

Runner Group Open tennis from today

UNB, Dhaka

The Runner Group Open tennis tournament will begin today at the Ramna National Tennis Complex.

Bangladesh tennis Federation president AMM Nasir Uddin Prodhan will inaugurate the seven-day meet as chief guest at 4 pm.

A total of 268 participants are taking part in seven events: men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles, boys' singles (U-14), boys/girls singles (U-12) and Donny Tennis group. Foreign players, now living in Bangladesh, will also get the scope to compete.

Sponsors Runner Group of Companies Limited will bear the entire expenses of the meet, estimated at Tk 2,00,000 out of which Tk 1,18,800 will be distributed as prize money.

BTF general secretary Sanaul Haq disclosed the details at a press conference at the federation office yesterday. Runner Group director Mohammad Ali Din was also present.

NZ bring in 2 rookies

AFP, Wellington

International debutants Trent Boutil and Brendon Diamanti were named Thursday in New Zealand's 14-man squad for the five match Chappell-Hadlee one-day international series in Australia next month.

Teenage quick bowler Boutil and all-rounder Diamanti are joined in the squad by batsman Peter Fulton, who returns to the national team after performing strongly in domestic first class cricket.

SQUAD

Daniel Vettori (captain), Brendon McCullum, Jesse Ryder, Martin Guppitt, Ross Taylor, Peter Fulton, Neil Broom, Grant Elliott, Brendon Diamanti, Tim Southee, Kyle Mills, Jeetan Patel, Iain O'Brien, Trent Boutil.



Did U Know?

Hanif Mohammad of Pakistan holds the record for batting for longest period in a single Test match with his marathon knock of 337 in 970 minutes against West Indies at Bridgetown in 1957-58.



Graeme Smith

(South Africa cricket captain) "He likes fishing, horror movies, all the gory stuff, you know. I think it comes out in his bowling sometimes."

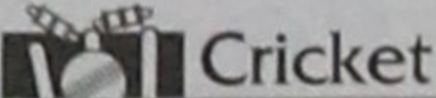
About Dale Steyn.



South Africa cricketers play football during practice in Sydney yesterday. They take on hosts Australia in the third one-day international at the SCG today.

Third ODI today

Aussies look Johnson, SA to Amla



CRICINFO, undated

If anyone thought Twenty20 would spell the end of 50-over cricket, the opening two ODIs between Australia and South Africa should have assuaged their fears. Both contests came down to the final over with either side still capable of victory.

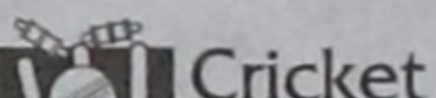
In Melbourne, South Africa got home in their chase but in Hobart Ben Hilfenhaus delivered a steady last over that won the match for Australia. It means the series is now locked at 1-1 and Friday's third match at the Sydney Cricket Ground will put one team within a win of taking the trophy.

Australia will take in a more experienced attack than in their Hobart victory, where Hilfenhaus and the debutant Ryan Harris performed solidly. Both men have been left out of the side for the SCG, where Mitchell Johnson will return after a break and Shaun Tait should also play having been rested at the Bellerive Oval.

The remaining question is whether Australia can find a place for the off-spinner Nathan Hauritz on his home ground. Hauritz has travelled with the team for the Twenty20s and two ODIs without being required as David Hussey, Michael Clarke and Cameron White have shared the spin duties. At the SCG he might have his best chance of a call-up with the all-rounder James Hopes a potential casualty.

South Africa entered the series planning to rotate their fast bowlers and Dale Steyn is the only one of the Test attack not to have had a rest.

Malik unhappy with Akhtar



AFP, Karachi

A disgruntled Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik on Wednesday questioned Shoaib Akhtar's fitness and commitment, leaving a big question mark on the paceman's international career.

"He (Akhtar) lacked fitness and commitment," said Malik after Pakistan's 129-run thrashing at the hands of Sri Lanka in the second one-day match here.

The controversial paceman, on a comeback trail after missing most of Pakistan's matches last year due to a ban and fitness problems, managed just one wicket in the two one-day matches he played here.

The 33-year-old fast bowler was hit for 43 runs in Pakistan's eight-wicket win on Tuesday and then took 45-1 off seven overs in the second match.

Pakistan plays Sri Lanka in the last match in Lahore on Saturday.

"The commitment which I

need from him in the field is not there. Akhtar has the capability to bowl ten overs, but we want ten overs with the same speed and then want him to field 50 overs.

"The question mark is on his 100 per cent fitness."

"I will talk to the coach (Intikhab Alam) and selectors and since we have some other good bowlers we must move on and give them chances."

Akhtar, known as Rawalpindi Express for his speed, played his last one-day international against India in November 2007.

He broke down with a back problem in Pakistan's last Test in Bangalore in December 2007, which forced the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to exclude him from the list of central contract last year.

Akhtar publicly criticised the PCB, prompting a five-year ban that was reduced to 18 months on appeal, but with a seven million rupee (100,000 dollar) fine.

Akhtar challenged the reduced ban and fine in a Lahore court. A final decision

is still pending but the court suspended the ban, clearing him to play for Pakistan.

However, he sat out all three matches against the West Indies in November last year due to a groin injury and played just three Twenty20 matches last year.

Malik said cricket demanded full fitness.

"Akhtar has won matches for us on tracks not conducive for fast bowlers, but now cricket has changed a lot. Now if you are not 100 per cent fit then it's difficult and other bowlers have done well and deserve chances."

Akhtar has 178 wickets in 46 Tests and 220 in 140 one-day matches.

Lanka revise venues for India

AFP, Colombo

The central town of Dambulla will host just one match instead of two during India's upcoming tour of Sri Lanka, the two cricket boards said in a statement on Thursday.

Dambulla, which was due to hold the first two matches of the five-match one-day series, will now host only the opening game on January 28.

The remaining four matches and a Twenty20 international will be played in Colombo during the brief tour, which ends on February 10.

The first and fifth one-day will be day games, while the other matches will be played under lights.

The series was finalised to partly fill the gap created by India's cancelled tour of Pakistan in January-February following the Mumbai attacks in November.

India last toured Sri Lanka in July-August of 2008, losing the Tests 2-1 before winning the one-day series 3-2.

REVISED SCHEDULE

Jan 28	1st ODI	Dambulla
Jan 31	2nd ODI	Colombo (D/N)
Feb 3	3rd ODI	Colombo (D/N)
Feb 5	4th ODI	Colombo (D/N)
Feb 8	5th ODI	Colombo
Feb 10	T20I	Colombo (D/N)

Base Bashar BAF tennis champs

UNB, Dhaka

BAF Base Bashar clinched the Bangladesh Air Force Inter-Base tennis title beating Base Zahurul Haque in the final at the Base Bashar tennis court yesterday.

BAF Base Bashar beat Base Zahurul Haque 2-1 in the singles and 2-0 in the doubles.

Zaki Anwar of Base Bashar was adjudged the best player of the tournament.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operations and Training) Air Vice Marshall Muhammad Enamul Bari witnessed the final as chief guest and distributed trophies.

Robin, Zaheer swapped

PTI, Mumbai

Mumbai Indians, led by Sachin Tendulkar, have swapped Karnataka Ranji Trophy captain Robin Uthappa with left-arm pace spearhead Zaheer Khan, who represented Bangalore's Royal Challengers in the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) last year, at no cost to either franchise.

"It happened last night (Wednesday). We have traded Uthappa for Zaheer at no cost. We had earlier swapped our player Ashish Nehra with Delhi Daredevils batsman Shikhar Dhawan. We have thus maintained the balance of the team," said a spokesperson for Mumbai Indians, owned by Reliance Industries.

"These are the only two trade-offs that have taken place as far as we know," the spokesperson added as the month-long IPL players' trading window closes today.

BFF rejects

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appointment of a good referee for the crucial game and expected that referring would not be biased.

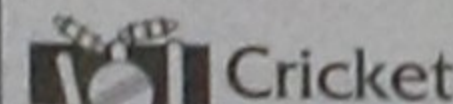
B. League manager Abu Nayeem Sohag added that the BFF has sought the referees' committee's report on the matter and will ask the match commission to give a detailed report.

The matches in Dhaka will start from 4.30 pm and outside the capital from 2.45 pm from Saturday, Sohag informed.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan officials after a late night meeting on yesterday have decided to honour the rules of the game.

The club will not press the BFF to realise the abovementioned demands but have threatened to boycott tomorrow's match if the federation does not take any action against some Russel officials, who broke the law by entering the pitch often during the Mohammedan-Russel game.

Flower can bloom with Pietersen



AFP, London

Andy Flower is adamant he can work with Kevin Pietersen during England's tour of the West Indies even though he might not still be in a job if the former captain had his way.

Pietersen's falling-out with Peter Moores eventually ended this month with him losing the England captaincy and Moores being sacked as England coach.

It subsequently emerged the South African-born star batsman was also not overly impressed with the coaching ability of Flower, then Moores's deputy.

But in the shake-up that saw South African-born Andrew Strauss appointed captain, Flower kept his post and, with England still to appoint a new head coach, the Zimbabwe great will lead the remaining backroom staff in the Caribbean.

"I've had a chat with Kevin about stuff," said Flower.

"From what I can understand Kevin did want a regime change. But I haven't gone into any specifics with him on that front."

Flower, once ranked as the world's No 1 batsman, insisted he had no problems with Pietersen's plain-speaking approach.

"Kevin and I have always had a good relationship actually," he said.

"I don't know if the Southern African thing has helped with that. It's always been an honest and open relationship so I don't see any problem."

"Kevin and I have had our differences as I do with a lot of the guys when we're debating things. It's healthy to debate things."

Flower, who effectively ended his international career at the 2003 World Cup in southern Africa when he and black teammate Henry Olonga staged a protest mourning the "death of democracy" in Zimbabwe under President

Robert Mugabe, has more experience than most of off-field power struggles.

But even he was caught out by the rapidity of recent events which cost Pietersen and Moores their prize posts.

"The speed and severity of what happened took me by surprise. The whole affair was bad for everyone involved. I'm pretty sure it could have been avoided too."

Strauss made it clear on Tuesday he wanted a greater emphasis on players thinking for themselves rather than leaning on the coaching team.

Flower, who finished his playing career with English county Essex, said he would have no problems operating in such a set-up during a tour which features four Tests, a Twenty20 and five one-day internationals.

"There's always a balance that we need to find as coaches in terms of what a players wants and what he needs," Flower said.

"Certainly Andrew wants coaches to play a more supportive role," added Flower, whose fellow Zimbabwean Duncan Fletcher enjoyed a largely successful spell as England coach before Moores took over after the 2007 World Cup.

"He came through the Duncan Fletcher model of coach-player relationship. I'm quite happy to support Andrew in this role."

Flower, who will help Strauss select the side in the Caribbean, where the Test series starts on February 4 in Jamaica, was less certain about his England future and whether he wanted to succeed Moores on a permanent basis.

"I'm not sure if I want the head coach job. I want to play it by ear a little bit and see how the next month goes."

Flower, unsurprisingly given the way in which Moores's tenure came to an abrupt end, was sanguine about his own job prospects.

"I'm aware a new coach could come in and say 'thanks but bye'. It's going that way on the cricket front."

"But I'd like to stay involved and that's partly the reason we need to play it by ear."

Venus dumped

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China's Peng Shuai, acknowledged her performance had not been good, rating it a D-minus.

"Today I was at like a D-minus at best," she said.

"But it's good that I was able to win, too, when I wasn't playing my best. I definitely will try to do better."

"She had some opportunities but I never felt like I was going to lose."

She joins top seed Jelena Jankovic, third seed Dinara Safina and fifth seed Ana Ivanovic in the third round after they all assured their berths on Wednesday.

While Serena is considered the favourite, despite her unconvincing performance, the unassuming Elena Dementieva is in a rich vein of form.

The Russian fourth seed steamrolled over the Czech Republic's Iveta Benesova 6-4, 6-1 for her 12th straight victory this year after claiming back-to-back titles in Auckland and Sydney.

The Beijing Olympic gold medalist is seen as one of the most consistent players never to have won a Grand Slam, and she senses her time is coming.

"I'm not thinking about my

chances," she insisted. "I'm really enjoying the way I'm playing right now and I just want to go as far as I can, just enjoy every single match I play here."

Also safely through was eighth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova and 2006 champion Amelie Mauresmo, who survived a scare from British qualifier Elena Baltacha to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Next up for Mauresmo is dark horse Victoria Azarenka, who continued her recent impressive form by breezing past the Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova 6-2, 6-1.

Among the men, fifth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga survived a 195-minute marathon to down Croatian Ivan Ljubicic 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (10/8), 7-6 (8/7), 6-2.

Meanwhile, Chilean 13th seed Fernando Gonzalez sped past Argentina's Guillermo Canas 7-5, 6-3, 6-4, setting up a clash with 24th seed Frenchman Richard Gasquet.

They were joined by sixth seed Gilles Simon, fellow Frenchman Gael Monfils, in-form Spaniard Fernando Verdasco and American James Blake.

DFAT warns Chingoka

AFP, Sydney

The Australian government on Thursday warned Zimbabwe cricket boss Peter Chingoka that he must have good grounds to enter the country to attend an International Cricket Council (ICC) conference.

Chingoka is one of 254 Zimbabweans not permitted entry into Australia because of their links with Robert Mugabe's regime in the strife-torn African nation.

But Chingoka's position as chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) means he is required to attend the two-day conference of directors that begins January 31.

The ICC on Thursday could not confirm whether Chingoka had applied for a visa to visit Australia, and attempts by the domestic news agency, Australian Associated Press (AAP), to contact ZC's headquarters were unsuccessful.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) said that Chingoka would need "very particular grounds" for Foreign Minister Stephen Smith to grant him entry.

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LTD.

(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Ashuganj, B.Baria-3402, Bangladesh

Employment Notice

The Company is looking for an energetic and promising person for immediate appointment to the post of **Company Secretary** and invites applications from the Bangladeshi Nationals.

The **Company Secretary** is responsible for providing support services to the Board of Directors ensuring the compliances of Laws, Rules and Regulations and good Corporate Governance. He/she should also be responsible for convening meetings of the Board and Members, recording minutes of these meetings, writing relevant reports and ensuring that the decisions made are communicated to all concerned, contributing to discussions and reminding members about the legal, governance, accounting and tax implications of the policies proposed in the meeting, monitoring changes in relevant regulatory environment and taking appropriate action.

Qualification & Experience: Candidates should have Masters/ CA/ CMA/ LLB with at least 10 (ten) years of experience in Company Secretarial Job, or Masters/ CA/ CMA/ LLB plus **Chartered Secretary** (preferably ACS) with at least 7 (seven) years of experience in Company Secretarial Job, well conversant with practical knowledge in computer and required legal matters and fluent in English and Bangla to work independently. Candidates having knowledge in Companies Act, Industrial and Labour Laws, Financial Laws, Tax Laws, etc and having multidisciplinary qualifications and experience will get added advantage.

Age Limit: Maximum 45 years on 01 February 2009.

Remuneration/ Compensation Package: Initial Basic Pay @ Tk. 30,000/=, Power Station Allowance @ 20%, Dearness Allowance @ 20%, Free Medical Support for self, spouse and children (cost at actual will be reimbursed), Residential Accommodation at site, Full-time Transport with driver and limited fuel and other Fringe Benefits as per Company's Rules.

Term of Appointment: The appointment will be made initially for 5 (five) years and this is renewable after evaluating the performance.

Candidates having 3rd Division/Class in any level of education need not apply.

Incomplete Application(s) will not be considered.

Application (cover letter), with (i) complete CV, (ii) 2 recent PP size duly attested photographs, (iii) attested copies of supporting documents in favour of educational and other qualifications and experience(s) and (iv) Nationality Certificate, must reach by **01 February 2009** to:

"The Managing Director, Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd., Ashuganj, B-Baria-3402".

CV must include (i) Name, (ii) Father's Name, (iii) Mother's Name, (iv) Present Address, (v) Permanent Address, (vi) Contact Phone No(s), (vii) Mailing Address, (viii) Date of Birth, (ix) Age (yrs, mths & days) on 01 February 2009, (x) Sex, (xi) Marital Status, (xii) Educational Qualification stating Name of Exam, Year of Passing, Group/Subject, Board/University, Course Duration, and Division/Class in every level/exam, (xiii) Professional Education and Membership/Registration (if any), (xiv) Experience in detail stating Name of Organisation, Post/Position, Duration, Duties/Responsibilities and Achievements (if any), (xv) Training Obtained (if any) and (xvi) Special works/ activities performed (if any) (furnishing chronologically).

The post applied for must be marked on the top of the Envelope.

Candidates may also apply **On-line** using the web address www.apscil.com by **01 February 2009 (04:00 PM)**. In this case they will submit necessary documents and photographs before the interview.

N.B.: Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.

- Managing Director

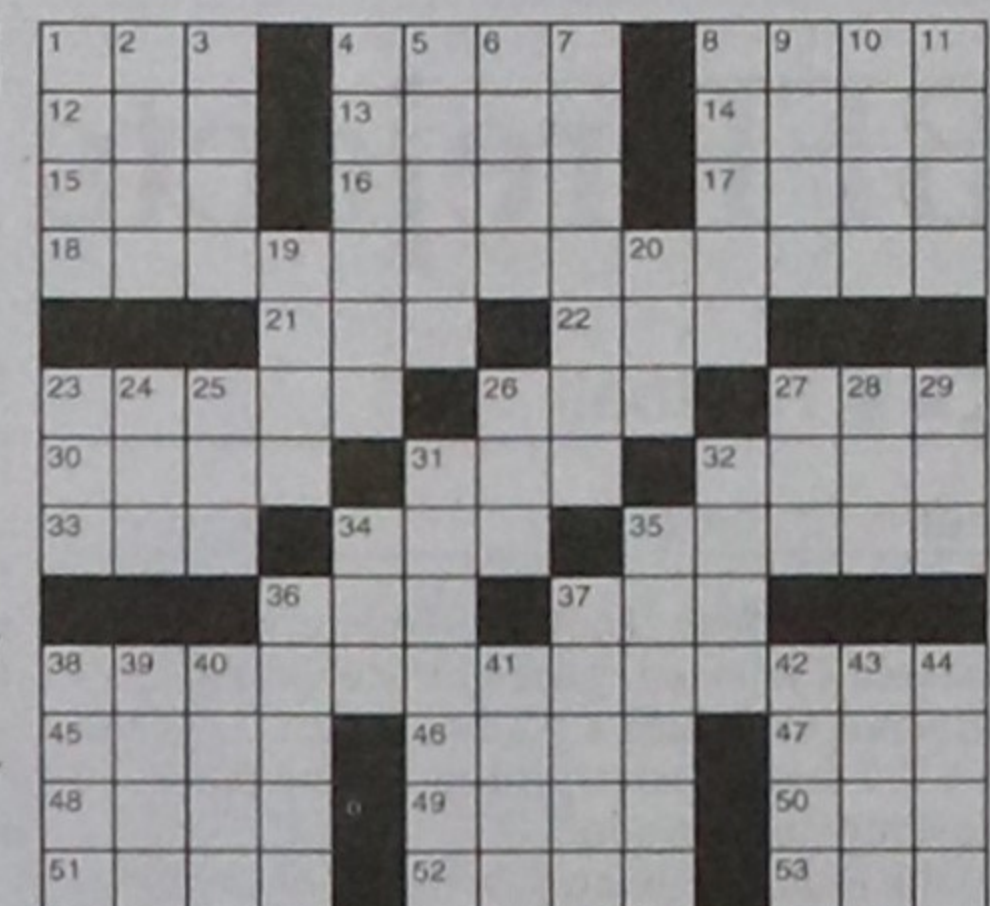
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Took a meeting
 - 4 Lip
 - 8 Quite
 - 12 Blunder
 - 13 What a stent may prevent
 - 14 Lotion
 - 15 Expert
 - 16 Earthenware pot
 - 17 Facts and figures
 - 21 Alice's changes
 - 21 Gelid
 - 22 Dispensable candy
 - 23 — Jessica Parker
 - 26 Shuffleboard stick
 - 27 Clump
 - 30 Currier's
 - 31 Write in the margins
 - 32 Frat party
 - 33 Deleted
 - 34 Broom closet
 - 35 Bering Sea feeder

By Eugene Sheffer

- DOWN
- 1 Membership
 - 2 St. Louis landmark
 - 3 Genealogy
 - 4 Ironing mishap
 - 5 Relieve
 - 6 Auctioneer's call
 - 7 Don't move
 - 8 Liechtenstein's capital
 - 9 Verve
 - 10 Campus
 - 11 Yip counterpart
 - 12 Capone
 - 13 Foe
 - 14 Denizen
 - 15 Stressful
 - 16 Beseech
 - 17 Volcano
 - 18 Outflow
 - 19 Unassigned (Abbr.)
 - 20 An inconvenient
 - 21 Truth's VIP
 - 22 Inquisitive
 - 23 Algonquian language
 - 24 Ardor



CRYPTOQUIP

QZJPDN LQD DVMOR GNDVRDT
RLQA CPLZS C MDNT

NDGZVROMD GDNRLQ: "CND
TLZ VLCSYRLJD SLQOAYS?"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DON'T LIKE TO BAD-

MOUTH METALWORKERS BECAUSE I THINK

PEOPLE SHOULD RESPECT THEIR WELDERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals N