# SPORT



Indian cricket captain Saurav Ganguly and master batsman Sachin Tendulkar present an autographed bat to secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, JVR Prasada Rao during the national polio eradication campaign in Bombay yesterday.

# Rally round

FROM PAGE 13 He said if Sri Lanka won the title he was prepared to give the national team 25 per cent of the 6.4 million dollar guarantee money, instead of the 12 per cent they managed to negotiate after a bitter public row.

AFP, Brisbane Sri Lanka's cricket chief Hemaka Amarasuriva said he believed the Australia's injury worries could fans would forget the sordid pay actually help Ricky Ponting's team issue if the team starts winning matches at the World Cup which win successive cricket World Cups, coach John Buchanan said here on starts on February 9.

Tuesday

"We have had a lot of bad luck," Amarasuriya said.

"The fans want them to win all the time, but it is not fair for the players. I think they can do really well in the World Cup." "The acrimony will be forgotten

no sooner we win our first World February 11. Cup match."

The Sri Lankan team had lost 10 out of their most recent 13 one-day matches, disappointing this cricketdraining 10-month playing schedcrazy nation of 18.66 million people. ule, which began in Nairobi last August.

### Kenya laughs FROM PAGE 13

rest and now they'll come into the Kenya after a suicide bombing killed tournament physically and mentally 16 people in an attack on an Israelifresh." Buchanan said. owned hotel in the city of Mombasa Another victim later died in hospital.

get away from the game along with Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda other players who have rested from network claimed responsibility for some matches and we're hoping to the suicide bombing and a failed see the benefits of that attempt to shoot down with missiles an Israeli airliner taking off nearby. **ACB** wants Zim tie

The information of potential danger to the New Zealanders came from an ICC security delegation visit to Kenya in mid-January

# **Injuries a blessing!**

"In some ways (the injuries) ICC Cricket World Cupbuld eventually have a positive South AFRICA 2003 side for us.'

Buchanan said Australia had taken precautions to ensure the players were not subject to the welter of injuries that flattened

England's Ashes campaign over the

Rather than fret over injuries to key bowlers Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne, Buchanan hopes the enforced rest has sharpened his players for their opening match with Pakistan in Johannesburg on Buchanan said he had been concerned about keeping his players fresh for the World Cup during a

"What the injuries have done for players like Glenn McGrath and JOHN BUCHANAN

last few months. England selectors were criticised

for bringing injured players on tour and Australia will take the same risk with Michael Bevan (groin), McGrath (back) and Gillespie (elbow) recovering from injuries. All-rounder Shane Watson

(back) was the only player ruled out of the World Cup, leaving much depending on the fitness of McGrath, Warne, Bevan and Gillespie

PHOTO: AFF

"Apart from Michael Bevan, one of the principles we wanted to follow was not to take injured players to the World Cup and we've basically achieved that," Buchanan said.

"But there are some allowances for 'potential match-winners' and that is the likes of Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne.

The medical staff believe Glenn is okay and I'll go with their advice and he'll be in great shape for the tournament."

Buchanan was reluctant to talk about an Australian World Cup title defence. "We're not going there to defend

it," he said. "We won the World Cup with a

different team four years ago and the make-up of this team is significantly different.

There is no real relationship to what happened four years ago."

radio on Tuesday.

The Australian squad arrives in Johannesburg on Thursday and Buchanan hopes the team will have two warm-up matches before the Pakistan opener.

who turns 32 on Saturday.

The BCCI, which has the option

# Eng waiting to know

ICC Cricket World Cup South AFRICA 2003

England hoped be told Thursday whether their plea to move their World Cup match in Zimbabwe to South Africa has been accepted.

AFP, London

Nasser Hussain and his teammates could discover as soon as Thursday if they have been successful in their plea to move the controversy-hit World Cup clash with Zimbabwe to South Africa.

England believe they have made

citing the "moral, political and

safety" issues surrounding a fixture

played in a country ruled by

bosses, whose deadline to move

the game is February 9, hold a

teleconference Thursday to review

Board chief executive Tim Lamb,

who is furious with what he called

report, if the ECB get advice from

the Foreign Office saying players

will be at risk, we'll say we don't

expect our players to go against

advised they would be at risk.

England and Wales Cricket

The International Cricket Council

President Robert Mugabe.

the situation.

third time, having won the awards in 1997 and 2000. Muralitharan, named the best bowler in history by cricket's bible Wisden, was chosen the bowler of

the year by an eminent panel that included former greats Sunil Gavaskar of India and Clive Lloyd of the West Indies. India's Sachin Tendulkar was

**Ricky**, Murali

Australian captain Ricky Ponting

and Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah

Muralitharan received a boost

ahead of next month's World Cup by

bagging Indian cricket awards here

Australia's successful defence of

the World Cup in South Africa, was

named the best fielder at the annual

one-day squad was named the

international team of the year for a

Australia's combined Test and

Ceat International awards.

Ponting, hoping to lead

bag top awards

AFP, Bombav

on Tuesday.

voted the best batsman of the year. Former all-rounder Kapil Dev, who last year won a Wisden poll as India's player of the century, received a similar accolade as the Ceat International cricketer of the century.

Ex-Test spinner Bishan Bedi was honoured with a lifetime achievement award, Ceat head Harish Goenka said.

### Disgraced FROM PAGE 13

hensive probe between September 1998 and October 1999 and the one-man commission of Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum recommended life bans on Malik and former pacer Ataur Rehman.

Six others including current captain Wagar Younis and Wasim Akram were fined. The Pakistan Cricket Board

mplemented the recommendations in May 2000. Malik's appeal against the ban

was rejected by the Lahore high court in May last year. "I am waiting for a date in the

supreme court and have always maintained that I will fight till I am cleared," Malik said.

Malik said he still follows international cricket and thinks Australia will lift next month's World Cup. "All the top teams look the same

at international level but if you take into account performance of the last two years I think Australia will clinch the Cup," Malik predicted. "Pakistan is also a good side and if they play up to their potential they can surprise other teams."

Jadeja himself said he was delighted at being allowed to do what he did best -- playing cricket -after two years. "Cricket is my life and has given

me a lot," said the flamboyant player

to appeal against the ruling in the Supreme Court, said it will study the High Court's verdict before taking

Foreign Office advice," he said. a possible loss of life". "We will not send any player into And, after the conference finished, Lamb added that there were

specific reasons for moving

between the two countries, since

the founding of the country and

through the southern Rhodesia and

independence periods, and in the

light of the relationship between the

two governments, as well as the fact

that England players have been

singled out to receive the propa-

ganda leaflet, we might be able to

argue that there is a special case

and request having the fixture

against Zimbabwe moved to South

Lamb added: "I am not going to

say definitely that we will play that

card, but I have already dropped a

On the same day, ICC's Australian chief executive Malcolm

Speed rejected the England players

He said nothing had changed following a previous ICC executive board meeting Friday when there

was unanimous agreement, includ-

ing that of ECB chairman David

Morgan, to go ahead with the

Speed insisted the ICC's inde-

"As it currently stands, based on

Should the situation change

pendent security experts had said it

this expert advice the ICC board

continues to see no reason to move

there is in place the system to alert

the ICC to this and a proper deci-

sion-making process to deal with

any need to relocate games,'

On Friday, Speed confirmed that

the Zimbabwe matches could be

moved to South Africa, where the

bulk of the February 8 to March 23

World Cup's 54 fixtures are taking

place, as late as four days in

was still safe to play in Zimbabwe.

pebble into that pond.'

Zimbabwe matches.

the games," Speed.

added

advan<u>ce</u>.

AFP, Milan

vear.

Novak

shocked

Africa.'

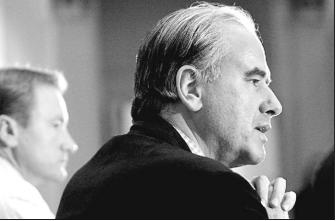
"Given the historical ties

England's match in particular.

an arena where they could be at risk. We will take the players' concerns on board, listening carefully to what the players have to say."

His comments came after a statement issued on behalf of the England team asked that the match against Zimbabwe be moved to South Africa, which is hosting the majority of the World Cup matches.

England players' spokesman Richard Bevan said: "The players urge all parties to move the fixture to South Africa and pay the Zimbabwe Cricket Union appropriate compen-



Tim Lamb (R), chief executive of the ECB and Richard Bevan, managing director of the Professional Cricketers Association face the media at the Marriott Hotel in northwest London on January 27

#### a strong case for switching the sation." February 13 fixture from Harare

Bevan also said the England players were "greatly concerned by the moral, political and safety issues that the fixture in Zimbabwe has raised."

PHOTO: AFP

So far the ICC has insisted that, despite political pressure, it will not move matches from Zimbabwe in protest at the regime of President Robert Mugabe.

It is due to reconsider Zimbabwe's host status at an executive board meeting on Friday.

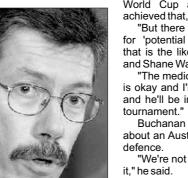
Last weekend it emerged that the British government's 'misleading' tactics during the crisis, on England players, on their recently Monday vowed to pull the England concluded tour of Australia, had team out if the Foreign Office received anonymous letters at their Sydney hotel warning them of "There is a further independent violence if they go ahead with their review of security going on ... but, match in Zimbabwe regardless of the ICC security

Lamb, sitting alongside Bevan on Monday, said cricket could not afford a situation where the games in Zimbabwe were also the scenes for anti-Mugabe protests which could be "ruthlessly supressed with

Czech compatriot Radek Stepanek at the 380,000-euro men's indoor ATP event here on Monday. Stepanek, 24, passed safely through to the second round with a surprisingly comfortable 6-4, 6-3 victory over the tournament favourite who finished seventh in the Champions Race last

Number one seed Jiri Novak suffered a

shock first round exit at the hands of





and advice from an independent security adviser.

Snedden said the executive board of the ICC would decide on Thursday whether to go ahead with the Kenya-New Zealand match in Nairobi on February 21 and the Kenya-Sri Lanka game in the same city three days later.

"I would anticipate that in the light of the information on the table the ICC's executive board will recognise the risk to player safety and move the games to South Africa," he said.

Forty-six of the 54 World Cup matches are being held in South Africa. The tournament starts on February 9.

New Zealand's first game is against Sri Lanka in Bloemfontein on February 10.

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

Shane Warne is provide them with a

"They've had an opportunity to

AFP, Melbourne

Australia plans to press on and play their scheduled World Cup cricket match in Zimbabwe, the Australian Cricket Broad said on Tuesday. While English players have

pleaded to have their World Cup match in Zimbabwe moved, the ACB said there was no security risk to prevent the Australian team from playing Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on February 24.

English cricket chiefs are considering asking the International Cricket Council (ICC) for a special exemption to allow their World Cup match in Zimbabwe to be moved to South Africa.

England's cricket chiefs will argue that their tournamentopening match against Zimbabwe in

regime.

Harare on February 13 is especially "I was a part of that with (Austrasensitive because of the "historical lian Cricketers' Association chief) ties between the two countries". Tim May, but at the same time we It followed warnings received continue to monitor that."

The Australian Cricketers' from Zimbabwean activists to the England team during their Association was in talks on Tuesday Australian tour and reports that and was expected to comment opposition groups would use the further on the issue on Wednesday. England match to demonstrate Two days before their departure against President Robert Mugabe's for the World Cup, the Australian

team were maintaining their position ACB chief executive James that they would play wherever the Sutherland said he had learned of ACB directed. "It's a very volatile situation at the no new security risk which would prevent the Australian team playing moment in Zimbabwe but from our

its match in Bulawayo. perspective, we have faith in the ACB to make that decision for us," "As far as we can gather in the reports that we've had, there's no batsman Matthew Hayden said on material change in the conditions Tuesday that we found when we had the

Indian batting great Sunil Gavaskar (2nd from R) points towards the main trophy as vice-chairman CEAT Limited Harsh Goenka (R), former cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar (3rd from L) and former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd (2nd from L) look on during the seventh annual CEAT International Rating Awards ceremony in Bombay yesterday.

security delegation there in late November," Sutherland told ABC

Jadeja's lawyer Vineet Malhotra said he hoped the BCCI accepted the court's verdict "gracefully"

Tense finish FROM PAGE 13

Hossain and two off-spinner Abdur Razzak and Jamaluddin bagged two each

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the Ispahani Mirzapore Fourth National League final between Dhaka and Khulna at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday

DHAKA: First innings 362 (Mazharul 119, Rashedul 50, Naimur 45, Hasanuzzaman 4-65, Manjarul 3-68) KHULNA: First innings (Overnight

271 for 7 in 83 overs) Sajjadul c Neeyamur b Fahim 68 Parvez c Fahim b Monir Salim Ibw b Monir Jamaluddin c Naimur b Monir 121 Hasanuzzaman b Arafat 13 12 Asadullah c Kadir b Naimur Maniarul run out Monirul b Naimur 24 Razzak c Neeyamur b Naimur 43 Masud run out Al-Amin not out 13 Extras: (b-2, lb-17. w-9) 28 Total: (All out in 99.1 overs) 338 Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-29, 3-157, 4-183. 5-218. 6-230. 7-264. Ń 0 R 6 31 3 7 4 0

Bowler 93 17 Monir Neeyamur 30.1 5 104 Naimur 3 2 64 Arafat 20 3 Fahim 11 41 DHAKA: Second innings Javed c Asadullah b Masud Rashedul c Jamaluddin b Masud 1 Jahangir c Salim b Al-Amin 10 Mazharul bAl-Amin 0 90 11

Sajjad Kadir run out Fahim c sub b Razzak 44 Anwar not out Extras: (b-10, lb-4) 14 Total: (All out in 67.1 overs) 196 Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-19, 3-33, 4-33, 5-54, 6-104, 7-122, 8-135, 9-154. 0 Bowler 18 8 52 Al-Amin 46 17 5 Masur Hasanuzzaman 2 0 13 0 3 18 Razzak 8.1 2



Tiny participants of the 'Chocolate Race' wait for the start with their hands tied from behind during the annual sports Day 2003 of Siddiqui's International School at Dhanmondi yesterday. Chairman of the school Nadeem Siddiqui later distributed prizes among the students

# Gilchrist best down under

ICC Cricket World Cup South Africa 2003

#### AFP, Melbourne

Adam Gilchrist won the Allan Border Medal as Australia's cricketer-ofthe-vear on Tuesday.

The wicketkeeper-batsman was also named as Australia's best limited-overs player over the past 12 months, just two days before he heads off to South Africa with the defending world champions for the World Cup.

One-day captain Ricky Ponting was selected as the test player of the year after making five hundreds in the past 12 months and also finished second to Gilchrist for the major award, decided by votes from

players, umpires and media. Gilchrist joined Matthew Hayden (2002), Steve Waugh (2001) and Glenn McGrath (2000) as winners of Australia's most prestigious cricketing award after a brilliant year with bat and gloves.

Over the past 12 months, Gilchrist has scored 928 runs at an average of 77.33, including three centuries, and 872 one-day runs at an average of 34.88, with two centu-

Last year's Wisden player of the year, Gilchrist's best performance with the bat was his unbeaten 204 against South Africa in Johannesburg in February, which briefly stood as a world record for the fastest double century in Test cricket

Less than a week ago, playing



Munshiganj receive an inter-district cricket championship trophy at the Lalmatia playground in Dhaka on January 27. They became champions beating Paikpara Adarsha School of Narayanganj in the final.

against England in Sydney, he equalled his own wicketkeeping world record of six dismissals in an innings of a one-dayer.

"It's been a great year for me but I really didn't expect to win this," Gilchrist told a packed reception in Melbourne.

Queensland batsman Martin Love was named state player of the year while 22-year-old off-spinner Nathan Hauritz was chosen as the young player-of-the-year.

Former Test captains Lindsay Hassett and Ian Chappell were inducted into Australian Cricket's Hall of Fame

## AL honours

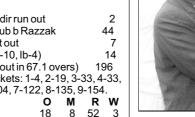
FROM PAGE 13 hand for the development of sports in the country.

Bangladesh team leader Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir, coach George Kottan, captain Rajani Kanta Barman and former Bangladesh national team captain Monem Munna also spoke on the occasion.

### Waugh decision FROM PAGE 13

He joined Border and Sunil Gavaskar as the only players to make 10,000 Test runs and equalled Border's world record of 156 appearances all in the same match, which Australia lost in a 4-1 series win over England.

Waugh was left out of the Australia squad for next month's World Cup but would be an automatic selection for the next test tour of West Indies starting in April if he decides to play on.



2

1 16

37 2 0

PHOTO: AFI

Jamaluddin

Manjarul

Arafat Ibw b AI-Amin Sajjad b Razzak Naimur Ibw b Jamaluddin Neeyamur c Razzak b Jamaluddin

2

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