

## ACA gives it another try

PERTH, Nov 22: The ball was in the Australian Cricket Board's court today to restart pay negotiations with the players' union after the Australian Test team stepped back from the brink of strike action, reports AFP.

Australia's world champion cricketers late Friday decided not to sign letters that would give the ACB notice of intended strikes during four one-dayers, involving South Africa and New Zealand, next month.

Their surprise move came just hours after New South Wales and West Australian Sheffield Shield teams had signed the agreement in Sydney.

Australia's first-class players are aware of alienating the public and want the board, which meets in Hobart on Wednesday, to show it is serious about settling the dispute.

"We're sick and tired of people saying it's up to us to budge all the time when they (ACB) don't want to budge," said Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) president Tim May.

"There's probably a bit of waiting on both sides at the moment."

"I would have hoped one side or the other would have moved before Wednesday."

ACA chairman Denis Rogers refused to comment and his chief executive Mal Speed said little in response.

"It's an encouraging move," was all Speed would say during the telecast of the second Test here.

May denied the Test players had backed down by not signing the strike letters.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

**Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League:**

Abahani KC vs Surjotaran Club (Dhaka Stadium)

Kalabagan KC vs Lalmitia SC (DCS)

**First Division Cricket League:**

Gopibagh FA vs Dhaka Wanderers Club (City Club ground)

**Premier Division Football League:**

Muktijoddha Sangsad KC vs Victoria SC (M S 4:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Badda Jagarani vs Shantiganagar Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2:30 pm)

## Healy carves a niche

# Kiwis face an uphill task



PERTH, Nov 22 (Reuters/AP): Ian Healy became Australia's highest-scoring wicket-keeper in Tests as New Zealand were left facing defeat in the second Test today.

Healy hammered 85 and paceman Paul Reiffel struck 54 which, after Steve Waugh's dismissal for 96, pushed Australia's first innings to 461 all out.

New Zealand, needing 244 to avoid an innings defeat, slumped to 69 for three at the close on the third day at the WACA ground.

Healy, who had made three of the overnight 235 for four, went on to increase his aggregate to 3,648 runs in 96 Tests, overtaking the previous record mark for an Australian wicket-keeper of 3,633 in 96 Tests by Rod Marsh.

The reliable Healy now has the second highest aggregate by a wicketkeeper in Test history behind England's Alan Knott, who compiled 4,389 runs in his 95 Tests.

Healy and Reiffel, who continued his run of useful contributions at number eight with a composed half-century, put on 116 for the seventh wicket.

Earlier, Steve Waugh, putting aside his role as union organiser, fell four runs short of a century after adding 17 to his overnight 79.

Waugh, secretary of the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), in the ongoing pay dispute with the Australian Cricket Board, was bowled by an inswinging yorker from left-arm paceman Shayne O'Connor.

Vice-captain Steve Batted 213 minutes, faced 161 balls and hit 10 fours in his 96—the seventh time he has been dismissed in the 90s in a Test match.

Only former West Indies batsman Alvin Kallicharman has been out more times in the 90s—suffering that fate eight times.

When Waugh was on 15, the player became the seventh Australian to complete 6,000 runs in his 96th Test.

When New Zealand batted again, they endured a dismal start when opener Blair Pocock was removed for one on the last ball of the first over.

Pocock, restricted by a fractured toe sustained while fielding, hobbled to the crease and was out when he deflected a delivery from fast bowler Michael Kasprovicz to Greg Blewett at short leg.

The Kiwis' cause was not helped when opener Bryan Young was run out for 23 after a breakdown in communications with number three and wicket-keeper Adam Parore who was 42 not out at the close with captain Stephen Fleming (0).

Parore escaped before he had scored when skipper Mark Taylor dropped a relatively simple catch at first slip, the first chance the home side has spilled in the match.

Taylor, however, made no mistake when scooping up a chance from nightwatchman Daniel Vettori, who got an outside edge to a ball from leg-spinner Shane Warne after he

close on the third day at the WACA ground.

Healy, who had made three of the overnight 235 for four, went on to increase his aggregate to 3,648 runs in 96 Tests, overtaking the previous record mark for an Australian wicket-keeper of 3,633 in 96 Tests by Rod Marsh.

The reliable Healy now has the second highest aggregate by a wicketkeeper in Test history behind England's Alan Knott, who compiled 4,389 runs in his 95 Tests.

Healy and Reiffel, who continued his run of useful contributions at number eight with a composed half-century, put on 116 for the seventh wicket.

Earlier, Steve Waugh, putting aside his role as union organiser, fell four runs short of a century after adding 17 to his overnight 79.

Waugh, secretary of the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), in the ongoing pay dispute with the Australian Cricket Board, was bowled by an inswinging yorker from left-arm paceman Shayne O'Connor.

Vice-captain Steve Batted 213 minutes, faced 161 balls and hit 10 fours in his 96—the seventh time he has been dismissed in the 90s in a Test match.

Only former West Indies batsman Alvin Kallicharman has been out more times in the 90s—suffering that fate eight times.

When Waugh was on 15, the player became the seventh Australian to complete 6,000 runs in his 96th Test.

When New Zealand batted again, they endured a dismal start when opener Blair Pocock was removed for one on the last ball of the first over.

Pocock, restricted by a fractured toe sustained while fielding, hobbled to the crease and was out when he deflected a delivery from fast bowler Michael Kasprovicz to Greg Blewett at short leg.

The Kiwis' cause was not helped when opener Bryan Young was run out for 23 after a breakdown in communications with number three and wicket-keeper Adam Parore who was 42 not out at the close with captain Stephen Fleming (0).

Parore escaped before he had scored when skipper Mark Taylor dropped a relatively simple catch at first slip, the first chance the home side has spilled in the match.

Taylor, however, made no mistake when scooping up a chance from nightwatchman Daniel Vettori, who got an outside edge to a ball from leg-spinner Shane Warne after he

close on the third day at the WACA ground.

Healy, who had made three of the overnight 235 for four, went on to increase his aggregate to 3,648 runs in 96 Tests, overtaking the previous record mark for an Australian wicket-keeper of 3,633 in 96 Tests by Rod Marsh.

The reliable Healy now has the second highest aggregate by a wicketkeeper in Test history behind England's Alan Knott, who compiled 4,389 runs in his 95 Tests.

Healy and Reiffel, who continued his run of useful contributions at number eight with a composed half-century, put on 116 for the seventh wicket.

Earlier, Steve Waugh, putting aside his role as union organiser, fell four runs short of a century after adding 17 to his overnight 79.

Waugh, secretary of the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), in the ongoing pay dispute with the Australian Cricket Board, was bowled by an inswinging yorker from left-arm paceman Shayne O'Connor.

Vice-captain Steve Batted 213 minutes, faced 161 balls and hit 10 fours in his 96—the seventh time he has been dismissed in the 90s in a Test match.

Only former West Indies batsman Alvin Kallicharman has been out more times in the 90s—suffering that fate eight times.

When Waugh was on 15, the player became the seventh Australian to complete 6,000 runs in his 96th Test.

When New Zealand batted again, they endured a dismal start when opener Blair Pocock was removed for one on the last ball of the first over.

Pocock, restricted by a fractured toe sustained while fielding, hobbled to the crease and was out when he deflected a delivery from fast bowler Michael Kasprovicz to Greg Blewett at short leg.

The Kiwis' cause was not helped when opener Bryan Young was run out for 23 after a breakdown in communications with number three and wicket-keeper Adam Parore who was 42 not out at the close with captain Stephen Fleming (0).

Parore escaped before he had scored when skipper Mark Taylor dropped a relatively simple catch at first slip, the first chance the home side has spilled in the match.

Taylor, however, made no mistake when scooping up a chance from nightwatchman Daniel Vettori, who got an outside edge to a ball from leg-spinner Shane Warne after he

had scored one.

Craig McMillan, who suffered a broken thumb in his side's first innings, is expected to bat again on Sunday.

Also not fully fit is all-rounder Chris Cairns, nursing a swollen knee after crashing into a metal fence chasing a boundary.

Australia lead 1-0 in the three-Test series.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the third day of the second Test match between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA ground on Saturday:

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings (overnight 235 for four) 461

Taylor lbw b O'Connor 2

Elliot c O'Connor b Cairns 42

Blewett c Aslie b O'Connor 14

M Waugh c Parore b Doull 86

S Waugh b O'Connor 95

Healy c Fleming b Cairns 15

Ponting c Fleming b Cairns 16

Reiffel c Fleming b Cairns 54

Warne c O'Connor b Vettori 36

Kasprovicz run out 9

Cook not out 3

Extras: (nb-7, lb-5, b-6) 18

Total: (all out in 131.4 overs) 461

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-53; 3-71; 4-224; 5-262; 6-287; 7-403; 8-449; 9-450.

**Bowling:** O M R W

Doull 21 3 78 1

O'Connor 31.4 7 109 3

Cairns 28 9 95 4

Vettori 29 7 84 1

Allott 22 3 84 0

**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings

Pocock b Blewett b Kasprovicz 1

B Young run out 23

Parore not out 42

Vettori c Taylor b Warne 1

Fleming not out 0

Extras: (nb-2) 2

Total: (for 3 wks in 30 overs) 69

Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-53; 3-55

**Bowling:** O M R W

Kasprovicz 9 3 23 1

Reiffel 7 4 10 0

Warne 9 2 17 1

Cook 5 2 19 0

**Biman tennis from tomorrow**

Sports Reporter

The Biman Open tennis championships, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF), will begin at the Ramna Tennis Complex from tomorrow.

Forty men and 13 women have entered. Besides, six foreigners living in Bangladesh—three men and three women—have also registered their names.

The BTF has estimated a budget of Tk 80,000 for the tournament of which sponsor Biman will provide Tk 75,000.

## France '98 playoff

# Australia hold Iran

TEHRAN, Nov 22: The last of the 32 spots for next year's World Cup soccer finals remained up for grabs Saturday after Iran and Australia played to a 1-1 tie in a hard-fought game at Tehran's Azadi Stadium, reports AP.

The two sides met again Nov 29 in Melbourne, with the winners clinching a place in France.

Neither side was able to dominate Saturday's game. But Australia jumped in front when Harry Kewell dodged the goalkeeper for an easy goal in the 18th minute. The 19-year-old striker controlled the ball with his first touch before drilling it past Iran goalkeeper Ahmadzadeh Abedzadeh.

The early goal silenced the overflowing crowd at the 100,000-seater stadium. Thousands of fans had camped out all night for a chance to root for the home team.

The Iranians equalised through Khodadad Azizi in the 39th minute.

Iran's star striker Ali Daei badgered the Australians with several close calls from far away and up close, but never managed to get a goal.

**West Jatrabari lift Div II h'ball title**

Sports Reporter

West Jatrabari Kirra Chakra clinched the Ashraf Real Estate Second Division handball league title with a marginal 17-16 victory over Banianagar Sports Club in a play-off match played at the court adjacent to Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In a see-saw affair which saw the first half locked on 6-6, Raja scored highest five goals while Mukti and Moteleb added four and three goals respectively to the winners' credit.

On the other hand, Babul of Banianagar fought the losing battle with eight goals.

Both teams have earned a promotion in the First Division league from next season.

**Steffi yet to get in shape**

BAD NEUNAH, Nov 22: Former No 1 tennis star Steffi Graf has backed out of three exhibition matches next month, saying she's still not fit after months of recuperation from knee surgery, reports AP.

Graf made the announcement late Thursday in Bad Neunahr, where a German bottled water company announced a new sponsorship contract with the 28-year-old German star.

Details of the contract were not released.

Graf has been sidelined since June after losing to South African Amanda Coetzer in the quarterfinals of the French Open on June 3.

A week later she had surgery on an irritated left knee tendon and has been recuperating since.

She was to play in the Masters of Champions tournament in Frankfurt scheduled for Dec 3-7, but withdrew.

Instead her manager announced she would take part in three less-strenuous exhibition matches in northern Germany as part of her comeback.

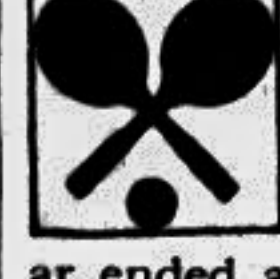
But at the news conference, Graf said "At the moment I am not yet ready to play."

Graf, who has slipped from No 1 to 16 in WTA ranking, does plan to play in the Australian Open Jan 19-Feb 1, but wants to be listed as a co-No 3 to start in one of the pre-Open tournaments in Brisbane or Sydney.

Her trainer, Heinz Guenthardt, said Graf will return to full training starting next week.

Graf is the winner of 21 Grand Slam singles titles and 103 singles titles. Her knee problems caused her to default in the final in Tokyo in February, giving that tournament to current No 1 player, Martina Hingis of Switzerland.

# Always winning can be taxing



NEW YORK, Nov 22 (AP): Playing winning tennis is exhausting. Even for a teenager.

A remarkable year ended a few days early for Martina Hingis when the 17-year-old from Trubbach, Switzerland, was knocked out of the 2 million dollar Chase Championships by Mary Pierce.

"The year is over before I expected," Hingis said following her 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 quarterfinal loss Thursday night.

The year also was made much longer by her winning. She came into the season-ending tournament with a sparkling 74-4 match record, 12 tournament titles—including the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open—and the world's No. 1 ranking. Only a title match loss to Iva Majoli at the French Open kept her from a Grand Slam sweep.

No wonder she also came into Madison Square Garden a little tired.

"To me, her balls seemed a little shorter and not as penetrating," Pierce said. "And I think she seemed a step slower."

Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, who matched Hingis stroke for stroke and played to point before sustaining an injury and retiring from their first-round match, also noticed a difference.

"I had the feeling Martina was not 100 per cent in shape," Schultz-McCarthy said. "I was a bit too careful because I knew she wasn't as fast as the normally is."

Playing winning tennis in 17 tournaments will do that to you.

Playing in 17 tournaments is not the same as playing winning tennis in 17 tournaments.

Only four times was Hingis not in action on the final day of a tournament—losing to Lindsay Davenport in a semifinal at Los Angeles; to Amanda Coetzer in a semifinal at Leipzig, Germany; to Lisa Raymond in a quarterfinal at Zurich, Switzerland; and to Pierce.

She also played doubles in 15 tournaments, posting a 53-7 record and qualifying for the Chase Championships with Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. The two were upset in the first round at Madison Square Garden by Alexandra Fusai and Nathalie Tauziat.

While Hingis lost only five times in singles in 1997,