



Sri Lanka A captain Russel Arnold sweeps one out on way to his match-winning knock of 96 not out against India A at Calcutta yesterday.

Arnold coasts SL A home

AFP, Calcutta

Russel Arnold led from the front with a quick-fire 96 not out as Sri Lanka A thrashed India A by seven wickets in the opening match of a triangular one-day cricket tournament here on Monday.

The Sri Lankan captain's 99-ball knock helped his team surpass a challenging Indian total of 300-8 with 12 balls to spare in the 50-overs-a-side contest before a sizeable crowd at the Eden Gardens.

Sri Lanka A will clash with Pakistan A on Tuesday in the second match of the tournament featuring experienced and young talented players from the three nations.

Indian opener Gautam Gambhir slammed an impressive 125-ball 113 with one six and 11 fours to help his team set a stiff target. He put on 159 for the second wicket with one-day specialist Mohammad Kaif (71).

The Indian pair were later upstaged by hard-hitting Arnold, who had played 43 Tests and 120 one-day internationals for the national team before being dropped for the recent home Test series against England.

India's big medium fast bowler Moin was all action during his 174-ball innings, deciding aggression and positive batting was the key to reaching the follow-on target of 364.

Moin said the ball was coming on to the bat well on Monday. "It was quite easy to bat because it was such a good pitch and I was getting tips from the captain and the coach while I was batting."

New Zealand's Daryl Tuffey finished with five for 87, his second five-wicket bag in Tests.

"The new ball was doing a bit and it gave me a new burst of energy," Tuffey said.

The big medium fast bowler said New Zealand bowled well as a unit, but allowed too many boundaries. "In that respect we were pretty disappointed, but all-in-all I think we did pretty well on an unresponsive wicket."

Korea's Kim in trouble

ANN/THE KOREA HERALD, undated

The prosecution is moving to summon Kim Un-yong, the South Korean vice-president of the International Olympic Committee, over bribery charges, prosecution sources said yesterday.

Kim is suspected of receiving at least 130 million won (110,000 dollars) in bribes in 2001 from a now-detained businessman in return for pulling strings to gain him membership of the Korea Olympic Committee. Kim, also a national legislator, served as chairman of the KOC at the time.

"If not next week, it won't take very long before we summon him," said an investigator Saturday, implying that the subpoena against the Korean sports mogul should come this month.

Kim found himself embroiled in other corruption charges as prosecutors have been checking to see whether more than \$1 million in cash found in his personal safe was given him as bribes.

Prosecutors said they suspect Kim received 400 million won (\$338,000) in bribes from another businessman, Kim Hyun-woo, who became a KOC member in the same year, via a similar deal.

Prosecutors said they were also probing whether the IOC member misappropriated portions of IOC grants given to promote the Korean martial art taekwondo, which became a formal Olympic sport at the Sydney Summer Games in 2000.

Much ado about Sachin

AFP, Melbourne

Indian vice-captain Rahul Dravid says he expects Sachin Tendulkar's barren Test year to end with another Melbourne Cricket Ground masterpiece.

Tendulkar has had a lean year for runs, scoring 109 from seven innings at an average of 15.57.

But the Indian master loves the Boxing Day venue his last Test innings there was an outstanding 116 during the last 1999-00 series.

He opened this tour at the same ground with a classy 80 in last month's three-dayer against Victoria.

Dravid said too much had been made of Tendulkar's lean Test year and he was confident that would soon change.

"A lot has been said unnecessarily about his form we believe he is in great touch and hitting the ball really well," Dravid said here on Monday.

"We're looking out for a big score from him here.

"Having said that, it's not just

about Sachin, we don't want to put any additional pressure on him. "We want him just to go out there and enjoy his cricket, play like we know he can play. "I'm confident Australia has not



RAHUL DRAVID

seen the best of him ... you can see he's really keen to make a big one."

The Indians arrived here on Monday to prepare for the third Boxing Day Test leading Australia 1-0 in the four-match series.

Australia have made one change for the third Test, with Brett

Lee taking the place of injured fellow paceman Jason Gillespie.

"He's just one of four bowlers, so we're not going to concentrate only on Brett Lee," Dravid said.

"We understand we'll have to prepare well and play well against four or five bowlers, not just Brett Lee."

Dravid was confident India would regain strike bowler Zaheer Khan, who missed the second Test in Adelaide with a hamstring strain.

Zaheer, who bowled in the nets on Sunday, took five wickets in the first innings of the Brisbane Test earlier this month.

"We're very hopeful and confident he'll make it," Dravid said.

Dravid said his scintillating display in India's remarkable four-wicket win over Australia in Adelaide last week was the best Test performance of his career.

The right-hander, known as "The Wall", scored a first-innings 233, the highest by an Indian batsman on foreign soil, before lashing the winning runs in an unbeaten 72 as the tourists reached their final-day victory target.

He proves his worth

Cricket

REUTERS, Hamilton

Pakistan wicketkeeper Moin Khan played the innings of his life on Monday to lead his side to safety in the first Test against New Zealand.

Moin hit a glorious 137 and figured in a seventh wicket partnership with fast bowler Mohammad Sami of 152 on the fourth day.

His last Test hundred was in 1996 against England at Headingley. Monday's century scotched New Zealand's plans of forcing the follow-on and probably saved the match for the tourists.

"I was out of the game for so long I was really looking forward to a big innings and it was important today," Moin said.

He played against South Africa

in two Tests recently, but before that his last Test was the second against New Zealand in March 2001 in Christchurch.

Moin, who was the captain on that tour, missed the third Test in that series in Hamilton on a green top which Pakistan lost heavily, because of a knee injury and lost the wicketkeeping berth to Rashid Latif.

"I was always hoping to get a way back into the Test team, so I kept myself fit and continued to play domestic cricket," said Moin. "To get a winner on the final day on Tuesday, New Zealand, with an overnight lead of 104 after batting for two overs to be four without loss at stumps, would need to set Pakistan a target and then try to bowl them out."

But home captain Stephen Fleming will naturally be mindful of the explosive batsman Pakistan possess.

Dhaka drub Chittagong

FROM PAGE 13 limited-overs matches played at different venues across the country yesterday:

Dhaka v Chittagong Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists players like Nafees, Masum, Nazimuddin, Aftab, Faisal, Akram, Azam, Hasan, Yasin, Alamgir, Obaidul.

CHITTAGONG Nafees lbw Mahmud 2 Masumuddin lbw Mahmud 6 Nazimuddin c Sajjad b Mahmud 16 Aftab b Sunny 2 Faisal c Muntasir b Rafique 20 Akram c Naimur b Sunny 0 Azam c Sanwar b Sunny 8 Hasan c Sanwar b Rafique 1 Yasin b Rafique 0 Alamgir lbw Sunny 0 Obaidul not out 2 Extras: (b-3, lb-2, w-9) 14 Total: (All out in 32.3 overs) 71 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-29, 3-32, 4-56, 5-58, 6-58, 7-60, 8-60, 9-63

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists players like Mahmud, Neeamur, Sunny, Rafique, DHAKA, Rashedul, Al-Shahriar, Muntasir, Sajjad, Sunny, Extras, Total, Fall of wickets.

Result: Dhaka won by seven wickets Man-of-the-match: Arafat Sunny (Dhaka) Khulnay Barisal Venue: Shamsul Huda Stadium, Jessore KHULNA

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists players like Shajjadul, Shaiful, Bashar, Tushar, Hasanuzzaman, Aminul, Nuruzzaman, Rezwanul, Extras, Total, Fall of wickets.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists players like Anisur, Jamal, Tariqul, Litu, Arman, Imran, BARISAL, Reshadul, Imran, Jamal, Nahidul, Faruque, Proshenjit, Litu, Shahin, Arman, Anisur, Tariqul, Extras, Total, Fall of wickets.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists players like Ashraf, Monjur, Raj, Shaful, Shajjadul, Bashir, Result: Khulna won by 81 runs Man-of-the-match: Habibul Bashar (Khulna)

Rajshahi v Sylhet Venue: Cricket Garden, Rangpur RAJSHAHI Rafiqul lbw Tapash 8 Imroz c Rana b Nabil 43

Brett in, Jason out

FROM PAGE 13

"If these bowlers are what we consider to be our best bowling attack, we then have to come up with ways to getting these guys out particularly those two (Laxman and Dravid)."

With India having posted scores of 409 and 523 batting second in each Test so far without Sachin Tendulkar firing a shot, Australia risks being batted out of the series unless it can find a way through the Indian top six.

In the past that hasn't been a problem for Australian attacks but with leading pacemen Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie injured and Shane Warne serving the 10th month of his year drug ban, Hohns conceded Australia was up against it.

"What you have to realise is the Indian batsmen are very, very good players. We can't just expect to steamroll everybody all the time," he said.

While India has traditionally been dominant against Australian legspinners Warne and MacGill, Hohns said it wasn't time abandon the legspin option despite the ease with which India took runs off MacGill in Adelaide.

On an Adelaide pitch which was dry and offering irregular bounce MacGill went for more than four runs an over in India's second innings.

But he's Australia's leading wicket-taker in the series, with eight wickets costing 45.25 runs each.

A royal show

FROM PAGE 15

stay in third place, six points behind Real.

Federico Insua opened the scoring for Malaga after 16 minutes but Murcia's David Karanka took just seven minutes to equalise with an acrobatic goal which saw him trap a high ball on his chest before volleying it home.

Honours remained even until two minutes into injury time.

A terrible breakdown in communications between Murcia goalkeeper Juanmi Garcia and his defender Gabriel Loeschbor allowed the ball to run free and Canabal was on hand to get the last-gasp winner.

Villarreal moved up to fifth after a 3-1 win at Real Betis with all the action squeezed into the last 15 minutes.

Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson put the visitors in front after 75 minutes and then three minutes later Betis were reduced to 10 men when Daniel Lembo got his second yellow card and his marching orders.

Betis managed to equalise with 10 minutes to go, thanks to a Juanito Gutierrez header, but Villarreal showed their class by not settling for a single point with Antonio Guayre getting two goals in the last three minutes.

Villarreal now have the same points as fourth-placed Osasuna, who lost 1-0 at home to Real Zaragoza with David Villa getting the only goal of the game after 35 minutes.

MU reclaim top spot

FROM PAGE 15

Republic of Ireland defender O'Shea's flicked volley flew past Keller and beat Spurs captain Stephen Carr who was guarding the far post.

Tottenham's former England midfielder Darren Anderton was included in the Spurs team after passing a late fitness test but lasted just 19 minutes before being replaced by Poyet.

And the Uruguayan international almost brought Tottenham level, his low shot forcing a fine one handed save from Howard.

Then, after Howard had made a more comfortable save from Stephane Dalmat, United counter-attacked and got their second.

Brief Scores

INDIA A: 300 for 8 in 50 overs (Gautam Gambhir 113, Mohammad Kaif 71, Dinesh Mongia 23 not out, Sanjay Bangar 21, Nuwan Kulasekara 2-50, Nuwan Zoysa 2-81) SRI LANKA A: 301 for 3 in 48 overs (Russel Arnold 96 not out, Saman Jayanatha 92, Naveed Nawaz 57 not out, Jehan Mubarrak 25) Result: Sri Lanka A won by 7 wickets. Man-of-the-match: Russel Arnold.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 25 mins and a list of answers.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a key: M Z C T E E L S T X O C K F L X C S N A Z X K T P J B O C Z O A N C H A F C T H B C U , D A M X T F C K B C Z D P C U E T L .

CRYPTOQUIP M Z C T E E L S T X O C K F L X C S N A Z X K T P J B O C Z O A N C H A F C T H B C U , D A M X T F C K B C Z D P C U E T L . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I IMAGINE ANY CORE GROUP OF PHYSICISTS MIGHT PREFER TO CALL ITSELF A NUCLEUS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals R The Cryptoquip 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.

Orient handball

BSS, Dhaka

Title aspirants Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) scored an emphatic 31-9 victory over Purbachal Parishad in the Orient Border Cup handball tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 18-2. Nazmul scored nine goals and Sayeeduzzaman seven for BDR, while Didar pulled back four.

In the day's other encounter, Narinda Pragati Boys Club overcame a stiff first-half resistance from Surjadyo Boys Club to post a 26-17 win.

"These Indian batsmen are highly proficient players not just against spin but against all bowling," said Hohns.

"Stuart has taken more wickets than anybody else in the series, albeit at a high cost.

"They do play spin very well but it's obvious they're playing other types of bowling pretty well."

Hohns said the one forced change to the bowling line-up was a reflection on the fact the Adelaide Test was lost by a poor second innings batting effort from Australia.

"Quite frankly the bowlers didn't let us down in Adelaide, it wasn't their fault on a very flat wicket," he said.

"We had them 6-230 in the second innings and if we had scored another 50 runs we could have won the match."

Captain Steve Waugh, playing his last Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground before retiring after January's final Test in Sydney, will be keen to turn the tables on the Indians.

Australia needs to win the final two Tests if it is to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Mushfiq

FROM PAGE 13

of pain in his left thigh.

"Mushfiq has been suffering pain in his left thigh which was troubling him during the second one-day match against England that's why he will return home," said chief selector Faruque Ahmed.

Faruque also informed that Mushfiq had a test done by a Pakistani physiotherapist and he suggested a two-week rest for the all-rounder, who was made captain of the second-string national team after an impressive showing against England last month.

Hannan Sarker will now lead the side in the first-class competition.

of the points against relegation strugglers Lecce.

Lecce started the brighter and took a deserved first half lead after Javier Ernesto Chevantoni's cross from the corner found Axel Konan who headed in at the far post.

Juventus, the reigning champions, were reduced to ten men when Mark Iuliano was red-carded for a foul on Chevantoni in the 58th minute.

Juve's blushes were saved though when Trezeguet, finally brought off the bench, connected with Stephan Appiah's high pass four minutes from the end to slot the ball past Poleksic.

The result placed them level on points with AC Milan, who have a game in hand, but second on goal difference.

Perugia's Greek international Zisis Vryzas failed in his ambition

to score on his last game for the struggling club before joining Fiorentina.

Perugia, without a win this season, had to settle for a 2-2 draw with Brescia which placed them fourth from bottom.

Inter Milan missed a chance to take second losing 2-1 at Lazio in Sunday's late match.

Substitute Luciano Zauri sealed Lazio's win nine minutes from the whistle as Alberto Zaccaroni lost his first Inter match in Serie A.

Inter, who have not won at Lazio since 1996, had taken the lead with former-Lazio player Christian Vieri netting after 30 minutes.

Bernardo Corradi put the home side ahead two minutes from half time flicking an Dejan Stankovic cross into goal, with Zauri marking his 100th Serie A appearance with a rare goal to seal victory.

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