

Indonesian shuttlers' 5th in a row

AFP, Guangzhou

The all-conquering Indonesians sealed an unprecedented fifth successive Thomas Cup crown Sunday as they shattered Malaysian dreams with a dramatic come-from-behind 3-2 victory.

It had looked briefly as though underdogs Malaysia would finally wrest the coveted trophy from the grasp of the defending champions when they took a 2-1 lead.

But the Indonesians hit back to win the four-hour showdown and continue their monopoly of the coveted trophy -- the men's world team championship -- which has been in their sole possession since 1994.

World champion Hendrawan (eds: one name) was the hero as he outgunned Malaysian veteran Hashim M. Roslin 8-7, 7-2, 7-1 in the final match to clinch the Indonesians' 13th Thomas Cup win.

Head coach Christian Hindanatana confessed to being surprised his team had pull off the win.

"I didn't really expect to win back the Thomas Cup this year as we haven't really performed that well all year and Malaysia are a very strong side.

"So for us to win back the cup really exceeds all our expectations," he said.

Roared on by small pockets of vociferous Malaysian and Indonesian fans, the opening game of the final had seen a fired-up Malaysian world number five Wong Choong Hann blaze past Indonesian number one Marleve Mainaky 7-5, 7-5, 7-1 in 45 minutes.

Mainaky held his own during the rapid-fire exchanges at the net but found Wong's venomous left-handed smash too hot to handle as the Malaysian nicked the first game 7-5 before sweeping the second and third as the Indonesian crumbled under pressure.

Cup Corner

FROM PAGE 13 An opinion poll found that only six percent of Germans believe the national team will add to the country's three World Cup triumphs.

Conducted in the wake of Germany's 1-0 loss to a Wales side ranked 96th in the world on Tuesday, the poll found that 75 percent believe the team will fail to reach the quarter-finals.

Among Germans describing themselves as football fans, the pessimism was even greater, with 53 percent saying the team would not survive their group or would lose in the first knock-out stage.

What to watch

FROM PAGE 13 Live at 8:00 pm West Indies vs India Fifth Test, Day Four Live at 9:00 pm

Ctg win

FROM PAGE 13 night.

MSC 1: Sylhet Chaturanga 0 Earlier, Mohammedan Sporting Club's Indian recruit Basudev Mandal struck the all-important goal in the 14th minute of a dull and dreary encounter played in sweltering heat.

The Mohunbagan midfielder played a couple of one twos with striker Alfaz Ahmed before unleashing a powerful grounder into the left-hand post of Chaturanga custodian Munna.

It was Mohammedan's second win from three games. They had earlier trounced Chittagong Abahani 3-0 and went down to their bitter foes Abahani Krira Chakra by a single goal.

The defeat on the other hand completed a disappointing campaign for Chaturanga, who lost all three of their final round games.

The unheralded Sylhet side however got a golden chance to go level just before the break when Kamal came up with a neat placing shot but Mohammedan custodian Bijon brilliantly fisted the ball away for corner.

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India falter



REUTERS, Kingston

Sachin Tendulkar fell for 41 as India finished the second day of the deciding fifth Test on 141 for four in reply to the West Indies first innings of 422.

The 29-year-old Tendulkar, who had scores of 0, 0, 8 and 0 in his last four innings, looked to be bouncing back as he dispatched the pace quartet of Mervyn Dillon, Cameron Cuffy, Adam Sanford and Pedro Collins to all corners of Sabina Park.

But he was dismissed by Sanford when he got an inside edge to a slower delivery, dragging it on to his stumps as India slumped to 84 for three.

Cuffy struck soon after, having opener Shiv Das adjudged lbw for 33 by umpire Russell Tiffin to peg India further back to 86 for four. Television replays suggested Das might have been unlucky as the ball looked to be drifting down leg-side.

Captain Sourav Ganguly was steadying the innings on 22 at the close with Vangipurappu Laxman, who cracked 130 in the drawn fourth Test in Antigua last week, on 27.

India had won the second Test at Trinidad by 37 runs before West Indies hit back with a 10-wicket win at Barbados to level the series 1-1.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh earlier took five wickets for 138 to restrict West Indies after Ridley Jacobs and Shrivin Chanderpaul struck breezy half-centuries.

It was the 21-year-old Harbhajan's eighth five-wicket haul and the first overseas in his 25th Test. The bowler from the northern state of Punjab reached 100 Test wickets when he took his first wicket of the innings.

West Indies resumed on their overnight 287 for four but Carl Hooper departed early, caught for

17 by Dravid running back from first slip, when he failed to get his bat out of the way of a rising ball from Javagal Srinath.

It was only the second time this series that the 35-year-old, who had scores of 233, 50, 22, 115 and 136 coming into this match, has failed to pass 50. He now has an aggregate of 573 runs at an average of 95.5.

Chanderpaul reached 503 runs for the series with his 58, which came off 148 balls and included seven boundaries.

He shared in a 109-run stand for the sixth wicket with fellow left-hander Jacobs, who smashed a brisk 59 that featured two big sixes.

Harbhajan started the slide, bowling Jacobs with a delivery that kept low and then trapped Dillon lbw for no score.

Srinath had Chanderpaul caught behind before Harbhajan took his fifth wicket holding on to a skier at mid-on off his own bowling to dismiss Sanford for one.

Dillon struck the first two blows as India started their reply disastrously.

The Trinidadian first had Wasim Jaffer out for a duck, edging an outswinger to wicketkeeper Jacobs, and then had Dravid lbw with a ball that kept low after pitching outside off-stump.

Tendulkar came out firing, pulling Cuffy to the mid-wicket fence for four and driving Dillon for two straight fours.

The Bombay batsman, who had scored 117 at Trinidad to equal Australian Don Bradman's 29 Test centuries, then cut Dillon between slip and gully for a boundary and gloriously drove Sanford through the covers.

Das, who has a top-score of 35 in a forgettable series for him, joined in, cutting left-arm medium-pace Pedro Collins for two boundaries as the duo raised 69 for the third wicket.

Opener Wavell Hinds had cracked 113 to lead the West Indies

charge on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the fifth and final Test between India and West Indies at Sabina Park on Sunday:

WEST INDIES: First innings (over-

night 287-4)				
Chris Gayle c Jaffer b Zaheer	68			
Hinds c Jaffer b Harbhajan	113			
Sarwan c Das b Harbhajan	65			
Lara c Ratna b Nehra	9			
Hooper c Dravid b Srinath	17			
Chanderpaul c Ratna b Srinath	58			
Jacobs b Harbhajan	59			
Dillon lbw b Harbhajan	0			
Collins c Laxman b Nehra	12			
Sanford c and b Harbhajan	1			
Cuffy not out	0			
Extras: (b-5, lb-6, w-5, nb-4)	20			
Total: (All out in 132 overs)	422			

Fall of wickets: 1-111, 2-246, 3-264, 4-264, 5-292, 6-401, 7-409, 8-411, 9-422				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	32	9	111	2
Nehra	30	14	72	2
Zaheer	24	4	78	1
Ganguly	8	4	12	0
Harbhajan	39	3	138	5

INDIA: First innings				
Das lbw b Cuffy	33			
Jaffer c Jacobs b Dillon	0			
Dravid lbw b Dillon	5			
Tendulkar b Sanford	41			
Ganguly not out	22			
Laxman not out	27			
Extras: (lb-6, nb-7)	13			
Total: (For 4 wks in 46 overs)	141			
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-15, 3-84, 4-86				

To bat: Ajay Ratna, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Javagal Srinath, Ashish Nehra

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dillon	14	2	45	2
Cuffy	14	5	34	1
Collins	10	2	26	0
Sanford	7	1	25	1
Hooper	1	0	5	0

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

Turbanator glad



REUTERS, Kingston

Indian off-break bowler Harbhajan Singh was thrilled at picking up his maiden five-wicket haul overseas on an unfriendly track for spinners.

The 21-year-old, playing his 25th match, also completed 100 wickets in Test cricket when he had West Indies centurion Wavell Hinds caught in the deep in Saturday's last session.

"I'm happy I got my first overseas five-wicket haul in the Caribbean," Harbhajan said after the second day's play in the deciding fifth Test. "It was a good effort but I could have done even better."

Harbhajan went for 138 runs for his five scalps as West Indies piled up 422 in the first innings after being sent in to bat by Indian captain Sourav Ganguly on a green wicket that played a lot easier than had been forecast.

"We won the toss but there was nothing much in the wicket, especially for spinners. I was just trying to bowl line and length," Harbhajan said. "That finally paid dividends."

Harbhajan had been preferred to leg-break bowler Anil Kumble for the second and third Tests, a decision that Ganguly described as one of the toughest he has made as captain, but the off-spinner failed to contribute.

Kumble, India's most successful current bowler with 319 wickets in 70 Tests, was brought back for the fourth Test in Antigua but had to return home after a rising ball from Mervyn Dillon fractured his jaw.

Harbhajan, nicknamed Turbanator after grabbing 32



PHOTO: INTERNET

India's Harbhajan Singh bowls on the second day of the fifth and final Test against West Indies in Kingston on Sunday. The off-spinner took five wickets for 138 runs, his first 5-wkt haul overseas.

Australian wickets to lead India to a stunning 2-1 home series win

last year, said he was confident India would do well in the Test despite struggling at 141 for four.

"It's a five-day game, you can't make any prediction after the second day," he said. "We just need one good partnership in the morning. I'm very confident we will get at least 350-400."

Left-hander Ganguly is at the crease on 22 with Vangipurappu Laxman on 27 and Harbhajan felt their partnership would flourish.

"Sourav and Laxman should have a good partnership in the morning. Ajay Ratna is playing well too, hopefully he'll get some runs," he said.

The Sikh from the northern state of Punjab, who has been in poor batting form in the series, said he was looking forward to contributing with the bat as well.

"I'm definitely due," Harbhajan said. "I'm practising hard in the nets and I want to make sure I get some runs in this match. I want to prove what I'm capable of doing to my critics, who have been saying that I can't bat."

He is also looking to have another crack at the West Indies batting line-up.

"I think this wicket is going to turn on the fourth day. If that happens, it will be good for me and consequently for the team as well."

Liverpool not interested

AFP, London

English Premiership giants Liverpool on Monday decided not to sign on-loan striker Nicolas Anelka from French club Paris Saint Germain.

Anelka, who was left out of Roger Lemerre's World Cup squad in favour of Auxerre's Djibril Cisse, joined Liverpool in December following Robbie Fowler's departure to Leeds.

"After a lot of thought we've decided not to make Nicolas Anelka's move from Paris St Germain a permanent one," said a Liverpool statement posted on their official website.

"This was a difficult decision and we know that Nicolas will be very disappointed, but the manager (Gerard Houllier) has always had to do what he thinks is best for the club and the development of the team."

"We finished the season as runners-up and want to pay tribute to the part Nicolas played in that achievement during his loan spell at Anfield."

"Everyone at the club now wishes him well for the future."

Liverpool might now look at other alternatives to replace Anelka.

Dutch star Patrick Kluivert is one of the possible targets for Houllier, although the Barcelona star is expected to want similar wages if he is to be prised away from the Nou Camp.

West Ham striker Frederic Kanoute has also been linked with a move to Anfield.

He admitted last week that Liverpool officials had already approached him about a possible move.

The French striker said the prospect of playing regular European football with the Merseysiders was a major draw.

Kanoute, 24, who joined West Ham from Lyon two years ago, is rated at around 10 million pounds (14.6 million dollars).

Kanoute, a former France under-21 international, told Liverpool's official website last week: "It's true, I had contact."

"Liverpool sound interested and I am too, even though I'm happy at West Ham and still have a two-year contract. But Liverpool are a club who regularly play for top places," he said.

Runners can rest

REUTERS, London

Rest days before the finals of all events longer than 200 metres and all field events apart from the shot put have been introduced in the timetable for next year's Paris World Championships.

The timetable, released by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) on Monday, gives athletes the chance to double in the 100 and 200 metres, the 800 and 1,500 and the 5,000 and 10,000.

The championships start on August 23 and conclude on August 31.

Serena thanks WTA Tour

AFP, Rome

Serena Williams said Sunday she was happy with the way that tennis chiefs were dealing with the stalker who has pestered her at recent tournaments.

Serena, who beat Justine Henin of Belgium 7-6, 6-4 to lift the 182,000 dollar first prize in the WTA Masters Series tournament here, was speaking the day after a German man was arrested at the Foro Italico.

"Fortunately enough the WTA Tour has been able to put a lot of signs out, a lot of pictures (of the stalker)," said Serena. "Obviously security is something very important for all of us."

"The Tour has done a great job, letting me know just what I need to know - and my mom and my management. I feel safe when I'm travelling. Hopefully I'll continue feeling this way."

The man from Bremen, identified by the initials A.S. and aged 34, was spotted by security staff who had been shown photos of a man identified as a pest to Serena and her sister Venus.

For a year the man has been sending e-mails to Serena asking to meet her and kiss her and has followed her to two tournaments in the United States as well as attending the Berlin Open last week where he was also prevented from talking to the sisters.

He was arrested and taken to a police station to be formally identified. No charges have been laid against the individual.

The stalking problem is not a new one for the WTA circuit with Steffi Graf and Martina Hingis both being pestered in the past, the latter having to go to court to testify against her tormenter.

American Monica Seles was once sidelined for more than two years after being stabbed on court by a deranged admirer of Graf in Hamburg who wanted his favourite to return to world number one at the expense of Seles.



PHOTO: STAR

Collyburn (R) and Daniel, the two Nigerians who have come here to play for Dhaka Abahani in the Nitol-Tata National Football League.

Sanath's costly misses



REUTERS/AFP, London

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya twice dropped Michael Vaughan as the tourists failed to make early inroads on the fourth day of the first Test here at Lord's on Sunday.

England, following on, were not yet out of trouble at 147 without loss in their second innings, still 133 short of Sri Lanka's first innings 555 for eight declared. But their lunch situation should have been far worse.

Instead Vaughan was 74 not out (he eventually scored a century) off 152 balls including 13 fours and Marcus Trescothick 66 not out off 117 balls with seven boundaries.

In the first over of the day,

Vaughan began with an uppish square driven four through the vacant gully area off paceman Buddika Fernando.

Fernando's second ball was then stroked in far more convincing fashion to the extra-cover boundary.

But the third ball was edged by Vaughan to first slip where the normally safe hands of Jayasuriya floored the routine chance.

Vaughan was then 28, England 61 without loss, and a wicket then may have sparked a collapse.

To add insult to Fernando's injury, Vaughan then scored another four off the next ball, the crowd in a half-full Lord's certainly getting value for money.

And, soon afterwards, Yorkshire's Vaughan had another escape when, on 33, he nicked Nuwan Zoysa and Jayasuriya again

Wilson may play cricket again

AP, Wellington

New Zealand Cricket plans to make room for Jeff Wilson, the country's record rugby union try-scorer-44 in 60 Tests -- who retired Sunday to regain international status in cricket.

NZC on Monday said it may take the opportunity to invite the former one-day all-rounder to join eight or 10 World Cup hopefuls for a four-day camp at its new winter base in Darwin, Australia in early June.

New Zealand's one-day team will be touring the West Indies at the time.

Selectors' chairman Sir Richard Hadlee said everything will be done to help Wilson make the transition back to cricket and he did not rule out the possibility of inviting Wilson to join the group in Darwin.

However, he said they didn't want to hurry the 29-year-old Wilson, who last played top-level cricket in 1996-97 for Otago.

"We can't rush these things, there is a process to go through but it (Darwin) may be something that is tossed about," Hadlee said.

"We'll certainly offer him the use of the High Performance Center (in Christchurch) and the coaches, but anything else might be too tough and not fair."

Wilson played four one-day internationals against Australia in 1994 when his bowling was rated slightly superior to his batting.

In 26 first-class games for Otago he scored 980 runs at 22.27 and took 93 wickets at 22.32, with a best of five for 34.

dropped a regulation slip catch.

Then, when he was on 41, Vaughan appeared fortunate in seeing Fernando's lbw appeal to former India off-spinner Srinivasaraghavan Venkataraghavan rejected.

Jayasuriya brought himself on to bowl, in the hope that his left-arm spin would succeed where pace had failed.

But neither batsman was unduly troubled and, for the first time in the match, Sri Lanka looked to be missing injured spearhead off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

Trescothick and Vaughan's stand surpassed the previous England first wicket record against Sri Lanka of 101 set in Galle in 2000-01 where Somerset left-hander Trescothick was partnered by Michael Atherton.

Sato takes WBA title

AFP, Saitama

Japanese challenger Osamu Sato knocked out defending champion Yoddamrong Singwangcha of Thailand in the eighth round to take the World Boxing Association (WBA) super bantamweight title here on Saturday.

The Japanese challenger, ranked sixth in the WBA, sent the champ to the canvas twice in the seventh round and delivered the knock-out blow one minute and 58 seconds into the eighth.

"I was able to win today, but he was a very tough champion," said Sato.

"In the beginning, I was perplexed with his speedy, short punches and I couldn't get into my rhythm. I could hear my coach's advice, but I couldn't move well at all."

"I tried to hit his body in the latter rounds and I felt I did him some damage in the sixth round. I just tried to calm myself down in the following rounds to give him more damage," he added.

Sato connected with several lefts to the body in the first of the 12 scheduled rounds.

But the champion's left hooks combined with left jabs and sudden straight rights to the face made him the early favourite.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 — de deux	DOWN	23 Stir-fry vessel
1 Float like a butterfly	40 Venetian blind parts	1 Excessive criticism	24 Infuriation
5 Suitable	43 Snooper's place	2 Rickey ingradient	25 Renum- orallon
8 Sonso	47 Pennsylvanian, metaphorically	3 Brit's cry of surprise	26 Tease
12 Simpson daughter	49 Mr. Sharif (Pref.)	5 "Chicago Hope" actor	27 Buckeyes'
13 Old Olds	50 Personal (Pref.)	6 Bird sound	28 Bronzo component
14 Take on cargo	51 Thanks-giving abbr.	7 Playing bottle	29 Additional ph.
15 "Walk Like —"	52 Ashcroft's predecessor	8 Large bottle	31 Sandy's remark
16 Bogart film	53 "Death in Venice" author	9 Deserve	34 Crick co-worker
18 Stage-hands' foreman	54 Lamb dam	10 Advantage	35 Eject
20 Choreographer de Mille	55 Tackles' team-mates	11 Summer babies	36 Dave's competition
21 Author Deighton		17 Trump's love	37 On the beach
22 Upcrao		19 Scarlet	39 Annoyance
23 Used a paper towel		22 —	40 Read cursorily
26 Central principle			41 Mother of Clytemnestra
30 — pro nobis			42 18th-century Hebrew letter
31 Melody			43 Recognize
32 Pack count			44 Portent
33 Explanatory term			45 Crow's nest
36 Pleasure trip			46 Piccadilly statue
38 Wieder-seeder			48 Indivisible

Solution time: 27 mins.

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