



THANK YOU: Stand-in West Indies captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul is about to kiss the turf of the Bourda Oval after hitting his maiden double-century on the second day of the first Test against South Africa in Georgetown on Friday.

WI erect a mountain

Maiden double tons for Chanderpaul, Hinds

Cricket

AFP, Georgetown

Left-handers Wavell Hinds and Shivnarine Chanderpaul each completed maiden Test double hundreds to help West Indies grind South Africa into the dust on the second day of the first Test on Friday.

Hinds hit the top score of 213 and Chanderpaul, the new West Indies captain, scored an undefeated 203 to be the foundations on which the home team piled up a challenging first innings total of 543 for five declared.

Bad light however, stopped play 15.5 overs early, after Pedro Collins sent down just two deliveries — one a no-ball — to leave South Africa on two without loss and eyeing a following-on target of 343.

Hinds reached his milestone in the last half hour before the lunch interval when he guided fast bowler Andre Nel, South Africa's most successful bowler with three wickets for 93 runs from 33 overs, through backward point for four.

Almost five and a quarter hours later, Chanderpaul brought up his landmark to a cacophony of noise in front of a crowd in excess of 5,000 of his countrymen, when he whipped a delivery from Nicky Boje through mid-wicket for a boundary.

It was the first time in 47 years that two West Indies batsmen scored double hundreds in the same Test innings. The previous and only other occasion came when Garfield Sobers hit the previous world record 365 not out and the late Conrad Hunte scored 260 against Pakistan at Kingston.

A damp outfield caused by overnight rain delayed the start of play by an hour, but did nothing to water down the appetites of Hinds

and Chanderpaul for runs.

Chanderpaul and Hinds took their fourth wicket partnership to a record for any team in a Test at the Bourda Oval, after West Indies continued from their bedtime total of 347 for three.

Fortune seemed to smile on Hinds a second time just prior to the interval. Shortly after he reached his milestone, he gained the benefit of the doubt for a confident lbw appeal off Nel.

After taking West Indies to 386 for three at lunch, Hinds seemed a little unsettled by the tight bowling of the South Africans and eventually edged a drive to keeper Mark Boucher off Charl Langeveldt. He struck 34 fours and two sixes from 297 balls in almost seven and a half hours batting.

Following Hinds' dismissal, fellow left-hander Ryan Hinds and Chanderpaul continued to grind the South Africans with resolute batting interspersed with the occasional rasping stroke for boundaries.

Chanderpaul, who had been dropped on 60 and 85 the previous day, eventually cleared his previous highest Test score of 140 and was clearly eyeing a double hundred of his own in his first match in charge on his home ground.

Ryan Hinds battled through a nervous start and began to flourish with a couple of meaty strokes. On 16, he was fortunate that Jacques Kallis muffed a chance at slip when he edged Nicky Boje.

Hinds and Chanderpaul took West Indies to tea at 490 for four with little fanfare and seemed bent on marauding the South Africa attack after the break.

Boje made the breakthrough in the fifth over after tea when Hinds drove loosely outside the off-stump and was caught at slip for 48. He hit five fours from 121 balls in two and a half hours.

After his dismissal, all attention switched to Chanderpaul and he did not disappoint the crowd that also included the Guyana President Bharat Jagdeo, who like Chanderpaul, also hails from the tiny fishing community of Unity about 25 miles east of Georgetown.

Chanderpaul batted for a marathon eight and a half hours, faced 370 balls and struck 23 fours.

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 347-3)
W Hinds c Boucher b Langeveldt 213
Smith c Boucher b Nel 11
Ganga c Boucher b Nel 0
Pagon c Kallis b Nel 35
Chanderpaul not out 203
R Hinds c Kallis b Boje 48
Extras: (lb-8, w-2, nb-8) 18
Total: (For 5 wks decl in 152.1 overs) 543
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-24, 3-106, 4-390, 5-506
To bat: Browne, Powell, Collins, King

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings
Smith not out 1
De Villiers not out 0
Extras: (nb-1) 1

Scoreboard table with columns for Bowler, O, M, R, W.

Scoreboard table with columns for Bowler, O, M, R, W.

Pakistan c Sehwag b Tendulkar

FROM PAGE 12 match and then by wicketkeeper Akmal when he was on eight.

Mohammad Sami was the unfortunate bowler on both occasions.

The Sehwag-Dravid partnership was India's best for the third wicket against Pakistan in a one-day international, surpassing the 161 by Dravid and Mohammad Azharuddin during the Sahara Cup series in Toronto, Canada in 1996.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the first one-day international between India and Pakistan at the Nehru Stadium in Cochin on Saturday:

Table with columns for India batsmen and their scores.

Harbhajan not out 14
Balaji b Arshad 0
Zaheer not out 2
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-13, nb-1) 23
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs) 281
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-4, 3-205, 4-241, 5-255, 6-260, 7-265, 8-269
Did not bat: Nehra

Table with columns for Pakistan batsmen and their scores.

Table with columns for Pakistan bowlers and their figures.

Afridi c Zaheer b Tendulkar 8
Sami c and b Tendulkar 2
Naved b Zaheer 25
Arshad not out 14
Extras: (lb-4, nb-7, w-3) 14
Total: (All out in 45.2 overs) 194
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-49, 3-49, 4-64, 5-112, 6-129, 7-146, 8-151, 9-152

Table with columns for Pakistan bowlers and their figures.



Action from the AFC Under-13 Football Festival opening encounter between Bangladesh and Pakistan at BKSP in Savar yesterday.

Serie A stops for Pope

AFP, Rome

All Italian first and second division matches have been cancelled this weekend, the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) said on Saturday, as a mark of respect to Pope John Paul II who is close to death.

CONI, Italy's highest sports authority, suspended all events in all sports out of respect for the seriously ill pope.

Sports federations in this football-crazed country were expected to follow CONI's diplomatically-worded "appeal."

"In view of the medical bulletins which underline the inevitable and imminent death of the Holy Father and in respect of the feelings of the athletes, technicians, executives and supporters," CONI boss Giovanni Petrucci urged Italy's sports federations to cancel events.

Officials in the central town of Terni immediately contacted the fans of their second division team to tell them not to travel to a football match scheduled Saturday evening in Perugia.

Gianfranco Zola, the former Chelsea player who now plays for Cagliari, agreed with the ban.

Demand for 2006 WC tickets shoot up

AFP, Berlin

The demand for 2006 World Cup tickets continues to surprise Germany's organising committee with a staggering 10 million fans requesting tickets in the first of five sales periods.

In total 2.93 million tickets are available to football fans and the race for the first batch of 812,000 tickets produced mass hysteria with two and a half million ticket requests registered on last Thursday's deadline day alone.

"The impressive figures underline the interest in the World Cup across the globe," explained FIFA general secretary Urs Linsi.

"The requests come from over 195 countries. I can honestly not remember a World Cup where demand was so high."

As expected demand has far outstripped supply and on April 15 World Cup organisers will determine who are the lucky recipients of the 812,000 tickets via a lottery.

Ticket prices range from 35 euros to 600 euros for football's biggest showpiece running from June 9 until July 9 2006.

Eyeing a brush
FROM PAGE 12 our boys have got the much-needed confidence from that series and they definitely will give their best against England."

Bashar expressed his satisfaction over the selection of the preliminary team, especially with the inclusion of some young cricketers like paceman Shahadat Hossain and left-hander Shahriar Nafees.

"I have faced Shahadat in the nets and he really impressed me with his pace. Besides, for a long time we were looking for a left-handed opener and I believe Shahriar Nafees has the ability to fill that role in future," he hoped.

The national camp starts at the Army Stadium in Banani tomorrow with coach Dav Whatmore, who is expected to return today after spending his holidays in Sri Lanka.

Ganguly feels

FROM PAGE 12 down that was the main point. Otherwise I think it was a chaseable target," he said.

"The bowlers did very well in the last 20 overs, especially Arshad (Khan) and (Mohammad) Hafeez."

"It was a good batting track and if we had held wickets it would not have been a big target."

AFC U-13 football

SPORTS REPORTER

The local boys made a brilliant start when the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-13 Football Festival began yesterday at BKSP.

In the day's matches, Bangladesh B blanked Pakistan 2-0, Sri Lanka drew goalless with Bhutan, Nepal also played to a goalless draw with Bangladesh A, Bangladesh B dumped Bhutan 4-0, Nepal defeated Pakistan 2-0, Bangladesh A drew goalless with Sri Lanka and Nepal blanked Bhutan 3-0.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the six-team Group C matches of the Asian juvenile soccer meet at a simple ceremony in the morning.

RU sports

RU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day long inter-hall athletic competition began at Rajshahi University stadium yesterday.

RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki yesterday inaugurated the competition as chief guest.

At least 12 teams are taking part in 31 events.

Figo coming back?

Football

AFP, Lisbon

Luis Figo is on the verge of coming out of international retirement to help Portugal qualify for the 2006 World Cup, the president of the national football federation said Friday.

"I believe Luis Figo will shortly join the national team, which still has many games to play in this qualification stage," Gilberto Madail told sports daily Record.

Figo, voted FIFA's World Player of the Year in 2001, left the team after Portugal missed out in the Euro 2004 final to Greece after a 12-year career and 110 appearances, a national record he shares with Fernando Couto.

The 32-year-old continues to play for Real Madrid. His contract with the Spanish giants expires in 2006 but has not yet been renewed.

"Luis Figo is indispensable to this team and to any other," Madail told national news agency Lusa when

asked about the newspaper interview.

"Figo never closed the doors completely to the national squad and only those who don't want to see can deny that he has been pushing Real Madrid along," he added.

When Figo announced his retirement from the Portuguese squad in August he refused to shut the door completely on a possible return at a later date.

"I think the time has come to take a break. I don't know if it will be forever, because I will never refuse to serve my country and because no one can predict the future, but at this moment I feel the need to stop," he said at the time.

Last month Portugal coach Luis Felipe Scolari told reporters he talks with the player regularly and there was a chance that the player would return to the team.

"He has objectives, and so do we. Maybe there will be a time when both of our objectives cross paths," he said.



LUIS FIGO

It opened Benitez's eyes

Football

REUTERS, Liverpool

Liverpool's Spanish coach Rafael Benitez was given a lesson in the English style of football when his team met Bolton Wanderers this season.

Liverpool lost 1-0 in August, just weeks into his tenure at Anfield, and play Bolton again on Saturday as the teams fight it out for the final Champions League spot along with Everton.

"I have learned a lot about English football since that day," he told reporters on Friday.

"I remember the game against Bolton and the different way FIFA's rules are used."

"I learned then you can have your feet over the line or in the air when you send the ball into the penalty area from a throw in."

"I learned that if you are a defender and you hit your nose into an attackers elbow it will be a free kick against you."

"And I learned that it is okay to have players standing in the six yard box to stop the keeper jumping for the ball at corners. They are obviously there just to get a closer look at the game."

Sam Allardyce's Bolton team

have been heavily criticised for their robust style of play but Benitez is nevertheless full of admiration for his personal friend midfielder Fernando Hierro.

The 37-year-old ex-Real Madrid defender has enjoyed a successful season with Bolton and is thinking of retiring at the end of the campaign but Benitez has urged him to play on.

"He can play more years if he wants to," said Benitez.

"With his quality and positioning

it does not matter about his age.

"I am not surprised he has done well in England because he was one of the best players Real Madrid has ever had."

"I talked with him before he came to England and he chose Bolton because for him it was not about the money but the desire to play."

"He has so many good qualities. He is always in the right position, is good in the air and has a powerful shot."



RAFAEL BENITEZ

Arsene wants a Roman inquest

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea owner Roamn Abramovich should step in and provide moral leadership at Stamford Bridge, Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger said on Friday.

Wenger's call came after a week when Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho was hit with a two-game Champions League touchline ban. Mourinho has also been fined by the Football Association for accusing Manchester United players of 'cheating' in their League Cup semifinal tie.

And Mourinho and Chelsea have been charged by the Premier League with allegedly 'tapping up' Arsenal full-back Ashley Cole.

Wenger declared: "I think it would be helpful (to hear from Abramovich). He sets the tone at that club. Of course, he is very

powerful and they have the advantage of having rules which only they have."

"That's why I think that the way he wants to lead the club is important for English football and the Premier League."

Wenger insisted he didn't want to take anything away from what Chelsea had achieved on the pitch, insisting their players and staff had done a tremendous job.

"They've been very efficient and hungry," he said.

"But every club has its values and I would like to hear a voice at Chelsea come out and say what they really want to be in England and how they want to behave."

"I feel we are missing that voice but it's important for English football as they will be leading club in the coming years."

"I've made mistakes and (Sir Alex) Ferguson has made mistakes as we're all under pressure in the heat of the game."

"But voices come out from our

clubs afterwards, showing our values and how we want to behave. I feel that has not come out from Chelsea."

Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood has previously spoken of his "embarrassment" at the Old Trafford melee last season, with his traditional Old Etonian values often setting the tone for the club.

Abramovich, meanwhile, has given only one major interview -- to the Financial Times -- since buying Chelsea just over 18 months ago and has otherwise remained a somewhat private, reclusive figure.

While that is, in part, understandable due to his concerns over privacy and security, Wenger feels the Russian multi-millionaire has an obligation to the English game.

"We live in a society where it doesn't matter any more as when you win, you're right, but I feel that big clubs are all about values, both on and off the pitch," he added.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across, Down, and Cryptic words.

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid with clues for Cryptic words.

CRYPTOQUIP
F A B K W T Z N L B X Y G T Y
X Y Q E G L Q D K ' E L Q D K Z Y Q E
V Q W B N N Q L ? K A Q O Q T Y O Q
F B E A G D O K T D V Y G L O Q
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF AN ITALIAN CHEF GOT VERY MAD, I PRESUME HE COULD GIVE YOU A PIZZA HIS MIND!
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: L equals D
The Cryptiquip 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.