PARSVNATH OPEN CHESS 7th place for GM Zia

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman clinched seventh place in the Sixth Parsvnath Open International chess tournament which concluded in Delhi on Sunday.

The Bangladeshi GM finished with eight points after drawing wit Indian GM Abhijit Kunte in the tenth and final round. Zia earned Indian Rs. 35,000 as prize money.

Indian GM Abhijit Gupta emerged champion with nine points while another local GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly finished runner-up

with 8.5 points. Bangladesh FM finished 38th with seven points while IM Enamul

Hossain Rajib 40th with 6.5 points. Sohel Chowdhury, the other Bangladeshi participant who tallied five points, was placed 187th among 392 players from different countries including 15 GMs and 25 IMs.

Amer, Asri in boys' final

UNB, Dhaka

Naow Amer of Syria and Merzuki Mohd Asri of Malaysia moved into the boys' singles final of the Mobil ITF Asian 14/Under Asian Tennis Championships yesterday.

In the semifinals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna, Amer outclassed Sved Naguib (Malaysia) 6-4, 6-1 while Asri blanked Reda Mohamed of Kuwait 6-3, 6-2.

In the girls' singles, Malaysian players Boey Adelle and Selvarajoo set a final clash after eliminating their respective opponents in the semis.

Adelle beat her compatriot Choc Lyn Yee 6-1, 0-6, 6-2 while Selvarajoo defeated Mtwe Zin Mar of Myanmar 6-4, 6-2.

Earlier in the boy's singles quarterfinals, Hasibul Haque of Bangladesh went down to Asri 2-6, 7 5, 3-6 while another Bangladeshi player Biplab Ram conceded defeat to Amer 1-6, 4-6.

School kabaddi

UNB, Dhaka

Ansar and VDP High School emerged champions in the boys' section of the Dhaka Deputy Commissioner School kabaddi competition beating Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rauf School and College 44-40 in the final at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court vesterday.

In the women's section, Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rauf School and College clinched the title, outplaying Siddeshwari Girls' High School 41-29 in the final at the same

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Igram Ahmed witnessed the finals as chiefguest and distributed prizes.

5 fifties power

Zimbabwe at the National Stadium in Karachi on Monday: PAKISTAN

Buttrun out Jamshed c Matsikenyeri Chibhabha Younis c Masakadza b Price Yousuf c Mpofu b Price Malik c Sibanda b Chibhabha Misbah not out Afridinotout Extras: (lb-3, nb-3, w-5) Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 347 Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-85, 3-198, 4-239,5-338 Iftikhar, Niazi

Did not bat: Akmal, Tanveer, Bowler Mpofu 72 Chigumbura7 Chibhabha 10 Masakadza 2 Price Utseva Williams 36 ZIMBABWE Sibanda c Younis b Iftikhar Masakadza c Akmal b Tanveer Chibhabha b Afridi

Taibulbwb Afridi Taylor st Akmal b Malik Williams not out Matsikenyeri lbw b Malik Chigumbura c Jamshed b Malik 15 Utseyanotout Extras: (lb-2, nb-2, w-12) Total: (For 7 wkts 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-103, 3-130, 4-141, 5-159, 6-166, 7-195

26 33 34 18 Younis Misbah 30

Result: Pakistan won by 104 runs. Man-of-the-match: Nasir Jamshed.

Toss: Zimbabwe. Umpires: Asoka de Silva and Zameer Haider.

Media cricket

FROM PAGE 17

Habibul Bashar, former BCB general secretary Aminul Haque Moni, cricket coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury and chief executive of Transcom Beverages Limited Golam Quddus Chowdhury and Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) officials were

also present. BSJA organised the 24-team meet, a regular event of local journalists.



Tournament committee chairman and former national captain Zakaria Pintoo (R) addressing a press conference at the club tent yesterday in connection to this month's Victory Day football tournament to be organised by Mohammedan Sporting Club.

V-DAY FOOTBALL

Mohammedan in no doubt

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite the footballers' threat to boycott all competitions, Mohammedan Sporting Club officials were confident they would be able to start the Protiti Pharma Victory Day Cup football tournament on schedule.

kick off on January 26 at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan's additional secretary Mostaqur Rahman said at a press conference yesterday that they were not worried about the threat because the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Sunday confirmed it would announce the transfer date and the yearly calendar immediately, which is the demand of the footballers.

Tournament committee chairman and former Bangladesh football captain Zakaria Pintoo

announced that their preparation has all but completed for the meet.

"We are ready to stage the tournament. The members of the Swadhin Bangla Football Team have long wanted to host a victory day football tournament since and it is a dream come true for us," said the former defence stalwart, who The eight-team event is due to was the captain of the Swadhin Bangla Football Team.

"We thank Mohammedan who have come forward to make it possible.

Country's professional league champions Abahani will take on Badda Jagarani in the inaugural match following a brief opening ceremony. Mohammedan, Muktijoddha,

Club Fakirerpool and Dhaka Wanderers are the other teams to participate.

Arambagh, Victoria, Youngmen's

Former adviser to Caretaker

Government and regulatory reform commission chairman Dr Akbar Ali is expected to inaugurate the tourney.

Pintoo said they want to revive the glory of the game with this tournament, which he believes will bring the crowd back.

Mohammedan general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan said they will give free entry to school students.

Sponsor Protiti Pharma will provide Tk 3 lakh while cosponsors Walton and G Hanz will give other prizes.

Tournament committee secretary Jahirul Haq Chowdhury, former national booters Jahirul Islam, Kaiser Hamid, Khorshed Babul, Protiti Pharma's business development manager Habibur Rahman, Walton's assistant director (communications) Humayun Kabir were also present on the occasion.

Favourites gather steam

FROM PAGE 17 from Polish qualifier Marta Domachowska 6-4, 6-4.

Another Pole, Agnieszkesa Radwanska, is also safely through after upsetting 14th seeded Russian Nadia Petrova 1-6, 7-5, 6-0. Her reward is a meeting with ninth seed Daniela Hantuchova, who beat 27th seed Maria Kirilenko.

Justine Henin, Maria Sharapova, Serena Williams and Jelena Jankovic fill out the quarter-final line-up.

Williams, a six-time Grand Slam champion still searching for her first Australian title, had her right leg heavily strapped high up around the thigh, but she saidit was nothing major.

"I've got a little something going on but it's not going to hurt anybody,' said the seventh seed, adding that her failure to win the title in Melbourne wasakeymotivator.

"I've come close here before but my little sister Serena has taken it awayfromme," she said. "To win the singles would be a

dream come true. But I have a lot of respect for Ana and won't be taking herlightly. She next plays fourth seed Ana Ivanovic, who lost concentration

against unheralded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, admitting she was sleepwalking for periods of her match against the 17-year-old Dane. The Serb finally roused herself to score a 6-1, 7-6 (7/2) win.

"I played very well in the beginning and started to get a little bit tired in the

second and a little bit sleepy," she said. "This is the first time I've played

While he was certainly happy

about the Giants, Blake was more

excited about making the last eight

good day if the Giants had lost and I

Modest number one Roger Federer

trouble swallowing his pride and

playing a match on any court

requested by organisers at the

Australian Open. The top seed

professed some surprise at the

controversy raging after last

Saturday's dusk-to-dawn

programme which saw Lleyton

"I think it still would have been a

in Melbourne.

had won," he added.

RETICENT ROGER

FROM PAGE 17

But she said she was ready to take revenge against Williams, who beat her at the last two Grand Slams -- US Open and Wimbledon.

"It's exactly the time for some revenge," she said.

Ghana ride

FROM PAGE 20

corner to send a deafening roar into the sky above the packed stadium where Ghana president John Kufuor was watching. However, in the 65th minute the

when Guinea drew level.

fumbling the ball over the line. quarter of an hour for the hosts who had identified this as a must-

equalling fifth title. kick, the Marseille midfielder forced Camara into a brilliant reflex save from close range.

But in the end it was Muntari who saved the day, his 89th minute shot flying past the diving Camara to give LeRoy and the rest of the crowd the perfect result.

putting us on Rod Laver (arena). Is

it bad to be on Vodafone (arena)? I

I'm just saying I would be pretty

relaxed and I would accept any-

me really at that stage."

SLEEPYIVANOVIC

finish in two sets."

thing they would have done with

Ana Ivanovic shook the sleep out of

but awoke to beat Dane Caroline

Wozniacki 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) Monday to

reach the Australian Open quarter-

finals. "I'm thrilled to be through,"

said the Serb, who needed two

match points to advance over her

17-year-old opponent. "I played

well at the beginning - then I got

sleepy. I'm happy I could manage to

against the winner from Venus

Williams and Poland's Marta-

Domachowska. She promises to be

I'd been used to sleeping in,"

Ivanovic said. "Today I had to wake

at 10 pm with the babies. But I'm in

for the first time last season after a

Wozniacki finished in the top 100

good shape and feel ready."

ready in the event of a morning call.

"This was my first match, and

Ivanovic will play Tuesday

"I'm not going after the ladies,

OPEN SECRETS

said on Monday he would have no her eyes as during a morning match

don't think so.

Hollywood

England, stacked with county and semi-professional players, needed one run to win with two balls left to claim the Hollywood Ashes trophy from the Australian team that included British Open golf champion Ian Baker-Finch, seven time women's world surfing champion Layne Beachley, and actor Cameron Daddo.

Beachley showed she was almost as handy with a cricket bat as a surfboard, smashing four runs off five balls.

The game came down to Aussie fast bowler turned TV personality, Mike Whitney, bowling the final over against England test batsman,

Robert Key. Key, sadly for the largely Australian crowd who enjoyed 5dollar Boag's beers and Four'n Twenty meat pies -- both hard-tofind commodities in the US scored the winning run, guiding his

team passed Australia's total of 182. Key opened the batting and finished the game with 51 not out. Waugh -- playing his first game of cricket since retiring in 2004, scored 40 runs off 26 balls, including one six that nearly wiped out Gibson in the VIP tent -- did not seem too upset about the loss until a reporter asked him when was the last time he lost to England.

He thought for a few seconds. "That's a good question," Waugh pondered.

"Quite a while. "It's going to hurt tonight now I think about it.

"Thanks mate."

BFF gets green

FROM PAGE 17 Abahani, Mohammedan and Muktijoddha also demanded a calendar in addition of financial

"We ensured the committee we have no problem going for the transfer and they can announce the date as soon as they want. But the clubs need guarantee of financial assistance," told the club represen-

If the transfer starts in February, the BFF feels it would be able to launch the second B. League before the end of the March. It also wants to revive the National League and the Federation Cup besides staging the Swadhinata Cup in 2008. "We could have told the clubs to

start the league early but they would need time to prepare," said BFF secretary Malu. "Also, some clubs would look forward to rope in some players from the ongoing Senior Division League. So, it would be unwise to disrupt the players' concentration now." BFF's acting president Monir

Ahmed, who is also a member of the B. League committee, vowed to find a sponsor for the B. League.

The BFF has yet to collect any part of the Tk 75 lakh sponsorship money for the inaugural B. League from Leisure Sports Management of India, which promised to give the amount even if it could not lure any sponsor.

First win for Wanderers

SPORTS REPORTER

SPORT

Hiron Joarder's 83rd minute strike ended Dhaka Wanderers' poor run in the Senior Division Football League when they recorded their first victory beating Mohakhali XI 1-0 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

After four matches, Wanderers stretched their tally to five points while Mohakhali stuck to one point after three outings.

Old-timers Victoria and Wari shared a 1-1 draw in the day's other

Mobarak shot Wari ahead after just seven minutes but the lead did not last long as Mithun equalised for Victoria seven minutes later.

Victoria moved closer to the top with eight points after four matches while Wari's collection raised to five, also from four games.

Youngmen's Club play City Club and Arambagh face Agrani Bank in today's matches.

Friendly cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Eastern Bank Limited beat Standard Chartered Bank by five wickets in a friendly cricket match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Standard Chartered were all out for 190 in 34.5 overs with Mostofa top-scoring with 45. Shuvro took three wickets while Talha and Rana took two each.

In reply, EBL won with four balls to spare in the 35-over-a-side match with handy contributions from Kiron (37), Saadullah (36). Mostofa was the star performer with the ball for Standard Chartered, picking three wickets.

Managing director of EBL Ali Reza Iftekhar was present during the match.

Ansar win by 7 wickets

SPORTS REPORTER

Ansar & VDP earned a seven-run victory over Ispahani Sporting Club in the final round of the Parachute Women's Open Cricket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Ansar batted first to score 133-9 in the stipulated 35 overs with number seven Shamima and Chamely scoring 19 each.

Highest contribution came from extras at 27. Skipper Salma, Jahanara and

Rumana bagged two wickets each. Replying to a moderate target, Ispahani Sporting Club were bundled out for 126 in 34.5 overs with captain Salma top-scoring with 41 while Jahanara could put some

resistance making 17. Soheli and Shamima took two

wickets apiece. Salma of Ispahani Sporting Club was later adjudged player-of-the-

Injured Gayle

in the second Test in Cape Town, has entrusted Bravo to steer the ship in his absence - but he too is combating his own injury after picking up a side strain during the Test series. "I had already been feeling quite

frustrated at just sitting around and having to watch my team-mates battling out in the middle without any contribution from me," Gayle said. "This injury update only made me feel worse. I therefore spoke to team management and the WICB chief executive, Dr. Donald Peters, who was here in South Africa, and expressed the view that it would be best for me to head back to the Caribbean immediately and focus on recovering fully. Sitting on the sidelines was really beginning to affect me.

"We will be hosting two top teams, Sri Lanka and Australia, in the coming months and I definitely want to be 100 per cent fit for those matches. So leaving the tour is the most logical step at this stage.'

West Indies host Sri Lanka for two Tests and three one-dayers in March and April, with Australia arriving for three Tests and five ODIs in May.

Brown suggest FROM PAGE 17

He rued that this "function of the empire" has fallen into disrepair now that most of the Commonwealth countries have opted out of the honoured system and have their own honours.

"But I believe it was a good tradition to celebrate the achievements of the great Commonwealth cricketers -- it shows we are good sports and I would like to see some of the great players of the modern era -- like Sachin Tendulkar -proposed for honorary awards -- so the British nation can salute their achievements in one of our national sports," Brown said. "Obviously, these are issues for

mittee, but I hope they will considerit," he said. Brown also congratulated India on what he described as its "famous victory" over Australia "so away from home" in the Perth Test match.

the independent honoured com-

Press salute Perth win Cricket ment," Gavaskar said on television.

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian media on Sunday joined former players in saluting the brilliant win in over Australia in Perth, saying it was the cricket-mad nation's greatest Test victory.

Leading newspapers front-paged Saturday's 72-run triumph in the third Test on Australia's favourite hunting ground that ended the world champions' 16-match winning

response after the acrimonious second Test in Sydney which ended with Indian captain Anil Kumble saying "only one team was playing in the spirit of the game."

India, having lost the Sydney match in the penultimate over of the final day, were angered by dubious umpiring and the three-Test ban handed out to Harbhajan Singh for alleged racial abuse towards Andrew Symonds.

Sunil Gavaskar was convinced it was said the Times of India while the India's greatest Test win since he began playing international cricket

Former captain and batting great

"For a team to come back after being 2-0 down in the world champions' own backyard and win on what is regarded as the fastest wicket in the world is an unbelievable achievetumult, its significance is elevated.

"I have not seen anything like this in the last 40 years."

Gavaskar's sentiment was shared by the Hindustan Times whose front page headline read: "Ecstasy --India's greatest Test win ever."

"In a way it all began in Sydney," the newspaper's correspondent wrote. "Done in by atrocious umpiring and reeling from the three-match ban on Harbhajan Singh, Team India closed ranks.

"Perth, reputedly the world's fastest pitch, was supposed to be Australia's impregnable bastion, the For most, it seemed the perfect battleground where India would be "Instead, the entire squad com-

bined to script one of the most romantic tales in a sport replete with instances of the improbable -- and posted one of India's finest victories "Indians Fix Cocky Aussies",

screamed the banner headline in the Mail Today tabloid, adding "it was sweet revenge after being done in by the umpires in Sydney." "Aussies knocked off their Perth,"

Indian Express called it the "Sweetest The Hindu wrote: "Divorced from

context, the third Test rates as a fabulous game of cricket, contested by two exceptionally gifted sides. "Seen in the light of last fortnight's

The firmness of purpose India exhibited had a certain nobility to it."

Former captain Kapil Dev, who led India to its only limited-overs World Cup title in 1983, said Kumble's team deserved all the

accolades that came its way. "One of the best no doubt, but Kolkata was better," the legendary all-rounder said, referring to the 2001 series in which India fought back to record a 2-1 win over Steve Waugh's Australians.

Having lost the first Test and made to follow-on 274 runs behind in the second Test in Kolkata, the Indians rode on an extraordinary 281 from Venkatsai Laxman to turn the tables on the world conquering Aussies.

The Indians not only ended a previous 16-match winning streak by the Australians, but went on to win the final Test in Chennai, prompting Waugh to dub India as the "final

Kapil hoped Kumble's side will go on to win the final Test starting in Adelaide on Thursday and square the series 2-2.

"The boys should not let up from here," he said. "The entire country is behind them and there is no reason why we cannot win in Adelaide where the wicket suits us."

India had won the Adelaide Test on the previous tour of Australia in 2003-04 under Sourav Ganguly's captaincy.

JP fires SA home

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

Jean-Paul Duminy was hailed a potential future star after guiding South Africa to a six-wicket win in the first one-day international against the West Indies at Centurion Park Sunday.

The left-hander made a careerbest unbeaten 79 as South Africa overhauled a West Indian total of 175 with two overs to spare in a match reduced by rain to 36 overs a side. Duminy, 23, came in after South

Africa lost their first two wickets for four runs. He shared stands of 55 for the third wicket with Jacques Kallis 59 for the fourth wicket with Justin Ontong and an unbeaten 58 for the fifth wicket with Mark Boucher. "Full credit to IP as a youngster under pressure," said Boucher,

Graeme Smith, who was receiving treatment after suffering a knee injurywhile fielding. "This innings is going to go a long way to building a lot of confidence for

speaking on behalf of captain

the future." Man-of-the-match Duminy said: "I'm very happy so see the team through and hopefully this is the start of things to come."

batsmen came together when rain was falling and South Africa were behind according to the Duckworth/Lewis method. "My heart was pumping at about 180," said Duminy of the pressurepacked period when it looked as though rain could stop play at any moment. He and Ontong first got

South Africa ahead of the required

rate, then set up a comfortable win as

the weather improved, with the West

The Duminy-Ontong stand was

crucial. The two inexperienced

Indians having increasing difficulty in controlling a wet ball. West Indian captain Dwayne Bravo, who said before the match he did not expect to bowl for another week because of a side strain, brought himself on and after starting with a wide dismissed Ontong for 23 with a spectacular catch off his own bowling, racing down the pitch and diving full length after the ball looped

up off the splice of the bat. "We were a bowler short and it would have been difficult for (offspinner) Marlon (Samuels) to bowl in

these conditions," he said. The West Indies were floundering at 81 for six after being sent in to bat in seam-friendly conditions when play

verse's

lack

37 Sock

O. Henry 54 Spuds'

55 Wall

19 Horse

and

carriage

32 Orches-

33 Check

34 Martini

ingredient

35 Nourished

21 Pub order DOWN

started three-and-a-quarter hours late. They achieved a competitive total through a 69-run seventh wicket stand between Runako Morton (41) and Darren Sammy (51), the last reputable batsmen in their side.

Sammy reached a maiden international half-century with a flurry of hitting. His innings included three sixes, including two off successive balls from Albie Morkel in the penultimate over. Sammy was dropped at long-on

by substitute fielder Johan Botha off

Morkel when he was on 23 and

should have been run out on 49 by a flick onto the stumps by Boucher when he was casual about making his ground.

Fast bowler Dale Stevn took two for 24 and Andre Nel two for 36. Shaun Pollock, playing in his Second match: Jan 25, day-night.

final series after announcing his retirement from international cricket, took one for 19 with an immaculate spell with the new ball and contributed to two run-outs with accurate throws from the deep.

WEST INDIES: 175 all out in 35.5 overs (Sammy 51, Morton 41, Parchment 19, Chanderpaul 17; Steyn 2-24, Nel 2-36) SOUTH AFRICA: 176 for 4 in 34 overs (Duminy 79 not out, Boucher

BRIEFSCORES

26, Kallis 24, Ontong 23; Edwards 1-Result: South Africa won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Jean-Paul Duminy.



Jean-Paul Duminy drives through the off-side during the first one-day inter-

national against West Indies at Centurion Park on Sunday.

By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD ACROSS 36 Free 2 Frau's

1 Common-

est

4 Folder 26 It's a pattern word 4 Guy 39 Spellmaterial long 8 Basket-5 Quickly story down ball team 40 "- Town" 6 Romanian 27 Arab 12 The girl money ruler 13 Pinnacle 28 Vintage 7 Pull a 14 Bank 45 Schnoz tooth video game action 50 Pennsyl-Green 29 Succor Tomatoes" 32 Nobility 15 One of vania author 33 Watery Jason's port 51 Big wind 9 Physicrew discharge 17 Pants 52 Wildecist's from the beest bit eyes invaders? 18 Evoking 53 Chutzpah 10 Cistern

3 There-

the

1 Popular elated 22 Arcane Oriental walk vocabucuisine 20 Rage laries 26 Old photo Solution time: 25 mins. tint 29 Expert 30 Lingerie 31 Cupid's specialty

35 Winter 11 Navy MOB 36 Skit rank (Abbr. shows 16 Where 38 Hayseed 39 Taps player 42 Stamina, "Variety" 43 Domini preceder 44 Theatergoer's souvenir 45 Plead 46 Historic 47 Have

35-Down

49 Flashlight

23 Act the

robot

24 Decorate

25 Logical

23 24 25 42 43 44 45 | 46 | 47 CRYPTOQUIP 11-16

CG RFWOOW ZX HFKAUNAX BIOJ Z QORZQOQ YN KO F

UNRTXCZYI, ZY BFX Y10 TOG OORZXZNJ ZJ CG UZHO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A CARTOON "MENACE" GETS DRESSED EACH DAY, DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MIGHT WEAR DENNIS SHOES? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T

Did not bat: Price and Mpofu Bowler Tanveer Niazi Iftikhar Afridi Malik

> Hewitt win a match at 4:40 am. The Hewitt-Marcos Baghdatis third-round clash was started near midnight after Venus Williams indicated she would not be happy being moved from the main showcourt to face Sania Mirza.

match was done, could Hewitt and Baghdatis come out. "I'm a pretty relaxed guy and I up early, so I went to bed last night don't ask for much in tournaments," said Federer. "If they would come and tell me, 'You have got to

As a result, only when that

breakthrough semi-final at the shouldn't have too much of a say. "We are happy to be playing Japan Open and was making her Australian Open main draw debut. here and we are happy they are

move,' honestly, I think the players

the first (morning) match and I was sleeping in through the whole week really long in the morning, today I had towake up really early."

crowd's celebrations were cut short Kalabane made up for his earlier indiscretion when heading straight at Richard Kingston in the Ghana

goal, the Birmingham City stopper That left a nerve jangling final

LeRoy brought on Andre Ayew as

win match in their bid for a recorda late substitute and the move almost proved inspirational as, with his first