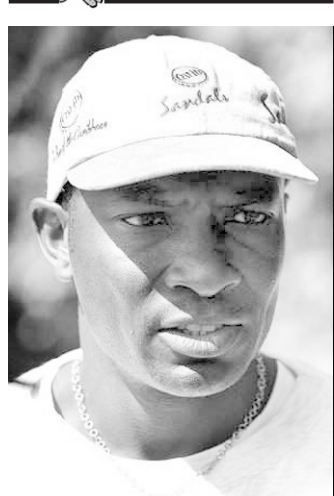




## Did U Know?

Mushtaq Ali is the first Indian batsman to score a Test century outside India. He made 112 against England at Manchester in 1936. It was India's third Test match abroad.



**Roger Harper**  
(West Indies cricket coach)  
"Look at the statistics. Shane Warne is taking four wickets per Test, but Muralitharan is taking well over five. He is the best."  
On Muttiah Muralitharan.



**ESPN**  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
6:30 am  
**Serie A**  
Highlights at 10:30 am  
Western Union World Football  
11:30 am  
Champions Trophy, Sharjah  
Pakistan vs Zimbabwe  
Fifth ODI  
3:30 pm  
**Sportscentre Hindi**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
World Cup Soccer Mix  
9:00 pm  
English Premier Football League  
Fulham vs Liverpool  
9:30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Sportsline Today  
Sport News  
7:30 am  
English Premier Football League  
Highlights at 8:30 am  
English Premier Football League  
Aston Villa vs Arsenal  
11:00 pm  
**Sportsline Tonight**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm



Tick the Correct Answers Post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Dec 14, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe one-day internationals?  
Al-Shahriar H Bashir D Ebrahim
- Who became Inter-Continental Cup champs?  
Boca Juniors Real Madrid Bayern Munich
- How many runs did Habibul Bashar score in the first innings of the second Test against Zimbabwe?  
117 109
- Which number Test venue is the MAAziz Stadium?  
73rd 66th

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

## Baptism of fire for tourists



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh failed to negotiate with the bustling Auckland pace attack and were off to a poor start against the home side in their four-day match at the Outer Oval of Eden Park, Auckland, on Wednesday.

Put into bat on a pitch that gave the bowlers plenty of swing and, early on, some seam movement, Bangladesh found it quite difficult to bat and were shot out for just 120 in 61.3 overs.

In reply, Auckland got two hours in the day and scored 79 in 26 overs for the loss of two wickets.

It was the combination of three Auckland pacemen Chris Drum, Andre Adams and Tama Canning who mesmerised the Bangladesh innings taking four, three and two wickets respectively while Kyle Mills took the other wicket as Bangladesh were all out immediately after the tea break.

Captain Khaled Mashud played a captain's knock of undefeated 30 after coming to bat at number eight while opener Al-Shahriar was the other batsman who showed some sense of responsibility with 25.

In his near about two-hour stay at the crease, Mashud, the right

hand, hammered a quartet of fours facing 78 balls while Al-Shahriar also hit four boundaries in his 107-minute stay.

Middle order Sanwar (18) and number ten Mohammad Sharif (11) were the other two who reached double figures.

In reply, Auckland were soon forced into their back foot when left arm seamer Monjurul Islam picked up two early wickets with the score-board on 36.

Monjurul, missing his new ball partner Mashrafi-bin-Mortuza who has been given rest for the first Test after suffering a groin injury while fielding against New Zealand District Association Eleven in Wanganui last week, first had opener Mark Richardson caught behind on 4 and then trapped man of the moment Lou Vincent leg before for 15 to give the tourists some hope.

However, opener Matt Horne (34 not out) and two down Barnes (18 not out) passed the day without any further loss to bring the home side back into the command.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard on the first day of the four-day match between Bangladesh and Auckland at the outer oval of Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, on Wednesday:

**BANGLADESH:** First innings  
Javed c Vincent b Drum 9  
Al-Shahriar c Young b Canning 25  
Bashar b Mills 2  
Aminul c Richardson b Adams 8  
Ashraf c Young b Adams 4  
Sanwar c Young b Drum 18  
K Mahmud c Horne b Drum 2  
K Mashud not out 30  
Enamul c Vincent b Drum 4  
Sharif b Adams 11  
Monjurul lbw b Canning 0  
Extras: (lb-2, nb-5) 7  
Total: (All out in 61.2 overs) 120  
Fall of wicket: 1-26, 2-29, 3-43, 4-48, 5-61, 6-68, 7-75, 8-93, 9-117.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Drum 18 4 32 4  
Mills 19 6 39 1  
Adams 13 6 16 3  
Canning 11 2 1 31 2

**AUCKLAND:** First innings  
Richardson c K Mashud b Monjurul 4  
Horne not out 34  
Vincent lbw b Monjurul 15  
Barnes not out 18  
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-1, nb-1) 8  
Total: (For 2 wickets in 26 overs) 79  
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-36.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Monjurul 12 2 30 2  
Sharif 9 2 32 0  
K Mahmud 3 0 9 0  
Enamul 2 1 2 0

## McGrath to take care of Kirsten

REUTERS, Adelaide

Glenn McGrath has targeted South Africa's most experienced player Gary Kirsten in the three-Test cricket series which gets underway here on Friday.

McGrath, Australia's most prolific wicket-taking bowler behind Shane Warne, has made it a habit of making a bee-line for key batsmen in opposing teams.

In recent seasons he's gone after left-handed batsmen, West Indian Brian Lara and India's Sourav Ganguly as well as England's Michael Atherton.

McGrath sees a psychological advantage in going after Proteas opener Gary Kirsten, his most popular South African victim.

"I don't mind bowling to left-handers and Gary Kirsten is the key to their lineup," McGrath said Wednesday.

"I'll target him because I've had a bit of success against him in the past."

While the talk has been about using two spinners at Adelaide, McGrath said it wasn't a bad ground for quick bowlers.

"I think there's a bit in early but you still have to make the most of it," he said.

"Then it flattens out and will turn a bit later as well as being a bit up and down."

"I don't mind playing here -- I think there's plenty there for the fast bowlers."

McGrath is coming off his worst series on record when he took only five wickets against New Zealand early this season at an average of 60 but he regards that as an anomaly.

SEE PAGE 15

## India's no to BD tourney



REUTERS/AFP, New Delhi

India will not take part in a one-day tournament in Bangladesh early next year due to the hectic schedule of the national team, Indian cricket chief Jagmohan Dalmiya said on Wednesday.

The India team, which returned from a controversial tour of South Africa last month, is currently engaged in a three-Test series against England.

"It is imperative that the players get a break for a few days, so that they can rest and spend some time with their families," Dalmiya said.

He said that India would visit Bangladesh "at the next available opportunity" after the World Cup.

The Indian team has been on tour since May and is scheduled to play another home series against Zimbabwe in February before touring the West Indies and England till June.

Dalmiya, however, declined to say whether the Board of Control for Cricket in India had received permission from the government to take part in the tournament that featured Pakistan.

The Indian government has repeatedly rejected calls to renew cricket ties against Pakistan in the last two years to protest at Islamabad's backing for Muslim militancy in Kashmir.

With India backing out, Pakistan will play two Tests and three one-day internationals against Bangladesh during the tour in January.

SEE PAGE 15

them stating the genuine reasons for our reluctance."

The tournament was sandwiched between the ongoing Test series against England, which ends on December 23, and five one-day internationals against the same rivals starting in mid-January.

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JAGMOHAN DALMIYA

The three-nation tournament, scheduled tentatively between January 3 and 13 in Dhaka, would also have featured India's arch-rivals Pakistan.

"The pressures of the international calendar before the 2003 World Cup have compelled us to express our reluctance to take part," Dalmiya said.

"It would perhaps also not be fair to Bangladesh if we send a second-string team, so we have written to

## WST experts in Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Two production expert from World Sports Television (WST) of Singapore arrived in Dhaka on Tuesday night to assess the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur in connection with the forthcoming 3rd SAFF Championship.

WST will produce all the matches of the seven-nation meet, scheduled to start on January 26, live through a satellite channel.

Upon their arrival, the two experts Tom Smith and David Tallyhall had a meeting with Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials on Wednesday morning and also called on State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman in the evening.

Later they visited the Sher-e-Bangla stadium and looked at its facilities.

## Hooper hopeful

REUTERS, Colombo

West Indies captain Carl Hooper lived up to his promise of better to come after they lost to Zimbabwe at the weekend with a comfortable 49-run win over Sri Lanka.

Paceman Corey Collymore with a career-best five for 51 did the damage after Brian Lara (60) and Darren Ganga (50) guided the West Indies to 250 for eight off their 50 overs.

"It was very important for us to win today's game," Hooper said. "If we had played poorly today then we would have put ourselves under pressure."

"It was important to bounce back after that loss to Zimbabwe and there's no better team than Sri Lanka to do it against."

"We realise we have been way below par. Obviously we wanted a win, but to do that we had to lift our game by 20 or 30 per cent."

But Hooper felt there was still room for improvement from his side.

"Ideally, we should have scored 280 or 290. We fell short by maybe 40 or 50 runs, but at least the display in the field was heartening," added the captain.

"The guys came back well, and all credit to Collymore, (Pedro) Collins and (Neil) McGarrell -- the bowlers pulled this win out for us."

Hooper is on course for his pre-match prediction when he said: "We have two games against Sri Lanka. We will win them, meet them in the final, then win that and go home happy."

## Graham goes home

AFF, London

England batsman Graham Thorpe returned home on Wednesday after leaving the tour of India to sort out unspecified "personal problems."

Asked at Heathrow Airport to clarify the nature of his problems, Thorpe would only say that he had returned "for personal reasons."

England chairman of selectors David Graveney meanwhile said that while Thorpe had the full backing of the team management, the Surrey player knew he had less than a month to decide whether to rejoin his country for the second leg of their winter tour schedule.

"It's a serious situation, and everyone has to respect that," said Graveney.

"As chairman of selectors I will give him maximum time and support to resolve problems."

Even so England are due to return to India after their short Christmas break in time to begin a hectic one-day schedule by January 22 at the latest.

"Time is short -- there is less than a month to go before the team fly back out to India and on to New Zealand."

"If it transpires that Graham does not want to go we will have to sit down and choose a replacement at some stage."

"But we are not going to impose any deadlines on Graham to tell us of his plans. We will give him maximum support and hope this doesn't have too much of an impact on the other lads."

## PCB unsure on coach decision

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan have delayed confirming Mudassar Nazar as their long-term cricket coach, an official said on Wednesday.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director Brigadier Munawwar Rana told this news agency on Wednesday that the decision had been deferred.

"Basically the appointment of the captain and coach is for series by series," Rana said. "But there is an understanding given that they may be appointed long-term if required."

The decision appeared to be a U-turn after a board official told Reuters earlier that Nazar's contract was being extended to the 2003 World Cup.

Nazar, a former Test player who played 76 times between 1977-89, was appointed in October and given a contract to January after South African-based former coach Richard Pybus stood down.



England's Craig White plays a cut-shot on way to scoring his maiden century on the second day of the second Test against India in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

## White hits maiden ton



AFF, Ahmedabad

England all-rounder Craig White celebrated his birthday three days early with a maiden Test century in the second cricket Test against India here on Wednesday.

White, who turns 32 on Sunday, made India pay dearly for fielding lapses as he cracked 121 under pressure to help England post an impressive 407 in the first innings.

There were more frustrations in store for India, who lost openers Shiv Sunder Das and Deep Dasgupta in the closing session to reach 71-2 at stumps on the second day.

Wicketkeeper Dasgupta, who had twice dropped White, also failed as a batsman as he contributed 17 before sweeping left-arm spinner Ashley Giles to Nasser Hussain at short fine-leg.

England, unlike India, did not have to struggle for wickets as seamer Andrew Flintoff soon had Das (41) caught by Mark Butcher in the slips to put pressure on the hosts.

Rahul Dravid was unbeaten on five and Sachin Tendulkar on two.

The day belonged to White, whose first hundred in 23 Tests revived England's fortunes after the tourists had lost their top five wickets for 180 on a batting pitch on Tuesday.

"I have shown I can make Test hundreds and hopefully there is another one not too far away," said White. "I enjoy batting against world-class spinners. I treat it as a challenge, a way to test yourself."

"It is fantastic to make a Test century at last. It has not really sunk in yet. I knew I could make one. Got so close in Lahore last year, but fell

short. That was the biggest disappointment of my life," White said, referring to his 93 against Pakistan.

"I am working harder at my batting because I have realised I am not a strike bowler I used to be a year ago. If I score useful runs at number seven and bowl 12 or 15 overs, I am sure Nasser (Hussain) will be happy with that."

The Yorkshire all-rounder was a key figure in two fruitful partnerships which eventually put his team in a position of strength as England added 227 for their last five wickets.

White put on 59 for the sixth wicket with Mark Ramprakash on Tuesday and then continued the good work with a 105-run stand for the next wicket with wicket-keeper James Foster (40).

He had both luck and pluck to keep the Indian attack at bay as he was let off three times during his 343-minute knock, which included two sixes off off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and 12 fours.

The minor consolation for India on a demoralising day was leg-spinner Anil Kumble's first seven-wicket haul against England.

Kumble failed to upstage White, whose contribution came at the right time for England. The tourists were in danger of being restricted to a modest score at one stage on Tuesday before the Yorkshireman changed the course of the innings.

The hard-hitting batsman thwarted the Indians with his attacking display, reaching his half-century with a six over long-on off Harbhajan after surviving a stumping chance on 44 in the bowler's previous over.

Fortune favoured the brave again as Dasgupta and Kumble dropped White on 63 and 67 off fast bowler Jagavallab Singh. India could hardly afford to miss chances on a pitch which favoured neither their

seamers nor spinners.

The second new ball, taken after 98 overs, did not produce instant success as White continued to bat comfortably and Foster kept defending resolutely.

"Nasser told us in the morning to get at least 350," said White. "But Foster and I managed to put together a partnership which put us in a great position."

England, resuming at 277-6, lost one wicket in the morning session and three in the second while adding 130 to their overnight total on a day which produced just 201 runs.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between England and India at the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday:

**ENGLAND:** First innings (overnight 277-6)  
Butcher c Dasgupta b Kumble 51  
Trescothick c Dasgupta b Kumble 69  
Hussain lbw b Kumble 1  
Vaughan c Sehwaag b Kumble 11  
Ramprakash b Tendulkar 37  
Flintoff c Laxman b Kumble 0  
White b Harbhajan 121  
Foster c Tendulkar b Kumble 40  
Giles b Kumble 7  
Dawson c Dasgupta b Srinath 9  
Hoggard not out 4  
Extras: (b-6, lb-15, nb-5, w-1) 27  
Total: (All out in 144.3 overs) 407

Fall of wickets: 1-124, 2-144, 3-172, 4-176, 5-180, 6-239, 7-344, 8-360, 9-391

**Bowler** O M R W  
Srinath 29 7 105 1  
Yohannan 17 2 57 0  
Harbhajan 35.3 9 78 1  
Kumble 51 13 115 7  
Tendulkar 10 0 27 1  
Sehwaag 2 1 4 0

**INDIA:** First innings  
Das c Butcher b Flintoff 41  
Dasgupta c Hussain b Giles 17  
Dravid not out

SEE PAGE 15

## Both sides upbeat



REUTERS, Adelaide

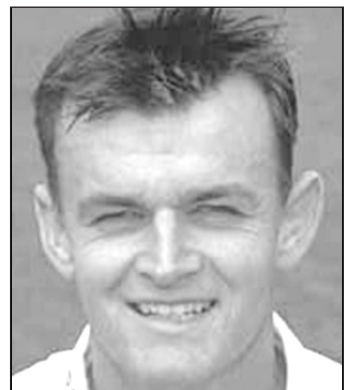
Vice-captain Adam Gilchrist has dismissed speculation about Australia's vulnerability ahead of the first Test against South Africa.

"There're a lot of comments from past players and people overseas," he said.

Australia their first home series defeat since 1992-93 and their first ever at home against South Africa.

Many experts and former players have questioned Australia's form after a lacklustre performance against New Zealand in Perth this month which saw the three-Test series end 0-0.

But Gilchrist argued Australia were on the up.



ADAM GILCHRIST

"That tells me a couple of things - one, we must be doing something right because we've got their interest, and two, a lot of those people want to see us fall down."

The first of the three-Test series starts in Adelaide on Friday, with the winner of the series taking over at the head of the World Test Championship.

The Proteas are looking to hand



SHAUN POLLOCK

"Everyone's really lifting up, you can feel the momentum building up and there's a lot of confidence in the camp," he told reporters.

"In Perth there was a flatness about us."

"But I sense in the side that the guys are addressing what they have to do to get peak performance and perhaps we were guilty of not being able to do that through the frustra-

tion and the rain of the New Zealand series."

Ranjan Madugalle, recently appointed as the International Cricket Council's chief referee, will be in charge of the match.

India's Srinivas Venkatraghavan will be the neutral umpire for the first Test.

Meanwhile, South African cricket captain Shaun Pollock has dismissed claims that Australia has a mental edge over the Proteas.

Pollock maintains that recent events such as the match-fixing scandal, which saw former South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje banned for life, would not hamper the performance of the South Africans.

"What's gone before you shouldn't really influence what takes place on the field, so our guys are focused on what they have to do," Pollock told reporters at a news conference on Wednesday.

"As much as there might be a bit of a mental battle going on out on the field, you try to put that behind you and concentrate on the ball."

Pollock, who was thrust into the captain's role following Cronje's dismissal, said the pressure of the situation has only helped the team in the long run.

"I think we've had to deal with quite a few things in South African cricket over the years," Pollock said. "It has pulled the guys together and we're fighting for a common cause."