



PHOTO: COURTESY

HIT IT LIKE GANGULY: Saurav Ganguly shows a youngster how to play a lofted shot. The Indian captain is currently in Dhaka to appear in a commercial.

Zimbabwe nicely placed



AFP, Worcester

South Africa's Andrew Hall made 68 for Worcestershire but Zimbabwe were still on top at New Road after the third day of their tour match here at New Road on Sunday.

Zimbabwe will go into Monday's final day needing 176 for victory after bowling out Worcestershire for 247 in the English county's second innings.

It was an encouraging display by Zimbabwe's lightly regarded attack ahead of the first Test against England, starting at Lord's on May 22, and one made all the more heartening by the fact that it was achieved without captain Heath Streak.

Zimbabwe fast bowler Streak, the most experienced member of the Africans' attack, has been sidelined since the opening day of this match with a back strain.

But he was pleased by the way the team responded to his absence. "It's nice to see that they have taken on some extra responsibility," said Streak, who remained optimistic about playing in Zimbabwe's final warm-up match against Sussex in Hove stadium on Thursday.

"I've had my back problem before and it's normally bad for two or three days and then I recover so I'm still hopeful of playing against Sussex, but if I don't feel right I won't take the risk and I'll rest up until the Test."

Earlier Sunday, Zimbabwe saw Stuart Carlisle, 137 not out overnight, go on to make 157, the cornerstone of the tourists' 334 first innings lead of 72.

One of only four survivors from Zimbabwe's last tour of England

three years ago, (the others are Streak, wicket-keeper Tatenda Taibu and batsman Grant Flower) Carlisle was eventually stumped off the bowling of England one-day off-spinner Gareth Batty.

Carlisle, 31 on Saturday, faced 374 balls including two sixes and 22 fours.

Worcestershire openers Stephen Peters and Anurag Singh wiped off most of the deficit with a stand of 63 before the latter was caught behind off fast bowler Travis Friend.

Friend struck again when he had the highly rated Vikram Solanki caught at mid-on by Flower for five.

Former Essex batsman Peters made 63 was ended by another of Zimbabwe's quicks, Doug Hondo, who also dismissed Worcestershire captain Ben Smith.

Hall steadied the Worcestershire innings with a 106-ball 68 including one six and 12 fours.

But when well set he holed out against to Flower's left-arm spin and was caught by Raymond Price at backward square leg.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close on the third day of the four-day tour match between Worcestershire and Zimbabwe at New Road on Sunday:

WORCESTERSHIRE: First innings 262 (V Solanki 74, B Smith 53)

ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 296-8)

Ebrahim run out	0			
Vermuelen c Solanki b Kabir	11			
Carlisle c Pipe b Batty	157			
Flower c Peters b Mason	18			
Rogers c Peters b Harrity	4			
Taibu c Pipe b Kabir	57			

Blignaut c Hall b Kabir	2
Friend c Hall b Batty	39
Price c Solanki b Hall	5
Hondo not out	24
Streak absent hurt	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-10, nb-6)	17
Total: (All out in 126.2 overs)	334

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kabir	28	8	89	3
Harrity	28	7	66	1
Mason	25	10	66	1
Hall	26	7	58	1
Batty	19.2	8	44	2

WORCESTERSHIRE: Second innings

Peters c Carlisle b Hondo	63
Singh c Taibu b Friend	35
Solanki c Flower b Friend	5
Smith lbw b Hondo	18
Kadeer c Taibu b Blignaut	14
Hall c Price b Flower	68
Batty c Friend b Flower	12
Pipe c Taibu b Price	6
Kabir b Flower	0
Mason c Flower b Price	9
Harrity not out	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-3, nb-8)	17
Total: (All out in 79.4 overs)	247

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-12, 3-58, 4-73, 5-178, 6-180, 7-267, 8-278, 9-334

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Blignaut	18	3	86	1
Hondo	18	5	41	2
Friend	7	1	42	2
Price	25.4	10	47	2
Flower	11	3	25	3

'A ticking bomb'



REUTERS, Melbourne

Large photographs of West Indies captain Brian Lara arguing with his Australian counterpart Steve Waugh featured in Australia's newspapers on Monday, with one headline describing Lara as a "ticking bomb".

Former English county player Peter Roebuck, writing in The Age newspaper, said the verbal clash did not reflect well on either side and urged Lara to let his bat do the talking.

Lara and Waugh were involved in a war of words on Saturday during the second day of the fourth and final Test in Antigua before they were separated by English umpire David Shepherd.

Both players were later let off by match referee Mike Procter, who described their heated exchange as gamesmanship, and "what Test cricket is all about".

"By the time he had faced one delivery, Lara had flayed a six (over gully) and been involved in verbal stoushes (clashes) with opening batsman Matthew Hayden and rival captain Steve Waugh," The Australian newspaper reported on Monday.

The story was run under the headline: "Lara cast as the ticking bomb".

Glenn McGrath, Darren Lehmann and Justin Langer also clashed with Lara, according to Melbourne's Herald Sun in an article headlined "Aussies rally as Lara blows fuse".

The newspaper said: "Hayden ignited Lara's fuse when he uttered a few words to the master batsman as he strode to the crease."

In an article headlined "Lara's war with Australia is not cricket, but it is compelling", The Age cricket writer Peter Roebuck said the clash did not reflect well on either team.

"Lara has no business confronting opponents on the field and should let his bat do the talking," said Roebuck.

"Despite all their efforts at public relations, the Australians



BRIAN LARA

will remain respected rather than liked until they curb their tongues."

Australia, who lead the Test series 3-0, set West Indies a daunting fourth innings target of 418 and the home side had reached 47 without loss by the close of the third day.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Abul Hossain Khan Smriti Sangsadd played Faruk Smriti Sangsadd by 164 runs in the second round of the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss Abul Hossain Khan Smriti batted first and made 231 in 35.2 overs.

In reply, Faruk Smriti Sangsadd were bundled out for 67 in 15 overs. **SCORES IN BRIEF**

ABUL HOSSAIN KHAN SMRITI SANGSADD: 231 all out in 35.2 overs (Biswa 84, Sajib 37, Sunan 28; Manik 4/29, Sabuj 3/51, Mukta 1/19).

FARUK SMRITI SANGSADD: 67 all out in 15 overs (Tuhin 18, Partho 8, Rochhi 5; Anif 4/11, Sajib 3/1, Tushar 1/14).

Result: Abul Hossain Khan Smriti Sangsadd won by 164 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Biswa

Today's match: Islampurpara Cricket Club vs Udayan Sporting Club.

Toshack no more

FROM PAGE 13 making 48 first-class appearances from 1945-46 to 1949-50.

"On behalf of the Australian Cricket Board, I would like to express sincere condolences to the Toshack family, including Ernie's wife Cathleen and daughter Maria," ACB chairman Bob Merriman said on Monday.

"Ernie will be remembered for playing an important part in an unforgettable era of Australian cricket as a member of the late Sir Donald Bradman's 1948 Invincibles."

Cricket, not politics

REUTERS, London

England Test captain Nasser Hussain is determined to put cricketing politics behind him as he focuses on his team's home series against Zimbabwe and South Africa over the next few months.

Hussain resigned from his one-day duties after England failed to progress beyond the first round of this year's World Cup in southern Africa, emotionally bruised after the protracted saga over whether his team should have played in



NASSER HUSSAIN

Zimbabwe. England refused to travel to Harare for their Group A match against Zimbabwe on February 13, citing concerns over security following President Robert Mugabe's controversial land reforms.

"When you have been through something so traumatic...coming back to play cricket again felt very different this time," Hussain was quoted as saying by The Times newspaper on Monday.

"Zimbabwe changed me."

"A year or two back, it would have been a huge thing, really important. But when you have been through such a winter and faced such big issues, it puts things in perspective."

Hussain believes his public opposition to England's scheduled visit to Zimbabwe during the World Cup was a good thing, especially within the context of his team.

"After a difficult Ashes winter, it brought us together," he said.

"What players don't want in that situation is a captain who says one thing to them and then goes into a press conference and says something different."

"I'm trying to cut down on things as captain. During the Zimbabwe business, I became more than I wanted to."

"There is always a political side to being England captain, but the balance had switched too much. I had two months of trying to be a politician. Now I want to get back to being a cricketer."

"It's certainly raised my profile. I get recognised by non-sporting people now. It's part of the English culture, I think. The English like a guy they think is hard-done-by. I've had a lot of letters of support."

England play two Tests against Zimbabwe, starting on May 22, followed by five against the South Africans.

Mendis questions

FROM PAGE 13 respectively, batted first.

Sri Lanka are considering two changes ahead of the New Zealand match. The Kiwis crushed Pakistan by seven wickets on Sunday.

Left-hander Russel Arnold, who scratched around for his 13 runs from 49 balls, is expected to stand down for middle order batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan.

"We might also look at bringing in an all rounder who can bat better than someone who is already there," Atapattusaid.

Sanath Jayasuriya, who is suffering from a severe bout of tonsillitis, is expected to play after training lightly on Monday morning.

New Zealand are set to make one change, including Kyle Mills or Andre Adams in place of injured fast bowler Shane Bond.

Bond has suffered a back strain, which will be scanned when the team returns to Colombo on Wednesday.

SL strangers

FROM PAGE 13

Chris Harris, Brendon McCullum, Andre Adams, Jacob Oram, Daniel Vettori, Shane Bond, Daryl Tuffey, Matthew Horne, Kyle Mills, Paul Wiseman.

SRI LANKA (from): Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Russel Arnold, Kaushal Lokuarachchi, Prabhath Nissanka, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kaushalya Weeraratne, Upul Chandana, Dilshan Tillakaratne, Kumar Dharmasena, Dharshana Gamage.

Umpires: Simon Taufel (Australia) and Tyrone Wijewardene (Sri Lanka)

German Open Henin's



AFP, Berlin

Justine Henin-Hardenne, who beat world number one Serena Williams to take the Charleston title last month, overcame the world number two Kim Clijsters to win the German Open title on Sunday.

Henin is only the fourth woman in tennis history to have won the clay court titles in Charleston and Berlin successively, which augurs well for her chances at the Grand Slam on this surface, the French Open in Paris starting in two weeks time.

However the world number four from Belgium needed to save three match points at 4-5 in the final set before squeezing home 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 against her compatriot in a battle which contained several dramatic fluctuations and lasted two and a quarter hours.

Henin gained a 3-0 lead quickly, but abruptly lost it before securing the first set. Then she looked certain to win routinely after advancing rapidly to 4-1 in the second set.

Strangely at this stage, when she was right on top, Henin lost 16 points in a row, allowing Clijsters to dictate the pattern of the rallies with the course of the contest turning like a roulette wheel.

The third set was as consistent as the second had been unpredictable - with services being held right through till the penultimate game, a single break of serve at 5-5 eventually deciding the outcome.

previous day when she won a high standard thriller against Jennifer Capriati, the former world number one.

This time Clijsters started slowly, appeared as though she was resigned to defeat in the second set, and only got back into it with the help of a sudden surprising dip in standard from her opponent.

Before the third set Clijsters called for the trainer, appearing to receive treatment for a lower back ailment, and then leaving the court to return with her left thigh strapped.

"It happened when I went for a sliced forehand a little bit forward and when I moved back again something went," said Clijsters. "When I leant on my left leg when I



PHOTO: AFP

Justin Henin-Hardenne celebrates after beating Kim Clijsters at the German Open final on Sunday.

served I felt more pain.

"I think that's the first time in my career I have called for the trainer. Perhaps it's something that happened as a result of the long match yesterday (against Capriati)."

Despite that Clijsters had Henin 30-40 and twice at advantage point down in the 10th game of the final set. She seemed certain to clinch the match on the second of them, only for a rolled backhand pass to slide just into the tramlines.

Asked if she had a problem closing out matches (Clijsters missed four in the second set against Capriati and nearly lost), she said: "I don't think so."

Akram thought that our cricketers could only improve if they got good wickets and equally good grounds.

Akram came down hard on the present selection policy.

"Now there is a tendency to pick a player after just one good performance and then drop him without giving him enough time to prove himself. When I came into the team, I had five years of consistent performance in Dhaka and Chittagong Leagues behind me," said Akram.

The first Bangladeshi Test player to announce his retirement officially, Akram said that there were a few good prospects were are likely to carry the torch of Chittagong following his departure.

"Nafis, Aftab and Nazimuddin are doing good in domestic cricket. At the same time I'm happy that the Board have not rushed them into the senior team because I think that would be too early for them to survive at the highest level."

Akram's parting

FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13 FROM PAGE 13



PHOTO: AFP

Felix Mantilla kisses the winner's trophy after beating Roger Federer at the Rome Masters Series final on Sunday.

Mantilla master of Rome

AFP, Rome

Spaniard Felix Mantilla won the Rome Masters Series here on Sunday with a 7-5, 6-2, 7-6 (10/8) win over Swiss number four seed Roger Federer in 2hr 40 mins.

Federer, who won his third ATP title of the season in Munich last week, committed 69 unforced errors before crashing out to the unseeded 28-year-old Barcelona native.

Mantilla, who beat number seven seed Albert Costa and two-time Grand Slam winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov on his way to the final, broke into tears before receiving his trophy.

"It's incredible. The biggest win of my career," he said. "To beat such a strong player as Roger makes it extra special."

"I've played solid tennis all week and physically I've felt stronger as the tournament has gone on."

"It was far from easy and had he put some of his chances away it would have been a lot closer. He's a great player and I'm sure he'll bounce back."

A surprisingly below-par Federer, strongly fancied for the French Open later this month, admitted Mantilla deserved his victory.

"I had my opportunities and wasn't clinical enough, but he was a tough opponent and played very well, just as he has done all week," he said.

WI up against history

FROM PAGE 13

Lehmann for 14, had Andy Bichel caught at second slip for a duck and picked up Brett Lee for 18 when he played over the slips cordon to be caught at third man.

Hayden's epic near-six hour innings ended when he was run out by a direct throw from the gully by substitute fielder Carlton Baugh for 177.

Hayden's hundred and came off 158 balls in 349 minutes with 22 fours and three sixes.

Vasbert Drakes got Jason Gillespie for five, edging to Lara at slip and Dillon removed MacGill for a duck, with Lara taking another catch behind the wicket.

No.11 Glenn McGrath stayed with skipper Waugh with the pair adding 29 for the last wicket, before McGrath fell to Drakes for 14.

Waugh, 38 next month and playing what was expected to be his

last innings in the Caribbean, remained unbeaten on 45 off 70 balls.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard after the third day of the fourth and final cricket Test between the West Indies and Australia at the Recreation Ground on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 240 (J Langer 42, S Waugh 41, M Love 36; Lawson 7-78)

WEST INDIES: First innings 240 (B Lara 68, D Smith 37; A Bichel 3-53, B Lee 3-71)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 171-0)

Langer c Lara b Gayle	111
Hayden run out sub (Baugh)	177
Gilchrist c sub (Samuels) b Banks	6
Love c sub (Samuels) b Banks	2
Lehmann b Dillon	14
Waugh not out	45
Bichel c Smith b Dillon	0
Lee c sub (Joseph) b Dillon	18
Gillespie c Lara b Drakes	5
MacGill c Lara b Dillon	0
McGrath c Ganga b Drakes	14

Extras: (b-4, lb-9, nb-12) 25 Total: (All out in 104 overs) 417

Fall of wickets: 1-242, 2-273, 3-285, 4-330, 5-338, 6-343, 7-373, 8-385, 9-388

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lawson	6	1	17	0
Dillon	29	3	112	4
Banks	37	5	153	2
Drakes	19	1	92	2
Gayle	13	1	30	1

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Gayle not out	19
Smith not out	21
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-2)	7
Total: (For no loss in 22.1 overs)	47

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McGill	5	3	2	0