

More Than Just A Job Site

চাকরি
chakri.com.bd

A Platform for Employers and Job Seekers, to Meet and Exchange Information.

SignUp Now !!

www.chakri.com.bd

LIPRO
Presents
HIMOINSA
DIESEL GENERATORS
FROM SPAIN

8 KVA - 2500 KVA

Lipro Energy Ltd.
Cell: 8817147, 8817918, 8818082

Kumble still proud of players

REUTERS, Adelaide

India captain Anil Kumble could not hide his disappointment after his team's 2-1 series loss to Australia but said he was upbeat about the future.

Kumble took pride in the way his team had played during the four-match series, rebounding from a heavy loss in the first Test in Melbourne to match the Australians over the last three games.

Australia won the second match in Sydney in controversial circumstances when India were just minutes away from salvaging a draw but the tourists won the third in Perth.

The fourth and final match in Adelaide ended in a draw on Monday after both teams had piled on the runs on the batting-friendly pitch.

"We have stepped up to their level. That is the quality we have," Kumble told a news conference.

"We lost pretty badly in Melbourne. We did exceptionally well in Sydney. I wish we had hung on for that seven or eight minutes to get a draw. Perth was very special and the way we played here was exceptional."

Kumble, who with Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and Vangipurappu Laxman were almost certainly making their last appearance on Australian soil, predicted a bright future for Indian cricket with the emergence of younger players on the tour.

Looking at the talent that was available, with a young lot stepping up to the plate here in the series, and also the future we have with the young players back home, it certainly augurs well," he said.

"We didn't come with our full

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



HIS BAT FINALLY TALKS: Dashing India opener Virender Sehwag takes the Australian attack to the sword on way to a fine 151 on the fifth day of the fourth and final Test at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

It wasn't to be for Gilly

Tame draw gives Aussies the series 2-1

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

The broad bat of Indian opener Virender Sehwag denied retiring Australian wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist a fairytale finish to his Test career on Monday as the fourth Test here ended in a tame draw.

After trailing by 37 on the first innings, India were 269 for seven, an overall lead of 232, when stumps were drawn early on the final day, the result handing Australia a 2-1 win in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series.

The home side went into the final day determined to send Gilchrist off with an unlikely win, but a docile pitch and the diligent batting of Sehwag (151) ensured there were few problems for the Indians.

Gilchrist said after the game he was grappling with a range of emotions having played his last Test, but was content with his decision.

"It's happiness, joy, sadness, every emotion you could imagine I

suppose," he told Channel Nine.

"To walk away from something you love so much... it was a big decision but I know it is the right one."

Gilchrist was given a guard of honour by his Australian teammates as he came onto the field at the start of the day.

He was also allowed to come onto the field before the rest of the team for the final session, waving to the crowd and shaking hands with both umpires before his teammates joined him.

Gilchrist revealed he tried to say a few words to his teammates before coming onto the field before tea, but was overcome with emotion.

"I tried to get a few words out during the tea break, I figured it was the last time in a Test match I'd be in the change room with just the guys," he said.

"It was very difficult, that changeroom is what means most. I was bawling my eyes out about two minutes before it (returning to the field)."

Gilchrist did give the local crowd something to cheer by com-

pleting two dismissals to take his record tally to 416, three ahead of South Africa's Mark Boucher.

He caught VVS Laxman (12) down the leg side off Brett Lee's bowling and then caught Sehwag from the bowling of Andrew Symonds late in the day.

There was no fairytale Australian farewell for Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar either.

Having made 153 in the first innings, he survived a third umpire decision from the first ball he faced, but was run out for 13 by a direct hit from Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson in his follow through.

Tendulkar had dropped the ball down on the leg side and took off, but was sent back by Sehwag and was well out of his ground, with Johnson having time to steady and throw accurately.

India suffered a setback when batsman Rahul Dravid was forced to retire hurt early in the day for 11 after breaking the middle finger on his right hand when he was struck by a rising delivery from Lee.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Dropped catch drove him

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Australian ace wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist said Monday he knew it was time to hang up his international gloves the moment he dropped Indian batsman VVS Laxman on the first day of the fourth Test here.

Gilchrist claimed the record for wicketkeeping dismissals the following day when he caught Anil Kumble to end the Indian's first innings, but the 36-year-old said the Laxman drop convinced him it was time.

Gilchrist, who will retire from all international cricket at the conclusion of next month's triangular one-day series against India and Sri Lanka, stunned the cricket world at the weekend with the sudden announcement, but said he was clear in his own mind.

"I don't think anyone in this room has missed the fact that I did miss a few chances this series but it

was bugging me," he said.

"I couldn't understand why I was working hard but just that moment, that catch... I watched a replay quickly."

"I just moved really slow, I didn't move well and it made me realise in the ensuing 10 or 15 minutes that that's it, I'm not moving quite as well as I have."

"I just realised I didn't have the absolute desperation that you need to continue to maintain your standards."

"I was still enjoying my cricket, I was enjoying the group, enjoying the change of leadership with a new coach and new players, but I just didn't have that desperation to

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Aussies way ahead: Ricky

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Australia captain Ricky Ponting expressed doubts Monday about whether India were the team to challenge his side's dominance in Test cricket.

For the second time in four years, the Indians pushed Australia all the way on their home turf, losing the series 2-1 after the fourth and final Test ended in a tame draw.

India are the only side to have won a Test match in Australia since 2003 and are ranked second behind Ponting's men in the official International Cricket Council Test rankings.

Straight after the final day of the fourth Test, Ponting said the Indians deserved to be considered the second-best side in Test cricket, but later backed away from that.

When asked if India were the logical challengers to his team's dominance, he replied: "Probably not."

He added: "Although they are the number two ranked team, there are four of five of their best players that might go out of the team."

"It might happen before we next play them."

"They will go through a very similar phase to what we have gone through."

"They are number two but they have some rebuilding to go through."

Along with the retirement at the weekend of wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist, in the past two years Australia have also lost bowlers Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne, and batsmen Justin Langer and Damien Martyn.

And Ponting said India face a similar scenario.

Of the current Indian team,

captain Anil Kumble (37), batsmen Sachin Tendulkar (34), VVS Laxman (33), Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid (both 35) are in the veteran class.

Ponting said he believed Australia were still a fair way ahead of the rest and had shown great depth in covering the loss of some all-time greats for series wins against Sri Lanka and India.

"We have got enough talent around Australia to maintain the number one ranking in Test cricket," he said.

"We coped very well with the loss of the four (players) from last season."

"Our cricket against Sri Lanka was terrific and we started this series very well. You can't help but be impressed with what (batsman) Phil Jaques and (fast-bowler) Mitchell Johnson have done."

"Sri Lanka and India are two of

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Selectors pick practice squad today

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors will decide on the size of the practice squad today for Bangladesh's coming home series against South Africa.

The Rafiqul Alam-led selection panel will take the decision after getting an opinion from coach Jamie Siddons, who returns to Dhaka today after enjoying a holiday in Australia.

"We will give the final squad sometimes in the first week of February but before that, we will announce a squad for practice. Now we have to know how many players the coach needs for that. We will meet tomorrow to discuss everything," said Rafiqul yesterday.

The practice for the home series will start from February 1 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

There is, however, hardly any chance to see any major changes from the squad that played in New Zealand where the Tigers were whitewashed in both the one-day and the Test series.

South Africa will arrive in Dhaka on February 14 to play three one-day internationals and two Tests against Mohammad Ashraful's men. The visitors will also play a three-day and one limited-overs warm-up games during their month-long stay.

New evidence may be heard in Bhajji case

AFP, Adelaide

A recording from the stump microphone could be used as evidence in Indian star Harbhajan Singh's appeal against a three-Test ban for alleged racist comments, a judge said Monday.

Harbhajan was suspended for three Test matches for allegedly calling Australian player Andrew Symonds a "monkey" in the contentious second Test against Australia.

Referee Mike Procter based his decision on the evidence of several players from both sides about what transpired.

Justice John Hansen, who will hear the two-day appeal starting here Tuesday behind closed doors, said Monday he may hear new evidence.

"This will be a re-hearing, with evidence being given by all the witnesses who gave evidence to the adjudicator, Mr. Procter," he said.

"There may also be some additional evidence, such as the transcript available from the stump microphone, which was not available to Mr. Procter."

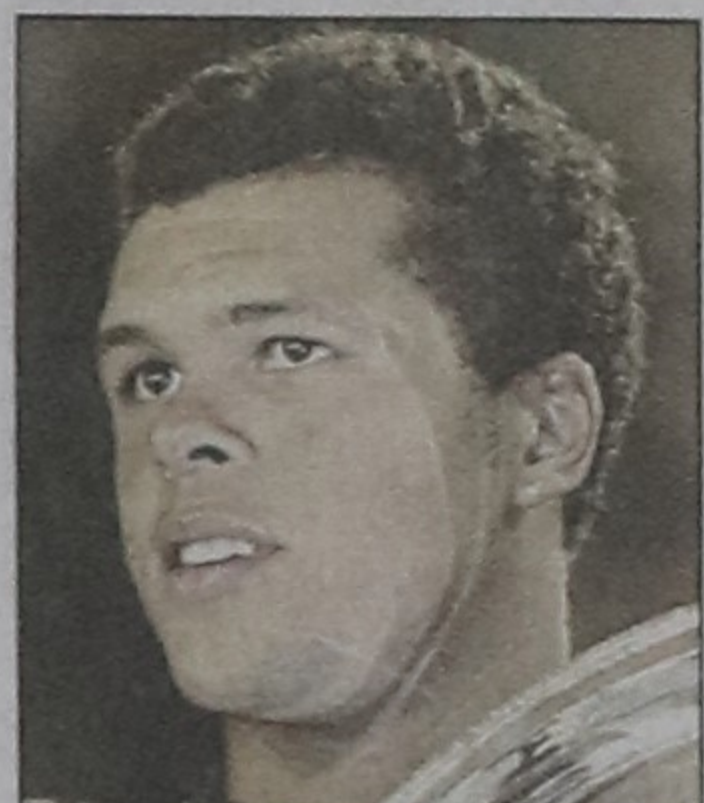
The Indian spinner is playing in the fourth Test pending the out-

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Did U Know?

Former Italy footballer Luigi Riva once broke the arm of a spectator with one of his powerful shots.



Jo-Wilfried Tsonga

(French tennis star)

"I'm very proud of myself. I'm also happy for Novak, because he played unbelievably today. I don't know if I have to be sad or happy of this final, but I feel great."

After losing to Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open final on Sunday.



ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm
English Premier League
Arsenal v Newcastle United
Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

NZC dumps rebel Bond

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand will dump its star paceman Shane Bond after he signed for the rebel Indian Cricket League, the country's cricket board confirmed Monday.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has been trying to persuade the injury-prone 32-year-old to stay in the official fold, but no solution could be found.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

VICTORY DAY FOOTBALL

Giants warmed up

SPORTS REPORTER

All eyes will be on the three local heavyweights when the Protiti Pharma Victory Day football tournament kicks off tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan Sporting Club, organisers of the eight-team event, feel they are under no pressure to keep the trophy home.

Muktijoddha Sangsad, however, want to bag the trophy after a poor 2007 and believe that the Victory Day trophy would be better displayed at the home of the freedom fighters.

For Abahani, inaugural professional league champions last year, it would be a matter of prestige and

a mission to establish their supremacy in the new season.

Although there had been no football in the capital for the last six months, the players, however, would not be unprepared as they go for the meet. Numerous tournaments outside Dhaka last year provided the footballers the chance to get tuned even in the off-season.

The clubs, however, never got the chance to train as a unit for long due the booters' frequent absence for the 'khap' or trips to different districts.

Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik said their preparation was not 'adequate'.

"Players have been busy for 'khap' but we have taken it lightly for

their financial benefit. I wanted them to train together for the past week but the weather did not permit that," said Manik adding that the black and whites were in an inferior position from last year's B. League, where they finished runners-up.

"We have lost the foreign imports who shaped our professional league performance. We were even better during the three-match series against Abahani, which we won. Now several important players are injured," the former national footballer told.

First-choice goalkeeper Himel is injured; his deputy Al Amin has been released for the Senior

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Muktijoddha's national fullback Hassan Al Mamun (R) shares a laugh with his teammates during a training session at the BUET ground yesterday. The Reds are preparing for the Victory Day football tournament, which begins tomorrow in the city.

PHOTO: STAR



LEAVING BEHIND A LASTING IMPRESSION: Australia's Adam Gilchrist, who redefined the art of a wicketkeeper-batsman, takes his final walk from Test cricket after the drawn fourth and final match against India at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Life after Gilchrist

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

And then there were five. Almost half of the Australia team has left in the past 13 months, a bigger exodus than the one that led to an awful 1980s downturn, but the size of the slide will be determined by how the current outfit recovers from the loss of Adam Gilchrist. Even the strongest systems in the world can't absorb such frequent casualties and carry on at the same pace.

Ricky Ponting is facing a long-term operation where he will effectively miss two players: a wicketkeeper and a batsman. For nine years Gilchrist has been the ultimate luxury item, but from the middle of March the rations will not be haute cuisine. Australia will be without a Test batsman who averages

almost 50 at a strike-rate in the low 80s, the owner of the most centuries by a gloveman, a world-record holding wicketkeeper, a vice-captain and senior player, a strategist, a diplomat, a motivator and a mate.

They will also be missing a one-day opener who scored 96 runs every 100 balls, a batsman who guaranteed lightning starts, and a custodian who holds another global mark for dismissals. The absence of Matthew Hayden from the Test in Perth showed how much Australia rely on their pillars at the top, and Gilchrist's exit will add to the limited-overs destabilising. Michael Clarke, who has ten runs in his past four ODI attempts as an opener, could move up, but the rest of the order will need a reshuffle, and the on-field duties will be shaken up again.

Poor Brad Haddin, the expected successor in all formats. Things

have been hard enough this summer for Mitchell Johnson, who has come in for Glenn McGrath, and Stuart MacGill and Brad Hogg in their efforts to cover Shane Warne.

Haddin, 30, has toured with the one-day squad, playing 26 games, including six as a specialist batsman, and has captained New South Wales and Australia A. However, nothing can prepare him for the role he will surely need to fill when Gilchrist bows out. Miracles cannot be expected and if Haddin manages to perform as well as Phil Jaques and Andrew Symonds, who filled the gaps left by Justin Langer and Damien Martyn, he should be considered a success. The guidelines set by Gilchrist are unachievable.

Another problem for Australia is that the quintet of greats and very goods may never be replaced properly. Most of the recent additions

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2