

Harm-is-on

Cricket

AFP, Port-of-Spain

Steve Harmison again bowled England into a superior position as West Indies promised much, but delivered little on the opening day of the second cricket Test at Queen's Park Oval on Friday.

In between two stoppages for rain, Harmison, whose seven wickets in the previous Test catapulted England to a sensational 10-wicket victory, captured five wickets for 48 runs from 17 overs as West Indies struggled to 189 for eight in their first innings when bad light stopped play 10 overs early.

West Indies might have felt their decision to bat on a hard, true pitch under sunny to overcast skies was correct when they benefitted from a century opening stand between left-handers Chris Gayle and Devon Smith.

Michael Vaughan, however, swung Harmison to the southern, or Queen's Park Cricket Club End, for a second spell and his introduction transformed the complexion of the match.

Gayle, Smith and West Indies captain Brian Lara, all departed in a sensational 15-minute period just prior to lunch in the space of 13 balls and the rot continued, although the rains offered the home team temporary respite.

Batting like a man possessed, Gayle hit 12 fours and one six from 81 balls in the top score of 62 in just under two hours and had eased West Indian pain of last Sunday's debacle at Kingston when they were bowled out for a Test low of 47.

Things fell apart for West Indies after the left-hander, playing defensively forward, was caught behind to end an opening stand of exactly 100 with Smith to lift English spirits after the two openers, but Gayle in particular, marauded the visitors' attack.

In Harmison's next over, England gained a bonus when Smith, playing back to the first delivery, was adjudged lbw for 71 balls, and then hit the jackpot when

Lara was caught at gully for a four-ball duck.

Only half an hour of cricket was possible in the afternoon period, but it was enough time for Simon

Jones to have experienced left Shivnarine Chanderpaul caught behind for two top-edging a cut to leave West Indies on 127 for four when light rain prompted an early

tea break.

Once play restarted after almost 90 minutes, West Indies declined rapidly as they had no answer to the English bowlers, who exploited the prevailing overcast conditions and moist pitch to great effect.

Dwayne Smith was caught at square for 16 and Sarwan was caught at second slip for 21 to complete another five-wicket haul for the irrepressible Harmison to leave West Indies 143 for six.

Matthew Hoggard joined the party when Tino Best was caught behind for one before Adam Sanford was run out for one by England captain Michael Vaughan's throw from deep fine leg to the keeper that summed up the plight of the West Indies, who sank further into the abyss on 165 for eight.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the opening day of the second Test between West Indies and England at Queen's Park Oval on Friday:

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists performance of Harmison, Hoggard, Flintoff, and others.

ENGLAND: Vaughan, Trescothick, Butcher, Hussain, Thorpe, Flintoff, Read, Giles, Harmison, Jones, Hoggard.



PHOTO: AFP

FIVE-STAR STEVE: England's Steve Harmison celebrates claiming the wicket of West Indies opener Chris Gayle on the first day of the second Test in Trinidad on Friday. The fast bowler claimed five wickets on the day.

Nat'l Bank v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Fire Service recorded their first victory in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League defeating fellow strugglers Azad Sporting Club 3-0 at the outer stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Azad SC were already relegated to the First Division after losing all their nine matches.

M'singh cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Renaissance Club posted a seven-wicket over Shapla Kira Chakra in the Navana Premier Division Cricket League at local stadium yesterday.

Batting first Shapla scored 117 for nine in 29.4 overs.

In reply, Renaissance made 119 for three in 26.2 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SHAPLA KRIRA CHAKRA: 117 for 9 in 29.4 overs (Sumon 50, Afroz 15, Rubel 10; Rana 3/9, Liton 2/15)

RENAISSANCE CLUB: 119 for 3 in 26.2 overs (Liton 48, Sajal 14, Zony 24, Morshed 10; Afroz 2/16, Mamun 1/24)

Result: Renaissance Club won by seven wickets.

CORRECTION

In one of our yesterday's captions the name of the Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club was wrongly published as Lt Gen Khaled Mashud Chowdhury. In fact, it should have been Hasan Mashud Chowdhury. We regret the slip.

Harmison rates Friday's highly

Cricket

REUTERS, Port-of-Spain

Fast bowler Steve Harmison said five wickets for 48 in the second Test on Friday was an even better performance than his seven for 12 which helped win the first Test in Jamaica last weekend.

Harmison repeated his Jamaica heroics on Friday to reduce West Indies to 189 for eight at the close on Day One, and the Durham man said his effort at the Queen's Park Oval was a further improvement.

"I honestly think I bowled better today than I did on Sunday," said Harmison. "I think I put the ball in better areas -- obviously not in the first spell but in my second spell."

Harmison bowled six overs without reward with the new ball, but when Michael Vaughan switched him to the Pavilion End, the move paid immediate dividends.

Chris Gayle, Devon Smith and captain Brian Lara were all dismissed in the space of eight balls as West Indies slumped from a commanding position of 100 without loss.

Dwayne Smith and Ramnaresh Sarwan followed after tea as Harmison collected five wickets in an innings for the third time in his

Test career.

"I think the weather conditions changed and helped me," he said. "When I came on for my second spell 20 minutes before lunch, the clouds came over and suddenly a flat pitch started doing a bit. It was a bit like Lord's."

Harmison said he did not think his Jamaica performance would sink in until the England team got back home but he admitted that he did feel he now has an edge over the West Indies batsmen.

"I think when you get two or three quick wickets, like I did today, and it's the same people as on Sunday, there is certainly more in their minds than in mine," he said.

"To get someone like Brian Lara out -- one of the best batsmen in the world -- gives you an extra kick. I think that extended my spell by about three or four overs."

ID kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles defeated newcomer Bangladesh Navy 67-31 in 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 league-basis meet.

Parsvnath chess

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib and Mehdi Hasan Parag shared 14th to 33rd positions with 7.5 points each after the end of the last round games of the second Parsvnath International Rating Chess tournament in New Delhi on Friday.

IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FM Khandkar Aminul Islam, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, Mohammad Javed and Debaraj Chatterjee earned 7 points each and shared the 34th to 58th positions.

International Women Master Rani Hamid grabbed the third position 7 points.

Grand Master Said Ali of Uzbekistan clinched the men's title with 9 points while Grand Master Koneru won the women's crown with 7.5 points.

In the eleventh or last round, Parag beat IM Koshy of India, Rakib beat Srinivas, Rajib beat Unni, Shakil beat Thapa, Javed beat Katwal and Rani beat Lalit. Amin lost against IM Sharma and Debaraj lost against Sarawan.

Sunnydale meet BIS in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Sunnydale and Bangladesh International School (BIS) reached the final of the second mini handball tournament yesterday.

The final will be played at the Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi tomorrow at 3.30pm.

In the day's first semifinal, Sunnydale defeated BAF Shaheen College 10-5. The winners led the first session 5-2.

BIS outplayed Dhanmondi Tutorial 14-3 after leading the first half 7-2.

Before the final takes place the third place decider will be held on the same day at 2.30pm.

Javed does

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and not worthy about such things." Shoaib, who is regarded as the world's fastest bowler and has been clocked at over 100 mph (160.9 kph), was reported to the ICC for chucking three times before he was given the all-clear in 2001.

He has picked up six wickets in the series so far.

"I think matters such as anyone's bowling action should be left to the umpires and match-referee to look into," Miandad said.

"Shoaib is playing because his action has been cleared by the ICC. Our job is to play cricket and avoid making judgements."

Miandad also said he thought Ganguly was lucky to escape censure from the match referee for criticising the International Cricket Council's (ICC) rule on slow over-rates.

Pakistan skipper Inzamamul Haq said relations between the teams were friendly.

Make or break

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INDIA (from): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Sehgal, Rahul Dravid, Virender Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kifir, Irfan Pathan, Hemang Badani, Murali Kartik, Zaheer Khan, Laxmipathi Balaji, Parthiv Patel, Ramesh Powar, Amit Bhandari.

Warne's next over was eventful as Vaas swung for a four and then drove in the covers where Andrew Symonds dropped an easy catch. The batsman was on 45 in a total of 319.

Australia and Warne heaved a sigh of relief when Vaas swung straight into the hands of Justin Langer at deep mid-wicket. Vaas struck eight fours in his 53-ball 45.

SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium on Saturday:

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

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

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 442 (D Martyn 161, A Gilchrist 144; M Muralitharan 5-173, CVaas 3-103)

SRI LANKA: Second innings (over-100) 301-7

Atapattu lbw b Gillespie 8; Jayasuriya c Gilchrist b Gillespie 131; Gunawardene lbw b Kasprowitz 9; Sangakkara c and b Warne 29; J'wardene c Gilchrist b Gillespie 13; Dilshan b Warne 43; Tillakaratne c Ponting b Warne 7; Vaas c Langer b Warne 45; Lokurachchi lbw b Warne 16; Zoysa c Gilchrist b Gillespie 0; Muralitharan not out 4; Extras: (b-4, lb-14, nb-1) 19; Total: (All out in 73.1 overs) 324

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-36, 3-98, 4-174, 5-218, 6-239, 7-274, 8-319, 9-320

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists performance of Gillespie, Warne, Symonds, MacGill, and others.

Result: Australia won by 27 runs and take winning 2-0 lead in 3-Test series.

Man-of-the-match: Shane Warne. Toss: Australia.

Third Test: March 24-28, Colombo.

Get him at any cost

Football

THE SUN, Madrid

Real Madrid will ignore Arsenal's protests and go all out to capture Thierry Henry in May. The Gunners have made it clear their star striker is not for sale -- and Henry insists he is not interested.

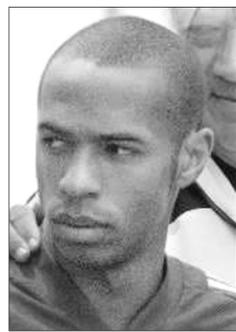
But Real president Florentino Perez will not take "no" for an answer. He has vowed to stick to his policy of signing a Galactico every year and rates Henry, 26, as the best player in the world not already in Madrid.

Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein has already knocked back a world-record 50 million pounds bid from Chelsea for the French goal machine.

And the message from Dein was "forget it" when Barcelona made two attempts to open negotiations. The second offer came last week and included Dutch ace Patrick Kluyvert plus 30 million pounds.

Dein met Perez on Tuesday in Valencia at a summit of Europe's top G14 clubs but the Madrid supremo avoided a row by agreeing not to discuss Henry.

He does not want to anger the Gunners by moving for the star



THIERRY HENRY

with Arsenal and Real on collision course in the Champions League.

The clubs will meet if the Gunners beat Chelsea and Real see off Monaco in the quarter-finals.

But Perez plans to apply maximum pressure on Arsenal after the potential semifinal second leg on May 4.

He is convinced he can make them crack in the same way Juventus and Inter Milan caved in to sell Zinedine Zidane for 47 million pounds and Ronaldo for 28 million pounds.

Madrid have been encouraged by whispers that they are the only club Henry would leave Arsenal for if he cannot fulfil his ambition of Champions League glory.

And Perez believes the lure of playing alongside close pal and World Player of the Year Zidane -- contracted to 2007 -- will help tempt Henry.

Manchester United's Ruud Van Nistelrooy, Roma's Francesco Totti and Juventus star David Trezeguet are also Real targets.

FOOTBALL BRIEFS

AFP, London

Manchester United and England defender Rio Ferdinand launched a ferocious attack Saturday on the English Football Association (FA) for its role in banning him for eight months over a missed drugs test.

Ferdinand, who will miss the rest of this season and the Euro 2004 championships after losing an appeal against the ban on Thursday, made it clear that he felt personally betrayed by some FA officials.

"I've had huge support from my family, fans, players and mates from all over the country," Ferdinand told the Sun newspaper.

"I'm not here just to pick up championships. That would almost be boring. I'm here because it's a challenge to put out fires."

Hitzfeld, whose side have struggled in the Bundesliga and were knocked out of the Champions League last week, has come under pressure this season as his expensive collection of players have repeatedly failed to live up to expectations.

Hitzfeld is in his sixth season at Bayern, who lie second, nine points behind leaders Werder Bremen, and he believes he will need to make changes to his squad.

"It's dangerous that some (players) feel a little bit too comfortable here," he said. "I'd like to see more of a competitive situation."

MU TO PLAY IN USA

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United will tour the United States this summer for a second consecutive year and play matches against Bayern Munich, Celtic and AC Milan, the club announced on Friday.

The tour begins in Chicago with a repeat of the 1999 Champions League Final against German champions Bayern.

United's English Premiership rivals Liverpool have also confirmed they will be playing three matches in the United States this year, their first tour of the States for 40 years.

Gerard Houllier's side will compete alongside United, Celtic, Chelsea, Bayern Munich and AS Roma in the Champions World series between July 26 and August 3.

Manchester United 2004 US tour fixtures:

July 25: v Bayern Munich in Chicago

July 28: v Celtic in Philadelphia

July 31: v AC Milan in New York

HITZFELD'S CONCERN

REUTERS, Berlin

Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld has again said he has no plans to leave the struggling club but he is concerned a few of his players are overperforming.

"I'm not going to run away," Hitzfeld told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung on Saturday.

"I'm going to meet the challenge. I'm not here just to pick up championships. That would almost be boring. I'm here because it's a challenge to put out fires."

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LIFELINE FOR LEEDS

AFP, Leeds

English Premiership club Leeds United was Friday taken over by a consortium headed by local businessman Gerald Krasner.

The takeover was facilitated by a complex restructuring which involves the club's parent company, Leeds United PLC, being put into administration.

"The consortium has done its job," Krasner told Sky Sports News. "Leeds United is saved for the supporters."

Krasner, an insolvency specialist, will take over as chairman of the club and former Leeds player Peter Lorimer, one of the stars of the club in its 1970s glory years, has been appointed as a director, a move that will go down well with the fans.

Cairns crushes

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New Zealand run fest and in his second over captured the prized scalp of Cairns, and Oram fell four runs later to give Ntini his third wicket.

But Ntini's wickets were at a price, giving up 101 runs in 34 overs, while Pollock finished with two for 111 from 30 overs.

Kallis, looking for a sixth century in as many Tests with the bat, found a century he did not want with 108 runs coming from his 23 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between New Zealand and South Africa at Eden Park on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 296 (G Smith 88, H Gibbs 80; C Martin 6-76)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 201-3)

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists performance of Richardson, Pappas, Fleming, Styris, McMillan, McCullumb, Cairns, Oram, Vettori, Tuffey, and Extras.

Total: (For 6 wickets in 144 overs) 584

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-12, 3-137, 4-285, 5-314, 6-349, 7-574, 8-578

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists performance of Pollock, Ntini, Terbrugge, Kallis, Boje, McKenzie, Rudolph, and Smith.

Shantoo sees

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Mustafa Anwar Parvez, Firoz Mahmud Hossain Titoo, Zahid Hasan Emily, Monwar Hossain (captain), Mohammed Sujon, Ziaur Rahman, Atiqul Islam Tariq, Ashraf Karim, Arman Aziz, Kamal Hossain, Haris-uz-Zaman, Zahidul Hasan Dalim, Yousuf Ali Khan and Akram Hossain.

B Chy sits on SC footpath, stages

FROM PAGE 1

has no right to stay in power anymore as it has failed to carry out its duty to serve people's cause and fulfil the promises it made in the election manifesto," the former president said.

The programme was convened to protest attacks on alternative stream Convenor Badruddoza, Member Secretary Abdul Mannan, a retired major, and some supporters and foiling of March 11 rally at Muktagang.

Journalist and former BNP leader Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi and General Secretary of Bangladesh Krishak Samik Janata League Fazlur Rahman condemned the attacks and BNP activists from different parts of the country including 30 from city's Moghbazar led by Hazi Nasir joined the alternative stream.

Amid a last-minute directive by police to political parties not to gather on the road and sidewalks in front of the press club and threats of attacks on their procession, leaders and activists of the alternative stream left its office at KC Memorial Clinic in Baridhara early in the morning. They entered the Supreme Court premises to exchange greetings with lawyers without the knowledge of law enforcers at 9:00am, an hour before staging the hunger strike.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) were deployed in riot gear at the two gates of the press club. They shut the gates at 7:00am to bar leaders and activists of the alternative stream from getting in. Policemen in huge number were also kept on guard from Matsya Bhaban to the press club.

Policemen however came to

know of the whereabouts of Badruddoza and his men at 10:40am when they attempted to come out of the Supreme Court premises through the main gate.

As police forced them to go back to the Supreme Court premises, Badruddoza asked policemen to let them hold the hunger strike on the footpath outside the court. On consultation with top government officials, police later allowed them to sit at the gate.

Some 100 leaders and activists of the alternative political stream later began the programme at 10:55am hanging banners from the gate.

Protesting police entry into the Supreme Court premises, former lawmaker and member of national committee of the alternative stream Mahi B Chowdhury demanded resignation of the home minister for asking police to enter the SC premises without permission.

Mannan said, "The government has infringed people's rights in all spheres of life and has let loose miscreants to silence voice against its misdeeds, corruption, injustice."

"Instead of running the state for people's interest, they (government) are advancing family and party interests," Mannan said, threatening a mass agitation to overthrow the government.

Slamming the government for obstructing them from carrying out their programmes, Badruddoza said, "All its undemocratic activities prove that the government has become nervous. While writing the manifesto for the 2001 general elections, I stressed curbing crime and corruption, but

I did not know the government is not competent to do such jobs," he said.

"Two lawmakers resigned from the government party as it lost its credibility by getting involved in the looting hunger strike at 5:00pm giving them water.

"We want to go to power to work sincerely for people," Badruddoza said, asking people to unite for peace and elimination of violence and corruption from society.

Referring to the stoppage of millions of dollars of exports of Mannan, he said a government that stops export and production cannot be a people's government.

"It's a government of terror," Replying to journalists' query, he said he would initiate talks with other political parties to launch an anti-government movement once he forms his political party.

Alternative stream national committee members Feroz M Hasan, Wahidul Hossain, Dr Muzaffar Ahmad and MA Halim, a retired major general, and Altaf Hossain, former lawmaker Elias Ahmed, former Jubo Dal president Jahangir Hossain, lawyers Sayed Motiul Islam Montu, Mustafizur Rahman, Shah M Badal and Rubi Khanam addressed the hunger strikers.

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microphone for Prof Chowdhury to address the crowd, but police did not allow loudspeaker use without permission.

Rickshawpullers Hazrat Ali and Rafiqul broker the fasting of the hunger strikers at 5:00pm giving them water.

Police chased some 15 supporters of the alternative stream at Matsya Bhaban and picked up as many on their way to the programme from Dhanmondi.

India fans storm

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month lay-off due to injury.

"The bowlers we have here have failed to get their act together. The pacers have to be more aggressive. Where are the bouncers and yorkers to unsettle the batsmen?" Ganguly asked.

Coach John Wright, however, exuded more confidence than the captain.

"Were still not out of the series," he said. "Pakistan surely have the advantage but we can't just lose hope."