

Cairns' 9-wkt farewell

Cricket
REUTERS, London

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns almost finished his Test match career with a winning display on his birthday on Sunday.

England's new-found self-belief, however, scuppered a fairytale ending.

A 3-0 series whitewash by England, the first for 26 years against New Zealand, might not seem the ideal time for the Kiwi's talisman to leave the Test arena but Cairns had made up his mind to retire, although he will continue to play one-day internationals.

The former Nottinghamshire player was fingertips away from a 10-wicket haul in his swansong on his old home ground before England edged to a four-wicket victory.

When the match was still in the balance, Ashley Giles hit the ball straight back to Cairns but like the match and the series it slipped past the 34-year-old's grasp.

"Chris Cairns gave his last hurrah with a great effort but it was

not to be," said New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming.

He had already taken five for 79 in the England's first innings to go with the four for 108, taking up the mantle of main strike bowler following New Zealand's terrible injury problems.

In the series as a whole, he grabbed 12 wickets, double the total of any of his teammates.

But Cairns will be remembered for his batting as much as his bowling during his 62 Test career.

When he left the crease for the final time, after being bowled by Ashley Giles for one, his former home crowd saluted him with an ovation only reserved for crowd pleasers and all-rounders like his team's former Lynchpin Richard Hadlee, who was also a Nottinghamshire player.

The England team also applauded, hiding their delight at removing the Kiwi's danger man, who has bludgeoned 22 quick fire fifties and five centuries since he made his debut against Australia in 1989.

Injuries curtailed his career and he never quite fulfilled his potential, but New Zealand will find him very difficult to replace.



Newly-named Indian Test opener Yuvraj Singh (R) fixes something on the control panel of a running machine while star batsman Sachin Tendulkar looks on as they work out in the gym on the second day of a fitness camp at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore yesterday.

Rakib shares point again

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib stumbled to his second successive draw in the Open FIDE Rating Chess tournament yesterday but still remained on top after the end of eighth round games at the federation hall room.

Rakib, who shared point with Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, stretched his collection to seven points with one more round to go.

Fide Master Abu Sufian Shakil, Khondokar Aminul Islam, Mehdi Hasan Parag, Mohammed Javed, Abdul Maleq, sub-junior champion Imran Ali Elim and Nasir followed the leader with 6.5 points each.

In other matches, Maleq drew with Javed, Shakil beat Debaraj, Amin beat Robin, Parag beat Pallab, Elin beat Lavlu, Emon beat Khorsheed, Mahmood beat Arman, Shabbir beat Sagar and Liza beat Delu.

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Surja Tarun Cricket Club and Titas Cricket Club won their respective matches in the Sheheed Freedom Fighter Rango Mia Cup tournament at Shahjadapur Junior High School playground in Brahminbaria yesterday.

In the first match, Surja Tarun defeated Khelaghar Krira Chakra by 10 runs.

Winning the toss Surja Tarun batted first and collected 90 runs in 29.3 overs after being all out.

Jamal topscored with 46 and grabbed three wickets.

In reply, Khelaghar were all out for 80 in 27.2 overs.

Jamal was declared man-of-the-match.

In other match, Titas Cricket Club beat Three Star Cricket Club by 20 runs.

Titas Cricket Club batted first and managed 92 all out in 29.1 overs. Kamrul scored highest 25 runs and snatched three wickets.

In reply, Three Star were bundled out for 72 in 26.2 overs.

Kamrul was declared man-of-the-match.

Pioneer football

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunny scored twice to help Nur Sporting Club beat Paltan SC 2-0 in the Shineeupkur Ceramics Pioneer Football League at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

In the day's other match, KR Boys edged Arahmogh KS Juniors 1-0 with Olulullah slamming the match winner.

Div II kabadi

BSS, Dhaka

Shaheed Muzaffar Hossain Smriti Sangsad scored a 64-50 win over Dhalpur Krira Chakra in the Second Division Kabadi League at the Outer Stadium kabadi court yesterday.

Manda Sangsad defeated Bangladesh Boys 59-21 in the other match.

Shaky rivals

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"It is true that we have not played that well over the past year but we are well prepared for this. We will be hard to beat and that goes for the Netherlands and any other team."

Voeller, likely to play with a 4-5-1 formation with Kevin Kuranyi as a lone striker to counter the Dutch 4-3-3 attacking threat, can rely on a fully fit squad.

Advocaat laughed off Germany's worries, telling reporters: "They are a big footballing country, yet they are always trying to portray themselves as the underdogs".

He is far too experienced for those kind of mind games and knows another epic but nervy encounter is likely to add a new chapter to the rivalry that was forged with West Germany's 2-1 win over the Netherlands in the 1974 World Cup final.

Apart from Seedorf, Advocaat has 22 fit players. If Seedorf fails to recover in time, Wesley Sneijder will start. The 19-year-old Ajax Amsterdam midfielder has vast potential but lacks international experience.

Result: England won by four wickets and win three-Test series 3-0. Man-of-the-match: Graham Thorpe. Players-of-the-series: Steve Harmison and Mark Richardson. Toss: New Zealand.

Javed comes back

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naturally strong against slow bowling.

"We believe Sri Lankan wickets will help the spinners but the fact is we picked only one specialist left-arm spinner in Abdur Razzak. Manjarul and Mohammad Rafique are considered as all-rounders," explained Faruque.

Replying to a question regarding former captain and off-spinner Naimur Rahman, Faruque informed that they did not consider anyone's performance in the recently concluded Corporate Cricket League.

Bangladesh play Hong Kong in the Group A opener on July 16 and take on reigning champions Pakistan the next day. India, UAE and hosts Sri Lanka make the other group.

Meanwhile, the residential camp for the Asia Cup will begin tomorrow at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Proitshthan.



A scene from yesterday's eighth round engagement of the Open FIDE Rating chess tournament at the federation hall room.

Roddick retains Queen's title

Tennis

AFP, London

Andy Roddick duplicated his 2003 finals victory over Sebastian Grosjean Sunday, defeating the Frenchman 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 to lift a second consecutive title at the 767,000-euro (860,000-dollar) Queen's club tournament.

Top seed Roddick scored a copy of his trophy performance from a year ago, when he also beat Grosjean in straight sets.

The victory took 1hr 23min and puts the 21-year-old champion into solid position to threaten at the Wimbledon Championships beginning in eight days.

The title was Roddick's third of the season after San Jose and Miami and marked his third victory over Grosjean from four attempts and moved him to a 38-8 mark for 2004 with 14 career titles.

Roddick secured the concluding break-off a backhand error from Grosjean to wrap up in straightforward fashion.

"I served well today, I'm happy

to have won here again," said Roddick, now 10-1 at the west London club. "There's not a lot that Sebastien doesn't do well, so I had to concentrate on being aggressive.

"This tournament has been good for me over the past two years, I'm really looking forward to the Wimbledon fortnight."

The first set moved at a leisurely pace on a sunny afternoon, with the only early threat coming as Grosjean saved two break points on the way to holding 2-1.

The Frenchman had a chance to collect the opener in the 12th game as he moved to a pair of set points, only to be pegged back as Roddick saved the first with a service winner and the second as Grosjean returned wide for 6-all.

The American notched his ninth ace for a 2-1 lead in the decider and fired over a tenth to take the early lead after 48 minutes of steady, if unspectacular, play.

Grosjean began the second set with a break, which was immediately nullified as Roddick put it straight back on serve then broke again for the victory.

Another scandal rocks SA sports

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Another South African sport, another scandal.

Just weeks after winning the right to stage the soccer World Cup in 2010, the sports-mad country is reeling from a match-fixing probe involving soccer officials and referees.

The investigation is sure to evoke painful memories of cricket's match-fixing saga, which saw the late former national captain Hansie Cronje banned for life.

It also comes in the wake of local rugby woes which included allegations of racism in the national team.

South African police said on Sunday they were set to arrest a number of officials and referees after a probe into match-fixing.

Johannesburg's Sunday Times newspaper said 20 high-profile referees, as well as club officials and players across the First Division and the elite Premier Soccer League (PSL), had been implicated.

Soccer insiders and journalists said on Monday that the throwing of matches has long been an open secret and that it was time to clean up the sport, which is wildly popular among South Africa's black majority.

Munshiganj ride

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and 60 minutes. Imran added the other three minutes from time.

Two goals by Zia steered Chittagong to a 4-2 win over Tangail in another match of the day. Ishtiaque and Joyraj shared the rest for the winners while Rajan pulled back both goals for Tangail.

Jessore beat Kishoreganj 4-3 in the tiebreakers after their match ended 3-3 in regulation time.

Cordy replaces

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Meanwhile, national selector GM Nawsher will act as tour operation manager due to unavailability of Latif Khan on health reasons.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed was in charge during Bangladesh's tour of the West Indies.

Four officials, Coach Dav Whatmore, Nawsher, Cordy and physiotherapist John Gloster will fly with the team for Colombo on July 30 while computer analyst Nasir Ahmed will join the squad on July 15.

France break

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A half-chance for Scholes quickly followed when Bixente Lizarazu miscued a clearance straight to him on the edge of the box.

The Manchester United midfielder's shot was wildly off target but England had given their first real hint they could breach a French defence that had not conceded a goal in its 11 previous matches.

That record came to end seven minutes before the interval after Lizarazu checked Beckham's progress down the right flank.

The resulting free-kick was sent curling and dipping to the edge of the six-yard area, from where Lampard got in front of Mikael Silvestre to send a powerful header into the net high past the outstretched left hand of Barthez.

England's defence was

doing such a good job of containing the threat from Henry that it was not until the start of the second half the Arsenal striker got his first shot on target, a volley failing to trouble James.

Henry's frustration was increased minutes later when German referee Markus Merk waved away his appeals for a penalty after his cross from the left appeared to strike Gary Neville's arm.

With France pushing forward in search of an equaliser, gaps inevitably became apparent at the back and England exploited them with just under 20 minutes left courtesy of an exhilarating run by Wayne Rooney.

Having broken free near the left touchline, the 18-year-old surged into the box, where he was brought down by Silvestre.

Beckham's penalty was not badly struck but Barthez guessed right and was able to palm it away diving to his right, setting the scene for Zidane's late, late show.

Gaibandha TT

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kisholoy Krira Chakra from Group A, UNO Club from Group B, GKSP from Group C and Table Tennis Sangstha from Group D became champions in the Naheed Cotton Table Tennis tournament at Gaibandha Public Library Hall yesterday.

Final matches will be held today.

Fleming is English!

AFP, Nottingham

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming is backing England to win Euro 2004 despite suffering a 3-0 Test match whitewash against the same country here on Sunday.

"I quite enjoy watching the England players, I certainly enjoy the Premiership so it would be nice to see them do it," said the Black Caps skipper after his side lost the third and final Test by four wickets.

"We're looking forward to it, the guys enjoy it. At home it's all rugby, rugby, rugby, so it's nice to get into the football mentality, which if England go well would be very, very strong, I'm sure.

"I would love to see England do well. We've got a sweepstake going: I've got Russia (who lost their opening match 1-0 to Spain)! It's been a longweek.

"I'd like personally to see them do well. Other guys enjoy France. I think we can look at it with both eyes which is good so we can enjoy the skills of the players that are involved."

Thorpe ensures

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54; Cairns 5-79, Franklin 4-104

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 218 (Richardson 49, Fleming 45, Styris 39, McMillan 30; Giles 3-46, Harmison 3-51, Flintoff 3-60)

ENGLAND: Second innings

Trescothick c and b Franklin 9
Strauss lbw b Cairns 6
Butcher lbw b Cairns 59
Vaughan lbw b Cairns 10
Thorpe not out 104
Flintoff c sub b Cairns 5
Jones c Oram b Franklin 27
Giles not out 36
Extras: (b-4, lb-16, nb-8) 28
Total: (For 6 wks in 71.3 overs) 284
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-16, 3-46, 4-134, 5-162, 6-214

Did not bat: Hoggard, Harmison.

Saggers

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cairns	25	2	108	4
Franklin	17	2	59	2
Richardson	1	0	4	0
Oram	14.3	1	50	0
Styris	14	1	43	0

Result: England won by four wickets and win three-Test series 3-0. Man-of-the-match: Graham Thorpe. Players-of-the-series: Steve Harmison and Mark Richardson. Toss: New Zealand.



Action from the yesterday's match of the 21st National Youth Hockey Championship between Jessore and Kishoreganj at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Inventor	2 Incense	22 "The
1 Nursery furniture	41 Terrier type	3 Same as before (Lat.)	4 Soothe
5 Potential syrup	42 Beekeeper's setup	5 Reorganizes	24 Apiece
8 Mosque official	45 Hardy's partner	5 Reorganizes drastically	25 Idolater's feeling
12 Stash	49 Cheese	6 Intention	26 Taps'
13 Hasten	49 Cheese choice	7 Juror	27 Choker, e.g.
14 Hindu prince	51 Pop	8 Juror	29 Enthusiast
15 A Baldwin brother	52 Gilligan's home	9 A feather in your cap?	30 Past
16 Cheese choice	53 Fond du Lac, WI	10 Open a bit	33 1977 ELO song
18 Comment	54 Eternally	11 Scads	36 Drool
20 Prayer beads	55 Active one	12 Scepter	38 Did something else with
21 Actor Cobb	56 Macabre author	13 Shipwreck	40 Rage
23 "— Rosenkavalier"	57 Lair	14 Cause	42 Eager
24 Cheese choice		15 Mexican money	43 Mexican money
28 Couch		16 Shell bark	44 Shell bark
31 Ram's mate		17 Wander about	46 Wander about
32 Spoke angrily		18 Paradise	47 Paradise
34 Complain constantly		19 Swedish man's name	48 Swedish man's name
35 Guns the engine		20 "The — of Pooh"	50 "The — of Pooh"
37 Cheese choice			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
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49				50			51			
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

CRYPTOQUIP

W I Q E D J Z M L ' P W M R

O A A O V B Q Z A J Z M M Z W V D Z Q O

U D P E W V R M L S V W U V D P

"E W Q B I V O S W S Z O."

Saturday's Cryptquip: IF A RAILROAD ENGINEER BECOMES FAMOUS, I THINK HE MIGHT BE CALLED A TRACK STAR.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: A equals C

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.