

BD-AUS AVERAGES

REUTERS, Sydney

Averages from the two-match Test series between Australia and Bangladesh.

BATTING
(collate as matches, innings, not outs, runs, high score, average, 100s, 50s, catches, stumpings):

Player	M	I	NO	R	HS	A	100s	50s	C	ST
AUSTRALIA										
Darren Lehmann	2	2	0	287	177	143.50	2	-	-	-
Martin Love	2	2	1	100	100*	100.00	1	-	-	2-
Adam Gilchrist	2	1	0	43	43	43.00	-	-	-	9-
Justin Langer	2	2	0	72	71	36.00	-	-	-	1 3-
Ricky Ponting	2	2	0	69	59	34.50	-	-	-	1 2-
Matthew Hayden	2	2	0	61	50	30.50	-	-	-	1 1-
Brett Lee	2	1	0	23	23	23.00	-	-	-	2-
Steve Waugh	2	2	2	256	156*	-	-	-	-	-
Jason Gillespie	2	1	1	16	16*	-	-	-	-	1-
Stuart MacGill	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2-
Glenn McGrath	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BANGLADESH										
Hannan Sarkar	2	4	0	166	76	41.50	-	-	-	2 --
Habibul Bashar	2	4	0	141	54	35.25	-	-	-	1 --
Sanwar Hussain	1	2	0	62	46	31.00	-	-	-	--
Khaled Mashud	2	4	0	75	44	18.75	-	-	-	--
Al Shahrar	1	2	0	36	36	18.00	-	-	-	--
Javed Omar	2	4	0	44	26	11.00	-	-	-	3-
Khaled Mahmud	2	4	0	43	21	10.75	-	-	-	--
Tapas Baisya	2	4	1	31	25	10.33	-	-	-	--
Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza	2	4	1	29	15	9.66	-	-	-	2-
Mohammad Ashraf	2	4	0	30	23	7.50	-	-	-	--
Alok Kapali	2	4	0	22	17	5.50	-	-	-	--
Anwar Hossain	1	2	1	4	4	4.00	-	-	-	--
Manjurul Islam	1	2	1	1	1	1.00	-	-	-	--
BOWLING (collate as matches, overs, maidens, runs, wickets, average, best, 5 wickets in an innings, 10 wickets in a match)										
AUSTRALIA										
Stuart MacGill	2	70.1	17	219	17	12.88	5-56	31	-	-
Jason Gillespie	2	61.4	14	170	11	15.45	4-38	-	-	-
Glenn McGrath	2	55.1	17	124	5	24.80	3-20	-	-	-
Brett Lee	2	49.2	10	190	6	31.66	3-23	-	-	-
Darren Lehmann	2	3	1	4	0	-	-	-	-	-
Steve Waugh	2	5	3	4	0	-	-	-	-	-
BANGLADESH										
Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza	2	48	14	134	4	33.50	3-74	-	-	-
Sanwar Hussain	1	30	2	128	2	64.00	2-128	-	-	-
Manjurul Islam	1	24	4	78	1	78.00	1-78	-	-	-
Tapas Baisya	2	47.5	9	165	2	82.50	1-69	-	-	-
Alok Kapali	2	32.2	2	134	1	134.00	1-65	-	-	-
Habibul Bashar	2	1	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	-
Mohammad Ashraf	2	6	0	31	0	-	-	-	-	-
Anwar Hossain	1	21	4	95	0	-	-	-	-	-
Khaled Mahmud	2	47	5	173	0	-	-	-	-	-

Waugh's regards for Hussain

AFP, Cairns

Test cricket's most successful captain Steve Waugh said on Tuesday he had always respected Nasser Hussain, who is stepping down as England Test captain after a four-year spell in charge.

The 38-year-old Australian cricket great, who has won 38 of his 51 Tests as captain, said he enjoyed pitting wits with Hussain on the cricket field.

Hussain, who forged a reputation as England's best tactical skipper since Mike Brearley in the late 1970s and early 1980s, was frustrated by England's inability to compete with arch-rivals Australia, whom they have not defeated since 1986-87.

Under Hussain's leadership England were thrashed 4-1 at home in 2001, although he missed two games through injury.

England lost by the same scoreline in Australia in 2002-03.

"I'm obviously not privy to the exact reasons for his decision, but as an opposing captain he was always someone I respected," Waugh said here on Tuesday.

"He had a competitive instinct and as a leader he motivated his players well.

"I always enjoyed the battle of captaining against him."



Real Madrid's French superstar Zinedine Zidane (L) answers questions from journalists at a media conference at Hongta sports centre in Kunming yesterday.

Vaughan hails

REUTERS, Birmingham

Nasser Hussain, who resigned the England captaincy after the drawn first Test against South Africa on Monday, has been praised as an inspirational leader by his successor Michael Vaughan.

Vaughan, who had already replaced Hussain as England's one-day captain and led the team to victory in the recent triangular series against Zimbabwe and South Africa, will take over for the second Test starting at Lord's on Thursday.

"Like everyone in the dressing room, I was surprised," Vaughan told reporters after Hussain's shock resignation was announced by England chairman of selectors David Graveney at a post-match news conference at Edgbaston.

"He was a hugely inspirational captain and no one cares more about the England team than him.

"I had not expected the Test captaincy to come my way this summer, but I feel ready for the challenge and will be more than happy to have Nasser in the dressing room with me as one of the senior players."

Zidane to end in 2005

AFP, Kunming

Real Madrid playmaker Zinedine Zidane on Tuesday reiterated his plans to retire in two years when his contract with the Spanish club expires.

"I just have two years on my contract with Real Madrid and in that time I want to play as well as I can and get whatever (championships) I can get," the former World Footballer of the Year said after a morning training session.

"Then after these two years I will calmly retire."

The French star, 31, hinted that retirement was on his mind last year, suggesting that the Euro 2004 championship could be his last as an international.

Touching on other subjects, Zidane said the arrival of David Beckham had spurred the players to fight harder for their places.

"I think it's normal, very normal at a team like Real Madrid to have to fight hard and I think with the arrival of Beckham we will have to try to work harder," he said.

And the French international said he did not think the former Manchester United icon would have any trouble settling into the Spanish style of football.

"It's good for him to learn another style but the most important thing is that he is going to try for the team," said Zidane after a training session here.

"The most important thing is that he tries with all of us to win matches and titles."

Zidane said it was important the celebrity superstar was quickly accepted by the other players.

"The most important thing is that he is well welcomed by the team. When I arrived I was well welcomed by the team and I can say that Beckham is also well welcomed by the team.

"And in that way he can be a part of the group."

Zidane and the rest of his superstar teammates including Beckham, Ronaldo and Luis Figo are in south-western China for a week-long training session as part of an Asian promotional tour.

Hussain quits captaincy

FROM PAGE 13

shock at the timing of Hussain's decision.

"Like everyone else in the dressing room, I'm surprised by Nasser's decision to resign.

"He has been a hugely inspirational captain and no-one cares more about England than him."

"I had not expected the Test captaincy to come my way this summer but I feel ready for the challenge and I will be more than happy to have him (Hussain) in the dressing room alongside me as a senior player," the 28-year-old added.

Meanwhile Hussain insisted he had not taken his decision lightly.

"It's not the sort of job where you just take the cash and plod on and stand at mid-off.

"I've always felt it's the sort of job where you have to give it everything. It's time for change.

"After last winter the stuff that went on off the field and on the field in Australia there were a lot of difficult times," said a tearful Hussain, referring to the drawn out wrangle over whether England should play a World Cup match in Zimbabwe.

Asked to explain the timing of his decision, Hussain, a veteran of 84 Tests, added: "I have been thinking about this since the end of the World Cup.

"No-one then knew who the real successor was now we have seen Vaughan."

Hussain, who replaced wicket-keeper Alec Stewart as captain after England's first round World Cup exit on home soil four years ago, led England in 45 Tests, winning 17, losing 15 and drawing 13.

His record compares favourably with that of Peter May, England's most successful skipper, who won 20 of his 41 Tests in charge.

Hussain led England to four successive Test series wins starting at home against Zimbabwe in 2000.

In the same season he followed that up with England's first Test series win over the West Indies in 31 years, before leading the team to Test triumphs in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

But he was frustrated by England's inability to even compete with arch-rivals Australia, whom they have not defeated since 1986-87.

Under Hussain's leadership they were thrashed 4-1 at home in 2001, although he missed two games through injury.

England lost by the same scoreline in Australia in 2002-03.

Nevertheless, Hussain had forged a reputation as England's best tactical skipper since Mike Brearley in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

But he was guilty of a public relations blunder in the build-up to the first Test, saying there were splits in the South African camp and that the Proteas were "ripe for the taking".

AT A GLANCE

Factbox on Nasser Hussain, who resigned as England captain on Monday:

Born: March 28, 1968, Madras, Right-hand batsman.

Test debut: v West Indies, Feb 1990. 84 Tests, 4,927 runs, av 36.76, 12 centuries with a highest score of 207. Captained his country in 45 Tests, winning 17, losing 15 and drawing 13. As captain, scored 2,487 runs at 36.04.

ODI debut: v Pakistan, Oct 1989. 88 ODIs, 2,332 runs, av 30.28, one century.

Known as a firebrand player when young but established himself as an astute leader. More effective as a batsman in Tests than in one-day internationals.

Did not fully establish himself in the England team until six years after his debut, making successive Test centuries v India.

Took over as England captain from Alec Stewart after the 1999 World Cup, but got away to a bad start when his team lost a home series to New Zealand.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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59 George
60 Milwaukee product
61 Marmalade is one
62 Ceasefire
63 Bad hairpiece
64 Above (Ger.)
65 Downstairs
66 Muscular dog
67 Every last crumb
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69 Ruin the vener
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73 Capitol cap
74 Kvetch

DOWN

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2 Mad king of literature
3 Pizarro's conquest
4 Lead-in to trigonometry
5 Russian spacecraft
6 White House nickname
7 Cherished
8 Wiscon-sin critter
9 "I"
10 Hans of the U.N.
11 Infamous emperor
12 Change the decor
13 San Francisco, for short
14 Morning moisture
15 Auto
16 Rodents do it
17 "SNL" alumna
18 Maleficence
19 Fashion craze
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22 Prescription
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Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

H'S VAQVHU YWO GDHPHG'R

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN DYNAMITE WAS INVENTED, MY GUESS IS THAT IT MUST'VE DONE A BOOMING BUSINESS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals C

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. 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.

Media applauds

FROM PAGE 13

Fletcher, England are not the laughing stock of world cricket any more.

Christopher Martin-Jenkins, writing in The Times, noted that Hussain had "succeeded in bringing to the dressing-room a bloody-minded determination to give nothing away to any opposition".

"He has stopped the rot...missing few tricks on the field and being prepared to apply tactics that were more pragmatic than popular," said Martin-Jenkins, who opined that "an era of greater freedom and laissez faire will follow Hussain's somewhat austere approach".

Angus Fraser, another former England paceman, said: "During his four years in charge Hussain led his side with a passion that was absent from any of the four England captains I played under."

Some commentators pointed to England's disastrous Ashes series in Australia last year and the first round exit from the World Cup as well as the off-pitch controversy surrounding playing in Zimbabwe as the seeds that led to Hussain's resignation on Monday.

Others traced the start of his demise back to last summer's home series against India.

"The signs of stress were evident last summer when Hussain made a hundred at Lord's and gave a two-fingered salute to the media and pointed to the number on his back," said Boycott.

So far so good

AFP, Kunming

David Beckham says he has settled in well with new club Real Madrid and is ready to lead the Spanish giants to Champions League glory.

"I'm very happy and content because it's a wonderful experience," he said of his initial weeks as a Real Madrid player following his lucrative move from Manchester United.

"Apart from the coach, everything is new, the players are different, the language is different. I hope I will be able to respond to what is expected."

The celebrity superstar, 28, joined the nine-times European champions on July 2 on a four-year contract worth an estimated six million euros a year before bonuses.

He said he was enjoying his time in China on a pre-season promotional tour but only one date was fixed in his mind -- August 27th when he makes his home debut at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"Since I signed the contract I have wanted to get to know my teammates, and once I get through that, I'm only thinking about the day that I'll be able to wear the shirt in the stadium," RealMadrid.com reported in Spanish.

"It's a thought that's constantly on my mind."

Despite the huge expectations resting on his shoulders, the England captain said he was used to pressure and not afraid of failure.

"I'm not afraid," he said.

"That's why we're here for the pre-season games and with this period of integration I will begin the season better.

"I have lived through similar experiences in England when new players arrived from elsewhere. As soon as I'm adapted and I learn the language everything will be more easy.

"I have 15 years of experience at the highest level and I believe that will help me at Real Madrid. I'm aware that the whole world is going to demand everything, but I'm ready to respond as required. I want to take advantage of playing for this club." The language barrier is proving the most difficult part of being a Real Madrid player, but he said his multi-millionaire teammates were keen to chip in and help him learn.

"I already knew my new teammates on an athletic level, but on a personal level I'm very satisfied because they have really flipped about my learning Spanish," he said.

"They are helping so that I can integrate into the team as quickly as possible. They are as great athletically as on a personal level, I really am very appreciative."

Beckham and his Real Madrid teammates are in south-western China for a week-long training session as part of an Asian promotional tour that will also take them to Hong Kong, Tokyo and Bangkok.

"We want to win everything possible," he said, and put the Champions League at the top of the heap.

"It's true that winning the Champions League is important for all clubs, but according to my teammates, in Real Madrid that is something extraordinary," he said.

"It is one of the most important championships in the world and this year we will be fighting to win it."



David Beckham, sporting a bandage on his right knee, in training during yesterday's morning practice session at Hongta sports centre in Kunming.

Sanwar not so

FROM PAGE 13

David Shepherd, Rudi Koertzen and Steve Davis (third umpire) after they reviewed tape of his bowling action taken on the second day of the second Test against Australia here.

The issue is now under the International Cricket Council's jurisdiction and over the next six weeks Sanwar and the BCB will have the opportunity to work on any areas of concern.

"(Sanwar) Hussain will be able to continue to play during this time," the ICC said in a statement Tuesday.

"(But) the bowler remains subject to being called on the field by an umpire in accordance with the laws of the game."

With Shepherd to officiate in all three one-dayers between Bangladesh and Australia and Davies to stand in the second one-day, Sanwar will be under scrutiny.

The on-field umpires can no-ball him for chucking and repeated offences could see him taken out of the attack.

Sanwar is the third Bangladeshi

bowler to be reported for suspect action by the ICC. Former national captain and off-spinner Naimur Rahman and veteran left-arm twowler Mohammad Rafique, both went through the correction process and afterwards played for Bangladesh without facing any problem.

Sanwar's questionable delivery is a back-hander similar to one used by Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan.

Muralitharan, called for throwing by Australian umpire Darrell Hair in the 1995 Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, has been cleared on a number of occasions because of his flexible elbow.

But Sanwar's copycat delivery looks as if it involves a straightening of the arm as he flicks the ball towards the batsmen.

He dismissed Australian opener Matthew Hayden with that ball in Cairns.

The first of three one-day matches is scheduled for Cairns on Saturday.

Cool after marriage!

AFP, London

Playing soccer above the fashion-conscious antics of some players.

"To each his own. My France team-mate Djibril Cisse dyes his hair blond, while David Beckham changes his hairstyle 10,000 times a year," said Henry.

"But I'm not like that. I want people to talk about me, not for my clothes, my haircut or my cars. When fans come up to me, they prefer to talk about my game or my goals."

Henry wed long-term girlfriend Nicole Werry this month and insists she has helped calm him down.

Henry had a reputation for being one of the English Premiership's most fiery characters but the 26-year-old says his life has been transformed on and off the pitch since meeting his English model wife.

"Getting married is part of the evolution of my career," says Henry, who signed a new contract in May that keeps him at Arsenal until 2007.

"Before on the pitch I was a bit crazy. Now I've calmed down. It's the same in my private life," he said in an interview in the August edition of Sky magazine to launch the new Premiership season.

And he puts the business of playing soccer above the fashion-conscious antics of some players.

"We lost the league but that is finished now. It's gone, over. I spent the summer with my national team. Now I'm back at Arsenal and I'm focused again."

He says he is a much better player since Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger paid Italian side Juventus 10 million pounds (16 million dollars) for him four years ago.

"Now I can shoot, cross, or provide the final pass and even take free kicks with my right or left foot. Last season my 20 assists represented much more in my eyes than my 32 goals," he said.

And he vowed to make an impact in next season's European Champions League.

"I want to build something with Arsenal and if we can bring the trophy to London one day, it would mean making history."

"I'm obsessed by the idea of making my mark in history. And Arsenal is my paradise."

"When you fall, the most important thing is how quickly you get