

Rain rules at Harare

HARARE, Feb 5: Glamorgan seam bowler Darren Thomas just had time to take his fifth wicket for England A before the third day of their match against their Zimbabwean counterparts was washed out again here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Thomas took the only wicket in the 75 minutes of play allowed by the rain as Zimbabwe A moved from 95 for six overnight to 147 for seven.

Thomas' figures now stand at 48 for five.

Stuart Carlisle, hoping to get his Test place back — he has played six Tests for Zimbabwe but has not played for two years reached 46 not out.

Less than four of the 18 scheduled hours of play have been possible due to rain.

Scores: Zimbabwe A 147-7 (S Carlisle 46 n.o.; D Thomas 5-48).

Div III cricket qualifiers

Young Friends Association outplayed Islamabad Cricket Club by six wickets in Lotus Kamal Third Division qualifying cricket tournament at the T&T ground yesterday, reports APB.

Islamabad, electing to bat first, scored 193 for eight in allotted 35 overs with opener Asadullah Tanveer scoring the highest 53 off 55 including nine fours followed by Atiq and Faruq who made 29 and 20 runs respectively.

Saiful claimed three wickets conceding 27 runs and Nimu took two for 28.

In reply, Young FA reached the winning target of 194 runs losing four wickets with one over to spare. Opener Nayan top-scored with 53 while Raseel and Fajal both contributed under 40 and 30 runs.

Asadullah Tanveer of Islamabad captured two wickets for 32 runs.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 5: Elit Club and Padma Garden won their respective matches of the Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament played today at Rajshahi Government College ground.

Elit Club made 154 for eight in allotted 20 overs.

In reply Shaheed Bachchu Smriti Sangha collected 95 in 16.1 overs.

Padma Garden scored 160 for seven in stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Padma Sporting Club managed 131 conceding 8 wickets.

Tewksbury resigns

TORONTO, Canada, Feb 5: Canadian swimmer Mark Tewksbury, who won Olympic gold in 1992 in the 100 metres backstroke, resigned on Thursday from the Athletics' Commission of the International Olympic Committee because of their support for embattled IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old, who also won Olympic silver and bronze medals in relays, had demanded that Samaranch resign in the wake of the Salt Lake City scandal in which several IOC members were accused of accepting bribes in exchange for voting for the 2002 Winter Games host.

Four IOC members have already stood down and five others face expulsion from the organisation next month following the scandal.

Tewksbury, who described his decision to resign as the saddest day of his life, said that the Athletics' Commission had fallen into line like everybody else at the meeting this week of the IOC-organised world conference on doping in sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, and he could not remain part of a group that showed so little backbone.

"The Athletics' Commission had a great opportunity to speak out on behalf of athletes from all over the world," he said.

The IOC athletes commission bowed under internal pressure and, like everybody else within the organization, toed the party line.

"As I currently have lost confidence in the leadership it would be impossible for me to continue to serve," he added.

Tewksbury, who also resigned from the Canadian Olympic Association, world swimming body FINA and the Toronto Bidding Committee for the 2008 Olympics, went on to say that the fact the IOC could not come to any agreement over the anti-doping commission showed its inability to deal with in-house problems.

"I have dedicated the past 22 years of my life to live, serve and promote the Olympic ideals," he said.

"Those ideals mean taking responsibility for your actions as difficult as that might be," he said.

On Wednesday the Athletics' Commission, an elected body representing Olympic competitors from around the world, said it wanted Samaranch to continue as head of the IOC and backed his recent initiatives against performance-enhancing drugs.

Samaranch, a 78-year-old former Spanish diplomat who has led the IOC for 18 years, has faced calls to stand down but Athletics' Commission members, who held a special session while attending the world conference on doping in sport, said they had voted unanimously to support Samaranch and his recent initiative.

A statement issued by the athletes said: "We support his work and believe it will lead to the re-establishment of IOC credibility and trust in the IOC and the entire Olympic movement."



Australia's Damien Martyn, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match, sweeps Robert Croft during their Carlton and United World Series clash against England in Sydney yesterday. — AFP photo

Gough gives England a scare Australia gain an edge



SYDNEY, Feb 5 (Reuters/Internet): England's premier strike bowler Darren Gough strained a hamstring as Australia cruised to a four-wicket win in their triangular limited overs world series match on Friday.

Gough left the field midway through Australia's innings in the day-night game after bowling five overs for 24 runs without taking a wicket.

An England team spokesman said later that Gough had been taken off as a precaution but he was expected to play in next week's best-of-three final series.

England and Australia, who have qualified at the expense of Sri Lanka for the finals, meet in the opening day-night game in Sydney next Wednesday.

England captain Alec Stewart said of Gough going off: "I'm sure it was a final he would have bowled through it."

"It's the first time for a while he's gone through a whole tour with no niggles at all. It was just precautionary...he'll finish the tour with a 100 per cent fitness record I'm sure."

There was little at stake in Friday's match but Australia, who won with 18 balls to spare after restricting England to 210 for eight off their 50 overs, gained a useful psychological boost ahead of the finals.

England's defeat was the fourth in their last five matches in the series.

Shane Warne, captaining Australia again in the absence of the injured Steve Waugh, said: "I thought our fielding was the best we've shown all series. I thought it was absolutely sensational and I thought our bowling was fantastic."

"We're playing good cricket at the right time and that's what counts. There's a good feeling at the moment and I just think we're peaking at the right time."

The Australians were relatively untroubled in reaching their target, with most of the batsmen getting among the runs. Ricky Ponting (43), Damien Martyn (38 not out) and Darren Lehmann (41) led the way.

Adam Gilchrist and Mark Waugh put on exactly 50 for the opening wicket before they fell within the space of four balls to left-arm paceman Alan Mullally.

Ponting and Lehmann added 81 for the third wicket before Brendon Julian, promoted as a pinch-hitter, hammered a quick 25, including a massive six off off-spinner Robert Croft.

He departed with the total on 180, brilliantly caught by Graeme Hick, leaving man-of-the-match Martyn and Shane Lee to steer Australia home at 211 for six.

England's hopes of challenging the Australians, who bowled tidily and fielded tenaciously, were effectively dashed by their failure to post a big enough total on a good batting pitch.

After losing Nick Knight (3) and Hick (4) early in the innings, England recovered to reach 57 for two before losing their way again.

Captain Alec Stewart, who returned to the side after missing Wednesday's 11-run loss to Sri Lanka, was caught in the deep for 25, and Adam Holoake went for 19 when he completely misjudged an attempted bounce from spinner Michael Bevan and succeeded in gloving a catch to wicketkeeper Gilchrist.

Vince Wells, England's top scorer with 39, was run out off a no-ball at the non-striker's end when he backed up too far and Ponting hit the stumps with a direct throw.

Mark Ealham (33) and Mark Alleyne (38 not out) added 58 from 60 balls for the seventh wicket in an entertaining stand.

Ealham smashed Warne for six over the mid-wicket fence but went two balls later when tried the same shot and top-

edged to Bevan in the deep in an act which summed up England's night.

Australia play Sri Lanka in Melbourne on Sunday in the last qualifying game, with the result again being academic.

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the tri-series match between Australia and England at Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday:

ENGLAND				
Knight b Dale	3			
Stewart c Lee b Julian	25			
Hick c Gilchrist b Dale	4			
Hussain c Lehmann b M Waugh	31			
Wells run out	19			
Holoake c Gilchrist b Bevan	39			
Alleyne not out	38			
Ealham c Bevan b Warne	33			
Croft c Gilchrist b Kasprisz	0			
Gough not out	17			
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, w-5, nb-4)	1			
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs)	210			
Fall of wks: 1-11: 2-26; 3-57; 4-90; 5-124; 6-143; 7-200; 8-205				
AUSTRALIA				
M Waugh c Stewart b Mullally	27			
Gilchrist b Mullally	19			
Ponting c Wells b Ealham	43			
Lehmann lbw A Holoake	41			
Julian c Hick b Wells	25			
Martyn not out	38			
Bevan c Ealham b Croft	0			
Lee not out	8			
Extras: (b-1b, 2, w-3, nb-3)	10			
Total: (For six wks in 47 overs)	211			
Fall of wks: 1-50; 2-51; 3-130; 4-158; 5-180; 6-181				
Bowler				
Gough	5	0	24	0
Mullally	10	1	31	2
Ealham	9	0	46	1
Alleyne	5	0	24	0
Croft	10	2	43	1
A Holoake	6	0	28	1
Wells	2	0	10	1
Result: Australia won by four wickets.				
Man-of-the-match: Damien Martyn.				

Shield scores

BRISBANE, Australia, Feb 5: Andy Bichel boosted his chances of selection in the Australian team to tour the Caribbean later this month by bowling Queensland to victory in their Sheffield Shield cricket match over New South Wales inside two days here Friday, reports AFP.

Medium pacer Bichel cleaned up a lamentable New South Wales batting order with his second five-wicket haul in less than a week as Queensland stormed to a four-point lead over Victoria at the top of the competition standings.

Having made just 106 on a difficult first day, NSW made just 11 more runs in Friday's reasonable conditions, falling four short of making Queensland bat again after their first innings 227.

Bichel took 5-35 in 15 overs to finish the magnificent work of Test wicketkeeper Ian Healy with the bat and the gloves when he made 62 and took seven catches.

The pair also shared in a vital 64-run seventh wicket partnership. Victoria defeated South Australia by 44 runs at Adelaide Oval.

South Australia was bowled out for 145 on day three, chasing 190 to win. Mathew Inness and David Saker took four wickets each for Victoria.

South Australia made 174 in their first inning while Victoria were dismissed for 214 and 149 in their innings.

In Hobart, Tasmania, led by all rounder Daniel Marsh, were 252 for six after the second day of their match against Western Australia.

Marsh, who is unbeaten on 82, capped a spirited Tasmanian fightback before the home side were 13 for three just after lunch.

WA declared their first innings at 358 for nine with Simon Katich unbeaten on 154. Marsh, who also took three wickets, will resume with wicketkeeper Mark Atkinson, who is on 28. Captain David Boon started the Tasmanian revival with a smooth 54. For WA, Matthew Nicholson took 3-45 and Jo Ange 12-23.

Ziege missed Milan's 3-1 debacle in September due to injury and this will be his first encounter with the Fiorentina coach since leaving Bayern in 1997.

"I've thought about what a strange situation this is, with me on one side and him on the other," Ziege said this week.

"I immediately took a liking to his way of working at Bayern and he taught me so many things. He always talks to you as a colleague rather than as a coach and that has never happened to me before."

Both sides enter the clash at Florence's Artemio Franchi stadium in good form.

Fiorentina have recovered from their demoralising 2-0 defeat at Lazio last month and have won their last three league matches while also clinching a place in the semifinals of the Italian Cup.

Milan have also won their last three matches — including an impressive 3-2 victory at Bologna.

But neither side can match Lazio at the moment. The Rome

Robson calls for Venables return

LONDON, Feb 5 (Reuters/Internet): Former England captain Bryan Robson on Thursday called for Terry Venables to return as national coach following the sacking of Glenn Hoddle.

Robson was at one time favourite to replace Hoddle before ruling himself out to concentrate on his role as Middlesbrough manager. He said: "Venables is a great coach who knows what it takes to succeed at international level."

"With Terry available, there is no way the F.A. should be looking at foreign coaches."

The F.A.'s interim chief executive David Davies said this week that its international committee would not rule out appointing the first non-English coach to the national team.

Hoddle, who took over from Venables in 1996, was sacked on Tuesday for remarks about disabled people.

Of an odd couple

NEW YORK, Feb 5 (AFP): On the surface, boxing legends Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson seem to make an odd couple.

Ali is the greatest, the legendary heavyweight champion whose stature as one of the most respected and revered men in the world has grown in the 18 years since he stepped out of the ring.

Tyson is the "baddest man on the planet," whose troubles inside and outside of the ring have soiled and sidetracked his once own celebrated heavyweight career.

But to Ali's wife Lonnie, her husband's befriending Tyson in recent months goes to the very heart of Ali's lasting greatness.

Muhammad has always been a defender of the underdog and always feels that people should have more than one chance," Lonnie said.

"In his heart of hearts, he feels that Michael is a good person if you peel away the troubled layers and all the baggage he has carried through life. Muhammad always takes the time to see the beauty within."

Ali was here on Thursday to be honoured by having his picture join other sport legends on a cereal box.

Tyson, by contrast, will appear in a Maryland court today to face sentencing for two assault counts in connection with a car accident on August 31. Tyson faces up to 20 years in jail.

Ali was a character witness for Tyson when he won back his boxing license from the Nevada State Boxing Commission last summer after losing it for biting Evander Holyfield's ear in their rematch in 1997.

And when Tyson made his comeback fight last month, Ali was there to watch in Las Vegas.

"Muhammad knows that Michael needs a friend, not a critic," said Lonnie. "Muhammad doesn't like to impose himself on anybody, but Muhammad will always be available to Michael as long as he wants him to be there. Muhammad looks at Michael as someone to take under his wing."

Ali does not judge Tyson for his behaviour and understands everybody will make mistakes. "His wife said, Ali was bitterly criticised for his stand against the Vietnam war and his refusal to take part in it because of his Islamic religious beliefs."

"In the '60s at the height of his career he was a little bit too controversial," she said.

Mike's date with destiny



ROCKVILLE, Maryland, Feb 5 (AFP): The hearing has had all the buildup of one of Mike Tyson's title fights, including some verbal sparring from both sides. The decision in a suburban Maryland courtroom, however, will mean more than any delivered at ringside.

The former heavyweight champion's freedom and future in boxing were at stake Friday with his sentencing on two counts of second-degree assault stemming from an altercation following a minor traffic accident in August.

Judge Stephen Johnson was to sentence Tyson after a hearing. The judge's decision will help determine whether Tyson will have to return to jail in Indiana for violating probation for a 1991 rape conviction. It also could lead boxing authorities to strip Tyson of his licence for the second time in less than two years.

Tyson, 32, kicked one motorist and punched another after the accident in the Washington

suburb of Gaithersburg, on August 31. The two victims, Abimelec Saucedo and Richard Hardick, settled out of court, and their lawyers say both men are ready to tell the judge that Tyson should not go to jail.

Of course, if it were anyone but Mike, it wouldn't be an issue," said Tyson's boxing advisor, Shelley Finkel. "It's a shame."

Tyson's lawyers will ask for probation.

In a memo this week to the judge, they argued Tyson would become a "useful and contributing member of the community" if he were spared more jail time, received more psychiatric help and continued to perform volunteer work.

The prosecutor, Montgomery County State's Attorney Douglas Gansler, wants Tyson behind bars, but is hampered by a plea agreement negotiated by his predecessor, Robert Dean.

In December, Tyson pleaded no-contest — meaning he neither protests the charges nor admits guilt. In return, Dean

promised the state would not seek a jail sentence.

"It's not an agreement that I would have reached," said Gansler, who defeated Dean in the Democratic primary. Dean then endorsed Gansler's Republican opponent, Thomas O'Malley in the general election.

Though he cannot ask for jail in the courtroom, Gansler has done so in public. Paul Kemp, one of Tyson's lawyers, said Gansler's remarks broke the plea agreement and were a "violation of the rules of professional conduct."

The memo from Tyson's lawyers said the fighter was not taking his antidepressant drug, Zoloft, at the time of the accident and that "everything in his life and career were in chaos."

The lawyers also noted that Saucedo's only injury was a cut lip, even though the 62-year-old man was struck by one of the strongest men in sports.

Gansler's memo to the judge called Tyson "Nothing less than a time bomb."



Boxing legend Muhammad Ali jokes in front of a poster of 'Wheaties: The Breakfast of Champions' cereal showing himself during the unveiling of the 75th Anniversary Cereal Box in his honour in New York on February 4. — AP/UNB photo

'Batigol' ready to pounce on Milan



ROME, Feb 5 (Reuters/Internet): Fiorentina's Gabriel Batistuta will seek to celebrate his birthday with his second hat-trick against AC Milan this season when the two sides meet in a top-of-the-table Italian championship clash on Sunday.

The last time the two sides met, on the third weekend of the campaign, the Argentine striker, who turned 30 this week, became the first man in 40 years to score three times in a league match against Milan at the San Siro.

His goals gave Fiorentina a stunning 3-1 victory over Alberto Zacccheroni's men, who had won their opening two matches and were top of the league.

This time round it is Giovanni Trapattoni's side who are top, thanks in no small measure to Batistuta's 18 goals in 19 league matches.

The Florentines lead a refreshingly novel championship race by three points from resurgent Lazio with Milan a further two points back in third.

We're not frightened of being top," said Batistuta, when asked about a television poll which showed 62 per cent of observers still regard Fiorentina as favourites to beat Lazio in the title race. "Even so, the road to the title is much longer than a quick opinion poll."

Sunday's clash also brings Milan's German international wingback Christian Ziege face to face with Trapattoni, his former coach at Bayern Munich.

Ziege missed Milan's 3-1 debacle in September due to injury and this will be his first encounter with the Fiorentina coach since leaving Bayern in 1997.

"I've thought about what a strange situation this is, with me on one side and him on the other," Ziege said this week.

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Neither Fiorentina nor Milan will want a repeat of their clash on the final day of last season.

Milan lost 2-0 to complete a miserable campaign in which they finished 10th in the championship and failed to win a trophy.

Fiorentina were subject to a Football Federation inquiry after their notoriously ebullient fans staged a riotous invasion in the second half and held play up for 20 minutes.

Other Serie A matches on Sunday (league position in brackets):

Bologna (9) v Bari (10)

Bologna have a crisis in defence where Michele Paramatti, Massimo Paganin, Giovanni Bia and Massimo Tarantini are all injured and Alessandro Rinaldi is suspended. Bari rely on Yksel Osmanovski and Peter Knudsen, who both scored in a midweek friendly. Bari's Gaetano De Rosa suspended.

Inter Milan (5) v Empoli (18)

Maradona goes to Italy



TURIN, Italy, Feb 5: Diego Maradona returned to Italy on Thursday for a trip reportedly devoted to friends, advertising and the tax men, reports AFP.

Maradona flew into Milan's Mampensa before heading off to Turin, where he hopes to finalise a sponsorship PR agreement with Kappa, the kit supplier to Juventus and the Italian national side.

He is also due to meet old friends such as Juventus defender Ciro Ferrara, a close former teammate from Maradona's halcyon days with Napoli, and Juventus and ex-Napoli general manager Luciano Moggi.

However, Turin is also home to state prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello, the man leading an investigation into doping in Italian soccer.

The Argentinian, whose career ended with cocaine and other drug bans, has already had one session with the judge during a visit last November.

Asked if he would be having a second meeting with Guariniello, Maradona replied: "There's nothing planned, but if I have to go, then I will."

Maradona is still idolised by supporters of Napoli, who were twice Italian champions during the Argentinian's spell there from 1984-91 but who are now languishing mid-table in the Serie B.

"Napoli are close to the Serie C and I ask God that they pull through," Maradona told ANSA news agency.

"But I cannot forget what Napoli players said about me in the past. I'm free to talk about anyone, but I respect everyone. But what they said about me, is still up there," he said pointing to his throat.

If Maradona was the best player in his time, he reckons that a fellow countryman occupies that place today — Gabriel Batistuta.

"He's the greatest of them all," Maradona said.

The Argentinian, accompanied by his business manager Guillermo Coppola, is expected to stay for three days — long enough for them to be invited to Juventus' home match here against Parma on Sunday night.

He is also expected to make a trip to Rome and, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport, to meet Italian tax inspectors about unpaid contributions estimated to be between 3.5 million and 25 million dollars.

Argentine soccer great Diego Armando Maradona (R) leaves the hotel, where he is to stay during his Italy tour, in Turin on February 4. — AP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Dull	36 Moss or Mary	phone	22 Public interest org.
1 witty	37 Grant's successor	3 knife	23 Sage/Stamos sitcom	
5 Came down	38 Bakery lure	4 measure	24 Model Macpherson	
9 Nourished	40 Capricorn	4 Nijinsky's field	25 —	
12 Director	42 Debtor's letters	5 Like — of bricks	26 —	
13 Wells' "Bungay"	43 Formal	6 Forte	27 Einstein's birthplace	
14 "Lazy River"	48 Two, in Tijuana	7 B & B	28 Wind instrument	
15 3-and-2 on the batter	49 Scratched (out)	8 100 percent	29 Snoozes	
17 Kareem, at birth	50 Geometry	9 '97 movie, with "The Dool tool	31 Attacked from low-flying craft	
18 Crow's nest cry	52 Lairs	10 Nashed	32 Crook's flight	
19 Harburg collaborator	53 Small soldier?	11 Sunup	35 Petty despot	
21 Thin disk	DOWN	20 Edge	37 Possessed	
24 Tournay type	1, on the	21 Stray	38 Verdi work	
25 — above the rest			39 Origin	
26 Lycan-thrope's arouser			40 Singer Campbell	
30 Under the weather			41 Ransom Eli —	
31 Ride into space?			42 Guller's cousin	
32 Cagers' org.			45 Geo. logical period	
33 Putting in 40-hour weeks			46 Wild a needle	
35 Period			47 — Luis Obispo	

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	A	C	A	B	T	A	M	E
E	Y	E	P	I	E	C	E	A
D	E	M	A	N	D	E	D	E
A	L	L	I	N	E	R	A	I
B	A	R	S	F	O	O	L	I
E	C	O	J	I	M	M	P	O
N	D	I	V	I	D	E	S	C
E	V	E	S	M	A	R	K	S
L	O	V	E	S	B	U	R	I
L	O	V	E	P	R	O	C	L
A	M	O	S	O	R	N	O	S
D	E	N	T	E	N	S	P	A

Yesterday's answer

7-21

CRYPTOQUIP

T E E U P O O G P U P C P L F Y P
F E Q F M B A G D B P H U M

B T L T B F F A H P Q O D H Q F B

Y L F C T - O P F.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: SONG THAT'S IN WITH REAL DISCERNING GEOLOGISTS: "SHALE WE DANCE?"

Today's Cryptquip clue: C equals V

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.