

Flying start by Aussies

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia cruised to a seven-wicket victory over England with five overs to spare in the opening match of the triangular World Series at the Sydney Cricket Ground here on Friday to continue the tourists' winless tour.

England looked to have made a competitive target of 251 for eight batting first off their 50 overs but the world champions cantered to victory at 252 for three.

The Aussies got off to the perfect start in their run chase thanks to a dynamic opening stand of 101 in 13.5 overs between Matthew Hayden and Adam Gilchrist.

Man-of-the-match Matthew Hayden fell two runs short of his first one-day international century at home when Marcus Trescothick plucked a catch high above his head at mid-off, while Gilchrist cracked 53 off 50 balls.

The loss of the two openers did little to slow down the Australians, with Damien Martyn hitting bold-

was on, I made good contact with it as well, but all in all it was a pretty disappointing way to end the innings," said Hayden.

Hussain conceded his bowlers had few clues as to how to dismiss Hayden.

"We've got to try to work him out. He's got that sort of arrogance that he's got nothing to lose, he's got so many runs under his belt he feels he can belt any ball anywhere," Hussain said.

Lehmann followed up his successful 10 overs of off-spin to be not out 27 with Martyn (46 not out) when Australia sailed past the target.

Only three times previously had Australia scored more than 250 batting second in a limited-over international at the SCG.

Earlier, Nick Knight scored his fifth one-day international century to help England set Australia 252 runs for victory.

Knight hit an unbeaten 111 and opening partner Trescothick scored 60 from 57 balls.

Together they got England away to a run-a-ball opening stand of 101.

England were 205 for two before Nasser Hussain's dismissal for 52 off 82 balls triggered a batting col-

Sri Lanka making their debut in the tournament against England in Brisbane on Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular one-day cricket series match between Australia and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday:

ENGLAND
Trescothick c Warne b Lee 60
Knight not out 111
Irani lbw b Warne 0
Hussain c Gillespie b Lehmann 52
Blackwell c Gilchrist b Lehmann 0
Shah c Bevan b Lehmann 2
Stewart lbw b Lee 4
White b Lee 15
Batty b Lee 0
Caddick not out 1
Extras: (b-2, w-3, nb-1) 6
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs) 251
Fall of wickets: 1-101, 2-103, 3-205, 4-206, 5-211, 6-223, 7-249, 8-249

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 8 0 36 0
Gillespie 7 1 41 0
Watson 3 0 25 0
Lee 8 0 47 4
Warne 10 0 42 1
Lehmann 10 0 32 3
Martyn 4 0 26 0

AUSTRALIAN

18th BAGC Rohana forges ahead

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champion Anura Rohana of Sri Lanka took a five-shot lead over Anitya Chand of India after the third round of the Parlex 18th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

The leader, who is also silver medalist at the Busan Asiad, shot a level par 72. It was one behind Chand.

But Mohammad Siddiq Rahman of Bangladesh, who was two shots behind Rohana after two rounds, had a lacklustre round and is in third position on completion of 54 holes.

The best score of the round was by local player Mohammad Hossain who shot a three under par 69.

Another Bangladesh golfer Mohammad Sohail after turning in a score of level par 72 was jointly in fourth position with Lalith Kumara of Sri Lanka and Mohammad Milon. The final round starts today.

Ten best gross score after 54 holes:

Name Gross Scores
Anura Rohana (SRL) 212
Anitya Chand (IND) 217
Siddiq Rahman 218
Lalith Kumara (SRL) 222
Mohd Milon 222
Mohd Sohail 222
Shahid Javed Khan (PAK) 223
Amarapathma (SRL) 225
Mohd Hossain 225
Vikrant Chopra (IND) 225

India not far

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two boundaries in an over and then pulling him for another four.

Indian bowlers were seen in a different light after Astle's dismissal at 181 as Harbhajan removed Scott Styris and debutant Jacob Oram for nought in successive overs.

Zaheer then trapped wicket-keeper Robbie Hart before for six in his last over to end the day as he had begun -- on an impressive note.

He kept probing the batsmen and struck just when New Zealand had threatened to build a big partnership.

He broke the Richardson-Fleming stand when he bowled the New Zealand captain with the one that cut in sharply off the pitch. He then removed Astle when the batsman had been looking set to take the game away from India.

Medium-pace Sanjay Bangar also chipped in when he had Craig McMillan leg-before for nine to keep pressure on the hosts in his 11 disciplined overs.

Richardson kept one end intact with sensible batting as he picked the right deliveries to punish during his 368-minute stay at the crease, confidently driving and cutting the fast bowlers to various parts of the boundary.

He, however, received little support from the other end in the closing 15 overs as Zaheer and Harbhajan kept striking at regular intervals to lead India's fightback.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between India and New Zealand at the Basin Reserve here on Friday:

INDIA: First innings 161 (R Dravid 76; S Styris 3-28, S Bond 3-66)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 53-1)

Richardson not out 83
Vincent c Patel b Bangar 12
Fleming b Zaheer 25
McMillan lbw b Bangar 9
Astle c Harbhajan b Zaheer 41
Styris st Patel b Harbhajan 0
Oram lbw b Harbhajan 0
Hart lbw b Zaheer 6
Vettori not out 0
Extras: (b-6, lb-11, nb-7, w-1) 25
Total: (For 7 wickets in 76 overs) 201
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-96, 3-111, 4-181, 5-182, 6-186, 7-201

Bowler O M R W
Zaheer 18 5 42 3
Nehra 19 4 50 0
Agarkar 9 1 36 0
Bangar 15 4 23 2
Harbhajan 13 3 22 2
Ganguly 2 0 11 0

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Daryl Harper (Australia).

Mark foresees

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fourth innings," he said.

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming did not require the left-arm spin of Vettori in the first innings as pacemen Shane Bond (3-66), Scott Styris (3-28), Daryl Tuffey (2-25) and Jacob Oram (2-31) completed the Indian rout.

Richardson said he was hopefully of converting his big score into a century on Saturday.

"I'm just looking to come out and start my innings afresh," said Richardson.

"There was a time when I was struggling and made an error. Luckily, I was left off," he said, referring to a dropped catch by Venkatsai Laxman when he was on 63.

"It's been a long time since I batted. I lost a little bit of fluency since the West Indies tour."

This was Richardson's first Test since July when he made 95 and 71 against the West Indies.



Ahmad Al-Falasi (3rd from R), area manager of Emirates in Dhaka, is seen with the International Cricket Council Match Referee Ranjan Madugalle (3rd from L), Elite Panel of Umpires members David Shepherd (R) and David Orchard (2nd from R), and local umpires AFM Akteruddin (L), Mahbubur Rahman (2nd from L) and Showkatul Rahman. The cricket officials were accorded a dinner reception by the Dubai-based international airline at Sonargaon Hotel on Thursday.

Australia top ODI team

Cricket

INTERNET/AFP, Sydney

Australian captain Ricky Ponting was presented with the International Cricket Council's One-Day World Championship shield before the triangular series match against England here on Friday.

The shield rewards Australia for being on top of the ICC ratings when they were established in October.

Australia's Test team, under the leadership of Steve Waugh, is also at the top of the ICC's World Test Championship.

Ponting said on Thursday the shield recognised Australia's consistent one-day form since failing to make the one-day finals against New Zealand and South Africa last (southern) summer.

"It certainly is nice to be recognised in that way," he said.

"These things come around when you perform at a high level for a long period of time and that's what this side has been able to do not only in Test cricket but one-day cricket as well."

Australia will hold the shield for as long as they stay on top of the table, but they could lose the crown

within the next week.

Despite victory over England at the Sydney Cricket Ground in the opening match of the VB Series, Australia still have South Africa breathing down their necks.

Shaun Pollock's men are just three rating points behind the leaders going into the third match of their series against Pakistan, also on Friday.

The Proteas would capture the top spot if they beat Pakistan in the remaining three matches of their series and Australia lose to England at Melbourne on Sunday.

South Africa, though, have no more one-day matches prior to the World Cup next February, so Australia could easily regain the lead.

ICC spokesman Jon Long said that the table, launched a month ago, was gradually gaining acceptance.

"It is going to take a while, but people are realising that it is a robust formula and gives a genuine reflection of who the top team is," Long said.

"And because it changes from match to match there is always some interest there."

Should England win two of their next four games they would move ahead of West Indies into sixth spot.

The ranking uses a complicated formula including the following factors:

- * Results from all ODI matches played over the previous two to three years.
- * Strength of opposition, with greater reward for beating higher ranked opponents
- * Greater importance is placed on more recent results, with older matches dropped every 12 months.
- * All matches have equal status, with no account taken of venue or margin of victory.

STANDINGS

Latest ODI Championship table (After Australia beat England on Friday and before the Pakistan-South Africa match the same day):

Rank Team Pld Pts Rtg

- 1 Australia 27 3465 128
- 2 S Africa 40 4904 123
- 3 Pakistan 36 4176 114
- 4 Sri Lanka 37 4233 114
- 5 India 38 3929 103
- 6 W Indies 29 2856 98
- 7 England 21 2014 96
- 8 N Zealand 31 2832 91
- 9 Zimbabwe 32 2113 66
- 10 Kenya 12 263 22
- 11 Bangladesh 13 145 11

World Open squash

Power, Nicol on course

AFP, Antwerp

Bitter rivals Peter Nicol and Jonathon Power stayed on course for a World Open final showdown after the two top seeds came through their quarterfinals on Thursday.

Power, the second seed from Canada, saw off sixth-seeded Frenchman Thierry Lincou 15-8, 15-14, 15-8 while defending world champion and top seed Peter Nicol struggled to defeat Australia's Anthony Ricketts, seeded nine, 12-15, 15-12, 11-15, 15-10, 15-8.

"I thought I played really well until the middle of the second game," said Power.

"But I was really poor after that. It was his big chance, and I think he was just nervous and overzealous. He seemed to tire in the third, which must have been down to nerves as he's very fit."

Nicol and Scotland's former Australian John White also advanced to the semifinals of the 155,000-dollar tournament.

Nicol's match was a tense affair against Ricketts who was attempting to achieve his first ever win over the world number one and reigning world champion.

It was a ferocious match, with

punishing rallies and precious few cheap points, with Nicol twice having to come from behind before winning in 93 minutes.

"Anthony was within a couple of points of winning the whole match in the fourth, but fortunately I got a couple of points at the right time and kept in the match," admitted 29-year-old title-holder Nicol.

Fifth-seeded White, winner of the Flanders Open two years ago, was playing on his favourite court, in his favourite venue.

After a thrilling first game won by his unseeded English opponent Simon Parke, White powered past 16-17, 15-10, 15-6, 15-7 to reach his first World Open semi-final in 72 minutes.

"We play so many training matches together at Nottingham, and they're all close," said White.

"Simon's sure to be back in the top ten soon, I just hope I don't have to play him in tournaments too often. It's a great feeling to make the semis," he added.

White's father had flown in from Australia to watch him in a major tournament for the first time.

"I don't see the family that often so it's great to have them here for an occasion like the World Open," said White.

"It's a great feeling to make the semis. We're all here to win it - I hope I do."

In the day's other quarterfinal, David Palmer, the third-seeded Australian, eased past Scotland's Martin Heath, seeded 11, 15-9, 15-11, 15-10.

Two nabbed at Basin Reserve

AFP, Wellington

Two persons were arrested for vandalising the Basin Reserve cricket ground, venue of the ongoing first Test between India and New Zealand, an official said here Friday.

"They were caught early this morning when they were burning a small patch of grass with petrol to write a slogan on the bowlers' run-up," said New Zealand cricket media manager Simon Wilson.

"They could write only 'No Wa.' before being arrested by the security staff. They were charged with vandalism and trespassing," he said.

"They were locals and probably protesting against war and terrorism. They were not targeting the Indian cricket team."

Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Star Club got walkover as Mohammadpur Ekadosh did not appear for their match in the Econo First Division Football League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Shaheed Murad Smriti Sangsad take on Madanpur Harezan Smriti Sangsad today at the same venue.

ACB's wrong judgement?

AFP, Sydney

Australian selectors are no wiser about the value of Shane Watson's place as an all-rounder in the one-day team after a muddling performance in the team's win over England here on Friday.

The Tasmanian all-rounder was at the head of the all-rounder queue before the limited-overs match but after three overs of punishment from England pair Marcus Trescothick and Nick Knight, he was left wondering where his international career was headed with the World Cup in South Africa less than two months away.

The 21-year-old Watson was brought into the attack by captain Ricky Ponting after 11 overs with Knight and Trescothick on the rampage.

The England openers had taken 59 off Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath and they quickly went after Watson.

Trescothick launched his second delivery high over mid-off, the ball ending up in the hands of a spectator.

It was an inauspicious start for the youngster - 12 runs from his first over including a big six.

He finished his opening three overs with 0-25 - hardly the sort of figures to enrapture Australian selectors as they continue their search for an all-rounder ahead of the World Cup. He didn't bowl again.

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Biman blank

FROM PAGE 13

drew with Debaraj.

Elsewhere, Bangladesh Ansars beat Farashganj Sporting Club, Kamalpur Samaj Kalyan & Kira Sangha beat Nakhlapara Jubo Kalyan Sangha, Mohakhal Prodig Sangha beat Monipur Chess Club, Anirban Chess School beat Dhaka University Chess Team and Anushilan Daba Kira Chakra beat Narayanjan City Club. Leonine Chess Club drew with Bangshal Prodig Samaj Kalyan Sangha.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bangshal v Titas, Anu Memorial v Leonine, Dhaka University v Biman, Farashganj v Anirban, Anushilan v Ansars, Monipur v Narayanjan and Sonali Bank v Mohakhal Prodig.

ary in the 45th over to claim victory.

England captain Nasser Hussain said afterwards he expected an onslaught from Hayden and Gilchrist.

"I told our boys in the dressing room they were going to come at us and we would have to hold our nerve -- they played very well those two," Hussain said.

England, who have now gone without a win in 12 matches on tour, could not peg back the Australians after the powerhouse century opening stand.

Hayden, who smacked 98 off 92 balls, was out trying to crack off-spinner Ian Blackwell over the top for four, only for a leaping Trescothick to make a splendid catch.

"I guess it was pretty disappointing -- obviously I thought the shot

lapse that has become all too familiar this summer, with the next six wickets tumbling for 46.

Demon fast bowler Brett Lee caused the most damage and was on a hat-trick in the final over when he rattled the stumps of Craig White (15) and debutant Gareth Batty (0).

Lee finished with the best return of 4-47 off eight overs.

Lehmann, a part-time bowler, took 3-1 off six balls to finish his 10-over stint with 3-32.

Wicketkeeper Gilchrist denied Lehmann a fourth wicket when he badly fumbled a stumping chance off Knight on 91.

The only Australian to disappoint was allrounder Shane Watson, who was hauled out of the attack with 0-25 from three overs.

Australia will face up to England again in Melbourne on Sunday with

Hasan slams

FROM PAGE 13

(Nahidul 113, Ali Arman 72, Arafat Sunny 5-45, Mosaddek 4-86)

DHAKA: 324 for 9 and 149 for 7 in 48.1 overs (Jahangir 66, K Mahmud 27)

Result: Dhaka won by three wickets.

Khulna v Chittagong
Venue: DCS

KHULNA: 221 and 415 in 154 overs (Hasanuzzaman 200, Salauddin 54, Sajjadul 47, Jamaluddin 43, Ahsanullah 5-85)

CHITTAGONG: 310 and 104 for 2 in 28 overs (Nafees 53 n.o., Aftab 22, Ehsanul 19)

Result: Match drawn.

Rajshahi v Sylhet
Venue: Fatullah Stadium.

SYLHET: 145 all out in 40.1 overs (Mabud 44, Parvez 25, Rajin 17, Nuruzzaman 4-17, Mushfiq 3-16)

RAJSHAHI: 125 all out in 29.4 overs (Nuruzzaman 25, Jahurul 22, Rafiqul 18, Hasibul 4-77, Nasir 3-12)

Result: Sylhet won by 20 runs.

Bradman & Muralitharan

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miracle spell every time."

India's left-arm spinner Bishen Bedi, himself 31st in the Wisden list, criticised Muralitharan's action earlier this year, saying: "How can you call it bowling? He has no follow through and he makes no use of his shoulders. And with an open-chested action like that, you can't possibly be round-arm... perhaps he would have made a good javelin thrower."

Australia fast bowler Glenn McGrath joined Muralitharan and Warne as the other current bowler in the top 10, coming in at six, one place ahead of fellow Australian Dennis Lillee.

Malcolm Marshall of West Indies and Imran Khan of Pakistan, two men who could also contribute impressively with the bat, came in at eighth and nine.

TEST BATSMEN

1. Don Bradman (Australia)
2. Sachin Tendulkar (India)
3. Vivian Richards (West Indies)
4. Garry Sobers (West Indies)
5. Alan Border (Australia)
6. Jack Hobbs (England)
7. Ken Barrington (England)
8. Sunil Gavaskar (India)
9. Greg Chappell (Australia)
10. Brian Lara (West Indies)

TEST BOWLERS

1. Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka)
2. Richard Hadlee (New Zealand)
3. Sydney Barnes (England)
4. Shane Warne (Australia)
5. Clarrie Grimmett (Australia)
6. Glenn McGrath (Australia)
7. Dennis Lillee (Australia)
8. Malcolm Marshall (West Indies)
9. Imran Khan (Pakistan)
10. Courtney Walsh (Australia)

ODI BATSMEN

1. Vivian Richards (West Indies)
2. Sachin Tendulkar (India)
3. Brian Lara (West Indies)
4. Dean Jones (Australia)
5. Michael Bevan (Aus-

Kaniz Mahmuda

(Tejgaon Govt Girls High School)



WHIZZ KID-185

correct answers

1. Who clinched the DC Gold Cup soccer title?
Ans: N'ganne
2. Who lifted the Shanghai Tennis Masters Cup?
Ans: Hewitt
3. Who was the man-of-the-match in the 6th ODI between India and West Indies?
Ans: Agarkar
4. Pakistan won the Test series against Zimbabwe by?
Ans: 2-0
5. Brazil won the friendly match against South Korea by?
Ans: 3-2

What to watch

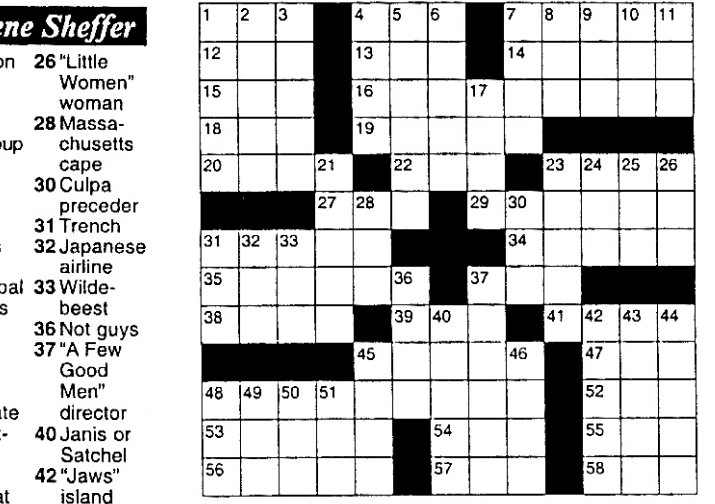
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STAR Sports

New Zealand vs India
First Test, Day Three
Live at 3:50 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 12:00 pm
Football Asia
Taped Version at 1:00 pm

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Suitable
 - 4 "Wham!"
 - 7 Small movie role
 - 12 Spoon-bender
 - 13 Put away
 - 14 Bakery
 - 15 Groove on
 - 16 A driving force?
 - 18 Lemieux milieu
 - 19 Haute-
 - 20 Gumbo ingredient
 - 22 - U.S. Pat. Off.
 - 23 It's a long story
 - 27 Existed
 - 29 Name in rap music
 - 31 Heat
 - 34 Black board?
 - 35 Diamond division
 - 37 Bob's longtime partner
 - 38 Lacking slack
 - 39 Gorilla
 - 41 Caboose's place
 - 45 Tartan design
 - 47 Scratch
 - 48 Wheels
 - 52 Mrs. McKinley
 - 53 "Be sorry!"
 - 54 Solidify
 - 55 First O.
 - 56 Actress
 - 57 Anteced-
 - 58 Nevertheless
 - 61 Princeton athlete
 - 64 Treaty
 - 65 Golden Rule group
 - 6 "the Cham-pions"
 - 7 Bistro
 - 8 Sandy's reply
 - 9 Larry's pal
 - 10 Ostrich's kin
 - 11 Skull need
 - 17 Incite
 - 21 Anticipate
 - 23 Prophet-ess
 - 24 "Can I take that as -?"
 - 25 Army bigwig (Abbr.)
 - 1 Sound portion
 - 2 Needle mark
 - 36 "Little Women" woman
 - 28 Massa-chusetts cap
 - 30 Culpa preceder
 - 31 Trench
 - 32 Japanese airline
 - 33 Wilde-beest
 - 36 Not guys
 - 37 "A Few Good Men"
 - 38 director
 - 40 Janis or Satchel
 - 42 "Jaws" island
 - 43 Ms. Hawkins of Dogpatch
 - 44 Leaflet
 - 45 Influence
 - 46 Take out of context?
 - 48 Caustic substance
 - 49 "And the opposite shore..."
 - 50 Make faces
 - 51 Flamenco cheer



CRYPTOQUIP

I E I W R B C Y E W I I D L M W
C D L L Y . E B L V E N K Z I D M B H
I D R I W R B Q D L W C B L L Z
L V L D R N K I W N Q H C

Yesterday's Cryptogram: I SUSPOSE SOME PEOPLE MIGHT VIEW A PAINFUL HANGOVER AS "THE WRATH OF GRAPES!"

Today's Cryptogram Clue: C equals S

The Cryptogram 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.