

Warwicks sign Aussie Hogg

AFP, London

English country cricket side Warwickshire have signed Australian spinner Brad Hogg for the 2004 season.

Hogg starred at the World Cup earlier this year as Australia won the tournament and began his career as a specialist left-handed batsman.

Bears chief executive Dennis Amiss said: "We are delighted to be able to agree terms with Brad to enable him to join us next season, and his world-class left-arm spin bowling will provide the control and penetration we have been searching for.

"He was, without doubt, one of the most impressive bowlers in the last World Cup, taking 13 wickets at 24.76 apiece and he will make an enormous difference to our bowling line-up."

Selection chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The Metropolis Selection Chess tournament began yesterday at the NSC chessroom.

69 players won their first round games.

144 players are taking part in the Swiss league system event.

Sixteen players will qualify for the preliminary phase of the 30th National Chess Championship.

Chambers' B test positive

AFP, London

European 100 metres champion Dwain Chambers was Friday suspended and facing a lengthy ban after UK Athletics confirmed he had tested positive for the new designer steroid THG.

A second urine sample, or B test, had confirmed the presence of tetrahydrogestrinone (THG) which was detected in an out-of-competition test taken at a training camp in Saarbrücken, Germany, on August 1.

The 25-year-old sprinter has been suspended from competition by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and will be summoned to a disciplinary hearing by UK Athletics.

He could be banned for up to two years but even if the ban is less than a year, Chambers would not be allowed to compete in the Olympic Games in Athens where he would be one of Britain's top medal hopes.

Under British Olympic Association rules, doping offenders are banned for life from the Olympics Games.

A statement from UK Athletics said: "B sample analysis has been conducted and confirms the finding in the A sample.

"Dwain Chambers has now been suspended by the IAAF pending the result of a hearing before an independent Disciplinary Committee... the date for this hearing has yet to be set."

After the original positive test, Chambers protested his innocence stressing he had been assured that supplements he was using complied with IAAF anti-doping rules.

And Chambers' legal advisors stressed on Friday that the athlete had never admitted taking THG, a drug that is believed to have been engineered to evade traditional testing procedures.

In a statement, Chambers' lawyer Graham Shear said: "I believe the results of the B test do not provide any conclusion to this matter whatsoever.

"This is just the beginning of a lengthy process. Until satisfactory explanations and answers for these questions can be provided, nobody is in a position to make judgement on Dwain Chambers' alleged culpability."

Kiwis' one last chance



BBC ONLINE, undated

New Zealand and Australia play each other for the final time in the round robin stage of the TVS Cup in India on Sunday.

The Kiwis have a point to prove, having been thrashed by the Aussies in Pune and narrowly beaten in a game they should have won in Cuttack.

A third defeat will not quite consign New Zealand to the sidelines, however.

Their match against India in Hyderabad on November 15 could decide who joins Australia in the Calcutta final.

Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming said: "An early start is something we've got to deal with, and deal positively.

"There will be pressure on the side batting first. Winning the toss will be a definite advantage, but the other team must strive to do better."

All-rounder Chris Cairns and seam

bowler Paul Hitchcock have had extensive nets for two days in an effort to get fit.

The Aussies may rest wicket-keeper-opener Adam Gilchrist and paceman Brad Williams.

Jimmy Maher and Michael Kasprovicz both have opportunities to make impressions.

The Kiwis will be relieved not to see Williams coming at them with the new ball.

He twice ran through their top order to pick up successive man-of-the-match awards.

Bigger beds have been ordered for the tall New Zealanders at the hotel where they will be staying.

TVS CUP TABLE

Standings in the three-leg preliminary round of the one-day TVS Cup tri-series being played in India (played, won, lost, tie/no-result, bonus points, total points):									
Australia	4	3	1	-	2	18			
India	4	1	2	1	-	9			
N Zealand	4	1	2	1	-	9			

Kiwis can skip Pakistan tour



AFP, Auckland

Members of the New Zealand cricket team are free to pull out of this month's tour to Pakistan if they have security fears, but cricket authorities say they do not expect many defections.

The Black Caps are returning to complete a series abandoned last year when a suicide bomber killed 14 people outside their hotel in Karachi.

The New Zealand Press Association said it understands some members of the New Zealand team, currently playing in a series in India, are uncomfortable about returning to Pakistan.

In-form batsman Craig McMillan, who opted out of the Champions Trophy Tournament in Sri Lanka four months after the Karachi blast, gave a flat "no comment" when asked if he was available for the revived Pakistan tour.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) officials said security checks undertaken by Australian adviser Reg Dickason

found no reason for the tour not to go ahead, but players and officials have the option of staying home and there would be no repercussions.

"I don't expect many to opt out but I can understand if one or two are doubtful," NZC chief executive Martin Sneddon said.

Sneddon said Dickason was in Pakistan when South Africa toured there last month and he described security arrangements as "very tight, akin to a visiting head of state".

The southern port city of Karachi has been excluded from the itinerary of five one-day matches which starts at Faisalabad on November 22 and also takes in Rawalpindi and Lahore.

New Zealand agreed to the return tour after Pakistan demanded monetary compensation after last year's series was cut short.

After the Kiwis' close call in May 2002, Australia and the West Indies refused to play scheduled tours in Pakistan and both series were transferred to neutral third countries.

Bangladesh restored international matches to cricket-mad Pakistan three months ago, and South Africa followed soon after.

Giles changing his direction

REUTERS, Dhaka

Left-arm spinner Ashley Giles is making changes to his run-up that he hopes will boost his international career.

The 30-year-old has been fairly useful for England on overseas tours but has been known more for containing rather than attacking, mainly because he bowls from wide of the stumps.

"I am in the process of changing the angle of my run-up," Giles said on Saturday. "Bowling from closer to the stumps gives me a lot more angles and more chances of picking up wickets."

The Warwickshire bowler, who grabbed three quick scalps against Bangladesh in the first one-day at Chittagong on Friday, said the match had given him confidence.

"I'm so used to one particular way of bowling that I know the change will take time," he said. "It's about muscle memory. I've been bowling one way for the last 12 years and now I'm trying to do something totally different.

"Things were going along too slowly at the beginning of this tour but over the last two weeks I can see that I'm getting the hang of it."

Giles, who was a medium-pace bowler till he was 18, made a meek Test debut against South Africa at Manchester in 1998, managing only one wicket for 106 runs.

He was discarded for two years but proved instrumental on his return in England's upset 1-0 Test series win in Pakistan in late 2000 and has been the team's frontline spinner since with 65 wickets in 27 matches despite an ordinary average of 42.81.

"I know I haven't done too badly," Giles said. "You can always stay in the comfort zone and keep doing the same things but I know this change is going to improve me as a cricketer. There's no turning back now."

England captain Michael Vaughan has described the move as a "brave decision".

"I'll have to adjust according to the situation in Sri Lanka, which will be an exciting challenge," Giles added.

England, who won the Test series in Bangladesh 2-0, leave for a three-Test series in Sri Lanka on November 13.

Olonga over?

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Zimbabwe Test player Henry Olonga is unlikely to play first-class cricket again.

He recently underwent knee surgery and told the BBC Sport website: "I think I'm finished."

Olonga hit the headlines earlier this year when he and team-mate Andy Flower staged a protest against the Zimbabwe government during a World Cup game.

He is living in England after being granted a five-year visa and has no plans to try and play county cricket.

"I'm not interested," the 27-year-old said.

Olonga will restrict himself to occasional appearances for Kent-based pub side Lashings and the MCC.

"If Zimbabwe were to change, I might consider a comeback but I've still got to find the motivation and my biggest stumbling block at the moment is my fitness.

"We'll see how my knee progresses. It is pretty worn, just from the knees of playing, so I'll have to contend with that and whether I want to do further damage."

Olonga first suffered knee problems about a year ago and has had a loose fragment of bone removed from the joint.

He is now pursuing a career in music but remains a vocal critic of Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe's regime and has urged England not undertake a tour, which is scheduled to take place next year.

Security beefed up for TVS Cup

BBC ONLINE, undated

Security forces have been put on high alert in India before Sunday's match between Australia and New Zealand because of terrorist threats.

Authorities said there was no specific threat against the cricketers but security needed to be increased in the city of Gauhati.

Pallab Bhattacharjee, head of police operations, said on Friday: "Terrorist groups might focus on the cricket teams or an international match."

New Zealand arrived in Gauhati, which has been witness to several militant attacks during the past decade, on Friday morning amid a tight security blanket. Australia will fly in 24 hours later.

More than 5,000 security personnel have been deployed at the stadium, the two hotels where the teams will be staying and on roads leading to the ground.

Bhattacharjee said: "Gauhati's police and paramilitary forces have been put on high alert ahead of this cricket match.

"We're not paranoid, there are precautionary steps against trouble-makers."

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming was practising in the nets with police brandishing automatic guns and pistols flanking the stadium.

Bhattacharjee said: "The cricketers and fans visiting the players or the stadium will pass through extensive security checks, but it's part of our effort to ensure that cricket goes off peacefully."

Australia are already through to the triangular series final on 18 November. New Zealand and India both have nine points with two games to play.

C'wealth Games

FROM PAGE 13

The 72-member CGF will vote between New Delhi and the only other bid by Canada's Hamilton.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Suresh Kalmadi, who heads Delhi's bid, told a media conference on Saturday that he was confident New Delhi would be able to rally enough support.

"The Games have to go on to new horizons," he said referring to Canada having hosted the event four times in the past. "It can't be stagnating around Canada, Australia and Britain."

India are hoping to become the second Asian country after Malaysia in 1998 to host the Commonwealth Games.

Henin secures top spot



AFP, Los Angeles

Justine Henin-Hardenne booked her place in the semifinals of the WTA Tour Championships - and assured herself of the year-end world No. 1 ranking - with a 6-2, 6-1 round-robin victory over Jennifer Capriati on Friday.

Henin-Hardenne, who won the French Open and US Open titles this year but could only wrest the No. 1 ranking away from compatriot Kim Clijsters for a week in October, made sure she'll top the rankings at the end of her stellar season by reaching the semifinals of the elite 3 million-dollar Championships.

Clijsters, meanwhile, completed round-robin play undefeated on Friday, rallying to beat France's Amelie Mauresmo 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

The defending champion here, Clijsters had already qualified for Sunday's semi-finals, while the fate of Mauresmo, who finished the first phase 1-2, hinges on Red Group rival Chanda Rubin's match Saturday against Elena Dementieva.

Russia's Anastasia Myskina kept her hopes of advancing alive with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Japan's Ai Sugiyama.

Myskina bounced back from two early service breaks, which saw her trailing 4-1 in the opening set, to win in 65 minutes.

More importantly, she recovered from a three-set loss to Henin-Hardenne that had kept her on court until nearly midnight Thursday and up crying after that.

"I'm really proud of myself that I was able to recover," Myskina said. "It was tough for me. I didn't sleep well. I was thinking 'How stupid can you be, to lose a set when you're up 5-0?'"

Henin-Hardenne, who had sought medical treatment for her racing heart and the lingering effects of a sinus infection during that late-night win over Myskina, looked fit as a fiddle as she dominated Capriati.

"I knew before the match that if I won, I was going to qualify for the semis and then be No. 1 in the world," the 21-year-old Belgian said. "It gave me so much determination. I was coming onto the court so focused."

Capriati was hampered by a hip flexor muscle strain suffered in her opening match on Wednesday.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Chess master Garry Kasparov wears a pair of 'X3D' viewing glasses at a news conference in New York on November 7.

Kasparov to play 3D chess



REUTERS, New York

There will be no chess board and no pieces when world number one Garry Kasparov plays the latest so-called man vs machine contest next week, just a computer monitor and a chess-board image as seen through 3D glasses.

Former world champion Kasparov, 40, pits his genius against "X3D Fritz," a combination of Fritz, the most dominant chess software, with X3D Technologies company software that specializes in virtual reality.

The four-game match starts on Tuesday at the New York Athletic Club with the other games scheduled for November 13, 16 and 18.

Each game, which can last up to seven hours, will be broadcast on several chess Web sites.

Kasparov will wear 3D glasses while sitting in front of a monitor showing the board. Promoters said the glasses will have the effect of making the board's image realistic, floating in front of him, but Kasparov will have to adjust to not being able to reach out,

touch the pieces and move them.

"I don't know how much negative pressure this virtual environment will have on my mind," Kasparov said on Friday at a news conference to promote the event.

Kasparov will speak his moves through a voice-recognition program and a human operator will make sure the computer records them correctly.

The X3D Fritz programme can consider about 3 million chess positions per second, and would likely beat 99.9 per cent of human competition, said John Fernandez, chess consultant with X3D Technologies Corp.

Kasparov tied his last, six-game match against a programme, the Israeli-designed world computer chess champion Deep Junior, in New York in February.

Azerbaijan-born Kasparov is considered by chess experts to be the greatest player in the history of the ancient game. He is still ranked No. 1 ahead of world champion Vladimir Kramnik of Russia by the International Chess Federation, known by its French acronym FIDE.

Pierce, Mauresmo to play in Fed Cup

REUTERS, Paris

Mary Pierce will team up with Amelie Mauresmo for the first time for France in the Fed Cup semifinals against Russia later this month.

Pierce, plagued by injury since winning the French Open in 2000, has not represented her country in the Fed Cup since the 1997 final when France beat the Netherlands 4-1 in Den Bosch.

Mauresmo, ranked sixth in the world, first played for France in 1998. Pierce is ranked 33rd, three below Nathalie Dechy who has a wrist injury and is not included in the team.

Stephanie Cohen-Aloro and Emilie Loit make up the team, the French tennis federation said on Friday.

Russia play France and the U.S. take on Belgium in the semi-finals on November 19 and 20 in Moscow. The final follows in Moscow on November 22-23.

Russia named their top four players -- Anastasia Myskina, Elena Dementieva, Nadia Petrova and Vera Zvonareva -- for the semis. All four are ranked in the world's top 13.

Myskina and Dementieva are playing this week at the WTA Tour Championships -- the elite eight-women event -- in Los Angeles, along with Mauresmo.

With Belgium missing Justine Henin-Hardenne and the United States without the Williams sisters, the Russians are favourites to land their first Fed Cup title on home soil.

Dhaka ride

FROM PAGE 13

were eventually shot out for 104 in 45.1 overs.

Left-arm seamer Monjurul captured four wickets for 13 runs while his right-arm partner in crime Hasibul finished with three for 27. It took his tally to seven wickets in two games after the outstanding performance against Kushtia on Friday.

SCORES IN BRIEF
Dhaka v Bogra
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

BOGRA: 159 all out in 48.1 overs (Atiqur 30, Palash 23; Neeamur 3-27, Debarata 2-34)

DHAKA: 160 for 5 in 31.5 overs (Mehrab 58, Salauddin 23)

Result: Dhaka won by five wickets.
AIUB v Nilphamari
Venue: Mymensingh

AIUB: 127 for 7 in 50 overs (Setu 31, Tanjeer 24, Sabbir 18, Hasibul 19; Humayun 3-41)

NILPHAMARI: 104 all out in 45.1 overs (Johnny 37; Monjurul 4-13, Hasibul 3-27)

Result: AIUB won by 23 runs.

Javed, Aamir

FROM PAGE 13

the New Zealand series from television.

Miandad and Sohail were also at odds in the press during the recent series against South Africa after the chief selector took a swipe at coaching methods.

The Board Chairman Tauqir Zia had to intervene to diffuse the row.

Advantage

FROM PAGE 13

Lara lbw b Streak	1
Sarwan st Taiibub Gripper	39
Chanderpaul not out	17
Jacobs not out	14
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1)	2
Total: (For 5 wks in 45 overs)	126
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-37, 3-38, 4-73, 5-103	
To bat: Drakes, Taylor, Edwards, Collimore	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Streak	11	5	23	2
Blighnaut	7	1	27	0
Price	19	3	50	2
Mahwire	2	0	10	0
Gripper	6	1	15	1

Spitting ban on

FROM PAGE 16

match in Rome on Tuesday.

Russian referee Nikolai Ivanov failed to spot Mihajlovic spitting in Mutu's face, but television pictures clearly showed the incident.

In addition to the suspension, UEFA fined Mihajlovic 12,700 euros (14,500 dollars) for his repeated unsporting behaviour.

The suspension will apply to UEFA club competition matches. Mihajlovic, who has frequently courted controversy during his career, has until midnight on Monday to appeal against the decision.

Brazil to support

FROM PAGE 16

announced his support for Morocco's bid.

A five-man FIFA inspection team on Thursday completed a week-long examination of football facilities and other infrastructure necessary to host the world's largest sporting event.

South Africa lost the bid to host the 2006 World Cup to Germany by a single vote.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 Mr. Kris-tofferson comment	59 "— voy-age!"	20 Architect — Ming Pei
1 Sheepish	43 In an un-interesting way	DOWN	21 Santa's runaway
4 Conform	45 "I Know What You Did Last Summer" actress	1 Morsel	22 Gridlock component
9 Abbr. after a proof	47 Tandoori bread	2 Blond shade	23 Obstacle, idiomatically
12 Doctrine	48 Greek mountain	3 Parisian pal	27 Midwest st.
13 Hosiery fabric	49 Football injury reminder	4 Acid neutral-izer	29 Satan's forte
14 William Tell's home	54 Zilch	5 Stretch out	30 Alluring
15 Insensitive one's quality	55 Embankment	6 Request	32 Rani's wrap
17 Looking for, in the personals	56 Past	7 Wields	34 Bride-to-be
18 Feed-bag tidbit	57 Either T in AT&T	8 Sore	37 Teeny
19 Proclamations	58 Sword-play props	9 I'll drag you down	39 Duck-ling's daddies
21 Riffraff		10 Formerly, formerly	42 Throat ailment
24 Quest		11 "Vaya con —"	44 Squid
25 "— Town"		16 Corn holder	45 Clue
26 B&B			46 Falco of "The Sopranos"
28 Kentucky Derby award			50 "— Got a Secret"
31 Elevator name			51 Apprehend
33 3, on the phone			52 Swelled head
35 Possess			53 A really long time
36 Centralized			
38 eBay offer			
40 Put the kibosh on			

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13						14	
15				16							17	
			18					19		20		
21	22	23					24					
25				26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
		41			42		43		44			
45	46						47					
48				49		50				51	52	53
54				55						56		
57				58						59		