

Competitors take part in the shot put competition of the 'Spirit to Survive', a sporting event for cancer survivors, at the Women's Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

SPIRIT TO SURVIVE Mizan, Ferdousi big winners

SPORTS REPORTER

'Cancer does not mean death'. Barrister Rafiqul Haque, a survivor for 22 years, said this in his inaugural speech of the 'Spirit to Survive' at the Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

A cancer survivor can lead an active and healthy life, the number of participants in today's sporting event strongly establishes this fact, said Barrister Haque.

The survivors participated in different athletics events and archery in the morning and later, took part in a paddle boat race at the Dhanmondi Lake.

Mizanur Rahman was the biggest winner on the day, collecting three gold medals in archery, javelin and discuss throw while Ferdousi Kabir won gold in the shot put and 50m run. Aatur Rahman also won two gold medals in shot put and 100m walk.

Barrister Rafiqul Haque apart, Professor ABMF Karim, Professor MA Hai, Dr. Md Selim Reza, former Bangladesh football captain Arif Khan Joy and former Bangladesh cricket captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain were also present at the inaugural ceremony along with distinguished cancer specialists.

The prize giving ceremony started with the welcome speech from sanofi-aventis managing director Iftekharul Islam.

Sanofi-aventis as a part of its social commitment has been organising events for cancer survivors and their families and friends for quite some time.

Ed quits

AFP, London

Former England batsman Ed Smith has announced his retirement from first-class cricket after being replaced as Middlesex captain by Shaun Udall.

The 31-year-old, who struggled with an ankle injury throughout this year's English county season, made three Test appearances for England in 2003 while playing for Kent.

Smith ends his career having made 12,789 runs in 191 first-class matches, scoring 34 hundreds and averaging 41.79. He captained Middlesex for two seasons and guided them to victory in this season's Twenty20 competition, their first trophy for 15 years.

Symonds in the clear

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Andrew Symonds has apologised to his teammates for the events of the past few days after being cleared of any wrongdoing by Cricket Australia. Symonds is free to keep playing, including in Friday's Adelaide Test against New Zealand, having avoided punishment for an incident in which a member of the public was alleged to have thrown punches at Symonds in a Brisbane pub on Sunday.

"I maintain that I acted appropriately while at the hotel, but I regret making the decision to visit the hotel as I realise I put myself in a compromising position," Symonds said in Adelaide on Wednesday. "I have told my team-mates that I am sorry to have put them through this distraction at a time when they are trying to prepare for a Test match so soon after the Brisbane game, particularly those who were also at the hotel and were named in media reports."

Symonds has effectively been on a final warning since his Cardiff pub crawl in 2005. After that incident, in which he turned up on the morning of an ODI still drunk, he was told by James Sutherland, the chief executive of Cricket Australia, that another off-field indiscretion would result in him losing his contract.

That threat was not carried out this year, when Symonds's fishing trip and other behavioural issues were treated as a welfare concern. Sutherland said he was "totally satisfied" that Symonds had acted appropriately by not retaliating at the Normanby hotel on Sunday. "Andrew did nothing wrong, in fact he coped with a difficult and challenging situation well," Sutherland said.

Several of Symonds's teammates were reportedly angry that Symonds had been drink-

ing in a busy pub having just completed his first Test since being welcomed back into the side. The incident also came only a week after Symonds admitted on national television that he had sometimes been drinking too much during the past year.

Symonds said he would not rule out visiting hotels in the future but he would be more careful about when and where he would do so. His manager Matt Fearon said there could be merit in Symonds keeping a lower profile for the time being. "Maybe faced with the choice, it's not an option for him to be out socialising at this time," Fearon told the Courier-Mail. "But they are the lessons he needs to look at and make choices on. He regrets this, there is no question."

Paul Marsh, the chief executive of the Australian Cricketers' Association, agreed that Symonds had handled the situation well and he said there was nothing wrong with Symonds declining to pose for a photo, which reportedly led to the altercation. "He has a policy that he is not going to have his photo taken in a bar," Marsh said in the Sydney Morning Herald. "People don't always understand that, but I don't see what is wrong with that."

Steve Waugh, the former Australia captain, said it might be in Symonds's interests to accede to requests for photos and autographs in the future. "My philosophy is don't look down on people who look up to you," Waugh told the Daily Telegraph. "Sometimes you are larger than life to people, they might have only seen you on TV or whatever, you have to be polite."

It has also been reported in the Australian that Symonds had struggled so much with his fame that earlier this year he offered to take a pay cut of 250,000 dollars to avoid all off-field commitments. Cricket Australia reportedly turned down the offer, which came after Symonds became the highest-paid non-Indian player in the Indian Premier League.

Citi Cup golf starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The 3rd Citi Cup golf tournament will begin today at the Kurmitola Golf Club. About 400 competitors are expected to take part in the two-day meet.

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam will distribute trophies at the prize giving ceremony on Friday.

Windies off to NZ

CRICINFO, undated

The West Indies squad headed for New Zealand from Abu Dhabi after a hold-up over visa issues. The squad was due to leave on Monday to join up with the coach, John Dyson, who has already reached New Zealand.

The captain, Chris Gayle, and the rest of the squad had been held up in Abu Dhabi and London, but the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said there was no reason for alarm. "The WICB's cricket operations department explained that travel arrangements had to be reorganised after the team decided to take advantage of the opportunity to stay on in Abu Dhabi for some intensive training," a release said.

"This necessitated transiting Australia en route to New Zealand -- for which visas were required."

Reports indicated that Sulaiman Benn, Fidel Edwards and Denesh Ramdin, and media liaison Philip Spooner -- all of whom were travelling to New Zealand from the Caribbean -- were in a London hotel waiting for the WICB to obtain visas for them.

Rawalpindi

FROM PAGE 17 The Indian government's refusal to send its junior hockey team to Pakistan earlier this month raised fears that the cricket series might suffer the same fate.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India last week told the PCB it had sought New Delhi's clearance for the tour and would give further details early next month.

Butt said he hoped the tour would continue as scheduled and briefed the Indian High Commissioner Satya Pal about PCB's plans for the series.

"I am hopeful that India will tour and we are preparing for it," said Butt, who refused to disclose any details of his meeting -- his second with the Indian high commissioner in a week.

Butt added that he would travel to India early next month to allay the country's security concerns.

"Our first priority should be that they come to Pakistan as per schedule but in the worst scenario we have back up plans of playing the series at neutral venues," said Butt.

Pakistan is in talks with the organisers in the United Arab Emirates to host the India series in case the need arises.

Fulton wants No. 5 spot

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Peter Fulton, the New Zealand batsman, has said a series of omissions from the side has deepened his hunger to cement a place in the Test team. New Zealand are keeping their cards close to their chests as far as selection for Adelaide is concerned, but Fulton believed he had a shot to bat at No. 5 after the visitors' feeble batting at the Gabba.

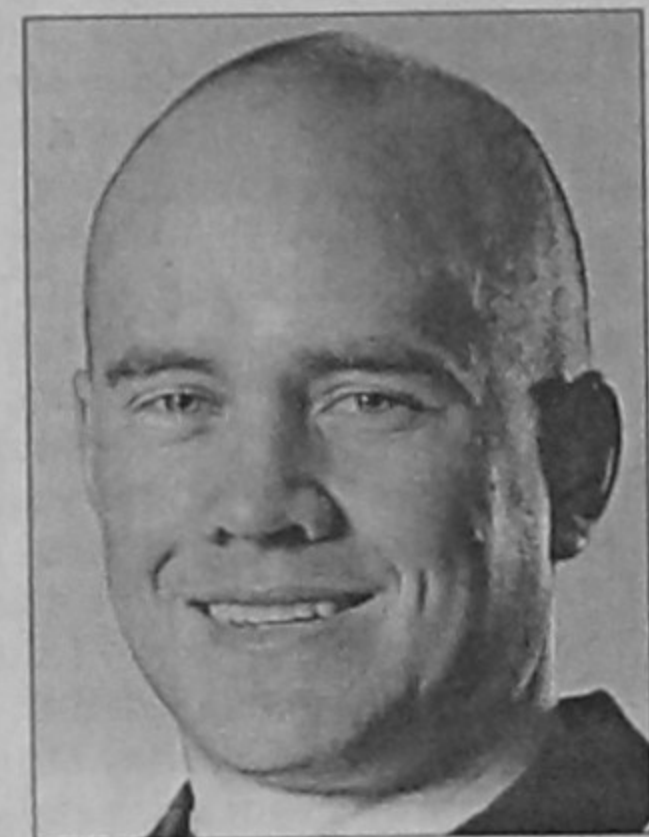
"It was disappointing to miss out and if you look at things realistically I'll be disappointed if I don't get a chance in this Test, given the way we batted in the last game," he was quoted as saying on stuff.co.nz.

"It's obviously a great ground to play on, it's got a lot of history and traditionally it's very good for batsmen. If I get a chance to play and bat at five I'd be delighted but if I bat somewhere else I'd be pretty excited too. Beggars can't be choosers."

Fulton, 29, had been named in the side to play England at Trent Bridge in June but was informed by coach John

Bracewell that Brendon McCullum's back worry had forced wicketkeeper Gareth Hopkins into the mix. He was then overlooked for New Zealand's subsequent 3-1 win in the one-day series. Fulton had hoped for a recall in the first Test in Brisbane but was overlooked for all-rounder Grant Elliott.

Stilly carrying the pain from



PETER FULTON

Trent Bridge, Fulton said he was fighting fit now. "I'd dealt with all the nerves the night before and the morning of the game. To walk out to warm-ups

and be told I wasn't playing was a bit surreal, I guess. It wasn't until after the Test finished that I started to get a little bit angry and frustrated about it. It took probably a month to get over that."

"I was in a pretty bad frame of mind and ready to come home," he said. "I didn't really have a break, I got straight into training three-four days after we got home. In a way it gave me a little bit extra motivation, subconsciously it gave me a bit of a kick in the arse and got me back on the right track."

Fulton last played a Test 11 months ago. A good series on New Zealand's tour of India was followed by scores of 27 and 64 for Canterbury against Auckland before he got the nod for Australia. Fulton averages 26.22 from seven Tests and 34.41 from 44 ODIs.

He aimed to bat at 5 or 6. "My one-day record is right up there in terms of New Zealand one-day cricket, and when I'm in form and playing well I'd back myself to be in the top six batters in New Zealand," he said. "I'd rather back myself to perform well and get a spot in the middle order."

Fever pitch

FROM PAGE 17 FIFA World Cup to promote networking and to stage conference forums," he added.

British firms at Soccerex cover all aspects of the football industry from commerce, training, design and event management, to logistics, marketing, manufacturing and construction.

The city center took a festive mood with the mega event as all the participants were gathered in restaurants and coffee shops not only to share views about the new business but also about the coming Confederations Cup and of course the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

There has been however a billion dollar question on everybody's lips "will South Africa be ready to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup". Although the greatest show on earth is still nearly two years away and it's mainly because of the development work that is still going on for the nine stadiums.

There were no exceptions

in Pretoria and Soweto. The Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria, which is not major compared to the other World Cup venues, has been upgrading its different facilities although there have been questions about the quality of the work.

On the other hand a London-based firm, HOK Sport Architecture, is working on the development of the giant Soccer City Stadium outside Johannesburg which will host the 2010 World Cup opening and final games and the 94,000-capacity stadium is due to be completed by October next year.

The locals however is very much enthusiastic and optimistic about the success of the event and they were more interested to talk about the tourism facilities available here for the football fans during the World Cup rather than talking about the infrastructure.

And whatever the fact was, the South Africans have been gripped by the fever of the

World Cup and they tried their best on their own way to build up the event.

According to the salesmen most of the shops love to keep the souvenirs for rugby and cricket but now it would be difficult for someone to find these items so commonly as all love to sale the 2010 FIFA World Cup souvenirs.

South Africans loves to watch the sports on the TV screen in different shopping malls and still they are enjoying it whatever it is, be it rugby or cricket, but no talk in these days could be complete without football for them.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 Prantik Krija Chakra recorded a valuable 3-0 over Gazirchat win in the day's other match with Riyadh, Sagar and Rubel scoring one goal each. With 12 points after 15 rounds, Prantik widened the gap from the relegation zone.

Bottom-table Kadamtala have seven points from 16 games while Gazirchat are second from bottom with seven points from 16 games.

BADMINTON LEAGUE Bangladesh Biman swept both the men's and women's titles of the Fahami First Division Badminton League.

Knit Concern finished runners-up in both the competitions, followed by Ahban in the men's league and Dewan Textile in the women's league.

The prize giving ceremony will be held today at the NSC conference room.

OPEN TT The Masters Open table tennis tournament will begin Saturday at the NSC Woodenfloor Gymnasium. A total of 46 paddlers including nine female players will take part in the singles league.

The top eight men and top four women competitors will receive prize money in the five-day meet.

Mahbub

FROM PAGE 17

Meanwhile, the three vice-presidents and directors Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu and Sirajuddin Mohammed Alamgir have been given the responsibility to form the standing committees by Saturday. The lists will be discussed in the board's next meeting on December 2.

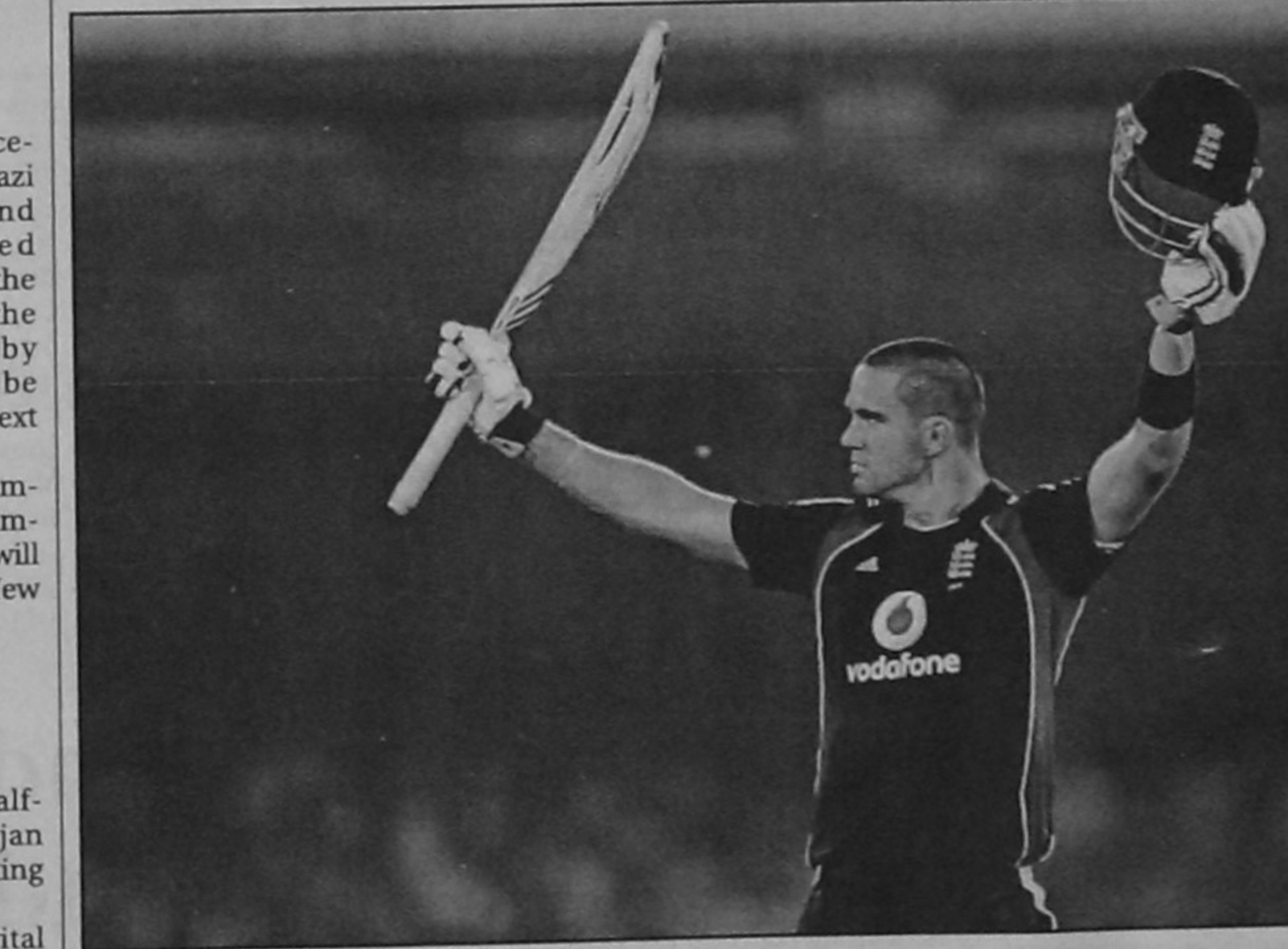
The tour operating committee for Sri Lanka's upcoming visit to Bangladesh will remain the same as the New Zealand series.

Pietersen

FROM PAGE 17

after completing his half-century, driving Harbhajan straight for a four and lofting the next delivery for a six.

The tourists lost a vital wicket in the same over when Collingwood was caught by Zaheer at long-on while attempting a big shot off Harbhajan, but Pietersen and Shah ensured their team crossed the 250-mark.



England skipper Kevin Pietersen raises his bat in celebration after scoring century in the fifth one-day international against India at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Uses an abacus 5 Predicament 8 Thick chunk 12 Gilpin of "Frasier" 13 Hearty brew 14 Story-telling dance 15 Member-ship 16 Subway component 17 Related journey 18 Start a 20 Parking lot attendant 22 Eve, originally 23 Acknowledged 35 Jack-of-all-trades 38 Increases the volume 39 Half-ton measure 40 Pussy-cat's partner 42 Assails 45 Snub 49 Kamehameha Highway locale 50 Pitch 52 49-Across, e.g. 53 Memo acronym 54 Swelled head 55 Night light 56 Stitches 57 Church seat 58 Mined-over matter 21 Blood-group letters 24 Vacationing 25 Lawyers' org. 26 Man-powered transport 28 Calendar abbr. 29 Annie's song? 30 Pinch 31 ABBA song 36 Traffic problems 37 Make up your mind 38 The monk in "The Da Vinci Code" 41 Lindbergh hook

edge acrobats 24 Galley supply 27 Comedy 32 Justice Dept. div. 33 "So that's it, eh?" 34 "Flying Down to Earth" Solution time: 25 mins. 42 Downey 43 Relaxation 44 Dance lesson 46 ---tendy 47 Berg portion 48 Marshy areas 51 Time of your life?



CRYPTOQUIP PN B SEWLK FN FTR-NPKKRZ XJRNQX SPMURTORZ, ZF CFW XWLLFXR CFW'Z JBUR B YRROPMO FN QJR YPMRX? Yesterday's Cryptique: POPULAR BROADWAY MUSICAL ABOUT A FRIGHTFUL FROG WHO BECAME A DEYON BARBER: "SWENEY TOAD." Today's Cryptique: Che T equals R



Did U Know?

In 1900 Dwight Davis gave his name to a team competition between the United States and Great Britain. More than 60 countries now contest the Davis Cup annually.