

Div I cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Uttara Friends Club beat PWD Sporting Club by 21 runs in the First Division Cricket League at the Jagannath Hall cricket ground yesterday.

Uttara scored 120 runs before being all out in 43 overs after they decided to bat first.

In reply, PWD were bundled out for 99 in 43.3 overs.

Silent tribute for lost stars

AFP, London

English counties Surrey and Sussex are to hold a two-minute silence in memory of Ben Hollioake and Umer Rashid before the championship match between the two teams at The Oval on Friday.

The two all-rounders, who died in separate accidents in the past two months, will be remembered by players and officials before play starts in the season-opening fixture.

Surrey's England all-rounder Hollioake died in a car crash in Australia and Rashid drowned during Sussex's pre-season trip to Grenada.

Harbhajan hope for tourists

REUTERS, Georgetown

Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who missed the first Test against West Indies with a shoulder injury, is likely to be fit for the second Test starting on Friday, India captain Sourav Ganguly said.

"He should be okay for the Test," Ganguly told reporters. "I'm pretty confident he will be fit to play."

Harbhajan pulled his shoulder muscle while throwing the ball from the boundary during a warm-up game against a Guyana Cricket Board President's XI last week.

He was taken to Trinidad for scans and had a fitness test before being ruled out.

Off-spinner Sarandeep Singh, flown in as a replacement for the first Test, took his place in the team.

"Harbhajan bowled for a bit in the nets today," India coach John Wright said. "Things are looking bright."

The 21-year-old, nicknamed "Turbanator", shot to prominence after grabbing 32 wickets to lead India to a stunning 2-1 home series win against Australia last year.

Asian rivals to

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Waqar, whose team changed the trend on Monday when they thrashed New Zealand by eight wickets said he would prefer to bat first against Sri Lanka.

"There is a lot of pressure chasing targets in a final and although we did that well against New Zealand, I think batting first is a better option," he said.

Sri Lanka will be hoping that Marvan Atapattu continues his good form after notching up three consecutive half-centuries in the league.

But dashing Pakistani opener Shahid Afridi ended the bowlers' domination over the last 10 days when he hammered the first century of the tournament on Monday.

His spectacular 108 not out off 92 balls against the Kiwis, studded with seven boundaries and eight sixes, showed there was hope for batsmen willing to play their shots.

"It's not been a big-scoring tournament so far, but the final could provide some fireworks," Waqar said.

LIKELY TEAMS

**PAKISTAN:** Waqar Younis (captain), Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Inzamamul Haq, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Abdul Razaq, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq.

**SRI LANKA:** Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardena, Russel Arnold, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Kumar Dharmasena, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Upul Chandana.

What to watch

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Aston Villa v Leeds United  
English Premiership  
Repeat at 6:30 pm  
**Sportscenter Hindi**  
Sports News  
**Live at 8:30 pm**  
Goals!  
Football Magazine  
9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportline Tonight  
Sports News  
8:00 am and 12:30 pm  
Alaves v Barcelona  
Primera Liga  
Taped version at 8:30 am  
Derby County v Newcastle  
English Premiership  
Taped version at 1:00 pm  
World Cup Mix  
Football Magazine  
6:00 pm  
Super Selector  
Cricket Programming  
7:30 pm  
**Sportline Tonight**  
Sports News  
**Live at 8:00 pm**  
Harsha Online  
Cricket Talk Show  
Repeat at 11:00 pm

Kiwis Afridi-struck



AFP, Sharjah

Shahid Afridi hit a spectacular 108 not out off 92 balls to lift Pakistan into the Sharjah Cup final with an eight-wicket romp over New Zealand here on Monday.

Afridi and his opening partner Imran Nazir smashed 101 in just 14 overs as Pakistan surpassed New Zealand's 213-9 in the 32nd over to set up a title clash with Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

Afridi plundered seven boundaries and eight sixes in his third one-day century, while Nazir made 57 off 53 balls with nine fours.

It was Pakistan's 10th straight win over the Kiwis at this desert venue and overturned the trend in this 250,000-dollar event that saw the team batting second lose the five previous matches.

Pakistan, who gained a bonus point from the emphatic victory, ended the league with nine points, three behind leaders Sri Lanka.

Injury-hit New Zealand finished with four points, gained from an unexpected win over Sri Lanka in their first match.

Nazir raced to his 50 off 35 balls by which time Afridi had contributed just four runs.

Afridi, however, was not to be overshadowed as he welcomed Scott Styris with a six and added three more in the bowler's second over.

He raced to his century with a six off Chris Harris and ended the game

with a lofted boundary off Ian Butler.

Leg-spinner Brooke Walker, playing his first match in the tournament, broke the opening stand with his third ball when he had Nazir caught behind by stand-in wicket-keeper Matthew Sinclair.

Walker also dismissed Yousuf Youhana for 24 to a catch in the slips, but Imzamm-ul Haq kept Afridi company till the match ended with 17.3 overs to spare.

New Zealand had themselves wasted an explosive start as Nathan Astle and Matt Horne hammered 75 for the first wicket off just 11.5 overs before Pakistan grabbed four wickets in the space of four runs.

Harris (35) and Styris (43) boosted the total, but the advantage lay with Pakistan as off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and seamer Wasim Akram grabbed three wickets each.

New Zealand's injury woes continued as frontline batsman Craig McMillan joined wicketkeeper Chris Nevin on the sidelines with a foot injury.

The Kiwis are already depleted by the absence of six injured players, including star all-rounder Chris Cairns, batsman Lou Vincent and main spinner Daniel Vettori.

Horne (27) and Astle (36) came good for the first time in the tournament, tearing apart the dreaded pace attack of Akram and captain Waqar Younis.

Saqlain put an end to the mayhem by removing both openers in successive overs.

Saqlain took a low return catch to get rid of Horne, while Waqar judged

a skier superbly at mid-on to remove Astle.

Tearaway Shoaib Akhtar knocked back Sinclair's stumps and when Jacob Oram was run out due to skipper Stephen Fleming's hesitation, New Zealand were reduced to 79-4.

Fleming himself was trapped leg-before by Abdul Razaq for 12, while Akram ended Harris' effort by having him trapped leg-before.

Andre Adams, making his first appearance in the tournament, hit 20 off 28 balls, including a six into the stands at long-on off Waqar.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the Sharjah Cup one-day international between New Zealand and Pakistan here on Monday:

**NEW ZEALAND:** 213 for nine in 50 overs (S Styris 43, N Astle 36, C Harris 35; S Mushtaq 3-26, W Akram 3-43)

**PAKISTAN**  
Nazir c Sinclair b Walker 57  
Afridi not out 108  
Youhana c Fleming b Walker 24  
Inzamam not out 18  
Extras: (lb-6, w-3, nb-1) 10  
Total: (For 2 wkts in 31.3 overs)217  
Fall of wickets: 1-101, 2-138

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tuffy	7	2	25	0
Butler	4.3	0	37	0
Adams	2	0	21	0
Styris	2	0	29	0
Walker	8	0	54	2
Harris	8	0	45	0

**Result: Pakistan won by eight wickets.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi.**

Ganguly laments let-offs



AFP, Georgetown

India skipper Sourav Ganguly said his team had missed an opportunity to put pressure on the West Indies following the Monday's drawn first Test.

"We had a chance to gain an upper hand when we reduced the West Indies to 44-3 on the first morning, but couldn't capitalise on it.

"One more wicket at that stage would have put the Test in a different perspective," said Ganguly, referring to a dropped catch that let Windies skipper Carl Hooper off the hook when on nought.

The tourists had to pay dearly for Deep Dasgupta's lapse as Hooper led a remarkable recovery, adding 113 for the fourth wicket with Rammaresh Sarwan (53) and a record 293 for the next with Shivnarine Chanderpaul (140).

Hooper went on to smash a brilliant 233 for his maiden Test double-century to help his team amass 501 in the first innings.

"We bowled pretty well in the first session of the Test, but dropped Hooper early in his innings. We just can't afford to miss such chances.

"We have to capitalise on them to put pressure on the opposition," said Ganguly."

Javagal Srinath had carved out an early opening for the tourists, removing openers Chris Gayle (12) and Stuart Williams (13), and prolific

run-getter Brian Lara for no score in his incisive spell.

The fast bowler, however, lacked support from the other end as neither leg-spinner Anil Kumble nor left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan could put pressure on the West Indian batsmen.

Kumble struggled to find rhythm as he grabbed two wickets for 145 off 45.1 overs and Zaheer 2-97 off 32, sending down 14 no-balls and one wide.

Indian coach John Wright said his team had to considerably improve bowling in the remaining four Tests so as to enhance chances of winning an away Test series.

"There was no support for Srinath," Wright said. "Somebody has to chip in from the other end. We need bowlers who can keep pressure from both the ends."

India missed top off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, ruled out due to a shoulder-injury sustained during a three-day game before the Test.

"Physio Andrew (Leipus) is confident Harbhajan will be fit for the next Test," said Wright.

The coach echoed the captain's sentiments, saying the team just could not afford to miss chances on a flat wicket.

"He (Dasgupta) has been improving of late, but has to bear in mind that in tight matches he has to grab chances. It's very important to take your chances, especially on a flat wicket," said Wright.

Wright said he had been looking forward to an improvement performance from his team in the second

Test, starting in Trinidad on Friday.

"We got a feel of the conditions in this Test. We made a decent start, considering that we had struggled in the opening Tests on tours of Sri Lanka and South Africa. Good that four of our six main batsmen clicked."

Hooper said his team could have done better in the Test despite scoring a big first-innings total.

"We've to improve our batting and bowling," he said. "We were struggling at 44-3 and then I also got a life early on. But that's cricket.

"Cuffy (Cameron) bowled really well, kept a good line and length. Dillon (Mervyn) just came off a knee injury. Probably, he didn't bowl as much as he wanted coming into the match. He looked a bit short of preparations. I'm sure we can do better."

Fast bowler Cuffy was the most successful bowler, finishing with 3-57 off 27 overs. He raised his team's hopes of enforcing a follow-on, dismissing Venkatsai Laxman and Sanjay Bangar to reduce the tourists to 275-7.

Rahul Dravid steered his team past the follow-on mark of 302 with an unbeaten 144, sharing a 120-run stand with tail-ender Sarandeep Singh (39 not out) to ensure a draw.

"We have to create more opportunities. We have to be aggressive and accurate in bowling," said West Indies coach Roger Harper.

UI IM's Chess Johannessen alone atop

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master (IM) Leif Erlend Johannessen of Norway earned a solo lead in the 6th United Insurance International Masters Chess Tournament with a win over IM Nilotpal Das of India in the sixth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Johannessen raised his tally to five points, half a point ahead of IM Reefat-bin-Sattar and Roktim Bandyopadhyay of India who have 4.5 points each after yesterday's round. Reefat and Roktim shared the points in this round.

IM Abdullah Al-Rakib, Nasir Ahmed, Fide Master (FM) Taibur Rahman, IM Neeraj Kumar Mishra and WIM Nisha Mohota of India were in the 3rd position with 4 points each.

The 7th round games will start at the same venue today at 4 pm.

Waugh opts for a break

AFP, Sydney

Deposed Australian one-day international Mark Waugh has opted against playing English county cricket this winter, his manager said Tuesday.

Manager Leo Karis said 36-year-old Waugh had decided to stay at home and have a break from cricket -- a break which he hopes will end with a tour to Pakistan in September.

Waugh, after being dropped last month from the one-day team along with his twin brother and former captain Steve, would have been a borderline selection for the cancelled tour of Zimbabwe.

Now he has to wait four months to find out if the national selectors still want him.

"Mark will be definitely staying at home this winter," Karis said Tuesday.

World Cup due

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Bangabandhu National Stadium where a friendly football match have been arranged between star of yesteryears of local giants Abahani and Mohammedan in celebration of the Cup's visit to Dhaka.

Finally the programme would conclude in the evening with a band show before the Cup heads back to Kolkata on the same night.

The World Cup is then scheduled to travel to the south Indian city of Chennai, Dubai in the UAE before returning to FIFA headquarters in Zurich.

Abahani made

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After the drawn first session, Shamim Reza finally struck the winner for Abahani in the 64th minute.

The sky blues earned as many as 21 penalty corners in the match but failed to convert any one of those.

In the other match of the day, Azad Sporting Club beat Dhaka Wanderers 3-2.

The winners led the first half 2-1. Zahid, Russel and Hosny Mubarak scored one goal each for the winners while Nayan and Iman reduced the margin for Wanderers.

Skipper Owen

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Eriksson said Owen was "surprised" when told the news and added: "He was the best footballer in Europe last year and I think he's a very clean and popular one inside and outside England.

"It's up to him to show that he's also a leader and I think he is.

"Michael Owen will be captain for the game tomorrow and then we'll see when David Beckham is back. Hopefully it will be for one game, because that means that Beckham is back.

"If Beckham is not back for the World Cup, which could happen, then I will think about it and see what we're going to do, if it's Michael or someone else in the squad."

Eriksson said there had been no further injury worries and everyone in the squad would be taking part in training on Tuesday afternoon.

He added that Paraguay's Italian coach Cesare Maldini had agreed to allow five or six substitutions in the game, and he would be contacting him later Tuesday to see if more would be possible.

The England coach had been hoping to play his strongest team at some stage on Wednesday but injuries to several players have not enabled him to do so.

"Unfortunately we have some important injuries but I think if you talk about Ashley Cole, Sol Campbell, Rio Ferdinand and Emile Heskey, they are short-term and will be back very soon," Eriksson said.

"It's not perfect to not be able in March or April to play your best team but I look forward to the game tomorrow and even more going to Dubai and starting the real preparation with the team and the squad and we can focus on the World Cup.

"We have already been unlucky so I hope we will avoid any more injuries. The players are tired and many clubs have important games to play, they are still fighting for something so that means tough games and a lot of stress."

India pass first muster



REUTERS, Georgetown

India captain Sourav Ganguly said his team had passed their first character Test in the Caribbean by fighting back after West Indies had piled up 501 in the first innings of the first Test.

India had scored 395 for seven, with Rahul Dravid 144 not out, before rain washed out Sunday's last session and the entire fifth day of play on Monday.

"I think we batted pretty well in the circumstances," Ganguly told reporters. "Things were not looking all that bright after we lost a few quick wickets but the batsmen responded to the challenge and we were still going with almost 400 already on the board in the end."

India had been reduced to 21 for two and then to 144 for four before Dravid shared in two vital partner-

ships with Vangipurappu Laxman (69) for the fifth wicket and with off-spinner Sarandeep Singh, who chipped in with a career-best 39 not out, for the eighth.

"It was the first Test of the series, and it's always difficult to do well right at the beginning on an away tour because you're not used to the conditions and the wickets," Ganguly said.

"Considering that, we are glad to put this match behind us. There are a lot of plusses for us on the batting front and we'll be looking to build from here."

Coach John Wright said the match had set the tone for a good, competitive series.

"It's a contest between two very keen sides, with very competitive players," he said.

"It should be a good, hard series and we're glad that four of our top six batsmen did well."

Tendulkar had scored a fiery 79, with 14 boundaries, and opener

Shiv Sundar Das looked good for his 33.

Dasgupta, who has been criticised for poor glove work in the past few months, was guilty of dropping three straightforward catches.

Wright said Dasgupta, who also opens the batting, had improved on his show against Zimbabwe at New Delhi last month.

"It was a big improvement from Delhi but we still have to analyse his work behind the wickets," he said. "I think the boys will play better as the tour progresses."

India's other wicketkeeping option is Ajay Ratna, who could be drafted into the side with all-rounder Sanjay Bangar, a regular opener in domestic cricket for Railways, promoted up the order.

"That is an option we have to talk about," Wright said. "Bangar bowled very well in this match and he's a valuable member of this team."

The sides head for Trinidad on Tuesday.