

4 join Rakib atop table

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib lost solo lead in the 8th United Insurance and United Leasing Grandmasters Chess Tournament and shared the top position with four others after three rounds yesterday.

Rakib's winning run was snapped when he drew with Iranian GM Ghaem Maghami Ehsan at the chess federation hall-room.

FM Nasir Ahmed shocked GM Ziaur Rahman to move to the top alongside Rakib, GM Reefat Bin Sattar, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib and GM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam, all on 2.5 points.

Reefat beat FM Abu Sufian Shakil, Nguyen beathis Bangladesh counterpart GM Niaz Murshed while Rajib defeated Pakistani IM Mahmood Lodhi.

Ghaem, India's GN Gopal and local FM Khondok Aminul Islam were second with two points each.

Vaas's eyes on 2011 World Cup

BBC ONLINE, undated

Sri Lanka's most experienced opening bowler says he has no plans to retire until the next Cricket World Cup.

Chaminda Vaas, who was a member of the 1996 team that won the World Cup believes he might be able to play in 2011 World Cup, to be played in the sub-continent.

"2011, I think I will be able to play but everything depend upon my fitness", the veteran new-ball bowler told BBC Sandeshaya.

Other two veterans who played in 1996 World Cup, Sanath Jayasuriya and Muttiah Muralidaran, have also ruled out seting deadlines to retire from the game.

"I am maintaining a good fitness at the moment and I'd rather focus on year by year than a long period", Vaas said.

"However, I think I will be able to play in 2011, if I maintain my current level of fitness".

Vass is currently playing with Middlesex County in England where he sustained a head injury last week.

"Courtney Walsh and Ambrose for example, played until they were 38," he said commenting on the former West Indies' giants.

Warnakulasuriya Patabendige Ushantha Joseph Chaminda Vaas, who was briefly appointed as Sri Lanka's vice captain replacing Mahela Jayawardene, says he has no regrets whatsoever in his 13-year long career.

The veteran bowler with 313 Test victims and 383 ODI wickets for his name, says he has achieved what many other fast bowlers in the subcontinent did not manage.

"My record as a subcontinent bowler speaks for itself. I think I have achieved a lot in my cricketing career for which I am very proud of," he told bbcsinhala.com.

Becoming only the second fast bowler, after Imran Khan, to take 14 wickets in a match in the sub-continent taking the first-ever ODI eight-for, against Zimbabwe are among his many achievements.

His achievements though are being overshadowed due to the presence of Muttiah Muralidaran, arguably the best bowler Sri Lanka has ever produced.

Vaas, who wanted to be a Catholic priest before becoming a cricketer, hero, is philosophical on his ups and downs in the field.

"I have no regrets whatsoever".

Gascoigne

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Gascoigne, who played for Newcastle, Tottenham, Lazio and Rangers during his best years, has led a troubled life since retiring from playing. He has had alcohol problems and bouts of depression.

Gascoigne was celebrating in the Marriott Hotel in his native Gateshead, part of the Newcastle conurbation in northeast England.

The city's Evening Chronicle newspaper said the fallen star was taken to Newcastle General Hospital before being transferred to the Royal Victoria Infirmary for surgery.

Gascoigne's long-time sidekick Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardner told the regional daily: "I was with him all day yesterday. I'm going to see him in a couple of hours and am not sure what is wrong with him."

Akram rules out

FROM PAGE 17

2003 after the World Cup.

Akram, who ended his career with 414 Test and 502 ODI wickets also rubbished suggestions of Shahid Afridi that the national team did not require a full time coach.

Pakistan is without a coach after the death of Bob Woolmer during the World Cup and for the recent one-day series in Abu Dhabi, manager Talat Ali officiated as coach.



GM Ziaur Rahman (L) in deep concentration during his board against FM Nasir Ahmed in the United Insurance and Leasing chess tournament at the NSC chess hall yesterday. Zia lost the board to Nasir.

Captain cheers Steve on

Cricket

APP, Leeds

England captain Michael Vaughan was hopeful Old Trafford would again inspire Steve Harmison after the fast bowler failed to fire for much of the side's record-breaking innings and 283 run second Test win against the West Indies here at Headingley.

Harmison was reduced to the status of a supporting act in a match where left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom, in his second Test and six years after his debut, returned match figures of eight for 86 as the tourists were routed inside three playing days after Sunday's total washout.

The Durham quick's match figures of five for 92 disguise the fact that three of his wickets came late in Monday's final day when a weak West Indies side, with injured skipper Ramnaresh Sarwan unable to bat, were already well on the way to suffering their worst Test innings defeat of all-time.

Victory put England 1-0 up in the four-match series ahead of the third Test which starts at Old Trafford on June 7.

It was a landmark day for England -- their third largest Test innings victory -- and Vaughan who equalled Peter May's record of 20 wins as England captain.

But for much of the game both Harmison and county colleague Liam Plunkett were wayward, Harmison in particular testing the agility of wicketkeeper Matthew Prior with several legside deliveries.

It was a concern for England, otherwise utterly dominant, after Harmison had been off-target in the drawn series opener at Lord's following his lacklustre display

during their 5-0 Ashes thrashing in Australia.

But Vaughan, who marked his return to Test cricket after 18 months out injured with 103 in England's 570 for seven declared where Kevin Pietersen's Test-best 226 was the centrepiece, said Harmison would be a different proposition at Old Trafford.

Last year at the Manchester venue, on a lively pitch, Harmison took 11 for 76, including a first innings haul of six for 19, as England overwhelmed Pakistan by an innings and 120 runs.

"Steve has openly admitted he hasn't had the best six months. Old Trafford has always been a great ground for him, he'll be looking to reproduce the performance he showed against Pakistan last year," Vaughan also told reporters on Monday after his commanding return to Test cricket on his Yorkshire home ground.

There were signs of the Harmison of old as West Indies lost their last three wickets for no runs in eight balls.

"I thought then Steve Harmison was back to what we know he can be," Vaughan said. "That was bowling 90mph, getting bounce off a good length, and putting batsmen under a lot of pressure when the wicket wasn't swinging."

When it was Sidebottom, only in the team because Matthew Hoggard was injured, persistently posed problems for a largely inexperienced West Indies batting line-up which missed the resilience of Shivnarine Chanderpaul, out of this match with a knee problem.

For Sidebottom, who began his career at Yorkshire where his father Arnie, who won one Test cap for England in 1985, before moving to Nottinghamshire three years ago, it was a dream comeback.

"He'll be a real threat to all

batsmen if he can reproduce that kind of performance on a regular basis," Vaughans said.

Sidebottom's success also represented, as new England coach Peter Moores observed, something of a triumph for the much-maligned county game.

Understandably distrusted as a proving ground for international players by former coach Duncan Fletcher when he took charge of an England side languishing at the foot of the world rankings in 1999 and for much of his subsequent tenure, the signs are it is starting to bridge the gap between first-class and Test level.

Indeed, Sidebottom's performance was an endorsement of the old-fashioned benefits of plenty of overs which give a bowler a chance to groove his game.

This, critics claim, is something too many promising bowlers were denied by the inflexible Fletcher's routine policy of resting players on England central contracts from county matches.

For example, last season Plunkett bowled just 162.2 overs and Harmison 183.3 compared to Sidebottom's 485.5.

Now it remains to be seen how the 29-year-old Sidebottom fares on a less helpful pitch against a far stronger batting line-up

But Pietersen, who spent a season playing with Sidebottom at Nottinghamshire before joining Hampshire, said his former county colleague could take heart from the example of Sri Lanka left-arm quick Chaminda Vaas.

"Any bowler who swings the ball consistently and his good areas can play in any team. You face them in the nets and you do have a hard time."

"Chaminda Vaas has been pretty good at it in his career, so there's no reason why Ryan can't have a good go at it here."

Bangladesh media clinch series

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh media team fought back to win the three-match Media Cup Cricket Series 2-1 against the Indian media team at the Dhamondi Cricket Academy ground on Monday night.

The six-a-side series was organised for the journalists from India and Bangladesh, who covered the recently concluded GrameenPhone Bangladesh-India ODI and Test Series.

The first selection, led by TigerCricket.com Editor Rabeeed Imam, conceded a devastating five-wicket defeat, but the next selection bounced back in the second match with a 52-run victory, thanks mainly to a brilliant opening partnership between Janakantha's Asif Iqbal and sports editor of Amar Desh and captain MM Kaiser who added 89 runs.

In the third and deciding match, Bangladesh media registered a 28-run win to clinch the series, which ensured bragging rights for the local media against their Indian counterparts.

No good news for Flintoff

APP, Leeds

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff's prospects of returning to Test cricket at his Old Trafford home ground next week appear to be diminishing.

Flintoff has so far missed the opening two Tests of the four-match series against the West Indies, including England's innings and 283 run win here at Headingley on Monday, with discomfort in his left ankle, operated on twice over the last three years.

England coach Peter Moores, who has made it clear he wants Flintoff in the side only if the pace bowler can get through his fair share of overs, is looking to Lancashire's upcoming four-day county championship match against champions Sussex at Hove, starting on Wednesday, as the chance for the 29-year-old to prove his fitness ahead of the third Test which begins at Old Trafford on June 7.

But in a statement issued after a Headingley success which put England 1-0 up after the drawn opener at Lord's, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) cast a shadow over Flintoff's participation against Sussex and, consequently, his chances of playing at Old Trafford.

The statement said: "Andrew Flintoff will continue to undergo rehabilitation and assessment on his injured left ankle and a final decision on his participation in Lancashire's county championship match against Sussex will be made prior to Wednesday."

Matthew Hoggard, whose groin injury sustained at Lord's opened the door for a spectacular England return by Ryan Sidebottom, who had match figures of eight for 86 at Headingley, also appears to be struggling to get fit in time for the third Test.

Lone warm-up

FROM PAGE 17

the Press Trust of India.

Dravid had called for better tour schedules during the just concluded tour of rain-lashed Bangladesh.

"Ideally, the timing of the series (in Bangladesh) could have been better. But schedules are crammed, over-crammed if you ask me. I don't know how we are going to fit everything in," he said.

"The solution is that we have to get the scheduling right and try to get certain number of Test and ODIs. We should try not to exceed that number and plan our tours well and prepare well for them."

Dav tops Pak list

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Dav Whatmore remains top of Pakistan's coaching wishlist as the search to replace the late Bob Woolmer enters its final stages.

A three-man Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) committee has shortlisted 13 names from the many who applied. The names will be discussed at the next ad-hoc committee meeting of the board in mid-June and a final decision is still likely to be made by July 1.

Whatmore, who has just completed a four-year tenure with Bangladesh, is also thought to be a leading contender for the vacant Indian coaching post, though he has downplayed speculation that the deal is all but sealed. Cricinfo has learnt, however, that Pakistan are still interested if Whatmore does not go to India.

"He is our top choice but it will depend on how the India thing plays out," an official told Cricinfo.

Win pleases Vaughan

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Michael Vaughan praised his side's "ruthless" performance after they beat West Indies by an innings and 283 runs at Headingley here Monday, a result that saw him become the joint most successful England captain of all-time.

Victory saw Vaughan draw level with Peter May's record of 20 wins as England captain in a match where West Indies suffered their biggest Test innings loss.

The win put England 1-0 up in the four-match series and was a personal triumph for Vaughan, playing his first Test after 18 months out with injury.

Vaughan, 32, scored 103 on his Yorkshire home ground in England's huge total of 570 for seven declared which also featured Kevin Pietersen's Test-best 226.

West Indies then collapsed to 146 all out, and following on, were bowled out for 141 on the fourth day after the whole of the third day's play had been washed out.

Left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom, playing his first Test in six years since making his debut was the pick of England's attack with match figures of eight for 86 on his old home

"India will probably be able to offer him more money but also probably twice the stress as in Pakistan." It is not known whether Whatmore applied formally for the position, which the PCB advertised on its website in April.

Contact between the two parties has been acknowledged; Nasim Ashraf, chairman PCB, revealed earlier this month that the board had been in touch with Whatmore. Speaking to BBC soon after, Whatmore said, "I have not been formally approached by them. Somebody spoke to me on their behalf during the World Cup asking for my contact details but I have not heard from them since."

Whoever is eventually appointed, it is increasingly likely to be from outside Pakistan. Officials privately conceding that a local with requisite qualifications is not only rare, but prone to getting embroiled in internal politics within the team. "It has happened before with local coaches where there have been personality clashes and cliques being formed so it would be better

to avoid that and get someone in without any vested interests," one official said.

Ashraf, however, stressed to Cricinfo that applications have come from locals as well as from England and Australia. "It is more important that he is suited to the job than what his nationality is. Ideally, we are looking for someone young, computer-literate and with fresh ideas. It need not be a big name. Someone without international experience, who is hungry and motivated to take on a challenge and prove himself internationally would be an option as well."

Tim Boon, the Leicestershire coach, has been linked with the position as was, at one stage last year, John Wright. A PTI report, quoting board sources, says that West Indians Roger Harper and Jimmy Adams have also applied. Though a decision is expected by July 1, Ashraf has reiterated that "there will be no hurry to make the decision and it has to be the right man."

ground where he played for Yorkshire until 2004 before joining Nottinghamshire.

"I thought we played to a very good standard," Vaughan told reporters. "We got on top of the West Indies on that very first day. We were ruthless and got the job done."

"When you win by an innings and plenty, it's quite a big defeat for the opposition, but we're only 1-0 up with two to play. We've got to do exactly the same in a week's time at Old Trafford (where the third Test starts on June 7)."

Turning to his old county colleague, Vaughan added: "Ryan was exceptional from his first ball, offered great angles with his left-arm variety. Certainly didn't swing it like that when he was at Yorkshire a few years ago."

Sidebottom was only playing because of Matthew Hoggard's thigh injury but Vaughan said this performance could be the springboard for a successful international career.

"Ryan showed this week he can handle the pressure," Vaughans said.

"He got conditions that suited his style of bowling, but you've still got to produce the goods. He did it to a very very high standard."

"He'll be a real threat to all batsmen if he can reproduce that kind of performance on a regular basis."

Eng inflict WI record defeat

FROM PAGE 17

the latest flat-footed West Indies batsman to lose his wicket against him when he edged to first slip where Andrew Strauss held on at the second attempt.

West Indies suffered a major blow before the match started when senior batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul, withdrawn because of a knee injury.

Rain meant only four overs were possible before lunch on Monday. But that was enough time for paceman Plunkett to dismiss a squared-up Chris Gayle, edging to Prior for 13, after West Indies resumed on 22 for two.

England took the field without batsman Ian Bell, who was continuing to receive treatment to his lower back following a spasm he suffered on Saturday.

Before play began on Monday, players and officials observed a minute's silence in memory of International Cricket Council (ICC) president Percy Sonn, who died on Sunday, and wore black armbands as a mark of respect.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test between England and West Indies at Headingley on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings 570-7 decl (Pietersen 226, Vaughan 103, Prior 75)

WEST INDIES: First innings 146 (Sidebottom 4-42, Plunkett 3-35)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 22-2)

Gayle c Prior b Plunkett	13
Gangall b w b Sidebottom	11
Powell b w b Sidebottom	0
Smith c Strauss b Sidebottom	16
Joseph lbw b Sidebottom	1
Morton c Prior b Harmison	25
Bravo c Plunkett c b Panesar	52
Ramdin lbw b Harmison	5
Taylor b Harmison	0
Collymore not out	
Sarwan absent hurt	

Extras: (b-1, lb-12, nb-5) 18

Total: (All out in 42.1 overs) 141

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-22, 3-30, 4-47, 5-57, 6-120, 7-141, 8-141, 9-141.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sidebottom	15	4	44	4
Plunkett	8	1	27	1
Harmison	13.1	3	37	3
Panesar	6	1	20	1

Result: England won by an innings and 283 runs and lead four-match series 1-0.

Man-of-the-match: Kevin Pietersen (ENG)

BIG ENGLISH WINS

APP, Leeds

England's biggest Test wins after they beat West Indies by an innings and 283 runs here to win the second Test here at Headingley on Monday, their third biggest innings victory of all-time:

Inns and 579 runs	v AUS	The Oval 1938
Inns and 285 runs	v IND	Lord's 1974
Inns and 283 runs	v WIS	Leeds 2007
Inns and 261 runs	v BAN	Lord's 2005
Inns and 237 runs	v WIS	The Oval 1957
Inns and 230 runs	v AUS	Adelaide 1891/92
Inns and 225 runs	v AUS	Melbourne 1911/12
Inns and 217 runs	v AUS	The Oval 1866
Inns and 215 runs	v NZL	Auckland 1962/63
Inns and 209 runs	v ZIM	Lord's 2000

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 Carte	5 Ostentatious	21 Gilligan's fate
1 Trig, e.g.	lead-in	6 Measure	22 Ritter of Westerns
5 Hot tub	42 Tank fill	to the	23 Hirt and Hirschfeld
8 Leak	45 Rid of rind slowly	46 March 17th emblem	24 Tenth century
12 Canyon comeback	48 Grand-scale tale	7 Request	25 Oklahoma city
13 Possesses	49 Stolen	8 Boot shiner?	26 Clampett patriarch
14 Loathe	50 Con	9 Count	27 "— Town"
15 Skilled	51 Fram	10 List	28 Spoon-bender
17 By word of mouth	52 Stroll	center ending abbr.	Geller
18 Seaman's assent	53 TV's	Batman	29 Syrup-tube
19 Have bills	DOWN	1 Small	30 Old soldier
20 Ball VIP	1 plate	2 Sore	34 Chart format
21 Crafty	2 Check	3 Quaker's address	35 Line of fashion
22 Menotti lad	4 Perp. to vert.	20 Sheepish remark	37 Cheer up
26 Green-eyed	30 California city	31 Annoy	38 Jet forth
30 Almo-sphere	32 Trade	33 Emer-gency funds	39 Ann or May
36 Humor	37 "A mouse"	38 Frighten	40 Met melody

41 Ship! —"	42 Vanished	43 Deeds	44 Revue segment	46 The lady	47 Unrefined
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