

Mates' ODI lure to Warne

AFP, Melbourne

The chances of champion leg-spinner Shane Warne returning to international one-day cricket rose Thursday when Australian captain Ricky Ponting threw his support behind the idea. "I think Shane would love to play in the (2007) World Cup, there's a lot of time and a lot of cricket to be played between now and then," Ponting said.

Pak suffer Twenty20 loss



AFP, Adelaide

Australia A cruised to a 56-run victory over Pakistan in the first Twenty20 limited-overs cricket international played in the country here Thursday. The 20-over-a-side format which has taken England by storm seems to be just as popular in Australia, with more than 21,000 people packing into Adelaide Oval to watch the encounter.

who finished not out on 58 from 38 balls, and David Hussey, who smacked 50 from 44 balls. But apart from those two, batsmen on both sides found it difficult to sustain an innings of any notable length while constantly slogging. Australia A's next highest contributor was the 24 extras, which included six penalty runs for Pakistan failing to bowl its overs in the allotted 80 minutes.

Scoreboard table with columns: O, M, R, W. Includes batsmen like Hameed, White, Umar, and bowlers like Hafeez, Razzaq, Bracken.

MSC to organise school cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club will organise the Mohammedan-Dhaka Metropolis inter-school cricket tournament this year. Interested schools have been requested to send their entries to the popular club by January 28. There will be no entry fees.

Liza clinches Jr chess title

SPORTS REPORTER

Shamima Akhter Liza clinched the 25th National Junior (under-20) Chess Championship title when she beat Rezaul Islam in the eighth round at the BCF auditorium yesterday. Liza has maximum eight points with one round left.

Australian Open Federer, Lindsay top guns

REUTERS, Melbourne

Roger Federer and Lindsay Davenport have been named as the top seeds for the men's and women's singles at the Australian Open which starts on Monday. On-form Tim Henman, who faces Federer on Friday in the semi-finals of the Kooyong classic, is the number seven seed.



THE WINNING PARTNER: Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher poses with his wife Corinna, in the winter resort of Madonna di Campiglio, in the Dolomites area of northern Italy

Family means his success

REUTERS, Madonna Di Campiglio (Italy)

Ferrari's seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher believes his family deserve a share of the credit for his success in Formula One. "I think my family are a very underestimated support for me," Schumacher told a news conference at the team's winter retreat in the Dolomites.

on like Corinna and my kids. When they feel like they need to slow me down they pull the handbrake," he said. "They are there, we are together and we deal with any problems together and take strength out of that. "It is like any successful person in life that needs a very strong and good partner and a happy life around him -- that's pretty much necessary."

Sensational Strauss

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The left-handed Strauss raised his fifty off 95 balls and then took control with some finely-placed cuts and cover drives as he made his second half-century off just 60 deliveries. He century included 17 fours and six sixes. Strauss seldom looked in trouble after an edge off Shaun Pollock went dangerously close to AB de Villiers at gully when he was on 13.

SOUTH AFRICA: Smith, Gibbs, Rudolph, Kallis, Dippenaar, A de Villiers, Boucher, Pollock, Boje, Ntini, Steyn.



Andrew Strauss raises his bat after hitting a century during the first day of the fourth Test against South Africa in Johannesburg yesterday.

Key kept his normal attacking instincts in check as he reached 50 for only the fourth time in 14 Tests off 110 balls. He gave a hard caught and bowl chance to left-arm spinner Nicky Boje when he had 39.

Boje needed to leave the field briefly for treatment to a cut ring finger on his left hand, although he was able to return and resume bowling. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the fourth Test between South Africa and England at the Wanderers Stadium Thursday.

Scoreboard table with columns: O, M, R, W. Includes batsmen like Pollock, Ntini, Steyn, Kallis, Boje and bowlers like Vaughan, Thorpe, Flintoff, Jones, Giles, Hoggard, Anderson, Harmison.

"The other thing we've got to look at is that we want to bring younger players into our squad and Shane's all for that as well. "So if some of our young spinners such as Hauritz and White keep improving the way they have... Cameron has had a very good Australia A campaign and even the last few games for Victoria have been excellent. "I think Shane is very aware of that and if those guys don't come along as we would like, or he would like, I think he will consider it more."

Inzamam all

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It has proven very popular in England and capacity crowds of more than 20,000 watched the inaugural first-class match between state teams Western Australia and Victoria on Perth on Wednesday as well as the international at Adelaide Oval on Thursday. "Life is so busy and people have no time to see the five-day game, when there are soccer games that are one-and-a-half hours," Inzamam said. "People like this game and the players are also enjoying the game."

Amol crashes out

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Hsin-Han Lee and Man Fu Ko of Chinese Taipei won their boys' doubles tie against Aidil and Agung of Indonesia. In the girls' doubles, Ratchaya and Waratchaya of Thailand beat Sandri and Shwata of India 6-4, 6-3.

New Test, new target

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Just a weight. I am the one who gives meaning to that weight. Most of my teammates are pretty young and they don't understand the consequences of what will happen if we lose this match. I just hope that all the guys don't feel any pressure because of what has been happening in the past few months," he said referring to Zimbabwe's recent crisis after senior players led by former captain Heath Streak led a revolt over selection policy. Zimbabwe's bowling looked pretty ordinary in Chittagong but he said it did not worry him. "Our spinners did not come to the party but to be honest, I am really not worried. Our seamers really bowled tightly in spells and they provided us chances. And that is what we are asking for."

Zimbabwe lost to a more experienced Bangladesh side but he refused to make it as an excuse. "We have to adjust and play up to our ability. I don't think experience made the difference in Chittagong. We played good cricket and bad cricket in parts. We just need to get together," said the tiny but animated character. While Bangladesh retained the same eleven from the Chittagong Test, Zimbabwe dropped batsman Vusi Sibanda. They named a 12-member squad including Dion Ebrahim and Tinashe Panyangara who did not play in Chittagong. They also have doubts over their senior pacer Muleki Nkala who did not bowl in Bangladesh's second innings in Chittagong. Nursing a heel injury, Nkala will have to pass a fitness test this morning to be available for final selection. TEAMS Bangladesh: Habibur Bashar (captain), Nafees Iqbal, Javed Omar, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Ashraf, Aftab Ahmed, Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafe-Bin-Mortuza, Tapash Baisya and Enamul Haque. Zimbabwe (from): Tatenda Taibu (captain), Stuart Matsikenyeri, Barney Rogers, Dion Ebrahim, Hamilton Masakadza, Brendan Taylor, Elton Chigumbura, Graeme Cremer, Tinashe Panyangara, Christopher Mpofu, Douglas Hondo and Muleki Nkala. Umpires: Nadim Ghauri (Pakistan) and Gamini Silva (Sri Lanka)

Football's best

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Just like the rest of the international community, the worldwide football family is determined to do everything possible to help the individuals and football associations that have been so severely affected by the terrible tsunami tragedy. FIFA president Sepp Blatter said. UEFA president Lennart Johansson said that the tsunami tragedy had "provoked an unprecedented outpouring of solidarity around the globe. "The football community has a duty to be a party to this overwhelming demonstration of human togetherness," Johansson said. The death toll from the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Indian Ocean coastlines last month stood Thursday at almost 160,000.

Aus-WI VB Series opener

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(But) Clarke has probably got his nose in front for the opening role. "It's good to have Martyr and (Darren) Lehmann and those guys in the middle order. "If we get into early trouble they can shore things up and bat for long periods of time. "Katch will undergo a fitness test on Friday. But Ponting said he could be rested anyway, as Australia only has a one-day break before taking on Pakistan, the third team in the competition, in Hobart on Sunday. "With the sort of illness he's got it might just knock the wind out of his sails for game two if he happens to play the first game," Ponting said. "If we think he's fit enough to play he'll be given a chance."

The selectors have decided against adding an extra batsman to the squad, believing they have sufficient depth. "If Katch doesn't come up, (allrounders) Shane Watson and (Brad) Hogg can both play in the same side," said Ponting. "Watto's (Watson's) batting has improved for him almost to play as a specialist batsman in the one-day game anyway." One of the four Australian pacemen is set to carry the drinks. Australia are short-priced favourite to win the series, but Ponting said the West Indies showed their one-day credentials by winning the last three matches of the most recent seven-game series between the sides two years ago in the Caribbean. TEAMS AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (c), Adam Gilchrist, Michael Clarke, Jason Gillespie, Brad Hogg, Michael Kasprovic, Simon Katich, Shane Watson, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Andrew Symonds. WEST INDIES (from): Brian Lara (c), Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Marlon Samuels, Dwayne Bravo, Courtney Browne, Ian Bradshaw, Pedro Collins, Mervyn Dillon, Reon King, Ricardo Powell, Xavier Marshall.

Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) Public Notice Revision of Gas Tariff Pursuant to Memo No-Jalani (OPA-1)/6/2003(Part)/15, dated 11-01-2005 of Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources...

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 1 Get lost! 2 Half a 1980s quartet 11 In There" 12 Wards off 14 South American land 15 Mideast-ern land 16 Posses-sive pronoun 17 -numeral 19 Greek vowel 20 It takes the cake 22 "Platoon" setting 23 Not loose 24 Brought back 26 Tastes 28 Insult (Sl.) 30 Scale member 31 Any old person 35 Kid-lit author Dahl

CRYPTOQUIP BCWX MCVW MEVQQDU UZN CVIMWH MCW TXZBLVX ZXW LDRCM TVF QEZTMF BVT TMZNNWH UZJH Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF MY DINNER PLATE IS FOUR-CORNERED, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I EAT SQUARE MEALS.

Children united in various costumes in the 'Dress As You Like' event of the annual sports competition of Radiant International School at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex yesterday.