



PHOTO: STAR

TAKE THAT: Bangladesh's Mohammad Rafique hoists England spinner Ashley Giles over long-on for six yesterday.

Rain forecast for TVS Cup opener

India look for a winning start



AFP/REUTERS, Madras

Hosts India hope to make amends for a disappointing Test series against New Zealand by beating the tourists in the opening match of the TVS Cup limited-overs triangular tournament on Thursday.

Stephen Fleming's Black Caps scored a moral victory by drawing both Tests in what was billed as a grudge series for the Indians after their humiliating 2-0 defeat in New Zealand last year.

The Kiwis, who have never won a Test rubber in India, almost achieved the unthinkable when they forced India to follow-on in the second Test at Mohali and reduced the hosts to 18-3 in the second innings.

The Indians warded off defeat, but demanding fans are unlikely to take kindly to the failure of the home team to win the one-day series that also features world champions Australia.

three times in the preliminary league to be staged across the vast country with the top two advancing to the final at Calcutta's Eden Gardens on November 18.

India's first clash against Australia since their World Cup final in Johannesburg in March takes place in Gwalior on Sunday, but coach John Wright's immediate priority was to confront the Kiwis here on Thursday.

"We need to make a winning start," Wright said ahead of the day-night match at Chepauk that appears in danger of being curtailed by bad weather.

The southern coastal metropolis has been hit by rain for the last three days due to a depression forming in the Bay of Bengal and more wet weather has been forecast for Thursday.

India will also be without skipper Saurav Ganguly, who is nursing boils on his left leg, and the injured pace duo of veteran Javagal Srinath and Ashish Nehra.

Worse still, batting mainstay Sachin Tendulkar appears in poor form after making just 71 runs in four Test innings at an average of 17.75.

Tendulkar, the most successful batsman in limited-overs history with 12,219 runs and 34 centuries, returns to the one-day fold for the first time since his record-smashing tally of 673 at the World Cup.

India need Tendulkar to fire alongside Virender Sehwag, Venkatesh Laxman and Rahul Dravid to lay the platform for a late charge by young guns Yuvraj Singh and Mohammad Kaif.

India will wait till Thursday to decide if Dravid, who took the field as wicketkeeper during the World Cup, will continue in that role as captain. The hosts have included specialist keeper Parthiv Patel in the squad of 14.

Injured seamer Aavishkar Salvi has been replaced by Lakshminath Balaji.

Salvi, picked for the tournament despite being ruled out of the second Test against the New Zealanders with a hand injury, has still not recovered, an Indian cricket board official said.

Bombay fast bowler Salvi had made his one-day debut in a triangular tournament in Dhaka in April. New Zealand, buoyant by their

impressive display in the Test series, have been bolstered by the return of influential all-rounders Chris Cairns and Chris Harris for the one-dayers.

But seasoned batsman Nathan Astle returned home after the Mohali Test to recover from a knee injury and was replaced by Chris Nevin.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Hemang Badani, Parthiv Patel, Harbhajan Singh, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan, Ajit Agarkar, Murali Kartik, Lakshminath Balaji.

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Chris Nevin, Ian Butler, Chris Cairns, Chris Harris, Paul Hitchcock, Brendon McCullum, Craig McMillan, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Scott Styris, Daryl Tuffey, Daniel Vettori, Lou Vincent.

Shoaib loses ban appeal

AFP, London

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has lost his appeal against a Test match and two one-day internationals ban.

Shoaib will miss the second Test against South Africa at Faisalabad starting on Friday and the first two games of a five-match home one-day series against New Zealand next month.

Shoaib was banned by International Cricket Council match referee Clive Lloyd for using foul language against South African tail-ender Paul Adams during the first day of the first Test in Lahore last Friday.

Former Australia captain Richie Benaud, appointed to hear the appeal by the ICC's Code of Conduct Commission said Shoaib had admitted he was guilty.

"In my view, the reason for the implementing of the ICC Code, is so captains in particular and players in general, will embrace the Preamble to the Laws of Cricket, which makes quite clear what is required of them on the field," Benaud said.

"The appeal I am asked to determine relates to the sentence imposed by Lloyd, not to the actual offence.

"It seems to me that Lloyd correctly followed the Code of Conduct rules in every way after Shoaib Akhtar accepted, and said, he was guilty."

He had been included in the second Test squad despite the ban and fitness problems. Pakistan won the first Test.

India resume

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Sinha said Wednesday the long-standing demand of India's cricket board "had been fulfilled" by New Delhi's decision to resume full sporting ties with its estranged neighbour.

His dramatic announcement thrilled cricket fans in India.

"I am very excited because there is nothing better in world cricket than a match between India and Pakistan," said school-going Venayak Gupta, 14.

The BCCI is expected to react formally to the government's proposal later on Wednesday.

'It's tougher than WC'



REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia face a tougher challenge in the triangular tournament in India starting this week than they did in the World Cup, captain Ricky Ponting said on Wednesday.

Back-up seamer Andy Bichel will lead the world champions' pace attack because of injuries to Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Brett Lee.

The inexperienced Nathan Bracken and Brad Williams and recalled Queenslanders Michael Kasprovic will assist Bichel in the tournament which also involves New Zealand.

"We've got our backs to the wall a little bit with our injuries and prepara-

tions, but we won't be using those as excuses," Ponting told reporters at Sydney airport.

"Going to the World Cup as favourites and defending champions, we were under a fair bit of pressure there as well.

"But I think the side is going to be tested more this time, with the injuries we've got, to key places to key bowlers especially. It's a big test for us."

Leg-spinner Shane Warne's understudy Stuart MacGill will also miss the series with a calf muscle injury. Warne's 12-month doping ban ends in February.

New South Wales batsman Michael Clarke, 22, has replaced injured left-hander Darren Lehmann, who is acknowledged as one of Australia's better players on turning wickets.

"Both sides that we're playing against are very good one-day sides and they've been playing in those conditions for the last few weeks," said Ponting, 28, who has a record of 37 wins from 47 matches as captain since succeeding Steve Waugh last year.

Australia, who completed a 2-0 Test series win over Zimbabwe this week, will play India on Sunday. New Zealand begin the tournament against the hosts on Thursday. The final is on November 18.

India's Sachin Tendulkar, one-day cricket's leading runscorer, averages 58.45 in 11 matches against Australia on home soil.

"His record against Australia would be fairly outstanding so that is a bit of a worry, but we'll keep our fingers crossed that we can hopefully get him out early," Ponting said.

Hussain of England

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Those who have been with us for the last couple of weeks will see that the ship has already been steered in a different direction from where I took it. It's very pleasing to see.

"It's a new era. The Batts, the Clarks and the Reads are all from a different era than me. Cricket is moving on particularly in the fitness aspect. They needed a new vibrant captain which is exactly what they got. It's a new direction, a new leader and I'm very happy that Michael and Duncan are taking us in that direction."

The gritty right-hander was very happy going on long winter tours even at the age of 35.

"I'm quite enjoying some of the new stuff being brought in. I think if we had done things the way when I was captain it would have been very boring. But with new things instilled by the younger players it has made touring very exciting for us older guys."

A veteran of 87 Tests before coming to Bangladesh, Hussain was very keen to play on for as long as his country wanted him.

"I've stated quite clearly that I shall continue playing for as long England wants me. To be honest I'm enjoying it. I think I've played in nearly 86 or 87 Tests till now and so it would be nice if I could play 100 Tests but even that's not all. When

they ring me up to say we don't need you anymore then I'll go off and do something else."

The many years of cricket certainly has taken its toll on the player especially his precious fingers, which have broken a number of times despite every possible preventive measure being taken.

"I think they should be alright on the low bouncy pitches here. But my ankles and toes might be in more trouble we shall see. I've got fragile bones I can't do much about that except drink more milk maybe that's about it," he grinned.

On whether the fact Bangladesh having lost 23 of their 24 Tests with only rain-affected draw, would help motivate England to complete a hiding in the two-match Test series, Hussain was rather guarded in his response.

"I don't know. If England does well it is one thing and if they do badly it's seen the other way. We have done well in both practice matches but Test cricket is completely different. Both sides would want to look at each other first up. You must remember we are a young side that has to be at our best to beat Bangladesh."

Talking about Bangladesh's bowling in the build-up matches, the former England skipper was impressed by the kind of discipline shown.

"They are very disciplined. They've obviously got good spinners which is normal in this part of the world. But their seamers also bowl well. They run up and put it in the right places."

He also believed talent-wise Bangladesh cricket was in good health.

"I think you've some good young players. The lad who got a hundred against us the other day looked very good. The fielding also has been excellent judging by the amount of work done by the coaching staff. There is definitely an Australian mentality coming through. So I don't see any reason why Bangladesh can't be a successful Test playing nation."

Hussain's main concern was Bangladesh's pitches and the impact it was having.

"I'm a little worried about the wickets here. If Bangladesh keep playing on these sorts of wickets then the small-framed batsman that generally in these parts tend to use their wrists and time the ball, will find it difficult on these surfaces and more often than not they lose their shape while trying to hit it too hard. You'll have to put more pace and bounce into your pitches. Then when you play abroad the gap won't be so much," he added.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: F equals C

Cryptiquip crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution: CRYPTOQUIP

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution: CROSSWORD

Solution time: 21 mins.

Grid for Cryptiquip puzzle with letters and clues

The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

SERIES SALAD

FROM PAGE 13 because the safety and security of the players are the main issues of every Board," added Lamb.

He was referring to England's refusal to play a World Cup match in Zimbabwe and South Africa's on and off tour of Pakistan.

MEETING OF THE MINDS To David Lloyd Michael Vaughan is a wise man.

The former England coach turned commentator made the remark during the first session on Day 2 of the first Test yesterday when England were in the field.

Lloyd was only agreeing with what fellow commentator Wasim Akram, who has just taken up the new job, said that the England captain should have brought his pacers back into the attack instead of continuing with spin.

And so sooner had the celebrated Pakistani uttered those words, it appeared that Vaughan had heard him. So, he threw the ball to Matthew Hoggard to bowl the last couple of overs before lunch.

A witty Lloyd was prompt to say that Vaughan was as wise as Akram because both shared the same tactical awareness.

Lloyd was England coach when they last came here in 1998 to play in the first ICC Knockout World Cup.

Chambers fails dope test

AFP, London

British sprinter Dwain Chambers, the European 100 metres record holder, has reportedly tested positive for the banned designer steroid tetrahydrogestrone (THG) at the heart of a new US doping scandal.

The Guardian newspaper reported Wednesday that traces of the drug were found in a urine sample given by the athlete in an out-of-competition test when training in Germany.

Kiev punish

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shot bounced like a ping pong ball into the air and he fired the ball home past wrong-footed keeper Lehmann.

Edu could have levelled the scores two minutes before the break. He did well to get a head on Pires' freekick but its trajectory downward made it bounce nicely for keeper Alexandr Shovkovskiy to save.

Arsenal brought on Vieira with half an hour to go which should have lifted morale and added authority to their midfield as they looked for the equalizer.

Instead Lehmann conceded a silly goal to Belkevich just when the away side looked as though they were getting back into the match.

Arsenal did get a consolation goal when Edu's cross from the right was guided by Pires towards Henry who had time to control the ball with his left foot before tapping home with his right.

Kolo Toure hit the crossbar in injury time but Arsenal just could not get the equaliser to leave their European record in the former Soviet Union reading a disappointing four defeats and one draw.

Moscow mauling

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striker Julio Cruz missed a great opportunity after getting past the Lokomotiv defence to leave himself with an easy shot from six yards.

The hosts replied immediately however and Georgia international forward Ashvetia netted Lokomotiv's second in the 50th minute, sweeping the ball home after Yevseyev's cross from the right.

Seven minutes later, Khokhlov made sure of Lokomotiv's victory after he beat Toldo with a precise header from the edge of the box into the top left corner.

Inter missed a good chance to score a consolation goal when star striker Christian Vieri struck the woodwork with an unopposed header from eight metres with five minutes remaining.

Miandad wary of Protea fightback



REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad has warned his players to prepare for a strong fightback from South Africa in the second Test starting on Friday.

Pakistan won the first Test in Lahore by eight wickets, only their second Test win over South Africa in 10 matches and their first at home.

"Our players can't afford to put up their feet and relax," Miandad told this news agency. "Test cricket these days is all about consistency, discipline and increased workload. We have to work much harder for the second Test because they will come stronger at us."

Miandad said he was satisfied with the way the younger players had performed in the first Test.

"If anyone thinks he has learnt everything about cricket and has nothing more to learn he will be finished as an international cricketer within no time because nowadays cricket is all about consistent hard work and improvement," he said.

Miandad, Pakistan's leading Test run-scorer in 124 matches, said he was determined for his side to complete a 2-0 series win in Faisalabad.

"We are up against a quality side but they are under pressure and they are facing problems against our spinners," he said. "We must not only be prepared for a comeback from them but also to overcome it."

Miandad said Pakistan would try to exploit South Africa's inconsistency against spinners.

Pakistan have included four slow bowlers in their squad for the second

Test, including leg-spinners Mushtaq Ahmed, Danish Kaneria and rookie Mansoor Amdaj, who has yet to play a first-class match.

Pakistan spinners took 12 of 19 South African wickets in Lahore.

South Africa sealed a dramatic win the last time the sides met in Faisalabad in 1997 thanks to their pace attack.

But indications are they might go into the game with both spinners, Paul Adams and Robin Peterson, who bowled well in the one-day series.

More misery for Philippoussis

AFP, Basel

Wimbledon runner-up Mark Philippoussis was forced to pull out of the one-million-euro Swiss Indoors tournament because of a chest infection here on Tuesday.

The Australian, whose career has been dogged by injuries, was seeded six here and had been due to play Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentini in the first round.

The withdrawal is also a blow to Philippoussis's hopes of securing one of the two remaining berths for November's Masters Cup in the United States.

He is currently ninth in the Masters race while only the top eight receive invites.

Philippoussis is the second big name to pull out of the tournament following world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero's decision to withdraw on Monday.

BD-ENG SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table showing runs, wickets, and overs for Bangladesh and England in the first Test.

Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and Ashoka de Silva (Sri Lanka).

Juve masterclass

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the squad and we demonstrated that tonight, especially in the first half," said Trezeguet, whose goals were his first in Europe this season, as were Di Vaio's.

"We always had something extra in reserve and proved too strong for Sociedad. For us it was important to win, but it was even more satisfying to perform well. We're a step away from qualification."

Di Vaio played down talk that Juventus could go one better than they did last season and become champions of Europe.

"It's too early to say that we can win this time around, but we have started well and that's a great boost for morale," he said.

"We had our critics after the final last season and that motivates us even more. We're unbeaten in the league and in Europe and have every reason to be confident, but we won't get carried away."

Juve coach Marcello Lippi said an impressive win would not prevent him from rotating his squad for Sunday's league match at home to Brescia.

"On Sunday there will be new faces in the team," he said. "The

idea is to involve as many members of the squad as possible.

"It's important that the players have time to recover as the season will take its toll. It's something they are used to.

"We can sometimes play three games in a week and everyone needs a break from time to time."

Juventus, who knocked out three Spanish sides on their way to last season's Old Trafford showpiece where they lost to AC Milan, went on the attack from the opening whistle and their positive approach brought a goal in the third minute.

Wing-back Mauro Camoranesi weaved his way into the heart of the Sociedad defence and fed Trezeguet, who sprung the offside trap with a perfectly-timed run before rounding goalkeeper Sander Westerveld and slotting home.

The home side refused to sit back on their lead and doubled their advantage four minutes later.

Pavel Nedved went on a robust run down the right wing and passed to Di Vaio, who cut inside before dilling a low, angled shot between two defenders and into the far corner.

"On Sunday there will be new faces in the team," he said. "The

National cricket

FROM PAGE 13 exciting one-wicket victory over hosts Chudanga.

SCORES IN BRIEF AIUB v Dhaka University

Venue: DCS AIUB: 173 for all out in 48.5 overs (Litu 60, Dicans 35, Mosharaf 4-21, Sajal 3-18)

DHAKA UNIVERSITY: 148 for all out in 46.4 overs (Ashish 51, Sumon 33, Monju 4-32, Litu 2-26, Sabbir Khan 2-26)

Result: AIUB won by 25 runs.

Noagaon v Nilphamari

Venue: Natore Noagaon: 50 for all out in 26.1 overs (Joy 12, Malik 3-4, Nadim 2-6, Humayun 2-7)

NILPHAMARI: 51 for five wickets in 18.1 overs (Humayun 18, Apu 3-3)

Result: Nilphamari won by five wickets

Comilla v Chittagong

Venue: Chandpur Comilla: 112 for all out in 46.2 overs (Baglu 28, Javed 19, Arafat 3-2, Kamal 2-29)

CHITTAGONG: 116 for five wickets in 31.3 overs (Akram Khan 47, Al Shahriar Rokon 36, Moni 3-34)

Result: Chittagong won by five wickets.

Jessore v Chudanga

Venue: Chudanga CHUDANGA: 154 for all out in 46.2 overs (Rashed 38, Rabbi 26, Sanjoy 3-23, Russel 2-19)

JESSORE: 155 for nine wickets in 48.2 overs (Raju 38, Nazimur 32, Milon 3-26, Biplob 2-24)

Result: Jessore won by one wicket.

Luyindula denies

FROM PAGE 16 round contribution from the Dutchman despite his record of six goals in eight games.

Despite conceding the goal, the French side continued to push with Dija

Diarra having a fierce 38th minute drive well-saved by Kahn who also stopped another attempt by Michael Essien.

It was Bayern who came closest to scoring again in the second half when Roque Santa Cruz hit the post in the 67th minute as the Germans went looking for a decisive goal.

It was a flowing move as a Paraguayan player exchanged a series of passes with Maakay and Ze Roberto before unleashing a shot that evaded Coupet but not the woodwork.

Elber, who had had a quiet night against his former side, had a chance to snatch an equaliser in the 71st minute.

He found himself in the clear in front of goal, but somehow the ball went wide of the post leaving the Brazilian to sink to his knees in frustration.

Sociedad recovered their composure after Juve's opening blitz and carved out their first attack in the 27th minute which ended with Juve goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon tipping Lionel Potillon's free-kick over the bar.

Trezeguet was denied a second by Westerveld's stunning reflex save before the home side turned the screw in first-half stoppage-time.

Gianluca Zambrotta flew down the left flank and cut the ball back from the by-line for Di Vaio, whose looping header eluded Westerveld's grasp and crept in at the near post.

Sociedad fell further behind in the 63rd minute. Nedved cut in from the left and threaded an angled pass through to Trezeguet who sped clear of the Spanish defence before stroking the ball past Westerveld.

Tudor diverted a left-wing cross past Buffon after a rare Sociedad attack before De Pedro's blistering free

kick 10 minutes from time brought the curtain down on a six-goal thriller.