

James plays BD attack



SPORTS REPORTER

New Zealand District Association Eleven made a watchful start against touring Bangladesh as they garnered 232 for three on the opening day of a three-day practice match at the Victoria Park in Wanganui, New Zealand, yesterday.

Electing to bat, the home side suffered a big blow when their opener Grant Robinson (1) left the field shocked and bloodied after being struck in the face from a top edge while trying to hook young speedster Mashrafi-bin-Mortuza Kowshik in the ninth over of the day. District Association were on five for no loss at that time.

Robinson was rushed to Wanganui Hospital for a preliminary examination that revealed a broken eye socket among other peripheral damage and was then transferred to Palmerston North Hospital, some 60km away from Wanganui, for urgent surgery, according to Internet reports.

But Harley James, coming in following the Robinson injury, scored a brilliant 117 to lay a solid foundation for his team.

Together with opener Peter Ingram (31), the right-hander produced 71 runs for the first wicket before sharing a 127-run third wicket stand with his captain Peter McGlashan.

James hammered a six and eight

boundaries in his over five-hour stay at the crease before he was trapped leg before by left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque.

After James's departure with the scoreboard on 212 in the 89th over, the home side safely played out the remaining 11 overs of the day adding only 20 runs.

McGlashan was not out on 59 off 170 balls that included three fours.

For Bangladesh, 17-year-old leg-spinner Mohammad Ashrafur bagged two wickets for 49 runs from his 13 overs on a slow and flat wicket. And his veteran mate Enamul, bowling 28 overs, conceded only 59 runs for his single scalp.

"I guess the pace of the wicket was pretty similar to what we're used to," said Bangladesh coach Trevor Chappell to the local media after the day's play.

"It was pretty slow and there was a bit of moisture around in the ground from a fair bit of rain in recent times.

"There was a bit of movement in the wicket early in the day but we didn't make the batsmen play enough at that stage. The bowling wasn't too great but it wasn't that bad either. We didn't bowl a lot of rubbish and we stuck pretty well to the plan of keeping the ball up and making the batsmen play but we didn't look like taking a lot of wickets.

"I was reasonably happy with the way the bowlers stuck at it but we can perform a lot better than that, I'm sure.

"We want to try to get used to these conditions as soon as possible. That was the first day and we need to keep improving every day from now."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day practice match between Bangladesh and New Zealand District Association Eleven at the Victoria Park in Wanganui Friday:

NZ DAXI: First innings
 P Ingram c & b Ashrafur 31
 GG Robinson retired hurt 1
 HTG James lbw b Enamul 117
 PG Fulton c K Mahmud b Ashrafur 3
 PD McGlashan not out 59
 GR Todd not out 14
 Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-1) 7
 Total: (for 3 wks in 100 overs) 232
 To Bat: JG Hatwell, NW Rushton, TR Anderson, SL Andrews, TP Robin

Full of wickets: 1-77, 2-85, 3-212

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafi	11	4	17	0
Monjurul	24	4	45	0
K Mahmud	15	5	33	0
Enamul	28	6	56	1
Ashrafur	13	3	49	2
Aminul	7	0	26	0
Bashar	2	0	2	0

Bangladeshis team: Khaled Mashud, Habibul Bashar, Aminul Islam, Javed Omar, Mohammad Ashrafur, Al Shahriar, Enamul Haque, Monjurul Islam, Khaled Mahmud, Mashrafi-bin-Mortuza and Sanwar Hossain
Umpires: BF Bowden and DM Quested

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Challenger Cricket Club and Al-Rashid Cricket Academy (A) won their respective matches of the Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti cricket tournament at the Railway playground yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Challenger defeated Bijoy Ekadosh Jubo Sangha by seven wickets.

Winning the toss, Bijoy Ekadosh batted first and went all out collecting 109 runs in 16.4 overs.

In reply, Challenger reached the target (109) losing three wickets in 15.2 overs.

In the second match of the day, Al-Rashid beat 23 No. Ward Commissioner Eleven by 13 runs.

Al-Rashid won the toss and batted first and collected 114 runs for all.

In reply, 23 No Ward Commissioner Eleven were all out for 101 runs.

M' singh cricket

UNB, Mymensingh

Al-Helal AC beat Mukul Fouz (Lal Dal) by 123 runs in the district Premier Cricket League that began at the Circuit House ground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Al Helal decided to bat first and collected 247 runs for 8 wickets in 32 overs.

Monirul scored the highest 109 runs while Lincoln 48 for the winners. Pronab captured four wickets giving away 49 runs while Baduri three for 36 runs.

In reply, Mukul Fouz were all out for 124 runs in the stipulated 32 overs.

Mitul and Pronab collected 24 runs each. Pappu took two wickets conceding 5 runs while Zakir two wickets for 27 runs.

Australia's Pak tour hopes rise

AFP, Sydney

Australia's chances of touring Pakistan next year have improved with news that the country is safe to play international cricket again.

Pakistan Cricket Board boss General Tauqir Zia has given the green light to a series against the West Indies, who have agreed to tour in February.

Pakistan's international schedule has been hit for six since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States and the subsequent US response on neighbouring Afghanistan.

New Zealand cancelled their planned tour of Pakistan mid-September, saying they feared for the safety of their players, while a Pakistani suggestion for a short one-day series against Sri Lanka failed to materialise.

Neutral venues in Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco had been suggested as venues for Australia's series next September, but the West Indies' six-week trip are expected to reveal

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SL tri-series from today



AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka have recalled all-rounder Suresh Perera in their one-day squad for the triangular series starting here on Saturday.

The hosts will meet Zimbabwe in the opening match of the tournament that also involves the West Indies.

Fernando was ruled out with a stress fracture of the back, while Kaluwitharna had been out of inter-

mance in the recent Test series against the West Indies.

The hosts have also included leg-spinner Upul Chandana to boost their chances on slow turning wickets here.

Sri Lanka, however, will miss the services of strike bowler Dilhara Fernando and wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharna.

Fernando was ruled out with a stress fracture of the back, while Kaluwitharna had been out of inter-

national cricket since suffering a finger injury in a tri-series at Sharjah in October.

Sri Lanka lost the Sharjah final, but start favourites here following their maiden clean sweep in Test cricket against Carl Hooper's West Indians.

Zimbabwe, who blanked Bangladesh 3-0 in one-dayers in November, have been struggling on their current tour. They have lost both of their one-day practice games

against Sri Lanka A and Board President's team.

TEAMS

ZIMBABWE (from): Stuart Carlisle (captain), Heath Streak, Andrew Flower, Grant Flower, Dion Ebrahim, Trevor Gripper, Craig Wishart, Douglas Marillier, Muleki Nkala, Travis Friend, Gary Brent, Henry Olonga, Sean Ervine, Tatendra Taibu.

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath

SCHEDULE

Date	Match	Venue
Dec 8	SL v Zim	Colombo
Dec 9	WI v Zim	Colombo
Dec 11	SL v WI*	Colombo
Dec 12	SL v Zim*	Colombo
Dec 15	SL v WI	Kandy
Dec 16	WI v Zim	Kandy
Dec 19	Final*	Colombo
Dec 20	Reserve day	

(* denotes day-night fixture)



SANATH JAYASURIYA

Perera, reported for a suspect bowling action by West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor in August, was selected after being cleared by the Sri Lankan cricket board.

Left-arm fast bowler Nuwan Zoysa regained his berth in the one-squad after an impressive perfor-



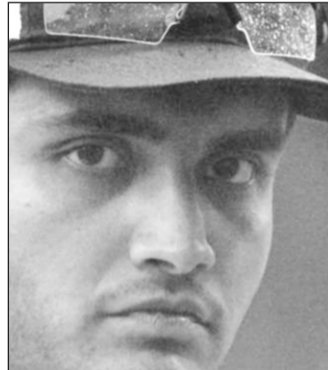
STUART CARLISLE

Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Avishka Gunawardene, Mahela Jayawardene, Russel Arnold, Kumar Sangakkara, Chamara Silva, Suresh Perera, Kumar Dharmasena, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Charitha Buddhika, Nuwan Zoysa, Prabhath Nissanka.



Did U Know?

The fastest official speed ever reached on a bicycle 245.08 km/h. The world record was set by American John Howard in 1985 while cycling in the slipstream of a specially designed car.



Sourav Ganguly

(India cricket captain)
 "He has won us so many games and I can see him doing that for many, many games more."

About Anil Kumble after the Mohali Test.



SET Max

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe
 First ODI, Tri Series
 Live at 9:50 am

ESPN

Sportscentre Hindi
 Sport News
 6:30 am
 UEFA Champions League
 Boavista vs Man United
 8:00 pm
 English Premier Football League
 Chelsea vs Man United
 10:00 am
 World Cup Soccer Mix
 3:00 pm
 Western Union World Football
 3:30 pm
 Cricket Programming
 Super Selector
 7:00 pm
 English Premier Football League
 Middlesbrough vs Liverpool
 Live at 8:50 pm

STAR Sports

Futbol Mundial
 8:00 am
 Asia Sport Show
 Int'l Sports News
 11:30 am
 World Cup Soccer Mix
 12:30 pm
 Primera Liga
 Highlights at 9:30 pm
 Cricket Programming
 Super Selector
 11:00 pm
 Primera Liga
 Real Madrid vs Tenerife
 Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)



Tick the Correct Answers Post to
 The Daily Star
 Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
 Dec 14, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe one-day internationals?	Al-Shahriar	H Bqshar	D Ebrahim
2. Who became Inter-Continental Cup champions?	Socia Juniors	Reat Madrid	Bayern Munich
3. How many runs did Habibul Bashar score in the first innings of the second Test against Zimbabwe?	117	109	
4. Which number Test venue is the MA Aziz Stadium?	73rd	66th	82nd
Name			
Class			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Cards on the cards?



REUTERS/AFP, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is considering instituting football's card system to discipline players, according to news reports here Friday.

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed is working on a card system to avert a repeat of the recent crisis in the Test series between India and South Africa, according to a report in The Australian.

The Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) included the card system in a proposal it submitted to the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) last May, the newspaper reported.

Under the card system players would receive a white warning card for low level breaches, a yellow card signalling a two-hour send off and red card for the worst behaviour, which would result in an automatic send-off for the match.

Demerit points were also proposed, in which a player who accumulated too many points over a 12-month period would serve an automatic suspension.

Australian pace bowler Brett Lee

was the last player penalised under the ICC code of conduct.

Lee was fined 8,250 dollars (4,200 US) for his send-off of New Zealand tail-ender Shane Bond in the third Test in Perth this week.

Lee's fine follows the drama-charged series between India and South Africa last month which threatened to create a rift in world cricket.

The two cricketing powers played an unofficial third 'Test' in Centurion after standing down match referee Mike Denness following his punishment of six Indian players.

ICC president Malcolm Gray said player behaviour would be a priority at the board meeting in March.

Meanwhile, ACA president Tim May said on Friday that a card system for code of conduct breaches would help take the political heat out of world cricket's disciplinary system.

"I believe the ICC have already discussed a proposal similar to this," May told Reuters. "The main objective is to reduce inconsistencies.

"At the moment some guys get charged, some don't. Some get let off, some don't."

The four-tiered system proposed by the ACA would include a demerit

points system for minor breaches and white, yellow and red cards, but would not include a card to dismiss players from the field as suggested in Australia media reports on Friday.

May, a former Australia off-spinner, said there was a perception within Test cricket that the rules were not applied consistently.

"I think it's a perception. Cricket is played in different cultures," May said. "The behavioural standards may differ (in Australia) from what is expected in the sub-continent or in the West Indies.

"The more subjectivity you give to a code of conduct the greater perception of some rules for some and some for others.

"Everyone would know what the rules are and where suspensions would apply. It would take a lot of the heat out of the political tensions.

"I think you will find players' behaviour will improve significantly," he added.

May said Australia had won praise for the way they played the game as they crushed England 4-1 in this year's Ashes series and this had been a result of hard work.

"The Brett Lee incident was a one-off," May said.

Mark butchers WA



AFP, Perth

Acting captain Mark Boucher stepped in with a swashbuckling century to save South Africa on the opening day of the first major game of the Proteas' Australian tour at the WACA here Friday.

Boucher, the side's wicketkeeper, celebrated his 25th birthday four days late by smashing his way to a century off 106 balls in just over two hours, hitting 16 boundaries against state side Western Australia.

He finished with 134 (21 fours), his highest score in first-class cricket, before being dismissed just before stumps.

The right-hander's vicious assault guided the Proteas to a comfortable first innings total of 367 after he had won the toss, chose to bat and saw his side slump to 197 for six wickets.

At stumps, Western Australia were two without loss after facing one over.

"It's nice scoring runs when you are captain," Boucher said.

"Captaincy aside, it's always good to get off to a nice start. When I went out there, the wicket was getting a bit easier than it had been earlier, but when the second new ball came along it got a bit tricky again.

"I work hard on my batting now, because there is no room for just a plain wicketkeeper nowadays.

"Having a wicketkeeper in the side is a big bonus -- as Adam Gilchrist has shown for Australia."

Boucher, taking over the reins from skipper Shaun Pollock -- who elected not to play in order to give other players maximum opportunity to press for Test selection -- thumped his sixth first-class century, of which three have been in Tests.

Batting at number seven, he

salvaged the innings during a lightning seventh-wicket stand of 78 in 54 minutes with Steve Elworthy (29 from 39 balls).

He then dominated a partnership of 84 in 80 minutes with Claude Henderson (24).

Boucher was dropped at 67 and again when he was on 129.

The only top-order batsman to hit his straps was 20-year-old left-hander Jacques Rudolph, who made a sparkling 74-ball 59 with 10 sizzling boundaries. He was helped by a "life" on three.

Rudolph's stylish exhibition may have been enough for him to retain the number three position for the first Test against Australia starting in Adelaide next Friday.

Boucher said: "Jacques is a young, confident player who has scored a lot of runs back home, so it is good to see him carrying his confidence and form into the Test series."

Rudolph made his senior international debut for South Africa against India at Centurion Park last month, but the match was denied Test status by the International Cricket Council because ICC match referee, Mike Denness, of England, was barred from the ground.

This followed Denness' decision to discipline six Indians found guilty of breaching the players' code of conduct in the previous match in Port Elizabeth.

Senior batsmen Gary Kirsten (31), Jacques Kallis (21) and Lance Klusener (eight) were all removed early in the day by fast-medium bowler Stuart Karppinen, in only his second first-class appearance.

Karppinen, 28, made the most of his rare opportunity in top company, also trapping Boucher and snatching 4-110.

One-Test fast bowler Matt Nicholson was also on target, grabbing 5-68.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the open-

ing day of the four-day match between Western Australia and South Africa at the WACA Ground Friday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings
 Kirsten c Katich b Karppinen 31
 Gibbs c Campbell b Nicholson 2
 Rudolph c Campbell b Nicholson 59
 Kallis c Campbell b Karppinen 21
 McKenzie b Swan 35
 Klusener b Karppinen 8
 Boucher c Katich b Karppinen 134
 Elworthy c North b Nicholson 29
 Henderson c Campbell b Nicholson 24
 Donald not out 8
 Ntini c North b Nicholson 0
 Extras: (b-4, lb-10, w-2) 16
 Total: (All out in 86.3 overs) 367
 Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-46, 3-125, 4-125, 5-149, 6-197, 7-275, 8-359, 9-367

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nicholson	20.3	5	68	5
Karppinen	26	6	110	4

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Ormond@Surrey

AFP, London

England fast-medium bowler James Ormond has signed a three-year contract with Surrey, the county's chief executive Paul Sheldon confirmed Friday.

Ormond, 24, currently on tour in India where he picked up his second Test wicket in England's defeat in Mohali, joins the Benson & Hedges Cup holders after seven years at Leicestershire.

Ormond took 225 wickets at an average of 25.67 in first-class cricket for Leicestershire and 101 wickets at 22.57 in limited overs cricket.

Sheldon said: "This is a tremendous signing for the club and will give us the strength in depth to challenge for all four major competitions next season."

Surrey failed to make it three county championship crowns in three seasons when Yorkshire finished top of the table this summer.

Lara, Pollock number one

REUTERS, London

West Indies left-hander Brian Lara, who made 688 runs in the recent three-match series against Sri Lanka, has dislodged Zimbabwe's Andy Flower from the number one spot on the world Test batting ratings.

The Trinidadian, who produced scores of 221 and 130 in the third Test in Colombo, moves ahead of Flower in the standings by seven points.

South Africa paceman Shaun Pollock replaces Australia's Glenn McGrath at the top of the bowling rankings, edging ahead by just three points with a total of 909.

McGrath failed to shine with the ball in his side's recent drawn Test series against New Zealand, taking only five wickets at an expensive average of 65.40.

Leading ratings sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers and issued on Friday:

TOP BATSMEN

Player	Points
B Lara	905
A Flower	898
S Tendulkar	876
M Muralitharan	818
M Jayawardene	818
S Waugh	816
A Gilchrist	796
J Kallis	776
R Dravid	771
H Gibbs	723

TOP BOWLERS

Player	Points
S Pollock	909
G McGrath	906
M Muralitharan	881
A Donald	785
D Gough	739
C Vaas	715
J Gillespie	714
W Younis	686
S	