

Roddick hires new coach

World number two Andy Roddick is set to hook up with his US Davis Cup assistant coach after sacking Brad Gilbert at the weekend.

Tigers all

FROM PAGE 13 racing against time to shake off a back injury.

Both the sides trained at the MA Aziz Stadium under unprecedented security with no one including the press allowed into the ground.

"We couldn't put up a fight in the last match, doing that will be our target.

Tuffey drafted

FROM PAGE 13 All rounder Chris Harris is out of the series after having an operation to repair the shoulder he injured in the second match against Australia.

The first match of the one-day series is in Auckland on December 26.

ODISQUAD

Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Aspinall, Matthew Sinclair, Hamish Marshall, Scott Styris, Chris Cairns, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori, Kyle Mills, Ian Butler, Daryl Tuffey.

Muttaliph mutipies

FROM PAGE 13 deliveries for the second batch of the Academy team.

Bangladesh Test cap Tareq Aziz, who removed opener Amila Sadaruwan in the first over of the day, was the peak of the local attack with 3-47 from 12 overs.

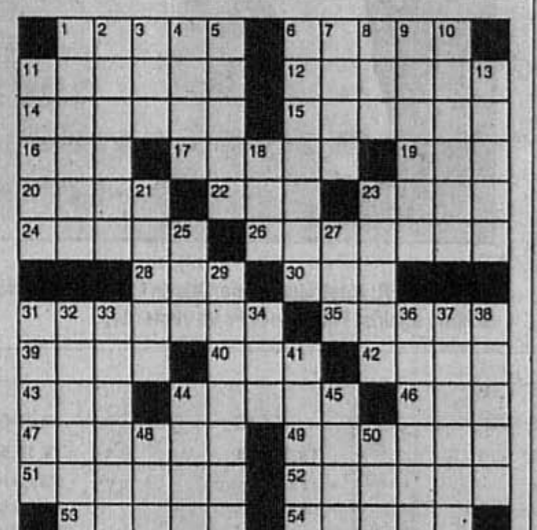
Left-arm spinner Enamul Jr chipped in with two wickets for 78 from 32 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SLACADEMY: First inns: 322-9 in 90 overs (Muttaliph 113, Sadaruwan 1, Vithane 17, Indika 11, Wijaysinghe 39, Gihan 43, Perera 0, Abeydeera 36, Gunathilake 5, Vidarana 2 batting, Welasedara 1 batting, extras 54, Tareq 3-47, Rajib 1-57, Enamul Jr 2-78, Ashim 1-50, Sadat 1-17).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 31 Minotaur slayer 1 Kook biopic 2 First mold 6 Navigational hit based on 'La wheeler Me' cast member 11 Forward pass 40 One of locale 18 Ph. bk. data 21 It will rise 23 Telethon VIP Jerry 25 That girl 27 Promise 29 Highest-ranking 31 Jogs 32 Card game 33 Whole 34 Droop 36 Showing disdain 37 Links legend 38 Velocity 41 Waikiki windings 44 \*Sad to tell... 45 Sicilian spouter 48 Corral 50 Smack



CRYPTOQUIP P IKOY CDM D UPKPCJYE EYZYDECPKN ZPC CYEUIK P NGYCC ZY TEDOJPOYC MZDJZY TEYDOZYC Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PHYSICIST CAN'T COMPLETE HIS CHORES, PERHAPS HE HAS TOO MANY IONS IN THE FIRE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals C



A goalmouth action during the Abahani-Usha clash of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Marsh puts England coaching atop

FROM PAGE 13 Cricketer magazine, he said the new structure of English cricket was tailored to identifying and nurturing world-class performers.

Marsh, recruited by England after fulfilling the same role with young cricketers in Australia, added: "I would expect everyone who plays for England in the next 20 years to spend time at Loughborough, either through youth cricket, the academy or specialist camps.

schools, but England has the best coaching system in the world. "The best sides are those with players putting pressure on the 1st XI, who perform because they have to perform. If this happens, England have a genuine chance of beating the best in the world."

WI delay naming squad

FROM PAGE 13 West Indies have picked their squad for the forthcoming tour of Australia, but the drawn-out dispute over contracts has delayed its announcement until next week.

Adrian Saunders, who is Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, is the arbitrator of the dispute. His conclusions are expected to be released at the weekend.

King admitted that the recently-completed training camp and practice matches had been revealing. "The bowling is not as strong as we would like it to be," he told the Nation newspaper.

Langer defies Pakistan

FROM PAGE 13 His dismissal left Australia in real trouble going into lunch at 72 for four and the situation worsened when newcomer Michael Clarke, the hero of Australia's tour of India, fell straight after lunch, caught by Inzamam in slips off Akhtar for one.

17 overs at almost a run a ball as they went on the attack while Inzamam tried to slow the onslaught by bringing Akhtar and Sami back into the attack.

innings which featured 10 boundaries off 78 balls. "Tailender Jason Gillespie who contributed 24, formed an 80-run partnership with Langer for the eighth wicket.

Pakistan, who had appeared despondent earlier in the tour, clearly had their tails up with Australia reeling at 78 for five but it was then the Australians began to steady the ship, taking advantage of the tiring pace attack and the change in tempo offered by all-rounder Abdul Razaq and spinner Danish Kaneira.

His jubilation was evident as he punched the air and danced down the wicket after nudging Razaq to mid-wicket for a single to reach his goal just before tea. His innings included 11 fours and two beautifully-timed sixes.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the first Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground on Thursday: AUSTRALIA: First innings Langer not out 181 Haydenlbw b Akhtar 4 Ponting b Sami 25 Martyn c Kamran b Sami 12 Lehmann b Akhtar 1 Clarke c Inzamam b Akhtar 69 Gilchrist b Razaq 12 Warne c Yusuf b Razaq 24 Gillespie c Kamran b Akhtar 24 Kaspi not out 4 Extras: (nb-1, lb-10, w-3, nb-10) 24 Total: (For 8 wickets in 86 overs) 357 Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-56, 3-58, 4-71, 5-78, 6-230, 7-253, 8-333 To bat: McGrath

With one-day specialist Adam Gilchrist at the crease with Langer the pair set about demoralising the Pakistanis once more - adding 152 runs from 176 balls.

His subsequent 50 came 60 balls later and included a further four boundaries, including one through mid-off which brought up his 150.

PAKISTAN: Inzamam, Farhat, Butt, Younis, Youshana, Akmal, Razaq, Akhtar, Sami, Kaneria, Khalil Toss: Pakistan. Umpires: Billy Bowden (New Zealand) and Rudi Koertzen (South Africa).

The pair lifted the Australian total to 100 then piled on 100 runs in

Abahani back FROM PAGE 13 Prakash could have had his treble soon but he failed to connect the ball from one yard out of goal after Jimmy did the spadework at the left.

Usha kept pressing and after captain Shuva blasted a chance wide, Tabib converted a 53rd minute penalty-corner to reduce the margin for the old-town outfit Abahani custodian Bappi made a fine save to deny Mazharul and saw a series of Usha attempts miss narrowly as the holders survived a late scare before creating two more chances.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals C The Cryptoquip 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.

RU cricket RU CORRESPONDENT

Anthropology Department defeated English Department by 57 runs and Physiology Department recorded a tense two-wicket win against Islamic Studies Department in the inter-department cricket tournament of Rajshahi University (RU) on Wednesday.

Winning the toss, Anthropology Department batted first and they made 112 before being all out in 25 overs. English were dismissed for just 55.

In the other match, Physiology reached their target with two wickets to spare while chasing Islamic Studies' total of 105.

Shield cricket

Rookies George Bailey and David Dawson rescued Tasmania on the opening day of their Sheffield Shield cricket match against New South Wales at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday.

Tasmania went into the four-day game with three of their most experienced batsmen -- Jamie Cox, Michael Di Venuto and Dan Marsh -- out through injuries but ended the day on 266 for seven.

Acting captain Damien Wright was on 38 and Xavier Doherty was on 13 at stumps. Bailey, in his first-class debut, made 70 off 105 balls with 11 fours as Tasmania had slipped to 122 for five just before tea.

Opener Dawson, in his fifth first-class match, made 65. For NSW, former Test leg-spinner Stuart MacGill took 3-83, left-arm medium pacer Nathan Bracken 2-30 and off-spinner Jason Krejza 2-63.

Mega Power Cup Cricket

FROM PAGE 13 The Mega Power Cup Cricket Tournament 2004-05 began yesterday at the Megha ghat Power Limited cricket ground. The tournament is being organized by Globelec Bangladesh. Six multinational companies are participating in this tournament.

Happy Henman!

Tim Henman's best year on the tennis tour was capped on Wednesday by the birth of his second daughter.

The British number one and wife Lucy are to call the girl Olivia. Their first child, Rosie, was born in 2002. "I am absolutely delighted," the 30-year-old said.

"This year has been fantastic for a number of reasons and to top off what I achieved on court with the birth of our second child is a real blessing."

Atapattu

FROM PAGE 13 Atapattu predicted a tough series, especially after New Zealand's 1-1 draw with Australia in the recent Chappell-Hadlee Trophy.

"They are a tough team in their own conditions and, although they don't have a lot of stars, they have been playing very competitively as a group," he said.

"They have the advantage of playing at home but this is also the best time for us to make a mark and prove ourselves in New Zealand."

Only (seam bowler) Chaminda Vaas out of the senior players has played much cricket there, so this will be a new experience for us. "Fortunately, we have four days of training before our first practice match and then two practice games before the one-day series."

"This gives us plenty of time to adjust to the climatic conditions and the pitches. We'll try and figure out within the first week what our strategies are going to be."

The squad were blessed by Buddhist monks at Sri Lanka Cricket's headquarters in Colombo before their flight.

They left without spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan, still recovering after shoulder surgery in August.

"I am pretty confident that he will be available for the Test series," said Atapattu.

"He says he is getting better day by day and bowled four overs at normal speed on Tuesday.

Proteas target Harmison

South Africa's batsmen will look to dominate England fast bowler Stephen Harmison in the Test series that starts in Port Elizabeth on Friday, captain Graeme Smith said on Thursday.

"He (Harmison) is a big confidence bowler and we need to put him on the back foot," Smith told a news conference.

"We've worked hard on facing fast bowling in our preparations and we've grown up on pace and bounce. We expect a good challenge in our home conditions."

Harmison is the world's top-ranked fast bowler and will spearhead what is widely regarded as the superior attack of the two.

Smith said he expected a "tough, fiery, aggressive" series.

"England have come with a team that plays aggressive cricket. "It's important that we hit them hard and early and put them under pressure," he said.

South Africa's young team, ranked sixth in the world, cannot match England, who are second on the ladder, in terms of experience but Smith saw that as an advantage.

"We have a big unknown factor that could squish out the inexperience factor," he said.

Smith confirmed that left-arm spinner Nicky Boje, who is recovering from thyroid surgery, would withdraw from the squad and that fast bowler Dale Steyn would make his debut.

There was more positive news about all-rounder Jacques Kallis, who was unable to bowl in the Test series in India last month because of a side strain.

"It looks as if Jacques will be able to bowl, although we're preparing as if he won't be able to," Smith said.

The pitch being prepared for the match appeared patchy and soft on Thursday morning but Smith seemed unperturbed at the thought of facing England's attack on an under-prepared surface.

"I'm sure it will dry out a lot today, and there is more hot weather forecast for the weekend," he said.

Smith, who became captain in 2003 after playing just eight Tests, all at home, established himself as international level by scoring double centuries in the first two Tests of the drawn series in England last year.

He described his tenure as captain so far as a "rollercoaster year". Under Smith South Africa have won eight of 20 Tests, drawn six and lost six.

But only four of those matches, against the West Indies last season, a series South Africa won 3-0, were played at home.

"There was success in England and against the West Indies, but also tough tours on the sub-continent," Smith said.

"I sit here a more battle-hardened player. When I became captain I trusted myself a lot, but now perhaps I've become more methodical and I trust myself a little less."

Series of serious

FROM PAGE 13 While the England bowlers did not hit top form in Potchefstroom, it was the side's poor batting that caused most concern in the England camp.

England's top order batsmen struggled, showing the effects of a two-and-a-half month break from first-class cricket since the end of the English season.

Mark Butcher's place in the important number three batting position is likely to be debated.

Three innings in South Africa have brought just nine runs, while rival Robert Key slammed 87 in a low-key one-day warm-up game.

Butcher's experience and appetite for the big occasion give him an edge but the four selectors will be worried that both Butcher and Graham Thorpe failed twice in Potchefstroom.

England captain Michael Vaughan, who made a second-innings century in Potchefstroom, acknowledged that the team performed poorly against South Africa A and expects a higher level of intensity in the Test match as England seek to extend a sequence of seven successive Test wins.

Since the sides shared an exciting series in England in 2003, South Africa have lost away series against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India and drawn against New Zealand.

They have an impressive home record, however, and beat the West Indies 3-0 in a four-match series last season.

Smith said his team did not see themselves as underdogs, despite recent poor results.

"We're very confident, we've worked hard and we're backing ourselves to win in our home conditions."

TEAMS SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), AB de Villiers, Jacques Rudolph, Jacques Kallis, Hashim Amla, Boeta Dippenaar, Zander de Bruyn, Shaun Pollock, Andrew Hall, Nicky Boje, Thami Tsolekile, Makhaya Ntini, Dale Steyn.

ENGLAND (from): Michael Vaughan (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Andrew Strauss, Mark Butcher, Graham Thorpe, Andrew Flintoff, Geraint Jones, Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones, Steve Harmison, Robert Key, Paul Collingwood, James Anderson, Gareth Batty, Chris Read. Umpires: Simon Taufel and Darrell Hair (both Australian).

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