

Dillon bucked up by Lara

West Indies pace spearhead Mervyn Dillon said that a few words from team mate Brian Lara helped him to pick up his first five-wicket haul in a test match for more than four years.

The Trinidadian finished with career-best figures of five for 71 as India were bowled out for 212 in their first innings on the third day of the deciding fifth test. West Indies reached the close on 165 for seven, ahead of 375 runs.

"Brian Lara had a chat with the guys yesterday and he said a few things that really helped me take a step in the right direction," Dillon said.

"It will help all of the guys over the next two days of this crucial Test." Monday's effort was Dillon's second five-wicket haul in a Test, his previous best was a burst of five for 111 against Pakistan in Karachi in December 1997.

"Thankfully this one is out of the way," he said. "I've got quite a few four-wicket hauls, I was looking to get five here and things worked out for me."

The 27-year-old has picked up a personal best 22 wickets in the series, and said he was responding to the pressure of being West Indies' main strike bowler after the retirements of Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose last year.

"I've been working very hard," said Dillon. "There is a lot of pressure on me being the senior fast bowler in the team. I have been bowling a lot more consistently."

Dillon, playing in his 26th Test, took his wicket tally to 98 and is now getting close to his three-figure target.

"The 100-mark is in the pipeline. That's going to happen, I just hope it's sooner rather than later. But my concern right now is to try to get India out again."

Masum leads

FROM PAGE 13 Azad Sporting Club on the basis of a better run rate after rain had affected proceedings. Put in to bat, Sadharan Bima made 171 for the loss of nine wickets in 50 overs. Middle-order Tuhin top-scored with 58 with the help of seven fours. Azad replied with 139 for nine in 42 overs when rain eventually stopped play.

What to watch

FROM PAGE 13 Futbol Mundial Repeat at 9:00 am Soccer World Cup Heroes Eusebio Repeat at 3:00 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm West Indies vs India Fifth Test, Day Five Live at 9:00 pm

Ruchira

FROM PAGE 13 because his bowling arm had been permanently bent since birth. In 1998 Kumar Dharmasena was also cited. Both were subsequently cleared. Last August, Suresh Perera (no relation) was reported but cleared by a Sri Lankan panel. But bowlers from other countries including England's James Kirtley and Australia's Brett Lee have had their actions called into questions. Apart from Muralitharan, the highest profile case of recent times has involved Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar. He was reported twice within the space of a year and underwent remedial work with former West Indies paceman Michael Holding. He too was cleared after medical evidence that his action was the result of an abnormally flexible elbow.

England stymie SL



AFP, London

Mark Butcher's hundred was the cornerstone of England's resistance as they drew with Sri Lanka in the first Test of their three match series here at Lord's on Monday. England captain Nasser Hussain eventually called a halt after 12 hours and 44 minutes of defiance, his team reaching 529 for five declared.

That left Sri Lanka needing a highly improbable 250 for victory with just over an hour of the final session remaining after they had piled up 555 for eight declared in their first innings.

The tourists lost first innings centurion and man-of-the-match Marvan Atapattu for seven when he was caught at short backward square leg by Butcher off Andrew Caddick.

Come the finish on the fifth and final day when they had made 42 for one with Kumar Sangakkara six not out and Mahela Jayawardene 14 not out.

The result meant that Sri Lanka failed to win what would have been their tenth successive Test victory.

It also maintained their record of failing to win in the 12 Tests where they have been without Muttiah Muralitharan since the off-spinner made his debut in 1992.

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya said: "We scored over 500 runs, bowled well and fielded well."

"I'm not surprised by the result. Our batsmen are experienced and they played well."

Murali, watching from the pavilion after shoulder treatment in Australia, might have disrupted England's progress as they serenely moved to safety.

And Jayasuriya admitted: "You never know, it might have been a different story (if Muralitharan had played)."

He also defended the defensive field placings he employed on Monday. "We had a plan. I didn't want to give away any more runs."

Hussain said both his batsmen and bowlers had shown a lack of discipline.

"To be 275 all out (England's first innings score) on a flat one against Sri Lanka without Muralitharan is not good enough."

Turning to his bowlers, Hussain added that while they had been forced to operate on a good batting wicket, they had nevertheless under-performed.

"The bowlers didn't show the disciplines needed," said Hussain.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards at stumps on the fifth and final day of the first Test between England and Sri Lanka here at Lord's on Monday: SRI LANKA: First innings 555-8 dec (M Atapattu 185, M Jayawardene 107, A de Silva 88, R Arnold 50; D Cork 3-93)



England's Mark Butcher dabs the ball for quick single to reach his century during the first Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's on Monday.

ENGLAND: First Innings 275 (M Vaughan 64, N Hussain 57; R Perera 3-48, B Fernando 3-83) ENGLAND: Second Innings (321-2 overnight)

Trescothick lbw b Zoysa 76 Vaughan c Sangakkara b Perera 115 Hussain lbw b Perera 68 Thorpe c Fernando b de Silva 65 Crawley not out 41 Stewart not out 26 Extras: (b-1, lb-9, w-1, nb-22) 33 Total (for 5wks dec) 529

Fall of wickets: 1-168, 2-213, 3-372, 4-432, 5-483 Did not bat: A Flintoff, D Cork, A Caddick, M Hoggard

BOWLING O M R W Vaas 44 8 113 0

Zoysa 34 6 84 1 Perera 30 4 90 2 De Silva 27 7 63 1 Fernando 26 1 96 0 Jayasuriya 25 6 66 0 Arnold 4 1 7 0 Tillekeratne 1 1 0 0 SRI LANKA: Second Innings Atapattu c Butcher b Caddick 7

Sangakkara not out 6 Jayawardene not out 14 Extras: (b-5, lb-2, nb-8) 15 Total (for 1wkt) 42

Fall of wickets: 1-16 Did not bat: S Jayasuriya, A de Silva, R Arnold, H Tillekeratne, C Vaas, N Zoysa, B Fernando, R Perera

BOWLING O M R W Caddick 7 2 10 1 Flintoff 5 0 18 0 Hoggard 1 0 7 0

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Aus), Srinivasaraghavan Venkatraghavan (Ind)

Third umpire: Jeremy Lloyds (Eng) Match referee: Gundappa Viswanath (Ind)

Result: Match drawn

Formers in frustration

AFP, Melbourne

Former Test cricketers Damien Fleming and Colin Miller's first-class careers look over after Victoria failed to offer them playing contracts for next season.

Fleming, 32, and Miller, 38, have almost 150 Test wickets between them but have been overlooked by state selectors as Victoria continues with its youth policy.

The news is a blow for the pair after they were denied contracts by the Australian Cricket Board earlier this month.

Victorian Cricket Association chief executive officer Ken Jacobs said overlooking the experienced pair was a difficult decision for selectors.

"The selectors have advised me of the difficulty of the decisions. However they believe they have acted in the best long-term interests of the Victorian cricket team," Jacobs said in a statement.

"Obviously it is extremely disappointing for the players concerned. It is important to note that circumstances can and do change over the course of a season, therefore the opportunity is always there for players to remain in selection contention."

Fleming endured a season plagued by injury, while Miller, the Australian Test player of the year little more than 12 months ago, was overlooked by selectors.

Victoria finished second-last in the last Sheffield Shield competition.

French Open Lleyton, Jennifer named top seeds

AP/BBC, Paris

Lleyton Hewitt and Jennifer Capriati will be the top seeds at the French Open starting next week.

Hewitt will be followed in the men's seedings by Marat Safin, Tommy Haas and Andre Agassi in the seeding that mirror the ATP entry system rankings. Three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten is seeded seventh after slipping in this year's rankings following an injury.

The French Open, the only Grand Slam tournament played on clay, runs from May 27 though June 9.

Hewitt, the U.S. Open champion, lost to Safin in the quarterfinals of the Hamburg Masters last week. Safin was defeated in the final by Roger Federer, who is seeded eighth at Roland Garros. Agassi withdrew from Hamburg following his victory at the Italian Open the week before.

Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov is seeded fifth, followed by Tim Henman and Kuerten.

Capriati, the defending champion, will be the top seed based on her No. 1 spot in the WTA Tour world rankings.

SEEDINGS

Men 1. Lleyton Hewitt, Aus, 2. Marat Safin, Rus, 3. Tommy Haas, Ger, 4. Andre Agassi, USA, 5. Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Rus, 6. Tim Henman, GB, 7. Gustavo Kuerten, Bra, 8. Roger Federer, Swt, 9. Thomas Johansson, Swe, 10. Sebastian Grosjean, Fra, 11. Juan Carlos Ferrero, Spa, 12. Pete Sampras, USA, 13. Andy Roddick, USA, 14. Jiri Novak, Cze Rep, 15. Guillermo Canas, Arg, 16. Younes El Aynaoui, Mor.

Women

1. Jennifer Capriati, USA, 2. Venus Williams, USA, 3. Serena Williams, USA, 4. Kim Clijsters, Bel, 5. Justine Henin, Bel, 6. Monica Seles, USA, 7. Jelena Dokic, Yug, 8. Sandrine Testud, Fra, 9. Silvia Farina Elia, Ita, 10. Amelie Mauresmo, Fra, 11. Daniela Hantuchova, Slo, 12. Meghann Shaughnessy, USA, 13. Elena Dementieva, Rus, 14. Iroda Tulyaganova, Uzb, 15. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Spa, 16. Barbara Schett, Aus.

PCB remains upbeat



AFP, Karachi

New Zealand cricket authorities have remained non-committal about playing in a tri-series one-day tournament in Pakistan planned for August this year, a Pakistani official said Tuesday.

New Zealand cut short a tour of Pakistan earlier this month when a terror bomb blast near their hotel killed 14 people, including 11 French nationals.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director Munawwar Rana told the news agency that New Zealand Cricket (NZC) had written to express appreciation of the arrangements on the tour before it had to be aborted.

"NZC has appreciated the

arrangements on the tour through a letter and if the affected board is so supportive we feel its a welcome sign," Rana said.

"The board, management and all the players are unanimous that the PCB provided the best security and it would not be reasonable to hold PCB responsible for the mishap," he quoted the letter as saying.

"Whether they tour Pakistan is a subsidiary issue and we have not discussed the matter with the NZC but would take it up once the dust settles down," Rana said.

Australia are also scheduled to take part in the one-day tournament in August and September ahead of three Tests against Pakistan in October, but several top Australian players have expressed fears for their security.

Australia's Test captain Steve Waugh, however, has said he would

tour if the Australian Cricket Board gave the go-ahead.

"Steve Waugh's statement is also very positive and we would want the cricket world to allow us some time and let us fulfil our commitment to host positive cricket," Rana said.

Pakistan cricket has been badly hit in the wake of the September 11 attacks on the United States and Washington's reprisals against neighbouring Afghanistan.

New Zealand's aborted tour was originally scheduled for September-October last year before being postponed, while Sri Lanka refused to tour Pakistan for a makeshift one-day series two months later.

Pakistan had to play its home series against the West Indies on neutral grounds in Sharjah earlier this year because of West Indian concerns over security.

Another rejection for banned Malik



AFP, Karachi

A Pakistan court has dismissed former cricket captain Salim Malik's appeal against a life ban from the game for match-fixing, court sources said Tuesday.

"The court has dismissed Malik's revision appeal and the full judgement will be released later in the evening," a Lahore High Court official told the news agency.

Lahore High Court judge Justice Karamat Nazir Bhandani accepted the appeal hearing last year after a civil court rejected the application.

In May, 2000, the Pakistan Cricket Board banned Malik from playing cricket at any level and holding any office after implementing recommendations of a match-fixing inquiry conducted by Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum.

The Qayyum inquiry, conducted between September 1998 and October 1999, found evidence of Malik's involvement and also recommended a life ban for former pacer Ataur Rehman and fined six others including current captain Waqar Younis.



SALIM MALIK

Malik, 37, who played 103 Tests and 283 one-day internationals for Pakistan until 1999, refused to comment on the decision.

However, his lawyer Raja Jahanzeb Akhtar said he and his client were disappointed.

"We are very disappointed because the life ban was imposed without giving Malik a chance to clarify his position," said Akhtar.

"We would definitely fight till the last and take the matter to the Supreme court because there is no justification in banning Malik on the basis of an inquiry," he said.

Malik was first accused of involvement in match fixing by Australian trio Shane Warne, Mark Waugh and Tim May who alleged he offered them bribes to underperform during Australia's matches on the 1994-95 tour of Pakistan.

Malik's name also featured in an Indian match fixing inquiry released in November 2000 while former South African captain Hansie Cronje also linked him with match fixing.

Cronje and India's Mohammad Azharuddin are two other captains serving life bans for match fixing.

The match-fixing scandal has rocked cricket since 1994, prompting the International Cricket Council to form an anti-corruption unit to curb the menace.

It's Chander-wall again

FROM PAGE 13

Earlier, Dillon had carved out a fine opening for his team to win the five-Test series currently tied at 1-1 with a sharp opening spell, accounting for Ganguly (36), Ajay Ratna (3) and Harbhajan Singh (4).

Laxman alone defied the West Indies pace attack with his sensible batting, but received no support as wickets kept falling from the other end.

He farmed the bowling for 44 minutes after nine wickets had fallen for 197, but could not help his team cross the follow-on mark of 223 as Ashish Nehra failed to beat a Sarwan direct-hit to the striker's end while trying to give his partner the strike.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards at stumps on the third day of the fifth and final Test between India and the West Indies at the Sabina Park here on Monday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 422 (W Hinds 113, Gayle 68, Sarwan 65, Jacobs 59, Chanderpaul 58; Harbajan 5-138)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 141-4)

Das lbw b Cuffy 33 Jaffer c Jacobs b Dillon 0 David lbw b Dillon 5 Tendulkar b Sanford 41 Ganguly c Jacobs b Dillon 36 Laxman not out 65

Ratra c Hinds b Dillon 3 Harbajan c Hinds b Dillon 4 Zaheer c Lara b Cuffy 6

Srinath c Gayle b Collins 2 Nehra run out 0

Extras: (nb-11, lb-6) 17 Total: (all out in 75 overs) 212

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-15, 3-84, 4-86, 5-168, 6-178, 7-184, 8-194, 9-197

BOWLER O M R W Dillon 24 4 71 5 Cuffy 22 5 49 2

Collins 19 2 54 1 Sanford 9 1 27 1 Hooper 1 0 5 0

WEST INDIES: Second Innings Gayle c Ganguly b Srinath 15 Hinds c Laxman b Srinath 6

Sarwan c Das b Zaheer 12 Lara b Zaheer 35 Hooper c Ratra b Zaheer 6

Chanderpaul not out 55 Jacobs c sub (Mongia) b Harbajan 16 Dillon b Nehra 4

Collins not out 4 Extras: (nb-8, b-4) 12 Total (for 7 wks) 165

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-24, 3-38, 2-46, 5-81, 6-117, 7-122

BOWLING O M R W Srinath 13 2 39 2 Nehra 9 2 23 1

Zaheer 16 2 60 3 Harbhajan 16 2 39 1

Umpires: David Shepherd (Eng) and Russell Tiffin (Zim) Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (Sri)

World Team Cup

Germany gun Russia down



AP, Duesseldorf

Germany surprised Russia 2-1 in the first round of the World Team Cup on Monday, while Argentina defeated Sweden 2-1.

Tommy Haas beat former French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-6, 6-3 and Nicolas Kiefer secured the victory for Germany when he beat Marat Safin 6-4, 2-6, 7-6.

"Losing becomes a habit, but I have to deal with it," Kafelnikov said. "I've been there before, and hopefully I'll get through it again."

Kiefer, who had lost 13 of 16 matches this year coming into the World Team Cup, beat Safin the day after he lost in the final of the tournament in Hamburg.

"It was difficult to play, coming from Hamburg," Safin said. "I had my opportunities and I tried, but I wasn't good enough to beat him, even though I had the match in my hands."

"I was a break up in the first set and a break up in the third, but I couldn't make it."

The Russians gained some consolation when Kafelnikov and Safin teamed to crush Karsten Braasch and Lars Burgsmuller 6-1, 6-1.

Thomas Enqvist won the opening match for Sweden, but took 2 hours, 15 minutes to defeat Jose Acasuso 4-6, 6-1, 7-6. Acasuso was playing for Juan Ignacio Chela, who withdrew with an inflamed knee.

Guillermo Canas made it 1-1 by beating Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson 6-2, 4-6, 6-0.

Argentina took the deciding doubles when Lucas Arnold and Gaston Ellis saved a match point to beat Jonas Bjorkman and Johansson 6-3, 6-7, 11-9.

The format for the event, celebrating its 25th year, consists of two groups of four teams. The winners of each group advance to Saturday's final.

Meghann sails

AP, STRASBOURG

American Meghann Shaughnessy beat countrywoman Jennifer Hopkins 7-5, 6-0 Monday in the first round of the 170,000 dollars Strasbourg Open.

Slovenia's Tina Pisnik, who beat Lilia Osterloh of the United States 6-4, 6-2, will play top-seeded Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia in the second round. Dokic had a first-round bye.

Also, Jelena Kostanic of Croatia defeated seventh-seeded Daja Bedanova of the Czech Republic 4-6, 7-5, 6-4; sixth-seeded Lisa Raymond of the United States topped Celine Beigbeder of France 4-6, 7-6, 6-3; and Anca Barna of Germany downed Virginie Razzano of France 7-6, 6-1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 28 One-celled organism (Var.) 30 Part of UNLV 33 Famous game show 36 "Bye!" 37 Linger 38 Michellio Gellar or Jessica Parker 39 Tom Joad, e.g. 40 Absolutely 41 "Waking — Devine" 12 Dominion

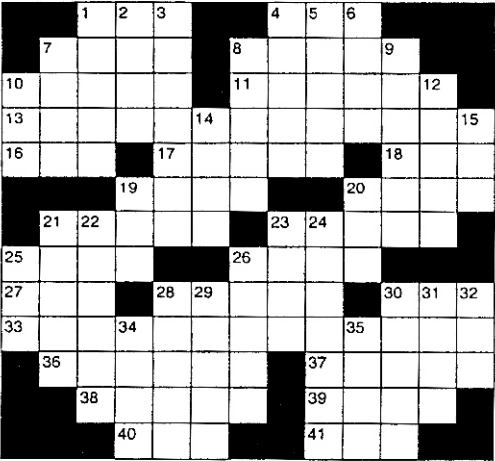
DOWN 1 Kentucky prize 2 Congers 3 Rejuvenate 4 Burn with steam 5 Spring sign 6 Festive occasion 7 Lass 8 Angio-plasty insert 9 Teen's hangup? 10 Mimic 11 Mimic

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: 1 BET SPIDERS WOULD BE UNPARALLELED OUTFIELDERS. THEY'RE WONDERFUL FLY CATCHERS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals P

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, I 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.



CRYPTOQUIP

LD AIBSSNHV BPE BT KBCCOVO EB VOE QXIINOAA QD WBH SPE ERO ROXIE

LOTBIO ERO KBPIWO Yesterday's Cryptquip: 1 BET SPIDERS WOULD BE UNPARALLELED OUTFIELDERS. THEY'RE WONDERFUL FLY CATCHERS.

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CUP CORNER

FROM PAGE 13

on May 31, with the final game scheduled on June 30 in Yokohama, south of Tokyo.

Germany will host the next World Cup finals in 2006. During his visit, Rau will meet with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on July 1 before meeting with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on July 2, the Japanese foreign ministry said.

The president will also visit the ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto. "The government of Japan sincerely welcomes the visit of the president and Mrs. Rau, which will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany," the ministry said.

VERON PREFERS ERIKSSON TO FERGIE

London

Juan Veron opined that Sven Goran Eriksson is a better manager than Alex Ferguson, adding he prefers Eriksson's calm approach to the "strong words" of his Old Trafford boss Fergie, The Sun reported.

The Manchester United midfielder stated: "Eriksson is the same person in the dressing room as outside. "Ferguson will challenge the team with strong words, which is not Eriksson's way."

"For me, the best coach is the one who is best at building his relationship with his players, so they feel at ease and supported."

"You need more than just a coach, you also need a friend, to perform to the best of your ability. There aren't many like that but it is the mark of Eriksson."

The Argentina ace, who played for the Swede at Sampdoria and Lazio and cost United J28.1 million, added: "Eriksson was very important to me - almost like a father figure when I first came to Europe."

"I had to live on my own for the first time. "Sven was a big help during that period. For the first six months, he protected me."

"I wasn't having a good time on the field and he provided a calmness for me."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Inspector General of Police Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury handing over the trophy to the captain of the Metropolis Police team who won the annual handball championship at the Rajabagh Police Lines Ground yesterday.