

Fleming frustrates Pakistan

NAPIER, New Zealand, Feb 7: Stephen Fleming scored an unbeaten century in the final two sessions Monday as a New Zealand Emerging Players' XI held on for a draw in their three-day cricket match against Pakistan at McLean Park, reports AP.

Left-hander Fleming was 109 not out — his third first-class century — as the New Zealand XI moved to 290 for four in their second innings after being skittled out for 93 on Saturday.

The New Zealanders needed to bat all day to avoid defeat and did so comfortably.

Pakistan made a formidable 485-8 declared in their first innings, but had their victory bid thwarted by Fleming. New Zealand Test opener Bryan Young — who made a composed 49 — and allrounder Shane Thomson, who contributed 77 before being stumped.

The match was Pakistan's final warm-up before the first Test against New Zealand, which begins Thursday at Eden Park in Auckland.

The innings of Young and Thomson provided an important pre-Test confidence-boost for the Kiwis.

Young batted through all but

five minutes of the morning session before edging a ball from fast bowler Waqar Younis onto his stumps.

Young hit six boundaries, mostly off the back foot, in his 114-ball innings.

Opener Darrin Murray, who faced 67 balls for a return of eight runs before being caught at slip by Younis off left-arm spinner Aamir Sohail, was the other batsman to fall in the opening session at the tourists' scented victory.

Paceman Wasim Akram then got his first wicket of the innings shortly after lunch, when he yorked Simon Wilson for 12.

Fleming, who survived a load appeal for leg before wicket off the previous ball, then shared a 138-run fourth-wicket stand with the aggressive Thomson, taking the score from 83 to 221 at a run-a-minute and putting victory out of Pakistan's reach.

Thomson fell shortly after tea, stumped off the bowling of Salim Malik, while Fleming went on to complete his century.

Fleming batted 214 minutes, faced 164 balls and hit 18 fours. He got to his 100 with a five, thanks to a sharp single and four overthrows.

He had a slice of luck at 98, when 12th man Atif Rauf dropped a straightforward

chance at second slip off the bowling of Akram.

Thomson got his runs off 128 balls, with 10 boundaries and a six.

Gavin Larsen was unbeaten on 18 when the stumps were pulled AP.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day match between Pakistan and a New Zealand XI today.

NEW ZEALAND XI: First innings 93.

PAKISTAN: First innings 485 for 8 declared.

NEW ZEALAND XI: Second innings.

Young b Younis 49

Murray c Younis b Sohail 8

Wilson b Akram 12

Fleming not out 109

Thomson st Latif b Malik 77

Larsen not out 18

Extra: (lb-4, w-1, nb-8, b-4) 17

Total: (for four wickets) 290

Fall of wickets: 1-42; 2-65; 3-83; 4-221.

Did not bat: A Parore, D Nash, M Goodson, C Lee.

Bowling: O M R W

Wasim Akram 19 5 39 1

Waqar Younis 19 4 63 1

Aamir Nazir 14 3 59 0

Ashfaq Ahmed 11 2 38 0

Aamir Sohail 6 1 9 1

Salim Malik 19 3 71 1

Basil Ali 3 2 3 0

Inzamamul Haq 1 1 0

Result: Match drawn.

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Feb 7: England duly beat Leeward Island by seven wickets on Sunday but their celebrations were dampened by an injury to paceman Andy Caddick which could threaten his place in the Test side, reports Reuter.

Caddick, who starred with the bat as well as the ball, was taken to hospital after bowling just five overs complaining of sore shins. He was due to have X-rays amid fears he may be suffering from a stress fracture.

With Caddick taking three wickets in each innings of the match and also hitting 36 in a 70-run partnership with Jack Russell that turned the game England's way, his injury could be a bad blow for the visitors with the first Test less than two weeks away.

Requiring only 43 to win after dismissing Leeward Islands for 173 in their second innings, England lost three wickets before reaching the target.

SCORES

Scores on the last of the

England: 1st innings 312.

LEEWARD ISLANDS: 2nd innings (resumed at 129 for eight wickets)

Philip not out 31

Walsh lbw b Caddick 5

Maynard lbw b Lewis 14

Extras: (legbyes 2, no balls 13) 15.

Total: 173 all out.

Wickets fell at: 9-139; 10-173.

Bowling: O M R W

Caddick 19 6 32 3

Watkin 12 2 30 1

Lewis 4.4 0 29 1

Salisbury 28 7 59 4

Hick 5 0 20 1

ENGLAND: 2nd innings

M A Atherton b Walsh 9

G Thorpe c b Walsh 4

Ramprakash c Phillip b Maynard 4

G A Hick not out 11

N Hussain not out 15

Extras: 1

Total: 44 for three wickets.

Wickets fell at: 12, 16, 20.

Bowling: O M R W

Walsh 5 0 23 2

Maynard 4 0 16 1

Phillip 0.4 0 4 0

Botham's challenge

LONDON, Feb 7: England's cricketing legend Ian Botham is set for a new career this summer — presenting his own show on radio, reports AFP.

The former England all-rounder is to present a BBC phone-in programme for sports fans.

"Playing radio presenter is something I have wanted to do for some time — it's a new challenge and I never run away from a challenge," Botham said.

School sports

Sports Reporter

The annual sports competition of the Holy Child Public School and College was held on Saturday in Uttara.

President of Bangladesh Olympic Association Gias Kamal Chowdhury attended the prize-giving ceremony as chief guest.

BWDB athletics

meet ends

Sports Reporter

The two-day annual inter-office athletics meet of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) concluded at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground yesterday.

Dredger and Accounts directors, with 78 and 57 points, became team champions and runners-up respectively.

Masud Hafiz and Sohrab Hossain jointly bagged the individual men's crown while Kohinoor Begum took the women's.

Eight hundred and fifty-three athletes of different offices of the board took part in thirty-four events during the competition.

Later, Irrigation Secretary M Asafuddowlah distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest.

What happened at the

AN APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 7: Lillehammer plans a day of solidarity with the people of the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo on Tuesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Winter Olympics there, reports Reuter.

Mayor Audun Tron, whose town hosts the 1994 Games, will sign a special book for messages to Sarajevo and invite others to add their names to the peace appeal in the main square, Lillehammer Olympic Aid spokeswoman Nita Kapoor said today.

The Lillehammer Olympic Aid organisation is collecting money for Sarajevo to mark the 10th anniversary and also for young people in Guatemala, Eritrea, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

On Saturday, 68 people were killed in a mortar attack on a Sarajevo market and nearly 200 were wounded in the worst single incident in Bosnia's 22-month civil war.

Kapoor said the solidarity day had been arranged on Friday.

"What happened at the

Milla on target

YAOUNDE, Feb 7: Cameroon football veteran Roger Milla, hoping to make a World Cup comeback at the age of 42, scored his second goal in a row since his club comeback, reports AFP.

Striker Milla, 42, the hero of Cameroon's last World Cup campaign who has been persuaded to come out of retirement again, scored the only goal of the game in Tonnerre Yaounde's 1-0 win over Ocean. He scored in the 2-2 draw with Canon Yaounde last week.

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