

Sport



Players and officials of the visiting Zimbabwe cricket team who arrived yesterday to play against Bangladesh in the Gold Leaf one-day international series. The two exhibition matches will be played at the Dhaka Stadium on November 3 and 4.

Another feather in Border's cap

PERTH, Nov 1: Australian cricket captain Allan Border reached another milestone in his illustrious career here Sunday capturing his 100th first class wicket on the third day of the Sheffield Shield match between his side Queensland and Western Australia at the WACA Ground.

Bowling his tantalising left-handed fastman Justin Langer for 96. It was an important break through for Queensland, who will start the final day today with goal prospects of completing their first Shield outright victory in Perth for 18 years.

Western Australia bundled out for 211 in their first innings are 4-280 in their second, holding a fragile overall lead of only 61 runs over Queensland's first innings 430.

Border is best known as the man who has scored more Test runs than any player in the history of the game. The man who led Australia to 4-1 Ashes triumph over England during the past northern summer, has hit 10,665 runs in 51.17, with 26 centuries.

He has compiled 24 970 runs in first-class games a figure exceeded only by one Australian - the incomparable Sir Donald Bradman who totalled 28,067.

Earlier, Victoria SC Tejagan Agramani, Cantonian SC Combined SC, Agrani Bank Club and East End Green Club qualified for the super league from their respective groups.

Sunrise Sporting Club made an auspicious start in the Progot Insurance Third Division football league beating Maghazhar Kisholay Sangha by a single goal in the opening match at the Outer Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Zimbabweans in town

A fourteen-member Zimbabwean cricket team led by Andrew Flower arrived in the city yesterday in play two exhibition one-day international matches against the Bangladesh cricket team.

The two 50 overs a side matches of the Gold Leaf one-day cricket series, named after one of the products of the sponsor, Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) will be played at the Dhaka Stadium on November 3 and 4.

The babes of Test cricket who celebrated their entry into the exclusive club of Test playing nations with a creditable draw against India in Harare only last year are, however, without their star pacesman Eddo Brandes the man who played a major role in conjuring up the upset defeat of the '92 World Cup runners-up England in one of the league matches Down Under.

A lively new-ball operator Brandes could be quite destructive with the ball given the share of luck needed by down-the-order batters like him. His blitzkrieg robbed Bangladesh a place in the semifinals in one of the ICC Trophy series, a four-yearly qualifying championship for the associate members of International Cricket Conference (ICC) in England.

Coincidentally, it is before another ICC Trophy championship that Bangladesh are meeting Zimbabwe, this time on home soil and with no existential proposition at stake.

However Brandes' absence should be amply compensated by names like Dave Houghton, the brilliant stroke maker whose vast repertoire of shots and improvisation was one of the lasting memories of the 1987 World Cup in the subcontinent.

Alli Shah is another veteran in the contingent of the second Test-playing country from Africa. Born in India, Shah, a stolid left handed opening batsman who bowls tidy medium-pace has been a steady influence on Zimbabwe's cricketing ascent.

Touch of English

Playing in Bangladesh must have been the remotest of the thoughts that crossed his mind in the electrifying ambience of the MCG as Wasim Akram and Mushtaq Ahmed kept on driving nails in England's coffin with the unrestrained vengeance of Shakespeare's Caliban.

Because Neil Fairbrother was then delving deep into the reserves of his concentration and abilities to lead off England's waning hopes of winning the first ever World Cup.

The overdue honours for the inventors of the game eluded for the fifth time in a row since the inception of the world championship of limited overs cricket but the mouse-eyed Fairbrother underlined his reputation as very competent batsman in instant cricket.

The Test record of the current Lancashire captain is nebulous to say the least. But that is no denying of his calibre. May it be a case of prolonged jinx or temperament, that has given a rather impoverished look to Fairbrother's ten Test career escape.

But local cricket lovers will be more than inspired to see this cricketer in action for Navana Premier league champions Abahani in the imminent domestic cricket season at least for his excellent exploits in the 45-50 one-day internationals that he has played for England.

Fairbrother yesterday signed for Abahani giving rise to Abahani's collection of confirmed foreign players to two after G P Singh of India. He was to leave Dhaka last night only to be back by the third of this month.

Also signed yesterday was Rudra Pratap Singh, the tall medium pacer from Uttar Pradesh, India. But Singh who played four one-day internationals for India joined Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC). Singh is GMCC's second foreigner after Raman Lamba, the Indian Test discard.

Blain steers NZ to victory over NSW

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Nov 1: Wicketkeeper Tony Blain steered New Zealand to the first victory of their Australia tour today with an unbeaten second innings 45 against New South Wales (NSW), reports Reuter.

The win over the Sheffield Shield champions restored some morale to the Kiwis after the loss of their first three matches by large margins. The tourists resumed at 167 for six needing 79 to record their first win. They reached the target with three wickets to spare.

The 31-year-old Blain flew out overnight, hit out for quick runs before the second new ball. He lost Murphy's six for 12 with the total at 200 when the left hander tried to hit all rounder Brad McNamara over mid-off and Phil Alley took a nice running catch.

Past blower Danny Morrison had put the match within New Zealand's reach by taking six for 54 on Sunday after the tourists trailed by 136 runs on the first innings.

Morrison, 27, who ended on 26 not out drove giant left arm pacesman Phil Alley for four to tie the scores. Blain hit the winning run in the next over.

NSW captain Mark Taylor said his players had been more interested in having a good time in Newcastle than in playing cricket. He said they should have won easily after leading by 136 on the first innings but probably had too many beers at night.

New Zealand now head to Launceston to play Tasmania in a four-day match, their last outing before the flat Test against Australia in Perth starting on November 12.

CAB tourney venue switched

NEW DELHI, Nov 1: The six-nation limited over tournament to mark the diamond jubilee of Calcutta's Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) was caught up in a financial dispute on Sunday after organisers announced a late switch of venues, reports Reuter.

India's day-night match against South Africa on November 12 has been moved from Delhi to the northern Punjab State following a dispute over advertising rights at the original stadium which normally stages athletics.

Disgruntled Delhi officials have threatened legal action and said CAB chief Jagmohan Dalmyia, also secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), was not entitled to change the venue.

"It's an arbitrary and illegal action," said Delhi president Kewal Mehra. "Dalmyia has no authority to shift the match allotted to Delhi by the BCCI working committee."

Pakistan International Master (IM) Mahmud Lodhi scored another important victory, this time over Bangladesh's IM Ziaur Rahman, in the 10th G M Hossain memorial international Masters' chess tournament at Hotel Purhani yesterday.

After the ninth round Lodhi remains at the top of the points table with seven points from eight matches, along with V Sharvanan of India who has the same collection from nine games.

In a queen pawn opening game, Lodhi finished Zia off in thirty-nine moves. It was another bad day for National Champion Reefat bin Sattar. Reefat faced his third defeat when he lost to V Sharvanan of India in 34 moves.

Spunky Anwar sparkles again as Pakistan halt Windies march

SHARJAH, Nov 1: Saeed Anwar's second successive century lifted Pakistan to a crucial five-wicket win over West Indies in the Champions Trophy here Monday, reports AFP.

The 25-year-old left hander who made 107 against Sri Lanka on Saturday, struck a career best 131 as Pakistan beat West Indies by five wickets with six balls to spare.

The World Cup winners not only avenged their loss to West Indies in their first meeting last Friday, but also improved their chances of playing the final on November 5.

West Indies and Pakistan have two wins from three matches and will contest the final unless they lose both their remaining matches to Sri Lanka by big margins.

Sri Lanka who play Pakistan on Tuesday are winless in the three-nation tournament. Anwar slammed 12 boundaries and three sixes in a brilliant 142 ball knock that helped him surpass his previous best of 126 against Sri Lanka in 1991.

It was also the highest ever individual score at the Sharjah cricket ground where Pakistan have won seven of the 14 previous tournaments.

Anwar's super stroke play found able support at the other to keep Pakistan in the run for a 52 per cent victory target. Opening partner Asif Mujtaba (15) helped him put on 42 for the first wicket by the 12th over.

Bad day for 'locals'

Pakistan International Master (IM) Mahmud Lodhi scored another important victory, this time over Bangladesh's IM Ziaur Rahman, in the 10th G M Hossain memorial international Masters' chess tournament at Hotel Purhani yesterday.

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Another IM of India Shekhar Chandra Sahu, beat local Ziaul Qader Tuhin in a Sicilian defence opening match after thirty-seven moves.

Matches between International Women's Master (IMW) Rani Hamid and FM Tahmidur Rahman; Rahul Shetty of India and Niamul Haq, Kallimullah Khan and Raquul Islam were in progress when reports last came in.

Following is the points table after the 9th round: 7 points: IM Lodhi (8 matches), IM V Sharvanan; 6 points: IM Zia; 5.5 points: IM Reefat; 4 points: Sahu (8 matches), Niru (8 matches), Shetty (8 matches); 3.5 points: Tahmid (8 matches); 2.5 points: Kalam (6 matches), Rani (8 matches); 2 points: Raquf (8 matches); 1.5 points: Tuhin.

Since 1961 to regain the title. In Monday's game, Timman, playing with the advantage of the white pieces, tried desperately to generate pressure against Karpov's Nimzo-Indian defence.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy 50 overs cricket match between Pakistan and West Indies on Monday: WEST INDIES: Lara c Rashid Latif b Mushtaq Ahmed 14; Haynes c Mushtaq Ahmed b Wasim Akram 8; Simmons b Aftab-ur-Rehman 81; Arthurton c Anwar b Mushtaq Ahmed 63; Richardson c Malik b Mushtaq Ahmed 7; Hooper c Mujtaba b Wasim Akram 18; Adams not out 18; Harper b Wasim Akram 2; Cummins b Latif b Qadir 10; Benjamen b Wasim Akram 2; Walsh not out 2; Extras (b-1, lb-10, w-20, nb-2) 35; Total (for nine wickets 50 overs) 260.

Fall of wickets: 1-26; 2-52; 3-189; 4-201; 5-204; 6-222; 7-234; 8-251; 9-256. Bowling: O M R W; Wasim Akram 10 1 40 4; Aftab-ur-Rehman 10 1 59 1; Mushtaq Ahmed 10 1 46 3; Abdul Qadir 10 0 43 1; Salmi Malik 7 0 35 0; Asif Mujtaba 3 0 24 0.

PAKISTAN: Saeed Anwar c Lara b Qadir 131; Asif Mujtaba c Arthurton b Cummins 15; Inzamam ul Haq run out 20; Javed Miandad c Adams b Benjamen 20; Rashid Latif run out 34; Salmi Malik not out 5; Wasim Akram not out 20; Extras (b-1, lb-8, w-9, nb-1) 25; Total (five wickets-49 overs) 261.

Fall of wickets: 1-42; 2-86; 3-143; 4-186; 5-251. Did not bat: Rashid Latif, Mushtaq Ahmed, Abdul Qadir, Aftab-ur-Rehman.

Bowling: O M R W; Walsh 10 1 39 0; Benjamen 10 1 54 1; Cummins 10 0 89 1; Simmons 2 0 10 0; Harper 8 0 36 0; Hooper 9 0 43 1. Results: Pakistan won by five wickets. Man-of-the-match: Saeed Anwar.

Karpov officially champion!

JAKARTA, Nov 1: Russia's Anatoly Karpov drew with Jan Timman of the Netherlands to win the official World Chess Championship in Jakarta on Monday, reports Reuter.

Karpov, 42, beat 41-year-old Timman by 12.5 points to 8.5 points in the 24-game series to take the winner's 5/8ths share of the one million Swiss francs (700,000 US dollars) prize money.

Karpov thus recaptures the title he held between 1975 and 1985 but lost to Azerbaijan's Garry Kasparov. He becomes the first player since 1961 to regain the title.

In Monday's game, Timman, playing with the advantage of the white pieces, tried desperately to generate pressure against Karpov's Nimzo-Indian defence. But the Russian restrained Timman's pair of bishops and managed to exchange so many pawns that a draw soon seemed to be the only possible result.

After thinking for almost half an hour over his 15th move, Timman offered a draw and conceded the title to Karpov.

A rare Karpov smile greeted Timman's proposal of a draw and the two shook hands to end their eight-week battle.

"I am happy," said Karpov after the game. "It was a very interesting match. I think we played many interesting games, particularly for opening theory."

Timman seemed pleased the match was finally over. "My situation in the match was desperate but I was glad to win at least one game in Jakarta," he said, referring to Saturday's shock victory.

The match between Karpov and Timman, ranked only 31st, has been beset by difficulties over prize money and often overshadowed by a rival, unofficial contest in London.

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Bangladeshi Ziaul Qader Tuhin (L) lost his ninth round match against Indian International Master (IM) Shekhar Chandra Sahu (R) in the Dr QM Hossain memorial International Masters' chess tournament at the Hotel Purhani yesterday. — Star photo

England Test player Neil Harvey Fairbrother being received by the Abahani officials at the Zis International Airport (ZIA) yesterday. Fairbrother will play for Abahani in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league. — Star photo