

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 Jayanthan, Chaminda Vaas and Dilshan 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-

ples 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 Breda.

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."

The players have also visited the

Ponting's ton finally comes

FROM PAGE 13

He returned to the attack with 13 overs left in the day and Australia at 288 for three and poised to overtake Pakistan's innings total.

In his absence, Kaneria shamed the inexperienced Pakistan bowling attack with Test debutant Mohammad Asif and Navedul Hasan, playing just his second Test match and one-day specialist Shahid Afridi.

Kaneria finished the day with 3-106 off 30 overs.

Australia lost both openers before lunch after the Pakistanis had added 12 runs to their overnight total of 292 for nine to be all out after 4.4 overs of the morning session with wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal last man out for 47.

Justin Langer was bowled by a beautiful inswinger from Naved in 13 in the fourth over of the Australian innings.

Naved got his third delivery to nip back sharply and rattle Langer's middle and off-stumps with the first wicket falling at 26.

Matthew Hayden had a life on 26 when Asif dropped a sharp caught and bowled chance but went soon after without addition to a horrible swipe at Kaneria with Australia on 83 for two.

Kaneria was Pakistan's last wicket to fall caught at first slip by Shane Warne off Glenn McGrath in the morning.

Kaneria hit eight fours off 68 balls in his 83-minute stay while tail-end Asif remained not out 0 off 24 balls.

McGrath finished the innings with 45-50 off 16.4 overs while recalled leg-spinner Stuart MacGill had the best return of 5-87 off 22 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the third and final Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday:

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 292-9)

Butt c Gilchrist b McGrath 108
Hameed c Clarke b Warne 58
Younis c McGrath b MacGill 46
Youhana c Warne b MacGill 8

Kamal c Gillespie b MacGill 10
Afridi c McGrath b MacGill 12
Akmal c Warne b McGrath 47
Naved lbw b MacGill 0
Akhtar b McGrath 0

Kaneria c Gilchrist b MacGill 3
Asif not out 0
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, w-1, nb-3) 12
Total: (All out in 86.4 overs) 304

Fall of wickets: 1-102, 2-193, 3-209, 4-241, 5-241, 6-261, 7-261, 8-261, 9-280

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 16.4 5 50 4
Gillespie 14 3 47 0
Watson 10 3 28 0
Warne 24 4 84 1
MacGill 22 4 87 5

AUSTRALIA: First innings
Langer b Naved 13
Hayden b Kaneria 26

Ponting not out 155
Martyn c Kaneria b Kaneria 67
Clarke st Kamran b Kaneria 35
Gilchrist not out 17
Extras: (b-4, lb-9, w-3, nb-11) 27
Total: (For 4 wkt in 86 overs) 340

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-83, 3-257, 4-318

To bat: Watson, Warne, Gillespie, McGrath, MacGill.

Bowler O M R W
Shoaib 10 1 46 0
Naved 14 2 61 1
Asif 12 3 48 0

Kaneria 30 4 106 3
Afridi 20 3 66 0



PHOTO: AFP

INTO THE 21ST CENTURY: Australia captain Ricky Ponting follows through on square-cut on way to scoring his 21st century, his first as skipper, on the second day of the third and final Test against Pakistan at Sydney yesterday.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Vacation-
ing 50 Sports-
page 4 Ancient
12 One of
the gang 56 Loud
gets 57 Domes-
with 14 Bread
15 Oklaho-
ma city 60 Luminary
16 Bad thing
to be 61 Reticent
18 Clark's
companion 62 DOWN
20 Longing
21 Practice
pugilism 23 Imper-
fect
28 Unfaithful
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NASA 34 Arias, e.g.
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37 — a-brac-
39 Beer buys
41 Doubt
43 Blue hue
44 Cattle call
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4 Ancient
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26 Actor
Estrada
27 Socialist
Eugene
28 Surveil-
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29 Dennis
Rodman
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30 Tom
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31 Theater
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33 Splash
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35 Caravan
pack
40 Whatever
amount
42 Caviar
45 Makes a
decision
47 Pod
dwellers
48 Apiece
49 Bohemian
50 Seesaw
51 Swindled
52 Disen-
cumber
53 Nosh
54 —
Camera"

Solution time: 21 mins.

Solution: S L A N G U A R D S C O R E
S A I N T A H O R N G O D E
E X P L A I N E D N E O
I C O N U P T I O N
S E D G E A R E A
P A I N C E L E R I T Y
E S S W A G E S N A E
W E D D I N G S B E L L
A U N T Y O D E L
B L I N D S E E D
R A I N U N T R A I N E D
I T E P E E N C O V E
G O D S A W S E D E N

CROSSWORD

CRYPTOQUIP

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

P U Z V A J D V V K H I J Z Z

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

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE REMOVING APPLE CENTERS CONSIDER THEMSELVES A CORE GROUP?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equal S

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.

Nepal v'ball Titas beat Gyanendra

SPORTS REPORTER

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.

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"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."

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