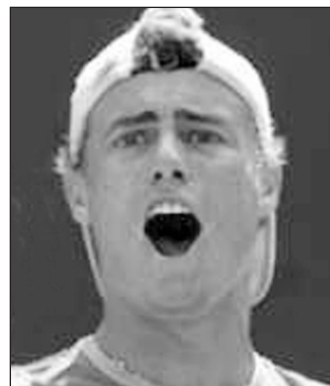




Did U Know?

Merlene Ottey has won a record 14 medals in the women's World Track and Field Championships. The Jamaica sprint queen won three gold, four silver and seven bronze from 1983 to 1997.



Lleyton Hewitt
(World No 1 tennis star)
"Everyone's going to laugh but it's still the old Rocky movies. I love that fighting spirit, that never-say-die attitude and I think it comes across in the way I play the game." On his successful year.



ESPN
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Chelsea
Same Day Delay at 8:30 am
New Zealand vs India
Third ODI
Repeat at 10:30 am
ATP Tour World Series
Tata Open, Round of 16
Live at 5:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 9:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Same Day Delay at 10:00 pm
STAR Sports
Australia vs England
Fifth Test, Day One
Live at 5:57 am
South Africa vs Pakistan
Second Test, Day One
Live at 2:25 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 9:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Same Day Delay at 10:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18
Tick the correct answers, The Daily Star
Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 10, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who lifted Div I chess title? Titans Club Biman Ansars
2. Who won Reuters' sportsman of 2002 award? Hingis Serena Jones
3. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies? Jacobs Kapali Mashud
4. Who won 2002 FIFA World Player of the Year award? Owen Ronaldo Carlos
5. Who clinched World Squash Open title? Name Class Roll No. School Address Phone: (if any)

Ctg soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT
Bakolia Krira Sangstha and Brothers Union won their respective matches of the CJKS Elite Paint First Division Football League at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.
In the first match, Bakolia blanked Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra 2-0.
Biplob netted both the goals in the 37th and 35th minutes of second half. In the second match, Brothers Union defeated Rising Star Club 1-0.
Walid Khan scored the lone goal.

Big win for Chittagong



SPORTS REPORTER

Fancied Chittagong virtually assured themselves a place in the final of the Ispahani Mirzapore Fourth National League when they recorded an innings and eight runs victory over Rajshahi at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

The port city outfit chalked up their third successive victory inside three days when Rajshahi, resuming their second innings on 48-3, were bowled out for 181 in 66.4 overs.

Rajshahi, forced to follow-on after being dismissed for 154 in response to Chittagong's massive first-innings total of 343 for seven, never looked capable of making their opponents bat again.

A defeat was always on the cards once Rajshahi slumped to 93-8 due to the fantastic bowling of left-arm spinner Ahsanullah Hasan, who followed up his first-innings haul of 5-29 with four wickets for 52 runs in

the second essay.

Only the last wicket pair of Aminul Islam and Shafaq Al Zabir delayed the victory party.

Batting at number ten Aminul scored an enterprising 51-ball 52 while Shafaq made 30.

With this win Chittagong improved their tally to 14 points from four games. They will play defending champions Dhaka in their final league match.

KHULNA-BARISAL
At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, a brilliant century by Towhid Hossain frustrated no-hope-turned title contenders Khulna from achieving victory against Barisal.

Despite enjoying a first-innings lead of 151 runs and taking three quick Barisal wickets, the Khulna bowlers failed to dislodge a stubborn Towhid, who was batting on 110.

The young leg-spinner bravely defended the Barisal fort after he saw his side slip to 16 for three. He hammered 20 glorious boundaries in his 245-minute undefeated vigil at

the crease. Kafi Khan with 66 gave Towhid good company.

Barisal ended the day on 234 for five, a lead of 83 runs.

Earlier, starting the penultimate day on 346-5, Khulna plundered 46 runs in their remaining six overs with Manzarul smashing a run-a-ball 59.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards on the third day of the two Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fourth National Cricket League matches at different venues on Wednesday:

Chittagong v Rajshahi
Venue: Fatullah Stadium.

CHITTAGONG: First innings 343 for 7 in 100 overs (Azam 130 not out, Aftab 60, Sabbir 32, Ahsanullah 35; Aminul 2/60, Shafaq 2/81)

RAJSHAHI: First innings 154 all out in 52.2 overs (Jahru 51, Rafiqul 39; Ahsanullah 5/29, Sabbir 3/34)

RAJSHAHI: Second innings (Over-night 48 for 3 in 16 overs)

Jahurul c Mortuza b Ashiq	0
Bablu c Nazimuddin b Ashiq	7
Rafiqul b Aftab	23
Murad b Ashiq	0

SEE PAGE 15 COL

Kiwis fly in same style



AFP, Christchurch

Nathan Astle smashed 22 in an over during his attractive cameo as New Zealand thrashed India by five wickets in the third one-day international at the Jade Stadium here on Wednesday.

The aggressive opener hit pace-man Javagal Srinath for five fours, including four in a row, in his 30-ball 32 to help his team surpass India's modest total of 108 in the day-night game.

New Zealand won with more than 23 overs to spare for a 3-0 lead in the seven-match series, with Astle emerging top-scorer of the match.

Astle's one-over onslaught put tremendous pressure on India, who had earlier crashed to their lowest-ever total against New Zealand for the second time in a week.

The tourists were shot out for the same score in the opening match at Auckland last week.

Extras top-scored with 22 in a

spineless Indian batting show on a pitch that had bounce and helped seam movement. Only Rahul Dravid (20), Mohammad Kaif (17), Yuvraj Singh (12) and Venkatesai Laxman (10) reached double-figures.

Astle's brief flourish ensured that New Zealand did not face much difficulty in chasing a small target despite the dismissals of skipper Stephen Fleming and Mathew Sinclair in a space of seven deliveries.

He tried a big shot off Srinath but could not time it properly and was caught by skipper Saurav Ganguly, who judged the skier well at mid-off.

Jacob Oram finished the match when he steered seamer Ajit Agarkar (3-26) for the winning boundary.

Nothing went right for India after Ganguly had elected to bat as their batsmen remained out of form and clueless against a disciplined seam attack.

Man-of-the-match Daryl Tuffey stood out among the seamers as he grabbed 2-11 off 10 overs to return the most economical figures by a

New Zealander against India after Ewen Chatfield's 10-5-13-0 at Adelaide in 1985-86.

Paul Hitchcock finished with a career-best 3-30, while Oram took 2-22 to remind India that something was seriously wrong with their batting.

The seamers were brilliantly backed by wicket-keeper Brendon McCullum, who claimed five victims in his second successive match.

Fleming equalled Chris Harris' record of most catches by a New Zealand fielder in one-dayers when he dismissed Srinath for his 87th victim to end the Indian innings.

India's run-rate was slow even by a Test match standards as they reached 67 in 25 overs. Worse, they kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

With runs hard to come by, the pressure kept mounting on the Indian batsmen who yet again showed they had not adjusted themselves to the conditions even after spending nearly a month in this country.

Opener Virender Sehwag, who

SEE PAGE 15 COL



PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand's Nathan Astle pulls against India yesterday.

Waugh's milestone Test



AFP, Sydney

The milestones are looming for skipper Steve Waugh when he leads Australia into the fifth and final Ashes cricket Test against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground here on Thursday.

The 37-year-old Test campaigner may be playing in his last Test at home when the world champions attempt to complete a 5-0 series clean sweep of England.

Waugh will equal Allan Border's world record of 156 Tests and he can match Donald Bradman's Australian record of 29 Test centuries.

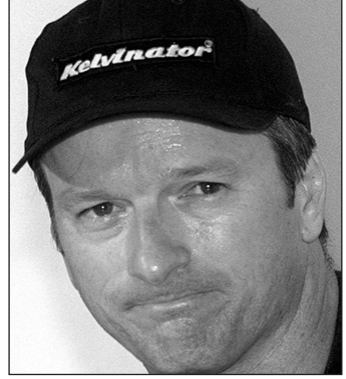
He also requires 69 runs to become the third batsman behind Border and Sunil Gavaskar to reach 10,000 Test runs.

And he can emulate Warwick Armstrong (1920-21) as the only Ashes captain at the helm of a 5-0 series clean sweep.

"I think the more Tests you play, the more records you come close to," Waugh said after Australian

training at the SCG on Wednesday.

"Sir Donald Bradman is probably the greatest player ever and deserves to be by himself. "If I get an opportunity to get a hundred I'm certainly going to take it but it's not the most important thing on my mind right now.



STEVE WAUGH

"As a kid growing up I always wanted to try and be the best batsman I could be and hopefully the best batsman in the world.

"I think I achieved that in certain

points throughout my career so I'm pleased with that, but you never consider yourself to be anywhere near the same as Sir Donald Bradman.

"I can't go out there thinking I want to get a hundred or I want to get 69 runs or we want to win the match, it's how we go about getting the end result that counts."

Waugh's future looked rosy after a first-innings 77 in the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne last weekend.

But he didn't do himself any favours with a shaky 14 on the final day, when he had a migraine and felt dizzy.

Waugh will be treated like royalty by an SCG crowd assuming this is goodbye.

Waugh will decide after the Sydney Test whether he will retire or keep going, running the risk of an inglorious sacking by the selectors.

"I'm still not 100 per cent sure what the right decision is," he said.

"It's something I've got to work out. I can talk to a hundred different people and get many different opinions, but in the end it's got to be my decision.

SEE PAGE 15 COL

Jigme Dorji tourney Final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take on hosts Bhutan in the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Memorial Football Tournament final at the Phuentsholing Stadium in Bhutan today.

The visitors, who are taking part in the meet as part of their buildup to the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, secured their berth in the final with a 4-2 semifinal win over the Oil India on December 30.

The Bangladesh team is expected to return home tomorrow. This will be Bangladesh's last competitive match before they get into the eight-nation SAFF tournament that begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from January 10.

Drafted in the Group B along with Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan, Bangladesh will face Nepal in the first match on January 11 at 5:45 pm.

The regional football fiesta kicks off on January 10 with defending champions India taking on arch-rivals Pakistan. Sri Lanka and new entrants Afghanistan are the other two teams of Group A.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) meanwhile confirmed yesterday that BTV (Bangladesh Television) will telecast all the 16 matches of SAFF Championship Live.

Sri Lanka and Bhutan will be the first two teams to reach the capital on January 6 while the rests are yet to confirm their flight schedules.

CityCell youth cricket M'singh, Comilla in round of 12

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh and Comilla advanced to the 12-team final round of the CityCell Digital 22nd National Youth Cricket Championship yesterday.

Mymensingh defeated Rajbari by five wickets at the Jagannath Hall ground while hosts Comilla trounced Chandpur 133 runs.

Imon struck a superb 71 as Mymensingh toppled a fighting Rajbari total of 192 in only 34.5 overs.

At Comilla, it was a mismatch where Chandpur, chasing a modest hosts total of 169, were shot out for only 36 runs in 11.4 overs.

James and Polash ripped through the Chandpur innings claiming four and three wickets respectively. James also top-scored with 33 in Comilla's unimpressive total where extras stood out with 51.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Mymensingh v Rajbari
RAJBARI: 192 all out in 49.2 overs (Sabuj 51 not out, Hasan 35, Mamun 2/37)

MYMENSINGH: 194 for 5 in 34.5 overs (Imon 71, Riad 31, Arif 28)

Result: Mymensingh won by 5 wickets.

Comilla v Chandpur
COMILLA: 169 all out in 49.2 overs (James 33, Ashiq 22, Extras 51; Saiful 4/23, Subroto 2/23)

CHANDPUR: 36 all out in 11.4 overs (James 4/18, Polash 3/18)

Result: Comilla won by 133 runs.

Tribal football M'singh, R'mati in final

UNB, Dhaka

Mymensingh and Rangamati moved into the final of the first-ever Tribal football tournament beating their respective rivals at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The final will be held today at the same venue.

Mymensingh earned a solitary goal victory over Netrokona in the day's first match. Rajani Kanta Barman netted the match-decider.

In the day's other match, Rangamati defeated Khagrachhari 3-1. Uth That, Ranadir Chakma and Barun Dewan netted one goal each for the winners while Rakcha Jai reduced the margin for the losers.

JU cricket

JU, CORRESPONDENT

English moved into the quarterfinals with a six-wicket victory over Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) in the inter-department cricket tournament of Jahangirnagar University at the central playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, ECS scored 111 for eight wickets in the stipulated 25 overs. Shaikat was their highest contributor with 18 runs.

Dipak, Fahim and Subrata grabbed two wickets each.

In reply, English collected 115 losing four wickets in 23 overs.

Rubel scored 35 while Ani contributed 31 runs.

Himel claimed two wickets.

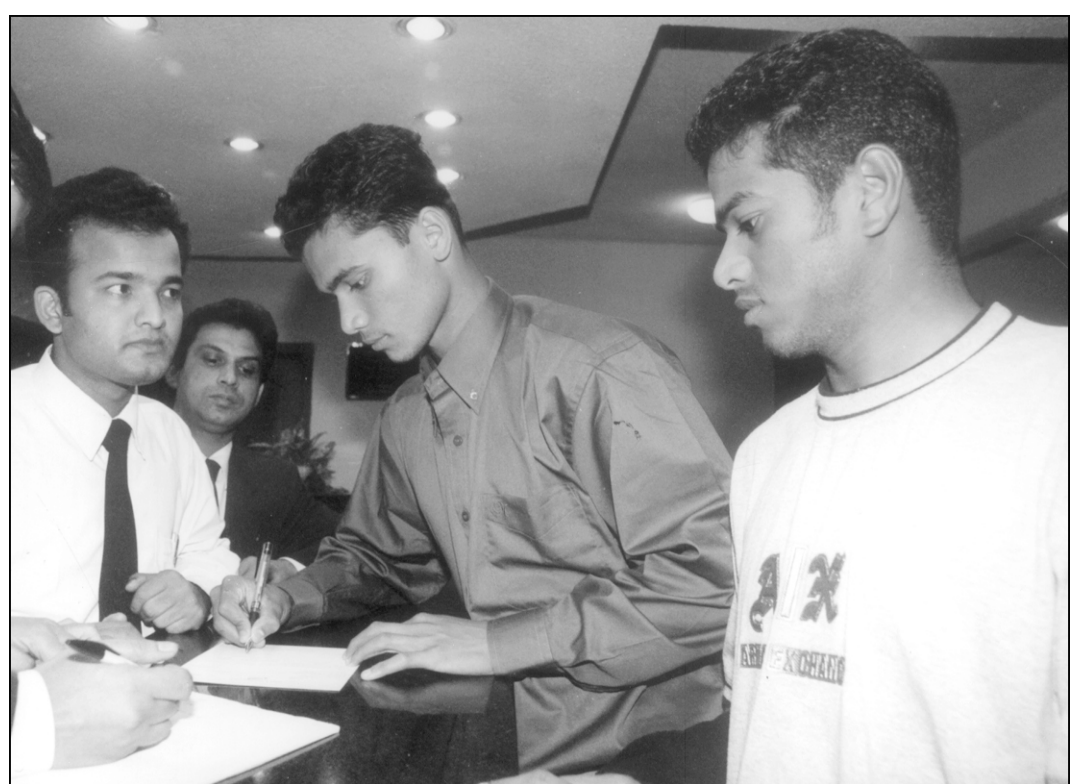


PHOTO: STAR
VIP GUESTS! World Cup bound Bangladesh cricket stars Mashrafe bin Mortuza (C) and Alok Kapali checking in at Hotel Purbani in Dhaka yesterday.

SA on a sticky wicket



AFP, Johannesburg

South Africans are at loggerheads over calls for Zimbabwe's exclusion as a Cricket World Cup venue, recalling sports boycotts of South Africa in apartheid days.

The government is strongly in favour of matches being played in its northern neighbour, the opposition just as vehemently opposed.

"We cannot have a situation where cricket authorities are now being pressured to reverse a decision that could jeopardise the staging of this global event in Africa," said Sports Minister Ngconde Balfour.

That prompted Afrikaner Unity Movement leader Cassie Aucamp to ask Tuesday: "Has the (ruling) African National Congress changed its well-known slogan of 'no normal sport in an abnormal society', as applied against the apartheid gov-

ernment?"

The official opposition, the Democratic Alliance (DA), noted that "during the apartheid era the International Cricket Council (ICC) was one of the strongest proponents of the sports boycott of South Africa."

"It should now boycott Zimbabwe in the knowledge that (Zimbabwean President Robert) Mugabe will use any World Cup matches played in that country as an affirmation of his leadership," said DA spokesman Donald Lee.

The governments of Britain and Australia have called on their teams not to play World Cup matches in Zimbabwe, but stopped short of ordering the squads to withdraw.

They argue that playing matches in Zimbabwe would be tantamount to endorsing Mugabe's regime, which stands accused of myriad human rights abuses and rigging presidential elections in March.

The Pretoria government has warned the "undue pressures"

could jeopardise the tournament.

"It is of concern to note that undue pressure is now being put on cricket authorities in Australia and England to abandon their commitments in Zimbabwe," said Balfour.

"With the World Cup due to be played within six weeks, it is important that all countries scheduled to play in Zimbabwe should honour their commitments. Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad agreed.

He told reporters in Cape Town: "This political decision at this late stage is not in the interest of world cricket and not in the interest of trying to find a solution to the problems of Zimbabwe."

South Africa's biggest daily newspaper, the Sowetan, with a mainly black readership, Tuesday came out in favour of a ban on Zimbabwe.

"The exclusion of Zimbabwe as a venue is intended as a moral statement, emphasising our collective outrage over Mugabe's disregard for democratic norms," it said in an

SEE PAGE 15 COL

Pakistan to play for pride



REUTERS, Cape Town

Road-weary Pakistan will look to salvage the series and what remains of their shattered pride when the second and final Test against South Africa starts in Cape Town on Thursday.

Waqar Younis' team have experienced the full gamut of emotions on their roller-coaster tour of southern Africa.

They strode unchallenged through Zimbabwe, winning both Test matches and all five one-day internationals, Inzamam-ul-Haq in the process becoming the second Pakistani to reach 6,000 Test runs while Younis enjoyed a spell as the most prolific one-day batsman in the world.

Waqar, meanwhile, left Zimbabwe needing one wicket to join compatriot Wasim Akram as the only bowlers to take 400 wickets in one-day internationals.

He had since reached that mark but has had little else to celebrate. In South Africa, Pakistan were stopped in their tracks by a team

that has regained their composure following the mauling they were dealt by Australia last season.

Under new coach Eric Simons and guided by a fresh selection panel led by Omar Henry, South Africa rediscovered the uncompromising approach and solid basics that had made them the closest rivals to the mighty Australians in recent seasons.

Shaun Pollock, never the most natural of captains, made significant progress towards coming to terms with his role. Fast bowler Makhaya Ntini matured into a consistent threat and, together with steadily developing opening batsman Graeme Smith, gave South Africa a glimpse of a future beyond veterans Allan Donald and Gary Kirsten.

South Africa's resurgence was sealed when they bounced back from losing the second one-day international against Pakistan to win the series 4-1.

The chinks in Pakistan's armour were clear by the time they limped into Durban for the Boxing Day Test. The most glaring of these was the confusing status of express bowler Shoaib Akhtar, who had been ordered home by team manage-

ment to recover from a knee injury. Instead, Shoaib remained in South Africa and found the time to socialise with visiting Bollywood film stars.

There was little surprise when South Africa wrapped up a 10-wicket win just 90 minutes into the fourth day. The result would have been more embarrassing for Pakistan had 60 overs not been lost to bad light during the first three days.

"We played really well in Zimbabwe, but since we came here we haven't delivered what we are capable of," Waqar told reporters.

Coach Richard Pybus added: "South Africa have played better cricket than us in the last month."

"In defence of our boys, they will have been on the road for six months when we finish this tour. I think that has caught up with us."

South Africa, who will be crowned International Cricket Council Test world champions if they win the series, have named the same squad, bar pacemen Steve Elworthy, for the second Test.

Pakistan, always on the back foot

SEE PAGE 15 COL

Anwar plots Aussie fall



AFP, Lahore

Recalled Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar said Tuesday reigning champions Australia were not "invincible" and that Pakistan could win their opening World Cup clash in southern Africa.

"Australians are not as invincible as many people think. We beat them in Australia in June this year and by the grace of Almighty Allah will beat them in our opening game," Anwar, 34, told AFP.

Anwar, who has become a devout Muslim and sports a long beard, was picked in Pakistan's 15-man squad which will start the eighth World Cup with a mouth-watering clash against defending champions Australia in Johannesburg on February 11.

"They (Australia) play an attacking game and the best way to counter them is to attack them and I am planning special things for Aussie bowlers."

Anwar, sidelined because of a

lack of form and fitness since September this year, forced his way back into the side following batting failures at the top of the Pakistani order over the past four months.

"I believe that bad times are for good times and Pakistan won the 1992 World Cup in Australia in similar circumstances," said Anwar, who has played 242 one-day games for Pakistan.

"I have the experience of playing two World Cups so I hope it will come in handy in South Africa," the opener said.

Anwar holds the world record highest one-day innings of 194 made against India in Madras in 1997.

The left-handed opener brushed aside reports Pakistan were a disjointed unit because of bickering among the players.

"One win will put everything behind and I am sure that will come against Australia."

"Pakistan was among the favourites in 1996 and then again in 1999 but we failed to win the title, this time around we have more experience."

Prime Bank chess Aminul alone atop

SPORTS REPORTER

Khandakar Aminul Islam of Bangladesh Ansar took a solo lead in the Prime Bank fifth International Rating Chess tournament securing five and a half points at the end of the sixth round at the Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.