SPORT

Women's open cricket from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Parachute women's open cricket tournament get underway today with four matches taking place on the opening day in Dhaka and Khulna.

Ten teams divided into three groups will take part in the tourney and three group champions will play the final round from which two top teams will qualify for the final match to be held on January

Monowar Anis Khan, BCB's adhoc committee member and chairperson of the women's wing committee, disclosed the tournament details at a press conference yesterday at the board's management office in Gulshan.

Apart from the trophies, the champions will receive Tk 10,000 and the runners-up Tk 6,000 while the organisers will provide Tk 10,000 to all the teams as participation money.

Player-of-the-tournament will be awarded Tk 3,000 while the player-of-the-match Tk 1,000 in addition to Tk 300 for each of the players as match fee.

The budget for the tournament has been estimated at Tk 500,000. Group A: Ansar & VDP Academy,

Tetulia and Jahangirnagar University.

Group B: Abahani, Digital Vision and Prantik Krira Chakra. Group C: Ispahani Sporting Club, Narail, Chuadanga and

Khulna. Saif shares lead with Shiblu

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdullah Al Saif and Mosabbir Khan Shiblu were jointly leading the table of the 28th National Subjunior Chess Championship after eight rounds yesterday.

The leaders were level on seven points with one round left and were closely followed by Nazmus Shakib,

at second place with 6.5 points. In the penultimate round at the Chess Federation hall-room, Shiblu beat Rana, Saif beat Amir, Shakib beat Abir, Ashiq beat Siam, Moni beat Mainuddin, Fahim beat Sayebul, Ashraf beat Saidul, Masud beat Arnob and Russel beat Masum.

It's not over

FROM PAGE 17

from the organisation," informed Waliullah.

Asif scored 580 in the 11th Asian Shooting competition in Kuwait (December 3-13, 2007) in his pet event 10m air rifle, but National Shooting Federation general secretary Nazimuddin is not ready to accept the score as ideal.

"It is not good for a shooter of his class. Before going to China, his best score had been 590. So it is surprising how could his performance fell off," said Nazimuddin.

"We have yet to get any answer from Asif so far. So we cannot tell when he would return."

Although the Olympic Solidarity has not picked him for the Olympics, Asif still has a flickering

hope to participate in the Games. "Bangladesh will get one wild card at least. We would naturally select him but he must improve to get that opportunity," Nazimuddin

added. It can be mentioned that Asif, who won gold medals in the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games and the South Asian Games in Pakistan in 2004, has been trying to recover his form since he and a number of shooters were brutally assaulted by police during a raid at the National Shooting Federation on October 2, 2006.

Not entirely

Africa by 184 runs here two years

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third Test between Australia and India at the WACA Ground on Wednesday:

INDIA: First innings Jaffer c Gilchrist b Lee Sehwag c Gilchrist b Johnson Dravid c Ponting b Symonds Tendulkar lbw Lee Ganguly c Hussey b Johnson Laxman cTait b Lee Dhoninotout Pathan not out

Extras: (lb-18, w-9, nb-9) Total: (For six wkts in 84 overs) 297 To bat: Kumble, RP Singh, Sharma. Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-59, 3-198, 4-214, 5-278, 6-284.

Bowler 64 62 Johnson Clark 59 Tait 10 Symonds 1 14 Clarke

AUSTRALIA: Jaques, Rogers, Ponting, Hussey, Clarke, Symonds, Gilchrist, Tait, Lee, Johnson, Clark. Toss: India

Umpires: Asad Rauf (PAK), Billy Bowden (NZL) Third umpire: Bruce Oxenford

Match referee: Mike Procter (RSA)



Women's wing chairman of Bangladesh Cricket Board Monowar Anis Khan (2nd from L) speaks at a press conference concerning the Parachute Women's Open Tournament at BCB's management office yesterday.

Zim face defeat in tour opener

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Zimbabwe's batting flopped for a second time in their four-day tour opener here, leaving them staring a heavy defeat in the face against the Patron's XI.

The tourists slumped to 111-6 at close on the third day at the Defence Stadium, needing another 159 runs to avoid an innings defeat with four wickets and a full day's play left.

At the close, Elton Chigumbura and Gary Brent -- both on two -were at the crease.

The home side made 479-6 before declaring their first innings,

giving them a huge first innings lead of 270 runs.

Stand-in captain Hamilton Masakadza (44) and Tatenda Taibu (30) helped the tourists avoid disaster with a fighting 63-run stand for the third wicket in an otherwise unimpressive batting display.

New-ball bowlers Samiullah Niazi (3-15) and Sohail Khan (3-30) bowled lively spells to derail the tourists. Niazi removed Vusi Sibanda (23) and Brendon Taylor (4) before returning to dismiss Taibu after tea.

Khan removed Masakadza before snaring Sean Williams (4) and Keith Dabengwa off successive deliveries to push Zimbabwe to the brink of defeat.

Earlier in the day, Naumanullah Khan (86) and Fawad Alam (82 not out) helped the Patron's XI press home their advantage with a fourth-wicket stand of 127.

Left-arm spinner Ray Price was the pick of the Zimbabwe bowlers

with 4-130. Zimbabwe are due to play five one-day internationals against Pakistan on the tour. The first match is scheduled here on

January 21. BRIEFSCORES

ZIMBABWE: First innings 209 (Taylor 64; Afridi 4-37) and second innings 111-6 (Masakadza 44 Samiullah 3-15, Sohail 3-30). PATRON'S XI: First innings 479-6 dec. (Jamshed 182, Naumanullah

latrabari

FROM PAGE 17

deadlock to separate the two sides but Victoria should have won by a bigger margin after dominating the whole show. It was Mithun who spoiled a

series of chances after the break. He was set by Gafur in the 65th minute but fired the ball onto the upright. Three minutes later, Polo found the striker again but Mithun fluffed the opportunity. Gafur then shot the ball over

despite getting the rival keeper on one on one while Mithun failed to double the lead from an easy chance in the 85th minute. Agrani Bank had a rare chance

to equalise two minutes from time

without any avail. After the losses, the bankers stuck to four points while Dipali, who have lost in their both of their outings, remained bottom-of-the-

table without any point. Old timers Dhaka Wanderers and Wari Club are pitted against each other in today's first match while Youngmen's Club face Mohakhali XI later in the day.

Lee picks right

FROM PAGE 17

Lee was hoping for a quick cleanup on day two before putting his feet up in conditions expected to reach 39C. "If we had them fourdown for 300 it might have been a different story, but with those two late wickets, making it six-down, Australia are in a pretty good posi-

Rahul Dravid, who top scored with 93, thought Lee was at the top of his game. "Over the last year and a half he has had pace, but he has also bowled in the right areas and been thinking about his dismissals," he said. "He has been improving all the time since I first came here in 1999." Lee will probably never be as thoughtful as McGrath, but he has done an outstanding job of covering for him.

FROM PAGE 20 "Gerard's word is enough for me. He is at the DTN (technical director) and works for us.

"Gerard had an extraordinary image in England, I'm flattered to hear his name all over the place, I tell myself we made the right choice; everyone wants to have

Houllier's decision is another humiliating blow for a club in turmoil after Sam Allardyce's sacking last week.

Deschamps, 39, is next on their list and it has been suggested he will fly to England for talks with owner Mike Ashley and chairman Chris Mort this week.

He has an impressive managerial pedigree, leading Monaco to the 2004 Champions League final on a limited budget and guided Juventus back to Serie A last term after they had lost most of their top class players following their relegation to Serie B over the matchfixing scandal.

86, Fawad 82*, Afaq 77; Price 4-130). 'Empower umpires'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

With the cricket world's attention on sledging after the controversial Sydney Test, former Australian captain Ian Chappell, Sri Lankan wicketkeeper-batsman Kumar Sangakkara and former Indian batsman Sanjay Manjrekar said the problem could be tackled if more power was given to on-field umpires, and called for players to act with more responsibility.

"If you have a CEO who is not even in the country and not even in the ground trying to call in and say, 'Well I saw this', that is never going to work," Sangakkara said during Cricinfo's Round Table, a fortnightly audio show. "Even a match referee is quite far removed from where the action is. The two guys who are in charge are the umpires and they should be allowed to

handle it as they see fit." Chappell was critical of the ICC for undermining the authority of the on-field umpires. "(The ICC have) diluted the decision-making process of the umpires on the field and in doing that, they have diluted the authority of the umpires on the field. They have also put layers of officials between the umpires and the players.

The three thought that while banter on the field was always going to be present, there are lines which should not be crossed. Sangakkara said a player's colour, race, country

Sharapova ousts

FROM PAGE 20 "It was a satisfying win," she said. "I felt like I played better groundstroke-wise than I did in my first match."

Sharapova said she had to be at the top of her game against threetime Grand Slam champion Davenport, who has shown outstanding form since returning to the tour in September less than four months having a baby.

or family should not be dragged into the debate. Chappell agreed, "There is gamesmanship, which has always been around and there's always place in the game for that. But

there's no path for personal abuse or inane chatter." Sangakkara also stressed that incidents should be left on the field. "Players have to be very honest with themselves that if they do engage in gamesmanship and banter, that is always something you can leave on the field. You should not go running around and

complaining to the media or to the

India never

match referees."

FROM PAGE 17 during the one-day series in India

Hussey felt the controversies of the past week, which ranged from umpiring blunders to racial rows, will not affect the relationship between the two sides, which, according to him, has been cordial.

"I don't expect that to change, particularly in the aftermath of what's happened. I think the players will be very aware of their actions and just get on with the game."

Dravid angry

FROM PAGE 17

drew some satisfaction from the fact that he played a good knock after a lot of hard work.

"I am happy with my effort. ? had worked hard and fought my way back to score the runs. But it's not about me (missing out on a hundred), but the team situation,

Dravid said the team think-tank was never in any confusion about what to do if India won the toss.

"We were very clear about batting first on this wicket. On Tuesday, we saw the wicket and knew the first couple of hours would be crucial. But it is a good wicket, a flat and firm one. We had no real second thought.

'We want Bucknor'

FROM PAGE 17

enjoying a good contest. It was a fine day for cricket: hot, bright and pleasantly windy.

Justin Langer was out there first thing in the morning and subconsciously started to step towards the middle of the pitch, tempted to indulge in some shadow practice. Soon he realised he was in his leather boots, not spikes, and didn't need to practice at all. "The umpire looked up at me in a funny way and I thought, 'This is not your stage any more'. I then just watched Ricky Ponting go through the motions.'

Half an hour before the toss Langer was in the thick of the action, presenting Chris Rogers with his baggy green cap. It's been more than a year since he retired but Australia's next crop of openers isn't allowing us to forget his style: Phil Jaques turned into a like-for-like replacement and Rogers, in Adam Gilchrist's words, isn't attractive but effective. Kerry O'Keeffe, the former

Australian legspinner who regaled the press and corporate guests during lunch, felt Rogers had shown how colour-blindness wasn't an impediment to Test cricket. He also reminded everyone of how John Rogers, Chris' dad, played a few games for New South Wales. "There's Gilchrist from New South Wales and now Rogers," he said with the distinctive laugh that's thrilled radio audiences across the country. Wonder what O'Keefe thought of Clarke's latest crew cut, in light of his recent comments about NSW players being given a bottle of hydrogen peroxide along with their state caps.

SPORTS REPORTER

Ziaur Rahman recovered from a fifth round loss when the Bangladesh Grandmaster defeated Akshat Kamparia of India in the sixth round of the Parsvnath Open International Chess Tournament in

Delhi yesterday. After four straight wins, Zia lost to Russian GM Igor Kurnosov while Enamul Hossain Rajib's winning streak was ended also in the fifth round when he was beaten by Indian IM GB Prakash.

Rajib's recovery was not that impressive as he drew with local guy Aditya Udeshi in Round 6.

Zia had five points and Rajib 4.5 while other Bangladeshi participants FM Taibur Rahman and Sohel Chowdhury were on four and three points respectively.

Capello under investigation

AFP, Rome

Prosecutors in Turin are investigating new England manager Fabio Capello for suspected tax evasion Italian media reported on

Wednesday. The inquiry, which was opened some months ago, regards earnings Capello received during his time at Roma and Juventus, according to Il Giornale newspaper.

Capello is still fiscally registered in Turin, where he undertook his last coaching post in Italy.

He is suspected of not having paid tax on sponsorship earnings and of diverting funds directly to foreign companies to avoid paying

Turin prosecutors are also still looking into Juventus's books as investigations are ongoing into the affairs of former Juventus bosses Luciano Moggi, Antonio Giraudo and Roberto Bettega.

Daily Star down but not out

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket has always been the weak link of The Daily Star and this year it was no exception. Despite having a new captain and a set of fresh blood The Daily Star stumbled to a 30-run defeat against The Inqilab in their opening group league match of the Pepsi Media cricket tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Expectations of a turnaround of fortune ran high when Ashfaq Wares with a promise to bring the Aussie consistency that he was a part of during his down under days took over the demanding job from Rabeed Imam, now Tiger Cricket.com editor.

But unfortunately Wares's newlook side failed to adjust with the new wicket, which was completely antithesis of Perth. The outcome was inevitable. Inqilab hammered 85 from six overs including 60 odd runs from two prodigal overs of Wares and debutant Suranjit Devnath. The Daily Star chase never took off after star opener Mohammad Isam was run out and Wares struck a golden duck. The only saving grace was Shamim's 32

in a total of 55-3. Daily Star will play Ittefaq in

their final match tomorrow. Meanwhile, in the other matches of the day, ATN Bangla defeated Sangbad by four wickets, Banglavision thrashed BSS by 66 runs, The Daliy Jugantor edged BTV by eight runs, Channel One picked up a four-wicket win against The Daily Korotoa, RTV defeated New Age by three wickets and BD News handed a 46-run defeat on Boisakhi TV. On a disappointing day for English dailies, The Independent were the saving grace with a 23-run win over The Daily Khabarpatra.

End of the road

FROM PAGE 20 including representatives from every one of the 53 national associations of UEFA.

The G14 welcomed the move as a "long-sought change in governance of football" and said they would make a decision on their future at their General Assembly on February 15.

ACROSS

1 Earning

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"By entering into a real and mature dialogue with the clubs, UEFA and FIFA have signalled their intention to correct the imbalance that exists in the governance of the game at European and international levels," the G14 said in a statement.

BFF officially

FROM PAGE 17 Manzoor Hossain Malu signed on behalf of the federation and Haiul Kaium, director sports, NSC, signed on behalf of the NSC.

The final documents, however,

are expected to reach the BFF after the signing of the NSC secretary. The second 'Goal' project for BFF was on the verge of cancellation when NSC chairman and Army Chief General Moeen U

Ahmed took the initiative to pro-

vide the football governing body a

site for the project. The artificial turf will provide the national team and the clubs the opportunity to train even during the rainy season.

The BFF Bhaban was built under the first 'Goal' project.

GM Zia back to Winning track Pitch was off pace

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

For all the predictions of damage from Australia's four fast men there was not much blazing fire. Each of the quartet, which was steered superbly by Brett Lee, was sharp, but the expected explosiveness was missing after an energetic opening from both teams. A hot day sapped the early promise from the surface and rumours of Perth's bounce returning have been exaggerated, at least on the side of the square that hasn't been relaid.

In December Shaun Tait was almost unplayable during a Twenty20 international on one of to Michael Hussey, who took a fine the springy pitches, but in his third diving catch. Dismissals that were Test he was unable to create the same level of fear. India's batsmen were the most relieved while many of the rest, including the home bowlers, felt slightly deceived.

combination of four fast men was against India 15 years ago and the match was won in five days. In the shortly before lunch to be lead-up to this game there was employed. Tait, who came in for speculation it would be a short one, but the home team will have to sweat to achieve the world record of 17 wins in a row.

Brett Lee and Mitchell Johnson opened, with the back-up coming from Tait and Stuart Clark, and while teeth were shown, the edges were soon blunted. Lee and Tait posted speeds above 150kmph in the first session, but they dropped to the low 140s in an afternoon of intense heat. A Tait bouncer barely

reached Gilchrist on the full and a Sachin Tendulkar edge off Lee fell short of second slip. India's batsmen, particularly Tendulkar, were even able to re-think their shots, which is something that was not

possible in Perth's prime. Rather than having the luxury of unleashing his bowlers and watching them feed the cordon, Ricky Ponting had to be thoughtful. The slips stayed deep, but fielders were regularly rearranged in the infield and on the boundary, just as they were in the first two Tests.

A couple of wickets came with bowling changes, Lee swapping ends to pick up Wasim Jaffer and Mitchell Johnson returning to capture Sourav Ganguly with a slice meant for extreme speed came with cageyness instead.

At times it looked like the captain had too many riches and was not sure how to spend them. The last time Australia tried a Andrew Symonds bowled five overs of medium pace in the second session after Tait had waited until Brad Hogg, was unsurprisingly erratic and more was expected when he had an aging ball, but he went without reward in 13 overs in three spells. Limited-overs games have provided most of his recent workload and he will need some

time to run himself in. Johnson was more effective than in Sydney and had two important wickets to show for the effort put in between Tests. Stronger in his delivery stride, he forced the

batsmen to play more around off stump, picking up Virender Sehwag with an edge behind before removing Ganguly. An inswinging yorker was too fierce for Rahul Dravid, who was lucky to sustain only a

sore foot and not an lbw dismissal. However, Lee was the most impressive and once he swapped ends after an expensive opening he operated like a well-tuned thoroughbred. Batsmen were forced to worry about nicking, Tendulkar missed a brilliant legcutter and the slips were always on alert. Jaffer pushed at Lee and gave Adam Gilchrist a simple catch and there were numerous challenges for India.

Dravid survived another drop in the series -- Michael Clarke was the offender at first slip when the batsman was 11 -- but Lee recovered and collected 3 for 64, a haul enhanced by the wicket of VVS Laxman with the second new ball. He powered towards the crease through 19 overs and Tendulkar's wicket came in his 15th, although the batsman was the unfortunate one this time. The ball was heading well over the stumps and might not have been in line with off. Asad

Raufupheld the lbw appeal. The general rule in Perth is if the ball hits on the knee roll it can't be out. In the morning nobody would have believed a dismissal would have come this way, but the lack of spring in the pitch made it a possibility. While the surface may have tricked Rauf, it also flattened the bounce of Australia's fast-bowling

Pakistan in early 2006 and settled

into the No. 4 slot later in the year in

West Indies. Since then, though,

he's struggled at home and away.

South Africa without a half-century

and didn't hit the high notes

against England as well. He turned

in some crucial innings against

Pakistan at home but kept getting

out at the wrong time. He didn't

this tour, though. He's waded

bit of luck, both in Sydney and here.

"This was a good pitch with better

bounce and pace," he said of his

comfort factor. "The ball came on

to the bat. In fact I've been moving

Things have been different on

seem out of form, just out of luck

Power of three

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Years from now Perth might be remembered as the city where Rahul Dravid recovered from his toughest phase in Test cricket. Back to his favourite No. 3 position, his value as the side's cushion was evident. The compact defence was back, as were the long strides to meet the ball on the full. Unfortunately the innings might be temporarily remembered for the way it ended. It shouldn't.

After opening in the first two Tests, today (Wednesday) when Dravid entered, in the 17th over, India had already had their best opening stand of the series. He began with some controlled trickles past the slips, endured a good spell of bowling from Brett Lee and survived a dropped catch on 11, before flowing freely. The second

half of his innings was played with dreds while opening against as much freedom as his innings were in mid 2006, the last time he made a hundred against top-class opposition. "It's nice to be back in a familiar He went through an entire tour of

position," he said, "and the open-

ers got us off to a good start. They played positively, took their chances and put fifty on the board. It gives you a psychological advantage when you walk in then. I've done well and badly at No. 3. I wouldn't want to attribute scoring runs to my batting position. There's a lot of hard work that went - through the turbulent times with a into it, not just the position." Then why does he distinctly

done well as an opener. I haven't found an answer to it. I just feel different. It doesn't feel the same in the two positions."

prefer the No. 3 position? "It's

tough to explain," he said. "It's

maybe because I've never really

my feet well through the series. I felt comfortable in the second innings in Sydney and did well in the practice game as well. It's When in form he could adjust to slowly coming together." any position. He reeled off hun-It came together all right, especially after he raised his bat to bring up his half-century. He doubled his run-rate and bisected the field perfectly with his cover-drives. Seven short of his hundred, Dravid attempted to slog-sweep Andrew Symonds' offspin, only to lob a catch to the covers. The force with which he swung the bat after that indicated the disappointment.

"The shot was on," he later said, and I had played it earlier as well. The ball was tossed up. When it comes off, it looks great, otherwise it looks stupid. There's a fine line to being positive and throwing it away. People accused us of being negative in the first Test and we've been trying to be positive throughout. It's a little disappointing but there's a lot of cricket left in this game yet.

Would his side have settled for this position at the start of the day? "Maybe four down for 300. But we're happy overall. There were a lot of fighting performances and a lot of guys showed character. If the lower order does well we have a chance of getting to 400. And that's a score we would have settled for at

Action from yesterday's match between Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Air Force of the President Cup Super Four volleyball tournament at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium.

By Eugene Sheffer

3 Mexican 25 E.T.'s

Mattress* 27 Scepter

8 "We're in 28 Up to, in

Together 29 Witness

10 Rover's 35 Frat party

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CRYPTOQUIP

FBZJZDZS PVMSHJZXHQX YGGICMJ IHI QGCZXBHJY KMDGSMAVZ, GJZ CHYBX

OME HX FMQ AZJJE-KHPHMV Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GROUP OF FIERCE FELINES ARE FOPPISH, I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT CALL THEM DANDY LIONS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals D

