

Akhtar misses one hat-trick

AFP, Wellington
The "Rawalpindi Express" achieved everything he wanted to out of his stunning bowling spell against New Zealand on Monday... except for the elusive hat-trick.

Shoaib Akhtar, who has made a habit of terrorising New Zealand batsmen, bowled Pakistan within sight of a series victory with another unplayable spell in the second Test at the Basin Reserve.

His haul of six for 30 to spark a New Zealand collapse of seven wickets for just eight runs gave him match figures of 11 for 78.

He is a certainty for the man-of-the-match award when Pakistan knock off the 28 more runs they need for victory.

Akhtar now has 17 wickets from two Tests against New Zealand at 5.24 runs apiece after a match-winning six for 11 inflicted the Black Caps' last Test loss in Lahore 18 months ago.

Aussies' target

FROM PAGE 13
Williams claimed the psychologically important wicket of Tendulkar with one that left him off the pitch, the attempted drive finding Gilchrist.

It was Tendulkar's highest score of an underachieving series after previous scores of 0, 1, 37 and 0.

The Little Master looked to be re-gathering his touch in his 79-ball stint in 107 minutes as he put on 87 for the third wicket with Dravid.

Leg-spinner Stuart MacGill picked up Laxman's wicket for the second time in the Test and the third occasion in the series when he coaxed him forward for an edge which found Hayden at slip.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the third cricket Test between Australia and India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday:

INDIA: First innings 366 (Sehwag 195, Dravid 49, Chopra 48; MacGill 3-70)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 558 (Ponting 257, Hayden 136; Kumble 6-176)

INDIA: Second innings (overnight 27-2)

Chopra c Gilchrist b Bracken 4
Sehwag c Williams b Lee 11
Ganguly b Bracken 73
Dravid c Gilchrist b Lee 92
Tendulkar c Gilchrist b Williams 44
Laxman c Hayden b MacGill 18
Patel not out 27

Akarkar b Williams 1
Kumble lbw b Williams 0
Zaheer c Hayden b Williams 1
Nehra c Hayden b MacGill 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-1, nb-7) 15
Total: (All out in 99.5 overs) 286

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-19, 3-126, 4-160, 5-253, 6-258, 7-271, 8-271, 9-277

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Lee 22 3 97 2
Bracken 25 13 45 2
Williams 22 5 53 4
MacGill 26.5 5 68 2
Kach 4 0 16 0

Salahuddin & Zahid pair of the year

SPORTS REPORTER
Md Salahuddin and Md Zahid Hossain became 'bridge pair of the year 2003' in the Quazi Abdul Alim Memorial Trophy scoring 579 points.

Second, third and fourth positions went to DM Hanzala and Syed Ahmed Rabi, NG Saha and Anisul Huq, NH Shamsuzzaman Kamal and Jamilur Rahman pairs who scored 558, 481 and 471 match points respectively.

The three-day meet organised by the Dhaka Metropolitan Bridge Association, ended on December 26 at Bangladesh Bank Club premises.

Sarwan slows the slide

Cricket
AFP, Durban

West Indian vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan slowed South Africa's march to victory when he hit an unbeaten 95 on the fourth day of the second Test at Kingsmead on Monday.

The West Indies were 186 for five in their second innings at tea, still 208 short of avoiding an innings loss.

South Africa seemed headed for an early win when they claimed the first four West Indian wickets, including that of captain Brian Lara, before lunch.

But Sarwan, who needed treatment on the field after taking a heavy blow on the back of his helmet after ducking into a bouncer from Makhaya Ntini, played a courageous innings studied with flowing off-side drives.

By tea he had been batting for 247 minutes, faced 181 balls and hit 16 fours.

The injured Shivnarine Chandernaul, batting with Lara as his runner, helped Sarwan put on an unbeaten 56 for the sixth wicket.

Chandernaul was only allowed to bat after the fall of the fifth wicket after being unable to field on the third day because of a thigh strain.

Chandernaul gave a sharp chance to Martin van Jaarsveld at short leg off Jacques Rudolph when he had two but otherwise batted solidly as the pair stayed together for 80 minutes until the tea break.

Sarwan was on 29 when he was felled by Ntini, turning his back on a lifting delivery.

The only wicket to fall between lunch and tea was taken by Rudolph, a part-time leg-spinner, who had Ridley Jacobs caught at mid-off.

The morning was more productive for South Africa.

Both opening batsmen, Wavell Hinds and Darren Ganga, were dismissed within the space of four balls inside the first half hour. Hinds was bowled between bat and pad by Andre Nel and Ganga was trapped leg before wicket by Shaun Pollock.

Lara and Sarwan put on 46 for the third wicket before Lara chipped a simple catch to square leg off Andrew Hall after an unusually subdued innings in which he made 11 in 98 minutes off 71 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the second Test between South Africa and the West Indies at Kingsmead on Monday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 264 (Lara 72, Drakes 67, Jacobs 58; Ntini 5-66, Nel 3-43)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 658-9 declared (Gibbs 142, Kallis 177, Kirsten 137; Sanford 3-170)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 18-0)

Hinds b Nel 11
Ganga lbw b Pollock 12
Sarwan not out 95
Lara c McKenzie b Hall 11



West Indies' Ramnaresh Sarwan raises his arms after reaching his hundred on the fourth day of the second Test against South Africa at Kingsmead yesterday. His century was however not enough for his side from losing the match by an innings and 65 runs.

Coinciding captains

AFP, Melbourne

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly will finish the third Melbourne cricket Test with something in common with Australian counterpart Steve Waugh after he was clocked on the head while batting on Monday.

Ganguly was forced from the ground in the fifth over of the day while on 16 after turning his helmeted head into a Brad Williams lifter, but he returned to the fray later on.

He came back to share in a 93-run fifth wicket partnership with Rahul Dravid.

Vice-captain Dravid said Ganguly had pain shooting down his neck and felt dizzy before he left the field.

Left-arm paceman Nathan Bracken dismissed Ganguly when the skipper dragged a delivery on to his stumps to be out for 73.

Ganguly's misfortune created the rare coincidence of both skipper retiring hurt in the match after Australian captain Waugh was struck on the elbow on Sunday only to return later to score 19.

Williams admitted he was surprised Ganguly had to leave the field and felt the blow had given him a mental edge over the Indians.

"Obviously, you never want to see anyone hurt on the cricket field," Williams said.

"But when you inflict a pain like that it really puts a mental thing into their heads... I felt like I was on top after that."

Badda frustrate

FROM PAGE 13
in the 47th minute when he sent the ball miles over the cross piece instead of just placing it with the goalkeeper at his mercy.

Khokon muffed the last opportunity ten minutes from time after he volleyed straight into the safe hands of Badda custodian Al-Amin.

Yellow cards: Chandan, Zahid, Mintu, Belal, Johnny (Badda) and Maxim (Abahani).

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Nijam, Osamanu, Sila, Mahmudul Hasan, Masood Rana, Abdullah Parvez, Joy, Pranotosh, Sandro (Uzzal), Maxim and Khokon.

BADDA JAGARANI: Al-Amin, Sumon, Hafiz, Daniel, Chandan (Benu), Arup, Zahid, Belal, Mintu (Milan), Nahid and Anwar (Johnny).

Referee: Maruf Sikder.



Commerce Minister Amir Khosru M Chowdhury (C) giving away a trophy to one of the winners of the HSBC Charity Golf tournament at Bhatiary Golf and Country Club in Chittagong on December 12. Major General Moeen U Ahmed psc (second from L), General Officer Commanding of 24th Infantry Division of Chittagong Cantonment, and David JH Griffiths (L), chief executive officer of HSBC in Bangladesh, are also seen.

'Keep him away from runs'

Cricket
AFP, Melbourne

Fast bowler Brad Williams says his Australian teammates are working at keeping Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar in his form slump.

Tendulkar looked to be recapturing his ebullient touch during his knock of 44 as India attempted to overcome a massive 192-run innings deficit and set Steve Waugh's team a competitive total to chase on Tuesday's final day of the match.

Instead Australia are after just 95 to win the third Test and level the series with one Test to play.

But the threatened big innings from the Little Master has failed to materialise in Australia and the world's best team are aiming to keep it that way.

Williams was the best of the Australian bowlers with 4-53 off 22 overs.

He pitched the ball up and had Tendulkar caught behind trying to drive, similar to his dismissal in the first innings of the second Adelaide Test.

probably the result of my plan, I don't know if it was in the team plan.

"I tried to get him driving, he looked pretty comfortable on the back foot. I was lucky to get the nick."

Tendulkar has ended 2003 with only 153 runs in five Tests at an average of 17.

He had lives at 12 and 24 on Monday, but generally looked fluent and teammate Rahul Dravid said Tendulkar had not gone into his shell.

Tendulkar made a first-ball duck in the first innings when he tried to glance paceman Brett Lee and was caught down the leg side by wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist.

"He's really hitting the ball well. In today's knock, he was batting really well, Dravid said.

"It's really bad luck if you get out flicking down leg side, it doesn't happen often.

"You go through phases like this where sometimes whatever you try, things don't seem to work out for you.



SACHIN TENDULKAR

"His confidence is down a bit, so we're really trying to go hard at him early and so far it's working," Williams said.

"It (today's dismissal) was

Dhaka still lead

FROM PAGE 13
SCORECARDS

Scoreboard on the last day of the three Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League matches played at different venues across the country yesterday:

DHAKA VS SYLHET
Venue: Sylhet Stadium
SYLHET: First innings 331 runs all out in 128.3 overs (Shishir 20, Imtiaz 27, Kapali 85, Tushar 42, Tapash 59, Nayeem 56, Shahriar 1-38, Sajjad 1-5, Rafique 3-108, Naimur 3-72, Sunny 2-29)

DHAKA: First innings (overnight 147 for 5 in 56 overs)

Mehrab c Tapash b Nabil 47
Al-Shahriar c Imtiaz b Nayeem 9
Jahangir c Mowla b Nayeem 0
Sanwar c Kapali b Parvez 8
Sajjad c Shishir b Nayeem 5
Naimur c Imtiaz b Tapash 18
Sunny lbw Nayeem 14
Kadir c Imtiaz b Tapash 31
Nayeem lbw Tapash 0
Rafique not out 4
Shahriar b Tapash 1
Extras: (b-18, lb-1, nb-4, w-10) 33
Total: (All out in 98 overs) 250
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-22, 3-94, 4-99, 5-145, 6-175, 7-244, 8-244, 9-244, 10-250

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Tapash 25 8 42 4
Nayeem 27 12 52 4

Nabil 18 5 56 1
Parvez 10 4 17 1
Al-Wadud 9 0 32 0
Imtiaz 9 2 32 0

SYLHET: Second innings
Imtiaz b Nayeem 0
Shishir run out 4
Parvez c Kadir b Shahriar 16
Kapali b Rafique 9
Nasirul lbw Rafique 11
Taqirul b Rafique 0
Moula c Sajjad b Naimur 6
Tapash c Sajjad b Naimur 12
Nayeem not out 2
Al-Wadud b Shahriar 4
Nabil lbw Naimur 1
Extras: (lb-1) 1
Total: (All out in 48.4 overs) 66
Fall of wks: 1-1, 2-6, 3-28, 4-28, 5-30, 6-43, 7-59, 8-60, 9-64, 10-66

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Shahriar 12 3 21 2
Nayeem 7 4 13 1
Rafique 20 11 24 3
Naimur 9.4 5 7 3

DHAKA: Second innings
Sajjad not out 5
Al-Shahriar not out 9
Extras: (lb-2) 2
Total: (For no loss in 4 overs) 16

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Tapash 2 0 5 0
Nayeem 1 0 9 0
Mabud 1 1 0 0

Result: Match drawn.
Man-of-the-match: Rezaul Haq Nayeem (Sylhet)

CHITTAGONG VS KHULNA
Venue: Comilla Stadium
CHITTAGONG: First innings 389 for nine declared in 135 overs (Masum 29, Azam 31, Faisal 100, Arif 107, Sabbir 57, Monirul 30 n.o, Russel 3-85, Razzak 2-65, Shahriar 2-61, Bashir 2-88)

KHULNA: First innings (overnight 81 for 3 in 48 overs)

Sajjadul run out 9
Parvez lbw b Obaidul 0
Hasibul not out 75
Salauddin c Anisul b Sabbir 3
Hasanuzzaman b Monirul 35
Asadullah c Masum b Sabbir 6
Bashir not out 3
Extras: (b-15, lb-7, nb-7) 29
Total: (For five wks in 127 overs) 215
Fall of wks: 1-7, 2-23, 3-32, 4-91, 5-201

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Obaidul 18 4 35 1
Sabbir 51 28 64 2
Monirul 26 9 42 1
Yasin 27 14 39 0
Faisal 4 1 6 0
Azam 1 0 7 0

Result: Match drawn.
Man-of-the-match: Hasibul Haq (Khulna)

BARISAL VS RAJSHAHI
Venue: Barisal Stadium
RAJSHAHI: First innings 190 all out in 74.1 overs (Mashud 86, Murad 47, Tariqul 4-67, Bikash 3-22)

BARISAL: First innings 266 all out in 102.5 overs (Imran 152 n.o, Nahidul 21, Mustadir 29, Shahin 10, Shafiq 3-62, Shahjada 4-64, Soheli 2-70, Rafiqul 1-6)

RAJSHAHI: Second innings
Jamal c Shahin b Bikash 10
Imroz run out 40
Rafiqul c Shahin b Mustadir 19
Hasanuzzaman b Arman 0
Anisur c Joy b Arman 54
Mashud not out 73
Nuruzzaman not out 30
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-1) 6
Total: (For five wks in 87 overs) 232
Fall of wks: 1-16, 2-68, 3-69, 4-72, 5-161

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Bikash 14 6 30 1
Anisur 12 5 36 0
Arman 17 1 42 2
Mustadir 22 9 46 1
Tariqul 15 3 41 0
Imran 1 0 2 0
Nahidul 3 0 6 0
Joy 3 0 23 0

Result: Match drawn.
Man-of-the-match: Imran Ahmed (Barisal)

Shoaib clips

FROM PAGE 13
"We were really up for the cause today and the captain (Inzamam) did a great job," Shoaib told reporters.

"I was asked by the captain if I wanted a rest this morning, but I just wanted to get my job done as quickly as possible. Although it was difficult for me to bowl 10 overs in a row, it had to be done."

New Zealand added 20 runs to their overnight score before the innings fell apart and they lost seven wickets for just eight runs.

After compiling a steady 41, opener Mark Richardson swiped at a wide delivery from Shoaib and edged a catch to wicketkeeper Moin Khan.

Scott Styrus went for a first-ball duck when Shoaib ripped out his middle stump with a yorker and Craig McMillan survived the hat-trick delivery when he was just able to get his bat behind a similar ball.

"I've had about 12 chances to get hat-tricks and it's never happened," said Shoaib. "It wasn't a bad hat-trick ball today, but

McMillan did well."

McMillan, who was foolishly run out in the first Test, was involved in another farcical mix up that led to the loss of nightwatchman Daryl Tuffey for 13.

He stroked the ball wide of mid-on and set off for the run, but changed his mind halfway down the pitch and sent Tuffey back.

Despite a clumsy pick up and throw by Danish Kaneria and some confusion between two fielding players going for the returned ball at the bowler's end, Tuffey was still unable to make up his ground.

Shabbir Ahmed got into the act with two lbw decisions to remove Jacob Oram and Daniel Vettori, before Shoaib came back to dismiss Robbie Hart and Ian Butler in the same over.

Imran Farhat was the first Pakistan batsman out, for 14, when he attacked an Oram bouncer down the leg side and gloved the ball to Hart behind the stumps.

Fellow opener Taufeeq Umar went for 34 lbw to Vettori and the other Pakistan wicket was that of the impressive Yasir Hameed, who got an edge to a Butler delivery and was caught by Hart for 59.



MD SALAUDDIN (L) AND MD ZAHID HOSSAIN

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Divot material
4 Actor James
8 Circumstance partner
12 Article in "News-week"
13 Pinnacle
14 Lotion additive
15 Have a bug
16 Kind of bell or waiter
17 Logical
18 Interceding on behalf of
21 Shoebox letters
22 Glass of public radio
23 Team
26 Show curiosity
27 Make up your mind
30 Gas station fixture
31 "What?"
32 Fabricator
33 Puppy's noise
34 Stir-fry vessel

DOWN
1 Sans companion
2 Baltimore link
3 Lunchtime stop
4 Mooched bird
5 Less than 90 degrees
6 Pellets, e.g.
7 Inept one
8 Traitor's supply
9 Minnesota's St. College
10 Stereo alternative
11 Juror, in theory
19 Tide type
20 Indy Jones sought it
23 Erle's style
24 Sine-non link
25 Diamond decider
26 Diving bird
27 Exxon Valdez cargo
28 One of the gang
29 Take a whack at
31 Bespectacled pooch of the comics
32 Bowling venue
34 Drenched warm
35 Snug and warm
36 Leg parts
37 Secretarial skill
38 Erle's style
39 Unyielding
40 Low-down joint
41 Slate with certainty
42 Joie de vivre
43 Eli's venue
44 Labyrinth goal

Solution time: 27 mins.

W A L L C O W K R O N A
E G O A L A E A V E S
A R K K I T T Y H A W K
T E E E V E R S
H E R B E R A Q U A Y
E A R P L U N G E
V I C A L O A I S E S
J I N T I G N I L K
P E T T S H A N E X A M
B E L L I S E W E
P U S S I F O O T N A T
U B O A T E V E O R R
B I N G A E S E W N E O



CRYPTOQUIP

Q O M F Y F K K R F N B S R
U M A N B Q P P N D S R U R D D R O ,
N E I N K S P R O Q S G Q P A Q ' C C

IRRA YK MP NEIYFN.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MIME WENT SHOPPING FOR CLOTHES, I'D SAY HE WOULD PROBABLY GET UNMENTIONABLES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals N

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.

CA decides

FROM PAGE 13
January before they turn their attention to Zimbabwe.

"The Zimbabwean tour is exactly the same for us... one of the areas we look at is security, but we haven't begun the process yet," association chief executive Tim May said on Monday.

Both bodies will send representatives to Zimbabwe before Australia's tour to oversee security arrangements and will discuss the proposed tour with the Australian government.

May said he would also speak to West Indies cricket officials after their recent tour of the African nation to discuss security.

Australia called off their 2002 tour of Zimbabwe because of safety concerns sparked by the re-election of president Robert Mugabe.

Australia last visited Zimbabwe during this year's World Cup and played a match against the home side without incident, but have not visited for a Test tour since 1999.

Sarker shines

Ashrafal I, Ehsanul Haq 0, Mohammad Seim 4, Jamal Uddin 10, Mosaddeq Hossain 26, Manjarul Islam Rana 18 n.o., Anwar Hossain 6, Alamgir Kabir 5, Nadif 4-51, Sarfaraz 4-31

PAKISTAN WAPDA: First innings 58 for two wickets in 18 overs at stumps (Aziz 5, Asif 22 batting, Jaman 27, Aqil 2 batting, Alamgir 1-22, Manjarul 1-18).

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Akhtar 18 3 30 6
Shabbir 17 5 20 2
Sami 4 1 12 0
Kaneria 9 2 18 1
Razzaq 5 1 19 0

PAKISTAN: Second innings
Farhat c Hart b Oram 14
Imran lbw b Vettori 39
Ismail c Hart b Butler 57
Youhana not out 74
Inzamam not out 57
Extras: (nb-3, lb-1, b-4) 8
Total: (For 3 wks in 71 overs) 246
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-75, 3-156

To bat: Razzaq, Moin, Sami, Shabbir, Akhtar, Kaneria

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Tuffey 12 5 28 0
Butler 17 1 83 1
Oram 9 1 34 1
Styrus 6 1 26 0
Vettori 23 5 59 1
McMillan 4 0 11 0