

No plan to boycott

REUTERS, Georgetown
Guyana's Cricket Board will not support any call for a boycott of the first Test between West Indies and South Africa...

Holder said the Guyana Board expected the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) to select the team in the best interest of West Indies cricket.

Hooper, who retired in 1999 and is a former West Indies vice-captain, has scored 889 runs...

Wonderland cricket

Cricket Coaching Centre (CCC) of Kalabagan beat Cricket Coaching School (CCS) by 36 runs in a Wonderland Under-13 Cricket Tournament match...

CCS: 120 for 3 (Arkit 46 n.o., Barshan 38)
CCS: 84 all out (Sunny 22, Tushar 16, Arkit 3/20)
Result: CCC won by 36 runs.

Army tennis

Lieutenant Colonel Tasaddik Hossain of Dhaka Cantonment clinched the Army Millennium Tennis Tournament singles title with a facile 6-2, 6-4 win over Lieutenant Commander Saaladdin of Bangladesh Navy...

The doubles title went to Major Miran and Captain Rabit of Chittagong Area after they handed Wing Commander Hasnat and Squadron Leader Shahmin of Bangladesh Air Force a 4-6, 6-3 and 4-6 defeat.

Eves' athletics today

The Women's Athletics Competition, organised by Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, will be held today. Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury is expected to inaugurate the meet at the Dhanmondi Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex.

Nat'l chess qualifiers from March 14

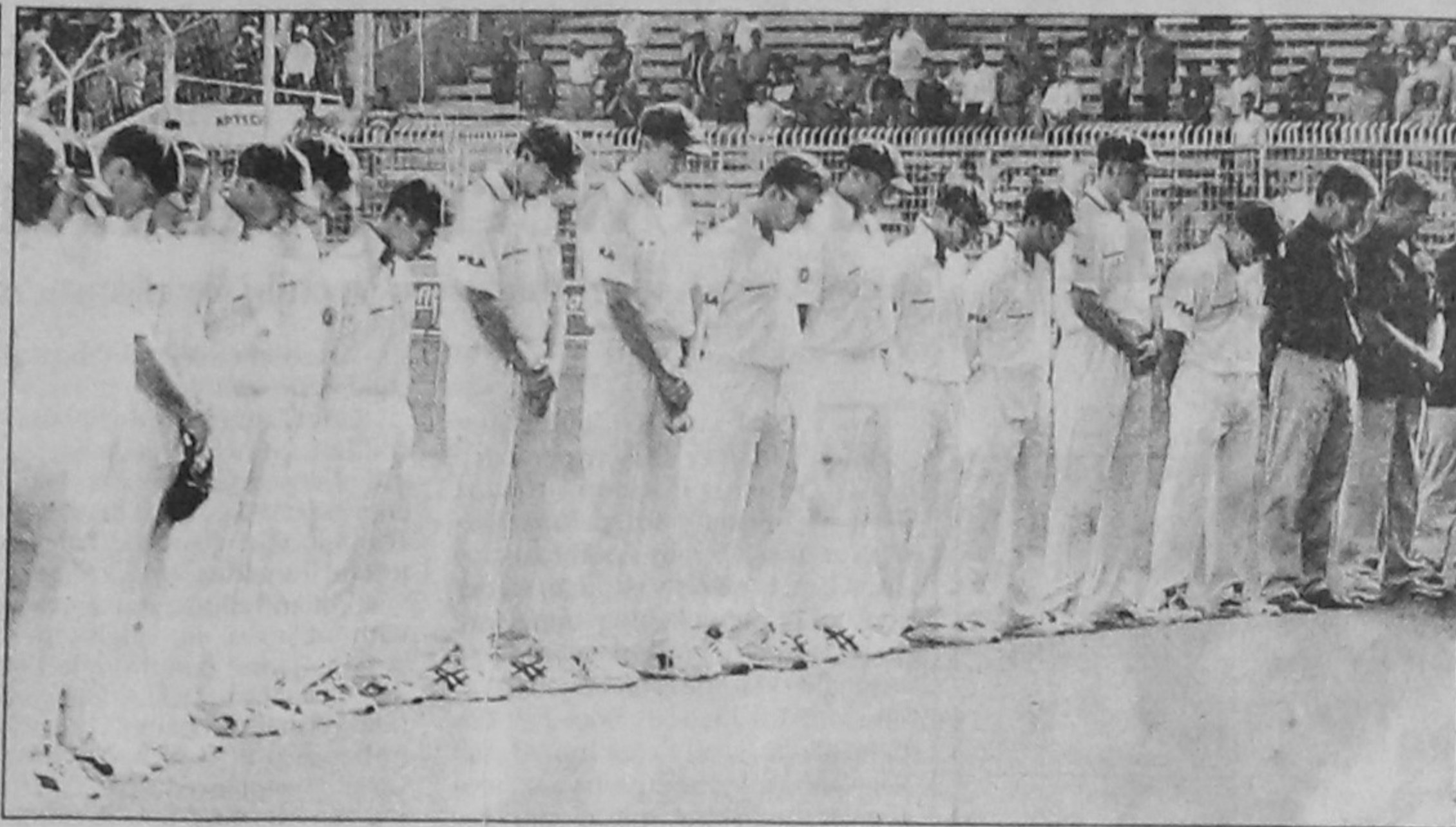
The preliminary round of the 27th National Chess Championship will begin on March 14. All rated and selected players of the districts have been requested to finish their registration formalities by March 11.

DRU cricket Daily Star's 1st match on Mar 2

The inter-house cricket tournament of Dhaka Reporters' (DRU) begins at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University on March 1. In all 16 teams are to take part in the five-a-side tournament. On the opening day, the Daily Dinkal will take on ABAS at 9 am.

Reefat

FROM PAGE 13
The tenth round will start today at 2:30 pm. TODAY'S MATCHES
Rakib v Meizz, Rajib v Niaz, Reefat v Davies, Zia v Rausis, Prakash v Talbir, Barsov v Sandipon and Volzhin v Ehlvest.



Australian players stand in silence to pay their respect to Sir Don Bradman before the start of the Bombay Test yesterday.

One of a kind

REUTERS, Melbourne
Sir Donald Bradman not only broke cricket's records, he also broke most of its rules.

The Australian, who died on Sunday aged 92, was an unorthodox player whose secrets are still being unravelled more than half a century after he tucked his bat under his arm and walked off the field for the last time.

Regarded as the world's greatest player, Bradman can be seen on grainy film thrashing the ball through the off-side field with his front foot nowhere near the pitch of the ball.

A flowing on-drive crashes into the fence despite the fact that Bradman's nimble front foot is pointing towards mid-off, not mid-on as specified in the coaching manuals.

"He must have had wonderful eyesight to pick up the line and length so quickly and get into position," former England fast bowler great Fred Trueman observed. Yet Bradman's eyesight was faulty and led to him being invalided out of the Australian Army

during the Second World War. He succeeded, coaches said, thanks to superior concentration, foot speed and sheer talent, de-

his first Ashes tour of England in 1930. But he made a series record of 974 runs with four centuries, averaging a colossal 139.14.

Observers say this gave Bradman a better balance through the whole of his backswing. He averaged an unrivalled 99.94 in 52 tests, scoring 6,996 runs between 1928 and 1948, including 29 centuries.

English university professor Adrian Lees studied Bradman's technique last year. He used two batsmen, 16 electronic sensors and six cameras to produce three-dimensional computer images of a cricket stroke played either conventionally or with the unorthodox backlift.

The Bradman method was found to have two advantages. It allowed the batsman to delay his decision on which shot to play and its forward motion automatically put the batsman on his toes.

Boycott's admiration

England cricket legend Geoff Boycott on Monday paid tribute to Sir Donald Bradman, who died on Sunday at the age of 92. Bradman died peacefully at his home in Adelaide after suffering from pneumonia.

Acknowledged as the world's greatest ever cricketer, Sir Donald amassed 6,996 Test runs in 80 innings during the 1930s and 1940s at an unrivalled average of 99.94.

Boycott, now a respected radio pundit, said: "His career is summed up by the fact he was very consistent - I think that's the key to it. When he did get in he made big hundreds."

"He was greedy - and that's how you should be. He had a phenomenal rate of scoring, much quicker than anyone else."

Boycott added: "I met him first in 1965 when Mike Smith captained us in Australia. "Sir Don came to see me in hospital and he brought me a book. He signed it and chatted to me a while - I was flattered that

he'd bothered to come and see me as a young kid. "I think the interesting thing about him is that he was the greatest batsman basically throughout cricket - and yet he was a very private man."

"When he was captain he used to like his privacy, he'd go to his room and write a letter or listen to a record."

"Today you think how the game has progressed. Players have to do so many interviews - the media wants you. "And yet here the greatest batsman ever was able to keep a certain amount of privacy."

Another former England favourite, pace bowler John Snow, described Bradman as "a cricket icon all over the world, full stop."

Snow said: "When you think of cricket you think of WG Grace and Donald Bradman. "I met him when I played over there in 1970-71 for the first time, and he was a very modest man. You would have not thought he'd achieved anything very much really."

Snow believed Bradman broke the mould in terms of leg-side play. He added: "I may be wrong but I think he was probably the first player that actually started to play the ball on the leg side a lot."

"All the fields tended to be set in the old style, on the off side. He was a great worker of the ball. "He was also a successful businessman, a brilliant administrator, a superb golfer, and a pianist as well - he was a multi-talented man."

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Div II cricket

Medium-pace Arif grabbed five wickets to propel Azad Boys Club to a comprehensive 98-run win over Lalbagh Union Sporting Club in an Acme Second Division Cricket League match yesterday.

Arif conceded only 22 runs in 7.5 overs as Azad Boys, defending, 209 in 45 overs at the Uttara Friends Club ground, dismissed their counterparts for 111 in 39.5 overs.

Arif's new ball partner Ifti finished with three for 42. Earlier, electing to bat, Azad Boys Club were all out for 209 in 45 overs with Shakil hammering highest 52 off 81 balls.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Ajax Sporting Club handed Cricket Coaching School a humiliating 155-run defeat.

Opener Rafique scored 60 off 103 balls with five boundaries as Ajax, opting to bat first, piled up a huge 239 for eight in the allotted 45 overs.

Sabuj (45) and Tuhin (42) were the other notable run-getters. In reply, Cricket Coaching School were shot out for 84 in 23.4 overs.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Kathalbagan Cricket Club trounced Amorjoti Club by 111 runs.

Batting first, Kathalbagan scored 221 for nine in 45 overs with one down Niaz scoring highest 54 off 66 balls with half a dozen boundaries.

In reply, Amorjoti Club were bundled out for 78 in 25.2 overs. At the nearby City Club ground, Prantik Kriya Chakra registered an exciting two-run win over Gulshan Youth Club.

BSJA calendar

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) has published a desk calendar with pictures of memorable moments of the country's sports and leading sports personalities.

The publication ceremony of the calendar was held at the BSJA office yesterday. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader attended the function as the chief guest.

Four former national cricket captains Raquibul Hasan, Minhazul Abedin, Akram Khan and Aminul Islam and first Test skipper Naimur Rahman were among the guests.

The calendar featured four historical moments of Bangladesh cricket along with memorable moments from hockey, chess, shooting, athletics, swimming and table tennis.

CWAB meeting

UNB, Dhaka
A general meeting of the Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) will be held at its office today at 7 pm.

All executive committee and players have been requested to attend.

Norman tames Tarango

AP, Dubai
Magnus Norman, intent on improving his serve, defeated Jeff Tarango 6-4, 6-4 Monday in the first round of the one-million-dollar Dubai Open.

Norman, seeded second, had seven aces, including three straight in the fourth game of the second set.

"I've been working a lot on my serve the last couple of weeks and I'm very happy with the way that worked," the Swede said. "It's always nice to get a match under your belt here, and hopefully I can build on that."

Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic 7-6, 6-2. The third-seeded Russian trailed 4-0 in the first set before rallying. Dosedel was hurt by nine double faults.



Winners of the Gulshan Club sports competition are seen with club president ABM Kamal Uddin Khan (4th from left, back row) during the prize-giving ceremony on February 26.

Hewitt gets going

Tennis
AP, San Jose
Australia's Lleyton Hewitt opened the Sybase Open with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Canada's Sebastien Lareau on Monday night.

Hewitt, seeded second behind Andre Agassi, didn't have much trouble in winning for the 10th time in 11 matches. "I feel confident every time I step on the court I can win," said Hewitt, who turned 20 on Saturday. "It was nice to get out there and get through the first round."

In other first-round matches, Australia's Wayne Arthurs upset fifth-seeded Dutchman Sjeng Schalken 6-4, 6-4; eighth-seeded Greg Rusedski of Great Britain beat Israel's Harel Levy, 6-1, 7-6; Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson defeated Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Russia's Andrei Stoliarov defeated Paraguay's Ramon Delgado 6-2, 6-2; Armenia's Sargis Sargjan beat American Justin Gimelstob 6-1, 7-6, and American Jan-Michael Gambill, seeded sixth, topped Brazil's Andre Sa 6-3, 6-7, 6-3.

Agassi meets Korea's Hyung-Taik Lee on Tuesday night in his first-round match. Hewitt, known for his exuberance on the court, was subdued in his one-hour match. He survived five double faults and a good serving night from Lareau, who had four aces to Hewitt's two. "He didn't give me too many opportunities. He served well and accurately," said Hewitt, who is ranked sixth in the world. "I had to really step up."

Hewitt, who has won seven titles since turning pro in 1998, is looking for his first indoor crown.

"Growing up in Australia, there are no indoor courts," Hewitt said. "But I've had some good wins indoors. I don't mind it, and I don't lack for confidence." Lareau was a late entry against Hewitt, who was originally scheduled to play fellow countryman Jason Stoltenberg. However, Stoltenberg withdrew with a right biceps injury suffered last week at the Kroger St. Jude in Memphis, Tenn.

Arthurs lost his first match in Memphis last week after arriving from the Australian Open, where he reached the round of 32. "I hadn't played indoors since last year and I was struggling with jet lag and getting sleep," said Arthurs, who finished ranked 71st in the world last year. "Today I had a good game plan and it worked. I've been hitting the ball pretty well and I was confident."

More than just a Scud

Tennis
AP, Memphis
Mark Philippoussis wants to be known for more than just his booming serve.

"I don't want to be known as one of those guys like, 'He had so much talent. He had a big serve. Who knows how good he might've become if he'd worked harder?' I don't really want to be known as a player like that," Philippoussis said. The new dedication started when doctors repaired his left

knee on Dec. 28, and it paid off in his first event back on tour as Philippoussis beat Davide Sanguineti 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 Sunday for the Kroger St. Jude title.

Philippoussis now has nine career titles, the last five in the United States, but he doesn't have a single Grand Slam event on the list.

The problem? Having too much fun with motorbikes, snowboarding or wakeboarding and leaning on a serve that has peaked at 139 mph.

Forced to miss the Australian Open as he worked at strengthening his legs, Philippoussis watched as Andre Agassi showed up in the best shape of his life and added another Grand Slam title to his resume.

"He's really made me open my eyes," Philippoussis said. Philippoussis committed himself to working in a gym three days a week and hitting the court twice a day. For the first time in his life, he added running on a treadmill to his workout schedule.

He also has trimmed back activities like riding his motorbikes, with everything designed to help him survive the five-set grind of the Grand Slams.

"If you want to be the best in tennis, there's no room for anything else," Philippoussis said. "I've turned 24. Hopefully, I have 6-7 years left. I want to commit everything I have to the next 6-7 years, so I can know I gave it my best shot."



Brazil's top-ranked tennis player Gustavo Kuerten waves to spectators after beating Argentine Jose Acasuso in the ATP Tournament final at Buenos Aires on February 25. Kuerten won 6-1, 6-3.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Sailor Philby, e.g.
5 Find the sum
8 Movie director Nicolas
12 Ballet
13 Depress-
14 Hair-style
15 In the wings
17 In which case
18 Shred
19 Whipped
21 Sweet potato
22 Small combo
23 Conceit
26 Beer container
28 Cold-shoulders
31 Hand warmer
33 Insult
35 Determination
36 Hungry
38 San Francisco's Hill
40 Kim
41 Semi-liquid stuff
43 Einstein's birthplace
45 Contusion
47 Lathered
51 Bank trans-action
52 Very slightly
54 To be, in Toulon
55 Zero
56 Andy's partner
57 Mid-June honorees
58 Take a gander at
59 Nexus
60 Kues' followers
61 Cassowary look-alike
62 Starter's prop
63 Unawares
64 Romeo
65 Elevator
66 Irascible
67 Apprehensive
68 Marceau portrayal
69 Pigs' digs
70 Cats
71 Puffy recipe
72 Uno + uno
73 Heavy hit
74 Laborers
75 Evidenced a pinprick
76 Ecclesiastic tribunal
77 Drew Carey's nemesis
78 Harrow rival
79 Office furniture
80 "A pox upon thee!"
DOWN
1 Stain
2 -
3 Elevator
4 Irascible
5 Apprehensive
6 Lidarod teammate
7 Resided
8 -
9 Leisure time
10 Gaelic
11 Suitable
12 Ship-building
13 Lathered
14 Hair-style
15 In the wings
17 In which case
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76 Ecclesiastic tribunal
77 Drew Carey's nemesis
78 Harrow rival
79 Office furniture
80 "A pox upon thee!"
Solution time: 21 mins.

Cryptogram grid with numbers 1-50 and letters Z, M, W, W, H, A, M, X, J, M, F, I, J, O, Z, T, J, R, Z, N, Q, T, M, W, U, J, U, T, I, R, F, I, M, X, R, A, O, U, I, F, O, Q, U, T, I, H, F, A, N, J, J, I, J.

CRYPTOQUIP
Z M W W H A M X J M F I
J O Z T J R Z N Q T M W U J
U T I R F I M X R A O U I F
O Q U T I H F A N J J I J
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I SUPPOSE A PART-TIME BANDLEADER COULD BE CALLED A SEMICONDUCTOR.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equals S
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.



Magnus Norman of Sweden makes a backhand return against Jeff Tarango of the United States during their first round match of the Dubai Open on February 26. Norman won 6-4, 6-4.