

## Bangladesh boys in hockey final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh moved into the Second Under 16 Boys Asia Cup hockey tournament with a 4-1 win over Malaysia in their last robin league match at BKSP yesterday.

The winners led the first half 2-1. They will play undefeated India in tomorrow's final.

Bangladesh defender Asaduzzaman struck twice while Zahid and Tarique added one each.

Mohammed Faizuei grabbed a consolation goal for Malaysia.

It was Bangladesh's second win in the four-nation meet that raised their tally to six points from three matches.

They trounced Sri Lanka 13-0 in their first match but crashed to a 6-1 defeat against India. They wrapped up their campaign with another efficient display when they blanked Sri Lanka 8-0.



Scene from the Bangladesh-Malaysia match of the Second Under 16 Boys Asia Cup hockey tournament at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

## Fantastic fielders

INTERNET, Port Elizabeth

Chris Cairns became the leading fielder in an ICC CWC career when he took his 15th catch for New Zealand in the match against Zimbabwe. The leading fielders in ICC CWC matches are:

Name	Team	M	Cts
C Cairns	New Zealand	26	15
A Kumble	India	17	14
R Ponting	Australia	24	14
S Waugh	Australia	33	14
C Hooper	West Indies	20	13
C Lloyd	West Indies	17	12
G Hick	England	20	12
S Jayasuriya	Sri Lanka	24	12
D Haynes	West Indies	25	12
Kapil Dev	India	26	12
Inzamam-ul-Haq	Pakistan	32	12

**As at 9 March 2003**  
Note also that Adam Gilchrist has now taken 28 dismissals (26 ct, 2 st) in his World Cup career and is closing in on the leading wicket-keeper in ICC Cricket World Cup matches, Moin Khan (Pak), who has taken 30 dismissals (23 ct, 7 st).

## Agassi sidelined

AFP, Indian Wells

American tennis star Andre Agassi announced on Sunday that he has withdrawn from the WTA and ATP Masters Series event here with a recurring shoulder injury.

"My shoulder was getting worse by the day," said Agassi, who has won eight Grand Slam titles. "After practising yesterday, the injury is severe enough that there is no way I will be able to play."

Agassi, the current ATP champion, has a 12-1 record this year after winning the Australian Open in January and a tournament in San Jose last month.

## Sheene loses fight with cancer

REUTERS, Gold Coast

Britain's former world motorcycling champion Barry Sheene has died aged 52.

The Australian television station where he worked as a commentator announced that Sheene had passed away on Monday after a long fight with cancer.



BARRY SHEENE

"Barry Sheene lost his battle with cancer this afternoon and died in a Gold Coast hospital," the network announced in its nightly bulletin.

Sheene, world champion in 1976 and 1977, was diagnosed with throat and stomach cancer in July last year, but had vowed to fight the disease through alternative therapies and his faith in God.

However, his condition quickly deteriorated and it was apparent he was gravely ill after he was forced to turn down an offer to act as the grand marshal at Sunday's Australian Formula One Grand Prix.

He was survived by his wife Stephanie and their two teenage children Sidonie and Freddie and a private family funeral will be held later this week.

Sheene won 19 500cc grand prix races in a career that spanned a decade and included winning back-to-back world titles in 1975 and 1976 but was just as famous for his playboy lifestyle as his feats on the bike.

He retired from racing in 1984 and moved to Australia where he lived for the rest of his life working, becoming a popular television personality.

## India, SA teams for Dhaka tri-series



AFP, Johannesburg

India will take on South Africa and Bangladesh in a limited-overs tri-series in Dhaka in mid-April, a senior Indian official said on Monday.

The tournament is scheduled to begin on April 13, Indian cricket board secretary Karunakaran Nair told this news agency, but the proposed series confirms fears that India will not undertake a Test tour of Pakistan after the World Cup.

"We are working out the dates for the Dhaka matches with the South African and Bangladesh boards," Nair said.

South Africa, who were knocked out in the first round of the World Cup, will travel to Dhaka after playing another tri-series against Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from April 1-10.

Indian cricket officials had last week urged the federal government to allow the April tour of Pakistan to go ahead to prevent India from being "totally isolated" on the world stage.

"If India do not play against Pakistan, the equilibrium of world cricket will be severely affected because the World Test Championship cannot be decided," Indian chief Jagmohan Dalmyia wrote in a letter to Sports Minister Vikram

Verma.

Dalmyia said each cricket nation was supposed to play four series against each other every 10 years and that if India did not play Pakistan it "may be totally isolated in the world cricket scenario."

The Indian government has banned bilateral cricket ties against Pakistan in protest at Islamabad's alleged support for Islamic rebels in divided Kashmir.

Pakistan, which denies the allegations, has urged India to undertake the tour even as both teams play one another in multi-nation events like the World Cup.

India defeated Pakistan by six wickets at Centurion on March 1 in the preliminary round, a match that passed off without incident.

India last played a Test series in Pakistan in 1989-90. Pakistan toured India in 1999-2000 for three Test matches despite threats from Hindu fundamentalists to disrupt the tour.

Most of the tour was incident-free except in Calcutta when police vacated 70,000 fans from the Eden Gardens who turned violent in protest at India's poor performance.

Pakistan, led by Wasim Akram, later won the match in front of empty stands.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947.

## SUPER SIX STANDINGS

AFP, Johannesburg

Standings and remaining games in the World Cup Super Six after Monday's match (played, won, lost, tied/no result, points carried forward, total points, net run-rate):

Australia	3	3	0	0	12	16	+1.84
India	4	3	1	0	8	16	+0.86
Kenya	3	2	1	0	10	10	+0.44
N Zealand	3	1	2	0	4	8	-0.32
S Lanka	4	1	3	0	7.5	7.5	-1.43
Zimbabwe	3	0	3	0	3.5	3.5	-0.75

Note: Teams carry forward 4 points from the preliminary round for winning against fellow qualifiers, one point for winning against non-

## Cairns fully fit

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have got a two-win one-loss record against them."

Cairns, whose wife Karen is a South African, has spent time in her homeland preparing for the Cup.

"I've spent a bit of my recuperation here but you can't substitute match play," he said. "I have not bowled for a year, you can practise all you like but it's never quite the same."

Cairns, who once said he bowled for a living but batted for enjoyment, commands attention whatever he does on the field.

His low flat throw, after Lou Vincent had scooped up the ball near the boundary, ran out Brian Lara in the group match against West Indies, a game New Zealand had to win to stay in the tournament.

His innings on Saturday, apart from one lapse when he was dropped hitting across the line, was a masterpiece of restraint, showing once again that he can score with perfectly orthodox strokes at around four an over without taking risks.

Bowling is a different matter. Cairns started his international life as a strike bowler, before a crippling back injury forced him to change his action and drop his pace.

Four years ago he reinvented himself as a fast bowler, taking the new ball as New Zealand rallied from one Test down to win only their second series in England.

Now he is back at fast-medium, but still with the ability to make the ball do unexpected tricks in the air or off the pitch.

His performances in the first round were unpromising. Four overs cost 38 runs, the first of them going

for 21, and his subsequent jubilation when he captured his first victim on Saturday was understandable.

"Relief is a better word," Cairns said. "It's nice to contribute as a player. What role I play is up to Flemo (captain Stephen Fleming) but hopefully that role will be there if he wants to use it."

"The further in the tournament we go, hopefully the bigger the performance I can do because I have had some cricket."

## No loving

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than the permitted three fielders outside the circle.

The Aussies haven't forgiven New Zealand for denying them a place in their own tri-nations series that year an emotion not helped by the fact that Fleming, one of the more astute international skippers, started employing tactics of almost Chappellian proportions.

In one match against the third team in the tournament, South Africa, his team slowed down the run-rate so that the Proteas could clinch an extra bonus point which would further damage Australia's bid for a final place.

The media turned on them.

The New Zealand Herald said: "It might have been understandable, it might even have been worthwhile. But it certainly wasn't cricket."

Fleming won't mind the criticism.

His team has won four of the teams' last six meetings and two of their last three World Cup clashes by 37 runs in Auckland in 1992 when Martin Crowe hit 100, and again in Cardiff in 1999 by five wickets when Roger Twose's unbeaten 80 was the key to victory.

## Jason looks to Windies tour

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Australia fast bowler Jason Gillespie is on target to be fit for the tour of the West Indies, according to team physiotherapist Errol Alcott.

Australia are set to leave for the Caribbean on March 31. Gillespie was ruled out of the World Cup with a heel injury which is expected to take four weeks to heal.

Alcott told reporters on Sunday: "Jason saw the Australian Cricket Board's doctor Trefor James on Friday and got the injury reassessed."

"Trefor concurred with our original idea that it should take him four to six weeks to recover, perhaps a touch earlier."

"By the time we get to March 31 it will be five weeks since he did it... if he progresses as we think he should then he should come up trumps for the tour."

Alcott added Gillespie's injury could be related to an ongoing problem he has had since October 2002.

"He has had a problem for the past six months, he had a calf tear in Colombo and similar muscle soreness during the summer."

"He got through that but now it is a problem in the heel. There is a bio-mechanical thing going on that we have to address."

The injury-plagued Gillespie's early international career was stalled by back trouble and he missed most of the 1999-2000 season after suffering a broken leg and wrist in a fielding collision with Stephen Waugh during a test match in Sri Lanka.

Alcott said Gillespie's action would have to be looked at again.

"It is not a case of him being unlucky, it happens for a reason. He is a long-levered sort of bowler, a tall bloke and that puts a lot of strain on his tendons."

Alcott said Gillespie had already adapted his action to deal with both his back and with shoulder soreness.

"With Jason it is all bio-mechanical and it is just a case of making it easier and less stressful on his body," said Alcott.

Gillespie was replaced in Australia's World Cup squad by left-arm fast bowler Nathan Bracken.

## Sergey, Marat lead jointly

UNB, Dhaka

Top seeded Dutch Grand Master Sergey Tiviakov and Uzbek Grand Master Marat Dzhumaev maintained their joint lead in the 6th United Insurance and United Leasing Grand Masters chess tournament with full three points at the end of the third round yesterday.

Tiviakov beat Bangladeshi International Master Abdullah Al Rakib while Dzhumaev defeated Indian International Master Neelotpal Das on the day to keep their top slot intact at the Chess Federation Auditorium in the evening.

Grand Master Alexi Barasov of Uzbekistan took the second position with 2.5 points after beating Bangladeshi Grand Master Niaz Murshed.

G M Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh, G M Alexander Goloshchapov of Ukraine and IM Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan were in the third place securing two points.

Zia drew with GM Magesh Badals Jordi of Spain while Goloshchapov drew with Tahir.

In the day's other matches, local IM Enamul Hossain Rajib beat countryman Sheikh Nasir Ahmed and another local IM Reefat Bin Sattar drew with compatriot FM Taibur Rahman.

The fourth round matches today are: Reefat vs Rajib, Niaz vs Nasir, Zia vs Barsov, Tahir vs Magesh, Dzhumaev vs Goloshchapov, Tiviakov vs Neelotpal and Taibur vs Rakib.

## Felgate new British tennis chief

INTERNET, London

Tim Henman's former coach David Felgate has been confirmed as the Lawn Tennis Association's new performance director.

Felgate succeeds Patrice Hagelauer who resigned in December after four years in the post.

## Asian Cup football qualifiers BD in Group D

SPORTS REPORTER

SAFF champions Bangladesh face hosts Hong Kong and Laos in the Group D preliminary round of the Asian Cup 2004 later this month.

The booters take on Laos in their first match of the robin league round at the Mongkok Stadium in Hong Kong on March 25 and then the home side on March 30 at the same venue.

A total of 20 countries, split into seven groups, are taking part in the first round. The winners of the seven groups will later join 21 of the continent's finest teams in the qualifying round that will also be

held in seven groups in August.

The winners of Group D preliminary round will meet Iran, Jordan and Lebanon in the qualifying round.

The winners of the seven qualifying groups will meet hosts China in next year's finals.

Meanwhile, the South Asian champions are training in Chittagong under the supervision coach Hasanuzzaman Khan Babu and Shafiqul Islam Manik.

The camp has been arranged in the port city to allow the 32 footballers to participate in the local league.

Following 20 countries are taking part in the Asian Cup 2004 preliminary round:

**Group A:** Maldives, Myanmar and Brunei

**Group B:** Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei and East Timor

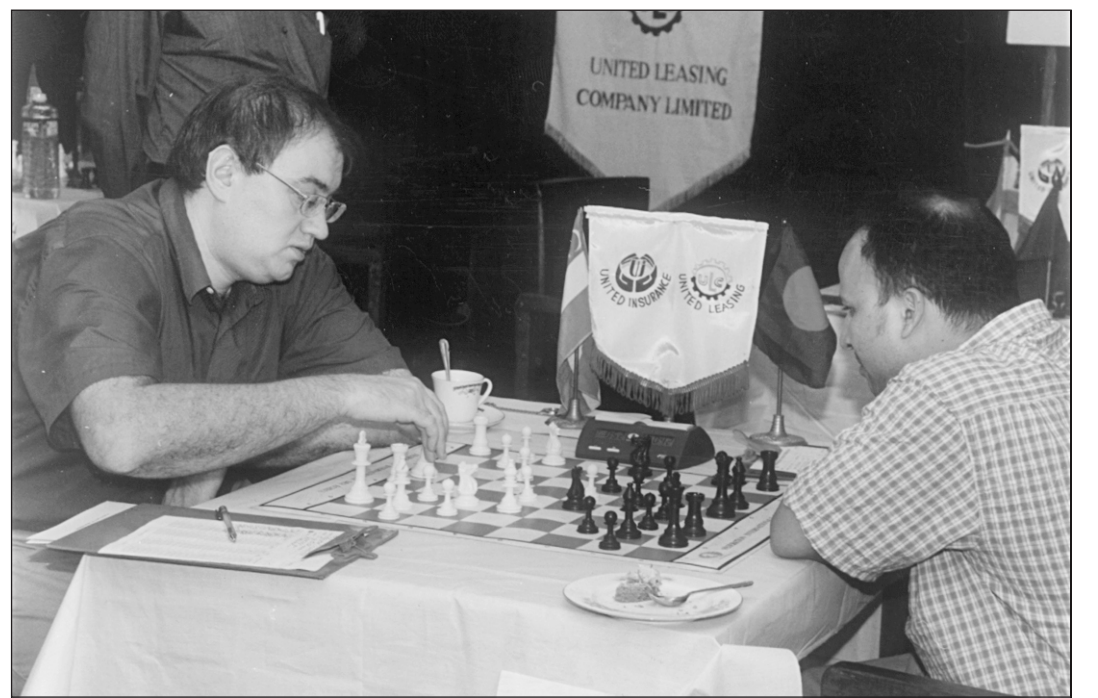
**Group C:** Nepal, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan

**Group D:** Hong Kong, Laos and Bangladesh

**Group E:** Singapore, Pakistan and Macao

**Group F:** Bhutan, Guam and Mongolia

**Group G:** India and North Korea



Uzbek Grand Master Alexi Barasov (L) makes a move against Niaz Murshed, the Bangladesh Grand Master, during their third round fixture of the Sixth United Insurance Grand Masters' chess tournament yesterday.

## Fearsome fast guns Hogg relishing spin

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With the injured Gillespie out of the tournament there is now a greater responsibility upon Lee, who can sometimes give the impression he is more interested in sheer speed than shattering stumps.

However, giving up beer for 12 months in a bid to cut down his chances of getting injured, suggests he can be disciplined when he wants to be.

Discipline is something Bond, 27, a Christchurch policeman by profession, understands well.

He has enjoyed a meteoric rise since starring in the tour of Australia two years ago.

Dion Nash's injury led to Bond spearheading the attack and the Kiwis' ability to fight fire with fire was a major factor in a drawn three Test series.

Injuries in 2002 checked his progress but he proved his worth again with 12 wickets in the two-Test series against India in New Zealand before the World Cup.

"I admire him as a cricketer," said India captain Saurav Ganguly whose team faced the Bond fury on that tour.

"He has the ability to succeed on any surface. He was the key to New Zealand's success in Test series. His presence strengthens the side."

The only thing that can take the sting out of the Lee-Bond confrontation will be the St George's Park pitch if it plays as slow as it did when Australia scraped past England in their group game at the venue.

That was a morale-sapping surface for fast bowlers.

Cunning is what sets the great quicks apart from the rest and could well decide whether it is Bond or Lee who triumphs on Tuesday.

## No letup from

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was as strong as any team we have played over the past couple of years.

"It's the way they play the game and part of the great trans-Tasman rivalry. It might not be as big a rivalry as England against Australia, but it's pretty strong."

"There's one thing no self-respecting Aussie can do and that's lose against a Kiwi," the batsman told the BBC.

Lehmann top-scored for Australia with 76 when the two sides met at the last World Cup in 1999 but the Kiwis still pulled off a five-wicket victory in that match in Cardiff.

Furthermore, the desire for revenge has been sharpened by the Black Caps success in preventing the Aussies from reaching the final of their own tri-nations series on home soil two years ago.

"They did it in a pretty simple way by playing very good, disciplined cricket and I reckon that's the only way to beat us," added Lehman.

"You can barely afford to put a foot wrong over 100 overs and you have to play to your potential."

"Even then you have to accept that your best might not be good enough. That might sound arrogant but that's the way we approach every game ourselves. We don't live in the past."

Shane Warne's year ban from the game could extend Hogg's closest contest so far.

Ten overs of his left-arm wrist-spin cost just 28 runs, plugging England's middle-order, although he failed to take a wicket.

"It's been the best wicket that has been conducive to my kind of bowling in South Africa," he said.

"We worked hard to get that win and showed that we can perform reasonably well on slower-paced pitches, adjusting our game to the conditions provided."

His form of wrist-spin is a lost art in modern cricket but he is enjoying a re-birth as an international player, having made a solitary Test appearance in India in 1996-97 and won seven one-day international caps before this winter.

"You might think that time has passed you by but you have to keep hanging in there," said Hogg, who as a postman in the off-season delivers to his own house in Western Australia.

"I still think I have four or five years at first-class level in me and I am still pretty fit for my age."

"So hopefully I can provide some kind of assistance to the Australian team for the next couple of years."

"It's great to be part of the Australian team, everyone remembers a World Cup and hopefully we can take home the bacon."

Should that happen, however, it would be likely to scupper his proposed deal with Warwickshire.

The midlands county have lined the all-rounder up as their second overseas player this summer, with Kiwi pacesman Shane Bond already signed.

"I have always wanted to play in England. I played a bit of league cricket in Yorkshire and Durham 10 or 15 years ago," Hogg said.

"I told myself probably would not go back there unless it was to play county cricket or I was lucky enough to play for Australia."

"So the opportunity has arisen and I am looking forward to it if things happen."

## Quips & Quotes

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South Africa.

**Australian skipper Ricky Ponting on his tactics for Tuesday's match in Port Elizabeth.**

"I suppose it was up to God, so I should thank Him for the cricket because when I was small I really wanted to be a priest."

**Sri Lanka pace bowler Chaminda Vaas on his inspiration for cricket.**

## Trans-Tasman rivalry

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Cup match against Sri Lanka on February 10, although they forfeited points against Kenya to make their task of qualifying more difficult.

New Zealand have insisted they will not be intimidated by Australia's awesome pace battalion after Brett Lee was used as a battering ram to deliberately target Sri Lanka skipper Sanath Jayasuriya on Friday.

It was done with such force that Jayasuriya ended up in hospital with an arm injury which almost ended his World Cup and Ponting hinted that Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming would be next in the firing line.

However, the Black Caps skipper was unconcerned.

"We've heard it all before," said Fleming. "They're just following on from Steve Waugh who was very good at using the media."

Ponting, whose team are the only ones with a perfect record in the tournament, is adamant that nothing will stand in his way of a second successive World Cup title.

"We need to put pressure on Stephen Fleming," said Ponting who will again be without the services of Andrew Symonds who has yet to recover from a thigh strain.

New Zealand started the Super Six stage in fifth place with four points but doubled that tally by beating Zimbabwe by six wickets in Bloemfontein on Saturday.

Fleming's men still need one more win to be sure of reaching the semifinals.

A key factor in the win over Zimbabwe was the return to form

of all-rounder Chris Cairns. He has his first productive bowling spell of the tournament, taking two for 16, then clubbed 54 valuable runs.

LINE-UPS