PHOTO: INTERNET

PICTURE SAYS IT ALL: New Zealand's Tim Southee (2nd from L) and Shane Bond celebrate while Pakistan's Mohammad Aamir (R) and Saeed Ajmal trudge off at the end of the third and final one-day international at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

NZ survive Aamir scare

Cricket

AFP, *Abu Dhabi*

New Zealand survived Mohammad Aamir's explosive half-century to clinch the series against Pakistan with a narrow seven-run victory in the third one-day international here on Monday.

Aamir, 17, hit an unbeaten 73 for his maiden half-century -- the highest score by a number ten batsman in a one-day international -- to bring Pakistan, chasing 212, close to an unexpected victory after they were 101-9.

Pakistan were bowled out for 204, giving New Zealand a sensational 2-1 victory in the three-match series. Pakistan won the first match by 138 runs on Tuesday before New Zealand levelled the series with a 64-run win on Friday.

Aamir and Ajmal added a Pakistan record of 103 for tenth wicket but, needing eight off the last over bowled by Jacob Oram, Ajmal holed out for a career-best 33 to end a sensational match.

The previous highest one-day score for a number ten batsman was 56 not out, made by Zimbabwe's Douglas Marillier against India at New Delhi in 2002.

When Ajmal joined Aamir Pakistan needed a mammoth-looking 112 runs in 16.5 overs, but Aamir set the tempo for an unexpected win by hitting Daniel Vettori for three sixes in one over.

Slowly and gradually, he and Ajmal approached the target, beating the previous tenth wicket partnership record by Pakistan in all one-day internationals of 72 by Abdul Razzaq and Waqar Younis against South Africa at Durban in 1998.

Aamir, who hit seven boundaries and three sixes during his 81-ball knock, improved on his previous highest score of 24 made against Sri Lanka earlier this year.

In the end New Zealand kept their nerves and did not spoil the early good work by bowlers which saw Pakistan slump from 47-1 to 101-9.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori admitted Aamir gave them a scare.

Earlier, off-spinner Ajmal took a career-best 4-33 to raise hopes of a Pakistan win but Salman Butt (25), Khalid Latif (19), Umer Akmal (12) and Shoaib Malik (11) threw away wickets.

Pakistan got off to a solid 47-run start before Vettori triggered a slump, trapping Latif leg-before in the ninth over. That started the slump.

Captain Younus Khan continued his wretched form, edging Shane Bond to slips after making just three. In the previous over, Younus misjudged a single which resulted in Butt's run out.

Umer Akmal (12), Malik (11), Afridi (five) and Akmal (four) played reckless shots as Pakistan slumped badly.

Younus blamed the loss to lack of early partnerships.

Earlier Brendon McCullum, who scored a brilliant hundred on Friday, stood out once again with an aggressive 78-ball 76 which included three sixes and six fours.

New Zealand were well on course for a big score but once McCullum got out, caught and bowled by Shoaib Malik, Pakistani spinners led by Ajmal sparked a middle-order collapse to take last seven wickets for 47 runs.

New Zealand had raced to 72 by the 12th over, with McCullum reaching his fifty off just 47 balls.

It was paceman Umar Gul who provided the breakthrough, removing opener Aaron Redmond caught off Aamir for 21. This was Gul's 100th wicket in 67 one-day internationals.

Ajmal then came into his own, removing Martin Guptill (eight), Ross Taylor (44), Daniel Vettori (15) and Jacob Oram (two) to improve on his best one-day figures of 2-16 against the West Indies at Johannesburg in September this year.

Ross Taylor, who failed to score in the first two matches, helped McCullum add 50 for the third wicket before Ajmal trapped him leg-before.

Both teams now move to Dubai where they play two Twenty20 matches on November 12 and 13.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third and final one-day international between Pakistan and New Zealand at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND: 211 all out in 46.3 overs (McCullum 76, Taylor 44; Aamir 2-41, Ajmal 4-33-4)

PAKISTAN

Butt run out	25
Latif lbw b Vettori	19
Younus c Taylor b Bond	3
Malik c Styris b Mills	11
U Akmal c McCullum b Southee	12
Afridi c McCullum b Oram	5
K Akmal c Vettori b Southee	4
Razzaq run out	0
Gul c Redmond b Oram	6
Aamir not out	73
Ajmal c Mills b Oram	33
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-1, w-4)	13
Total: (All out in 49.1 overs)	204

Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-51, 3-51, 4-74, 5-82, 6-84, 6-86, 8-86, 9-101.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	10	1	62	1
Bond	10	1	46	1
Vettori	10	2	42	1
Southee	10	0	26	2
Oram	9.1	2	20	3

Result: New Zealand won by seven runs and clinched three-match series 2-1.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Aamir.

Man-of-the-series: Brendon McCullum.

Inter-district football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Kushtia District XI moved into the final of the inter-district Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup Tournament defeating Jessore Sonali Otit 4-1 in the first semifinal at the Magura stadium yesterday.

Uzzal put Kushtia ahead in the first half before Tito equalised for Sonali Otit in the same half. Uzzal scored again in the second half to put Kushtia back in front. Farid and Russel netted one goal each later to make sure of a comfortable victory for Kushtia.

Magura District team will take on Meherpur District team in the second semifinal at the same venue today.

ESS go to Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

European Standard School leave for Malaysia today to take part in the 3rd FTC/RSC International Youth Under-15 Cricket Carnival that begins on November 13.

The 8-a-side tournament will be participated by 24 teams from different Asian nations. Split into four groups, they will play in the round-robin league and then top teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals. ESS have been drawn in Group B with three Indian sides and two Malaysian teams.

"We have been invited to the carnival as we finished zonal runners-up in the last edition Young Tigers School Cricket", said Ronodeb Dasgupta, a director of the school at a press conference at the Bangladesh Sports Journalist Association yesterday.

He also informed that their boys play cricket throughout the year and the participation in carnival would give the boys as well as the school good exposure in international level.

Zaheer back

FROM PAGE 17

The selectors kept faith in trusted veterans Venkatsai Laxman and Rahul Dravid in an experienced batting line-up that features world-record holder Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir and Yuvraj Singh.

India have not lost a Test at home against Sri Lanka.

The first Test in Ahmedabad will be followed by the second in Kanpur from November 24.

SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Amit Mishra, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Murali Vijay, Pragyan Ojha, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Subramaniam Badrinath.

Coach: Gary Kirsten.

Win a boost: Vettori

Cricket

AFP, *Abu Dhabi*

Captain Daniel Vettori said New Zealand had grown in confidence after winning their three-match one-day series against Pakistan 2-1.

New Zealand scored a seven-run victory over Pakistan here on Monday, having survived an explosive half-century by tail-ender Mohammad Aamir, during which he and Saeed Ajmal scored a new Pakistani record of 103 for the 10th wicket.

"The key thing is that it's a victory no matter how you achieve it," said Vettori, whose team have been without a coach for this series after Andy Moles resigned citing differences with players.

"A win away from home is great, we don't have many and it definitely grows the confidence because there are a lot of inexperienced guys in the team who will learn more."

New Zealand came back strongly after losing the first match by a 138-run margin to take the second game by 64 runs and set up an intriguing final match.

Brendon McCullum, who was declared man of the series after scoring a century in the second match on Friday, notched a 78-ball 76 before off-spinner Ajmal helped Pakistan dismiss New Zealand for 211 all out.

Pakistan were down in the dumps at 101 for nine before Aamir hit a 81-ball 73 not out -- the highest by a number 10 batsman in the history of one-day cricket -- and Ajmal hit 33 to almost snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Vettori said the Aamir-Ajmal stand almost turned the match.

"They almost won it for Pakistan," said Vettori, who relied on experienced paceman Jacob Oram to bowl the last over, getting Ajmal out on the first delivery.

"I think we have to look to our bowling performance and say that we defended a 211 total which was fantastic, because we fought as hard as we could under some pressure from Aamir," said Vettori, who admitted he was frustrated by Pakistan's late resistance.

"It was obviously very disappointing as we had number of chances, a couple of decisions not going our way, so it was a bit of frustration but we gave ourselves a chance to get the one wicket which gave us relief," said Vettori.

Embattled Pakistani captain Younus Khan refused to accept responsibility for the defeat.

"If I accept (responsibility) then a lot of other things will also come to the fore," said Younus, who declined to discuss rumours of differences with fellow players.

"I am happy with the commitment of the players, we lost because of poor batting," he said.

The Pakistani captain, whose resignation over unproven allegations of match-fixing was last month rejected by the Pakistan Cricket Board, said the jeers from the crowd had not affected him.

"When we win they praise us and make us kings, so it doesn't hurt when they chant slogans against us on defeat," said Younus, adding that he felt his team panicked under pressure.

"(Panicking) is a big problem. Whenever we are under pressure -- a batsman gets run out or two three wickets fall -- we panic. We have to overcome this problem," he said.

Younus praised 17-year-old Aamir's unexpected innings.

"It was a great innings which brought us close to an unexpected win. It is a great sign that youngsters are performing at the highest level."

The two teams now move to Dubai where they will play two Twenty20 matches on November 12 and 13.

Safin's easy solution

Tennis

INTERNET, *undated*

Marat Safin has come up with an instant remedy to help Andre Agassi clear his conscience after his admission that he lied about using drugs -- hand back the millions of dollars he made in prize money.

Safin also suggested Agassi might also want to consider forfeitting all the titles he won during his long and celebrated career if he was serious about coming clean.

"He feels guilty? So let him just give back his titles, money, his grand slams!" Safin told French sports daily L'Equipe.

"If he is so fair play, he should go all the way. You know, ATP have a bank account, he can refund if he wants to."

Safin, currently playing his last tournament in Paris this week, also questioned Agassi's motives for revealing his past drug use in his autobiography "Open".

In his book, Agassi revealed he had used and tested positive for crystal meth in 1997 but escaped punishment by lying to the investigators.

The American has since spoken about his remorse over his actions but Safin said was concerned about the way in which he confessed.

"I won't write my biography. I do not need any money. The question is: why did he do it?" Safin said.

"What's done is done. He hopes to sell more books. But he is completely stupid!"

"I do not defend the ATP but what he said put them in a bad position. ATP allowed him to win a lot of tournaments, to make a lot of money.

"They kept his secret so why be so cruel with them? There are times you need to be able to shut up."

Earlier this month, the World Anti-Doping Agency said they were investigating whether to lay fresh charges against Agassi.

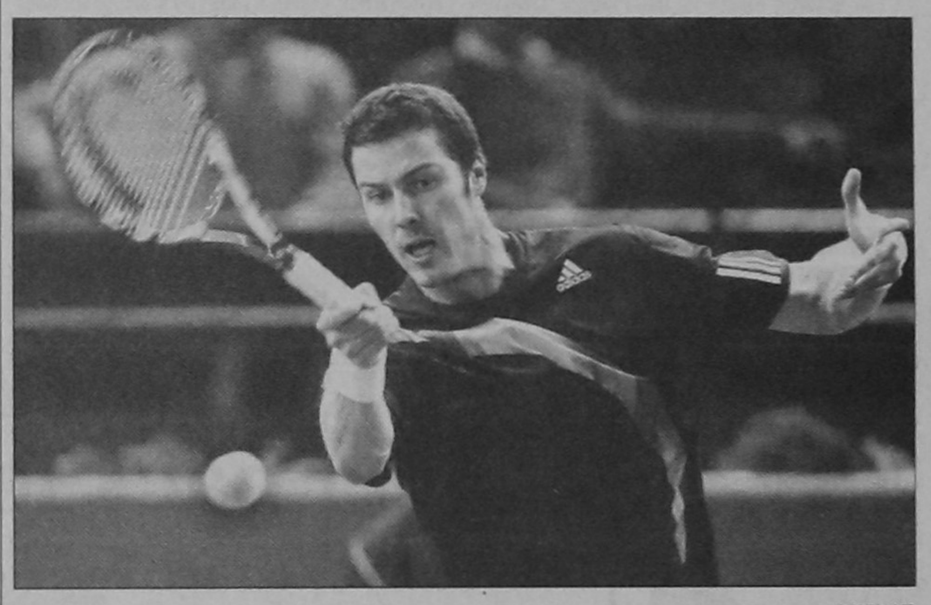


PHOTO: AFP

Russian Marat Safin plays a forehand return against French Thierry Ascione during their Paris Indoor Master Tournament match in Paris on Monday. Safin won 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3).

Shakib steers

FROM PAGE 17

hander Faisal Hossain picked up the pace with an unbeaten 69-ball 68 that had three fours and as many sixes.

In reply, few of the Partex batsmen got starts but failed to carry on their innings as they were all out for 211 in 49.5 overs.

Marshal captured four wickets for 29 runs.

Left-arm paceman Syed Rasel and Atiqur Rahman dictated terms at Mirpur as they shared six wickets to wrap up Surjo Torun for 158 runs.

Atiqur then contributed with the bat with a 97-ball 58 as CCS recovered from 15 for 2 to reach the target with five wickets in hand. Nazmul Hossain was the other notable scorer with unbeaten 52 off 63 balls that contained seven fours.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ABAHANI-OLD DOHS

Venue: FATULLAH

ABAHANI: 171 all out in 43.2 overs (Rony 26, Shakib 42, Rafique 26, Robiul 29, extras 9; Dollar 2-34, Moshiur 3-58, Nazmul 3-30).

OLD DOHS: 64 all out in 30.4 overs (Wasim 10, Taibur 19, extras 9; Shakib 2-8, Nasir 3-16, Rafique 3-15).

Result: Abahani won by 107 runs.

MOHAMMEDAN-PARTEX

Venue: BKSP-2

MOHAMMEDAN: 247-5 in 50 overs (Ashraful 23, Aftab 70, Marshal 56, Faisal 68 not out, Riyad 17, extras 1; Hanif 2-50).

PARTEX: 211 all out in 49.5 overs (Salahuddin 20, Mahbub 30, Tariq 14, Rezaul 33, Hanif 13, Jabid 19, Waskuruni 36, Imamul 29, extras 8; Marshal 4-29, Sajib 2-340.

Result: Mohammedan won by 36 runs.

SURJO TORUN-CCS

Venue: SBNCS

SURJO TORUN: 158 all out in 48.1 overs (Rajin 26, Bashar 54, Sabir 23, Taposh 22, extras 8; Rasel 3-21, Sirajullah 2-36, Atiqur 3-21).

CCS: 160-5 in 44.4 overs (Uttam 29, Atiqur 58, Ripon 13, Nazmul 52 not out, extras 2; Monjurul 2-24).

Result: CCS won by five wickets.

Akram bowls

FROM PAGE 17

for a cricket team, which makes Akhtar a must for the tour.

"Touring Australia isn't for the faint hearted. You need your experienced guys out there, you need the guys out there who won't be phased by the opposition players, you need the guys who aren't going to be intimidated out there," Akram, who spent some time with Akhtar in London, said.

Akram said the Rawalpinidi Express was recuperating fast following the knee operation that he had in London.

Where did

FROM PAGE 17

Dido's departure represents a massive step back by the federation led by Kazi Salahuddin. The president's reformist attitude now looks to be nothing more than rhetorical promises and the head of steam that he had built up is now threatening to be ripped apart at the seams.

Bangladesh may go on to do well in the SAFF Champion ships, they may not. But what Dido understood and what many here seem not to understand is that development is a far-sighted process. Sometimes you must be prepared to let go of short-term goals to achieve long-term ones.

Dido realised that, many others do not. And that may be exactly where the deck of cards, we had stacked up, come tumbling down.

DC Gold Cup

FROM PAGE 17

Marma leveled the score 14 minutes later from a penalty kick.

Three minutes into extra time, Sohel Ahmed scored to ensure the victory for Dighinala.

Sacking was inevitable

FROM PAGE 17

"He was sacked just three months after his appointment and it doesn't mean Scolari is not a good coach."

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Aminul Haq (Mohammedan), Biplob Battacharjee (Abahani) Mazharul Islam Himel (Sheikh Russel) and Mostaqur Rahman (Arambagh KS).

Defenders: Rajani Kanta Barman (Abahani), Ariful Islam (Mohammedan), Mamun Mia (Mohammedan), Rezaul Karim Reza (Farashganj) and Al Amin (No club), Nasir Hossain (Mohammedan) and Mohiuddin Ibnul Siraji (Abahani), Wali Faisal (Mohammedan) and Atiqur Rahman Mishu (Abahani).

Midfielders: Zahid Hossain (Mohammedan), Zahed Parvez Chowdhury (Abahani), Pranotosh Kumar Das (Abahani), Mehdi Hasan Ujjal (Abahani), Manik (Farashganj), Monayem Khan Raju (Feni Soccer Club) and Maruf Ahmed (Sheikh Russel), Shahedul Islam (Abahani), Alamgir Kabir Rana (Mohammedan), Emon Babu (Sheikh Russel), Mamunul Islam (Mohammedan), Imtiaz Sultan Zitu (Farashganj) and Choumrin Rakhine (Rahmatganj).

Strikers: Enamul Haque (Abahani), Abdul Baten Komol (Mohammedan), Zahid Hasan Emily (Mohammedan) Mohammad Rony (Sheikh Russel) and Mithun Chowdhury (Chittagong Abahani).

Smicer hangs

FROM PAGE 20

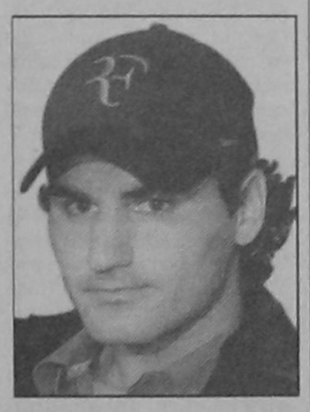
joining Liverpool won the 2001 UEFA Cup before the "miracle of Istanbul" in 2005.

Two years ago he returned home to Slavia, with whom he had won the 1996 league title before adding two more in his second spell.

But recurrent cartilage problems this year has restricted him and he will now join the national side's backroom staff under new coach Michal Bilek.

Did U Know?

Australia have won two of the three one-day matches they've played in Mumbai. The loss came in the dead rubber in 2007.



Roger Federer

(World No. 1 Swiss tennis star)

"It's disappointing to lose a final at home. I tried hard, I was just outplayed."

After losing to Novak Djokovic in the Swiss Indoors final on Sunday.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

1 Fashion
5 Remote mail abbr.
8 Leading man?
12 Related
13 Listening device
14 Bargain
15 Easter entree
16 Blackmailer's specialty
18 Pupil's cover?
20 Rotational force
21 "My bad"
23 Thee
24 Emergency seat's purpose
28 Unuttered "alas"
31 Miss Piggy's pronoun
32 Top grade
34 Hatchery supply
35 Harmonization, briefly
37 Landlord's threat
39 Try the tea
41 Birthright barterer
42 Subordinate official
45 Greyhound alternative
49 November event
51 Yorkshire river
52 Track star Devers
53 Twitch
54 Cambodian money
55 "Rule, Britannia" composer
56 Hearty brew
57 Break suddenly

DOWN

1 Guy
2 Fine
3 Thinness comparison
4 As a whole
5 Organ component
6 Phone transmission
7 "Phooey!"
8 Houston team
9 Rum recipe
10 Matty of baseball
11 Biblical handwriting word
17 Coquettish
19 Tittle
22 Figure out
24 Type squares
25 Bliss
26 Genius personified
27 Pest
29 Sticky stuff
30 Coop occupant
33 Con game
36 It never ends
38 Private instructors
40 Butter serving
42 Mortal Kombat maker
43 Winged
44 Pocket bread
46 Destroy
47 On the briny
48 Seaweed that gives us iodine
50 Lubricate

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	S	E	L	M	A	■	S	T	R	A	W	S
S	T	R	A	I	N	■	A	R	A	B	I	A
E	A	S	I	L	Y	■	R	E	M	E	D	Y
E	Y	E	R	■	T	W	I	N	■	Y	E	S
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S	E	W	■	F	I	N	S	■	A	N	T	E
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W	A	G	■	O	U	S	T	■	O	S	L	O
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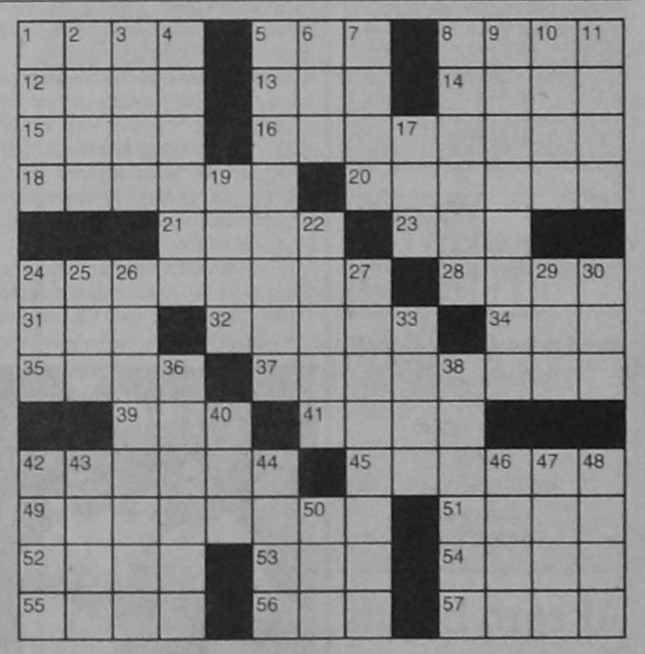

CRYPTOQUIP

RE IXP DRRZRMI KRQ N YMEBX RK UJNDD JADZ BNQIREU, IXP ORDABP OMI RMI NE NDD-OAEIU YMDDPIAE.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I HEARD THIS VERY INCREDIBLE LEGEND OF BLANKETS AND AFGHANS. I THINK IT'S ONLY A COVER STORY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals L