# Lankans all set for victory



Mar 6: A sparkling century by captain Arjuna Ranatunga lifted position on Monday, the third day of the four-day cricket

Park, reports AP. Ranatunga smashed an elegant 107 off just 130 balls before Sri Lanka declared their second innings at 323 for five a lead of 457 runs.

The Academy XI were 110 for four in their second innings at stumps, needing a further 348 for victory.

Ranatunga came to the crease shortly before lunch when star batsman Aravinda de Silva was dismissed for a golden duck.

After the resumption. Ranatunga proceeded to treat the young Academy bowling attack with disdain.

He added 150 in a fourthwicket partnership with his younger brother Sanjeeva Ranatunga, who contributed

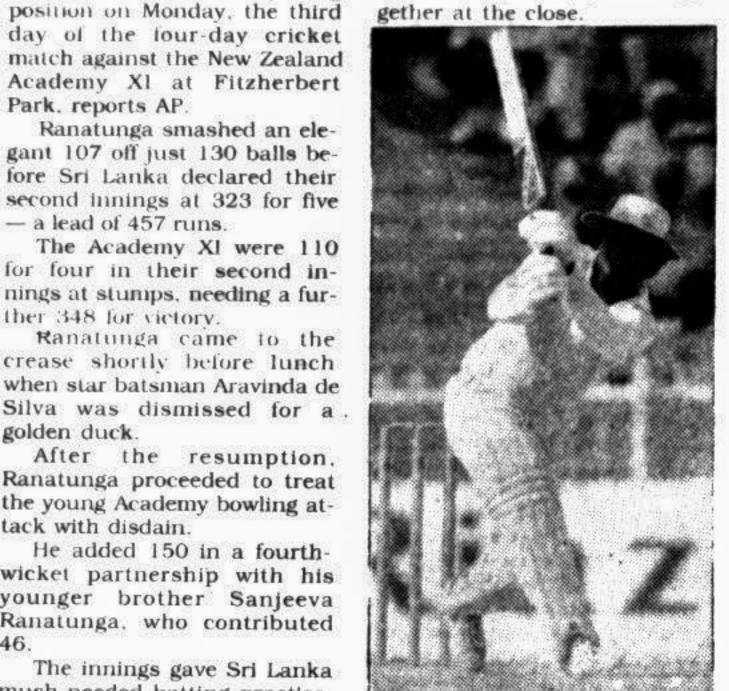
The innings gave Sri Lanka much-needed batting practice. with Asanka Gurusinha falling for 63 and his opening partner Dulip Samaraweera contribut-

The Academy batsmen, who managed 133 in their first innings, faced a difficult task to keep out spinners Jayantha Silva and Muthiah Muralidharan, who collected nine wick

ets between them in the first

Muralidharan had already taken three for 20 by stumps. John Aiken top-scored with 39 while Nathan Astle (14) and

Richard Jones (3) were to-



RANATUNGA ... 107

Sri Lanka are using the match to prepare for the first Test against New Zealand, which begins Saturday at

> SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on Monday.

third day of the four-day cricket match between Sri Lanka and the New Zealand Academy XI at Fitzherbert

SRI LANKA: 1st innings 257.

NZ ACADEMY XI: 1st innings 133

SRI LANKA: 2nd innings A Gurusinha c Jones b Jonas 63 D Samaraweera c Jones b Astle 78 S Ranatunga stpd Croy b Astle 46 A De Silva Ibw Wiseman A Ranatunga e Parlane b Wiseman C Dunusinghe not out C Mendis not out

Extras: (21-lb, 4-b, 2-nb) Total: (for five wickets declared) 323

Fall of wickets: 128, 167, 168, 318, 323. Bowling: Robert Kennedy 17 Glen Jonas 18 Paul Wiseman 36 13 80 Mark Haslam 13 Mark Richardson 5 Nathan Astle 20 4 49 2 NZ ACADEMY XI: 2nd in-

nings M Parlane b Silva J Aiken c sub b Muralidharan L Howell b Muralidharan M Richardson b Muralidharan N Astle not out R Jones not out Extras (2-b. 3-nb) Total: (for four wickets) Fall of wickets 45, 70, 83,

Bowling 0 25 P Wickremasinghe 4 Janak Gamage 3 1 19 Jayantha Silva 12 2 43 Muralidharan 13 3 20 S Ranatunga

# Race for 2002 Winter Games hots up

# Four cities in running

LAUSANNE. Switzerland. Mar 6: The race for the 2002 Winter Olympics is about to become much less crowded.

The record field of nine candidate cities - including front-runner Salt Lake City will be cut to four finalists Tuesday by a special panel of the International Olympic Committee, reports AP.

There's little suspense over which four will be selected Based on an IOC evaluation report issued last month, the following are likely to make the cut: Salt Lake City; Ostersund, Sweden: Quebec, Canada; and Sion. Switzerland

"It would be a great sur prise if it's not those four." said Jean-Michel Gunz, a member of the Sion bid committee. "In the evaluation report, you can clearly distinguish between that group and the other five.

The others are Graz. Austria: Jaca. Spain: Poprad-Tatry. Slovakia: Sochi, Russia: and Tarvisio, Italy. All five received poor marks in the IOC report for various logistical. environmental and financial

All nine cities will make 20-minute presentations to the IOC's 10-man selection committee on Monday. This will be their last chance to impress the panel with charts. videos and speeches.

The selection committee, chaired by IOC vice president Un Yong Kim of South Korea. will meet privately Tuesday to choose the four finalists - by consensus if possible. If there is no consensus, a secret ballot will be held.

The host city will be elected by the full IOC on June 16 during its session in Budapest, Hungary

This is the first time the IOC has reduced the field of bidding cities before the final vote. Having nine candidates was considered unwieldy and too costly.

If successful, the IOC will consider using the same procedure to trim the list of candidates for the 2004 Summer Olympics. A dozen cities have already expressed interest in bidding for those Games.

Apart from weeding out unrealistic candidates, the main reasons for reducing the field

### Agassi stars in Japan Open

TOKYO. Mar 6: American Andre Agassi leads the men's field of 56 players for the dirs 1.22 million Japan Open in April, organizers said Monday. reports AP.

Agassi, ranked No. 2 in the world and the 1995 Australian Open champion, is competing in the Japan Open for the first time.

Other leading players in clude Boris Becker of Germany, ranked No. 3: Michael Chang of the United States, No. 4, and American Jim Courier, the 1992 Japan Open champion, the organizers said.

In the women's field for the April 10-16 tournament at Tokyo's Ariake Colosseum. Japan's Kimiko Date is the highest ranked with a current world ranking of No. 8.

The men's singles winner receives dirs 156,000 and the women's champion dirs 25.000.

is to cut down on the cost of the bidding process. Traditionally, all of the IOC's members — who currently number about 100 - are entitled to visit each of the bidding cities, flying first-class and

staying at luxury hotels. Under the streamlined system for the 2002 Games, the members can only visit the four finalists and must do so in groups. In addition, new restrictions have been enacted to limit the travel and expenses of the bidding committees.

Dave Johnson, vice president of Salt Lake City's bid team, said the new rules have saved his committee around dirs 1 million.

Salt Lake City has been the established front runner all along, a position that was reinforced when the IOC report repeatedly praised the bid's "excellent" facilities, venues, roads and financial plans.

"Salt Lake City is not only a city that has talked the talk but has walked the walk," bid committee chief Tom Welch said during an Olympic meeting in Atlanta last month.

The other candidates acknowledge Salt Lake City's strength.

"Salt Lake City is the best technical bid," said Gunz, the Sion official. "It's not a surprise to see that. Technically, we can not compare with Salt Lake City. In Europe, we will never have a winter resort connected with a six-lane highway. But Salt Lake City also had the best bid last time. And look what happened then."

Indeed, in 1991, Salt Lake City lost by four votes to Nagano, Japan, for the right to host the 1998 Olympics.

Despite its technically superior bid, Salt Lake City lost out because IOC members were reluctant to choose an American City so soon after awarding the 1996 Summer Games to Atlanta

cials hope politics and geography will not work against the city's fifth Olympic bid. "I have not seen geography

This time, Salt Lake offi-

as a weakness in this campaign expressed from anyone, Welch said But while Tuesday's selection of the finalists is expected

to focus almost entirely on technical criteria, the vote in June could hinge on other, less predictable factors. "After Tuesday, the members will be sure that all four cities have the capability of

ical, political or emotional issues involved. "Even if you're not rated as the first, you have the same chance as the other cities. It's not good to be the favourite. When you're on the top, peo-

hosting the Games," Gunz said

"There will be more geograph-

ple are bored and they look for something else." But Salt Lake City officials predict their bid will get stronger as IOC members visit the city and see for themselves

the advanced state of prepara-"If we had a secret weapon, which I feel we do, it's what has taken place in Salt Lake City from 1991 to 1995," Johnson said. "We're doing all

"It's always been our strat egy not to peak too soon. don't feel we have peaked. We will peak when we start having

we promised in 1991.



European champions Susanne Rahkamo and Petri Kokko of Finland practice for the dance competition of the Figure Skating World Championships in Birmingham on Mar 5. - AFP photo

## Taylor's aim

BRIDGETOWN, Mar 6: Australian cricket team captain Mark Taylor on Sunday said the matches against the West Indies will determine who are the best team in the world. reports AP.

"Obviously the West Indies are the best," Taylor said. one's objection.

beats them in a series like this one can claim to be the best. he added. "At the end of it the best in world cricket."

pleted a 3-1 victory over England in the Test series in when they won 5-1 at home.

lost a Test series since 1980 when they were edged 1-0 by New Zealand.

ready to win.

"I think we played very well in Pakistan although we were beaten 1-0 in a very, very close series last year." Taylor said. "We've then had the Ashes

series against England and played some good cricket.

tally and were looking forward "We've got what we think is

our best side so, at the end of it, if we win, we've won with our best side, if we've lost with our best side," he added.

# Courier ends dream run

SCOTTSDALE. Arizona, Mar 6: Second seed Jim Courier ended the dream run o Australian teenager Mark Philippoussis on Sunday. pulling out a narrow 7-6, 6-4 victory to win the 328,000 dollar Mass Mutual tennis championships, reports Reuter.

Courier had his hands full with the 18-year-old tour newcomer, but he lifted his game in the tie-break and scored the only service break of the match in the second set to record his 16th career title and second this year.

Twe been uneasy this week for some reason, but today it kind of came together," said Courier, who earned 43,000 dollars for the victory. " served well and felt when I got into the points, I was hitting the ball well."

Philippoussis, playing in just his fifth professional tournament, reached the final by beating top seed Todd Martin.

"This week has done a lot for me," said Philippoussis, who earned 25,300 dollars "It's given me a boost and will start my career up.

"I always thought I can handle and take it to these guys on the court. Now with these results, it gives me the confidence."

He certainly made an impression on Courier, rifling 13 aces and numerous forehand winners past the former world number one.

"Whenever he saw an opening he was ripping it. When he hits a big serve in the corner there's nothing you can do about it," Courier said.

The pair battled to the first set tie-break with neither player relinquishing control from the service line. Philippoussis then took a 2-1 lead in the breaker, but Courier came storming back to win the next six points and the

Courier found the range on the Australian's service in the second set and Philippoussis began making more errors. At 4.4. Courier picked up the lone break of the match and then just needed to hold his next serve to claim the title.

I had to figure out a way to get the ball back on court to have a chance," said Courier, now ranked 13th in the world.

"In the second set, I finally felt I got a bit of a read on what his serve was doing," added courier who thinks he'll be seeing more of the young Australian in the late stages of tournaments

"He's certainly on his way up." Courier said. "There's no question about that. "He's got too much fire-

power not too climb.

### Muster's third

MEXICO CITY, Mar 6 Australian Thomas Muster, the second seed, won his third consecutive Mexican Open ti tle when he beat unseeded Brazilian Fernando Meligeni 7 6, (6-4), 7-6 on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Muster won his 24th career title. 23 of them of clay, and has won 17 consecutive clay court finals in which he has played, stretching back to May Meligeni was appearing in

This was the first tour event

his first ATP Tour final.

of 1995 played on clay.

'They haven't been beaten for 15 years now, so they've got the No. 1 spot without any-"But I think the side that

whoever wins will be seen as Australia have just com-

Australia but has not defeated the West Indies since 1975-76 The West Indies have not

Taylor, the 28-year-old lefthanded batsman from New South Wales who took over as captain when Allan Border retired last November, said Australia came to Barbados

Taylor said all his players were fit, physically and men-

# Philippoussis'

272-ranked

along," he said. "We'll wait and see what happens in the next 48 hours. But the word we have is that he is not coming." Earlier in the season, Christie had indicated he

would not compete in Barcelona. However, two weeks ago he changed his mind and said he would run, and he was officially named to the British team last week.

Christie, 34, won the gold medal in the 100 metres at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and the 1993 World Outdoor Championships in Stuttgart, Germany. He has never won gold at an indoor champi-

MONTE CARLO.

Monaco. Mar 6:

World and Olym-

pic sprint cham-

has withdrawn from this

week's World Indoor Cham-

pionships in Barcelona, Spain,

the sport's governing body

confirmed Monday, reports AP.

have right now is that Linford

Christie is not running in

Amateur Athletic Federation

spokesman Christopher

Winner said. "No reason was

given. He just changed his

that Christie, who figured to be

one of the top attractions at

the championships, had pulled

out at such late notice. The

event runs Friday through

"It is absolutely galling,"

Winner said. "I do not know

what is happening here. I do

not know why these games are

Friday we had a firm commit-

ment from Linford ... It's one

thing to have athletes tell you

three months ago they were

not coming, it's another thing

to have a star of Linford's mag-

nitude to pull out three days

of the competition and it dam-

ages the credibility of the

held out hope that Christie

Winner said the IAAF still

"It's been back and forth all

before. It damages the quality

"I do know that as of last

Winner expressed outrage

Barcelona."

Sunday.

sport."

might show up.

**ACROSS** 

Heidi

1 Trombone

5 Height for

the seven

bestowal

13 Wahine's

14 Audition

17 Ohio nine

18 A billion

19 Hang in

there

mail

adorn-

ments

26 Popular

mixer

30 Milieu for

Dean

31" - Life Is I

32 Snapshots

33 McCullers

lonely

36 Goose-

flesh-

inducing

for short

Torvill and

Anyway?"

steen's

hunter SOONER ALI
35 Showed up OSU VESTIBULE

birthplace

Solution time: 24 mins.

WOESTEMS MAD

AWL WOMAN IDO

SLIDERULE

REMOVE EROS

APE END SUCRE

GIGSTISTUES

SCAPE ACH LAP

EVICT FEE

24 Wax

21 Christmas

goal

being played.

"The information that we

pion Linford

Christie of Britain

International

After winning the 60 metres Sunday night in Sindelfigen. Germany, Christie told a television interviewer he was not going to Barcelona.

field championships in Atlanta. Both Torrence and Guidry clocked 7:04 seconds in a photo finish.

Christie takes a break

American Gwen Torrence (L) edges out Charlette Guidry (R) in the women's 60-metre dash at the Mobile indoor track and

"I'll be watching," he said. "There is no point in going there and getting injured for the outdoor season. That's too much of a big risk."

The statement caught British track officials by sur-

"I've heard nothing from



LINFORD CHRISTIE him about this," said his coach. Ron Roddan.

Britain's team manager Verona Elder said: "I knew Linford was feeling tired, but not about him pulling out of the team."

Christie's absence would be another jolt to an event which is already missing most of the

38 Old

39 Circle

40 Rams

41 Senate

44 Mamie's

45 Natalie's

46 Genetics

47 The limit?

abbr.

dad

woman's

home?

dance

ma'ams

employee

cast

member

top American stars. Among those not competing in Barcelona are Michael Johnson, Jackie-Joyner Kersee, Gwen Torrenee, Dan O'Brien and Dennis Mitchell.

The International Amateur Athletic Féderation criticized the United States for naming a weak team void of nearly all its big names for the championships.

The American team, which will compete at the World Indoors was named Sunday following the Friday-Saturday US Indoor Championships, but was missing high-profile competitors Michael Johnson, who broke his 400-metre record Saturday, Jackie Joyner-Kersee and Gwen Torrence.

Allen Johnson, top-ranked in the 60-metre hurdles Olympic 10,000-metre bronze medalist Lynn Jennings, and Joetta Clark were three of the few recognizable names on the US roster.

# Shupletsov wins

LILLEHAMMER. Norway, Mar 6: Sergei Shupletsov of Russia finished second in the moguls finals of a World Cup freestyle skiing meet Sunday to clinch the season title in the event, reports AP.

Shupletsov, who was a silver medalist in the Winter Olympics on the same hill a year ago, scored 26.10 points to 26.23 for winner Dominick Gauthier of Canada. France's Edgar Grospiron, who won the bumps event in last month's World Championships, placed third with 25.95 points.

Jean-Luc Brassard of Canada, the Olympic champion and a silver medalist in the worlds, was fifth.

Shupletsov, who has six victories this season, leads Grospiron 600-580 points going into next weekened's World Cup finals at Salen, Sweden. Brassard is third with 544 points.

Donna Weinbrecht of the

United States kept her overall lead in women's moguls standings after finishing second behind Ludmila Dymtchenko of Russia. Dymtchenko scored 26.62 points and Weinbrecht 26,52.

## Rain ruins **Evert Cup** final

- AFP photo

INDIAN WELLS, California Mar 6: Persistent light rain forced postponement of the Evert Cup final on Sunday between fourth seed Natasha Zvereva of Belarus and eighth seeded Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States, reports Reuter. The singles final was

rescheduled for Monday, along with the doubles final between the top-seeded team of Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain and Ukrainian Larisa Neiland and second seeded American duo Lindsay Davenport and Lisa Raymond. Tournament officials waited

4 1/2 hours after the sched uled starting time on Sunda before announcing the post ponement

The ninth ranked Zvereva who upset the top-seeded Sanchez Vicario in the semifinals, has not beaten the 19thranked Fernandez in their four previous career meetings.

### Krajicek prevails in Dutch duel

POTTERDAM, Mar 6: Fifth seeded Richard Krajicek won the first all-Dutch ATP final when he beat unseeded compatriot Paul Haarhuis in the world indoor tournament 7-6. 6-4 on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Krajicek overcame Haarhuis' attempts to lure him into a baseline battle to win 80,000 dollars and his second tournament in a row, having beaten Michael Stich in Stuttgart last week.

But an injury sustained on match point cast some doubt over the world number 10's participation in the Netherlands' second round Davis Cup tie with Germany at the end of the month.

Krajicek lunged to hit the winning shot and hurt his right knee.

But Krajicek held on to win it 7-5 and then immediately broke Haarhuis' serve in the second set to bring victory closer.

He is the first Dutch winner in Rotterdam since Tom Okker in 1974.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 37 Excava-22 Apiece 3 Allen of 23 Tommie of 15 "Home tions accessory 38 Tenzing Improvebaseball Norgay, 24 Denzel ment" Washing-4 Supporters 8 The gamut 41 Chum of the arts ton movie 5 Chester — 26 They go 12 Largest of 42 Sewing Arthur machine without inventor 6 Played saying 43 Sparklers? 27 October first 48 Mine 7 Blackstone 28 Novel birds' output 15 Bogart role 49 Heart nest? amount? 29 Loggers' 8 Slings chart: abbr. 50 Malodormates apparatus 9 Piggies 31 Turn on ous 51 Comfort-10 Shoppe the waterable descripworks 52 Witness 34 Inquisition tion 11 Vivacity **53** Go no crime further 35 Palette 16 "Cert" DOWN 20 Earring array 1 More (Sp.) 37 Scenery holder 25 Comedians 2 Spring-21"M"A"S"H" chewer

KWHY

CRYPTOQUIP

BPHWRK MXTF WRFYEYTF,

BXXF.

OWTY QWQR'F X O M

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE INDUSTRIOUS ELEC-TRICIAN TRIED TO GET A CHARGE OUT OF LIFE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: K equals G The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which or letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, is will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.