

### McGrath to miss fifth Test

AFP, Melbourne

Australian pace spearhead Glenn McGrath will miss this week's fifth Ashes cricket Test against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground with a side strain.

West Australian paceman Brad Williams will join Australia's squad to cover for McGrath's withdrawal as Steve Waugh's men attempt to secure the first 5-0 Ashes clean sweep since 1920-21.

McGrath joins batsman Darren Lehmann and leg-spinner Shane Warne on the Australian injured list.

Lehmann is recovering from a severe infection in his right leg while Warne will miss the rest of the Australian summer because of a dislocated bowling shoulder.

McGrath expressed disappointment at ending his run of 54 consecutive Tests, stretching back to the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi in October, 1998.

### Magura soccer final postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT

The final of the Econo First Division Football League could not be held yesterday due to unavoidable circumstances.

The date of the final will be announced later.

### Barisal in final

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41, Mamun 34, Maruf 2-17) **Laxmipur:** 82 all out in 45 overs (Asad 15, Ashique 3-16, Sujon 2-14) **Result:** Comilla won by 106 runs.

**Rajbari v Narayanganj**  
Venue: Jagannath Hall ground.  
**Rajbari:** 228 for 8 in 50 overs (Raju 37, Elone 33, Sairud 28 n.o., Saju 2-34)

**Narayanganj:** 159 all out in 44 overs (Sumon 40, John 30, Sayeed 3-28, Rony 3-34)  
**Result:** Rajbari won by 69 runs.

**Tangail v Netrokona**  
Venue: Mymensingh Stadium.  
**Tangail:** 183 for 9 in 30 overs (Chandra 40, Sumon 36, Arafat 20, Chandan 2-24)

**Netrokona:** 127 for 9 in 30 overs (Kamrul 24, Uttam 2-10, Chayan 2-14)  
**Result:** Tangail won by 56 runs.

### Azam carrying

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Nazimuddin c Rafiqul b Aminul jr 8  
Anisul c Sanchoy b Shafaq 9  
Aftab c Shafaq b Murad 60  
Azam batting 109  
Faisal c Sanchoy b Aminul jr 28  
Sabbir c Sanchoy b Nuruzzaman 32  
Ahsanullah batting 26  
Extras: (b-2, lb-5, nb-7, w-2) 23  
Total: (For 6 wkts in 93 overs) 302  
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-20, 3-58, 4-111, 5-156, 6-237.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Aminul jr 22 8 60 2  
Shafaq 17 1 69 2  
Nuruzzaman 15 6 35 1  
Murad 7 1 29 1  
Imran 20 2 62 0  
Mushtaq 12 0 33 0

**Barisal v Rajshahi**  
Venue: DCS

**BARISAL:** First innings  
Imran run out 29  
Reshadur b Al-Amin 4  
Shahin c Salim b Al-Amin 12  
Nahidul c Salim b Jamaluddin 28  
Kafi Khan b Razzak 19  
Towhid lbw b Manzarul 45  
Ali Arman b Jamaluddin 17  
Nadif c Salauddin b Manzarul 3  
Pijush lbw b Razzak 13  
Debabrata batting 10  
Anisur batting 43  
Extras: (lb-6) 6

Total: (For 9 wkts in 93 overs) 229  
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-35, 3-63, 4-81, 5-100, 6-132, 7-148, 8-165, 9-175.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Al-Amin 12 7 34 2  
Russell 8 1 33 0  
Razzak 19 3 58 2  
Jamaluddin 15 4 29 2  
Manzarul 30 9 64 2  
Hasanuzzaman 2 0 5 0



Action from yesterday's Elite Paint Senior Division Football League encounter between Quality Sports Club and Customs Excise & Vat Club at the MAAziz Stadium.

## New mark for Waugh

AFP, Melbourne

Steve Waugh on Monday became Australia's most successful cricket captain when he led Australia to a gripping five-wicket victory over England in the fourth Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

It was 37-year-old Waugh's 33rd win in 45 Tests as Australian skipper and took him past Allan Border's 32 victories in 93 Tests from 1978 to 1994.

But it might not be enough to extend Waugh's Test career beyond the New Year Test against England in Sydney with selectors not guaranteeing his selection past the fifth Ashes Test.

West Indian Clive Lloyd has the most Test wins as captain with 36 from 74 Tests.

Waugh, who will equal Border's

record of 156 Test appearances in the Sydney Test, ranks ahead of his predecessor Mark Taylor (26 wins



STEVE WAUGH

from 50 Tests) and other prominent Australian captains, Greg Chappell (21/48) and Bob Simpson (12/39). Don Bradman won 15 of 24 Tests

as Australian captain. "I haven't thought that much about it," Waugh said after Monday's victory.

"It's a good achievement, but it's a reflection on the side and the support staff.

"Whilst it (the wins) go against my name as captain, it obviously is a team result, it's a nice record to have for all the guys."

Waugh admitted that Australian teams had problems in the past chasing small winning targets.

"You get yourself into problems when you don't play your shots and play your natural game, so it was to go out there and play naturally like Ricky Ponting (30) did.

"England bowled very well this morning. They hit the wicket hard and they put pressure on us and that's what Test cricket is all about... it's never easy to win a Test match batting last, no matter what the total is."

## Cricket at crossroads

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consecutive victory in the Ashes Test series against England, said it was a difficult question and not one for the players.

"If John Howard is stepping in then the Australian Cricket Board will become involved and I think it's up to those people to make a decision. The players don't want to be involved in political decisions," Waugh said on Monday.

England captain Nasser Hussain repeated his stance that he felt it was a government decision.

Hussain said he would be meeting with England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive Tim Lamb in Sydney later this week ahead of the fifth test starting on Thursday to discuss the Zimbabwe situation.

"I've said quite openly that I would like the government and politicians in England to help probably make the decision for us," Hussain told a news conference.

"We're going to be ambassadors for our game and our country and we're going to this area and we know very little about the situation in Zimbabwe."

"It's a moral issue. It's not a safety issue. Should England or any other team be in Zimbabwe playing cricket? We certainly can't bury our heads in the sand."

"This is an important issue. It's far too important a decision for me to make."

Lamb later told Sky TV that the board had received unfair pressure to withdraw the team from Zimbabwe when other businesses operating there carried on without British government intervention.

ICC president Malcolm Gray refused to accept Howard's advice that the ICC should take a leading role.

"The ICC and, in general, sports administrators are not equipped or experienced or competent, nor have the mandate, to make political decisions," Gray told a news conference at Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday.

"That is the role and responsibility of governments."

"Often over the years, governments and politicians have tried to push that responsibility on to sports administrators -- the ICC will not accept that."

The ACB released a statement after Gray's news conference, indicating it would play in Bulawayo as planned.

"Our long-standing position as cricket administrators has been that we will go to Zimbabwe unless there are safety or security risks," ACB chief executive James Sutherland said.

"I was part of the recent ICC delegation which inspected safety and security issues in Zimbabwe and the ACB supports the subsequent ICC report finding that safety and security arrangements are appropriate."

On Sunday, Blair wrote to opposition leader Iain Duncan Smith spelling out the British government's stance.

"The Government's position is clear: the decision on whether England should play in Zimbabwe rests with the England and Wales Cricket Board -- an independent sporting body," the Prime Minister wrote.

"There are no legal powers

available to the Government to ban a sporting team from participation.

"However, in the light of the deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in the country, ministers have made clear that if the decision were for them, England should not play in Zimbabwe."

England, Namibia, India, Australia, the Netherlands and Pakistan will play a match each in Zimbabwe.

Gray added that any team that refused to play matches in Zimbabwe would forfeit their points.

World Cup executive director Dr Bacher told reporters that while contingency plans would enable the games to be played in South Africa should the Zimbabwean venues be scrapped, he did not expect the various cricketing boards to make such a decision.

"I don't anticipate the ICC and those boards will boycott playing in Zimbabwe -- I believe they will stick with their earlier decision to play in Zimbabwe," the former South African Test captain said.

"If there is a decision for those teams not to go to Zimbabwe, that decision should be forthcoming from the Australian government."

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Monday it had not been advised by the government not to play in Zimbabwe.

"As far as Pakistan is concerned we will play our World Cup match in Bulawayo on March 4 and that is it," said PCB spokesman Samiul Hassan.

"The PCB's stance is clear, and we are party to an agreement signed in November in which we have agreed to play our match in Zimbabwe," he said.

Pakistan made a full tour of Zimbabwe last month and found nothing wrong with the security situation in either Harare or Bulawayo.

### India seek

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India have committed their players to the ban during the tournament, but the ICC said players wanted to be subject to restrictions only on days when they were playing in televised matches.

The ICC later issued India with what it called its "final offer" and said India could face compensation claims if it did not send its best team to the World Cup.

The final offer was a compromise deal which would reduce the post-tournament ban to just five days except for the finalists who would face a restriction of 20 days or until the first one-day international or Test match, which ever came sooner.

Indian players also want their tournament image rights to be used by ICC's sponsors for only two months after the event.

The ICC are now offering a three-month period as opposed to the original six.

### Prime Bank chess Four finish atop

UNB, Dhaka

Four players jointly finished top after the completion of the third round matches of the Prime Bank 5th International Rating Chess tournament yesterday.

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, Saifuddin Lavlu, Arman Monir and International Women Master Rani Hamid earned full three points to lead the table jointly.

In the third round, Zia beat Monir Hossain, Rani Hamid beat FIDE Master Taibur Rahman, Lavlu beat Moniruzzaman Khan and Arman beat A Karim Bahar at the chess federation auditorium.

The fourth round will be held today at the same venue from 10:30am.

### Aussies made

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Damien Martyn started the alarm bells clanging in the Australian dressing room when he departed three balls later for a duck to give Harrison figures of 2-16.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the fourth Ashes Test between Australia and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 551 for 6 declared (Langer 250, M Hayden 102, S Waugh 77; C White 3-133)

**ENGLAND:** First innings 270 (C. White 85 not out, M. Trescothick 37; J. Gillespie 4-25)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings 387 (M. Vaughan 145, R. Key 52; S. MacGill 5-152)

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings (8 for 0 overnight)  
Langer lbw b Caddick 24  
Hayden c Tudor (sub) b Caddick 1  
Ponting c Foster b Harmison 30  
Martyn c Foster b Harmison 0  
S Waugh c Butcher b Caddick 14  
Love not out 6  
Gilchrist not out 10  
Extras: (b-8, lb-5, nb-9) 22  
Total: (for 5 wkts, 23.1 overs) 107  
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-58, 3-58, 4-83, 5-90

**Bowler** O M R W  
Caddick 12 1 51 3  
Harmison 11.1 4 3 2

**Result:** Australia won by 5 wickets; Australia lead series 4-0

**Man-of-the-match:** Justin Langer  
**Umpires:** David Orchard (Rsa)  
Russell Tiffin (Zim)

### Locals fare well

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of Bangladesh.

A total of 27 players from Bangladesh, India, Chinese Taipei, South Korea, Japan and Uzbekistan are taking part in the qualifying round that ends today. Four will make it to the final round that starts at the same venue from tomorrow.

### Australia A to

FROM PAGE 13  
who captained Australia A in wins over England and Sri Lanka before Christmas.

Langer is expected to be named in the Australian team for the fifth and final Ashes Test in Sydney starting on January 2.

Darren Lehmann, who missed the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne with a severe leg infection, was selected for Australia A's match with the Sri Lankans in Adelaide on January 7.

The other match will be at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on New Year's Day.

Australia A; Jimmy Maher (captain), Greg Blewett, Ryan Campbell, Michael Clarke, Ian Harvey, Nathan Hauritz, Brad Hodge, Michael Hussey, Darren Lehmann, Ashley Noffke, Andrew Symonds, Brad Williams.

### ECB warned

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has been growing in recent days, with even Tony Blair stating that he would prefer it if Nasser Hussain's side pulled out of the trip.

However, Malcolm Gray, the president of the International Cricket Council, stressed: "It's possible there may be financial consequences through compensation to our commercial partners and broadcasters."

He added: "Those damages will have to be assessed at a later date and attributed to where it is felt appropriate - it's not a fine or anything like that, but we live in a commercial world."

"The position of the ICC in relation to political matters is that, in general, sports administrators are not equipped or experienced or confident, nor have the mandate to make political decisions."

"That is the role and the responsibility of governments and often over the years governments and politicians have tried to push that responsibility onto sport administrators and the ICC will not accept that."

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed had already warned any team boycotting their fixtures in Zimbabwe that they will be punished by forfeiting the World Cup points on offer.

## Cairns coming back

Cricket

REUTERS, Christchurch

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns' comeback after knee surgery begins next week when he turns out for Canterbury's second stringers in the country's second X1 competition.

Cairns, who is expected to be named in the New Zealand squad for the World Cup, had keyhole surgery on his right knee two weeks ago to remove some cartilage.

It was his second operation on the knee this year after surgery in March.

"Playing for Canterbury B is the step I'm going to take first," Cairns said after practising with the New Zealand one-day international side in Christchurch on Monday.

"I have nothing in my mind until I achieve that. It's been great to come along here and get back into it."

"I feel really good now. That cartilage problem was a setback but I want to be back in the game. It's

summer and I want to play cricket."

Cairns has played 151 one-day internationals for 3,614 runs at an average of 29.14, including four centuries and 19 fifties.

But Cairns said he did not think New Zealand were missing him at the moment.

They are leading India 2-0 in the series of seven one-day internationals. The third match is in Christchurch on Wednesday.

"The way they are playing I may struggle to get a run," Cairns said. "All the all-rounders seem to be doing very well."

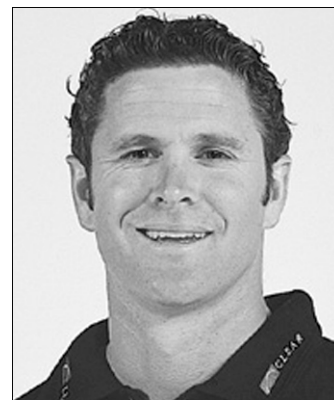
"It's exciting that I will be pushed to get a match and to a certain extent it takes a bit of the pressure off me to perform if there are others doing the job."

Cairns would make no commitment about playing for New Zealand in the remainder of the series against India.

"That's a selectors' call, but I feel good and hopefully I'll be able to play a full part in that B team match," he said.

All being well, Cairns will travel to England soon after the World Cup, which starts in February, to take up the second year of a two-year contract with Nottinghamshire.

The first year was abandoned because of his knee problems.



CHRIS CAIRNS

He has taken 154 wickets at 31.9 and has been a key component to New Zealand's one-day successes in the past, most notably the ICC Trophy in Nairobi when he scored a century in the final against India.

## British press for boycott

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, London

Britain's press Monday urged England's cricketers to boycott their forthcoming World Cup tie in Zimbabwe, citing the abuse of human rights in the former British colony.

"Let the fundamental point be stated with crystal clarity: the England team should not and must not play World Cup cricket in Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe," the Daily Mail tabloid said in its editorial.

The Daily Telegraph said the ECB's decision not to boycott Zimbabwe was "regrettable" when Mugabe's government was "a brutal and despotic tyranny".

"Mugabe should not be given the

chance to legitimise a regime guilty of ethnic cleansing and the starvation of its own people," the broadsheet added.

But it stressed the government "would be wrong" to order a boycott.

"Were the government to take the decision away from the ECB, this would represent a nationalisation of sport reminiscent of corrupt regimes down the years from Africa to eastern Europe."

"It is right to boycott such regimes; it would be wrong to imitate them," the papers said.

The Independent broadsheet said "anyone committed to democracy and human rights should refuse to confer legitimacy on Robert Mugabe's odious regime".

The Daily Mirror tabloid, meanwhile, said the thought of England captain Nasser Hussain shaking Mugabe's hand was "sickening".

In a letter sent Sunday to Iain Duncan Smith, leader of Britain's opposition Conservative Party, Blair said: "The government's position is clear: the decision on whether England should play in Zimbabwe rests with the England and Wales Cricket Board -- an independent sporting body."

In a separate letter sent to Blair earlier, Duncan Smith challenged the prime minister to end the confusion over participation after ministers urged a boycott and England's players and officials called on the government for guidance.

"The ECB can be in no doubt about the government's views," Blair told Duncan Smith, adding: "There are no legal powers available to the government to ban a sporting team from participation."

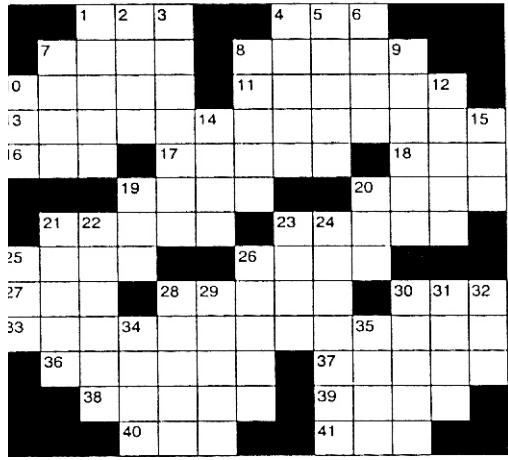


Scene from yesterday's third round engagement of the Prime Bank fifth International Rating Chess tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation auditorium.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS** 30 Norm (Abbr.)  
1 Sleep phenom  
4 Aries hiking boot  
7 Aching boot  
8 One's performance  
10 Venue of rainy plains  
11 Score components  
13 Max Factor invention  
16 Early hrs.  
17 Ballpark figure  
18 Swelled head  
19 Bovine bunch  
20 Envelope part  
21 Whoopi's Oscar movie  
23 Applaud  
25 Bard  
26 Indigent  
27 Sapporo sash  
28 Soup eater's need

**DOWN** 1 Reddish-brown horses  
2 Clapton or  
3 Households  
4 Real estate  
5 Rap sheet  
6 Brother, perhaps  
7 Wanted  
8 Go too fast  
9 Pierce Brosnan portrayal  
10 Hot tub  
12 Coffee enhancer  
14 Rocker  
15 Burst  
19 Stolen  
20 Chemind-  
21 Spoil  
22 A little lower?  
23 Crotchety sort  
24 Esteemed  
25 "Wham!"  
26 Enigma  
28 Play-ground fixture  
29 Go by bike  
30 Spread out  
31 Links supply  
32 Parched  
34 "Animal House" group  
35 Actress Sorvino



CRYPTOQUIP

D N K M X B W O F F K R O L A  
A M F M Z W O N W R Q M X L P Z  
S M A M A E W Q O D L A Z A M B W

O L P S W A A E D L L W B

Yesterday's Crypticquip: MY WORK AS A LUMBERJACK WAS EXCELLENT, BUT TO MY CHAGRIN I JUST GOT THE AX.

Today's Crypticquip Clue: L equals N

The Crypticquip 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.