

Kenya's maiden first-class win

AFP, Nairobi

Kenya beat Zimbabwe A by an innings and 23 runs in their opening three-day match which ended at the Nairobi Gymkhana club on Sunday.

It was the first time Kenya has registered a victory in a three-day game in first class cricket since attaining one-day international status in 1997.

Zimbabwe had scored 240 in their first innings, and Kenya replied with 411 all out, giving them a lead of 171.

The Zimbabwe challenge in their second innings started crumbling on the departure of left-hand batsman Gavin Rennie whose 68 off 129 balls had given his side a solid foundation to build upon.

Things went from better to worse when Hamilton Masakadza, Dirk Viljeon, Guy Whittal and Barney Rogers only made 13 runs between them before returning to the pavilion and the tourists were eventually bowled out for 148.

All-rounder Maurice Odumbe impressed with both the bat and ball. The Kenyan captain took 5-17, a record bettered only by Zimbabwe pacesman Brighton Watambwa, who captured a total of six wickets in the three-day encounter.

The Kenya innings featured a century from Steve Tikolo, 86 by Odumbe and Hitesh Modi's 42.

The two teams take a day's break on Monday before resuming play on Tuesday in another three-day game.

Ashrafal

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Pakistan, we can not send them to New Zealand."

Saad also felt that the presence of Ashrafal and Kowshik would have no bearing on the result against Pakistan.

"Hasan Raza led Pakistan in the last under-19 World Cup after playing for the senior team," he argued.

Chief selector Mainul Haq however declined to make any comment. "I can not tell you anything at the moment because nothing has been finalised yet."

But another school of thought believes that once a player is picked for the national team he should remain at the same level.

A step backwards not only affects a player mentally, but upsets the team spirit.

"I don't like the idea of seeing players going back. If they have represented the country at the highest level, they should remain there," said Biswadip Das, a former cricketer.

Besides, the move to include Ashrafal and Kowshik for the New Zealand carnival would mean that two other young players would be denied a chance to play instead.

"Ashrafal rose to prominence after being given a chance to play in the last World Youth Cup in Sri Lanka. Who knows another Ashrafal might emerge from New Zealand", commented Mir A Zaman, a keen follower of the game from Mirpur.

Bangladesh have been pencilled in Group A for the first round of the 16-team meet along with India, South Africa and Canada.

Group B will feature Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Namibia while Group C includes Pakistan, England, Papua New Guinea and the qualifiers from Asia.

Australia will lead the other group that includes West Indies, Scotland and Kenya.

Bangladesh will take on South Africa in their group opener at the Colin Maiden Park on November 20.

Their next match is against Canada at the same venue on November 22. Bangladesh's final group match against India takes place at the North Harbour Stadium on November 24.

Top two teams from each group will qualify for the Super League.

The final is billed for February 9.



BACK ON SONG: India's Harbhajan Singh (C), who had a dismal South African tour recently, is back to form. The off-spinner took five England first innings wickets on Monday and here seen celebrating the dismissal of James Ormond at Mohali.

Tackling 'Turbanator'

Cricket

England have to find a way to tackle Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh if they are to stay alive in the series, batsman Marcus Trescothick has said.

Singh grabbed five English wickets for six runs in his final spell as the visitors folded up for 238 in their first innings after coasting at 224 for four at one stage.

"We need to find a way to tackle Harbhajan," Trescothick told reporters after the first day's play in the first Test.

"He (Singh) has got us in the position he wanted us in after the first day of the series. The most difficult part is that he takes the ball away from the right-hander with the same action with which he gets it into him."

But Trescothick was confident England would figure out a way to play Singh, nicknamed 'Turbanator' after he grabbed 32 wickets in the home series against Australia earlier this year.

Singh, 21, also became the fifth Indian bowler to grab 50 or more wickets in a calendar year when he grabbed his third wicket, trapping

James Foster lbw for a duck on debut.

"We managed to play great spinners like Saqlain Mushtaq and Muttiah Muralitharan over the last season, and we're sure we'll learn to play Harbhajan better," he said.

England had beaten Pakistan and Sri Lanka at home, where conditions are similar to those in India.

Trescothick, who slammed 66 and shared in a 125-run stand for the second wicket with captain Nasser Hussain (85), said he was disappointed by the way England lost their early advantage.

"There is pressure on the top-seen to play well because the rest of the team is inexperienced, and we have to find a way to make sure this doesn't happen again," he said.

The left-handed Trescothick was aggressive in the morning session, pelting India's opening bowlers on all side of the wicket after making a hesitant start.

"There is something in the wicket in the morning for the seamers and we'll have to make sure we use the conditions well when we take the field tomorrow," he said.

Trescothick praised debutant pacesman Tino Yohannan, who grabbed a wicket in his first over dismissing opener Mark Butcher off the day's fourth ball.

"Yohannan was the most difficult bowler in the Indian side, but I was secure against the rest."

Yohannan - one of three pace-man to make their debut for India in the match along with Iqbal Siddiqui and Sanjay Bangar -- dismissed Trescothick, uprooting his off-stump with a ball that nipped in sharply when the batsman did not offer a shot.

"I started out a bit nervous but to get a wicket in my first over was a dream come true," Yohannan said.

He is the eighth Indian to get a wicket in his first over on debut.

Shaun sings Hansie song

AFP, Perth

Disgraced former South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje could play a future role in the game despite being banned from the sport for life for corrupt activities, new South African skipper Shaun Pollock said here Sunday.

"I think the Hansie situation is that a man who has played that much cricket has something to offer," Pollock said at his first media conference after the Proteas arrived here to play Australia in a three-Test series.

"From our perspective, we think Hansie has a lot to offer, and maybe at some stage in years to come he could use that experience, whether it be at a kids' level or a provincial level.

"To waste all that experience he has would be a waste, and maybe they (various levels in the game) can use it in some aspect."

Pollock said he still spoke to Cronje "once in a while".

He said: "It might be a phone call every once in a while to tell me his thoughts. As a young captain, I appreciate his input, especially from a guy who has been there and done it."

Cronje was banned from involvement in the game for life last year after admitting accepting payments to influence the outcome of games.

The South Africans were planning an immediate training session in Perth later Sunday and will have further sessions on Monday and Tuesday before opening the tour with a one-day clash against an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill Park, near here, Wednesday.

Koeman, who was in charge of another Dutch first division side, Vitesse Arnhem, will have another former Dutch international defender Ruud Krol as his chief assistant.

The tourists' opening first-class engagement will be a four-day match against Western Australia at the WACA Ground here next Friday (Dec 7).

Harbhajan hits England

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second slip. The 22-year-old Yohannan, the first Test player from the southern state of Kerala, is the son of former Asian Games long-jump gold medalist TC Yohannan.

The other two newcomers, Iqbal Siddiqui and Sanjay Bangar, however, failed to contain the runs once the early morning moisture in the wicket evaporated.

India hit back after lunch by removing Trescothick, Graham Thorpe and Hussain in quick time.

Trescothick was bowled by Yohannan offering no stroke. Left-handed Thorpe made 23 when he fell to Siddiqui, hanging his bat out to an out-swing to give Laxman his second catch at second slip.

The crucial blow came shortly before tea when Hussain was snapped up at silly point by Laxman off Kumble for 85.

The England captain looked in supreme touch with 13 boundaries and a six, before Kumble denied him a 10th Test century.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first cricket Test between England and India at the Mohali Stadium on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings
Butcher c Laxman b Yohannan 4
Trescothick b Yohannan 66
Hussain c Laxman b Kumble 85
Thorpe c Laxman b Siddiqui 23

Lee in for trouble

AFP, Perth

Fieri Australian fast bowler Brett Lee appeared before a disciplinary hearing here Monday night to face two charges relating to his on-field behaviour during the fourth day of the third cricket Test against New Zealand.

An Australian Cricket Board spokesman said Lee had been charged under two clauses in the players' code of conduct covering the bringing of the game into disrepute and the use of abusive language or making offensive gestures.

Lee, who took four wickets in the New Zealand second innings, appeared before match referee Jackie Hendriks, of South Africa.

Umpires Darrell Hair and Ian Robinson and Australian captain Steve Waugh were also present. The spokesman said Hendriks would view videotape of the day's play at the WACA Ground and release a verdict Tuesday.

The match umpire is empowered to impose a fine or suspension.

A suspension would be a serious blow to Australia's hopes in the three Test series against South Africa for the 'unofficial' World Test Championship, starting in Adelaide on Friday week.

Gough stays at Yorkshire

AFP, London

England fast bowler Darren Gough has agreed to see out his contract with Yorkshire next season, the county cricket club confirmed Sunday.

The announcement ends speculation that the 31-year-old Gough was ready to quit Headingley.

Gough had said he is thinking about leaving the county because of what he claimed was an internal whispering campaign designed to force him to quit Headingley.

Many Yorkshire members are unhappy that Gough, who has an England central contract, played just two championship matches in the title winning campaign, even though the county had granted him a tax free benefit last season.

Gough's decision to move house to Buckinghamshire, southern England, angered many Yorkshire traditionalists who wondered why a base in the northern county was no longer good enough.

But the club said in a statement Sunday: "Darren Gough has today confirmed that he will continue his career with Yorkshire."

"His existing contract has a year to run, and the club have indicated their willingness to extend the contract when the existing term expires."

The statement continued: "It has been a difficult time for him personally with a heavy international programme, his benefit activities and persistent press comment as to his future with the club."

"The county has acknowledged Darren's significant contribution to Yorkshire cricket over many years both on and off the field and which has included raising the profile and standards of cricket throughout Yorkshire and elsewhere."

Koeman made Ajax manager

AFP, Amsterdam

Former international defender Ronald Koeman was named on Monday as the new coach of Dutch side Ajax replacing the sacked Co Adriaanse.

Koeman, who was in charge of another Dutch first division side, Vitesse Arnhem, will have another former Dutch international defender Ruud Krol as his chief assistant.

Anand, Adams advance

Chess

AP, Moscow

The top two seeds at the FIDE World Chess Championship, defending champion Viswanathan Anand of India and Michael Adams of England, won their playoffs Sunday to advance into the fourth round.

In the first rapid playoff game, Anand's opponent, Vladislav Tkachiev of France, appeared to have a small advantage with the white pieces. But after long maneuvering, Anand won. Anand then drew the second rapid game to advance.

Adams won both of his games against Russia's Vadim Zvjaginsev.

In other playoffs, Evgeny Bareev of Russia defeated his countryman Konstantin Sakaev, Joel Lautier of France beat former FIDE champion Alexander Khalifman of Russia, and Zurab Azmaiparashvili of Georgia eliminated Rustam Kazimdzanov of Uzbekistan.

Two other matches, between Spain's Alexei Shirov and Alexander Motylev of Russia had between Jaan Elfvist of Estonia and Ilia Smirin of Israel, were tied. These players must play two more

games with ten minutes allowed per player.

If that fails to produce a winner, they must play a single game where white has six minutes to black's five, but black only needs a draw to advance.

Earlier Sunday, third seed Alexander Morozevich of Russia eliminated Belgium's Mikhail Gurevich. Fourth seed Vassily Ivanchuk of the Ukraine advanced with a win over Emil Sutovsky of Israel. And Ye Jiangchuan of China eliminated Dutchman Loek van Wely.

The tournament is organised as a series of two-game elimination matches, with rapid and blitz play-offs in the case of ties. The finals will be held here in January.

Sixty-four top women players are also competing under the same format for the women's world championship. The world's strongest woman player, Judit Polgar of Hungary, played in the men's championship and was eliminated in the second round.

The first and third seeds in the women's tournament, Alisa Galliamova and Ekaterina Kovalevskaya, both of Russia, were eliminated by Alexandra Kosteniuk of Russia and Nino Khuridze of Georgia, respectively. Second seed and former women's world cham-

pion Maya Chiburdanidze of Georgia beat Lithuania's Dagne Ciuksyte.

After winning to force a playoff earlier, the only American player left in either tournament, Camilla Baginskaite, was eliminated by Xu Yuhua of China.

The fourth round begins Monday.

Meanwhile, a few blocks away, Braingames world champion Vladimir Kramnik and former world champion Garry Kasparov, both bitter rivals of FIDE, were engaged in the second game of their exhibition match. Their first game was drawn in only 17 moves. They will play 20 games at various time controls for a purse of \$100,000.

Chess has had two world champions since 1993, when then-world champion Kasparov broke away from FIDE and formed the Professional Chess Association. He defended his title under the PCA's auspices against Britain's Nigel Short in 1995 and against Anand in 1995. The PCA disbanded in 1998.

In 2000, Kasparov lost a match to Kramnik, sponsored by Brain games.net, an Internet startup company. Kramnik is scheduled to defend his title next October.

Kasparov, Kramnik, and Anand are ranked first, second, and third in the world respectively.

Still Rudolph adores Cronje

REUTERS, Perth

Uncapped South Africa batsman Jacques Rudolph said disgraced former captain Hansie Cronje was still his hero, despite his life ban for match-fixing.

"I still see him as a role model for myself," the 20-year-old told reporters at a team training session.

"I think his experience over the last couple of years has been brilliant, despite of what he's done."

"I thought he was a very good cricketer and a good leader for South Africa."

"There's no need linger over what has happened. I think it's something of the past."

"If we can just focus on the job at hand at this moment, I think that's the way to go."

Asked if Cronje should be allowed back into the fold of South African cricket, Rudolph added: "I don't know. I don't think it's in my hands to say."

South Africa arrived in Perth on Sunday for a three-Test series against world number one team Australia.

Rudolph, a left-handed batsman from Northerns Titans who bowls right-arm leg-spin, has not played a Test but scored 21 runs in the controversial unofficial Test against India at Centurion Park last week which South Africa won by an innings and 73 runs.



South Africa fast bowler Allan Donald watches the Test between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA Ground in Perth on Monday.

Fascinating final day

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He joined Rodney Redmond, who made 107 and 56 against Pakistan in Auckland in the 1972-73 series.

However, his dreams of becoming only the only second player in Test history to make two centuries on debut were halted when he edged a delivery from fiery pacesman Brett Lee to Mark Waugh in the slips.

The only man to accompany that feat was West Indian Lawrence Rowe, who made 214 and 100 not out against New Zealand in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1971-72.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the third and deciding cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA Ground on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings
534 for nine declared (N Astle 156 not out, A Parore 110, S Fleming 105, L Vincent 104; B Lee 4-125, J Gillespie 3-112)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 351 (S Waugh 99, J Langer 75, D Martyn 60, M Waugh 42, R Ponting 31; D

Vettori 6-87, C Cairns 2-86)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings
Richardson run out 30
Vincent c M Waugh b Lee 54
Sinclair c Gilchrist b McGrath 29
Cairns c Waugh b Lee 42
Flaming b Waugh 4
Astle c Langer b Gillespie 40
McMillan c Waugh b Gillespie 19
Parore not out 16
Vettori c S Waugh b Lee 3
Bond b Lee 8
Extras: (nb-4, lb-6, b-1) 11
Total: (For 9 wickets dec in 71 overs) 256

Fall of wickets: 1-77, 2-90, 3-128, 4-151, 5-199, 6-208, 7-241, 8-246, 9-256

Did not bat: C Martin
Bowler O M R W
McGrath 17 4 63 1
Gillespie 17 0 55 2
Lee 16 3 56 4
Waugh 21 3 75 1

AUSTRALIA: Second innings
Langer c Vettori b Bond 0
Hayden not out 31
Ponting b Cairns 26
M Waugh not out 8
Extras: (w-2, nb-2) 4

Total: (For 2 wks in 17 overs) 69

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-52
To bat: S Waugh, D Martyn, A Gilchrist, S Waugh, B Lee, J Gillespie, G McGrath

Bowler O M R W
Bond 7 1 27 1
Martin 4 0 14 0
Vettori 4 0 17 0
Cairns 2 0 11 1

Villa's woes mount

AFP, London

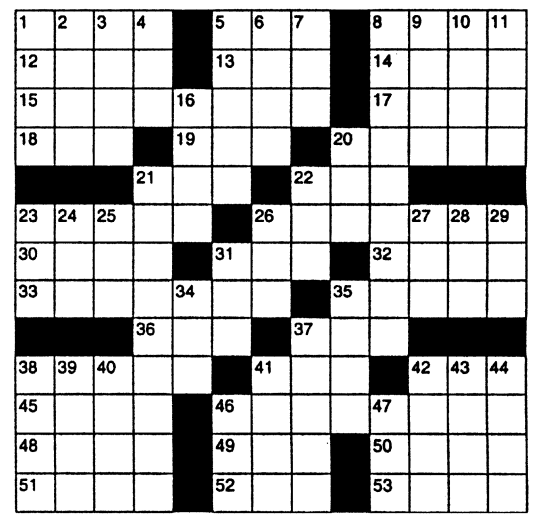
Aston Villa manager John Gregory has another injury to worry about with Turkish central defender Alpay Ozalan damaging ankle ligaments in the league defeat to Leicester on Saturday.

Alpay joins other regular first-teamers Mustapha Hadji (knee) and Hassan Kachoulou (concussion) on the sidelines, the Press Association reported.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Anything but that
5 Externate
8 "Mamma Mia"
12 Basketball net holder
13 Swelled head
14 Approach
15 Michigan city
17 Apprehend
18 Yr. fractions
19 Chic no more
20 Gambling game
21 Beast of burden
22 Addressee
23 One of the Partridge family
26 Lack of refinement
30 PC symbol
31 Tasseled topper
32 Harvester's output
33 Specifications

DOWN
1 Liquefy
2 Hit the horn
3 Charged bits
4 Hot tub
5 Pictorial poser
6
7 "Le Coq"
8 Voice-over
9 Pulsate
10 Angler's supply
11 Woody's son
16 Optimistic
20 Despondent
21 Himalayan range
22 Red Sox legend, fans
23 Accomplished
24 Expert
25 Commoner won
26 In media
27 Geologic period
28 Drunkard
29 James Bond, e.g.
31 Aviate
34 Under the weather
35 Marquan sleuth
37 Locates
38 Basilica area
39 Knitter's need
40 Put one over on
41 Dangling venue
42 Unicorn purchase
43 Bygone Peruvian
44 Literary conflict
46 Whataveva number
47 Sweet potato



CRYPTOQUIP
Y X S F C F X N E L J E R S N U N F G
R C Y Y E R F J B R J F N E
E X V B N R D N G D C U N E Q
L C V G E R Q F X N E

Yesterday's Cryptquip: I THINK ONE COULD SAFELY ASSUME THAT MR. SINATRA INITIATED MANY FRANK DISCUSSIONS.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals L

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.