

Pepsi h'ball

PRESS RELEASE, Dhaka
The 14th Pepsi National Handball tournament matches of Dhaka (Zone-1) were held at different venues yesterday.
In the men's section, Chittagong defeated Madaripur 23-10 and Bandarban beat Faridpur 30-20.
In the women's section, Dhaka beat Norsingdi 15-7, Rangamati beat Patuakhali 18-1, Norsingdi beat Narayanganj 16-6, Tangail beat Patuakhali 6-0 and Rangamati defeated Dhaka 10-6.

Jahangir leads

FROM PAGE 13
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Shafayet 4.3 0 24 2

Khulna v Rajshahi
Venue: Cricket Garden, Rangpur.
Rajshahi: First innings 332 all out in 132.2 overs (Hasanuzzaman 72, Nuruzzaman 47, Tusshar 3/81)
Khulna: first innings (overnight 94 for 3 in 45 overs)

Raju b Mustadir	41
Shaon b Mustakim	38
Uzzal c Sumon b Mustakim	0
Hasanuzzaman c Ripon b Mustakim	8
Asadullah st Bidyut b Mustadir	32
Niaz lbw b Mustakim	1
Salim c Ripon b Mustadir	38
Jamaluddin c Bidyut b Aminul	2
Islam b Ripon	13
Al-Amin c Anisur b Mustakim	13
Extras: (b-9, lb-4, nb-5)	18
Total: (all out in 101.2 overs)	203

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-85, 3-85, 4-109, 5-115, 6-130, 7-149, 8-190, 9-190.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Aminul	15	3	28	1
Sumon	6	0	24	0
Nuruzzaman	6	1	9	0
Ripon	24	8	55	1
Mustadir	30	8	50	3
Mustakim	20.2	10	25	5

Rajshahi: Second innings
Rafiqul b Tusshar 23
Bidyut c Asadullah b Niaz 4
Nuruzzaman batting 44
Anisur c Shaon b Jamaluddin 13
Sumon batting 3
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) 2
Total: (for 3 wickets in 33 overs) 88

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 240, 3-3.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Al-Amin	6	0	22	0
Niaz	8	3	20	1
Tusshar	4	1	9	1
Sohel	4	0	12	0
Shaon	5	1	17	0
Jamal	6	2	7	1

Chittagong v Dhaka (incomplete)
Venue: Mymensingh Stadium.

Chittagong: First innings 381 all out in 138 overs (Minhazul 210, Anis 32, Saiful 4/82)
Dhaka: First innings (overnight 55 for 3 in 23 overs)

Rashedul b Debabrata	10
Pappu b Suja	1
Jahangir c Arif b Suja	120
Sajjad c Faisal b Sabbir	4
Mosaddek c Arif b Suja	16
Halim lbw b Debabrata	13
Kadir c Arif b Suja	70
Russell c Sabbir b Suja	0
Saiful batting	13
Bikash batting	4
Extras: (b-33, lb-1, nb-6, w-3)	43
Total: (for 8 wickets in 122 overs)	303

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-32, 3-50, 4-111, 5-151, 6-228, 7-232, 8-298.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Debabrata	22	9	57	2
Shafiuddin	25	2	76	0
Suja	43	20	69	5
Sabbir	31	8	63	1

Indo-Pak clash down under



AFP, Christchurch

Pakistan defeated England by six wickets to set-up a clash with arch-rivals India in the Super League next week as the tightest group in the first round of the ICC Under-19s World Cup was decided in Christchurch on Friday.

Man-of-the-match Khaqan Raja hit 62 off 76 balls to move Pakistan into top spot in Group C, ahead of England on run rate.

Nepal's dream of qualifying for the Super League was ended despite beating Papua New Guinea by 65 runs, with their run rate inferior to England's.

Pakistan will now play India, the West Indies and Sri Lanka in Super League Group One, with England, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand in Group Two.

The Indian government has banned its senior-level cricketers from playing Pakistan because of the current tensions between the neighbouring countries.

But Indian cricket board secretary Niranjan Shah said the policy would not affect the youth tournament.

"The government knows that we are participating in the under-19 World Cup in New Zealand and the team was given permission with the knowledge that India might have to play Pakistan," he said.

"There is no problem regarding the same."

The Plate Championship in Auckland will see Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe

and Kenya in Group One, while Nepal, Canada, Scotland and Namibia will contest Group Two.

After suffering a surprise defeat to Nepal earlier in the week Pakistan had to beat England to qualify for the Super League, and they got off to a good start by bowling out their opponents for 182.

Captain Nicky Peng top scored with 59 but the loss of the last four wickets in 18 balls deprived England of the runs necessary to put Pakistan under pressure.

England lost wickets at crucial times with Kyle Hogg (40) Bilal Shafayat (21) both getting in, but their dismissals were to prove costly as England failed to see out 50 overs, which ultimately effected their net run rate.

The England bowlers again lacked penetration, despite Hogg bowling a tidy ten overs for 22 runs, and Pakistan claimed victory with more than five overs to spare.

Raja hit some attractive strokes striking six fours and a six before falling to Tim Bresnan, and captain Salman Butt anchored the innings with a responsible 35 from 93 deliveries.

Despite Pakistan winning comfortably it was a tense end to the match with Pakistan needing to win within 48 overs to better England's run rate and top the group.

In the other match in Group C Nepal beat Papua New Guinea by 65 runs dismissing their opponents in the 44th over to earn a bonus point and finish on nine points along with England and Pakistan.

Nepal batted first and made 177 with Yashwant Subedi top scoring on 34 with Christopher Amini taking three wickets. Papua New Guinea

were given a solid start by their openers Frank Joseph (32) and Mahuta Dai (32) but their innings fell away, and they were dismissed for 112 with slow left-amer Lakpha Lama taking 4-14.

South Africa claimed second spot in Group A after their 10 wicket demolition of Canada in Auckland.

Canada were bowled out for just 41 in 28.4 overs, a record low score in an Under-19s World Cup beating the 50 made by Kenya against Australia on Sunday, with Free State bowler Ryan McLaren taking 4-9, and Ian Postman 2-4 off just 10 balls. The South Africans knocked off the required runs in just 8.2 overs.

In Dunedin captain Cameron White scored 156 off 121 balls hitting four sixes and 10 fours as Australia posted 335 for five against Scotland. He was supported by Daniel Christian who hit three sixes and two fours before falling seven runs short of a century. The pair added 212 for the fourth wicket as the Scotland bowlers were taken apart.

Australia's spin attack has been their strength in this tournament and Xavier Doherty was again impressive taking 4-15 with slow left-amer Ben Casson claiming 3-18 as Scotland were bowled out for 106, losing by 229 runs.

The Super League begins on Sunday with India playing the West Indies and Pakistan meeting Sri Lanka in Christchurch. In the Plate Championship Bangladesh take on Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe face Kenya.

Col Han, Lee lift ScanCement Golf titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Col Han Tint won the men's title and S W Lee annexed the ladies' crown in the ScanCement Cup Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

The two-day competition attracted 258 players and 15 lady golfers. KGC president Lt Gen Harun-Ar-Rashid teed-off the participants at the picturesque venue and also gave away trophies at the Club House in the evening.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior Winner: MH Samad, **Junior Winner:** Min Gu, **Best Gross:** CR Kim, **Ladies' Best Gross:** Jung Sook Jung, **Second Best Gross:** Arshi Haider, **Runner-up:** Brig Gen Md Ahsan Habib, **Second Runner-up:** SW Lee, **Front Nine Winner:** Manzoor Ahmed, **Back Nine Winner:** Sigmond, **Nearest to Pin:** SaberAfzal, **Longest Drive:** Md Baten, **Nine Hole Winner:** Brig Gen Tofail Ahmed and **Nine Hole Runner-up:** Brig Gen Miran Hamidur Rahman.



Women's doubles pair of Anna Kournikova (L) and Martina Hingis admire their trophy after they lifted the title in Melbourne on Friday.

Opportunity at hand for Astle

AFP, Adelaide

Returning New Zealand batsman Nathan Astle is poised this weekend to become the Black Caps' highest scorer in one-day internationals.

Astle, 30, will have two chances to gather the 44 runs he needs to overtake former captain Martin Crowe's record.

In a crucial double-header for the Kiwis at Adelaide Oval, they clash with rapidly improving Australia Saturday night and South Africa under lights the following day in tri-nations series limited-overs shoot-outs.

Astle is back in his battle dress after recovering from a broken bone in a hand.

He passed a fitness test with flying colors earlier in the week as he flogged 101 off 78 balls for Canterbury in New Zealand domestic cricket. Astle's superb international one-day career record of 4661 runs at an average of 35.58 includes 11 centuries and 27 half-centuries.

Encouragingly for the Kiwis, he has an outstanding record against Australia, having hit 566 runs in 17 matches at an average of 35.37, with one hundred, as well as four fifties.

"Nathan is a quality one-day player and we have missed him in the tournament, so it's good to have him back for the remaining games," New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming said here Friday.

"It's a huge weekend for us -- actually, it's a very big four days for us, because we have three games in four days, and we are looking forward to the challenge."

After the weekend scraps, the Kiwis go to Melbourne to take on Australia Tuesday under lights before heading to Perth next weekend to play South Africa on Friday (February 1) in the Kiwis' last qualifying game.

New Zealand lead the ladder from Australia, with South Africa trailing in third spot.

England kept

FROM PAGE 13

Flintoff c and b Kumble	8
Hollislock c Kumble b Agarkar	37
Snape b Agarkar	38
Foster not out	9
Gough b Agarkar	7
Hoggard run out	1
Extras: (lb-3, w-7, nb-4)	14
Total: (All out in 48 overs)	217
Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-53, 3-61, 4-90, 5-104, 6-125, 7-195, 8-202, 9-216	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	8	0	50	1
Agarkar	9	0	34	4
Bangar	7	0	40	1
Harbhajan	10	1	34	1
Kumble	10	1	37	2
Tendulkar	1	0	8	0
Badani	3	0	11	0

INDIA: Anil Kumble (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Virender Sehwag, Hemang Badani, Dinesh Mongia, Ajay Ratna, Harbhajan Singh, Javagal Srinath, AjitAgarkar, Sanjay Bangar.

Umpires: Vijay Chopra and Devender Sharma (both Indians).

Crucial Aussie-Kiwi clash



AFP, Adelaide

New Zealand's swashbuckling match-winner Chris Cairns is fighting to be fit for Saturday's crucial tri-nation series one-day clash against Australia at Adelaide Oval.

"There is an element of concern," Black Caps captain Stephen Fleming conceded here Friday as the tournament leaders limbered up for their toughest game in the contest.

Cairns, 31, the team's star all-rounder, has a back strain after leading his country to a dramatic win over South Africa with a memorable 102 from 99 balls in Brisbane six days ago.

He remained in Sydney to receive treatment Wednesday when the Kiwis travelled to the New South Wales country town of Bowral to play an Australian Country XI.

"Chris should be good enough to play, but we have to confirm that in the morning," Fleming said. "We are encouraged by the progress."

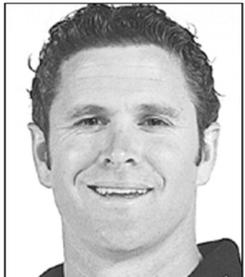
"His chances of playing are high. He is a very important part of the side in this competition, so we will be

doing everything we can to get him on the park.

(eight points), who have lost their past three matches and, according



SHANE WARNE



CHRIS CAIRNS

As the tournament enters a vital stage, New Zealand lead the competition with 12 points, having won three of their four first games.

Breathing down their necks are Australia who, despite a calamitous three-loss start, have won their past two matches -- both against South Africa -- and sit on nine points, including one bonus point for thrashing the Proteas by such a huge margin in Sydney three days ago.

At the bottom are South Africa

to star fast bowler Allan Donald, are psychologically sprawled on the canvas.

South Africa play New Zealand here Sunday. Two days later, the Kiwis line up in Melbourne against Australia for their third match in a rugged four-day stretch.

"We have three really big games," Fleming said. "It would be nice if we could win one or two -- I think that would be enough to get us to the finals."

Fleming said the return from injury of star right-hander Nathan Astle would be a major boost for the team.

"He's our best one-day batter, and he brings great experience. Experience in Australia and in this competition is vital, so he brings influence to the top order."

Australian captain Steve Waugh said the pressure was now on New Zealand.

"Now they are winning, perhaps the pressure is on them to keep winning," he said.

"That's the way we will be looking at it. We know we have to improve. They have played very well. But we know we can improve."

"You are remembered for whether or not you win the competition, and that is our goal."

"We have won our past two games, but that is only two. We still have a lot of work to do."

"This game Saturday is really important, because we have not beaten New Zealand yet. If we win, we go to the top of the table."

Shane Warne, considered by many the greatest leg-spinner in cricket history, faces a challenge here Saturday to get the better of a stubborn New Zealand batting lineup that has frustrated him this summer.

And one Warne fan who tips him to get even before the season is over is Waugh.



President of the Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Harun-Ar-Rashid (4th from L) poses with participants of the ScanCement Cup Golf Tournament after the tee-off on Thursday.

Safin stages fight back



AFP, Melbourne

Marat Safin escaped from the jaws of defeat to kill German Tommy Haas's dreams of a first Grand Slam tennis final at the Australian Open here Friday.

The Russian ninth seed benefited from a 50-minute rain stoppage when he looked down for the count in the oppressive heat and trailing two sets to one.

But the 2000 US Open champion came roaring back reinvigorated after the break to crush seventh-seeded Haas 6-7, 7-6, 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 in three hours 38 minutes and reach Sunday's final against Sweden's 16th seed Thomas Johansson.

"I had no chance if it didn't rain," said Safin. "I had a very small chance to beat him and thank God it rained, I needed that break."

"Tommy was playing great, I was late to everything and I couldn't move my legs because of the heat. I had a message during the break, which did the trick, and my coaches told me what I had to do and I did exactly what they said."

"I started to serve and return better and I made a break straight away. He didn't start very well and was loose."

Safin, who tries to become the first man to win on his birthday when he turns 22 on Sunday, said

he had made a mistake during the match, but he refused to divulge what it was at his post-match conference.

Haas could no longer fight when he came back on court, dropping 11 of the 13 games and suffering the final indignity when he double-faulted on match point to hand Safin victory.

While Haas was wondering what might have been, Safin was looking ahead to playing in his second Grand Slam final after the US Open defeat of Pete Sampras two years ago.

Johansson will have the advantage of having two days off to rest for the final following his five-set win over Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic on Wednesday night.

"I think I have enough time to recover from this. I'm 21 and fit," said Safin.

Haas didn't entirely blame the weather intervention for his demise.

"It's always easy to say that after you lose a match but there was no excuse," he said.

"I think it was more of a physical thing at the end. My legs just went. I don't think the break helped me much as I had to start all over again and he came out on fire."

"Maybe I didn't focus as much but he came out with some big shots."

Safin looked second-best for much of the first part of the semi-final with Haas dominating with his signature backhand and

groundstrokes from the backcourt. The Russian's frustrations boiled over when he lost serve in the third game and he slammed his racket into the court in anger.

The racket was twisted out of shape and he received a racket abuse violation by English umpire Mike Morrissey as he returned to his chair.

Safin appeared to signal to his supporters in the players' box that he was lethargic and unable to move freely.

At the next changeover the trainer was called for Safin, who complained about being lethargic, and the trainer massaged his legs.

But Safin, threatened with a near-impossible task of coming back from two sets down in the hot conditions, gave himself a lifeline when he won the tiebreaker 7-4 to level the match.

Haas pulled off a spectacular Boris Becker-style dive to save break point in the fifth game of the third set, the ball skimming the net to win the point, which was the catalyst to hold on to his serve.

Haas stepped up the tempo and ran away with the third set before the rain intervened forcing the stadium's roof to be closed.

It was a different Safin who took charge in one of the Australian Open's most amazing form reversals.

The momentum was all with Safin and dispirited Haas faced the final humiliation of double-faulting on match point.

Martina, Anna Clinch doubles crown

AFP, Melbourne

Tennis Spice Girls Martina Hingis and Anna Kournikova won their second Australian Open doubles title Friday, in what proved to be an ominous warning ahead of the women's singles final.

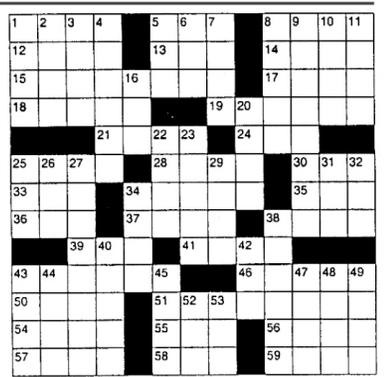
Hingis takes on defending champion Jennifer Capriati on Saturday but has the remarkable record of winning the singles crown here each year she has won the doubles -- 1997, 1998 and 1999.

She has never won the doubles in a year she has failed to win the singles.

The pair, a promoter's dream, overcame Spanish veteran Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and newcomer Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 6-1 for their second title after teaming up in 1999.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
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15 Shake-
16 Spare
17 Game
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25 Charlie
28 Thought
30 Nosh
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34 Like
35 Analyst's
36 Spigot
37 Shrek, e.g.
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39 Listening
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41 Humorist
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44 Bracelet
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75 Marilyn's
76 husbands
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78 accessory
79 Khan
80 title
81 Playing
82 Angry
83 Hsing
84 Hsing
85 additive
86 Ling-Ling
87 lettering
88 Show biz
89 union
90 acronym
91 Chap
92 Sail
93 support
94 Machu
95 Picchu
96 denizen
97 Haul
98 Gambling
99 game
100 Give
101 temporarily
102 Historic
103 times
104 Lamb's
105 dam
106 Suffering



CRYPTOQUIP

Q C B P X R L W B O Y X E X K N U F J N

R L K H B O B G , B C X L K J H C X

U L K H X O J X K L G W B O Y , " F P B E X

F K H Q B G H ? "

Yesterday's Cryptquip: TRAVELING WITH THE HUGE CIRCUS, THE CLOWN EXPECTS TO HAVE AN IN-TENTS EXPERIENCE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals I

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.