

## Sport

## Lara's lean spell on

## 'We've to be consistent'



NOTTINGHAM, June 6: Despite a rare series triumph, England must dig deep and lift their game if the home side is to follow it up by beating the West Indies for the first time since 1969, reports AP.

That is what skipper Nasser Hussain thinks after England managed to escape defeat in the second Test against Test-minnows Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge on Monday.

England played well below the high standards they set in the season opener at Lord's when they trounced Zimbabwe by a massive 111 runs and 209 runs. That win enabled the home side to secure their first home series win in two years.

Yet, in Hussain's own admission, England were outplayed in both batting and bowling in the second Test at Trent Bridge.

It was a remarkable turn around, as the Africans put behind a difficult week and increasing pressure and criticism to take honours in the rain-hit Test.

England's first real test of the summer awaits them at Edgbaston when the five-match series against a rejuvenated West Indies gets underway June 15.

Following West Indies' turbulent change of guard in the last 12 months, the critics were quick to tag England the favourites.

But Hussain, a pragmatic captain, is not ready to get carried away.

"We haven't beaten them for 31 years, so I only think of it in terms of football matches," Hussain said. "If a football team hasn't beaten the other one for 31 years I can't see that the next time they play, they are favourites."

"I don't think we are."

Jimmy Adams' team, fresh from a morale-boosting win over Pakistan in the final Test to clinch the series, has a point

to prove.

England must dig deep and lift their game if the home side is to follow it up by beating the West Indies for the first time since 1969, reports AP.

He was out when he overbalanced attempting to drive former England spinner Robert Croft and wicket-keeper Adrian Shaw completed a neat stumping.

The woes continued after lunch against Glamorgan when they lost two more wickets to slump to 127-7 off 49 overs as off-spinner Robert Croft ripped through the tourists.

Croft took 4-14 from 21 overs on a responsive Sophia Gardens track and seamer Alex Wharf bagged three wickets.

Wavell Hinds, man-of-the-series against Pakistan, managed to shore up one end with a composed 73 not out as his more illustrious partners fell around him.

The West Indies began badly, losing Sherwin Campbell for 18 lbw bowled Wharf before the wickets of Chris Gayle, Lara, captain Jimmy Adams and Ridley Jacobs fell at regular intervals.

Gayle fell lbw to Wharf for 17. Lara was stumped by Adrian Shaw off Croft, Adams fell lbw to the former England bowler for one run and Jacobs edged a sharp chance to Australian Matthew Elliott at first slip for one for Croft's third victim.

Leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo shared a stand of 63 with Hinds before he was trapped lbw by Wharf for 22.

West Indian paceman Nixon McLean only faced 12 balls without scoring before Elliott took his second catch of the day off Croft.

Wharf's figures were 3-57 off 13 overs as right-arm seamer Owen Parkin and Dean Cosker were the other bowlers used.

Glamorgan stand-in captain Steve James, deputising for Matthew Maynard who is resting an injury, turned to spin early in the over cast conditions and Croft found some turn in the pitch before a shower of rain briefly forced the players off.

The West Indies' five-Test series against England begins at Edgbaston and then moves to Lord's on June 29 before a triangular one-day series with England and Zimbabwe.

## TEAMS

**Glamorgan:** Matthew Elliott, Stephen James (captain), Michael Powell, Wayne Law, Adrian Dale, Keith Newell, Adrian Shaw, Robert Croft, Dean Cosker, Alexander Wharf, Owen Parkin.

**West Indies:** Sherwin Campbell, Chris Gayle, Brian Lara, Wavell Hinds, Jimmy Adams (captain), Ridley Jacobs, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Nixon McLean, Wayne Phillip, Leon King, Corey Collymore.

## Condolence meeting

Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) has arranged a condolence meeting to pay homage to the renowned sports journalist Badi-ud-Zaman at his library room on Saturday at 11 am, reports UNB.

Badi-ud-Zaman, sports editor of Daily Ittefaq and a former president of BSWA died on May 22.



NASSER HUSSAIN

like we did in this game," Hussain said. "But it will be a lot easier if we play like we did in the first Test at Lord's."

"West Indies are a good side,

there is no doubt that. On a good wicket they will come at you. They have got four very good quick bowlers, and we will have to improve from this week if we are going to take them on."

"If we play anything like we can, then we have got a very good chance."

Hussain stopped short of criticising his players after one poor Test match.

"You have to know the right times to give the boys a bit of a rollicking and the times not to," he said.

"You can't just continually jump on their case if they have a bad day because that won't have any value."

"Each individual has to look at their shot and say 'Did they get me out or did I get myself out?' and try and improve on that the next time they bat."

Hussain believes there is a gradual improvement in his side but feels England lack the consistency to threaten the big names like Australia and South Africa.

"They play like we did at Lord's all the time — every time they go out," the England captain said. "It is nothing new to them. That's what Test cricket is — consistency."

"As a side we're still not consistent as we should be. There are plenty of areas we can improve before the next time we put our England sweaters on."

## FRENCH OPEN NOTEBOOK

PARIS, June 6 (AFP): French Open diary on Tuesday:

There are some familiar names in the draw for the junior events at Roland Garros this year.

There's a Hewitt and a Lapentti as well as a Safin, who's the sister of Russian star Marat Safin.

Australian Jaslyn Hewitt, who lost in the first round of the girl's singles, is the sister of Aussie ninth seed Lleyton Hewitt while Giovanni Lapentti is the brother of 11th-seeded Ecuadorian Nicolas Lapentti.

**LEGENDS ARE MADE OF THIS**

The big names from the past continue to attract the fans at

Roland Garros with John McEnroe and Ken Rosewall heading an impressive line-up in the Legends Trophy at Roland Garros.

The 20 participants in the doubles tournament for golden oldies' have racked up 48 Grand Slam singles titles between them.

The tournament is split into two sections - for the over and under 50s.

"Superbrat" McEnroe partnered Henri Leconte to last year's under-50s title and is partnering Iranian Mansour Bahrami this time.

Aussie pair John Newcombe and Tony Roche are after a third straight title in the over-50s category.



Pakistani players (R-L) Shahid Afridi, Arshad Khan, Imran Nazir, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Wasim and Shabbir Ahmed during a dinner hosted by National Sports Council in honour of the players participating in the Pepsi Asia Cup at the Sonargaon Hotel on June 4.

## LOOK — TWO HANDS!

Players love to put the pressure on their rivals' backhand flank, but the tactic won't work with budding Russian starlet Yevgenia Kulikovskaya.

The first-round women's doubles loser doesn't mind which side the ball is hit - because she's ambidextrous.

## GAME SET AND GOAL

A European eleven playing a rest of the world's side charity football match linked to the French Open at the Parc des Princes had an unfair advantage. The Europeans fielded Julien Escude, brother of tennis star Nicolas. Julien happens to be a professional footballer with first division club Rennes. The rest of the world side included two-time Aussie US Open champion Pat Rafter but he finished on the losing side as the Europeans won 5-2 with French players Stephane Huet, Michael Llodra and Arnaud Di Pasquale among the goals.

## GOOD HEALTH

Patrice Clerc, tournament director at Roland-Garros since 1984 who has just announced he is stepping down after this year, will be able to drink his own health well into the summer.

Clerc received a case of 12 bottles of 1996 vintage Beaujolais for his efforts at the French Open's traditional Beaujolais evening.

## CARLOS IS JUST THE TICKET

Former women's singles champion Iva Majoli had a pleasant surprise when she took a call on her mobile from a man who identified himself simply as Carlos.

At first she thought it was former men's champion Carlos Moya of Spain until the caller asked if she'd like two tickets to see him in concert.

It was rock guitarist Carlos Santana, who is playing gigs this week in Paris.

The second innings will be held tomorrow (Wednesday).

## Windies beef up one-day squad

BRIDGETOWN, June 6: (Reuters): The West Indies will be bolstered by two additional players for the triangular one-day cricket tournament in England from July 6 to 22.

Selection panel chairman Mike Findlay has confirmed that the West Indies Cricket Board has agreed to allow the selectors to pick the two extra players for the series which involves the host country and Zimbabwe.

Dashing middle order batsman Ricardo Powell is expected to be one of the two players while hard-hitting opener Philo Wallace, middle order batsman Sylvester Joseph, all-rounder Laurie Williams and fast bowler Mervyn Dillon will be the main contenders for the second spot.

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