

ANSAR CHAMPIONS
Women wrestling
ends peacefully

SPORTS REPORTER

The two-day first ever National Women's Wrestling Championship ended peacefully at the Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex yesterday. The event was originally scheduled for July last year, but the organisers had been forced to postpone the competition after threats from Islamic fundamentalists. Bangladesh Ansar became champions with eight gold and one bronze medals while Kushtia finished runners-up with one gold and two bronze medals. A total of 63 women wrestlers took part in nine categories of the meet.

Rajib holds
GM Kunte

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib continued his impressive show in the third Parsvnath International Open Chess Championship as he drew his tenth round board with Indian Grand Master Abhijit Kunte in Delhi yesterday. Rajib, who had earlier beaten Indian Rathnakaran in the ninth round, kept his second place along with three others with eight points from ten matches each. Four other Bangladeshi participants Mehdi Hasan Parag, Arman Monir, Debaraj Chatterjee and Mohammad Javed bagged 6 points each after 10th round.

Bashar's lucky

FROM PAGE 13 ever by the Tigers against any opposition. The previous best were against West Indies (336 at St Lucia in 2004) and 261 against Pakistan at Multan in 2003, which the Test babes narrowly lost. But after that heart-breaking one-wicket loss at Multan, the Tigers are set to eclipse all those marks when the first Test enters a rare fifth day with whole nation sensing a piece of history in the making.



Did U Know?

Bangladesh (488) registered their highest innings total against Zimbabwe in Test cricket, surpassing their previous best of 416 against West Indies at Gros Islet in 2004-05.



Ronaldinho (Brazilian soccer superstar) "I am very happy at Barcelona, I want to be part of a new winning era at the club and I have no plans to go anywhere else."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer
ACROSS
1 Champ- ing
3 Altered
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8 Overly
12 Location
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Action from yesterday's Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter between Usha and Abahani at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

WI falter this time

Cricket

Hobart

The West Indies lost their last seven wickets for 34 as they went down to Australia A without their skipper Brian Lara in their one-day cricket match at Bellerive Oval here on Sunday. A day after Lara scored a majestic unbeaten 116 in Saturday's first match won by four wickets, the Caribbean tourists went down by 51 runs to the second-string Australians. The West Indies were travelling comfortably towards their second win in as many days at 158 for three, chasing 244 runs for victory. But they lost their last seven wickets for 34 runs, including 6-19 in the final 34 balls to crash to defeat. The contrast from the previous day was obvious, when Lara inspired his team to victory with his dominating hundred. "With the start we got from the openers and to then lose the game from there you're just thinking we

really batted badly from there," stand-in skipper Shivnarine Chanderpaul said. Chanderpaul was acting captain after Lara flew to Melbourne to play for the Rest of the World XI against Asia on Monday to raise funds for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami. "The target was much less than yesterday and you are expected to get it with our batting side," Chanderpaul said. "With Brian in the team the confidence is there. Brian has been doing a lot with the bat so it's up to one of the younger guys or one of us to go and take it through." Chris Gayle got the West Indies off to a rollicking start with 43 from 33 balls only to throw his wicket away, top-edging to wicketkeeper Brad Haddin. Opening partner Wavell Hinds top-scored with 53, while Ramnaresh Sarwan (35) and Marlon Samuels (31) also got among the runs but failed to convert starts into big scores. Sarwan's dismissal to a fine catch at short cover by Cameron White

triggered the collapse and the rot set in when Samuels was run out at the bowler's end after slipping in mid-pitch with the score at 173 for five. Brett Lee claimed two wickets in his final over to finish with 2-35. His right hand briefly went numb after he threw his arm back for a successful lbw appeal and made contact with batsmen Mervyn Dillon's helmet. "I went down and saw the physio and he gave me the all-clear so there was never a problem with that," said Lee. "It was more of a shock than anything else." Lee will link up with the Australian team for the triangular one-day series opener against the West Indies in Melbourne on January 14. Michael Hussey top-scored in Australia's innings of 243 for nine. He made 70 from 115 balls after Chanderpaul won the toss. The Australia A top order failed for the second time in as many days, slumping to 84 for five before Hussey and Cameron White (59) combined for a sixth-wicket stand of 88.

Lara appeals for 250-plus totals

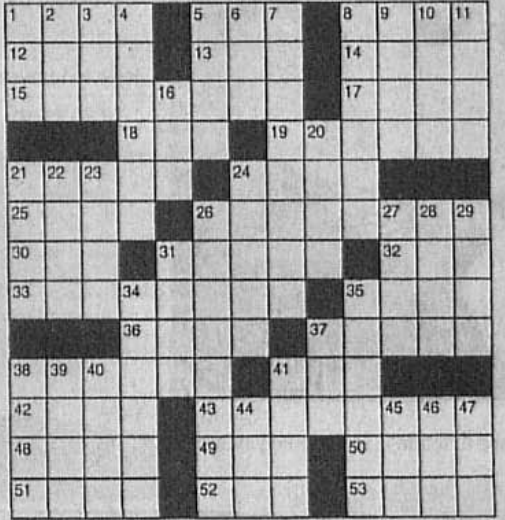
Hobart

West Indies batsmen must look for innings totals of 250 and greater to be successful in this month's triangular one-day cricket series with Australia and Pakistan, skipper Brian Lara said Sunday. The West Indies exploited pace-friendly conditions on their way to their surprise victory over England in the ICC Champions Trophy in England last September. But the flat, hard Australian tracks present an altogether different prospect. "We worked really hard in our camp in Barbados in December but I don't think it's enough," Lara said Sunday. "I've still seen a lot of loopholes in our fielding and our bowling -- it's not the ICC tournament, it's not September in England where conditions favour our fast bowlers. "We've got to understand that it's going to be 250-plus the majority of the time and our batters have got to understand that we've got to get those totals. "If you're batting first or if you're chasing you've got to overcome that." The West Indies look set to rely on a long batting lineup for the triangular one-day series, starting against Australia in Melbourne on January 14. "This is Australia and it's nice to have the long batting order but you don't want to be chasing 300 plus, you've got to have the bowlers who are capable of limiting the opposition," said Lara. "So it's going to be tough between sacrificing a bat and playing the extra bowler or lengthening the batting." Lara looks in good touch after his slashing unbeaten 116 off 86 balls in Saturday's first of two one-dayers against Australia A here. If Lara needs any further advice on Australian conditions, he need look no further than the new coaching staff headed by former Queensland and Australian Academy head coach Bennett King. "We've got a new coaching staff, new ideas and a new work ethic and I think we're heading in the right direction," Lara said.

Kaneria fears Test-only tag

Karachi

Pakistan leg-spinner Danish Kaneria fears he could be branded as a Test bowler only after being omitted from the squad for the one-day series in Australia. The 24-year-old was dropped for this month's triangular tournament, also featuring West Indies, despite bagging 15 wickets in Pakistan's 3-0 Test series defeat to Australia.



CRYPTOQUIP
AL PNCMEKN ZHYFAKX
MK TCOHX NKEONG AL
ZCHYGXKN, POE MFV VECNL
XFXG'E MCHX TYEKN
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I HEAR A GRANDFATHER CLOCK WAS FOUND ATOP A MOUNTAIN PEAK. WELL, IT'S HIGH TIME!
Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals D
The Cryptquip 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.

Atapattu pulls out

Colombo

Sri Lanka skipper Marvan Atapattu has pulled out of Monday's International Cricket Council's fundraising match for tsunami victims to care for his two sick children. "Marvan (Atapattu) was set to leave this morning but has decided to stay with his two children after they were hospitalised last night," Sri Lanka Cricket's media manager Ray Illangakoon said on Sunday. Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara and Chaminda Vaas will all play for an Asian XI against a World XI in a limited-overs match at Melbourne on Monday.

Warne wants to visit Lanka

Melbourne

Test cricket's leading bowler Shane Warne said Sunday he wants to visit Sri Lanka to help in the tsunami relief effort. Warne, one of the world stars playing in the Cricket Tsunami Appeal one-dayer against Asia here on Monday, said he had spoken to World Vision Australia boss Tim Costello and Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan about trying to arrange a visit. The devastated Sri Lankan city of Galle holds special significance for the 35-year-old Australian leg-spinner who made his return to Test cricket after his drug ban and took his 500th Test wicket there. The Galle cricket ground was destroyed in the December 26 disaster. "It's just a matter of trying to work in between games," Warne said on Sunday. Warne, who increased his world record tally to 566 wickets in 120 Tests during last week's final Test against Pakistan in Sydney, said he would talk more with Muralitharan after Monday's match about the best way he could help. Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar, who won't play in the appeal match because of an elbow injury, has still come to Australia to support the match. Tendulkar said he wanted to be a part of the occasion even though he was unable to take part. "It is our responsibility to get together and through cricket, we can help the needy ones," Tendulkar said here on Sunday.

Blazing

FROM PAGE 13 caught by Marshal Ayub off spinner Rezaul Islam but not before the right-handed opener had scored 105 from 124 deliveries that produced eleven fours. Off-spinner Sabbir Khan was the most successful DOHS bowler with three for 37 in 8.5 overs while speedster Shahadat Hossain Rajib took two for 41. BIMAN V ORIENT Rashedul Haque and Humayun Kabir shared a century stand for the first wicket as Bangladesh Biman flew over Orient Sporting Club with an 85-run victory. Young left-hand opener Humayun Kabir hit 95 off 123 balls with four boundaries and a six while Rashedul scored 62 off 85 balls with six hits to the fence as Biman amassed 269 for 7 in 50 overs after being sent into bat. Captain Sanwar Hossain also scored a healthy 57 off 67 balls featuring three boundaries. Pakistani Rashed Hanif captured five wickets for 54 runs for Orient. T a m i m I q b a l and Masumuddin gave Orient a flying start with a 69-run opening stand but that was not enough to avoid a defeat. Left-handed Tamim made 30 off 44 balls while Masum chipped in with 41 off 53 balls. Niaz Murshed was the most successful Biman bowler with 28-4. PEGASUS V AGRANI Young Pegasus registered their second victory in the competition when they defeated Agran Bank by six wickets. Iqbal Sheikh hammered 86 off 109 balls in Agran's unimpressive total of 179. Pegasus raced to 181-4 in 43.4 overs thanks to an unbroken 85-run fifth wicket partnership between Riaz Sheikh (46) and Rezanul (45).

Abahani do Usha double

FROM PAGE 13 attract enough foreign talent. Usha striker Shuvo was the top scorer with 15 goals in the competition. The last league match also marked the retirement of national defender Irteza Kader Guddu. The Usha defender had represented the national side during 1993-95.

SUPER LEAGUE POINTS TABLE						
Teams	M	W	D	L	For/against	Points
Usha	13	11	0	2	42/12	33
Abahani	13	10	2	1	37/10	32
MSC	13	8	2	3	29/16	26
Mariner	13	6	3	4	24/17	21
Ajax	13	2	3	8	11/32	11

Waugh open to bigger role

Cricket

Melbourne

Steve Waugh said Sunday he was ready for any active role that might come his way as world cricket pitches in to help the massive Asian tsunami relief appeal effort here on Monday. Waugh is the coach and manger of the Rest of the World XI against an Asian XI before a Melbourne Cricket Ground sell-out crowd, but he is prepared for active duty in the friendly gathering of the cricket world's elite. "It's pretty cosy being the coach - it's a nice title to have on my CV, but in reality I don't think I'm going to be doing too much coaching, nor do these guys need much coaching," Waugh said here Sunday. "I just see my role as trying to help promote the game, if I can do something positive then I'm here to help.

"If they struggle for fieldsmen, I might get out there ... Ricky (World XI captain Ponting) has already warned me there might be a couple of injuries out there. "It's pretty relaxed -- it's not about the result, it's about the show that's going to be put on." Waugh, who along with New Zealand great Richard Hadlee chose the World side, ended his celebrated international career at the Sydney Test last January against India. Waugh said since then he has been enjoying full-time family life, Australian of the year duties, working on a motivational DVD for school students, his long-standing charity work in India and pumping out 140,000 words so far for his autobiography. "I haven't picked up a bat, haven't watched a game live and haven't really been to a game," he said. "Your priorities are different -- you realise that the world is bigger

than what you think it is. "You become pretty self-absorbed when you're playing the game. "When you retire you think there is another world out there -- I love cricket, but I don't miss it." But he admitted there will be a buzz when he strides out on to the MCG again on Monday. "I'm just rap, really, to be thought of that I could have some sort of role in this -- as a player, you mightn't have got the opportunity," he said. "As an ex-player, I feel lucky that I'm here, I feel like a bit of a free-loader, I've just dipped in with the coach's position. "In some ways, it was strange flying down here today, thinking I'm going to a cricket match, but I'm not playing -- it's a bit funny. "For me, I will be happy to set foot (on the ground) ... it's fabled turf."

Qatar Open Federer's

Tennis

Doha

Roger Federer added to his long list of remarkable statistics Saturday by winning the 23rd title of his career with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Ivan Ljubicic in the final of Qatar Open. It was both the 14th final in a row and the 20th match in a row that Federer had won, and his 44th victory in 46 matches. All these are comparable to some of the better achievements of greats like Pete Sampras, Ivan Lendl and Stefan Edberg, and given how much more physical the modern game is becoming, Federer's efforts appear all the more remarkable. But the triple Grand Slam titleholder was not especially interested in such things. For him it was more important to have gone through the tournament without having dropped his serve and to know that, with the defence of his Australian Open title only a week away, much of his game is already where he wants it to be. "It's always special to win somewhere for the first time, but I just hope

I can keep it up," he said. "Because I have a very important title to defend in Melbourne." Curiously, despite the one-sided score-line, Ljubicic came closer than anyone to achieving the break of serve which nobody had managed throughout ten sets. He had a heavier game than Federer and appeared to try to play big on the important points to embarrass him. It made sense but it also betrayed Ljubicic a little. He had Federer at love-40 in the sixth game and was unable to take advantage of two Federer second serves on two of them; then he had a great chance to put Federer at love-40 again when he was serving for the first set, but from love-30 missed a volley and then overhit with an ambitious backhand return. "Winning the game from love-40 down at 4-2 was important, and there was another opportunity for him at 5-3. These were moments when I thought this is not the direction I want to be going in. "But after I had won those games I think I broke his belief which is exactly what I wanted. I never lost my serve and I put pressure on my opponent."

Federer was sometimes forced to scuttle quickly to contain the bombshells from Ljubicic, who had won three of the previous six encounters including the last one 15 months ago in the Wimbledon champion's home city of Basle. But Federer was also constructing points, as usual, in a wide variety of ways. After Ljubicic served a double fault disastrously to concede a break at the start of the second set, the world number one increased the frequency of his net attacks. He concluded the next game with a fierce volley and finished the match with a deft approach facilitating an exquisitely angled forehand volley winner - moments which would have pleased his new coach Tony Roche, who apparently will be trying to develop this aspect of Federer's game further. "At the moment I think Federer is playing better than Sampras did," said Ljubicic. "It's just that Pete went on for seven years. We will have to see through the years how Roger copes." Federer next travels to Kooyong to play an exhibition tournament before beginning the defence of the Australian Open in nine days time.



World No 1 tennis player Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a backhand against Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia at the Qatar Open final in Doha on Saturday.

Tigers can't wait

FROM PAGE 13 have the ability to win this match. The wicket is still good to bat," said Taibu. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Sunday: BANGLADESH: First innings 488 (Bashar 94, Saleh 89, Rafique 69, Iqbal 56, Mpofo 4-109, Nkala 2-50) ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 308-8) Matsikenyeri c Bashar b Baisya 28 Rogers run out 5 Sibanda lbw b Rafique 12 Masakadza b Mashrafe 29 Cremer lbw b Rafique 0 Taylor lbw b Mashrafe 39 Taibu lbw b Rafique 92 Chigumbura c Mashud b Rafique 71 Nkala c Mashud b Rafique 23 Hondo c Mashud b Mashrafe 1 Mpofo not out 0 Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-9, w-1) 12 Total: (All out in 131.4 overs) 312 Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-48, 3-59, 4-59, 5-86, 6-152, 7-271, 8-308, 9-312 Bowler O M R W

Mashrafe 31 12 59 3 Baisya 24 5 87 1 Rafique 41.4 19 65 5 Enamul 26 8 55 0 Ashraf 5 0 19 0 Saleh 4 0 25 0 BANGLADESH: Second innings Saleh c and b Hondo 26 Iqbal c Taylor b Hondo 0 Bashar c Masakadza b Chigumbura 55 Ashraf c Taibu b Mpofo 22 Aftab c Cremer b Chigumbura 11 Mashud c Cremer b Hondo 23 Omar c Masakadza b Chigumbura 15 Rafique not out 14 Mashrafe c Hondo b Chigumbura 19 Baisya c Sibanda b Chigumbura 1 Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-4, pen-5) 18 Total: (For 9 wks decl in 51.1 overs) 204 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-47, 3-83, 4-114, 5-145, 6-156, 7-176, 8-202, 9-204 Bowler O M R W Mpofo 12 1 47 1 Hondo 17 0 61 3 Chigumbura 16.1 3 54 5 Matsikenyeri 6 0 28 0 ZIMBABWE: Second innings Matsikenyeri b Enamul 20 Rogers c sub (Manzarul) b Baisya 0 Sibanda lbw b Baisya 0

Philippoussis doubtful for Aussie Open

Melbourne

Former Wimbledon and U S Open runner-up Mark Philippoussis is in doubt for this month's Australian Open after pulling out of the Sydney International on Sunday with a muscle tear. The big-serving Australian tore his adductor muscle in last week's Hopman Cup in Perth and the injury has still not healed.