

Reiffel turns to umpiring

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia's World Cup-winning seam bowler Paul Reiffel has made a comeback to the cricketing arena, this time as an umpire.

Reiffel started the 2001-02 domestic campaign as Victoria's captain in the inter-state competition, but retired in January in a shock mid-season announcement.

The 35-year-old registered under another name to umpire a Victoria club competition match in Melbourne on Saturday to avoid attracting attention.

Reiffel said he would draw on his playing experience in his new role as an umpire.

"I know all the tricks because I've tried them all," he was quoted as saying in the Sunday Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.

The laconic Reiffel played in 35 Tests, taking 104 wickets at 26.96 and scoring 955 runs at 26.52 with six half-centuries.

**Nat'l Chess Zia keeps easy going**

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master (GM) Ziaur Rahman of Biman maintained his solo lead in the Professor Abdur Razzak 28th National Chess Championship with an easy win over Titus Club's Saifuddin Lovli in the fifth round at the NSC chess room on Sunday.

Playing with white pieces, Zia adopted Catalin opening and won the board after 37 moves to register fifth successive win.

International Master (IM) Abdullah Al-Rakib of Biman, Abu Sufian Shakil of Ansars and Enamul Hossain Rajib are following Zia with four points.

On Sunday, Rakib beat his teammate IM Reefat Bin Sattar. Rakib played with white in Queen's Gambit and won the board after 40 moves.

Abu Sufian Shakil of Ansars beat GM Niaz Murshed of Titus while Rajib of Biman drew with Sk Nasir Ahmed of Ansars.

In the other boards, Ruhul Kabir Shiplu of Titus beat Sawkat Hossain Pollab of Ansar while Taibur Rahman Sumon of BPATC drew with Syed Ejaz Husain of Dhaka University. Points: 5-Zia, 4-Rakib, Razib and Shakil, 2.5-Reefat, 2-Lavli, Nasir, 1.5-Niaz, Ejaz, Shiplu 1-Sumon, 0.5-Pollab.

The sixth round begins at the same venue today at 3 pm.

Today's matches: Ejaz v Shiplu, Nasir v Pollab, Niaz v Rajib, Reefat v Shakil, Lavli v Rakib and Sumon v Zia.

Enamul Hossain Rajib of Biman makes a move against Ansars' Sheikh Nasir Ahmed in the fifth round of the Prof Abdur Razzak National Chess Championship at the National Sports Council yesterday.

Parore hopes for recall

INTERNET, Auckland

Parnell in a bid to prove he is in shape for the first Test.

Chris Nevin replaced Parore in the ODI squad

"Hopefully I'll be able to show the selectors that I'm fit and ready to play," he said.

"I'm not sure how they feel about it but I think they've seen me enough to know that I'm capable and my standard of fitness has always been pretty high."

Chris Nevin replaced Parore for the recent one-day series and has long been favourite to succeed him.

However, Otago wicketkeeper Martin Croy took seven catches during a match against Auckland this week, a New Zealand first class record, and may come into contention.

Meanwhile Reuters adds: New Zealand left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori has been asked to sit out his Northern Districts side's next match in the State Championship to ensure his fitness for the forthcoming Test series against England.

Vettori was out of cricket last season after suffering a back injury in Zimbabwe, and complained of

soreness at the completion of last month's one-day series against England, which immediately followed the triangular series in Australia.

New Zealand Cricket medical adviser Warren Frost said: "He has had a huge workload from the tour of Australia, the triangular series there, and then the England one-day series and he deserves a rest."

"Daniel is important for the success of New Zealand in the Test series and this rest is important for the future well-being of his back."

Frost talked to all the players likely to be involved in the Test series after the last one-day match in Dunedin and suggested Vettori miss the Northern Districts game against Wellington.

All-rounder Chris Harris, who is unlikely to be in the Test side, was also asked to rest.

Vettori is a certainty for the Test side and his next game will probably be the first Test in Christchurch starting on March 13.

WA make history

REUTERS, Melbourne

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Victoria lost opener Matthew Mott of the second ball of the innings and fellow opener and captain Matthew Elliott top-scored with 23.

"In the end, 130 on that wicket should have been a relatively easy task," Elliott said.

Katich added: "It was a weird game of cricket."

In Sydney, New South Wales wicketkeeper Brad Haddin smashed 102 from 155 balls with 14 boundaries, his maiden first-class century, in the home side's 398 for eight in reply to Queensland's 528 for four declared.

Former Victoria fast bowler Brad Williams then took four for 34 as Victoria crashed to 98 all out in 34 overs as they chased 136 to win.

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New South Wales lost five wickets for 22 before Haddin and Michael Clarke (76) added 175 for the sixth wicket.

Right-arm off-spinner Nathan Hauritz took four for 100.

New South Wales still trail competition leaders Queensland by 130 runs on first innings with one day's play remaining.

In Adelaide, Tasmania were hoping to take another eight wickets and claim outright victory over South Australia with one day's play remaining in their four-day match.

South Australia (200 and 66 for two) were still 208 runs short of making Tasmania (474 for eight declared) bat again.

Tasmania captain Jamie Cox, resuming on 144 with his side 291 for three, hit 174 from 399 balls with 17 fours.

Cox, who batted for more than eight hours, was one of five Tasmania batsmen to reach 50 in the innings.

Abul netted the match-winner.

Parore will turn out for club side

WA make history

AP, Colombo

The Sri Lankan cricket team left for Pakistan on Sunday to play in the final Test in the Asian Test Championship, a spokesman for the Board of Control for Cricket said.

Shashi Dhaniatne, the board's director of administration, said the Test against Pakistan will take place in Lahore March 6-10.

The Board said it agreed to take part in the tournament after it was approved by the Asian Cricket Council.

The ACC decided to do away with the traditional round robin format and instead approved a straight final after India pulled out. India has refused to play cricket against Pakistan since 1999.

Sri Lanka and Pakistan scored massive victories over Bangladesh, the third participating nation in the league matches played last year.

REUTERS, Melbourne

Western Australia beat Victoria by 37 runs on Sunday to become only the third side in the history of Australia's inter-state championship, from 1892-93 onwards, to win after being forced to follow on.

Victoria, who had declared at 450 for six, dismissed Western Australia for 175 before the visiting side resumed on Sunday for the fourth and final day's play on 278 for six.

Marcus North, 127 not out overnight, smashed an unbeaten 200 from 378 balls with 18 fours and three sixes to lift the visiting side to 410.

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a lot of belief we could win it, particularly if we could get early wickets," Western Australia captain Simon Katich told reporters.

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