

PARSVNATH OPEN CHESS 7th place for GM Zia

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman clinched seventh place in the Sixth Parsvnath Open International chess tournament which concluded in Delhi on Sunday.

The Bangladeshi GM finished with eight points after drawing with Indian GM Abhijit Kunte in the tenth and final round. Zia earned Indian Rs. 35,000 as prize money.

Indian GM Abhijit Gupta emerged champion with nine points while another local GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly finished runner-up with 8.5 points.

Bangladesh FM finished 38th with seven points while IM Enamul Hossain Rajib 40th with 6.5 points.

Sohel Chowdhury, the other Bangladeshi participant who tallied five points, was placed 187th among 392 players from different countries including 15 GMs and 25 IMs.

Amer, Asri in boys' final

UNB, Dhaka

Naouf Amer of Syria and Merzuki Mohd Asri of Malaysia moved into the boys' singles final of the Mobil ITF Asian 14/Under Asian Tennis Championships yesterday.

In the semifinals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna, Amer outclassed Syed Naguib (Malaysia) 6-4, 6-1 while Asri blanked Reda Mohamed of Kuwait 6-3, 6-2.

In the girls' singles, Malaysian players Boey Adelle and Selvarajoo set a final clash after eliminating their respective opponents in the semis.

Adelle beat her compatriot Choc Lyn Yee 6-1, 0-6, 6-2 while Selvarajoo defeated Mtwé Zin Mar of Myanmar 6-4, 6-2.

Earlier in the boy's singles quarterfinals, Hasibul Haque of Bangladesh went down to Asri 2-6, 7-5, 3-6 while another Bangladeshi player Biplab Ram conceded defeat to Amer 1-6, 4-6.

School kabaddi

UNB, Dhaka

Ansar and VDP High School emerged champions in the boys' section of the Dhaka Deputy Commissioner School kabaddi competition beating Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rauf School and College 44-40 in the final at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court yesterday.

In the women's section, Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rauf School and College clinched the title, outplaying Siddheshwari Girls' High School 41-29 in the final at the same venue.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Iqram Ahmed witnessed the finals as chief guest and distributed prizes.

5 fifties power

FROM PAGE 17 Zimbabwe at the National Stadium in Karachi on Monday:

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes names like Jamshed, Chibhabha, Younis, etc.

ZIMBABWE

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Media cricket

FROM PAGE 17 Habibul Bashar, former BCB general secretary Aminul Haque Moni, cricket coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury and chief executive of Transcom Beverages Limited Golam Qudus Chowdhury and Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) officials were also present.

BSJA organised the 24-team meet, a regular event of local journalists.



PHOTO STAR

Tournament committee chairman and former national captain Zakaria Pintoo (R) addressing a press conference at the club tent yesterday in connection to this month's Victory Day football tournament to be organised by Mohammedan Sporting Club.

V-DAY FOOTBALL

Mohammedan in no doubt

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite the footballers' threat to boycott all competitions, Mohammedan Sporting Club officials were confident they would be able to start the Protiti Pharma Victory Day Cup football tournament on schedule.

The eight-team event is due to kick off on January 26 at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan's additional secretary Mostaqur Rahman said at a press conference yesterday that they were not worried about the threat because the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Sunday confirmed it would announce the transfer date and the yearly calendar immediately, which is the demand of the footballers.

Tournament committee chairman and former Bangladesh football captain Zakaria Pintoo

announced that their preparation has all but completed for the meet.

"We are ready to stage the tournament. The members of the Swadhin Bangla Football Team have long wanted to host a victory day football tournament since and it is a dream come true for us," said the former defence stalwart, who was the captain of the Swadhin Bangla Football Team.

"We thank Mohammedan who have come forward to make it possible.

Country's professional league champions Abahani will take on Badda Jagarini in the inaugural match following a brief opening ceremony.

Mohammedan, Muktiyoddha, Arambagh, Victoria, Youngmen's Club, Fakirerpool and Dhaka Wanderers are the other teams to participate.

Former adviser to Caretaker

Government and regulatory reform commission chairman Dr Akbar Ali is expected to inaugurate the tourney.

Pintoo said they want to revive the glory of the game with this tournament, which he believes will bring the crowd back.

Mohammedan general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan said they will give free entry to school students.

Sponsor Protiti Pharma will provide Tk 3 lakh while co-sponsors Walton and G Hanz will give other prizes.

Tournament committee secretary Jahirul Haq Chowdhury, former national booter Jahirul Islam, Kaiser Hamid, Khorshed Babul, Protiti Pharma's business development manager Habibur Rahman, Walton's assistant director (communications) Humayun Kabir were also present on the occasion.

Favourites gather steam

FROM PAGE 17 From Polish qualifier Marta Domachowska 6-4, 6-4.

Another Pole, Agnieszka Radwanska, is also safely through after upsetting 14th seeded Russian Nadia Petrova 1-6, 7-5, 6-0. Her reward is a meeting with ninth seed Daniela Hantuchova, who beat 27th seed Maria Kirilenko.

Justine Henin, Maria Sharapova, Serena Williams and Jelena Jankovic fill out the quarter-final line-up.

Williams, a six-time Grand Slam champion still searching for her first Australian title, had her right leg heavily strapped high up around the thigh, but she said it was nothing major.

"I've got a little something going on but it's not going to hurt anybody," said the seventh seed, adding that her failure to win the title in Melbourne was a key motivator.

"I've come close here before but my little sister Serena has taken it away from me," she said.

"To win the singles would be a dream come true. But I have a lot of respect for Ana and won't be taking her lightly."

She next plays fourth seed Ana Ivanovic, who lost concentration against unheralded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, admitting she was sleepwalking for periods of her match against the 17-year-old Dane.

The Serb finally roused herself to score a 6-1, 7-6 (7/2) win.

"I played very well in the beginning and started to get a little bit tired in the second and a little bit sleepy," she said.

"This is the first time I've played

the first (morning) match and I was sleeping in through the whole week really long in the morning, today I had to wake up really early."

But she said she was ready to take revenge against Williams, who beat her at the last two Grand Slams -- US Open and Wimbledon.

"It's exactly the time for some revenge," she said.

Ghana ride

FROM PAGE 20 corner to send a deafening roar into the sky above the packed stadium where Ghana president John Kufuor was watching.

However, in the 65th minute the crowd's celebrations were cut short when Guinea drew level.

Kalabre made up for his earlier indiscretion when heading straight at Richard Kingstone in the Ghana goal, the Birmingham City stopper fumbling the ball over the line.

That left a nerve jangling final quarter of an hour for the hosts who had identified this as a must-win match in their bid for a record-equaling fifth title.

LeRoy brought on Andre Ayew as a late substitute and the move almost proved inspirational as, with his first kick, the Marseille midfielder forced Camara into a brilliant reflex save from close range.

But in the end it was Muntari who saved the day, his 89th minute shot flying past the diving Camara to give LeRoy and the rest of the crowd the perfect result.

Hollywood

FROM PAGE 17 England, stacked with county and semi-professional players, needed one run to win with two balls left to claim the Hollywood Ashes trophy from the Australian team that included British Open golf champion Ian Baker-Finch, seven-time women's world surfing champion Layne Beachley, and actor Cameron Daddo.

Beachley showed she was almost as handy with a cricket bat as a surfboard, smashing four runs off five balls.

The game came down to Aussie fast bowler turned TV personality, Mike Whitney, bowling the final over against England test batsman, Robert Key.

Key, sadly for the largely Australian crowd who enjoyed 5-dollar Boag's beers and Four'n Twenty meat pies -- both hard-to-find commodities in the US -- scored the winning run, guiding his team passed Australia's total of 182.

Key opened the batting and finished the game with 51 not out. Waugh -- playing his first game of cricket since retiring in 2004, scored 40 runs off 26 balls, including one six that nearly wiped out Gibson in the VIP tent -- did not seem too upset about the loss until a reporter asked him when was the last time he lost to England.

He thought for a few seconds. "That's a good question," Waugh pondered.

"Quite a while. It's going to hurt tonight now I think about it. Thanks mate."

"I had already been feeling quite frustrated at just sitting around and having to watch my team-mates batting out in the middle without any contribution from me," Gayle said. "This injury update only made me feel worse. I therefore spoke to team management and the WIBC chief executive, Dr. Donald Peters, who was here in South Africa, and expressed the view that it would be best for me to head back to the Caribbean immediately and focus on recovering fully. Sitting on the sidelines was really beginning to affect me."

"We will be hosting two top teams, Sri Lanka and Australia, in the coming months and I definitely want to be 100 per cent fit for those matches. So leaving the tour is the most logical step at this stage."

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First win for Wanderers

SPORTS REPORTER

Hiron Joarder's 83rd minute strike ended Dhaka Wanderers' poor run in the Senior Division Football League when they recorded their first victory beating Mohakhali XI 1-0 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

After four matches, Wanderers stretched their tally to five points while Mohakhali stuck to one point after three outings.

Old-timers Victoria and Wari shared a 1-1 draw in the day's other match.

Mobarak shot Wari ahead after just seven minutes but the lead did not last long as Mithun equalised for Victoria seven minutes later.

Victoria moved closer to the top with eight points after four matches while Wari's collection raised to five, also from four games.

Youngmen's Club play City Club and Arambagh face Agrani Bank in today's matches.

Friendly cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Eastern Bank Limited beat Standard Chartered Bank by five wickets in a friendly cricket match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Standard Chartered were all out for 190 in 34.5 overs with Mostofa top-scoring with 45. Shuvro took three wickets while Talha and Rana took two each.

In reply, EBL won with four balls to spare in the 35-over-a-side match with handy contributions from Kiron (37), Saadullah (36). Mostofa was the star performer with the ball for Standard Chartered, picking three wickets.

Managing director of EBL Ali Reza Iftekhar was present during the match.

Ansar win by 7 wickets

SPORTS REPORTER

Ansar & VDP earned a seven-run victory over Ispahani Sporting Club in the final round of the Parachute Women's Open Cricket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Ansar batted first to score 133-9 in the stipulated 35 overs with number seven Shamima and Chamely scoring 19 each.

Highest contribution came from extras at 27. Skipper Salma, Jahanara and Rumana bagged two wickets each.

Replying to a moderate target, Ispahani Sporting Club were bundled out for 126 in 34.5 overs with captain Salma top-scoring with 41 while Jahanara could put some resistance making 17.

Soheli and Shamima took two wickets apiece. Salma of Ispahani Sporting Club was later adjudged player-of-the-match.

Injured Gayle

FROM PAGE 17

in the second Test in Cape Town, has entrusted Bravo to steer the ship in his absence - but he too is combating his own injury after picking up a side strain during the Test series.

"I had already been feeling quite frustrated at just sitting around and having to watch my team-mates batting out in the middle without any contribution from me," Gayle said. "This injury update only made me feel worse. I therefore spoke to team management and the WIBC chief executive, Dr. Donald Peters, who was here in South Africa, and expressed the view that it would be best for me to head back to the Caribbean immediately and focus on recovering fully. Sitting on the sidelines was really beginning to affect me."

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Press salute Perth win

Cricket

APP, New Delhi

The Indian media on Sunday joined former players in saluting the brilliant win over Australia in Perth, saying it was the cricket-mad nation's greatest Test victory.

Leading newspapers front-paged Saturday's 72-run triumph in the third Test on Australia's favourite hunting ground that ended the world champions' 16-match winning streak.

For most, it seemed the perfect response after the acrimonious second Test in Sydney which ended with Indian captain Anil Kumble saying "only one team was playing in the spirit of the game."

India, having lost the Sydney match in the penultimate over of the final day, were angered by dubious umpiring and the three-Test ban handed out to Harbhajan Singh for alleged racial abuse towards Andrew Symonds.

Former captain and batting great Sunil Gavaskar was convinced it was India's greatest Test win since he began playing international cricket in 1970.

"For a team to come back after being 2-0 down in the world champions' own backyard and win on what is regarded as the fastest wicket in the world is an unbelievable achievement," Gavaskar said on television.

"I have not seen anything like this in the last 40 years."

Gavaskar's sentiment was shared by the Hindustan Times whose front page headline read: "Ecstasy -- India's greatest Test win ever."

"In a way it all began in Sydney," the newspaper's correspondent wrote. "Done in by atrocious umpiring and reeling from the three-match ban on Harbhajan Singh, Team India closed ranks."

"Perth, reputedly the world's fastest pitch, was supposed to be Australia's impregnable bastion, the battleground where India would be humiliated."

"Instead, the entire squad combined to script one of the most romantic tales in a sport replete with instances of the improbable -- and posted one of India's finest victories ever."

"Indians Fix Cocky Aussies", screamed the banner headline in the Mail Today tabloid, adding "it was sweet revenge after being done in by the umpires in Sydney."

"Aussies knocked off their Perth," said the Times of India while the Indian Express called it the "Sweetest Revenge."

The Hindu wrote: "Divorced from context, the third Test rates as a fabulous game of cricket, contested by two exceptionally gifted sides."

"Seen in the light of last fortnight's tumult, its significance is elevated."

The firmness of purpose India exhibited had a certain nobility to it."

Former captain Kapil Dev, who led India to its only limited-overs World Cup title in 1983, said Kumble's team deserved all the accolades that came its way.

"One of the best no doubt, but Kolkata was better," the legendary all-rounder said, referring to the 2001 series in which India fought back to record a 2-1 win over Steve Waugh's Australians.

Having lost the first Test and made to follow-on 274 runs behind in the second Test in Kolkata, the Indians rode on an extraordinary 281 from Venkatesh Laxman to turn the tables on the world conquering Aussies.

The Indians not only ended a previous 16-match winning streak by the Australians, but went on to win the final Test in Chennai, prompting Waugh to dub India as the "final frontier."

Kapil hoped Kumble's side will go on to win the final Test starting in Adelaide on Thursday and square the series 2-2.

"The boys should not let up from here," he said. "The entire country is behind them and there is no reason why we cannot win in Adelaide where the wicket suits us."

India had won the Adelaide Test on the previous tour of Australia in 2003-04 under Sourav Ganguly's captaincy.

JP fires SA home

Cricket

APP, Centurion

Jean-Paul Duminy was hailed a potential future star after guiding South Africa to a six-wicket win in the first one-day international against the West Indies at Centurion Park Sunday.

The left-hander made a career-best unbeaten 79 as South Africa overhauled a West Indian total of 175 with two overs to spare in a match reduced by rain to 36 overs a side.

Duminy, 23, came in after South Africa lost their first two wickets for four runs. He shared stands of 55 for the third wicket with Jacques Kallis, 59 for the fourth wicket with Justin Ontong and an unbeaten 58 for the fifth wicket with Mark Boucher.

"Full credit to JP as a youngster under pressure," said Boucher, speaking on behalf of captain Graeme Smith, who was receiving treatment after suffering a knee injury while fielding.

"This innings is going to go a long way to building a lot of confidence for the future."

Man-of-the-match Duminy said: "I'm very happy so see the team through and hopefully this is the start of things to come."

The Duminy-Ontong stand was crucial. The two inexperienced batsmen came together when rain was falling and South Africa were behind according to the Duckworth/Lewis method.

"My heart was pumping at about 180," said Duminy of the pressure-packed period when it looked as though rain could stop play at any moment. He and Ontong first got South Africa ahead of the required rate, then set up a comfortable win as the weather improved, with the West Indians having increasing difficulty in controlling a wet ball.

West Indian captain Dwayne Bravo, who said before the match he did not expect to bowl for another week because of a side strain, brought himself on and after starting with a wide dismissed Ontong for 23 with a spectacular catch off his own bowling, racing down the pitch and diving full length after the ball looped up off the splice of the bat.

"We were a bowler short and it would have been difficult for (off-spinner) Marlon (Samuels) to bowl in these conditions," he said.

The West Indies were floundering at 81 for six after being sent in to bat in seam-friendly conditions when play

started three-and-a-quarter hours late. They achieved a competitive total through a 69-run seventh wicket stand between Ramako Morton (41) and Darren Sammy (51), the last reputable batsmen in their side.

Sammy reached a maiden international half-century with a flurry of hitting. His innings included three sixes, including two off successive balls from Albie Morkel in the penultimate over.

Sammy was dropped at long-on by substitute fielder Johan Botha off Morkel when he was on 23 and should have been run out on 49 by a flick onto the stumps by Boucher when he was casual about making his ground.

Fast bowler Dale Steyn took two for 24 and Andre Nel two for 36. Shaun Pollock, playing in his

final series after announcing his retirement from international cricket, took one for 19 with an immaculate spell with the new ball and contributed to two run-outs with accurate throws from the deep.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**WEST INDIES:** 175 all out in 35.5 overs (Sammy 51, Morton 41, Parchment 19, Chanderpaul 17; Steyn 2-24, Nel 2-36)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 176 for 4 in 34 overs (Duminy 79 not out, Boucher 26, Kallis 24, Ontong 23; Edwards 1-27)

**Result:** South Africa won by six wickets.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Jean-Paul Duminy.  
**Second match:** Jan 25, day-night.

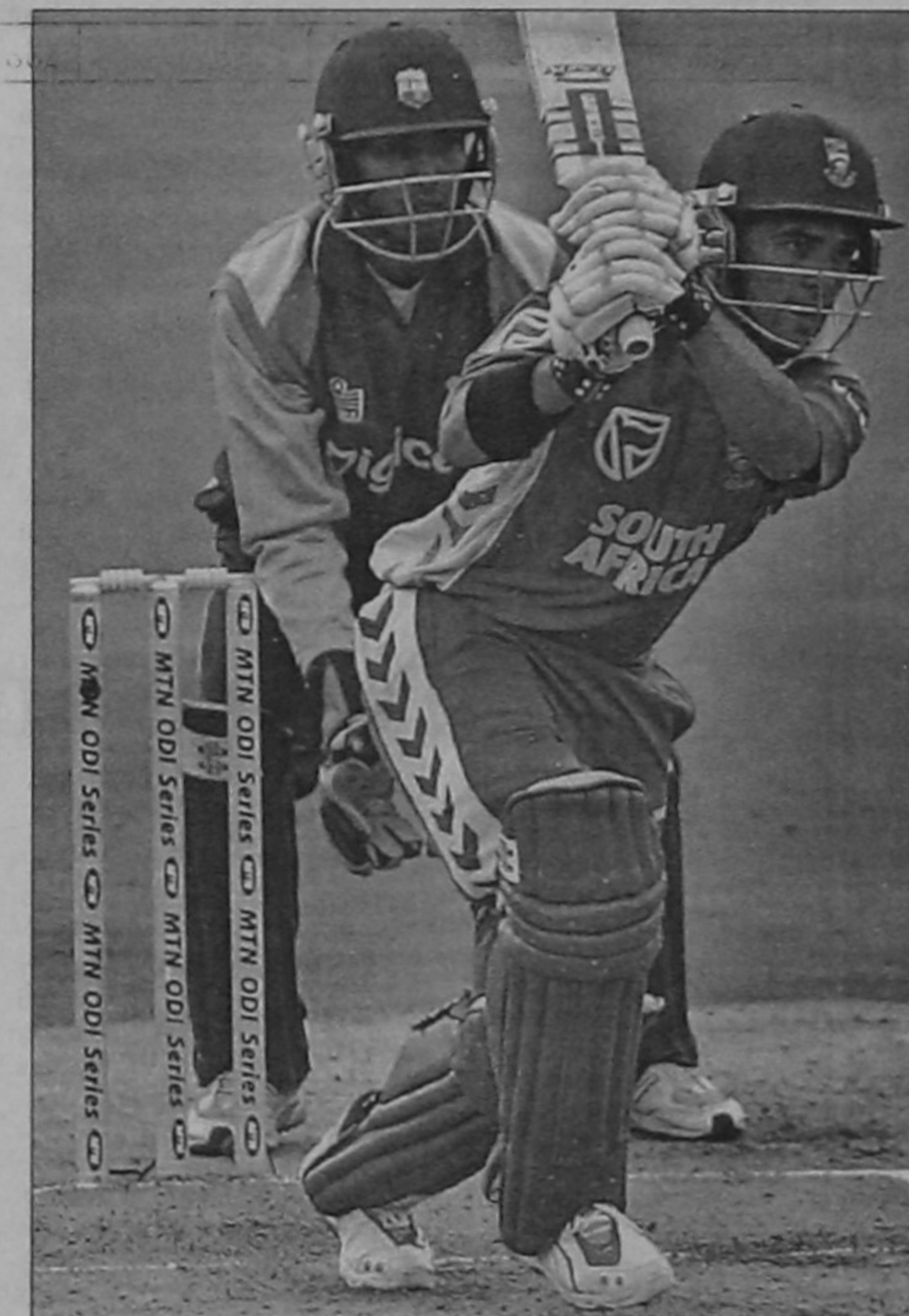


PHOTO: INTERNET

Jean-Paul Duminy drives through the off-side during the first one-day international against West Indies at Centurion Park on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes clues like '36 Free verse's lack', '2 Frau's mate', '23 Act the robot', etc.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Includes the text '11-16 CRYPTOQUIP' and 'CG RFWOOW ZX HFKAUNAX'.

11-16 CRYPTOQUIP  
CG RFWOOW ZX HFKAUNAX  
BIOJ Z QORZQOQ YN KO F  
UNRTXCZYI, ZY BFX YIO  
TOG QORZXZNI ZJ CG UZHO  
Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHEN A CARTOON "MENACE" GETS DRESSED EACH DAY, DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MIGHT WEAR DENNIS SHOES?  
Today's Cryptogram Clue: Y equals T