

Glenn's Ashes century

AFP, Brisbane

Glenn McGrath claimed another milestone in his distinguished cricket career by reaching 100 Ashes Test wickets after starring again for Australia in the first Test against England here on Saturday.

McGrath claimed 4-87 as the Australians bowled out England for 325 to claim a 167-run first innings lead and a stranglehold on the match.

McGrath has now taken 407 career Test wickets in his 88th Test match and was instrumental in England being virtually shut out of the Test.

But McGrath said his new-ball bowling partner Jason Gillespie deserved a much of the credit for his wickets on Saturday.

"He's definitely up there," McGrath said when asked where Gillespie ranked among the world's bowlers.

"I think he's probably been the pick of our bowlers for quite some time without the success. I think taking wickets will be something that he'll learn how to do.

"But if he keeps going as well as he has been he'll take plenty of wickets, so it's good for the future of Australian cricket."



PHOTO: AFP

England's John Crawley plays the ball on the off-side on the third day of the first Ashes Test in Brisbane yesterday.

Aussies take charge



AFP, Brisbane

Australia were tightening the noose on England and looking to bat them out of the opening Ashes Test after dismissing the tourists for a 167-run first innings lead at the Gabba here on Saturday.

Steve Waugh's team took charge of the first of five Tests by bowling England out for 325 in their first innings and then amassing a 278-run lead with eight wickets in hand by the close.

At stumps, the Australians were 111 for two with Matthew Hayden and Damien Martyn both on 40 and two days' play remaining to gain a result.

"We have a 270-run lead and the pitch is starting to deteriorate and it will only get worse with cracks starting to open up, so it's going to be tough work (for England) from here on in," Australian pace ace Glenn McGrath said.

With the wear and tear of the wicket champion leg-spinner Shane Warne is expected to be in his element at his favoured Gabba ground where he has taken 48 wickets at an average of just over 21.

Andy Caddick gave the tourists some early optimism by removing Justin Langer (22) and first-innings centurion Ricky Ponting (3) in the first 13 overs but in-form Hayden continued to prove a massive obstacle.

Hayden, who made Nasser Hussain's men pay dearly for three lives on his way to 197 in the first innings, shared in an unbroken 72-run partnership with Martyn and they have set the platform for a possible innings declaration of

around 450 by tea on Sunday's fourth day.

England have never won an Ashes Test scoring beyond 332 runs in the fourth innings of a match.

Caddick produced two super deliveries to dislodge Langer and Ponting.

Langer could only edge a shooter to wicketkeeper Alec Stewart and Ponting got a wicked one short of a length which he gloved to Marcus Trescothick at first slip.

John Crawley played a fighting rearguard with an unbeaten 69 as England lost their last eight wickets for 155 after resuming on Saturday at 158 for one.

Crawley, who had a mediocre 23 Ashes average batting in Australia, showed plenty of fighting spirit to repulse Australia's new-ball bowlers McGrath and Jason Gillespie to post his ninth Test half-century.

With fast bowler Simon Jones on crutches and unable to bat because of a serious knee injury, England were reduced to nine wickets and they were all out at tea.

McGrath and Gillespie unhinged the England batting with inspired spells after lunch.

Gillespie, bowling impressively at full tilt after overcoming a calf injury on Friday, got the big wickets of Hussain (51) and Stewart (0) in the space of three balls while McGrath removed Craig White (12).

Ashley Giles became Andy Bichel's first of two wickets when he nicked to Gilchrist for 13.

McGrath finished the innings with four wickets adding the scalp of White to his earlier dismissals of Mark Butcher, Trescothick and Michael Vaughan.

England added 12 runs before Butcher sliced chest-high to Hayden in the gully off McGrath's first delivery of his third over on the day.

Nat'l Games for disabled on

UNB, Dhaka

The third National Games of Special Olympics for disabled athletes began at the Dhanmondi National Women's Sports Complex on Friday to select players for the World Special Olympics to be held in Dublin, Ireland next June.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman formally inaugurated the meet yesterday.

About 200 athletes from all over the country are taking part in the games.

Among them, 30 will be selected for the world meet.

JU cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

History recorded a 34-run victory over Physics in the inter-department cricket tournament of Jahangirnagar University at the Central playground yesterday.

Batting first, History scored 128 runs for six wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

Aziz and Jami scored 22 and 20 runs respectively.

In reply, Physics were all out for 94 runs. Faruq top scored with 29.

Guided by Gayle

FROM PAGE 13 before being stumped off part-time spinner Gayle.

India were struggling at 20-2 after being put in to bat when Laxman added 128 for the third wicket with Ganguly (78) and 105 for the fifth with Rahul Dravid (51).

Ganguly also completed 8,000 runs during his 99-ball knock to become the ninth-highest run-getter in one-day internationals.

Ganguly's onslaught eased the pressure after hard-hitting opener Virender Sehwag (11) and pinch-hitter Ajit Agarkar (6) had fallen cheaply, but his team still failed to defend a challenging total.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Ashes Test between Australia and England at the Gabba on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 492 (M Hayden 197, R Ponting 123, S Warne 57; A Giles 4-101, A Caddick 3-108)

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 158-1)

Trescothick c Ponting b McGrath 72  
Vaughan c Gilchrist b McGrath 33  
Butcher c Hayden b McGrath 54  
Hussain c Gilchrist b Gillespie 51  
Crawley not out 69  
Stewart b Gillespie 0  
White b McGrath 12  
Gillespie c Gilchrist b Bichel 13  
Caddick c Ponting b Bichel 0  
Hoggard c Hayden b Warne 4  
Jones did not bat (injured)

Extras: (b-2, lb-8, nb-7) 17  
Total: (For 9 wks in 106.5 overs) 325  
Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-170, 3-171, 4-268, 5-270, 6-283, 7-308, 8-308

Bowler O M R W  
McGrath 30 9 87 4  
Gillespie 18 4 51 2  
Bichel 23 4 74 2  
Warne 26.5 4 78 1  
Waugh 4 2 5 0  
Lehmann 5 0 11 0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings  
Langer c Stewart b Caddick 22  
Hayden not out 40  
Ponting c Trescothick b Caddick 3  
Martyn not out 40  
Extras: (b-3, nb-3) 6  
Total: (For 2 wks in 30 overs) 111  
Fall of wicket: 1-30

Bowler O M R W  
Caddick 10 0 42 2  
Hoggard 11 2 26 0  
White 4 0 26 0  
Giles 5 0 14 0

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Rudi Koertzen (South Africa).

Khulna soccer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maheshwarpaasha Club defeated Abul Kashem Smriti Sangsad 5-3 in the tie-breaker of the Meghna Cement Senior Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

In another match of the day, Cosmos Eleven blanked Khulna Shipyard Club 3-0.

Today's matches: Inter Milan Club vs Town Club 1.15 pm and Mohammedan Sporting Club vs Mongla Bandar Club 2.45 pm.

All-Asian final

AFP, Pattaya

Indonesia's Angelique Widjaja set up an all-Asian final with South Korean Cho Yoon-Jeong with an upset win over Russian Tatiana Panova here Saturday.

The up and coming teenager beat the Russian top seed 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 in their semifinal clash, while Cho defeated another Russian, Lina Krasnoroutskaya, 6-4, 7-6.

Widjaja played a tentative first set, breaking Panova in the fourth game but dropping her own opening three service games.

The 17-year-old Indonesian also lost her serve again as the second set got underway, but Panova double-faulted to allow Widjaja to level at 1-1.

Panova, who complained of struggling with the heat in Friday's quarterfinal, began to look tired, and a more aggressive Widjaja swept the next five games to take the set.

Rajib's date

FROM PAGE 13 over Georgia and Russia going into the final round.

With the strain of competing right after the World Cup showing on the Chinese, Ukraine obtained a draw with the defending Olympic champions as Natalia Zhukova defeated Xu Yuhua on top board.

Xu Yuhua, under threat of mate, took her second loss in the competition, which makes teenager Zhao Xue and veteran Wang Pin with the only Chinese with one loss.

Georgia limited the damage against Bulgaria to 1-2 to remain within striking distance of the Chinese, but they spent their energy in escaping with only a loss.

Maya Chiburdanidze, who was a piece down, exploited the indecisiveness of Antoaneta Stefanova to escape with a draw.

Nino Khurtsidze paid the price for attacking too impetuously as Silvia Aleksieva-Collas repulsed her offensive and won her queen on the 32nd move. Kevan Arakhamia-Grant lost her advantage and had to be satisfied with a draw against Maria Velcheva. Arakhamia-Grant's sad look after signing the score-sheets spoke volumes.

Russia may have gained a lot from this round as they wisely drew with Vietnam in all boards. The Russians tried to eke out an advantage, especially on board three, but determined play by the Vietnamese prevented them from doing so.



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas (C) is elated after bowling Neil McKenzie of South Africa on the second day of the first Test in Johannesburg yesterday.

Batting time for Kallis



REUTERS, Johannesburg

Jacques Kallis held South Africa's first innings together after Sri Lanka struck back with three quick wickets after lunch on Day Two of the first Test on Saturday.

At tea, South Africa were 249 for six wickets, a lead of 57, with Kallis undefeated on 40.

Tea was taken on the fall of the wicket of Mark Boucher, the South African wicketkeeper snapped up down the leg side by his opposite number Kumar Sangakkara off the bowling of off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for 38.

Kallis looked impregnable, the last time he was dismissed in Tests back on March 15 this year in the first innings of the third Test against Australia in Durban. Since then he has had unbeaten scores of 61, 75 and 139.

The Sri Lankan fightback after lunch was sparked by debutant Hasantha Fernando who claimed the wicket of Gary Kirsten when the left hander gifted Muralitharan a straightforward chance at point. Kirsten made 55 and hit nine boundaries.

Chaminda Vaas then struck with two wickets in three balls, first Ashwell Prince caught at fine leg when he top edged a hook shot for three and then Neil McKenzie, lbw for a golden duck. The double strike reduced South Africa to 180 for five.

But the Sri Lankan impetus suffered a blow when left arm seamer Ruchira Perera received his third warning for running on the pitch and was forced out of the attack for the rest of the innings.

South Africa went to lunch in a commanding position at 169 for two, thanks largely to a sparkling half century from 21 year-old opener Graeme Smith who shared an opening partnership worth 133 with Kirsten.

Smith went for his shots from the start, hitting Muralitharan out of the attack with three firmly driven fours in one over. He moved to his fifty with a superb square cut to the boundary off Perera and had reached 73 when Fernando struck with the second ball in Test cricket, Smith edging to Hashan Tillakaratne at first slip.

Smith's 73 came in a shade under two and half hours, during which he faced 92 balls and hit 14 fours.

Fernando then struck for a second time, Martin van Jaarsveld beaten

by a good in-swing to see his stumps rearranged when he had made just three.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the first Test between South Africa and Sri Lanka at the Wanderers Stadium on Saturday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 192  
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 51-0)

Smith c Traine b H Fernando 73  
Kirsten c M'tharan b H Fernando 55  
Van Jaarsveld b H Fernando 3  
Kallis not out 40  
Prince c Perera b Vaas 3  
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NZ pay row turns ugly



AFP, Auckland

Top New Zealand cricketers are bullying young players into strike action as the bitter pay dispute showed no sign of ending, it was reported here Saturday.

Canterbury wicketkeeper Russell Hock - the only first class player so far to break ranks with the players' union over the pay issue - told the New Zealand Herald he was sickened by the cash wrangle.

"I had a young guy ring me up the other day in tears," Hock told the paper. "It was bloody wrong ... If they're having a crack at anyone, why don't they have a crack at me?"

"These guys had been his heroes, but now they were simply bullying and intimidating him, letting him know what would happen if he folded," Hock added, without naming names.

Talks between 128 members of the Cricket Players Association and New Zealand Cricket broke down

earlier this week after the players turned down pay increases ranging between 11-18 per cent.

The players were demanding a 60 per cent pay increase, on the basis of a multi-million dollar television rights pay-out in five years.

The breakdown has left New Zealand cricket in turmoil, with first class sides set to draft in a motley band of retired former players and junior cricketers to fill the void.

Hock said he had decided to break ranks with the striking players out of his love for the game.

"Why have I done what I've done?" he asked. "Because I love the game and I'd piss blood to play for Canterbury."

Public opinion was firmly behind New Zealand Cricket's refusal to meet the player's demands, the Herald reported.

The paper said in an editorial comment the forthcoming series against India should be cancelled if no deal was reached, and questioned whether New Zealand's players deserved any more money.

"The domestic competition is so

devoid of charisma that it attracts few spectators and loses 5 million NZ dollars (2.4 million US) a year. Equally, our international performance has been inconsistent at best.

"Players could start to equate their pay with their Australian counterparts if they attracted similar crowds and played to the same level," the paper noted.

While New Zealand Cricket may have been relieved to learn this week that India was still determined to tour from December, the Herald doubted whether the series should go ahead.

"Does it make sense to field a third-string team against an Indian side that, pace bowling aside, looms as the strongest in memory?"

If there was no change on the part of the striking cricketers, "it would be best to cancel the Indian tour," the Herald suggested.

"That would create time for new talent to be cultivated - or for the present crop of top players to come to their senses."

Venus reaches last four



AFP, Los Angeles

World No. 2 Venus Williams held off Monica Seles Friday to reach the semifinals of the 3 million-dollar WTA Tour Championships, and move a step closer to yet another finals showdown with her No. 1-ranked sister Serena.

Seles went up an early break in each set, but couldn't maintain the advantage as Williams fired 11 aces -- and 44 winners total -- to triumph 7-5, 6-4.

Williams earned the decisive break of the first set in the 11th game, breaking Seles to love. But she had to save two break points in

the next game -- one with an 109mph ace and the other with a blistering forehand that Seles could only fire back into the net -- to close out the set.

Seles broke Williams to love in the second game of the second set to lead 2-0, but Williams broke back immediately. Williams broke again to lead 4-3, gave up her own serve in the next game and finally got a decisive break in the ninth game and served out the match.

"I think there were some great points," Williams said. "There were some unforced errors also, some long games, some good serves at important times. It made the game exciting."

In the semifinals Williams will face fifth seed Kim Clijsters, who defeated fourth-seeded fellow Belgian Justine Henin 6-2, 6-1.

"Kim played really solid, and I had to play 100 percent if I wanted to win the match," said Henin, who admitted that she just couldn't maintain the intensity that kept the match close for the first few games.

"It was very close in the first set. It was 6-2, but it was so close," said Henin, who saved a break point before giving up her serve for the first time to trail 2-1. She had a break chance in the next game, then held her own serve before Clijsters reeled off five straight games to close out the set and take a 2-0 lead in the second.

"In the second, I was completely dead, and I couldn't fight like I wanted to do," Henin said.



PHOTO: INTERNET

American Venus Williams celebrates after beating compatriot Monica Seles at the WTA Championships in Los Angeles on November 8.

Seniors in control

FROM PAGE 13

Water Resources Minister L.K. Siddique inaugurated the meet earlier in the day. A total of 1.74 lakh taka has been allocated for the tournament.

Blignaut holds

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Blignaut 21 4 79 5  
Olunga 16 2 46 1  
Mahwire 14.5 2 58 1  
Price 16 4 56 2  
Whitall 22 10 44 1

ZIMBABWE: Alistair Campbell, Hamilton Masakadza, Dion Ebrahim, Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Guy Whittall, Tatenda Taibu, Andy Blignaut, Blessing Mahwire, Raymond Price, Henry Onyiah.

Umpires: Dave Orchard (South Africa) and S Venkataraghavan (India).

Bowler

Table with columns O, M, R, W for various bowlers like Shafaq, Kafi, Bashar, Enamul, Arif, Mahmud.

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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Petrol 55 Coop 10 ---  
1 Unoriginal 36 Bad group  
one lighting?  
5 White 37 Gin DOWN  
House recipe 1 On in  
spokes- 40 Week years  
man units 2 Unad-  
Fleischer 41 Unlikely terated  
8 Domed to topple 3 Stoltz  
projection 45 In due or  
12 Mentor time Clapton  
13 Meredith 47 "2001" 4 Escapee  
or computer 5 Make  
Mattingly 49 Writer adjust-  
48 Writer adjust-  
49 Writer adjust-  
14 Moun- 50 Norse trickster  
tainee's 50 Norse trickster  
foothold 50 Norse trickster

Solution time: 24 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP  
F I C Y Z J E B W X G B  
P B I Y A C F W E C D Z S Z J R I Z C A  
R B Q P B Q A M E C R F A B S Z  
D B X G F W Z C W M M F W Z

The Cryptiquip 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.