to Yuvraj

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza

said Monday she had recov-

ered from a "career-

threatening" injury with help

from top cricketer Yuvraj Singh.

delighted to be back on court

after the painful wrist problem

which forced her out of the

Beijing Olympics in tears and

left her unable even to lift a

World Team Challenge exhibi-

career-threatening injury

makes it very special to be

sional athlete, you become

of 27 in August 2007, plum-

meted down the rankings last

year as injury blighted her

season and is now ranked 100.

from January 7-10, features

four teams representing

Europe, Russia, the Americas

number one Jelena Jankovic,

Wimbledon champion Venus

Williams, world number seven

Vera Zvonareva and China's

first of the season's four Grand

CHITS

Compared to that

Bangladesh's first inning

contained almost two half

centuries. However, in collec-

tive terms they fell far behind

with three batsmen being

dismissed for ducks while the

other three failed to cross the

double-digit mark in an unim-

pressive first innings total of

Bukola treble

"Like the Federation Cup, I

also want to win the top

scorer's position in the league.

If the God blesses me, it would

happen," said Bukola after the

match adding that

Mohammedan's in-house

problems including salary

irregularities have improved.

team and hope to do better,'

said the marksman.

"We are getting better as a

The four-goal cushion gave

Mohammedan a relaxing time

on the pitch but still, they were

on the hunt and Komol got his

second in the 63rd minute

when the young striker fired

an angular drive past substi-

tute goalkeeper Arifuzzaman

Himel after meeting a cross by

Muktijoddha, who had

captain Titu as striker, created

their lone chance six minutes

later. Titu did well to go round

goalkeeper Aminul with a

through from Tajul but the

makeshift striker shot wide of

Robin and Komol came

close to score in the remaining

minutes but failed to increase

the tally to the seven-goal

mark. Mohammedan have

now scored highest 26 goals in

MOHAMMEDAN: Aminul

(Himel), Kamal, Emmanuelle,

Saikat, Ripon, Nasir, Arman

Aziz, Hazem (Pappu), Bukola

MUKTIJODDHA: Paul James

(Himel), Rony, Deen

Mohammed (Bappi), Ddumba,

Bipul, Biddyut (Milon), Tajul,

Clark cheers

and Doug Bollinger, which he

felt would stand in good stead

when Australia tours South

that you can't buy in state

cricket. It's the intensity...You

need to get that experience,

play the game in front of that

sort of pressure. It's invaluable.

way, and we can all point

fingers, but I think they're

doing a really good job consid-

ering they haven't played a lot

of international cricket. I think

we're in good stead for the

Ashes," Clark said.

"Results haven't gone their

"Experience is the thing

Moni, Jalal, Titu and Walid.

Referee: Abdul Hannan.

FROM PAGE 17

Africa and England.

(Maruf), Robin and Komol.

Nasir from the right.

the open goal.

the 11-team fray.

TEAMS

28

slammed the other hattrick.

Slams, starts on January 19.

can bring good success.

The Australian Open, the

top player, Zheng Jie.

FROM PAGE 17

FROM PAGE 17

Players include world

and Asia-Pacific.

The World Team Challenge,

"Suddenly, from a profes-

Indian Test batsman.

back," said Mirza.

fork," she said.

beback."

A beaming Mirza was

AFP, Hong Kong

fork to eat.



PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN

Zimbabwe players train at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday ahead of their three-day practice match against GP BCB Cricket Academy that starts here today.

starts in city

STAFF REPORTER

Dhaka Deaf Sports Association (DDSA) yesterday launched a 12-day deaf cricket training camp at the city's Dhanmondi Club ground to select Bangladesh's hearing and sound impaired cricketers for participating in the third Deaf Cricket World Cup to be held in New Zealand in December this year.

Newly elected Member of Parliament Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh inaugurated the camp. DDSA, in association with the Bangladesh Cricket Board, is organising the workshop that concludes on January 16.

Sixty hearing and sound impaired cricketers from Dhaka and Chandpur, Chittagong, Barisal and Mymensingh are taking part in the camp. The team to take part in the Asian Deaf Cricket and Deaf Cricket World Cup in Pakistan this March will be picked from this camp.

TT League from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The KDS Logistics Dhaka Metropolitan Table Tennis League begins today with the first division competition at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium.

In all 22 teams will compete in the first division while the main attraction, the senior division will commence on January 18 with ten teams including holders Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra.

Abahani will start defence of their women's league title on January 24. However, only eight teams have so far sent their entries for the women's competition. The entry deadline is January 16.

Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the league as chief guest. Khalilur Rahman, chairman and MD of sponsor KDS Logistics, will be present as special guest.

'SL-India **ODIs** only gossip'

CRICINFO, undated

An Indian one-day series against Sri Lanka is still in the realm of speculation, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has said, and will be considered only after the board receives a response from New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on its request for adding an extra Test to the original two-Test tour schedule.

Ratnakar Shetty, the BCCI's chief administrative officer, told Cricinfo the Indian board is yet to exchange any official written communication with Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) in this regard. "What is official so far is that we have requested New Zealand to accommodate an extra Test to the series in March," Shetty said. "We are waiting for a response from their side."

Asked about the one-day series against Sri Lanka, he said, "We will move on any such series only after the New Zealand schedule is confirmed. We expect a positive response from New Zealand but they are the home board and will have to consider the logistics at their end."

A New Zealand Cricket (NZC) official, meanwhile, said they would soon take a decision on India's request. "We are considering the request and a decision is likely to come out this week," Stephen Hill, NZC spokesperson, said.

Deaf cricketers' Moores could be gone

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Peter Moores could be sacked by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) before the end of the week, with his position as England coach becoming untenable in the wake of his public falling-out with the captain, Kevin Pietersen.

Hugh Morris, the ECB's director of England of the England team." Cricket and a close friend of Moores, has final decision on Moores's position will be taken by David Collier, the chief executive of the ECB. The die, however, is already cast for a coach who took over from Duncan Fletcher barely 18 months ago, but whose record of eight wins from 22 Tests -- seven of those against the does not stand up to scrutiny.

According to Nasser Hussain, who under- disaffected environment. stands dressing-room politics better than most after his experiences as England captain between 1999 and 2003, Moores has to go asking me who is more important, Kevin set-up. Andrew Flintoff, however, is one signifi Pietersen or Peter Moores, then there is only one winner and that's Kevin Pietersen," Hussain told why he's probably flexing his muscles.

"Somehow Hugh Morris has to calm this situation down otherwise it looks like Moores might have to go. I feel sorry for the bloke because he deserves time and if he doesn't do well then the ECB make the decision."

The England squad is due to fly out to the Caribbean on January 21, to begin their four-Test series against West Indies, leaving the team management barely a fortnight either to iron out the differences or, more probably, to identify a short-term replacement. Ashley Giles, Warwickshire's director of cricket and an now only six months away.

FROM PAGE 17

Hossain (43).

BARISAL-

CHITTAGONG

of 192.

Rahman (44 off 55 balls) put

on 105 runs for the seventh

wicket to give the first-class

champions a respectable total

middle, losing wickets virtu-

ally every ten runs to reach

175. Shanjamul Islam was the

wrecker in chief claiming 4-11

in seven overs while Shuvo

mopped the tail by taking a

couple in the final over includ-

ing the scalp of Tapash Ghosh

(37), the second highest scorer

after one-down Monir

Monwar Hossain's fiery open-

ing spell helped Barisal defend

a moderate 162-9 against

Chittagong, who never recov-

ered from a precarious 28-6

the pacer just 11 runs for four

wickets while his new ball

partner Arafat Salahuddin

KHULNA: 213 all out in 48.4

chipped in with 2-23.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Monwar's nine overs cost

and were bowled out for 132.

Sylhet lost their way in the

the discussions that led to Michael Vaughan's omission from the West Indies squad that escalated the current row. He did, however, offer his thoughts in his News of the World column, describing the situation as "not healthy".

"We have to make sure it is settled as soon as possible and certainly before we fly off to the West Indies," said Pietersen. "Everything has to be hunky dory, everybody has to have the same aims and pull in the same direction for the good

If Moores does go, and his dismissal could stepped in to mediate in the row, although the cost the ECB up to £250,000, then the fall-out could extend beyond the immediate stand-off between him and Pietersen. His modus operandi was to build an umbrella of support from the batting coach, Andy Flower, through Ottis Gibson the bowling coach to Richard Halsall the recently installed fielding coach. It lowly-ranked West Indies and New Zealand -- remains to be seen how many of the backroom staff would be willing to continue in such a

Then, of course, there will be the effect on the players themselves. Moores' methods were described by one team member as "in your because he is in a no-win situation. "If you are face", and he may not be missed by the entire cant player who is understood to be content with his relationship with the coach -- and he is Sky Sports. "That's what he knows and that's a man whom Pietersen can't afford to alienate in the dressing-room.

Hussain, however, believes that when push comes to shove in the dressing-room, there's only one way the opinion of the team will fall.

"It's absolutely not ideal in an Ashes year for the public to know the captain and the coach are not gelling, and not getting on, but more importantly the players now know," he told Sky Sports. "There have been some doubts in the last year or so over whether Pietersen and Moores clash in terms of personalities -- they are two entirely different people.

"Pietersen is outgoing, single-minded; England selector, has been touted as a possible Moores is much more measured, diplomatic. stand-in, although his lack of coaching experi- But now the players know that and at any meetence makes him a doubtful candidate for the ing, whether it be before the Ashes or before the permanent role, especially with an Ashes series West Indies, when Moores speaks the players will be thinking, 'KP doesn't buy into this, or KP Pietersen is currently away on holiday in thinks this is a load of rubbish. Who are we Africa -- and it was his apparent absence from going to listen to?'"

Gibbs readying for Aussie tour

CRICINFO, undated

pleted his rehabilitation programme and is now preparing for South Africa's oneday series in Australia. Gibbs was ordered by

for the trip to Australia.

Gibbs's father, Herman, said his son felt the experience had been beneficial. "I was a little scared that it would perhaps cause a personality change, but he was as cheeky as always when he came out, he told Beeld.

It was tough regime for Gibbs inside the clinic, his day starting at 7am and including a lot of hiking. His mobile phone was taken away and when he switched it on after his release he had 200 missed calls and 96 messages.

Herschelle Gibbs has com-

Result: Barisal won by 30 overs (Sadat 87, Amit 37, Raihan 35, Zia 16, Farid 10, runs. Concentration the keyword

Azim 1-40, Riyad 3-48, Arafat

DHAKA: 229-9 in 50 overs

(Opee 37, Shamsur 18, Javed

22, Riyad 32, Nadif 24, Nazmul

12, Anamul 16, Azim 39*, Zia 2-

45, Aslam 1-38, Rushar 1-28,

Result: Khulna won by two

RAJSHAHI: 192 all out in 48.3

overs (Ansiur 36, Shuvo 62,

Sabbir 44, Subhashish 2-17,

Saikat 3-17, Nabil 1-40, Rezaul

SYLHET: 175 all out in 48.3

overs (Saikat 16, Monir 43,

Rezaul 31, Abul 11, Tapash 37,

Delwar 1-44, Shuvo 3-35,

Shanjamul 4-11, Sabbir 1-13).

Result: Rajshahi won by 17

BARISAL: 162-9 in 50 overs

(Rony 16, Imran 40, Raisul 16,

Bashar 11, Salahuddin 39,

Tareq 3-29, Kamrul 2-32,

Ashraful 2-23, Rezaul 1-29,

CHITTAGONG: 132 all out in

47.4 overs (Masum 10,

Ashraful 29, Sajjadul 45,

Kamrul 22, Monwar 4-11,

Salahuddin 2-23, Rony 1-25,

Saju 1-34, Nasir 1-18).

Murad 2-32, Sadat 3-40).

2-26, Imtiaz 2-12).

Shokran 1-26).

3-28, Elias 2-29).

runs.

FROM PAGE 17

carried the form with 45 in the

first innings of the second Test. But as always, there remains a question about his

temperament. "In Ashraful I see one of the most talented batsmen in the world. I saw him when he made his Test debut and he made a brilliant hundred. There is no question about his ability but maybe he has lapses in concentration. To me he is one of the best," said Samaraweera, considered one of the coolest customers in

world cricket. There was actually not a single performer in the Bangladesh side on the third day and that was the reason

the team management didn't PJayawardenecShakib hesitate to send Rokibul Hasan to meet the press.

The youngster had only this to say: "We have to bat session by session to survive in this Test'.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Monday:

(Dilshan 162; Shakib 4-109) BANGLADESH: First innings 208 (Mashrafe 63; Mendis 4-71) SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 13-0) Warnapura lbw b Shahadat 27

123, 4-165. Bowler OMRW SRI LANKA: First innings 384 Mashrafe Shahadat 23 Shakib Enamul 25.5 Ashraful 11.1 35 Mehrab Rokibul

b Ashraful

b Enamul

in 95 overs)

Sangakkara b Ashraful

M Jayawardene c Imrul

Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-3, nb-5) 12

To bat: Kapugedera, Mendis,

Vaas, Fernando, Muralidaran.

Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-55, 3

Samarweeranotout

Total: (For four wkts

Dilshan not out

Sadat, Shuvo shine

Cricket South Africa to undergo an alcohol-related rehabilitation course after a number of incidents over' recent years. At the weekend he finished his month-long stay at a Hout Bay clinic, near Cape Town, and then headed straight for the gym to prepare

Sania's thanks City splurging the cash

Football

THE GUARDIAN

Manchester City confidently expect to conclude another 30 million pounds worth of transfer business this week, and possibly within 48 hours, after responding to their FA Cup exit at the hands of Nottingham Forest by lodging bids for Scott Parker of West Harn United and their long-time target Roque Santa Cruz of Blackburn Rovers.

A 12 million pound deal for Parker was close to being finalised last night and if, as expected, Mirza is taking part in the the former Chelsea player agrees personal terms, it will take Mark Hughes's spending tion event here following more than 100 million pounds since he was treatment recommended by appointed manager seven months ago. Singh, her friend and an

The Premier League's richest club also believe they have finally made a breakthrough "Coming back from a in their negotiations for Santa Cruz. City will make a one-off payment of around 18 million pounds and include Tal Ben Haim in the package, thus reuniting the Israel international with his former manager from Bolton Wanderers, Sam Allardyce.

This flurry of spending indicates that, for someone who can't pick up a now at least, the Abu Dhabi United Group are still willing to entrust Hughes with an extensive "I'm just living in the recruitment programme that could feasibly see moment and I'm just happy to The 22-year-old, who Saturday when Wayne Bridge arrived from monitoring the situation. reached a career-high ranking

Chelsea for a fee of around 12 million pounds. having signed a 41/2-year contract that is understood to make him the highest paid full-back in the world, with a salary close to 100,000

City are also willing to swell the bank accounts of a number of other players, notably Craig Bellamy of West Ham, Jermain Defoe of Portsmouth, Arsenal's Kolo Toure and the Newcastle United goalkeeper Shay Given. There are, however, complications in each case. City are not entirely confident West Ham will agree to sell them two of their best players at once, so that might rule out Bellamy. If so, that would prompt City to accelerate their interest in Defoe even though it is known he would rather rejoin Tottenham Hotspur. Portsmouth want a fee of around 20 million pounds, which would be no problem to City but has created difficulties for Spurs.

Toure has been on City's radar for the last few months and informed Arsenal over Christmas that he would like to leave. Hughes has lost faith with his centre-halves, Richard Dunne and Micah Richards, but Toure's position has altered after a meeting with Arsenal's manager, Arsene Wenger, and he is now understood to have withdrawn his request for a transfer.

The same cannot be said of Given, who is determined to leave Newcastle after becoming disillusioned because of the seemingly endless them spending in excess of 100 million pounds turmoil at St James' Park. Hughes, however, does this month. The first signing was completed on not regard Given as a high priority and is merely

Hayden not out

Katich not out

Extras: (lb-6)

Siddle puts Aussies atop

FROM PAGE 17

The Australians saw a bail bob up and back down into position not once but twice, when Nathan Hauritz turned one into Boucher's leg stump and when Morkel's inside edge off Johnson clipped the side of his off stump.

Doug Bollinger had a couple of perilously close lbw shouts turned down. He was unable to break through for a maiden Test wicket.

McDonald's big moment came when he had Amla lbw for 51 just before lunch, although he struggled later on.

Siddle's accuracy was rewarded by his late wickets, two men bowled and two lbw. In this form, he is likely to emerge from the series as a major part of Australia's future plans.

He said afterwards: "I'm really pleased, they've been a good crowd. They got behind me after the first couple of wickets and it spurred me to go on and get my first fiver-for. "There's always pressure, I

had a disappointing match over in Perth [for the first Test] and the 13th man [Ben Hilfenhaus] had come into the squad so there's pressure on everyone. "You want to get your

rhythm right and start bowling well. It happened [in the second Test in Melbourne] and I started feeling comfortable so it's all going well at the moment." Boucher said: "We have to

put on a good fight. The wicket is deteriorating quickly but we have done some miraculous things throughout the series and hopefully we can do more of that in this match.

"I don't want to talk about the sort of target we would feel comfortable chasing but obviously anything above 250 is going to be difficult. I thought we did very well to make as many runs as we did in the first innings.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the third and final Test between Australia and South Africa at Sydney Cricket striker Moni playing in the Ground on Monday: midfield and fullback and

AUSTRALIA: First innings 445 **SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings

(overnight 125 for 1) McKenzielbwb Siddle 23 Smith retired hurt 30 Amlalbw b McDonald 51 Kallis c Hayden b Johnson 37 De Villiers run out (Johnson) Duminy lbw b Johnson Boucher b Siddle Morkel b Siddle Harris lbw b Siddle Steyn b Siddle Ntini not out Extras: (lb-12, w-9, nb-4)

CROSSWORD

41 Fibula

ACROSS

Total: (All out in 120.5 overs) 327 Fall of wickets: 1-76, 2-131, 3-161, 4-166, 5-193, 6-308, 7-310.8-316.9-327. Bowler

Bollinger 23 Johnson 28 20 4 68 AUSTRALIA: Second innings

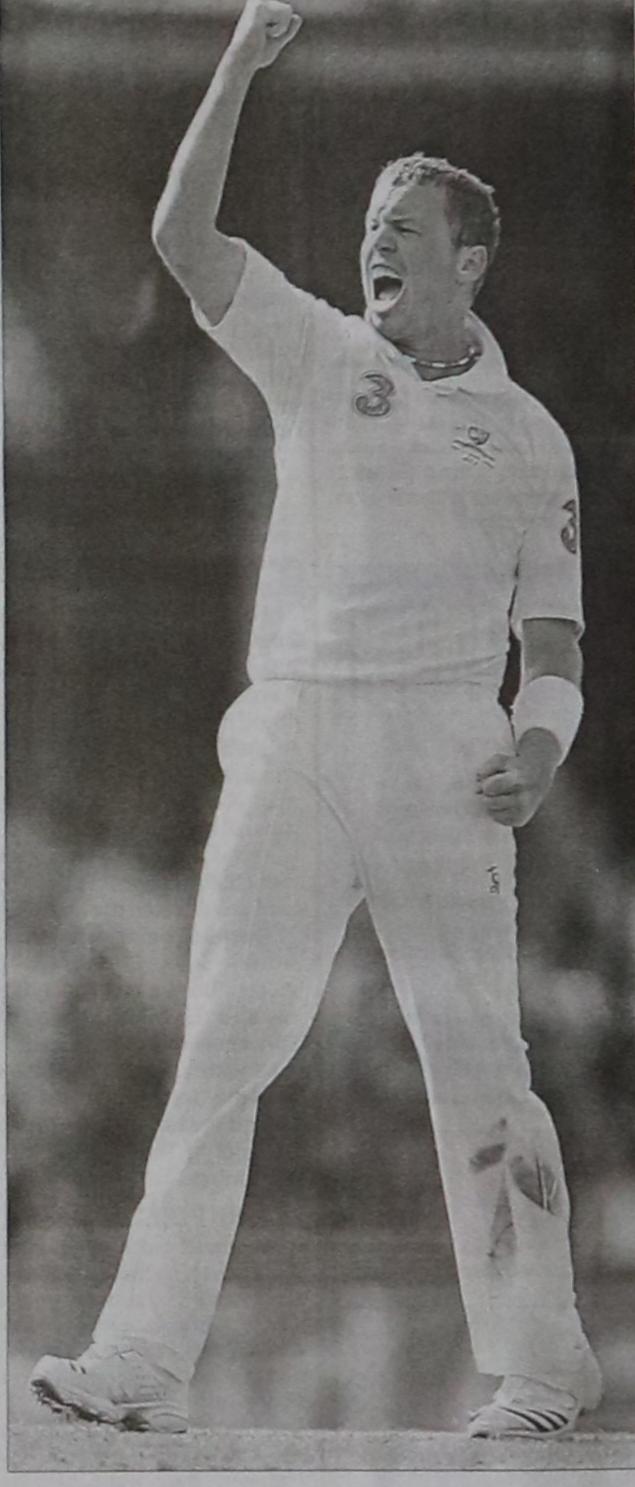
Bollinger. Bowler Stevn 10 Ntini

Total: (For no loss in 6 overs) 33

To bat: Ponting, Hussey,

Clarke, Haddin, McDonald,

Hauritz, Johnson, Siddle,



Australia paceman Peter Siddle punches the air after claiming yet another South African wicket on the third day of the third Test at Sydney yesterday.

1 Audacious neighbor 5 See 6-43 Aromatic 4 So-0-0-0 bird hand-Down 9 Waste no 47 Perp. to some 25 Vast 5 Monkey vert. 12 Hebrew 48 Base

6 With 5runner's month Across, 13 Brewery goal creations 51 Lamb's "open 14 Peculiar 15 Breakfast 52 Exam man 7 Spellspuds 17 "Family 53 Unyielddown 8 No Guy daughter 54 Gullet

55 Right on 18 Tire the map? patterns 19 Adversary 56 Knight's 21 Mother backup 22 Ask (for), as a loan DOWN 24 Wan 1 Thai 27 Occupamoney

28 Shakespeare sobriquet 31 Writer Buscaglia 32 Parisian 33 Stickum 34 Dalai -36 "01

tion

37 Mile

38 Go in

2 Blood-22 Marge's hound's hubby clue Solution time: 25 mins. course" fractions 40 Greeting

Egyptian 24 Every crumb expanse 26 Domestic beer? 27 Davidson Crying Game" 29 Fish eggs 30 Speck 35 Blackbird liability 9 Web site 37 Embellishment intro

By Eugene Sheffer

3 Weak, as 23 Sacred

10 The same 39 U.S. resort (Lat.) lake 11 Provoca-40 Chance 41 Yon 16 Food safety org. folks 42 The 20 Gist Music Man"

locale 43 Sash 44 Rami's 45 Covering 46 Clothing store department 49 - pro nobis 50 More, to

Manuel

HGXI YXFKXYYCU ATN AYCY TNLRYI OGUUKNXGQY GMKLKNXGVNU AYCY MNEXV QCIKXF QN HGRY G MGUQ OELR. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A FORTUNATE CHICKEN WINS THE LOTTERY, I WOULD SAY IT

IS DUE TO THE CLUCK OF THE DRAW.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals E

CRYPTOQUIP