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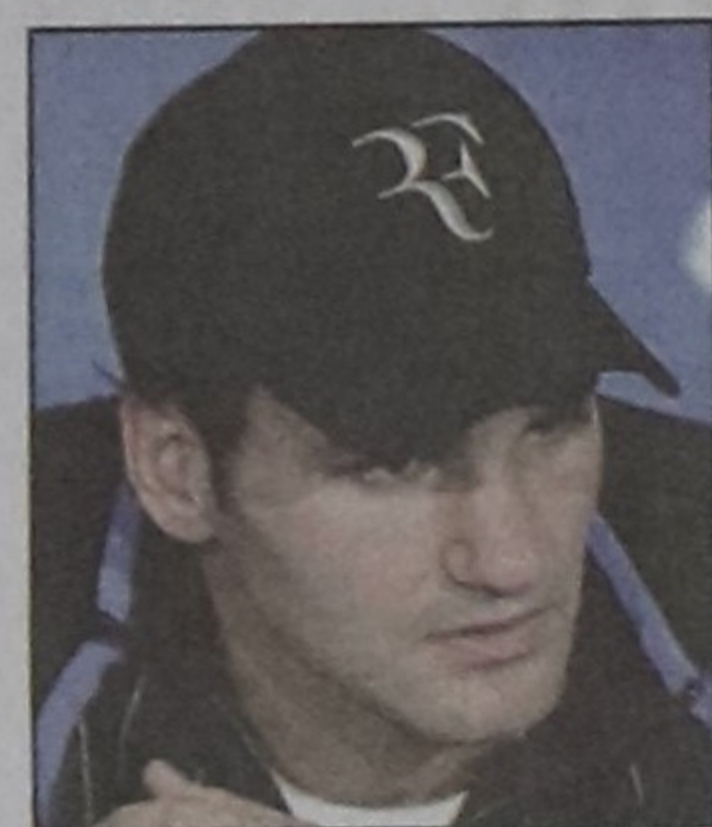
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Did U Know?

In 1997 Nigerian international Celestine Babayaro broke his leg while celebrating a goal on his Chelsea debut during a preseason game.



Roger Federer

(Swiss tennis star)
"I've won, many, many times when I didn't expect myself to win. So tonight's one of those nights where you're a little bit disappointed. But it's going to (pass) and I'm going to look forward to the rest of the year." After losing to Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open semifinals on Friday.



What to Watch

- STAR Cricket**
Australia v India
Fourth Test, Day Five
Live from 6:00am (Monday)
- TEN Sports**
Pakistan v Zimbabwe
Third ODI, First Session
Live from 12:00pm
South Africa v West Indies
Third ODI
Live from 2:00pm
- STAR Sports**
Australian Open
Men's Singles Final
Live from 2:00pm
FA Cup
Man United v Tottenham
Live from 7:55pm
Sheffield United v Man City
Live from 10:00pm
- ESPN**
Primera Liga
Bilbao v Barcelona
Live from 11:55pm
Real Madrid v Villarreal
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

Insults traded over tactics

AFP, Adelaide
On a day overshadowed by the sudden retirement of Adam Gilchrist, tensions between Australia and India surfaced again on the third day of the fourth and final Test here Saturday.

Indian batsman Virender Sehwag claiming the home side were running scared and had adopted a safety first attitude while Australian Matthew Hayden, who made his 30th Test century, fired back by saying the Indians deliberately bowled negatively to restrict scoring.

But Hayden said the tactic suited Australia perfectly, as they lead the series 2-1 and are content to settle for a draw.

"I think it is purely a response to the way India decided to bowl," Hayden said of the slow scoring.

"They have used very tactics and that was indicated by the fact they didn't want to take the new ball, they just wanted to stop us scoring, which is perfect for us really because all we wanted to do was bat for time in the game," he said.

"The way they bowled today (Saturday) was perfect for us not to lose the game, Australia is 2-1 up in the series and we definitely want that to stay."

Sehwag said Australia refused to play attacking shots because they were afraid of defeat.

"I think it's been a great day for India, the bowlers did a great job on a flat track," he said.

"I think they're not going to win so they are scared and playing very

More money for clubs

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

In the face of the clubs' financial crisis, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has significantly increased the grants and prize money for the teams and players to bring enthusiasm in the country's most lucrative competitions.

So far there have been a lack of keenness with this year players' transfer that starts on February 3, mainly due to the shortage of money as the donors have showed reluctance in providing financial help under the current circumstances.

BCB however took the decision to enhance the financial package in line with president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali's pledge during an open discussion with representatives from Premier and First Division clubs on January 10.

The top six Premier Division

clubs will receive a grant of Tk 7.5 lakhs while the bottom six will get Tk 5 lakhs this year which is better than last season's Tk 2 lakhs and Tk 50,000 respectively.

The board also improved the grants for the First, Second and Third Division teams by 2-3 times compared to the last couple of seasons. The top ten first division clubs will get Tk 3 lakhs and the rest of the clubs will receive Tk 2.25 lakhs.

Each of the top twelve Second Division clubs will get one lakh taka and the remaining dozen will receive Tk 80,000 while the first eight Third Division clubs will receive Tk 50,000 and bottom eight will get Tk 40,000 each.

According to the new financial package, the money has also been doubled for the Premier Division Twenty20 league teams to Tk 1 lakh.

The prize money has also improved considerably for all competitions and for the first time, BCB introduced prize

money for the third position of Premier Division and Twenty20 tournament.

In premier league, champions will receive Tk 5 lakhs, runners-up Tk 4 lakhs and Tk 2 lakhs for third place team while in Twenty20, champions will get Tk 2 lakhs, runners-up 1.5 lakhs and Tk 75,000 for the third team.

Two lakh taka has been allocated for the champions team in the first division league and Tk 1.50 lakhs for the runners-up while champions of the second and third divisions club will get Tk 60,000 and runners-up will receive Tk 40,000.

Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM), said that increasing the financial benefits will encourage the clubs.

"I think the board tried its best to help them run the show properly because we considerably increased the money," said Lipu.

Gilchrist decides to go

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Record-breaking Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist unexpectedly announced Saturday that he will retire from international cricket, ending a remarkable career.

The popular 36-year-old told his teammates before the third day's play in the fourth Test against India, and his retirement, effective at the end of the upcoming triangular one-day series, was announced at the end of play.

The shock announcement came just 24 hours after Gilchrist claimed the world record for wicketkeeping dismissals in Test cricket. He had then given no indication retirement was imminent, despite having been under the spotlight over dropped catches in the series.

"It is with great pride and happiness that I make the decision to retire from Test and one-day cricket," Gilchrist said in a brief written statement Saturday.

"I've come to this decision after much thought and discussion with those most important to me."

"My family and I have been fortunate to have had an amazing journey full of rich experiences throughout my career and are sincerely grateful to all who have helped make this stage of our lives so fulfilling."

Gilchrist said he was looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Mel, and children Harrison, Annie and Archie.

Booted when he first played for his adopted state of Western Australia after starting his career with New South Wales in 1992-1993, as Perth fans voiced their displeasure at his selection ahead of local favourite Tim Zoehrer, Gilchrist departs the game as one of its greatest ever players after revolutionising the role of wicketkeeper-batsmen.

A veteran of 96 Tests since debuting in 1999 against Pakistan in Brisbane, his 414 dismissals (377 catches, 37 stumpings) is a world record.

He went into his final Test averaging 47.89 with the bat, with 5,556 runs, 17 centuries and a top score

of 204 not out.

Gilchrist scored the second-fastest century in Test cricket history (57 balls).

He also captained Australia in six Tests for four wins, including in the historic away series win over India in 2004.

Gilchrist made his one-day international debut in 1996 and has played 277 limited overs international matches as an opener, for 9297 runs at 36.03 with a strike-rate of 96, 15 centuries and a highest score of 172, as well as 454 dismissals. He played in three World Cup

triumphs, including belting an extraordinary 149 from 104 balls in last year's World Cup final.

Speaking on Friday Gilchrist had said he would retire on his own terms and stayed true to that vow.

"I'll let the public and press know when I make a decision, whether that is tomorrow or in 12 months' time," he said.

"It will be my decision. It simply has to come from within."

"All the players have said there has been a time when they have just known and I will let everyone

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SO LONG: After a decade-long dash that saw three World Cup crowns, some of the best innings and some stunning work behind the stumps, Australian superstar Adam Gilchrist has decided to say goodbye to the world of cricket.

PHOTO: AFP FILE

PCB denies Shoaib Misbah ascends to vice-captaincy

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Injury-prone fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar Friday received another career blow after the Pakistan Cricket Board denied him a contract, officials said.

Akhtar, who was omitted from the team for the ongoing one-day series against Zimbabwe, was among six players not given a contract, leaving a big question mark on his future which has already been hampered by off-field problems.

"We are giving 15 players the annual central contracts," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Nasim Ashraf told reporters.

"Like in the past year the seniority carried 20 points while the performance, which also includes fitness and discipline, carried 80 points," Ashraf said.

The contracts were decided after a lengthy meeting of the PCB governing board.

Besides Akhtar, fellow paceman Mohammad Sami, batsmen Imran Nazir, Faisal Iqbal, Yasir Hameed, Imran Nazir and Mohammad Hafeez have also been relegated to a special category and their performance will be monitored, said Ashraf.

The 32-year-old Akhtar was criticised for his injury during the Bangalore Test against India last month. Akhtar bowled only 10 overs in the first innings due to a back problem in the match which Pakistan drew.

Pakistan, though, lost the series 1-0. Akhtar has also showed interest in acting in Bollywood movies, a move which irked the cricket authorities.

"We have nothing against any player and the points system decided their contracts," said Ashraf. Captain Shoaib Malik, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf,

Mohammad Asif and Misbah-ul Haq are placed in "A" category and will earn 250,000 rupees (4,500 dollars) per month.

Misbah has also been named vice captain for the current calendar year.

Kamran Akmal, Shahid Afridi (demoted from A), Umar Gul, Salman Butt and Sohail Tanvir are in category B which has 175,000 rupees per month (2,900 dollars) salary.

Danish Kaneria (demoted from B), Yasir Arafat, Rao Iftikhar, Abdul Rehman and Fawad Alam are placed in C category which carries a salary of 100,000 rupees (1,650 dollars).

Another 10 players, who have done well at the domestic level and are knocking on the door of international cricket, are being placed in D category which will earn them 75,000 rupees (1,210 dollars) per month.

Pakistan introduced the contract system in 2004, giving the country's top 17 cricketers

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



INTO THE GAP: Australia's run-machine Matthew Hayden plays a crisp cover-drive on way to his 30th century on the third day of the fourth and final Test match against India at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Officials to seek Hamman's help

SPORTS REPORTER

A delegation will meet Asian Football Confederations (AFC) president Mohammed Bin Hammam soon to find a way for bring out Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) from the current crisis.

The decision was taken after a meeting among the top officials of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), acting secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed and COO Col (ret) M Waliullah, BFF officials and other football organisers yesterday.

"During the meeting, BFF officials agreed to send a team comprising of two from the incumbent officials, two from our sides and one BOA official to meet Hammam to find a solution," informed organiser Fazlur Rahman Babul.

BFF acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu, who along with BFF acting president Monir Ahmed was present in the unofficial meeting, admitted that they have agreed to send a team.

"What we said was that we have no objection to send a team to AFC president Hammam," said Malu.

Academy end with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

GP-BCB Academy team completed their tour of Hong Kong on a fine note, beating the hosts by three wickets in the third and final one-day match at the Hong Kong Cricket Club ground yesterday.

Sent into bat, Hong Kong were bowled out for 146 in 36.2 overs with Shawkat Ali making 32 and Munir Daar's 31.

Delwar Hossain picked up four wickets while Kamrul Islam grabbed three and Naem Islam chipped in with two wickets.

In reply, the visitors easily reached their target in 22.4 overs with Nazimuddin contributing 51 featuring three fours and five sixes while Naem struck an unbeaten 17. Shawkat took two wickets for 16 runs.

The match was reduced to 38 over-a-side due to wet outfield.

The Academy side won the opening match by 71 runs on January 23 while the second match was abandoned due to rain at the Kowloon Cricket Club ground on Friday.

RP out of 4th Test

REUTERS, Adelaide

India's chances of winning the final Test against Australia to draw their four-match series suffered a cruel blow on Saturday with injury to fast bowler Ruidra Pratap Singh.

A team spokesman said RP Singh had torn his hamstring on the second day and had been ruled out of the rest of the match.

"He has a small hamstring tear and will not be in action for at least the next two weeks," the spokesman said. RP Singh injured the hamstring on Friday afternoon and did not make it on to the field on Saturday. India's bowlers struggled to make an impression in his absence, capturing just three wickets on the third day. Australia cruised to the close on 322 for three in reply to India's 526.

Aussies inch closer

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Opener Matthew Hayden scored his 30th Test century as Australia's batsmen dominated the third day of the fourth and final Test against India here Saturday.

In reply to India's 526, the hosts were 322 for three at stumps on the third day, with a watchful captain Ricky Ponting on 79 and Michael Clarke on 37.

The pair had added 81, with the Australians still trailing by 204 and the match seemingly headed for a draw, which will be enough for the home side to win the series.

India tried seven bowlers during the day, but there was little meaningful assistance from a docile wicket as Australia adopted an unusually cautious approach at the crease.

Hayden missed the third Test in Perth with a hamstring strain, but bounced back to make 103, his 159-run opening partnership with Phil Jacques (60) a record for Australia against India at the Adelaide Oval and laying the foundation for a total.

Hayden left no chances in reaching his century, although he did survive a confident lbw appeal from Irfan Pathan on 67.

He was barely troubled by the bowlers for most of his innings and capitalised on the short boundaries on either side of the wicket.

However, just after reaching his century, he was bowled by a superb ball from exciting young paceman Ishant Sharma that jagged through

his defences. Hayden had faced 200 balls, hitting 10 fours and one massive six straight down the ground off Indian captain Kumble.

The 36-year-old has 410 runs in the series at 82.00.

Jacques was the first to go, clean bowled when he missed an attempted sweep from Kumble, who was relieved to have finally made a breakthrough with one of the few deliveries to turn sharply during the day.

Mike Hussey made just 22, clean bowled through the gate by reverse swing from Pathan.

The Indians were hampered by the absence of opening bowler R.P. Singh, who was left the field with a hamstring strain suffered late on the second day.

Harbhajan Singh, recalled to renew his duel with Ponting, struggled to have an impact and failed to take a wicket in 28 overs, conceding 70 runs.

The pair exchanged words late in the day, after Ponting got in Harbhajan's way as he attempted to make a stop off his own bowling.

The teenage Sharma was again impressive and had 1-47 from 22 overs.

He was unlucky not to have claimed the wicket of Ponting, who had gone perilously close to playing the ball onto his stumps on eight.

Ponting wasn't at his prolific best with the bat in the first three Tests and again looked a little out of sorts for much of the day, his timing and placement still missing.

However, he stuck at his task manfully and had been at the crease for 248 minutes, faced 150 balls and hit six boundaries.

The Indians were certain they had Clarke on 32, caught by Rahul Dravid at slip off part-time spinner Virender Sehwag, but replays showed umpire Billy Bowden was correct to turn the appeal down, the ball coming off the batsman's forearm as he attempted to cut.

India's first innings total of 526 was based around a 153 by batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar and an 87 from Kumble.

Australia are 2-1 up in the series and have already retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the fourth and final Test between Australia and India at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday:

INDIA: First innings 526 (Schwag 63, Tendulkar 153, Kumble 87, Harbhajan 63; Lee 3-101, Johnson 4-126)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (over-night 62 no loss)
Jacques b Kumble 60
Hayden b Sharma 103
Ponting not out 79
Hussey b Pathan 22
Clarke not out 37
Extras: (b-5, lb-8, w-1, nb-7) 21
Total: (For three wickets in 111 overs) 322

Fall of wickets: 1-159, 2-186, 3-241.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
RP Singh	4	0	14	0
Pathan	24	1	70	1
Sharma	22	5	47	1
Harbhajan	28	4	70	0
Kumble	21	3	78	1
Sehwag	8	1	18	0
Tendulkar	1	0	6	0
Ganguly	3	1	6	0

DJOKOVIC V TSONGA

A new world order



AFP, Melbourne

Young guns Novak Djokovic and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga have the tennis world buzzing with an anticipated changing of the guard in Sunday's Australian Open final.

It will be the first Grand Slam since the 2005 Australian Open not won by Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal with the top-ranked pair winning the last 11 majors between them.

Djokovic, the talented 20-year-old Serb, and 22-year-old unseeded Frenchman Tsonga rocked the established order by dumping Federer and Nadal out in the semifinals to set up a decider unimaginable at the start of the tournament.

Third seed Djokovic has been spoken of as Federer's heir apparent and confirmed his rich potential with a magnificent straight sets victory over the 12-time Grand Slam champion, his first three-set drubbing since the 2004 French Open.

Muhammad Ali look-a-like Tsonga was in blistering touch to hand Nadal his equal worst defeat in Grand Slams, a straight sets victory for the loss of just seven games, in the first semifinal.

So it is an Australian decider with fresh-faced finalists that promises to rejuvenate the men's game after four years of domi-

nance by Federer, and Nadal at the French Open.

"It's amazing for the sport. I think the dominance of Federer and Nadal, especially in the men's tennis, was just amazing the last couple of years," Djokovic said.

"So I think it's great for the media, for tennis lovers all around the world, to see something new."

There is a certain unpredictability that makes the first major of the season all that more exciting with Serbia anticipating their first-ever men's Grand Slam champion and Tsonga offering France the prospect of their first major winner for 25 years. "I think every sport is waiting to have some new faces on the tour. Tsonga is coming up. He's just an amazing athlete. He's been performing some impressive tennis in these two weeks - as I did," Djokovic said.

"I haven't lost even a set here in the Australian Open and it's going to be interesting to see young players playing against each other."

It will be Djokovic's second consecutive Grand Slam final after losing to Federer in last year's US Open decider, and Tsonga's first in just his fifth Grand Slam tournament.

Last year Djokovic also reached the semifinals at the French Open and Wimbledon and will be the favourite to claim his first major, but Tsonga is an unknown quantity.

He was irresistible in destroying Nadal. Everything he hit went in. If

he can somehow reproduce that scorching form Djokovic will be in for a tough night.

Tsonga fired 49 winners, 17 aces and broke Nadal's serve five times to dominate the match points 89 to 58.

French Davis Cup captain Guy Forget believes Tsonga is an intoxicating mixture of game greats Boris Becker and Yannick Noah and says the youngster may yet develop into a better player than Noah, the last French Slam winner at the 1983 French Open.

Asked on match eve what he has to do to beat Djokovic, Tsonga said: "Just play, just do my best, that's it. I will see what happens on the court, but I will do my best."

"If I win, I did my best, so no problem. And if I lose, I did my best, so no problem."

Tsonga has overcome four seeds to get to the final. He eliminated Andy Murray (9th seed), Richard Gasquet (8), Mikhail Youzhny (14) and Nadal (2).

His 38th ranking is projected to rise to 18 if he is runner-up and nine if he wins the title.

Sought for the secret of his success at the tournament, the understated Frenchman shrugged his shoulders: "I don't know, maybe because I don't want to play bad."

He now has the opportunity to become the first French winner in Australia since Jean Borotra in 1928 and is the first French finalist since Arnaud Clement seven years ago.