

Column One

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Competition-122

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- Which country won the SAFF football gold?
Bangladesh India Nepal
- Who is the captain of Brazil?
Cafu Rivaldo Ronaldo
- How many teams will play in next year's Asia Cup cricket?
4 5 6
- Who won the men's 100 m in the Summer Athletics?
Mahbub Yasin Ratan
- Who lifted the Grand Slam Cup title?
Rusedski Agassi Kafelnikov

Name

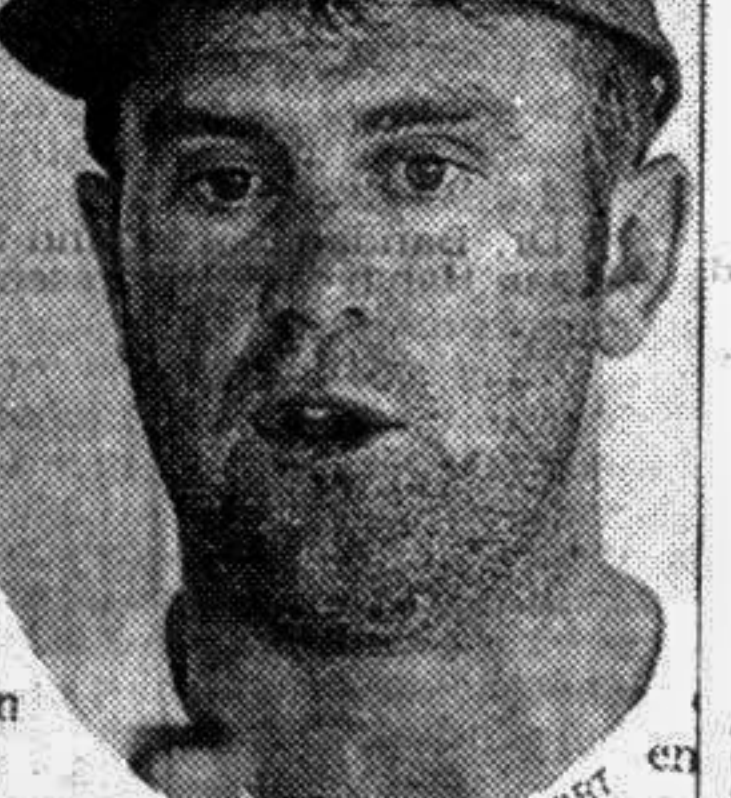
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SPORTS TALK



Mark Taylor

(Former Australian cricket captain)
"I will say publicly now that I found the situation of being in one Australian team and out of the other slightly embarrassing."

An excerpt from his autobiography "Time to declare".

Zafar set to replace Mujeeb

KARACHI, Oct 24 (Internet report): Dr Zafar Altaf, one of the senior-most cricket administrators in the country, is in line to take over as chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ad hoc committee, says a report of The News daily.

The newspaper reported that the President's Secretariat would issue a notification confirming Zafar's appointment in place of Mujeeb Rehman by Monday.

A decision in this regard has been made by the government with the approval of President Rafiq Tarar, who is the chief patron of the PCB. Ever since the army coup, Mujeeb, a close aide to the ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, took refuge somewhere in the country.

The News sources disclosed that Zafar was officially informed of his appointment by the President's Secretariat on Saturday. They say the choice of Zafar has come about after intense discussions in government circles, who feel that he is the best person to head the ad hoc committee being a non-controversial and vastly experienced cricket administrator.

Zafar was manager of the Pakistan team which reached the final of the World Cup in England. In the past he has also served as chief selector, member of the Javed Burki's ad hoc committee and secretary of the PCB, besides managing Pakistan teams on tours abroad successfully.

Largely seen as a pro-player personality, Zafar, nonetheless, is known to be strict on discipline and organisation and is one of the few people who countered the propaganda by the Ehtesab Commission that Pakistan had lost the World Cup final in league with book-makers.

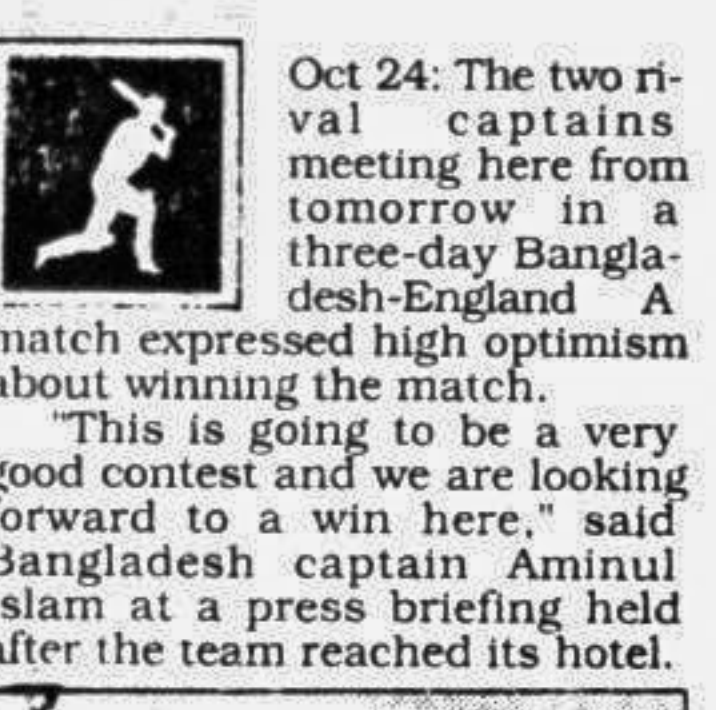
Tragic!

PUNE, Oct 24: International athlete and winner of several sports awards Nanda Jadhav allegedly committed suicide here yesterday by setting herself ablaze, reports PTI.

Chittagong agog for return of international cricket

Alleyne, Aminul smell victory

From Hasan Masood in Chittagong



AMINUL ISLAM

Oct 24: The two rival captains meeting here tomorrow in a three-day Bangladesh-England A match expressed high optimism about winning the match. "This is going to be a very good contest and we are looking forward to a win here," said Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam at a press briefing held after the team reached its hotel.

"The ground is new to us because we have not played here for the last 11 years. But I know that the pitch in Chittagong is very good and the boys will not have any problem in adjusting to the ground," said Islam.

Aminul rated the tourists as an experienced and professional side who play first class cricket on a regular basis.

"They have a very strong batting order. But our team is also a balanced side. Moreover, we are now in the habit of playing longer version of the game."

"We are more confident now after seeing the performance of the youth team and the BCB XI. I think we will put up a better

show in this match," said the Bangladesh skipper. He also revealed that the final eleven will be named after inspecting the pitch tomorrow morning. About Akram Khan, who made his international debut here in 1988 and who returned to the side after a four-month lay-off due to injury, director of coaching Eddie Barlow said the portly Chittagonian had to pass through three fitness tests before getting into the team. "Achilles tendon is a very serious injury and I hope he (Akram) does not suffer from that again," said Barlow.

The coach also said that 'present form' was the main criterion in selecting the 14 cricketers for the Bangladesh team.

"We have a situation here where senior players are left out of the team because the juniors are playing better and that is why they are in the team," said the South African coach.

England A captain Mark Alleyne also hoped for a positive result against Bangladesh and said his team would have a different approach in the three-day match.

"This will be a different ball game," said Alleyne. "This is a new ground and we have not seen the pitch. So we have to be very careful in the game."

There will be a couple of changes in the team and that will be finalised in the morning," Alleyne added.

Meanwhile, local cricket buffs are beaming in anticipation of international cricket at their doorstep. Although there was haral today, but that could not prevent hundreds of cricket fans from coming to the stadium and collecting their tickets. Organisers are expecting a full house at the 20 thousand capacity stadium during the three days.

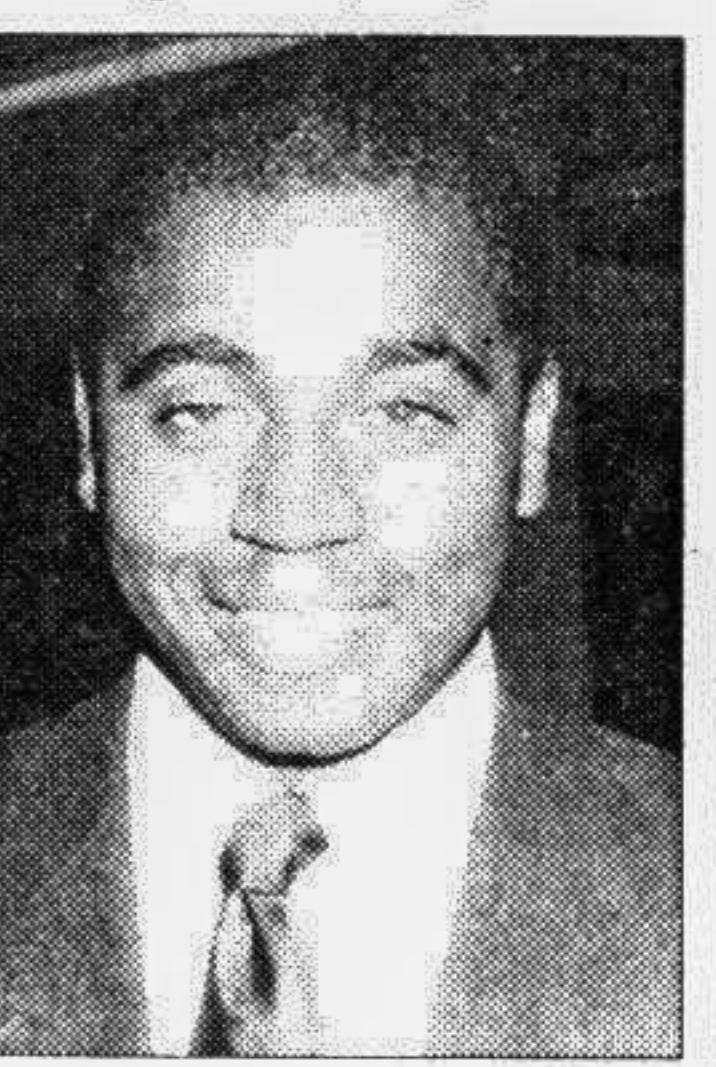
Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, will inaugurate the match as chief guest on the opening day.

Two umpires, S B Chowdhury and Manjur Rahman, have already arrived from Dhaka and hoped that full 90 overs of play would be possible everyday.

The pitch seemed quite okay but the outfield was uneven in many areas, and that might produce awkward bounce for the fielders.

Teams

Bangladesh (from): Aminul



MARK ALLEYNE

Islam (captain), Shahriar Hossain, Javed Omar, Habibul Bashar, Akram Khan, Khaled Mahmud, Khaled Mashud, Enamul Hoque, Monjurul Islam, Sabbir Khan, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Al-Shahriar, Bikash Ranjan Das and Mosaddek Hossain.

England A (from): Mark Alleyne, Ian Ward, David Sales, Ronnie Irani, Vikram Solanki, Rob Turner, Alamgir Sheriyyar, Michael Davies, Paul Franks, Chris Schofield, Chris Silverwood, Marcus Trescothick, Aftab Habib, Michael Gough and James Kirtley.

BCB Colts too good for Raju's cricketers

Sports Reporter

The visiting Raju's Cricket Coaching Clinic of Hyderabad conceded a huge 100-run defeat at the hands of the BCB Colts in their opening match of the tour at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) in Savar yesterday.

The juvenile selection from Hyderabad, who arrived in the city on October 22 following an invitation from Brothers Union, were bundled out for a meagre 67 in reply to an impressive BCB total of 167.

To add to the misery of the visitors, only opener Sripal (10) could reach double figures in the face of some excellent bowling from Sagar, who captured four wickets giving away 14 runs in his eight overs. The other notable contribution of Raju's coaching selection was sundries, which stood highest with 33 runs.

Earlier, the BCB eleven total was revolved around an 88-run opening stand between Ashraf and Shakti and a run-a-ball unbeaten 30 from lower-order batsman Habib.

Ashraf scored a fluent 42 with the help of five fours while Shakti chipped in with a 46-ball 35.

The boys from Hyderabad, who are here on a week-long tour to feature in a series of exhibition matches, will take on South Bridge school at the same venue today.

BRIEF SCORES:

BCB Colts: 167 all out in 35.5 overs (Ashraf 42, Shakti 35, Habib 30 not out; Paul 3/15, Vikram 2/41)

Raju's CC: 67 all out in 31.2 overs (Sripal 10, extras 33; Sagar 4/14, Towhid 2/11)

National Open Tennis on

Sports Reporter

The National Open Tennis championship under the aegis of Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) got under way at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

Nurul Alam, a vice-president of the BTF, inaugurated the week-long meet in the afternoon where more than one hundred players are taking part in six different categories. These are—boys' singles (under 13), girls' singles (under 13), men's singles and doubles, and women's singles and doubles.

Fatal sacrifice

From Our Correspondent

Rajshahi, October 24: Arif Hossain, a promising cricketer of Rajshahi First Division League, sacrificed his life while trying to save a kid from drowning in the river Padma on Friday.

Arif, 20, jumped into the river near Ahmedpur in the city after seeing boy suffocating against the strong current.

But Arif, who himself was a weak swimmer, was carried away by the strong tide. The boy was however rescued by other people around, but the Arif's body was yet to be recovered till filing of this report today.

Lotus-Kamal Div III cricket

Old DOHS beat Digonto CC by 16 runs in the Lotus Kamal Third Division cricket league at the T&T ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Opting to bat first, Old DOHS made 86 for all wickets in 35 overs with Roni made 30 off 65 balls with three boundaries.

Bapji claimed four wickets for 16 while Bapji (Jr) took three for 11 runs for Digonto CC.

In reply, Digonto lost all the wickets for 70 runs in 29.4 overs with Tutul added highest 11 runs. Asif, Shamim and Amit captured two wickets each for Old DOHS.

League Committee yields to Abahani pressure

Mohammedan threaten boycott

Sports Reporter

The ill-fated Keya Premier Division Football League got yet another disappointing twist yesterday when the Dhaka Mohammedan Football League Committee (DMFLC) suspended today's Mohammedan-Abahani match, scheduled for a 5.30 start at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

The Sunday evening decision of the DMFLC not only cast a

Mohammedan and Arambagh for playing what they termed 'a fixed match' on August 11 last. Abahani had earlier made a similar claim and the league committee had dispensed with the case for lack of evidence.

The seemingly 'spineless' DMFLC convened an emergency meeting yesterday (Sunday) and enacted a drama for about one and a half hours before adjourning the meeting till October 26 amidst vehement protest from Mohammedan

frain from taking part in any football competition under them", said Lokman. The DMFLC on Sunday also suspended the remaining four matches of the league. They will announce a fresh date later.

The decision has certainly gone in favour of Abahani, who threatened to boycott the league on Saturday demanding 'fair judgement' about what they called 'a pre-arranged affair between Mohammedan and Arambagh'.

Many sports observers, however, feel that Abahani, who are trailing Mohammedan by two points, used the threat gimmick apparently in a bid to buy some time and another foreign player before facing their archrivals in the virtual league deciding match.

The popular Dhanmondi outfit will miss the services of their three suspended key booters—Iqbal, Ghansha and Arman—when they play Mohammedan, and reports say they need some time to bring Indian star Sabir Pasha, who is already a registered Abahani player.

Football league in quandary

Sporting.

"We will not take part in the league if the organisers fail to hold today's match", said the Mohammedan general secretary, Lokman Hossain, while talking to this reporter over telephone, immediately after the meeting.

"This is a shameless and autocratic attitude on the part of the organisers. If they stick to this decision, we will also re-

measures against



Pakistan captain Wasim Akram (L) and team manager Yawar Saeed brief the press on arrival in Perth yesterday.

— AFP photo

Pakistan reach down under

Wasim plays down 'fix' ball

PERTH, Australia, Oct 24 (AFP): Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram Sunday firmly denied there was any substance to allegations of match-fixing or corruption by Pakistan players.

Speaking here at the touring party's first media conference on arrival in Australia to play in a three-Test series starting early next month, he said there was "no substance whatsoever as far as I am concerned."

Asked about his team-mates, he said: "No. No-one."

The Pakistan newspaper The News reported last week that six players, including Wasim, had been found guilty of wrongdoing by a Pakistan judicial commission on betting and match-fixing.

Five of the players named in the report -- Wasim, Mushtaq Ahmed, Ijaz Ahmed, Saad Anwar and Inzamam-ul-Haq -- are in the 16-man touring squad.

The sixth is former captain Salim Malik, who was not considered for the tour.

The paper reported Judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum, of

the Lahore High Court had recommended that Malik and Mushtaq Ahmed be banned for life and that fines be imposed on the other four.

Wasim, asked whether uncertainty caused by the recent publicity would affect his younger players, said: "The guys are too laid back, too relaxed. They don't even bother. As a captain, I have told them not to read the press. I am the one who will read the press and answer the press."

"They can just read the positives. If it's negative, leave it to me."

Team manager Yawar Saeed referred to the newspaper report as a "speculative leak."

"The judge's report still has to go through two or three more bodies," he said. "I would like to suggest the team not even think about this."

"I can put it on the record officially -- there is no news whatever."

Wasim also brushed aside suggestions the country's current political turmoil could put pressure on players.

"We are not bothered by what is happening politically back home," he said. "We are sports people."

Wasim said his side's aim was to win a Test series in Australia for the first time. "Australia are one of the best sides in the world, and Pakistan are not far away," he said.

"We are in a positive frame of mind after just winning a one-day tournament in Sharjah."

The tourists were welcomed at Perth airport by a small group of well-wishers and Australian Cricket Board officials.

They will begin their warm-up programme Tuesday with a one-day exhibition match against an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill Park near Perth.

SQUAD

Wasim Akram (captain), Moin Khan (vice-captain), Saad Anwar, Wajidullah Wasti, Ghulam Ali, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Yousuf Youhana, Mohammad Wasim, Abdur Razaq, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Akram, Shoaib Akhtar and Waqar Younis.

Aussies sweep the series

Sports Reporter

Australia completed a clean sweep by coasting to a nine-wicket victory in the third and final one-day international against Zimbabwe in Harare yesterday.

The Australians chasing 200 for victory, reached their target in 39 overs.

The tourists rested in-form Mark Waugh and opened with Adam Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting.

Although they lost Gilchrist with the score on 44, Ponting (87 n.o.) and an unbeaten 77 from Michael Bevan saw them home in style.

Reuters adds: Earlier a superb unbeaten 99 by man-of-the-match and former skipper Andy Flower helped Zimbabwe reach a respectable 200 for nine in 50 overs after being put in to bat.

Batting in desperate circumstances with wickets falling regularly at the other end, Flower added 43 with younger brother Grant, the second highest scorer with 21, before nursing the rest of the innings and attacking wherever possible.

He reached 50 from 69 balls, cover driving and pulling Shane Warne with particular effect before launching a savage assault in the final over that produced 20 runs, 15 of them to Flower and five to last man David Mutendera.

Having miscalculated his bowling options Steve Waugh turned to medium pacer Andrew Symonds for the 50th over. Flower drove the first ball for six over extra cover before pulling the sixth over mid-wicket to finish unbeaten on 99 from 109 balls with seven fours and two sixes.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third and final one-day international between Zimbabwe and Australia on Sunday:

ZIMBABWE
Campbell b McGrath 18
Johnson c Warne b McGrath 5
Madondo c Gilchrist b Moody 6
A flower not out 99
G Flower c Symonds b 21
Goodwin c Symonds b Warne 14
Blignaut c Bevan b Warne 1
Rennie run out 10

Brent lbw b Moody 0
A Whittall run out 1
Mutendera not out 8
Extras: (lb-7, nb-4, w-6) 17
Total: (nine wickets in 50 overs) 200

Fall of wickets: 1-24; 2-29; 3-38; 4-81; 5-120; 6-125; 7-154; 8-156; 9-167

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 10 4 18 2
Dale 10 0 35 0
Moody 10 0 34 2
Symonds 8 0 52 1
Warne 10 0 42 2
Martyn 2 0 12 0

AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist c Flower b Mutendera 28
Ponting not out 87
Bevan not out 77
Extras: 9
Total: (For one wicket in 39 overs) 201

Fall of wickets: 1-44
Bowler O M R W
Rennie 6 1 46 0
Mutendera 6 0 42 1
Blignaut 6 1 25 0
Whittall 8 0 30 0
Brent 10 1 42 0
Flower 3 0 11 0

Result: Australia won by nine wickets to take three-match series 3-0.
Man-of-the-match: Andy Flower.

Fortunes fluctuate in Kanpur

KANPUR, India, Oct 24: A three-wicket haul by India's "smiling assassin" Anil Kumble left New Zealand's second innings in tatters as spinners dominated the third day of the second Test here today, reports AFP.

The leg-spinner tore through the tourists batting in the last session of play and left the visitors reeling at 17 for three wickets to trail India by 57 runs.

Kumble, known as "smiling assassin" for his genial nature, claimed the wickets of New Zealand openers Matthew Horne and Matthew Bell, and night watchman Dion Nash.

His devastating five-over spell had two maidens and conceded just six runs, which overshadowed New Zealand left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori's six-wicket catch.

Vettori destroyed a foundation laid by Indian openers Sadagopan Ramesh and Devan Gandhi, who posted a 162-run partnership Saturday, by delivering three early blows in the first session of play Sunday.

Vettori had the prize scalps of Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly in his marathon 55-over spell.

Post-lunch he destroyed India's lower order, claiming Mannava Prasad, Kumble and Sunil Joshi which brought the Black Caps back into reckoning against India.

India were bowled out for 330 in their first innings after an overnight score of 212 for one.

The day began with the hosts losing their opener Ramesh, who was snatched up by wicket keeper Parore off a Nathan Astle delivery.

The slower ball from Astle drew Ramesh forward and found an edge for Parore to claim a superb catch.

Tendulkar got off the mark with a crashing boundary off Vettori and found another one in the same over through mid-off. Dravid also got in on the act and struck two fours in a single over off Vettori.

But those were isolated shots as India toiled to make runs on a bone-dry pitch.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming persisted with the more than 145-over-old ball throughout the Indian innings to aid the spinners.

Medium-pacer Nathan Astle tightened the stranglehold on Indian batsmen with his slow ball when he bowled 12 maidens in his 26 overs, giving away just 27 runs and claiming two wickets.

Attempting to break out, Tendulkar stepped forward to Vettori but misread the line and his lofted shot was caught by Astle to give New Zealand a crucial wicket.

In the very next over, the ball spun sharply to left-handed Ganguly, who returned

a simple catch to Vettori to be out for a duck. Stylish right-hand batsman Rahul Dravid was dismissed by Vettori after lunch for 48 when he was foxed by a flighted delivery. The ball spun sharply and Dravid gloved the ball to keeper



VETTORI ... 6/127

Adam Parore. Off-spinner Paul Wiseman then had Vijay Bharadwaj caught in the close-in cordon and accounted for Javagal Srinath, signalling the end of India's innings.

India bowled 14 overs in the New Zealand's second innings and Tendulkar deployed six close-in fielders.

The play paid off as Kumble had Bell left before a flipper and had clean bowled night watchman Dion Nash in the very next ball.

Horne was Kumble's third victim, and also his 250th Test

wicket, when he was judged leg before wicket after he offered no shot to a goosy.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the third day of the second cricket Test between India and New Zealand on Sunday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 265 (A Kumble 4-67, J Srinath 3-62, S Ganguly 1-15)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 212-1)
Gandhi c Fleming b Astle 88
Ramesh c Parore b Astle 83
Dravid c Parore b Vettori 48
Tendulkar c Astle b Vettori 15
Ganguly c and b Vettori 0
Bharadwaj c Speaman b Wiseman 22
Prasad c Fleming b Vettori 19
Joshi c Bell b Vettori 19
Kumble st Parore b Vettori 5
Srinath c Astle b Wiseman 0
Singh not out 1
Extras: (b-14, lb-6, nb-10) 30
Total: (All out in 148.1 overs) 330

Fall of wickets: 1-162; 2-214; 3-243; 4-246; 5-255; 6-293; 7-311; 8-321; 9-326

Bowler O M R W
Cairns 16 8 34 0
Nash 22 10 41 0
Vettori 55.1 11 127 6
Wiseman 29 10 81 2
Astle 26 12 27 2

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings
Horne lbw b Kumble 3
Bell lbw b Kumble 7
Nash b Kumble 0
Spearmen not out 1
Fleming not out 0
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-1) 6
Total: (For three wickets in 14 overs) 17

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-16; 3-17

Bowler O M R W
Srinath 5 3 4 0
Ganguly 1 0 2 0
Kumble 5 2 6 3
Joshi 3 3 0 0



New Zealand wicketkeeper Adam Parore appeals for a run out against MSK Prasad during the third day's play in Kanpur yesterday.

— AFP photo