

## Fleming not coming to Pakistan

REUTERS, Auckland

Injured captain Stephen Fleming will not be considered for his team's one-day series in Pakistan, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Wednesday.

Fleming was hoping to rejoin the side for their arrival in Lahore on November 27 but the abdominal injury that forced him to miss the final one-day tri-series match against India last week will not be healed in time.

NZC doctor Rob Campbell and medical coordinator Warren Frost examined Fleming on Wednesday, one day after he arrived back from Mumbai with the four players (Craig McMillan, Scott Styris, Ian Butler and Lou Vincent) who opted out of the Pakistan tour.

"Stephen requires physiotherapy treatment and rest over the next three weeks to help ensure he is fit for Pakistan's tour of New Zealand next month," Frost told reporters.

The tour to Pakistan was finally rubber-stamped by NZC on Tuesday after New Zealand had received a threatening e-mail from unknown sources advising them not to play during the holy month of Ramadan.

## Rogers propels W Australia

AFP, Melbourne

Left-hander Chris Rogers smacked 103 as Western Australia reached a first innings 273 on the opening day of the Sheffield Shield clash with Victoria at the Junction Oval here Wednesday.

But Rogers and former Zimba-bwe Test batsman Murray Goodwin (70) were let down by their team-mates after Western Australia, with 187 for two wickets just before tea, lost eight wickets for a mere 86 runs.

Victoria were 12 without loss at stumps, with Matthew Elliott eight and Matthew Mott four.

The Western Australian batting folded meekly after Rogers and Goodwin had hammered 136 for the third wicket.

Victorian all-rounder Andrew McDonald ripped through the middle order, finishing with 4-35 from 16 overs his best in the competition.

Medium-pacer Allan Wise, in only his second game, captured 3-56.

In Adelaide, Mark Cosgrove (118) and John Davison (84) powered South Australia to a first innings 400, giving them a solid 133-run lead over New South Wales.

## Beyond their imagination

### Harmison unavailable for Tests

Cricket

REUTERS, undated

England captain Michael Vaughan says his players face a true test of character after their 10-wicket hammering by Sri Lanka in the first one-dayer in Dambulla on Tuesday.

England scored just 88, their lowest total against Sri Lanka and the second lowest in their history. The home side romped home with 36.1 overs to spare.

"I said it was going to be tough before the series but we didn't expect it to be that tough," said Vaughan.

"There are no excuses and we can't blame anything we just played very poorly," he added.

"(Chaminda) Vaas proved he is very good in these conditions and we were never in the game after the first couple of overs.

"It will now be a big ask to bounce back from this in these conditions against a very experienced opposition it will be a true test of character."

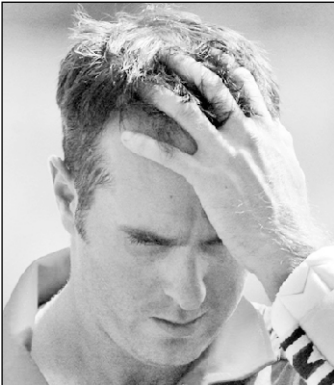
Sri Lanka captain Marvan Atapattu singled out newcomers Nuwan Kulasekera and Dinusha Fernando who did the early damage.

"They have been showing a lot of potential in the nets and we wanted to check them out in a game they came

out beautifully," said Atapattu.

The second match is in Colombo on Friday.

Meanwhile, England strike bowler Steve Harmison has been ruled out of the Test series against Sri Lanka with a back injury, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Wednesday.



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

The Durham paceman was sent home from Bangladesh last month after straining his back, missing the second Test.

"He bowled at the National Academy a week ago and he was sore for a few days afterwards," Peter Gregory, the ECB's chief medical

officer, said in a statement.

"Then he returned for a fitness test on Monday and, when bowling his second spell in the nets, it was clear that he could not continue."

Somerset seamer Richard Johnson will replace Harmison in the squad for the three-Test series, with the first match due to start in Galle on



STEVE HARMISON

December 2.

Harmison, 25, suffered the injury after his man-of-the-match performance in the opening Test against Bangladesh in Dhaka. He will continue his rehabilitation at the academy which is based at Loughbo-rough University.

## Zulu's case postponed

BBC ONLINE, undated

Lance Klusener's case against the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) has been postponed.

The all-rounder had sued the UCBSA for loss of earnings after being dropped for the tour to England.

The case, due to be heard by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration, was due to begin on November 19.

But the UCBSA says that is no longer the case. No date has been announced for the re-scheduled hearing.

A UCBSA spokesman said: "One of the lawyers is involved in another case so it cannot go ahead at the moment."

Klusener announced his intention to sue in early July.

The 32-year-old says the UCB told him he was "rested" for the tour to Bangladesh.

And he alleges he was promised a contract in time for South Africa's Test series against England.

Klusener says he would have pursued contracts with English counties if he had known he would not be re-employed by South Africa.

Klusener says he still "cares passionately" about South African cricket and the team.

## Man & machine draw the series

AFP, New York

Chess Grand Master Garry Kasparov drew the final game Tuesday of his man-versus-machine showdown with virtual reality supercomputer "X3D Fritz," leaving the match and honours shared at two points apiece.

Kasparov had entered the game under intense pressure with "X3D Fritz" having the advantage of the white pieces and looking to secure a famous victory over the chess legend.

However, Kasparov played with relaxed determination to force a draw on the 27th move of the game.

It was the 40-year-old Russian Grand Master's third series against a computer. He lost to IBM's Deep Blue in 1997 and tied with Deep Junior in February this year.

After Tuesday's match, a smiling Kasparov said he had been happy with his performances against both X3D Fritz and Deep Junior, which resulted in only two losses out of a total 10 games.

"I think the human player was dominant," Kasparov said.

"Both losses resulted from terrible, terrible blunders that were due to tremendous pressure. I was not outplayed by the computers and I kept a steady initiative throughout both matches," he said

## McInns

FROM PAGE 13

Zunaïd 37, Nazmul 25, Arif 24; Maxim 3-43, Shakti 2-46) and Second innings 26 for 1 in 7 overs (Ashiq 10 not out; Mazim 1-11)

ACC UNDER-19: First innings 227 all out in 77.3 overs (Shakti 84, Adnan 60; Nazmul 4-46)

Result: Match drawn.

## B'desh going

FROM PAGE 13

Islam, Shafiqul Islam, Towhidul Islam, Abdur Rouf, Kazi Yunus Ahmed, Enamul Haque, Rokonuzzaman, Altaf Hossain, KM Akhter Hamid (manager), Munir Hossain (Juri member), Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (referee), Jahangir Alam (assistant manager), Abdul hakim (coach) and Subimal Chandra Das (assistant coach).

## Balaji

FROM PAGE 13

in a statement.

"Team physio Andrew Leipus said Salvi will be out of action for at least three weeks," the statement added.

Salvi sustained the injury while bowling in the triangular TVS Cup one-day series final against world champions Australia at the Eden Gardens. He bowled just three overs for 23 runs in the final, won by Australia.

Meanwhile skipper Saurav Ganguly, who missed the final due to a groin strain, will be fit for the tour.

"There is nothing to worry," board chief Jagmohan Dalmiya said, adding the captain needed rest to be fully fit before the Australian series.

## India not after Akram

FROM PAGE 13

Ganguly as saying.

The brilliant 37-year-old left-arm retired from cricket in May with 414 Test wickets and a world record tally of 502 wickets in the shorter version of the game.

Akram has signed by Rupert Murdoch's television company, ESPN-Star Sports, to commentate on India's four-Test series in Australia starting next month.

The news that India was considering hiring Akram had an immediate impact in Pakistan where a petition was filed in a civil court in Lahore to stop the cricketer from coaching Indians.

"India is our enemy, and for money Akram should not be allowed to coach the enemy," petitioner Najmul Abbas told AFP. "Akram is like a nuclear weapon and with India due to come to

Pakistan next year, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) must stop him from grooming Indian fast bowlers."

The Indian government last month ended a three-year boycott of bilateral cricket matches against Pakistan, paving the way for the arch-rivals to schedule a long-awaited Test series in Pakistan in March-April next year.

India last played a Test match in Pakistan in 1989. Akram was the Pakistan captain during a three-Test tour of India in 1999.

PCB chief executive Rameez Raja, a former national captain, said Akram was free to take up any coaching assignments.

"It's his call and we have no objection to that," Raja told AFP.

The Indian team, which departs for Australia on Friday, includes three left-arm seamers Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra and rookie Irfan Pathan.

India open their tour of Australia with two warm-up matches before the first Test at the Gabba in Brisbane from December 4.

## Unstoppable Aussies

FROM PAGE 13

mid-on where Yuvraj Singh held an easy catch. He put on 80 for the third wicket with Ponting (36).

Michael Bevan, batting with a runner due to a hamstring injury, steered Australia past the 200-mark with an unbeaten 40. He added 65 for the unfinished sixth wicket with Clarke.

India had an opportunity to contain Australia below the 200-mark, but failed to cash in on the chances that came their way after the tourists had elected to bat.

Venkatsai Laxman, usually a safe fielder, was the chief culprit as he grassed as many as four catches.

Matthew Hayden (19) and Ponting each got two 'lives' while Bevan was let off even before he had reached double-figures.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the TVS Cup triangular one-day cricket series final between India and Australia at the Eden Gardens on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: 235 for 5 in 50 overs

(Martyn 61, Clarke 44, Bevan 40, Ponting 36; Zaheer 1-29, Kartik 1-30)

INDIA

Tendulkar b Bichel	45
Sehwag c and b Bracken	5
Laxman b Williams	22
Dravid b Clarke	49
Yuvraj c Hayden b Symonds	4
Badani c Symonds b Clarke	30
Agarkar not out	26
Kartik b Harvey	1
Zaheer b Harvey	0
Harbhajan c Symonds b Harvey	2
Salvi b Harvey	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-5)	14
Total: (All out in 41.5 overs)	198
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-36, 3-99, 4-110, 5-159, 6-168, 7-186, 8-186, 9-198	

Bowler O M R W

Bracken	8	1	15	1
Williams	7	1	30	1
Bichel	8	0	51	1
Harvey	4.5	0	21	4
Symonds	7	0	36	1
Clarke	7	1	36	2

Result: Australia win by 37 runs to lift the TVS Cup.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Clarke.

Man-of-the-series: Sachin Tendulkar.

## 'Freddie' to the fore

Cricket

REUTERS, London

There are many ways to skin cats. Jonny Wilkinson would probably accomplish it armed with sterilised surgical instruments and under laboratory conditions, his every move watched by a hand-picked team of advisers.

Andrew Flintoff, in contrast, would probably rely on his bare hands.

The two Englishmen are contrasting characters with contrasting approaches to their trades, the former prone to calm introspection and rigorous analysis, the latter rather less so.

They have one thing in common, though, both having been hailed as the best in their respective sporting fields.

Flintoff skinned his cat by topping the most recent PricewaterhouseCoopers rankings as the best all-rounder in the world.

That accolade is highly debatable, of course, the list reflecting performance rather than innate class.

But while the giant Lancastrian may not be blessed with the all-round gifts of Jacques Kallis or Shaun Pollock, he is certainly in the batting form of his life, and with the potential to improve

further.

Tuesday's Sri Lankan debacle apart and what a Dambulla debacle it was the 25-year-old has averaged more than 62 in his last 15 one-dayers and more than 52 in his last five Tests. In his last Test series against South Africa, he hit one century and three 50s in five matches.

Flintoff, though, deserves to be celebrated as much for the manner in which he plays as for the statistics.

Few players have ever struck a



ANDREW FLINTOFF

cricket ball more powerfully.

His 142 off 146 balls, including 102 in boundaries, at Lord's in July against the South Africans encapsulated the

## 'I'm not a duck'

AFP, Sydney

England flyer Jason Robinson swept aside suggestions on Wednesday that he and the other backs would prefer to play Australia in the rain declaring he was not a duck and wanted to handle the ball rather than chase it all round the ground.

The 29-year-old former rugby league superstar said that it was simply not true England played boring rugby but that because of the heavy rain that prevailed throughout their 24-7 victory over France in the semi-final they had played 'smart rugby'.

"Who wants to play in the rain?" asked Robinson, who was first capped in union in February 2001 and now has 27 to his name.

"I certainly don't, I'm not a duck.

"I don't like chasing balls round the pitch, I like to have the ball in my hands.

"The simple matter is that against France we played smart rugby," added Robinson, who has scored three tries in the tournament so far taking his tally to 15 for England.

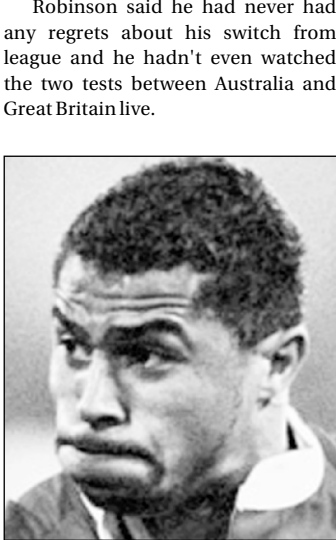
Robinson also refused to accept that league offered more opportunities for running with the ball, a reason given for several players in Australia returning to league from union.

"I don't think that is true that you get the ball more often in league.

"I have had matches in league when I have not received the ball,"

said the devout Christian, who listens to biblical teaching tapes when he is driving.

Robinson said he had never had any regrets about his switch from league and he hadn't even watched the two tests between Australia and Great Britain live.



JASON ROBINSON

"I certainly wasn't going to get up at four in the morning to watch it," said Robinson, who was capped seven times by England and 12 times by Great Britain at rugby league.

"I have never had any regrets about switching codes and here I am on the brink of playing in the World Cup final."

Robinson said it was exciting that Australia's back three were also

former rugby league stars including one of his idols Wendell Sailor and added that they brought different things to union from their code.

"Their running back of the ball and the ability to launch a counter attack makes them very difficult to control or to predict," said Robinson, whose surging run set up England's only try in the 28-17 quarter-final defeat of Wales.

"With the ball in their hands they are very dangerous and we have to make sure we tie them down."

However Robinson said that he was not just going to focus on his opposite number Lote Tuqiri, who was probably the most impressive of the former league boys in both the quarter-final victory over Scotland and the semi with the All Blacks.

"You do that and you are likely to slip up. Of course I will close him down but I won't allow his presence take my mind off the larger picture of the match."

Robinson denied the members of the England team that featured in the 2-1 Lions series defeat by Australia in 2001 were motivated solely with avenging the loss.

"The Lions episode does not motivate me in the slightest," said Robinson, who scored two tries in that series.

"We have put a lot of work into the World Cup and we haven't come here to be second."

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Goose jetsam

6 Under-stands inter-national?

12 Colorado city

13 Blue shade

14 "If music be the food of love, —" 50 Like Steve Austin

15 Guarantee 52 Stirred from slumber

16 Salad fish

17 TVA structures

19 A European mountain

20 Streak ender

22 "Chicago" lyricist

24 Sort

27 Brewery input

29 "Bolero" instrument

32 Historic auto-maker

35 "— ben Adhem"

36 Chapters in history

37 Mag. staffers

DOWN

1 South African tribe or tongue

2 Boxer Barkley

3 Trust-worthy

4 Magnon predecessor

5 Good-looking

6 Harsh

7 Wash off

8 Nincom-poop

9 Row

10 Knitter's stitch

11 Leak out slowly

12 Suitable

18 Malign

21 "Caught ya!"

Solution time: 27 mins.

ALP SHAD QUAD BOY MAGI USIR BARBIZON EASIR EDERLE GEE STRAIN CAT ARE WOUK TUT GRIN AGE HOP CREED BARBETT WOO RYE IMPUGN ALSO BARBECUE REIN ALER LAX MINX QTRD AMT

23 Halloween shout

24 Glass of public radio

25 Retriever variety

26 Wood flaw

28 Hasty and careless

30 Peculiar

31 Ar follower

33 Seek damages

34 "... rose — rose"

39 Tea party crasher

41 Hairnet

42 In dream-land, maybe

43 Trig function

45 Carol Higgins Clark novel

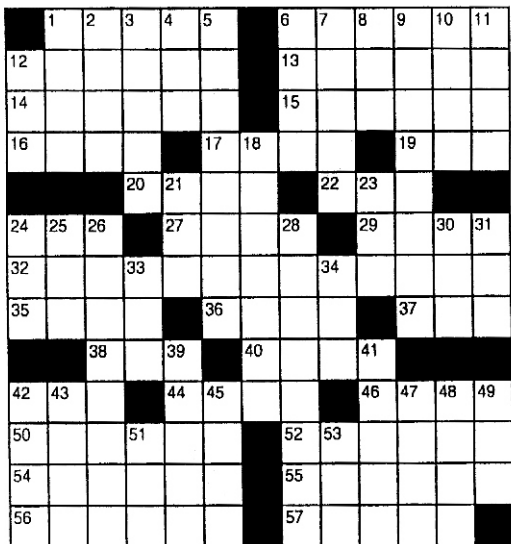
47 Gumbo ingredient

48 Requisite

49 Remnant

51 "Platoon" setting

53 Personal question?



CRYPTOQUIP

YGA TYIWV VARTMOEA SNA

FAGIR VA HOWY CR NCFOGQ

JIOSA C VORCMHOGQ

JICWOSU CEYIS OS

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: SINCE FEET USUALLY COME IN PAIRS, I SUPPOSE IT'S SAFE TO SAY THEY'RE SOLEMATES.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: V equals D

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.