

England 57/4 on Day Two

ST JOHN'S, Mar 21: West Indies' fast bowlers, led by Curtly Ambrose, reduced England to 57 for four at lunch on the second day of the sixth and final Test Saturday, reports AP.

In a rain-shortened morning session, the tourists continued to struggle from their overnight 35 for two.

Night watchman Dean Headley added just one before, after two delays for rain, he edged to Brian Lara at first slip.

The successful bowler was Ambrose, who had triggered the England slide late on Friday's opening day with two wickets.

The 34-year-old Antiguan, on the ground where he took his 300th Test wicket a year ago, had figures of three for 25 off 15 overs.

England lost the prize wicket of opener Alec Stewart two balls before lunch.

Stewart, their most consistent batsmen on tour, missed a drive and was bowled middle stump by Franklin Rose, in his first match of the series.

The Surrey batsman's defiant 22 took 154 minutes, spanned 95 balls and included just two boundaries.

Nasser Hussain endured a testing time from Courtney Walsh to be unbeaten 13 at the interval. Graham Thorpe is yet to score.

The weather was generally better than on the first day, in which only 21.3 overs play was possible. But intermittent showers still nearly an hour's delay and allowed just 13 and a half overs in the session.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at lunch on the second day of the sixth and final Test between the West Indies and England at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Saturday.

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 35 for two) Atherton c Ramnarine b Ambrose 15

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like Atherton, Rose, Butcher, Ambrose, Headley, Hussain, Thorne, Extras, Total.

To bat: Mark Ramprakash, Jack Russell, Andy Caddick, Angus Fraser, Phil Tufnell. Bowling: O M R W. Includes names like Walsh, Ambrose, Ramnarine, Hooper, Rose.

Azhar aims for a whitewash

CALCUTTA, Mar 21: Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said he was looking forward to sweep the current series against Australia after winning the second Test here today by an innings and 219 runs, reports AFP.

It will be great to make it 3-0 against the best team in the world," Azharuddin said after the home team took a decisive 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

"It was a tremendous performance by the Aussies," Azharuddin said. "The Aussies must be a bit down at this moment so this is a good opportunity to do something we have not done against them."

The Indian captain, however, warned the sweep was not going to be easy when the third and final Test begins in Bangalore on Wednesday.

"The Australians are great fighters, they will try and come back strongly," he said.

The Australians, who lost the first Test at Madras by 179 runs, once again paid the price for woeful batting.

Australian captain Mark Taylor conceded his team was "outplayed."

"We have a number of problems," he said. "We did not make enough runs and we did not take enough wickets."

Bevan follows Fleming

SYDNEY, Mar 21 (AP/Reuters): Michael Bevan's roller-coaster Test career was heading up again Saturday when he received a call-up to the struggling Australian team in India. Bevan will leave Sunday and will be in Bangalore in time to take part in the third Test starting Wednesday.

Bevan was in the unusual role of television commentator at a triathlon event in Queensland when he received the call from selectors Saturday.

He was due to leave Wednesday as part of five players called in to bolster the side for the limited-over series starting April 1.

Bevan is expected to join the starting Test team to replace injured Steve Waugh.

Waugh injured his groin during the first innings of the second Test on Wednesday when he made 80.

The injury is not severe enough to warrant Waugh being sent home, and he batted in the second innings, but the national selectors are keen to see the 32-year-old fully fit for the opening limited-overs international.

Bevan last played for Australia in the second Test against South Africa at the SCG in January.

The New South Wales left-hander was dropped as a middle-order batsman during last year's Ashes tour to England.

Seam bowler Damien Fleming already rushed to India on Friday to strengthen Australia's injury-ravaged fast bowling ranks.

Fleming was expected to go straight into Australia's side for the third Test after injury sidelined Paul Reifel and Paul Wilson.

Mansoor, Monirul utilise Dhaka experience to the full Karachi dump early BCB flair

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI bowled out the 17th Willis Cup one-day cricket tournament when they conceded a 66-run defeat to KCCA Blues at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday.

The premature exit of the virtual national team was exacted in the most punishing manner when the Karachi outfit, defending an imposing total of 260 for seven, built up in the stipulated 50 overs, shot the BCB XI out for 194 with more than five overs to spare.

The presence of skipper Akram Khan, who flew into Karachi on Friday for the crucial Pool A encounter, did nothing to motivate his tedious side, which failed miserably to cash in on its early success against the experienced Karachi outfit.

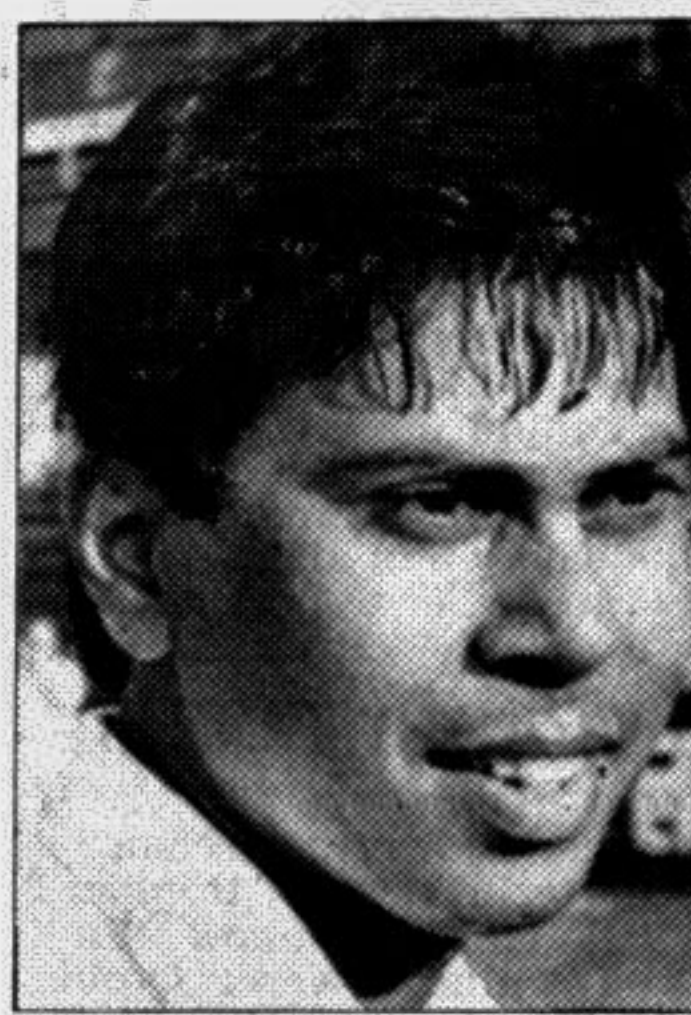
Needing a victory to keep their chances alive for a berth in the second round of the prestigious over-limit tournament, BCB XI started their penultimate group league match on an inspiring note when the left-right combination of Morsheed Ali Khan and Hasibul Hossain shared the first four wickets with only 57 runs on the board.

But success for Akram's boys was sealed at that point when a couple of catches were dropped by wicketkeeper Khaled Masud, which allowed Mansoor Akhtar to put on a match-winning 139-run fifth-wicket partnership with his captain Monirul Haq.

Mansoor, a former Pakistan Test cap, changed his arm for an invaluable 95 runs off 114 balls while Monirul scored a watchful 62 to deadlift KCCA Blues from a precarious to a commanding position. The two experienced batsmen, who are familiar figures in Dhaka cricket, were eventually separated in the 45th over when medium-pace Khaled Mahmud had Monirul caught by Naimur, but not before the homeside reached 196.

However, there was no respite for the visitors because the KCCA tail joined forces with Mansoor to plunder 59 runs from the last five overs with Hasibul Hossain being the toast

of the late onslaught. The tall right-arm seamer, who was out to prove the comical elements of cricket, conceded 45 runs from his last three overs to finish with two for 80 in his allotted 10 overs. Khaled Mahmud, who claimed three wickets for 53 runs, also felt the wrath of the terrific assault while bowling in tandem with Hasibul in the last six overs. The kismet of left-arm seamer Morsheed Ali Khan, who finished with impressive figures of 10-4-25-2, might have been similar had not Akram exhausted the quota of the southpaw earlier.



MINHAZUL ... 54

Set to score a little over 5.5 runs per over, BCB were off to a horrible start, losing both their openers for only two runs on the board.

Minhazul Abedin and vice-captain Aminul Islam tried to stitch the early fissure by putting on 82 runs for the third wicket. But once Aminul departed for 37 and Minhazul bade adieu at 54, BCB's hopes for a feasible fightback was well and truly over.

Coming in later, Akram scored 26 and Naimur made 28. But both holed out in the deep while chasing an ever increasing run-rate. When Akram departed in the 37th over, leaving his side at 150 for five, the fragile tail's expiry seemed a mat-

ter of time. Predictably, BCB lost the last five wickets with the addition of only 44 runs to the total.

BCB, who are now out of the race having conceded two defeats against a win, will play their last group match tomorrow versus Customs. The match of the hopeless two will be of academic interest only as KCCA and six-times champions Habib Bank have already confirmed their places in the second round from Pool A with three consecutive wins.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like M Khan, Zafar, Atiquzzaman, Basit, M Akhtar, Monirul, Arif Mahmud, S Iqbal, Zafar Kureshi, Extras, Total.

Did not bat: Shaheed Mahbub and Lal Farhaz. Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-20; 3-54; 4-57; 5-196; 6-228; 7-241.

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes names like Hasibul, Morsheed, K Mahmud, M Rafique, Naimur, Aminul, BCB ELEVEN, Javed Omar, Al-Shahriar, Minhazul, Aminul, Akram, Naimur, M Mahmud, M Rafique, Hasibul, K Mahmud, Morsheed, Extras, Total.

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-2; 3-84; 4-129; 5-150; 6-157; 7-173; 8-177; 9-188; 10-194. Bowling: Lal Farhaz 6 1 32 1, S Mahbub 7 0 32 1, S Iqbal 7 2 19 0, Z Kureshi 10 0 31 1, Arif Mahmud 9.5 0 44 3, Mansoor Khan 6 0 26 4. Result: KCCA Blues won by 66 runs.

S Africa assume control

Sports Reporter



South Africa were on course to establish a formidable lead against Sri Lanka in the first Test at Cape Town yesterday.

At stumps the home side reached 155 for four, a lead of 267 with still two days to go.

First innings centurion Daryll Cullinan and Jacques Kallis put on a 116-run partnership for the third wicket to lay the foundations of the commanding position.

Cullinan added a 68 to his 113 and Kallis fell one short of his fifty. The pair came together when the score was 18.

Skipper Hansie Cronje was batting on 113 and wicketkeeper Mark Boucher was six not out.

AP adds: Sri Lanka hit back with two quick wickets Saturday as South Africa tried to build on their first innings lead.

Enjoying a 112-run first innings lead, South Africa lost both their openers - Adam Bacher and Gary Kirsten - as they progressed to 47 for two at tea to extend the lead to 159 runs.

Kallis was forced to bat at No 3 after South Africa's new opener, batsman Hilton Ackerman badly bruised his left knee during the team's warm up.

If required, Ackerman will bat at No 7 and his condition will be progressively monitored according to team's physiotherapist Craig Smith.

"Initial tests have shown no ligament or cartilage damage," Smith said.

Chaminda Vaas, who had earlier held the Sri Lankan lower order together with a fine 30, removed an out-of-form Adam Bacher (0) in his second over.

Bacher lasted just two balls as he hung his bat out to a delivery that was slanted across by the left-arm seamer. Bacher scored just six in the first innings.

Pollock started the morning slide, trapping Kaluwitharana leg before wicket and soon after had Tillekeratne (22), Sri Lanka's last recognized batsman, following an out swinger to Boucher.

Pollock finished with 4 for 83 while Allan Donald took 3 for 66 and left-arm wrist-spinner Paul Adams, 2 for 62 in 20 overs.

Left-hander Kirsten was straightened up by an unplayable Vaas delivery and the ball flew off the outside edge to Roshan Mahanama at second slip.

Sri Lanka were bowled out for 306, just 18 minutes into the lunch break as fast bowler Allan Donald had No 11 Ravindra Pushpakumara caught behind.

It gave wicketkeeper Mark Boucher his sixth catch of the innings and the second time he has done so in as many matches in a short five-match career.

Medium paceman Shaun Pollock put paid to any hopes Sri Lanka had of building a substantial first innings total by taking four wickets in the pre-lunch session.

Sri Lanka, resuming on 212 for five, was soon reduced to 241 for seven by Pollock, who removed the overnight pair of Roshan Kaluwitharana and Hashan Tillekeratne in his first six overs.

But left-hander Vaas held the lower order together adding 59 runs with Pramodaya Wickramasinghe (11) and Muttiah Muralitharan, unbeaten on 15.

Vaas was dismissed two balls before lunch, edging Pollock to Boucher after 82 minutes at the crease.

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third day of the first Test between South Africa and Sri Lanka at Newlands on Saturday.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 212 for five) Jayasuriya c Boucher b Donald 17, Ajapattu c Cullinan b Adams 60, Mahanama c Boucher b Donald 4, De Silva c Boucher b Ntini 77, Ranatunga c Ackerman b Adams 20, Tillekeratne c Boucher b Pollock 22, Kaluwitharana lbw b Pollock 13, Vaas c Boucher b Pollock 30, Wickramasinghe c sub Pollock 11, Muralitharan not out 15, Pushpakumara c Boucher b Donald 4, Extras: (8-b, 7-lb, 12-nb, 1-w) 28. Total: (all out) 306.

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-36; 3-165; 4-194; 5-195; 6-219; 7-241; 8-270; 9-300; 10-306. Bowling: Donald 21.3 7 66 3, Pollock 26 5 83 4, Ntini 10 1 57 1, Kallis 7 1 23 0, Adams 20 2 62 2.

SOUTH AFRICA: Second Innings Kirsten c Mahanama b Vaas 15, Bacher c Kaluwitharana b Vaas 0, Kallis at Kaluwitharana b Jayasuriya 49, Cullinan c Tillekeratne b Muralitharan 68, Cronje not out 11, Boucher not out 6, Extras: (nb-5, w-1) 6. Total: (155 for four) 241.

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-18; 3-134; 4-146. Bowling: Vaas 11 3 41 2, Pushpakumara 8 1 24 0, Wickramasinghe 8 1 24 0, Muralitharan 18 4 49 1, De Silva 1 1 0 0, Jayasuriya 9 3 10 1, Ajapattu 1 0 7 0.

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Chess polls April 3 Consensus panel candidates

Sports Reporter

A 23-member consensus panel of leading chess organisers and several District Sports Associations (DSA) for the election of Bangladesh Chess Federation, was submitted to the returning officer, ASM Ali Kabir, yesterday at the NSL. The election of the federation is due on April 3. Mujibur Rahman, the general secretary of the present ad-hoc committee, Sheikh Nizamuddin Ahmed, general secretary of Sakhira DSA, and Syed Sujauddin Ahmed, the general secretary candidate of the panel, were present during the submission.

Following are the candidates of the panel: Vice-presidents - KM Shakur, Dr AR Khan, Prof Jahangir Chowdhury (Chittagong Division) and Mumtazuddin Ahmed (Bogra DSA); General Secretary - Syed Sujauddin Ahmed; Joint-secretaries - Khalid Hasan and Nurul Huda Alam (Pirojpur DSA); Treasurer - Saleh Chowdhury; Members - Amjad Hossain Sarkar (Nilphamari), Riazul Islam Joarder (Chudanga), Fayez Ahmed (Bagerhat), Rawshan Ara Kabir (Narail), Sirajul Islam (Dhaka Division), Dewan Rezaul Haque (Manikganj), Kazi Jakerul Mollah (Barisal Division), Sheikh Monirul Islam (Rajshahi), Zahid Ahmed Chowdhury (Sylhet Division), Mujibur Rahman, Mir Arifur Rahman, Mirza Enamul Hossain, Manjurul Islam Khan and Wahiduzzaman Chand (Dhaka University).

Another players' revolt seemed imminent in the Pakistan cricket team as two of its prominent players were involved in a physical brawl in Zimbabwe, according to press reports in Pakistan on Saturday.

Pakistan's vice-captain Aamir Sohail and scandal-ridden pacer Wasim Akram are the players reported to have exchanged punches and blows a day before the second Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe began on Saturday.

The incident has caused disension in the rest of the team. According to the daily Khabrain, Wasim Akram accused teammate Sohail of constantly maligning his image by giving what he claimed, false evidence to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on match-fixing and gambling.

A physical brawl ensued when Sohail exchanged hot words with his former skipper at the lobby of the hotel where both Pakistan and Zimbabwe sides are lodged for the Harare Test, the report claimed.

A number of people saw Akram threatening the present Pakistan vice captain of direct consequences.

According to Sohail's family members in Lahore, Akram, since his joining the team in early March, has been conspiring against Pakistan's frontline batsman by spreading rumours and fabricated stories to the newcomers in the side.

The family members quoted Sohail as saying that Akram had made his intentions clear to the Pakistan team management that he would not play under the captaincy of the present PCB assigned vice captain.

The two players have had a history of dislike for each other that peaked last year when Sohail gave lengthy descriptions to a Pakistani news daily as to how certain members of the team were involved in match-fixing. He named Akram as one of the culprits.

In Pakistan's 1992 summer tour of England, Sohail had a similar disagreement with Akram that was hushed off by the then captain Javed Miandad to ward off public curiosity.

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Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad (R) having some fun before the start of the friendly cricket match between his ministry and the foreign missions at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Clouds over Pak camp

Star Sport Monitor



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The incident has caused disension in the rest of the team. According to the daily Khabrain, Wasim Akram accused teammate Sohail of constantly maligning his image by giving what he claimed, false evidence to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on match-fixing and gambling.

A physical brawl ensued when Sohail exchanged hot words with his former skipper at the lobby of the hotel where both Pakistan and Zimbabwe sides are lodged for the Harare Test, the report claimed.

A number of people saw Akram threatening the present Pakistan vice captain of direct consequences.

According to Sohail's family members in Lahore, Akram, since his joining the team in early March, has been conspiring against Pakistan's frontline batsman by spreading rumours and fabricated stories to the newcomers in the side.

The family members quoted Sohail as saying that Akram had made his intentions clear to the Pakistan team management that he would not play under the captaincy of the present PCB assigned vice captain.

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