

## Safety still

FROM PAGE 13  
Ganguly however said he expected to lead a first-choice Indian team for the tour.

He said: "There are serious security concerns among players, but now that the tour is on officially, I expect to lead a full-strength team."

Ganguly will start planning for the tour next week after attending the wedding of the team's batting star VVS Laxman in the southern city of Hyderabad.

"It's just four days since we've come back, I'm yet to get over the fatigue," he said.

"In Team India, sound of silence," an Indian Express headline screamed, noting that no player said he was looking forward to the biggest event in Indian cricket after the World Cup.

"That is none of my business," said paceman Ashish Nehra. "About playing in Pakistan, I think you should ask the captain, coach and the board president."

Political analyst Prem Shankar Jha wrote in Outlook that the Indian team would be at risk in Pakistan as Islamic extremists' "desperation has grown" after failed attempts on President Pervez Musharraf's life.

He said militants are "likely to regard the arrival of the Indian team as a gift from heaven, a sacrificial lamb tethered in the open for their express hunting pleasure."

## Abdul J'bari hero

FROM PAGE 13  
Kalachandpur High School: 54/10 in 19.4 overs (Islander 4-16, Noor 4-14)

**Badda Alatunnesa High School:** 55/1 in 10.2 (Hasan 18, Tareq 15)

**Result:** Badda Alatunnesa High School won by nine wickets.

**Nababpur Government High School:** 244/9 in 35 overs (Ashfaq 68, Hakim 35, Maruf 3-17, Rezwan 3-31)

**Maple Leaf International School:** 191/10 in 30.3 overs (Asif 60, Shimul 2-23)

**Result:** Nababpur Government High School won by 53 runs.

**Knowledge King Child School:** 150/10 in 30 overs (Majid 23, Nabil 10, Mehed 4-27, Sifur 2-28)

**Rahmatullah Model School:** 154/6 in 32.4 overs (Rajib 56, Kamal 2-29)

**Result:** Rahmatullah Model won by four wickets.

**Sher-e-Bangla Ideal School:** 172/10 in 30.1 overs (Kawser 26, Iqbal 3-43, Asif 2-28)

**Bangladesh International School:** 155/10 in 33.5 overs (Nafis 26 Asadur 4-28, Shahin 3-31)

**Result:** Sher-e-Bangla Ideal won by 17 runs.



PHOTO: AFP

Australia cricket team members play rugby during a practice session at Colombo yesterday.

## Warne seen with punter!

## Cricket

SMH, undated

Shane Warne was seen during the 1999 World Cup in the company of someone who was involved in match-fixing, I'm sure Shane wouldn't have known that guy was involved in any of that. It would have been fairly innocent."

The Indian businessman's statement makes no suggestion that Warne or Lara were in any way connected with match-fixing, which is said to have involved Indian and Pakistani cricketers.

India's Outlook magazine has published the claim that Warne and West Indian batsman Brian Lara were seen emerging from a London pizza restaurant with Delhi-based punter Ratan Mehta.

The allegation is reportedly contained in a statement tendered to the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption and Security Unit by an unidentified Indian businessman, which details startling claims of match-fixing involving Mehta at the 1999 tournament.

On Sunday night, Warne's brother and manager, Jason, told that the champion cricketer was unavailable for comment, but he was confident his brother would not have been involved in any wrongdoing.

"I'm sure there wouldn't have been anything untoward going on," Jason Warne said.

"If he was in the company of someone who was involved in match-fixing, I'm sure Shane wouldn't have known that guy was involved in any of that. It would have been fairly innocent."

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The link made between Warne and Mehta, however, will be the last thing the leg-spinner wants as he begins his comeback from a year-long drugs ban. It will also revive Warne's infamous past accepting 5,000 dollars in 1994-95 from an Indian bookmaker known only as "John" to provide information about pitch and weather conditions. The then Australian Cricket Board fined Warne 8,000 dollars for accepting the money.

Outlook reported that in confidential correspondence with the Pakistan Cricket Board, the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption Unit suggested Mehta fixed the result of a Super Six match

at the tournament between Pakistan and India, which was won comfortably by India after they had scored only 227.

The unit's chief, Paul Condon, had referred to a statement given by a high-flying Delhi businessman to the unit when it visited India in September, 2002. The explosive three-page statement carries allegations that he witnessed Mehta making phone calls to cricketers to fix the India-Pakistan match.

"Two or three days after the India-Pakistan match," the statement says, "I bumped into Mehta again. This time he was coming out of the Pizza Pomodoro restaurant in Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge. He was with Shane Warne, Brian Lara and another cricketer, whose name I cannot be sure of."

Jason Warne noted this alleged meeting came years after Warne rejected an approach from Pakistan cricketer Salim Malik.

"When Shane was offered money [from Malik] he reported it to officials. I'm sure he was not going to have any thoughts about getting involved a few years after that."

Chitrapuram Mozu Bhandar Sports Organisation has arranged the tournament for the first time and offers attractive prizes for the participating teams.

## Young Black Caps seize the day

FROM PAGE 13  
Despite the loss, coach McKinnies said that it was good education for his boys.

"We learned a lot today. We learned from the New Zealanders how to bat under trying conditions."

McKinnies also believed that all was not over yet.

"We can still make the Super League if we win our next matches against Scotland and India. So we should keep our heads high."

His New Zealand counterpart Dayle Hadlee said that it was anybody's game. "I thought we got a bit lucky. They (Bangladesh) are a very strong side and we expected that. The loss in the first match against the Academy (BKSP) was quite an eye-opener for us and we were better prepared for this game," said Hadlee.

Man-of-the-match McKay revealed that staying relaxed was the key to pulling off the victory.

"When Anton came in we just smiled at each other and enjoyed the proceedings from there on. Playing in front of such a huge crowd was another incentive to do well. We've never seen anything like this before. The highest number of fans I've experienced in the past should be around 500."

The Bangladesh Under-19s will play their next match against minnows Scotland tomorrow at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. Their last group game is against India at the BNS on February 20.

## SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the four preliminary ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup matches at different venues yesterday:

## Bangladesh vs New Zealand

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## BANGLADESH

Nafees c and b Davis 67  
Naeem c Watling b Davis 0  
Aftab run out 8  
Nazimuddin lwb b Findlay 26  
Ashiqur c Watling b Smith 42  
Dhiman c Devchik b Smith 17  
Nadim run out 6  
Nazmul lwb b Smith 1  
Enamul c Carey b Smith 0  
Shahadat not out 0  
Extras: (lb-4, nb-4, w-10) 18  
Total: (All out in 46.3 overs) 202

Fall of wkt: 1-18, 2-36, 3-75, 4-132, 5-170, 6-179, 7-194, 8-196, 9-196, 10-202

Bowler O M R W

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe

Davis 8.3 2 34 3  
Smith 10 0 43 4  
Carl 7 0 32 0  
Findlay 9 1 37 1  
McKay 10 0 36 0  
Devchik 2 0 16 0

## ZIMBABWE

Carey b Naeem 36  
Watling c Naeem b Shahadat 12  
Chris run out (Naem) 0  
Wilson lwb b Enamul Jr 6  
Flynn c Naeem b Nadif 29  
Nadif not out 40  
Findlay run out 8  
Anton c Nadif b Shahadat 36  
Carl b Enamul Jr 2  
Davis not out 2  
Extras: (b-1, lb-14, nb-1, w-17) 33  
Total: (For 8 wkts in 49.2 overs) 204

Fall of wkt: 1-38, 2-39, 3-46, 4-95, 5-98, 6-118, 7-188, 8-196

Bowler O M R W

Nazmul 8 0 41 1  
Shahadat 8 1 28 2  
Enamul 9.2 0 36 2  
Bashar 6 0 32 0  
Mathews 8 0 29 1  
Naeem 10 0 23 1

Result: New Zealand won by two wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Sam McKay (NZ)

Toss: New Zealand

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe

Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra

## PAKISTAN

Latif c Harry b Boto 17  
Mawny run out 0  
Ervine c Mahroob b Kulasekara 13  
Mufambisi b Mahroob 1  
Chigumbura b Suraj 6  
Homme b Mahroob 41  
Marisa c Silva b Mathews 2  
Ranyangara b Mahroob 23  
Kulasekara not out 1  
Edward not out 1  
Extras: (lb-5, w-16) 21  
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 161

Fall of wkt: 1-9, 2-10, 3-10, 4-40, 5-41, 6-105, 7-105, 8-115, 9-160, 10-161

Bowler O M R W

Mahroob 9.3 2 28 4  
Chanaka 10 0 43 1  
Suraj 8 1 30 1  
Kulasekara 10 0 27 1  
Mathews 10 2 27 2  
Ratnayake 2 0 6 0

Result: Pakistan won by eight wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Riaz Afridi (Pak)

Toss: Pakistan

England vs Nepal

Venue: M A Aziz Stadium

## NEPAL

Chaugai c New b Plunkett 17  
Ratnayake c Ervine b Chigumbura 22  
Kaushal c Taylor b Chigumbura 9  
Mahroob c Taylor b Ranyangara 2  
Silva c Panayangara b Chigumbura 33

Kulasekara not out 37

Mathews lwb b Cameron 0  
Suraj not out 9  
Extras: (b-4, lb-12, w-19) 35

Total: (For 8 wkts in 38.2 overs) 162

Fall of wkt: 1-11, 2-24, 3-35, 4-61, 5-64, 6-65, 7-148, 8-148

Bowler O M R W

Ford 10 0 37 2  
Ranyangara 10 1 41 2  
Chigumbura 9.2 1 32 3  
Ratnayake 1 0 6 0  
Williams 4 0 14 0  
Cameron 4 0 12 1

Result: Sri Lanka won by two wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Kosala Kulasekara

Toss: Sri Lanka

## ENGLAND

Cook c Katuwal b M Shrestha 9  
Bopara c & b Khadka 59

Davies not out 78

Patel not out 35

Extras: (lb-4, nb-1, w-6) 11

Total: (For 2 wkts in 43 overs) 192

Fall of wkt: 1-13, 2-137

Bowler O M R W

M Shrestha 8 0 43 1  
Khadka 9 1 26 1

Gauhan 8 0 33 0

Lama 7 0 34 0

Kesari 7 0 29 0

Vali b Amjad 0

Davai b Amjad 1

Extras: (lb-6, nb-3, w-10) 19

Total: (All out in 17.5 overs) 60

Fall of wkt: 1-6, 2-20, 3-20, 4-25, 5-33, 6-46, 7-48, 8-48, 9-48, 10-60

Bowler O M R W

Cook 1 0 9 0

Result: England won by eight wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Steven Davies (England)

Toss: Nepal

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

