

Good Day One for Pakistan

BULAWAYO, Feb 7: Pakistan were 11-1 at close of play on the first day of the second Test against Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo today. Scores: Zimbabwe 174; Pakistan 11-1

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the opening day of the second Test between Zimbabwe and Pakistan at the Queens Sports Club today.
ZIMBABWE: First innings
M Dekker c Shaheer Ahmed b Aamir Nazir 0
G Flower b Wasim Akram 6
A Campbell c Ijaz Ahmed b Manzoor Elahi 60
D Houghton b Wasim Akram 11
A Flower c Ijaz Ahmed b Kabir Khan 14
G Whittall c Aamir Sohail b Manzoor Elahi 7
S Carlisle c Kabir Khan b Wasim Akram 1
P Strang b Aamir Nazir 32
H Streak st Rashid Latif b Aamir Sohail 13
D Brain c Rashid Latif b Aamir Sohail 5
B Strang not out 0
Extras: (b-1, lb-9, nb-15) 25
Total: 174
Fall of wickets: 1-3: 2-7: 3-23: 4-56: 5-73: 6-86: 7-133: 8-167: 9-174: 10-174.
Bowling: O M R W
Wasim Akram 22 9 40 3
Aamir Nazir 18 4 36 2
Kabir Khan 16 2 45 1
Manzoor Elahi 21 8 38 2
Aamir Sohail 21 1 5 2

PAKISTAN: First innings
Aamir Sohail not out 5
Shaheer Ahmed lbw b Streak 5
Rashid Latif not out 5
Extras: 0
Total: (for one wicket) 11
Fall of wicket: 1-9
Bowling (to date): O M R W
Streak 2 0 9 1
Brain 2 1 2 0

Easy win for City Club

Pakistani Aamer Ishaq and local new-ball bowler Naren Chandra Saha evenly shared six wickets among themselves to set up a facile seven-wicket win for City Club against Evergreen Sporting Club in the lone Yamaha First Division cricket league match at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Naren picked up the first three wickets followed up by another three-wicket haul from Aamer Ishaq as Evergreen, sent in to bat first, were bundled out for a paltry 120 in 39.1 overs.

Among the Evergreen willow-wielders only Sayeed Ahmed (40) and Fayez Ahmed (31) could offer some sort of resistance.

Sayed clubbed four fours and one six in his quick fire 47-ball stay at the crease while Fayez remained unbeaten on a 99-ball 31.

In reply, City Club rattled 123 for three in just 13.4 overs with skipper Zakir Hossain and Babur compiling 66 runs off only 23 balls for the undefeated fourth wicket.

Babur, who came at the crease with the scoreboard reading 37 for three, set the field afire with a hurricane 42 off only 23 balls which included seven hits to the fence.

Zakir remained unbeaten on a 38-ball 24 while opener Atique contributed 27 for the winners.

Chalantika KC decimate City's promotion hopes

City Club collapsed in their chase for a birth in the First Division football league when Chalantika KC forced them to a one-all draw in their penultimate Second Division football league engagement at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The draw left the Mirpur side at 26 points from 14 matches at par on points with rivals Badda Jagarani, now needs a win in their next match against BG Press to earn one of the two slots for the next year's First Division football league.

Div III soccer

Farid Ahmed struck twice as Little Friends Club ended their preliminary round robin league campaign of the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league with a convincing 2-0 victory over Aminbazaar Krita Sangha at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Little Friends, who had already qualified for the eight-team super league from Group A, now leads the table with 16 points from their quota of eight matches.

Abahani canter past Tarun

Champions Abahani Krita Chakra and Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) posted easy wins as the Navana Premier Division league resumed at different city venues yesterday after a 16-day break.

Pacers did the spadework in the morning as last year's joint title holders Abahani beat Surja Tarun by six wickets at the Dhaka Stadium in the day's one of the two billings.

National cricketer Saiful took three for 18 and Pakistani Test-discard Naveed Arjun added another two for 16 to put the Damal Summer champions on course for their fifth win in six matches so far.

Tarun, playing their sixth match, were predictably poised to draw blank when sent in to bat first by veteran Gazi Ashraf Hossain and were all out for 116 in 42.2 overs with more than two overs of their 45 over quota remaining unused.

Rizwanuzzaman, another Pakistani Test-discard, was the top scorer for Tarun with a quietish 37 off 60 balls including three hits to the fence.

His compatriot Asif Mohammad followed him with 22 while Towhidul Islam ensured some desultory presence, though rattled with 15.

Former national captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain left cheaply but Harun-ur-Rashid and the current national captain Akram Khan put 68 runs in about 15 overs toward off any worries in the line of their lone defeat so far, at Kalabagan.

Harun was dismissed six short of a half century by left-arm spinner Asif Omar, coming off 68 deliveries with the help of the lone over boundary of the match and a quartet of boundaries.

Asif Ahmed dealt two quick blows sanding back Akram for 28 and Naveed Anjum for 11 but Khaled Masud remained unbeaten alongside Rakib Hassan to allow Abahani to be home and dry in 30 overs and Tarun, after six matches, were made to remain in search for their first victory in the league.

Asif's two wickets cost him twelve runs. Talha and Asif Belim claimed one each.

GMCC CRUISE
Half centuries from Marwar and Mahmud designed Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club's facile 97 run victory, their fourth in six matches, over Sadharan Bima in the day's other match played on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Murwar Hossain top scored with 70 off 94 balls with three fours and a six while Mahmud Hamid hit a swifter 68-ball 61 featuring three boundaries as GMCC, batting first, amassed 241 for five from 45 overs.

Rais-Ahmad made 37 and extras contributed another 31 to add to the miseries of the beleaguered Sadharan Bima bowlers.

Veteran coach-cum-cricketer Abdul Hadi went through the hoop to pick two for 53. Zahid and Pakistani Shawkat Mirza claimed one each.

Burdened with the ignominious identity of being winless from the previous six matches and of course with the premature but heavily looming relegation threat, Sadharan Bima were out of the race from the very outset.

Three wickets went down for 49 and only some defiant batting by Shawkat Mirza and Tariqul Islam took the insurgents to 144 for eight wickets at the day's end.

Mirza polished his average with 54 while Tariq made 31. Off-spinner Sanwar and Shariful Huq, picked two wickets apiece for 27 and 33 runs respectively.

TODAY'S MATCH
Biman vs Wari Club (DS)

First seed to fall in Toyota tennis

Third seed Chai Navawongse of Thailand was shown the way out of the Toyota ninth Bangladesh international junior tennis championships yesterday by unseeded Slovenian Mitja Pavlinic in the second round at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Navawongse, who wrapped up the first set with consummate ease before Pavlinic rallied to take the match 1-6, 6-3, 7-5, is the first seed to fall in the six-day meet.

Meanwhile, the top two -- Indian Gaurav Panja and Thai Watoopenich Bhee -- cruised to quarterfinals with little fuss.

Saurav, the top seed who is ranked 91 in the ITF world junior ranking, conceded two games in each set to end Bangladesh Faisal Saifullah's tenure in the tourney while Bhee was even more aggressive against Austrian Clemens. The second seed gave away only three games en route to a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

Saurav is pitted against another Thai campaigner, Rangsee while Bhee plays Pakistani Asad Ali Bhagat in the round of 16.

Rangsee routed Austrian Hans Peter 6-1, 6-4 while Bhagat, runner-up in the Pakistan international junior championships last November, overcame a sluggish performance in the first set to take care of local Muammer Hossain 6-7 (7-3), 6-0, 6-1.

Indians Bhasker Chowdhury and Intikhab Ali completed the quarterfinals with victories over Thai opponents. Bhasker beat Kamsarn 7-6, 5-7, 6-4 while Intikhab got rid of Auttpong 6-0, 6-1.

In the women's draw, Watchara, Bussrin and Anuchan Montika of Thailand; Hrushida Kamthe, Sai Jaiuxmi, Jahnvi Parekh and Rushmi Chakravarti of India and Jacklyn Yun Ning-Fu of Hong Kong advanced to the quarterfinals.

Besides eight boys' and two girls' doubles matches were held yesterday. The quarterfinals begin at 9:00 am today.

No respite for Atherton's men

PERTH, Feb 7: England captain Mike Atherton and his team were fined 360 sterling (546 dollars) each today over their slow over rate for the second Test match in succession, reports Reuter.

The England players were fined 15 per cent of their match fee by match referee John Reid for failing to bowl the required number of overs during the fifth Test against Australia at the WACA ground.

Reid, a former New Zealand Test all-rounder, said England were three overs below their quota for the match.

England were fined the same amount following the fourth Test in Adelaide, last week.

Pace bowler Chris Lewis was also fined 750 pounds sterling (1,170 dollars) in Adelaide for making a 'cowardly' gesture after dismissing an opponent.

Maradona plans another comeback

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 7: Diego Maradona said on Monday he intended returning to soccer as a player once he had served his 15-month suspension for failing a drugs test at last year's World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

Maradona, currently coach to Racing Club, told television reporters his comeback ambitions were driven by a desire to prove himself to 'all the bastards' who were against him.

Asked about resuming his playing career, Maradona, 34, said: 'I think so -- because of all the bastards who fill me with hate, but also give me the strength to carry on.'

England burnt to ashes

PERTH, Feb 7: Craig McDermott finished with six wickets as Australia completed a conclusive 329-run victory over England Tuesday in the fifth and final Ashes cricket Test at the WACA ground, reports AP.

Despite some brief resistance from seventh-wicket pair Mark Ramprakash (42) and Steve Rhodes, Australia's

rent squad lacked the unity compared with the one 12 months ago when England turned the West Indies.

'It's just a feeling I have,' Atherton said, refusing to single out anyone in particular.

He said although it has been a very busy 13 months and having lost two overseas Test series 3-1 -- in the West Indies and now against Australia -- he still has the enthusiasm to continue as England captain.

Ramprakash, who will be returning to India to rejoin England A, followed up his 72 in the first innings with a well hit 42 runs off 57 balls with five boundaries.

The seventh-wicket pair came together with England on 27 for six after Atherton flicked a catch to wicket-keeper Ian Healy off Glenn McGrath's bowling from the 12th delivery of the morning.

Mark Waugh performed the partnership-breaking role.

The pair raced to the 50 stand in 42 minutes, before Ramprakash cut Mark Waugh's second delivery to his twin brother Steve at gully.

Rhodes, having managed just 35 runs in his previous nine innings, stood between England and defeat for 10 minutes while running out partners.

Rhodes finished behind Ramprakash's top score with an unbeaten 39, inclusive of four boundaries.

Steve Waugh, who scored 99 not out and 80, was voted Man-of-the-Match.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the fifth day of the fifth and final Test between Australia and England today.

Australia won the toss. AUSTRALIA: First innings 402 (M Slater 124, S Waugh 99 not out, M Waugh 88).

ENGLAND: First innings 295 (G Thorpe 123, M Ramprakash 72).

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 345 for eight declared (G Blewett 115, S Waugh 80, M Taylor 52).

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 27 for five) G Gooch c and b McDermott 4 M Atherton c Healy b McGrath 8 M Gatting b McDermott 8 C Fraser lbw McGrath 5 G Thorpe c Taylor b McGrath 0 J Crawley c M Waugh b McDermott 0 M Ramprakash c S Waugh b M Waugh 42 S Rhodes not out 38 C Lewis lbw McDermott 17 P DeFreitas c Taylor b McDermott 0 D Malcolm b McDermott 0 Extras: (b-1, w-1, nb-4) 16 Total: 123

Fall of wickets: 1-4: 2-17: 3-26: 4-26: 5-27: 6-27: 7-95: 8-121: 9-123. Bowling: O M R W McDermott 15 4 38 6 McGrath 13 4 40 3 Angel 3 0 20 0 Warne 7 3 11 0 M Waugh 3 0 13 1 Result: Australia won by 229 runs. Australia win the five-match series 3-1.

last two wickets in the space of three balls. The fast bowler capped a fine summer by winning the Player-of-the-Series and the International Cricketer-of-the-Year awards.

England lost Atherton in the second over and was briefly staring at an all-time lowest score. The Englishmen were bowled out for 47 against the West Indies in March 1994.

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No win for Niaz, not yet

Country's lone Grandmaster Niaz Murshid's three-match drawing streak in the second United Insurance Grandmasters' chess championship came to an end yesterday, not with a victory of course.

At the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani, Niaz's Modern Defence against Indonesian GM Edhi Handoko's white pieces crumbled in only 26 moves.

Meanwhile, English Grandmaster Mark Hebden surged half a point clear at the top with his fourth straight win in the 13-round meet.

Monday's co-sharer of the top position Russian GM Mikhail Krasenkov slipped to second position when he lost half a point against another Englishman, Stuart Conquest.

Hebden, who has a FIDE rating of 2520, yesterday had a tough fourth-round encounter with Indonesian International Master Ruben Gunawan and went through a gruelling 68-move work-out before steering out into clear water.

With Gunawan employing his white pieces along the lines of English Opening, Hebden had to withstand fierce early onslaught for a while before weaving his ways to a winning position.

Krasenkov, the Russian with the highest FIDE rating of the tournament, however, couldn't squeeze out any advantage from his Retty Opening in the

face of a resilient defence from his English counterpart. The match went on until the 40th move before both players realised the inevitable.

Joining the Russian in the second position was Tajik International Master Magaram Magoedov, who raised his collection to three and a half points with a win over local IM Zillur Rahman.

Zillur's French Defence survived 57 moves before caving in to relentless attack from the Tajik.

First two days' surprising leader Filipino IM Enrique Sivilano seems to have run out of luck after a three-day remarkable spree of success. Coming across a theoretically superior opposition in Uzbek Grandmaster Gregory Sherper, who launched his attack adopt-

ing the English Opening system, Sivilano resigned after only 26 moves with his defence in utter shambles.

In an all-Bangladeshi affair, IM Reefat-been-Sattar, handed his coeval arch-rival at the national level IM Ziaur Rahman his third successive defeat. Zia, who gave his campaign for a GM norm a delayed start having his plea for a first-round adjournment upheld, failed to convert his Retty Opening approach into a winning one against Reefat, who bounced back after two defeats to two triumphs on a tie.

Reefat is now well ahead of Zia in their quest of a GM norm with two points from four outings against Zia's none in three.

The other match of the day between Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi and his Indian counterpart Varugese Koshi was on course for a draw when this report went to the press late last night.

FIFTH ROUND MATCHES
GM Niaz Murshid vs IM Magoedov
GM Handoko vs IM Sivilano
GM Sherper vs IM Lodhi
GM Hebden vs IM Koshi
GM Krasenkov vs IM Gunawan
GM Conquest vs IM Reefat
IM Ziaur Rahman vs IM Zillur

Anyone's game at Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH, Feb 7: The third unofficial Test between England A and India A was poised on a razor's edge Tuesday with the tourists needing 31 runs for victory with just two wickets in hand, reports APF.

Set a victory target of 177 on a spiteful wicket at the Sector 16 Stadium, England A were tottering at 146 for eight by stumps on the penultimate day of the five-day international.

Tailenders Richard Johnson and Minal Patel were unbeaten on 18 and eight respectively after India's second-string spinners grabbed four wickets in the final session to reduce the tourists from 91 for four to 127 for eight.

Skipper Allan Wells added 43 for the fourth-wicket with

Paul Weekes in the day's most productive stand before charging out to off-spinner Kanwaljit Singh to be bowled. Wells made 23.

Dominic Cork fell leg before to left-arm spinner Upal Chatterjee for seven before the same bowler had Keith Piper edging a catch to wicket-keeper Avinash Vaidya. Glen Chapple nicked medium-pace Paras Mhambrey to the slips before Johnson and Patel played out the day.

Weekes cracked five boundaries and a six in a well-made 38 before being stumped off Singh, who had figures of four for 42 from 26 overs, half of which were maidens.

England A, who have a decisive 2-0 lead in the three-match series, started their victory chase cautiously with openers Jason Gallian and Nick Knight putting on a slow

20 for the first-wicket. Gallian was caught in the slips off Chatterjee, while Singh had the dangerous David Hemp driving straight to Rahul Dravid in the covers after the batsman had made five.

Earlier, India A added 20 runs to their overnight score of 136 for eight before their second innings ended. Amol Mazumdar, starting the day on 41, reached his second half century of the series before Chapple sent his leg stump flying.

Chapple, the 20-year-old Lancashire seamer, finished with five wickets in an innings for the second time in the series.

England A won the first two Tests at Bangalore and Calcutta, and the Chandigarh match precedes a series of three one-day internationals.



BATTLE OF BANGLADESHIS ... IMs Ziaur Rahman (L) and his coeval arch-rival Reefat-been-Sattar engaged in cerebral warfare during a fourth-round match of the second United Insurance Grandmasters' chess tournament at the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani yesterday. Reefat won. — Star photo

Goodbye Gooch, Gatting

PERTH, Feb 7: Amid the clatter of England wickets on Monday the careers of two former captains ended, not exactly with a whimper but certainly without a bang, reports Reuter.

Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting were each cheered all the way to the wicket -- and shortly afterwards walked off the WACA ground to standing ovations from the crowd.

But with 12 runs between them it was ample evidence of a tour too far.

It was a stage set fair for heroics, a near impossible target, a final test for two of England's leading batsmen of the past two decades.

It ended in abject failure, both lucky to survive even as long as they did. Gatting made eight, Gooch four.

Afterwards neither had any regrets over their decisions to turn their backs on the international game.

'I wasn't as sentimental as I thought I would be,' said 41-year-old Gooch, who in a record 118 Tests for England scored 8,900 runs at an average of 42.58.

'But it was good of the Australian team to give me three cheers when I reached the crease. It was a nice thought and it meant a lot to me.'

'It would have been good to end with a few runs. But I've had a great career, enjoyed it enormously, and I've no complaints.'

Gatting, 37, the last captain to lead England to an Ashes win over Australia, was in similarly mellow mood as he reflected on his career.

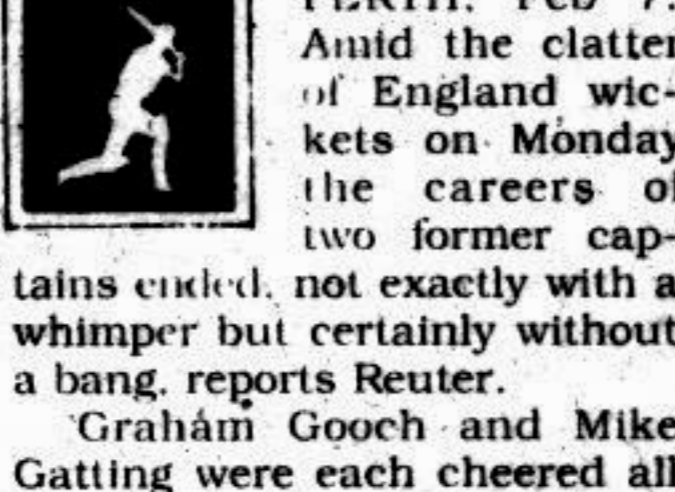
Both Graham and I have enjoyed playing for England a great deal,' he said. 'We feel a bit sad now but we think it's the right time to retire from Test cricket.'

'I don't think either of us have any regrets.'

Gatting, who scored 4,409 runs in his 79 Tests at an average of 35.55, at least had the consolation of a final century, his 10th, to help England win the fourth Test in Adelaide.

Both veterans were dismissed by main Australian strike bowler Craig McDermott, who has made a habit of bringing the curtain down on famous careers. He did the same to former West Indian captains Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards.

'There isn't any sentiment on the field,' he said. 'What is done is done. We had a job to do and I just happened to be the one bowling at the right time.'



England's veteran campaigner Graham Gooch (L), who has announced his retirement from Test cricket, shares a joke with Aussie master leggie Shane Warne during the presentation ceremony at the end of the fifth Test in Perth yesterday. — AFP photo



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