

Bangladesh earn

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take to grab the gift and it appeared that Bangladesh were heading for another collapse.

Akram Khan fell cheaply for four when Bangladesh were on 28. The former captain was beaten by a variation in Dillon's pace out offered a dolly to Lara.

Amrul Islam was not comfortable in the chill. He perished just before the drinks break. Behind stumps, Jacobs did not have to move at all as he held on to a King delivery via the captain's bat.

Minhazul Abedin, making his World Cup debut, was dropped at second slip by Simmons, again off King, when on two. Abedin soon went his captain's way and was caught to the same royalty. Bangladesh, overcome by the wind, the falling temperature and the Windies, were reduced to 55 for four by the 23rd over.

There was sunshine when the second drinks break was taken in the 35th over with Naimur Rahman and Mehrab Hossain making a partnership that made Bangladeshis smile. Mehrab Hossain's 51 came in 113 balls, that also included a quartet of boundaries. There was growing confidence.

The 50-partnership in the fifth wicket came from 14 overs, a commendable performance as the batsmen began to dominate the bowlers.

At the excited Bangladesh crowd hoped for a hundred partnership. Mehrab skied at mid-wicket off Simmons down Chanderpaul throat. Mehrab's bold 64 came from 129 balls, that included a huge six against Dillon. The 85-run, 78-minute

partnership came to an end and Bangladesh were respectively placed at 139 for five.

Soon it was time to look forward to Naimur's fifty but the gutsy lad was five short when he was trapped leg before to Walsh.

Next to go was Khalid Masud, already termed as a good wicket-keeper by some in the English press. He was beaten by King's pace and saw his middle and off stumps uprooted.

Khaled Mehnu, displaying a degree of positiveness in his approach, as did most of the Bangladeshis on the day, was next to go as he top-edged Walsh to third man where Bryan did enough acrobatics to draw the entire West Indies team after the dismissal.

In the end Bangladesh did not reach the 200-mark but 182 was a very proud score against the might of the West Indies.

Walsh was the most successful West Indian bowler with figures of 10-0-25-4 and King did a shade less with three for thirty.

An 85-run fifth-wicket stand between Mehrab Hossain and Naimur Rahman helped Bangladesh garner the respectable total before being bowled out in the final over.

In the first ODI at Clontarf and the first between the two sides Bangladesh was not disgraced. The rank-outsiders put up a 'pretty good effort', and not many sides would be able to score 183 against the West Indies these days.

The West Indians may need to tidy up their fielding as well as bowling, for Mr Sundries at 38 was the third highest to account for the Bangladesh total.

Steve stays cool

CARDIFF, May 21: Skipper Steve Waugh said Australia hasn't reached the desperation stage yet despite their lacklustre form and a heavy five-wicket defeat at the hands of New Zealand on Thursday, reports AP.

Still, Australia need to lift their game by at least 10 per cent, he said.

"Its got to improve if we are to win our next three games. If not we will be going home. It is up to every individual to lift their game," he told reporters.

Australia, after struggling to beat Scotland in their World Cup opener in Worcester, were thrashed by a rejuvenated New Zealand team in their second match of the 12-team competition.

Having started as second favourites behind South Africa, Australia, finds itself facing the biggest challenge — trying to qualify for the second phase of the tournament. To do that they need at least three wins.

Australia must beat Pakistan in their next match on Sunday in Leeds and then West Indies if they need to qualify for the Super Six.

Waugh said the Australians had their chances "and we didn't take them. We let the game slip away."

Australia squandered a great opportunity to make more than 250 when they lost 4-35 and managed just 50 runs in the final 10 overs.

They also let New Zealand off the hook when they were reeling at 49 for four in the 16th over.

"I thought the pitch suited their bowling better. I also thought 213 was enough on this pitch, but we could have done with 240-250," Waugh said.

Still, the players are not too down. "We need to find a way to get up. We lack the edge at this stage," he said.

Winning captain Stephen Fleming said all matches against Australia were "confidence games" and Australia should not be written off after its loss.

Fleming felt the tournament was not a stage for "pinch-hitter" at the top of the order at this time of the year which demands a more orthodox approach.

"Playing the tournament at this time of the year puts more onus on the new ball bowlers and the top-order," he said.

"You have to get your dynamism."



ics right to do well in England at this time of the year," he said.

While batsmen have traditionally dominated one-day cricket "the bowlers have got more ammunition this time," he said.

Twose, who led the victory charge, rated his unbeaten 80 as his best one-day knock.

Twose, 31, said "he was hungry for runs" after coming back to international cricket at the beginning of this year following an 18-month break.

Fleming described Twose's innings as "outstanding" and said the fifth wicket stand was crucial after the bounce became "variable" at the latter stages of the Australian innings.

Fleming said taking wickets at vital stages of the Australian innings was also crucial.

Slater slams sizzling ton

LONDON, May 21: Michael Slater gave Australia further food for thought on Thursday over his omission from their World Cup squad by hammering the top score of the day in the county championship, reports Reuters.

While the Aussies were slipping to a surprise defeat by near neighbours New Zealand, their former Test opener blazed his way to a superb 171 off 226 balls for Derbyshire against Northamptonshire at Derby.

Slater, 44 not out overnight, smashed 22 fours and two sixes in his spectacular innings, sharing a second-wicket stand of 296 with Stephen Titchard who made 136.

Derbyshire were eventually all out for 465 for a commanding first innings lead of 195.

Bookies

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have thought that they would be a bit better at controlling the ball."

Sporting Index's biggest disaster were incurred after Brian Lara's Test record 375 not out against England in 1994. The company's analysts had predicted the West Indian star would score no more than 80.

Pyrah believes the blame lies with the bowlers.

"The umpires have been strict in the application of the law but you can't blame them," he adds. "And you can't really blame the balls either."

The best bowlers in the world are here and you would

Twose

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Cairns, said: "They are seen as bullies in one sense because of the way they try and suppress us."

"In their body language and in their aggressive fields and with a few words they try to suppress us and dominate us."

"It was nice that we managed to pull the momentum away from them."

New Zealand won the group B encounter by five wickets and with 28 balls to spare after Australia, choosing to bat, were restricted to 213 for nine.

Twose, who came in when New Zealand were struggling at 49 for four in reply, added: "It was my best innings at this level, there is no doubt about that."



FIFA president Sepp Blatter (2nd from L) shaking hands with Hyundai Motor Company chairman Chung Mong-ku after officially declaring their partnership to stage the 2002 World Cup in Seoul yesterday.



Neil Fairbrother (R) helps out his England teammates with the bowling machine during a net session at The Oval yesterday.

Champs' back

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SQUADS

SRI LANKA (likely): Sanath Jayasuriya, Roshan Mahanama, Marvan Atapattu, Aravinda De Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga (capt), Mahela Jayawardena, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda

Vaas, Upul Chandana, Pramoda Wickremasinghe, Muttiah Muralitharan.

ZIMBABWE (likely): Neil Johnson, Grant Flower, Paul Strang, Murray Goodwin, Andy Flower, Alistair Campbell (capt), Guy Whittall, Stuart Carlisle, Heath Streak, Eddo Brandes, Henry Olonga.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Zimbabwe toured Sri Lanka in January last year, losing both the Test and one-day series. But they took revenge in the Champions Trophy limited-over event at Sharjah in November by beating the world champions twice to reach the final against India.

World Cup

Sri Lanka have won both their World Cup meetings. In 1992, Zimbabwe lost a high-scoring thriller in the final over in New Zealand and four years later lost by six wickets in Colombo.

Players to watch

Sri Lanka: Mahela Jayawardena. The 21-year-old is Sri Lanka's most promising batsman. The team can boast just two one-day centuries over the past year and both came from his bat.

Zimbabwe: Henry Olonga. The right-arm fast bowler is Zimbabwe's first black Test cricketer. He was called for throwing in 1995 but returned a year later after training at Dennis Lillee's academy in India. Beat India on his own on Wednesday with three wickets in the last over.

Venue

Worcester. The county ground at New Road, overlooked by the city cathedral and bordered by the river Severn, is known for its picturesque setting. New Zealander Glenn Turner and England's Tom Graveney scored their 100th centuries here. The club, in more recent years, has hosted the skills of Ian Botham, Graeme Hick and Australian Tom Moody. Capacity: 7,000. (AFP)

Beaming Black

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us and dominate us.

"It was nice that we managed to pull the momentum away from them today."

He demonstrated the benefits of a 12-month sabbatical by taking his adopted country New Zealand to the historic victory.

The former Warwickshire professional struck an unbeaten 80 to confirm their status as the tournament's dark horses.

Twose took a year off cricket after an unsuccessful tour of West Indies three years ago.

He rejoined the New Zealand team this year and has prospered since.

He has yet to lose his wicket after two visits to the crease during the World Cup and on Thursday took New Zealand from a parlous 49 for four to 197 for five in partnership with Chris Cairns, who struck a splendid 60 from 77 balls.

"I never retired indefinitely," Twose said. "I felt a bit stale, I felt I had played a lot."

"I had a bad time in the West Indies and failed in two tests out there. I just wanted to reassess where I was and come back after that."

Twose was struck twice by vicious deliveries from Glenn McGrath and was also caught off a no-ball by the Australian strike bowler.

He survived and as the pitch

eased in hot, afternoon sunshine, prospered, winning the match with his 10th boundary from 99 deliveries.

Cairns was equally impressive, defending carefully in the early stages then opening his shoulders with some booming drives. He twice hit Shane Warne out of the ground and by the time he was out at 197 the New Zealand win was inevitable.

It was only their second win over Australia in five World Cup meetings and came appropriately in a country where the All Blacks rugby team have been undefeated in an international since 1953.

Warne, whose wife delivered a son overnight back in Australia, otherwise had a day to forget, conceding 44 runs off his 10 overs with four wickets for the solitary wicket of Craig McMillan for 28.

Steve Waugh surprisingly opted to bat on a pitch with plenty of early life and freshened by a 37-minute break for rain.

"We don't want to get down after one game," said Waugh. "But we could have and should have played better."

Chris Cairns is a talented player. He played very well today. Not everybody is capable of hitting the ball as well as he did."

Lesson planned

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London force which also has soccer's FA Cup final at Wembley to contend with.

Sheldon does not expect any trouble. "We are fortunate that historically we don't have a big security problem. We have very loyal watchers who buy early and come to watch a game they love, not to make a nuisance of themselves."

The locals' numbers will be swelled by hundreds of South Africans, who turned out noisily and in force for their side's victory over Sri Lanka last Wednesday.

Sheldon said his staff were prepared for streakers but would not pay too much attention to their antics.

You can make a hideous spectacle of yourself trying to catch them," he said, adding he had a special group to deal with pitch invasions. "We do rehearsals," he said.

The pitch is expected to be one of the truest of the tournament. England captain Alec Stewart, batsman Graham Thorpe and all-rounder Adam Hoolioake are Surrey players used to the good batting strip, which will have some bounce for the bowlers.

We have prepared as good a batting wicket as we possibly can," Sheldon said.

There is a bit of moisture but we've rolled it a lot. If it is a low-scoring game, it will be down to some really good bowling."

England opener Nasser Hussain believes it could be the crowd that has the final say. "They really do roar and you get a great atmosphere. That can make all the difference at the end of a one-day game," he said.

Bits & pieces

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equalled the record in a one-day international.

Dilley said he complained to the match referee about what he called inconsistent umpiring but Pakistan captain Wasim Akram took the opposition view.

"I'm happy with the umpiring as long as it is consistent — and I think it has been," he said, after delivering six wides in his 7.5 overs spell.

"I'm happy with umpiring wides — they are consistent."

BOTHAM, LAMB WON'T APPEAL

LONDON, May 21: Ex-England cricketers Ian Botham and Allan Lamb have dropped their appeal against losing their 1996 libel case against Imran Khan, their lawyers said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The parties believe that in the best interests of cricket their differences should not continue to be aired in the course," they said in a statement.

Botham and Lamb accused the Pakistan captain of an "offensive personal attack" in an Indian magazine article.

A high-profile 14-day trial in the summer of 1996 centred on disputes about ball-tampering, race, class and gentlemanly conduct. The England duo lost and were left with legal costs estimated at 500,000 pounds (\$807,000 dollars).

The Court of Appeal had been due to rule on their request for a re-trial in mid-July.

THE BET

NEW DELHI, May 21: While many Indian cricket fans have lost an arm and a leg gambling on India in the World Cup, one luckless punter saw the entire right hand side of his face disappear, reports AFP.

Kamachi, 25, was forced to shave off half his beard, moustache and hair after losing a bizarre bet on India's opening matches against South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The bet also required him to walk through his hometown of Manaparai in the southern state of Tamil Nadu state, as lap-sided testimony to the failures of India's out-of-form team.

'Beware of Akhtar'

CHESTER-LE-STREET, England, May 21: Pakistan's cricket World Cup skipper Wasim Akram opened a psychological war against the struggling Australians here today, warning them to "beware of Akhtar" while reserving his best — and fastest — for them, reports AFP.

Akhtar, regarded as the quickest bowler on the planet, was still holding himself back, Akram said.

"You do not have to bowl 100 per cent all the time. I think Shoaib will be bowling quicker against Australia," he said.

"You do not always have to pull effort out all the time. You can get away with 80 per cent."

Australia, who began the tournament as second favourites, take on Pakistan at Headingley on Sunday.

Steve Waugh's side beat Scotland in their opener but lost to New Zealand on Thursday in the biggest shock of the tournament to date. Defeat would leave them on the brink of a first-round elimination.

A third consecutive victory for Pakistan, meanwhile, would guarantee them a place in the next phase.

Norway blank Jamaica

OSLO, May 21: Norway swapped Jamaica 6-0 in a friendly soccer international on Thursday, sending a warning to Georgia who face the Norwegians in a European championship qualifying game in 10 days time, reports Reuters.

Chelsea striker Tore Andre Flo scored two of the goals, including the only one in an uninspired first half before Jamaica's defences gave way in the second with Norwegians lining up to score. Flo also hit the post twice.

Hot shots v hopeful hosts

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things."

The "calm" word was used by Cronje again when he praised the level-headedness of Lance Klusener and Steve Elworthy, who steered South Africa to a respectable 199 for nine and, ultimately, to victory.

England, meanwhile, are expected to bring back Adam Hoolioake, a batsman-seamer, instead of off spinner Robert Croft, who played against Kenya.

Alec Stewart's men will be referring back to their home Test series victory over the Proteas last year for inspiration.

It is unlikely, however, that the England captain will spend too much time discussing their one-day record against the South Africans — one win in the last nine matches and two in 12.

Woolmer said the England match was "a very big game". Both teams are unbeaten and already look set to qualify for the Super Six stage but the points from this game are vital, as they will be carried over into the second stage.

"Both teams will also be vying for psychological points," Woolmer said.

Cronje added: "England are playing well, we are playing well. It's going to be a hell of a contest."

England have lost only three wickets in two matches, with Stewart, Nasser Hussain and Graeme Hick all in good form.

The downside, though, is that the rest of the batsmen have not had an innings, while facing the medium-pacers of Sri Lanka and Kenya is a very different challenge from that

posed by South Africa's fast bowlers.

Leading bookmakers William Hill make South Africa the marginal favourites, quoting Cronje's side at 4-6 and England at 11-10.

Stewart accepts his side are the underdogs.

"South Africa are the form side and deserve to be the tournament favourites, but it's all down to how each side plays on the day."

"England against South Africa in any sport is big, but

especially in cricket."

SQUAD:

ENGLAND (likely): Alec Stewart (capt), Nasser Hussain, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother, Andrew Flintoff, Adam Hoolioake, Mark Ealham, Ian Austin, Darren Gough, Alan Mullally.

SOUTH AFRICA: Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Mark Boucher, Jacques Kallis, Darryl Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (capt), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener, Steve Elworthy, Allan Donald.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

England won their last Test series against South Africa 2-1 at home in 1998.

In one-dayers, South Africa have defeated England in eight of their last nine meetings. England's 2-1 loss to the South Africans in May last year was their first in a home one-day series since 1993. The South Africans also beat England here in August in a three-nation tournament.

World Cup

England have won two of their three World Cup matches against South Africa. In 1992, England a league match by three wickets and also their semi-final encounter when a controversial rain-rule left South Africa requiring 22 runs off one ball. The South Africans took revenge four years later with a 78-run victory at Rawalpindi.

Players to watch

England: Nasser Hussain. The Madras-born right hand batsman was a last-minute World Cup inclusion in place of the injured Mike Atherton and was selected to open ahead of the off-form Nick Knight. He has since been involved in a 50-run stand against Sri Lanka and an unbeaten 88 against Kenya.

South Africa: Lance Klusener. The powerful Natal all-rounder showed against Sri Lanka on Wednesday why he such an invaluable part of South Africa's one-day team by cracking 52 off 43 balls after they were 122 for eight. He also took three wickets.

Venue

The Oval, London. The ground has become synonymous with the landmark pale-blue gas tank which overlooks the north-east side of the ground. Steeped in history, the Oval has seen Len Hutton's 364 and Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan's 16-wicket haul last year. Capacity: 18,000. (AFP)

Just rumours

BRISTOL, May 21: India today labelled as 'nonsense' rumours at home that captain Mohammad Azharuddin might quit because of his team's poor performance at the World Cup, reports Reuters.

"That's complete and utter nonsense," said former Australian coach Bobby Simpson, a coaching consultant to the Indian team.

Head coach Anshuman Gaekwad reacted angrily.

"That's completely untrue and it does not help us at all," he said as rain thwarted India's efforts to practise in Bristol before Sunday's match against Kenya.

India have lost both their opening World Cup matches, against favourites South Africa and unfancied Zimbabwe.

Azharuddin, the most experienced one-day international player in the world with 314 appearances, is India's most successful Test captain.

But he faced strong criticism after Wednesday's error-strewn performance against Zimbabwe when his bowlers conceded 51 extras as the side lost by three runs.

Azharuddin said after the match: "I have no excuses to offer. We bowled too many wides and no-balls and we quite simply played badly."

India, who won the World Cup the last time it was played in England in 1983, must win their remaining Group A matches — against Kenya, Sri Lanka and England — to guarantee qualification for the Super six stage.

Azharuddin attracted criticism for his batting record, and particularly the edge to slip that got him out against Zimbabwe for seven.

In a syndicated column, former England opener Geoff Boycott, now one of India's favourite commentators, said Azharuddin hung his bat out like a number 11.

"Sadly, I have seen India chase a total badly on many occasions," Boycott said. "They are not a good team when batting second. It is a mental thing — it is not ability."

Azharuddin was reported to be about to lose the captaincy in February after a heavy defeat by Pakistan in the opening match of the Asian Test Championship when Indian fans halted play, India failed to qualify for the final.

Azharuddin took over from Sachin Tendulkar in January 1998 for his second spell as captain after being axed in August 1996 following a disastrous tour of England.

Hussain keeps his head

LONDON, May 21 (Reuters/Internet): England opener Nasser Hussain says the tough part of the World Cup, including favourites South Africa, is still to come.



England have enjoyed easy wins against champions Sri Lanka and outsiders Kenya but, in South Africa and Zimbabwe, they now face teams who have also won both matches in group A.

"We've done all we can do ... but we've got everything to do," Hussain said after fielding practice at the Oval, venue of Saturday's match against South Africa. "Now it's up to us to try ourselves against the best."

These games coming up are the ones that count."

Hussain slipped into the squad after former captain Mike Atherton was injured and he was drafted in as opener at the last minute in place of the off-form Nick Knight.

The Essex batsman, normally a number three, said he had enjoyed seeing off the early overs for England. "I enjoy getting in early," he said.

"In the modern game you have to be able to play all forms

of cricket. You are not going to be able to hide from (Glenn) McGrath. You are not going to be able to hide from (Allan) Donald."

Hussain, who has been a Test regular since making his debut against West Indies in 1990, said he would open in limited overs matches "for as long as I can, for as long as I'm successful and as long as I'm asked by Essex and England."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Seize

5 Healthy

8 "The Count-terfeilers" author

12 Filmsy, as an excuse

13 Put to work

14 "Named Sue"

15 Admit

16 Due date

18 Madden

20 Takes five

21 Alcohol

22 Cannon

23 "Hi there!"

26 "Get ready" (anagram of 18 Across)

30 8 Down, e.g.

31 Actress

32 Hem's mate

33 Spanish noble (anagram of 18 Across)

36 First air

38 Scepter topper

39 Harvard's rival

40 Pointer or Hill

43 "Pineapple" (anagram of 18 Across)

44 Lament

45 Like

46 "— a bad brownies"

47 Severe

48 Letterhead

49 Scratched (out)

53 Took the train

54 Mel of Coopers-

55 Knocks

1 Pleased

2 Carry on

3 Cupid's forte

4 Lament

5 Like

6 "— a bad brownies"

7 Afternoon affair

8 Lead sulfide

9 Sacred Egyptian bird

10 Presley hit

11 Peacock tail decor

17 Pharmacy purchase

19 Sgt., e.g.

22 Wildebeest

23 — wild

24 Foul up

25 Meadow

26 Prior to

27 Platonic P

28 Newsman

29 Lamb's dam

31 Society newcomer

34 Ad

35 Lug

36 Bulling bravo

37 Witly insult

39 Raise, as opposed to "raze"

40 Unoriginal one

41 Infamous lyrist

42 "— it my way"

43 Bloke

44 — Seltzer

45 Profound

46 Finales

48 Carnival locale

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP:

N M X W B G K M W D Z S
H D J J S H W Y U H X Y Y X
F G Y J K G B N G W M Z D
B D Z S U ? X F D D J G W X Z

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LUCKILY, MANY SICK TRAMPOLINE PERFORMERS OFTEN BOUNCE BACK IN NO TIME.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals N

The Cryptoquip 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.

