## BCCSL deal

AFP, Colombo

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) Thursday announced that it had awarded the international radio and television rights for the upcoming England tour to World Sports Group-Nimbus (WSG-Nimbus).

Earlier, BCCSL had withdrawn a three-year contract awarded to WSG-Nimbus, accusing them of violating conditions of their agreement.

The BCCSL said they had now partly resolved the differences and granted rights only for the England tour which will include three one-day internationals and three Test matches.

The BCCSL initially entered into an agreement with WSG-Nimbus for sponsorship rights for a three year period in December, but the deal was off last month.

agreement, there was a danger of | investment they've had." the England tour, which begins with a test match on February 22, not being televised internationally.

The Cricket Board said in a statement last month that WSG-Nimbus failed to provide the required bank guarantee and therefore the agreement was broken.

However, other cricket sources said that WSG-Nimbus did not provide the bank guarantee because the board failed to provide confirmation for the itinerary for the entire three year period till

### Condon to tour New Zealand

AP, Auckland

Cricket's anti-corruption head Sir Paul Condon will visit New Zealand on February 15 as part of his inquiry into match-fixing, officials said Thursday.

He will meet members of the New Zealand Cricket's Commission of Inquiry into corruption retired judge Sir Ian Barker, lawyer Nick Davidson and assisting counsel Tim Gresson.

It is not known if Condon will ask to speak to former New Zealand captain Martin Crowe, who was named by an Indian Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) report as having connections with a bookmaker.

The report claimed Crowe, and other international cricketers. received money from bookmaker MK Gupta.

Crowe has admitted receiving 3,000 American dollars from Gupta, who he believed was a journalist, for a "captain's diary" series of articles. He says he broke off contact with Gupta when he realised he was a bookmaker. The Indian report claims

Crowe received 20,000 dollars.

Crowe has denied any suggestion of wrongdoing and has said both broke down mid-tour and making his debut in January 1998, he will cooperate with New Zealand Cricket's inquiry.

Condon, a former head of Britain's Metropolitan Police the fight to Indian master Sachin Force, is in Melbourne where he will on Saturday interview Australian cricketer Mark Waugh, also named in the CBI report.

#### Kind ACB

REUTERS, Melbourne

The Australian Cricket Board not forgotten when it came to against the mighty United States Gilchrist (vice-captain), Damien (ACB) will ask television viewers of picking the squad to depart on this weekend. Friday's one-day match between Tuesday, even though Kasprowicz Australia and West Indies to donate money to victims of the Indian earthquake.

There will be an appeal going through the Nine Network right through the commentary tomorrow encouraging people to ring through to the World Vision telephone network to assist in supporting this very worthy cause. ACB chairman Denis Rogers told a news conference on Thursday.

"There are people sleeping outside. Deadly disease is just waiting to launch itself so we have to do something quickly."

The Kutch region near the Pakistan border was worst hit in the January 26 quake, which killed an estimated 50,000 people.

squad on Thursday for a three-Test series against India, starting next week. Australia's captain Steve Waugh, known for his charity work in India, said his players would do what they could during the tour.

#### Lanka FROM PAGE 13

M Muralitharan, C Fernando

Bowler	0	M	R	W
Martin	7	2	32	1
Fuffey	7	0	36	2
Oram	2	0	19	0
Vettori	7	1	31	0
Astle	5	0	22	2
McMillan	2	0	6	0
Result: Sri	1	0	2	0

runs under the Duckworth-Lewis

Man-of-the-match: Sanath Jayasuriya. Next match: February 11, Christchurch.

# WSG-Nimbus, BCCSL deal Lara's confession

#### Cricket

AGENCIES, Melbourne

Brian Lara admitted on Thursday he had not lived up to expectations on the Australian tour but hopes to redeem himself in the West Indies home series against South Africa.

The amount of reliance that was placed on myself for the onedayers and the Test series was something I didn't live up to." Lara told reporters on Thursday ahead of Friday's second final of the Carlton tournament against Australia in the best-of-three se-

"It's something that I relish but I didn't live up to it.

"We've got a tough series coming up against South Africa at home. Hopefully, I can pay back With the collapse of the the West Indies the amount of

> The ex-captain said: "I had three months to sort myself out. I didn't have a great series in England, I didn't have a good series here in Australia but it's sport and hopefully I can pick up a bit."

Australia won the Test series 5-0, meeting little resistance, especially when the gifted left-hander went cheaply.

Lara made just 321 runs at an Richardson," Lara said. average of 32.1 with just one score over 50, an awesome knock of 182 have come on and maybe from in the third Test.

In the Carlton limited-overs se- reers. ries against Australia and Zim-

Australian captain Steve Waugh

Thursday hailed Michael Kaspro-

wicz's return for this month's

cricket tour of India saying he was

the strong character needed to

in Australia's 14-man Test squad

Thursday, edging out leg-spinner

Stuart MacGill and pacemen Andy

Bichel, Don Nash and Nathan

Bracken as the replacement for the

warded for his heroic perform-

ances on Australia's last tour to

India in 1998 when he bowled to

undermanned side went down 2-1

That left Kasprowicz to carry

Tendulkar in searing heat and

sapping humidity but he still

managed to single-handedly win

Australia the third Test in Banga-

as Australia won its first Test in

shoulder reconstruction.

will partner Kasprowicz on this Zimbabwe.

On that occasion he took 5-28 Reuters, Basle

the point of exhaustion as a badly-

shoulder injury.

in 1969-70.

The Queenslander was re-

injured Brett Lee.

Kasprowicz won the final place

succeed on the sub-continent.

Cricket

AFP. Sydney

babwe, the former West Indies Waugh was in no mood for lend-West Indies have lost all five of their matches to Australia, including Wednesday's first final.

"come forward and make a name incentive. for themselves".

I relished the opportunity to go out there and but with Desmond



BRIAN LARA Havnes and outshine Richie

It's the toughest tour they can here they can kick-start their ca-

Australian captain Steve

Kasprowicz coming

Australian side is a strong unit

with guys who are tough and re-

in India last time, Kasprowicz can

you're going to keel over, it may as

well be out there playing for your

country'." he said of his previous

While Kasprowicz was de-

Despite performing well in this

summer's 5-0 whitewash of the

West Indies in the absence of the

injured Warne, MacGill was over-

Miller will partner Warne, who

proved his recovery from a broken

Federer ready

for Americans

first ATP Tour success by leading SQUAD

Waugh said those efforts were Switzerland's Davis Cup side Steve Waugh (captain), Adam

has played only one first-class McEnroe would be wise to be wary Justin Langer, Damien Martyn,

match since returning from a of a Swiss line-up who forced Glenn McGrath, Colin Miller,

"You need strong characters on before surrendering 3-2 last year. Shane Warne, Mark Waugh.

Veteran off-spinner Colin

lighted at his call-up, there was

disappointment for MacGill.

Despite losing eight kilograms

"At one stage I thought 'if

Kasprowicz.

hardly wait to return.

Indian experience.

looked.

On that tour Australia was finger throughout the one-day

without the three fast bowlers that series against the West Indies and

tour - Glenn McGrath, Jason MacGill, who has taken 75 Test

Gillespie and Damien Fleming - wickets in 16 matches compared

while Paul Wilson and Paul Reiffel to Warne's 66 in 21 matches since

Shane Warne was hampered by a refused to discuss his non-

India since its last series win there Roger Federer will follow up his

a tour to India," Waugh said of selection.

What we are looking for in the was no more unlucky to miss out

captain has contributed 372 runs ing a hand to the struggling Winat 53.1, including one century, but dies, citing three good reasons to press for a quick and clinical end | for the first Test later this month to the finals series.

He said: "No Australian side Lara said he wanted the has ever been undefeated for a younger players in the West Indies whole season and two more days side like Marlon Samuels and at home (before departing for Ramnaresh Sarwan, both 20, to India next week), that's plenty of helped steer England to 307-9 at

"I remember when I was 21, 22. played our best game of one-day

cricket for the season." However, Lara said he has been the target of Australian sledging all

summer but he revels in it. Lara was struck by a Glenn McGrath delivery in Wednesday night's first one-day final at the Sydney Cricket Ground and then exchanged angry words with Australian pair Ricky Ponting and Michael Bevan.

"I've been trashed all summer and if I can't do it with the bat I'll do it with my mouth." Lara said. "It's a part I enjoy actually, so

have no problems with it at all. "We're in the final stage of the tour, we haven't won anything, it

was just a bit of a heated moment. "That's cricket, there was a few things to be said out there and it will be left out there."

Lara was hopeful the exchange was not captured by the on-pitch microphones that picked up Shane Warne's expletives in a onedayer against Zimbabwe.

"I hope it didn't get into any of the microphones," he said.

However Waugh said MacGill

"It's tough, he is a tremendous

"But it's the luck of the draw.

Warne's ability to bowl far

more tidily than MacGill won him

the nod with the selectors know-

ing full well what a toll Tendulkar

takes on any loose deliveries on

humiliated Warne but at that stage

the champion leggie's bowling

relish a return meeting with his

Waugh believes Warne will

"He's a great bowler Warnie,"

Waugh said the key to success

"It's more important how we

Waugh said. "You always back him

in a tough-situation and Shane is

in India was how they coped as a

team with the difficult conditions

saying the team had the individual

act as a team over there and enjoy

the country and the culture rather

than complaining about it as some

Fleming, Jason Gillespie, Matthew

Three years ago Tendulkar

the flat batting wickets in India.

shoulder was virtually ruined.

greatest tormentor.

keen for the challenge."

talent to be successful.

teams have in the past.

attitude will be the key."

than in-form batsmen Darren

bowler who loves the big match

There are always going to be un-

lucky players when you have got a

strong side and a strong squad."

Lehmann and Simon Katich.

occasion," he said of MacGill.

#### Vaughan's reminder REUTERS, Colombo

Michael Vaughan staked his claim for England's final batting place with a patient 57 late in the day against a Sri Lankan Board President's XI on Thursday.

Vaughan, vying for the middleorder spot with Graeme Hick, the close of first day of the four-"And I think we still haven't day match. Earlier skipper Nasser Hussain had topscored with 81.

Vaughan, joined at the crease by Craig White with England on 153-5, hit only three fours in his 127-ball stay.

But with White notching a rapid 63, including nine fours and a six off just 70 deliveries, the pair put on a valuable 113.

Both succumbed to Ravindra Pushpakumara, Vaughan edging out to wicketkeeper Prasanna Javawardene while White was caught by Dinnuk Hettiarachchi.

Pushpakumara, the pick of the Sri Lankan bowling attack, ended the day with figures of three for 75 as England's lower order typically crumbled - the last four wickets of the day falling for 17 runs.

Hick, meanwhile, suffered again, making just 15 runs before falling to the off-spin of Thilan Samaraweera. England had elected to bat after winning the toss and Hussain put on a steady 53 for the first wicket with Michael

Hussain, who struggled with the bat on the recent tour of Pakistan, made a timely return to form, striking 12 fours and a six.

The England captain's innings proved crucial after Atherton was bowled for 22 by Sujeewa de Silva and Graham Thorpe joined him in the pavilion four deliveries later without scoring.

#### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of a four-day match between a Sri Lankan Board President's XI and England on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings	
Atherton b de Silva	22
Hussain e l'wardene b S'weeta	81
Thorpe c I wardene b de Silva	U
Stewart st Ewardene b H chehi	23
Hick e Mubarak b S'weera	15
Vaughan c Fwardene b P'kumara	57
White c H'chchi b P'kumara	63
Giles c S'weera b P'kumara	9
Croft Ibw b de Silva	1
Caddick not out	21
Gough not out	6
Extras: (nb-9)	9
Total: (For 9 wkts in 90 overs)	307
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-53, 3	3-96,

4-132, 5-153, 6-266, 7-274, 8-279,

Bowler	0	M	R	W
P'kumara	19	3	75	3
De Silva	17	3	65	3
Hichchi	30	8	83	1
S'weera	21	1	75	2
Mubarak	2	0	8	0
T'ratne	1	0	1	0

### Satkhira cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Arians Club and Gana Mukhi Sangha won their respective matches in the Acme First Division Cricket League.

"We've got the players so our At Satkhira Stadium, Arians defeated PK Union Club by 51 Australia leave for India next

201 runs for all in 45 overs.

for 150 in 40.2 overs. At Satkhira Government Col-

lege Ground, Gana Mukhi defeated United Club by 4 wickets.

Winning the toss, United scored 179 losing all wickets in 45 In replay, Gana Mukhi made

183 runs losing six wickets in 42.2 overs.

### Int'l U-18 tennis

Tennis complex.

Bangladesh are expected to participate in the tournament

### Square Golf from today

SPORTS REPORTER The Third Square Golf Tourna-

ment begins at the picturesque Kurmitola Golf Club course today. Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Ha-

run-Ar Rashid, who is also president of the KGC, will inaugurate the 18-hole tournament as the chief guest at 7:30 in the morning. A total of 300 golfers will take part in the meet.

nection was held at the National Sports Council conference room vesterday. Tapan Chowdhury, managing

director of the Square Pharmaceuticals Limited, and KM Saiful Islam, the general manager, were present at the briefing.



Australian Davis Cuppers Patrick Rafter (R) and Lleyton Hewitt listen to something during a practice session in Perth yesterday.

### Davis Cup tie against Ecuador

# Australia favourites

Tennis

AFP, Perth

Australia, last year's losing Davis Cup finalists, are hot favourites to beat Ecuador in a first-round tie starting on the grass at Royal Kings doubles. Park here Friday.

But the home team, with the memory of a shock defeat by Zimbabwe at home in 1998, will be taking no chances against the rank outsiders from South America. New captain John Alexander

and coach Wally Masur have gone out of their way to warn their team about the dangers of compla-They have repeatedly drawn attention to Ecuador's achievement in securing a 3-2 win against

Rusedski and Tim Henman, at Wimbledon last July.

to take place later Thursday. be led by 19-year-old world number six Lleyton Hewitt and dual US Open winner Pat Rafter, 28, who Ecuador's trump card, but his insists.

will play singles. World number one doubles oping into a world-class player. player Todd Woodbridge, a sixtimes Wimbledon champion, is captain in 1994, Nicolas has had nentor the crowds.

serving Wayne Arthurs.

Brothers Nicolas and Giovanni said. Lapentti, Luis Morejon and Jhony Deleon make up Ecuador's squad. Nicolas Lapentti, 24-year-old

world number 22, will play singles and partner his brother in the Giovanni Lapentti. 18, and Morejon, 27, are vying for the

second singles berth. Seventeen-year-old Deleon is untried at Davis Cup level and is unlikely to play here.

Ecuador captain Raul Antonio Viver is comfortable with his team's underdog status.

"We are in a similar situation to when we played Great Britain last vear," he said. "Nobody expected us to win, and when we did it was the highlight of the year for sport Great Britain, speahçaded by Greg

In Davis Cup, you never know The draw for the Perth tie was what is going to happen, and that is our mentality ...we came here Australia's drive for victory will early to work on the grass and we tie. have been practising hard."

Viver said Nicolas Lapentti was to do it (be expressive)." Hewitt younger brother was also devel-

"Since I started as Davis Cup has nothing to do with his oppo-

expected to be partnered by big- an outstanding record in both singles and doubles for us," he

Nicolas, a former world number eight, has a fine 37-16 win-loss record in Davis Cup matches.

The tie has been given extra spice after Nicolas Lapentti's outburst criticising Hewitt's expressive on-court behaviour. "It's not nice what he does,"

Lapentti said, referring to Hewitt's habit of motivating himself on court with fist-pumping and yell-Masur entered the verbal

look at their own house. If they want to play LLeyton, just go out and play him hard and deal with it

jousting, saying: "They should just

"They all whine off the court -it's no good." Hewitt, who faced similar criticism from Spanish star Alex Corretja before last vear's Davis Cup' final, made it clear he has no plans

There are times when I need

to change his behaviour for this

It is his way of giving himself a lift at crucial stages, he says, and

## Angela's child Boris'

Tennis

AFP, London

ACROSS

4 Guy's

7 Mr.

Laurel

treats

10 Accom-

11 Jimmy

panying

Carter's

home

task re

16 Weep

17 Perch

18 Man-

mouse

link

e.g.

21 Hot-day

23 Donkey

cries

26 A large

27 Favorite

28 Sends

25 "HI,

shelter

sailor!"

amount

packing

100 mph

20 Went

evidence

1 Monterrey

compan- 36 Party

8 Fountain 38 Spells

13 Lawyer's 41 D.C.

his increasingly public and tangled emotional life, coming only days said that she and Becker, also 33, after Becker finalised the divorce conceived the baby girl while he from his wife of seven years, Bar- was playing in the 1999 Wimblebara -- and after reports of a new don tennis tournament -- his last

Ermakova's daughter Anna. Becker said in a London last week. written statement issued by his In an apparent allusion to more normal life with my daughcommunications director Robert German press reports that Er-ter." Luebenoff in London and Munich. makova had made herself preg- Becker's tangled private life has

will care for little Anna," he added. an oral sex act. Becker added: "I recent months.

Caesar

33 Mule or

dipper

anger

styling

tool

37 Big

39 Jog

40 Hair-

DOWN

1 Tale

partner

19 Secretary. Solution time: 26 mins.

to see that Anna is a happy little girl in the future," he said. Ermakova said she was relieved

Former tennis champion Boris Becker had admitted he is Anna's Becker admitted Wednesday after father. Some reports said she had Winning the toss, Arians made a paternity test in London that he been claiming 4.8 million dollars is the father of a child born to the (5.1 million euros) from Becker in In reply, PK Union were all out Russian model Angela Ermakova. a paternity suit being heard in It was just the lastest twist in London behind closed doors. The Russian model, 33, has

> as a professional player. "I do accept the fatherhood" of Becker's statement said the with the former tennis star in the

10-month-old DNA paternity test took place in near future.

By Eugene Sheffer

la Woods prop

19 Rotation

jack's

Peep's

phous

horror

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villain

comes

alert

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pieces

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Hailey

novel

28 Tony

29 Arthur

24 Out-

21 Bo-

23 Amor-

30 I lovo, to 3 Apt anna- 15 Crazo

gram of

"enraged"

woods à

suitable

7 Offensive

epithet

9 "Peanuts"

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12 Wounds, 25 Police

tion

et al.

2 McNally's 14 Durante's 26 Parlor

JIA PED TONEA RIM

YARDIARM PIROXY

8 Haunt

pet

10 Basic

5 Make

6 Den

"Children are the innocents of hope that with this declaration all this world. I will do whatever I can the speculations of the last weeks are ended.

> Ermakova said in a statement issued through her London lawvers, Mishcon de Reya: "The last few months have been very difficult for Anna and I, especially given some of the allegations made about me in the media.

"I am very relieved that Anna's father, Boris Becker, has now accepted the situation."

She added that she hoped to be able to "resolve financial matters"

"I look forward to beginning a

"I accept the responsibility and nant by "stealing" his sperm after rarely been out of the news in

23 |24 30 31 32 28 |29

CVHAU SCHS GAJEVRRBJFHM HSCMVSVR

30 Attach 31 Cheesy GAJZMVPR RBYF-OR

## duration 20 Lumber- 13 charges 22 Nonsense CRYPTOQUIP

GMHYOVU

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CARPENTERS CAN ALL BE SUCCESSFUL IF ONLY THEY'D BUILD 32 Indivisible ON THEIR REPUTATIONS. OF TREARM 34 Panty-Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V 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 35 Excep puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

#### Tennis "It's been two weeks and nor-AFP, Paris "Anne played well during the mally that should be okay. The match and at the important mo- right eye is okay, but the left eye is Top seed Mary Pierce of France ments," conceded Pierce. only average. suffered a shock opening match And Pierce, who underwent "I don't think there was defeat at the 565,000-dollar Paris eye surgery in San Diego two enough light. I asked Monday if from 19 countries including hosts Australia named a 14-man Indoor Open WTA tournament here Wednesday when she

The world number eight, playing in her first tournament in France since being crowned French Open champion last June. was the second seed to fall in two days after fifth-seeded compatriot Sandrine Testud's exit Tuesday.

crashed to Anne Kremer of Lux-

embourg.

However seventh seed Amy Did not hat: I Gallage, D Zoysa, Frazier of the United States and France's Amelie Mauresmo, Fall of wickets: 1-96, 2-97, 3- eighth, remained on track advancing to the second round after winning their opening ties in straight sets earlier Wednesday. Pierce, who only made her re-

turn to competition last month after a four-month absence because of a shoulder injury, had been favourite following the withdrawal of American Screna Williams and received a first round But the Cleveland-based player, who said prior to the

match that playing in France mo-

tivated her, gave a less than in-

Kremer, ranked 35, who needed court had contributed to her dejust 64 minutes for a 6-3, 6-3 feat.

weeks ago. said that problems they could increase the light, but with hersylsion and lack of light on maybe it wasn't possible."

New US captain Patrick Hayden, Michael Kasprowicz,

Australia to five tough matches Ricky Ponting. Michael Slater,



Early exit for Pierce

Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals, addressing a press conference organised in connection with the Square spired performance against | Golf Tournament at the NSC yesterday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A week-long International Junior (U-18) Tennis Championships will start tomorrow at the Rajshahi

A press conference in this con-