

# Clarke lifts Australia

**Cricket**

BBC ONLINE, Sydney

Australia gave themselves a good chance of earning a consolation victory in the final Test against South Africa on the back of Michael Clarke's fine 138 on the second day of the third and final Test at the SCG on Sunday.

The Aussie vice-captain, dropped twice on the first day, converted an unbeaten 73 into his 10th Test century.

And with further runs from Mitchell Johnson (64) and Nathan Hauritz (41), the Australians totalled a solid 445.

South Africa replied with 125-1, Graeme Smith retiring with a broken hand on 30.

The tourists, having won the first two matches to earn their first Test series victory in Australia, started the day in fine shape to force a white-wash.

But having bowled well on Saturday to restrict the hosts to 267 for 6, they were not counting on a 142-run stand between Clarke and Johnson.

That was finally ended after lunch when Jean-Paul Duminy's occasional spin forced the downfall of Clarke, the right-hander driving a catch back to the bowler off a full toss.

Johnson soon followed, edging Dale Steyn (3-95) to slip, but there was a further sting in the tail, with Hauritz and Peter Siddle (23) adding 59 for the ninth wicket.

Paul Harris (3-84) finally removed both men as Australia continued to attack, and South Africa reached tea on 18-0.

Smith and Neil McKenzie

batted for a further eight overs in the final session before a Johnson delivery hit Smith on his left hand with the total on 35.

McKenzie batted on smoothly against a novice Aussie bowling attack before Siddle nipped one back into his pads to remove him lbw for 23.

However, Hashim Amla (30) and Jacques Kallis (36) prevented any further damage.

The day had belonged

chiefly to Clarke, who blotted out previous failures at his home ground to reach an important landmark.

He said afterwards: "It's my fifth Test here and I hadn't scored a fifty, so it's very disappointing to have your family and friends come out to watch and you don't perform. I've let them down too many times, so today I didn't let them down. It was extra special."

However he was upset with the manner of his dismissal, explaining: "I was very disap-

pointed, a rank full toss. I was a little bit mentally fatigued."

"It's been a tough series, a very good series for me personally to try myself against a very good attack."

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third and final Test between Australia and South Africa at Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings (overnight 267 for 6)  
 Hayden b Steyn 31  
 Katich c De Villiers b Kallis 47  
 Ponting c Boucher b Morkel 0  
 Hussey c Kallis b Harris 30  
 Clarke c & b Duminy 138  
 McDonald c Boucher b Ntini 15  
 Haddin b Steyn 38  
 Johnson c Smith b Steyn 64  
 Hauritz c Duminy b Harris 41  
 Siddle lbw b Harris 23  
 Bollinger not out 0  
 Extras: (lb-7, w-3, nb-8) 18  
 Total: (All out in 136.2 overs) 445  
 Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-63, 3-109, 4-130, 5-162, 6-237, 7-379, 8-381, 9-440, 10-445.

**Bowler** O M R W  
 Steyn 27 5 95 3  
 Ntini 29 5 102 1  
 Morkel 27 3 89 1  
 Kallis 20 6 54 1  
 Harris 29.2 6 84 3  
 Duminy 4 0 14 1

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings  
 McKenzie lbw b Siddle 23  
 Smith retired hurt 30  
 Amla not out 30  
 Kallis not out 36  
 Extras: (lb-2, w-2, nb-2) 6  
 Total: (For 1wkt in 39 overs) 125  
 To bat: De Villiers, Duminy, Boucher, Morkel, Steyn, Harris, Ntini.  
 Fall of wickets: 1-76.

**Bowler** O M R W  
 Siddle 10 4 21 1  
 Bollinger 10 1 42 0  
 Johnson 8 1 28 0  
 McDonald 6 2 12 0  
 Hauritz 5 0 20 0

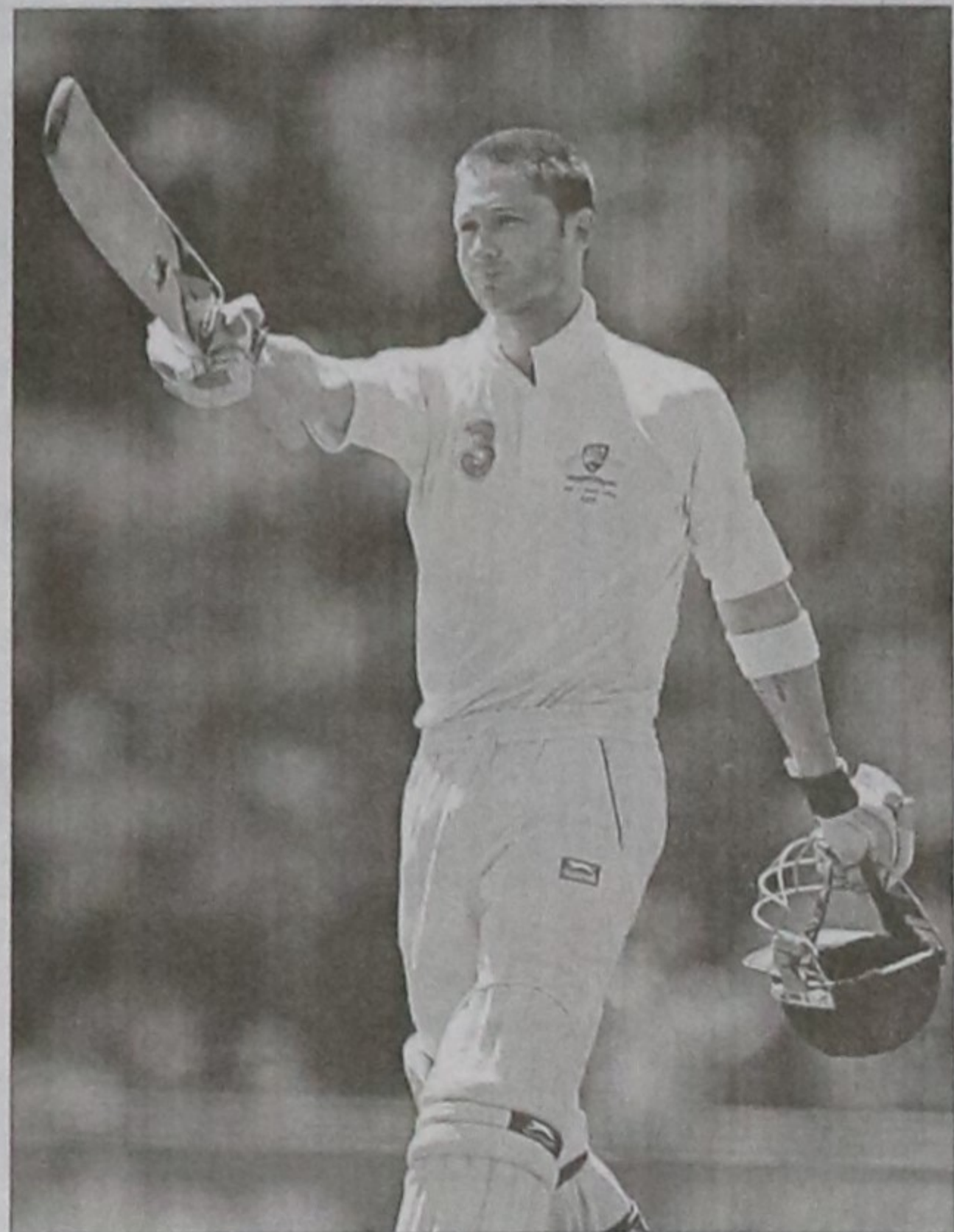


PHOTO: INTERNET  
 Australia vice-captain Michael Clarke raises his bat after scoring a hundred on the second day of the third and final Test against South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

## Smith out for six weeks

CRICINFO, undated

South Africa's chances of claiming a 3-0 victory over Australia may have fractured with Graeme Smith's left hand on Sunday. Smith became the first victim of a cracking pitch when a Mitchell Johnson delivery surprised the captain, cutting back and striking the knuckle on his little finger.

After being examined on the ground, Smith retired hurt on 30 and went for X-rays that showed the break in the fifth metacarpal. He returned to the dressing room with a plastic cast on his hand and will be out for the next six weeks.

Normally the injury would be a serious concern for the South Africans, but Smith already planned to miss the upcoming one-day series due to his right elbow problem. He will meet with the team's medical specialists in Pretoria next week to plan his recovery from both injuries. In the lead-up to the Test he spoke of having his own blood injected into the tear in his arm and is confident of being ready for Australia's Test tour in February.

## CHITS

**FROM PAGE 17**  
 enough from the beginning and his bat sparked to bag 45 runs off 100 balls featuring five boundaries and one six which was the second highest contribution after Mashrafe's bold 63.

## Nayeem

**FROM PAGE 17**  
 have been rewarded for finishing among the top five batsmen in the first-class competition. One time age-level starlet Kamrul Islam was given a surprise call-up. He has scored 306 runs from nine matches. Wicketkeeper Mohammad Mithun, off-spinner Mahmudul Hasan and all-rounder Ashraf Aziz have continued their elevation from the age-level setup with only Mahmudul being the odd one out.

Tigers pace duo Sajidul Islam and Nazmul Hossain will test the visiting batsmen while it will be yet another good experience for leggie Raihanuddin Arafat.

But Saqlain Sajib, who took just nine wickets from three NCL outings with one man-of-the-match performance. Perhaps it was his four-wicket haul in the NCL one-dayer that secured his place.

## SQUAD

Nayeem Islam (captain), Marshall Ayub (vice-captain), Jahurul Islam, Mohammad Mithun (wicketkeeper), Nasiruddin Faruque, Kamrul Islam, Saqlain Sajib, Raihanuddin Arafat, Mahmudul Hasan, Ashraf Aziz, Nazmul Hossain.

# The Aussie stabiliser

**Cricket**

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Clarke has become the complete batsman at a time when Australia are desperate for his rebuilding powers. In the past, Clarke gained a reputation for being at his best when the players above him had worn down the attack, but now he does the draining.

A faltering top-order has led to Clarke being called early at No. 5 throughout the local summer and he has been the chief stabiliser. Clarke's 138 on the second day at the SCG took his tally for the season to two hundreds and three half-centuries. Each time he has contributed heavily, the side has needed him and he has adjusted his outlook to counter the conditions.

Since the first Test against New Zealand, when he arrived at 3 for 23 and picked up 98, Clarke has been the solid and dependable run-maker, improving Australia's position while collecting 559 runs at 79.85 in the past five matches. Australia were 3 for 109 when Clarke was required on his home ground after lunch on Saturday and he spent six hours and 13 minutes covering up the mess while inflating the total towards 445, the team's highest of the South Africa series.

On the second morning Clarke began with a smart off-driven four from Makhaya Ntini and his work down the ground was his most impres-

sive. Sometimes it felt like the crack of him hitting the ball took longer to reach the boundary than the ball. Clarke, who had chances on 12 and 69 during the first day, was untroubled after resuming on 73 and was so in tune he did not bother to delay the celebration for his hundred until the replay for a possible run-out had been ruled on.

"At the time I was confident, but as I was carrying on like a goose I thought I'd look real bad, but fortunately I just got home," he said. After pushing to mid-on for a quick single, he reached for safety and kept sprinting, waving his bat, kissing his helmet badge and raising his arms in relief at his first home century.

"It's my fifth Test here and I hadn't scored a fifty, so it's very disappointing to have your family and friends come out to watch and you don't perform," he said. "I've let them down too many times, so today I didn't let them down. It was extra special."

For a brief period near the end of his innings he was averaging 50, the traditional mark of a great batsman. Then his dismissal came with a lapse to the part-time off-spin of JP Duminy. "I was very disappointed, a rank full toss," he said. "I was a little bit mentally fatigued."

"It's been a tough series, a very good series for me personally to try myself against a very good attack," Clarke's exit reduced his mean to 49.54, but the way he is growing it becomes increasingly unlikely that anything can prevent his rise to the top tier.

# Sahagir takes Khulna home

FROM PAGE 17

22 balls that also earned him the man-of-the-match award.

## DHAKA-RAJSHAHI

Delwar blew through the Dhaka top-order taking 3 for just four runs from nine overs. Shafiq Al Jabir also took three wickets. Arafat Sunny made 51 off 102 balls as Dhaka made 143-9 in 45 overs.

Rajshahi lost wickets at regular interval to be placed at six for 67, and only when captain Anisur Rahman and Sabbir Rahman scored runs did Rajshahi make any real push.

The game went down the wire after Dhaka reduced Rajshahi to 132 for eight in the 39th over. Mohammad Shahzad and Man-of-the-match Delwar Hossain saw Rajshahi to victory in the 42nd

over of the 45-over encounter.

## BARISAL-SYLHET

In another shortened encounter, Barisal banked on Hannan's 116 off 112 balls to notch up 256-6 in 46 overs.

Hannan blazed a dozen boundaries and four sixes and more importantly added 138 for the fifth wicket Raisul Islam, who made 45. Paceman Rashedur Rahman held his own in the Sylhet bowling department, taking 2 for 57.

In reply, Sylhet rode on contributions from their top-order barring Ijaz Ahmed, who made just one. Mohammad Mithun struck a quick 57 off 47 balls with a four and five sixes.

Kamrul Islam ensured of the victory with 29 off 30 balls, helped by Taposh Ghosh's nine.

## BRIEF SCORES

**CHITTAGONG:** 180-7 in 38 overs (Nafis 74, Faisal 24; Sadat 2-33).

**KHULNA:** 181-9 in 37.3 overs (Rabul 49, Amit 45; Rezaul 4-37, Tariq 3-36).

**Result:** Khulna won by one wicket.

**DHAKA:** 143-9 in 45 overs (Nadif 40, Arafat 51; Delwar 3-4).

**RAJSHAHI:** 145-8 in 41.3 overs (Sabbir 37, Anisur 24; Ashraf 3-18).

**Result:** Rajshahi won by two wickets.

**BARISAL:** 256-6 in 46 overs (Hannan 116, Raisul 45; Rashedur 2-57).

**SYLHET:** 257-6 in 44.2 overs (Mithun 57, Saikat 39; Nasir 2-34).

**Result:** Sylhet won by four wickets.

# Changed but not

FROM PAGE 17

Nigel Long had no hesitation to raise his finger.

A could-have-been brilliant knock finished at 45.

Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons had only one word to him to describe the suicidal effort of his captain: "frustrating."

"I don't know but he might relax at times," he added when asked about the reason behind the shot.

Sri Lanka paceman Chaminda Vaas, who made the initial damage by removing the two openers Tamim Iqbal (0) and Imrul Kayes (6), however defended Bangladesh skipper and said that it was not easy to survive in this kind of wicket

especially against their bowling attack.

"I think the skipper (Mohammad Ashraf) handled the spinners very well but it is not easy to stay at the wicket and not score runs. Our seamers put pressure from both ends and when they were off Bangladesh needed some runs and I thought Ashraf got out trying to do that," he explained the reason behind Ashraf's aggressive approach.

"I think we bowled well on a slow wicket. The spinners were very good and tried to get them out but Mortaza batted extremely well," said the left-arm seamer.

"We have a 178-run lead and need to put up a good score. The pitch is slow with low bounce and I don't think it will change much in the next three days. I believe it could get slower and slower as the match progresses," he observed.

Sri Lanka, who lost their remaining four first innings wicket for 13 runs in the morning, finished the day's play at 13 without loss to extend their lead to 178.

Left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan continued his impressive show by taking three wickets in the morning to finish at four for 109 but in the end his effort was spoiled by yet another brittle batting.

## Lanka may split Pakistan tour

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lanka are looking at splitting their proposed tour of Pakistan in order to squeeze in a home five-ODI series against India. Under the plan, Sri Lanka will visit Pakistan for the limited-overs leg of their tour later this month, return home for India's visit and head back to Pakistan to play three Tests.

"I have told [Sri Lanka Cricket chief executive] Duleep Mendis to look at the option of touring Pakistan first for five ODIs and a Twenty20 match," Gamage Lokuge, Sri Lanka's sports minister, was quoted as saying by PTL.

"The team will then return to Colombo to play a five-match ODI series with India. We will then return to Pakistan for three Tests."

Lokuge did not, however, provide a detailed itinerary. The minister had already confirmed talks with the BCCI and said the schedule was being finalised. India had toured Sri Lanka last year for three Tests and five ODIs.

Sri Lanka had stepped in to tour Pakistan following India's cancellation of their visit from January 4 to February 21. However, after agreeing to tour for three Tests and five ODIs, Sri Lanka Cricket sought a shortened tour of two Tests, three ODIs and a Twenty20 game from February 15. The revised dates were believed to be on the suggestion of Sri Lanka's players, who wanted a break after their Bangladesh tour.

## Buchanan bats for Ganguly

PTI, Kolkata

Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly will be approaching 37 when he leads Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the Indian Premier League (IPL), but coach John Buchanan feels it's the "inner call" and not the age which help the cricketer continue his stint.

"It will be solely his (Ganguly's) decision to continue with the KKR. Sourav is the best judge of himself."

"It doesn't matter whether you are 37 or 27. It basically depends on the inner call, if you are really interested to play with the same intensity," Buchanan said.

Buchanan will conduct a three-day selection trial for the KKR from January 5-7, in which some promising players including former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin's son Ashaduddin will participate.

"The idea is to shortlist the players who would be ideal for Twenty20 cricket," Buchanan said.

Buchanan, who has also coached Australia cricket team, feels failure of top-order batsmen and inexperienced bowling are responsible for the poor show by the world champions.

## Ash inspired

FROM PAGE 17

Mendis not out 6  
 Fernando lbw b Shakib 0  
 Extras: (lb-4, lb-8, w-1, nb-6) 19  
 Total: (All out in 94 overs) 384  
 Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-7, 3-39, 4-75, 5-194, 6-367, 7-376, 8-376, 9-384.

**Bowler** O M R W  
 Mashrafe 22 7 58 3  
 Shahadat 14 0 80 1  
 Shakib 30 6 109 4  
 Enamul 19 3 70 1  
 Mehra 7 1 36 0  
 Ashraf 2 0 19 1

**BANGLADESH:** First innings

Tamim c P Jayawardene b Vaas 0  
 Imrul lbw b Vaas 6  
 Zunaed b Fernando 28  
 Rokibul lbw b Mendis 0

Ashraf c P Jayawardene b Muralidaran 45  
 Muralidaran 45  
 Mehra lbw b Mendis 18  
 Shakib lbw b Mendis 0

Mushfiq st P Jayawardene b Mendis 21  
 Mashrafe c Dilshan b Muralidaran 63  
 Enamul c P Jayawardene b Muralidaran 4

Shahadat not out 5  
 Extras: (lb-5, lb-5, nb-8) 18  
 Total: (All out in 76.2 overs) 208

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-26, 3-33, 4-65, 5-90, 6-90, 7-122, 8-136, 9-145.

**Bowler** O M R W  
 Vaas 10 5 21 2  
 Fernando 18 4 44 1  
 Mendis 28 5 71 4  
 Muralidaran 20 2 6 2

**SRI LANKA:** Second innings

Warnapura not out 7  
 P Jayawardene not out 6  
 Total: (Forn loss in 5 overs) 13

To bat: Kapugedera, Sangakkara, M Jayawardene, Dilshan, Samaraweera, Mendis, Vaas, Fernando, Muralidaran.

**Bowler** O M R W  
 Mashrafe 2 1 5 0  
 Shahadat 1 0 4 0  
 Shakib 1 0 1 0  
 Enamul 1 0 3 0



PHOTO: STAR  
 Star Zimbabwe batsman Tatenda Taibu (C) shows little signs of jetlag after arriving at the Zia International Airport yesterday. Zimbabwe cricket players are in the city to feature in a tri-nation one-day tournament that starts on January 10.

# Sarwan was confident

**Cricket**

CRICINFO, undated

West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan has said he was confident of the team's chances in the second ODI against New Zealand in Christchurch, even after coming under severe pressure towards the end of the chase.

"We felt one big over could bring us back into the game and would do it for us," he said. "That's what we were counting on. That was part of our target and we got that big over to bring us back into the game."

West Indies took a 1-0 lead in the five-match series with a five-wicket win -- the first was abandoned due to rain -- with Sarwan adjudged the Man of the Match for his unbeaten 67 off 65 balls. He was supported by the captain, Chris Gayle, and Denesh Ramdin during West Indies' reply in the match, which was reduced to 28 overs a side due to rain.

"I was not getting frustrated. In the middle overs I was just trying to score as many singles as possible and rotate the strike," he said. "I thought all along that the key would be to have wickets in hand and that gave us the chance to launch. As you saw there at the end, the wickets

in hand paid off."

Sarwan hit the winning run off the penultimate ball of the innings, after Denesh Ramdin's breezy 28 had taken the visitors to the brink. Ramdin kept a cool head under pressure and put on a crucial 48-run partnership for the sixth wicket with Sarwan that helped seal the win.

Ramdin was singled out for praise by Sarwan, who had earlier rallied the team ahead of the game and had called on the young guns to fire. "This innings is really going to give him a lot of confidence," said Sarwan. "He was under a bit of pressure but tonight he really played well. He took control, played freely and took the pressure off of me. He was the right man at the right time."

Earlier, the West Indies bowlers did well with new-ball operator Fidel Edwards and Jerome Taylor keeping New Zealand in check. Left-arm spinner Nikita Miller, who had his first bowl on tour, also impressed, picking up 2 for 26.

"The bowlers did the job for us up front. They were aggressive when they needed to be and worked well as a bowling unit to put the New Zealand batsmen under pressure. This will give us momentum for the rest of the series," Sarwan said.

The third match will be played at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington on Wednesday.

# Better late than never

FROM PAGE 17

in the World Cup football," he hoped.

BFF senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedi acknowledged the contribution of the footballers saying that they did a great job by letting the world know about the people's struggle for freedom.

"They had great contribution to the war and gave us inspiration to win," said former national striker Salam.

Tanvir Mazhar Tanna, manager of the Dal, informed that they had played 16 matches and ended their journey in Mumbai, where former Indian cricket captain Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi captained the Maharashtra football team.

"Many players of the Sawdhin Bangla Dal were playing for Pakistan then. The Pakistanis wanted to involve them in a match in Dhaka to show the world that life was normal here," told Tanna.

"Then we contacted the Mujibnagar government to do something about it. In time, 100 to 150 men joined our camp. There were other sportsmen with us like Roquibul Hassan (ex-Bangladesh cricket captain), Arun Nandi (late swimmer) and Ataul Haque Mullick (late sportsperson and sports journalist). The money we raised went to the government fund. The players received a meagre Tk 3 per week."

"A Bangladesh Krira Samity was formed but people have

forgotten about it. I wish it got recognition today, like we did 37 years ago by playing football."

Captain of SBFD Zakaria Pintoo in his emotional speech thanked everybody around for giving the footballers due respect.

"Many have left us, some are living abroad, I feel their absence from the bottom of my heart. I remember the day July 24, 1971 fondly. That day, we hoisted the flag of the nation at the Krishnanagar Stadium in Nadia district," told Pintoo.

"We were yet to get recognition as a country then but all the players kissed the national flag before the match. When the local organisers said that the Indian flag could not be hoisted due to reasons, it hurt. We refused to play but the district administrator DK Ghosh risked his job by hoisting the Indian flag beside the red, green and yellow of Bangladesh."

"Hats off to Ghosh, who was invited but could not join us here today due to unavoidable reasons."

"We are part of history and I have tried all my life to let the people know what we had done."

Among the 36 members, 23 were present while family members of some of the deceased and those who are abroad, received certificates and crests.

The programme should have been more colourful but

mismanagement was written all over it. The BFF should think about finding someone new to handle such occasions instead of giving responsibility to a familiar face, who always brings cheap entertainment. The crowd was even unhappy about the young group that performed the national anthem with poor tunes on the background.

The show was rounded off with a cultural function and a concert starring freedom fighter and pop singer Azam Khan and Ayub Bachchu.

## 50 chosen

FROM PAGE 17

Turjo, Mustafizur Rahman Dinari, Asaduzzaman Chandon, Imran Haider Pintu, Shamsul Alam Sujan, Firoz, Irfanul Haque, Rupam, Shamsuddin Tuhin, Ferdous Goldar, Shahidullah Titu, Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Maksudur Rahman Habul, Mahbub Ehsan Rana, Sabbir Hossain, Khondokar Hasan Ahmed, Quamruzzaman Rana, Ashiquzzaman, Mosarraf Hossain Kuti, Asif-e-Noor, Abdus Sajjad John, Jamal Khan, Abdus Salam, Riaz, Zahidul Islam Rajan, Rimon Kumar Ghosh, Krishna Kumar, Zahid-bin Talib Shuvo, Iqbal Nadir Prince, Syed Al Masum, Sanwar Hossain, Ajit Kumar Ghosh, Hasan Jubair Niloy, Pushkar Khisha Mima, Manik, Shihab, Sheikh M Nannu and Rana Das.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
 1 "Cheers" line? 2 And 24 Yoter  
 order 38 Switch 25 Jon Ar-  
 5 Cleo's settings 3 Franc buckles'  
 8 Look 40 Likely replace-