

Double trouble

AFP, Wellington

India skipper Saurav Ganguly conceded Monday the team's batting was not the only major worry ahead of the second cricket Test against New Zealand.

"We also didn't bowl up to our potential in the first Test," said Ganguly whose side crashed to a 10-wicket defeat inside three days at the Basin Reserve here on Saturday to trail 1-0 in the two-match series.

The second and last Test begins at Hamilton on Thursday.

The Indian batting collapsed twice against pace on a fast and bouncy track as the tourists were shot out for 161 in the first innings and 121 in the second.

The Indian pacemen, however, were not as successful as their counterparts as New Zealand posted 247 in their first innings to gain an 86-run lead.

"Zaheer Khan bowled exceptionally well. Sanjay Bangar was also impressive, but Ashish Nehra and Ajit Agarkar were not up to the mark," said Ganguly.

Left-arm fast bowler Zaheer alone succeeded in raising the Indian bowling above the level of mediocrity, testing the New Zealand batsmen with his probing line and length on a lively track.

The 24-year-old bowler was suitably rewarded for his diligence as he grabbed 5-53 for his first five-wicket haul in 23 Tests.

All-rounder Bangar provided valuable support as he took 2-23, but left-arm seamer Nehra and Agarkar both disappointed.

Nehra went wicketless in his 19 overs, while Agarkar conceded 54 runs for one wicket off 13 overs.

The Indian captain did not rule out changes in the bowling attack for the second Test, saying seamer Tinu Yohannan was in the running.

"He has got a chance. He has given us more options before the second match," said Ganguly.

He, however, said he did not feel the changes were required in batting after one match.

"You can't pick and drop batsmen after just one Test," he said.

"We threw the game away with batting, but it happened only once. There's no need to panic. There's no point thinking about the past. We've to look forward to the second Test and try to bat and bowl better."

ACB confused

AFP, Melbourne

The Australian Cricket Board said on Tuesday it was confused about the interpretation of rules governing squad changes brought about by injuries during cricket's World Cup next year.

The ACB has been re-reading the rules regarding injuries at the February-March tournament following Shane Warne's shoulder dislocation on Sunday night that threatened his participation.

The International Cricket Council confirmed on Monday that Australia could pick Warne in its final squad of 15, due on December 31, but replace him even during the tournament.

The ACB also want to find out whether Australia can go outside the preliminary squad of 30 players, named at the start of this month, if it has to replace Warne.

Fellow leg-spinner Stuart MacGill and Test captain Steve Waugh are among those who did not make the 30-man squad.

"Our understanding is there's flexibility in that, certainly there was flexibility in that (at) the previous World Cup and we don't see that's changed," ACB chief executive James Sutherland said here on Tuesday.

"I don't think it's entirely clear, all of those little issues."

But the good news for the Australian selectors is they can pick Warne and even rest him during the early stages of the Cup tournament, which starts on February 9.

Team leaves

FROM PAGE 13
Barkat, Shankar Chandra Das (captain), SM Rajib, Sujon Mahmud, Shah Alam Shawon, Ahsan Habib Rubel, Kya Kya Saie Marma, Rajon Miah, Mohammad Shakawat, Zahid Hossain (vice captain) and Mithun Chowdhury.

Officials: Hafizur Rahman Munshi (manager), Saleh Zaman Salim (Assistant Manager), Shafiqul Islam Manik (coach), Syed Golam Zilani (assistant coach) and Dr Ali Emran (doctor).

BD colts play

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defeat at the hands of Nepal on Monday.

After recording an impressive 10-wicket win against Kuwait in the opening match, the juniors stumbled to the cricketers from the Himalayan kingdom in a low-scoring affair.

Nepal, who has taken the game seriously only a few years ago, restricted Bangladesh to 180-9 in a 40-over-a-side match.

The Nepalese then successfully chased the victory target of 181-8 with one ball to spare.

Kirsten back with a bang



AFP, Paarl

Veteran opening batsman Gary Kirsten guided South Africa to victory in the fourth one-day international against Pakistan at Boland Park on Monday and virtually guaranteed himself a place in South Africa's World Cup team.

The left-handed Kirsten made 102 not out as South Africa took a winning 3-1 lead in the five-match series with a nine-wicket win.

Kirsten, 35, was dropped after a tournament in Morocco in August. He did not play in the ICC Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka and was not picked for South Africa's first eight home one-day internationals this season.

But with younger contenders failing to impose themselves, he was recalled for South Africa's last two one-day matches before the World Cup squad is announced at the end of December.

Pakistan were bowled out for a disappointing 213 after batting first on a slow pitch, with only Younus Youhana (61) playing a major innings.

Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs (52) put on 111 in 19 overs to make the target look easy. Kirsten survived a close lbw appeal by Waqar Younis when he had two and was dropped by Shoaib Akhtar at cover off Abdur Razaq when he had 30.

It was, though, a skilful, confident performance by the man who has scored most runs for South Africa in both Tests and one-day cricket.

It was his 13th one-day international century.

He said: "I have played for this team for nine years and I was desperate to play in the World Cup. I knew it was up to me to perform."

Gibbs hit some imposing strokes before he was bowled by an off-cutter by Razaq. The dismissal was no more than a minor hiccup for the South Africans, however, as Boeta Dippenaar (47 not out) joined Kirsten in an unbeaten 113-run partnership for the second wicket.

South African captain Shaun Pollock said the team had spoken about the need for batsmen to take responsibility. He said Kirsten had played a "superb knock".

Pakistan made a good start when Salim Elahi and wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal, playing his first match of the series, put on 54 for the first wicket. But three wickets fell for 13 runs before Youhana and Inzamam-ul-Haq (34) consolidated with a 62-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Youhana, who made 405 runs and was only dismissed once during a recent series in Zimbabwe, scored his runs off 71 balls. He reached his fifty off 63 balls and seemed set to blossom in the closing overs when he hit a superbly-timed six over extra cover off Jacques Kallis.

But Youhana was run out in the 44th over after excellent fielding by Jonty Rhodes at backward point.

Rhodes cut off a square cut by Saqlain Mushtaq and Youhana, backing up, was sent back by Saqlain but failed to beat a direct hit on the stumps at the bowler's end by Rhodes.

Shaun Pollock, Makhaya Ntini and Jacques Kallis took two wickets each in a steady bowling performance.

Wicketkeeper Mark Boucher became the fifth player in one-day internationals to claim 200 victims when he caught Younis Khan off his Border provincial teammate Makhaya Ntini.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day

international between Pakistan and South Africa at Boland Park on Monday:

PAKISTAN	O	M	R	W
Akmal b Ntini	31			
Elahi lbw b Kallis	26			
Razaq lbw b Donald	5			
Youhana run out (Rhodes)	61			
Inzamam lbw b Peterson	34			
Younis c Boucher b Ntini	20			
Iqbal run out (Dippenaar)	9			
Afridi b Kallis	0			
Saqlain b Pollock	6			
Waqar not out	13			
Akhtar c and b Pollock	0			
Extras: (lb-1, w-7)	8			
Total: (All out in 48.4 overs)	213			
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-65, 3-67, 4-129, 5-166, 6-183, 7-190, 8-196, 9-213				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	9.4	1	39	2
Ntini	10	2	44	2
Donald	8	0	35	1
Kallis	9	0	35	2
Peterson	7	0	29	1
Klusener	5	0	30	0
SOUTH AFRICA				
Gibbs b Razaq	52			
Kirsten not out	102			
Dippenaar not out	47			
Extras: (lb-4, nb-5, w-4)	13			
Total: (Fpr 1 wkt in 42.4 overs)	214			
Fall of wicket: 1-111				
Did not bat: J Kallis, J Rhodes, M Boucher, S Pollock, L Klusener, R Peterson, A Donald, M Ntini				

Result: South Africa won by nine wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Gary Kirsten.
Final match: Dec 18, Cape Town.

Biman flying higher

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman continued their impressive form in the First Division Chess League with another comfortable victory over Anushillan Daba Krira Chakra in the sixth round yesterday.

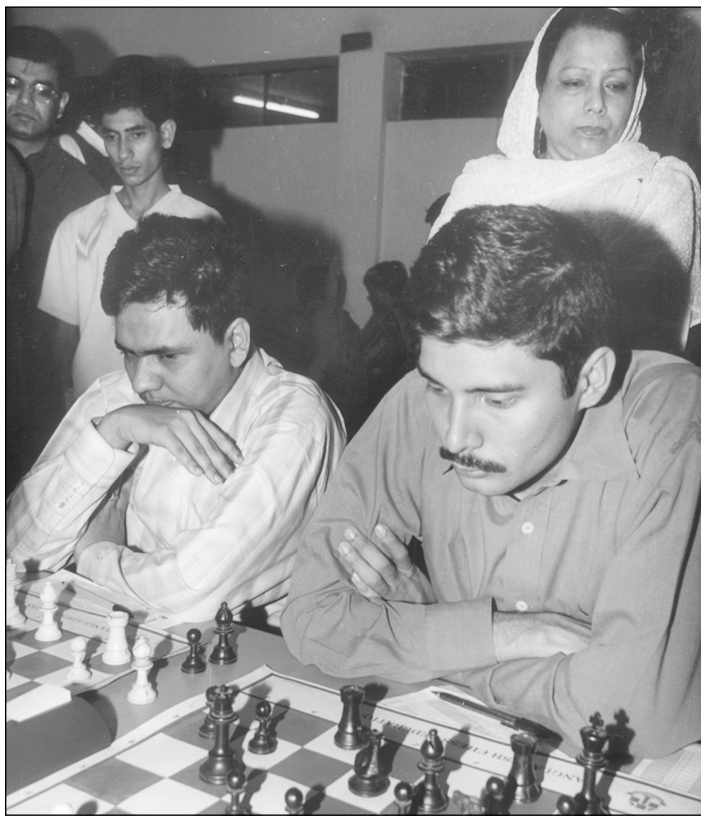
They lead the table with 23.5 points after Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Reefat-Bin-Sattar, IM Abdullah-Al-Rakib and IM Enamul Hossain won their respective matches.

Titas Club are in second position with 20 points. The title-contenders defeated beat Narayanganj City Club 3.5-1.5 points.

The surprise result was GM Niaz Murshed's draw with Prasenjit Dutta.

In other matches, Sonali Bank beat Bangladesh Ansar 3-1, Mohakhali Prodip Sangha beat Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan and Krira Sangha 4-0, Anirban Chess School beat Monipur Chess Club 3-1, Leonine Chess Club beat Nakhalpara Jubo Kalyan Sangha 3-1, Dhaka University Chess Team drew with Memorial Club and Farangshaj Sporting Club drew with Bangshal Pragati Samaj Kalyan Sangsha.

The league continues today.



Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (L) and his Bangladesh Biman teammate IM Reefat-Bin-Sattar are in action against Anushillan Daba Krira Chakra in the sixth round of the First Division Chess League yesterday.

Bindra's team lifts pro-am crown

PRESS RELEASE

Monish Bindra led his team to a fine win at the Pro-Am event of the Dutch-Bangla Bank Bangladesh Open 2002-03 at the Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday.

The winning team tallied 107 points to pip Panpan's team to the second spot by two points. Kolkata pro Basad Ali's team finished third with an aggregate of 100 points.

The Pro-Am was played on a Stableford format, where the two best scores of the amateur clubbed with the professional's score accounted for the team's score. Each team comprised of one professional and three amateurs. The professional's score was compulsory.

Delhi pro Bindra who had set a course record of eight-under 64 during the Pro-Am last year, on Tuesday teamed up with Nafees Alam, Air Cdre Zeerat and Ms K L Han.

Another Delhi pro Pappan's team consisted of MH Cho and Ms Jin Sook Yoon, the latter who contributed 40 points to the team score. Brig Gen Salam, Delwar Hossain and Syed Ashkur Rahman teamed up with Basad Ali.

Warne in WC

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against England on Sunday.

He underwent exploratory surgery on Monday which showed there was no major damage to the bone but doctors said he would still be sidelined for at least a month, ruling him out of the final two Ashes Tests and the rest of the triangular one-day series with England and Sri Lanka.

Warne's troublesome right shoulder needed complete reconstruction in 1998 and while this injury was unrelated, the world's second-highest wicket-taker said he was disappointed by the timing after working so hard to get himself fit again.

"I've been on a fitness campaign the last 12 months and been as fit as I've ever been, and bowling probably better than I ever have," Warne said.

"After all the injuries that I've had ... it's pretty disappointing to have what happened to me the other night."

"But there are a lot worse things in the world at the moment than me with a dodgy shoulder."

Ronaldo conquers Europe

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Tuesday's 2002 FIFA World Player of the Year award announcement in Madrid, is the fourth two-time winner - the others being Alfredo Di Stefano (1957, 1959), Kevin Keegan (1978, 1979) and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (1980, 1981).

France's Michel Platini, and Dutch players Marco van Basten and Johan Cruyff have the distinction of winning it three times.

Ronaldo was overjoyed at the decision. "You could say I have had an incredible year," he told Tuesday's edition of France Football. "Hollywood could make films on this and many books could be written."

"It's been a wonderful comeback. For two or three years now it wasn't clear that this would happen. A lot of people doubted if I would keep on scoring goals or if I would recapture my form."

"Frankly, this award is more

satisfying than when I won in 1997. This has been something really special. Only great players win it."

The winner of the trophy, known as the "Ballon d'Or" or Golden Ball in French, is picked from among 50 players by a European jury representing 52 nations.

The trophy will be presented to Ronaldo on Wednesday when the Spanish giants host a Rest of the World team as part of the centenary celebrations of the nine-time European champions.

Ronaldo, a flop in the 1998 World Cup final, bounced back to finish top scorer in the 2002 tournament, with eight goals, including two in the final against Germany.

The very first European Footballer of the Year was England wizard winger Sir Stanley Matthews in 1956 and England striker Michael Owen won last year's prize.

Up to and including 1994 the award was presented to Europeans

only but from 1995, when AC Milan's George Weah of Liberia won, onwards any nationality registered for a European club was eligible.

ALL WINNERS

European Footballer of the Year winners:

- 1956: Stanley Matthews (Eng)
- 1957: Alfredo Di Stefano (Spa)
- 1958: Raymond Kopa (Fra)
- 1959: Alfredo Di Stefano (Spa)
- 1960: Luis Suarez (Spa)
- 1961: Omar Sivori (Ita)
- 1962: Josef Masopust (Cze)
- 1963: Lev Yashin (USSR)
- 1964: Denis Law (Sco)
- 1965: Eusebio (Por)
- 1966: Bobby Charlton (Eng)
- 1967: Florian Albert (Hun)
- 1968: George Best (Irl)
- 1969: Gianni Rivera (Ita)
- 1970: Gerd Muller (Ger)
- 1971: Johan Cruyff (Ned)
- 1972: Franz Beckenbauer (Ger)
- 1973: Johan Cruyff (Ned)
- 1974: Johan Cruyff (Ned)
- 1975: Oleg Blokhin (USSR)
- 1976: Franz Beckenbauer (Ger)
- 1977: Alan Simonsen (Den)
- 1978: Kevin Keegan (Eng)
- 1979: Kevin Keegan (Eng)
- 1980: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Ger)
- 1981: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Ger)
- 1982: Paolo Rossi (Ita)
- 1983: Michel Platini (Fra)
- 1984: Michel Platini (Fra)
- 1985: Michel Platini (Fra)
- 1986: Igor Belanov (USSR)
- 1987: Ruud Gullit (Ned)
- 1988: Marco Van Basten (Ned)
- 1989: Marco Van Basten (Ned)
- 1990: Lothar Matthaus (Ger)
- 1991: Jean-Pierre Papin (Fra)
- 1992: Marco Van Basten (Ned)
- 1993: Roberto Baggio (Ita)
- 1994: Hristo Stoichkov (Bul)
- 1995: George Weah (Lbr)
- 1996: Matthias Sammer (Ger)
- 1997: Ronaldo (Bra)
- 1998: Zinedine Zidane (Fra)
- 1999: Rivaldo (Bra)
- 2000: Luis Figo (Por)
- 2001: Michael Owen (Eng)
- 2002: Ronaldo (Bra)

* Attn eds: Up to 1994, winner had to be European. From 1995, winner could be from any country provided he was registered for a European club.

NZ target clean sweep

AFP, Hamilton

New Zealand are determined to wrap up a clean sweep over India with victory in the second and final Test here on Thursday.

"We would have loved to win the series 2-0 from the word go and that's a possibility now," New Zealand cricket manager Jeff Crowe said Tuesday.

The hosts lead 1-0 in the short series following their crushing 10-wicket victory in the opening Test at Wellington on Saturday.

"Probably 1-0 would have been fine, but as we are now ahead we've to consider that the next option is 2-0. We're in a better position to do that."

"You can always argue that an odd number series is better than a two-Test one as it gives India a chance to win it. It's a bit like two rugby matches and if you win one, you can't lose it."

"We're in that lucky position now. We can be confident that the series can only be drawn if India play well here. Otherwise, we've won it."

Crowe said he believed India had the potential to fight back as they were capable of playing well in different conditions.

"I believe they are a much better side now than they were a few years ago when they are touring," said Crowe, a former New Zealand captain who scored 1,601 runs in 39 Tests with three centuries.

"Their performance in the West Indies and England has shown they are now a much more resilient side away from home. They have world-class cricketers and can fight back."

India gained a 1-0 lead in the West Indies before losing the five-Test series 2-1 and then drew a tough four-match series 1-1 in England this year.

Crowe said the Indian batting looked strong despite two collapsing against pace on a fast and bouncy track in the opening match.

"We're high respect for their batsmen," said Crowe, 44. "What they need is a good start. The key is to get through the new ball and then it's an opportunity for middle-order batsmen to score runs."

RONALDO FACTS

FROM PAGE 13

Winner (1997, 1999)

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP

(often known as world club championship)

Winner with Real Madrid (2002)

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP

Winner with Barcelona (1997)

UEFA CUP

Winner with Inter Milan (1998)

DUTCH CUP

Winner with PSV Eindhoven (1996)

SPANISH CUP

Winner with Barcelona (1997)

OTHER HONOURS

European Footballer of the Year (Ballon d'Or) (1997, 2002)

FIFA World Player of the Year (1996, 1997)

BD-WI SCOREBOARD

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Sarwan c Mashud b Manjurul	17	59	2	0
Chanderpaul c Mashud b Enamul	16	44	2	0
Samuels c Al Shahrir b Jubair	31	36	4	1
Ganga c Taposh b Sanwar	63	106	10	0
Jacobs c Mashud b Taposh	59	108	6	2
Drakes run out (Ashraf)	26	65	4	0
Powell b Tapash Baisya	1	18	0	0
Collins not out	12	10	2	0
Lawson c Bashar b Taposh	6	12	1	0
Extras: (b-8, lb-4, nb-1)	13			
Total: (All out in 93.3 overs)	296			
Fall of wks: 1-16, 2-53, 3-74, 4-99, 5-127, 6-226, 7-264, 8-278, 9-279, 10-296				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Manjurul	21	11	34	1
Taposh	21.3	2	72	4
Jubair	20	5	58	2
Enamul	19	3	62	1
Ashraf	5	0	29	0
Sanwar	7	1	29	1
BANGLADESH: Second innings				
Hannan not out	12	32	2	0
Al Shahrir not out	21	44	3	0
Extras: (lb-3, nb-4)	7			
Total: (No wicket in 12 overs)	40			

To bat: Habibul Bashar, Mohammad Ashraf, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud, Sanwar Hossain, Enamul Haque, Talha Jubair, Taposh Baisya, Manjurul Islam.

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