

Khulna City Corporation's panel mayor Ajmal Ahmed unveils the logo of the ATN Bangla-Shahjalal Islami Bank DC Gold Cup football tournament at the Khulna Stadium yesterday.

### SA Games' training on

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-day training programme for the liaison officers of the 11th South Asian Games began yesterday at the Dutch-Bangla Bank Auditorium in the newly constructed building of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA).

The 12-day SA Games will begin on January 19 in Dhaka and as well as four other divisional cities.

officers from 3,000 applicants to work with different teams, players, officials, coaches and NOC representatives of the eight participating nations.

BOA selected 300 liaison

SA Games media committee convenor Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, and chef de-mission of Bangladesh team Mizanur Rahman Manu addressed the training session.

#### Bhajji blasts

**FROM PAGE 17** 

any kind of cricket," Harbhajan said. "We should prepare wickets for Test matches, where fast bowlers can get advantage on initial days and later on spinners can show their talent."

Harbhajan added he was happy that India would be playing more Tests in 2010, for it presented a greater challenge to preserve the No.1 ranking. "It is great idea to play more Tests. Winning more Test matches this year, India can maintain top position in Test cricket," he said. "In 2009, we played only six Tests and attained world No.1. I hope this year we will at least play ten to 12 Test matches and by winning most of them we can strengthen our top position."

#### India, Lanka

**FROM PAGE 17** 

on January 24-28 at SBNS. **SQUADS** 

INDIA: Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Virat Kohli, Suresh Raina, Rohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Yuvraj Singh, Sudeep Tyagi, Dinesh Karthik, S Sreesanth, Ashok Dinda, Amit Mishra.

SRI LANKA: Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul Tharanga, Thilan Samaraweera, Thilina Kandamby, Chamara Silva, Lahiru Thirimanne, Thissara Perera, Muthumudalige Pushpakumara, Malinga Bandara, Suraj Randiv, Thilan Thushara, Suranga Lakmal, Nuwan Kulasekara and Chanaka Welagedera.

### BU, Ctg MSC

missed the target heading the

cross over the crossbar. Seven minutes into the second half, Chittagong were deprived of a goal when their Liberian striker Anthony Pele Doe headed into the woodwork and seven minutes later Chittagong Mohammedan took a lead through a strike from Farhad, but referee

Minzanur Rahman ruled out

the goal for off-side. Brothers Union could have secured full three points had their striker Taru not missed the penalty shot in the 72nd minute. The referee did not hesitate to award the 12-yard spot kick to the Dhaka outfit when Sirajul Karim brought Brothers Sabuj Kumar down inside the danger zone, but their striker Taru took the spot kick lamely only to be blocked by Mohammedan goalkeeper

Uttam Barua.

2007.

around 20 teams to compete teams.

# All eyes on Belgians

Tennis

AFP, Brisbane

All eyes will be on Belgian comeback queens Justine Henin and Kim Clijsters when the second Brisbane International tennis tournament begins on Sunday.

Former world number one Henin is using the Brisbane tournament to launch her return to professional tennis, while Clijsters will be out to maintain the momentum of her 2009 comeback, which breathed new life into the women's professional tour thanks to her win at the US Open in August.

With the tournament also featuring Serbia's glamourous Ana Ivanovic and Russian Nadia Petrova, the women have garnered almost all the attention despite the presence in the men's draw of players such as Andy Roddick and Gael Monfils. The 27-year-old Henin sent an ominous

warning to her rivals when she arrived in Brisbane this week claiming she would become a better player than when she retired in May

The Belgian spent a total of 117 weeks at number one and claimed 41 singles titles, including seven Grand Slams.

She announced her comeback in September, soon after her compatriot and fierce rival Clijsters won the US Open, and said this week she would return to the tour a more relaxed player.

"I believe I can be a better player," Henin said. "I believe I can use my experience more than in the past.

"When you are [playing at] 200 per cent you have no time to realise it.

"You are too involved all the time, and all this

time off helped me to realise everything

Clijsters's manager said the world number 18's priority in Brisbane was introducing daughter Jada to a koala.

will be hoping the tournament marks her return to the top flight after a loss of form and a run of injuries sawher ranking fall to 22.

Australia because of the country's large Serbian community, has endeared herself to locals even further thanks to her relationship with Queensland golfer Adam Scott, with newspapers renaming her "Aussie Ana".

Serb said of her poor 2009. "I just want to focus on the big picture now

and get lots of matches in .... I just want competition -- I really missed it.

Clijsters looks likely to be named top seed for

the tournament, ahead of Petrova, Ivanovic and Slovak Daniela Hantuchova. The men's draw is headed by Roddick,

Monfils, and Czech duo Radek Stepanek and Tomas Berdych. The tournament also features Frenchman

Richard Gasquet, who was given the all-clear from the Court of Arbitration for Sport to play in Australia following a three-month ban for cocaine use.

the result of kissing a girl in a Miami nightclub, the International Tennis Federation.

## Oudin fears none

Tennis

couple on the court but emerging US youngster Melanie Oudin believes she and teammate John Isner can be a threat in the mixed teams Hopman Cup, starting on Saturday.

The Americans are seeded seventh in the unique eightnation event, but Oudin showed at last year's US Open and Wimbledon that she was more than capable of springing a surprise.

Oudin reached the fourth round at Wimbledon, defeating Jelena Jankovic in the process, and then went one better at the US Open, reaching the quarter finals, with Hopman Cup rival Elena Dementieva and former world No.1 Maria Sharapova among her scalps.

Speaking here on Friday, the 18-year-old Oudin said she didn't fear any of her Hopman cup rivals.

"I pulled it off at the US Open and maybe we can pull it off here," she said.

"Everyone in the draw is tough but I think doing well at

Wimbledon and the US Open this past year really helps my confidence.

"Going into [tournaments] now I won't be afraid who I play in the first round or within the draw."

Oudin, ranked 48th in the world, and Isner open their Hopman Cup campaign against Spaniards Tommy Robredo and Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez on

Playing the seasoned Martinez Sanchez will be a new

"I've never played her before against mealot," she said.

"It should be a good match." The Americans then face top

Oudin and Isner will make an interesting pairing in the often deciding mixed doubles rubbers here, with Isner standing 206cm (6.9 feet) and Oudin

"Fifteen inches is quite a big difference and I think it's going to be pretty funny when we play

## Indian boxers

Mohammad Ali Shah, the sports minister in Sindh province of which Karachi is the capital, promised foolproof security arrangements in the wake of a suicide attack that killed 43 people in the city on Monday.

On March 3, an attack on Sri Lankan cricketers in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore killed eight people and wounded seven Sri Lankan players and a coach, all but destroyed Pakistan's hopes of hosting top-level international sport.

Three Indian boxers --Sanjay Singh, Naresh Singh and Parnoj Singh -- will compete in the international event named after former Pakistan prime minister

Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated in December Afghanistan are also due to The organisers expect

in the week-long contest, which begins with an opening

Singh said both India and other.

"Pakistan and India must compete against each other, more so that they can improve and win more laurels at the international level," said Singh. "We have come here with good preparations and want to win." Singh shrugged off secu-

rity concerns, saying he has faith in the organisers.

Teams from Iraq and compete in the event in which Pakistan will field two

"What I can say is I know myself much better

and that's the most important thing."

Another former world number one, Ivanovic,

Ivanovic, already a crowd favourite in

"It wasn't an easy year but I learned a lot," the

"I want to go in without expectations but I know if I perform well I can reach the final."

The CAS accepted Gasquet's argument that the small traces of the drug in his system were rejecting an appeal for a harsher sentence by

AFP, Perth

They'll be the tournament's odd

Sunday.

experience for Oudin.

but I know she's a lefty and I knowshe's got a strong serve and is really good at doubles and she is going to be coming into the net

seeds and home side Australia on Tuesday, which will pit Oudin against world No.13 Samantha Stosur.

just 168cm (5.6 feet).

ceremony Friday.

Pakistan are doing well at an international level and need to compete against each

Kaneria may **FROM PAGE 17** Committee after watching the

"We have no security concerns, the focus is on boxing and the rest is in the hands of our hosts."

mixed doubles," Oudin said.

"I've played [mixed doubles] only a few times but I've had a really good time when I've played so I'm looking forward to it and it should be fun."

Oudin said she had taken great confidence out of her results in 2009 and was looking forward to continuing to rise up the rankings this year.

## Forgettable

**FROM PAGE 17** losses and have to bear total losses of 125 million dollars since teams began refusing to tour the country in 2008 including 40 million dollars when India cancelled a series,' said Butt.

New Delhi refused to let its cricket team tour Pakistan in the wake of strained relations between the two nations following attacks on Mumbai in November 2008. India blamed militants based in Pakistan for the attacks.

Wasim urged the ICC and India to support Pakistan cricket.

"Pakistan needs support from the cricket world in general and from India in particular, otherwise we will suffer badly and play average cricket as we did in 2009," said Wasim.

The only bright spot for Pakistan cricket in the year was when Younus Khan led the country to the World Twenty20 title in England in June. "Pakistan played average

cricket throughout the year but

#### their World Twenty20 success gave fans enough tonic to keep their interest in the sport alive, saidWasim.

order to reduce the size of squad to 15 players," a PCB release stated. "The decision about any replacement will be made during the second Test Match by the Selection

performances of players." Alam, who scored a century on debut against Sri Lanka in Colombo, has failed to impress in his next two Tests. Rauf, quite surprisingly, replaced Umar Gul for the Boxing Day Test, but managed to grab just one wicket while conceding 119 runs and dropped Shane Watson at point with the batsman on 99.

GD-5843

## Proteas likely to change

Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

South Africa are set to make at least one change in their team as they go into a crucial third Test against England, starting on Sunday.

"We're all under pressure," admitted South African coach Mickey Arthur, who said 'tough decisions' would have to be made about the composition of the side following their crushing innings and 98 runs defeat in the second Test in Durban.

"We're 1-0 down in the series and we've got to take 20 wickets and win this Test match," said Arthur.

He said: "There may be one change, there may be two." Asked whether veteran fast bowler Makhaya Ntini faced the axe, Arthur said Ntini had not been at his best in Durban, but cautioned that did not necessarily mean the only black African in the squad would be dropped.

reprieve it would not be simply because of his status as a standard-bearer for racial transformation. "He's an icon cricketer and you tend to

But he also said that if Ntini won a

give icon players a longer run because they deserve it."

England, meanwhile, are concerned about the fitness of batsman Paul Collingwood, who suffered a dislocated left index finger during fielding practice in Durban.

Coach Andy Flower said Collingwood had made good progress, which included batting in the nets on Friday.

"I was pleasantly surprised because we hadn't factored in him batting today," said Flower. "But he's still doubtful. He didn't face the quicker bowlers and he didn't do any robust fielding practice."

Flower said a decision would be made after Collingwood was exposed to more rigorous practice on Saturday. He said the final decision would be taken by team management.

"He's desperate to play, which means we can't just leave the decision up to him."

If Collingwood does not play, the tour selectors will have to choose between Hampshire's Michael Carberry, who was added to the squad as cover for Collingwood on Wednesday, or allrounder Luke Wright.

Flower said he expected the Newlands Test would be tough, citing South Africa's

record of 14 wins in their last 18 Tests at the ground, including three out of three

against England. "They're a very good side and it is still a

huge challenge for us," he said. "They'll come hard at us but we'll come hard at them too.' Flower said he did not believe there was

a parallel between the current series and the Ashes series against Australia last year, when England went from a win in the second Test to an innings defeat in the fourth Test at Headingley in Leeds.

"I think in that Test there was an anxiety to wrap up the series quickly. I don't feel there's any anxiety from this team. We have probably learnt from that experience."

#### **TEAMS**

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Ashwell Prince, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Mark Boucher, Paul Harris, Morne Morkel Dale Steyn, Makhaya Ntini, Friedel de Wet, Alviro Petersen, Ryan McLaren.

ENGLAND (likely): Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood or Michael Carberry or Luke Wright, Ian Bell, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, James Anderson, Graham Onions.

# Taylor arrested, then released Pakistan hope to put up

AFP, Kingston

West Indies fast bowler Jerome Taylor escaped starting the New Year in police lock-up after he was arrested, charged and released over an incident at a bar. Taylor, who had to return

home early from the West Indies' recent three-Test tour of Australia with injuries, was charged with using indecent language, assaulting a police officer, improper conduct and resisting arrest by local police in his parish, St. Elizabeth. According to police ser-

geant Clifford Evans, Taylor

was a patron in a bar when

police ordered it to close as required at 11pm. Matters escalated when police tried to place handcuffs on the cricketer. Taylor was later released and scheduled to

#### appear in court on January 12. Afridi for T20

PTI, Karachi

Contrary to Mohammad Yousuf's assumption that T20 cricket would eventually destroy Test cricket, Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi says it has actually made the five-day

games more result-oriented. Test skipper Yousuf feels that batsmen these days are paying more attention to adjust to the slam-bang format and hardly care to develop technique, which is essential to be successful in Test cricket.

### **BOA CEO's** father dies

Mohammad Hashmat Ullah, father of director and CEO of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) M Wali Ullah, died from old-age complications at his Dhaka resi-

dence on Thursday. He was 87. He will be buried at the Base Bashar graveyard of Bangladesh Air Force after namaj-e-janaza at the Ibrahimpur Mosque. A former Bangladesh Air Force officer, Hashmat Ullah left behind three sons, two daughters and a number of well-wishers, says a press release.

## improved performance Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan are confident they can bounce back to level the series against Australia in Sydney in the New Year's Test, due to begin on January 3. The tourists lost the first Test in Melbourne by 170 runs, their tenth defeat in a row to Australia, but they are notoriously slow starters. The pitch at the SCG looks surprisingly green two days out from the Test, but conditions are warm and muggy, conditions to which Pakistan may well be suited.

Though the grass probably won't last, the surface has for some years not been as spinfriendly as it once was. Pakistan will make changes though most questions revolve around the nature of their bowling attack; they were hamstrung in Melbourne by an injury to Danish Kaneria, but erred according to many in selecting Abdur Rauf over Umar Gul. There has been talk of two spinners playing, but word around the Pakistan camp seems to suggest they may not go that way. "I think there might [changes] be but we will

Kaneria will play. The best person to ask is the captain. Whether we play two spinners depends on the captain.' Pakistan struggled to put together significant partnerships in Melbourne and a number of their batsmen failed to develop useful scores and starts into something more substantial. Iqbal was one of those in the second innings, getting out when set on 48. That intensified the Younus

Khan situation; Pakistan's tour management

and captain were keen to have the former cap-

decide tomorrow," Faisal Iqbal said. "Hopefully

committee and board have not yet come to a decision, thus ruling out a surprise Younus return for the second Test.

Iqbal has filled in at No. 3 and his own position was likely to come under scrutiny if Younus had returned. "If Younus comes it will be a bonus or the team because he is one of the best batsmen in Pakistan cricket for a long time," Iqbal said. "I've always been a team man for as long as I have been playing, whatever number I play at. I always did my best, at opening, No. 3, 4 or 5 and I try to do whatever job is given to me."

Mohammad Yousuf had warned in the immediate aftermath of the first Test that the rise of Twenty20 cricket, and Pakistan's natural inclination towards it, would eventually hurt the country's Test and ODI progress. The implication was that the batsmen were unsuited to the longer form of the game. Iqbal said it was up to the individual to work out how best to adapt between the formats.

"You need to think about the games, you need to sort yourself out quickly whichever form of the game you are playing in," he said. "At the end of day we're all professionals and we have to play all forms of cricket, even the shortest form. You have to try your best to settle in. Definitely if you play the shorter form of the game, you need to learn about other forms -- you need to change, be quick for short forms and have patience for Tests."

But he was confident Pakistan could learn from their errors in Melbourne and come back hard. "The team is doing well and the guys are shaping up well after the first Test. It was a good learning experience for us. Definitely we can bounce back. Pakistan has always been like that. Whenever we lose a Test, we go hard in the next Test and that is how the team works. Guys are really focused and we'll be working hard today

## tain called out ahead of Sydney, but the selection and tomorrow." Face-to-face after

first innings double-century by Ricky Ponting and the combined 13-wicket haul from Stuart MacGill and Shane Warne. Five years on, it will be Pakistan fielding two spinners as Danish Kaneria, who claimed seven first innings wickets in his last Sydney appearance, joins Saeed Ajmal on a surface expected to take turn despite

its greenish tinge two days from the coin toss.

Watson recalls the damage

inflicted by Kaneria in 2005 -his maiden Test innings was terminated by the Pakistani leg-spinner, caught Asif, for 31 -- and expected him to prove a potent addition to the tourists' attack after missing the Boxing Day Test with a finger injury.

Asif, meanwhile, will be

called upon to lead Pakistan's

attack and replicate the con-

trol and accuracy that defined

his performance at the MCG

last week. The erratic, no-ball

prone fast bowler who

returned match figures off 0-88 from 18 overs on debut reemerged in Australia as a purveyor of precision, if not raw pace, to tie down the hosts' batsmen for extended periods.

Still just 27, Asif has before him the opportunity to put right a career that veered wildly off course after his last appearance in Sydney. The path back to the SCG may have been treacherous, but it might yet lead to a bright



### **Export Promotion Bureau**

TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar Dhaka

Notice National Export Trophy for the year 2008-2009.

Export Promotion Bureau invites applications from exporters for award of National Export Trophy for the year 2008-2009.

The Trophy will be product-specific on the basis of the following classifications and that exporter will be an eligible applicant who has an export earning (million US Dollar) mentioned against the product:

(1) Readymade Garments (Woven)-12.00 (2) Knitwear-10.00 (3) Yarn-5.00 (4) Textile Fabrics-5.00 (5) Home and Specialized Textiles-5.00 (6) Frozen foods-8.00 (7) Jute-2.00 (8) Jute goods-3.00 (9) Leather (Crust/Finished)-10.00 (10) Leather Goods-2.00 (11) Footwear (all kinds)-2.00 (12) Tea-2.00 (13) Agricultural Products-2.00 (14) Agro Processing Products (except tobacco)-2.00 (15) Flower & Foliage-2.00 (16) Handicrafts-2.00 (17) Melamine/Plastic Products-2.00 (18) Ceramic ware-4.00 (19) Light Engineering Products-2.00 (20) Electric & Electronic Products-2.00 (21) Other Industrial Products-2.00 (22) Pharmaceutical Products-2.00 (23) Other Chemical Products-2.00 (24) Computer Software-2.00 (25) Miscellaneous Products-2.00.

The intending exporters are to apply in the prescribed pro-forma available at Export Promotion Bureau's Head Office (Commodities Development Division-PABX: 9144821-24, Fax: 88-02-9119531, Email: dir-commodity@epb.gov.bd, Website: www.epb.gov.bd) in Dhaka, Regional Offices at Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Branch Offices at Comilla, Sylhet and Narayangonj as well as offices of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Divisional Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet. Prescribed Pro-forma may also be obtained from Export related Trade Associations of Bangladesh.

Application in prescribed pro-forma duly filled in and signed, must reach the undersigned on or before 25-01-2010. For further information, Export Promotion Bureau may please be contacted.

applicants are to apply for individual unit.

Director Commodities Development Division

For Readymade Garments and Knitwear, group wise application is not acceptable. Intending Application has to be submitted product wise, if any unit deals with more than one product.