

Aussies 195 runs ahead of Lankans

COLOMBO, Sept 1: The second Test between Australia and Sri Lanka was evenly poised at stumps on the fourth day in Colombo Tuesday after the visitors finished on 206 for five in the second innings, a lead of 195, reports AP.

Australia struggled all day against left-arm orthodox spinner Den Anurasiri and off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan on a bowler friendly wicket.

But Dean Jones followed up his first innings' 77 with a unbeaten 48 and shared a useful 57-run stand for the sixth wicket with all-rounder Greg Matthews. Before he had scored, Jones had wandered down the track to Don Anurasiri, but Romesh Kaluwithrana failed to complete the stumping.

Jones and Matthews came together at the fall of skipper Allan Border's wicket and have so far batted together for 70 minutes.

Jones spiced his innings with three boundaries and a six swept off Muralidharan while Matthews batted doggedly for his unbeaten 23.

Australia lost three wickets for two runs in the space of nine deliveries in the afternoon session.

David Boon looking distinctly uncomfortable against the spin duo, gloved a turning ball while pushed forward, giving an easy catch to Roshan Mahanama.

Half-centurion Tom Moody and Mark Waugh were out on successive balls to Muralidharan, but Border thwarted the

hat-trick chance. Waugh was low for a duck. Jones and Border saw Australia safely through to tea, without further loss for 142 for four. But soon after the break, Anurasiri won a lbw verdict with a ball that turned sharply and hit Border on the back pad.

After Sri Lanka had declared at their overnight total of 258, with just 11 runs ahead, Australia began cautiously, but solidly under an overcast sky.

Both openers, Mark Taylor and Moody, started briskly, sharing a 61-run stand, the highest so far for the first wicket in the series.

Left-handed Taylor, having batted for 94 minutes, walked into a Chandika Hathurasinghe delivery and was adjudged leg before wicket.

In an eventful post-lunch session, Moody edged one off Anurasiri past an inept wicketkeeper, Kaluwithrana, before completing a deserving half-century. He batted for 162 minutes and struck six boundaries in his 141 ball innings.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between Sri Lanka and Australia Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 247 (D. Jones 77, G. Matthews 55)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 258 for nine) R. Mahanama c Moody b Dodeimaide 14

C. Hathurisinghe b Moody 67

A. Gurusinha c Healy b Whitney 29

A De Silva c Healy b McDermott 85

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes A. Ranatunga, Dodeimaide, S. Jayasuriya, etc.

Fall of wickets: 1-26; 2-67; 3-174; 4-211; 5-240; 6-243; 7-243; 8-255; 9-258.

Table with columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W. Includes McDermott, Whitney, Dodeimaide, etc.

AUSTRALIA: Second innings

M Taylor lbw b Hathurisinghe 26

T Moody b Muralidharan 54

D Boon c Mahanama b Anurasiri 15

J Jones not out 48

M Waugh lbw b Muralidharan 0

A Border lbw Anurasiri 28

G Matthews not out 23

Extras: (lb-2, lb-7, nb-3) 12

Total: (for five wickets) 206

Fall of wickets: 1-61; 2-102; 3-104; 4-104; 5-149

Bowling: O M R W

Ramanayake 8 0 35 0

Liyanaige 10 1 34 0

Hathurisinghe 12 3 12 1

Anurasiri 34 9 48 2

Muralidharan 23 5 68 2

Nat'l U-16 squad off to Riyadh

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh National under-16 squad led by the BFF joint secretary Shah Abul Kashem left Dhaka yesterday evening for the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh to take part in the final round of the 5th Asian youth under-16 soccer championship which commences on September 5.

Bangladesh, placed in Group A with North Korea, Bahrain and hosts Saudi Arabia, start their campaign on the inaugural day of the meet against North Korea.

The Bangladeshi boys will play their next two group matches against Bahrain and Saudi Arabia on September 6 and 8 respectively.

The top two teams from Group A and B will play in the semifinals.

Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Thailand and China are in the Group B.

The tournament concludes on the 13th of this month.

Before leaving Dhaka, the team had the pleasure of having sometime with the State Minister for Youth and Sports at the Bangladesh Football Federation conference room.

The Minister urged the players to give everything they have to uphold the national flag in the international arena.

He counselled the squad to display fair and sporting attitude in the field.

Siddiqur Rahman and Syed Akmal Hossain, the president and general secretary of the BFF respectively were also present on the occasion.



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AC Milan dubbed as Dream Team of Italy

MILAN, Italy, Sept 1: With a roster of 22 stars from five countries, AC Milan is dubbed the Dream Team of Italian soccer and considered an almost certain winner in the First Division campaign which kicks off Sunday, reports AP.

The Milan power, owned and richly financed by media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, shoots for its second consecutive league title and its fifth European Champions Cup in the upcoming season, which several experts believe could be one of the brightest in the 93-year history of the club.

It's Milan against the rest of the world," wrote a veteran Italian commentator as the buildup to Italy's 18-team, nine-month league competition gathered momentum.

The league champion has already provided an example of its strength, and its appetite for success, by capturing the first trophy of the season—the Italian Super Cup—in a 2-1 victory over Parma Sunday night.

But coach Fabio Capello rejects comparisons between his squad and the Dream Team of American NBA basketball professionals which dominated the Olympic tournament in Barcelona.

They won all games by a wide margin, showing an unchallenged superiority, while Milan will have to struggle in every match for a 1-0 victory," Capello said. "The competition will be extremely strong both in the league and in the European Cup."

The Red and Black champion, the first post-war team to finish the league season unbeaten, has added French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, Yu-

goslav midfielder Dejan Savicevic, Croatian forward Zvonimir Boban and Italy's most expensive transfer, Gianluigi Lentini, to last season's already impressive roster.

Lentini moved from Torino in a deal estimated at \$30 million but his inclusion in a well-working machine paced by Dutch stars Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank



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Rijkaard caused evident problems in pre-season warm-up matches.

MILAN'S RIVALS

The competition for getting a place in the starting 11 could cause tensions among players, and problems to the coach. We could take advantage of such situation," said Gianluca Vialli, the newly acquired striker of Juventus of Turin.

Italian clubs can start a maximum of three non-Italians in league and Cup matches and Milan will have to rotate their six foreign stars.

Juventus, Italy's most popular and titled team, invested as much as their Milan rivals—tens of millions of dollars—signing Vialli, German midfielder Andreas Moeller and British forward David Platt to boost their title chances following a six-year shutout.

The Turin team, with a

record of 18-12-4, last season finished 8 points behind Milan which had 22-12-0—a record which can be improved only in terms of more wins and fewer draws.

"We think we have narrowed the gap from Milan this season. We start with high hopes," said Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

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mously considered Milan's toughest rival, other teams such as Internazionale, Lazio, Fiorentina, Napoli and Parma could emerge as unexpected third parties following expensive transfer campaigns.

Lazio's fortunes will mostly depend on newly-acquired English virtuoso Paul Gascoigne, who has been long nursing a knee injury and is an uncertain starter in the initial league rounds.

Inter, Milan's crosstown rival, got a new coach, Osvaldo Bagnoli, and formed a brand-new forward line with Darko Panecv, Mathias Sammer, Igor Shalimov and Ruben Sosa.

Parma signed flashy Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla, who some experts consider one of the best newcomers.

Fiorentina signed Brian Laudrup, the midfield mastermind of European Champion

Denmark, to support Argentine striker Daniel Batistuta and Italian forward Francesco Balano.

Napoli, which could hardly field reluctant Argentine star Diego Maradona, still starts a powerful team including Brazilian veteran striker Antonio Careca, imaginative Italian midfielder Gian Franco Zola and newly-acquired forwards Daniel Forseea of Uruguay and Sede Jonas Thern.

MISSING STARS

Maradona, who's unwilling to return to Naples after completing a 15-month suspension for drug use, won't be the only long-time stars of the Italian league missing in Sunday's opener.

Inter transferred their German trio of Lothar Matthaus, Andreas Brehme and Juergen Klinsmann to make room for newcomers while Juventus, Roma and Torino sold German defender Stefan Reuter, German striker Rudi Voeller and Spanish midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez.

Yet the foreign legion is the strongest ever with 72 players from 20 countries. The massive imports of foreign players touched off traditional criticism that they would delay the growth of Italian talents—to the detriment of the national team which in October begins their qualifying games for the 1994 World cup in the United States.

"Italian players can also learn from their foreign teammates. The problem is that not all those coming from abroad are real ones," said Gianni Brera, a respected Italian commentator.

Sunday's opener of the 34-round season features AC Milan vs Foggia, Juventus at Cagliari, Fiorentina-Genoa and Sampdoria-Lazio.

Carl Lewis backs surprise drug test

ZURICH, Sept 1: Carl Lewis says athletics should spend more on surprise drug-testing, reports AP.

"Four years after Ben Johnson and in this year of Katrin Krabbe we should be prepared to give up some money if it is used to improve testing," he said. But it was not clear in his interview with the Sport Weekly whether it was the athletes or the officials who should take a pay cut.

"I'm for better testing, bloodtesting, I support efforts to introduce tests which catch athletes by surprise," said the American who took his Olympic tally to eight gold medals in Barcelona.

Lewis said Krabbe's case for using clenbuterol could not be compared with British sprinter Jason Livingstone who was sent home from Barcelona after the results of a test in the United Kingdom were made public.

"Katrin Krabbe's case is worse because she had already been caught cheating once," he said.

The German, double world sprint champion in Tokyo last year, was cleared of the first offence on a technicality.

Lewis felt capable of continuing to the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

"If everything goes according to plan I will compete at my fourth Games," said the 31-year-old.

Lewis refused to criticise Britain's Olympic champion Linford Christie for refusing to run against him recently.

"He has nothing to prove and neither do I," he said.

Kids should stay home, says IHF deputy chief

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: Indian hockey juniors are so pathetic they should be pulled out of the junior World Cup qualifying tournament in Kuala Lumpur, according to the vice-president of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), reports AP.

Gufran-E-Azam said the 36 probabilities training for the tournament were "sub-standard" and any team selected from the bunch were sure to be routed.

"We should learn a lesson from Barcelona and save ourselves further humiliation," the outspoken official said in a statement published by newspapers her Tuesday.

"If we go I am afraid that we are in for a drubbing even against weak teams like China and Oman."

India, eight-time Olympic champions, are still smarting from their debacle in the Barcelona Games where they failed to qualify for the semifinals and matched their worst-ever Olympic performance by finishing seventh.

Gufran said the juniors were worse than the seniors and predicted they would finish last in Kuala Lumpur. "The juniors should stay home instead of heaping further humiliation on Indian hockey," he said.

The IHF vice-president blamed chief national coach Balkishen Singh's "total hockey" tactics borrowed from European sides and the neglect of traditional Asian position play for India's Barcelona disaster.

Essex 18 points away from title

LONDON, Sept 1: Graham Gooch's Essex cricketers took another authoritative stride towards retaining the County Championship when they bowled out Hampshire for a modest 233 at Chelmsford on Monday, reports Reuter.

Essex, who started the four-day game needing 22 points from their last three matches to clinch the title, reduced the target to 18 by capturing the maximum four bowling points. Off-spinner Peter Such, who snapped up four for 23 and slow left-arm bowler John Childs, with two for 71, did most of the damage on a pitch already offering slow turn.

Hampshire's batting effort was poor, with their England pair David Gower (30) and Robin Smith (23) both falling when they appeared to be settling in.

Only West Indies pacesman Malcolm Marshall, who hit 39, and off-spinner Shaun Udal, last out at 44, showed the necessary application to hold up Essex.

The champions and leaders, whose title defence flourishes despite being without key pace bowler Neil Foster through injury and batsman Mark Waugh on Australian tour duty in Sri Lanka, begin their innings this morning.

Third-placed Northamptonshire, with only an outside chance of the title, were frustrated by a solid Yorkshire batting display at Scarborough.

An opening stand of 140 be-

tween Martyn Moxon (77) and Simon Kellett (96) was foundation of the home side's score of 324 for six at the close.

Derbyshire's England newcomer, pacesman Dominic Cork, caused a Nottinghamshire collapse at Trent Bridge.

Cork, who made an encouraging England debut in the one-day match against Pakistan at Old Trafford last week, claimed five for 10 in 63 deliveries as Notts slumped from 107 without loss to 166 all out.

Graham Thorpe hit his first championship century of the season to help Surrey to a commanding 397 for four against Somerset at the Oval.

Thorpe, who had scored 13 championship half-centuries; was 151 not out at the close, having faced 218 balls and hit seven fours.

Christie ready to apologise

LONDON, Sept 1: England batsman David Gower is ready to apologise over his allegations of ball-tampering by India during the 1990 Test match at the Oval, reports Reuter.

Gower said on Monday he was willing to apologise to the Indian cricket authorities for the claim made in his recently-published autobiography.

Former England captain Gower admitted he was slightly worried by reports suggesting that England's tour of India at the beginning of next year could be placed in jeopardy by the remarks.

He said: "I want to go to India with England this winter, and I really hope too much is not made of a throwaway line in a 100,000-word book. I will certainly apologise to the Indians about the remark, if that is what is required to defuse the situation."

"If I'd really wanted to make something of it there would have been a lot more than just one sentence in the book. And I think it has only been spotted because of the current controversy surrounding the Pakistanis."

Gower says in his book that India's efforts to make the ball "wobble around did not pre-

clude some surreptitious scuffing-up on one side of the ball."

"This was quickly snuffed out by umpire Nigel Plews," he adds.

Chandana Nagaraj, secretary of the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI), said on Saturday: "We strongly refute the malicious charge by David Gower."

"I am shocked that the Test and County Cricket Board has allowed this malicious statement to go through its scrutiny before the book's publication. We shall lodge a strong protest against the infringing statement."

Gower's book appeared last week during a rumour over alleged ball-doctoring by Pakistan's bowlers during the recent Test and one-day series in England.

Judo coaching Sports Reporter Khurshid Alam Naqib (black belt 4th dan) is conducting a coaching programme on judo and karate at the Mirpur Stadium everyday.

The camp, supervised by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, offers two classes everyday for anyone interested.

Those who want to join the programme have been asked to contact the organisers at the main gate of the stadium.



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Mozart of chess comes out of recluse

NEW YORK, Sept 1: Brilliant but eccentric, Bobby Fischer became America's first and only world chess champion under the glare of worldwide publicity in 1972. Three years later he lost his crown without even moving a pawn, reports Reuter.

But the Briton said he would run only if he was guaranteed at least half of the 495,000 dollar likely to be on offer.

Christie, who has studiously avoided Lewis since he succeeded the American as Olympic champion in Barcelona earlier this month, said: "I'm ready to take on Lewis as long as the promoters can strike the right deal."

"But I take it as a matter of respect and pride that the money is split 50-50 between us. After all, I don't need Lewis—I'm the man who is the Olympic champion. If he wants it to be 60-40 in his favour, it's not going to happen."

"But I will be ready for him if we can get the race on. Anyone who knows me knows that I don't duck anybody."

Since the Barcelona Games, the 32-year-old Christie has lost twice to Nigerian Olapade Adeniken.

At the Belfast meeting on Monday, he beat former world record holder Calvin Smith of the United States in 10.51 seconds to win the 100 metres.

Fischer said he dreamed of power, wealth and glory. The title brought them all but did not end what one commentator called his "running battle with the rest of the human race."

After winning the title, Jewish-born Fischer joined a group, known as the worldwide church of God, based in Pasadena, California, and gave it part of his championship money.

He clashed with the FIDE world chess body over conditions for the 1975 match to

defend his crown. His career went on indefinite hold after FIDE stripped him of his title.

Since then he has been reported to be living under assumed names in cheap hotels in Pasadena on the outskirts of Los Angeles, surviving mainly on royalties from his books.

Some say he has lost none of his mastery of tactics. But it is Fischer's apparent physical degeneration that has most alarmed friends and fans alike. The slender, alert, well-groomed young man of the 1960s is now pudgy and balding with a reddish hair and a waddling walk. AP adds on the eve of his comeback match from a 20-year withdrawal from the chess world, Bobby Fischer on Tuesday spat on a US government letter warning him that playing in Yugoslavia would violate UN sanctions.

An acerbic, angry Fischer, holding his first news conference since the 1970s, also declared that he remains world champion and characterised

the current, official titleholder, Garry Kasparov of Russia, as among the "lowest dogs."

Fischer appeared at the news conference with Boris Spassky, whom he defeated in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1972 to take the world crown. But Spassky, who agreed to the rematch and a share in the \$1.5 million purse, barely had time to answer questions at the news conference dominated by Fischer.

The most dramatic moment of the meeting with reporters

charged that Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov had fixed their championship match in 1984. He said professional chess had been dominated by cheating since he was stripped of his title in 1975 by the International Chess Federation.

In a sardonic tone he leaped through written questions, Fischer also criticised Communists, Jews, Israel and the United Nations and said he felt ill-treated by the US government.

Asked by the Associated Press if he supports UN sanctions designed to stop the war 80 kilometers (50 miles) away in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, Fischer replied, "No I don't support the sanctions because first of all I don't support the UN."

"For example, look at Israel