

Kenyan sweep the series

Kenya crushed Zimbabwe "A" by nine wickets to win the five-day series 3-0 at the Nairobi Gymkhana Club on Wednesday.

Set a modest 176 to win, Kenya had little difficulty in reaching their target with 24.2 overs to spare.

Maurice Oduombe's boys completed their rout thanks largely to an unbroken partnership between star batsman Steve Tikolo and opener Kennedy Obuya (64) off 109 for the first wicket.

Tikolo thrashed the winning runs by smashing two sixes to complete his interrupted innings of 84 runs from just 65 balls in the 58 minutes he was in the centre.

Ravindu Shah was the only Kenyan batsman out after being clean bowled by the Zimbabwe skipper Mupfema Mbangwa for 18.

Trailing 2-0 from the opening matches at the Simba Union club, Zimbabwe had hoped a good result would have improved their fortunes.

Batting first after winning the toss, the Zimbabweans were soon in trouble. A tight Kenyan bowling attack, spearheaded by Martin Suiji, triggered the early slide that led to the collapse of the middle order as three wickets fell in 14 balls leaving Zimbabwe at 38 for four.

The usually dependable batsman Guy Whittall became Suiji's fourth victim when he was bowled for a duck, the first time he had ever scored a run in the series.

Alistair Campbell and Hamilton Mazakadza tried to restore their hopes with a hard laboured 69-run stand for the fifth wicket.

The last four Zimbabwe wickets tumbled for just 23 runs, with medium pacer Joseph Angara capturing his first wickets of the series by removing Mbangwa and Brighton Watamba with no further scores added.

Tour will

FROM PAGE 13 almost on a daily basis," a BCCI official told AFP.

If there is a need to increase the security, it will be done. There is no cause for panic."

There was no immediate word on the incidents from BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya.

According to the England's team media official the tour would be continuing despite the attack.

"The tour will go on," said David Clarke, media manager for the tourists

"It's a regrettable incident but it's a political thing and has nothing to do with England's tour of India."

England were initially apprehensive of undertaking the six-week tour due to India's proximity to Afghanistan where US-led strikes are taking place.

Two players, Andrew Caddick and Robert Croft, pulled out of the tour citing security fears.

After the second Test ends here on Saturday, England will travel to the southern city of Bangalore for the final Test starting next Wednesday.

The tourists are scheduled to return to India in mid-January for a series of five one-day internationals.

Giants clash

FROM PAGE 13

TEAMS AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh (capt), Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Mark Waugh, Damien Martyn, Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath (12th man to be named).

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Shaun Pollock (capt), Gary Kirsten, Herselle Gibbs, Jacques Rudolph, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher, Claude Henderson, Allan Donald, Makhaya Ntini, Nantie Hayward.

Steve aching to bat

Cricket AFP, Adelaide

The competitive juices stir in Steve Waugh when he plays in Test cricket matches against South Africa.

They don't come more flinty and hard-nosed than the 36-year-old Australian skipper, who is relishing the confrontation with Shaun Pollock's Proteas in the first of three Tests at Adelaide Oval starting Friday.

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Waugh admits his world champion team was flat in the drawn three Test home series with New Zealand, although he points out Australia dominated the first two rain-ruined Tests.

But a joust with South Africa for cricket's Unofficial Test Championship is another matter, and his teammates are very excited at the prospect of testing their skills against them.

Australia strung together a record 16 Test victories before beaten by India in Calcutta last March and then walloped England 4-1 in the Ashes series, so this is a long-awaited challenge by Test cricket's other great achievers South Africa.

"I really enjoy playing against South Africa, they're an excellent cricket side, they're very tough and competitive, the way I like to play my Test cricket," Waugh said Thursday.

"They'll have things to say out there, which is the way I think it

should be. "That's probably lifted my game, I like the intensity and the pressure situations and playing against the best players, that's why you play Test cricket."

"So from my point of view I really enjoy playing against South Africa, they're my favourite side to play match series, but on the other side of the coin if we play well I would like to see Barry and Kepler say that we play good cricket... let's see if that happens."

Waugh was down on form against the Kiwis, finishing off with a fighting second innings 67 to prevent New Zealand from snatching the recent series in Perth.

"I didn't bat well against New Zealand, there's no hiding that fact, and I didn't strike the ball as well as I would like and the first 30 runs were ordinary, I'm the first to admit that."

"But I hung in and played well after that."

"We lost six wickets in the Calcutta Test (against India), if we had lost against New Zealand in Perth it wouldn't have been just against the former South African opener) Barry Richards criticising me, there would have been quite a few more than that."

Richards labelled Waugh as "vulnerable", while former Australian opener and South African captain Kepler Wessels said the Australians have grown complacent and lost the intensity that allowed them to dominate the game in recent years.

Others have labelled the home side susceptible to pressure and there's a suspicion the Aussies

have lost their ability to intimidate South Africa.

"Look, you're entitled to say what you want to say. There's been Pat Symcox, Kepler Wessels, Tony Greig, who have all come out and said things."

"I guess they're trying to unsettle the Australian side, it's a big Test match series, but on the other side of the coin if we play well I would like to see Barry and Kepler say that we play good cricket... let's see if that happens."

One of Waugh's great strengths is the confidence and belief he instils in his players since taking over the captaincy from Mark Taylor.

"I'm confident that we will play well under pressure, what South Africa do is up to them," he said.

"I believe we are very good under pressure, that's our strength and we'll be hoping to prove that in the next three Test matches."

Much has been made that Australia has an aging team. Nine of the 12 players are 30 or older, with Steve and Mark Waugh 36.

"I think it is an excellent squad, I guess we are an aging squad, but that doesn't make us any less," said Steve Waugh.

"When you get older, you are more experienced, you know your game better and in certain ways you should be better players when you reach 30, so age doesn't worry me."

"I believe we are yet to play our best cricket as a team."

Warne factor

Tennis AFP, Adelaide

Shane Warne is statistically more effective bowling against South African batsmen than any other Test-playing cricket nation.

The downside is that the 32-year-old champion leg-spinner does not perform anywhere near his best on the Adelaide Oval, venue for Friday's first of three Tests against the South Africans.

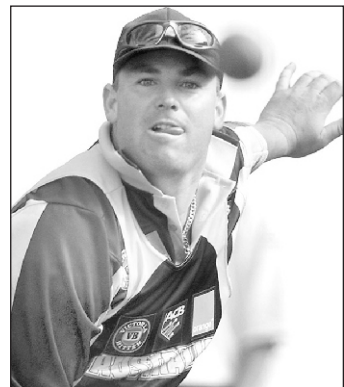
Warne has taken 64 of his 413 Test wickets against South Africa at an average per wicket of 20.96 runs well under his career bowling average of a touch over 26.

Yet when it comes to Adelaide Oval, the home ground of the late Sir Donald Bradman, his average shoots up to 34.19 for each of the 26 wickets he has snared in his eight Tests there.

His best return here is 4-31 against South Africa in February 1994.

"I guess for Shane that's below par for him here, but he'll be looking to fix that up, he's very upbeat about

this series," said skipper Steve Waugh Thursday.



SHANE WARNE

"He's done well against South Africa and I'm not sure why he hasn't done really well here, I guess some players don't do well at certain grounds."

Waugh said it was not much use relying on history when assessing bowlers.

"You don't want to look too much into history, you want to look at what confronts you now, it's a wicket that will turn, and it's not to say that we

will play both spinners, but I believe Shane will bowl really well."

Australia have included New South Wales wrist spinner Stuart MacGill in their 12 expecting some turn out of the Adelaide Oval pitch.

Waugh said he had '75 per cent' made up his mind about who will play, but would leave a final decision until an inspection of the pitch on the morning of the Test.

Warne was confident the pair could bowl in tandem with success, despite figures from their five Tests together indicating otherwise.

MacGill took 24 wickets in those five matches while Warne took just seven, way below his normal return of 4.3 wickets per match.

"The Test matches we played together, my first few back were straight after my major shoulder operation so I probably wasn't anywhere near my best and Stuey played well in a few games," Warne said.

"So I'd like to think it could work, whether it works this Test match, the next one or whenever."

Australia has not used more than one spinner in a Test for two years.

Bright White

Cricket INTERNET, Ahmedabad

England hero Craig White was a relieved man after notching his maiden international century in the second Test against India.

White's 121 helped England into a strong position - India closed on 71 for two following Nasser Hussain's side's 407 all out.

The Yorkshire all-rounder had four lucky escapes, however, to reach his landmark seven years after his Test debut and in his 37th innings.

His fortune was emphasised when the ball rolled on to his stumps but failed to dislodge the balls - and he was dropped on three further occasions during his six-hour vigil which included 12 fours and two

sixes. White passed his previous Test best of 93 against Pakistan in



CRAIG WHITE

Lahore last winter with the accompaniment of a dogged rearguard action from the England tail.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," the 32-year-old admitted.

"When I nudged my single to get there it was a big relief."

"I always knew I could make a Test hundred and I got so close in Lahore last year."

"That was one of the biggest disappointments of my life, and I wasn't quite sure when the next opportunity to get a hundred would come along."

"But I went through the nineties in single figures and I still felt good about myself and I knew it was my day."

Of his luck, White added: "You need that to get a hundred at Test level - I don't think many people get there without giving a chance."

"It just summed my day up when the ball tricked into the stumps, and that is when I knew it was my day."

"My Test career has been full of ups and downs, and in the last couple of years I realised what I can do. Now I hope there will be another one. Test hundred not too far away."

"In the past as a Test batsman I made some silly mistakes, but the most important thing is to decide when to make the big shot."

"I am an all-rounder and treat both parts of my game very importantly. I have worked a little bit harder on my batting recently because I realised I am not the strike bowler I was a year ago."

On the overall match situation, White added: "We have got a score on the board, so it is up to them now. The pressure is on them; there is none on us whatsoever."

"Let's see how they can handle it. "We picked up two wickets at the end of the day - and a couple more tomorrow morning will put the pressure firmly on India."

"It is starting to turn a little bit more. The wicket is starting to get a bit worn and is starting to crack up - in another couple of days there could be even more turn there."

Anand bows out

AFP, Moscow

India's chess world title-holder Viswanathan Anand crashed out of the 2001-02 championship Thursday, leaving two Ukrainians to dispute next month's eight-game final in Moscow.

Anand, the tournament favourite who was playing white, went down to Vassily Ivanchuk in 42 moves after the Ukrainian gained two widely separated passed pawns in a bishop-against-knight ending.

Ranked the world's third-strongest player, Anand had been expected to win through to the FIDE (World Chess Federation) championship final after drawing with the black pieces Tuesday, and in two earlier semifinal games.

Ivanchuk's compatriot Ruslan Ponomarev qualified as expected by drawing in 18 moves with Russia's Peter Svidler, having won with the black pieces on Tuesday. Their first two games were drawn.

Ivanchuk is ranked sixth in the Elo international ratings, and Ponomarev 21st. The championship final will begin on January 16.

The world's two strongest players by Elo rating, Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik, have boycotted the FIDE tournament.

Afghan cricketers appeal to ICC

AFP, Peshawar

Afghan cricketers on Wednesday called for international help to establish the game now the anti-sports Taliban regime has been booted out of power.

"We hope that sports in general and cricket in particular will flourish under the new regime," said Allah Dad Noori, captain of the Afghanistan cricket team.

Noori, cricket development manager Haji Wali Mohammad and team manager Wahid Khan held a press conference to disassociate themselves from the Taliban.

"We had no links with Taliban and now feel that the new regime will help us gain recognition at international level," Noori said.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) gave Afghanistan affiliate membership in June but after the September 11 attacks in the United States had considered taking Afghanistan off the list.

"We call on the international community and ICC to help us gain more footing," he said.

Afghanistan featured in a non-first class event in Pakistan in October and some team members did not return home because of the US-led air strikes in Afghanistan.

The International Olympic Council said Tuesday that Afghanistan could be included in the 2004 Athens Games following the fall of the Taliban regime.

The Afghanistan National Olympic Committee was suspended by the IOC when the Taliban took control of the country because of its treatment of women in 1997.

Noori said with peace established, sport could prosper in Afghanistan. "We hope that with peace more and more young people will come into sports and since cricket is already popular in Afghanistan we can progress."

There are more than 100 cricket clubs in Afghanistan. The game became popular at the end of the 1970s after refugees returned home from Pakistan, where the sport is firmly established.

Shield cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Champions Queensland routed Tasmania before claiming first innings points on an eventful opening day of their Sheffield Shield cricket match Thursday.

Tasmania were skittled for just 100, Michael Di Venuto top-scoring with 28, but Queensland's batsmen also struggled on a testing Gabba wicket and were dismissed for 132.

Tasmania were six without loss in their second innings at stumps. The bowlers dominated, with Queenslander Andrew Bichel (4-54) staking his claim for a return to the Test squad and Joe Dawes taking 3-4 from nine overs.

The Tasmanians were bowled out for their lowest score against Queensland and were staring at a hefty deficit before they put the brakes on Queensland who had edged to 52 for one.

Shane Jurgensen (4-16) took two wickets in as many balls, to restrict Queensland to just a 32-run innings lead.

In Melbourne, Victoria were on target to claim their first points of the season after the opening day of their match against South Australia.

At stumps, Victoria were 103 for three in reply to South Australia's first innings 229.

Ian Harvey (29) and Michael Klinger (8) were at the crease and Brad Hodge was dropped down the order after he was struck a nasty blow in the face while fielding.

The star of South Australia's innings was opener Ben Johnson who became the first batsman in 30 years to carry his bat in Australian first-class cricket by making 138 not out.

However SA skipper Darren Lehmann made only 12 meaning he is still 17 runs short of former teammate Jamie Siddons' Sheffield Shield record of 10,643 runs.

SL storm into final

Cricket AFP, Colombo

Mahela Jayawardene and Avishka Gunawardene fell short of centuries but helped Sri Lanka assure a berth in the final of the tri-series with a 59-run win over Zimbabwe here on Wednesday.

It was the second win in three matches for the home team. Zimbabwe and the West Indies have one victory each in three and two matches, respectively.

Sri Lanka scored 272-7, a total that was never under threat. Zimbabwe folded up for 213 in 47.2 overs in the face of a fine spin attack led by off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who took four wickets.

Electing to bat in the day-night encounter, Sri Lanka were boosted by a 166-run stand between Jayawardene (96) and Gunawardene (90), who came together after the dismissals of captain Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu.

The duo helped put up a formidable total with an apt combination of caution and aggression.

Jayasuriya struck 10 boundaries off 108 balls, before he was trapped leg before wicket by a Henry Olonga delivery that came in off the seam.

Left-handed opener Gunawardene was more cautious, hitting eight fours off 131 deliveries. Stuart Carlisle caught him off seamer Heath Streak.

Streak had earlier removed Jayasuriya, caught behind by Andy Flower off the second delivery of the match. He also had Chaminda Vaas caught at the square leg boundary to finish with three wickets.

Russel Arnold, who chipped in with a brisk 34 off 27 deliveries, took the Sri Lankan total past the 250-run mark.

Zimbabwe started their reply cautiously with openers Grant Flower (45) and Dion Ebrahim (32) putting on 69 runs in 14 overs.

But off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan removed both batsmen and then prolific left-hander Andy Flower fell in trying to reverse-sweep Jayasuriya.

Zimbabwe were 103-3 in 23.4 overs at this stage and kept falling behind in their run chase.

Muralitharan was later on a hat-trick when he took the wickets of Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu off consecutive balls, by when the result of the match was evident.

The next match of the tournament will be played between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at Kandy on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the tri-series one-day international between Sri Lanka and

Zimbabwe on Wednesday: SRI LANKA: 272-7 in 50 overs (Jayawardene 96, Gunawardene 90; Streak 3-51)

ZIMBABWE Ebrahim b Muralitharan 32 G. Flower c Jayawardene b Muralitharan 45 Carlisle c Chandana b Arnold 39 A. Flower lbw b Jayasuriya 11 Wishart c and b Arnold 14 Marillier c Zoysa b Chandana 20 Streak st Sangakkara b Muralitharan 24 Taibu c Jayawardene b Muralitharan 0 Nkala b Dharmasena 9 Friend st Sangakkara b Chandana 7 Olonga not out 1 Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-6, nb-2) 11 Total (All out in 47.2 overs) 213

Fall of wickets: 1-69, 2-88, 3-103, 4-145, 5-159, 6-189, 7-189, 8-203, 9-211

Bowling O M R W Vaas 7 0 26 0 Zoysa 4 0 24 0 Dharmasena 8 0 35 1 Muralitharan 10 0 32 4 Jayasuriya 8 0 40 1 Chandana 8.2 0 41 2 Arnold 2 0 12 2

Result: Sri Lanka won by 59 runs Man of the match: Mahela Jayawardene Umpires: Hirantha Wijewardena (Sri), Lalith Jayasundara (Sri) Match referee: Raman Subba Row (Eng)

Giles beguiles India

FROM PAGE 13

used just 55 runs. Hoggard and Flintoff had put India in trouble as they shared two early wickets after the hosts had resumed at 71-2.

Rahul Dravid added just two to his overnight score of five before edging Hoggard to wicketkeeper James Foster.

Skipper Sourav Ganguly was not allowed to settle down as he scored five before edging Flintoff to the slips where substitute Martyn Ball took a low catch.

Even Tendulkar, a free-stroking batsman, was unable to take liberties against a defensive England bowling as India added 20 runs in the opening hour.

Hoggard kept testing the Indians with a tight line of attack on or around off-stump, while Giles attacked the leg in order to induce errors from the batsmen.

Tendulkar, however, was at his best in the next session, flicking and sweeping powerfully to beat a packed off-side field. His efforts, however, were not enough to put his team in a comfortable position.

Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-64, 3-86, 4-93, 5-211, 6-248, 7-268, 8-272, 9-274

Bowling: Hoggard 28-7-65-2, Flintoff 22-7-42-2, Giles 43-15-67-5, Dawson 15-0-73-0, White 12-2-33-1

ENGLAND: First innings: 407 (M. Butcher 51, M. Trescott 99, C. White 121, A. Kumble 7-115)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 71-2): Das c Butcher b Flintoff 41 Duggupta c Hussain b Giles 17 Dravid c Foster b Hoggard 7 Tendulkar c Hussain b Hoggard 103 Ganguly c sub (Ball) b Flintoff 5 Laxman c Butcher b Giles 75 Sehwaq lbw b White 20 Kumble b Giles 5

H. Singh c Flintoff b Giles 0 Srinath c Butcher b Giles 0 Yohannan not out 3 Extras: (b-5, lb-6, nb-3, w-1) 15 Total (All out in 120.3 overs) 291

Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-64, 3-86, 4-93, 5-211, 6-248, 7-268, 8-272, 9-274

Bowling: Hoggard 28-7-65-2, Flintoff 22-7-42-2, Giles 43-15-67-5, Dawson 15-0-73-0, White 12-2-33-1

ENGLAND: Second innings: Butcher not out 5 Trescott not out 10 Total (For no loss in 3 overs) 15

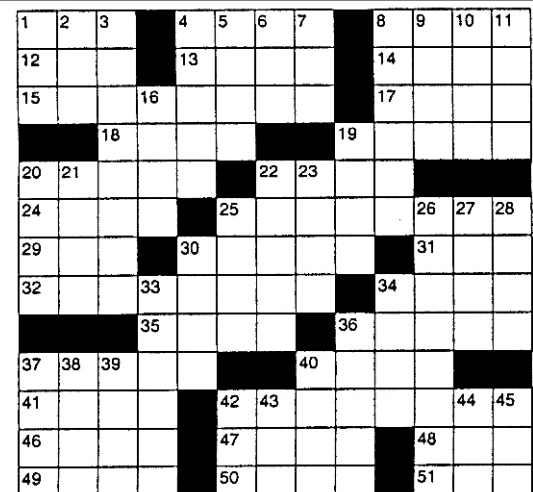
INDIA: Second innings: Srinath 1 0 4 0 Yohannan 1 0 8 0 Kumble 1 0 3 0 Umpires: Avi Jayaprakash (Ind) and Ian Robinson (Zim) Match referee: Denis Lindsay (RSA)



Boxer Laila Ali (L) hugs her father Muhammad Ali during the premiere of new film 'Ali' which tells the story of Ali's life, in Hollywood on December 12.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 With skill 36 Dangerous affair 37 1865 4 President's villain 40 Startle 41 Nonsupporter 8 - soil qui mal y pense 42 Female boxer 12 Under the weather 13 Palette array 14 Oil acronym 15 Airline to Rome 17 Simple 18 Thick, as lettering 19 Wards (off) 20 Respond to Funt 22 Black-thorn fruit 24 Word stamped on a receipt 25 Baja California city 29 Noah's - 30 Use a loom 31 Young fellow 32 Evil mesmerist 34 Daughter



8-10 CRYPTOQUIP TA Q W O V W X V W J S H D Q E K P V E P T V K V W K D N O I V P F N E V W J I S U A . V H K Q A A N X U S F V W J I V J D K Q O V K . Yesterday's Cryptquip: RETIRED TENNIS CHAMPS SHOULD BECOME WAITERS. THEY WOULD BE VERY ADEPT SERVERS. Today's Cryptquip clue: V equals I 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.