



The Bangladesh cricket team are given their promised reward for winning series against West Indies and Zimbabwe in 2009 at a city hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

WOMEN'S CRICKET
Jamalpur zap
Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jamalpur

Jamalpur eased past Gazipur by nine wickets in their North Zone clash of the First Women's National Cricket Championship yesterday. Gazipur elected to bat at the Sherpur Martyrs Memorial Stadium, and put on 51 runs losing all their wickets in 26 overs. Jamalpur's reply was brisk as they overhauled the target in 8.4 overs losing only one wicket. Shahnaz remained unbeaten on 24 runs. Jamalpur will play against Tangail in the zonal final today.

Delayed cash prize
for Tigers



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh team on Wednesday received their cash prizes for the historic overseas series victory against West Indies and Zimbabwe in 2009. State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar handed over the cheque of Tk three lakh to the cricketers and team officials at a local hotel in a formal ceremony. BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sports Ministry chairman Zahid Ahasan Rusel were also present. The announcement of cash prize for the cricketers was made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after the Tigers brought honour for the country by winning the Test and

ODI series against West Indies and Zimbabwe. The players who were awarded are Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mohammad Ashraful, Junaed Siddiqui, Rokibul Hasan, Sahadat Hossain, Naeem Islam, Syed Rasel, Mahbul Alam, Mehrab Hossain Jr. Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Mahmudullah Riyad, Abdur Razzak, Rubel Hossain, Enamul Haq, Sahagir Hossain and Dollar Mahmud. The officials are Shafiqul Haque Hira (manager), Jamie Siddons (coach), Khaled Mahmud (assistant coach), Mohammad Salahuddin (fielding coach), Champaka Ramanayake (bowling coach), Grant Tafford Luven (trainer), Michel Henry (Physio) and Nasir Ahmed (computer analyst).

Rain ruins
Kiwi-Pak
2nd ODI

AFP, Queenstown

The second one-day international between New Zealand and Pakistan was abandoned Wednesday due to heavy rain in Queenstown. Only 26 balls were bowled after New Zealand won the toss and put Pakistan in to bat, with the tourists at 31 without loss when poor weather forced the players back to the pavilion. Ahmed Shehzad was on 25 and Mohammad Hafeez on four, with extras accounting for two runs. New Zealand lead the series, which has now been reduced to five matches, 1-0 after a nine-wicket victory in Wellington on Saturday. The next match is on Saturday in Christchurch.

Mirza not

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Australian Open this year after losing to Justine Henin. But she vowed to return to her previous form while talking to the local reporters after practice. "It is a big achievement for me to return to the court from injury and I played well against Henin, who won Wimbledon seven times. Besides, I was a bid tired after playing the qualifying matches but I am happy with my performance," said Sania. Sania is getting support from his parents as well as her husband and she wishes to continue in the game. "I love to play and compete and I think I will return to my form soon," she said. This is not the first time that Sania has come to Bangladesh. Some ten years ago, Sania visited Dhaka to participate in the ITF under-14 tennis tournament.

Silver coin

FROM PAGE 16
by spending Tk 3000. The showcase event will kick off with the match between Bangladesh and India on February 19 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Bangladesh will host eight matches in Dhaka and Chittagong including two quarterfinals.

Eng keep series alive



AFP, Adelaide

Inspired by a Jonathan Trott century England secured a 21-run victory over Australia on Wednesday, keeping alive their hopes of winning the one-day series after trailing 3-0. The tourists needed a win to claw their way back into the seven match series and a fine century by man-of-the-match Trott helped them to 299-8, the first time they have lasted their full complement of overs in this series. Australia never looked comfortable in reply at the Adelaide Oval and their chances all but evaporated with the wicket of opener Shane Watson for 64, caught behind of Ajmal Shahzad. Captain Michael Clarke's season-long woes with the bat deepened when he was clean bowled by part-timer Paul Collingwood for just 15 as the home team fell short with just 278 for seven. After winning the toss and electing to bat, the tourists looked poised for a huge score when they brought up their century for the loss of one wicket in the 15th over. But the middle order stuttered and the innings

lost its way, regaining momentum through a late flourish from Michael Yardy, who hit 39 not out from 27 balls. Trott (102 from 126 balls), who also picked up two wickets in the Australian innings, set up the win with his second ODI century while opener Matt Prior belted 67 from 58 balls. The pair set England on course for a bug score, piling on 113 in quick time for the second wicket. They were helped by poor bowling from Australia's pacemen, with Brett Lee conceding 68 runs from eight overs and Doug Bollinger 55 from nine. Lee's wayward bowling helped the English get off to flyer, his first delivery resulting in five wides in an opening over that cost 12 runs. However, the loss of Prior in the 23rd over slowed the innings. Prior, who was coming off successive ducks, brought up his 50 with a six off Lee, but fell to Steve Smith in the spinner's second over, top-edging an attempted cut. The English middle order struggled with Kevin Pietersen making just 12 and Ian Bell going for duck, the pair both falling within three

balls in one Smith (3-33) over. Eoin Morgan's indifferent form continued when he fell to part-time spinner David Hussey attempting a reverse sweep for 24. Hussey bowled just four overs, but picked up 4-21, also removing centurion Trott, who dragged a ball onto his stumps, Paul Collingwood (27) and Ajmal Shahzad (4). **SCORES IN BRIEF**
ENGLAND: 299 for 8 (Trott 102, Prior 67, Yardy 39 not out; Hussey 4-21, Smith 3-33, Lee 1-68)
AUSTRALIA: 278 for 7 (Watson 64, Smith 46 not out, White 44; Trott 2-31, Anderson 2-57, Collingwood 1-22)
Result: England won by 21 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Jonathan Trott.

Mash hopes

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biggest motivation for me. As far as I can say, I'll be able to regain hundred per cent fitness before the World Cup, given no other problems occur," he said.

Abahani-BU

FROM PAGE 16
semifinals of the Federation Cup although they have yet to come up with that spirit after securing only six points from five matches in the league. But they have started showing signs of form after handing giants Mohammedan a 2-0 defeat in the previous match and they are now ready to tackle Abahani. However, Abahani with four Ghanaian recruits of their own are in a comfortable second position with 10 points from five matches and are looking forward to taking a solo lead beating Brothers Union. Abahani though initially struggled to maintain the consistency and went down to Farashganj SC but the Federation Cup champions have been improving themselves gradually under the guidance of Iranian coach Ali Akbar.

Nadal's unlucky Jan 26
Murray, Clijsters stroll to semis

AFP, Melbourne

australian open David Ferrer dumped injury-hit Rafael Nadal out of the Australian Open in straight sets Wednesday, ending the world number one's bid for a historic sweep of the Grand Slam titles. The grimacing Nadal was in trouble right from the 18-minute second game, but despite repeated medical attention and a strapped left thigh he grimly battled to a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 quarterfinal defeat. Nadal's shock loss comes on the exact anniversary of last year's injury pull-out in the quarterfinals against Andy Murray, which also came on Australia Day as celebratory fireworks lit up the Melbourne night sky. The demise of Nadal, 24, halts his quest for the "Rafa Slam", a non-calendar year Grand Slam which would have united the four major titles for the first time since Rod Laver in 1969. "It's not easy because Rafael is a gentleman and he was playing injured and we are friends," Ferrer said. "He was injured in the first set but I played my game, I fight a lot and sometimes it's not easy." Nadal stands at nine Grand Slam titles and is the youngest man to win all four of the big tournaments. However, another injury setback will revive doubts about his longevity in the game. Spain's Ferrer will face Andy Murray in Friday's semifinal after the British fifth seed outgunned rising star Alexandr Dolgoplov. Ferrer has a 3-2 winning record against Murray but has never beaten him on hardcourt. Murray, last year's runner-up to Roger Federer, dropped his first set of the year against Ukrainian shot-maker Dolgoplov, 22, who dominated a third-set tie-break before going down 7-5, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3. "It was very tough and every point was different, he hits the ball different to a lot of other players and I struggled a little bit with my rhythm early on," Murray said. "He came back at me well in the third set but I thought I did well enough." Murray, 23, is now into his fifth Grand Slam semifinal as he bids to break a British men's major drought stretching back to Fred Perry's 1936 US Open win. Earlier three-time Grand Slam-winner Kim Clijsters beat Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska 6-3, 7-6 to set up a heavy-weight semifinal with world number two Vera Zvonareva, who downed Petra Kvitova 6-2, 6-4. Zvonareva wore a black ribbon on her cap to support victims of Monday's deadly suicide bombing at Domodedovo airport in Moscow, her home city, which killed 35 and left her frantically calling relatives. "You're calling back home and making sure everyone is

okay, the people that you know," she said. "I just tried to put it away. It happened, it is terrible. But you try to move on." The 26-year-old remains on course for her third straight Grand Slam final, after losing to Serena Williams at Wimbledon and Clijsters at the US Open in September. Clijsters overcame a high error-rate to see off Radwanska, who played a limited game but stayed in the match with some scrambling defence, taking advantage of the Belgian's 37 unforced errors. "Everything has to be better [against Zvonareva]," said Clijsters, who beat the Russian in September's US Open final. "I mean, serving, returning, the unforced errors. Everything has to be better." World number one Caroline Wozniacki will face China's Li Na in Thursday's other semifinal, while defending champion Federer plays third seed Novak Djokovic in a mouth-watering men's last-four match-up.



World No. 1 Rafael Nadal of Spain in a glum mood during yesterday's quarterfinal defeat against countryman David Ferrer in the Australian Open in Melbourne.

PHOTO: AFP

ICC demands PCB answers
Aamer played club match



AFP, Karachi

International cricket chiefs are demanding answers on why suspended Pakistani pacer Aamer, at the centre of a corruption probe, played in a domestic club match, an official said Wednesday. The 18-year-old Aamer, along with Salman Butt and Mohammad Asif, was suspended after allegations of spot-fixing during Pakistan's tour of England last year in a case that shook the global game. But media reports in Pakistan said Aamer featured in a domestic club match for Pakistan Army against Rawalpindi despite being suspended from all forms of cricket that come

under the umbrella of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). "The ICC [International Cricket Council] wrote to the Pakistan Cricket Board on the matter on Tuesday," an ICC spokesman confirmed to AFP from its headquarters in Dubai. A PCB spokesman confirmed they were investigating the issue. "Yes, we have come to the knowledge of Aamer playing a match in Rawalpindi and we are investigating the matter," PCB spokesman Nadeem Sarwar told AFP. An ICC anti-corruption tribunal heard the case relating to the three suspended players in Doha, Qatar, last month and is due to announce its verdict on February 5. All three were provision-

ally suspended by the ICC in October, with the world governing body's code of conduct carrying a minimum five-year ban if corruption charges are proved. The maximum punishment is a life ban. Their suspension came after reports in the British newspaper News of the World, which claimed several Pakistani players -- including the trio -- obeyed orders from an alleged bookmaker during the Lord's Test in August. The newspaper said it paid Mazhar Majeed, an agent for several Pakistani players, 150,000 pounds (237,000 dollars) in return for advance knowledge of pre-arranged no-balls which could then be bet upon. In a separate case, Majeed and the three Pakistani players face criminal charges for defrauding bookmakers in England. The minimum punishment in the case is ten years' imprisonment. Scotland Yard has handed two reports to prosecutors in Britain, who have yet to decide on further action.

Bhullar leads

FROM PAGE 16
Bhullar said, "I was very consistent with the putter today. The best putt of the day was a 20-footer for birdie on the first. I really like this course for its challenging layout and I think a score of four under in the opening round provides me with an ideal foundation for the coming rounds."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Jazz style
4 Weak, as an excuse
8 Line of fashion?
12 Hearty quaff
13 Enthusiastic
14 Melody
15 Cravat
16 Apple intruder
17 Vicinity
18 L.A. amphitheater
21 "Of course"
22 Ph. bk. data
23 Harrison companion
26 Rx overseer
27 Request
30 Relaxation
31 Wrong (Pref.)
32 Lotion additive
33 Cable channel
34 U.N. VIP Hammar-skjöld

35 Nickname of a 2009 newsmaking pilot
36 "— Town"
37 Performance
38 Christmas decorations
45 Competent
46 Loathe
47 Favorable
48 Missing
49 Throat clearer
50 Bumped into
51 Red and Black
52 Tackle box item
53 Omega preceder

DOWN
1 Dog owner's ordeal
2 Medley
3 Banana residue
4 Perry Mason, e.g.
5 Acknowledges
6 Surrealist
7 "Drums Along the Mohawk" author
8 Impales
9 Modern-day money
10 From the top
11 Repast

19 Muse's strings
20 — good deed
23 Prepared
24 Slot insert
25 Ninny
26 Pudding fruit
27 Every last bit
28 Scale member
29 Crucial
31 Sheriff
32 Car
34 "Gee, ya think?"
35 Plot
36 Curved moldings
37 Pursuing
38 Super-market supply
39 Reed instrument
40 Radius neighbor
41 Island popular with tourists
42 Genie's home
43 Caustic chemicals
44 Bigfoot's cousin

Solution time: 27 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

SCNPSDOA ZKX D JER VUK
DMVDRH HAAOH QK MKHA
UCH JXCB KS HUKXQ JKMZ
HQXKPAH: BEQQAX-ZCSJAXH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE EMINENT ARTIST EXPLAINED HOW TO MIX PAINT, COULD YOU SAY IT WAS A STIRRING SPEECH?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O