5, 6-7 (3-7).

Golmard said he wasn't really worried at any stage of the match, except about his back. "I had eight weeks of treatment on my lower back in August and even now, my one major opponent is my back. If that will hold. I can deal with anvone.

Sweden's Andreas Vinciguerra, who has made second round exits the last two years here and was vesterday named by Norman as one of the people who could end the year on top. posted a quick win over Swit-

Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden in action against German Nicolas Kiefer in the Qatar Open in Doha on January 2. zerland's Michel Kratochvil 7-6 (7-4). 6-3. -AFP photo

21 22 38 39 40 45 50 51

BJUEE NOFN MXL. CUNKCUL

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals E

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

Scottish Premiership

MICHAEL SLATER

The Australians, pursuing

wicket partnership with Slater.

their 15th successive Test vic-

tory and an unprecedented 5-0

series whitewash, were 284 for

four at stumps after the second

day, for a lead of 12 runs over

the tourists with six wickets in

Four-star Larsson



3: Henrik Larsson double as Celtic

attempted to take the spirit out of the title chase with a 6-0 thrashing of Kilreports AFP. Larsson helped himself to a

leaders stayed nine points clear home. Larsson is a top quality player -

there's no doubt about that. when it comes he'll be one hell Marshall.

and maybe even overshadowed Henrik today. "I thought he was excellent ton was presented with a great more in against Raith Rovers

Jan done brilliantly for us since Marshall before slotting the ball

"It doesn't matter what people say strikers want to score and Sutton were both on hattour goals and goals, but there are other parts tricks as the former Chelsea Chris Sutton a of his game that are excep-

Early on Kilmarnock goalkeeper Gordon Marshall was being kept busy without really marnock at Parkhead Tuesday. being tested with anything worthwhile from the home side. But the Celtic fans were he took a return pass from

The home side grabbed their add another when he fired Delighted Celtic manager second in the 53rd minute as home past Marshall with the Martin O'Neill said: "Henrik Gary Holt hauled down Stillian ragged Kilmarnock defence Petrov in the box and while the looking on in disbelief. Kilmarnock players waited for

"He now has 101 goals for not out of it yet and Kevin over Motherwell. the club and he was really ex- McGowne powered a header ceptional, but I thought Chris over from Andy McLaren's McLeish's only complaint was Sutton was top-class as well inswinging corner.

in the 62nd minute when Sut-

home into the back of the net. In the 70th minute, Larsson

- MARK WAUGH

"It was a mix-up that maybe

"It always seems such a

nership was just starting to

wicket and today it was a mix-

striker comfortably side-footed Petrov's cross home with Marshall struggling to get back across goal. Larsson, however, was soon

stunning four-goal spree in the soon celebrating the first goal of substitute Alan Thompson besecond-half - taking his season the afternoon in the 37th min- fore drawing Marshall and then tally to 32 and bringing up his tite as Gary Hay allowed Neil coolly slotting the ball past him Celtic goal century in just 138 Lennon's in-swinging cross to for his 31st goal of the season. games as the Premier League run by him and Sutton volleyed There was even time remaining for the Swedish star to

celebrating his hat-trick when

hi other matches Hiberman "People are still saying that the referee to blow his whistle stayed second with a 3-0 win 10 he's not back to his best, but Larsson struck to side-foot past over Dundee, while Dundee United put a dreadful 2000 Kilmarnock, however, were behind them with a 2-0 win

Hibernian manager Alex

with the disappointingly small But the match was killed off crowd at Easter Road. I think we actually had from start to finish and he has chance and he coolly rounded two years ago on Boxing Day.

DOHA. Jan 3: Marcelo Rios.

The controversial Chilean

Rios certainly looked happier

should help me," he said. "I feel life is different. I have

He did play extremely well

Scared Seles

PERTH, Jan 3: Monica Seles was visibly shaken Wednesday when an antograph seeker at the Hopman Cup approached her after her mixed doubles match against Russia, reports

grabbed her

comment from Seles or from tournament officials. Security

her quarterfinal against Magdalena Maleeva. 38-year-old German Geunter Parche broke through security and stabbed her in the back.

still haunts her. "I don't know how many tournaments I want to play this

16 Dog that to Casacan't bark maid blanca 32 Tibetan 18 Jim 55 Geologic 8 Undeni-Carrey period ably role 56 Spanish 9 Estate 33 Jam 20 Booty huzzah house 21 The 57 Aligned 10 Pear Greatest" 34 Praiseful variety 23 Wrestling DOWN 11 Tends 1 Rebel 36 "Ally texts 24 Computer org. 17 Leaves killer 2 Cries of iuo 25 Adroit surprise Solution time: 25 mins. 27 Dieter's entree 29 Flaw 31 Agency of the United Nations 35 Skinflint 37 Herring's G S U I T S H B O M B IS

CROSSWORD

Hollywood 45 Crudites

1 Shows up 44 Anne

14 Conjunc- 52 Child

43 Wrath

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selection

hero

47 Wrinkly

49 Reached

53 Scooted

Baxters'

54 The

dog

ACROSS

6 Demure

9 West of

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role (sounds) 38 Sample 39 Detest 40 Mazda model 42 Slingy 45 Authentic 46 Go with the eagles 48 Expert 50 Ballbearing

By Eugene Sheffer

19 Hazes

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talking

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ent?

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McBeal"

item

51 Antiquated

3 Large,

short-

haired

dog

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time

5 Arrange-

structure

en route

7 Stopover 30 KGB

CRYPTOQUIP

TMIXL CUEN EKSBUC MS OKE IJSA CMTAUC. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BULLETIN: ANGRY INVESTORS IN THOSE RECENTLY OPENED PARKING LOTS HAVE BACKED OUT.

24 Forefront 26 Disposi-6 Poolside 28 Dangled a carrot counterbreed of