



South Africa paceman Shaun Pollock (R) stretches with teammates ahead of their practice match against Pakistan at the St. Mary's ground near Port of Spain on Wednesday.

Gilchrist backs

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break from cricket and have that more important business of family well and truly sorted."
In the meantime, Gilchrist said he was looking forward to facing England again although he insisted too much should not be read into the result of Friday's match.
"It's just another opportunity to become accustomed to conditions. It's been a good tussle and they (England) got the better of us at the end there. It will be a good challenge for us."

Flipside

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Douglas McWilliams, the report's author.
McWilliams said his independent consultancy estimates a loss of about 5.0 per cent of a day's gross domestic product for each day of the World Cup.
"This would cost the economy about 270 million pounds gross, just enough to be noticed in some of the monthly economic figures."

"England will also play Kenya on Saturday 24 March and the West Indies on Saturday 21 April, which could affect shopping," McWilliams said.

He added that most of the lost productivity would, however, likely be made up before the end of 2007. Meanwhile, people watching on big screens in clubs and pubs could spend an additional 20 million pounds for each match and there would be some additional spending on advertising and promotions associated with the competition, the CEBR said.
"England are by no means the favourites to win given their one day international performance in recent years. The estimates above therefore assume that England fail to make the finals," the report concluded.

"But, of course, if they do get to the final in Barbados on Saturday 28 April, we would need to do some further calculations. If they do so, it should be a further boost to clubs and pubs and a hit on Saturday afternoon shopping."

Fergie fancies

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"They won both legs and they did a good job of controlling tonight's match. Manchester deserve to have qualified but we can take heart from the fact that we matched them for long periods in both matches," Puel said.
"We played a solid match here, we just lacked that bit of quality in our finishing and final ball that might have allowed us to score the goal that would have enabled us to push Manchester all the way."
"That is a shame but we can take heart from the fact that we matched them for long periods in both matches."

Kaka ends

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flicked header cleared off the line in the 70th minute.
Paolo Maldini went agonisingly close after Boruc had spilled his header, but the Milan captain narrowly failed to get his toe to the loose ball.
Celtic than had claims for a penalty turned down when Shunsuke Nakamura, who spent three years in Italy with Serie A side Reggina, went down after colliding with Massimo Ambrosini.
Boruc produced a superb save to stop Seedor's drive from finding the top corner, before Kaka's sublime chip struck the Celtic crossbar in a frantic end to normal time.
Milan, who had 25 goal attempts in the 90 minutes, finally found a way through when Kaka drove at a backpedalling Celtic defence and coolly finished.

AFP, Port of Spain



All-rounder
Andrew Hall is happy to be South Africa's man for a crisis.
After all, after surviving getting shot at point-blank range during a robbery, the 31-year-old takes a game of cricket in his stride.
Never was that calm-headed approach more needed than on Monday when he rode to rescue South Africa from potential embarrassment against Ireland when, coming in at number nine with his team 91-8, he hit an unbeaten 67.
That helped South Africa to a respectable 192 before Hall then chipped in with the ball taking 3-26 as his team edged to a nervy 35-run win in the warm-up game.
"We back him 100 per cent, we

AFP, Kingston



India skipper
Rahul Dravid believes Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly as well as himself will be key to whether or not his side win the World Cup.
In a tournament where batsmen will again dominate, and in which many observers think the 500-run innings total will be smashed, Dravid knows that he and his experienced lieutenants have crucial roles to play.
"I believe that the experienced players who have been around a long time have got to do the difficult things, have got to do the things that are hard," he said.
Dravid, Tendulkar and Ganguly are members of a rare breed -- three men who have broken through the

REUTERS, Trelawny, Jamaica



Indian batsman
Yuvraj Singh wants to excel with both bat and ball at the World Cup after overcoming an injury that almost sidelined him for the showpiece event starting in West Indies next week.
The 25-year-old middle-order batsman shone with his power shots on debut as a teenager in 2000 and then overcame criticism of his attitude to mature into a dependable player and superb fielder in the last two years.
The Punjab player tore left knee ligaments in October to leave his team concerned for the World Cup but stroked a series-winning 95 not out at home against Sri Lanka last month to display his form and fitness.
"I've worked really hard on my fitness," Yuvraj told reporters on Wednesday. "It wasn't easy coming back from such an injury but you have to build on it."
"I'm sure by the time I play my first game on 17th, I'll be 100 per cent."
"That innings (95 not out) was very important for me to build up for the World Cup because I was out for four months and had no

back his ability especially in tight situations," said South Africa coach Mickey Arthur. "The performance (against Ireland) proved how valuable he is to our World Cup squad."
Hall is the template for the typical all-round, reliable one-day cricketer. Against Ireland, he batted at nine; at other times in his international career, he has been promoted to opener.
In 76 one-day appearances, he has hit 843 runs and taken 79 wickets.
His low-key approach is no doubt inspired by the terrifying moment in 1998 when he was shot at six times by a robber in a late-night attack outside a cash-dispensing machine.
One bullet lodged in his left hand but it didn't stop him winning a place in the squad to face the West Indies in 1999.
He played just once and was left out until 2003 when he was recalled to face Australia and hit a breezy 46

in his first game against an attack featuring Brett Lee.
Despite his ups and downs both on and off the field, Hall doesn't get too carried away.
"I'm glad to make a contribution and I would like to continue the good cricket I've been playing. I'm comfortable with my cricket at the moment," he said.
Meanwhile, South Africa face Pakistan here in their final warm-up on Friday with Arthur hoping to see conditions at the Sir Frank Worrell ground a little quicker.
"It looked a good wicket (against Ireland), nothing wrong with it. It might have done a bit more in the morning, but a really good wicket."
After Friday's match South Africa head to St Kitts for their opening Group A matches against defending champions Australia, Scotland and the Netherlands.

Dravid banking on middle-order

10,000-run barrier in one-day cricket.
The captain has 10,044 from 310 games, Tendulkar a staggering 14,783 in 381 and Ganguly, now restored to the team after a controversial absence, 10,470 in 286 appearances.
"We've got a lot of experience, we've played a lot of cricket so we feel that during those middle overs we can do a job for the team and also, I think even when chasing, and finishing games," he explained.
"I see myself along with people like Yuvraj (Singh) and (Mahendra Singh) Dhoni as people who can stay to the end and try to finish games and play according to the situation."
Dravid and Tendulkar were quickly into the runs on Tuesday in the opening warm-up match against the Netherlands with the captain making 74 and Tendulkar 61 as India piled up 300 and then bowled

out the Dutch for 118.
However, they face a sterner test on Friday when they take on hosts West Indies at the Trelawny stadium in their final warm-up.
"It's good to take this (their form against the Netherlands) forward into the game against the West Indies," Dravid told the Jamaica Gleaner newspaper.
"These games allow you to play as many players as possible. We're still trying to fine-tune a few things."
"We're pretty comfortable in our minds and we know what sort of scores we're likely to play in the tournament so it's really a chance to give everyone in the squad a good bowling opportunity, and as much time in the middle with whatever skill they're doing."
After Friday's match India head for Trinidad for their opening round Group B games against Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bermuda.

Yuvraj exudes confidence

runs behind me."
India face group B opponents Bangladesh in their first match on March 17 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.
Sri Lanka and Bermuda are the other teams in the group.
Yuvraj, an outstanding fielder at point, grabbed four wickets bowling his slow left-arm spin in the 182-run victory over unfancied Netherlands on Tuesday.
Skipper Rahul Dravid praised the youngster as key to the team's search for an effective fifth bowler.
However, the main focus on Yuvraj -- with 4,412 runs from 163 one-dayers -- will be his batting.
He has scored fifty or more 33 times, including seven hundreds and India have lost only eight of those matches.
"I've had a good run in the one-dayers in the last two years," he said. "Whenever I go in to bat, I think I need to play till the end, finish the game off."
"The captain has faith in me and that is what I'm going to try and do in this World Cup."
"I'm very happy my contributions have ended up in the team winning. I'll be the happiest to contribute to the team's victory every time but it is not possible all the time."
However, Yuvraj felt it would

not be easy for batsmen.
"The ball doesn't come on to the bat so you have to spend time in the middle, assess the wicket, opposition and what score you need to put on the board."
He is expected to team up as a part-time spin bowlers with Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag.
"That is an advantage in my team, it is easy to find a fifth bowler," said Yuvraj, rating highly the title hopes.
"We play well in such wickets in India also," he said. "But it is going to be do-or-die for every team."

Abahanis

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players, defender Mariano Carlos Caporale who played for Mexican first division club Monterrey and striker Hector Hernandez Parodi, an Argentine B Division recruit.
The sky-blues, who entertain Chittagong Mohammedan in the third week, have yet to get the ITCs Argentine midfielder Mariano Cesar Sanchez -- who transfers from Italian Serie B side Napoli -- and Ghana's Ibrahim, who played for them in the last season.

Kalindi, St Joseph's win big

SPORTS REPORTER

St Joseph's amassed 415 runs in 49.1 overs on way to a 244-run victory against Ali Ahmed High School in yesterday's Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket Tournament.
Rafsanjani cracked 98 off 48 balls for St Joseph's, who dismissed their rivals for 180 at the Kalindi cricket ground.
Parjoar Kalindi High School recorded an identical 244-run win after scoring 378 against Muradpur Adarsha School, who managed 134 in reply.
In other matches, Rajuk Uttara Model bowled out Bangladesh International School for 44 in a 194-run win, KL Jubilee School edged St Gregory's by 18 runs while Dhaka Government Muslim School beat Islamia Government School by 29 runs.

Border under investigation

AFP, Sydney

Former Australian cricket captain Allan Border on Thursday admitted authorities were investigating his tax affairs but insisted he had done nothing wrong.
Border confirmed reports he had been questioned by Australian tax officials conducting an extensive probe into offshore tax havens used by high-profile sports, entertainment and business personalities.
"I am reasonably relaxed. I have been in touch with the tax office via my accountants and hopefully it will be sorted out," he said on ABC radio.
Record-breaking Test spinner Shane Warne and "Crocodile Dundee" actor Paul Hogan are among scores of other high-income earners reportedly already questioned by officers from the tax probe, codenamed Project Wickenby.
The Sydney Morning Herald reported tax officials had interviewed Border and other Australian cricketers about money earned in England and banked in tax havens.
Border said the investigators questioned him about the operation of one particular account.
"Hopefully, I have answered them satisfactorily," he said. "It was just the easiest way of accessing funds when you are overseas and working away from home."
"That is the reason I had them. I haven't had them for a number of years because I don't need them any more."
"But, yeah, look it's just one of those situations that hopefully gets sorted out very quickly."

Dhaka catch

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Haque top scored with 37.
SCORES IN BRIEF
SYLHET: 305 and 311-6 declared in 107.2 overs (Imtiaz 36, Rahman 21, Mabud 14, Kapali 104, Mawla 96, Saif 21 n.o., Hasibul 6 n.o., extras 13, Sharif 1-42, Sunny 1-80, Mosharraf 3-75).
DHAKA: 325 and 110-3 in 32 overs (Uttam 9, Rashedul 37, Anwar 33, Shamsur 14 n.o., Kamrul 7 n.o. extras 10, Shirhan 1-20, Kapali 1-30).
Result: Match drawn.

Symonds

FROM PAGE 21
returning for Australia's opening contest of the World Cup against Scotland on Wednesday. "Symonds and Hayden have been doing their fair share of training over the last week," Ricky Ponting said in The Australian. "They have both had bats in their hand. Matty has had a couple of really good hits the last couple of days."

Bayern dump

FROM PAGE 24
after squabbling in the build-up to the penalty which will now keep van Bommel out of the quarterfinal.
Real defender Sergio Ramos netted late on, but to the relief of the home fans the goal was disallowed after he controlled the ball with his hand.

Capello staying

FROM PAGE 24
media) with Capello.
After the match in Germany he said simply: "My future depends on the chairman."
But the former Juventus coach also insisted bitterly that Real had thrown the tie away with bad mistakes.
"We gave them a gift," he said after Bayern's Dutch striker Roy Makaay scored the fastest goal in Champions League history when he put the Germans ahead after just 10 seconds when Hasan Salihamidzic stole possession from Real defender Roberto Carlos.
"That was incredible - but that's football," Capello sighed.
"We gave them two gifts - the van Bommel goal in the first leg and this one for Makaay tonight," he opined.

Bracewell sounds caution

REUTERS, Bridgetown



New Zealand coach John Bracewell said his team had received a timely "wake-up call" after their winning streak was snapped by Bangladesh in a World Cup warm-up match.
The Kiwis had been expected to carry on from the stunning 3-0 rout of champions Australia last month but they came unstuck on Tuesday when Bangladesh pulled off an unlikely two-wicket victory in the 3Ws stadium.
"It's either the best thing that could have happened to us or the worst thing. We're going to look at it as the best thing," Bracewell told reporters on Wednesday.
"It's a wake-up call. (It gave us a chance to) get used to the conditions and respecting opposition that we're going to come across in our pool play."
New Zealand will face Sri Lanka

in their final warm-up game on Friday before beginning their World Cup campaign on March 16 against England.
With minnows Canada and Kenya lined up as their other opponents in Group C, Bracewell admitted his team can no longer take victory for granted against the smaller nations.
"Teams that you're expected to beat but if you're complacent and not quite ready, then on these sorts of wickets they can kick your butt," he said.
"We came across a reasonably sticky surface yesterday, a lot slower, even a lot slower than the wickets we practice on. It was a bit tacky in the morning and it gives us an indication of what the 9.30 starts are going to be like."
"Then it's that matter of getting through those first 15 overs of that tackiness if you're going to bat first, making sure you've got wickets in hand."
"It was also interesting to see the wicket take a lot more turn in the afternoon than it did in the early part

of the day. There were a lot of things to learn out of the game and we're going to take the positives from it."
Sri Lanka had also played their opening warm-up match on the same ground but had no problem beating Scotland by 159 runs.
With such an authoritative display on the ground that had caused New Zealand so much grief, Bracewell now believes the Asian side could be one of the front-runners for the title.
"We must execute up front with both bat and ball," he said.
"We need to take the intensity up another notch. Sri Lanka, given my observation of their game against Scotland, they have probably shifted as one of the tournament favourites as they have greater flexibility across the board for these conditions, with their spin and upfront swingers."
"They probably have the best tools available and we have to adapt to that very quickly," he added.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Sharmin Sultana Shirin shared lead with defending champion IWM Rani Hamid in the Aromatic Gold 28th National Woman's Chess Championship with maximum four points.
Both the leading women won their fourth round matches yesterday, Shirin beating Mimi Arjuman and Rani topping Mahmuda Haque Moly at the federation hall-room.
Shamima Akhter Liza and Zakia Sultana followed the leaders with three points each.
In other fourth round games, Liza beat Mehnaz Ahmed Mithila, Zakia beat Kishwara Shajrin Evana, Hamida Rahman beat Nazrana Khan Eva and Masuda Begum beat Farzana Hossain Annie.

NATIONAL CHESS QUALIFIERS
Meanwhile, the 33rd National Chess Championship qualifiers will begin on March 17. All players rated above 2100 and selected players from Dhaka, city, district sports associations, universities and other affiliated organisations have been requested to enrol their names by March 15.

JFA CUP
Kishoreganj and Chittagong won their respective matches in the final round of the 3rd JFA Cup at the Army Stadium.
Second half goals by Atique and Shahid helped Kishoreganj blank

Khulna 2-0 while Jobel's 58-minute strike gave Chittagong a solitary goal victory against Sirajganj.
COLLEGE HANDBALL
Beer Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf College retained the Exim Bank inter-college handball title when they snatched an exciting final against Imperial College 15-14 at the Dhaka handball ground. There was some solace for Imperial, who also finished runners-up last year, as their Liakat was adjudged the player of the meet. Government Bangla College drubbed Scholastica 20-3 to clinch third place.
DIV 1 BADMINTON
Biman's men's and women's teams both won their Fahami Group First Division Badminton League matches in straight sets at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium.
In the men's competition, Biman trounced Surjo Torun 5-0 while Gulshan SC and Ahban Badminton Club also won by identical margins over Tejgunipara KS and Shahbagh Badminton Club respectively. The Biman eves blanked Surjo Torun 3-0.
OPEN SQUASH
Bishu Nath of Gulshan Club defeated Jain Omar 10-8, 9-2, 9-4 in the Premier Division of Sharp Blade Open Squash tournament. In Division C, Jashimuddin, Asifuddin, Toufique Rahman, Iqbal Khan and Monty won their respective matches.

ORCA CRICKET
The inter-house cricket competition of the Old Rajshahi Cadets Association (ORCA) will begin today at 9am. The daylong meet will be played at the Wapda ground in Banani.
ANNUAL SPORTS
Shahadat Hossain of Bengali department maintained his supremacy in the annual athletics meet of the Kabi Jashimuddin Hall when he emerged champion for the eighth time in a row. This time, however, he had to share the honours with Anwar Hossain of Islamic Studies. Faisal Ahmed of Law finished runner-up. A total of 200 students competed in 15 events at the Jagannath Hall ground.
ESS SPORTS
Qazi Abdul Wadud, a student of Class VIII, won the prestigious 100m sprint in the annual sports of European Standard School (ESS). Hundreds of students contested in the two-day meet at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.
Prof Hironmoy Sen Gupta distributed prizes as chief guest on the concluding day. Directors of ESS Prof Nurul Islam, Engineer Abdullah, Zareen Alam, Morshedul Islam and Ranadev Das Gupta were also present.



A student receives her medal from ESS director Engineer Abdullah on Thursday, the concluding day of the school's annual sports, at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex.

Vaughan to play against Aus

AFP, Kingston



England coach Duncan Fletcher said Fletcher of Vaughan at England's hotel on Thursday. "He's slowly increasing that workload and he will increase that workload against Australia where he will probably only field for 25, 30 overs.
"As long as he has done enough work, which we know he has, putting a lot of work into his legs to get his hamstring right and a lot of fitness work in the gym, so I don't think it will be too much of a problem."
Vaughan made 18 against Bermuda and looked in no discomfort during his brief innings and fielding stint in that match.
"From a batting point of view, he's batted as much as he could and hopefully he gets another good knock tomorrow (Friday)," said Fletcher.
"We're pretty confident it won't have much of an effect going into that game against New Zealand."
England have won their last three one-day internationals against Australia, including a 2-0 tri-series final triumph, and although Fletcher would welcome another victory, he said he planned to use 13 players in Friday's match to have a look at England's bowling options.
"We're not 100 per cent sure on what combination we are going to

March 16.
"He's building up quite nicely," said Fletcher of Vaughan at England's hotel on Thursday. "He's slowly increasing that workload and he will increase that workload against Australia where he will probably only field for 25, 30 overs.
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"We're not 100 per cent sure on what combination we are going to

go with," said Fletcher, who stressed pacemen Jon Lewis (ankle) and Jimmy Anderson (back) could still force their way in after missing the Australia finale.
"We finished off with a group of bowlers who did well for us in Australia but we still believe we've got two other good bowlers in Jon Lewis and Jimmy Anderson so it's going to be a difficult decision as to who we leave out and who we bring in."
Looking at the significance of Friday's match, Fletcher said: "It could be pretty crucial, it would be nice to win another game against Australia."
"But it's a difficult game because we want to have a look at some players and how we use them could be very important."
Fletcher said he expected Australia, who thrashed Zimbabwe by 106 runs in their first warm-up game, to adopt a similar approach. "They will probably use it in the same way."
"If they use it as a practice game there might not be as much significance as people make out. We will just have to see how the game unfolds."