

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Ambagan Krira Chakra outplayed Robiul Smriti Sangha 12-1 in the Radhuni Second Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

Shamsul and Mokom netted four goals each. Manju and Qumrul scored twice each while Adison pulled back one for the losers.

Anna to play in Bank Classic

AP, Auckland

Christmas was not a big diversion for Russian tennis player Anna Kournikova as she chases the first tournament win of her career.

"She is a professional, Christmas is no big deal," her father Sergei said as he watched his daughter going through her paces under the watchful eye of her mother and coach Alla at the Stanley Street courts in Auckland on Wednesday.

Kournikova arrived on Monday morning, a week ahead of the ASB Bank Classic, and had her first session on court within hours of arriving. She was back twice Tuesday and again Wednesday, and will repeat that routine on Thursday.

The 20-year-old Kournikova, who has never won a WTA tournament title, has supplemented her court work with running in Auckland's Domain.

After a brisk warm-up Wednesday, in which she was on one side of the net and New Zealand top-10 players Jacob Olsen and Mark Thompson on the other, she played two full sets with the pair alternating every two points.

"She hits the ball harder and flatter than I had imagined," said Olsen, the New Zealand 16s champion. "I thought it was going to be easier than it was out there."

Kournikova opted for Auckland ahead of Australia's Gold Coast - the only other tournament on the WTA Tour next week - because she has played the Australian tournament in the past.

The tournament's other big drawcard, Spain's Conchita Martinez, is due in Auckland on Friday.

Mehrab, Halim

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could not be vindicated as his bowlers failed to exploit the moisture in the wicket.

He however mentioned that most of his bowlers were young and needed some time for match proper as their camp started only five days back.

His Dhaka counterpart Naimur meanwhile said that he expected some more runs on the board and 3 or 4 wickets more wickets in hand at the end of the day's play.

He said that the run rate was quite satisfactory in the morning but it unfortunately slowed down on a better wicket in the afternoon. The fall of three wickets within half an hour before and after lunch was the reason for it, Naimur observed.

The Dhaka skipper expects his boys to play out the morning session today to score 300 plus with an average of 3.5 runs per over.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the four-day Ispahani National Cricket League match between Chittagong and Dhaka in Chittagong on Wednesday:

DHAKA: First innings Mehrob c Ehsanul b Ahsanullah 60 Shahriar c Sabbir b Tareq 2 Jahangir c Tareq b Ahsanullah 28 Sajjad lbw b Tareq 4 Naimur c Ehsanul b Tareq 24 Halim Shah not out 57 Sajjad Kadir c Minhazul b Sabbir 22 Neeyamur c Azam b Ahsanullah 37 Mosaddek not out 5 Extras: (b-3, lb-4, nb-10) 17 Total: (For 7 wks in 90 overs) 256 Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-85, 3-94, 4-102, 5-123, 6-163

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tareq	21	5	53	3
Shafiuddin	18	5	55	0
Sabbir	17	3	68	1
Ahsanullah	24	5	68	3
Minhazul	10	7	4	0

First Test starts today

Lanka taking Zimbabwe seriously



REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya has warned his players against complacency ahead of a three-Test series against Zimbabwe starting on Thursday.

"We cannot be complacent against the Zimbabweans because you never know when they will come back and play well," said Jayasuriya.

"They've had a lot of international cricket. We can't relax at all just because we've been winning. Everything we have done so far is history. This is a new series."

Sri Lanka beat West Indies 3-0 in a Test series this month and won the final of a one-day triangular tournament, also including Zimbabwe, by beating the Caribbean side last week.

Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore backed his captain's comments.

"It's a Test against any team you play, whether it's a really good side or one that seems to be not as good - your performances still have to be the same," said Whatmore.

"Temperamentally the players need to know that. A lapse in concentration and a bad passage of play could result in something disastrous. That's what we have to guard against."

"We are now starting to play the sort of Test match cricket that we have been threatening to do," said Whatmore.

"There are always little things in a game you can improve on. But generally speaking, our batting and bowling in the longer game has been good."

With the likelihood of a dry pitch, Sri Lanka look set to go into the first Test with two seamers and two spinners, with left-arm spinner Niroshan Bandaratillake making the

final 11.

Questions still remain about who will partner Chaminda Vaas with the new ball. Judging by the recent form of Nuwan Zoysa, Buddhika



SANATH JAYASURIYA

Fernando stands a good chance of selection.

The Zimbabwe team is not considered the strongest to tour Sri Lanka and lacks the experience of former captain and batsman Alistair Campbell and the leg-spin of Paul Strang.

They have also been badly hit by the absence of batsman Murray Goodwin, who on the last tour of Sri Lanka scored 184 runs at an average of 46 in the Test series.

Zimbabwe lost their only three-day practice match against a Board XI by five wickets on Sunday, and coach Geoff Marsh was unable to hide his disappointment.

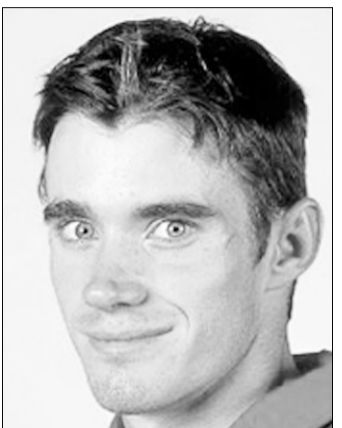
"Obviously we would have liked to have gone into the Test with a win or a winning draw," Marsh said.

Despite Sunday's loss, Zimbabwe's batting showed some form as Trevor Gripper scored a century and former captain Stuart Carlisle made 98.

The series is likely to provide a fascinating contest between Sri

Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan and Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower, ranked number two in the world.

Muralitharan enjoyed his duel



BRIAN MURPHY

with another great left-hander, Brian Lara, in the series against West Indies.

TEAMS

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Russel Arnold, Hashan Tillakaratne, Tilan Samaraweera, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Muttiah Muralitharan, Buddhika Fernando, Niroshan Bandaratillake, Chamara Silva, Prabath Nissanka.

ZIMBABWE (from): Brian Murphy (captain), Hamilton Masakadza, Trevor Gripper, Stuart Carlisle, Grant Flower, Andy Flower, Gavin Rennie, Craig Wishart, Heath Streak, Travis Friend, Henry Olonga, Douglas Marillier, Gary Brent, Dion Ebrahim, Tatendra Taibu.

Umpires: Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka) and Riazuddin (Pakistan).

Six-day Test

AP, Colombo

The first cricket Test match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe will be stretched to six days because Sri Lankans are under a religious edict not to indulge in sports on a full moon day, which is holy to the island country's Buddhist majority.

The first of three-Test series starts Thursday, but there will be no play on Sunday because it is a full moon day, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka said.

The previous government defeated in December 5 elections had wooed the support of powerful Buddhist clergy by issuing a ban November 17 on any sports being played on full moon days.

In the past, the government had asked the monks to overlook sports matches on those days. Sinhalese Buddhists, who make up 76 per cent of the population, believe that the founder of their religion, Goutam Buddha, was born on a full moon day.

Nash ban stands

REUTERS, Wellington

New Zealand all-rounder Dion Nash has lost his appeal against a three-match suspension for verbal abuse, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) announced on Wednesday.

Nash was suspended for abusing an opposing player and an umpire in a provincial match while playing for Auckland against Otago.

His appeal was dismissed by NZC's national commissioner Nick Davidson and he also received a stinging rebuke from chief executive Martin Snedden.

"Prior to the commencement of the season I spoke to the captains, coaches and chief executives of all major associations signalling NZC's intention to help clean up player behaviour," said Snedden.

"It was made clear by me that any suspension ... would be an appropriate penalty for proven breaches of the code of conduct."

"It's very disappointing that an experienced NZC-contracted player has seriously breached the code."

"By doing so he has given a poor example to other players and at the same time jeopardised his place in the New Zealand team."

Nash dropped out of the recent tour of Australia with a stomach strain and was playing in his first comeback match when he breached the code of conduct.

He will miss Auckland's four-day championship game against Northern Districts starting on Friday and two one-day matches in early January.

Selection of the New Zealand side for the one-day series against hosts Australia and South Africa has been delayed until January 3 to allow fringe players to impress selectors.

Nash will not be available for the first two matches.

Anwar not

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Bangladesh tour, where Pakistan are due to play two Tests and three one-dayers from January 3, but probably also the home series against the West Indies in February and March.

"It is just one of those things, nothing can be done about it. I just hope I can make a comeback quickly," said Anwar.

Anwar, 33, has scored 4,052 runs in 55 Tests and 8,348 runs in 230 one-day internationals. His last Test appearance against Bangladesh in August saw him notch a run-a-ball century.

Anwar has been plagued by health problems. A knee injury kept him out of the team for nearly six months last year.

He also suffered from a mysterious stomach bug which forced him to return home early from a New Zealand tour this year.

Brittle B'desh

FROM PAGE 13

Al-Shahriar c Bond b Vettori 18 Bashir c Sinclair b Cairns 6 Aminul c Vincent b Bond 42 Ashraf c Fleming b Cairns 11 Sanwar run out (Vincent) 10 Mahmud c Parore b Drum 10 Mashud not out 10 Hasibul c Vincent b Drum 4 Monjurul b Vettori 0 Mashrafe run out (McMillan) 8 Extras: (lb-4, w-1, nb-8) 13 Total: (All out in 64 overs) 132

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 14 Gibbs c Ponting b McGrath 10 Kirsten b McGrath 10 Dippenaar c Hayden b Lee 26 Kallis not out 22 McKenzie not out 14 Extras: (nb-1, lb-2) 3 Total: (For 3 wks in 40 overs) 89 Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-36, 3-59

To bat: Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Claude Henderson, Allan Donald, Mornantau Hayward.

Bowler O M R W McGrath 13 4 28 2 Lee 16 6 38 1 Bichel 10 4 15 0 Warne 1 0 6 0

AUSTRALIA: Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Damien Martyn, Adam Gilchrist, Brett Lee, Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Andy Bichel.

Umpires: Eddie Nichols (West Indies) and Darrell Hair (Australia).

Woods wants to be 'forest'



REUTERS, New York

Tiger Woods, who has been named US Tour Player-of-the-Year for the third year in a row, has set himself even loftier targets for 2002.

The world number one became

the first player to hold all four majors at the same time with his triumph in the US Masters at Augusta in April but he now wants to take his game to a higher level.

"I look forward next year to building upon what I have accomplished in the past several years," he said on his official website after winning the US Player of the Year award for the fourth time in five

years.

"It's a great honour and thrill for me to receive the Tour's Player of the Year Award. It's always very special to be selected for an individual award like this by your peers."

"I was fortunate enough to win the Masters tournament, as well as the event considered by many as the fifth major, The Players' Championship, and a World Golf Championship event among my five victories this year on the PGA Tour."

Woods, 25, had already been named 2001 Player of the Year by the PGA of America and by the Golf Writers Association of America.

He also won the Arnold Palmer award, as leading money-winner on the US Tour with earnings of 5,687,777 dollars, and the Byron Nelson Trophy, for the season's lowest scoring average of 68.81.

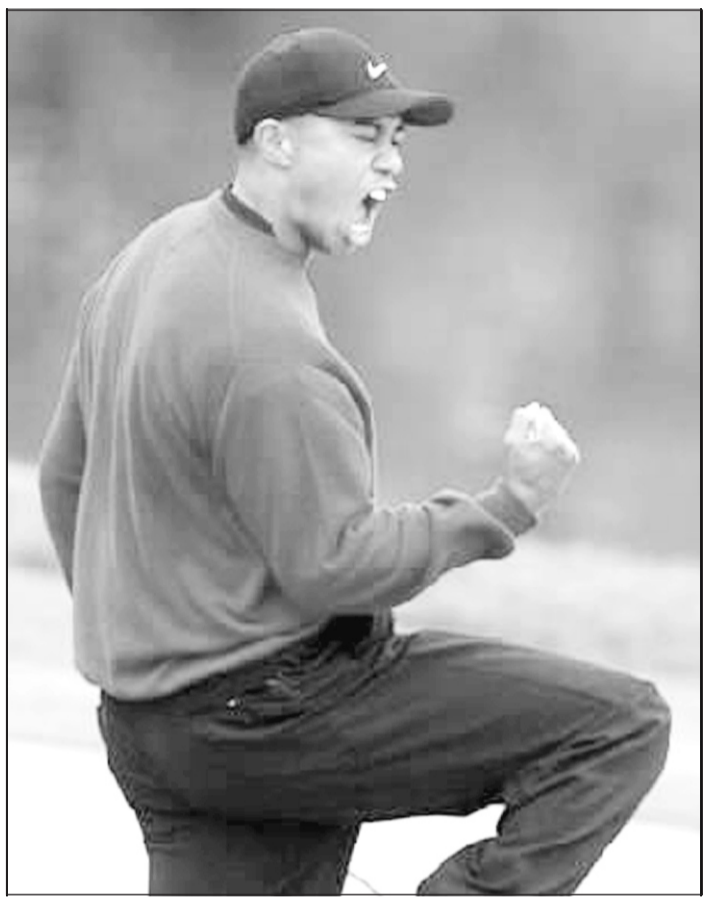
He may not have matched his outstanding achievements of the previous two years during 2001 but his golf was still good enough to earn him five victories on the U.S. Tour, a European Tour win in Germany, his third-straight PGA Grand Slam of Golf and last week's Williams World Challenge - an event which he hosts.

"It's always nice to finish the year on a positive note," Woods said. "Especially when you compete against the top players in the world."

Woods will spend Christmas with his family before turning 26 on December 30, but he has no specific plans yet to celebrate his birthday.

"I have no idea what I'm doing," he said. "It's just another day. All it means is I've gone around the sun another year."

Woods will return to tournament competition at the US Tour's season-opening Mercedes Championships, which starts in Hawaii on January 3.



TIGER WOODS ... finished the year 2001 on top

Goodwill Games scrapped

INTERNET, London

The Goodwill Games have been scrapped as a result of media giant AOL Time Warner's cost cutting.

Media mogul Ted Turner created the multi-sport games after the Olympic boycotts of the 1980s.

They were aimed at promoting peace and brotherhood by bringing together top athletes from countries such as Cuba, the former Soviet Union and the United States.

But Turner lost operational control of the games after he sold Turner Broadcasting Systems to Time Warner in 1996.

He has since publicly voiced regrets about that deal.

After the completion of Time Warner's merger with AOL early in 2001, Turner was said to have been pushed to the sidelines.

Most significantly, he even lost control of Turner Broadcasting when Jamie Kellner took the helm.

Turner Broadcasting remains fully committed to major sports properties

Jamie Kellner Turner's Goodwill Games, which were first held in Moscow in 1986,

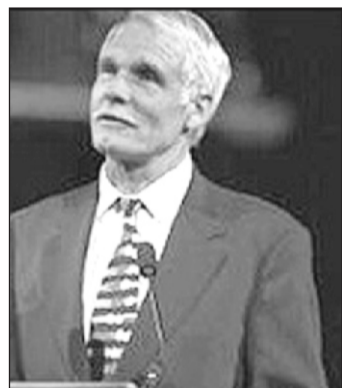
have reportedly lost about \$150m.

The last of the games, held this year in Australia, drew a sharply lower prime-time audience than the 1998 games held in New York according to AOL Time Warner.

Therefore the world's largest Internet and media company - looking to cut costs amid the current economic slowdown - have scrapped the event.

Kellner, brought in to head Turner Broadcasting earlier this year, said: "Turner Broadcasting remains fully committed to major sports properties as a big part of who we are and what we do."

"However, after reviewing the business of the Goodwill Games, we determined that our viewers will be better served by reallocating the resources necessary to pull off the Goodwill Games into other sports opportunities."



TED TURNER

Shoaib wants to bowl



INTERNET, undated

Shoaib Akhtar is expecting to bowl for Pakistan on their tour of Bangladesh after scientists detected no illegal elements in his bowling style.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has told the International Cricket Council (ICC) that they consider Stage Two of the investigation into Shoaib's much-debated bowling action to be concluded, meaning he should be able to continue his Test career.

Their conclusion is based upon the report of University of Western Australia's (UWA) Human Movement and Sciences department which the PCB delivered to the ICC a fortnight ago.

The report of December 5 states: "Shoaib Akhtar was born with an abnormal upper limb (bowling arm). This limb will always give the impression of an unorthodox position during delivery."

"No amount of practice or tech-

nique training can modify these two anatomical characteristics. Akhtar should be permitted to bowl for Pakistan without further concern as to his action."

Shoaib, who Pakistan are hoping to field on their two-Test tour, added: "I am going to Bangladesh with the belief and confidence that



SHOAIB AKHTAR

the ICC will resolve the problem on my bowling action soon, in lights of the University of Western Australia's report.

"Experts at the University of Western Australia have cleared me

twice this year. It's now up to the ICC to consider the report and resolve the issue.

"I would like this row to come to an end because neither it's good for me nor Pakistan nor the ICC, who are now have to except the UWA report."

The bowler, nicknamed the Rawalpindi Express, added: "If this world issue had not been supported by PCB chief Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia, my career would have been over."

"He has fought for me because he believes I am an asset to Pakistan cricket."

PCB director brigadier Munawwar Rana informed: "The ICC will now circulate the University of Western Australia's report to all international panel umpires and referees, asking them to pay particular attention to the report."

Should Shoaib be called before the ICC again, Stage Three will be invoked and the full medical evidence placed before the ICC Bowling Review Group for their final decision.

Australia, rain rule

FROM PAGE 13

as the showpiece of the Australian cricket calendar but it has a history of abysmal weather and a crowd of almost 62,000 once again endured the worse of it Wednesday.

Play will start half-an-hour early on Thursday and finish 30 minutes later to make up some of the lost time.

Up to tea only 59 minutes of play was possible as Melbourne's fickle weather frustrated attempts for prolonged periods of play with the ground's floodlights switched on.

The recall of Donald was interpreted by some commentators as a gamble given the 35-year-old's battle with fitness in recent years.

Donald, cleared to play after a session in the nets on Christmas Eve, left the field against New South Wales in Sydney last weekend after bowling two overs in the second innings. He later bowled two more overs to finish with 0-27 - and 1-191 on tour.

Andy Bichel came into the Australian team for injured pacer Jason Gillespie.

It is Bichel's sixth Test appearance and in the corresponding Boxing Day Test last year against the West Indies the wholehearted Queenslanders took 5-60 in the first innings.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at close of play on the first day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Wednesday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 14 Gibbs c Ponting b McGrath 10 Kirsten b McGrath 10 Dippenaar c Hayden b Lee 26 Kallis not out 22 McKenzie not out 14 Extras: (nb-1, lb-2) 3 Total: (For 3 wks in 40 overs) 89 Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-36, 3-59

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Umpires: Eddie Nichols (West Indies) and Darrell Hair (Australia).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

39 Ranger

1 Family member (Abbr.)

4 "... baked in -"

8 Poolroom need

12 Once around

13 Jell-O creation

14 Falco of "The Sopranos"

15 Hair or farewell

16 "Mad" star

18 Five-in-a-row game

20 Zsa Zsa's sis

21 Pc. of wordplay

24 Backpack part

28 Material

32 Continental coin

33 Bonanza, often

34 Cut short, NASA-style

36 Story of a lifetime

37 Libretto

DOWN

1 Spill the beans

2 Sitarist

3 Tourname-t museum acronym

4 Gridiron decider

46 Put in the oven

50 British colony near Spain

55 Exis!

56 Garfield's pal

57 Facilitate

58 Zero

59 007

60 Diving flock

61 Tiger Woods' starting point

19 Joke

22 Ann's sis

Solution time: 25 mins.

CAMP FITS FIAR
OWER TIRON AGO
PLA IN JANE NUB
COTIN EMCIEE
UNFEID FRAY
READ C R E F OR
GIN SAIVED RTO
ENCLOSTED OENS
YODIA WEEKIS
GOTIA GRIN
ASH PLANTINITE
ISA GAIST ARIEA
NOT POPE LEEND

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36

37 38 39 40

41 42 43

44 45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52 53 54 55

56 57 58

59 60 61

CRYPTOQUIP

M W D A A N V Z L U P X N A T

B D E B L P E N E Q M F D X E I L I

Z N D E T N Q G U V L " F G L E N U

W M N E A , N U P D M P A ! "

Yesterday's Cryptquip: OUR MONTHLY COMMITTEE SESSIONS ARE SO DULL THEY'RE BEING CALLED "BORED MEETINGS."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals R

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.