

Mehrab strikes second ton

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehrab Hossain Jr hit back-to-back centuries as Bangladesh A tightened their grip on the second four-day against Zimbabwe A on the third-day at the Mutare Sports Club ground yesterday.

The second string Bangladesh side rode on Mehra's patient knock and a whirlwind half-century from Alok Kapali to declare their second innings at 258-6 in 65.3 overs to set an improbable 381-run winning target for the home team.

Mehrab, the young left-handed opener, scored an unbeaten 100 off 206 balls after a scintillating 120 in the first innings while Kapali, who smashed 111 in the first easy, accelerated the run-rate with a 45-ball 66.

Sakib Al Hasan and captain Tushtar Imran were the other notable scorers, making 34 and 27 respectively.

Earlier left-arm spinner Enamul Haque took the remaining two wickets of Zimbabwe A to deliver his second five-for in the series as well as ensuring a 122-run first innings lead for the visitors having wrapped up the opponents for 258. Zimbabwe A had resumed the day on 251 for 8.

Enamul, who scalped nine wickets in the first match, claimed five wickets for 61 runs while pacer Mohammad Sharif grabbed two wickets for 39.

Inzamam eyes winning Eng swansong

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said he would love a win on his final England tour as his side fled out Sunday for a tough two-and-a-half month tour.

Inzamam is leading the 15-men squad to England where they will play four Tests, five one-day internationals and side matches.

"This would be my last tour of England so I want to make it memorable with a win," Inzamam told AFP before the team's departure for London.

The 36-year-old master batsman made his Test debut at Edgbaston on Pakistan's tour in 1992 and has since played 109 Tests for Pakistan scoring 8,266 runs -- second only to Javed Miandad's -- Pakistan record of 8,832.

Pakistan do not have a tour of England in the ICC (International Cricket Council) future tour programme announced up to 2012. Inzamam said his side have prepared extensively for the tour and were in high spirits.

"We have had some good preparations for the tour and in all departments we are capable enough to achieve the best results in England," said Inzamam.



Did U Know?

Eleven languages were spoken by 44 volunteer interpreters at Giants Stadium in New York in the 1994 World Cup. Only Romanian and South Korean could not be translated.



Talk Turkey



Dick Advocaat

(South Korea football coach) "It is no shame to lose to them but the way we lost hurts a bit. We deserved something from the second half."

After losing 2-0 to Switzerland in the World Cup.



What to Watch

TEN Sports West Indies v India Third Test, Day Five Live at 8:00 pm



Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova trains in south London on Sunday on the eve of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships.

It's Wimbledon time Sharapova seeks self-revival

Tennis

AFP, London

Maria Sharapova believes she can reclaim the Wimbledon title by rediscovering the fearless approach that brought her the title as a 17-year-old.

Sharapova stunned the tennis world when she beat Serena Williams in straight sets in the 2004 final but she has yet to fulfill the potential suggested by that unlikely triumph.

Injuries have been partly to blame but Sharapova herself believes she is simply paying the price for having realised her dream far earlier than she would ever have imagined.

"When I think back, I do wonder why I won Wimbledon at 17 years old?" she said.

"It wasn't because my game was so good that I was dominating everyone. I was just really fearless out there.

"I didn't care who was on the other side of the net. I didn't care what people thought.

"I didn't care about expectations. I blocked that out of my mind in every single match that I played.

"When I look back and think about it I know I've got to keep doing that. Looking at me two years ago, you wouldn't say I was the strongest player, that I did everything right. I just found a way to win and I did. I took my chances and I won."

Sharapova admitted she is still some way short of being a complete player and added: "I knew it was going to be tougher and tougher to win my second one. I've said before that I'm not at the peak of my career and it is going to take time for me to be at the top of my game."

Sharapova, seeded fourth this year, nevertheless believes she is in sufficiently good form to win again, despite a shock defeat by world number 81 Jamea Jackson in a warm-up tournament at Birmingham last week.

"I won this tournament before and I think I can win it a second time. Once I get on to court my game will come into place and I'm looking forward to starting. It's the biggest tournament of the year for me."

On paper, this year's women's singles look wide open, although Justine Henin-Hardening has perhaps made herself favourite after following up her third French Open win by claiming victory on grass in

Kahn reopens

FROM PAGE 24

"I'm sorry, but do you replace the one who's been the number one for years when he's playing consistently because another keeper is supposed to be a 'tick' better? That's no justification for me," he said.

"I've been playing right at the top level for the past two years. I've done well in my Champions league games, won the German league and German Cup twice, and have immense tournament experience," Kahn told the magazine.

There was actually no reason to change the number one. Germany plays Argentina for a place in the World Cup quarterfinals in Berlin on Friday.

the traditional pre-Wimbledon tournament at Eastbourne.

The Belgian lacks the sheer hitting force of defending champion Venus Williams or her Belgian compatriot Kim Clijsters, but she has few equals in terms of her will to succeed and is desperate to complete a full set of Grand Slam titles.

Serena Williams and Lindsay Davenport are both missing this year because of injury while Venus Williams missed nearly three months of competition earlier this year and looked rusty as she exited the French Open at the quarterfinal stage.

World number one Amelie Mauresmo had her preparations ruined by a shock defeat by close friend Nathalie Dechy in the first round at Eastbourne. The Frenchwoman certainly has the power to succeed at the All England club but serious doubts remain as to whether she has the necessary temperament to produce her best form when it really counts.

This year also sees Martina Hingis, a champion here as a 16-year-old in 1997, return to the All England Club for the first time in five years.

Leading Scorers

FROM PAGE 17

Mohamed Kader (Togo), CA Moore (Australia), Muntari (Ghana), Nakamura (Japan), Neuville (Germany), Park Ji-sung (South Korea), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirlo (Italy), Raul (Spain), Rebrov (Ukraine), Robben (Netherlands), Ruso (Ukraine), Saviola (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).

"You would do well to remember their pedigree," said Parreira, who coached the 'Black Stars' in 1968.

"Ghana like Cameroon and Nigeria are outstanding teams. They have talented players and they are not as naive as they were. Their players play all over Europe, and they have lost their

THIRD EYE

FROM PAGE 17

What will worry the new Chelsea man is the fact that they will play Argentina who rid a Mexican wave with all the experience of a big team to secure a 2-1 victory.

Maxi Rodriguez provided a knockout punch to the Mexicans with an outstanding 25-yard volley with his left foot -- a goal that would stand as the best of the tournament. It came in the ninth minute of extra time as Maxi received a pass from Sorin, cut inside and volleyed home from the edge of the area.

As Mexican goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez later lamented, 'the match could only be decided by brilliance or a mistake.' In this case it was brilliance of the highest order.

Rodriguez's goal came about after an enthralling and exciting game of end-to-end football where Rafael Marquez slid in a goal only for Crespo to equalise. For the rest of the ninety minutes and some both teams were on an even keel. Argentina though will be buoyed with the performance off the bench of Messi and Tevez and their enormous strength in depth will provide a strong backbone for them on which to succeed. Not that they will enjoy playing the hosts.

Focus on Ghana

innocence.

"We hope to maintain our unbeaten record against African teams but we have to respect Ghana.

"There may be no Michael Essien (he is suspended), but there is Stephen Appiah.

"They (Ghana) are good, and they have nothing to lose.

"They are playing against the five-time world champions and one of the favourites for this title.

"They will shoot on sight. They will be aggressive and we have to work out how to pass the ball around under those circumstances," added Parreira, who is in his third spell as Brazil coach and landed the 1994 World Cup in his second try at the job.

Parreira denied that there was any friction between himself and Adriano, who was rumoured to be unhappy at not playing in the final group match against Japan.

"No, I don't find that he is depressed," said Parreira.

England eliminate

FROM PAGE 17

'God Save The Queen' from England's fans during the half, nothing could stir Eriksson's men from their torpor and they looked grateful for the half-time whistle.

TEAMS England: Paul Robinson; Owen Hargreaves, Rio Ferdinand, John Terry, Ashley Cole; Michael Carrick; David Beckham (Aaron Lennon 87); Steven Gerrard (Stewart Downing 90+2), Frank Lampard, Joe Cole (Jamie Carragher 77); Wayne Rooney.

Yellow card: John Terry (18), Paul Robinson (78), Jamie Carragher (82). Ecuador: Cristian Mora; Ulises De la Cruz, Ivan Hurtado, Geovanny Espinoza, Neicer Reasco; Edison Mendez, Segundo Castillo, Edwin Tenorio (Christian Lara 69), Luis Valencia; Carlos Tenorio (Ivan Kaviedes 71), Augustin Delgado.

Yellow card: Valencia (24), Carlos Tenorio (37), Ulises De la Cruz (67). Referee: F de Bleeker (Belgium). Attendance: 52,000.

Jose's high-ball

FROM PAGE 24

frenzy, was also in buoyant mood.

"It was a dream goal, no doubt about that," the Atletico Madrid midfielder said.

"It was a really tough game, with Mexico making it very difficult for us but we came through in the end.

"Now we are confident we can go further and beat anyone.

"Germany are tough opponents, but we have to think about ourselves. Argentina are capable of beating anyone."

Argentina also got some backing from Mexico coach Ricardo Lavolpe, a member of Argentina's World Cup-winning squad in 1978.

"Well it's never easy facing the hosts and they're playing very well too," he said.

"Nevertheless I think Argentina or Brazil will be there in the final against a European team."

Cricket

AFP, Basseterre

Opening batsman Wasim Jaffer hit a half-century and shared two vital stands to help India make a strong reply in the third Test against West Indies at Warner Park here on Saturday.

Jaffer scored 60, as India, replying to West Indies first innings total of 581, reached 150 for two when stumps were drawn on the third day.

Jaffer struck 10 boundaries from 101 balls in 2-3/4 hours before he was caught at second slip -- the last of two catches for West Indies captain Brian Lara there -- off Dwayne Bravo in the final hour before the close.

The tall, languid opener shared 61 for the first wicket with fellow opener Virender Sehwag, who fell for 31, and added 63 for the second with Venkatesh Laxman to lay a solid platform for the Indians.

Laxman was not out on 28 and Indian captain Rahul Dravid was not out on 20 at the close, after the visitors had collected the last five West Indies first innings wickets for 19 runs in the space of 33 balls.

West Indies had continued to grind the Indian attack for most of the morning period with Shivnarine Chanderpaul being left stranded on 97 not out and Marlon Samuels with 87 leading their charge.

Chanderpaul struck half-dozen fours and two sixes from 213 balls in 5-1/4 hours, and Samuels smote eight fours and three sixes from 161 balls in nearly 3-1/2 hours.

Off-spin bowler Harbhajan Singh however, snared four of the last five West Indies scalps to end with five wickets -- for the 18th time in Tests -- for 147 runs from 44 overs to be India's most successful bowler.

Munaf Patel supported with three for 134 from 32 overs and Shantha Sreesanth and Sehwag snared one wicket apiece. India then lost Sehwag after making a brisk start to their first innings to reach 64 for one at tea.

Sehwag, who Daren Ganga dropped on 12 at gully off Pedro Collins, failed to make full use of his reprieve, and was caught at second slip for 31 edging a flat-footed drive at a delivery in Corey Collymore's first over.

Cricket

AFP, Chester-Le-Street

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene's seventh one-day international hundred saw his side to an eight-wicket win over an out-casted England at the Riverside here Saturday as the tourists went an unbeatable 3-0 up in the five-match NatWest Series.

Jayawardene made 126 not out as Sri Lanka, set 262 for victory, finished on 265 for two to inflict what was England's 13th defeat in 17 one-day internationals.

Together with wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara (58 not out), Jayawardene shared an unbroken third-wicket stand of 140 in 155 balls as Sri Lanka won with nearly eight overs to spare.

England stand-in captain Andrew Strauss had said before the start of the series that if his team scored five individual hundreds they'd be successful.

But, unfortunately for him, Jayawardene's innings meant he'd witnessed a century in each match from a Sri Lanka batsman with England no nearer ending their woeful one-day form in the run-up to next year's World Cup in the Caribbean.

England, who'd bowled 43 wickets in the previous two matches, only sent down five this time but more than compensated with a series of

WC BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24

penalty area remind me of Gerd Muller," Beckenbauer said.

Klose scored five goals in Germany's surprise advance to the 2002 final, but has looked a more complete player here, notching four goals already. Beckenbauer, the chief organiser of the tournament, and Muller were teammates when West Germany won the 1974 World Cup on home soil.

Jaffer battles for India

Cricket

AFP, Basseterre

It was the only success for West Indies before the break, and after the break, Jaffer and Laxman settled down to play some enterprising strokes either side of the wicket.

Jaffer reached his 50, when he square drove Collins for his eighth boundary, but driving loosely at Bravo gave West Indies their second success.

Before lunch, Chanderpaul and Samuels both completed half-centuries before the half-centuries to help West Indies continue the long, hard grind for India.

With few alarms, the pair batted through the extended morning period, after West Indies continued from their bedtime total of 420 for five.

Chanderpaul glanced Munaf Patel to deep fine leg for a single to reach his 50, and Samuels turned Anil Kumble through square leg for a single to reach his landmark.

Outside of the personal milestones for Chanderpaul and Samuels, the game meandered into a sleeper, with the West Indies committed to batting long, and India employing some negative tactics to stem the flow of runs.

Samuels and Chanderpaul carried them to 536 for five at lunch, and looked set to continue from where they left off after the interval.

Samuels lofted Harbhajan for a straight six and over wide long on for another, then Chanderpaul hit the off-spinner over wide long-off for a third in the second over after the interval that cost 19 runs.

The West Indies pair had added 156 for the sixth wicket, when Sehwag made the breakthrough.

Bowling his uncomplicated off-spin, Sehwag had Samuels caught at deep mid wicket in the third over after the lunch interval with a delivery darted into his pads, and in the following over, Denesh Ramdin was caught at square leg off Harbhajan for three pulling a shortish delivery.

Two overs later, Jerome Taylor skied a pull and was caught at mid wicket for three off Harbhajan, who removed Pedro Collins caught behind edging a doosra to slip, before the off-spinner bowled Corey Collymore through his legs to deny Chanderpaul his landmark.

The half-centuries from Chanderpaul and Samuels followed

hundreds from opener Daren Ganga (128) and vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan (116), as well as 83 from left-handed opener Chris Gayle.

The four-Test series is still level at 0-0, after the first two Tests at the Antigua Recreation Ground and the Beausejour Cricket Ground ended in tense draws. The series concludes at Kingston's Sabina Park from June 30 to July 4.

Warner Park's staging of its first Test. It has become the ninth Test venue in the West Indies and the 94th in the World.

SCOREBOARD

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

WEST INDIES: First innings (over-night 420 for five)

Gayle b Patel 83
Ganga b Patel 135
Sarwan lbw b Sreesanth 116
Lara lbw b Patel 10
Chanderpaul not out 97
Bravo c Dhoni b Harbhajan 21
Samuels c Harbhajan b Sehwag 87
Ramdin c Jaffer b Harbhajan 3
Taylor c Yuvraj b Harbhajan 2
Collins c Dravid b Harbhajan 1
Collymore b Harbhajan 0

Extras: (lb-14, w-1, nb-11) 26
Total: (All out in 170 overs) 581
Fall of wickets: 1-143, 2-346, 3-362, 4-371, 5-406, 6-562, 7-570, 8-576, 9-581

INDIA: First innings

Jaffer c Lara b Bravo 60
Sehwag c Lara b Collymore 31
Laxman not out 28
Dravid not out 20
Extras: (lb-1, nb-10) 11
Total: (For 2 wks in 46 overs) 150
To bat: Y Singh, M Kaif, M Dhoni, A Kumble, M Patel, H Singh, S Sreesanth

Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-124

Bowler O M R W
Patel 32 4 134 3
Sreesanth 31 8 99 1
Kumble 47 8 140 0
Harbhajan 44 6 147 5
Sehwag 16 3 47 1

INDIA: First innings

Jaffer c Lara b Bravo 60
Sehwag c Lara b Collymore 31
Laxman not out 28
Dravid not out 20
Extras: (lb-1, nb-10) 11
Total: (For 2 wks in 46 overs) 150
To bat: Y Singh, M Kaif, M Dhoni, A Kumble, M Patel, H Singh, S Sreesanth

Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-124

Bowler O M R W
Taylor 12 1 58 0
Collins 13 1 54 0
Collymore 10 2 19 1
Bravo 9 4 15 1
Gayle 2 0 3 0

Umpires: R. Koertzen, B. Jertling

Mahela leads from front

Cricket

AFP, Chester-Le-Street

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene's seventh one-day international hundred saw his side to an eight-wicket win over an out-casted England at the Riverside here Saturday as the tourists went an unbeatable 3-0 up in the five-match NatWest Series.

Jayawardene made 126 not out as Sri Lanka, set 262 for victory, finished on 265 for two to inflict what was England's 13th defeat in 17 one-day internationals.

Together with wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara (58 not out), Jayawardene shared an unbroken third-wicket stand of 140 in 155 balls as Sri Lanka won with nearly eight overs to spare.

England stand-in captain Andrew Strauss had said before the start of the series that if his team scored five individual hundreds they'd be successful.

But, unfortunately for him, Jayawardene's innings meant he'd witnessed a century in each match from a Sri Lanka batsman with England no nearer ending their woeful one-day form in the run-up to next year's World Cup in the Caribbean.

England, who'd bowled 43 wickets in the previous two matches, only sent down five this time but more than compensated with a series of

loose deliveries.

"As a side, individually and collectively, we've got to have a long, hard look at ourselves," Strauss told reporters afterwards. "If we're honest, we haven't been up to international standard so far this series and we've been comfortably the second-best team."

"We know we can play a lot better than we have done and it's up to us to find a way to do it," added Strauss, captain in the absence of Michael Vaughan and Andrew Flintoff.

For Sri Lanka, on a roll since squaring the Test series 1-1 at Trent Bridge earlier this month before winning the one-off Rose Bowl Twenty20 clash, this was a significant victory with the bulk of their previous success in the sub-continent.

"That was probably the best game we've played out of the three," said an elated Jayawardene. "I think our bowlers bowled really well and when chasing a score it's important one of the guys makes a big hundred and it was my day today (Saturday). I'm very happy with that."

"This is very big. The whole tour has been hard for us. When we came here a lot of things were said about us being a young side," Jayawardene, captain in place of Marvan Atapattu, whose back injury prevented him coming to England, added. "Our guys worked really hard and it's paying off now."

Sri Lanka got off to a flyer after Ian Bell's patient 77 had been the cornerstone of England's 261 for seven.

Earlier, England again lost early wickets with dangerous Kevin Pietersen caught behind for six.

The umpires later refused England a substitute fielder for Pietersen, ruling he had a pre-existing injury after taking a blow on the knee at The Oval.

Bell, on the ground where he scored a Test-best 162 not out against Bangladesh last year, was run out in the penultimate over having faced 114 balls with three fours.

Such was Sri Lanka's control that star off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, who'd left the tour to be with his ill son, was barely missed.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third one-day international between England and Sri Lanka at the Riverside on Saturday:

ENGLAND: 261 for 7

SRI LANKA
Tharanga c Strauss b Dalrymple 41
Jayasuriya run out 23
Jayawardene not out 126
Sangakkara not out 58
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-5, nb-5) 17
Total: (For 2 wks in 42.2 overs) 265
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-125
Did not bat: T Dilshan, R Arnold, F Maharoof, D Fernando, C Vaas, L Malinga, M Bandara.

Bowler O M R W
Harmison 10 0 55 0
Plunkett 5.2 0 46 0
Mahmood 5 0 36 0
Collingwood 6 0 33 0
Bell 1 0 12 0
Dalrymple 9 1 40 1
Loudon 6 0 36 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 8 wickets and lead five-match series 3-0.
Man-of-the-match: Mahela Jayawardene.
REMAINING FIXTURES
June 28: Old Trafford
July 01: Headingley



Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene plays an upper cut during his blistering 126 against England during the third one-day international at Chester-Le-Street on Saturday.