

Zim make India toil

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 27: Saurav Ganguly crossed 6,000 one-day runs as India limped to a three-wicket win over Zimbabwe on Thursday to qualify for the Sharjah tri-series final against Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

The Indian captain made 66 in a third-wicket stand of 106 with Vinod Kambli (60) as his team overcame a dramatic collapse to cross Zimbabwe's modest 218-9 with nine balls to spare.

No other batsman in the top six managed to reach double figures as India slipped to 158-6 in the 38th over before Sujal Joshi (25 not out) and Vijay Dahiya (20) put on 42 valuable runs for the seventh wicket.

Dahiya was dismissed by Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak with 19 runs still remaining, but Ajit Agarkar (16 not out) helped Joshi carry the Indians to a hard-earned victory.

It put to shade an unbeaten 105 by Alastair Campbell, who carried his bat through the Zimbabwe innings to record his fourth one-day century.

The last league match on Friday between India and Sri Lanka will enable the rivals size up each other ahead of Sunday's final worth 50,000 dollars to the winners.

Zimbabwe, who ended the league with four successive defeats, return home later on Thursday to prepare for a two-Test tour of India starting on November 5.

Ganguly reached the 6,000-run mark in his 152nd match by loosing Paul Strang for a six. He became the third highest scorer for India after world record holder Sachin Tendulkar (9,546) and Mohammad Azharuddin (9,378).

Zimbabwe's new fast bowler Travis Friend scared the Indians by removing Sachin Tendulkar and Sridharan Sriram in his third over to make it 18-2.

When Friend returned for his second spell to have Ganguly caught on the third man fence, India lost four wickets in the space of 34 runs to throw open the game.

Campbell's century after Zimbabwe were sent to bat in the day-night match was not backed up by the other batsmen, the next highest score being Guy Whinatt's 26.

India's young left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan wrecked Zimbabwe with four for 42 from 10 overs, while new ball partner Venkatesh Prasad finished with two for 38.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the Sharjah tri-series one-day international between India and Zimbabwe here on Thursday.

ZIMBABWE: 218 for 9 in 50 overs (Campbell 105 not out, G Whinatt 26; Zaheer 4/42. Prasad 2/38)

INDIA:

Tendulkar c P Strang b Friend	4			
Ganguly c sub (Marillier) b Friend	66			
Srinivas c Mbawwa b Friend	0			
Kambli c Streak b G Flower	60			
Yuraj c P Strang b Mbawwa	4			
Robin run out	7			
Dahiya c A Flower b Streak	20			
Joshi not out	25			
Agarkar not out	16			
Extras (lb-1; lb-6; w-9; nb-11)	17			
Total (For 7 wkt in 48.3 overs) 219				
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-18, 3-124, 4-133, 5-153, 6-158, 7-200				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Friend	10	0	39	3
B Strang	10	0	36	0
Streak	8	0	38	1
Mbawwa	7	0	29	1
P Strang	3	0	20	0
Viljoen	7.3	0	42	0
G Flower	3	1	8	1

Result: India won by three wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Alistair Campbell.

Enqvist, Hewitt advance

BASLE, Switzerland, Oct 27: Second seeded Swede Thomas Enqvist cruised into the quarterfinals of the Swiss indoor championships yesterday with a workmanlike 6-4, 6-2 defeat of Frenchman Jerome Golmard, reports Reuters.

Third seeded Australian Lleyton Hewitt, searching for his fifth title of the season, also advanced with little fuss disposing of Swede Andreas Vinciguerra 6-3, 7-5.

Seventh seed Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador, a finalist in Tokyo two weeks ago, was the only seed to fall in the second round, upset 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-5) by French qualifier Nicolas Thomann, a lowly 184 in the world rankings.

Enqvist showed no sign of the ankle injury that forced him to retire from his first round match in Vienna two weeks ago and needed just 70 minutes to dispose of Golmard.

That took his head-to-head record against the 38-year-old Frenchman to a perfect 4-0.

"My ankle feels fine. I feel comfortable and I'm hitting the ball cleanly and not making too many mistakes," said Enqvist, the highest remaining seed in the \$1 million tournament after compatriot Magnus Norman went out on Tuesday with a sore back.

There were also encouraging performances from two former Swiss champions and British Davis Cup teamates Tim Heuman and Greg Rusedski.

Fourth seeded Henman booked his quarterfinal place with a tidy 6-3, 6-4 win over Frenchman Arnaud Clement while Rusedski won a battle of the big servers over Dutchman Richard Krajicek.

He beat the former Wimbledon champion 2-6, 7-6, 7-5 to reach the final eight for the first time since February.

Warne eying Boxing Day Test



MELBOURNE, Oct 27: Shane Warne has set his sights on returning for the Boxing Day Test after confirming he will miss at least the first three clashes against the West Indies here this summer with a fractured finger.

Australia's all-time leading wicket-taker damaged the ring finger on his right hand, his spinning finger, as he made a mess of taking a simple catch at first slip to dismiss New South Wales Test batsman Mark Waugh in the Sheffield Shield on Thursday.

While Warne vowed to stay positive, he said it was disappointing because it came at a time when he was on the verge of recapturing his best form.

"Generally, my whole career I have been positive and upbeat about everything and I generally come back better than ever," he said.

"But the most disappointing thing is I'm finally back to some really good form and some really good bowling."

"My variety is good, my shoulder is feeling like brand new, my body feels good and I'm pretty fit — just when everything seems to be going right, this happens. However, I've just got to keep positive and hopefully I'll be right in six to eight weeks."

Warne said he was likely to have surgery on Saturday at the earliest to repair the top knuckle — the same hand operated on in 1996.

Victorian team doctor Trevor (Eds: correct) James said the break was a simple one but complicated by the fact it was the spinning finger.

"One of the fracture fragments has got a tendon that attaches to it and that's part of the problem because if Shane attempts to move it then that will stop the fracture from healing," he said.

"I should have caught it better than I did but it was just one of those things that happened I suppose," he said. "I was just happy to catch it after I nearly made a meal of an absolute soda."

He said he immediately knew it was damaged.

"I thought it was broken straight away but you just hope for the best and hope it's only a bruise."

His absence from the Test side also means he will miss Australia's attempt to equal the West Indies record of 11 for the most consecutive Test victories in the first Test in Brisbane starting November 23.

"Obviously I have been a pretty big part of that over a long period of time, being vice-captain for a lot of it and playing a leadership role ... so to miss out on what we have set out to achieve is pretty disappointing."

The injury is likely to mean a Test recall for wrist-spinner Stuart MacGill.

So far, MacGill's international career has been based around Warne's fitness. He made his Test and one-day debuts only because of past injuries to the Victorian and grabbed the chance when it came.

His 12 Tests have netted him 59 wickets at an average of 23.32 and his three one-dayers have seen him concede 3.5 runs per over in 30 overs, as well as taking six wickets at 17.50.

Last Test was over 18 months ago in the West Indies.

"I picked up the bat and ball when I was six and lucky to play for Lancashire when I was 16," he said about his baptism in the game.

Tipped to be another Ian Botham, the legendary England

"I want to play as long as possible and do better for England in international cricket," Flintoff told AFP on Thursday.

The 20-year-old from Lancashire county fired England to a comfortable five-wicket win over Pakistan in the first one-day international with a blazing 84 off just 60 balls, his second one-day half century.

England play their second one-dayer here on Friday.

"It was nice feeling to help the team win but that's what I play for," he said.

Reckoned as the hardest hitter of the cricket ball, Flintoff blasted 135 off 117 balls for Lancashire against Surrey in a one-day competition in the last English season.

"I'd try my best on the field and it's always a great feeling to come off in flying colours."

The bubbly all-rounder was influenced to cricket by dad Colin Flintoff who was himself a club cricketer.

"I want to be myself and

make my name and do not have any ideals," he said.

Flintoff played alongside Wasim Akram in Lancashire for three years.

"Wasim is a great player and a devastating bowler," he said.

The last English season saw him criticised for being over weight.

"I stick to my task of doing better and better for England and all such criticism does not bother me," Flintoff said.

Voted 'young-player-of-the-year' for 1998 by the Professional Cricketers' Association in England, Flintoff made his one-day debut in Sharjah last year.

He hit his first limited-overs fifty against Pakistan in Sharjah.

On his first senior tour to South Africa Flintoff suffered a freak accident and had a stress fracture of the left foot.

On Pakistan's tour his back problem has recurred, forcing him out of the Test side.

"I can't bowl due to back problem and will have to fly back, its disappointing," he said.

Flintoff will be replaced by Surrey's Alex Tudor, the man whom he hit for 34 runs in one over in 1998.

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