

England set stiff target

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added 61 runs in the last 10 and 41 in the last five.

Openers Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden got Australia off to a brisk start after Vaughan won the toss and elected to field on a grey, windy day in front of a less than half-full crowd.

Vaughan replaced Gough after three expensive overs costing 18 runs with star all-rounder Andrew Flintoff.

The change almost brought a wicket when Flintoff's sixth ball was cut by Gilchrist (18), to gully where Marcus Trescothick dropped the two-handed catch.

But Trescothick, now at slip, caught a driving Hayden (17) off fast bowler Stephen Harmison before Gilchrist pulled and cut the Durham paceman for four.

However the wicketkeeper fell for 37 when a cut off Gough was held by Trescothick in the floating slip position.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting and Martyn moved the score on to 114 for two at the half-way stage.

But one ball later Ponting, on 29, saw a lofted drive off left-arm spinner Ashley Giles well-caught above his head by Gough, on the long-on boundary.

And two balls later Giles, on his Warwickshire home ground, almost had another wicket when he dropped a sharp caught and bowled chance following a fiercely struck drive by Martyn, then on 24.

Vaughan though broke the stand when he bowled Yorkshire teammate Lehmann for a 42-ball 38 after the left-hander missed an extra-variant pull.

Martyn and Lehmann had put on a near risk-free 75 in just 82 balls to leave Australia well-placed at 189 for four in the 39th over.

But five balls later they saw dangerous Andrew Symonds run out for nought by Vaughan, sprinting in from cover to whip the balls off at the striker's end after the batsman set off after surviving Harmison's lbw appeal.

Australia, however, were still on course for a total well in excess of

Nobel Peace Prize winner picked

Tips include UN nuke watchdog, its chief

REUTERS, Oslo

The Norwegian Nobel Committee picked the winner of the 2004 Peace Prize from a record field of 194 candidates yesterday with the UN nuclear watchdog and its head, Mohamed ElBaradei, tipped as favorites.

But the winner of what many consider the world's top accolade will not be announced until next month.

Other contenders include former Czech President Vaclav Havel, South African anti-AIDS campaigner Zackie Achmat and his Treatment Action Campaign, the European Union and Pope John Paul after a year with few big breakthroughs toward peace.

"We had a meeting, we did reach a conclusion and (it) will be announced on October 8," Geir Lundestad, director of the Nobel Institute who attends the meetings as secretary, told Reuters after talks by the secretive five-member panel in Oslo.

His cautious wording does not give away the number of laureates. The 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.35 million) prize, first awarded in 1901, can be split up to three ways.

And it leaves open the possibility that the committee decided not to make any award – something that has not happened since 1976. The panel would usually schedule another meeting before the October 8 announcement date if it were deadlocked.

Several experts said campaigners against the spread of weapons of mass destruction could be honored in 2004, perhaps the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Egyptian-born director general ElBaradei.

"I think the most likely winner is ElBaradei," said Espen Barth Eide, a researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

A prize to the IAEA and ElBaradei would be topical because of IAEA efforts to get Iran to freeze uranium enrichment activities and its work in North Korea and Iraq, he said.

A drawback for ElBaradei could be that the 2004 prize went to Iranian human rights lawyer Shirin Ebadi. The committee might not want to shine its critical spotlight on Tehran again.

The security men include members of Special Branch, Detective Branch, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, National Security Intelligence, Criminal Investigation Department, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Armed Police Battalion and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles.

They allowed the vehicles of only the accused and their relatives, law enforcers and journalists and let other people go to the court area after checks by metal detector. They also closed all shops close to the court.

An archway metal detector was set up at the main entrance and Rab, the dog squad and police guarded the court as part of the beefed-up security measures.

DATE CONFUSION

While issuing the order, Judge Motiur Rahman said in the open courtroom that Saifuddin would be summoned to appear before court on October 31.

But talking to reporters later, the PP said the date is September 29, saying the judge mistakenly thought it was the month of October.

"As the prosecution pointed it out, (he the judge) immediately changed the date in front of the accused, their lawyers and the prosecution to September 29," he said.

ARRIVAL OF ACCUSED

The accused on bail began arriving at the court set up beside Dhaka Central Jail at 9:50am. Three accused in custody were taken to the courtroom from Dhaka Central Jail on a heavily guarded prison van at 10:20am. Their relatives accompanied them inside the courtroom on arrival.

When all were waiting for the judge to enter the courtroom, Faruq lit a cigarette. He went to the dock holding the glowing cigarette minutes before the judge entered.

"He is paralysed and unable to move," he pointed out.

Standing in the dock, Manzoor, Shah Moazzem and Obaidur Rahman expressed their resentment and shouted at Taheruddin's lawyer over the submission.

"Why is such a fresh submission now when all is set for the verdict?" asked Moazzem, who stood with permission from court to oppose the submission.

Prosecution and other defence counsels opposed the petitions, saying they were not applicable when everything was set for the verdict to be delivered. The delayed submission is aimed at protracting the case, they argued.

The arguments went on for nearly two hours as counsels for and against the petitions defended their own stance.

Sohel Mollick, counsel for Sharif Rashid, said the petition is not justifiable as the witness (Saifuddin) would not be able to appear before court.

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"I don't know whether I will be able to hear the judgement," he said in disappointment.

Opposing the petition, senior defence counsel Mahbubur Rahman said: "The trial has taken an unusually long time and I am afraid speculations and rumours will arise if it is delayed further."

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdullah

Mahmud Hasan and Additional PP Golam Mostafa Khan said the prosecution did not hand the submission as

250.

But Vaughan then removed Martyn with the aid of Trescothick's third catch of the innings, a well-judged effort on the mid-wicket rope off a chipped drive. Martyn faced 91 balls with six fours, Australia 210 for six in the 43rd over.

Fast bowler Brett Lee drove Gough for a superb straight six but was clean bowled next ball. And Gough then bowled Jason Gillespie before Michael Kasprowicz survived the hattrick.

Clarke's fine innings, featuring five fours, ended when he was bowled by Flintoff in the last over.

WB urges govt

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have nothing to do in this case."

Bangladesh received the DSC-I worth \$300 million in 2003 and the DSC-II involving \$200 million last month. Negotiations are on for the DSC-III worth some \$350 million.

Sources said for getting the DSC-III Bangladesh would have to improve governance and public administration, boost the energy sector, state-owned enterprises and banking sector and implement reform conditions for the growth sector.

The WB released the DSC-I and DSC-II on the government's fulfilling the different time-bound conditions.

"Specific guidelines approved by the World Bank board are there for getting the DSC and the government is pledge-bound to follow them," Sadiq added.

He added the WB board would review the progress of implementation of the reform programmes in June or July next year before approving the DSC-III.

"We have reviewed the progress made on the DSC-I and II programmes. Bangladesh's macroeconomic indicators are quite sound, but more reforms and investment are needed in infrastructure, port, state-owned enterprises and the banking sector," Sadiq said.

50-km opposition human shield

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their arms interlocked in a symbolic gesture of 'rejecting the present government'.

It will also demand the masterminds behind the August 21 carnage be brought to justice. Besides, the opposition leadership will urge the people to unite against the religious extremists and anti-liberation forces.

Government has beefed up security in the run-up to the event while the opposition has taken all out preparations to ensure a huge gathering.

Different socio-cultural and professional organisations and various wings of the opposition parties will also participate in the programme.

The human-chain is a part of the three-week long synchronised demonstrations that will end in rallies by the opposition parties on October 3.

After today's programme, the opposition leadership will sit to develop further strategies to gear up the oust-government movement.

"We will discuss the next course of actions and common programmes

will be announced simultaneously from the rallies on October 3," said an opposition leader.

He hinted that the parties might issue an ultimatum to the government for its quit from the October 3 rallies.

Meanwhile, top AL leaders in 15 separate teams will begin a four-day tour across the country from September 25 to mobilise people in the oust-government movement.

They will go out on district and upazila-level mass-contact tour projecting their one-point demand and to urge people to join the October 3 rally.

Today's human chain will span Gazipur intersection, via Tongi, Airport, Kuril, Rampura, Mouchak, Malibag intersection, Kakrail, Bajnaynagar intersection, Paltan, Zero Point, Gulistan roundabout, Rajuk Avenue, Hotel Purbani, Shapla roundabout, Ittefaq intersection, Titabari, Jatrabari intersection, Jurain, Postgola, Munshikhola, Pagla, Fatulla, Panchabati, Chashara intersection, to end at Narayanganj terminal.

Sources said senior leaders of the parties will be on 27 key points of the route.

Earlier on March 30 this year, the main opposition AL formed a 22-kilometre human chain in Dhaka, from Pallabi to English Road, demanding the government's resignation for its 'absolute failure to deliver'.

Business community of the country as well as commoners lauded the programme, first of its kind in the anti-government movement, as an alternative to hartal and strikes.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asrafur Huda told The Daily Star that about 2500 to 3000 police will be posted at different strategic points to avert untoward incident during today's programme.

"Our prime objective is to ensure the security of the participants and also to make sure the participants do not create any disturbance," Huda said.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu said, "The no-trust human chain will take the oust-government movement one step ahead."

Ex-general defeats

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In past elections, early counting has proved a reliable guide to final results and pre-election polls, as well as an independent survey of Monday's vote also forecast a Yudhoyono victory.

Given the custom among Indonesians from the main island of Java – home to Yudhoyono – to act with caution and to follow strict etiquette, he would probably prefer nearly all the vote to be counted or a nod from election commission officials before he announces victory.

Perhaps for similar reasons, supporters of SBY – as he is popularly known – have yet to celebrate openly.

However, his vice presidential candidate, wealthy businessman and non-Javanese Jusuf Kalla, was less cautious: "It clearly is apparent that it is going to be SBY. We are definitely confident that the end result won't be far from this."

Indonesia's financial markets did not wait to welcome the win on expectations the business-friendly Yudhoyono, 55, will appoint a strong cabinet, and on a long a long voting season in the world's most populous Muslim nation had passed without the election-related violence some had feared.

The final presidential vote followed an elimination round in July and a parliamentary ballot in April.

The stock market hit an intra-day record in early trade before losing some gains on profit-taking, while the rupiah currency was trading around a two-month high.

Many hope Yudhoyono will retain Megawati's well-respected finance minister, Boediono, in his cabinet, although there has been no indication the soft-spoken economist wants to stay.

"I'm thinking of forming ... the cabinet when I'm sure that I will win this election," Yudhoyono said on Monday.

"Of course, before the inauguration, I will at least dispatch the main nominees," he said, referring to the October 20 ceremony.

Faster counting than expected could cut the timetable, though Yudhoyono is known to prefer to act

only after some deliberation.

However, without declaring victory he has already reached out to Megawati, 57, who in public has barely acknowledged him since he quit her cabinet as chief security minister in March after a bitter row over his presidential ambitions.

"It is time for reconciliation," Yudhoyono said late on Monday. "I expect we have to be more united in the near future face the national challenge of building a better Indonesia."

That Yudhoyono faces tough challenges is more than rhetoric.

The world's fourth most populous nation is resource-rich but bedeviled by rampant corruption, unpredictable courts, weak economic growth and violent Islamic militants linked to al Qaeda.

Monday's election run-off showed Indonesia's democracy, a rarity in the Muslim world, has come a long way since president Suharto stepped down in 1998 after 32 years of iron-fisted rule.

The US State Department said the vote "set a strong example for the region and emerging democracies everywhere".

But the poll was held under the shadow of possible attacks by Islamic militants, who on September 9 killed nine people and wounded 182 in a car bombing outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta, the third major strike in two years.

Yudhoyono is a secular Muslim.

"SBY has a very short time period to prove himself to be effective," said Jeffrey Winters, an Indonesia expert at Chicago's Northwestern University, using Yudhoyono's nickname.

"The message is that he doesn't produce on the rule of law, on corruption, on the economy, on jobs, on getting investment going, he's going to be thrown out too in five years."

Despite a popular mandate, Yudhoyono must work with the incoming parliament, where Megawati's party and others have formed a coalition that holds 55 percent of seats.

Annan takes fresh swipe

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submit to it," Annan said in a speech that drew applause from the presidents and ministers on hand.

"In Iraq, we see civilians massacred in cold blood while relief workers, journalists and other non-combatants are taken hostage and put to death in the most barbarous fashion," he said.

The UN Secretary General made an impassioned plea to bring about the rule of law across the globe and told world leaders to respect international lawathome and abroad.

In a grim summary of the bloodshed in the Middle East, Sudan and Iraq, he opened the annual debate at the United Nations with an appeal for humankind to protect innocent civilians around the world.

Annan has laboured for a year to heal the deep divisions over the war that brought down Saddam Hussein, and his wide-ranging address referred to the catastrophe in Sudan, the Middle East conflict and Russia's hostage tragedy.

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