

Lara at it again

Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

Brian Lara was again carrying the hopes of the West Indies as his team struggled on the third day of the third Test against South Africa at Newlands on Sunday.

An unusually subdued Lara was 74 not out in a West Indian total of 327 for six, taking his team to within six runs of avoiding the follow-on after South Africa made 532 in their first innings.

Chris Gayle and Ramnareh Sarwan, who had scored freely against the South African bowlers on the second evening, were both out in the first half hour Sunday, without threatening to repeat their dazzling strokeplay of the previous day.

In 57 overs on Sunday, the West Indies could only add 149 runs for the loss of five wickets after racing to 178 for one overnight.

Fast bowler Andre Nel, with three for 60, led a South African bowling attack which kept the pressure on the tourists.

Gayle, who galloped to a century off 79 balls and was unbeaten on 112 off 105 balls overnight, added only four more runs off 15 deliveries before padding up to Shaun Pollock to be out leg before wicket.

Three overs later, Sarwan,

having taken his score from 39 to 44, cut Nel straight to Neil McKenzie at deep backward point.

With Pollock and Nel bowling accurately and to a fuller length than Saturday, the tempo of play was in stark contrast to Saturday, when 402 runs were scored off 90 overs.

After the first hour, only 13 runs had been added for the loss of two wickets in 14 overs.

Pollock, who conceded 46 runs off seven overs Saturday, bowled a spell of one for two in six overs, including a no-ball. Nel took one for 11 off seven overs.

Lara and Wavell Hinds batted cautiously to add 37 in 18 overs before Hinds was caught behind for 13, getting a faint edge as he tried to withdraw from a defensive shot against Jacques Kallis.

New cap Dwayne Smith made a promising start, despatching a long hop and a half-volley from left-arm spinner Paul Adams to the leg-side boundary, then driving Adams through the covers for three. But he was out for 20 when Kallis held a diving catch at second slip off Nel.

Ridley Jacobs fell victim to the second new ball when he was caught at first slip off Makhaya Ntini for 23.

Lara reached his half-century with a flurry of three successive boundaries off Kallis but it took him 170 minutes and 134 balls. By tea he was ten runs short of becoming

the fifth batsman to score 9,000 Test runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the third Test between South Africa and the West Indies at Newlands on Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 532 (Boucher 122 not out, Rudolph 101, McKenzie 76, Kallis 73, Smith 42; Sanford 4-132, Mohammed 3-112, Edwards 3-132)

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 178-1)

Gayle lbw b Pollock	116
Gangab b Nel	17
Sarwan c McKenzie b Nel	44
Lara not out	74
Hinds c Boucher b Kallis	13
Smith c Kallis b Nel	20
Jacobs c Pollock b Ntini	23
Drakes not out	6
Extras: (lb-7, nb-7)	14
Total: (For 6 wks in 92 overs)	327
Fall of wickets: 1-126, 2-183, 3-187, 4-224, 5-252, 6-306	

To bat: Mohammed, Sanford, Edwards

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	21	6	65	1
Ntini	17	1	86	1
Nel	22	7	60	3
Kallis	17	6	56	1
Adams	15	1	53	0



CELEBRATING GAYLE STYLE: West Indies opener Chris Gayle stretches his arms to celebrate his whirlwind century against South Africa on the second day of the third Test in Cape Town on Saturday.

Steve still has a chance

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Steve Waugh's dismissal has robbed an expectant cricket nation of a fairytale finish to the Australian great's playing career.

The Sydney Cricket Ground faithful rose as one to salute the 38-year-old Test skipper's walk to the crease in Australia's first innings and to will on his every run over the ensuing 90 minutes.

Just when the 168-Test war-horse looked to have played his way in with Australia calling on all of his trademark resilience and determination, unheralded 19-year-old paceman Irfan Pathan struck.

Pathan, playing in only his second Test match, got one to leave Waugh off the pitch with the last ball of his 11th over and coaxed an edge that was gleefully snapped up by 18-year-old wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel.

After a moment to take it all in, the disbelieving crowd issued a collective groan at the realisation that their cricketing hero was on his way for 40.

While Waugh was at the crease, a fairytale was still in the offing given the captain's relish for fighting apparently lost causes.

But he is likely to get a second chance in this match, probably sometime on Monday as Australia

try to prevent India from claiming their first-ever series win in Australia.

Century-maker Justin Langer said Waugh had reminded the team before the day's play of the value of fighting for a draw.

"One thing Tugga (Waugh) said this morning was that when he took over the captaincy five years ago, one of the areas he wanted us to improve ... was to fight out hard draws," Langer said after Sunday's play.

"We were thinking that if we could fight for a draw it would be a good result in this game."

Langer said Australia would be trying to bat for as long as possible and that there was the possibility of Waugh having to play a match-saving innings.

"It would be nice for him to play one of his characteristic hero innings to put us in a position to win or fight out one of those draws he's been talking about."

Waugh also has the respect of his Indian opponents, and long-time rival Anil Kumble said the Australian captain deserved all the attention he was receiving in his farewell series.

"I think he is a great player and he deserves the kind of public response and respect that he has from the opposition and I have tremendous respect for Steve," Kumble said.

"It's a great reception that he received and the support he has

had in this Test match and throughout the series has been exciting.

"It's another match and you have to get his wicket, that's the aim, and I don't think there was any emotions from our end."

Waugh has now scored 10,847 runs in 259 Test innings at 50.92 and is the second highest Test run-maker of all time behind only compatriot Allan Border (11,174).

Zulu, UCB strike deal

REUTERS, Cape Town

All-rounder Lance Klusener and the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa have reached an out-of-court settlement over the player's legal action against the Board, the UCB said on Saturday.

Klusener had been suing for loss of earnings after his national team contract was not renewed in April last year. He argued he had been led to believe his contract would be renewed and that he was only being 'rested' from the national side when he was omitted from the tour of Bangladesh in 2003.

Klusener has been awarded a contract until April when it will be reviewed but details of the settlement are confidential.

Wickets tumble everywhere

FROM PAGE 13
udowla (9) to finish with five wickets for 30 runs. Imran Parvez the other wrecker captured four for 34.

Left-hander Faisal Hossain made highest 27 off 50 balls.

Rajshahi had scored 10 runs without loss at the close.

SCORECARDS

Scoreboard of the three four-day Ispahani Tea Fifth National Cricket League matches at different venues across the country yesterday:

DHAKA V KHULNA (Day-1)

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

DHAKA: First innings

Al-Shahriar lbw b Razzak 92

Mehrab c Hasibul b Razzak 57

Sajjad c Hasibul b Russel 23

Sanwar lbw b Russel 16

Jahangir c Hasibul b Russel 0

Naimur b Razzak 4

Kadir not out 19

Neyamur b Russel 0

Basir b Russel 8

Mahbul lbw b Russel 2

Ashraf b Russel 0

Extras: (lb-2, w-1) 3

Total: (All out in 86 overs) 224

Fall of wks: 1-142, 2-157, 3-184, 4-184, 5-193, 6-195, 7-195, 8-214, 9-224, 10-224

Bowler O M R W

Russel 26 8 55 7

Al Amin 11 6 14 0

Razzak 30 7 73 3

Bashir 9 0 40 0

Shahriar 10 0 40 0

KHULNA: First innings

Sajjadul c Naimur b Neyamur 0

Hasibul batting 2

Bashir batting 0

Extras: 0

Total: (For one in 2 overs) 2

Fall of wks: 1-0

Bowler O M R W

Neyamur 1 1 0 1

Mahbul 1 0 2 0

SYLHET V BARISAL (Day-2)

Venue: Sylhet Stadium

BARISAL: First innings 130 all out in 57 overs (Jamal 22, Shahin 18, Nayeem 2-10, Parvez 2-14, Nabil 3-23, Imtiaz 2-16, Ejaz 1-22)

SYLHET: First innings (overnight 101 for one in 24 overs)

Imtiaz c Shahin b Tariqul 46

Mabud c &b Tariqul 45

Nayeem lbw b Litu 43

Parvez c Shahin b Anisur 25

Nasirul c Imran b Tariqul 25

Taqrimul c Nayan b Tariqul 21

Arif c &b Imran 13

Sabbir c Shahjada b Saifullah 2

Ahsanullah c and b Saifullah 11

Mahbul b Imran 4

Yasin c Anisur b Shahjada 13

Obaidul not out 1

Extras: (b-3, lb-6, nb-8, w-15) 32

Total: (All out in 113.3 overs) 355

Fall of wks: 1-95, 2-106, 3-139, 4-191, 5-220, 6-236, 7-300, 8-341, 9-353, 10-355

Bowler O M R W

Tariqul 26 8 55 7

Al Amin 11 6 14 0

Razzak 30 7 73 3

Bashir 9 0 40 0

Anisur 9 3 23 1

Bikash 14 0 50 0

Litu 30 7 90 1

Tariqul 43.3 8 116 7

Kamal 12 0 5 0

Imran 5 2 8 1

BARISAL: Second innings

Imran batting 6

Nayan b Jakwan 1

Extras: (w-1) 1

Total: (For one wkt in 4.5 overs) 8

Fall of wks: 1-8

Bowler O M R W

Jakwan 2.5 0 6 1

Nayeem 2 1 2 0

CHITTAGONG V RAJSHAHI (Day-2)

Venue: Cricket Garden, Rangpur

CHITTAGONG: First innings

Anisul b Imran 14

Masum c Tariqul b Saifullah 9

Mahbulul c Anisur b Saifullah 2

Faisal c &b Imran 27

Akram c Hasanuzzaman b Saifullah 1

Arif c &b Imran 13

Sabbir c Shahjada b Saifullah 2

Ahsanullah c and b Saifullah 11

Mahbul b Imran 4

Yasin c Anisur b Shahjada 13

Obaidul not out 1

Extras: (b-9, lb-13,) 22

Total: (All out in 53.3 overs) 104

Fall of wks: 1-20, 2-24, 3-48, 4-55, 5-69, 6-76, 7-80, 8-85, 9-86, 10-104

Bowler O M R W

Tariqul 26 8 55 7

Al Amin 11 6 14 0

Razzak 30 7 73 3

Bashir 9 0 40 0

'Meditative' Indians

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian century-maker Justin Langer hailed the phenomenal concentration shown by India's batsman after they racked up another mammoth score here Sunday.

Langer hit 17 boundaries and a huge six for his second hundred of the series and 17th overall as Australia crumbled to be 342 for six in reply to India's 705-7 declared after Day Three of the final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The little left-hander was out for 117 off 149 balls shortly after tea to leg-spinner Anil Kumble when he attempted a pull shot and skied a catch at mid-wicket for wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel.

Langer paid tribute to the sensational batting of India's top six that has Saurav Ganguly's men on the verge of their first-ever series win in Australia.

Sachin Tendulkar claimed his highest first-class score of 241 not out in India's first innings here, while Rahul Dravid has scored 233, VVS Laxman 148 and 178, Virender Sehwag 195 and Ganguly 144 in other Tests in this series.

Langer admitted Australia had

been put under unprecedented pressure by the Indian batsmen.

"The reality of this series is that the Indian batting is extraordinary and we haven't been under that sort of pressure for a long time," Langer said after Sunday's play.

"I can't remember in my career playing a team which is just batting so brilliantly."

"The pressure we've been under is having to bowl against, field against and then bat against huge scores."

"It's a credit to India that they've been able to play like that in these conditions."

Langer said the Australian batsmen could learn something from India.

"We can learn something from the Indian batsmen, they look so patient. It's almost like they're in a meditative state it's awesome the way they apply themselves to their batting."

Langer said he was drained after being in the field for two and a bit days and then scoring his century.

"I feel exhausted actually," Langer said. "We spent a long time in the field in Melbourne (third Test) in what was a huge game for us and then we've had two days in the field here."

"I'm happy to have scored a hundred, disappointed not to get a big hundred, but I'm feeling pretty tired to be honest."

But the left-hander said his compatriots would not be lured into abandoning their traditional aggressive batting tactics to save the match.

"It's not in our nature to bat defensively," Langer told a news conference on Sunday.

"No matter what the situation is, whenever you are scoring runs you are putting some pressure back on the bowlers."

Langer said he was still hopeful his teammates could grant retiring captain Steve Waugh one of his wishes in his farewell match.

Awesome Abahani

FROM PAGE 13

Hasan, Masud Rana, Sila (Uzzal), Osamanu, Rakib, Joy (Pranotosh), Nocihai, Parvez, Sandro and Khokon.

DHANMONDI: Ratan (Chris), Sohel Rana, Prodeep, Bipul (Nadeem), Aziz, Wasim (Angur), Aminul, Mishu, Maruf, Donald and Kennedy.

Friendly cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bank Asia beat Dhaka Bank by ten wickets in a friendly cricket match at the Gulshan Youth Club on Friday.

Dhaka Bank batted first and scored 132 runs for eight in stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Bank Asia made 134 runs for no loss in 21.4 overs

For Bank Asia Affaque got highest 4 wickets for 13. Anisul Huq, Arefin, Mehboob and Tito got one wicket each. Kamal scored highest 57 runs. Arefin 40 and 37 came from extras.

Rashedul knock

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SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: 215 for 7 in 50 overs (Humayun Kabir 1, Rashedul 72, Faruque 4, Tushar Imran 30, Mazharul Haq 24, Jamal Uddin 24, Anwar Hossain 24, Mosaddeq 9, Alamgir 6, Monjurul Islam 0 not out; Sattar 2 wickets, Asif 1, Shaha 1)

PIA: 216 for 5 in 46.2 overs (Sajid 75, Golam Ali 0, Faisal Iqbal 20, Mehmod Hamid 29, Jahid Fozal 3, Ashif Mustafa 48, Shaha 30; Jamal 2 wickets, Alamgir 2, Mosaddeq 1)



Syed Anisul Huq, president and managing director of Bank Asia, receiving winners' trophy of a friendly cricket match from Fazole Rashid, deputy managing director of Dhaka Bank at the Gulshan Youth Club on Friday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Enter uninvited

6 Small plateau

11 Magician's interjection

12 Repeats

14 Sentimentalist's pendant

15 Space machine

16 That (Sp.)

17 State tree of Texas

19 Ms. Gardner

20 Slightly

22 Ad- (improvised)

23 Small songbird

24 "Positive-ly" Street man

26 Rancher

28 eBay offer

30 Its cap. is Abu Dhabi

31 "King of Queens" cast member

DOWN

1 "Swinging on a Star" singer

2 Draw back

3 Send out invitations

4 Recipe sentence

5 "Monopololy" purchase

6 Milliner's hogs

7 "Ghost-busters" role

8 Brief time

9 Turkish city

10 Wright or Bocho

11 Beg

13 Position

18 Pres.

21 Booth

23 Sea snail

25 Zilch

27 Funny one

29 Takes down a stripe

31 Feeds the hogs

32 Stuff you shouldn't do

33 Eaves-dropper?

34 Spill the beans

36 Hear reveille

37 Household linens