

'Blind Tendulkar' blasts Pakistan

AFP, Karachi

Blind Indian cricketer Rajinder Verma drew comparisons with sighted batting star Sachin Tendul-kar on Tuesday as he hit a record 200 not out against Pakistan, guiding the tourists to a 161-run victory.

Verma, who is completely blind, hit four boundaries to compile the highest ever score by an Indian in this version of the game. India compiled a huge 409-2 in their 50 overs.

Pakistan managed 248 in 29 overs in reply with eight of their batsmen run out, giving India their first win after two defeats in the five-match series.

"Everyone praised me that I batted like Tendulkar and its a great honour for me to score the highest ever score for Indian blind team," said 28-year-old Verma, from Jaipur in Rajhastan state.

"I wish Tendulkar scores many runs and my country wins when they come to play Pakistan next month," added Verma, who teaches at a school for blind children in Kanpur, India.

Verma was involved in a second-wicket stand of 200 with captain Manvirinder Verma, who made a polished 79.

ICC special

FROM PAGE 13

Dave Richardson, the ICC's general manger, said on Saturday that the presence of the team would help to deal with the problem of throwing.

"The game's elite young cricketers are all in Bangladesh and it is expected many of them will graduate to full international cricket over the coming years."

"By identifying any player who has a flaw in their technique now, there is the opportunity to address the problem before they graduate to senior international cricket."

The group, which will also spend time in Dhaka, can refer any player in the competition to their relevant national board for remedial action before he is considered for selection at full international level.

Willes waltz

FROM PAGE 13

and Russell scored 48 off just 42 balls that included half a dozen fours.

Earlier, AK High recovered from a shaky start to post a fighting total score thanks to a century partnership for the fourth wicket between captain Jewel and Masum.

Jewel scored a brilliant 83 off 77 balls with the help of 11 fours and two sixes. Masum made an equally impressive 64. But the rest provided a sorry batting card.

The final however was more academic than anything to do with the title race as both the winners and the losers have already made it through to the 12-team final round.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Willes Little Flower v AK High School
Venue: DCG

AK HIGH SCHOOL: 224-9 in 40 overs (Jewel 83, Masum 64; Turjo 3-34; Rony 2-29)

WILLES LITTLE FLOWER: 225-3 in 33.1 overs (Mehrab 69, Shahid 52 n.o., Russell 48 n.o.; Shafig 2-46)

Result: Willes Little Flower School won by seven wickets.

Day's Event

FROM PAGE 13

Venue: Barisal Stadium
Chittagong vs Sylhet
Venue: Comilla Stadium
Rajshahi vs Khulna
Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden

ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Super League

Pakistan vs New Zealand (1:30 pm)

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

England vs Zimbabwe (9:00 am)

Venue: BKSF

Plate Championship

Ireland vs Canada (9:00 am)

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium

Bangladesh vs Uganda (9:00 am)

Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 Garbage transport	DOWN	24 Gridiron arbiter
1 Cronies	39 "The Sound of Music"	1 Incite to action	25 "Little Teapot"
5 Frenzied	40 With 30-bounce	2 Staffer extra	26 Road along a coastal cliff
12 Public disturbance	41 In the manner of	3 Appeared ominously	28 Ostrich's cousin
13 In the manner of	42 Foolproof	4 Talked along a coastal cliff	29 High-speed highway
14 Foolproof	43 Stench	5 Traffic mecca	30 See 40-spot
15 Stench	44 Wilticism	6 Will	31 Do alterations
16 Midafternoon on a sundial	45 Sites	7 Speaker's end	36 Red
17 Pivot about	46 Actress	8 St.	37 Blackbird
18 Lower in status	47 Hagen	9 Dead	38 Grad-to-be
20 Muffet's bugaboo	48 Title	10 Verifiable	41 "Fuhged-daboudit"
22 Continue talking	49 Rue the run	11 Prognosticator	42 Reaction re
23 Sugar suffix	50 Cheer-leader's	12 Commertial	43 Yoric
24 "Casa-blanca" role	51 Ear-related	13 D.C.	44 Ness, e.g.
27 Pragmatic types	52 Title	14 Honcho	45 Turf companion
32 Comedian Philips	53 Rue the run	15 Dead	46 Speak
33 —Darya	54 Cheer-leader's	16 End	47 Elevator name
34 Leave slack-jawed	55 Ear-related	17 Commertial	48 Diplomat's sine qua non
35 "Damn the torpedoes" man	56 Females	18 D.C.	49 Greek cross

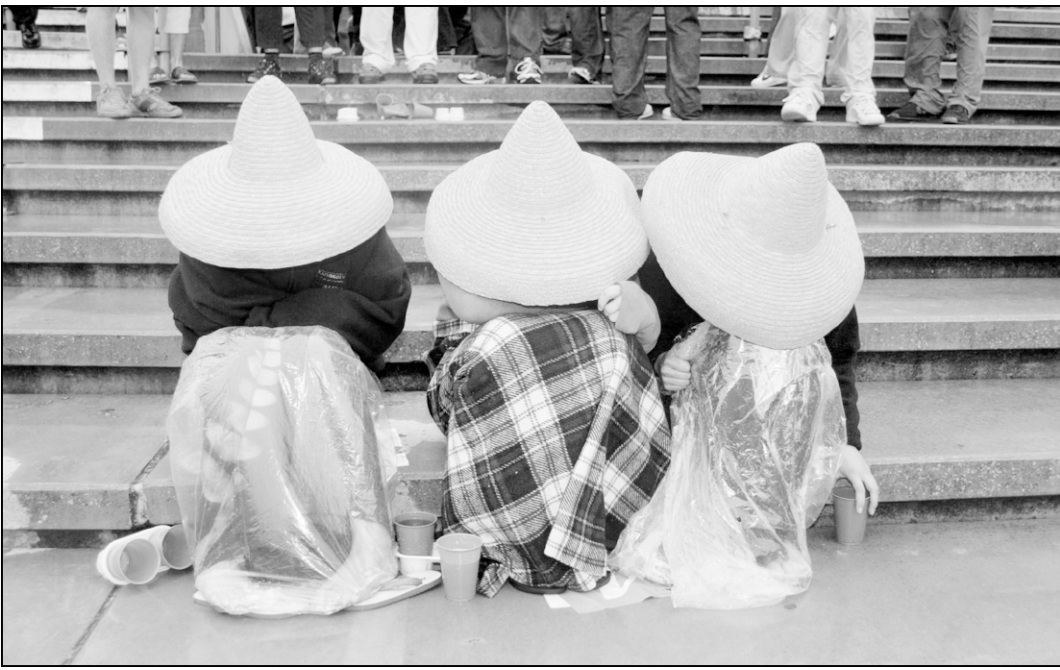


PHOTO: AFP

Fans take shelter from gusty wind and rain that hit the fourth one-day international between New Zealand and South Africa at Dunedin yesterday.

Lanka may alter trick



AFP/REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka won't always play just one fast bowler against Australia's strong batting line-up in the ongoing one-day cricket series, coach John Dyson said on Tuesday.

The hosts used only one pace-man, Chaminda Vaas, and six spinners for Sunday's second match at Dambulla, and the veteran bowled a sensational last over to shape his team's one-run win.

Dyson, the former Australian Test batsman, said he was happy the gamble of picking one fast bowler paid off.

"It does not mean that in every game we are going to do that. We took the decision to suit the wicket," he said.

The world champions, who needed eight off the final over, could manage only six as left-arm seamer Vaas bowled a series of well-directed yorkers to help his team square the five-match series 1-1.

Australia scored 244-5 in reply to their opponents' 245.

Sri Lanka have named an unchanged squad for Wednesday's day-night third match at the Premadasa Stadium here, but are

expected to include fast bowler Nuwan Zoysa to partner Vaas. However, the ground is expected to be another spin-friendly surface.

If taken in, Zoysa will make an international return after an 18-month absence.



JOHN DYSON

Another likely change is the inclusion of hard-hitting opener Saman Jayantha at the expense of wicketkeeper Ramesh Kaluwitharana, who failed with the bat in both the previous matches.

Jayantha will make his one-day debut if selected.

Dyson said victory in the tense

second game had strengthened his belief that his team could put it across Australia.

"I have already said that if we play as well as we can, we can beat Australia," he said, adding the win had boosted the team's confidence.

"The bowlers stuck to their task and were supported on the field. Vaas showed how to finish off the last over under pressure."

Australian captain Ricky Ponting said his team needed to tighten its performance, especially bowling, in the remaining three matches.

The tourists conceded 32 extras in Sunday's game, including eight wides and seven no-balls.

"We bowled a few wides and no-balls, but we will pick ourselves up again and hopefully play better next time," he said.

SQUAD

Marvan Atapattu (captain), Mahela Jayawardene (vice-captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Nuwan Kulasekara, K A u s h a l Lokuaratchchi, Nuwan Zoysa, Saman Jayantha.

Pakistan await 10,000 fans from India

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan has ordered its high commission in New Delhi to issue travel visas to anyone holding tickets for India's upcoming cricket tour of Pakistan, the first for 15 years.

"We expect around 8,000-10,000 Indian fans altogether during the Indian cricket series and our High Commission in Delhi has been instructed to issue visas to ticket-holders in a smooth manner," Pakistan Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat told reporters.

India's five-match one-day series and three-match Test series in Pakistan between March 10-April 17 follows the suspension of matches in 2000 amid rising political tensions.

Hayat said stringent security measures would be in place to protect the visiting fans.

"It is a historic series and would prove crucial in improving India-Pakistan relations and help the peace process so we would keep a tight check on all the events," he said.

Dhaka, Sylhet

FROM PAGE 13
Sajjad Kadir 52 n.o., Sunny 43 n.o., Sonnet 3-55, Salahuddin 1-39, Tariqul 1-97, Sajib 1-13)

BARISAL: 1st innings 161 all out in 57.1 overs (overnight 25/3 in 9 overs) Towhid 59, Shahin 40, Imran Ahmed 2; Shahriar 3-22, Sanwar 3-17, Elias Sunny 2-56, Arafat 2-39)

BARISAL: 2nd innings 126 for 4 in 40 overs (Imran 25, Nahidul 35 batting, Ali Arman 37; Neeyamur 1-17, Elias Sunny 1-26, Sanwar 1-25)

SYLHET V CHITTAGONG
Venue: Comilla Stadium

CHITTAGONG: 1st innings 170/10 in 63.1 overs (Masum 56, Azam Iqbal 12, Sabbir 24, Nayeem 2-30, Nabil 3-35, Tarin 2-3, Zakwan 1-42, Tanna 1-46)

SYLHET: 1st innings 271 all out in 79 overs (overnight 53/2 in 17 overs) Nayeem 52, Nahid 46, Parvez 40, Rana 36, Tanna 23; Debrobata 1-46, Alamgir 2-31, Arafat 3-63, Faisal 2-28)

CHITTAGONG: 2nd innings 117 for 7 in 36 overs (Faisal 43, Ahsanullah 25 batting; Nayeem 2-23, Nabil 2-19, Tazin 2-31)

KHULNA V RAJSHAH
Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden

KHULNA: 1st innings 420 all out in 152.3 overs (overnight 277/5 in 90 overs) (Shafiq 77, Sanjoy 38, Saaluddin 50, Jamaluddin 53, Asadullah 34, Tahmim Bashir 85, Al-Amin 33; Saifullah 3-140, Rezwanul 4-93)

RAJSHAH: 1st innings 57 for 1 in 31 overs (Murad not out, Nuruzzaman 28 not out; Russell 1-17)

Rain postpones 4th ODI until Wednesday

AFP, Dunedin

Rain forced a 24-hour postponement of the fourth one-day cricket international between New Zealand and South Africa here Tuesday.

Rain and cold southerly winds set in at Carisbrook just as play was about to start after South Africa captain Graeme Smith won the toss and chose to bowl first.

The rain began shortly before the 1400 (local time) start and did not stop until 1645.

When the umpires then inspected the pitch they decided the ground would not have sufficient time to dry enough even for a 25-overs-a-side game.

The umpires then rescheduled it as a day match on Wednesday with a new toss to be made.

The forecast was for improved weather.

New Zealand lead the six-match series 2-1.

TONIGHT'S FIXTURES

Champions League first knockout round, first leg fixtures on Wednesday (all kick-off times 1945 GMT unless stated):

At La Coruna	La Coruna (SPA) v Juventus (ITA)
At Stuttgart	VfB Stuttgart (GER) v Chelsea (ENG)
At Gopoto	FC Porto (POR) v Manchester United (ENG)
At San Sebastian	Real Sociedad (SPA) v Lyon (FRA)

Latif to name

FROM PAGE 13

loggerheads with the Pakistan Cricket Board after writing to the ICC about fancy fixing, which involves betting on the first 15 overs of one-day internationals.

He was handed a five-match ban last September for claiming a catch in a Test against Bangladesh which he had not taken cleanly and replaced as captain by Inzamamul Haq.

His international career appears to be over after he was left out of a provisional squad for next month's home series against India.

But publication of his autobiography will ensure his name remains in the spotlight.

"It won't be an ordinary book. It will have lots of stuff on match-fixing," he said.

"There will be lots of off the field incidents in the book. It won't be like others in which players only give details on how they scored runs, took catches and claimed wickets."

Extras: (lb-5, w-8, nb-2) 15
Total: (All out in 39.1 overs) 157
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-36, 3-49, 4-54, 5-117, 6-135, 7-138, 8-150, 9-150, 10-157.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dhiman	7	1	26	3
Singh	8	0	39	1
S Singh	2	0	14	0
Gupta	5	0	22	0
Raina	10	3	23	2
Sharma	7	1	28	4

Result: India won by 96 runs.

Man-of-the-match: S Raina.

Toss: India.

Sri Lanka vs South Africa

Venue: Fattullah Cricket Stadium

SRI LANKA

Tharanga b Africa 117

Kularatne lbw b Africa 0

Navela run out 56

Maharoor c Silwana b Africa 4

De Silva c Van Wyk b Van Jaarsveld 42

Kulasekara not out 32

Suraj not out 2

Extras: (b-4, lb-7, w-12, nb-1) 24

Total: (For 5 wickets in 50 overs) 277

Did not bat: R Ratnayake, J Silva, H Vithana, P Chanaka.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-148, 3-159, 4-219, 5-275.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Africa	10	0	49	3
Manase	4	0	15	0
Philander	7	0	57	0
Birch	2	0	15	0
September	7	2	25	0
van Jaarsveld	7	2	42	1
Bowyer	10	0	47	0
Van der Merwe	3	0	16	0

SOUTH AFRICA

Van Jaarsveld b Chanaka 7

Bowyer lbw b Maharoor 16

Van Wyk lbw b Maharoor 1

Booyens b Maharoor 120

Philander st Silva b Ratnayake 30

Van der Merwe b Suraj 36

Africa b Suraj 10

Birch run out 0

Silwana b Chanaka 7

September b Maharoor 13

Manase not out 1

Extras: (lb-4, w-3) 7

Total: (All out in 48.3 overs) 258

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-122, 3-48, 4-215, 5-188, 6-222, 7-222, 8-223, 9-246, 10-248.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Maharoor	9	1	49	4
Chanaka	9.3	0	59	2
Kulasekara	8	0	40	0
Suraj	10	1	33	2
Ratnayake	8	0	42	1
Vithana	4	0	21	0

Third round, first leg preview

Laudrup weary of Barca



REUTERS, London

Brondby coach Michael Laudrup says the Danish league leaders will need luck on their side to overcome Barcelona over two legs when the UEFA Cup resumes on Thursday with third round, first leg matches.

Laudrup is relishing the prospect of facing his former club, with whom as a player in the early 1990s he won four league titles and a European Cup during an era when the side known as the "dream team" dominated Spanish football.

"We have to be realistic. Spanish football is much better than Danish football. Barcelona is much better than Brondby. But in football anything can happen," Laudrup, who made more than 100 appearances for Denmark in an illustrious career, told Reuters before the first leg in Copenhagen.

"Logically there should be a difference. We need some luck and must hope that, maybe, they will be distracted."

Laudrup's optimism has been dampened by Barca's resurgent

league form. Five wins in a row have carried Frank Rijkaard's side up to fourth after a slow start to the season with the Catalans, who have not won a trophy since 1999, inspired by the return of Brazilian Ronaldinho from injury.

Barcelona will be without Rafael Marquez and Edgar Davids. Centre-back Marquez is facing up to three weeks out after suffering an injury to his left thigh in Saturday's 1-0 win away to Valencia. Davids, who has been outstanding since his arrival from Juventus in January, is ineligible.

Inter Milan, three-times winners of the competition, must bounce back from Saturday's derby defeat by AC Milan when they travel to Sochaux, who sit fifth in Ligue 1.

Inter led their city rivals 2-0 before losing 3-2 and any hangover is sure to be punished by the French side who thumped Borussia Dortmund 6-2 on aggregate in the last round.

Former Serie A leaders AS Roma also face a tough away leg at Gaziantepspor, one of four Turkish sides still in the competition.

Under-fire Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier says his side need a good result against Bulgaria's Levski

Sofia at Anfield with the pressure mounting on the Frenchman.

The 2001 winners have failed to mount a title challenge this season and lost in the fifth round of the FA Cup at Portsmouth on Sunday.

"It's a big game in our season and the players are aware of that," Houllier told the club's website.

"The good thing about when you lose is that there's always another game for you to try and put things right."

Last season's beaten finalists Celtic set a British record of 24 successive wins on Sunday but will be wary of the threat posed by giants Tottenham who they host at Parkhead.

The side from the north of the Czech Republic have already beaten 2002 winners Feyenoord and Germany's Kaiserslautern and coach Frantisek Straka said the trip holds no fears.

"We know all about Celtic and their qualities. We respect them but we are not frightened. If we were frightened, there would be no point in us going to Scotland," Straka told a Scottish newspaper this week.

Hefty fine on Gilchrist



AFP, Colombo

Australia's vice-captain Adam Gilchrist was fined half his match fee on Tuesday after being found guilty of dissent over an incident during the one-day match against Sri Lanka at the weekend.

But Andrew Symonds, the batsman at the centre of the controversy, was found "not guilty" by International Cricket Council match referee Mike Procter and escaped any punishment.

"I find Gilchrist guilty, but in the case of Symonds it was more a case of disappointment than dissent and I find him not guilty," Procter told reporters after a hearing with both players.

Symonds, given out leg-before during Sunday's second one-dayer at Dambulla by umpire Peter Manuel, protested the call, saying the ball had struck his bat before hitting his pad.

Manuel consulted with fellow umpire Billy Bowden of New Zealand, withdrew his appeal and called Symonds back to the crease.

Television replays show a furious Gilchrist shouting at Manuel when he raised his finger to signal Symonds' dismissal.

And Symonds also loudly questioned the Sri Lankan umpire's decision before trudging back towards the pavilion.

Symonds had almost reached the boundary rope when his teammates realised the umpire had called the batsman back and yelled at him to turn around.

According to the rules, Symonds would not have been given a second life at the crease if he had crossed the boundary line.

"It is an unusual incident and something I took into account," Procter said.

It is the third time Gilchrist has been found guilty of dissent following incidents against India in a one-day match Bangalore in 2001 and in the fifth Ashes Test against England at Sydney last year where he was reprimanded after swearing when an appeal was turned down.

Procter said Gilchrist twice spoke to Manuel saying "what is going on here" and then threw down his batting gloves.

"It didn't come across very well on television," Procter said.

"Gilchrist's defence was that he was showing his emotions, he is a very emotional guy. I think it is tough on him as he's a very fair cricketer but in my opinion he was showing dissent."

The match referee said Symonds was on the border of

showing dissent.

"In cricket there's a small discrepancy between disappointment and dissent and I felt he showed more disappointment than dissent and I found him not guilty."

Symonds said afterwards:

"Naturally I'm relieved with my verdict but disappointed for Gilly (Gil