

Score runs: Saurav

AFP, Christchurch

India skipper Saurav Ganguly conceded Tuesday his batsmen were under pressure to deliver in the third one-day international against New Zealand here.

"It's high time the batsmen scored runs," Ganguly said ahead of Wednesday's day-night game at the Jade Stadium.

"Most of the batsmen have been out of form on this tour, but we have to find some ways to score runs. The bottom line is we have not scored runs in Tests and one-dayers."

Pressure has begun to mount on India, yet to win a match on their current tour.

The tourists trail 2-0 in the ongoing seven-match one-day series after having lost both the Tests inside three days on seamer-friendly pitches.

India were let down by batting in both the Tests and one-dayers as they crossed the 200-mark just once, in the last game at Napier on Sunday. Most of their batsmen are still struggling to cope with the New Zealand pace attack.

Master batsman Sachin Tendulkar and the normally reliable Rahul Dravid scored only one half-century in four Test innings, while Virender Sehwag smashed an impressive 108 in the previous game after five failures.

The Indian captain himself is short of runs, having made 29 in four Test innings and 14 in two one-dayers.

"We are going through a tough time at present," said Ganguly. "Pressure is always there. Sometimes, it looks surprising that we are the same team that did so well in the past eight-nine months."

TEAMS
NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, Mathew Sinclair, Craig McMillan, Lou Vincent, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Daniel Vettori, Daryl Tuffey, Paul Hitchcock, Michael Mason.

INDIA (from): Saurav Ganguly (captain), Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Laxman, Mohammad Kaif, Yuvraj Singh, Sanjay Bangar, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Javagal Srinath, Ashish Nehra, Ajit Agarkar, Anil Kumble, Parthiv Patel, Rakesh Patel.



Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (L) and International Women's Master Rani Hamid during their fifth round fixture of the Prime Bank Fifth International Rating Chess at the National Sports Council Auditorium yesterday.

Eng add Flintoff, Giles



AFP, Sydney

England on Tuesday named injury-plagued Andrew Flintoff and Ashley Giles in their final 15-man squad for the February-March World Cup in southern Africa.

Flintoff and Giles both returned home from England's cricket tour of Australia to recover from injuries. England's chairman of selectors David Graveney said Flintoff was recovering well from complications after mid-year hernia surgery, while spinner Giles had been given the go-ahead to begin training after breaking his wrist during net practice in Adelaide.

Selectors also included sidelined Craig White in the squad after the Yorkshire all-rounder damaged side muscles bowling in the Boxing Day Test against Australia in Melbourne. White is expected to take three to six weeks to recover, in time to play in the World Cup.

Opener Michael Vaughan, who did not play in England's early matches of the triangular one-day series with Australia and Sri Lanka, is back in the one-day squad after a

brilliant 145 against Australia in the fourth Ashes Test last weekend.

"I am satisfied that the players selected in this squad represent the best mix of experience and youth that England has available to it," Graveney said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The unavailability of several key players for various reasons over recent months has given us the opportunity to bring in a number of young players into our plans."

"Several of these players have responded extremely well to the challenge and we have had no hesitation in including them in the squad."

Graveney said Flintoff had been bowling at around 90 percent capacity in the nets back in Lancashire and was experiencing less pain than he had in Australia.

"The indications are from the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) medical officer are that Andrew will be fit and able to play a full part in the World Cup," said Graveney.

Graveney said Giles had bowled six overs in the nets last weekend without suffering a reaction and he was satisfied the offspinner would play in the World Cup.

"We will be looking to have both

Andrew and Ashley travel to Australia during the next few weeks to continue their rehabilitation and prove their fitness," he said.

Graveney said initial medical advice on White was that the injury would require three to six weeks to heal.

"Craig will be receiving intensive treatment with the aim of having him available for the finals of the VB Series (triangular one-day series in Australia) should England qualify," he said.

England have been drawn in pool A at the World Cup alongside Australia, Pakistan, India, Zimbabwe, Namibia and the Netherlands.

Their first scheduled pool match is against Zimbabwe in Harare on February 13.

SQUAD
Nasser Hussain (captain), James Anderson, Ian Blackwell, Andrew Caddick, Paul Collingwood, Andy Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Steve Harmison, Matthew Hoggard, Ronnie Irani, Nick Knight, Alec Stewart, Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan, Craig White.

Prime Bank chess Zia takes the lead

UNB, Dhaka

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman took a solo lead in the Prime Bank 5th International Rating Chess tournament securing full five points at the end of the fifth round matches at the Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.

Khandakar Aminul Islam of Bangladesh Ansar followed the leader with 4.5 points.

In the day's 4th round matches, Zia defeated Arman, Rani Hamid beat Lavlu, Amin beat Palash, Parag got walkover against Taher, Emon beat Taibur, Monir beat Sagar, Debaraj beat Sanatan and Moin beat Mithu.

In the 5th round matches, Zia beat Rani Hamid, Amin beat Emon, Lavlu beat Debaraj, Parag beat Ariful and Moin defeated Monir.

The 6th round will be held today from 3.30 pm at the same venue.

Mongia added

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ferred to Venkatesh Laxman for the 14-nation tournament to be held in southern Africa from February 8 to March 23.

Laxman is a member of the team playing the ongoing seven-match series in New Zealand.

"We are trying to send Mongia to New Zealand in time for the fourth one-day on January 4, but everything depends on when a visa is obtained," Indian cricket board president Jagmohan Dalmiya said here on Tuesday.

Kapali cut out

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knocks in one-day and Test cricket. The hard-working right-hander scored 307 in five Tests including an 85 in the second Test at Chittagong. Kapali made 228 in 11 ODIs with an unbeaten 89 in the third one-day at Dhaka.

A gifted on-side player, Kapali never had to look behind ever since he made his debut in the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo in July.

"I had a sleepless night pondering how to face the likes of Chaminda Vaas and Muralitharan. But when I walked in to bat and milled the first ball from Vaas, the fear had just gone," Kapali recalled his first day in international cricket.

He scored 39 in the first innings and followed up with a useful 29 in the second to shine in an otherwise lacklustre Bangladesh batting cards.

His innocent smile belies his ability to hit back at any menacingly poised top bowlers of the world. And it came into play when the soft-spoken young man smashed an incensed Jacques Kallis for successive boundaries in the first Test against South Africa.

"He was bowling with a forward short-leg and abused me after I hooked a bouncer down the square leg boundary. He removed the short leg to deep square-leg and taunted me to take the challenge of a second bounce with another spell of abusive words."

"The atmosphere was charged. But, I hooked him again and the ball raced to the boundary," said Kapali of his personal victory over the famed South African all-rounder. Interestingly, Kallis also singled out Kapali as the most promising Bangladesh all-rounder.

Kapali did not score a lot of runs in two Tests against South Africa, his highest being 38 not out there. But the speciality of Kapali is that he tries his best to put a price on his wicket. When his more reputed mates were at ease to throw away their wickets, he made bowlers to sweat to win his scalp.

"I knew that I had a chance to tour South Africa. I also knew that I would have to encounter express pace and disconcerting bounce. So, I concentrated on improving my reflexes in Sylhet where two of my friends took a soaked tennis ball and bowled from short distance," said Kapali of his simple preparation.

The youngest of ten siblings, Kapali set himself a target of five years to make it into the national fold and that too in the capacity of a leg-spinner. But it took him only a year to win a Test cap, and alas, not as a bowler but as a specialist batsman!

"That was definitely a dream come true for me. Senior cricketers always advised me to concentrate more on my bowling if I were to play for the country. The reason for that is the national team does not have a quality leg-spinner. It's an irony that it is with the bat that I'm doing well at the moment," he said.

Unfazed by the star status, Kapali is a down-to-earth person. A music lover, Kapali never forgets to carry along his portable CD player and always dreams of doing something for the millions cricket lovers of the country.

"I do not want to be a cricketer cut out for one season. I just want to forget what I have done this year and start afresh in the World Cup. I believe we will do better in South Africa because we are now not afraid of playing our shots," said Kapali.

If that should be the case, there is every reason for us to tune to the TV and watch the boys with anticipation.

Aus take a chance on Warne



AFP, Sydney

Champion leg-spinner Shane Warne is so important to Australia's World Cup cricket defence that he may be given until mid-tournament to recover from his dislocated shoulder, coach John Buchanan said on Tuesday.

Warne was selected in the final 15-man Australian squad along with all-rounder Andrew Symonds and wrist-spinner Brad Hogg, but there was no place for out-of-favour Steve Waugh.

Buchanan revealed Warne -- man-of-the-match in Australia's Cup final victory over Pakistan at Lord's in 1999 -- could be given until the Super Sixes stage to make his first appearance in southern Africa.

Should Australia progress through the preliminary rounds in February before the Super Sixes begin on March 7, Warne's rehabilitation from a dislocated shoulder should be well and truly over.

"We're certainly looking at making a decision (on Warne's fitness) as early as feasible -- but giving him as much time as possible," Buchanan said on Tuesday.

"He's one of the bowlers we will always go to to bowl us ten overs in a one-day game. We're going to try to make sure he gets every opportunity to be on that plane across to South Africa."

Asked if Warne could be given until the Super Sixes, Buchanan said: "That's certainly one of the considerations."

"If he wasn't available from the outset, we would like to think he was playing at least by mid-tournament, that's my view. In a general sense, that's probably a cut-off."

The obvious problem for Warne

is waiting too long and being too rusty by the time he gets on the field.

"He'd certainly be wanting to be as confident as he can going into some of the tougher games," Buchanan said.

"That confidence is not just in bowling, but also getting around the field."

Warne expects to be told on January 11 or 12 when he can start bowling again.



SHANE WARNE

"He seems pretty upbeat about it all and likes his chances of playing in the World Cup, so that's great," one-day skipper Ricky Ponting said. "Obviously Australia needs Shane Warne to be playing and playing well in the World Cup. Everyone's just got their fingers crossed and hopes that he comes up."

Australia will be joined in Pool A by Pakistan, India, the Netherlands, Zimbabwe, Namibia and England, with the first three sides progressing.

The last of Symonds' 49 limited overs matches for Australia was against Kenya in September -- a tour he made only as a replacement for an injured Darren Lehmann.

Symonds has been below his

best recently -- he averages 25.86 with the bat and 30.97 with the ball -- but he's an exceptional fielder in any position.

"I'm numb, to be honest with you," Symonds said of his selection. "Only being able to take 15 and Australian cricketers got so much to offer, I really do feel for other blokes."

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said Symonds now had the chance to apply pressure to first-choice but younger all-rounder Shane Watson.

The three open positions in the 15-man squad went to Symonds, Queensland batsman Jimmy Maher and West Australian batsman and wrist spinner Brad Hogg, joining Australia's stock 12 players from the opening three tri-series games.

Steve Waugh's faint hopes of earning a place in Australia's World Cup side were dashed when the Test skipper was omitted from the final 15-man squad for the tournament.

Waugh had hoped to force his way back into the team after being controversially left out of the preliminary 30-man squad, a decision which provoked an outcry in Australia.

But Tuesday's announcement signals that selectors believe the 37-year-old's one-day career is over.

Australia depart for South Africa on January 30 and start their World Cup campaign with a match against Pakistan in Johannesburg on February 11.

SQUAD
Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Michael Bevan, Andy Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Matthew Hayden, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Jimmy Maher, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Andrew Symonds, Shane Warne, Shane Watson.

Ctg, Khulna in the lead

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Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-70, 3-86, 4-117, 5-120, 6-124, 7-124, 8-140, 9-149

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Shafiuddin, Aftab, Ahsanullah, Sabbir, Barisal v Khulna, Al-Amin, Russell, Razzak, Jamaluddin, Manzarul, Hasan, KHULNA: First innings, Sajjadul c Kafi b Pijush, Salim c Shahin b Anisur, Raju st Shahin b Pijush, Salauddin c Anisur b Nadif, Hasanuzzaman c & b Nadif, Manzarul batting, Monirul batting, Extras: (b-5, nb-3), Total: (For 5 wks in 94 overs) 346

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-35, 3-63, 4-81, 5-100, 6-132, 7-148, 8-165, 9-175

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Shafiuddin, Aftab, Ahsanullah, Sabbir, Barisal v Khulna, Al-Amin, Russell, Razzak, Jamaluddin, Manzarul, Hasan, KHULNA: First innings, Sajjadul c Kafi b Pijush, Salim c Shahin b Anisur, Raju st Shahin b Pijush, Salauddin c Anisur b Nadif, Hasanuzzaman c & b Nadif, Manzarul batting, Monirul batting, Extras: (b-5, nb-3), Total: (For 5 wks in 94 overs) 346

Parting glance at 2002

FROM PAGE 13
match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

September 23: Bangladesh suffer a huge 167-run defeat to New Zealand in their second and last ICC Champions Trophy match in Colombo.

September 24: Bangladesh cricket team leave Colombo for South Africa for their maiden Test tour to that country.

September 26: An 83-member Bangladesh contingent for the 14th Asian Games leaves for Busan, South Korea. Bangladesh will take part in nine disciplines.

OCTOBER
October 3: Bangladesh complete their disastrous Asian Games football campaign with a 0-3 defeat against Turkmenistan. Bangladesh also lost their previous two first round matches against India and China by the same margin.

South Africa beat Bangladesh by 163 runs in the first ODI at North West Cricket Stadium.

October 6: South Africa beat Bangladesh by ten wickets in the second ODI at Willowmoore Park.

October 9: Bangladesh suffer a seven-wicket defeat to South Africa in the third ODI in Kimberley.

October 21: Bangladesh lose the

first Test by an innings and 107 runs against South Africa at Buffalo Park.

October 28: South Africa beat Bangladesh by an innings and 160 runs in the second and last Test in Potchefstroom.

NOVEMBER
November 3: Mohammedan Sporting Club completes a rare treble with a 1-0 win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in the Federation Cup football tournament final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

November 26: West Indies cricket team, led by Ridley Jacobs, reach Bangladesh to play two Tests and three ODIs.

November 29: The first ODI between Bangladesh and West Indies abandoned at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong due to heavy afternoon shower.

DECEMBER
December 2: Bangladesh lose the second ODI against West Indies by 84 runs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

December 3: West Indies take the ODI series 2-0 with an 86-run win over Bangladesh in the second ODI at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

December 10: Bangladesh suffer their biggest ever Test defeat by an

innings and 310 runs to West Indies in the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

December 18: West Indies clinch a 2-0 series win against Bangladesh with a seven-wicket win in the second Test in Chittagong.

December 31: Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announce a 15-member squad for the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

Anwar back

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he said.

"Let the World Cup come and every team will look different and Pakistan's track record in the World Cup is good," he added.

Pakistan beat Australia 2-1 in June but then lost seven of their 11 one-day matches in August-September.

They recovered to beat Zimbabwe 5-0 in a one-day series but then plummeted to another low with a 4-1 defeat against South Africa.

Wasim, having taken the most one-day wickets with 490, also has the highest wicket aggregate in the World Cup at 43 in 32 matches.

But he said Pakistan's campaign hinged on its batsmen.

"Pakistan has the best bowling attack and it boils down to batting and I hope batsmen will regroup in the World Cup."

Continuous batting failures forced the recall of Anwar, who holds the international one-day record score of 194 runs.

The 34-year-old had been dropped from the team because of a lack of form and fitness.

All-rounder Azhar Mahmood, recovering from a shoulder injury in England, also won a place.

However there was no berth for former captain Moin Khan.

Pakistan, world champions in 1992 and runners-up in the last Cup in 1999, are in Pool A alongside defending world champions Australia, England, Zimbabwe, Namibia, India and the Netherlands, with the top three progressing to the Super Sixes stage.

The team is expected to leave for South Africa on January 24 and will open their campaign with a mouth-watering clash against defending world champions Australia on February 11 in Johannesburg.

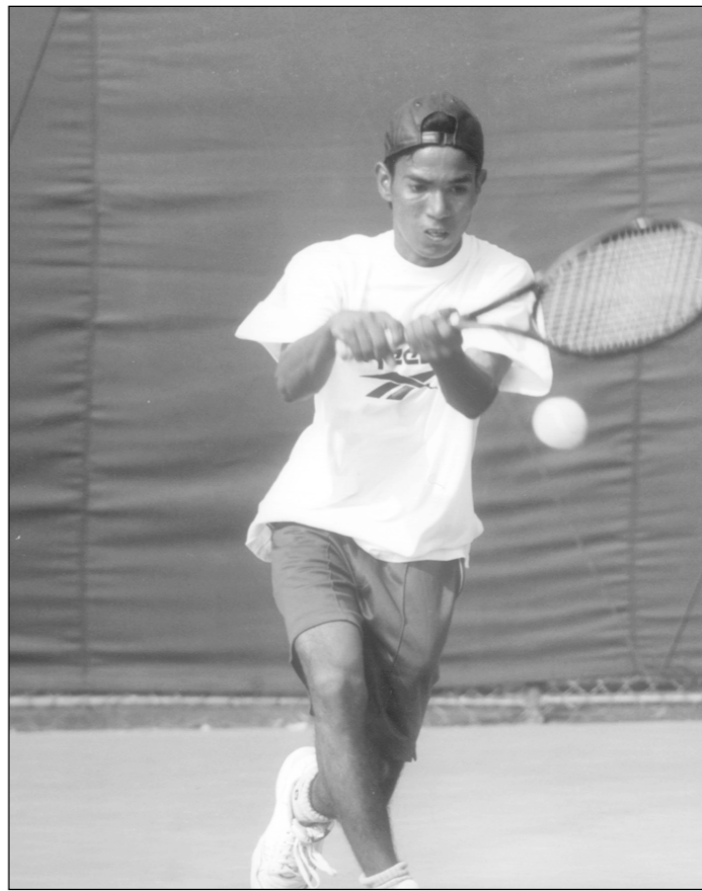
SQUAD

Waqar Younis (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Taufiq Umar, Saleem Elahi, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razaq, Azhar Mahmood, Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Mohammad Sami, Shoab Akhtar and Saqlain Mushtaq.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18. Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 10, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards. 1. Who lifted Divi Chess title? Titas Club, Biman, Ansars. 2. Who won Reuters' sportswoman of 2002 award? Hingis, Serena, Jones. 3. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies? Jacobs, Kapali, Mashud. 4. Who won 2002 FIFA World Player of the Year award? Owen, Ronaldo, Carlos. 5. Who clinched World Squash Open title? Name, Class, Roll No., School Address, Phone: (If any).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. ACROSS 36 Exhausted, 37 Medicinal, 55 Money-making enterprise, 11 Evening hrs., 19 Frank McCourt book, 21 Understood, 23 Imelda's collection, 24 Toy with a tail, 25 Took off, 26 Harvest, 27 Naysaying, 28 Beef, 32 Socks, 33 Chart, 35 First X?, 36 Snake eyes, 38 Desperately Seeking, 39 Rims, 42 Urban transport, 43 27-Down, jocularly, 44 Sudden blast of wind, 45 Emeril's expletive, 46 401(k) alternative, 48 Pantheon member. Solution time: 24 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP grid with letters B H I A Z R B V A A Y R Z V E S A Y R G H I W R C R T L H E Y V R U C Q S X H U V Q X G V R T H U E A S T L H E S U W V Q V X W ? Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF YOU REALLY WANT TO LOSE A FEW POUNDS, GO TO THE PAINT STORE AND GET THINNER. Today's Cryptiquip Clue: V equals E. The Cryptiquip 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.



Bangladesh's Akter Hossain in action against Kim Janol Hyung of Korea during their BKSP International Junior Tennis Championships match yesterday. Akter won 2-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Pybus spurs players on

AFP, Cape Town

Pakistan cricket coach Richard Pybus has called on his batsmen to "play for pride" when they take on South Africa in the second and final Test starting at Newlands here on Thursday.

Pakistan, beaten by 10 wickets in the first Test in Durban, go into the match as massive underdogs against a rampant South African side which is on a record streak of six successive Test wins.

TEAMS
SOUTH AFRICA (from): Shaun Pollock (captain), Graeme Smith, Herschelle Gibbs, Gary Kirsten, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Boeta Dippenaar, Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Andrew Hall, Makhaya Ntini, Mornantau Hayward, Monde Zondeki.

PAKISTAN (from): Waqar Younis (captain), Taufiq Umar, Salim Elahi, Younis Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Faisal Iqbal, Abdur Razaq, Kamran Akmal, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mohammad Zahid, Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Sami, Hasan Raza, Misbahul Haq, Fazole Akbar.