



Did U Know?

Anil Kumble of India took 576 in the first innings of the second Test against England. It took his aggregate to 501 wickets and he became the fifth player to exceed 500 wickets.



Samuel Eto'o

(Barcelona star striker)
"For me, Ronaldinho is like my brother. To talk is very easy and to lie still easier. I have never had a problem with Ronnie because I admire him and I feel a co-contributor to his triumphs."



DD National

India vs England
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 10:30 am
ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm



7th National Cricket League
Four-Day Matches (Day Four)
Chittagong vs Dhaka
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium, Mirpur
Rajshahi vs Sylhet
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium
Barisal vs Khulna
Venue: Barisal Divisional Stadium

Glowing tributes for Kumble

AFP, New Delhi

Former Indian captain Sunday congratulated leg-spinner Anil Kumble for completing 500 Test wickets during the second Test against England in Mohali.

"There is no doubt that he is the best spinner we have and we are all proud and delighted at his achievement," said Kapil Dev after Kumble reached the mark on Saturday with Steve Harmison's wicket.

Kumble, 35, joined Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne (659), Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan (600), Australian paceman Glenn McGrath (542) and West Indian fast bowler Courtney Walsh (519) in the 500-wicket club.

"He is very focused, committed and determined. The effort that he has put in is simply unparalleled," said Kapil, who led India to a World Cup triumph in 1983.

"He has achieved something that players only dream of," added the famous all-rounder, who has played for India alongside Kumble.

Legendary opener Sunil Gavaskar felt Kumble was always under-rated because he likes to keep a low profile.

"Kumble is not the one to promote himself so he will not make any tall claims like having developed a mystery delivery just to get some headlines," the former skipper wrote in a column in Hindustan Times.

"The only headlines he wants is when he rips through the batting as he did here to stop England in its tracks."

Bishan Bedi too was full of praise. "He is an asset for the side and deserved to get to the mark," said Bedi, who was the most successful

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Dhaka fight back



SPORTS REPORTER

Under pressure of tons of runs, defending champions Dhaka put on a brave face on the third day of their four-day match against Chittagong in the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League yesterday. Dhaka, forced to follow-on, took an overall lead of 83 runs when they produced 254-4 at stumps in their second innings.

Joint-leaders Rajshahi, despite losing a full day's play on the second day and suffering a batting collapse yesterday, looked poised to set a difficult fourth-innings target to Sylhet.

In the other match between the bottom-table sides, Barisal will need 325 runs on the final day to beat Khulna.

DHAKA-CHITTAGONG

Resuming on 169-6, Dhaka batsmen fought back to end their first innings on 302 in reply to Chittagong's 473 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Mahmudullah Riyad, overnight 45, topscored 68 but Sajjad Kadir, who resumed on nought, led the tail with a gritty 56 off

88 balls.

The big guns made up for the first-innings poor show as the home side frustrated the Chittagong attack. Uttam Sarkar made a breezy 39 in a 44-run opening stand with Anwar Hossain who made a sedate 51 in four hours. Anwar's 176-ball knock was studded with six boundaries. There were more to come and skipper Al Shahriar, ignored for Bangladesh's coming home series against Kenya in spite of his tremendous form, blazed in a 51-ball 57 with seven fours and two sixes.

However, it was last match centurion Mehrab Hossain Jr who carried Dhaka's hopes with an unbeaten 77. Riyad was batting with him on 20.

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

Rajshahi, 236 runs ahead, are poised for an early declaration today at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium. Although they were reduced to 97-6 by the end of the day, the home side could take inspiration from the fact that Sylhet were skittled out for 166 in their first innings.

On a day where 16 wickets tumbled, Sylhet's Golam Mawla batted magnificently for over three hours to curve 54 not out off 140 balls. Paceman Shafiqul Jabir was the pick of Rajshahi attack with 4-60

from 17.1 overs.

Hasibul Hossain captured four wickets to keep second-placed Sylhet's slim hopes alive in the championship.

KHULNA-BARISAL

Khulna set a stiff 325-run target for the home side at the Barisal Stadium when they were all out for 324 in the second innings shortly before close of play. Barisal openers Mohammad Shahin and Hannan Sarkar batted the remaining one over without scoring.

Overnight pair Aslam Khan and Sadik Khan, who resumed the day on team total 49-1, took the score to 128 before being separated. Aslam made 54 while Sadik 44 but Tushar Imran provided the real fireworks during a 75-ball 62, featuring nine fours and one six.

The two teams tied their first innings total at 265.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHITTAGONG: 473
DHAKA: 302 all out in 106.3 overs (Uttam 35, Anwar 34, Mehrab Jr 22, Riyad 68, Shahriar 15, Sajjad 56, Munir 25 n.o., extras 24, Yasin 1-78, Ilias 4-63, Sabir 4-69, Faisal 1-2) and 254-4 in 69 overs (Uttam 39, SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Kumble spins Eng into trap



AFP, Mohali

Anil Kumble grabbed three wickets to brighten India's hopes of forcing a win in the second Test against England after Ashes hero Kevin Pietersen's dubious dismissal here on Sunday.

The in-form England batsman was given out by Australian umpire Darrell Hair when his attempted sweep off spinner Harbhajan Singh was held by Rahul Dravid in the slips. TV replays however suggested that the ball hit only the forearm.

Pietersen, who had scored two successive half-centuries in the series, contributed just four this time before walking back in disbelief.

England struggled to 112-5 in

their second innings at stumps on the fourth day after conceding a lead of 38. The tourists are now just 74 ahead with five wickets in hand.

Stand-in captain Andrew Flintoff was unbeaten on 16 with wicketkeeper Geraint Jones on one and the last two recognised batsmen were at the crease.

Ian Bell top-scored with a solid 57 for his seventh Test half-century before being caught behind to become leg-spinner Kumble's third victim.

Kumble, who became the fifth bowler in Test history to complete 500 wickets on Saturday, kept testing the batsmen with clever variations to end the day with 3-41.

India go into the fifth and final day on Monday, when as many as 98 overs are scheduled to be bowled, hoping to press home their advantage after the first Test in the three-match series was drawn.

Pietersen fell three overs after England had lost Andrew Strauss, who was given out by the third umpire, India's Arani Jayaprakash.

The left-handed opener tried to sweep Kumble but the ball hit the bat, boot and then pad before being held by wicketkeeper Mahendra Dhoni in front of the stumps.

Kumble's other victim was all-rounder Paul Collingwood, caught at slip by Dravid after making 14.

India secured a first innings lead after an impressive 95 from Dravid and useful contributions from bowlers Irfan Pathan (52), Harbhajan (36) and Kumble (32). They were bowled out for 338 in reply to England's first innings 300.

India were in danger of conceding the lead when they were reduced to 153-5 after resuming on 149-4, but Dravid and Pathan

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India captain Rahul Dravid plays a cover drive on way to a 95-run knock during the fourth day of the second Test against England at Mohali on Sunday.

Smith made a fool of himself: Warne

CRICINFO, undated

With four days to go until the first Test between South Africa and Australia, Shane Warne has reignited the war of words between the two sides. After South Africa's tempestuous tour of Australia, in which they lost the Test and one-day series emphatically, Warne said Smith "made a fool of himself".

"I'm not sure how I'll handle Graeme Smith yet," Warne said yesterday in Johannesburg. "It was the worst performance by a South African team in Australia. They lost the Test series 2-0 and it was probably only a bit of luck, and a good innings from Jacques Rudolph, that stopped them losing 3-0."

"They didn't make the finals of the one-dayers. And all Graeme Smith did was say some ridiculous stuff."

Smith had said in Australia that Warne was frustrated at not being

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Bond puts NZ in charge



AFP, Auckland

A devastating three-wicket spell by Shane Bond put New Zealand on the brink of an unlikely Test victory here Sunday as the West Indies squandered a 148-run opening partnership.

At the close of play they had been reduced to 246 for eight, still needing a further 45 runs from tailenders and with the new ball available when play resumes Monday.

West Indies openers Chris Gayle and Daren Ganga appeared to have set their side up for the first overseas Test win in more than two years as they played the good balls cautiously and punished anything loose to notch up half-centuries.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming dropped Gayle when he was on 58 and Ganga was caught on 42 off a no-ball from Chris Martin. But the pair saw off the cream of

the bowling and cruised to within 131 runs of the 291-run target, forcing Fleming to turn to part-time bowler Nathan Astle.

Astle's first ball was dispatched to the boundary, but with the second he had Gayle caught by Fleming for 82 to start the batting collapse.

Bond came back and hit Ramnaresh Sarwan on the helmet, forcing him from the field. He followed immediately by bowling Brian Lara first ball to complete a disastrous welcome to New Zealand for the master batsman.

In the first innings, Bond had Lara caught first ball.

After rain had wiped out the first session of play, the West Indies went to tea on 160 for two and still hoping they could win the Test on the fourth day.

But two hours later and two overs before the scheduled close, they were thankful to be offered the light

Captain Shivnarine Chandernepaul reached 15 before he failed to get a blistering stroke off Daniel Vettori over the outstretched arm of



Australia captain Ricky Ponting flays one for six over midwicket during his blistering 164 in the fifth and final ODI against South Africa at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Sunday.

Temperament due to parents: Dravid

PTI, London

Indian skipper captain Rahul Dravid will be the sixth Indian to play 100 Tests in the third match of the series against England in Mumbai beginning March 18.

"To reach 100 Tests is a huge honour and something I never imagined when I started in my first Test," Dravid said.

The Bangalore batsman, who is also jostling with Ricky Ponting and Jacques Kallis for the highest contemporary average in Tests, all over 57, says he got some of his temperament from his parents.

The focus, tenacity and intelligence that personify his batting may be characteristics handed down from his mother Pushpa, who at the age of 55 did a doctorate PhD in art. The Sunday Telegraph wrote today.

She has now retired but taught architecture at Bangalore University for 30 years. "She's very determined woman so I guess that's something that rubbed off," he said.

"I got some of my temperament from my dad as well, who's a relaxed sort of person. He's retired now but he was a food scientist for a company that made jams and juice, that sort of stuff; he worked there for 30 years.

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Ricky rips SA apart

Australia rack up highest ODI total



AFP, Johannesburg

Ricky Ponting and his Australian team went on a world record rampage in the fifth and final one-day international against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium Sunday.

Ponting slammed a career-best 164 off 105 balls as Australia thrashed 434 for four, the highest total in one-day international history.

With the series locked at 2-2, it was an even more dominant display than Australia produced in the World Cup final at the same ground three years ago when Ponting made 140 not out in an Australian total of 359 for two. Australia went on to win by 125 runs.

Adam Gilchrist (55), Simon Katich (79) and Michael Hussey (81) made hard-hitting half-centuries as Australia took full advantage of winning the toss against a side missing star opening bowler Shaun Pollock, who suffered a back strain during the fourth match in Durban Friday.

South Africa's depleted attack started reasonably well and the total was only 13 in the fifth over when Gilchrist, on eight, was dropped by a

diving Herschelle Gibbs at backward point off Makhaya Ntini.

Gilchrist went on to a sparkling half-century off 35 balls as he and Katich put on 97 for the first wicket to set the platform for Ponting's sensational innings.

Ponting reached 50 off 43 balls, his 20th one-day international century off 71 balls and 150 off 99 deliveries. His innings included nine sixes - one more than he hit in the World Cup final - and 13 fours.

Every partnership was scored at better than a run a ball. Gilchrist and Katich made their 97 off 93 balls, the same number that were needed for the second wicket stand of 119 between Katich and Ponting.

The innings went into overdrive when Ponting and Hussey hit 158 for the third wicket off 96 balls.

To add to South Africa's problems, the host team faced a fine for failing to complete their overs in time, with the innings finishing 25 minutes late.

Australia's total beat the previous world best of 398 for five by Sri Lanka against Kenya in Kandy during the 1996 World Cup.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fifth and final one-day international between South Africa and Australia at the

Fatullah Stadium now int'l venue

SPORTS REPORTER

The Osmani Stadium in Fatullah got the approval of the International Cricket Council as an international venue, Bangladesh Cricket Board confirmed yesterday.

The decision was taken based on reports presented by ICC inspectors Roshan Mahanama, who visited here in January, and Clive Lloyd, who visited the ground recently.

It will be the sixth international venue awarded to Bangladesh after the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium, Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Chittagong Divisional Stadium and Khulna Divisional Stadium.

The venue on the outskirts of Dhaka will make its international debut with the Bangladesh-Kenya one-day international on March 23.

It also looks set to become the fifth Test venue in the country as the Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium has a remote chance to be prepared and get the nod from ICC before Australia's arrival next month.

Australia are due to play their first Test against Bangladesh on

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Zia removed from top

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman slipped from the top of the table when the defending champion crashed to his old pal International Master Reefat Bin Sattar in the third round of the Mercantile Bank 30th National Chess Championship at the BCF hall-room yesterday.

Zia's previous-round co-leaders FIDE Masters Sheikh Nasir Ahmed and Rezaul Haque shared the top spot with maximum three points after beating Abdul Maleq and Enayet Hossain respectively.

IM Abdullah Al Rakib was at the second place with 2.5 points after beating Delwar Hossain.

In other third round games, GM Niaz Mursheed defeated FM Mehdi Hassan Parag, IM Enamul Hossain Rafiq beat Hassan Imam and Abu Sufian Shakil beat Syed Mahfuzur Rahman.



New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond rejoices the dismissal of West Indies batsman Dwayne Smith on the fourth day of the first Test at Eden Park in Auckland on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP