

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Independent Cricket Club defeated Zia Smriti Sangsad by 69 runs in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Independent won the toss and collected 199 runs in 38.5 overs.

In reply, Zia Smriti were all out for 130 in 26 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDEPENDENT CRICKET CLUB: 199 all out in 38.5 overs (Johny 44, Shaon 24, Mishu 23; Ripon 3/35, Pavel 2/33).

ZIA SMRITI SANGSAD: 130 all out in 26 overs (Babu 25, Bappi 25, Pavel 17; Shaon 3/16, Pavel 2/15, Sajal 2/19).

Result: Independent Cricket Club won by 69 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Shaon.

Today's match: Abul Hossain Khan Smriti Sangsad vs Islampurpara Sporting Club.

Target 20

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The World Cup champions crushed the West Indies by eight wickets to stretch their unbeaten one-day international run to 19 matches at Sabina Park here on Sunday.

Australia skittled the West Indians out for 163 off 49 overs and cantered to victory off 35.1 overs, scoring 166 for two.

The victory opened up a 2-0 lead for Ponting's team in the seven-game series.

No team in international one-day cricket has come close to their winning sequence, with the odds that it will reach 20 victories in the third game of the series in St Lucia on Wednesday.

"The thing with our side is it's got just so many class players right down the list, probably more so on the bowling side," Ponting said.

"It just comes down to having a lot of good players in the side at the moment and a lot of hungry players.

"We've got good, hungry players that we want to keep improving every time they walk out on the field, whether that be at training or in a game, and that's what keeps motivating us and driving us."

"There's a lot of hard work that goes into winning that many games of cricket in a row. One day it's going to come to an end and hopefully it's no time soon."

West Indies skipper Brian Lara could only agree with the dominance of the Australian team in the abbreviated form of the game.

"It's easily the best one-day team in the world and maybe the best one-day team I've seen put together in my era," Lara said.

The Australians remain unbeaten in one-day international since losing to Sri Lanka by 79 runs at the Sydney Cricket Ground on January 9 this year.

Since then Australia's ODI dominance has taken in the February-March World Cup in southern Africa when they beat all-comers, culminating in their 125-run demolition of India in the final in Johannesburg on March 23.

Easy win

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WEST INDIES

Gayle c Gilchrist b Bichel	28
Smith c and b Lee	1
Samuels c Gilchrist b McGrath	6
Lara c Gilchrist b Bichel	5
Sarwan c Hayden b Gillespie	14
Powell c McGrath b Hogg	32
Banks c Gilchrist b Lee	29
Baugh b McGrath	29
Drakes b McGrath	1
Dillon not out	3
Collymore lbw b McGrath	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, w-9)	15
Total: (All out in 49 overs)	163
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-21, 3-43, 4-50, 5-75, 6-103, 7-157, 8-160, 9-163	
Bowler O M R W	
McGrath	10 2 31 4
Lee	7 0 22 2
Gillespie	9 0 28 1
Bichel	5 0 27 2
Hogg	10 3 27 1
Symonds	8 0 22 0

AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist c Samuels b Collymore	27
Hayden c Collymore b Banks	51
Ponting not out	57
Symonds not out	17
Extras: (lb-10, w-3, nb-1)	14
Total: (For 2 wkts in 35.1 overs)	166
Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-120	
Bowler O M R W	
Dillon	10 1 45 0
Collymore	8.1 1 35 1
Banks	10 0 42 1
Drakes	1 0 6 0
Gayle	6 0 28 0
Result: Australia won by 8 wickets and take 2-0 lead in the 7-match series.	
Man-of-the-match: Glenn McGrath.	

ICC disciplines

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tain was found guilty of making remarks which he is not allowed to, it must be said that Mahmud had every reason to feel aggrieved as the two umpires, New Zealand's Steve Bowden and West Indian Billy Bucknor, made some very ordinary decisions that went against the home team.



Belgium's Kim Clijsters kisses the winner's trophy after beating France's Amelie Mauresmo at the Rome Masters Series final on Sunday.

Kim clinches Rome title

AFP, Rome

Belgian second seed Kim Clijsters won the Rome Masters title after fighting back from a set down to defeat French fourth seed Amelie Mauresmo here at the Foro Italico.

Mauresmo, who was two points from victory when serving at 6-5 in the second set, admitted she felt tired after her duel with Williams 24 hours earlier.

"I was pushing and pushing and in the end I didn't have any energy left," said the 23-year-old Frenchwoman, a runner-up in 2000 and 2001.

Mauresmo, who knocked out defending champion and world number one Serena Williams in the semifinals on Saturday, lost her third final here in four years 3-6, 7-6, 6-0 in 1hr 59 mins.

Clijsters, who lost her first set of the tournament before battling back for a 12th WTA Tour singles title, said she felt she would wear down Mauresmo in the decider.

"In the beginning I started poorly and my movement just wasn't there, but a lot of that was down to Amelie who likes to mix things up with her shots," said the 19-year-old world number two.

"But when I won the second set I really believed I would go on and win it."

Clijsters said she enjoyed having plenty of support from her compatriots in the crowd, as she became the first Belgian woman to win in the Italian capital.

"It's great to represent my country and good to see so many Belgian flags out there," she added.

Mauresmo, who was two points from victory when serving at 6-5 in the second set, admitted she felt tired after her duel with Williams 24 hours earlier.

"I was pushing and pushing and in the end I didn't have any energy left," said the 23-year-old Frenchwoman, a runner-up in 2000 and 2001.

"It's very disappointing as I felt I could win this match."

Games went with serve in the opening set until Mauresmo, whose left leg was heavily strapped as a precaution against stiffness, struck the first blow in the sixth game.

Struggling to find the kind of form that took her to the final, Clijsters saved a first break point but could do nothing about the second, as Mauresmo moved 4-2 ahead.

The next two games went with serve before Mauresmo secured the first set with a flawless love service game.

Committing a string of unforced errors with both forehand and

backhand, Clijsters was broken in the first game of the second set as Mauresmo kept up her early momentum to take a 2-0 lead.

Clijsters saved break point in the third game before an erratic service game from the Frenchwoman handed the world number two a vital breakthrough.

A break of serve followed by an immaculate service game saw Clijsters draw level at 3-3.

However the Belgian slipped up again in the 11th game as a sublime angled passing shot from Mauresmo set up the break which she duly took.

Serving for the match, Mauresmo moved to within two points from a 10th Tour title, but she wilted in the blazing sun and Clijsters battled back to snatch another break and force the tie-break.

Slowly coming to the boil, Clijsters' punishing forehands enabled her to close out the second set following a string of loose returns.

Mauresmo seemed to suffer psychologically after a tight second set and Clijsters blew her opponent away by winning six games in a row to secure a courageous victory.

Glenn in the news

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and hopefully learn a lot from," McGrath said here on Monday.

"To get a few wickets always helps the confidence and to get in the news for something good rather than the other."

McGrath finished off an overall outstanding Australian performance by all six bowlers with three wickets in his last six balls, as Australia steamed to an eight-wicket victory at Sabina Park to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

It was McGrath's best haul since his late arrival in the Caribbean after remaining at home while wife Jane began treatment for cancer.

McGrath said he was taking longer to rediscover his bowling rhythm after breaks, similar to the Windies' world record wicket-taking bowler Courtney Walsh.

"I'm feeling good now but it did take me a while to get back into things," he said.

"I spoke to Courtney Walsh the other day and he said as his career went on, when he had a break away from cricket, it took him longer and longer to get back in."

"I think that's why he played 21 years without a break."

"I would have preferred to have bowled a little bit better in the Test series. Probably the way things worked out at home, it wasn't ideal for the preparation here but that's the way it goes."

Vettori outspins Murali

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overs for just three runs.

Vettori, 24, eventually upstaged the Sri Lankan spinners who had earlier tied the New Zealand batsmen into knots.

Off-spinner Muralitharan finished with 2-41 and left-arm spinner Jayasuriya 2-35 after New Zealand were put in to bat.

Like Muralitharan, Jayasuriya also exploited the conditions well on a sunny and windy day to claim his 250th wicket in his 303rd one-day.

Vettori, however, had the last laugh as he caught the Sri Lankans in a spin-trap to mastermind his team's thrilling victory.

SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard of the triangular one-day cricket series match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at the Rangiri Stadium on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND

Nevin c Sangakkara b Nissanka 8

Fleming lbw b M'tharan	16	Atapattu c sub (Horne) b Vettori	13
Vincent run out	12	Sangakkara b Vettori	11
Styris c K'tharana b M'tharan	29	Jayasawardene c Harris b Styris	38
Cairns c Dilshan b J'suriya	9	Dilshan c Fleming b Vettori	7
Harris run out	4	Vaas c McCullum b Mills	4
McCullum not out	47	D'sena c McCullum b Harris	11
Mills c Jayawardene b J'suriya	17	Lokuarachchi lbw b Styris	8
Adams run out	1	Muralitharan c Mills b Vettori	4
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-3, w-4)	13	Nissanka not out	6
Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs)	156	Extras: (b-3, lb-2, nb-4, w-9)	18
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-40, 3-42, 4-69, 5-76, 6-88, 7-138, 8-156		Total: (All out in 49.1 overs)	147
Bowler O M R W		Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-43, 3-60, 4-63, 5-79, 6-87, 7-101, 8-121, 9-136	
Vaas	8 2 11 0	Bowler O M R W	
Nissanka	8 1 19 1	Tuffey	9 4 22 1
D'sena	10 2 19 0	Mills	8 2 30 1
M'tharan	10 2 41 2	Adams	3 0 14 1
L'rachchi	5 1 25 0	Styris	9.1 0 30 2
J'suriya	9 0 35 2	Vettori	10 4 14 4
SRI LANKA		Harris	10 2 32 1
Jayasuriya c McCullum b Tuffey	9	Result: New Zealand win by nine runs.	
K'tharana c McCullum b Adams	18	Man-of-the-match: Daniel	

Martina's 170th

REUTERS, Rome

Thirty years after first appearing as a finalist at the Rome tournament, Martina Navratilova has claimed her third title on the city's clay courts, winning the doubles.

Navratilova and Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova beat Yugoslav Jelena Dokic and Russia's Nadia Petrova 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in the final.

Navratilova's opponents had a combined age of 40 - seven years younger than the resilient American.

Navratilova's 170th career doubles title brought her tally for the season to five, following her mixed-event victory at the Australian Open and wins in women's tournaments in Dubai, Sarasota and the Gold Coast.

Her first Rome final in 1973 ended in defeat when, with partner Renata Tomanova, she lost to the pairing of Olga Morozova and Virginia Wade.

Two years later, however, she won alongside Chris Evert and she repeated the feat in 1987 with Gabriela Sabatini. She also finished runner-up in the singles four times between 1974 and 1994.

Coria master of Hamburg

AFP, Hamburg

Argentine Guillermo Coria beat compatriot Agustin Calleri 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to win the 2.45 million euro Hamburg Masters here Sunday.

The number 12 seed, in his third year on the circuit, wrapped up his first Masters title in no nonsense fashion to gain compensation for his recent Monte Carlo final drubbing by Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Coria comes from Venado Tuerto, a city he modestly describes as "the most beautiful in the world."

It is also the birthplace of Guillermo Vilas, a sporting hero of Coria's father who 21 years ago named his son in honour of the former Argentinian star.

Coria was adding this to his debut ATP success at Vina del Mar in 2001 which came just before he was handed a six month ban for taking a cocktail of illegal vitamins.

His cause was helped here by a nervous Calleri competing in his first final at this level.

Coria broke in the eighth game to clinch the opening set, and from then on never looked in any serious danger.

Leading 3-0 in the third set he was racing to victory but to his credit Calleri kept him waiting before finally succumbing in two hours 12 minutes.

"I'm so happy, I've played the best tennis of my life this week," said Coria, who only lost one set and who will be hoping his rich vein of form spills over to the French Open at Roland Garros - though it won't extend to next week's tournament in St Polten in Austria.

Coria said he had a sore groin and did not want to risk it so close to the French Open, though he would travel to Austria to undergo a medical to support his withdrawal from the event.

Hamburg this week will be remembered for producing an all Argentinian semi-final line-up, the first time four men from the same country have met in the last four of a Masters event.

Calleri, who has been suffering from a cold, now plans to reach Paris on Wednesday to prepare for the French Open which starts on May 26.

"It was an important week for me," said Calleri.

"I got to the final, I lost it, I had my tactics that I had discussed with my coach, but Guillermo just played too well. He didn't make any unforced errors. That's tennis - sometimes you win, sometimes you lose."

Where are we

FROM PAGE 13

legal battle to determine its lawful authority. Anam's comparison however interestingly matches with the operation of the BCB and the BCCSL. Both are directly run by their respective governments while the elected committees are left fighting for their rights on court.

Lawson held

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Meanwhile, Darren Lehmann was likely to miss at least two one-day internationals after straining his calf muscle in Australia's opening two-run win over the West Indies in the first ODI here on Saturday.

The South Australian left-hander, who has played 96 one-day internationals, injured his calf while scoring 55 off 86 balls at Sabina Park and needed the aid of a runner to complete his innings.

He was ruled out of Sunday's second match here and it was not known whether he would be fit for Wednesday's third match in St Lucia.

All-rounder Ian Harvey was another casualty from Saturday's game and was forced out with a stomach strain and replaced by fast bowler Jason Gillespie.

Put back the clock?

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's spin bowling, once the envy of world cricket, has declined to such a point that past masters of the art are being recruited to keep the "decaying art" alive.

Indian cricket supremo Jagmohan Dalmiya has summoned 11 past masters of spin for a brain-storming session in Calcutta on May 30 to stop the rot.

The group includes the famed quartet of Bishan Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Srinivas Venkataraghvan, who mesmerised batsmen with their spin tricks in the 1960s and 1970s.

"We were once the masters of spin, so I want to know why it has become a decaying art in the country," Dalmiya said.

"We want to keep those traditions alive. We need to find good spin bowlers."

There was a time when Indian captains used opening bowlers with the sole purpose of removing the shine off the ball so that Bedi and company could come on to bowl as early as possible.

India's attack now is built around seamers like Javagal Srinath and Zaheer Khan, with just two quality spin bowlers in Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh to keep the old tradition alive.

Kumble, 32, only the second bowler in history to take all 10 wickets in a Test innings, is nearing the end of a decade-old career in which he has scalped 349 Test wickets.

Harbhajan, 22, is regarded as one of the game's foremost off-

spinners, his 144 Test wickets including a magnificent haul of 32 in three matches against world champions Australia at home two seasons ago.

But the wealth of talent that once made India a spin force is drying up fast with few youngsters on the horizon who could be considered future Test prospects.



BISHAN BEDI

tion that led to the establishment of a fast bowling academy in the southern city of Madras under the guidance of Australian great Dennis Lillee.

Now a similar learning school for spinners is on the cards which Dalmiya hopes to start soon by roping in some of the spin greats of the past.



SRINIVAS VENKATARAGHVAN

Bedi, Prasanna and Chandrasekhar, who claimed 701 Test wickets between them, wrote the scene together in 1979, while Venkataraghvan played for five more years to finish with 156 wickets.

Their retirement coincided with the rise of a brilliant new ball bowler in Kapil Dev, who dominated Indian cricket for 16 years before ending with a world record tally of 434 wickets.

Kapil was later surpassed by West Indian fast bowler Courtney Walsh, the current record holder with 519 wickets, and two spinners, Shane Warne of Australia and Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka.

Kapil ushered in a pace revolu-

Till Harbhajan came along in 1998, many young spinners were tried in a bid to find the right partner for Kumble.

Sunil Joshi, Murali Kartik, Sarandep Singh, Rahul Sanghvi and Sairaj Bahutule managed just 64 Test wickets between them and were discarded by the selectors.

Kumble is the only current spinner called for the meeting with Dalmiya. The others are Bedi, Prasanna, Chandrasekhar, Venkataraghvan, Kapil Dev, V.V. Kumar, Rajinder Goel, Padmakar Shivalkar, Shivlal Yadav and Lakshman Sivaramkrishnan.

Zim draw Sussex tie

Cricket

AFP, Hove

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak gave the tourists a boost ahead of Thursday's first Test against England at Lord's by playing a full-part in the Africans final warm-up game.

Fast bowler Streak, who missed most of Zimbabwe's previous tour match, a tie against Worcestershire with a back injury, bowled without apparent discomfort as the four-day encounter against Sussex ended in a predictable draw here Sunday after rain had washed out nearly two whole days.

Streak, 29, who has one of the most powerful throws in world cricket, also showed good agility to run-out Mike Yardy after Sussex's

former Zimbabwe batsman Murray Goodwin had turned the ball onto the on-side and set off for a single.

And Streak also led from the front by taking the first Sussex wicket to fall, opener Richard Montgomerie (24) edging to Sean Ervine to leave the hosts 55 for one.

Goodwin, who retired from Test cricket following Zimbabwe's last tour of England in 2000 saying he could earn more money playing domestic cricket for Western Australia and Sussex, put on 92 for the third wicket with Dutch international Bas Zuiderent.

Goodwin eventually fell for a 74-ball 49, bowled off-stump by seamer Andy Blignaut.

Zuiderent reached exactly 50 off 92 balls including two sixes and six fours, before he was caught behind by wicketkeeper and Zimbabwe vice-captain Tatenda

Taubu off-paceman Ervine.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the four-day tour match between Sussex and Zimbabwe on Sunday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings (over-night 374-7)	
Ebrahim c	