

Law digs deep to stave off NSW

Queensland captain Stuart Law battled valiantly to save his side from outright defeat against New South Wales in their Sheffield Shield cricket match at the Sydney Cricket Ground Sunday.

NSW dismissed the champions for 276, a first innings deficit of 223, and reduced them to 57 for four in their second innings.

However, a fighting unbroken fifth wicket stand of 98 in 85 minutes, between Law (58) and debutant Brendan Nash (36), lifted Queensland to 155 for four by stumps on the third day leaving the visitors another 68 to make NSW bat again.

Paceman Nathan Bracken's 4-44 off 21 overs smashed through the bottom half of the Queensland order in the first innings.

Opener Jerry Cassell provided the major resistance with a dogged stand of 68 in 231 minutes while Andrew Symonds stroked a fluent 54.

In Hobart, a late Victorian collapse left Tasmania in the stronger position in their match.

Victoria, 50 without loss in their second innings at tea on the third day, finished at 175 for eight, an overall lead of 244 runs.

It's effectively down to its last pair with all-rounder Ian Harvey injured.

After Tasmania conceded first innings points by declaring at 324 for four in the middle session, openers Jason Ambler and Matthew Elliott batted in cavalier fashion to try to build up a big lead ahead of a declaration Monday morning.

But once Ambler went for 33 with the score 63 the flood gates opened.

Kandy wary of Britons

The second cricket Test against England has run into rough weather with local Buddhist dignitaries raising fears of foreign flashers and the sight of Englishmen reopening a 186-year-old colonial wound.

Policemen deployed for the Test that will open Wednesday in the historic temple town of Kandy are to be armed with blankers to cover any would-be streaker before he or she could shock the conservative home crowds.

The decision followed an unprecedented flashing by two foreigners during a rugby match in Kandy last year. Both were fined a dollar by a local magistrate for indecent exposure.

But the bigger bug-bear this time is the decision by the organisers to play the cricket match on Friday, a Full moon day, which is an important Buddhist anniversary on which all Sri Lanka observes a holiday.

Full Moon days are mandatory holidays on which no public entertainment events are allowed and bars and butchers are to have to put up the shutters.

Buddhism's holiest shrine, the Temple of the Tooth, which is also located near the Asgiriya International Cricket stadium in Kandy, has refused to be a party to the reception committee for Nassar Hussain's England team.

The chief lay custodian of the temple, Naranjan Wijeratne, said he did not believe it was appropriate for Kandy, the former capital of the island, to host a British team so close to the 186th anniversary of the city's surrender.

British colonial rule was established in March 1815 with the surrender of the king of Kandy to the British invaders who ruled the island as a colony till February 1948.

"Playing cricket for joy and being viewed by hosts of cricket fans from England making merry on our religious day is not at all proper," said the French-educated Wijeratne.

SL let Gough off the hook

Sri Lankan cricket officials decided Sunday to sweep under the carpet an incident involving England's pace ace Darren Gough during a one-day tour match.

Officials said they were not pressing for action against Gough in the hope that the cool hills of Kandy might help him cool his temper during the second Test which starts there on Wednesday.

"The team does not want to make a big issue out of it," a cricket official said. "We feel a diplomatic approach is better to resolve such problems."

The latest spat involving the stocky Yorkshireman was during England's warm-up match against a Sri Lanka Colts XI played at Kurunegala on Saturday under hot and humid conditions.

Gough was accidentally tripped by Colts XI batsman Indika de Saram as he went to field off his own bowling in the 37th over of the innings.

He fell to the ground and having got to his feet pointed his finger at the batsman. At the end of the over he then snatched his sun-

glasses from umpire TM Samarasinghe.

Hussain followed the disgruntled bowler to third man and, pointing to the dressing room, appeared to tell him to go in and cool down. Gough stormed off and appeared to say a few words to Samarasinghe on his way.

He returned later to complete his quota of overs and take the wicket of De Saram.

At the end of the match, which England won quite comfortably by eight wickets, Hussain denied there was an incident involving his key fast bowler.

"As far as I am concerned there was no incident. I am amazed that there has been a statement released," said Hussain.

He also denied that he had sent Gough off to cool down.

"Goughie was unhappy with bowling into the wind and was complaining of a stiff back. I had anyway signalled to the dressing room that he would be coming off at the end of the over."

In a statement released to the media Saturday Gough also denied being involved in any untoward action on the field.

"Although it may have appeared otherwise to the spectators, I can honestly say that Nasser did not send me off the field following the incident. I had always intended to leave the field at the end of my spell as I was suffering from a stiff back and needed to get some treatment," said Gough.

In response to reports he had spoken to umpire Samarasinghe as he left the field, Gough said: "I asked the umpire to warn the player because I did not want to get into a dispute with him."

The umpires also played down the incident afterwards and said they will not be taking up the matter further.

This was not the first time Gough had lost his temper on the tour.

In England's first game in Colombo he waved a bat in the face of a schoolboy and verbally abused a Sri Lankan bowler after being caught at bat pad.

He was reported to the Sri Lankan Cricket Board but no action was taken by the England management as the hosts did not press for any charges.

England won a Test series in Pakistan on their first visit since 1987.

Pakistan are due to play a three-Test series starting on Thursday against New Zealand.

But the tour of New Zealand has so far been beset with problems for the coach.

Shoaib Akhtar was cited on Thursday for suspect action because of his bowling against New Zealand.

Ahmed Razaq, Azhar Mahmood and Saeed Anwar all fell to illness or injury.

Miandad has been unwilling to comment on any of the so-called problems during his side's match against New Zealand A, which could end in embarrassing defeat as Pakistan begin the final day 70 runs in arrears with six wickets in hand.

"It's not easy being a coach," he said. "It's a hard job. The worst thing as far as I am concerned is that I can do everything off the field coxing the best out of the team, but when they go on the field, I am powerless."

It's not the same in other sports like hockey, soccer or basketball. Coaches can get involved during a game, but I may have to wait two hours for the next break. You can have a game plan, but it's out of the coach's hands when they go on the field and in the hands of the captain in the middle.

"He might not see what you do from the sideline and that's what can be so frustrating."

Miandad said he was not criticising tour captain Moin Khan or Sunday's match skipper Waqar Younis.

"It's the same for every coach. I know, but sometimes I find it hard to handle."

Uruguay get over Passarella

Uruguay shrugged off last week's resignation by coach Daniel Passarella to beat Slovenia 2-0 in a friendly international here on Wednesday with goals from Nicolas Olivera and substitute Marcelo Zabaleta.

Donald said Thursday. "It feels like yesterday when everything went wrong in one session as two great bowlers got hold of us and changed up and bowled us out."

Those bowlers were Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh.

South Africa had their revenge when they beat the West Indies in all five Tests of the series in South Africa in 1998-99.

"This is probably my one and only chance to play five Test matches in the West Indies and not only myself but a lot of the guys are pretty charged up about it," Donald said.

Allan's aim

World number four Seles is the highest-ranked and biggest name player Shaughnessy has beaten in nearly five years on the WTA tour.

"She's a legend. She's an unbelievable player who's accomplished so many things in tennis," said Shaughnessy, who had the stands packed with supporters. "And to hear her in the semifinals in front of my family and hundreds of friends makes me so happy."

Davenport advanced to the final here for the second consecutive year, but last year title match with Martina Hingis was rained out and no champion was crowned.

For a per cent of the match I played a good match, and played



Australia cricketers Ricky Ponting (L) and Michael Kasprovic attending a press conference organised by Foster's beer company in New Delhi on Sunday. Foster's announced that they were the official beer of the Australian team during their current tour of India.

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THE PAST AND THE PRESENT: Jimmy Adams (L), captain of Jamaica and the outgoing West Indies skipper, shakes hands with his Guyana counterpart Carl Hooper after the toss of the Busta Cup final in Kingston on Saturday. Hooper on Friday was named as the successor of Adams. At close of first day's play Jamaica were 277 for four.

An all-American affair

Top seed Lindsay Davenport will get a shot at the title that was denied her last year after outslugging third seed Jennifer Capriati in the semifinals of the State Farm Women's Tennis Classic on Saturday.

Davenport avenged a semifinal loss at this year's Australian Open by dominating the third set to take the baseline battle from Capriati, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1.

In Sunday's all-American final, the world number two will face eighth-seeded local favourite Meghann Shaughnessy, who stunned second seed Monica Seles 3-6, 7-6, 6-2.

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Dutch ambassador to Bangladesh Sjen Ijzermans (3rd from L) with the participants and guests of the Dutch Club tennis tournament which was held in the city recently.

Kuerten vs Blanco

World number one Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil will face Galo Blanco in Sunday's Mexican Open final after the Spaniard upset third-seeded countryman Carlos Moya on Saturday.

Kuerten, 26, outclassed Argentine Guillermo Canas 6-1, 6-4 to move within one victory of his second title in as many weeks.

"I have a good chance of getting the title. It only depends on me and my game," said the French Open champion, who won last week's Buenos Aires Open.

Blanco outlasted Moya 6-4, 6-7, 7-5 in the second men's semifinal of the day, a match that lasted nearly two and a half hours.

"It looked very difficult to get to the final, but I accomplished what I said I would," said the explosive Blanco, who threw down his racket in frustration more than once during the match. "I hope he (Kuerten) is tired after Buenos Aires."

In the women's tournament, South African Amanda Coetzer and Russian Elena Dementieva advanced to a final round showdown of the top two seeds.

Coetzer, 29, bounced 19-year-old Argentine Paola Suarez, the fourth seed, 6-4, 6-3.

Second seed Dementieva, 19, crushed Spaniard Nuria Llagostera 6-2, 6-1.

"This is the second final of my career and I'm only concentrating on this," Dementieva said.

Coetzer said Dementieva had become a stronger player since the two met last met in a match won by the South African.

Boris Becker plans to play four tournaments on the seniors Champions' Tour this year, German Sunday newspaper Welt am Sonntag reported.

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BAF golf

The BAF Golf Tournament-2001 concluded at the Kurmitola Golf Club in the city on Saturday.

Group Captain Lokman Faruque clinched the title while Group Captain Rashedul Haque was adjudged the 'best gross'.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed was present as chief guest and gave away the trophies.

Eighth seed Greg Rusedski has continued his rampage through the Sybase Open final with a 6-4, 6-2 semifinal demolition of Belgium's Xavier Malisse, setting up a final against top seed Andre Agassi.

Agassi claimed his expected place in Sunday's final by powering his way to a 6-4, 6-4 victory over sixth-seeded fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill.

The Australian Open champion improved his 2001 match record to a perfect 11-0, his best since he won the Australian Open and the Sybase in 1995.

After a rough 2000 season, the 30-year-old Agassi appears to have recaptured the form he attained in 1999, when he won two Grand Slam titles.

"This is as good as I have ever felt," he said. "I actually believe I'm better than I was then. It's a good place to be."

Rusedski, runner-up here in 1997, served well and consistently dug out low volleys for winners, never allowing the flashy Malisse into the match.

The left-handed Briton played steady from the baseline on Malisse's serve and attacked at every opportunity during his own service games.

"It's nice to be back in a final. I haven't been in a final since October of 1999 and last year was such a bad year injury wise," said Rusedski. "I went from number six (in the rankings) to number 69, which was a terrible drop. I'm really happy."

Rusedski finished the contest with 29 winners, including eight aces, and won 65 per cent of his net approaches, using his big serve to get out of trouble whenever necessary.

"I really lifted my game when I had to," said Rusedski.

Andre, Greg to face off

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Evander Holyfield (R) going down after being hit by John Ruiz during their World Boxing Association heavyweight title bout in Las Vegas on Saturday.

Ruiz ruins Holyfield

John Ruiz made Evander Holyfield look old, and made himself a heavyweight champion.

A bloodied Ruiz knocked Holyfield down in the 11th round Saturday night and had him hanging on for his fighting life en route to a unanimous 12-round decision that made him the WBA heavyweight champion.

Ruiz, a 2-1 underdog, screamed in delight as the decision of the three judges went his way, in contrast to the narrow decision loss he suffered when the two first met in August.

Ruiz was cut on the forehead and under both eyes but turned the fight around with a big right hand in the opening seconds of the 11th round that put Holyfield on the canvas.

Holyfield got to his feet, but was desperately grabbing onto Ruiz the rest of the round while taking a punishment.

Judge Stanley Christodoutou scored it 116-110, while Chuck Gump had it 115-111 and Patricia Jarman-Manning had it 114-111. The Associated Press scored it 115-111.

The fight was ugly and filled with holding and clinching, but it was close going into the final rounds. Holyfield appeared to be getting the better of Ruiz in the ninth and 10th rounds but lost a point due to a low blow that sent Ruiz to the canvas in the 10th round.

Ruiz was on his back for a few minutes and given time to continue, but Holyfield was all over him the rest of the round and seemed to have the upper hand.

That changed seconds later, though, when Ruiz landed the right hand that turned the fight around.

"I know I beat him the first time, and this time I proved it," Ruiz said.

The 38-year-old Holyfield, who had won a portion of the heavyweight title for the fourth time in his first fight with Ruiz, looked

Miandad's mind restless

comment on any of the so-called problems during his side's match against New Zealand A, which could end in embarrassing defeat as Pakistan begin the final day 70 runs in arrears with six wickets in hand.

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It's not the same in other sports like hockey, soccer or basketball. Coaches can get involved during a game, but I may have to wait two hours for the next break. You can have a game plan, but it's out of the coach's hands when they go on the field and in the hands of the captain in the middle.

"He might not see what you do from the sideline and that's what can be so frustrating."

Miandad said he was not criticising tour captain Moin Khan or Sunday's match skipper Waqar Younis.

"It's the same for every coach. I know, but sometimes I find it hard to handle."



Bangladesh Air Force chief Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed (5th from R) is seen with the winners of the BAF Golf Tournament-2001 at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Strike-breaker
5 Bullring
8 Movie p/g
12 Skin opening
13 Perched
14 Pedestal occupant
15 Czech track star
16 Fire starter
18 Viscous liquid
20 Brewers' ovens
21 Rowing need
22 One will hold the mayo
23 Overwater
26 Toni Morrison novel
30 Always
31 Boxer
32 Actress
33 Youthful pugilist
36 Bedroom dance
38 Antique
39 Part of RSVP

DOWN

3 Met melody
4 Loud outcry
5 Felix's roommate
6 Cowardly Lion
7 Greek vowel
8 Indigestion aid, for
9 Commotions
10 Gravy vessel
11 Flight angles
17 See
19 Light brown
22 Bender
23 Society newcomer
24 Actor Stephen
25 Scepter topper
26 Historic boy king
27 The whole shebang
28 Wager
29 Red Sox legend, familiarly
31 Beatnik's apartment
34 Mountain air? **DOWN**
1 Some homes are built on it
2 Singer Perry
3 Met melody
4 Loud outcry
5 Felix's roommate
6 Cowardly Lion
7 Greek vowel
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10 Gravy vessel
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Solution time: 27 mins.

CLAM RAID CALLI
RAGE ERE AGON
ARAM STARBUCK
GALLOOT FOLTIOS
STARRIHER BELLE
HOTI SERRA RIO
ERAS STARGAZE
ABIE EP AU BLEED
STAROUST BALLI
TUNE MOO EVER
ABED ASA DAME

CRYPTOQUIP

S A B X T O N I B X S
T G M T V B R N O B M T N M J T
N C B T A J S Z T B N

PUSAZ CUNR PSGST VIMO.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IT'S COMPLETELY TYPICAL OF A PASTRY CHEF TO MAKE RATHER TART REMARKS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals T

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 trial and error.