



Sri Lanka's Nayana Prasad Hewage goes airborne as he completes a routine during the men's long jump event of the 11th South Asian Games at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Prasad won silver.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Double-up

FROM PAGE 17
to watch the event and they backed the local golfers throughout the game.
Dulal's parents were also present on the final day and they expressed their delight at their son's heroics.
Jamal, who led Bangladesh to the team gold with seven under par 137 in the 36-hole competition, was understandably upset after going down to Dulal and blamed himself for not playing well on the final day.
"I am feeling sad after losing it because I was on the verge of triumph. It is disappointing to lose the match despite having led till the third round," said a frustrated Jamal.
"I was fully focussed on the game today (Saturday), but I faced problem in swing and putting that let me down. The problem started at the 14th hole and it took me two strokes more than the four and that's why I got behind," said Jamal, who scored 69, 68, 71 and 72 in his respective four rounds.
Jamal, however, was happy to see that he lost to his compatriot Dulal and the gold stayed in the country.

Australia-Windies first ODI today



CRICINFO, undated

West Indies kicked off Australia's home summer and now they're back to finish it off with five ODIs and two Twenty20s after the Australians completed a tri-format clean-sweep of Pakistan.
Chris Gayle's men showed more consistent fight in the Test series than did Mohammad Yousuf's team and they have started their return leg of the Australian tour well, by posting a remarkable 5 for 399 - of which Gayle made 146 - in 45 overs against the Prime Minister's XI.
The two batting stars are Gayle and Kieron Pollard, who thrilled Australian crowds during the Big Bash last month, but the loss of Dwayne Bravo due to a broken thumb is a big blow to a team already missing Ramnaresh Sarwan and Shivnarine Chanderngopal. It is a while since this outfit has played 50-over cricket, though. The player-board crisis meant a second-string team was sent to the Champions Trophy having also lost at home to Bangladesh and Gayle hasn't led a full-strength ODI team since early July.
For Australia, the challenge is to attempt to maintain the superb winning run they have enjoyed in the 50-over format over the past few months. Since the start of the post-Ashes one-dayers in the United Kingdom, Australia have won a remarkable 20 of 24 ODIs, with a dead-rubber loss to England and two defeats at the hands of India their only blemishes.
Chris Gayle proved during the Test series that he enjoys batting in Australia and he was the Player of the Series having made contrasting hundreds in Adelaide and Perth. The one-day

format suits Gayle even better and 146 from 89 balls against the Prime Minister's XI was a handy warm-up. He hasn't made an ODI century against Australia but given the form he's in, this is the perfect opportunity. "I'm looking forward to it," Gayle said. "I think over here in Australia it actually suits my batting. The wickets here have a bit more pace and a bit more bounce. I like the ball coming on to the bat."
It will be interesting to see whether Ryan Harris can continue his remarkable form against a new opponent. Harris burst on to the scene with back-to-back five-fours against Pakistan and was so impressive that he was named Player of the Series despite not playing the first two matches. His bustling style of fast bowling will suit the MCG pitch if it's as quick as during Friday's Twenty20, but containing Gayle is a different task to restricting the Pakistan openers.
Australia's selectors face a decision over which in-form fast bowler to leave out. Doug Bollinger is back in the squad after resting for the final two ODIs against Pakistan, while Harris, Clint McKay and Mitchell Johnson are all in good form. The rest of the side basically picks itself, with James Hopes likely to be squeezed out once again.
SQUADS
AUSTRALIA (possible): Shane Watson, Shaun Marsh, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Cameron White, Michael Hussey, Brad Haddin, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Hauritz, Ryan Harris, Clint McKay/Doug Bollinger.
WEST INDIES (possible): Chris Gayle (captain), Travis Dowlin, Lendl Simmons, Runako Morton, Kieron Pollard, Dwayne Smith, Dinesh Ramdin, Darren Sammy, Nikita Miller, Ravi Rampaul, Kemar Roach.

Ricky rates bowlers high



CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting believes Australia's pace attack is the best in the world and hasn't ruled out Shaun Tait being used in one-day internationals after breaking the 160kph barrier in Friday night's Twenty20 win. Tait's man-of-the-match performance in his first game for Australia in a year served as another reminder of the depth in the country's fast-bowling ranks, which has been tested over the past few months.
Brett Lee (elbow) hasn't played since the early stages of the India tour in October, Stuart Clark (back) knows his international career is all but over, Peter Siddle (back) is out for the season and Ben Hilfenhaus (knee) has not appeared for Australia since the first Test of the summer. Throw in Nathan Bracken's knee surgery and fringe player Brett Gevesing being out with

back stress fractures and Australia's attack at times has looked more like a state list than an international group.
It is the success of those new men that has thrilled Ponting. Since Clint McKay's debut in November no Australian has taken more than his 17 ODI wickets, Ryan Harris has played four one-dayers and already has a Player-of-the-Series title, Doug Bollinger continues to make himself a star and Shane Watson's bowling has improved dramatically.
"I think the depth that we've got now as far as our fast-bowling goes is outstanding," Ponting said ahead of the first ODI against West Indies. "It would have to be the best group of fast bowlers anywhere in the world right at the moment. We were most stretched in India in the one-day series we had over there a few months ago and we had probably five or six of our guys injured and back in Australia but...the depth is terrific."
Bangladesh take on Sri Lanka for the third place today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. India will face Nepal in the final on Monday also at the Big Bowl.

Kallis, Amla lead SA



AFP, Nagpur

Jacques Kallis and Hashim Amla slammed unbeaten centuries to help South Africa seize the momentum on the opening day of the first Test against India on Saturday.
Kallis scored 159 and Amla made 115 as the tourists recovered from a shaky 6-2 to reach 291-2 at close after electing to bat at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur.
The duo shared 285 runs for the unbroken third wicket to post South Africa's highest partnership against India for any wicket.
Kallis has so far hit 13 fours and two sixes in his 290-ball knock while Amla also opened up to play some fine shots after a sedate start to his 225-ball innings.
"Kallis and Amla batted really well," said Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni. "But our bowlers also did a decent job as the wicket was rather slow. They were a bit unlucky as the ball missed the edge on quite a few occasions."

"We had to go for a semi-defensive field as there was not much help for spinners. There was a bit of turn but it was not a rank turner."
Amla reached his eighth Test century in style, hitting part-time spinner Virender Sehwag for a four to the square-leg boundary.
Kallis completed his 34th Test ton to join India's Sunil Gavaskar and West Indian Brian Lara in third place on the all-time list of top century getters.
India's Sachin Tendulkar heads the list with 45 centuries, followed by Australian skipper Ricky Ponting on 39.
India's bowlers laboured without luck after tasting success in the morning session when pace spearhead Zaheer Khan (2-67) sent back openers Ashwell Prince and Graeme Smith in a fiery opening spell.
Prince was out for a duck, caught behind by Dhoni in the fifth over when he failed to fend off a bouncer, although TV replays suggested the ball brushed past his arm guard rather than the gloves.
The pacer struck again in his next over to remove Smith (six) with a ball that moved through the gap between bat and pad,

cleaning up the stumps in spectacular fashion.
Kallis and Amla then steadied the innings, putting on 103 runs off 33 overs in the post-lunch period and another 98 in the final session.
Kallis looked confident against the spinners, slog-sweeping Harbhajan Singh twice for a huge six and a four in an over to race to his 53rd Test half-century off 75 balls.
"It was a very difficult start in the morning but we recovered fantastically," said South Africa's batting coach Kepler Wessels.
"It was an awesome performance by Kallis and Amla. Their shot selection was very good. You don't often see Harbhajan go through without a maiden. They had a very good game plan against Harbhajan and executed it perfectly."
Injury-hit India, missing the experienced trio of Rahul Dravid, Venkatesh Laxman and Yuvraj Singh, awarded Test caps to Subramaniam Badrinath and Wriddhiman Saha.
Saha came in only because Rohit Sharma, called in as cover for Laxman, hurt his left ankle during warm-up before the toss.
The second and final Test of

the series between the world's top two teams begins in Kolkata on February 14.
South Africa can snatch back the number one Test ranking from India if they win the series while the hosts need just a draw to remain on top.
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first Test between India and South Africa at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur on Saturday:
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings
Smith b Zaheer 6
Prince c Dhoni b Zaheer 0
Kallis not out 115
Amla not out 159
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-5) 11
Total: (For two wkts in 91 overs) 291
To bat: De Villiers, Duminy, Boucher, Steyn, Parnell, Morkel, Harris.
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-6.
Bowler O M R W
Zaheer 20 5 67 2
Sharma 17 2 44 0
Harbhajan 21 0 81 0
Mishra 26 2 71 0
Sehwag 7 1 22 0
INDIA: Sehwag, Gambhir, Vijay, Tendulkar, Badrinath, Dhoni, Saha, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Mishra, Sharma.
Toss: South Africa

India, SL

FROM PAGE 17
(24.63 sec) by 14th of a second. India's Jumanu Murmu got the bronze with a timing of 24.87 sec.
Bangladesh's two finalists Ishrat Zahan Eva came fifth with a timing of 25.64 sec while Nazmun Nahar Beauty came seventh at 26.20 sec. This event was a token participation for Beauty, the country's fastest female sprinter, and she was included in the event only at the eleventh hour despite being not totally fit.
The men's 200m sprint gold was grabbed by India's Abdul Najeed Qureshi (21.16 sec) beating Shehan Saearuwan Abeypitiyage of Sri Lanka (21.19 sec) and Liaqat Ali of Pakistan (21.27 sec). There was frustration for hosts as Khalilur Rahman pulled a hamstring before the final while the other participant Mizanur Rahman failed to make it to the final.

Akmal vows to improve



CRICINFO, undated

Kamran Akmal, the Pakistan wicketkeeper, has said he is keen to move on and improve as a wicketkeeper following a tough tour of Australia, where he came under great scrutiny. He said it was normal for all players to go through a bad patch once in a while and that the important thing was to learn from each experience.
The nadir for Akmal was the second Test at the SCG, dropping Michael Hussey three times off Danish Kaneria on the third day after missing a run-out chance. He also dropped Peter Siddle off Mohammad Sami on the fourth morning. Hussey went on to score an unbeaten 134 and helped stretched Australia's lead from 80 - at the end of the third day - to 175. Pakistan were the favourites to win on the fourth day but folded for 139 and lost the match by 36 runs and with it the series. Sarfraz Ahmed replaced him for the third Test.
"Even the greatest players who have played the game have gone through rough patches in their career. Even the likes of Ricky Ponting have gone through slumps in their form," Akmal told Pakpassion.net. "The most important thing for me to concentrate on is how I bounce back from this. The Sydney Test match was a horrible experience. There is no point in making excuses over events in Sydney."
"All I can do is to work hard on my cricket, learn from the events of Sydney and take on

board the advice from colleagues and friends."
Akmal said advice from former wicketkeepers like Ian Healy and Wasim Bari has been forthcoming. He said his Australian counterpart Brad Haddin also spent time with him in Hobart, the venue of the third Test of that series.
"Ian Healy has been very helpful to me and given me some excellent technical advice and tips," Akmal said. "You can't ignore advice from a wicketkeeper of such experience and pedigree. Brad [Haddin] chatted with me in Hobart about some technical issues and told me to keep my chin up. I'm so appreciative of the advice and time that both Healy and Haddin gave me and I'll always be grateful to them."
He was also contacted by Bari, the former Pakistan wicketkeeper, who is now an official with the Pakistan Cricket Board. "Wasim Bari phoned me up after the Sydney Test match and we had a good chat. Wasim encouraged me and also told me to keep my spirits up. He is a very experienced wicketkeeper and his advice was also much appreciated."
Pakistan endured a miserable tour, losing all three Tests, five ODIs and the Twenty20. Akmal said that despite the series of defeats, the whole team had learnt plenty by just observing the professional work ethic of their opponents.
"It's tough, cricket in Australia, it's hard work and you are thoroughly tested in every aspect of your game. The preparation of the Australians and their attention to detail is something that we can all learn from. There are so many things we can take from this tour and use to improve our cricket."

GAMES GALLERY

FROM PAGE 17
"I'm really disappointed but you know we have had lack of practice before the competition as the ammunition came late," complained veteran Sabrina, who lost the individual silver in the five-bullet shooting after her score was tied with Indian Hema Kharati Chetri.
Muley scored highest 568 to also confirm the individual gold while Chetri, who won the five-bullet shooting to win the silver, scored 564 and Anjuna Jung contributed 555 to amass 1,687 points.
Sri Lanka finished third to secure the team bronze with KGD Pradeepika (556), HRP Ramani (545) and BIRS Buthpitiya (553) combined to gather 1,654 points.

Greatbatch praises his charges



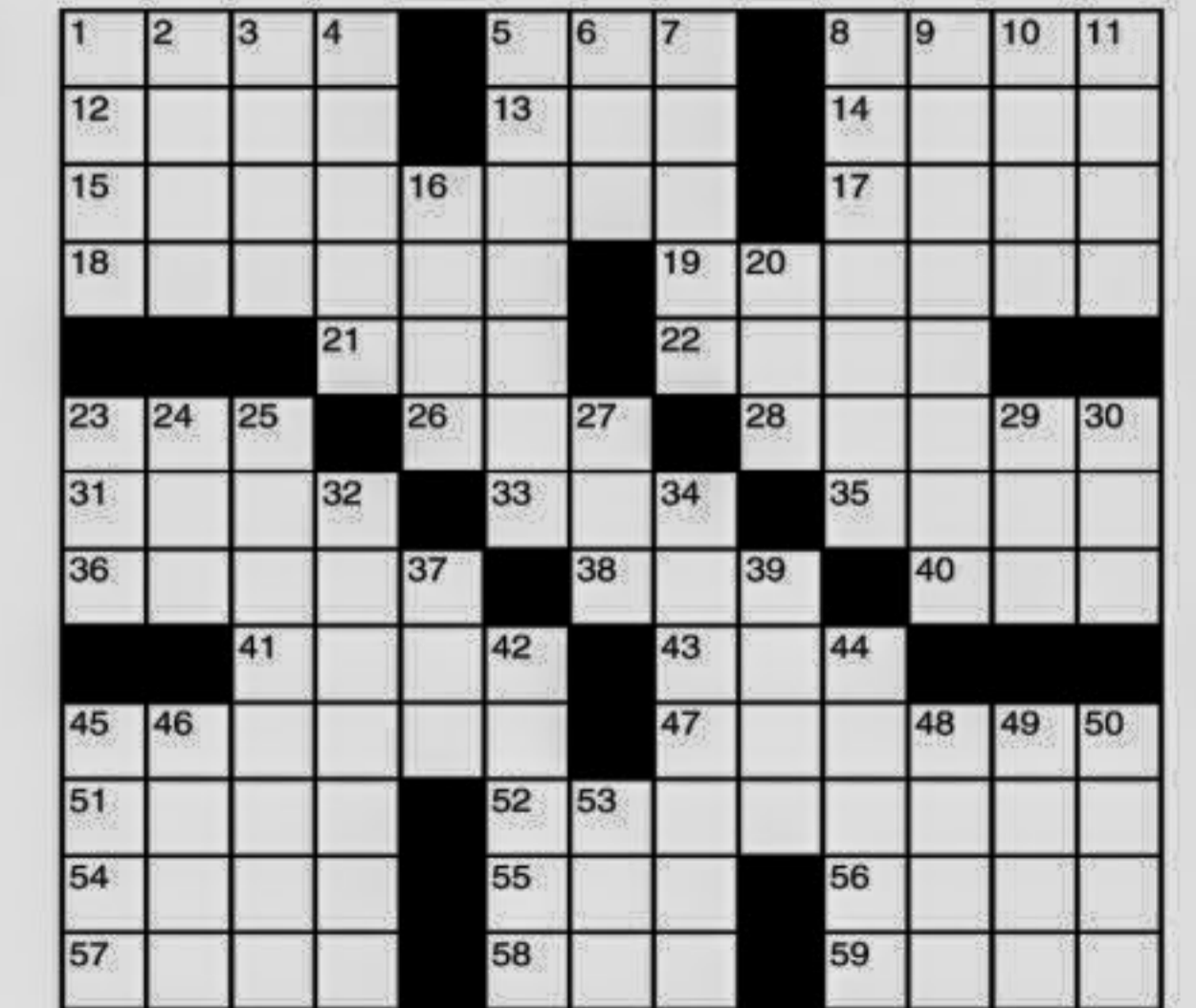
CRICINFO, undated

New Zealand coach Mark Greatbatch, in his first series in charge, has praised the way his players powered to a 146-run win in the first ODI in Napier, after Bangladesh had them under pressure early on.
New Zealand lost two wickets at 19, and stumbled to 135 for 5, before Jacob Oram and Neil Broom hit attacking half-centuries to lift the score to 336 for 9. Peter Ingram, on debut, made 69 as an opener and a brisk 32 by the captain Daniel Vettori also aided New Zealand's late assault. Oram was particularly brutal, smashing

five sixes and eight fours in his 40-ball 83.
"I thought Bangladesh, for probably 20 overs of the game - bowling and batting - put us under pressure but we soaked that up," Greatbatch told Press Association. "We probably lost a couple of wickets too many in that middle stage but they kept playing positively and that set us up to get to 330."
Greatbatch singled out Broom and Oram for praise. They added 123 in 11.1 overs for the seventh wicket to take the initiative away from Bangladesh. "Neil was exceptional because it was a mature knock for a guy who hasn't really had a lot of success in one-day cricket," Greatbatch said. "I thought Jacob Oram's all-round performance, particularly his batting, was exceptional."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Lecture hall VIP
5 English channel?
8 Show-room sample
12 "The Music Man" locale
13 "Go, team!"
14 "Ars Amatoria" poet
15 From now on
17 Fix
18 It had a big part in the Bible
19 Adheres
21 Not Rep. or Dem.
22 "Critique of Pure Reason" author
23 Raw rock
26 Einstein's birthplace
28 Had the skills
31 Made on a loom
33 Addressee
35 Afore-mentioned
36 "Psycho" star
38 Choose
40 Say it's okay
41 Stentorian
43 Suture
45 Less of a mess
47 Popular sport fish
51 Big fusses
52 Assess
54 Encounter
55 Melody
56 Young lice
57 Links stats
Solution time: 21 mins.
CARE ARE DOME
ORE BE IDEA
DISPROVE SORT
SAT EMS SPAY
DEB VIA
HUMID WARRIOR
IRIS ION INDY
SIXPACK ATSEA
LIE STV
ACHED RIO SEW
FLEA DISPATCH
ROES OVA CARE
OGGLE EEL TRUE



CRYPTOQUIP

S I F E C M Y ' P I R R V B D L P R
D T R H P M U D G R Z R G M I
L U B R H V D S U V E , S Q M L G C
P D E V O R E Y S Z R O S F T D Q P .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE DEMOLITION
COMPANY, I RECENTLY HEARD SOME
EMPLOYEES MIGHT ORGANIZE TO DEMAND A
RAZE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals Y

DAY'S EVENT

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES (MEN'S FOOTBALL)
India v Maldives
Bronze Decider
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

CRICKET
Pakistan v Nepal
Bronze Decider
Time: 1:30pm
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Gold Decider
Time: 5:30pm
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Cricket Stadium, Mirpur

SHOOTING
Time: 10:00am
Venue: National Shooting Complex

SWIMMING
Time: 10:00am
Venue: National Swimming Complex

HOCKEY
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Bronze Decider
Time: 11:30am
India v Pakistan
Gold Decider
Time: 2:30pm
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

ATHLETICS
Time: 2:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium