



Aus crash to Chawla spin

AFP, Bangalore

Piyush Chawla spun India to a remarkable 38-run win over defending champions Australia in a high-profile World Cup warm-up match on Sunday.
The leg-spinner took 4-31 as Australia collapsed to 176 chasing a modest 215-run target, after being strongly placed at 118-1 in the day-night match before a sizeable crowd at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore.
Chawla, 22, also upstaged Australian paceman Brett Lee, who earlier gave a superb exhibition of fast bowling to rock India and finish with 3-35 off 10 impressive overs.
Australia skipper Ricky Ponting, who missed a recent home one-day series against England due to a finger injury, top-scored with a solid 57 off 85 balls with four boundaries.
The tourists' chances receded sharply after the dismissal of their captain, stumped while attempting

to slog-sweep off-spinner Harbhajan Singh (3-15), who brilliantly supported Chawla.
Ponting and Indian fast bowler Shanthakumar Sreesanth exchanged words after an appeal for caught behind was turned down in early stages of the Australian skipper's knock.
There was no hint of collapse following fine knocks from openers Shane Watson (33) and Tim Paine (37). Paine added 51 for the opening wicket with Watson and 67 for the next with his captain.
But Chawla started the slide with Michael Clarke's dismissal for a duck as the tourists lost their last nine wickets for 58 runs, with spinners doing the maximum damage.
Lee was in the limelight in the first session, dismissing Suresh Raina (12), Harbhajan and Chawla in his second spell to prove he is bang in form for the World Cup, which starts February 19.
Lee was backed by John Hastings

(2-24). Australia's only bowling concern was 25 runs they conceded in wides, with off-song paceman Mitchell Johnson giving away 10.
Hard-hitting opener Virender Sehwag gave a good account of himself in India's below-par batting performance, top-scoring with a 56-ball 54 with one six and eight fours.
He fell soon after reaching his half-century with a six over long-off inside-edging off-spinner Jason Krejza's delivery on to his stumps.
India, who rested batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar, struggled against pace. Yusuf Pathan (32), Ravichandran Ashwin (25 not out) and Virat Kohli (21) were the only other batsmen to cross the 20-mark.
SCORES IN BRIEF
INDIA: 214 (Sehwag 54, Kohli 21, Dhoni 11, Raina 12, Pathan 32, Ashwin 25 not out, Nehra 19; Lee 3-35, Hastings 2-24, Hussey 2-25)
AUSTRALIA: 176 all out (Watson 33, Paine 37, Ponting 57, Johnson 15; Chawla 4-31, Harbhajan 3-15).
Result: India won by 38 runs.

PHOTO: AFP

Indian spinner Piyush Chawla (2nd from R) is being congratulated by his teammates after taking an Australian wicket during a warm-up match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

Biggies, but onlookers only

AFP, Hong Kong

They are the unconquered frontiers of cricket -- giant nations with huge populations, but China and the United States can only look on from the sidelines as battle is joined at the World Cup.
The two nations together account for about 1.6 billion of the world's population but they will be absent from a tournament featuring the game's powerhouses plus minnows such as the Netherlands, Ireland and Canada.
It would be a mistake to draw too many parallels between the game in the world's two biggest economies. Cricket has long been woven into the sporting fabric in America but it is only now taking its first faltering steps in China.
Some reports say the game was played in the American colonies nearly 300 years ago, according to the International Cricket Council's website, and the United States was a destination for touring teams in the 19th century.
Previously on an upward trajectory, the team was last month relegated to division four of the ICC World Cricket League, but USA Cricket Association executive secretary John Aaron is upbeat about the future despite that setback.

"There is no doubt that the USA has the talent to compete on the world stage of cricket in division one matches. However, we lack the requisite facilities to compete nose-to-nose with our peers," he told AFP.
"We have been extremely successful on the basis of the raw talent and skill-sets of our players."
Aaron said the dream of the United States, admitted as an ICC Associate Member (where cricket is firmly established) in 1965, was to qualify for the World Cup or the World Twenty20 and it was more a case of "when" than "if" they get there.
And he believes there is room for cricket to muscle in alongside entrenched sports such as American football, baseball and basketball.
"With a cricket fan base north of 15 million there is an opportunity for the growth of cricket as a quasi-mainstream sport in the USA," he said, adding that high-profile events such as the World Cup could only boost the game.
Compared with the United States, China are novices, elected to the ICC as an affiliate member (the rung down from associate member) as recently as 2004 with ICC global development manager Matthew Kennedy talking two years later in terms of a 20-year project.
Huge strides were made at the Asian Games in November when the first

official cricket match was played on Chinese soil in a tournament involving the likes of Test-playing nations Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
China failed to win a medal in either the men's or women's competitions but their athletic fielding and bowling caught the eye in front of a smattering of bemused spectators in Guangzhou.
China coach and former Pakistan international Rashid Khan, who began coaching in China in 2006, said they could be a powerful force within five years.
The Asian Cricket Council said it had helped China out with coaches and a curator and 200 schools had started to play cricket, with efforts also under way to get university cricket up and running.
Pakistan batting legend Javed Miandad, speaking to AFP in his role as cricket ambassador to China, spoke highly of what had been achieved in a short space of time despite a lack of resources.
Speaking on the boundary in the bizarre setting of China's southern industrial heartland, he said: "I have been to universities, colleges and schools and the main thing is they want to play this game in China."
He added: "They are doing well. I'm really impressed and they are very quick learners."

PCB didn't appeal ban

PTI, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has dismissed reports that it had filed any appeal on behalf of banned Pakistani pacer Mohammad Aamer with the International Cricket Council (ICC).
"We have filed no formal appeal as such. Yes we have written to the ICC about the case in light of the observations made by its anti-corruption tribunal regarding the existing anti-corruption code of conduct laws under which Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Aamer have been penalised," an official said.
The official made it clear that the right to appeal against their bans only rested with the three players not with the board.

Keeping Murali fresh

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka coach Trevor Bayliss stressed the need for veteran off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran to be fresh for Sri Lanka's World Cup bid.
The record-holding wicket-taker in both Test and one-day cricket was rested for Sri Lanka's opening warm-up match against the Netherlands on Saturday, which the hosts won by a comfortable 156 runs.
"Murali is getting towards the end of his career and we want to make sure that he is mentally and physically fresh to play the game we want him to play," said Bayliss of the spinner who has taken 800 Test and 519 one-day wickets.
Muralidaran has vowed to end his international career on a high at the end of the World Cup, which starts next week and is jointly hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
Bayliss, who has also hinted leaving the job after the tournament, called on his team to be clinical in every match.
"The word clinical was one of the words

used at the team meeting before the practice match," said Bayliss whose team faces the West Indies in their final warm-up match on Tuesday.
Hailing the victory over the Netherlands Bayliss, who took over in August 2007, said posting a big total of 350 was "pleasing".
Batsmen Tillakaratne Dilshan (78), Thilan Samaraweera (60), Chamara Silva (54) and Chamara Kapugedera (50 n.o) looked in good nick, before paceman Dilhara Fernando (4-43) helped restrict the visitors to 195 all out.
Senior batsman Mahela Jayawardene was also rested -- and Bayliss felt happy at the strength of Sri Lanka's emerging talent as the side looks to a future without the talismanic Murali.
"There are some very good young players in the Sri Lankan line up and in the reserves as well. The future looks bright for Sri Lanka cricket."
Sri Lanka face Canada in their opening match at Hambantota on February 20, a day after the World Cup opens in Dhaka with a match between India and Bangladesh.

Army reach

FROM PAGE 16
Bangladesh Army now top the six-team table with 12 points, two clear from both Usha and Shadharan Bina.
Malek, Siraj and Sanwar scored for Army while Nannu and Niloy struck for Usha.

Daniela ends title drought

Tennis

AFP, Pattaya

Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia won her fourth WTA singles title Sunday with a crushing 6-0, 6-2 victory over Italy's Sara Errani at the Pattaya Open.
The number-four seed took just one hour and 16 minutes to defeat Errani, breaking serve six times to end a more than three-year title drought.
The leggy Slovakian did not lose a single set on her path to victory, knocking out defending champion Vera Zvonareva of Russia in a stunning straight sets semi-final win.
"I was really hungry to get another title," Hantuchova said.
"I was focused and

aggressive from the start. I won the whole tournament in straight sets, which is a good sign. After the injury at the start of the year, this feels great. I had a good pre-season and now it's paying off. I just never doubted myself."
The 27-year-old veteran broke eighth-seeded Errani's serve three times to comfortably take the first set in the final as the Italian struggled in blustery conditions in the Thai resort city of Pattaya.
Errani fought back with an early break in the second set but quickly squandered the lead as Hantuchova levelled at 1-1 and broke her opponent's serve twice more to lift the trophy.
"The match with Vera was a little final I would say, but I have to give credit to Sara, she

played well the whole tournament," Hantuchova said.
The victory marked a welcome comeback for Hantuchova, a former world number five who got off to a poor start in 2011, pulling out of Brisbane with an Achilles strain and suffering early exits in Sydney and Melbourne.

Rahmatganj's

FROM PAGE 16
Chittagong Mohammedan remained glued to the eighth position in the 12-team table with seven points.
Ugandan striker Idris put the old Dhaka outfit ahead in the 34th minute and doubled the margin four minutes from time while Mohammedan's Liberian recruit Clatus Blamo pulled one back in the 76th minute.

Not two, only one ticket!

FROM PAGE 16
on the advice of the members of police and RAB at the venue.
"Far more people turned up than we had imagined. We were only given 400 tickets and thus were advised by the police ADC that due to security reasons it would be best if we appeared a larger number of people rather than giving two to each."
But that logic cut no ice with the masses who had lined up beforehand.
"How is it fair that we stood for one whole day and got one ticket while some stood in line for a few hour

and got the same?" wailed Shofiq at Dhaka Bank's Dhanmondi Branch.
Tamim also admitted that he had heard about some of these concerns from a number of sources but categorically stated that BCB had not imposed any such clauses on the bank.
"We handed them about 10,000 tickets and we only told them that one person can get a maximum of two tickets, nothing else," said Tamim.
Dhaka Bank's executive vice-president, Azad Shamsi however stated they had received only 7,000 tickets

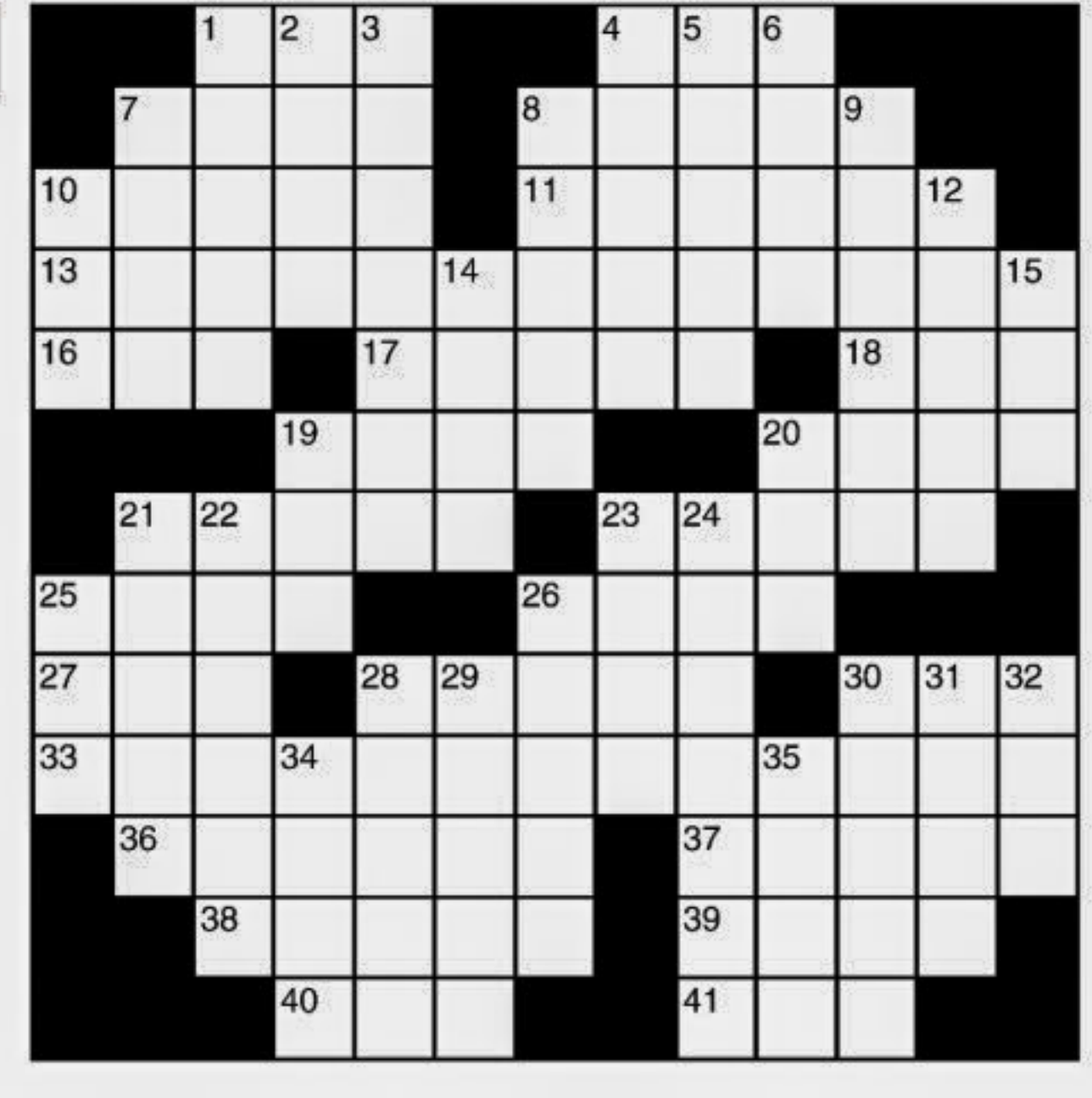
from BCB and suggested that they had distributed the tickets evenly across the ten branches.
"Divide the total number (7,000) by ten and you will get the number of tickets at each branch," he said sounding irritated.
When asked whether the decision to distribute only one ticket to each individual was made centrally, Shamsi seemed incensed and refused to answer the question and presently hung up the phone.
Further attempts to contact him over telephone proved futile.

SPORTS POLL
WEEKLY QUESTION
Do you think India will be under pressure against the Tigers?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote
Follow The Daily Star Sport on [twitter](https://twitter.com/dssport)
www.twitter.com/dssport

What to WATCH
ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm
English Premiership
Fulham v Chelsea
Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Part of a Halloween costume
4 You say it to the doctor
7 Femur or fibula
8 Related to birds
10 Soft chapeau
11 "Dueling" instruments
13 Burroughs duo
16 Distorted
17 Witticisms
18 Fish eggs
19 Inlet
20 Out of control
21 Investigate
23 Brittle
25 Three-sloth
26 Objective
27 Mimic
28 Chef's garb
30 "Wham!"
33 Stevenson duo
36 Closed up tight
37 Broadcast
38 Small amounts
39 Caustic solutions
40 Sandra or Ruby
41 Remiss
3 1958
5 No. 1 hit for the Silhouettes
4 -garde
5 Harts' mates
6 Muslims' pilgrimage
7 Tolerate
8 Lower in rank
9 Venus de Milo's feature
10 Texter's "incidentally"
12 Pry
14 Actress Campbell
15 Hair-raising shriek
19 Massachusetts cape
20 Have a bug
21 Vatican VIPs
22 Stunk (breed of cat)
23 Maine —
24 TV's Felix Unger
25 — Mahal
26 Alumni
28 Sitcom oldie, "Kate & —"
29 Academy freshman
30 Heat-resistant glass
31 Tributes in verse
32 Marry
34 Three feet
35 Informal greeting



CRYPTOQUIP
UI OEVVMUMD LMNLENSUMLE
MLP NVM Z B I I L E L A S
ALORUML UM CVCBRSEUNJ, U
DBLZZ PSJML PVBRA PSML.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE A CERTAIN DWARF PLANET SPINS AROUND, COULD ONE REFER TO IT AS THE WHIRLED CERES?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals I