

New lease of life

AFP, Peshawar



adoring fans made him change his mind.

The hard-hitting batsman had not been considered by the selectors since Pakistan's embarrassing first round exit from the World Cup



SHAHID AFRIDI

in South Africa a year ago.

But he was brought back for the ongoing one-day series against India and responded with a blistering 80 off 58 balls in his comeback match at Rawalpindi on Tuesday which helped Pakistan win.

"These last 12 months have been a wake up call, the 24-year-old said ahead of Friday's third

one-dayer to be played before his adoring fellow Pathans in this northwestern city.

"I had almost decided to give up cricket, but the affection I received from fans kept me going.

"Even in India, where I went as captain of the Pakistan A team last year, the crowds kept urging me to fight for my place in the national side. It was very touching.

"If I can score consistently, I know I will be here to stay for a long time."

Afridi, who scored just 16 runs in three World Cup games, was suspended temporarily by the Pakistan Cricket Board after being charged with verbal abuse during the key clash against India at the Centurion Park on March 1 last year.

It has been a roller-coaster ride for the young man, who was selected for Pakistan in 1997 purely as a leg-spinner and smashed a record-breaking century in 37 balls in only his second game against Sri Lanka.

Now a married man with two daughters, Afridi said he had matured as a cricketer after a recent stint with Griqualand in South Africa's domestic cricket.

"South African pitches have more bounce than the ones in Pakistan and helped me develop my batting," he said.

Afridi said he was enjoying India's first full tour of Pakistan since 1989.

"We share very good relations with the Indian players, but no quarter is spared when we get on the field. The most important thing for me is to see Pakistan win," he said.

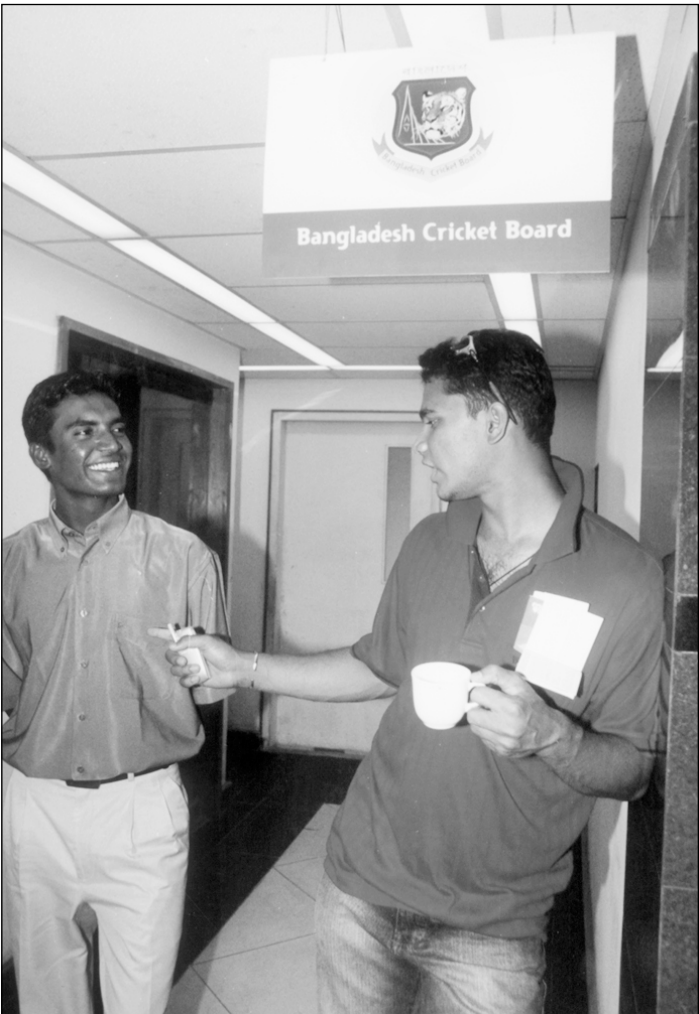


PHOTO: STAR

Injured Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza (R) chats with all-rounder Manjural Islam Rana at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's management office in Gulshan yesterday. Mashrafe went to submit his passport as he is scheduled to leave for the Sri Lankan capital Colombo today. In Colombo, Mashrafe will meet Dr David Young, the noted Australian surgeon who operated on his troublesome knees a couple of months ago, to assess the progress of recovery.

Nat'l Bank v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles maintained their all-win record in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League, beating Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) 3-1 at the outer stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Rifles secured maximum 24 points from eight games, six points ahead of BWDB, who have played one more match.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) beat Azad SC 3-0.

U-13 cricket

UNB, Dhaka

A superbball-round performance by Jitu helped Dhaka Cricket Academy beat Basic Cricket Coaching Centre by 14 runs in the Azim Group second under-13 cricket tournament at the Kalabagan Cricket Club ground yesterday.

Jubo School

FROM PAGE 13

Mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu trophies among the winners as the chief guest at a simple ceremony.

The champions also received Tk 25,000 and runners-up got Tk 15,000 each.

Former national team player Shahnewaz Chowdhury Shanu was present as the special guest.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AL RASHID: 87/10 in 37 overs (Humayun 34, Farhad 10, Ripon 11; Raju 2/19 and Soton 1/7)

JUBO CRICKET SCHOOL: 88/5 in 18 overs (Zubayer not out 35, Farhad 23, Nirala 14; Mustakin 4/13, Royal 2/14 and Nayon 2/5)

Result: Jubo Cricket School won by five wickets.

A bowlers

FROM PAGE 13

total: (All out in 78.4 overs) 229
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-38, 3-127, 4-179, 5-182, 6-182, 7-207, 8-207, 9-228

Bowler	O	M	R	W
A Kabir	22	2	76	4
Shahadat	16	3	43	3
Enamul	16.4	5	30	1
Jamaluddin	10	2	31	1
Faisal	14	4	19	1

BANGLADESHA: Second innings

Nafees b Panyangara	1
Rashedul run out	41
Ehsanul c Maregeweb b Mwayenge	20
Tushar lbw b Ewing	21
Mazharul c Sibandab b Mwayenge	0
Faisal c Sims b Gripper	40
Jamaluddin not out	21
Salim not out	0
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-10)	12
Total: (For 6 wickets in 44 overs)	156

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-71, 3-71, 4-76, 5-129, 6-147

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	9	2	37	1
Chigumbura	4	0	26	0
Mwayenge	10	2	31	2
Bennett	6	0	27	0
Gripper	8	2	24	1
Ewing	7	3	10	1



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa opener Herschelle Gibbs pulls one for four on way to making 80 on the opening day of the second Test against New Zealand at Auckland yesterday.

SA dominate Day One

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

South Africa's openers were within sight of becoming world cricket's most prolific opening partnership Thursday as their side took control on the opening day of the second Test against New Zealand.

South Africa ended the day on 231 for two.

Jacques Kallis was 39 not out and on target to equal the great Don Bradman's record sequence of centuries in six successive Tests. Opposite him was Jacques Rudolph on 14.

Smith and Herschelle Gibbs provided classic opening bat leadership and left New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming regretting his decision to bowl first after winning the toss.

Smith's 88, which left him one run short of 2,000 in Tests, and Gibbs' 80 saw them put on 177 for the first wicket -- their sixth century stand in 32 Test innings together.

It equalled Trevor Goddard and Eddie Barlow's South Africa record of six century opening stands and boosted their partnership average to an outstanding 84.76, including three triple-century stands.

Only great England pair Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe's 87.81 is superior, achieved from 38 innings together.

Smith and Gibbs were both removed in consecutive balls Thursday either side of tea as they threatened 200.

"It's probably the worst I've felt in an international knock getting over 50," Smith, who was trapped leg before wicket, told reporters later.

"I never felt comfortable one bit, it was a grind all day. To get out to something you should have hit for

four makes it all the more disappointing."

Smith and Gibbs' started in January 2003 when they scored 368 against Pakistan in Cape Town, and in the past year have put on 338 against England at Birmingham and 301 against the West Indies at Centurion.

"We get on well, we know each other's game well, we talk to each other a lot. I know when he's struggling and vice versa and we work through it," Smith said.

"We stress partnerships a lot in our team in the top-six and I think we've formed a really good partnership. We complement each other well and we've been lucky."

Smith was satisfied with the day's total.

"You can add on about another 50 runs on that. The number of times you hit the ball and it just plugs when you think you've got four, and the outfield's slow," he said.

"There's not a lot of pace to hit through the ball. When Jacques Kallis tells you he's struggling to drive the ball then you know it's slow."

Fleming engaged six bowlers in a bid for a breakthrough but it was only in the last over before tea that the Black Caps found any reward.

Chris Cairns claimed his 199th Test wicket with his last ball before tea, taking out Gibbs' off stump. Gibbs had provided an entertaining knock with one six and 13 fours off 238 balls. The huge six had gone over mid-wicket from Cairns' bowling.

With the openers gone Kallis was brought in keen to match Bradman's record on a wicket almost tailored for his free-swing style.

Fleming explored all his options with six bowlers but the day -- fine, warm and calm -- belonged to the batsmen.

Bowling honours were shared, with Martin taking one for 61 off 19 overs while Cairns got one for 43 off 15 overs.

Fleming later admitted that he might have made a mistake by putting in South Africa. And he was disappointed with the way the drop-in-wicket played.

Fleming said: "That toss could be one I'd like to have lost."

"There's been a couple of times this summer that pitches have fooled a lot of people."

"We honestly thought we'd get a window of opportunity by bowling first. The window wasn't as big as we hoped."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the first day of the second Test between New Zealand and South Africa on Thursday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

Smith lbw b Martin	88
Gibbs b Cairns	80
Rudolph not out	14
Kallis not out	39
Extras: (lb-8, nb-1, w-1)	10
Total: (For 2 wickets in 90 overs)	231
Fall of wickets: 1-177, 2-177	

To bat: Kirsten, McKenzie, Boucher, Pollock, Boje, Ntini, Terbrugge

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tuffey	19	6	28	0
Martin	19	4	61	1
Oram	18	3	39	0
Cairns	15	4	43	1
Styris	14	5	37	0
Vettori	5	1	15	0

NEW ZEALAND: Fleming, Richardson, Papps, Styris, McMillan, Cairns, Oram, McCullum, Vettori, Tuffey, Martin.

Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan).

JU cricket

BSS, Savar

Bangla Department stormed into the last eight of the inter-department cricket championship of Jahangirnagar University (JU) when they beat International Relations by 11 runs at the university central playground yesterday.

Batting first, Bangla scored 153 for eight in the stipulated 25 overs with Jahid hitting 38 while Saeed and Shahogh added 22 runs each. Swapan and Noyon took two wickets each for Bangla Department.

In reply, International Relations were all out for 142 in 25 overs. Munna was the team's highest scorer with 43 and Salekin made 42.

Kabadi meet

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army registered an exciting 47-46 victory over Bangladesh Police in the opening match of the Independence Day kabadi competition at the outer stadium kabadi court yesterday.

Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Rifles are taking part in the tournament organised by Bangladesh Kabadi Federation.

Earlier, Bangladesh Kabadi Federation vice-president AKM Mukitpur Rahman inaugurated the meet.

Parsvnath chess

FROM PAGE 13

Arman Monir.

TENTH ROUND RESULTS

Debaraj beat IM Konguvel, Khandkar Amin drew with Satyapragyan, Rakib drew with Srinivasa, Parag beat Somak Palit, Rajib beat Dilip, Rani beat Gopalakrishna, Nasir beat David, Poolab beat Sangeetha, Maleq beat Junaid, Monjur beat Hemant Arman beat Weerawardane, Shakil drew with Nasir Ali and Javed lost against Deep Sengupta.

Another from Martyn

Cricket

AFP, Kandy

Damien Martyn slammed a second century under pressure in successive matches as Australia surged into a strong position in the second Test against Sri Lanka here on Thursday.

The stylish middle-order batsman scored an unbeaten 104 as Australia reached 320-5 in their second innings before the third day's play was called off in the afternoon session due to rain.

Australia are now 229 runs ahead with five wickets in hand after resuming at 221-2. Andrew Symonds was batting on six with Martyn.

Martyn, 32, produced a big innings just when Australia needed runs to pull themselves out of trouble after conceding a first-innings lead of 91.

He had scored 110 in the second innings of the opening Test at Galle in similar testing conditions to lead his team's fightback.

Australia trailed by 161 runs before coming back strongly to win the match for a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

Martyn continued to relish the Sri Lankan attack as he hit 14 fours in his seventh Test hundred in 41 matches. He reached his century in style, steering left-arm paceman Nuwan Zoysa past gully for a four.

He made Sri Lanka pay dearly for letting him off in the day's third over with his rich stroke-play on both sides of the wicket.

Martyn had added just one run to his overnight score of 64 when he edged Zoysa to second slip, where Mahela Jayawardene grassed a low catch to his right.

"You need a little bit of luck," said Martyn.

"I knew you are going to play and miss in these conditions. You've got to take the good with the bad. The century was satisfying from the team's point of view as we tried to post a big total.

"It's great to make Test hundreds in the sub-continent. It was satisfying as my last back-to-back centuries came two years ago. I think each innings is a learning curve. I just enjoyed batting a long time."

There was no stopping Martyn as he continued to bat fluently against both pace and spin on a pitch getting better and better for batting with each session.

Australia were unfortunate to lose skipper Ricky Ponting to a poor decision after the batsman had contributed a neat 27.

Ponting was given out caught behind off left-arm fast bowler Chaminda Vaas (3-78) by South African umpire Dave Orchard.

The Australian captain looked surprised by the decision and TV replays also showed the ball had gone between bat and pad on its way to wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara.

Ponting had been batting confidently after recovering from a back sprain, once dancing down the track to hoist off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan over long-on for a six early in his knock.

Sri Lanka bowled well in the opening hour to dismiss Adam Gilchrist (144) and Darren Lehmann (21) before being thwarted by Martyn.

Muralitharan, who went wicketless on Wednesday, struck first when he trapped Gilchrist leg-before with the one that straighten up after pitching.

Gilchrist added only four to his overnight score of 140 and shared a record 200-run stand for the third wicket with Martyn. His 10th Test century contained three sixes and 19 fours.

Lehmann looked in good form, using his feet well to drive Muralitharan for two fours. He then drove Vaas and Zoysa for two more. His flourish, however, did not last long as he fell lbw to Vaas.

Martyn continued to bat steadily from the other end, always picking the right delivery to punish after being let off early in the day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the third day of the second Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy on Thursday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 120 (Hayden 54; Muralitharan 4-48, Zoysa 4-54)

SRI LANKA: First innings 211 (Vaas 68 not out, Muralitharan 43; Warne 5-65, Kasprowitz 4-83)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 221-2)

Langer c S'kara b Zoysa	9
Hayden c and b Vaas	5
Gilchrist lbw b M'tharan	144
Martyn not out	104
Lehmann lbw b Vaas	21
Ponting c S'kara b Vaas	27
Symonds not out	6
Extras: (lb-3, nb-1)	4
Total: (For 5 wickets in 103 overs)	320
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-26, 3-226, 4-255, 5-304	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	24	5	78	3
M'tharan	38	7	126	1
Zoysa	23	9	58	1
L'rachchi	12	2	33	0
J'suriya	5	0	16	0
Dilshan	1	0	6	0

WI pride at stake

Cricket

AFP, Port-of-Spain

West Indies will be playing to restore pride when they face England in the second of four Tests starting on Friday at Queen's Park Oval.

The home side sank to their lowest Test total of 47 as Michael Vaughan's side, bidding to end England's 36-year wait for a Test series victory in the Caribbean, completed a 10-wicket triumph in the opening Test after a career-best bowling performance from Steve Harmison to take a 1-0 lead.

A defeat in the second Test would seriously dent West Indies' hopes of stopping England from breaking their Caribbean jinx, since tying the series in the final two Tests at Bridgetown and St. John's will require a huge effort from the home side.

"We have to recognise we are playing a different match and put the right foot forward to ensure we stay on top," West Indies captain Brian Lara said.

"What's important for us is to get in front from early and stay in front. This has been something we have not been able to do for some time and this is what we have to work on."

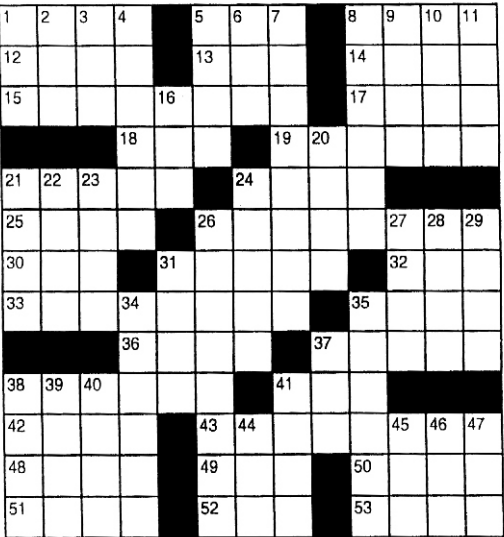
There was a time when teams that cornered and conquered West Indies the way England did in Jamaica would cringe just contemplating the backlash that would come their way in the next Test.

However with a young side clearly still trying to wade through the waters of international cricket, West Indies no longer have the armoury that would allow them to hit back with equal or substantially more venom than England did at Kingston.

Lara can still turn a match on its

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Apricots' innards	52 Driver's license	16 Cushion
1 Allowing customers	36 Cod	20 Kajillions of years	
5 Burst	37 "Whose piece at the woods	53 200 Indy	21 Highlander
8 Piece of work	38 "Who are these are" he thought	54 500	22 "A Boy Named Sue" singer
12 Danny or Stubby	39 "Who are these are" he thought		23 Finished
13 Shock's partner	40 "Who are these are" he thought		24 What Oliver Twist requested more of
14 Ashcroft's predecessor	41 French pronoun		26 Galt's
15 With 19-Across, storybook heroine	42 Timber wolf		27 Small combo
17 Cheshire Cat's countenance	43 See 38-Across		28 On the — (unfriendly)
18 News-caster	44 Eastern potentate		29 Egg container
19 See 15-Across	45 Heavy weight		31 Parisian policeman
21 Chide	50 La Scala solo		34 Snub
24 Thug	51 Basilica area		35 Original
25 Bear lair			37 Backing
26 Bryan of "Malcolm in the Middle"			38 Entreaty
30 Sugar suffix			39 Cavort
31 All — (card game)			40 Wading
32 Wish undone			41 Tailless tabby
33 More than happy			42 Weeding tool
			45 Playwright
			46 Pinch
			47 Petrol



CRYPTOQUIP

Z N R N A S O P X H S O Y S Y

W M U E N X E M K K P X T

U M I U P T M U Y S N U E D A E S D Y H M

W K M X S R N I Q N K Z Q Y K K E ?
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN ELECTRICIANS CALL PEOPLE COLLECT, I IMAGINE SOMEONE WILL ACCEPT THE CHARGES.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals L

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