

## Biman golf held

**Sports Reporter**  
The Biman Bangladesh Airlines golf tournament was held at the Kumtola Golf Club yesterday. A record number of players took part in the day long meet, which was inaugurated by the club president Lt Gen M Mustafizur Rahman, says a press release.  
Winners at the tournament are as follows:  
Winner men's — Alok Azeem; Ladies winner — Mrs Rajini Alaman; Senior Winner — A Rahim Chowdhury; Junior winner — Zohab Khan; Best gross — Sadiq Quddus; Ladies best gross — Mrs Negumi Kooreeda; 2nd best gross — Chanc Lee; Runner-up — Rahib Bashir; Ladies runner-up — Mrs Ok Kyung Jan; 2nd runner-up — Maj Gen Sayeed Ahmed; Front nine winner — Woo Yun Lee; Back nine winner — Brig Intiaz Ahmed Chowdhury; Nearest to pin — WH Seo; Longest drive — Alok Azeem.

## Nat'l jr chess

Fifteen players jointly lead the points table in the 20th national junior chess championship after the second round at the NSC chess room yesterday, reports UNB.  
The leaders are — Rajib, Bobby, Firoz, Mustafa, Debaraj, Fahim, Suprakash, Malek, Jewel, Mamin, Anwar, Bari, Mufazzal, Karibul and Aminul.  
Meanwhile, eight players jointly lead the table in the 20th national women qualifying chess championship after the second round matches at the same venue.  
The leaders are — Zakia, Eva, Masuda, Ava, Nira, Mahfuz, Ferdousi and Baby.  
The third round matches will be held today (Saturday) at the same venue.

## Diawara joins Arsenal tent

LONDON, Jan 29 (Reuters/Internet): Bordeaux striker Kaba Diawara completed his move to English champions Arsenal for an undisclosed fee on Friday and will be in the squad to face Chelsea on Sunday.  
"I am delighted to be joining Arsenal, they are a big club, a famous club and where I can make my name," Diawara said on Friday.  
Wenger, who has now signed eight French players since becoming Arsenal boss in October 1996, added: "We have signed him to strengthen our strike force. He is technically gifted and will be an asset to the team."  
Diawara, 23, played in the same France U21 team as Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira and moves to London after scoring five times in seven starts for Bordeaux this season.  
Diawara adds to an already strong French contingent at Arsenal. As well as manager Arsene Wenger, the playing squad includes Patrick Vieira, Nicolas Anelka, Emmanuel Petit, David Grondin, Remi Garde and Gilles Griandini and Christopher Wreh.

Media reports put the transfer fee at 4.95 million US dollars.

## FIFA to probe into Zagreb's claim

GLASGOW, Jan 29: Celtic managing director Fergus McCann faces being hauled before world football chiefs over the non-payment of Mark Viduka's 3 million pound (£4.7 million dollar) transfer fee from Croatia Zagreb, reports AFP.  
FIFA confirmed on Thursday they had received a letter from the Croatian football federation complaining their club still hasn't received any money.  
There has been a suggestion that Celtic could be deducted league points but a FIFA spokesman said: "I don't think we are in a position to do that at this instance."

"We have received a communication from the Croatian football federation and this will be forwarded to the Scottish Football Association."  
The basis of the complaint is that Croatia Zagreb haven't received any compensation for the transfer of Viduka to Celtic.  
"FIFA have not been asked to arbitrate yet but that might happen if the matter is not resolved."

"Then both parties, by that I mean both clubs, could be asked to appear before the players' status committee and the background to the case explored."

Australian international striker Viduka returned to Celtic this week after a seven-week absence, saying he needed to be excused duties as he was suffering from emotional stress, caused by constant barking he received from the Zagreb fans.

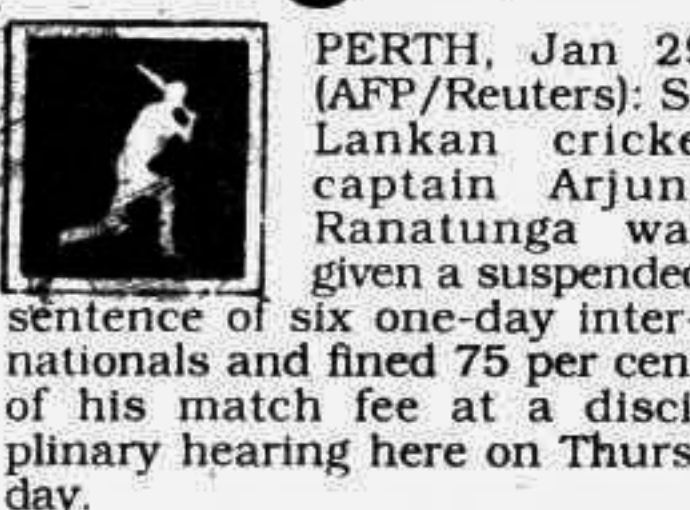
He is now back training with the Scottish champions but is unlikely to play for another month as he 'builds up his fitness.'

Meanwhile McCann continues to stall on paying the fee apparently until Viduka is ready to make his debut.

## FBI informed about Olympic cash

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan 29: Former City Councilman Tom Godfrey has told the FBI his tale of the nervous Salt Lake Olympics official with the large bag of cash, reports AP.  
Godfrey told FBI agents Wednesday night what he had told reporters earlier in the week: A bid committee staff member's story of carrying 50,000 dollars in cash to Budapest, Hungary, in 1995 just before the 2002 Winter Games were awarded.

# Arjuna let off lightly



PERTH, Jan 29 (AFP/Reuters): Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga was given a suspended sentence of six one-day international matches and fined 75 per cent of his match fee at a disciplinary hearing here on Thursday.

The penalty was imposed on Ranatunga, 35, for his action in leading players to the edge of the field and causing a 12-minute hold-up after the team's controversial off-spin bowler, Muttiah Muralitharan, was not balled for throwing by Australian umpire Ross Emerson in a one-day game against England in Adelaide last Saturday.

International Cricket Council (ICC) referee, Peter van der Merwe, announcing his decision, said, "Ranatunga expressed regret at the embarrassment he caused his opponents, the public, and officials."

"He has been warned that his every action will be very closely monitored over the next 12 months."

The sentence means Ranatunga is free to continue playing immediately and the penalty will not be applied unless he offends again in the next year.

Ranatunga learned his fate after a four-hour hearing at the Western Australian Cricket Association headquarters where the man who led Sri Lanka to the one-day World Cup in 1996 and the ICC were both represented by senior lawyers.

The suspended penalty means he will be able to play in Sri Lanka's two crucial Perth games this weekend against England on Friday and Australia on Sunday.

He will also be able to play in his country's final two qualifying games — against England in Sydney next Wednesday and against Australia in Melbourne four days later.

## RANATUNGA APOLOGISES

Ranatunga says he was only following orders when he led a walk-off protest.  
Ranatunga apologised for his bad behaviour.  
However, he defended his actions with the release of a statement today saying he was



A dejected Arjuna Ranatunga is on his way to the dressing room at the WACA ground. — AP/UNB photo

only following orders from the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) when he led his team to the boundary after Emerson no-balled Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing.

"The implications of the decision of umpire Emerson were potentially far reaching and beyond my authority as captain of the Sri Lankan team, where my responsibilities are limited to the team's on-field performance."

"As captain, however, I wish to publicly state that I do acknowledge that my responsibilities extend to upholding the spirit of the beautiful game I

play, as well as its laws.

"It is my absolute commitment that I will be seen as upholding those principles for so long as I have the privilege to play the game of cricket at any level."

Ranatunga, who also had a heated, finger-pointing exchange with Emerson, said he felt it was his duty to defend Muralitharan.

"My actions following the no-balling of Sri Lanka's great bowler Murali during the match were motivated by my responsibility to demonstrate support for Murali in this difficult situation," Ranatunga said.

"I believe Murali is a player who possesses talent which should be the source of celebration for cricket lovers the world over."

"I was not motivated to cause embarrassment to anyone. However, I recognise that my actions during the game did cause embarrassment to the opposition team, to members of the public and to officials."

Ranatunga added: "As captain of the Sri Lankan team, I acknowledge and understand my responsibility to uphold the spirit as well as the laws of the game."

"Cricket is an emotional game which is of immense importance to the people of many different nations."

"It is a game that tests the character of those who play it, particularly at international level where the happiness of millions can be affected by the outcome of a particular match or the batting or bowling performance of an individual player."

"The spirit of cricket invokes not only the wonderful characteristic of sportsmanship, but also the virtues of team work and loyalty to one's team matches and superiors."

"Sometimes these qualities can find themselves in competition."

mean anything."

Former Test umpire Lou Rowan said the ICC and the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) should be condemned for the way they handled the situation.

"I feel the umpires have been abandoned at the highest level," Rowan said. "Umpires throughout the world can now expect no support at all from administrators."

"It's a very disappointing decision," former international umpire Len King said. "There's certainly been a lack of support for the umpires."

Len King, described the Ranatunga outcome as "a sad day for the umpiring fraternity."

Hughes said: "They may as well get rid of the match referee system, they may as well pack up and go home. It's a sad day for cricket."

"Ranatunga should have been suspended immediately for four, five or six one-day international matches," Hughes said.

O'Connell, the umpire at the centre of the Dennis Lillee aluminium bat-throwing incident 19 years ago, said Ranatunga's behaviour was the worst he had ever seen on a cricket field.

"The sentence was ridiculous," he said.

The best remembered incident in which O'Connell was involved during his long career came in the 1979-80 Test against England in Perth, when Lillee was told by the umpires he could not use an aluminium bat.

The fiery fast bowler eventually threw the bat away in disgust and was brought to order by

## Umpires question

### Murali's action

SYDNEY, Jan 29: Most umpires who have officiated in Sri Lanka's matches have made informal reports to the authorities over off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's bowling action, New South Wales umpires director Dick French said Friday, reports AP.

But French, a former Test umpire, said he doubts the International Cricket Council's nine-man committee will take any decisive action once the reports are forwarded by the Australian Cricket Board.

French was at the Adelaide Oval last weekend when Muralitharan was no-balled for throwing by umpire Ross Emerson.

He watched the bowler's action through powerful binoculars and is convinced Emerson made the right call.

"He probably could have called him earlier but he wanted to make sure," French said. "It took great strength of character to do it knowing how the Sri Lankans would react."

"And then the pressure he was put under for the next few hours was astonishing and he handled it very well."

"I know that other umpires this year in the series have put in unofficial reports which means they're concerned about his action, even though they didn't call him. When I say they have reported him unofficially, I think to a man they would all agree his action is doubtful."

Emerson was one of three Australian umpires who called Muralitharan for chucking on the last Sri Lanka tour in Australia in 1995-96.

His action was later cleared by the ICC, which will now review it again because of Emerson's decision to no-ball him.

"The ICC will then pass it to the nine-man committee who will review his action, they will ask Sri Lanka to review his action, which of course they're meant to have done before," said French.

"They'll go through that process again and I doubt that it will come from it to be quite honest."

"Most countries in the past have taken it upon themselves to have a look at a local bowler's action and either change it or make sure he doesn't bowl."

Muralitharan has never been called for throwing in any other country.

## Fiorentina in semis

FLORENCE, Jan 29 (Reuters/AP): A set-piece goal by Alessandro Robbati gave Fiorentina a 1-0 win over Serie B side Atalanta Bergamo on Thursday and carried the league leaders into the Italian Cup semifinals.

Robbati curled home a free kick after teammate Gabriel Battistuta had been fouled on the edge of the box.

The 10th minute strike levelled the aggregate score at 3-3 and put the Florentines into the last four on the away goals rule.

Fiorentina dominated the first half and appeared set for a comfortable victory after taking their early lead.

But the absence of suspended Brazilian striker Edmundo and injured Italy wing back Moreno Torricelli weighed heavily after the interval when Atalanta were undoubtedly the better side.

"We were good for the first 45 minutes. They came out very strongly after the break as they had to do and we found it difficult," said Fiorentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni. "We had one or two chances in the second half. No more than that."

Atalanta, which knocked out Serie A sides AS Roma and Empoli in earlier rounds, was aiming to become the first Serie B team to win the Italian Cup since Napoli pulled it off in 1962.

Fiorentina, the cup titlist two years ago, will face upstart Bologna in the two-leg semifinals, starting next month.

On Tuesday, Bologna eliminated two-time defending Serie A champions Juventus. Juve A's Tuesday game 1-0 to make the two-leg aggregate 2-2, but Bologna advanced because of more away goal, 2-1.

The other semifinal will pit AC Parma against Inter Milan. Both overcame one-goal deficits from the first legs to advance Wednesday.

Argentines Hernan Crespo, Sebastian Veron and Abel Balbo took care of the scoring in a 4-0 rout of Udinese that put Parma through on a 6-3 aggregate.

Inter saw Youri Djorkaeff, a member of France's World Cup champions, tally twice and substitutes Ze Elnan of Brazil and Francesco Moriero once each in a 5-2 victory over Lazio that gave the Milan club a 6-4 aggregate win.

## Asprilla's noble gesture

CALL, Colombia, Jan 29: Controversial Colombian footballer Faustino Asprilla said on Thursday he will donate his 15,000 dollar bonus from last year's World Cup finals to victims of the earthquake that devastated Colombia on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The 29-year-old Parma striker, who was sent home from the World Cup early after a row with then coach Dario Hernan Gomez, although he has since been recalled, also called on the 21 other members of the Colombian squad to do the same for the 742 dead and 3,000 injured.

"I am going to give my bonus (for reaching the finals) to the victims. I hope that my teammates will do the same," he said.



FOES BECOMING FRIENDLY: Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin (L) and Pakistan coach Javed Miandad having a chat during the second day's play at the Chepauk Stadium yesterday.

# Taylor's mind made up?

SYDNEY, Jan 29 (AFP/AP): Australian Test captain Mark Taylor has told close friends he has decided to retire from international cricket, according to a report today.

The Daily Telegraph said Taylor had confided his decision to friends but wanted to take a few more days just to make sure any lingering doubts over the decision were resolved.

Taylor's management said Thursday the 34-year-old batsman was still reviewing his options.

But the tabloid Telegraph said Taylor, who last year equalled Sir Don Bradman's record Test score of 334, was likely to announce his resignation early next week.

He has said he would like to continue playing for New South Wales for at least a year if he retires from the Test arena ahead of Australia's tour of the West Indies later this year.

Former Australian captains have tipped Steve Waugh as the likely replacement for Taylor although Shane Warne has impressed with his aggressive one-day captaincy in recent matches against both England and Sri Lanka.

Bookmakers also said today they have made Waugh the virtually unbeatable favourite to take over as captain if Taylor resigns.

Many believe Waugh's seniority and maturity — he has been Taylor's deputy since 1997 and has led Australia's one-day campaign for the last year — may outweigh Warne's enthusiastic and adventurous leadership style.

"I just think you pick your

While some bookmakers declined to offer odds on the captaincy race, most agreed Waugh would be a long odds-on favourite to win the job.

"He (Steve Waugh) would have to be unbackable," said Centrebet's Gerard Daffy. "He's been groomed for the post and everything, including the chance to have one captain for our Test and one-day teams points to him being the man for

best captain, the one who's best at the moment rather than looking primarily at the long term," Hughes said.

"Shane is younger but you've got the World Cup coming up which is going to be very important and if Steve Waugh's fit and available I think he'd be the successor."

Hughes said giving Warne the captaincy could also impede his efforts to come back from shoulder surgery.

"I just feel at this stage that Steve is probably the pick for captain and we should just let Shane get back to being the world's best bowler. And Shane, who's done very well as captain, when he's had the opportunity, might have another seven or eight years ahead of him if he's fully fit."

Greg Chappell refused to name his choice but said the Australian Cricket Board should not worry about either candidate's relative inexperience.

"Richie Benaud did it pretty well from scratch," he said. "If you've got the right individual it's not a prerequisite. They've played under plenty of captains and played a lot of cricket at that level."

Meanwhile, as Australian cricket waited for word on his retirement decision, Taylor planned to get back where it all started with a rare grade match appearance on the weekend.

Taylor will spend Saturday and Sunday playing for his Northern Districts club against Petersham-Marrickville as he continues to ponder whether to go on with the national team for the tour to the West Indies or end his illustrious international career.

## Trainer faces two-face of Tyson

NEW YORK, Jan 29 (Reuters/Internet): In the next few weeks Tommy Brooks will be trying to reconcile the two faces of Mike Tyson.

Actually there seem to be many more faces than that, but for boxing purposes Tyson's new trainer will have enough on his hands to deal with just two of the fighter's many personalities.

Brooks, a very candid man, especially considering he works in boxing, had been telling reporters before Tyson looked so sloppy against Frans Botha that Tyson in the gym was working diligently on boxing basics such as coming in behind a jab, throwing combinations and being patient with his opponent.

But against Botha in Las Vegas another side of Tyson emerged.

The former heavyweight champion has often tentative, head-hunting throughout the fight and missing widely with looping left hooks and overhand rights. Tyson was eminently hittable throughout the fight, and if Botha had been a harder puncher he might have won in the early rounds and if he had not been over-confident

he might have won on points. Indeed, the South African was winning the bout on all three judges' scorecards before he walked into a tremendous Tyson right hand flush on the face that ended the scheduled 12-round fight at 2:59 of the fifth round.

Tyson looked so bad that some people connected with him who had been looking seriously at a third fight with Evander Holyfield in November now say Tyson is not nearly on track for that now. Tyson is expected to fight again in late April. An opponent has not officially been selected, although German Axel Schulz had been mentioned as a possibility.

Against Botha that "was not the Mike Tyson I had been working with the last couple of months," said Brooks in a telephone call on Thursday.

"You never know which guy is going up the stairs" to enter the ring, said Brooks, referring to the vagaries of working with fighters in general. "It's all on Mike. I can lead the horse to water but I can't make him drink."

The confident, unbeatable Mike Tyson, with a questionable sense of reality, revealed himself immediately after the fight by saying, "I'm a better fighter than I was against

Evander."

But moments later another side of the fighter appeared, the contrite, just happy to be here Tyson: "I need to put on better shows. I'm just happy (Botha) gave me a chance to fight ..."

Brooks, who will begin working with Tyson again in a few weeks, insisted that

Tyson's failure to stick to the fight plan he had been working on in the gym was not an example of the former heavyweight champion's lack of discipline.

"It's not so much a lack of discipline. He has to re-install confidence," said Brooks, who used to train Holyfield, who beat Tyson twice.

"Inactivity shakes your confidence," said Brooks, referring to Tyson's 19-month forced layoff after biting off a piece of Holyfield's ear in June 1997 and having his license to box revoked.

Brooks gave his fighter an A-plus for power, but only a C-plus for execution against Botha. And he graded Botha a B-minus for effort "but an F for getting hit," he said to laughter.

"I think it was a let down," Brooks said about Tyson's performance against Botha. "I had seen the guy doing it for two months straight."

# For & against the penalty

PERTH, Jan 29 (AFP/Reuters/Internet): Former Australian cricket captain Kim Hughes today led a scathing attack on the International Cricket Council's (ICC) lenient treatment of Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga.

"The ICC are pathetic... absolutely useless," said Hughes following the suspended six-match sentence handed out to Ranatunga, 35, Thursday by ICC match referee Peter van der Merwe of South Africa.

Former top Australian umpire Max O'Connell also branded the penalty "ridiculous."

Some of Australia's most distinguished umpires also have criticised the ICC over its decision not to suspend Ranatunga.

"With Ranatunga it wasn't just one incident, he was telling Ross Emerson that he was in charge of the game, jabbing him in the chest, threatening to take his team off the field," O'Connell said.

"It was easily the worst behaviour I've ever seen on a cricket field."

New South Wales umpires director Dick French said the result could deter young people from becoming umpires.

"The behaviour of the Sri Lankan captain was inexcusable — to prod, point and to not accept the umpire's ruling was really disgraceful," he said.

"And to hear the punishment really leaves a sour taste in your mouth because I believe a suspended sentence doesn't

mean anything."

Former Test umpire Lou Rowan said the ICC and the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) should be condemned for the way they handled the situation.

"I feel the umpires have been abandoned at the highest level," Rowan said. "Umpires throughout the world can now expect no support at all from administrators."

"It's a very disappointing decision," former international umpire Len King said. "There's certainly been a lack of support for the umpires."

Len King, described the Ranatunga outcome as "a sad day for the umpiring fraternity."

Hughes said: "They may as well get rid of the match referee system, they may as well pack up and go home. It's a sad day for cricket."

"Ranatunga should have been suspended immediately for four, five or six one-day international matches," Hughes said.

O'Connell, the umpire at the centre of the Dennis Lillee aluminium bat-throwing incident 19 years ago, said Ranatunga's behaviour was the worst he had ever seen on a cricket field.

"The sentence was ridiculous," he said.

The best remembered incident in which O'Connell was involved during his long career came in the 1979-80 Test against England in Perth, when Lillee was told by the umpires he could not use an aluminium bat.

The fiery fast bowler eventually threw the bat away in disgust and was brought to order by

captain Greg Chappell.

O'Connell said Ranatunga's prolonged outburst was much more serious.

Neither Ranatunga nor the Sri Lankan cricket board has reacted to the penalty, but the Sri Lankan captain received support from cricket writers back home.

The state-run Daily News said the penalty was justifiable but that the country understood why he had behaved badly.

"Maybe Ranatunga was provoked into doing the things he did, but unless such actions are nipped in the bud, the highest traditions of the game would deteriorate and cricket would become the loser," said sports writer Sa'di Thawfeeq.

The Sri Lankan press maintained that it was an "Australian conspiracy" to provoke Ranatunga, saying it was no secret he had become a hate figure in Australia after an acrimonious tour in 1995-96.

"It seems that the Aussies have been cleverly got, Ranatunga where they wanted him — probably using Emerson as the bait," Thawfeeq said.

Another Sri Lankan sports writer, Elmo Rodriguez, said Ranatunga's team had been "harassed, humiliated and humiliated" at every turn since they arrived in Australia.

"The (current) tour of Australia for the ... one-day series has been one helluva nightmare for Sri Lanka's cricketers," said Rodriguez. "On this tour the Lankans must be now experiencing what it is like to be in

bat, he and opposite number Stewart shook hands.

Earlier, and unbeaten 81 off 119 deliveries by Neil Fairbrother guided England out of deep trouble.

Fairbrother, who shared a 89-run partnership for the fifth wicket with Adam Hoolioake (46), finished his innings with a runner after straining his left hamstring attempting a second run in the 47th over.

The busy left-hander will miss England's last two qualifying matches, but is expected to be available for the opening final at the SCG on February 10 should the tourists progress as anticipated.

Fairbrother's effort overshadowed that of Sri Lanka's left-arm fast bowler Ruchira Perera, who claimed three for 55 on his limited overs international debut.

Perera's opening five-over spell yielded the scalps of Stewart (0), Nick Knight (13) and Nasser Hussain (0).

He also ran out Hoolioake with a direct throw from deep backward square, but squandered much of his good work by

bowling 10 no-balls and three wides.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the tri-series limited over cricket match between England and Sri Lanka at the WACA ground on Friday:

**ENGLAND**  
N Knight c De Silva b Perera 13  
A Stewart b Perera 4  
G Hick b Vaas 10  
N Hussain c Kaluwitharana b Perera 8  
N Fairbrother not out 0  
A Hoolioake run out 46  
M Ealham c Mahanama b Muralitharan 16  
R Croft c Chandana b Vaas 32  
D Gough not out 20  
Extras: (lb-6, w-8, nb-15) 29  
Total: (For seven wks in 50 overs) 227  
Did not bat: D Headley, A Mullally

Fall of wks: 1-6; 2-30; 3-37; 4-38; 5-127; 6-166; 7-221

**Bowler**  
Vaas 10 2 38 2  
Perera 10 0 55 3  
Muralitharan 10 1 26 1  
Chandana 8 0 39 0  
Jayasuriya 9 0 47 0  
De Silva 3 0 16 0

**SRI LANKA**  
Jayasuriya c Hoolioake b Ealham 40  
Kaluwitharana c Hoolioake b Gough 5  
Atapattu c Knight b Ealham 17  
De Silva c Stewart b Ealham 1  
Jayawardena c Hussain b Gough 3  
Ranatunga c Knight b Ealham 11  
Mahanama c Hussain b Ealham 6  
Chandana c Gough b Headley 9  
Vaas not out 1  
Muralitharan b Mullally 1  
Perera c Hick b Mullally 40  
Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-3) 6  
Total: (All out in 33.3 overs) 99  
Fall of wks: 1-15; 2-65; 3-65; 4-67; 5-71; 6-85; 7-98; 8-98; 9-99; 10-99

**Bowler**  
Gough 8 2 15 2  
Mullally 6.3 0 17 2  
Headley 8 0 33 1  
Ealham 10 2 32 5  
Croft 1 1 0 0

**Result: England won by 128 runs.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Mark Ealham.**

# Ealham erases Lankans

PERTH, Jan 29: Paceman Mark Ealham grabbed five wickets, including three in four balls, as England crushed Sri Lanka by 128 runs in their tri-series match at the WACA ground today, reports Reuters.

Sri Lanka were shot out for a paltry 99 in 33.3 overs after England, who lost the toss, made 227 for seven in their 50 overs.

It virtually assured England of a berth in the triangular tournament's best of three