

Kallis set SA on track

Cricket AFP, Hamilton

Jacques Kallis was denied a fifth consecutive century as South Africa took control of the first Test against New Zealand here Wednesday before a late lightback by the Black Caps' bowlers.

At stumps South Africa were 279 for four, with in-form batsman Kallis leading the way with a superb knock of 92.

Pacemen Daryl Tuffey and Jacob Oram gave New Zealand hope after taking the new ball, Oram bouncing out a frustrated Kallis eight runs short of his ton.

It still left New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming conceding ground to his opposite Graeme Smith who won the toss and didn't hesitate in batting first on a dry, pitch offering little pace or spin early.

New Zealand's spin bowler Daniel Vettori snared the first two wickets but didn't threaten often as he ended with two for 83 off 23.

"We created enough to stay

interested throughout the day but it was always going to be tough toil on that wicket," Fleming said.

"The last 10 were excellent, and if we could have put one or two on that it was a pretty good day, but as it stands we're probably just behind."

Both camps labelled the much-discussed pitch as easily capable of producing a result as it wears out and the bounce becomes more variable.

Kallis dominated the day against an accurate New Zealand attack who bowled the right lines but had way too little pitch assistance.

He greeted off-spinner Paul Wiseman with consecutive sixes, cruised past 50 for the 38th time in his test career and strolled into the 90s.

But the new ball was his downfall, Tuffey and Oram applying the brakes as he spent 30 minutes on 90 then played a rash hook at Oram into Tuffey's safe hands at long leg.

Oram was New Zealand's best again, taking just one for 50 off 18 overs but delivering six maidens and having several close leg before

wicket shouts turned down -- notably when Kallis didn't offer a shot on 42.

Kallis batted 238 minutes, faced 177 balls and hit 11 fours and three sixes.

"I don't think it's the easiest of wickets and it's difficult to score on, so I would have settled for that at the start of the day definitely," said Kallis, whose test average against New Zealand now stands at 69.38.

Smith and Herschelle Gibbs added 51 for the first wicket but both hit soft catches off Vettori.

Kallis and left-hander Jacques Rudolph put on 132 for the third wicket but Scott Styris was the partnership-breaker, nicking out Rudolph for 72 to a brilliant diving debut catch from gloveman Brendon McCullum.

Kallis meanwhile was adamant a result was possible. "Already there's uneven bounce so I don't think batting will be easy for both sides. There's a definitely a good chance of a late winning."

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the open-

ing day of the first Test between New Zealand and South Africa on Wednesday:

Table with columns: Team, Runs, Wickets, Extras, Fall of wickets, and Bowling figures (O, M, R, W).

Zimbabwe A in town

SPORTS REPORTER

A 13-member Zimbabwe A team arrived in the city yesterday to play two four-day and five limited-overs matches against their Bangladesh.

Phil Simmons, the former West Indies opener, is accompanying the team as a coach while Alester Maregwede, who played only one one-day international for Zimbabwe, is leading the second string Zimbabweanside.

Two members, Waddington Mwayenga and Stuart Matsikenyeri, who are now featuring in the one-day series against Bangladesh, however will join the team on March 18.

The tourists will open their tour with a three-day game against the Bangladesh Under-23 side at the Fatullah Stadium starting from March 12.

No room for losses

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's field hockey great Shahbaz Ahmed says he cannot wait for India to play cricket in his country.

"I am as excited as anyone else," Shahbaz told AFP as Pakistan awaited the arrival of Sourav Ganguly's squad later on Wednesday for the ice-breaking tour of five one-dayers and three Test matches.

The tour is the first by an Indian team to rival Pakistan since 1989.

"India have not played a Test in Pakistan in 15 years so this is obviously a very special moment for our two countries," Shahbaz said, predicting that the contests would be as intense as they were in hockey.

"Look, India and Pakistan just don't want to lose to each other, be it cricket or hockey or any other sport."

"Our mindsets are like that. The public reacts horribly when we lose so the players are always on their toes.

"It becomes more than just sport. It should not, but it does. I don't believe a word when people say an India-Pakistan match is just another game."

They are

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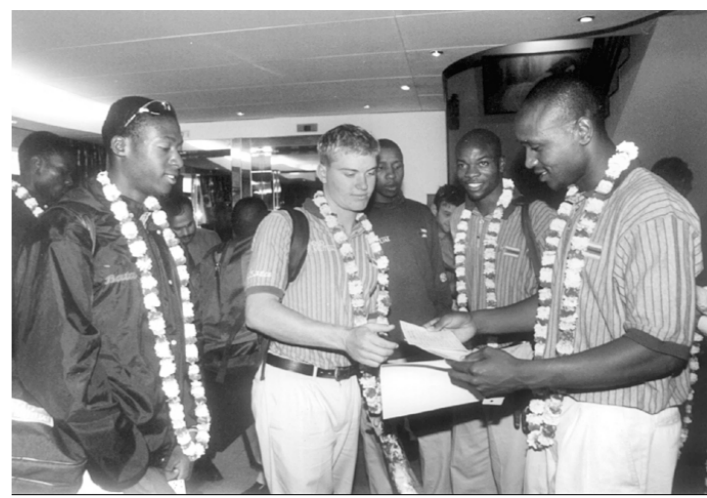
"I do not believe in any team being favourites. In an one-day international it depends on how well a side plays on a particular day. In a Test, it is the five days that matter," he said.

"It is important to win the series and equally important to play our part in the goodwill issue.

"I feel this team has a great opportunity to achieve what no other Indian team has been able to do in Pakistan."

India begin the tour with a warm-up match here on Thursday before the first of five one-day internationals gets underway in the southern port city of Karachi on Saturday.

The one-day series, which ends on March 24, will be followed by three Test matches at Multan, Lahore and Rawalpindi.



Zimbabwe A team members checking in at a city hotel on their arrival in Bangladesh on a 27-day tour yesterday.

Cherish the joy

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under no doubts that it was a full deserved triumph.

"This wasn't just a flash in the pan, they fought back like tigers to win this match," Whatmore told Reuters.

"The team is used to being behind...under pressure and trying to fight their way back into the game. In this match they got on top and they were driving the game."

He added: "It's been a long time, particularly for the public of Bangladesh and the team. I've been on board since June and that is long in itself and a lot of the players have been around for a lot longer than that."

Mohammad Ashraf's whirlwind 51 not out of 32 balls at the death was the defining moment of the game and showed how much of a team-man Test cricket's youngest centurion had become since his return to the side after a difficult year.

"When I scored the hundred against Sri Lanka, it never dawned on me what I had achieved as I was too immature to understand its significance. But today I could feel that we have done something remarkable for the nation. If I had the chance, I would have flown home to see how they are partying all over Bangladesh," said the 20-year-old.

Khaled Mahmud, the man who

has been the bridge between the conquest of Pakistan in Northampton on May 31, 1999 and Harare on March 10, 1994, saluted the cricket crazy millions of this country.

"I dedicate this victory to our outstanding fans who never lost faith in us," said the all-rounder who had postponed a decision to retire after his sacking following pressure from all quarters. But the hero of the famous World Cup win was grateful for another chance to experience glory.

"I thank the Bangladesh Cricket Board for showing faith in me. The pressure to win is off us now and I'm sure it won't be a one-way traffic from here on for the Tigers," said Mahmud who again played an important role yesterday by cracking a 16-ball 22 with a six and two fours and sharing a crucial 52-run partnership with Ashraf for the 7th wicket. He then returned with the cherry to dismiss danger man Sean Ervine.

The ever-spirited manager of the Bangladesh side MA Latif believed that the outcome was a result of months of hard work.

"We have started a fresh journey from today. It was possible because of the players' discipline and sweat. Now we can confidently look forward to win the series also."

BANGLADESH-ZIMBABWE SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table for Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe, showing batting and bowling statistics for both teams.

Warne and Hayden show

FROM PAGE 13

100th run, shortly before the close.

Hayden turned spinner Sanath Jayasuriya to short mid-wicket and took off for a single, but Pointing failed to beat fielder Upul Chandana's fast and flat throw to wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara.

Pointing's dismissal was a blow as he had been batting confidently against the spinners and was looking set to put his team in a strong position.

Sri Lanka were earlier all out for 381 in reply to Australia's modest total after leg-spinner Shane Warne had roared back with five wickets to move within four scalps of the magic 500 barrier.

Warne (496) claimed three of the four remaining wickets after the hosts had resumed at 352-6.

Australia then turned in a vastly-improved batting performance in the second innings, thanks to Hayden who kept the one end intact for more than two sessions.

Hayden was involved in a fascinating duel with the Sri Lankan spinners, especially Muttiah Muralitharan who had sparked Australia's collapse with six wickets in the first innings.

Off-spinner Muralitharan failed to repeat his magic, having so far conceded 60 runs in his 22 wicketless overs.

Hayden relied more on his sweep shot, connecting more than missing. He used his feet well, lofting Muralitharan and Kumar

Dharmasena for two sixes. He also struck 10 fours in his 174-ball knock.

Langer also played a crucial role in his team's fightback, contributing 32 after his team had restricted Sri Lanka's lead.

Sri Lanka looked set to cross the 400-mark before floundering against Warne, who finished with 5-116 for his 24th haul of five or more wickets in a Test innings.

Warne is behind only retired West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh (519) in the all-time wicket taking standings, closely followed by Muralitharan (491).

The Australian spinner, who took just one wicket on Tuesday, looked more impressive this morning as he claimed three victims for 13 runs in tight 10.4 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Wednesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 220 (Lehman 63, Martyn 42, Hayden 41; Muralitharan 6-59, Dharmasena 2-52)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 352-6)

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Extras, Total, and Bowling figures (O, M, R, W).

Samaraweera not out 36 Chandana c Gilchrist b Warne 27 Vass c Hayden b MacGill 0 Dharmasena c Hayden b Warne 6 Muralitharan c a b Warne 0 Extras: (b-2, nb-1) 3 Total: (All out in 136.4 overs) 381

Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-92, 3-123, 4-198, 5-298, 6-323, 7-369, 8-372, 9-381.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Extras, Total, and Bowling figures (O, M, R, W).

AUSTRALIA: Second innings Langer lbw b Jayasuriya 32 Hayden not out 106 Ponting run out 28 Martyn not out 10 Extras: (b-9, lb-8) 17 Total: (For two wickets in 67 overs) 193

Fall of wickets: 1-91, 2-175.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Extras, Total, and Bowling figures (O, M, R, W).

Toss: Australia Umpires: David Shepherd (ENG) and Rudi Koertzen (RSA). TV umpire: Gaminini Silva (SRI). March-referee: Chris Broad (ENG).

ICC to release WC money

AFP, Auckland

Cricket's governing body Wednesday decided to hand over money it had retained from last year's World Cup to member boards.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has withheld money pending a claim from its commercial partner in the African event, Global Cricket Corporation (GCC).

New Zealand, which refused to play in Kenya on security grounds, had money withheld from it, but ICC president Ehsan Mani told reporters that New Zealand Cricket would now get the two million US dollars that had been withheld.

However, the ICC would continue to retain an undisclosed sum from all countries that took part in the tournament, pending resolution of the GCC claim.

IDLC CAS Trophy golf held

PRESS RELEASE

RT Parash clinched the men's title while Dr Caroline Bauer won the ladies' crown in the first IDLC CAS (Chief of Army Staff) Trophy golf tournament at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club in Chittagong on March 5.

A total of 160 golfers including 11 ladies participated in this premier event.

Chief of Army Staff and president of BGCC Lt General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury distributed prizes among the winners.

OTHER RESULTS

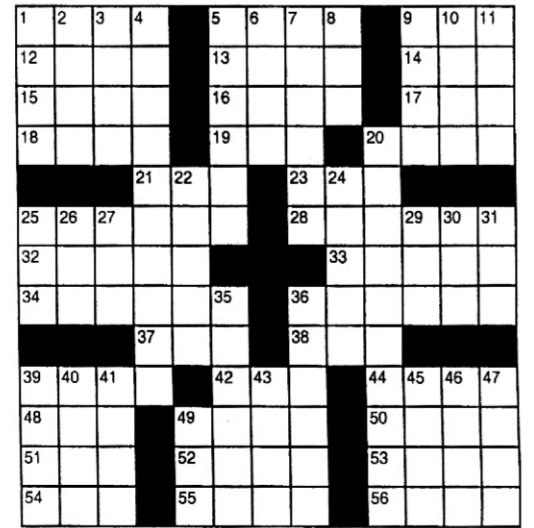
Runner-up: Taher Jamil Chowdhury, Second runner-up: Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed, Senior winner: MH Samad, Best Front Nine: CH Moon, Best Back Nine: Arshi Haider, Longest Drive: Shawkat-uz-Zaman, Nearest to the Pin: RT Parash, 9 Hole winner: Master Albab, Ladies runner-up: Shameem Intikhab.



Winners of the first IDLC CAS (Chief of Army Staff) Trophy golf tournament are seen with the chief guest Chief of Army Staff Lt General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club on March 5.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Refuse workers 37 Archery-bow 5 Trail material 9 Periodical, for short 12 Post-bath application 13 H-dos-O? 14 "lazy river, ..." 15 Zion National Park location 16 Split In two 17 Flowery accessory 18 Soap actress Linda 19 Praiseful piece 20 Libretto 21 Peculiar 23 Show to seats, jocularly 25 Ship's kitchen 28 Beautifully expressed 32 Iron - 33 City on the Mohawk 34 Go



CRYPTOQUIP C F V C K A V S Z U C T A P ' H S T A V N Z G R V N Z G R V R C F Z C F K H M G D A T R M U C K I V V N D X T P V V H " L V C A T X X K G L . " Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER WINTER IS THROUGH, I SUPPOSE PERENNIAL PLANTS ARE IN FOR A ROOT AWAKENING. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals E

Satkhira cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Balaka Krira Chakra recorded a massive eight-wicket victory over Rasulpur Jubo Sangha in the Satkhira District First Division Cricket League at the Satkhira Government College ground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Rasulpur batted first and collected 172 runs after being all out in 40 overs.

In reply, Balaka scored 176 for two in 28.2 overs.

Eyes on Russell

FROM PAGE 13 next two days the Russell coach was very much satisfied with what his young team has achieved so far.

"In my two-decade experience as a coach, I don't recall ever seeing a promoted team play like Sheikh Russell. It was also rare for a newcomer to beat three giants in a club," said dGazi, who took over the club this season after spending six years with Arambagh Krira Sangsad.

Imran's one-day

FROM PAGE 13 see fierce competition on the field during the matches.

"A lot will depend whether Indian captain Sourav Ganguly can take pressure better than Inzamamul Haq to determine the outcome of the match."

Khan said Pakistan would have an edge in the three-Test series because of their bowling strength.

He said he was sure the March 13-April 17 series was going to be played in a very friendly atmosphere.

Tigers' first feast

FROM PAGE 1 scoring 40 runs in the last five overs with three wickets in hand.

The home team eventually went into the final over with 13 runs needing to avoid their first ever defeat in 11 matches against the tenth Test-playing nation.

But young right-arm paceman Tareq Aziz provided a dazzling conclusion by uprooting the stumps of Stuart Matsikenyeri and Douglas Hondo with successive balls to kick off an emotional night of celebration back home. He then just missed out on a hat-trick when Blessing Mahwire drove just wide of skipper Habibul Bashar in the covers.

Earlier, Bangladesh started disastrously on a damp pitch after being sent into bat, losing both their openers with the scorecard reading at 20. But the innings got back on track with Bashar and Rajin Saleh putting on 114 runs for the third wicket.

Bashar scored 61 with the help of seven boundaries and Rain grafted a 107-ball 57.

The partnership provided an ideal platform for man-of-the-match Mohammad Ashraf and former captain Khaled Mahmud to take the Zimbabwe attack to the sword.

Together, the two launched a vicious attack on the Zimbabweans to extract 89 runs in the last ten overs.

Ashraf hammered a 33-ball 52 inclusive of five fours and Mahmud clobbered a 16-ball 22 that featured a huge six against Doglous Hondo.

The fourth one-dayers commences at the same venue on Friday.