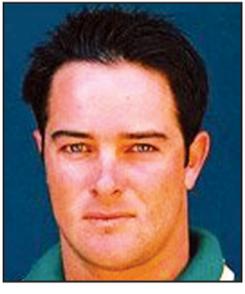




Did U Know?

Herschelle Gibbs of South Africa scored 175 runs from 111 balls in the fifth and final ODI against Australia. It was his highest score, also his sixteenth century and second against Australia.



Mark Boucher
(South Africa wicketkeeper)
"It's one of my best moments in cricket so far."
After hitting the winning runs against Australia in the fifth and final ODI.

What to WATCH

ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Inter Milan vs Ajax
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)

STAR Sports
FA Cup
Man City vs Aston Villa
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)

India retain team

PTI, Mohali

India today retained their winning combination for the third and final cricket Test against England to be played in Mumbai from March 18 to 22.

SQUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Wasim Jaffer, Sachin Tendulkar, V V S Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, S Sreesanth, Munaf Patel, Rudra Pratap Singh, Piyush Chawla.

Proteas name Test squad

INTERNET, undated

South Africa have recalled Nicky Boje, Boeta Dippenaar and Andrew Hall to their 14-man squad for the first two Tests against Australia. Shaun Pollock and Andre Nel have both been included despite missing the final one-day international, but Garnett Kruger has been named as cover.

Boje was dropped following the Boxing Day Test against Australia, at Melbourne, but has made an irresistible case for a recall with a brilliant domestic season, which has included a career-best 8 for 93. Even if Johan Botha, who can't bowl because of a suspect action, had been available Boje would have been in the frame to return.

Dippenaar has been rewarded for impressive one-day form - he scored 101 in the fourth ODI against Australia - with a return to the Test side for the first time since the tour of West Indies last May. Hall, too, has not played a Test since the West Indies trip and will add some much needed experience to the bowling attack.

SQUAD

Graeme Smith (capt), Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, AB de Villiers, Jacques Kallis, Jacques Rudolph, Ashwell Prince, Mark Boucher (wk), Shaun Pollock, Andrew Hall, Nicky Boje, Makhaya Ntini, Andre Nel, Garnett Kruger.

Tigers have a point to prove

Tikolo's Kenya arrive today



SPORTS REPORTER

The record might not talk in favour of the home side but Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar expressed his determination to turn the table on Kenya this time when the two sides meet in a one-day international series this month.

The ICC associate members led by dashing batsman Steve Tikolo, a household name in the country's domestic circuit, will arrive in Dhaka this morning to play four one-dayers against the Tigers.

Kenya will be here on a high as they drew their last series 2-2 away in Zimbabwe, otherwise an understrength side following the departure of several key players.

The East African nation have a very impressive international record after winning six matches out of their seven engagements against Bangladesh, who lost in their last meeting by 32 runs at the 2003 World Cup.

The Tigers' only victory came against Kenya at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium in Hyderabad during a triangular series in India in 1998, which was also Bangladesh's maiden one-day international victory.

Bashar, very much aware of the facts, was little worried and looked forward to prove a point in this series.

"Kenya reached the semifinals in the last World Cup which is not a joke. Considering their record against us, there is no scope to take them lightly. But this time, I can assure you will see a different Bangladesh this time," said a confident Bashar yesterday.

He, however, said that they were not overconfident as anything other than victory would be unbearable.

"If we win the series, people will say that we played against a weaker side and if we lose, they will simply brand us as rubbish. That's why we are very much aware about our task. We have been playing good cricket recently and beat teams like India, Australia and Sri Lanka. We have

removed the tag of being too bad against Sri Lanka, so why not against Kenya," he said.

"As a Test playing nation we get the opportunity to face the world's best sides which was not the case for our opponents and I think it will make the difference in the series. But we will not take them as underdogs because we know they have the ability to upset any team in the world, which they have proved time and again whenever they got the chance."

Bashar agreed that there main focus will be on Kenyan captain Tikolo, who showed a very reach vein of form in the recently concluded Premier Cricket League which helped Old DOHS retain the title.

"Honestly speaking, he is a world class batsman. He can represent any team in the world. We have watched him in domestic competitions, so we know how dangerous he is.

"But I always believe that there



Lars Reichelt, CEO of cellular company banglalink, speaks at a press conference to announce the sponsorship deal with Bangladesh Cricket Board for Kenya's tour of Bangladesh at a city hotel on Monday.

banglalink joins Tigers' party

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh-Kenya one-day series will be named the 'banglalink Tiger Cup' after one of the largest cellular phone operators banglalink signed a deal with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) as title sponsor.

"You saw other colours previously and now black and orange has just joined the party. We are very pleased to get involved with cricket in the country for the first time and definitely will try to continue it," Lars P Reichelt, CEO of banglalink, told at a press conference yesterday.

BCB vice-president and marketing committee chairman Aziz Al Kaiser Tito informed that the sponsors will provide Tk 40 lakh.

"They will also give an extra US dollars 12,000 for four man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series awards," Tito said.

He added that ESPN/StarSports and Bangladesh Television will telecast the matches live.

BCB's new chief executive officer Mahmudur Rahman, who made his first official appearance, also spoke on the occasion.

Pakistan land in Colombo SL name squad

AGENCIES, Colombo

The Pakistan team, led by Inzamamul Haq, arrived in Sri Lanka on Sunday and the first limited-overs match between the two sides is to begin in Colombo on March 17. The next two matches will be played on March 19 and 21.

Pakistan have included two uncapped spinners, Tahir Khan and Abdul Rehman, in their squad for this month's one-day series in Sri Lanka.

Off-spinner Tahir and Rehman, an orthodox left-arm spinner, have been picked in a 17-man squad.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan said another squad would be announced for the two Test matches to be played in Colombo and Kandy after the one-day series.

Also, Sri Lanka named a full-strength squad, recalling three regular players who were rested during the concluded series against Bangladesh.

The selectors recalled skipper Marvan Atapattu and bowlers Chaminda Vaas and Muttiah Muralidaran, and also included Russel Arnold to bolster the middle-order batting, cricket board spokesman Samantha Algama said Monday.

Mahela Jayawardene, who led the team in Bangladesh, has been reappointed vice-captain, replacing Chaminda Vaas.

SQUADS

PAKISTAN: Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan, Muhammad Yousuf, Salman Butt, Imran Farhat, Faisal Iqbal, Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq, Kamran Akmal, Muhammad Asif, Rao Iftikhar, Rana Naved, Umar Gul, Danish Kaneria, Tahir Khan and Abdul Rehman.

SRI LANKA: Marvan Atapattu (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Sanath Jayasuriya, Upul Tharanga, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Chamara Kapugedera, Pervez Maharoof, Chaminda Vaas, Malinga Bandara, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ruchira Perera, Nuwan Kulasekera and Kaushal Lokurachchi.

Pietersen fined for dissent

AFP, Dubai

England batsman Kevin Pietersen has been fined 30 per cent of his match fee for showing dissent at an umpire's decision during the second Test match against India in Mohali, the ICC said in a statement on Monday.

Pietersen was charged with breaching the ICC code of conduct by the on-field umpires Darrell Hair and Simon Taufel and TV umpire AV Jayaprakash after he showed dissent upon being given out on day four of the match.

He subsequently pleaded guilty to breaching the code at a hearing conducted by ICC match referee Ranjan Madugalle.

Though the incident took place on Sunday, the hearing was conducted after the end of the match on Monday. The hearing was attended by Pietersen, England captain Andrew Flintoff, coach Duncan Fletcher and the match umpires.

This type of offence carries a minimum penalty of an official reprimand and a maximum penalty of a 50 per cent fine of a player's match fee. The decision was final.

India coast home



AFP, Mohali

Munaf Patel bagged seven wickets in his debut game and Virender Sehwag regained his form with a blazing 76 not out as India shattered England's dreams with an emphatic nine-wicket win in the second Test on Monday.

England, seeking their first Test series victory in India in 21 years, go into the third and final Test at Mumbai on Saturday hoping only to square the series after the first Test ended in a draw.

Seamer Patel ended England's hopes of setting a stiff target with three quick wickets in his inspiring opening spell to finish with 4-25. He had taken three scalps in the first innings.

England could set only a modest 144-run target off 70 overs on the fifth and final day despite captain Andrew Flintoff's brave 51 under pressure. The tourists, trailing by 38 runs on first innings, were dismissed for 181 after resuming on 112-5.

India rode on opener Sehwag's 11th Test half-century to get the job done just before the tea-break, reaching 144-1 in 33 overs.

Sehwag put on 105 for the unbroken second wicket with skipper Rahul Dravid, who remained unbeaten on 42.

The Indian opener, who had failed in his previous three innings of the series, returned to form with an aggressive 89-ball knock including one six and nine fours.

Injury-hit England, who had fought well at Nagpur without key batsmen Michael Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick, had little chance of repeating their performance after their batting failure in the second innings.

Their pacemen tried hard, but found the target too small to defend on a fifth-day track which was still good for batting. They tasted just one success when swing bowler Matthew Hoggard trapped Wasim Jaffer (17) leg-before.

England always faced a stiff task after losing five wickets for 112 in Sunday's last session. Their slim hopes of matching India depended on a big partnership on Monday, but

only Steve Harmison could give his captain company in a crisis.

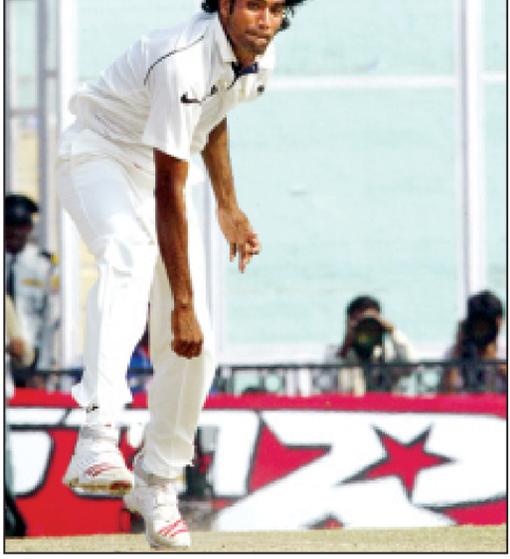
Flintoff put on 42 for the ninth wicket with tail-ender Harmison, but it was just not enough to test India after Patel had run through the England lower-order batting.

Patel, 22, bowled wicketkeeper Geraint Jones (five), trapped Liam Plunkett (one) leg-before and yorked Hoggard (four) in the first hour to reduce the tourists to 139-8.

Jones had begun positively, square-driving the day's first ball for a boundary before falling in the same over. He tried to fend off a rising delivery, which hit the bat and then the ground before bouncing on to the stumps.

Flintoff, with last-man Monty Panesar at the other end, went for a big shot but could only swing straight to Patel at deep square-leg to become debutant leg-spinner Piyush Chawla's first Test victim.

The England captain, who scored 70 in the first innings, hit



DREAM DEBUT: India's debutant fast bowler Munaf Patel sends down a delivery during the fifth day of the second Test against England at Mohali on Monday.

Kiwis sneak narrow win



AFP, Auckland

A powerful six from West Indies opener Chris Gayle inadvertently put New Zealand on course for a dramatic 27-run win in the first cricket Test at Eden Park here Monday.

It was New Zealand's lowest Test winning margin, extended the West Indies losing streak to seven, and came down to the stamina, accuracy and reverse swing of the home side's ace bowler Shane Bond on the fourth day.

The West Indies started the final day needing a further 45 runs with two wickets in hand, but added only 18 before Bond brought the innings to a halt.

Man-of-the-match Bond ended with figures of five for 69, and was quick to acknowledge it was the big-hitting Gayle who turned the tide in his favour.

The pivotal incident came midway through the fourth day in a match of constantly changing fortunes.

With the West Indies set a second innings target of 291, Gayle and Daren Ganga opened in spectacular fashion with a 148-run opening stand.

But when Gayle smashed spinner Daniel Vettori into the stand for six, and the ball was lost, the West Indies were on the way to losing the Test as well.

The replacement ball provided the reverse swing which the New Zealand bowlers had been unable to produce until then, and from having all wickets intact and needing 143 to win, the West Indies were all out 115 runs later.

"The turning point was Chris whacking the ball up on the roof and we got a new ball and it reversed a few overs later and we exploited it well, we never gave up and we got the result," Bond said.

The replacement ball allowed Bond to run through the West Indies middle order with four quick wickets, including the first ball dismissal of Brian Lara, while Nathan Astle also moved the ball enough to take the key scalps of Gayle (82) and Ganga (95).

As New Zealand came back into the game, captain Stephen Fleming declined to take the new ball when the West Indies were six down after 80 overs, backing his bowlers to clean up the tail with the replacement ball.

"It was one of the most emotional tests I've played in, in terms of not being able to get in front or too far behind," Fleming said.

"Up to yesterday afternoon, we were not down and out but well behind and to win it was very satisfying."

On the final morning, the West Indies hopes rested Ian Bradshaw with New Zealand aware that as a No 9 batsman he scored 34 in a vital late partnership that steered West Indies to their 2004 Champions Trophy final win over England.

He lasted until Vettori's third over of the morning when a defensive shot took an edge off his pads and flew to New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming fielding in close to be out for 10.

His dismissal brought last man Fidel Edwards to the crease and triggered off Jerome Taylor who cracked two boundaries in the same over.

But it eventually proved to be in vain as Bond bowled Taylor for 13 to end the match.

New Zealand made 275 and 277 while the West Indies scored 252 in their first innings and 263.

The second of three Tests starts in Wellington on March 17.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first Test between New Zealand and the West Indies at

Ctg, Rajshahi win big



SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong and Rajshahi head for a crucial ninth-round clash in the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League after winning their respective four-day matches on the final day yesterday.

Level on 32 points in the first-class competition after eight rounds, the joint-leaders will meet at BKSP in their four-day starting on March 17 after warming up in the limited-overs game on the previous day.

Chittagong took no time to put an end to Dhaka's fightback at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium before storming to an eight-wicket victory while Rajshahi inflicted a 151-run defeat on Sylhet at home.

In a drawn match at Barisal, the hosts shared six points evenly with Khulna.

DHAKA-CHITTAGONG

With the mind still wondering over previous night's record-breaking match between Australia and South Africa, Chittagong wrapped up the show just an hour after lunch, thanks to Tamim Iqbal's blitzkrieg that saw Chittagong rattle 153-2 in just 18 overs in their second innings.

There was no respite for the Dhaka attack as the left-handed opener, fresh from a 118 in the first innings, made an unbeaten 71 off 58 balls with help of 13 boundaries. He employed both force and touch to perfection to engineer an hour of mayhem as the home bowlers virtually gave up hope halfway through the Chittagong second innings, showing it in their body language.

Tamim, who shared a 78-run stand for the second wicket dominated by Gazi Salahuddin (49 off 35 balls), treated pace and spin harshly but his sound back-foot technique against paceman Mohammad Sharif was impeccable and got the southpaw four boundaries in one over.

Frustrated by the two, skipper Al Shahriar bowled one over and used wicketkeepers Anwar Hossain and Sajjad Kadir. The latter finally scalped Salahuddin, who skied a comfortable catch to stand-in keeper Mehrab Hossain Opee after hitting four fours and three sixes.

Earlier, Dhaka resumed on 254-4 but Yasin Arafat (4-120) and Ilias Sunny (5-80) shared nine wickets between them to dismiss the home side for 323.

It was a particularly impressive performance by Sunny as the wicket

had nothing for the bowlers even on the final day. He bowled with a lot of guile and variation in flight to set the stage for victory and earned the man-of-the-match award for his 9-wicket haul.

RAJSHAH-SYLHET

At the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, the home side unexpectedly delayed the declaration when they batted for 25 overs. Overnight 96-7, Rajshahi added 89 runs before declaring (185-9) with a 325-run lead. Chasing an improbable target, Sylhet were bundled out for 174 in their second innings. The visitors lost their last six wickets in the space of 16 runs.

The new ball pair once again did the damage with Shafaqul Jabir (5-43) finishing with a 9-wicket haul and Mushfiqur Rahman (3-32) ending with five wickets in the match. Mushfiq was adjudged man-of-the-match for his brilliant all-round performance featuring a pair of half-centuries (72 and 63).

BARISAL-KHULNA

Barisal salvaged a draw against Khulna, thanks to fifties by Nasiruddin Faruque (55) and Humayun Kabir (55) after their

runs like (Rahul) Dravid does.

"Being captain is something I'm enjoying." Captain Dravid was unbeaten on 42 as India eased to victory although he was lucky to survive when Andrew Strauss dropped him off the bowling of Monty Panesar and he paid tribute to his side.

"It was terrific, I'm really proud of the boys," Dravid told Sky Sports News. "After losing a lot of time to the weather we had to put up a really good performance to win this game."

"We've got some young kids coming through and some of the old guys performed as well so we've got a good blend of youth and experience."

"We've got to look at various options and see how it goes but England showed in the Ashes that if you play five bowlers you can win matches."

Anil Kumble passed 500 wickets in Mohali and was also named man of the match and he admitted he had never foreseen he would reach such a landmark.

Kumble said: "Not really, I just

Mixed reactions from camps



SPORTINGLIFE, Mohali

Andrew Flintoff admitted the final session of the penultimate day had severely damaged England's chances of getting a positive result out of the second Test against India.

India won by nine wickets after England had only reached 181 all out after resuming on 112 for five to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series with only one Test remaining.

Although he acknowledged the first-innings total of 300 was probably not sufficient, the England skipper pinpointed the loss of five wickets yesterday as key and admitted the batsmen needed to perform.

Flintoff told Sky Sports: "Last night was probably the killer losing five wickets."

"We've got one test left so we will have to come back hard."

"India are a fine side but I think we are coming together as a side."

"We are a young team. The batters need to go on and score big

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