

## Donald targets two hundred

MELBOURNE, Dec 29: Pace bowler Allan Donald claimed the record Monday as South Africa's greatest wicket-taker with 171 and then set 200 Test wickets as his next goal, reports AP.

Donald overtook post-war great Hugh Tayfield — who took 170 wickets in 37 Tests between 1949 and 1960 — when he had Mike Kasprovic caught at point by Gary Kirsten on the fourth day of the Melbourne Test.

Donald said he had been determined to break Tayfield's record in the Melbourne Test and was relieved to have done so.

"It's a major milestone for me to reach 171 Test wickets and to know I am the leading wicket-taker for my country is a great honour," he said.

"Now the 200 wickets is in sight and I would love to reach that, hopefully before the World Cup in 1999."

Donald achieved the record in his 36th Test, one less than off-spinner Tayfield, who died earlier this year during Australia's tour of South Africa.

Donald has great respect for the man he replaced as South Africa's most successful bowler.

"As an off-spinner it's a hell of a feat to take 170 wickets in 37 Tests," he said of Tayfield.

Donald, 31, would probably be closer to the 300 Test wickets had it not been for South Africa's sporting isolation during the apartheid era.

His Test career did not start until the 1991-92 season at the age of 25.

Although the last years were frustrating, the wait had been worthwhile, he said, even though he would finish his career with fewer Test wickets than less talented bowlers from other countries.

"I think I have done it (the record) in good time and if I end up with 250 Test wickets I will be very satisfied with my cricket career," Donald said.

## Anand, Adams neck and neck

GRONINGEN, Dec 29: Viswanathan Anand and Michael Adams drew their match for the third consecutive time in their best-of-four World Chess Championship eliminator in Groningen of the Netherlands on Sunday, reports Xinhua.

Englishman Adams, playing white, opened with his king's pawn and Anand of India countered with the Sicilian defence.

Adams proposed a draw on move 35th. Games one and two were drawn after 55 and 48 moves respectively.

If Monday's fourth game also ends in a draw, the contest will be decided by a series of speed games.

The two Grand Masters will then play two games with 25 minutes thinking time each.

If that is still not enough to decide the winner, who will challenge reigning world champion Anatoly Karpov of Russia, two more games with 15 minutes each will be played.

A final "sudden death" blitz game will then be played in the case that the two are still deadlocked.

## 'Super Engles' won't play Europeans

LAGOS, Dec 29: The new Nigerian minister of sport said on Sunday that his country would not play any warm-up friendlies for next year's World Cup finals with European opposition because of the sporting sanctions imposed on the country in 1995, reports AFP.

The minister, Emeka Omeruah, an air force general, said that as the sanctions which were imposed for abuse of human rights, were still in place Nigeria would rather play in a quadrangular tournament in Hong Kong with fellow qualifiers Chile and South Korea.

They are also due to play a friendly against Yugoslavia in May.

Reiffel, who topped the batting averages against England and New Zealand this year, made his highest Test score. He improved on his 77 against New Zealand in Brisbane in the first Test this year.

Since his recall as a replacement for the Ashes tour, Reiffel, 31, has scored 143 runs at an average of 66.14 with three half centuries.

Australia, resuming the day on 67 for four, slowly ground out the South African attack despite some menacing bowling by fast bowler Allan Donald.

Donald, who ripped through the Australian top order on the third evening, added the wicket



BEAT THAT! South Africa's pace powerhouse Allan Donald receives the euphoric response from teammates on becoming the highest wicket-taker in Tests for his country after dismissing Australia's Michael Kasprovic on the fourth day of the first Test in Melbourne yesterday.

## Final day awaits a thriller

# Reiffel repels SA surge

MELBOURNE, Dec 29: Paul Reiffel hit a brilliant unbeaten 79 and then removed opener Gary Kirsten to put Australia in the box seat in the first cricket Test against South Africa on Monday, reports AP.

Set to make an imposing 381 runs to win in a minimum of 120 overs, South Africa were 79 for one at stumps on the penultimate day.

Opener Adam Bacher overcame his indifferent tour form with a fine 34 and No. 3 Jacques Kallis was unbeaten on 40 at the close.

Bacher was dropped by Ricky Ponting off Glenn McGrath at short leg when the right-hander had scored just one run.

The second-wicket pair batted boldly to defy the Australian attack for 98 minutes after Kirsten was bowled with just two runs on the board.

It gave Reiffel his 100th Test wicket in his 33rd appearance since making his debut against India in Perth in 1992.

Bacher and Kallis will start fresh on the fifth day in search of another 302 runs required for an unlikely win and a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Australia's lower-order batting would have provided some encouragement for the South African batsmen on a wicket that has proved to be a monster on the first three days.

The threat of Shane Warne looms over the South Africans on the last day, but temporarily the leg-spinner was smacked around the Melbourne Cricket Ground by Kallis.

Kallis hit Warne for two boundaries in an over despite the vicious turn he extracted off the bowlers' foot marks.

The home side recovered from a perilously-placed 146 for eight as Reiffel put on 62 in even time for the ninth wicket with Michael Kasprovic (19) and another 49 with No. 11 Glenn McGrath (18).

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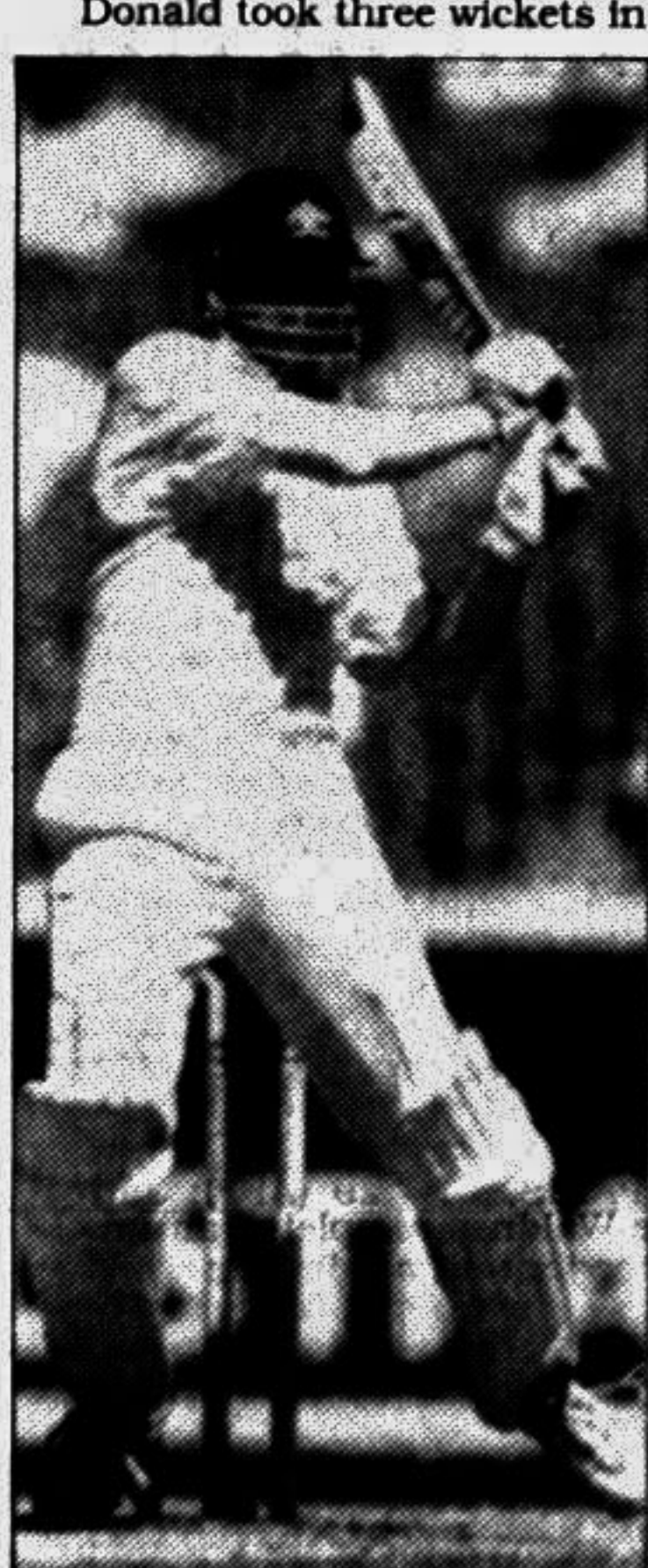
Australia, resuming the day on 67 for four, slowly ground out the South African attack despite some menacing bowling by fast bowler Allan Donald.

Donald, who ripped through the Australian top order on the third evening, added the wicket

of Ian Healy, Warne and Kasprovic to finish with 6-59.

When he removed Kasprovic, Donald became South Africa's leading wicket-taker — 171 wickets in 36 Tests — to pass Hugh Tayfield's 170 wickets in 37 matches.

Donald took three wickets in



REIFFEL... 79

## BHF picks 16 primarily

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF) yesterday named 16 players primarily to form a BHF President's Eleven team which will take on the visiting SRS Handball Club of Germany in a few exhibition matches scheduled to be held in the capital from January 3 to 9.

The following players have been asked to report at the BHF office at 3 pm on tomorrow: Mohammad Sultan, Abdul Hakim and Shahed Ali (Bangladesh Air Force); Rafiqul Islam, Mohammad Jahangir, Mongha, Pru and Golam Mustafa (BDR); Akram Hossain and Rabul Islam (Ansari); Saad Ahmed (Police); Nayan, Babu, Khokon Senior, Bappi and Khokon Junior (Dhaka DSA) and Rashedul (Rajshahi DSA).

Australia's first innings and has completed a match bag of 9-133.

Skipper Mark Taylor batted patiently for his 59 runs and put on 62 runs with Ponting after Donald had given the home side a scare, reducing them to 44 for four.

Ponting, Australia's first-innings hero with a brilliant 105, contributed another 32 and was one of the four to fall before lunch.

Australia lost four for 79 before lunch, including Taylor in controversial circumstances.

Off-spinner Pat Symcox had Taylor caught at first slip by Daryll Cullinan but there was doubt over whether the skipper hit the ball which spun a long way out of the footmarks.

Taylor batted for 248 minutes and hit just four boundaries off 195 balls.

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first cricket Test between Australia and South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here Monday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 309 (Ponting 105, S Waugh 96; Symcox 4-69, Donald 3-74)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 186 (Kirsten 83, McMillan 48; Kasprovic 4-28, Warne 3-64)

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings (67 for four overnight) Elliott lbw b Donald 1

Taylor c Cullinan b Symcox 59

Blewett c McMillan b Donald 6

M Waugh b Donald 1

S Waugh c Richardson b Pollock 17

Ponting c and b Pollock 32

Healy b Donald 4

Reiffel not out 79

Warne c Symcox b Donald 10

Kasprovic c Kirsten b Donald 18

McGrath c McMillan b Pollock 19

Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-4) 11

Total: (All out in 96.2 overs) 257

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-10; 3-12; 4-44; 5-106; 7-128; 8-146; 9-208; 10-257.

**Bowling:** Donald 27 8 59 3

Pollock 21.2 5 56 1

Symcox 35 9 90 1

McMillan 2 0 6 0

Klusener 9 2 28 0

Cronje 2 0 11 0

Batting time: 403 minutes.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings

Kirsten b Reiffel 0

Bacher not out 34

Kallis not out 40

Extras: (b-3, nb-2) 5

Total: (For one wkt) 79

Fall of wkt: 1-2

**Bowling:** McGrath 9 4 18 0

Reiffel 6 3 9 1

Kasprovic 4 0 19 0

Warne 9 1 27 0

M Warner 2 0 3 0

## Aga Khan golf Shaheen steals the show

Local hopes received a surprise boost on the last day of the Aga Khan Gold Cup golf tournament when Shaheen Khan captured the ladies crown at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday, says a press release.

Having played a net 81 on the first day Shaheen staged a brilliant recovery on the final day. Her dogged determination and impeccable course management helped her turn in a net 73. Her highly creditable 154 net over two days, left the strong field of some very accomplished women golfers, trailing vainly in her wake.

Success was even sweeter for Shaheen Khan as younger brother, ace golfer Shahkhat-Uz-Zaman, made it an all family affair by winning the Best Gross over two days.

Double delight for Mahboob, Elina

Sports Reporter

Mahboob and Elina of Biman earned doubles in the Meril 20th national badminton championships which concluded at the Pabna Stadium yesterday, according to a faxed message.

In the men's singles final, Mahboob, who won the doubles final along with Sarwar against Pabna's Hamid and Rinku, defeated teammate Sumon while Elina, who also won the women's doubles crown along with Noori, beat Konica of the same team to complete her double.

Sumon and Konica lifted the mixed doubles trophy defeating teammates Shaki and Elina.

Prof Shamsul Islam, a star of the '50s, Mahabub Rahman, the Deputy Commissioner of Pabna and Anjan Chowdhury Pintu, the managing director of sponsor Meril Toilettries, jointly distributed prizes among the winners.

A total of 130 shuttlers from 28 districts and three other organisations took part in the week-long meet which started on December 23.

Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

**BANGLADESH RAILWAY:** 150 for seven in 45 overs (Momin 39 n.o., Harris 30, Faisal 22, Akbar Khan 20; Mahfuz 2/20)

**DHAKA WANDERERS:** 153 for four in 40 overs (Sagor Abbas 39 n.o., Mahfuz 38, Nehaluddin 22, Tapan 18 n.o.; Momin 2/20)

**Result:** Dhaka Wanderers Club won by six wickets.

An all-round performance by Mahfuzur Rahman guided Dhaka Wanderers Club to an impressive six-wicket victory over Bangladesh Railway in the First Division cricket league at the City Club ground yesterday.

Chasing a manageable Railway total of 150 in 45 overs, Mahfuz, who captured two wickets in the first session to restrict the Railwaymen to a moderate 150 for seven, scored 38 runs as Wanderers reached 153 in 40 overs with six wickets in hand.

Coming to open the innings with Jewel (2), Mahfuz shared a valuable 54-run partnership for the second wicket along with Nehal (22) before being caught and bowled by Momin in the 17th over with Wanderers firmly placed on 72 for two.

In his 48-ball knock, Mahfuz hammered six boundaries.

After Mahfuz's departure, skipper Sagor Abbas of Pakistan took the control of the ship and piloted his side to the victory mark with an unbeaten 39. He was given a good support by mid-order batsman Tapan who also remained unbeaten on 18.

Earlier, electing to bat, first Railway could muster only 150 for seven in the stipulated 45 overs.

Despite the mishap Hingis looked to be on her way to another triumph when she won a tumultuous three-set showdown

# The Lankan-of-the-year

COLOMBO, Dec 29 (Daily News of Sri Lanka): Sri Lanka's business and leisure magazine Lanka Monthly Digest (LMD) has nominated cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya as its 'Sri Lankan-of-the-Year' for 1997.

A portrait of the 'master blaster' adorns the cover page of the magazine's January issue which will be out on New Year's Day.

"Jayasuriya is perceptive of the essential fickleness of both media and the public, and he is aware that it is his cricketing prowess that underlies his popularity," states LMD in making Jayasuriya their choice.

"I never really had a role model (but greatly admire teammate Aravinda de Silva). I never sought to emulate any great star. I just played my game. Besides, the first Test match I watched, was the first I played," reveals Jayasuriya in an exclusive interview with LMD.

"What seems like blitzkrieg to most of us, is to Sanath, natural game. His attitude even on the cricket field is to take things as they come. He never steers away from the 'middle path,'" said the magazine.

"Sanath values hard work and truly believes that success comes with hard work. He is very much the Aquarian that he is, his attitude toward life being one of openness and accep-

tance," said LMD.

Jayasuriya became the first Sri Lankan to make a triple century in Test cricket and during the calendar year was the



SANATH JAYASURIYA

first cricketer to top 1,000 runs in Tests. He also achieved the feat in the abbreviated game as well, thus completing an excellent double for the year.

# Hingis from start to finish

PARIS, Dec 29 (AFP): With three grand slam singles titles, nine other tournament wins and only six defeats in 79

matches — 1997 was indisputably Martina Hingis' year.

But with Steffi Graf out of action for most of the season, Monica Seles in sharp decline and teenage rivals Venus and Serena Williams hovering in the wings and likely to cause upsets in 1998. The record-breaking Swiss teenager may yet live to bitterly regret the last 12 months.

For she may never again have such a great chance of winning all four of the major tournaments in the same year and become only the fourth player in history to achieve the elusive "Grand Slam".

Maureen Connolly (1953), Margaret Court (1970) and Steffi Graf (1988), are the only players to have achieved the feat.

Hingis got three-quarters of the way there. The stumbling block proved to be the French Open where she crashed to a shock straight-sets defeat against Croatia's Iva Majoli in the final.

Hingis, named after the legendary Martina Navratilova by her fanatical tennis-playing mother and coach Melanie Molitor, started rewriting the history books in January when, at the age of just 16 years 3 months and 26 days, she became the youngest winner of a Grand Slam singles title this century by triumphing over French number-one Mary Pierce at the Australian Open.

Two months later the young Swiss player became the world's youngest-ever player to top the rankings, and by the time she arrived at Roland Garros she had won six tournaments and was unbeaten in 34 matches.

In the run-up to the world's most gruelling event, however, Hingis suffered the first major injury of her career when she damaged knee ligaments. But the setback did not come from playing tennis but from her other great love — horse riding.

She was thrown while riding a friend's horse and was grounded for three weeks — an enforced rest which did not allow her to prepare properly for the French Open.

Despite the mishap Hingis looked to be on her way to another triumph when she won a tumultuous three-set showdown

with three-times former champion Seles in the semifinals.

After that win, most observers throughout she had only turn up to claim the trophy. Hingis, however, was brought back to earth when she found a highly combative 19-year-old Majoli waiting for her. The Croatian then played the match of her life and dismissed Hingis in 78 minutes.

Hingis bravely smiled off the defeat, crossed the English Channel and won the Wimbledon title by beating experienced Czech serve-and-volley specialist Jana Novotna before sweeping

she slumped to another defeat against the 5ft 2in (1.57m) Coetzee in the quarterfinals at the French Open.

It was the end of Graf's season.

A few days after leaving Roland Garros she finally underwent the operation on the knee she had been putting off for months.

With Graf gone and Seles still far below peak physical condition and clearly suffering from the absence of her father and coach Karoly Seles, who had to stay behind in the United States for stomach cancer treatment, Hingis ruled supreme.

Venus, a hard-hitting 17-year-old six-footer, came over to Europe in the summer accompanied by her mother and younger sister Serena — and showed enough to leave nobody in any doubt that she could develop into a major threat to Hingis in 1998.

Hingis will also have to deal with sister Serena, considered by many an even brighter prospect.

In Chicago where, as a wildcard entry, she defeated Elena Likhovtseva, Pierce, and Monica Seles to go rocketing up to 102nd in the rankings.

Anna Kournikova, the ambitious Russian newcomer with a lethal double-fisted backhand and model good looks, swept into the semifinals at Wimbledon less than one month after her 16th birthday. For the Championship fortnight, one of the wettest-ever the young Russian, who is coached by Nick Bollettieri, was the main target of the British tabloid press photographers. She played that role to perfection.

The 29-year-old Novotna, followed her runners-up berth at Wimbledon by finally winning the first major title of her career when she finally strung together a series of excellent results and triumphed over Pierce to claim the WTA Championship crown.

The 22-year-old Canadian-born French number-one had every reason to be pleased with her season, however.

Quite apart from her excellent performances in Australia and in New York, she was also a member of the first French team ever to win the Fed Cup.

Under Yannick Noah, Pierce joined up with Nathalie Tauziat, Sandrine Testud and Alexandra Fusai to beat the Netherlands 4-1 in the final.

Although the German champion avenged that defeat two weeks later and went on to beat Croatia's 15-year-old Mirjana Lucic for the title in Strasbourg,

through the draw at the US Open without dropping a set to take the title after a one-sided win over home hope Venus Williams.

The Swiss player, a hot favourite to close her season by winning the WTA Championship, slipped in New York, however, when she went down in the semifinals — Pierce avenging her loss in Australia.

Steffi Graf had a disastrous season.

Having withdrawn because of continuing problems with her knee from a scheduled showdown with Hingis in the final in Tokyo in February, the German champion returned to the Tour in May only to crash to one of the worst defeats of her career — 0-6, 1-6 — when she faced South Africa's Amanda Coetzee in the third round in Berlin.

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