

Pepsi 17th nat'l handball from Saturday

SPORTS REPORTER

The first phase of the Pepsi 17th National Handball Championship starts in Bagerhat on Saturday.

A total of 29 teams, split into three zones, will compete in the men's competition while 19 teams, also divided in three groups, will participate in the women's section.

In the men's field, top two teams from each group along with last year's semifinalists Bangladesh Rifles, Bangladesh Ansar, Dhaka DSA and Bangladesh Police will play in the 10-team final round to be held in Dhaka in mid-February.

The women's field will be little different as nine teams -- top two from each group and last year's top three finishers BJMC, Bangladesh Ansar and Dhaka DSA -- will compete in the final round. However, the date and venue have yet to be decided.

General secretary of Bangladesh Handball Federation Asaduzzaman Kohinor disclosed the details at a press conference at the federation hall room yesterday.

Federation vice-president and chairman of the organising committee Hamida Ali and Marketing Manager of sponsors Transcom Beverages Limited Golam Morshed also spoke.

Div I cricket Karim's six-for goes in vain

SPORTS REPORTER

Pacer Faizul Karim bagged six wickets including a hat-trick but his team Azad Sporting Club still lost the match against Young Pegasus-B by two wickets in the First Division Cricket League at the BKSP cricket ground yesterday.

Despite Faizul's devastating bowling Young Pegasus reached their target scoring 122 in 41.5 overs in reply to Azad's 118 in 47 overs.

In another match also at the BKSP, Wari Club inflicted a 64-run defeat on Nabin Sangha. Wari dismissed Nabin Sangha for 99 in 38.2 overs having made 163 all out in 49.4 overs.

In the day's another matches, Dhanmondi recorded a massive 109-run victory over Lalmita Club at the City Club ground and Sonargaon Cricketers beat Bangladesh Boys by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Wiser and slower?

FROM PAGE 13

The 29-year-old Akhtar conceded he needed to bowl with greater control.

"Over the years, as you play cricket a lot, you learn how to bowl," he said.

"So I'm learning from McGrath and I'm learning from (Jason) Gillespie that I've got to learn to ... slow down and become a bit patient."

"I'm not patient basically -- I always go out hard and look. I've just gotta put the ball in the right areas."

"I've got to be patient and I've got to wait for the wickets to come to me."

Akhtar has bowled in only one Test previously at the WACA ground, finishing with figures of 1-74 in the third Test of the 1999-2000 series.

Problems for both SA, Eng

Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth

South Africa and England start a five-Test series at St George's Park Friday with question marks over both teams.

South Africa, hoping to end a sequence of disappointing results, have worries about the fitness of key players, while England are short of form going into one of the most intensive Test series of all time.

Five Tests will be played in the space of 40 days with no other matches in between.

South Africa are likely to be without Nicky Boje, their vice-captain and only spin bowler, who is struggling to prove his fitness after a recent operation to remove a cyst from his left shoulder, while star all-rounder Jacques Kallis may be unable to bowl because of an ankle injury.

The balance of the South African side depends on the final fitness assessments.

There is no other spinner in the squad, and no-one on standby, so if Boje does not play South Africa will be forced to field an all-seam attack, backed by the occasional spin of Graeme Smith and Jacques Rudolph.

If Kallis is unable to bowl, South Africa will have to leave out one of the batsmen in their 13-man squad in order to accommodate an extra bowler, virtually ensuring that

untried fast bowler Dale Steyn will make his Test debut.

Steyn, 21, was picked for the squad after just seven first-class games. When he reported for a training camp in Pretoria last weekend it was the first time he had met senior players Shaun Pollock and Kallis, while when the side assembled in Port Elizabeth Tuesday it was the first time he had visited the coastal city.

With fast bowling expected to dominate the series, South African coach Ray Jennings found an orthodox way to get his batsmen used to pace again after their recent series on the slow pitches of India.

He had Davis Cup tennis player Wesley Whitehouse serving a red tennis ball at them at speeds beyond the capability of even the fastest bowlers.

Steve Harmison, currently the top-ranked bowler in world Test cricket, will lead a strong England pace attack but a key factor will be how quickly Harmison, Matthew Hoggard, Andrew Flintoff and either Simon Jones or James Anderson find the right length to get the most advantage from what is expected to be a well-grassed St George's Park surface.

South African assistant coach Vincent Barnes noted after coaching the South Africa A side in Potchefstroom that the home bowlers had made better use of the conditions than the Englishmen.

While the England bowlers did not hit top form in Potchefstroom, it

was the side's poor batting that caused most concern in the England camp.

England's top order batsmen struggled, showing the effects of a two-and-a-half month break from first-class cricket since the end of the English season.

Mark Butcher's place in the important number three batting position is likely to be debated.

Three innings in South Africa have brought just nine runs, while rival Robert Key slammed 87 in a low-key one-day warm-up game.

Pepsi V-Day v'ball Navy oust Police

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy eliminated Bangladesh Police from the Pepsi Victory Day Volleyball Tournament at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The sailors won 25-14, 25-15 and 25-21.

Kathmandu Metropolitan City will take on the winners and Bangladesh Army face Titus Club at the same venue today.

Federation Cup

FROM PAGE 13

already secured the tokens of their desired players and officials will only appear at the transfers to complete the formalities.

Jacobs quits at end of season

REUTERS, London

Former West Indies wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs is set to retire from cricket at the end of the domestic season in the Caribbean.

"I think the upcoming season will be my last year in first-class cricket so I want to give it my best shot and come out on a high," said Jacobs after being selected in the Leeward Islands side for the domestic season beginning next month.

The 37-year-old, who played in 65 Tests and 147 one-day internationals for West Indies, had knee surgery earlier this year and lost his place in the side on the tour of England.

The hard-hitting left-hander scored 2,577 Test runs and made three centuries, the last of which kept the England bowlers away from the West Indies till as Brian Lara made a world record 400 not out in Antigua in April this year.

The Antiguan, who made his Test debut at the comparatively late age of 31, took 207 catches and made 12 stumpings in Tests.

Attack is their

FROM PAGE 13

"It would be nice if we could have that showdown that everyone is looking for I guess -- the Pakistani fast bowlers against all of our fast bowlers and how each batting side is going to react to that."

Ponting said Akhtar was unquestionably the fastest bowler he had ever faced but it would be a mistake for Australia to put too much focus on him.

"We're very aware of Pakistan's strengths and weaknesses," he said. "Mohammad Sami is the other one that we can't forget about. He's a very good new ball bowler -- he's as quick as Shoaib and he'll make it very difficult for us to bat against him as well."

"We as players certainly haven't focused that much on Shoaib at all. "We know what he's capable of, we know what he can do but quite often when you have a guy like that in your side it can be the other guys who sneak under your guard a little bit and we don't want that to happen."

While the WACA wicket is not a favourite hunting ground for spin bowlers, both captains remained adamant that they would be included in their starting sides.

Australia's Shane Warne has a remarkable record against Pakistan, taking 76 wickets in 12 Tests at an average of 18.60, although the pace-friendly WACA is his least successful venue anywhere in Australia.

But Ponting said it would not be feasible to leave him out of the side and if Australia opted to start with four pace bowlers they would omit a batsman instead.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (c), Imran Farhat, Salman Butt, Yasir Hameed, Asim Kamal, Younis Khan, Yusuf Youhana, Kamran Akmal, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Malik, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Rana Naved, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Asif, Mohammad Khaili.

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Darren Lehmann, Michael Clarke, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprowicz, Glenn McGrath, Bree Lee.



PHOTO: STAR

A GRAND WARFARE: Country's two Grand Masters Niaz Murshed (L) and Ziaur Rahman are engrossed in deep thinking during their ninth round engagement of the Maan Bangladesh Grand Masters Chess Tournament at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Office of the Commandant
 Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST)
 Phone: 8019950, Fax: 8012035

Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment for ECE Dept of the Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), Mirpur Cantonment

Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed suppliers for supply, installation and commissioning of following laboratory equipment for MIST, Mirpur, Dhaka as per terms and conditions stated below:

| Sl. No. | Project Name | Location | Tender security amount in Taka | Price of tender document | Time for completion in weeks/ months | Remarks |
|---------|---|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Construction of Physical Facilities of the Military Institute of Science and Technology at Mirpur Cantonment. | | | | | |
| 2. | ADP allocation in local currency (Taka) by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. | | | | | |
| 3. | Tender package No. | | | | | |
| 4. | Invitation for tender no. and date | | | | | |
| 5. | Eligibility of tenderers | | | | | |
| 6. | Name and address of the office selling tender document | | | | | |
| 7. | Name and address of the office receiving tenders | | | | | |
| 8. | Name and address of the office opening tenders | | | | | |
| 9. | Last date and time for tender submission | | | | | |
| 10. | Date and time for tender opening | | | | | |
| 11. | Date and time of pre-tender meeting | | | | | |
| 12. | Place of pre-tender meeting | | | | | |
| 13. | Brief description of goods and services | | | | | |
| 14. | Special instructions | | | | | |

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DFP-30184-13/12/04
G-1266

Commandant
Military Institute of Science and Technology
Mirpur Cantonment

Anna's secret!

Tennis

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova, whose good looks have long eclipsed her court skills, has secretly married her singer boyfriend Enrique Iglesias, US Weekly magazine reported on Tuesday.

The magazine said Kournikova, 23, was spotted wearing a wedding band on her ring finger at a charity tennis event in Florida on Sunday. When asked about her relationship with Iglesias, she was heard telling onlookers: "Enrique is great. Everything is awesome. We are married." It reported.

Kournikova and the Latin crooner, 29, have been dating since she appeared playing his girlfriend in the 2002 music video for his hit "Escape" and have jokingly claimed in the past to be married.

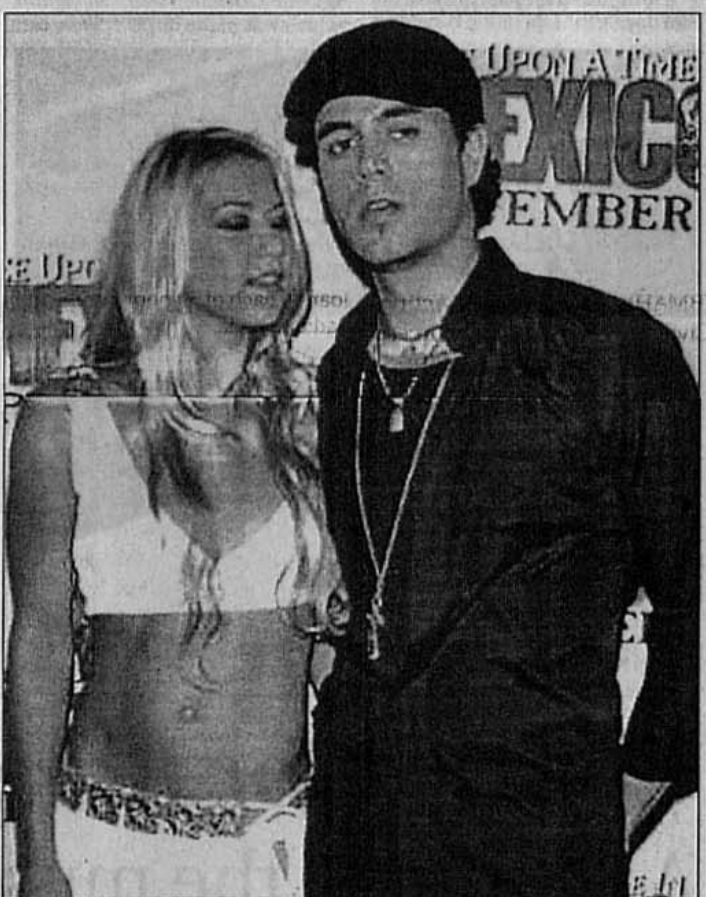
Representatives for the pair declined to confirm the reports on Tuesday but US, quoting unidentified sources, said they were wed on the beach in the Mexican resort of Puerto Vallarta a few weeks ago. Kournikova's publicist said "We never comment on her personal life."

"It was a very small and secret wedding -- only family and a few very close friends were invited," the source told the magazine.

Kournikova first wowed crowds as a teenager in the late 1990s and became known as the "Britney

Spears of Tennis" although she never won a major tournament before announcing her retirement from professional tennis in March 2004.

Iglesias, the son of Spanish singer Julio Iglesias, sings in both Spanish and English and has had worldwide hits with songs such as "Bailamos" and "Hero".



A recent file photo of Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova and her singer boyfriend Enrique Iglesias.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Shesh Dash Din
On Channel 1 at 7:50pm
Special Drama Serial (Part 3)
Cast: Raisul Islam Asad, Shams Shuman, Mim, Litu Anam
Script: Rabeya Khatun, Direction: Saidul Anam Tutul



Shurjo Dighal Bari
On ntv at 2:35pm
Bangla Feature Film
Cast: Dolly Anwar, Keramat Meola,
Direction: Sheikh Niamat Ali

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 3:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-I

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

BTV

07:30 Bangladesh Hridoy Hotey
09:00 Satellite Programme
12:15 Saongbad Potrer Pata Thekay
12:30 Shasthya Tathya Moner Kotba
01:05 Tathya Prajukti
02:05 Bangla Feature Film
02:30 Victory Day Special Programme for Children
04:45 Victory Day Special Recitation Programme
06:30 Victory Day Special Musical Programme by the artists of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra
07:05 Victory Day Special Musical Programme
08:30 Victory Day Special Drama: Phirey Dekha
10:30 Victory Day Special Magazine Programme
11:15 News Reporting of the Victory Day
09:30 Shongbad Potrer Bangladesh
12:30 Victory Day Special Musical Recitation Programme: Bijoy Kobita
01:00 Ebon Cinema Gan Public Reaction
01:25 Bangla Feature Film: Boro Bhalo Lok Chhilo
03:45 Victory Day Special Banglar Gaan
04:15 Victory Day Special Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan
04:45 Victory Day Special Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Victory Day Special Programme: O Amar Desher Mati

CHANNEL-I

09:30 Shongbad Potrer Bangladesh
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ATN BANGLA

10:30 Live Telecast From BTV
12:05 Victory Day Special Telefilm: Khonjey
02:35 Bangla Feature Film: Bikkhob

06:00

Victory Day Special Music Plus
06:30 Victory Day Special Amar Chhobi
07:50 Victory Day Special Drama: Shesh Dashin
09:35 Victory Day Special Programme: E Amar Desh
10:00 Victory Day Special Programme: Muktiuddher Shei Dingul

ntv

08:00 Aajker Shokal
08:30 Victory Day Special Programme: Amar Desh
09:20 Shishu Kishor Shamushor
11:30 Bojor Dibosh 2004
12:05 Birshreshtha
01:25 Victory Day Special Kichu Katha Kichhu Gaan
02:35 Bangla Feature Film: Shurjo Dighal Bari
05:15 Ithasher El Diney
05:20 Victory Day Special: Bijoy Kobita Boli
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Victory Day Special: Janna Amar Dhanya Holo
08:20 Drama Serial: Urey Joy Bak Pakkhi
08:50 Victory Day Special Drama: Bichar
11:25 Dindapan
12:20 Victory Day Special Concert: Bijoy Ullash

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Live Telecast From BTV
12:05 Victory Day Special Telefilm: Khonjey
02:35 Bangla Feature Film: Bikkhob

06:20

Victory Day Special Programme: Amader Muktiuddha
08:00 Victory Day Special Musical Programme: Bijoy Gaan
08:30 Victory Day Special Talk Show: Bijoy Katha
09:00 Victory Day Special Drama: Bichar
10:35 Victory Day Special Talk Show: Antony Bijoy
12:20 Bangla Feature Film: Biplob

HBO

10:00 Citizen X
12:00 The Avengers
1:45 Held Up
3:30 Terminator 2

6:15

Judgement Day
6:15 Balto 2: The Wolf Quest
7:45 Snap Shot 2: Breaking the Ice
9:30 Spider-Man
12:00 Path To Paradise
2:00 The Avengers
9:00 Our Lips Are Sealed
10:30 In Hall
12:15 The Ticket
12:45 Fly
2:15 Dead Heat
3:45 Bulletproof Monk
10:30 Hangman's Curse

STAR WORLD

12:30 Hellraiser III: Hell On Earth
1:30 Third Watch
2:28 Star Asia Travel
2:30 Oprah Winfrey
3:30 Bold And Beautiful
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
5:30 Miami Vice
6:30 The Simpsons
7:00 Home Improvement
7:30 Friends
8:00 Just Shoot Me
8:30 Smallville
9:30 The Simple Life
10:30 For Love Or Money
11:28 Star Asia Travel

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

10:30 X Force
11:30 Women Of K2
12:30 The Simran Show
1:00 Croc Chronicles S2
1:30 Africa From The Ground Up
2:00 Planet Wild
2:30 \$100 Taxi Ride
3:00 Game For It
3:30 Spider Power
4:30 X Force
5:30 On Assignment
6:00 Planet Wild
6:30 \$100 Taxi Ride
7:00 Game For It
7:30 Tombs Below Aruba
8:30 5 Weddings Couple Of

9:00

Operation Hot Pursuit
9:30 Adventure Challenge
10:30 Riddles Of The Dead S2
11:30 X Force
10:30 Dargeman, Warrior Women
11:30 The Case Studies In Forensic Science
12:30 Mysterious Attraction
1:30 Wild Discovery
1:30 Untamed Earth
1:30 Unsolved History Who Killed JFK?
2:30 In Therapy
3:00 Building The Ultimate Roller Coaster
3:30 Dargeman, Warrior Women
4:30 The Case Studies In Forensic Science
5:30 Broken Trust
6:00 Great Castles of Europe
6:00 Dracula's Castles
6:00 Physical Science In Action
6:30 Elite Choppers Birds of Prey
7:30 Lords of The Wild-Fighting For Survival
8:30 Mandela The Living Legend
9:30 Bazaar Marrakesh
10:00 Great Cars
10:30 Beath Hour: Newport Lifeguards
11:30 FBI Files, The No Place to Hide
12:30 Planet Wild
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DISCOVERY

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STAR SPORTS

7:55 Pakistan Tour Of Australia 3 Mobile Test Series 1st Test Day 1 (L)
10:00 Japan Gt Championships Jgtc 2004 Molegi Japan Round 5(R)
10:30 Pakistan Tour Of Australia 3 Mobile Test

Series 1st Test Day 1 (L)

3:00 Asia Golf Travel (R)
3:30 MRF National Motorsport Championship 2004 Highlights (R)
3:55 Tiger Cup 2004 Thailand Vs Philippines Group B (L)
6:00 Futbol Mundial (T)
6:30 Pakistan Tour Of Australia 3 Mobile Test Series 1st Test Day 1 Highlights(S)
8:00 Sportsline (L)
8:30 Fa Cup Classic Matches Manchester United Vs Chelsea Fa Cup 93/94 Final(T)
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:00 Football Crazy (S)
12:00 Sunny By Night
Chittagong Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs India 2nd Test Day 1 Highlights(S)

ESPN

7:00 Sunny Programming Sunny By Night Dhaka Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs India 1st Test Day 5 Highlights (R)
9:00 Taking Guard Chittagong Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs India 2nd Test Day 1 Preview(L)
9:30 Chittagong Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs India 2nd Test Day 1 1st Session (L)
11:30 India Tour Of Bangladesh Chittagong Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs India 2nd Test Day 1 1st Session (L)
12:10 India Tour Of Bangladesh Chittagong Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs India 2nd Test Day 1 1st Session (L)

TEN SPORTS

7:00 Portuguese League H/Ls
8:00 Trans World Sports
9:00 WWE: After Burn
10:00 Golf Highlights
10:30 Indian Golf Show
11:00 Gillette World Sport
11:30 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights
12:00 Trans World Sports
12:00 WWE: The Bottom Line

Vs India 2nd Test Day 1

4:30 2nd & 3rd Sa Saion(L)
Follow Through Chittagong Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs India 2nd Test Day 1 Review(L)
5:30 X-Games PreviewRecap Winter X Games VII Slammed Mt. Aspen Co Usa (R)
6:00 Goals! (R)
6:30 Asian X-Games Qualifiers Latin X Games (T)
7:30 Football Crazy (S)
8:30 Sportscenter
9:00 Sportscenter India (L)
9:00 Harsha Closeup Dream Job - Harsha Ki Khoj Wild Cards - Part 1(T)
10:00 Sunny Programming Sunny By Night Chittagong Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs India 2nd Test Day 1 Highlights(S)
12:00 Sportscenter Sportscenter India (