Under-17 Asia Cup Indians make it to Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

The Indian under-17 cricket team arrived in the capital yesterday evening to take part in the GrameenPhone Under-17 Asia Cup, which has already started on Thursday.

laved as the Indian Government was late in giving the team clearance to participate in the 10nation meet.

meeting last night, the technical committee of the tournament shifted India's Group A opener which was scheduled to take place on February 15.

According to the amendments, India will play their first Group A match against UAE at the Jagannath Hall ground today and then face Malaysia in their next match tomorrow.

Today's scheduled UAE-Oman match will also be held tomorrow. None of venues for tomorrow's last night.

Group A will remain unchanged.

ITF jr tennis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Yong Bom Seo of Korea and Yoo Mi Jung of Thailand clinched the boys' and grids' singles crowns respectively of the ITF Junior (U-Rajshahi Tennis Complex yester-

Bom Sao defeated Timu Stephen of Canada 6-3, 6-1 while in the girls' singles Yoo Mi Jung beat Pichayal of Thailand 6-1, 6-3.

On other hand, Kao Shao Jung and Chan Yi of Taipe clinched girls' double title defeating their compatriot so Joung Kim and Wang 6-1, 7-6 (8-6).

In the boys' doubles final Wui Check Wall and Yu Hiu Tung of Hung Kong clenched the title defeating Indian pair Sunil Kumar and Vinod Sewa 7-6, 4-6, 7-5.

Div I cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Indira Road Krira Chakra beat opening match of the First Division Cricket League at the City Club ground yesterday. Opted to bat first, Wari scored

137 runs for all in 43.3 overs riding on a 59-run knock by opener Ashkar Rahman John.

Ahmed Kabir played the key role for Indira Road taking five wickets while Rahman Malik and Golam Mustafa took two wickets each.

Chasing the target, Indira Road

also fell in trouble but number nine batsman Mohammed Sweet helped his team reach 140 runs for eight in 36.2 overs.

Opener Bappi was the other notable scorer making 21 off 28 deliveries.

Monirul Islam picked up four wickets conceding 32 runs while Ziaul Haque took two wickets for 45 runs.

What's coming

FROM PAGE 13

Pakistan captain Moin Khan agreed New Zealand's current form was good news for his side but he still had the shock of Nairobi fresh in his mind.

"They are going through a bad patch and I think it is the right time to play them," Moin said.

"But New Zealand is not an easy team, they beat us in the ICC tournament and they can come back any time."

Moin gave no indication of a likely team. He said bowling speedster Shoaib Akhtar, returning from injury, would definitely play but may be used sparingly

throughout the series. There is also the class of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Abdur Razzaq, Azhar Malimood and spin duo Mushtag Ahmed and Saglain Mushtaq - with 398 one-day international wickets between the two of them - to fit into the

bowling line-up. Pakistan will name their team for the match just before the 2 pm start. New Zealand have the same 13 to choose from that played in the win over Sri Lanka last week, with the exception of Craig Spearman, who makes way for the

fit-again Nathan Astle. TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND: Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle. Lines ground. Adam Parore, Roger Twose, Craig McMillan, Jacob Oram, Lou Vincent, Chris Harris, Daniel Vettori, overs. James Franklin, Daryl Tuffey, Chris Martin (12th man to be for five in 17 overs. named).

PAKISTAN (from): Moin Khan | Green Herald beat National (captain), Saeed Anwar, Imran Bangla High by two wickets. Nazir, Yousuf Youhana, Inzamamul Haq, Salim Elahi, Abdur Razzaq, Shahid Afridi, Wasim Akram, Saglain Mushtag, Azhar Mahmood, Mushtag Ahmed, Shoaib Akhtar, Waqar Younis, Imran the winning target making 199 Farhat, Mohammad Sami,

Kenya initiate inquiry

Cricket

AGENCIES, Nairobi

The Kenvan government on Thursday stepped into a cricket row when it appointed a six-man committee to resolve the stalemate over last week's dismissal of The squad's arrival was de- 11 national players by the Kenya Cricket Association (KCA).

KCA sacked 11 members of the national team earlier this month. accusing them of holding the na-Meanwhile, in an emergency | tional body to ransom by demanding more money.

It also cancelled a two-month tour of India and Bangladesh which should have begun this

The committee includes former Kenyan cricket team captain Tom Tikolo, who was appointed International Cricket Council (ICC) development manager for East Africa last year and three officials of the National Sports Council (KNSC).

Sports Minister Katana Ngala matches have been finalised till said he had ordered a six-man committee to investigate the dis-The remaining fixtures of pute and report back to him by the end of March.

"I expect that the first and most urgent matter of this committee will be to resolve the issue of the players in order not to prejudice Kenya's cricket aspirations internationally," he told a news confer-

The KCA condemned the decision, accusing the minister of being discourteous by not consulting 18) Tennis Championships at the the body first. However, officials have said they were willing to meet the aggrieved players In the boys' singles final, Yong | through an arbitrator of their own

But the players welcomed the move. Captain Maurice Odumbe. among those sacked, said the deright direction".

committee shall move fast and India and Bangladesh and banned give favourable results," he told the KCA from holding any meet-

The players have said they had completed its investigations. would challenge their sackings in court. They have approached a law firm with the intention of instituting legal proceedings against the KCA for terminating their contracts.

and medical cover.

Ngala said he was angered by "It is my sincere hope that the the cancellation of the tour to ings until the government team

"The achievement of the cricketers and international commitments should not be undermined," he said.

The committee was also mandated to investigate the KCA's They have demanded better finances, which have been called salaries, higher appearance fees into question by provincial associations.



BACK TO BASICS? Australian's Damien Fleming (R) showing his teammate Shane Warne how to grip the ball for fast bowling during a net cision was a "major step in the practice session in Nagpur yesterday.

Court hears more stories

Football

AFP, Hull

One of a group of Asian students taunted a drunken friend of Leeds United footballer Jonathan Wood-Wari Club by two wickets in the gate before punching him in the face in a confrontation, a court was told here Thursday.

> A doorman at the Majestyk nightclub in Leeds told Hull Crown Court that James Hewison had been thrown out of the club for being drunk and looking for fights with customers.

As Woodgate and other friends tried to calm him down outside and lectured him for ruining their evening, the group of students came out, said doorman Graham

They included Sarfraz Najeib. 20. who Woodgate and Leeds

and beating senseless in a street chased by a group including

started "taunting" and laughing at Hewison, who twice "squared up" to them, despite being restrained by England defender Woodgate.

taking the mick," said Lawson. The lad in the leather jacket who had been 'ejected saw them laughing at him.

'you can't hold your drink' so he went over to them. He was generally confronting them."

He said Woodgate had pulled his friend away, but the Asian group had continued laughing.

then decided to run back and confront them again and started squaring up to them again," said Lawson.

"He confronted them and then one of them punched him in the

team-mates Lee Bowyer and Lony of a couple of seconds and then Hackworth are accused of kicking the Asians started running away,

"They were saying things like was asking for trouble?"

"The lad in the leather jacket

Woodgate and four or five others. Lawson said the students Cross-examined by Lee Bow-

yer's advocate Desmond de Silva, Lawson agreed that for one of the students to strike Hewsion was "a crazy thing to do". "They stood to watch and were

De Silva said: "There was a large group of white males, some of them drunk. There was Hewison drunk and looking as if he was squaring for a fight. This

Lawson replied: "Yes." Woodgate, 21; Bowyer, 24, an England Under-21 international; Tony Hackworth, 20, a reserve team striker at Leeds; and Neale Caveney and Paul Clifford, both 21, deny causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Najeib. They also deny affray.

Woodgate, Caveney and Clifford, with Leeds United player Michael Duberry, 24, also plead not guilty to conspiring to pervert the course of justice after the at-Lawson said there was a pause tack in January last year.

The trial was adjourned unt

Transfer talks near deal

Football

REUTERS, Brussels

The European Commission and soccer's governing bodies have moved closer to agreement on a new transfer system that will meet EU legal requirements.

But key sticking points remain, primarily over how long players should have to honour their contracts with clubs.

Both sides agreed to extend a Friday deadline for a deal to be completed until the end of the

The Commission says the present system of allowing clubs to sell in-contract players for a transfer fee is against EU law because it denies players the freedom of movement that most workers in the 15-nation bloc have as a right. After almost three hours of Indian cricket legend Sunil Gavas-

Schools cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Scholastica and Green Herald International emerged group champions in the 19th National Schools cricket tournament beating their respective rivals yester-

Scholastica defeated Saurav Smriti by five wickets in the Group-V final at the Uttara Police

Decided to bat first, Saurav Smriti scored 95 runs for all in 21.3

In reply, Scholastica made 100 In a Group-V final at the PIG,

National Bangla scored a respectable 197 for nine in the stipulated 35 overs after deciding

to bat first. In reply, Green Herald reached runs for eight in 29.5 overs.

sioners Mario Monti, Anna Diamantopolou and Viviane Reding --

had been reached. "At...the highest level, the European Commission, FIFA and UEFA firmly cemented an agreement on a significant number of issues related to the FIFA rules on the international transfers of footballers," he said.

The European season will have fixed periods when players can be transferred and contracts will be

Taxmen talk to Gavaskar

AFP, New Delhi

officials over the recovery of for- player from another. eign currency from a club locker in Bombay, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported on Friday.

Gavaskar was summoned to the offices of the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday, PTI reported, but did not give further details.

"Gavaskar was summoned by us. We asked him certain questions to seek some information" the news agency quoted high-level sources as saying.

Media reports said foreign currency and travellers cheques worth 15,000 dollars were recovered from Gavaskar's locker at the Bombay Gymkhana club last year during renovation of the premises. Gavaskar was reportedly out of

town when the locker was broken after repeated reminders by the club management to clear the locker went unheeded. Gavaskar, Test cricket's first batsman to score 10,000 runs, has not been probed into the ongoing

investigations into match-fixing

and corruption in cricket.

Sepp Blatter, UEFA president Len- set at between one and five years. nart Johansson and EU Commis- stopping players from switching clubs twice in a season.

"We are near a solution wich Monti told reporters a partial deal would be beneficial for the whole world of football and which. would enhance the quality of the game," said FIFA president Sepp FIFA and UEFA, the games

governing bodies, accept the need for change but have been at odds with players' union FIFpro over how to amend the system so it stands I.U legal scrutiny.

Failure to come up with a workable deal could prompt Brussels to outlaw today's system. plunging the game into chaos.

Monti said there were three outstanding issues to be resolved. - how to protect young players. how to penalise the unilateral breaking of a player's contract, and how to calculate compensatalks -- attended by FIFA president kar has been questioned by tax tion when one club buys a young

"There was a firm political commitment to find a final compromise before the end of

Rajshai cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Upashahar Cricket Club recorded a 125-run victory over Town Club in the Rajshahi Premier Division Cricket League match at the local district stadium vesterday.

Sent in to bat first, Upashahar scored 204 losing all the wickets in 49/5 overs.

In reply. Town Club were shot out for 79 in 29.1 overs. Meanwhile, AB Bank Siraj Memorial cricket tournament began

here yesterday at the Rajshahi Medical College playground. In the inaugural match, Bir Sreshthya Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Cricket Club defeated Bandhan Krira Chakra by

five wickets. part in the tournament.

Goodricke Chess Zia finishes third

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master (IM) Ziani Rahman completed his Goodricke International Open Chess Tournament campaign with a draw against India IM Sandipan Chanda in the final round of the 11-round Swiss League competition at the Gorky Sadan in Kolkata yesterday. Initially Chanda refused the

draw offer of Zia and the two players decided to fight it out. But later, Sandipan accepted

the draw under severe time pres-

Zia, who has already earned his second Grand Master(GM) norm on Thursday defeating Indian GM Dibyendu Barua in the 10th round, finished joint third along with Sandipan Chanda, Evgeny Vladimirov of Kazakhistan, Maxim Sorokin of Argentina and Eshan Ghaem Maghami of Iran. All of them have 7.5 points each. Joseph Gallagher of Switzer-

land emerged as the champion. Gallagher and Andrei Kharlov of Russia scored 8 points each. But

Gallagher was declared the champion on tie-break. For the first time Median Buc-

cholz System of tie breaking was applied in the Goodricke meet. Another Bangladeshi IM Abdullah Al-Rakib also finished the

tournament with a draw against

Indian IM Lanka Ravi. Both Rakib and Ravi earned 5.5 points each. Zia is expected to return home

Int'l jr tennis

starts today UNB, Dhaka

The fifth Bangladesh International Junior Tennis tournament, organised by Bangladesh Tennis Federation, begins at the Ramna National Tennis Complex today. State Minister for Youth and

Sports Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the weeklong meet in the Ninety nine players from 20 countries, including hosts Bangla-

desh, will compete in the fourevent ITF-approved Under-18 World Ranking Junior Circuit Group-3 competition. Only the qualifying round

matches will be held on the

opening day. Barnak Jr Div hockey champs

UNB, Dhaka

Barnak Samaj emerged unbeaten champions in the Metropolis Junior Division Hockey League beating Police AC by a solitary goal in the last super league match at Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Both the teams have already

earned the right to play in the First Division League from next season. Barnak Samaj secured full 9 points from three super league matches while Police AC bagged 6 points from three matches. In the day's title-deciding been pushed enough to break the match, Azad Hossain scored the

match-winning goal for Barnak in the 63rd minute to guide his side towards the league crown. In the day's other fixture, Dhaka Young Star Club defeated

Uditi Club 2-0 at the same venue to book third place in the league.

Aussies open

FROM PAGE 13 in the Mumbai team, the current Ranji Trophy champions, to play the tourists even though the first Test begins a few days later on February 27.

When Australia last toured India in 1998, Tendulkar smashed a brilliant 204 for Mumbai in the tour opener, and went on to mastermind the home team's 2-1 win in the Test series. McGrath, who missed the pre-

vious tour with injury, said he was raring to have a go at Tendulkar before the series begins. "The game against Mumbai is an excellent chance to tackle Sachin", said McGrath, one of the

finest fast bowlers in contempo-

rary cricket with 309 wickets in 67

Tests. "He can always get the ascendancy by scoring a big knock. But if I can knock him over a couple of times, it can set the tone for the series.

Skipper Steve Waugh said he

hoped to use the two warm-up

matches before the first Test to give all 14 players a chance to establish their claims. TEAMS AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh (captain), Matthew Hayden, Michael Slater, Justin Langer, Ricky

Ponting, Damien Martyn, Adam

Gilchrist, Colin Miller, Jason Gil-

lespie, Damien Fleming, Michael

INDIA A (from): Venkatsai 34 Under Laxman (captain). Sadagopan Ramesh, Shiv Das, Dinesh Mongia. Hemang Badani, Mohammad Kaif. Nayan Mongia, Debashish Mohanty, Ashish Nehra, Rahul Sanghvi, Harbhajan Singh, Balaji A total of 20 teams are taking Rao, Gagan Khoda and Javed Zaman.

Kasprowicz.

Atherton in action

Cricket

REUTERS, Matara

Michael Atherton anchored England with an unbeaten 74 before rain halted their progress against a Sri Lanka Cricket Board President's XI on Friday. England had extended their

overnight 17 without loss to 174 for two when a thunderstorm balls and hit four fours. shortly before tea prevented any -more play on the second day of useful start by putting on 68 with the four-day game

out for 253 in their first innings on the opening day of the touring team's last warm-up match ahead of the first Test against Sri Lanka starting next Thursday.

Opener Atherton looked confident against both pace and spin on a pitch offering slow turn, completing his half-century from 131 deliveries. When rain drove the players off, he had faced 195

He helped to give England a fellow opener Marcus Trescothick. The President's XI were bowled who made 38 before being caught



England's Michael Atherton square cuts one on way to an unbeaten 74 on the second day of their four-day tour match against Sri Lanka Cricket

at mid-wicket by Muthumudalige Pushpakumara off left-arm spinner Niroshan Bandaratilleke

Captain Nasser Hussain joined Atherton but struggled for form and went through a spell when he scored only three runs from 23

Hussain finally perished for seven when he attempted to slog a ball from off-spinner Pushpakumara and holed out to Dinusha

Fernando at mid-on. Atherton was then joined by Graham Thorpe, who made 34 not out as the third wicket pair shared an unbroken partnership of 81 before the premature end of the

day's play. England's injured left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, who left the field on the opening day with Achilles tendon trouble, had some light practice before the start on Friday but a decision on his fitness for the first Test is not expected until Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day tour match between the Sri Lanka Board President's XI and England on Friday:

SRI LANKA BOARD PRESI-DENT'S XI: First innings 253 (N Bandaratillake 73, J Kulatunga 54, M Pushpakumara 52) ENGLAND: First innings (over-

Hussain e Fernando b P kumara Thorpe not out Extras: (b-5, lb-3, nb-13) Total: (For 2 wkts in 63 overs) 174 Fall of wickets: 1-68, 2-93

To bat: A Stewart, M Vaughan, C White, A Giles, R Croft, A Caddick, M Hoggard Bowler Perera Fernando B'tilleke

P'kumara

Bandara

Marion inspires Cathy

Athletics

Board President's XI on Friday.

Olympic 400-meter champion Cathy Freeman is confident she to her programme. can keep winning titles but says Marion Jones if she's to have any ord for the one-lap race.

runner was thrown into the international spotlight at the Sydney 2000 Olympics when she ignited the cauldron to mark the official opening of the Games. The two-time world champion

then took gold in the 400-metres in Sydney to improve on the silver she won at Atlanta in 1996. Speaking via teleconference from Los Angels just days after receiving international awards for her contribution to reconciliation between black and white Australians, Freeman said she'd never

record of 47.6 seconds set 15 years ago by Marita Koch. "I only run fast enough to win. A fast time doesn't matter to me winning and doing the best I can is my priority," said Freeman, who has a personal best of 48.63 competition just isn't there for me to really go and reach my true po-

"A world record in the 400 is not entirely out of reach. It is not a priority for me at the moment (but) if there is someone out there who has the talent like (former Olympic gold medalist Maria Jose) going easily."

The 28-year-old Freeman said she was planning to defend her World Championship later this

capital

47 Sapporo

sash

skales

48 Cheap

52 Soviet

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54 Compre-

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57 Historic

58 Bottom

DOWN

1 Primary

field of

2 Residence

Solution time: 28 mins.

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CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

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12 Honest

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37 Prepared

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39 Trim

41 Booty

29 Menial

31 The

35 Mass

22 Storm

23 Layer

20 Oboe

equipment

silver or

bronze

13 Abby's sis

year and her Olympic gold at Athens in 2004. She said she'd love it if Jones, who took Olympic gold medals in the 100, 200 and the 1,600-metre relay, added the 400

"Having (Jones) in the 400 final she needs a rival like US sprinter in Athens would be brilliant," she said. "I have asked Miss Jones why chance of breaking the world rec- she doesn't seriously take up the 400 but she is interested the 100, beat Freeman, who says she wel-The indigenous Australian 200 and long jump," she said. "I am almost proud to say 400 running is too hard, that made me

feel good." Freeman said she could have "run a lot faster" in Sydney last

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura Shaheed Mintu Sangha emerged champions beating Surjamukhi Club by 92 runs in the final match of the Continental Courier cricket tournament at the Magura Sta-

dium vesterday. Winning the toss, Mintu Sangha batted first and collected

stipulated 40 overs. In reply, Surjamukhi managed five years,

106 for all in 29.3 overs. **BRIEF SCORES** SHAHEED MINTU SANGHA: 198 for eight in 40 overs (Zico 64,

Shipon 27 not out. Rakib 25,

Monsoor 1/37). SURJAMUKHI CLUB: 106 all Perec, I could see the world record out in 29.3 overs (Monsoor 22, considered to be largely a product Niloy 15, Rajib 14; Rakib 5/27. of his input.

Shanto 2/12, Zico 2/13). Result :Mintu Sangha won by

By Eugene Sheffer

Broadway 26 Pensioned

6 Ticked off 30 "Norma

8 Drop the 31 Do

9 Additionally 32 Pink-

Zellweger

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school

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Cooper

11 Civil War

24 "Honey,

25 Swelled

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(Abbr.)

alterations

33 Tennis

shot

37 Web

40 Old

42 John

36 Snail-like

resident

enough

Lennon

Gleason

title role

43 Tolerate

44 Jackie

45 Remain

Charles'

pooch

49 Playwright

50 Geometry

Levin

51 Pinafore

letters

48 Spigot

46 The

28 Ostrich's

'deed -!'

September but her main goal had been to clinch her first Olympic

"I can handle more, I want more, she said. "The pressure is really in myself more than coming from anywhere else." Britain's Katherine Merry and Jamaica's Sandie Richards both

claim to be on track this year to

comes the challenge. Freeman said she was still stunned about the impact her Olympic campaign had on people around the world. In Las Vegas on Monday, she received a prestigious award backed by ESPN for the most memorable sporting moment on TV in 2000. She also was

presented with the Arthur Ashe

humanitarian award for tran-

scending sport.

Doig goes

INTERNET, undated Chris Doig, New Zealand Cricket's chief executive, has resigned on 198 runs for eight wickets in the Friday after being in charge of the game in New Zealand for the past

During his tenure, New Zea-

land's financial position strength-

ened considerably, and he over-

saw the establishment of the New Zealand Cricket Academy. The new Test structure of Palash 23; Babu 1/12, Ali 1/31, regulated tours and official rankings, adopted by the International Cricket Council last weekend, is

> Doig is leaving to set up a new sports management company.

23 24 25 26 29 |30 31 32 33 41 42 43 44 48 49 50 51

ZGGF

BY THEIR RATTLES.

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 vowets. Solution is by trial and error.

CRYPTOQUIP

OYFDH MGF S MWSO FSOD Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD YOU KNOW HOW TO DEFINITELY IDENTIFY BABY SNAKES?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals R The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

HYNL KGHODZ GL PD