

Tim Zoehrer, the Aussie stumper makes a spectacular but vain attempt to run a diving Gary Kirsten out during the crucial WSC tie between hosts Australia and South Africa at the WACA ground, Perth yesterday. South Africa beat Australia by 82 runs to stay on course for a place in the finals alongside the home team in this triangular meet. —AFP photo

Reefat, Zia stay atop

Sports Reporter

Reigning national champion International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar along with arch rival Ziaur Rahman led the points table of the 15th national junior chess championship after the fifth round matches at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Both Reefat and Zia won all the five matches they have played so far.

Yesterday, Reefat beat Enamul Hossain Rajeev while Zia, a former national champion, defeated Tayebur Rahman Suman.

Shawkat Hossain Pallab and Abu Sufian Shakeel jointly held the second slot, having garnered four and a half points each.

Pallab and Shakeel outmanoeuvred Tanima Parveen and Abdullah Al-Rakib respectively. Twelve players crowd the third place with four points each.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Jurain Janata Club recorded their first win when they defeated Lalbagh Sporting Club 2-0 in the Sonali Bank Second Division football super league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Ariful and Akhtar scored once each for the winners. Jurain have collected seven points from six encounters so far while Lalbagh have earned four points also from six matches.

Avijatrik Malibagh and BJMC drew one-all in the other match of the day. Rezaul netted once for Malibagh while the equalizer came from Hanif of BJMC.

Malibagh have secured five points while BJMC have earned three having played six matches each.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Habibur Rahman Ripon's hat-trick helped Sunrise Sporting Club swamp Gandaria Famos 4-1 in the lone match of the Progoti Insurance Third Division football super league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Badal netted the other for the victors while the losers' consolation goal came from Selim.

Sunrise now have six points from five matches with three wins and two losses while Gandaria have three from their six outings so far.

South Africa soldier on



PERTH, Jan 16: Opener Peter Kirsten broke his cheek bone as South Africa beat Australia by 82 runs on Sunday to boost their hopes of reaching the World Series Cup limited overs cricket finals, reports Reuter.

The victory lifted South Africa to second in the triangular tournament, level on seven points with New Zealand, who slipped to third spot because of a poorer run-rate.

New Zealand must beat Australia in the last round-robin match in Melbourne on Wednesday to reach the best-of-three finals ahead of South Africa. The host country have already qualified.

In reply to South Africa's 208 for seven from their 50 overs, Australia collapsed to 126 all out with nine overs to spare in front of a record crowd of 28,223 at the WACA Ground.

Kirsten, recently called up to South Africa's injury-hit touring party, was taken to hospital after being struck in the helmet by a Glean McGrath bouncer in the third over.

The ball badly dented Kirsten's protective face grill

and an X-ray examination revealed the fracture in the left cheek bone.

Kirsten, summoned from South Africa when captain Kepler Wessels broke a finger while fielding during the second Test in Sydney earlier this month, collapsed after the ball squeezed between the grill and the peak of his helmet.

His opening partner, half-brother Gary Kirsten, hit a defiant 55 as the South Africans built their innings on a fast, bouncy pitch which offered movement and encouragement to the bowlers.

It was a brave effort by the left-hander, who suffered facial cuts when he was struck on the helmet in South Africa's win over New Zealand on the same ground on Friday.

South Africa's two emphatic victories in Perth have lifted their run-rate above New Zealand's. If the two sides finish equal on points, run-rate will decide who qualifies to play Australia in the finals starting on Friday.

Faceman Richard Snell was the most successful South African bowler with three wickets, including openers David Boon and Mark Taylor. Australia's acting captain in the absence of Allan Border, who

was rested on Sunday.

The Australians lost five middle order wickets for the addition of just 28 runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Series Cup limited overs cricket match between South Africa and Australia today:

SOUTH AFRICA				
P Kirsten	retired hurt	5		
G Kirsten	c Zoehrer	55		
M Waugh		11		
Cronje	c Warne b Reffel	14		
Cullinan	c Warne b M Waugh	34		
Callaghan	lbw Warne	26		
Richardson	run out	25		
Snell	not out	20		
Matthews	stpd	0		
De Villiers	not out	0		
Extras:	(nb-1, lb-8, w-9)	18		
Total:	(7 wks)	208		

AUSTRALIA				
Boon	c sub (McMillan) b Snell	11		
Richardson	b Snell	29		
Jones	c sub (McMillan) b Matthews	10		
M Waugh	c sub (McMillan) b Callaghan	14		
S Waugh	c Richardson b Callaghan	25		
Martyn	c Richardson b Cronje	0		
Zoehrer	lbw De Villiers	9		
Reffel	not out	10		
Warne	run out	1		
Fleming	lbw Matthews	2		
McGrath	b Snell	4		
Extras:	(lb-9, w-1, nb-1)	11		
Total:		126		

Fall of wickets: 1-27; 2-96; 3-133; 4-133; 5-175; 6-196; 7-196

Bowling	O	M	R	W
McGrath	10	1	38	0
Reffel	10	2	25	1
Fleming	7	0	42	0
S Waugh	6	0	32	0
S Warne	10	0	36	2
M Waugh	7	0	26	2

Batting time: 202mins overs: 50

Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-49; 3-57; 4-92; 5-93; 6-93; 7-109; 8-110; 9-121; 10-126.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Donald	8	0	20	0
De Villiers	8	2	19	1
Snell	7	0	26	3
Matthews	7	1	20	2
Cronje	6	1	17	1
Callaghan	5	1	15	2

STANDINGS

Standings in the World Series triangular cricket competition after South Africa beat Australia on Sunday (played, won, lost, no result, points):
 Australia 7 4 3 0 8
 South Africa 8 3 4 1 7
 (net run-rate-0.07)
 New Zealand 7 3 3 1 7
 (net run-rate-0.28)
 To play: Australia v New Zealand, on Wednesday, Melbourne.

England A in trouble

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Jan 16: England's captain Hugh Morris saw his side slump to 180 all out in their first innings against Orange Free State here Saturday, reports AFP.

But Morris and his tourists were let off the hook by Franklyn Stephenson, the West Indian paceman who skips Orange Free State. Stephenson declined the follow-on and at stumps on the second day Free State were 28 without loss.

Stephenson's team added 26 to their overnight total of 344-9 before the innings was closed.

But England A could not copy the home side's accomplished batting. Only Alan Wells (53) and John Crawley (31) provided any real opposition among England's top order.

Stephenson struck the first blow, bowling opener Mark Lathwell for a duck and with England also on zero. The early setback was magnified when Herman Bakkes bowled Morris for two with the total on four.

Crawley and Wells batted maturely to stave off total humiliation and took the total to 71 before Bradley play struck, dismissing Crawley caught behind by Phil Radley.

Wells was easily the pick of the England batsmen and looked comfortable as he passed his half century. But then he was well caught at mid-wicket by Kosi Venter of Stephenson's bowling.

Verdi Kawasaki J-League champs

TOKYO, Jan 16: Kazuyoshi Miura fired Verdi Kawasaki to the Japanese football league's first championship title here Sunday when he converted a penalty for a 1-1 draw against Kashima Antlers in a play-off, reports AFP.

The Antlers, who won the first stage of the inaugural J-League season, needed to win by more than two goals following their 0-2 defeat a week ago in the first leg of the play-off against the second-stage winners.

Brazilian midfielder Alcindo Sartori put the Antlers one up with a volley. In the 38th minute from a Yutaka Akita pass.

But Verdi found their rhythm in the second half, threatening the Antlers goal with several lightning attacks before Miura spotted the target from the penalty spot in the 82nd minute.

Any hopes the Antlers had of a comeback were shattered when Brazilian superstar Zico was sent out for delaying Miura's penalty kick, earning him his second yellow card.

"I'm not satisfied with today's game, because we were passive after winning the first game. But the result is what counts. Our players did pretty well throughout the long season," said Kawasaki's head coach Yasutaro Matsuki.

Antlers head coach Masakatsu Miyamoto said he was "disappointed".

"Our tactics to stop (Ruy) Ramos and (Barreto) Faria Bismarck worked, but we lost patience when we gave them a penalty chance."

Rain the ruiner

Sports Reporter

The scheduled matches of the Milnars First Division super and relegation leagues as well as the Second Division fell through yesterday due to inclement weather.

The revised date for the postponed encounters will be announced later.

Today's matches will, however, be held as scheduled if weather permits.

Akram gives way to Malik



LAHORE, Jan 16: Pakistani cricket authorities Sunday removed Wasim Akram as captain and gave the job to Salim Malik in a bid to end a crisis in the national team before the upcoming tour of Bangladesh and New Zealand, reports AFP.

But the earlier decision to drop ace batsman Javed Miandad, opener Rameez Raja and paceman Aaqib Javed was not changed.

Both Wasim and Waqar Younis, who had been named vice-captain of the 16-member team announced here Friday, had "voluntarily stepped down," a cricket official, Arif Abbasi, told a news conference.

Waqar, who had reportedly led a revolt by nine players later said the crisis was over.

"We are satisfied with the decision," he said, noting that Wasim's captaincy was the real bone of contention.

Earlier, members of the rebellious group, which had threatened to boycott the tour, had indicated the exclusion of the three players among their grievances.

"Wasim Akram does not have the capability of taking decisions himself," Waqar said, adding that the team "was feeling uneasy under his captaincy."

Mushtaq Ahmed, who was also associated with the protest, also expressed his satisfaction and said the dispute had been resolved.

Abbasi, a member of the ad-hoc committee which is controlling cricket affairs after dissolution of the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), said Asif Mujtaba was named vice-captain in the reshuffle.

He said Intikhab Alam, earlier appointed manager, would now act as game manager while "former Test cricketer Majid Khan would be team



SALIM MALIK manager to "ensure discipline outside the ground."

Wasim was not available for comment, but his wife, answering a telephone call, said her husband was "satisfied" with the decisions.

Miandad, Rameez and Aaqib had been dropped on the grounds of fitness and form, the cricket official said.

The 16-member team is to

leave for Bangladesh on January 22 and, after playing two one-day matches there, will proceed to New Zealand for a tour of more than 40 days, with three Tests and five one-day games.

Abbasi issued a stern warning against any indiscipline during the tour saying "There should be no such incident on or off the ground."

Recently, he said, Pakistan's team was seen splitting into groups, which damaged performance as well as the good name of country in the world, Abbasi said.

"Our objective is to achieve good result in New Zealand and to also prepare satisfactorily for the next World Cup," the official said, referring to the changes in the cricket administration.

Before Abbasi's announcement, Miandad said he had been "discriminated against" and that his exclusion was meant to "harm" his career. "My record against New Zealand in the past has been the best," he said.

President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, who is patron of BCCP, dissolved the board four days ago.

The degree did not give the reasons, but the official Associated Press of Pakistan said "mismanagement" of cricket affairs had led to the dissolution.

The three-member committee, which replaced the board, is headed by former Test player Javed Burki.

All roads lead to Vietnam



HO CHI MINH CITY, Jan 16: The early morning capitalist frenzy ceased in this socialist city Sunday as the roads were cleared for runners competing in Vietnam's international marathon, reports AFP.

"It's the best marathon in Asia, with the most spectators," French runner Christian Debenath, who came in third, said.

"There must have been around a million people lining the route, they were really enthusiastic," said Debenath, dripping in sweat after completing the 42-kilometre run in just over 2hr 33-min.

This year's race was an improvement on its predecessor in 1992 as the athletes had almost exclusive use of the roads.

"Two years ago there were many motors and bicycles on the course. This year the traffic was cut out, so it was cooler," Debenath said.

The heat was not so intense because the race started earlier, giving the runners a head-start on the sun, he said.

But despite the early-morning start, the first woman to cross the finish line, British

Lucy Ranwell, was grateful for one aspect of the French colonial legacy.

"Without the shade of the trees, the marathon would have been excruciating," she said, panting but still able to talk.

Ranwell, a baker in Hong Kong specialising in wholemeal breads, said she hoped the city, whose skyline is dotted with cranes, wouldn't follow western idea, of progress.

"Vietnam is lovely. I just hope it doesn't change too much. I hope they don't chop down the trees to widen the roads," said Ranwell, on her first visit to the country.

Progress was also on the mind of the men's marathon winner, American Doug Kurtis, who ran the race in 2:26.18. He said it was "very disappointing" that the US trade embargo was still in place on Vietnam.

"I don't understand why it is taking all this time. Vietnam should have the chance to make the most of itself," he said.

Kurtis said he was criticised by a US talkshow host for running in last year's Hanoi Marathon because his participation was allegedly unsympathetic to US war veterans.

But Kurtis said he regarded himself a sportsman. "I'm here to promote running," he said.

Luu van Hung, the first male Vietnamese to finish, said he had no problem being beaten by an American.

"There's no difference between the US and the other runners," he said after his 2:37.28 run.

"I'm very happy to see many foreigners coming to promote this event in Vietnam," he said.

Hong Kong lawyer Tim Soutar broke his own 2:43.23 record in the first marathon here in 1992, but only managed to come in second this year, with a time of 2:32.23.

In all, some 1,500 athletes from 24 countries competed in Sunday's marathon, half marathon, and shorter runs, and in Saturday's wheelchair race.

The winner said he would run again.

"I want to keep coming back. They treat me wonderful here," Kurtis said.

The organisers said the race has been certified by the Association for International Marathons and Road Races and, as such, would be recognised as a qualifying event for the world's top marathons as well as the Olympic Games.

Sol's blessing for Lillehammer



OLYMPIA, Greece, Jan 16: The Olympic flame was lit by the sun during a moving ceremony at the ruins of Olympia on Sunday as it began its trip to Norway for next month's Winter Games, reports Reuter.

At an altar to the ancient Greek god Zeus, a high priestess, played by an actress, and 20 acolytes in white robes lit the flame with the sun's rays beamed from a mirror.

Hundreds of spectators watched the ceremony in this valley of the Peloponnese peninsula where the Olympics began in 776 BC.

The high priestess carried the Olympic torch to a nearby

monument dedicated to French Baron Pierre de Coubertin — who revived the Olympics in 1896.

A Greek official then handed it to Gerhard Heiberg, president of the Lillehammer Olympic Organising Committee.

The flame will be taken in a miner's lamp to the Norwegian embassy in Athens and then to Germany, Denmark, Finland and Sweden before arriving in Oslo on February 5.

About 2,000 Norwegians will then run it to Lillehammer for the start of Games on February 12.

Officials reached a compromise last week over Lillehammer's plan to merge the flame with one lit in

Morgedal in southern Norway last year and run to Oslo by 8,000 Norwegians.

Under the deal the two flames will meet at Oslo City Hall on February 5 and ignite a new flame. But they will not merge. The torch lit in Olympia will then be carried to Lillehammer.

Lillehammer officials had originally planned for both torches to be extinguished after igniting the Oslo flame and that a new Olympic torch would be lit from a merged flame.

Lillehammer's mayor Audun Tron was satisfied with the compromise, saying: "Everything is ready and the Olympic flame will get the welcome and respect it deserves."

"The Olympic flame is unique, inviolable and pure," declared Greek sports minister George Lianis.

The Olympics began after the oracle of Delphi said they would help stop the wars between Greek city-states.

The states used to call a truce during the Games and current IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch hopes Bosnia's warring factions may follow suit next month.

For taekwondo's Olympic status

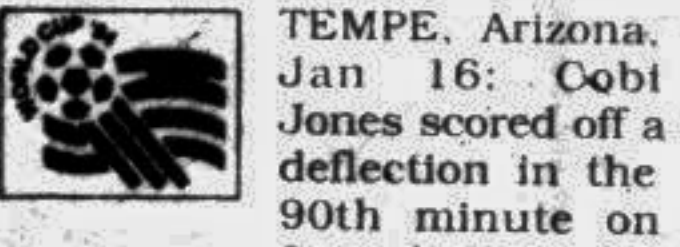
SEOUL, Jan 16: A multinational committee was formed here on Saturday to promote the inclusion of taekwondo in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia, reports Xinhua.

Former South Korean Sports Minister Kim Jip was named president of the 48-member committee, which includes sports figures from Japan, the United States and the Dominican Republic, local press reported.

The centuries-old martial art is now practised worldwide and the World Taekwondo Federation has planned for a festival here in April.

Kim said in a brief statement after the committee was formed that it would be appropriate for taekwondo to make its inaugural appearance in the Olympics at the beginning of the new century.

USA shock Norway



TEMPE, Arizona, Jan 16: Cobi Jones scored off a deflection in the 90th minute on Saturday to lift the United States to a stunning 2-1 victory over Norway in an international soccer friendly as both nations begin to gear up for this year's World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

Jones knocked home the rebound of a Claudio Reyna shot to complete a comeback from a 1-0 halftime deficit against a Norwegian team ranked fourth in the world.

Reyna, making his international debut barely a month out of college, took a through ball along the left side and fired a 20-metre shot that sent Norway goalkeeper Frode Grodas diving to his left to knock away.

But Jones, who missed a golden scoring opportunity when he hit the crossbar in the 10th minute, ran on to drive the loose ball into the back of the net.

Marcelo Balboa, playing in only his third match since coming back from a serious knee injury in April, also scored for the US.

Frank Strandli struck home Norway's lone goal late in the first half.

Norway were playing with most of their top players, many of whom had obtained leaves from professional clubs in England and Belgium. The US were not able to obtain any of their European-based players for the match.

The US tied the game 1-1 in the 54th minute when Balboa headed home a corner kick for the equaliser.

Norway had two opportunities to regain the lead in the second half, but US goalkeeper Tony Meola made brilliant plays to stave off the threats.

Norway took a 1-0 lead into halftime on a Strandli's goal less than a minute before the break.

Erik Mykland took a give and-go pass from Henning Berg along the right side of the box, dribbled in a few steps

TEAMS

NORWAY: Gorodas, H Berg, Nilsen, Johnsen, T Pederson, Leonhardsen, Rekdal (R Berg 84), Mykland (Bohinne 72), Strandli, Flo (J Pederson 58), Frigard.



High Priestess Maria Pamboutki (R) lights the Olympic flame for XVII Winter Games of Lillehammer during a rehearsal Jan 15 prior to the official ceremony which will take place in Olympia on Jan 16. — AFP photo