

AFP. Colombo

in Test cricket.

here.

Hashan Tillakaratne cracked a

career-best 143 not out against the

West Indies here on Saturday to

keep alive Sri Lanka's hopes of

securing their first ever clean sweep

The 31-year-old left-hander's

Thilan Samaraweera was

Sri Lanka, who have already

Tillakaratne has so far struck 17

taken a decisive 2-0 lead in the

series, are hoping to make their

boundaries in his second century of

the current series. surpassing his

previous best of 136 not out against

by Sri Lanka's depth in batting as

Tillakaratne put on 141 for the fifth

wicket with left-handed Russel

Arnold (65) and 132 for the unfin-

easy-paced pitch for the tourists.

who could take just two wickets as

the hosts made 284 runs to tighten

their grip over the match after

the West Indies success for more

Tillakaratne played some attacking

Former Pakistan captain Wasim

Akram Saturday told a match-fixing

commission that allegations his

ing Pakistan's two defeats against

outsiders Bangladesh and India at

and since we had qualified for the

semifinal complacency got the

better of us and we lost." Akram told

match against India "just like war"

but his team was simply outgunned

He said Pakistan went into the

"We took Bangladesh very lightly

the World Cup in England

the commission.

on the day.

Tillakaratne and Arnold denied

It was a frustrating day on an

The West Indies were thwarted

India at this venue last August.

ished sixth with Samaraweera

resuming at 193-3.

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

unbeaten on 68 at stumps, having

hit five fours in his 195-ball knock.

maiden 3-0 sweep.

Rajshahi cricket **OUR CORRESPONDENT**, Rajshahi

Cricket

Friends Ideal Cricket School B and Innocent Cricket Academy won their respective matches of the Bir Sreshthya Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup Cricket tournament at the Rajshahi play ground yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Friends defeated Gourahanga Ekota Sangha by eight crickets.

ninth century helped Sri Lanka post Winning the toss. Gourahanga 477-5 in reply to their rivals' 390 on batted first and went all out for 67 in the third day of the third and final 19.4 overs. Test at the Sinhalese sports club

In reply, Friends reached the target (69 runs) losing only three crickets in 18.3 overs.

In other match. Innocent beat Friends a by three wickets.

Sent into bat first. Friends made 146 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Innocent reached the target of 146 runs conceding five wickets in 23.2 overs.

In the eyes FROM PAGE 13

a lot worse, especially if you look at the group with Argentina and England (Group F).

"Ours is a reasonable group but we must not count our chickens before they are hatched. Croatia are an important team with good technical ability."

Italy, who play all their first-phase matches in Japan, open their campaign with a match against World Cup debutants Ecuador at Sapporo on June 3.

than a session with their contrasting They play Croatia, who finished knocks after Mahela Jayawardene third in the last World Cup, on June 8 had fallen in the day's eighth over. at Ibaraki and Mexico on June 13 at Arnold grafted on way to his first Oita. half-century in 11 Test innings, while

Italy, who will bid for what would be a record-equalling fourth title, will be relieved at the relatively easy draw as they traditionally struggle in the early stages but then become more powerful as the tournament progresses.

RUDI VOELLER (GERMANY) Germany coach Rudi Voeller said Ireland would be tough to beat in the World Cup finals but he still believed the former champions would qualify from group E.

Saudi Arabia and Cameroon make up the group. "We have the strongest team in

team rigged two matches at the Africa and also Ireland, who have 1999 World Cup were baseless. knocked out the Netherlands in The commission headed by qualifying, but I think we can do it," Justice Karamat Nazir Bhandari of Voeller told German television. the Lahore High Court is investigat-

"Ireland may not be a top name but you have to look at their current form and from what they did in qualifying, they have to be regarded as very dangerous opponents.

"They have many players in the premier league and they will be extremely tough to beat."

Former Germany striker Juergen Klinsmann said: "You can sav we were lucky because other groups, especially the one with England, are much, much tougher than ours.

"We lost the toss in that match "We should beat Saudi Arabia and after India scored 227-odd runs, Ireland will be tough be we can manage that. Cameroon with (Cameroon's German coach) Winfried Schaefer will be very exciting. It will be fun.

Hashan raises SL's hopes

West Indian bowling.

in the post-lunch session.

Jacobs.

Hooper's 100th Test victim when he

was caught by wicketkeeper Ridley

shots against both pacemen and while playing across the line. spinners to capitalise on a mediocre The West Indian bowlers ther

struggled to put pressure on the Tillakaratne, who made an home team despite taking the unbeaten 105 in the opening Test at second new ball in the 82nd over. Galle, completed his century in style Dillon looked impressive only in his when he firmly drove fast bowler opening spell, conceding 25 in 11 Marlon Black for his 14th boundary overs for one wicket, while his teammates disappointed as Arnold, with 38 runs in the last Tillakaratne batted positively to help two Tests, became off-spinner Carl his team seize the initiative.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the third and final cricket Test between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo Saturday: WEST INDIES: First innings 390

SPORT

Durand Cup

The 114th edition of prestigious

tournament starts in New Delhi from

confirmed this on Saturday.

competition of the region.

SAFF Tourney

due Dec 11

the city on December 11.

will kick off on January 26.

SPORTS REPORTER

AML officials

Two officials of the Asian Marketing

Limited (AML), sponsors for the

South Asian Football Federation

(SAFF) Championship, will arrive in

officials will inspect facilities avail-

able at the Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur

National Stadium, which will play

host to the regional football carnival.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal

Maldives, Bhutan and Bangladesh

The AML officials will also dis-

The seven-nation meet involving

During their two-day stay the

Club official Fazlur Rahman

But Mohammedan, who are

presently not running a camp, was

yet to decide whether it would take

part in one of the oldest football

It was learnt that the Dhaka

giants would be only the second

foreign team in the meet, where

eight leading Indian sides will also

SPORTS REPORTER

January 27.

compete.

(B Lara 221, R Sarwan 69, C Hooper 56; C Vaas 7-120) SRI LANKA: First innings (over-

night 193-3) Atapattu c Gayle b Collins Jayasuriya c Ramnarine b Black85 Sangakkara c Gayle b Dillon 55 Jayawardene Ibw b Dillon 39 Arnold c Jacobs b Hooper 65 Tillekeratne not out 143 Samaraweera not out 68 Extras: (b-5, lb-8, w-2, nb-3) 18 Total: (For 5 wkts in 154 overs)477 Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-104, 3-179, 4-204.5-345

RW

1

1

1999.

match

104 2

95 1

108

51 0

76

23 0

70

To bat: Chaminda Vaas, Niroshan Bandaratilleke, Nuwan Zoysa, Muttiah Muralitharan

TILLEKERATNE143 n o	Muttiah Muralitharan								
	Bowler	0	Μ						
There was, however, no respite	Dillon	38	7						
for the West Indies as	Collins	34	3						
Samaraweera batted confidently to	Black	24	2						
provide valuable support to	R'rine	17	3						
Tillakaratne with his second Test	Hooper	30	5						
half-century.	Gayle	9	1						
Paceman Mervyn Dillon struck	Sarwan	2	0						
early in the day when he got rid of									
Jayawardene, who added seven	Umpires:	Russel T	iffin						

ussel Tiffin (Zimbaruns to his overnight score of 32 bwe) and Asoka de Silva (Sri before being trapped leg-before Lanka).

Former Pakistan Cricket Board

Akram rejects wrong-doing

The commission has received a

ment. letter from one of the umpires in the Pakistan-Bangladesh game, New (PCB) chief executive Majid Khan and ex-fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz Zealander Doug Cowie, who described Akram's side as "complahave told the commission that cent and careless". events before the suspect matches

The Pakistan team seemed to suggested they were fixed. be going through the motions while Ali Bacher, head of South Africa's Bangladesh players fielded, bowled 2003 World Cup committee, told a and batted well," Cowie wrote in the match-fixing commission in South letter which was read to the commis-Africa last year that Pakistan played two fixed games in the 1999 World sion

The commission, appointed in evidence. May this year, has until January 15 to submit its report to the govern-

The PCB is under tremendous pressure from the International Cricket Council to investigate the allegations and submit a report.

Match-fixing allegations have rocked the game since the explosive South Afican inquiry, with three former captains -- Pakistan's Salim Malik, South African Hansie Cronje and Indian Mohammad Azharuddin -- serving life bans.

After an earlier match-fixing inquiry here between September

Kiwi bashing for Aussies MSC invited to

Cricket Mohammedan Sporting Club have

been invited to play in the Durand AFP, Perth Cup Football Tournament in India.

Records toppled as New Zealand's batsmen handed out a rare thrashing to Australia's much-vaunted bowling on the second day of the third and deciding cricket Test at the

WACA Ground here Saturday. Nathan Astle (156 not out) and Adam Parore (110) made it a day of abject misery for Australia, unofficial world Test champions, as they propelled the Black Caps to a potentially match-winning first innings total of 534 for nine wickets declared.

Australia slipped into even further strife when ace opening batsman Matthew Hayden fell for a duck to speedster Shane Bond and Ricky Ponting (31) was trapped by Chris Martin late in the day.

The home country went to stumps with 75 for two wickets, needing another 260 runs to ensure they do not have to follow-on.

At the crease were little lefthander Justin Langer (34), who has scored centuries in his past three Tests, and Mark Waugh (five).

The third day Sunday of this engrossing encounter promises to test the mettle of Australia just a couple of weeks before they take on South Africa in a three-Test series in Australia for the unofficial world championship.

Astle predicted Saturday night that star left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori could play a crucial role for the Kiwis over the rest of the game. cuss about the live coverage of the "If Daniel gets his line right, he will be a handful over the next three

biennial event, which was last staged in the Indian City of Goa in days," he said. Astle and Parore fashioned their centuries the day after skipper

three figures in the same innings of

And it was only the second time

The first were England in 1938

when Charlie Barnett (126), Eddie

Paynter (216 not out), Denis

Compton (102) and Len Hutton

(100) humiliated the Australian

attack in the first Test at Trent

any team had handed out such an

indignity to Australia.

Defending champions India will Stephen Fleming hit 105 and debutake on Pakistan in the opening tant opener Lou Vincent 104. It was the first time four New Bangladesh, now training under Zealand batsmen have topped

a Test.

Bridge.

Austrian coach George Cottan, will meet Nepal in the second match under lights on January 26. It was learnt that the home team

might include a couple of booters. who play in the semi-professional league in England.

However, the identity of the players would only be known when a delegation of London-based Asian Sports Federation Limited (ASFL) arrive here on December 21

K'chhari Cup, but he has failed to provide

Khagrachhari

stadium yesterday.

Sporting Club defeated Narikel Bagan Člub by three wickets.

"Once I had worked out the wicket, it was a good pitch to bat on. It did not have as much fire as I had

Parore said: "There is no doubt that this was the highlight of my career -- the best I have played. It is just great to get a hundred against this side.

tomed blunders in the field. it would be a mistake to think that Parore was dropped at 70 and 92, while Astle had a life on 156 -just before Fleming closed the

innings.

hours

But that was the only blemish by Astle on a day when he was almost completely in charge. SCOREBOARD

The Daily Star

Parore's hundred was his sec-

ond at Test level and embraced 14

fours and one mighty six -- a huge

pull over mid-wicket off champion

Parore held firm for just over five

Australia contributed to their

difficulties by making unaccus-

leg-spinner Shane Warne.

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third and deciding Test between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA Ground in Western Australia Saturday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 293-7) Richardson b Gillespie Vincent c M Waugh b Warne 104 Sinclair Ibw McGrath 2 Fleming Ibw Lee 105 Astle not out 156 McMillan Ibw Gillespie 4 Vettori c Martyn b Gillespie 2 Cairns c Gilchrist b Lee Parore c McGrath b Lee 110 Bond b Lee Extras: (b-4, lb-15, w-2, nb-13) 34 Total: (For 9 wkts decl in 162.5 overs)534

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-19, 3-218, 4-264, 5-269, 6-272, 7-281, 8-534, 9-534

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Martyn, Adam Gilchrist, Shane

Warne, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie,

0

6 1 26 0

3

4

Glenn McGrath

32.5

72 1

3

4

0

0

34

0

31

7 112

5 125

9 135

0 44

3 1 0

26

MRW

6

0 21

0 21

0

Did not bat: Chris Martin RW Bowler ο М

Astle and Parore applied them-McGrath selves with gritty determination Gillespie early in the day after the Kiwis Lee resumed with an insecure 293 for Warne seven wickets. Martyn It was only after lunch that they M Waugh

ASTLE...156 n o

will not roll over and die. We are

going to have to play pretty well to

put them under pressure and try to

force a win.

began to punish a tiring attack Ponting which, despite its world-beating AUSTRALIA: First innings reputation, wilted under the sus-Langer not out tained pressure.

Hayden c Vincent b Bond The batsmen rarely put a foot Ponting c Parore b Martin wrong as they carved out an eighth-M Waugh not out wicket liaison of 253 -- the best by Extras: (lb-1, nb-4) New Zealand against any country Total: (For 2 wkts in 15 overs) 75 for that wicket and the second Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-61 highest eighth-wicket stand in Test To bat: Steve Waugh, Damien

history. New Zealand's previous best for the eighth-wicket was the 137 by Dion Nash and Daniel Vettori Bowler against India in Wellington in 1998-Cairns Bond

Astle's century, occupying Martin almost seven hours, was his sev-Vettori enth and highest in Test company. **Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia)** The fighting right-hander hamand lan Robinson (Zimbabwe). mered 22 fours and one six.

Arthurs -- backfired, putting the home nation under the cosh, now needing to win both their remaining singles ties.

"I have no regrets about making the decision," said Fitzgerald. "It was the right decision and I stand by it and it was also a team decision with all four players contributing to

"I don't know the exact reason

the Swiss combination of Roger Federer and Lorenzo Manta 9-7 in

year's Davis Cup.

the fifth set.

said Forget.

take the chances when they do come and here we are leading 2-1. "The guys now believe more and more that they can win, and that's a very special feeling."

It was only the second time Rafter and Hewitt had teamed up in the doubles for Australia having beaten Gustavo Kuerten and Jaime

counterpart Guy Forget. Hewitt here Saturday.

France in front Tennis

France were one match away from

expected it would."

"I think we are in a good spot, but

there is only one team that can win this.





Kayamat Sporting Club won their respective matches of the Victory Day cricket tournament at local

Narikel Bagan batted first and ored 95 for nine in the stipu

cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Anirban Recreation Club and

In the first match Kavamat

AFP, Melbourne

lifting the Davis Cup after Cedric Pioline and Fabrice Santoro won the pivotal doubles rubber over surprise opponents Pat Rafter and Lleyton

Astle said: "I had a bit of luck, but to get 150 against these guys is big really big.

BRUCE ARENA (UNITED STATES)

``Any group would be difficult. I like the group," said United States coach Bruce Arena, whose team plays an exhibition game with the Koreans on December 9 in Seogwipo, South Korea.

Obviously we're opening against one of the top teams in the world, then we have the host country and then Poland.

Overall, we will have a chance to advance. We have no complaints, The draw gives us some optimism.'

The United States were grouped with co-host South Korea, Poland and Portugal for next year's World Cup.

The Americans, who finished last in France '98, but advanced to the 2002 World Cup out of North America. Central America and the Caribbean with one final-round qualifier remaining

CROSSWORD

31

I thought it would be easy for us, Akram said. "There is no question of losing

deliberately to India, but I think we got tense due to the very noisy crowd and then we lost wickets early in the run chase."



1998 and October 1999, Malik and pace bowler Ataur Rehman were banned for life, while five other players including Akram were fined. The Bhandari inquiry is continu-

WASIM AKRAM

Dalmiya comforts Sehwag Martin comes into Indian side

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, New Delhi

Uncapped Jacob Martin will replace fellow middle-order batsman Virender Sehwag in the 14-man India squad for the first Test against England, an Indian cricket official has said.

"Martin is reaching Mohali (the Test venue) tomorrow (Sunday)," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Niranjan Shah told Reuters by phone from the western city of Rajkot.

However the banned Sehwag will remain part of the Indian squad for the first Test, Indian cricket chief Jagmohan Dalmiya said on

Saturday. "Sehwag will not play, but I want him to travel to Mohali and stay with the rest of the team so that his confidence is not shattered,' Dalmiya said after speaking to the cricketer over the phone.

"I explained to him the circumstances why he was dropped and the boy understood the problem and appeared to be all right.

"I told him that the decision was taken to save cricket and he

(Sehwag) appears to have taken it sportingly," Dalmiya said.

The 23-year-old was at the centre of a crisis that threatened to split world cricket until the game's governing body and Indian authoriies reached a compromise on Friday.

Under the deal, India agreed to a directive from the International Cricket Council (ICC) to keep Sehwag out of the Mohali Test in return for a review of match referee Mike Denness's decisions.

Denness, a former England captain, handed Sehwag a one-Test suspension and fined him 75 percent of his match fee for excessive appealing during the second Test against South Africa at Port Elizabeth

Although five other Indian players were also pulled up. including star batsman Sachin Tendulkar, Sehwag's punishment was the most severe and prompted Dalmiya to question Denness's decision.

Sehwag, who scored a century on his Test debut last month and is almost certain to be included for the second Test against England, had said he was desperate to play again. "I don't want to be in the news for

the wrong reasons," Sehwag said before the team's return from South Africa on Friday.

"I just want to get back home and start focussing on cricket again. have taken it (the ban) in my stride.

"Right now I want to focus on the England series and forget everything else. I just want to play for India as long as I can.

Sehwag, who hails from a rural suburb of Najafgarh, near Delhi, had never been pulled up before for bad behaviour during his four seasons on the domestic circuit.

SQUAD

Sourav Ganguly (captain), Shiv Sundar Das, Connor Williams, day's Cryptoquip: THE EMINENT BULL AS FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Vangipurappu Laxman, Jacob Martin, Deep Dasgupta, Anil quip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the Kumble, Sanjay Bangar, Harbhajan Singh, Igbal Siddiqui, Sarandeep puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error. Singh, Tinu Yohannan.

In reply, Kayamat reached the

target losing seven wickets. In the other match of the day, Anirban beat Alo Cricket Club by 20

Ronaldo FROM PAGE 13

"It looks a good draw to me," said the Inter Milan striker on his personal website (r9ronaldo.com) "Even if my Inter teammates Turks Hakan Sukur. Emre and Okan Buruk are confident about doing well in the World Cup.

"As for China I only know it as a tourist destination but I have a great memory of going to Shanghai with my wife Milene in 1999."

Unbeatable Biman FROM PAGE 13

Bangladesh Biman 1980-1981-Mohammedan SC 1982-Brothers Union Bangladesh Biman 1983-Bangladesh Ansars 1984-1985-Bengal Group 1986-Bangladesh Biman 1987-**Brothers Union** 1988-Brothers Union

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Sorry BTV

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FROM PAGE 13 details were already known through Internet and cable news channels the BTV started to show the recorded 85-minute programme at 6.10 pm.

Confused readers of The Daily Star sought explanations for being misinformed.

Feeling betrayed itself, The Daily Star Sport contacted Matra. But the response from the advertising firm was outrageously irresponsible.

"It's very much live. But if you know about the draw details then why bother watching it on television," said an irritated Matra official over phone while refusing to identify himself.

None of the BTV high-ups also could be reached through phone last night

Pioline and Santoro won 2-6, 6why he (Fitzgerald) didn't pick Todd 3, 7-6, 6-1 in two hours 47 minutes, with France needing to win just one Woodbridge, but for us the goal was the same, just to concentrate on our of Sunday's two reverse singles to dame and do the best we could and capture their ninth Davis Cup -'m so proud of these two guys," which would be the first since they Forget said. beat Sweden in 1996 to take the Pioline and Santoro once again

title. No team since 1977 has won a Davis Cup final after losing the doubles and France will now look to Sebastien Grosjean or Nicolas Escude to wrap up the final in their singles matches on the portable grass court on Sunday.

Grosjean will play world No.1 Hewitt followed by Escude up against Rafter.

There have only been five comebacks from 1-2 down in Davis Cup history and none since the Fina Round began in 1972.

The gamble by Australian captain John Fitzgerald to go for broke and pitch Hewitt and Rafter into the doubles -- bypassing nominated pair Todd Woodbridge and Wayne



Frenchman Cedric Pioline (R) hugs his partner Fabrice Santoro after beating Australian duo of Lleyton Hewitt and Patrick Rafter in the Davis Cup doubles in Melbourne yesterday.

Oncins in three tiebreak sets on clay The late switch surprised French in Brazil last April.

Australia will rue their missed opportunity when failing to convert two set points at 5-4 in the 10th game in the third set of Saturday's doubles

The set eventually went to a tiebreaker and the Aussies again wasted opportunities to take the set before the French went to a 2-1 sets

gave the French team a vital point after winning the doubles against Belgium and the Netherlands in this They steamed through the fourth set against the dispirited Australians in 31 minutes to take the doubles. Their only loss this year was to

Australia got away to a flying start when Pioline's opening two service games were broken for a 4-1 lead and Hewitt served out the opening set in 35 minutes.

"We have showed here if we play our best tennis there was a match The French appeared tentative and we've done everything we could in the first set, but they composed over the last 12 days to be prepared themselves and began to trouble for the grass, wind and weather. the Aussie combination, breaking Rafter's service in the second game "I told the guys that we had of the second set.

nothing to lose here, but we did have a chance and I told them to do The Frenchmen had few prob lems holding on to their serve and Pioline levelled the doubles rubber everything they could to take the opportunity by being offensive and with an ace at 40-0.

Hewitt, who lost in five sets to Escude on Friday, had a struggle to hold on to his service in the third game of the third set, double faulting to give France a break point but holding on his third deuce.

Santoro had a fight in the next game staving off break point at 30-40 when Pioline missed an overhead but levelled the games at 2-all.

The crucial game was the 10th when Australia had two set points at 5-4, 15-40, but Rafter missed a volley at the net and Hewitt went for a big forehand return only to hit the tape as Pioline held on to 5-5.

The Australians made another push in the 12th game when they got to three deuces on Santoro's serve, but the little Frenchman got out of strife with a strong serve to Rafter's backhand and followed up with another big serve on the next point to take the game to a tiebreaker

Both teams traded mini-breaks twice in the tiebreaker but the turning point came with Australia lead ina 5-4.

Hewitt made a great return off a Pioline serve and Pioline's volley appeared to be going out when i feathered Rafter's outstretched racquet

What should have been a 6-4 lead and two set points for Australia became 5-5 and Pioline put France ahead two sets to one with a putaway at the net off Hewitt's serve.

The 69-minute struggle and resulting set loss dispirited the Australians and the French raced through the fourth set, breaking Hewitt's service twice, to put them selves in the box seat to win the final in the two remaining reverse singles rubbers on Sunday

PHOTO: AFF

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footed	EREDOE		hunt aid	The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the												
bird	REDOWN		50 it's the													rophe
49 Bronhot			50 it's the													

word

By Eugene Sheffer

bird 42 Prophet