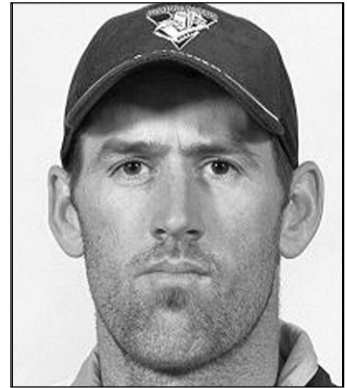


Elliott's WC song

AFP, London

Australian batsman Matthew Elliott on Sunday pleaded with his country's selectors not to overlook him for next year's World Cup.

After hammering an unbeaten 128 to help Yorkshire to a six wicket



MATTHEW ELLIOTT

victory over Somerset at Lord's in the final of England's one-day knockout competition, Elliott said that his innings proved that he was in the sort of top form that could prove decisive when the Aussies defend their World Cup title in South Africa in February in 2003.

"I would have to say that is probably the best I have ever played in one-day cricket," said the Victorian.

"I think the measure of a player is how well you can do in the second innings of a one-day match and I was very pleased the way I kept my head," added left-hander Elliott who proved the perfect overseas stand-in for compatriot Darren Lehmann, the Yorkshire captain missing the final after being called up for international duty.

It is a measure of the strength of England's Ashes tour down under this winter that a cricketer of Elliott's class has not played an international for three years.

"To be honest, I harbour World Cup ambitions," he said.

"I have felt like I have played really well in one-day cricket in the Australian summer.

"But at the moment I am not even in the (Australian) third XI. That means I am not in the top 30 players in the country."

Apply common

FROM PAGE 13

date because he shuffled too much. In fact, most of our batsmen have little or no footwork. Before going the Caribbean and South Africa they must be better equipped to deal with the short-pitched stuff.

The disastrous tour did however provide a rare positive note - Khaled Mashud's leadership quality. - Ishfaq Mahub, Khulna University

Younis Pak hero

FROM PAGE 13

Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-14; 3-75; 4-88; 5-116; 6-131; 7-133; 8-157.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Wasim	6	0	43	2
Akhtar	8	3	17	0
Mahmood	5	3	18	0
Waqar	6	0	31	2
Afridi	10	1	33	2
Razaq	6.3	0	30	2

PAKISTAN

Akhtar lbw	3
Malik c D Obuya b MSuji	2
Afridi c TSuji b Angara	31
Khan not out	87
Misbah not out	50
Extras: (lb-1, w-7)	8
Total: (For three wickets in 38.4 overs)	181

Bowler	O	M	R	W
MSuji	8	1	23	1
Obuya	6	0	38	1
Angara	6	1	21	1
TSuji	4	0	17	0
CObuya	7	0	33	0
Odumbe	5	0	24	0
Kamande	2.4	0	24	0

Result: Pakistan won by seven wickets

Man-of-the-match: Younis Khan

Marcus, Ronnie included



INTERNET REPORT, London

England have recalled opening batsman Marcus Trescothick and all-rounder Ronnie Irani for the deciding final Test against India next week despite worries about their match fitness after long term injuries.

Somerset left-hander Trescothick made his comeback after six weeks on the sidelines with a broken thumb in Saturday's C&G Trophy final defeat by Yorkshire and looked impressive despite only scoring 27.

Essex captain Irani has also been on the sidelines since making such an impression during the NatWest Triangular one-day series earlier this summer.

Irani underwent knee surgery last month and will make his comeback in Sunday's Norwich Union League match with Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Dominic Cork is also struggling with a finger injury and all three players will test their fitness with outings for their counties before the 14-man squad assemble at The Oval on Tuesday.

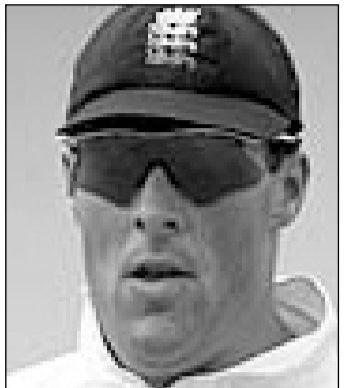
"We want to give these three players some more match practice before the Test match and we should have a clearer picture of their fitness by Tuesday," explained chairman of selectors David Graveney.

"Although we are aware of the limited match practice Ronnie has had recently, he was out for only a couple of weeks through injury and

was able to practice with both ball and bat on Friday and Saturday of this week.

"Marcus Trescothick played in the C&G final and suffered no reaction above the norm to his thumb injury. He was happy with the way he batted and felt fine in the field."

Irani is recalled three years after



MARCUS TRESCOTHICK

his last Test against New Zealand at The Oval and will battle it out to replace all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, who had surgery for a hernia claim on Friday, in the starting lineup as England attempt to bounce back from their innings defeat at Headingley to clinch the series.

He faces competition from both Cork and Alex Tudor to claim the all-rounder's role as England consider whether to play seven specialist batsmen or strengthen their bowling resources by including an all-rounder.

"The selectors discussed the likely shape of the team when we met earlier in the week and we were not inclined to play seven batsmen

and four bowlers," confirmed Graveney.

"This policy did not work for us against Sri Lanka at Lord's earlier in the summer and we feel that we will need a five-bowler combination for this Test.

"At this stage without having



RONNIE IRANI

seen the wicket, we are not expecting a surface which is especially helpful to spin and as a consequence we have decided not to include a second specialist spinner in the squad."

The series is tied at 1-1 after India's emphatic innings-win at Headingley, following England's victory in the first Test.

England squad for the final Test: Nasser Hussain (capt), Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan, Mark Butcher, John Crawley, Alec Stewart, Ronnie Irani, Dominic Cork, Alec Tudor, Ashley Giles, Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard, Steve Harmison, Robert

Ctg h'ball

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chattagram Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS) Ruhul Amin & Brothers Handball League 2002 begins at the MA Aziz stadium here today.

Chittagong WASA will face Rising Star Junior in the inaugural match of the tournament.

Five teams -- Chittagong WASA Ekadash, Chittagong Mohamedan Sporting Blues, City Corporation Ekadash, Shaheed Shahajahan Sangha, and Rising Star Junior-- will take part in the tournament, to be played on direct league format.

Bulbul blazes

FROM PAGE 13

Bulbul set the course of the high-scoring encounter with a spectacular left-foot volley over an out of position Rahmatganj custodian Shahid in the fifth minute.

The lead lasted 19 minutes before Ritu hit back for Rahmatganj capitalising a terrible defensive error from Abahani's central defender Amit Khan.

But Rahmatganj's joy did not last long as Abahani regained the lead in the 32nd minute with Bulbul slotting the ball into an empty net after Shahid could only let his finger tip off a powerful minus from Donald.

The pint-size Rahmatganj keeper was always at a loss dealing with aerial balls. The 4-foot eight-inch Shahid could only blame himself for the third goal minute before half time.

He failed to grab what should have been a regulation catch and Khokon, lurking at the far post, stabbed it in.

Basanta made the score 3-2 four minutes into the second half blasting home a Ritu cross from the right.

But Abahani effectively killed the match off when Khokon netted his second goal from a goalmouth scramble in the 54th minute.

Although the game ended as a contest with Khokon's goal, but a few thousand sky-blue supporters went home satisfied seeing a third goal by Bulbul three minutes away from the final whistle.

With this defeat Rahmatganj remained content with their previous collection of six points from eight games.

Yellow cards: Deen Mohammad, Narayan (Rahmatganj), Amit Khan (Abahani).

TEAMS
Abahani KC: Apel, Partho, Amit Khan, Ghansha, Asad, Iqbal (Nayan), Parvez (Mintu), Donald, Liton, Khokon and Bulbul.
Rahmatganj MFS: Shahid (Rafique), Apu, Faisal, Deen Mohammad, Narayan, Selim, Basanta, Shamim, Taju, Ritu and Tipu.

Referee: Maruf Shikder

Ronaldo gets

FROM PAGE 13

career with Brazilian side Cruzeiro in 1993 and made his first appearance with a European club in 1994 for Dutch team PSV Eindhoven. After two seasons with PSV and the year at Barcelona, he moved to Inter in 1997.

Hewitt fights

FROM PAGE 13

That athleticism and stick-with-it fierceness were captured perfectly on break point at 1-1 in the fourth set Saturday, when Blake hit a running backhand that usually would be a winner. But Hewitt reached behind his body, twisting so far he fell, to strike a backhand that kissed off the net tape and landed in. With no chance to respond, Blake threw his racket at the bouncing ball and smiled appreciatively.

"That wears you down a little bit," Blake said. "He fights for every ball."

That shot gave Hewitt a chance to serve with a 2-1 lead and a real mental edge, because Blake hadn't broken him all match. But, typical of the afternoon's back-and-forth nature, Blake smacked a forehand down the line -- Hewitt applauded the winner -- to get a break point in the very next game, then converted on Hewitt's error.

With Blake down 3-2 in the fifth set and serving, he sent a forehand wide, a backhand wide and a forehand long to give Hewitt three break points. It was part of an 11-point streak for Hewitt.

"Sometimes it looks like you're missing easy balls, but that's because of the work he does," said Blake, who attended Harvard. "It makes you concentrate for five sets."

India U-19s

FROM PAGE 13

That score included a flamboyant 125 from Worcestershire's Kadeer Ali, who shared in a first-wicket stand worth 201 with Yorkshire opener Andrew Gale.

But Ali's innings was overshadowed by that of Rayudu, who hit 16 fours and one six as the Indian youngsters put England to the side anyway.

Mixed day for top guns



REUTERS, New York

While other big names have wobbled at the U.S. Open, Venus Williams, Andre Agassi and Jennifer Capriati stayed rock solid, recording quickfire victories to slice further through the Grand Slam draw.

Venus smashed German Martina Mueller 6-1 6-2 in just 41 minutes. Capriati crushed fellow American Meghann Shaughnessy 6-2 6-2 in 56 minutes, while Agassi battered Ramon Delgado of Paraguay 6-2 6-16-2 in 89 minutes.

Their emphatic victories on Saturday were in stark contrast to the progress of men's top seed and defending champion Lleyton Hewitt, who needed five nerve-jangling sets to shake off American favourite James Blake.

Agassi, though, continued his dominant run.

In a rematch of last year's third-round encounter, also won by Agassi in straight sets, the American kept his opponent off balance and was in control throughout.

Seeking his third title here, he has looked unbeatable through the first three rounds, dropping just 16 games.

"I feel good where my game is at. How can I complain?" he asked. The sixth seed will face unseeded compatriot Jan-Michael Gambill after he clattered Argentine 21st seed Gaston Gaudio 6-0 6-2 6-0.

Gambill knows the size of the task ahead. "There's nobody on the tour I have more respect for on or off the court," he said. "He's a great guy and it's going to be a tough match. I am excited about it."

Venus, seeded second this year behind younger sister Serena, stayed on track for a third successive Open crown with a ruthless victory.

"It seemed to go a little

US OPEN IN BRIEF

AP, New York

Highlights Saturday of the \$16.17 million U.S. Open tennis championships:

WEATHER
Mostly cloudy, breezy and cool with a high of 72.

ATTENDANCE
Day session: 31,149. Night session: NA.

WINNERS: Men, Third Round

No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt, No. 6 Andre Agassi, No. 13 Roger Federer, No. 14 Jiri Novak, No. 20 Younes El Aynaoui, No. 32 Max

Women, Third Round

No. 2 Venus Williams, No. 3 Jennifer Capriati, No. 6 Monica Seles, No. 7 Kim Clijsters, No. 9 Martina Hingis, No. 10 Amelie Mauresmo, No. 14 Chanda Rubin.

LOSERS: Men, Third Round

No. 19 Xavier Malisse, No. 21 Gaston Gaudio, No. 22 Marcelo Rios, No. 25 James Blake, No. 31 Tommy Robredo.

Women, Third Round

No. 16 Magdalena Maleeva, No. 21 Lisa Raymond, No. 23 Patty Schnyder, No. 30 Meghann Shaughnessy.

STAT OF THE DAY

Blake committed 86 unforced errors to 40 for Lleyton Hewitt.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He came up with great shots. I came up with great shots. He came up with a few more." -- Blake.

quickly...but I guess that's a nice thing," she said.

"Still a long way, the final...but it's getting closer. That's a good thing."

While Serena won the French Open in June and deposed Venus at Wimbledon a month later, at least in New York, Venus still rules.

The American has conceded just six games in three matches at Flushing Meadows and is looking in sparkling form. She meets compatriot Chanda Rubin next.

Rubin, seeded 14, fished her way past U.S. doubles specialist Lisa Raymond with a tight 7-6 6-4 win.

Capriati, the third seed, produced 17 winners and broke 30th seed Shaughnessy's serve four times in their match.

"I felt I played so well I didn't let her play her game," Capriati said. "I was pretty consistent, served great, and came in on some good shots. I moved well considering the weather and everything."

The Australian Open champion has conceded just 10 games in three matches this week as she chases her second major of the year.

"It's only going to get tougher," Capriati said. "If I can just keep going the same way, still play the tennis I'm playing, I should be all right."

Her fourth-round opponent will be unseeded fellow American Amy Frazier, who rallied past 16th-seeded Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva 3-6 6-2-6.

Far less convincing than Capriati and Venus on a blustery day six were Monica Seles and Kim Clijsters.

Sixth seed Seles was in the wars again as she fought off a spirited challenge by South Korea's Cho Yoon-Jeong to reach the fourth round 6-15-7-6-3.

Hingis in no hurry



INTERNET, New York

Enduring two operations less than nine months has left Martina Hingis just happy to be here.

The ninth seed characteristically committed fewer unforced errors than her opponent on Saturday but advanced to the round of 16 at the U.S. Open with a 6-3, 6-4 win over South African Amanda Coetzer.

The former world No. 1 had her first surgery on October 14, 2001, after tearing three ligaments in her right ankle during the Filderstadt semifinals. Hingis bounced back remarkably, defending her Sydney crown in January, advancing to her sixth consecutive Australian Open final and winning the Tokyo title.

After finishing as the runner-up at Indian Wells and a semifinalist at Scottsdale and Hamburg, Hingis needed to go under the knife again to repair torn and damaged ligaments in her left ankle.

"It definitely toughens you up in a way," Hingis said. "Right now, I'm not in a hurry. You learn to be patient, just try to do the best you can at this moment. You just try to

get better in the next few weeks."

She played two hardcourt tournaments leading up to the U.S. Open, falling to the quarterfinals at Montreal and New Haven.

The 21-year-old Hingis enjoyed a stretch of about three years when she dominated the WTA Tour. She is the last woman to win three Grand Slam events in a year, capturing the 1997 Australian Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open titles and finishing as the runner-up at the French Open.

"Well, that's going to be a harder task," Hingis said. "But definitely I'm not counting it out. You always have hopes. As a top player, I always want to look forward to the next match and give it my best."

Hingis' success always has been based upon strategy and execution. But in recent years, the most powerful hitters have risen to the top of the rankings as Americans Serena and Venus Williams, Jennifer Capriati and Lindsay Davenport have blasted their way past Hingis.

However, her injury woes have not added to Hingis' frustration at being toppled from the No. 1 spot in the rankings.

"You've got to be realistic," she said. "I just came off surgery. I played a couple of events, made quarterfinals. Maybe I wish I had done better there. I feel like I learned from the last two weeks; already playing a lot better here. But still there is a lot I have to catch up with."



MARTINA HINGIS

She also won the 1998 and 1999 Australian Opens and reached three other major finals.

Thorpedo's full Monte



INTERNET REPORT, Sydney

Australia's record-smashing swimmer Ian Thorpe is set to base himself in Monte Carlo as he bids to become the world's best 100m swimmer.

Thorpe will make a more concrete decision on the exact whereabouts of his new home in the next week, but he is keen to live in Europe and race more regularly against the world's best swimmers.

At this stage he will spend at least three months in Europe.

Last week The Sun-Herald newspaper said that Thorpe was splitting from his coach Doug Frost, and this may explain some of the thinking behind his latest plans.

A change of base would fit his biggest desire - to become the world's best 100m sprinter. Thorpe may have swum his last 800m race.

He is very keen on living in Europe and the Riviera is his likely destination. He has also toyed with the idea of moving to the United States.

Thorpe's neighbours in Monaco would include speed aces Michael Dohan and David Coulthard, and former tennis star Boris Becker.

Those in swimming circles close to Thorpe say that setting up a base in a tax haven is not the reason for his move. It is all about his unyielding determination to be the best sprinter he can be.

That could mean the biggest race of next year's world championships will be the 100m sprint between Thorpe, Pieter van den Hoogenband and Alex Popov.

The Europeans would have taken note that Thorpe swam 47.2s in the last leg of the Pan Pacific championships medley relay and Thorpe has rated that as his best race of the Pan Pacs.

Thorpe wants to race the Europeans more regularly because he feels the competition would bring

the best out of him.

Also, the next two major international meets are the World Championships in Barcelona and the Olympic Games in Athens.

Thorpe is known to be in negotiations with Barcelona organisers to be the face of that event.

If Thorpe departs he would turn his back on Australia.

His manager, David Flaskas, has



IAN THORPE

been battling illness and did not return calls yesterday.

Fellow Australian swimming great Dawn Fraser has endorsed Thorpe's move.

"He has done more than enough for Australian swimming," three-time Olympic champion Fraser said. "And in this day and age of professional sport I can understand exactly why he would make a move. Swimmers have a limited span in the sport and they have to make the most of their careers."

"I reckon if he wants a change and wants to experience life in another country, we shouldn't stand in his way. And if he feels he can get greater competition there, he should go."

"That's not to say that I want him

to go. Far from it. Australian swimming would really miss Ian. We would suffer from not having him train with other swimmers."

His talent helps bring the best out in all those swimmers around him."

Thorpe has talked about the move with his fellow Australian swimmers and there were suggestions that Grant Hackett would also base himself overseas, but this has been refuted by Hackett's manager Chris White.

"There are no plans for Grant to relocate overseas," he said.

Thorpe had considered Japan as a base, but the drawback there is his popularity. He would be mobbed wherever he went.

Thorpe is yet to formalise his split from Doug Frost, but that is a matter of time.

"Nothing has happened in that area," Frost said.

"It's all just speculation. I am going on holiday for two weeks and there may be something to say after that."

Serena stalker arrested

BBC, New York

A man accused of stalking US tennis star Serena Williams has been arrested and charged in New York.

Police said he was spotted spying on the player through a fence at the US Open tennis championships.

Albrecht Stromeyer,