

ralia. Jan 2: Sri Lanka is expecplay

off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan in Wednesday's World Series cricket match against the West Indies, team manager Duleep Mendis said

Tuesday, report agencies. No-balled seven times for throwing in the second Test match against Australia in Melbourne, Muralitharan has been named in Sri Lanka's World Cup squad.

But he will not have to face Dareell Hair, who called the 23-year-old each of the seven times on the first day of the Melbourne Test -Wednesday's umpires are Australians Terry Prue, Steve Davis and Russell Hogarth.

When asked by reporters today whether Muralitharan would play and bowl. Sri Lanka team manager Duleep Mendis said, "I think so."

The International Cricket Council later revealed it had been concerned about the legitimacy of his bowling ac- better, but we must get back

squad with a superb 11-

wicket haul for South

Australia to help to defeat

Sheffield Shield champions

Queensland on Monday,

of six for 83 saw his state

side take six points from the

match and move up to sec-

ond spot in the Shield table

on 14 points, two ahead of

leaders New South Wales.

Queensland and four behind

minimum of 112 overs after

South Australia declared

their innings closed at an

overnight score of 252 for

themselves out of the match

by lunch which they had

**England** for

changed

formula

land will send five players

home after the fifth and final

Test against South Africa.

currently underway at New-

lian, Mark Ilott, Angus Fraser

and Devon Malcolm are due

to fly back to England on

Sunday and will miss the

seven-match one-day series

Craig White, Neil Smith,

Dermot Reeve, Neil Fair-

brother and Phil DeFreitas,

all of whom are already in

journalists, "I was hoping I

could stake a claim for the

World Cup in this Test, but

obviously the selectors have

decided to pick one-day spe-

cialists, particularly all

injured and neither Malcolm

nor Gallian was expected to

be in the World Cup frame.

But for Fraser it is a sign that

his England career may well

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be coming to amend.

Foreign Exchange:

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Crawley and Ilott are both

The replacements are

A disappointed Fraser told

which begins next week.

South Africa.

rounders.

John Crawley, Jason Gal-

lands, reports Reuter

CAPE\_TOWN, Jan 2: Eng-

nine, Queensland played

Set 384 runs to win in a

May's second innings spell

reports Reuter.

z: Oil-spinner

Tim May celeb-

rated being pic-

ked for Aust-

ralia's prelim-

inary World Cup

The incident threatened

to cut short Muralitharan's career but Sri Lankan officials have since rallied behind their bowler who had not been called in his previous 22 Tests.

Muralitharan, 23, was today named in Sri Lanka's preliminary squad of 18 players for the World Cup limited overs competition which begins next month. Sri Lanka are second in

the triangular series on two points. Australia are undefeated on eight points after scoring their fourth consecutive win of the tournament when they beat the West Indies in Sydney on Monday. Sri Lanka beat the West

Indies in their first match in the World Series opener in Adelaide last month, but the West Indies are improving and are desperate for a win to keep in finals' contention.

West Indies coach Andy Roberts said it was an understatement to describe the

match as important. "We've started to play a bit

May justifies the recall

They were finally bowled

The veteran May's career-

out for 242, giving the home

best match figures of 11 for

171 were a fitting reward for

a patient bowling perfor-

mance and confirmed the

Australian selectors' confi-

dence in recalling him to the

World Cup preliminary squad

this season in both Test and

one-day cricket as a second

specialist spinner alongside

leg-spinner Shane Warne

TIM MAY

early in the year.

after touring the West Indies

Allan Border was the only

Queenslander to show any

real resistance to May's spin.

in Queensland's second in-

nings to record the match's

top score of 95 which fol-

not think he had bowled any

better than he had during the

lowed his first innings 79.

Former Australian captain

He batted for 239 minutes

May said afterwards he did

"I've taken 11 wickets for

the game so you've got to rate

it the best for the year but

there have been other times

during the year where I

thought I've bowled as well

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Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)

and just taken one or two -

rest of what had been a luck- said.

May had been overlooked

side a 141-run victory.

earlier on Monday.

ADELAIDE, Jan fallen to 13 for five.

into the winning mode," said

Roberts. The West Indies lost Monday's World Series match against Australia by one wicket, with batsman Michael Bevan hitting a four off the last ball to clinch vic-

The West Indies will decide Wednesday whether captain Richie Richardson will be fit to play in the limited-overs match. Richardson missed the day-night match against Australia because of a hamstring injury.

Captain Arjuna Ranatunga is unlikely to play Wednesday after injuring his hand in the Melbourne Test. Mendis said. Right arm fast bowler Pramodya Wickramasinghe would also probably miss the match after aggravating an injury to his ankle while bowling in Melbourne.

Right-hand batsman Chandika Hathurusinghe would probably replace Ranatunga, while right-arm paceman Eric Upashanta will be the likely replacement for Wickramasinghe.

that's the way cricket works."

Victoria came close to caus-

ing an upset in Perth against

Western Australia with the

home side teetering at the

close on 238 for eight, 84

runs short of the required

Moody had plundered the

bowling early in the run

chase, blasting 89 runs in

only 47 minutes before

Langer was brilliantly caught

at mid-wicket for 56. When

Moody went for 50 the match

seemed to be tilting in

by Peter Roach, who hit 84,

and Ian Harvey, who scored

55. helped to take Victoria to

459 for nine declared and set

up the chance of an improb-

De Villiers eager

for action

DURBAN, Jan 2: South

African fast bowler Fanie de

Villiers said on Monday he

was fit and ready to play not

just in the World Cup but also

in the one-day international

series against England which

starts in Cape Town next

De Villiers, who has been

out of action since breaking

series of niggling injuries.

was due to play his first

Castle Cup match of the sea-

son when Northern Transvaal

began their game against

fore the start but was quick

to deny that there had been

tion where I was going to

play but then looking at the

wicket and knowing we have

got five or six bowlers who

are fit, there didn't really

seem to be much point," he

to play in the one-day game

where you bowl spells of two.

three or five overs but when

it comes to bowling 40 or 50

overs in a match then I don't

think I am quite ready for

"I am definitely fit enough

any flare-up of his problems.

He pulled out shortly be-

"It was very much a situa-

Natal in Durban on Monday.

lown in October with a

week, reports Reuter.

Earlier, aggressive batting

Justin Langer and Tom

winning target of 262.

Victoria's favour.

able victory.

Bottom-of-the-table

May said.

## Lankan Sports Minister

comes to scene

COLOMBO, Jan 2: Sri Lankan Sports Minister SB Dissanayake will be writing to his Australian counterpart to resolve the controversy over the bowling action of the island's ace off spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, currently touring Australia, the official newspaper " Daily News" said today, reports Pfl.

The cricketing career of the 23-year-old Muttiah Muralitharan, with a total haul of 81 Test wickets was threatened when he was noballed seven times for throwing by Australian umpire Darrel Hair during the second Test at Melbourne.

Speaking to the newspaper. Dissanayake said Muralitharan's case had both medical and legal sides to it. adding that he would point these out to the Australian Sports Minister.

Incidentally, Muralitharan has been included in Sri Lanka's preliminary squad for the World Cup commencing next month.

Stressing that Sri Lanka could not afford to lose Muralitharan because of the incident. Dissanayake said that his ministry would take necessary action to solve the is-

Meanwhile, a group has formed by the name "cricket lovers association" by sports enthusiastic in a bid to support Sri Lanka's team on the bowling action controversy, the "Daily News" reported.

The association has already received report on Muralitharan's action from Dr Buddy Raid who examined the off-spinner in Melbourne at their request. All this data will be sent to the International Cricket Council and Australian Cricket Board, the newspaper said.

# Strang's superb spell

WANGANUI, New Zealand, Jan 2: Zimbabwe's Bryan Strang took six for 20 as a Grassy wicket helped the bowlers take 16 wickets on the first day of Zimbabwe's three-day match against a New Zealand Selection XI here today, reports AFP.

The New Zealand side, chosen from provincial players, won the toss in the opening first-class match of the Zimbabwe tour at Victoria Park and decided to bat first. They fared poorly, however, and were dismissed for

111. Zimbabwe did not do much better and at stumps were struggling on 91 for six. Only four of the New Zealanders reached double figures, with Stephen Lynch

top scoring with 30. Strang's was the performance of the day. The Zimbabwe medium pacer's six wickets came in 18 overs. He took five for two in 29

balls in one spell after lunch. But Zimbabwe were soon in trouble and at tea had lost there wickets for only 34 runs. They lost another three in the final session of the day. Their best partnership was 53 for the fourth wicket between David Houghton and

lefthander Sean Davies. Zimbabwe are to play two Tests and three one-day internationals against New Zealand this month before heading for the World Cup.

New Zealand President's XI 111 (Stephen Lynch 30. Robbie Hart 22: Bryan Strang

Zimbabwe 91-6 (David Houghton 26, Sean Davies 24. Robert Kennedy 3-17).

GRENOBLE, France, Jan 2: An Alpine skier died when he and his five companions were buried in an avalanche Monday, and local officials said the snowslide had been set off by people skiing off au-thorised tracks on the mountain above them, reports AFP.

LONDON, Jan 2: pulled a call muscle in the twice in Everton's 3-2 win at Tottenham Ho- warm-up, was replaced after interval by Kevin Pilkington but the new keeper was powerless against two fine headers by Armestrong in the 48th and 66th minutes. Cole was unlucky to have a

tspur halted

Manchester Un-

ited's challenge

to Newcastle for

the English Pre-

mier league title when they

nailed the former champions

4 1 on Monday, reports

lead from 10 points to four

last week but, with the

chance of reducing the ar-

rears to just one point as

Newcastle were without a

game till Tuesday, they ran

into a Tottenham ambush at

Sol Cambell scored one each

in the first half and Chris

Armstrong struck twice after

the interval to check the

progress of United who beat

Newcastle 2-0 last

Wednesday and Queen's Park

within a minute of

Sheringham's opener for

Spurs for his fourth goal in

four games and had another

spectacular effort ruled out

when they were 4-1 down

midway through the second

served their win, which put

them back on track after two

draws and a defeat by defend-

ing champions Blackburn in

their three previous matches.

Tottenham's north London

neighbours Arsenal today in

the first of two games they

with 45 points from 20

games, with United second

against Nottingham Forest

after 18 minutes, staged a

remarkable recovery to win

4-2 and stay third, ahead of

Tottenham on goal differ-

Both have 38 points —

Liverpool from 21 games and

Sheringham gave Tottenham

Newcastle lead the table

Liverpool, two goals down

have in hand over United.

on 41 points from 22.

Tottenham from 22.

England

Newcastle entertain

But Tottenham fully de-

Andy Cole equalised

Rangers 2-1 on Saturday.

Teddy Sheringham and

White Hart Lane.

United cut Newcastle's

Liverpool's Stan Colymore (R) in action against his former club Nottingham Forest

during an English Premiership match at Anfield on New Year's Day. Liverpool won

Spurs stifle Man United

goal chsallowed for dangerous play after he had hooked the ball in brilliantly with a close range overhead shot 12 minutes from the end. But United can have no

complaints about the outcome of the battle between two injury-stricken sides. Liverpool looked in dire straits when England mid-

fielder Steve Stone and Ian Woan scored in the 13th and 18th minutes to give visitors Nottingham Forest a 2-0 lead at Anfield. But in-form Robbie Fowler

netted twice before halftime to take his tally to seven goals in four games and 62ndminute strike by former Forest Marksman Stan Collymore and a Colin Cooper own goal four minutes from time gave Liverpool a 4-2 victory Aston. Villa moved up to

fifth with a 2-0 win at Middlesbrough, who have faltered in recent weeks. Alan Wright and Tommy

Johson struck the Villa goals against a Middlesbrough side which badly missed England forward Nick Barmby and Norwegian striker Jan Aage-

Scottish internationa Duncan Ferguson score Wimbledon, claiming his first goals in the Premier league since his release from prison in late November after serving 44 days for butting an opponent when he played for Glasgow Rangers. Angry West Ham Manager

- AFP/UNB photo

Harry Redknapp criticised Premier league chiefs after being forced to make history on Monday by playing a goalkeeper who turned 17 just three days ago.

West Ham slipped to a 2-1 defeat at Manchester City. leaving them firmly in the bottom half of the standings. With Ludek Miklosko sus-

pended and Les Sealey injured, Redknapp was obliged to hand teenager Neil Finn a debut, making him the youngest player ever to appear in the Premier League - and play for West Ham. Redknapp said Premier

league chiefs would not allow him to make an emergency loan signing. "Even Neil has a ham-

string strain and could not kick the ball properly today. but the premier league told us we would have to play him or use an outfield player as keeper," he said. Ředknapp added " Neil

has not really had a shot to save. We bossed the game for long periods and we certainly did not deserve to lose." Bolton's misery was

greater. They lost 4-2 at Sheffield Wednesday and are now eight points adrift at the bottom of the table.

Bagan, JCT in Durand Cup semis

NEW DELHI, Jan 2: Calcutta giants Mohan Bagan humbled a truncated Mohammedan Sporting 3-0 and entered the semifinals of the Durand Cup football tour. nament here yesterday, reports PTI.

In another quarterfinal league match played yesterday Jagatift Cotton Textilesbeat Punjab Police by 3-1.

Sisir Ghosh P Monoharan and Lulu scored the goals for Mohan Bagan, while JCT's Jaspit Singh and Stephen (two) were successful to score for their team. Rajesh Kumar of Punjab Police reduced the margin.

#### ASEAN Cup soccer in Sept SINGAPORE Jan 2 Eight

Southeast Asian countries will compete in the inaugural ASEAN Cup soccer tournament in Singapore in the first two weeks of September, a Football Association of Singapore (FAS) spokesman said today. reports Reuter.

They comprise the top eight teams from last month's 10-nation Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The FAS spokesman said the actual dates have not been fixed yet.

Under the ASEAN Football Federation's rules, the eight countries automatically qualify for the bi-annual competition which alternates with the SEA Games.

The eight are Thailand, the winner of the SEA Games gold medal, Vietnam, Singapore. Indonesia. Malaysia and the Philippines, all members of the seven-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and non-ASEAN members Laos and

Brunei, also an ASEAN member, and Cambodia did not qualify for the ASEAN

### Hibernian's reversal of fortune

GLASGOW, Jan 2: Hibernian bounced back bravely from a 7-0 drubbing by Scottish Premier league champions Rangers two days ago to beat Edinburgh city rivals Hearts 2-1 on Monday. reports Reuter.

Hibernian fell behind to a seventh-minute goal from Neil Pointon but first-half scores from Northern Ireland international Michael O'Neil and Scotland under-21 striker Kevin Harper gave them victory.



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the lead in the 35th minute. nipping in to beat Danish goalkeeper Peter Schemichel 02. Estimated cost from close range for his 17th goal of the season.

But Cole, who cost United seven million pounds (11 million dollars) in a move from Newcastle last season. leveled within a minute. stabbing home Phillo Neville's cross from the left.

Spurs, however, hit back immediately before the interval when Sheringham backheaded an excellent cross from Dean Austin into the path of Cambell, who shot through a forest of players beneath the diving Schmichel.

Schemichel, who had

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Russian FIDE world champion Anatoly Karpov shows off his trophy after winning the Koop Tjuchem tournament in the Dutch city of Groningen on Dec - AFP/UNB photo



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