

Zimbabwe A battle on

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Zimbabwe A thrived on a couple of half-centuries from Stuart Maitkenyeri and Kasten as they closed the second day of the second four-day match against Bangladesh A on a better note at the Mutare Sports Club ground yesterday.

The Zimbabwean second-string side batted out two sessions to reach 251 for 8 at stumps.

Test cap Maitkenyeri struck 61 while Kasten scored 52. Mufambisi also contributed 44 runs.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haque continued his brilliant form, picking up three wickets for 60. Pacesman Mohammad Sharif picked two wickets for the visitors.

Earlier, Bangladesh A ended their first innings on 380 runs, after resuming the day on 307 for 6.

Border named Aussie selector

AFP, Sydney

Former Australian Test captain Allan Border was Friday appointed as the fourth member of the national cricket selection panel, officials said.

Border, who served as a selector from 1998 to 2005, will join chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch and David Boon and Merv Hughes on the panel, Cricket Australia said. "I have always loved working as a selector and only stood down because of other time constraints," the former batsman, who captained Australia a record 93 times, said.

"My circumstances have now changed and I am very happy to once again make myself available for this important role in Australian cricket."

LEADING SCORERS

FROM PAGE 17

Lee Chun-soo (South Korea), Ljungberg (Sweden), Maniche (Portugal), Materazzi (Italy), Messi (Argentina), Mnari (Tunisia), Mohamed Kadar (Togo), CA Moore (Australia), Muntari (Ghana), Nakamura (Japan), Nevill (Germany), Park Ji-sung (South Korea), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirlo (Italy), Raul (Spain), Rebrov (Ukraine), Robben (Netherlands), Rusol (Ukraine), Savic (Argentina), Senderos (Switzerland), Simao Sabrosa (Portugal), Sma (Croatia), Tamada (Japan), Tevez (Argentina), Van Nistelrooy (Netherlands), Van Persie (Netherlands), Vieira (France), Xabi Alonso (Spain), Zigic (Serbia-Montenegro), Zinha (Mexico)

The numbers

FROM PAGE 24

10 for 16 (62.5%)

2 - South America started with 4 of 32 (12.5%) teams and ended up with 3 for 16 (18.8%)

3 - CONCACAF started with 4 for 32 (12.5%) and ended up with 1 for 16 (6.3%)

4-tie Africa and Asia/Oceania each started with 5 for 32 (15.6%) teams and ended up each with 1 for 16 (6.3%).



Did U Know?

227 yellow cards were handed out and 15 players sent off during the 1994 World Cup.



Talk Turkey



Carlos Alberto Parreira (Brazil football coach) "Ronaldo is getting better and better. He is a very special player."



What to Watch

TEN Sports

West Indies v India

Third Test, Day Four

Live at 8:00 pm

Ganga, Sarwan batter India

Cricket

AFP, Basseterre

Daren Ganga and Ramnesh Sarwan both completed hundreds to put West Indies in a healthy position before a torrential downpour that started during tea brought an early close on Friday in the third Test against India at Warner Park.

Ganga scored 135 -- his third Test hundred -- and Sarwan made 116 -- his eighth Test hundred -- in a double-hundred, second wicket stand that paved the way for West Indies to reach 420 for five in their first innings at the tea break before rain forced the remainder of the day to be aborted.

Munaf Patel was the most successful Indian bowler with three wickets for 120 runs from 27 overs.

Ganga and Sarwan, both strugglers in the previous two Tests in the series, added 203 for the second wicket, after West Indies continued from their bedtime total of 207 for one.

Ganga struck 15 boundaries from 294 balls in 6 1/2 hours for his highest Test score, and Sarwan hit one six from 174 balls in 4-1/2 hours.

Both were dismissed within half an hour either side of the lunch interval to allow India to regain some ground.

Sarwan, celebrating his 26th birthday, began an action-packed morning period with a lofted six over wide long-on off Virender Sehwag's uncomplicated off-spin.

The West Indies captain reached his 50, when he on-drove Anil Kumble through mid-on and a sloppy Sehwag failed to stop with his right boot, and the ball sped away to the boundary for the batsman's ninth four.

Ganga, whose place in the side had been questioned following a string of insignificant scores in the first two Tests, had continued to inch his way along and reached his milestone, when he cut a short, wide delivery from Patel for his 11th boundary.

Sarwan too, was eyeing his landmark, and on 75 went totally ballistic, and Patel was the target for his aggression, as he struck six fours in the over to equal teammate Chris Gayle's similar achievement off Matthew Hoggard against England two years ago at The Oval.

He drove the first ball of the beautiful fast bowler's fifth over of the day -- and fourth with the second new ball -- through cover for four, then pulled a short ball through square leg, and was fortunate that the airborne Yuvraj Singh could only get his fingertips to another big over drive.

Next ball, Sarwan was again fortunate when he inside edged a full length delivery from Patel past the off-stump, but then chopped a short ball between second slip and gully to third man for four, and cut a

short, wide, no-ball through square cover for four.

The last legitimate ball of the over, Sarwan again tried to steer to third man, but picked out the gully fielder instead. One away from his hundred, he arrived at the landmark, when he tucked Shantha Sreesanth into mid-wicket and jogged a single in the next over.

Ganga and Sarwan literally had the Indian bowlers at their mercy, when Patel made the breakthrough. Ganga was bowled when he essayed a back-foot drive and inside edged the ball on to his stumps.



West Indian batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul drives the ball on the third day of the third Test against India at the Warner Park Stadium in St Kitts on Saturday.

Lara arrived and got off the mark with a sweet cover drive off Patel for four, but on nine, he almost gave Anil Kumble a return catch, before Patel had him adjudged lbw for 10 playing forward to a well-pitched delivery as West Indies reached 362 for three at lunch.

After the interval, India claimed two wickets, including Sarwan, to claw their way, but the dark clouds gradually gathered over the ground.

By then, Sreesanth had claimed Sarwan with a well-pitched inswinging delivery, and Harbhajan Singh removed Dwayne Bravo

caught behind for 21 edging a delivery as he tried to steer off the back-foot.

For the remainder of the period, Chanderpaul and Marlon Samuels kept the Indian bowlers at bay before the rain brought an early close.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the second day of the third Test between West Indies and India at Warner Park on Friday:

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Ganga b Patel		135

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"Michael's rehab programme seems to have suffered a setback and we will have to decide whether he needs a longer period of strengthening his knee or if some other course of action is required," Yorkshire physio Scott McAllister told Saturday's edition of the Northern Echo newspaper.

"A fourth operation on his knee is a possibility but at this stage nothing has been set in stone and the situation needs to be carefully assessed."

A fresh operation would likely sideline Vaughan, 31, from the remainder of the season with both Yorkshire and England, keeping him out of the Test series against Pakistan starting next month at Lord's.

Vaughan's new fitness worry

AFP, London

Michael Vaughan is set to find out whether he needs more surgery on his injured knee on Monday after a meeting between England and Yorkshire physios.

The England captain condition appeared to worsen while he was playing in Yorkshire's innings and 25-run County Championship First Division defeat away to Sussex at Arundel concluded Friday.

Vaughan, missing England's ongoing one-day series against Sri Lanka after being sidelined from the 1-1 drawn Test campaign earlier this season, has been ruled out of Yorkshire's C and G one-day Trophy match against Worcestershire at New Road on Sunday.

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Agassi to leave after US Open

AFP, London

US tennis star Andre Agassi announced Saturday that he will retire after this year's US Open, which starts on August 28.

The 36-year-old has won eight Grand Slam singles titles in his career and is one of only five players to win all four Grand Slam events. A former world number one, Agassi won his first Grand Slam at Wimbledon in 1992. He has also won the Australian Open four times, the US Open twice before completing his slam with the 1999 French Open.

"This Wimbledon will be my last and the US Open will be my last tournament," said Agassi on Saturday.

He has won 60 ATP titles since turning professional in 1986.



Nesta ruled out

AFP, Duisburg

Italy defender Alessandro Nesta has been ruled out of Monday's World Cup second round match against Australia after failing to recover from a groin strain, team doctor Enrico Castellacci said Saturday.

The 30-year-old centre-back suffered the injury in the 17th minute of Thursday's 2-0 victory over the Czech Republic which left Italy as Group E winners.

Castellacci said it was too early to say if Nesta would be fit for the quarter-finals should Italy overcome the Aussies.

Marco Materazzi, who scored Italy's first goal against the Czechs after coming off the bench to replace Nesta, will retain his place at the heart of the Azzurri's defence.

Midfielder Daniele De Rossi will also be absent as he serves the second of a four-match ban for elbowing Brian McBride in the face during a 1-1 draw with the United States.

Reyes delighted

INTERNET, undated

Jose Antonio Reyes added to his terrific season by making his World Cup debut in Spain's 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia.

With victories in their first two games against Ukraine and Tunisia, Spain coach Luis Aragones made wholesale changes and Arsenal winger Reyes was given a starting place.

And the 22-year-old Gunner made the most of his opportunity by setting up his team's only goal with a free-kick in the first half which Juanito headed in.

"I am extremely happy to have made the assist for my team's goal on my World Cup debut," Reyes said.

"Personally, I felt good, I wasn't nervous at all despite making my debut in a top tournament."

"Having played big games for Arsenal this season, it has really helped me mature as a player and be ready for this type of competition."

Veteran defender Jens Nowotny said six years ago after a disastrous Euro 2002: "The future of German football is positive. Less commitment, willpower and readiness just can't be."

Bell tolls as Eng make 261

Cricket

AFP, Chester-Le-Street

Ian Bell's patient 77 guided England to a total of 261 for seven in the third match of their series with Sri Lanka at the Riverside here Saturday.

Bell shared fifty stands with Paul Collingwood (33) and Jamie Dalrymple (35) in a match where victory for Sri Lanka would see the tourists take an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match NatWest Series.

Geraint Jones was 22 not out and Liam Plunkett unbeaten on six. England, whose captain Andrew Strauss won the toss, enjoyed their best opening stand of the series to date, fifty up in 64 balls with a straight-driven four by Marcus Trescothick off left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas which umpire Mark Benson did well to avoid.

However, soon afterwards, Vaas made the breakthrough when he had Strauss lbw for 32, England 62 for one in the 13th over when Bell came to the crease.

Vaas struck again when he bowled Strauss's fellow left-hander Trescothick for a 39-ball 36 featuring six fours after the Somerset batsman tried to turn him legside.

The 32-year-old Vaas, appearing in his 278th one-day international,

took two wickets for 23 runs in his opening eight-over spell before his first over back went for 15 as England accelerated.

Sri Lanka claimed the prize wicket of dangerous Kevin Pietersen for just six. Pietersen, hampered after inside-edging the ball onto his knee, edged a flat-footed cut off Lasith Malinga to wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara.

Bell, on the ground where he scored a Test-best 162 not out against Bangladesh last year, and Durham all-rounder Collingwood, in front of his home crowd, repaired some of the early damage.

But Malinga Bandara, in for Muttiah Muralitharan after the Sri Lanka star had left the tour to be with his ill son, broke the partnership when Collingwood (33) chipped the leg-spinner straight to Tillakaratne Dilshan at short extra-cover.

England's innings had become becalmed, Bell taking 69 balls to score his first boundary on what seemed a slow pitch.

But Dalrymple, in only his fourth match at this level, injected impetus by driving Bandara, who finished with a creditable one for 35 from eight overs, for six.

But his innings was ended when pacesman Malinga bowled him around his legs for a 32-ball 35.

Bell, almost run-out on 72, exited that way in the penultimate

over having faced 114 balls with three fours.

His Warwickshire teammate and England debutant Alex Loudon then suffered the embarrassment of being run out without facing. But England still managed to score 45 runs off the last five overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the England innings in the third one-day international against Sri Lanka at the Riverside on Saturday:

ENGLAND				
Trescothick b Vaas		36		
Strauss lbw b Vaas		32		
Bell run out		77		
Pietersen c Sangakkara b Malinga		6		
Collingwood c Dilshan b Bandara		33		
Dalrymple b Malinga		35		
Jones not out		22		
Loudon run out		0		
Plunkett not out		6		
Extras: (lb-5, w-6, nb-3)		14		
Total: (For 7 wts in 50 overs)		261		
Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-75, 3-92, 4-145, 5-208, 6-252, 7-253				
Did not bat: S Mahmood, S Harmison				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	9	0	38	2
Malinga	10	0	50	2
Fernando	10	0	68	0
Maharof	8	0	38	0
Bandara	8	0	35	1
Jayasuriya	5	0	27	0

Reality bites



AFP, Hanover

Coach Dick Advocaat believes South Korea are "almost unbeatable" on home soil but lack the big-game experience to match the top sides outside of their shores.

The Koreans, surprise semi-finalists four years ago in their own backyard, went out of the tournament in the first round after losing 2-0 to Switzerland on Friday.

They won their first ever World Cup game outside of South Korea when they overcame African debutants Togo 2-1 in their opening game and battled to a 1-1 draw with Group G favourites France but failed to call them on the clockwork Swiss.

Advocaat said that South Korea had shown enough during the tournament to prove that their glory run in 2002 was no fluke but the

team still was not the finished article.

"It was a very disappointing result against Switzerland," said Advocaat, who took over the team last October.

"The Swiss were the better side in the first half. The majority of their players play in European leagues, which is a better competition than the Korean league where the majority of my team play.

That difference showed in the first half.

"In the second half we pressured them and I think we deserved more for our efforts.

"We were very close (to getting an equaliser) but not close enough.

"The Korea team did really well points-wise (four) points from a group including 1998 champions France) but we expected more from the game against Switzerland.

"My overall impression (from his time with the team) is that Korea are almost unbeatable at home but need to improve when playing

away."

The former Glasgow Rangers coach said that his team could have displayed more of a killer instinct.

"I think we were too polite, showed them a bit much respect especially in the first half. Several of the key players in the first round compete in the Korean league and they had a problem with the pace of the game.

"The first option (for the Korean football authorities) is to improve the local league," he said.

"Also, I really needed to have the team together for four or five months ahead of the World Cup to get them used to the pace the top teams play the game."

Advocaat added that South Korea had lost to a good team and should not be ashamed of their performance.

"Switzerland are a very well organised team, they get a lot of players behind the ball but are very quick on the counter attack," said Advocaat, who took Holland to the quarter-finals of the 1994 World Cup.

BITS AND BOBS

Rio in fitness race

INTERNET, undated

Rio Ferdinand's fitness remains a concern for England ahead of the World Cup second-round clash with Ecuador in Stuttgart on Sunday.

The Manchester United centre-back suffered a groin injury early in the second half of the 2-2 draw with Sweden on Tuesday and was replaced by Sol Campbell.

Ferdinand, 27, has been unable to train fully since the setback and was restricted to some field work with physio Gary Lewin on Friday.

It would seem unlikely coach Sven-Goran Eriksson would risk the player in the last-16 encounter unless he is able to participate fully in today's final training session.

Eriksson will have the final say on who plays but skipper David Beckham claimed: "Every player apart from Michael (Owen) is fit and apart from Gary Neville who is coming back and hopefully may be fit for the weekend."

Couch time for Bruce

INTERNET, undated

Now that the United States team has been eliminated from the World Cup, US coach Bruce Arena has some simple plans for the rest of the tournament.

"Watch it on television and be like everyone else," Arena said. "Just criticize players and coaches. I'm going to have the time of my life."

Gyan can't wait for Brazil

INTERNET, undated

Ghana striker Asamoah Gyan is determined to savour the moment when he faces the reigning world champions on Tuesday.

He looks certain to return to the team after missing the victory against the USA - which secured their passage into the second phase - through suspension.

Gyan, a quick but erratic striker, who plays for Serie B side Medina,

cannot wait for the game against Brazil in Dortmund.

"That goal against the Czech Republic gave me a lot of motivation," said Gyan.

"The first game did not go so well for me and I went back to the team hotel to focus on what went wrong.

"Everyone knows Brazil are one of the best teams in the world and of course we have to respect them."

"But there is no pressure on us. We can be relaxed."

Klose not for sale

INTERNET, undated

Werder Bremen has insisted that German international striker Miroslav Klose will not join a Premiership club this summer.

Klose, who is the top scorer in the World Cup after netting four goals in three games, has been linked with both Manchester United and Arsenal.

But Werder's director of football Klaus Allofs said: "Miroslav Klose is not for sale, we are not giving him away."

The 28-year-old, who scored 25 Bundesliga goals last year, joined Werder from Kaiserslautern.

Reyes are good, really

INTERNET, undated

Veteran Australian defender Craig Moore has a pretty good poker face, but he lost it Friday when asked whether Italy might try to use its experience to goad the Soccerros into retaliation or other incidents.

"Yeah, but the referees, I think, have been extremely good. I'm sure that will be the case again," he replied.

Moore's straight face dissolved and he could not continue, breaking into laughter along with reporters.

The Australians were unhappy at the work of Germany's Markus Merk in the 2-0 loss to Brazil, in which 25 fouls were called against the Soccerros as opposed to nine against the defending champs. In their last game against Croatia, English referee Graham Poll gave Croatian defender Josip Simunic three yellow cards before finally sending him off just after the final whistle.

Against Croatia, the Aussies got one penalty kick, but feel the

should could have had a couple more.

Hiddink's successor

INTERNET, undated

The head of Football Federation Australia says the team's success at the tournament is helping drum up applicants for the coaching job that Guss Hiddink is vacating after the World Cup.

"The further we go, and even as far as we've gone already, quite reputable well-known coaches are approaching us," said John O'Neill, the federation's CEO.

O'Neill wants a high-profile coach to succeed Hiddink, who is leaving to take over the Russian national team.

"There's never been any doubt about the fact we need another Guss Hiddink. What a difference he's made," O'Neill said.

O'Neill also wants the next coach to spend more time in Australia, to follow the domestic A-League and help improve coaching and development programs.

Talks continue with former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier and "a few others," O'Neill said. The coaching job won't be decided until after the tournament, he added.

Becks backs Ronaldo

INTERNET, undated

David Beckham is glad Ronaldo has proved critics wrong with two goals in Brazil's 4-1 win over Japan on Thursday night.

The England captain, no stranger to criticism himself, says his Real Madrid teammate has been harshly judged on his fitness and weight.

"I think some of the things that have been said about Roni are wrong," Beckham said. "Even the players in our team and players I've watched the Brazilian games with can't actually believe some of the things (that have) been said."

"It's not the criticism of him as a player, it's the personal criticism of him about his shape and things like that. I'm glad he showed people what he's all about."

Ronaldo's 13th and 14th World Cup goals tied him with Gerd Muller as the competition's career scoring leader. Not bad, considering Ronaldo failed to score and was substituted for in Brazil's first two games.