



PHOTO: AFP

Uzbekistan's Guzel Khubbieva (R) leads Sri Lanka's Susanthika J Mannelage (L) and Bahrain's Ruqaya Al Ghasara in the women's 100m final at the 15th Asian Games at Khalifa Stadium in Doha yesterday. Khubbieva won the race with a time of 11.27sec.

## Zaheer shines for India

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Zaheer Khan once again led the way with the ball as the Indians wrapped-up a comprehensive 96-run victory over Rest of South Africa in the four game at Sedgards Park in Potchefstroom on Saturday.

Set 321 for victory in a little over five sessions, Rest of South Africa were bowled out for 224, with only a thrilling century partnership between Vaughn van Jaarsveld and Justin Kemp lending respectability to the scoreline. But once Sreesanth engineered the run-out of Van Jaarsveld, the innings unravelled pretty quickly, and the game was sewn up with more than a day to spare.

Having struck with his first ball of the innings, a beautiful swinging delivery that darted back off the pitch to clip Jacques Rudolph's off stump, Zaheer came back after lunch to see off the dangerous Jean Paul Duminy.

And Laxman turned to him again as Kemp threatened to make a match of it, and he duly delivered, inducing a top-edged pull that was brilliantly taken on the run by Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Van Jaarsveld, who looks and bats a lot like Mark Cosgrove, had resumed where he left off in the first innings, accumulating runs at a rapid clip with some crisp drives and meaty pulls. After Duminy's dismissal, Alviro Petersen was much more circumspect, adding 39

with Van Jaarsveld before VRV Singh struck twice in two balls. Petersen was beaten for pace and trapped in front, while Morne van Wyk was hustled into chopping one onto the stumps, via the pads.

Kemp squirted the hat-trick delivery through cover for two, and the runs flowed thereafter.

Irfan Pathan was taken for three fours in an over, including one fortuitous inside edge to fine leg, and VRV Singh was pummeled down the ground and through point. But Van Jaarsveld eclipsed his senior partner with some stunning shots, a straight six off Harbhajan Singh and an emphatic pull for four off VRV Singh being especially noteworthy.

A top-edged sweep off Harbhajan was put down by Sachin Tendulkar, running back from slip, when he had made 47, and he then raced to 50 from 44 balls.

He had struck 10 fours and a six by the time Sreesanth's arm caught him short, and the thrilling 100-run partnership had taken just 94 balls. But as is so often the case, the exit of one man spell doom for the other, and when Kemp followed three overs later, the game was as good as in the bag.

Harbhajan Singh, who didn't get a bowl in the first innings and who is unlikely to feature in the opening Test, dismissed Paul Adams for 0, but there was a late show of defiance from Morne Morkel and Alfonso Thomas, who flayed the bat around with a freedom that suggested they knew the cause was hopelessly lost. They added 35

before Harbhajan had Thomas caught at short fine leg, and the new man, Friedel de Wet, lasted all of one ball.

And when Morkel's attempted hook at Virender Sehwag went only as far as silly point, it was all over.

Earlier, the Indians, resuming at 93 for 7, had ground out a further 49 runs, with Pathan adding an unbeaten 40 to his first-innings century. Zaheer departed early, caught by Van Wyk behind the stumps, but Sreesanth combined some stout defence with some zany strokeplay to help Pathan add 37 for the ninth wicket.

De Wet finally had him edging one behind, and when VRV Singh failed to clear cover with a slog, the Indian second innings was wrapped up in just 53.3 overs.

Thomas had sensational figures of 7 for 56 and with the first Test less than a week away, the omens weren't good for the Indians.

A strong bowling performance once again glossed over the batting frailties, but drastic improvement is required if the firm of Pollock, Ntini, Steyn and Nel aren't to have field days at the Wanderers.

Mannalage, who under her maiden name of Jayasinghe won minor medals at the 2000 Olympics and 1997 world championships in the 200m, got the best start but the powerful Khubbieva passed her halfway through the race.

Mannalage, backed by a small but noisy Sri Lankan expatriate crowd in the 50,000 seater Khalifa Stadium, fought back.

But Khubbieva, a two-time silver medalist at last year's Asian Championships, had built up enough of a gap to hold her off while Al Ghasara came late to take third.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's Hussain Taher Al Saba successfully defended his men's long jump title.

The 27-year-old, who is coached by world record holder Mike Powell, posted a best leap of 8.02 metres to take the gold with Kuwaiti's Saleh Al-Hadad second and another Saudi athlete, Ahmed Faez bin Marzouq, taking the bronze.

Al-Saba has been out of action for the past two years after serving a ban for failing a drugs test which saw him miss the Olympics in Athens.

## Khubbieva clinches 100m gold

Cricket

AFP, Doha

Guzel Khubbieva of Uzbekistan won the women's 100 metres title here at the Asian Games on Saturday.

The 30-year-old, a two-time relay silver medalist at the Games, timed 11.27 seconds to beat favourite and defending champion Susanthika Jayasinghe Mannelage of Sri Lanka (11.34) while Bahrain's Ruqaya Al Ghasara took the bronze in 11.40sec.

Things could have been different for the head-scarved Bahraini who had a dreadful start after a false start.

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## Greg, Sourav patch up?

Cricket

REUTERS, Mumbai

India coach Greg Chappell and former captain Sourav Ganguly have settled their differences and reached a working relationship, it was reported in the Indian media on Saturday.

"Let me make it clear that whatever happened had nothing to do with personalities. It was not about Greg Chappell or Sourav Ganguly," Chappell was quoted in Saturday's edition of national broadsheet Times of India.

"It was all, what I thought, was good for Indian cricket."

Ganguly was sacked as skipper and one-day player last October and dropped from the Test squad in February after a long batting slump and a row with Chappell.

The controversial left-hander's recall for the three-Test series in South Africa beginning next week, following India 4-0 drubbing in the one-dayers, reportedly elicited mixed reactions in the Indian camp.

But the 34-year-old middle-order batsman, who has scored 5,221 Test and 10,123 one-day runs, displayed his old touch with a morale-boosting 83 in the ongoing tour match against the Rest of South Africa.

His innings helped rescue the visitors from 69-5 to declare their first innings at 326-7.

"If he continues batting like this, how will I have any problems with him?" Chappell said.

"I am an Australian. We are used to being blunt, saying things as they are. We can continue to be fine with each other after than too.

"In India, maybe people take it as a slight and don't forget it easily."

## Black Caps pull through

Cricket

AFP, Christchurch

New Zealand stumbled to a controversial five-wicket win over Sri Lanka here Saturday in a low-scoring first cricket Test which lasted less than three days.

The home side was set a target of just 119 to win after Sri Lanka's second innings ended in bizarre fashion for 170.

But New Zealand then lost five wickets as they struggled to deal with champion spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, who took three of New Zealand's second innings wickets for a match haul of seven for 99.

However, the Test will be remembered for the way the spinner was dismissed to end Sri Lanka's second innings.

The tailender was run out when he completed a single to give Kumar Sangakkara his century and immediately turned and ran back up the wicket to congratulate the mainstay of the Sri Lankan innings.

But Muralidaran did not realise the ball was still in play, allowing wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum the easiest of dismissals, while raising questions about the sportsmanship of the New Zealanders.

The Sri Lankans could claim the run out was not within the spirit of the game.

But New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said it was within the law and the Sri Lankan paid the price for making a mistake.

It was the third run out in an innings where Sri Lanka needed to build a big score with plenty of time available at the crease, after being placed on the back foot by a bizarre earlier decision when Mahela Jayawardene won the toss.

The Sri Lankan captain chose to bat on what was clearly a seamer's wicket and when they lost their first wicket in the third over it was evident he had made the wrong call.

But Jayawardene said his thinking was to give Muralidaran the last say in the match.

"There was a bit of grass on the wicket but that doesn't mean you're playing only one day's cricket," he said.

"It's five days of cricket and we've got the best spinner in the world in our ranks and we have to give him the best opportunity to win us matches."

Sri Lanka were all out for 154 in their first innings, and managed a slightly better 170 in the second, which is the second lowest score in Test cricket history where one batsman has scored a century.

New Zealand were hoping for an earlier finish, but Sangakkara and

bottom order batsmen Lasith Malinga and Muralidaran frustrated the New Zealand bowlers with their stubborn resistance.

The last two partnerships put on 71 runs, 62 of them from Sangakkara who ended unbeaten on 100, while Malinga faced 28 balls without scoring and Muralidaran scored nine from 19 deliveries.

Shane Bond was again New Zealand's main wicket-taker, finishing with four for 63 for a match haul of seven for 106 and the man-of-the-match award.

Set a mere 119 for victory, New Zealand still managed to struggle as they slumped from 58 without loss to 68 for 4.

Recalled opener Craig Cumming was twice caught off no balls before being dismissed for 43, matching his first innings effort.

But at the other end, Jamie How went for 11, Mathew Sinclair four and captain Stephen Fleming was leg-before-wicket to Chaminda Vass without scoring as the New Zealanders contrived to put pressure on themselves.

Nathan Astle and Jacob Oram stopped the slide, putting on 35 for the fifth wicket before Astle went with the score at 103, bringing in McCullum to finish off the match in a blaze of boundaries.

The second and final Test in the series starts in Wellington on Friday, December 15.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at Jade Stadium on Saturday:

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 154 (Kapugedera 37, Tharanga 33; Franklin 3-30, Bond 3-43)  
**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 206 (Vettori 63, Fleming 48, Cumming 43; Muralidaran 4-65, Vass 3-49).

**SRI LANKA:** Second innings Tharanga c Fleming b Bond 24 Jayasuriya run out (Bond) 10 Sangakkara not out 100

M Jayawardene c Fleming b Franklin 0 Kapugedera c Oram b Bond 1 Silva c Vettori b Bond 0 P Jayawardene run out (Bond) 11 Vass c McCullum b Oram 0 Maharoof c McCullum b Bond 7 Malinga c McCullum b Franklin 0 Muralidaran run out (McCullum) 9 Extras: (lb-5, nb-4) 9

Total: (All out in 53.1 overs) 170 Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-44, 3-45, 4-46, 5-46, 6-74, 7-80, 8-99, 9-143, 10-170.

**Bowler** O M R W Bond 19.1 5 63 4 Martin 11 2 38 0 Franklin 13 1 34 2 Oram 7 1 19 1 Vettori 2 0 10 0 Astle 1 0 1 0

**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings Cumming c P Jayawardene b Vaas 43 How Ibw Muralidaran 11 Sinclair c Sangakkara b Muralidaran 4 Fleming Ibw b Vaas 0 Astle Ibw b Muralidaran 24 Oram not out 12 McCullum not out 14 Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-5, nb-4) 11 Total: (For 5 wks in 33 overs) 119 Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-66, 3-66, 4-68, 5-103.

**Bowler** O M R W Vaas 12 3 33 2 Malinga 4 1 35 0 Muralidaran 14 5 34 3 Maharoof 3 0 15 0

**Result: New Zealand won by five wickets.**

**Man-of-the-match: Shane Bond.**  
**Toss: Sri Lanka**  
**Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS), Brian Jerling (RSA)**  
**Match referee: Javagal Srinath (IND)**



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara forces the ball on the on-side for a boundary during his unbeaten century on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand at Christchurch on Saturday.

## Brighter day for England

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Several fringe English players put up their hands for Test selection on the opening day of the tour match against Western Australia at the WACA Ground here Friday, one of the tourists' best days in a previously forgettable tour.

At stumps, the home side was 8-309 after winning the toss and electing to bat, with rookie WA batsman Luke Pomersbach providing a late flourish and unbeaten on 90, but the story of the first day was a much-improved showing from the English attack.

Little has gone right for the English since they arrived in Australia, but there were plenty of positives from their bowling performance, less than a week out from the third Test at the same venue.

Spinner Monty Panesar again impressed, seamers James Anderson and Sajid Mahmood were amongst the wickets and speedster Steve Harmison finally hit his straps as the English overcame some poor early fielding.

To cap an encouraging day for the English, wicketkeeper Chris Read took three catches in a polished performance, including one superb effort to remove WA opener Chris Rogers.

With so much speculation about his likely promotion at the expense of fellow left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, Panesar undoubtedly strengthened his claim for the Perth Test with a lively bowling display that could easily have netted more than one wicket and even managed a direct hit run out late in the day.

Having taken two of the only three wickets claimed by his side in the Lilac Hill match on Friday, Panesar bowled from both ends and was impressive every time he was called upon, finishing with 1-69 from 25 overs.

Panesar troubled all the batsmen and gained considerable turn at a venue not normally suitable for finger spinners.

A number of potential catches just eluded his close fieldsmen, while he had several strong appeals turned down.

Mahmood said the English attack all bowled well and added that Panesar was ready for a Test recall.

"He bowled well today, he's bowling well in the nets and he bowled well yesterday in the one-day game," he said.

"He's pretty high in confidence at the moment. When he does get a chance I think he'll do alright."

With his Test hopes on the line, the pressure to perform showed when Panesar reacted angrily to a failed appeal against WA left-hander

Marcus North.

Two more appeals were turned down just before tea, before Panesar had Luke Ronchi, who had made 89 off 49 balls in the Lilac Hill match just 24 hours earlier, caught at slip by Andrew Strauss for just three.

Giles claimed 0-33 from eight overs.

Anderson boosted his chances of retaining his spot in the Test side with a fine display of fast swing bowling and picked up 3-47, while Mahmood was sharp and claimed 2-61.

Harmison didn't have much early luck, but bounced back late in the day to indicate his fortunes may finally have turned, despite returning modest figures of 1-99.

Harmison should have claimed the early scalp of Rogers for 12, but Ashley Giles dropped a sitter at second slip.

However, his third spell of the day, after tea, saw him bowl with renewed vigour, claiming the wicket of new Australian squad member Adam Voges, trapped lbw, and troubling the WA batsmen with his pace and bounce.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan was included in the English team for the match and spent the entire day in the field, but Andrew Flintoff was rested.

## Mourinho

**FROM PAGE 20**  
scored 14 times this season and will be confident of adding to that total against a defender he embarrassed twice last year.

Drogba tormented Philippe Senderos at the start of last season in Chelsea's wins against the Gunners in the Community Shield and then the Premiership.

Senderos, 21, has started just two league games this season after being ruled out for several months with a shoulder injury.

But, with Kolo Toure suspended and Gallas ruled out of a return to his former club with a thigh injury, the Swiss centre-back is likely to partner Johan Djourou at the heart of the defence on Sunday.

Wenger believes Senderos will rise to the challenge and he said: "It will be a challenge but Senderos will play. He's had some tough games against Drogba. He can show he has improved a lot from last year."

"I'm not worried about the situation. Drogba has got better and Senderos has as well. Who has improved the most? We'll answer that on Sunday."

## Poor Asiad

**FROM PAGE 17**  
golfer in the Games.

Sayeem Hossain was defeated by Philippines' Jeffrey De Luna in the second round of men's 9-ball pool competition at the Al-Sadd Multipurpose Hall in the Qatari capital. Sayeem went down 2-11 in his first match after he was given a bye in the round of 64.

## United go

**FROM PAGE 20**  
by Rooney.

Trabesti made up for his earlier error when he pulled a goal back for City in the 73rd minute. He beat van der Sar with a powerful 20-yard effort -- his first goal for the club -- after more good work from the lively Ireland.

But City's hopes of escaping from Old Trafford with a draw for the third successive season were dashed when Ronaldo made it 3-1 from close range after Distin failed to cut out Rooney's 84th minute cross.

City's woes were complete when Italian striker Corradi was dismissed by referee Graham Poll after receiving his second yellow card for diving.

## Transfers

**FROM PAGE 17**  
Among other pool members, Syed Rasel and Forhad Reza are expected to stay at Biman, Mohammad Rafique and Mohammad Ashraf at Sonargaon, Shahriar Nafees at City Club but Sylhet captain Rajin Saleh is destined to join newcomers Partex. The newly promoted side is making a strong statement by acquiring the services of Neeyamur Rashid, Ahsanullah Hasan, Talha Jubair and Naem Islam.

Veteran opener Javed Omar seems to be the only national player still unoccupied.

## Henry slams

**FROM PAGE 20**  
he values nothing."

"Great defenders are Laurent Blanc, Lilian Thuram, Paolo Maldini and Marcel Desailly, who were always really hard but correct."

French media, chairman of the FIFA Technical and Development Committee Michel Platini, France Foot magazine (who organise the Ballon d'Or) and a selection of French coaches and players have criticised the decision to award Cannavaro the trophy.

However, Henry won nothing in the 2005/6 season and the award normally goes to a triumphant player.

## Puskas laid

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Kopa and Francisco Gento, who were Puskas' teammates, were all expected to attend.

Afterwards a procession was to wind through the city to St. Stephen's Basilica, where Puskas was to be buried.

Known as the "Galloping Major" because of his rank, Puskas was posthumously promoted to brigadier-general.

He died on November 17 at the age of 79 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

This is the first time since the country's transition to democracy that a day of mourning has been declared for the funeral of a sports star, in homage to the legend who became the "best known Hungarian in the world."

## Warne questions Flintoff influence

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Shane Warne has questioned the amount of input captain Andrew Flintoff has in selecting England's Ashes team.

Officially, Flintoff and coach Duncan Fletcher share the duties of picking a Test XI while on tour.

"It was the right choice to make him captain and I'm not sure if he's getting the side he wants," Warne wrote in his column in the Times newspaper.

"If you're looking around the field at 5pm and you're not going to bowl a guy, then he shouldn't be in your side."

England's selection has been heavily debated over the last few weeks after spinner Ashley Giles and wicketkeeper Geraint Jones, both previous Ashes winners, were restored to the side.

## Mission accomplished

**FROM PAGE 17**  
Chibhabha run out 27  
Chigumbura c Rahim b Mehrab 27  
Williams b Mortuza 14  
Nkala st Rahim b Razzak 14  
Dabengwa not out 13  
Brent b Mortuza 3  
Utseyu b Mortuza 2  
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-5) 8  
Total: (For eight wks in 50 overs) 193  
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-91, 3-138, 4-153, 5-167, 6-175, 7-187, 8-193.

**Bowler** O M R W Mortuza 10 1 36 3 Rassel 10 1 40 1 Razzak 10 0 27 1 Saqibul 7 0 29 0 Reza 6 0 29 0 Mehrab 7 0 30 2

**REZULTS**  
**BAHRAIN:** Nafees Ibw b Brent 33 Mehrab b Brent 45 Aftab Ibw b Brent 4 Ashrafu b Brent 14 Bashar not out 32 Saqibul run out 11 Mortuza c Brent b Ireland 0

Reza run out 6  
Rahim not out 15  
Extras: (lb-4, w-30) 34  
Total: (For seven wks in 49 overs) 194  
Fall of wickets: 1-86, 2-90, 3-111, 4-114, 5-140, 5-141, 7-163.

**Bowler** O M R W Mporu 8 0 42 0 Ireland 10 1 38 1 Chigumbura 5 0 35 0 Brent 10 3 22 4 Utseyu 10 1 27 0 Williams 4 0 15 0 Dabengwa 1 0 6 0 Chibhabha 1 0 9 0

**Result: Bangladesh won by three wickets and clinched the five-match series 5-0.**

**Man-of-the-match: Gary Brent**  
**Man-of-the-series: Shahriar Nafees**

**Toss: Bangladesh**  
**Umpires: Nadir Shah (BAN) and Suresh Shastri (IND)**  
**TV umpire: Ziaul Islam (BAN)**  
**Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)**