

## Sport

Dunedin  
UnTested

DUNEDIN, New Zealand. Dec 20 (AFP/AP): The first cricket Test between India and New Zealand was abandoned today on its third day without a ball being bowled, but with hints of controversy between the two sides.

Carisbrook Park, the world's southern most Test venue, lived up to its local house of pain reputation with solid rain from Friday morning when play was to have started. Although the pitch covers were doing their work by today, with rain still falling it was apparent the rest of the field was getting a good soaking.

Australian match referee Barry Jarman offered an extension to the match with a day Wednesday, but India declined, saying it did not give them enough time until the second Test on December 26 in Wellington. The third and final Test is on January 2 in Hamilton.

Both teams agreed to play a day/night limited-overs exhibition match on Monday, but the rainy weather forecast placed that match in doubt.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chief executive officer Chris Doig described the washout as a 'terrible shame' but said the financial implications were minor.

"Both teams are keen to get something out of the remaining two days. The Indians have warmly embraced the idea of playing a one-dayer," Doig said. Jarman said the one-day game will be used as an experiment for the use of red ball under lights in white clothing.

Traditionally day/night internationals are played in coloured clothing and with a white ball.

At the start of the series India had turned down an offer to utilise the International Cricket Council's (ICC) experimental laws regarding lost time.

Under the ICC rule lost time can be made up by using floodlights or by altering the start or finish times later in the match.

"I think this game will help us identifying a few problems. The cricket world is still split and is not comfortable with the ICC," Jarman said.

Recently England refused to use lights in the current Ashes series against Australia because ground lights are a relatively new addition to the English scene and the team has not played often under those conditions.

This is the second Test to be abandoned without a ball bowled in Dunedin. Nine years ago a Test between the Indians and Pakistan was also abandoned without a ball being bowled.

This is only the eighth Test to be abandoned in the history of cricket.

The last was in 1994 when the second Test between Sri Lanka and Pakistan in Colombo was canceled due to post-election curfew.

Not the way PT  
wanted to end!

BANGKOK, Dec 20: A bitter and tearful Indian track legend P T Usha ended her international athletics career on the sidelines Saturday after India ruthlessly ditched her before the Asian Games 4x400m relay, reports AFP.

The Indian mother, whose haul of 33 medals in Asian Games and Asian Championships including 18 golds is unparalleled, had been hoping for one final honour after bravely struggling with injury all week.

But the Indian team put its medal ambitions ahead of sentiment.

As the Indian quartet crossed the line in second behind China and ahead of bronze medalists Kazakhstan, Usha, who ran at the Asian despite a hamstring problem, broke out in tears.

"I'm bitterly disappointed," she said. "I was deliberately left out. They did not even have the decency to tell me. I was not even informed until I asked last night."

She said she felt she had been let down by the team management, who she said had not supported her as she battled for fitness.

But Lalit Bhanot, secretary of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India (AAFI), defended the decision.

"It's more important to win the gold medal than to think of one athlete," he said, adding Usha's 400m times were no longer up to scratch.

The 34-year-old Usha, whose career reached its pinnacle when she won four gold and a silver medals at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, came here with a left hamstring problem that stopped her driving off the leg with full power.

She failed to qualify for the 200m, came within the 400m final and, as anchor, missed a bronze medal in the 4x100m by a tenth of a second.

Some reports earlier this week suggested frantic attempts were being made within the team to convince her to save her strength for the relays and to bypass the individual events, moves she rejected.

It was a sad end to a career spanning two decades. This time, however, the decision looks final. "I want to go out of these Games with a bang," she said ahead of the race.

She had prepared perfectly before her injury by winning four medals at the Asian Championships this year, bronzes in the 200 and 400, a gold and silver in the relays.

But her injury led to her being replaced by Dincy Phillips, quicker than Usha in recent months. India's high class quartet also included Jyotiymoy Sikdar, who took gold in both the 800 and 1,500 here, and Rosa Kutty, who finished fourth in the 400m individual final.

## Atherton's maiden double

HOBART, Dec 20 (Reuters/ AFP/ Internet): Mike Atherton scored his first double century in first-class cricket on the rain-hit second day of the four-day match against an Australian XI on Sunday.

Atherton, skipping the side in the absence of Alec Stewart, made 210 not out as England built an unbeatable 469 for six declared in their first innings.

The Australian XI were 30

for no wicket at the close. After rain had ruled out play until mid afternoon, Atherton and Graeme Hick took advantage of an attack shorn of the injured Paul Reiffel, Michael Kasprovicz and Gavin Robertson.

They carried their overnight fourth-wicket stand of 33 to 195 before Hick was dismissed for 125.

Atherton, averaging just 19 on the tour going into this match, batted for 483 minutes, hitting 26 fours.

The England opener's previ-

ous highest first-class score was 199 for county side Lancashire against Durham in 1992.

Hick, also with a string of low scores behind him, savaged the Australian XI's spare-parts attack. He raced from 42 to 92 in just 18 balls.

Dropped by Stuart Law on 94, Hick went on to hit 22, including successive sixes, off the first five balls of an over by Michael Bevan.

He was caught off the final ball by 17-year-old Nathan Webb, one of three substitute fielders.

Ben Hollisake was dismissed without scoring and then Webb took a smart catch at cover to dismiss wicketkeeper Warren Hegg for four, at which point Atherton called a halt to the onslaught.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after the second day of the four-day cricket tour match between an Australian XI and England at Bellerive Oval on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings (298 for 3 overnight)  
Butcher c Richards b Law 25  
Atherton not out 210  
Crawley c Gilchrist b Blewett 27  
Ramprakash b Bevan 65  
Hick c Sub (Webb) b Bevan 125  
B Hollisake c Gilchrist b Julian 0  
Hegg c Sub (Webb) b Bevan 4  
Extras (lb-5, w-2, nb-6) 13  
Total: (For 6 wks dec in 126.1 overs) 469

Fall of wks: 1-57; 2-126; 3-265; 4-460; 5-460; 6-469  
Bowler: O M R W  
Kasprovicz 18.3 2 67 0  
Reiffel 1.3 0 4 0  
Julian 32 6 98 1  
Blewett 24 2 73 1  
Law 21 4 84 1  
Bevan 23.1 3 94 3  
Elliott 5 0 34 0  
Lehmann 1 0 10 0

AUSTRALIA XI: First innings  
Elliott not out 14  
Blewett not out 11  
Extras (lb-2, nb-3) 5  
Total: (For no loss in 11 overs) 30  
Bowler: O M R W  
Tudor 6 3 12 0  
Fraser 5 2 16 0



ATHERTON.. 210 n.o.

Sporting success: The  
Chinese method

BANGKOK, Dec 20 (AP): Chinese Olympian Huang Liping was just 7 when a coach determined his destiny.

Scouting for future gymnasts, the coach lined up Huang and his schoolmates and picked those with promising physiques. Huang and another boy were the only two chosen.

"He looked at my arms, my feet," said Huang. "He went round and round the class, then spoke to the teacher and the teacher said: 'Right, you and you.'"

From there, years of state-sponsored training brought Huang Olympic and World Championship medals. He retired after the Atlanta Games in 1996. But at the Asian Games that ended Sunday, China continued their medal-winning ways, highlighting their sports machine's ability to pick and train athletes young, hard and in volume.

China won 129 golds, far ahead of second-place South Korea with 65. The Chinese swept all 11 Asian Games rowing golds. They won six of seven table tennis golds. They also took the most track and field golds.

In weightlifting, diving and gymnastics, all sports where China prepares athletes from young ages, the Chinese looked untouchable. In diving, China took all four golds and all four silvers, and unveiled a new 14-year-old star, Li Na. In gymnastics, China took gold in 12 of 14 events. In weightlifting, China's women swept all the gold for the third games in a row and broke world records on seven consecutive days, thanks to lifters like Liu Xihua.

The petite 24-year-old, whose new 83.5-kilogram snatch record was close to twice her body weight, was picked at age 13 by a coach who "thought I was physically suited to weightlifting," she said.

Now, weightlifting "counts as my job," said Liu, who trains three to four hours a day, five or six days a week.

Back in China, many top athletes are paid and housed by the state, or cared for in state-run sports schools. Once picked for top teams, promising young talents are trained without charge for them or their parents.

It's a system that enables China to churn out athletes in big numbers, and shift smoothly from one generation of athletes to another.

The national women's weightlifting team, for instance, numbers some 40 athletes. That allowed China to field one top-class team of lifters at last month's World Championships, where its women took 13 golds, and another fresh team of record-breakers at the Asian Games.

Bangkok Games  
given 'clean  
bill of health'

BANGKOK, Dec 20: Asian Games organisers said Saturday that the Bangkok event was one of the most drug-free international sports events ever held, reports AFP.

"In this Asian Games we have found the lowest level of drug use compared to other major sports events," said Ruangsak Siriphol, the doctor in charge of testing for the 13th Games.

"I cannot say whether it is the cleanest Games, because we have not conducted tests on every athlete, but we think so."

"We did random tests for prohibited drugs on athletes as specified by each sport's federation," added the chairman of the organising committee's medal control sub-committee.

He said that up to Saturday more than 700 tests had been conducted on the 6,700 athletes. Two weightlifters, one from Jordan and one from Kuwait, were the only drug failures announced.

Jaber Rashid Al-Ajmi of Kuwait, who finished 10th and last in the men's over 105-kg class on Monday, tested positive for the steroid mesterolone. Jordan's Ayed Jassar Khawader, in the 110-kg competition, was sent home after taking triamterene, a diuretic, to lose weight.

The Olympic Council of Asia had been wary of declaring victory in the war against sports doping after the Hiroshima Games four years ago when 11 Chinese, including seven swimmers, failed tests.

When China lost Lu Yufu, a vault specialist, to injury before the Asian Games gymnastics competition started, coaches quickly found a replacement. Underscoring its depth, two of China's gold medalists in men's individual gymnastics disciplines, Yang Wei and Xing Aowei, were newcomers.

The 16-year-old Xing, who won pommel horse gold, looked to have the makings of a future star. His graceful, relaxed movements "make people feel as if they are being taken to the stars," said head Chinese coach Qian Kui.

But China's Asian Games were not without setbacks. In the pool, China took second place to Japan in golds. China's total of 15 track and field golds was seven less than at the last games in Hiroshima, Japan, in 1994. China was shut out in long and middle distance events. Noticeably absent were runners trained by flamboyant coach Ma Junren, whose team was not included because it did not take part in qualifying events.

China's Asian Games delegation head, Yuan Weimin, said Sunday that overall he was "basically satisfied, but not totally satisfied" with China's showing.

As for China's sports system, Yuan said not enough money was going into sports and that more support was needed from non-government sources. There was some evidence of private funding at Bangkok: The Chinese women's diving team and men's gymnastics team were sponsored by Longines, the watchmakers.

At Bangkok, China's fight against doping also appeared to be bearing fruit. As of Sunday, no Chinese athlete was known to have tested positive for banned substances. At the last games, 11 Chinese were found to have used drugs.

Chinese coaches, however, angrily denied that China's weaker showing in some events at Bangkok showed that their successes in previous games must have been due to doping. "If a Chinese swims fast it's drugs, if a Chinese swims slowly, no drugs," said Zhang Xiong, the swim coach. "It's not fair."

Sohail says it's  
not over

FAISALABAD, Pakistan. Dec 20: Pakistan captain Aamir Sohail, who has given vital testimony to a judicial commission investigating match-fixing allegations in cricket, today dismissed speculation that his career was over, reports AFP.

Sohail walked out of the team in the second Test at Lahore last week after a row with selector Salahuddin Ahmed, coach Javed Miandad as well as disagreement with Pakistan board chairman Khalid Mahmood.

He was named in the 16-man squad for the third Test in Faisalabad but did not turn up there due to indisposition.

On Saturday he reappeared before the judicial commission investigating into match-fixing and betting allegations against some Pakistani cricketers and recorded his in-camera statement.

"I cannot disclose much and you guess it yourself," Sohail said.

Pakistan Cricket Board legal adviser Ali Sibtain Fazli said Sohail had given solid evidence against some players.

This time around he spoke freely as captain's hat was no more on his head," Fazli said.

"Sohail has given an important document to the commission," another source said.

Local media reports suggested Sohail threatened to reveal startling facts on the role of fellow players in betting.

"I have not burnt my boats and am gearing up to go to India, my cricket is not finished," Sohail said.

However he said, "It is upto the selectors to select me or not," for the team's 10-week trip to India next month.

PCB chief has  
no excuses

FAISALABAD, Dec 20: Pakistan Cricket Board chief Khalid Mahmood today denied a rift in the national team saying all was not lost after the successive defeats in series against Australia and Zimbabwe, reports AFP.

"We have lost two series in a row but it is cricket and this is very unfortunate that people do not accept defeat as a defeat, they start spreading things like rift in the team and between officials," Mahmood said.

Pakistan lost to Australia in October, Zimbabwe, 1-0 up in the ongoing series, were heading towards their first series win as a Test-playing team in 1992.

Commentators say an apparent row between Mahmood and PCB's chief executive, Majid Khan, has affected the PCB working and a rift between team members had led to dismal performances in the home series.

"We were very close to square the series against Zimbabwe in Lahore but weather intervened, so this should be taken as bad luck," Mahmood said.

Cricketers were subjected to harsh criticism for scheduling the matches in unsuitable conditions and venues. "The next thing on our cards is the Indian tour for which we are planning," Mahmood said.

However, the 10-week tour for two Tests, three one-dayers and a Test of the Asian Test Championship faces threats of disruption by militants of an anti-Pakistan coalition partner of the Indian government.

## Shield scores

SYDNEY, Dec 20 (Reuters/ Internet): Brad Hodge scored his second successive century to lead Victoria's fightback on the second day of their Sheffield Shield match against New South Wales on Sunday.

Hodge made 120, his highest first class score, as Victoria reached 219 for 3 in reply to Victoria's first innings 360.

Hodge and opener Matthew Mott put on 178 for the third wicket after Victoria had slipped to 22 for two. Mott ended the day unbeaten on 62. Tasmania appeared set for victory over Queensland at the Gabba after reducing their opponents to 127 for seven in their second innings, an overall lead of just 62.

Opener Matthew Hayden was the only Queensland batsman to offer any real resistance, scoring 51. Queensland lost five wickets in the first stage in the final session, Colin Miller and Gerard Denton grabbing two wickets each.

David Fitzgerald (167) and Jeff Vaughan (157 not out) led the way as South Australia declared their first innings at 503 for six against Western Australia. It was their highest Shield score in Perth since 1970.

Western Australia replied with 182 for three.

Bejbl angry  
at Sacchi

MADRID, Dec 20 (Reuters/ Internet): Atletico Madrid's Czech international Radek Bejbl vented his frustration at being regularly dropped by coach Arrigo Sacchi, to Spanish reporters on Friday.

"Some games I am in the starting line up, some games I am on the bench and some games I am sitting in the stands. However I think I am playing a lot better than others and that is why I am unhappy," a stern-faced Bejbl said.

The blond-haired midfielder, with more than 20 appearances for his national side by his name, has been dropped twice in the last four games and been on the bench for the other two matches.

The player hinted that he might soon be demanding a transfer, although his contract does not come to an end until June 2000, if Sacchi does not give him him more frequent opportunities to show his prowess.



MARATHON MAN : Lee Bong-Ju of South Korea waves the national flag and his running shoes after winning the final event of the Asian Games. — AFP photo

## Lee claims the last gold

BANGKOK, Dec 20 (AP): South Korea's Lee Bong-Ju pulled away from Japan's Akira Manai in the marathon Sunday, pounding a final stamp of victory on the Asian Games' real battle — between their two nations for second in the gold standings.

After Lee won the Games' final race by nearly a minute, he ran a victory lap with a South Korean flag while Manai took one step over the finish line and hung his head in fatigue.

Lee's triumph left South Korea ahead of Japan 65 to 52 in gold medals, although Japan came out ahead 180-165 in total medals.

Nobody expected to surpass sports giants China, who finished with 129 of the 378 gold medals awarded, or 34 per cent. The Chinese had taken 135 of the 342 golds, or 39 per cent, at the last Games in 1994.

Compared to four years ago, the Chinese lost some ground to Japan in swimming and track events.

In some cases where the Chinese won, such as in diving and rowing, they said the Asian competition was too easy. The diving coach said his team still faced hard work if it wanted to make the desired impact at the 2000 Olympics.

Yuan Weimin, head of China's delegation here, said that overall he was "basically satisfied, but not totally satisfied," with China's showing.

Looking ahead to 2000 at Sydney was a major theme for China, South Korea and Japan, while some of the smaller teams were celebrating their

chance to shine on the Asian stage.

Hosts Thailand finished with 24 gold medals, double their initial target and double their best previous finish — 12 in 1966.

That tied it with Kazakhstan for fourth in golds.

Hong Kong, who had only one gold from all previous Asian Games, came out with five.

But 2000 also was a concern for marathon winner Lee, who missed a 1996 Olympic gold by just three seconds.

"I was disappointed with the time. The temperature was too high," Lee said. "But I am delighted to win the gold."

"Now I have two goals: a gold medal at the Sydney Olympics and to break the world marathon record, maybe next year at London, Rotterdam or Boston," he added.

Chinese women weightlifters did all the world record setting here, breaking marks on all seven days of their competition at the Games.

But in the more prestigious track events, Japanese runners turned in the best time. Koji Ito just missed the exclusive club of men who have run 100 metres in less than 10 seconds, turning in a 10-flat semifinal in the semifinals before winning the gold in a slightly slower time.

On Sunday, Ito received the 100,000 dollars award for the Games' Most Valuable Performance.

Second in the voting by reporters covering the Games was Japan's Naoko Takahashi.

## A new and improved India

BANGKOK, Dec 20 (AP): For Asian Games founder India, the world's second most populous nation, the Bangkok Games were something of a resurrection.

Athletes from the nation of 980 million people are taking home seven gold, 11 silver and 17 bronze medals — and perhaps most importantly India's first gold in men's field hockey in 32 years.

It was a significant improvement from India's 1994 performance of four gold, three silver and 15 bronze, making it eighth in the medal tally.

On the other hand, the Bangkok collection is smaller than that of smaller countries like North Korea, 7-17-41; Taiwan, 19-17-41; Kazakhstan 24-26-40, and hosts Thailand 24-26-40.

China headed the standings with 129-78-67.

"No doubt we can do better. Maybe we lack confidence and conviction," said Gurdar Singh Mander, head of India's delegation to the Games. "But our performance here is surely an improvement and this may give us chance to do better in future Games."

The stars of India's modest achievement were the hockey team, which beat defending champions South Korea 4-2 in a penalty shootout for its first Asian Games field hockey gold since 1966.

But India's women's field hockey team lost to South Korea 2-1 and settled for a silver.

Jyotiymoy Sikdar, a 22-year-old railroad official from the eastern city of Calcutta, out-sprinted China's Wang Qingfen to win the women's 1,500. Sikdar added the women's 800 title to her gold haul, finishing well ahead of teammate Rosa Kutty.

Dinko Singh, a 20-year-old navy officer who almost was left off India's Asian Games boxing team because of squabbling among officials, won his nation's first boxing gold since Kohhar Singh took one in the 1982 Games in New Delhi.

India won two gold medals in billiards. Ashok Shandilya, a railroad officer from Bombay, beat world No 2 and countryman Geet Sethi in English billiards. Sethi and Shandilya also won a gold in billiards doubles.

India's gold medal hope in women's weightlifting, Malleswari Karnam, had to settle for a silver in the 63-kilogram division, where China's Lei Li broke records for both the snatch and total lift and finished 2.5 kilograms ahead of her.

India's performance in soccer was lackluster. Though they advanced from the original field of 23 to the last 16, they lost to Uzbekistan 2-0.

India maintained their dominance in kabaddi, beating tra-

ditional rival Pakistan 17-9 and ending with a perfect 6-0 record.

India were instrumental in organising the first Asian Games, for which they were hosts in 1951. That inaugural year it was second in the medal tally — after perennial high performer Japan — with 15 gold, 18 silver and 19 bronze.

India have participated in every Asian Games since, one of only a half-dozen nations to have done so. But their performance faltered as more and more countries joined, bringing athletes from world, not just regional powers.

Byshovets sacked

MOSCOW, Dec 20: The Russian football federation on Friday announced the sacking of national coach Anatoly Byshovets, reports AFP.

Byshovets was fired for Russia's disastrous showing in the European Championship qualifiers, the federation said in a statement.

Russia, who failed to qualify for the World Cup in France, currently lie joint bottom of Euro 2000 Group 4 after losing their opening three matches while neighbours Ukraine top the group.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Not stiff  
5 Hem's partner  
8 Use a teaspoon  
12 Locality  
13 "A Chorus Line" song  
14 Cogito-sum link  
15 Desire  
16 Comedian  
17 Urban disturbance  
18 Fair-minded  
20 Forensic skirmish  
22 Crucial  
23 Diarist  
24 Arizona Pueblo  
27 First aid supply  
32 Reverential fear  
33 Brian of rock  
34 Perculation product  
35 Slum housing  
38 Witnessed  
39 Historic boy king

DOWN  
1 Some old ones are blue  
2 OPEC member  
3 Carte  
4 New York governor  
5 Apis mellifera  
6 Whatever signature  
7 Dandelion, e.g.  
8 Belgrade is there  
9 Romantic entanglement  
10 "—"  
11 Rhythm  
12 Memorization method  
19 Scale member  
21 Remnant  
24 Chapeau  
25 Have bills  
26 Large brass container?  
28 Abby's sis  
29 Aware of  
30 Keep tabs on  
31 D.C. VIP  
36 City on the Willamette  
37 1959 Kingston Trio song  
38 Lie spread-eagle

Solution time: 23 mins.

GALL GOT SPAM  
ALICE ORA HULA  
PIREOVAR ALES  
STATIONER  
AKIN DOOT  
WEPT COMB VJA  
ABU GENES ELM  
CBS IDEA ARKS  
HAD SLAB  
OLOGY AMPT  
RAVE PASSOVER  
AVER UMA ROME  
MARY DIX SWAY  
Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP  
LY M J P D V S A L L Y M X  
S J Z : K M R R I S A E E Z C D M E Z Q  
E D Q M S X V Z R M P Z R I  
L S K S E P S E C R D I ?  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'M SORRY LUNCH IS SO LATE, IT SEEMS THE CHEF HAS RUN OUT OF THYME.  
Today's Cryptquip clue: P equals K  
The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it 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.



MVP: Japan's Koji Ito with his coveted prize. He collected three golds and set three Asian records. Besides he is also the fastest man in the region. — AFP photo