

2nd Test heading for draw

Cricket

AFP, Faisalabad

The second cricket Test between Pakistan and India moved towards a tame draw on Tuesday as the ball continued to dominate the ball on a heartbreaking pitch for bowlers.

Younis Khan (64) and Kamran Akmal (59) carried Pakistan to 152-1 at stumps on the fourth day, a lead of 137 and with little to play for on the fifth and final day on Wednesday.

India scored 603 in their first innings to gain a slender 15-run lead over Pakistan's 588 on a day when bowlers toiled in search of wickets for the second successive Test in the series.

The high-scoring first Test ended in a draw in Lahore. The final Test starts in Karachi on Sunday.

For India, Mahendra Dhoni (148) and Irfan Pathan (90) dashed Pakistan's hopes of gaining a first-innings lead. The hosts could not contain the Indians on the easy-paced pitch.

The pair carried their overnight sixth wicket stand to 210 before tail-enders Harbhajan Singh (38) and Zaheer Khan (20) gave the tourists the first-innings lead.

"I am obviously delighted at my first Test century and my best knock till now," said Dhoni.

"The wicket was flat but it was not easy to bat out there with Shoab Akhtar bowling so well. It will give me confidence for the future."

"It seems this game will be drawn, so I am looking to give another good performance in Karachi."

Younis, who scored 83 in the first innings, and Akmal put on 100 for the unfinished second wicket to ensure Pakistan did not collapse after losing Salman Butt (24) early in the post-lunch session.

Akmal and Butt gave Pakistan a brisk start of 52 before Butt miscued an on-drive off leg-spinner Anil Kumble and was caught by Sachin Tendulkar at mid-wicket.

But the early setback did not deter Pakistan, who are two batsmen short because captain Inzamam-ul-Haq is nursing a back injury and Shoab Malik is away in Sialkot to attend to his ailing father.

The Pakistan team management said both batsmen might be called in if required.

Younis has so far hit eleven boundaries during his 13th Test half-century while Akmal compiled 10 boundaries in his second Test fifty.

The Indian batsmen dominated the morning session, scoring runs at a brisk pace.

Dhoni, 116 overnight, hit Akhtar

out of the attack with four boundaries in the sixth over of the day.

Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria finally provided the breakthrough when he had Dhoni stumped with a well-disguised delivery, ending the home team's long wait for a wicket after having reduced India to 281-5 in the post-lunch session on Monday.

Dhoni hit 19 fours and four sixes during his 152-ball knock which pulled India out of trouble.

Pathan, who hit 93 against Sri Lanka in New Delhi last year, added another 38 for the seventh wicket with Kumble (15) before he was trapped leg-before by Abdul

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



PHOTO: AFP
Pakistan's Kamran Akmal drives one straight for four while India wicketkeeper Mahendra Dhoni looks on on the fourth day of the second Test against India at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Tuesday.

U-19s beat UAE again

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-19 cricket team made full use of their practice match ahead of the World Cup when they handed the visiting United Arab Emirates a 95-run defeat in their second day-night match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Playing under the banner of Bangladesh Academy, the Mushfiqur Rahim-led side, which won the first match against the ICC associate member country by six wickets at the same venue on Monday, set a challenging total of 260-9 in their share of 50 overs.

Sirajullah Khadem put up an all-round performance to register the comfortable victory as the left-arm paceman captured four wickets for 35 in 10 overs after making 57.

Mushfiqur, the only Test batsman in the squad, was the top scorer with an unbeaten 68 while Shamsur Rahman contributed 54.

In reply, UAE were all out for 165 runs in 48.4 overs.

UAE will play two more limited-overs games against Bangladesh A at the Khulna Divisional Stadium on January 26 and 27.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh under-19 team will spend two more days at Bogra before jetting out for Sri Lanka on January 30 to take part in the ICC Under-19 World Cup.

Young Tigers get sponsor

SPORTS REPORTER

Consistent success in the recent past has earned the Bangladesh under-19 cricket team a sponsor for the first time in the country.

Dhaka Bank Limited has come forward with a purse of Tk 25 lakh to sponsor the young Tigers ahead of the ICC Under-19 World Cup to be held in Sri Lanka in February.

The private sector financial institution has struck a deal with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Tuesday in this regard.

"Dhaka Bank has agreed to sponsor the team for the next one year. It was also the biggest financial deal for a young side and I think the boys deserved it," Khondokar Jamiluddin, acting chairman of the BCB Development Committee, said.

Many believe that the Mushfiqur Rahim-led side is well equipped to make history in the youth World Cup by reaching the Super League stage of the competition for the first time because of their recent performances.

The young Tigers had not only been victorious in a tri-nation tournament at home but also finished third in last November's Afro-Asia Under-19 Cup in India. They recently won matches against Australia, Sri Lanka, England, Zimbabwe, Pakistan and South Africa.

Bangladesh have been pencilled in Group A along with Pakistan, New Zealand and associate member Uganda in the World Cup.

National women's chess from Jan 30

SPORTS REPORTER

The first round of the 27th national women chess championship will start on January 30 at the federation hall room.

Interested players have been asked to register their names without any fee by January 28 at the Bangladesh Chess Federation office.

Proteas win a thriller

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

South Africa clawed their way to a tense nine-run victory over Sri Lanka on Tuesday to keep their hopes alive in the triangular limited-overs series, although they may have paid a heavy price.

Key batsman Herschelle Gibbs suffered a groin strain in the match, joining the already sizeable ranks of South African players who are out injured.

The Sri Lankans, needing 11 to win off the last over, botched their drive for victory -- making 254-8 in reply to South Africa's 263-5.

The Proteas, desperate for a victory after losing two of their first three matches, held their nerve while their opponents lost theirs and added just 29 runs for the last three wickets to fall.

South Africa were aided by an unbeaten 125 from opener Boeta Dippenaar, his top one-day international score, and a sprightly 68 off 65 balls from Gibbs, who hurt himself while fielding.

Jacques Kallis, Makhaya Ntini and Andre Nel have already suffered injuries.

Sri Lankan coach Tom Moody said the super-sub rule had cost his side dearly when they lost the toss and fielded first after choosing to bat.

"There's no question it needs to be reviewed," he said.

"It's 12 against 11, depending on who wins the toss and who you have as super-sub. You're either chasing with an extra batsman or defending with an extra bowler and you tell me if that's fair."

Each of the three teams now has two wins from four matches, although Australia are one point ahead of Sri Lanka and two ahead

of South Africa courtesy of the bonus points system.

The South Africans made a solid but not dramatic total, but almost paid a heavy price for failing to hit a boundary between the 13th and 36th overs.

Sri Lanka suffered an early setback when Jehan Mubarak spooned a Shaun Pollock delivery to Ashwell Prince at mid-wicket with the score at 11.

But the dismissal brought the dangerous pairing of Senath Jayasuriya and Kumar Sangakkara to the crease.

They immediately gave their opponents reason to worry, cllobbering the ever-accurate Pollock for 15 runs in his fifth over and nine in his sixth after he had conceded just four runs off his first four.

Charl Langeveldt, playing his first match back from injury, got an even worse pasting, smacked for a humiliating 20 runs in one over

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP
MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Boeta Dippenaar of South Africa sweeps one on the way to scoring an unbeaten 125 against Sri Lanka in the VB Series match at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday.

India deny Champs Trophy withdrawal

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday denied withdrawing from future editions of the Champions Trophy but said it would discuss its concerns about the tournament with the ICC.

"We have not decided anything regarding not participating in future Champions Trophy tournaments," board secretary Niranjan Shah told reporters.

"But we are concerned that in a cramped domestic and international calendar, the tournament takes away a month," he added. "We have some points to discuss with the International Cricket Council (ICC) in this regard."

The ICC had last week warned India against withdrawing from the tournament after reports that the Indian board was not in favour of

participating in future editions.

India hosts the one-day competition in October and November with New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata as the three venues for the event.

The Indian board, however, said it would ask the world body to add more venues.

"We have drawn attention to the fact that more than three venues might be required as there are 21 matches in the tournament," said board treasurer N Srinivasan.

The previous editions of the Champions Trophy were held in Bangladesh (1998), Kenya (2000), Sri Lanka (2002) and England (2004).

Meanwhile, Reuters adds from Dubai, six countries are to bid to host the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Champions Trophy in 2008, the ICC said on Tuesday.

Australia, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and West Indies as well as associate ICC member United Arab Emirates had submitted letters of

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Jatrabari Krira Chakra managed an exciting two-run victory against Surjo Tarun Club in the First Division Cricket League at the Dhaka University ground yesterday.

Kamal picked up four wickets and Marshal bagged three as Jatrabari, defending 201, restricted Surjo Tarun to 199-9.

In the day's other matches, Dhaka Wanderers (216-6) beat Rupali Bank (212-9) at BKSP and Bangladesh Boys (178-7) defeated Azad Sporting Club (177-10) by three wickets at the City Club ground.

Five lead jr chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Five players were leading the table at the end of the fourth round of the BASIC Bank 27th National Junior (under-20) Chess Championship at the federation hall room yesterday.

Minhajuddin Sagar, Imran Ali Elin, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, Shamima Akhter Liza and Abdullah Al Saif secured maximum four points to share the lead.

Nazir Salehin and Raqibul Hasan followed them with 3.5 points.

Double blow for Davenport

Australian Open

REUTERS, Melbourne

Top seed Lindsay Davenport lost her number one ranking after being knocked out of the Australian Open quarterfinals on Tuesday by Justine Henin-Hardenne.

Eighth seed Henin-Hardenne won 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 to join Maria Sharapova in the semifinals while ensuring Kim Clijsters, or possibly Amelie Mauresmo, takes over as the new number one when the next rankings are released on Monday.

Davenport said she was more disappointed at missing her chance to win the Australian Open than losing the top ranking.

"I'm not going to argue that I deserve to be number one," Davenport told a news conference.

"I don't want to disrespect it by

saying it's low on the priority, but it's not up in my priority list."

Second seed Clijsters plays unseeded Swiss Martina Hingis on Wednesday while French third seed Mauresmo faces seventh seed Patty Schnyder, also of Switzerland.

Clijsters will be the next number one unless she loses to Hingis and Mauresmo goes on to win the title.

Sharapova, seeded fourth, booked her place in the semifinals for the second year in a row at Melbourne Park with a 7-6, 6-4 win over Nadia Petrova in an all-Russian affair.

Argentine fourth seed David Nalbandian became the first man through to the semifinals with a clinical 7-5, 6-0, 6-0 victory over unseeded Frenchman Fabrice Santoro.

Nalbandian will play either Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic, the seventh seed, or the unpredictable, unseeded Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis who play

each other on Tuesday night.

Henin-Hardenne, 23, is the bookmaker's favourite to win her second Australian Open title after injury prevented her from defending her title last year.

She strolled through her first four matches this year without dropping a set but was in trouble early against Davenport.

"I had the chance there after the first set, she wasn't looking so good," Davenport said.

"I definitely let her back in early in the second and gave her some confidence and when she has confidence, she plays really well."

The dogged Belgian tightened her game in the second set to force the match into a third set then wore down Davenport with her superior court speed.

"I'm very happy about this win because I think I came back from a very bad situation," Henin-Hardenne said.



PHOTO: AFP
Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne plays a forehand against American Lindsay Davenport in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Tuesday.



Did U Know?

Women were first allowed to participate at the second modern Olympic Games in 1900.



Patrick Rafter

(Australian tennis star)

"This is one of the highs. I don't think there is any more, this is it for me. I'm really surprised to receive this so young. I expected it to come later on, when I was older."

After being elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.



TEN Sports

India vs Pakistan
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 10:45 am

ESPN

Sportscentre
Live at 9:30 pm

STAR Sports

Australian Open
Men's/Women's Qtrs
Live at 6:00 am

ACC wants to hold Asia Cup in September

CRICINFO, undated

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has asked the region's four Test-playing countries to advise it of their availability for the Asia Cup which is now provisionally scheduled for September.

The proposal to hold the tournament then came after Zimbabwe announced that they would not be touring Pakistan, clearing a small space in the calendar ahead of the ICC (International Cricket Council) Champions Trophy.

However, Pakistan play their last ODI in England on September 10 and are unlikely to want to go straight into the Asia Cup as soon as they return from a long tour.

The ICC's Future Tours Programme shows that Sri Lanka should be hosting a tri-series, but India have recently hinted that they will be looking to host a one-day series with Australia and Pakistan at the same time.

The Asia Cup had been allotted to Pakistan and was to be held in March but was deferred for next year when India showed its unavailability due to hectic activities. It seems wishful thinking by the ACC to expect the major players to agree to hold it so soon.

Indira brighten their chances

SPORTS REPORTER

Indira Road Krira Chakra registered a 30-run victory over Orient Sporting Club in the first relegation match of the Aktel Premier Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The outcome indeed improved Indira's collection to eight points, but it would be decided only after their second and last match against Agrani Bank on Saturday that who would be demoted along with Orient.

The bankers have six points and a game against Orient on Thursday.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Edgar John Barlow ... retired hurt

Cricket

SABER HOSSAIN CHOWDHURY

It took me a while to reconcile to the fact that when I am next in the United Kingdom, I will not be hearing Eddie's cheerful voice at the other end of the phone line.

We all no doubt have to take a bow at some point and make our final exit from this stage we call earth but still it is difficult to accept the fact that I will never be seeing him again.

The world of sport has indeed lost one of its wonderful ambassadors, cricket has lost a truly remarkable and engaging personality, Bangladesh has lost one of its all time well-wishers and those of us who worked with him have lost a dear friend.

We had last spoken in September 2005 and had arranged to meet up when I next traveled to London. In his usual enthusiastic tone, he told me that he had many ideas he wanted to discuss with me and we must meet. I had readily agreed and was very much looking forward to doing so.

would be commensurate with our potential.

We thus had in place the basic attributes of the next coach for Bangladesh cricket and on this basis, the name of Eddie Barlow was first suggested to me by Ali soon thereafter.

I exchanged a flurry of emails and phone conversations with Ali



EDDIE BARLOW

checking on various aspects and making doubly sure that Eddie would indeed be the right person.

During my schooldays in

England in the early and mid seventies, I had the privilege and sheer delight of watching two great South Africans playing in English cricket - Eddie Barlow and Mike Proctor - and had the highest respect for their talent and abilities.

Prodigious run-makers and frequent wicket-takers, both these world class all-rounders possessed that unique capability to alter the course of a match almost single-handedly. Here I was twenty-five years down the road having the opportunity to consider appointing one of them as coach of Bangladesh cricket.

I arranged with Ali for Eddie to visit Bangladesh as I also wanted to talk to him in person about what we were looking for from a new coach and to see how he viewed such a challenge. Eddie flew into Dhaka with his wife Cally and within minutes of that first meeting I knew Eddie, despite the fact that he was not in his first flush of youth, was indeed the right person for the job in hand.

His enthusiasm was in one word infectious and I could almost feel the energy he was generating in

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2