

Lankans stand by 'em

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Sri Lankan cricket star Muttiah Muralitharan and his teammates are helping galvanise the relief effort for the tsunami disaster victims.

Muralitharan narrowly avoided being caught up in the tragedy, leaving Galle just minutes before the waves struck.

He said: "I have to be with the people. I'm trying to get them as much food as we can as sometimes it does not get to the people," he said.

"All the players are going from place to place doing whatever we can."

Skipper Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Sanath Jayasuriya, Saman Jayantha, Chaminda Vaas and Dilhara Fernando are among the other players helping.

Sangakkara said there are still logistical problems hampering efforts to get food and clean water to the estimated 700,000 who need it.

"There are problems with getting aid to the right people, proper food and sanitation, and there does still seem to be a some level of disorganisation.

"Sometimes it is a case of getting aid but not being able to use it in the proper way (until other sup-

plies arrive). Every time we speak to someone at a camp there does seem to be a problem."

But a BBC Radio Five Live reporter, who has been with the Sri Lankan team, says Murali and the team's celebrity status is helping.

"On day one (of the World Food Programme relief effort) everyone got in their truck and drove down to Galle to try and rescue relatives, so they could not get any relief out to the eastern part of the country.

"But they rang Murali up and he got them five trucks on day one which was pretty impressive.

"He has also got a team of doctors out here from Australia including the surgeon who operated on his shoulder."

Murali had stayed in Galle rather than flying to New Zealand with the rest of his team in order to recuperate from an operation to treat a lesion in his right shoulder which was hampering his bowling.

The spinner -- Sri Lanka's most famous person -- said it was the least the team could do in the wake of the disaster which claimed more than 28,500 lives in Sri Lanka, with thousands more still missing.

"As cricketers we are always being helped by the people because if there were no spectators there will be no cricket as we would not be earning any money.

"So the people have helped us a lot, so now the people need help and we have to give it."

The players have also visited the

mother of teammate Upul Chandana, who is among the injured, as is Jayasuriya's 60-year-old mother Breeda.

The team played only one of a series of five one-day internationals in New Zealand before cancelling their tour and returning home in the aftermath of the Boxing Day disaster which has so far claimed more than 140,000 lives in the Indian Ocean area.

"I'm shaken. I've been taken by surprise," said Atapattu on his return to his homeland.

"The whole scenario, I saw it on TV a couple of times when were in New Zealand, but to see with our own eyes -- it's devastating scenes here."

The tour will have to be rescheduled at a time to be agreed by the two boards.

AFP adds from Colombo, Sri Lanka Cricket Monday said the national team will play a series of benefit matches to help raise money for survivors of the tsunami tragedy that claimed more than 30,000 lives in this cricket-crazy nation.

"We are going to launch a major programme to help raise money for the tsunami survivors," Sri Lanka Cricket president Mohan de Silva told this news agency.

"The first will be the benefit match in Melbourne and thereafter we will have several events within the country."

Nepal v'ball Titas beat Gyanendra

SPORTS REPORTER

Titas Club of Dhaka defeated Gyanendra Officers Club of Nepal in an invitation international volleyball tournament in Kathmandu on Sunday.

Titas, who will take on Tribhuban Army in the next match, beat their Nepalese opponents 25-21, 25-14 and 25-19.

Earlier, Titas finished third in the Workers Cup international meet which was held in Bhaktapur, a historic town on the outskirts of the Nepalese capital, beating Darpatan Club 3-1 in the play-off.

They were eliminated by India's Utranchal team in the semifinals. Titas spiker Moshiur Rahman was adjudged player-of-the-tournament.

Pepsi handball

SPORTS REPORTER

The qualifying rounds of Karotoa zone for the Pepsi 17th National Handball Championship (women) began at the Rangpur Stadium yesterday.

On the opening day, Panchagarh won both of their matches, defeating Joypurhat 20-7 and Rajshahi 18-14.

Gaibandha, meanwhile, lost both their matches. In the morning, they lost 3-2 to Netrokona and later suffered a 14-0 defeat at the hands of hosts Rangpur.

Kaneria fined match fee

AFP, Sydney

Pakistan leg-spinner Danish Kaneria was fined his full match fee and severely reprimanded for using obscene language in 'sending off' Australian batsman Michael Clarke during the final Test here on Monday.

Kaneria, who was his team's best-performed bowler with 3-106 off 30 overs, was reported by the three match umpires and appeared in an end-of-play hearing before match referee Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka.

The fine is believed to be around 12,000 dollars (9,250 US).

Kaneria was reported for audible comments he made following the stumping of Clarke for 35 off his bowling.

Australia drub Slovak Rep

AFP, Perth

Mark Philippoussis' efforts to halt his form slump suffered a setback here Monday but Australia still scraped a 2-1 win over the Slovak Republic in the Hopman Cup mixed teams tennis tournament. Philippoussis, whose ranking has fallen 100 places to 109 in the last 12 months, was overpowered 7-5, 6-2 by the Slovak Republic's Dominik Hrbaty in the opening Group B tie at Burswood Dome.

Alicia Molik, whose ranking has been heading in the opposite direction to Philippoussis' after winning three tournaments last year, had given Australia team a perfect start when she scored a 6-3, 6-3 win over Daniela Hantuchova.

Ugliness follows

FROM PAGE 13

players retaliating with sticks and fists.

Police however watched from the sidelines while everybody inside the ground was getting bruised in a nearly 20-minute spell of chaos and madness.

But apart from that incident the game itself was a packed.

Mohamedan, who lost their first-leg match to Abahani 1-0 last week, opened the scoring through Ashrafur Islam Shishu after nine minutes when he flicked home a free-hit by defender Chayan.

Seven minutes later, Shishu grabbed a second. After Prince who dragged past Abahani's Rajib and Faruque The Mohamedan player found the target with a powerful angular hit past Abahani custodian Bappi.

Abahani pressed hard but their Malaysian recruit Kuhan Shammuganathan failed to score from two penalty-corners immediately after the breach.

Prakash Calke also wasted a chance early in the second half when the Indian forward failed to control a pass by Shamim Reza.

However, the Dhanmondi side came back in the 44th minute when Prakash and Titu combined from a penalty-corner to set up Kuhan. The Malaysian national captain, making his Dhaka debut, dragged the ball into the left corner of Shakil, giving the Mohamedan goaltender no chance to move.

Shamim then equalised in the 55th minute when the forward pushed home after getting the ball from Jimmy, who had raced past the whole opposition defence down the left flank.

Mohamedan had a golden chance to seal victory and stay in contention but Shishu put a chance wide in the dying moments after Prince fed him unmarked in the danger zone.

SPORT

Kallis powers Proteas

Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

A century partnership for the eighth wicket between Jacques Kallis and Nicky Boje enabled South Africa to reach a total of 441 on the second day of the third Test against England at Newlands Monday.

South Africa were all out at tea when Boje was out for an attacking 76. Kallis was eighth man out for 149 after hitting his eighth century in 14 Tests.

Kallis batted for just over eight hours and faced 334 balls before pushing at a delivery from Andrew Flintoff outside his off stump and edging a catch to wicketkeeper Geraint Jones.

The left-handed Boje was the dominant partner, scoring 58 in a stand of 104 with Kallis. It was a crucial partnership for South Africa after it seemed they would fall well short of captain Graeme Smith's target of 450 or more.

Before Boje came in to play some sparkling strokes, the England bowlers kept the pressure on the batsmen, with wickets falling at regular intervals and Kallis unable to force the pace against defensive field placings.

Kallis added 68 runs Monday, hitting only three boundaries off 146 balls. He hit 11 fours in his innings.

Flintoff took the last four wickets to finish with four for 79. He also gave South African new cap and last batsman Charl Langeveldt a torrid introduction to Test cricket, hitting him on the left hand and body with some well-directed short-pitched bowling.

Boje's 76 was made off 97 balls with 12 fours.

There was a scare for England when captain Michael Vaughan was taken to hospital for X-rays before the start of play after being hit on his right hand while batting against England squad fast bowler James Anderson in the nets.

But no serious damage was found and he returned after 45 minutes of play with strapping on the index and middle fingers.

Steve Harmison put the South

African batsmen under early pressure, hitting Kallis on the right hand with the first ball of the day after Kallis resumed on 81.

In the same over he had Kallis falling to the turf to avoid a bouncer before beating South Africa's star batsman outside the off stump.

Kallis survived but his overnight

partner Hashim Amla was out in the sixth over of the day, adjudged leg before wicket against Matthew Hoggard for 25.

Harmison was rested after a hostile spell during which he conceded only nine runs in six overs and Kallis went to his 19th Test century when he punched Simon



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa's Jacques Kallis goes on the defensive during his knock of 149 against England on the second day of the third Test at Newlands in Cape Town yesterday.

Amazing Al Shahriar

FROM PAGE 13

man, who remained an enigma in Bangladesh cricket.

Shahriar reached his fifty in just 28 balls hitting three over boundaries and seven fours and he took only 25 minutes to do that. He was a bit cautious from fifty onwards. The magical three figures came off 99 balls, containing another 11 savage hits across the fence and a six.

Along the way he got valuable support from first Mushfiqur Rahim (14) with whom Shahriar added 68 runs for the sixth wicket. He then put on a priceless 72-run for the unbroken eighth wicket with Tareq Aziz Khan (10) to script an exciting finish.

Captain Rajin Saleh termed Al Shahriar's innings as a remarkable one in the context of the game.

"Rokon (Al Shahriar) played exceptionally well and in fact saved us from a certain defeat," Rajin told reporters after the match.

He however admitted that he should not have declared on the first day.

"I declared with a hope that my bowlers could get some wickets before the end of first day's play, but it didn't pay off," he said.

On the other hand, Zimbabwe skipper Tatendu Taibu was more than satisfied that his top batsmen had scored runs before the first Test on January 6 at the MA Aziz Stadium.

"It is good to see batsmen like

Matsikenyeri, Rogers, Sibanda, Masakadza and Taylor getting runs ahead of Test match."

Taibu called the match a close one but said, "It was tough to bowl them (BCB) out in 60-odd overs."

"Yet, one thing is clear that we took a psychological advantage from here and this will definitely inspire us in the first Test."

The Zimbabwean captain believed that his team would surely win the Test if they can carry on the performance showed here in the three-day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third and final day of the three-day practice match between BCB XI and Zimbabwe at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday:

BCB XI: First innings 317/7 in 80 overs, Dec (Nafees 97, Rajin 38, Tushar 102 not out, Matsikenyeri 4-53).

ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 384 for 2 in 100 overs)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Matsikenyeri retired	150			
Rogers c Saqib b Tareq	44			
Sibanda c Shamsur b Shahadat	122			
Masakadza not out	92			
Taylor not out	77			
Extras: (b-3, lb-23, nb-9, w-2)	37			
Total: (For 2 in 127 overs dec)	522			
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahadat	19	4	88	1

Jabir	23	2	94	0
Tareq	21	5	72	1
Sharif	19	4	58	0
Saqib	32	6	113	0
Shamsur	6	0	38	0
Tushar	7	0	30	0

BCB XI: Second innings

Nafees c Hondo b Chigumbura	4
Shamsur c Masakadza b Chigumbura	6
Sakib c Rogers b Matsikenyeri	15
Rajin c Sibanda b Mupariwa	7
Tushar b Matsikenyeri	16
Mushfiqur c Taylor b Masakadza	14
Al Shahriar not out	118
Sharif c Taibu b Chigumbura	0
Tareq not out	10
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-1)	7
Total: (For 7 wickets in 63 overs)	197

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-11, 3-19, 4-44, 5-57, 6-125, 7-125

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hondo	11	7	21	0
Chigumbura	11	4	19	3
Mupariwa	7	2	23	1
Matsikenyeri	13	2	51	2
Utsey	11	3	58	0
Masakadza	7	4	28	1
Rogers	2	1	1	0
Taylor	1	0	10	0
Result: Match drawn				

Jones, the new bowler, past point for four, then played him to midwicket for three.

The century took 336 minutes and he faced 226 balls, hitting ten fours.

Kallis came into the match on a golden streak of form, having scored 1667 runs at an average of 87.73 in his previous 13 Tests going back to the start of last season's home series against the West Indies. It was Kallis' eighth century during the period.

The England bowlers continued to make inroads, however, and left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, in his second over of the day, bowled AB de Villiers for 21 before Flintoff had Shaun Pollock caught behind for four.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between South Africa and England at Newlands on Monday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 247-4)

Smith c Trescothick b Giles	74
Gibbs b Hoggard	4
Rudolph c G Jones b S Jones	26
Kallis c G Jones b Flintoff	149
Dippenaar b Giles	29
Amla lbw b Hoggard	25
De Villiers b Giles	21
Pollock c G Jones b Flintoff	4
Boje c G Jones b Flintoff	76
Ntini c Vaughan b Flintoff	0
Langeveldt not out	5

Extras: (b-4, lb-15, nb-6, w-3) 28
Total: (All out in 142.1 overs) 441
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-70, 3-145, 4-213, 5-261, 6-308, 7-313, 8-417, 9-417

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	32	7	87	2
Harmison	26	6	82	0
Flintoff	31.1	7	79	4
S Jones	18	0	69	1
Giles	35	3	105	3

ENGLAND: Vaughan, Trescothick, Strauss, Key, Thorpe, Flintoff, G Jones, Giles, Hoggard, S Jones, Harmison.

Lara will play in tsunami match

AFP, Melbourne

West Indies captain Brian Lara was Monday given the official all-clear to play for the Rest of the World against an Asian XI in a tsunami relief cricket match here on January 10.

Lara, along with teammates Chris Gayle and Dwayne Bravo, was given the go-ahead by team management which was originally hesitant to let all three play because of the potential injury risk on the squad of 14 players.

The West Indians are here to play in a triangular one-day series against Australia and Pakistan in January and February.

But a West Indies team spokesman said Monday coach Bennett King and manager Tony Howard had agreed to batsmen Lara and Gayle and allrounder Bravo playing in the Melbourne Cricket Ground charity match.

Lara will join Australians Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and Matthew Hayden among others in the world team, chosen by former Australian captain Steve Waugh and New Zealand Test great Richard Hadlee.

The West Indies are likely to take a full-strength side into their first warm-up match, a day-night game against Victoria at the MCG on Wednesday.

The West Indies play Victoria, then play Australia A in two one-day matches in Hobart (January 8 and 9) before taking on Australia in the first match of the triangular one-day series, on January 14 at the MCG.

Golovin faces Sugiyama

AFP, Gold Coast

French teenager Tatiana Golovin cruised into the second round of the 170,000 US dollar Gold Coast WTA tournament on Monday and a showdown with defending champion Ai Sugiyama.

The 16-year-old took just 52 minutes to knock out Chinese qualifier Zi Yan, 6-1, 6-4.

Golovin was ranked 355 a year ago but advanced to 27th in the world by the end of November on the back of four-round appearances at Wimbledon and the Australian Open as well as a final in Birmingham.

It was the third biggest WTA rankings improvement for the year.

"It's very positive and I'm especially happy that now I'll be seeded at tournaments such as the grand slams so I can play against the best players," Golovin said.

"When you're ranked outside the top 100 it's really hard to play the challengers and the qualifiers, so I'm really happy that I got through that area really fast."

Golovin is only allowed to enter 18 tournaments by the WTA this year because of age restrictions.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	50 Sports-page announcement	4 Ancient Greek poet	25 Bath powder
1 Vacationing	55 Stirrup's locale	5 Polloi predecessor	26 Actor Estrada
4 "Take — Train"	56 Loud lamentation	6 Early bird?	27 Socialist Eugene
8 Cronos	57 Domes-ticate	7 Wan	28 Surveil-lance
12 One of the gang	58 Perfor-mance	8 Rub	29 Dennis Rodman
13 Gets greedy	59 Probabil-ity	9 Carte lead-in	30 Tom, Joad, e.g.
14 Bread spread	60 Luminary	10 Solidify	31 Theater name of old
15 Okla-	61 Reluctant	11 Fa-la link	32 Splash every-where
16 Bad thing to be behind		17 X rating	33 Caravan pack
18 Clark's companion		18 Practitioner (Suff.)	34 Whatever amount
20 Longing		22 Old Testa-ment	40 Whatev-er amount
21 Practice pugilism		23 Archae-ologist's find	42 Makes a decision
24 Famous			45 Pod dwellers
28 Unfaithful one			48 Apiece
32 Expose			49 Bohemian
33 Fino, to NASA			50 Seesaw quorum
34 Arias, e.g.			51 Swindled
36 Ad —			52 Disen-cumber
37 — a-brac			53 Nosh
39 Beer buys			54 "I — Camera"
41 Daub			
43 Blue hue			
44 Cattle call			
46 Hyper personal-ity			

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CRYPTOQUIP

H V C H J O X L S P C S Z X Z G S D I X

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L U P N J O Z . X I J N ' O J A V X I

D O P C K G P Z X J O Z .

DO INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE REMOVING APPLE CENTERS CONSIDER THEMSELVES A CORE GROUP?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Z equal S

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.