

## DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT the way to beat any transport strike on the 10 km traffic jam at Aricha is to roller skate.

These days you do see a few skaters on "hartal" days moving about town. It should not be too difficult for them to roller skate to Chittagong or Rangpur; the roads there are simply super.

If you think the distance is any problem, here's some facts: Theodore James Coombs of California skated 5193 miles from Los Angeles to New York and back to Yates Centre, Kansas from May 30 to September 14, 1979.

To beat Coombs' record you'd have to go to Chittagong about twenty times and back. That's not a problem, but the thing is the transport strike will be over by them.

## SPORTS TALK



Steff Graf

(World No 1 Tennis star)  
"When I walk through the hospital and see children on wheel chairs, children with no eyes or no arms and I'm in there for this little back problem and complaining that it hurts when I play, I realize just how small tennis is."

## Sports

## WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-23

✓ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m., Jan 26, 1996)

1. Shaquille O'Neal is famous for playing
Football Cricket Basketball
2. Chetan Sharma plays local cricket for
MSK AKC Victoria
3. Sprinter Mahbubul Alam won SAF gold in
100m 200m 400m
4. The first century in cricket this season was by
Sunil Open Durgesh
5. City Club ground for cricket is located in
Mejpur Dharmendri Hudda

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

## WHIZZ KID-22 winners

1. Moureen
Sunbeams School
Dhaka
2. Faisal Ahmed
Barisal Govt. High School
Dhaka
3. Anureet Khan
Bangladesh International
Tutorial
Dhaka
4. Hossain al Mahmud
Dharmondi Govt. Boys
High School
Dhaka
5. Farhana
Maple Leaf
Dhaka

## WHIZZ KID-21 winner

Tareque Shareef  
Scholastic  
Dhaka

## Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

East End Boys Club recorded a victory in the Progiti Insurance Third Division football league when they defeated Kadamtala Sangsads by solitary goal at the Rajuk ground yesterday.

In the day's other engagement, Maghbazar Kisholoy Sangsads also registered a 1-0 win over T and T Club.

## Taylor for a clean sweep



SYDNEY, Jan 19: Australia will aim to brush aside worries about they frail top-order batters and sweep the final series 2-0 when they face Sri Lanka in the second final of the World Series limited-overs cricket tournament at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday, reports AP.

The Australians won the first game in the best-of-three series by 18 runs in Melbourne on Thursday night and can seal the title in front of a sellout crowd in Sydney.

Australian captain Mark Taylor said Friday that he is not concerned by a succession of failures by the home team's top-order.

Australia won the first final by coming back from 39-4 to make 201-7, and then by sending Sri Lanka spinning from 107-2 to 183 all out.

Apart from an awesome opening partnership of 189 between Taylor and Mark Waugh in Perth last Friday, Australia have crumbled to be 3-46, 6-38, 3-27, 4-54, 3-54, and 4-39 in the World Series this season.

Taylor dismisses the poor starts as a quirk of one-day cricket.

"I think we've batted quite well in this series," Taylor said. "These blokes (Sri

Lanka) are bowling very well early on and 3-30, 3-50 can happen."

The good news is we're still making 200 plus in every game and the end result is what you work on. Two or three of us have chipped in

fast bowler Craig McDermott was unscathed by a blow from allrounder Shane Lee.

McDermott was hit on a knuckle on his left hand while batting in the nets, but returned to bowl.

Sri Lankan team manager Duleep Mendis said his team's morale was good despite the loss in the first final.

"We were in control for the first three-quarters of the match," Mendis said.

He said either test opener Chandika Hathurusinghe or off Spinner Ruwan Kalpage will replace middle-order batsman Roshan Mahanama, who tore a hamstring on Thursday.

## TEAMS

**AUSTRALIA:** Mark Taylor (captain), Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Steve Waugh, Stuart Law, Michael Bevan, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath, Shane Lee (likely 12th man).

**SRI LANKA:** Sanath Jayasuriya, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Asanka Gurusingha, Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga, Hashan Tillakaratne, Ruwan Kalpage, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Chaminda Vaas, Kumar Dharmasena, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Pramodya Wickremasinghe (12th man to be named).

MARK TAYLOR

every game. "I get a feeling that everyone has underestimated the Sri Lankan apart from us - they're a good one-day cricket side."

Wicketkeeper Ian Healy passed a fitness test on the groin muscle he strained while batting on Friday, while

## Kiwis wait in the wings



WELLINGTON, Jan 19: If success is the best revenge, New Zealand have the perfect motivation for winning cricket's 1996 World Cup Reports Reuter.

After several seasons of woeful performances and controversies, New Zealand's Test standing has hit rock bottom and they have lost the respect of the cricketing world.

But there have been signs this season that New Zealand are no longer pushovers, and with recent humiliations still fresh in their minds, they may be ready to surprise a few opponents.

"It's great opportunity to get the team together and say 'Hey, the rest of the world don't rate us, people in New Zealand are laughing at us, let's prove the bastard wrong,'" said former Test wicketkeeper Warren Lees, who coached New Zealand at the 1992 tournament.

New Zealand have had arguably the best Cup warm-up programme of any competing side, but have been unable to string together a consistent series of good performances.

In November, they lost a close one-day series in India 3-2 but gained some valuable experience of the pitches they are likely to encounter at the tournament.

Then a series against World Cup holders Pakistan in New Zealand was shared 2-2. The New Zealanders play three limited overs matches against Zimbabwe later this month.

"There's stacks of poten-

tial, lots of individuals with ability, but getting together as a group is still a problem for them," Lees told Reuters.

"If it all come together on the day, they could win. To get in the semifinals would have to be their goal, our guys will have to play out of their skins to make the semifinals, but I think that's realistic."

New Zealand play the tournament's opening match on February 14, against perennial contenders England at Ahmedabad, than face the Netherlands, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan in their other group games.

Barring a major upset, they should progress with the three other Test-playing teams to the quarter finals, at which point the competition becomes sudden death.

New Zealand do not feature prominently in World Cup history. Their best effort was under Lees at home in 1992 - losing just one game in the round-robin stage, only to be beaten by eventual winners Pakistan in the semifinals.

Current coach Glenn Turner, the accomplished former New Zealand and Worcestershire opener, was appointed after the team suffered a disastrous spell in 1994-95 when Test series were lost to England, South Africa, West Indies and Sri Lanka.

That losing streak saw New Zealand ranked equal-last among Test-playing teams with Zimbabwe. Their reputation suffered a further blow off the field with revelations of Marijuana-smoking and other breaches of discipline.

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plaine during the tour of South Africa.

Turner's first move was to drop captain Ken Rutherford and pass the leadership to Canterbury wicketkeeper Lee Germon.

Germon at that stage had played only a single one-day international and no Tests for New Zealand but his quiet, authoritative leadership has instilled a much-needed discipline and self-belief in the side.

They must make their World Cup challenge without the benefit of Martin Crowe's superlative batmanship after a recurring knee injury forced him to announce his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday.

In his absence, all-rounder Chris Cairns and elegant left-hander Stephen Fleming are expected to share much of the batting burden.

After struggling with injuries for several seasons, Cairns has blossomed into a true international-class player. He will be hoping to reproduce and 88-ball century against India in November and pick up valuable wickets with his fast-medium bowling.

Fleming has long been touted as a top world player of the future. A classical and graceful strokemaker, the Cup could be the catalyst for an outstanding career.

Paceman Danny Morrison and English-born all-rounder Roger Twose are also key men for New Zealand.

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## Chang ready for challenge



MELBOURNE, Jan 19: American Michael Chang has been burdened with the tag of "one-hit wonder" for several years, reports Reuter.

Since capturing the French Open title as a 17-year-old in 1989, Chang has found further Grand Slam titles to be frustratingly elusive despite cementing himself in the world's top five.

After heroically braving severe cramps to overhaul then world number one Ivan Lendl on his way to becoming the youngest-ever French Open winner, experts predicted further Grand Slam success. It was not to be.

But there is mounting evidence the world number five is now poised to shed his unwanted label as the sport's "nearly man" on Sunday next week by taking the Australian Open at Flinders Park.

Chang has strolled through the opening week of the tournament without conceding a set to reach the fourth round.

Brandishing a new, longer racquet and relying on his

renowned competitiveness and mobility, Chang is convinced he has the game to upset compatriots and tournament favourites Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras.

While accepting they are the world's best two players, the US Davis Cup player does not believe the gap is unbridgeable.

"I think I'm gaining on them," Chang said today after his third clear victory at this tournament, beating Frenchman Guillaume Raoux 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 on Centre Court.

I think my game is continuing to improve and I think that Sampras and Agassi have reached the peak of their tennis careers, but I feel my best years of tennis are still ahead of me.

Earlier, on the eve of the Australian Open, Chang said: "In the big events they have been very tough to beat, but that does not mean they are unbeatable."

I like to think I am a better player than last year," he added, referring to his performance here in losing to Sampras, the eventual runner up, at the semifinal

stage in 1995.

It was as close as Chang, who turns 24 next month, came to adding to his Grand Slam tally before his final defeat against Austrian Clay Court specialist Thomas Muster at Roland Garros last June.

Lacking the power of his taller rivals, particularly in his serve, Chang has looked to technology for salvation.

The racquet has made quite a bit of difference, particularly in my serve... it's given me extra reach on my serves," said Chang, explaining how American tennis equipment manufacturer Prince invested 16 months of research to add an inch to the length of the racquet to 28 inches.

You cannot just add an extra inch to the handle, we needed to shift the weight around quite a bit, so we put a lot of hard work into its development and it has definitely paid off."

Chang admits he needs to improve several aspects of his game merely to survive in a game increasingly dominated by bigger, stronger players.

Film Stars parade at the Dhaka Stadium during yesterday's charity extravaganza.

## PILCOM goes for ex-cricketers

CALCUTTA, Jan 19: The organizers of the 12-nation Cricket World Cup released the names of match referees Friday, which reads like a Who's Who of cricket stars, reports AP.

Among them are Clive Lloyd of the West Indies, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi of India, Raman Subba Row of England, John Reid of New Zealand and Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka.

The organizers also released the names of umpires.

They are: Stephen Randall (Australia), Steve Dunne (New Zealand), David Shepherd (England), Cyril Mitchell (South Africa), Steve Bucknor (West Indies), Ian Robinson (Zimbabwe), A Venkataraman and K Ramaswamy (India), Khizar Hyat and Mehbood Shah (Pakistan) and K T Francis and B C Cooray (Sri Lanka).

The third umpires are: Stephen Tovey (Holland), G Farid Malib (United Arab Emirates), Anil Sarkar (Kenya), S K Bansal, K Parthasarathy, RC Sharma (India), Ikram Rabbani, Mian Aslam, Shakeel Khan (Pakistan) and TM Samarasinghe (Sri Lanka).

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## WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?

Andre Agassi is in a state of despair after losing the first set against unseeded compatriot Steve Bryan during their third round encounter of the Aussie Open in Melbourne yesterday. A remarkably resilient Agassi came back strongly to take the match 4-6, 6-0, 6-2, 6-4.

— AFP/UNB photo

## Seeds struggle forward

MELBOURNE, Jan 19: Andre Agassi had to come from behind against a Who's Who of cricket stars.

Among them are Clive Lloyd of the West Indies, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi of India, Raman Subba Row of England, John Reid of New Zealand and Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka.