

McGrath top pace bowler

AFP, Sydney

Australia's Glenn McGrath Satur-day became the greatest wicket-taking paceman in Test cricket with two wickets to overtake West Indian Courtney Walsh.

McGrath captured the prized wicket of West Indian superstar Brian Lara (5) and new Indian skipper Rahul Dravid (0) to lift his Test tally to 520 wickets in his 113th Test match.

That enabled him to leapfrog one-time world record-holder Walsh's total of 519 wickets.

"It is a big honour because Courtney was a cricketer that I looked up to and admired, a freak of a player who competed for 21 years straight without hardly taking a break," McGrath said.

"I can't see myself catching the next two (Warne and Muralitharan) but without doubt my next goal is to reach the 600 Test wicket goal."

Australian teammate and leg-spinner Shane Warne is the leading Test wicket-taker with 626 ahead of Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan (560), who took two wickets in Australia's first innings here.

Dravid edged McGrath to wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist for a six-ball duck and just before lunch, McGrath snared the coveted wicket of Lara, leg before wicket for five off eight balls on referral to the third umpire.

It continued a sorry Super Series for Lara, who scored only five runs in three knocks in last week's one-day series in Melbourne.

Sourav faces big challenge: Kapil

PTI, New Delhi

Former India captain Kapil Dev on Saturday said that Sourav Ganguly faced a "big challenge" in regaining his spot in the side after he was replaced as skipper by Rahul Dravid.

"Ganguly needs to prove to everybody that he still deserves a place in the team. It would be a big challenge for him," Kapil told reporters.

The former all-rounder was speaking on the eve of the Delhi Half Marathon in which he would be participating. He is also the brand ambassador for the event.

Responding to a specific query if the doors to the Indian team had been shut on Ganguly, who is currently nursing a tennis elbow, Kapil said he would need to perform to show that he belongs at the highest level of the game.

Reacting to Dravid taking over the reins of the side, the former skipper said a captain should ideally be appointed for a longer period of time.

"A longer period at the helm would provide a conducive atmosphere to deliver results," he said, adding constant chopping and changing does not do any good to the performance of the side.

"The same happened to me when I was a player and it is very painful," Kapil said. "If a person is good enough, he should not be given a time frame." When he was asked if some players, who were prone to injuries, were prolonging their careers, the former pacer stressed that the selectors sometimes needed to take hard decisions.

"One cannot make everybody happy but we need to have the best players for the 2007 World Cup. Nobody should remain in the side without showing good performance," he added.

Sri Lanka call back Zoysa

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka have strengthened their pace attack by including Nuwan Zoysa in a 15-member squad for this month's one-day cricket series in India.

The left-arm seamer, with 103 wickets in 89 one-day internationals, returned to the team after being dropped against Bangladesh for a home series.

Chief selector Lalith Kaluperuma said Saturday the fast bowler regained his place in the squad after proving his form and fitness against second-string teams from New Zealand and South Africa in a recent triangular series in Sri Lanka.

Zoysa is one of five pacemen in the squad alongside Chaminda Vaas, Dilhara Fernando, Farveez Maharoof and Dilhara Lokuhettige.

Veteran opening batsman Marvan Atapattu captains the side.

Sri Lanka will leave for India on Thursday to play seven one-day internationals. The opening match is at Nagpur on Oct 25.

India, who announced their squad on Friday, will be led by new captain Rahul Dravid.

ONE-DAYSQUAD

Marvan Atapattu (captain), Mahela Jayawardene (vice-captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sanga-kkara, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul Tharanga, Thilan Samaraweera, Chaminda Vaas, Upul Chandana, Farveez Maharoof, Russel Arnold, Dilhara Fernando, Muttiah Muralitharan, Dilhara Lokuhettige, Nuwan Zoysa.

PREMIERSHIP

Wigan move into second



Football

AFP, Wigan

Wigan moved up to second in the English Premiership table after a stunning 1-0 victory over Newcastle at the JJB Stadium on Saturday.

The relegation favourites at the start of the season took advantage of the early kick-off to steal a march on their nearest rivals and move above the likes of Manchester United and Arsenal, if only for a few hours.

Jason Roberts scored the winning goal that leaves Newcastle still languishing in the bottom half of the table, despite the arrival of Michael Owen.

Wigan survived an early penalty appeal as Owen tried to latch on to a Lee Bowyer through ball with Leighton Baines tugging at his shirt.

Wigan mustered the first meaningful shot on goal when the hapless Jean-Alain Boumsong inadvertently directed a header into the path of Roberts.

Robbie Elliott did well to shepherd the powerful striker away from goal but he still managed to fire in a thundering drive that crashed into Shay Given's near post and behind for a goal kick.

Two minutes later, French youngster Charles N'Zogbia wasted a glorious opportunity for Newcastle, failing to pick out Owen in a two-on-one situation that would have left the England man with a clear strike on goal.

Just before the half hour mark, Owen had a great chance to give the visitors the lead but slipped as he met Andy Faye's teasing cross and fired the ball high over the bar.

Graeme Souness was forced into an early change as midfielder Bowyer limped off with an injured knee after a robust 50-50 challenge with Baines, to be replaced by striker

Shola Ameobi as the Scottish manager went for a more attacking approach.

But just three minutes later, his side fell behind after a slick passing move from the hosts.

Henri Camara's flick picked out Damien Francis who fed Roberts to coolly slot the ball between Given's legs and Wigan were in front.

Souness responded at the break by bringing on the returning Emre in

Newcastle did have the ball over the line midway through the second half as Shearer powered in to head home a corner.

The ball was clearly over the line when it struck Baines on the chest and rebounded into play but referee Phil Dowd waved away the Newcastle protestations and the Wigan goal remain fortuitously intact.

Lee McCulloch was sent off five minutes from time for a bad challenge



PHOTO: INTERNET

Wigan Athletic's Jason Roberts (L) celebrates after scoring the winner against Newcastle United in their Premiership encounter at the JJB stadium in Wigan on Saturday.

place of Faye and the Turkish international was quickly into the thick of things, orchestrating several Newcastle attacks.

on Emre and Newcastle poured forward against the 10-men, but to no avail.

World XI caught in a spin

FROM PAGE 12

"We have to have play well tomorrow if we want to win the match. We have to get them out early and then after that we'll look to bat positive."

MacGill had Inzamamul Haq stumped for one after the Pakistani Test captain over-balanced when playing forward and was unable to get his back foot inside the crease in time.

Kallis succumbed to a great low catch by Hayden at slip off a Warne leg-break for 44, and Boucher feathered another Warne leg-break to Gilchrist for a two-ball duck.

Brett Lee started proceedings when he had world skipper Graeme Smith top-edging to Gilchrist for 12.

It was a stinging response after Ashes hero Flintoff had captured three wickets in three overs to terminate Australia's first innings.

The England all-rounder removed Gilchrist on his overnight score of 94 with the second ball of the day, depriving the Australian vice-captain of his 16th Test century.

Flintoff also claimed the wickets of Warne (5) and Lee (1) to finish with 4-59 off 18 overs.

The World XI claimed four wickets for 14 in five overs to stop Australia in their tracks after Hayden (111) and Gilchrist had the home side in a strong position at 331 for six at stumps Friday.

Australia swept to a 3-0 one-day series win over the world stars last week.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the Super Test between Australia and a World XI at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings (overnight 331-6)

Langer b Harmison	0			
Hayden c Kallis b Muralitharan	111			
Ponting c Kallis b Flintoff	46			
Clarke c Sehwa g b Vettori	39			
Katich run out (Smith)	0			
Gilchrist lbw b Flintoff	94			
Watson lbw b Muralitharan	24			
Warne c Kallis b Flintoff	5			
Lee c Smith b Flintoff	1			
McGrath run out (Dravid)	0			
MacGill not out	0			
Extras: (b-5, lb-11, w-3, nb-6)	25			
Total: (All out in 90 overs)	345			
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-73, 3-154, 4-163, 5-260, 6-323, 7-331, 8-339, 9-344				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Harmison	18	3	60	1
Flintoff	18	3	59	4
Kallis	7	1	35	0
Muralitharan	30	3	102	2
Vettori	17	3	73	1
<b>WORLD XI:</b> First innings				

CCDM fails

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One team will be allowed to field one foreign player but the CCDM has relaxed the restriction of bringing an all-rounder and let him not bat before number eight, which was the decision of CCDM's first meeting.

They also failed to decide about providing travel and food allowances to teams travelling outside Dhaka for the league. This is the first time the league matches will be held at Bogra and two venues among Mymensingh, Comilla and Chandpur.

Smith c Gilchrist b Lee	12	Lee	8	1	54	1
Schwag c Katich b Warne	76	Watson	6	0	38	0
Dravid c Gilchrist b McGrath	0	Warne	12	3	23	3
Lara lbw b McGrath	5	MacGill	9.1	0	39	4
Kallis c Hayden b Warne	44					
Inzamam st Gilchrist b MacGill	1	<b>AUSTRALIA:</b> Second innings				
Flintoff c Lee b MacGill	35	Langer c Smith b Kallis			22	
Boucher c Gilchrist b Warne	0	Hayden not out			27	
Vettori not out	8	Ponting not out			17	
Harmison c Clarke b MacGill	1	Total: (For 1 wkt in 20 overs)			66	
Muralitharan c Langer b MacGill	2	Fall of wicket: 1-30				
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-1, nb-3)	6	<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Total: (All out in 47.1 overs)	190	Harmison	7	1	25	0
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-31, 3-43, 4-134, 5-135, 6-147, 7-151, 8-183, 9-184		Flintoff	4	0	14	0
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	Kallis	3	1	3	1
McGrath	12	Muralitharan	3	0	8	0
		Vettori	3	0	16	0

Al Shahriar explodes

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GAZI TANK - ISPAHANI

After Aftab Ahmed's blistering half-century, his national teammate Manzarul Islam and young Mahmudullah Riyad scored fifties as Gazi Tank scored 243 all out in 49.5 overs after deciding to bat first.

Another national opener Nafees Iqbal also hit 81-ball 50 but it was not good enough for Ispahani to avoid a 48-run defeat as they were bundled out for 195 in 47.1 overs.

Dashing right-hander Aftab hit a 41-ball 59. His second consecutive fifty contained 12 savage hits across the rope. But a 117-run fifth wicket stand between Manjarul and Riyad helped Gazi Tank to set the challenging total.

Left-handed Manjarul, who hammered 82 against Banglacet in the opening match, top-scored with 63 off 94 balls with five fours and a six while Riyad contributed 51 off 85 deliveries that featured three fours.

Captain Khaled Mahmud smashed two sixes and a four to score 21-ball 31.

Left-arm spinner Monirul Islam

was the most successful Gazi bowler picking up three wickets for 30 while Waseluddin took two for 30.

SCORES IN BRIEF

**BEXIMCO:** 324-5 in 50 overs (Rashedul 68, Shahriar 14, Al Shahriar 147, Ashraful 34, Saiful 2-58, Shuvro 2-63).

**ORION:** 95 all out in 36.2 overs (Sohag 18, Sajjad 19, Raj 3-19, Nadif 3-17, Rahman 2-20).

**Result: BEXIMCO won by 229 runs.**

**EPYLLION:** 215 all out in 50 overs (Sajjadul 50, Moniruzzaman 89, Tushar Imran 15, Aminul 2-38, Rubaiyet 2-45, Anwar Hossain 3-49).

**BANGLACAT:** 49 all out in 25.1 overs (Jubair 20, Shahadat 3-14, Sajju 4-10, Nabil 2-4).

**Result: Epyllion won by 166 runs.**

**GAZI TANK:** 243 all out in 49.5 overs (Aftab 59, Riyad 51, Manzarul 63, Mozammel 2-33, Yasin 3-38, Kamrul 2-43).

**ISPAHANI:** 195 all out in 47.1 overs (Nafees 50, Kamrul 41, Rezaul 32 not out, Monirul Islam 3-30, Waseluddin 2-30).

**Result: Gazi Tank won by 48 runs.**

Sanz buys Parma



Football

REUTERS, Rome

Former Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz should be confirmed as the new owner of Parma in the next few days after handing over a cheque for 20 million euros (23.98 million dollars), the Serie A club has announced.

Parma have been searching for a buyer since their parent company, Italian food group Parmalat, collapsed in December 2003 amid an accounting fraud scandal.

The hunt seemed to be drawing to a close last month when Sanz made an initial payment of 7.5 million euros on the full price of 27.5 million, but he will not be officially declared the owner until the new cheque clears.

"The transfer of ownership of the shares in Parma FC will not take place until the cheque is cashed," said a statement on the club's website on Friday.

If the deal goes through, Sanz would become the first non-Italian

owner of a Serie A club.

The 52-year-old was president of Real Madrid from 1995 to 2000, during which time the team won the Primera Liga in 1997 and the Champions League in 1998 and 2000.

Parma's fans will hope he can revitalise their side's fortunes.

The personal wealth of the Tanzi family, which owned dairy company Parmalat, made Parma one of the strongest clubs in Italy during the 1990s when they were twice runners-up in Serie A and won the UEFA Cup in 1995 and 1999.

The demise of Parmalat, founded by Calisto Tanzi, led to the departure of many of the club's top players and hit results on the pitch.

Last season Parma came dangerously close to losing their top-flight status, beating Bologna in an end-of-season playoff to avoid relegation.

They have struggled again this term and are 16th in the 20-team top division with four points from six matches.

Vaughan plays 'feud' down

BBC ONLINE, undated

England captain Michael Vaughan has played down comments from his new book which suggest he "can't stand" South African counterpart Graeme Smith.

Vaughan was upset with Smith's role in causing him to be fined a match fee.

"I think the newspaper headline might have over-exaggerated the comments in the book," Vaughan told BBC Five Live.

"I have a lot of respect for him, he is doing a good job with the South Africa team. We just had a bit of a fall-out last winter. These things happen."

In the book, Vaughan relates how Smith tried to wind him up during England's tour of South Africa last winter, where they won the Test series 2-1.

"He astounded me by continually calling me 'queer' Vaughan writes. 'I found it very odd and childish, the kind of thing you'd say in the playground."

"He also kept calling Andrew Flintoff a big baby which I felt was courageous but remarkably silly."

The England captain was fined his £6,000 match fee for the fourth Test in Johannesburg when he criticised the umpires for their "inconsistency" in interpreting the bad light regulation.

Euro 2008 pools revealed

AFP, Paris

European football's ruling body UEFA on Friday announced the composition of the pools from which will be drawn the qualifying groups for the 2008 European Championships.

The draw will be held in Montreux, Switzerland on January 27, 2006.

The winners and runner-up of each of the seven groups will qualify directly for the championships, with Switzerland and Austria making up the 15th and 16th teams as co-hosts.

It means that there will be no playoffs, contrary to the Euro 2004 when the runners-up in each of the 10 groups had to play off for the remaining five places.

The composition of each hat for the draw was based on a coefficient which took account of national team performances for the Euro 2004 and for the 2006 World Cup.

A total of 50 teams will bid to qualify for the 16 places in six groups of seven teams and one group of eight teams.

POOLS

**Pool 1:** Greece, Netherlands, Portugal, England, Czech Republic, France, Sweden

**Pool 2:** Germany, Croatia, Italy, Turkey, Poland, Spain, Romania

**Pool 3:** Serbia-Montenegro, Russia, Denmark, Norway, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Slovakia

**Pool 4:** Bosnia-Herzegovina, Republic of Ireland, Belgium, Latvia, Israel, Scotland, Slovenia

**Pool 5:** Hungary, Finland, Estonia, Wales, Lithuania, Albania, Iceland

**Pool 6:** Georgia, Macedonia, Belarus, Armenia, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Moldova

**Pool 7:** Liechtenstein, Azerbaijan, Andorra, Malta, Faroe Islands, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, San-Marino

Schiavone in Kremlin Cup final

AFP, Moscow

Italy's Francesca Schiavone booked a place in the final of the 2.3-million Kremlin Cup here Saturday beating fourth seed Elena Dementieva of Russia in straight sets.

The 6-3, 6-1 win in 62 minutes saw Schiavone record her second victory against Dementieva in their five head-to-head meetings.

"It's so important. For me it's a big goal and maybe it's my moment," Schiavone said.

The players traded breaks at the start but Schiavone, who is currently 22nd in the WTA rankings, was the more accurate and consistent and took the first set in 32 minutes.

The slightly-built Italian, who ousted second seed Amelie Mauresmo of France and eighth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia on her way to the semis, broke birthday girl Dementieva twice in the second set to jump out into a 4-0 lead.

Dementieva, twice runner-up here, fought tooth and nail but she had few answers to the power and precision of her 25-year-old opponent, who broke the Russian's weak serve once again to clinch a place in the final.

Still a dream

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Chinese GM Zhang Zhong emerged as champion with 7.5 points while his compatriot GM Li Shilong finished runner-up with seven points. The top ten players of the meet -- six from China, three from Kazakhstan and one from Vietnam -- qualified for the World Chess Championship in Italy.

Keane quits Ireland



Football

AFP, Dublin

Manchester United and Republic of Ireland star Roy Keane confirmed Friday that he is to quit international football after his team's failure to qualify for the 2006 World Cup finals.

In a statement released to the Irish national broadcaster RTE, Keane said "the time has come to concentrate on domestic football".

The 34-year-old midfielder paid tribute to beleaguered Irish manager Brian Kerr, saying criticism of him in the media was "unjust and unfair".

"Like all football supporters in the country I am disappointed that the Republic of Ireland failed to qualify for the World Cup finals," Keane said.

"I feel the time has come when I should retire from international football and concentrate on domestic football for whatever remains of my career."

Keane had returned to the Ireland squad in a bid to help them qualify for the World Cup in Germany after being kicked out of the team following a disagreement at the 2002 World Cup finals with then manager Mick McCarthy over preparations.

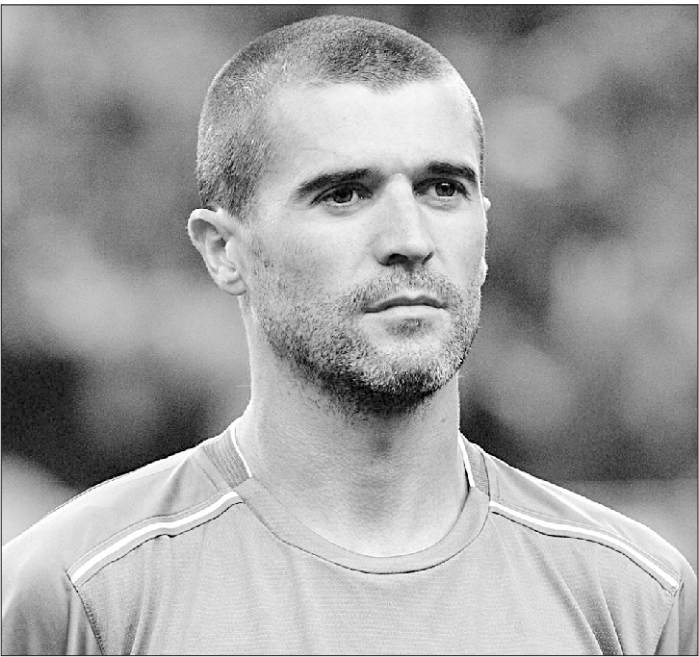
The appointment of Kerr in 2003 eventually led to the controversial return of Keane to the international arena in 2004.

His decision follows that of captain Kenny Cunningham, who announced his international retire-

ment after Ireland's World Cup exit was confirmed by a goalless draw with Switzerland on Wednesday.

Keane made his debut for Ireland in 1991 and went on to win 66 caps but was unable to influence the conclusion to their failed bid to reach Germany 2006.

A fractured foot sustained in United's goalless Premiership draw with Liverpool last month meant he had to sit out this week's games against Cyprus and Switzerland.



ROY KEANE

Nedved coming of retirement

AFP, Prague



Former Czech Republic captain Pavel Nedved said Friday that he was ready to come out of retirement to help the national team reach the 2006 World Cup finals.

The 2003 European Footballer of the Year retired from international football after the 2004 European Championships.

But the 33-year-old midfielder said he was ready to return for their play-off matches against Norway on November 12 and 16 in a bid to get their ticket to Germany 2006.

"Even if it's just for these two games

I would be happy if I could help my country," said Nedved.

According to his agent Zdenek Nehoda, Nedved has already spoken about his eventual return to national coach Karel Bruckner.

Nedved's international teammates welcomed the decision of the midfielder, who has 83 caps and scored 17 goals for the national side.

"It's great news, he's going to help us a lot. At the same time it's bad news for our rivals because there aren't a lot of European Footballers of the Year around," said midfielder Karel Poborsky, who has 109 caps.

Nedved has not played internationally since the 2004 Euro Championship in Portugal, where he suffered a knee injury in the 1-0 semi-final loss to

Greece.