

Gilchrist felt like a 'cow'

PTI, New Delhi

Adam Gilchrist may have felt like a 'cow' after being auctioned at the cash-rich Indian Premier League...



England paceman Ryan Sidebottom (R) celebrates the wicket of Ross Taylor on the fourth day of the second Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve in Wellington yesterday.

Bad news for Windies

AFP, Bridgetown

West Indies suffered twin blows on Saturday when bowler Pedro Collins pulled out of the home series against Sri Lanka...

Collins' decision stemmed from him signing a two-year deal for English County Championship side Surrey last October...

could be gone for 44 days, so we are really worried about this. 'I am heading to Dubai for an ICC meeting, and I will talk to the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India about this, and the effect of the IPL.'

ICC's important board meeting begins today

REUTERS, New Delhi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) will finalise a shortened 2011 one-day World Cup format and a successor to chief executive Malcolm Speed at a two-day board meeting starting on Monday in Dubai.

Top seeds sail through

AFP, Indian Wells

Rafael Nadal launched his defense of the Indian Wells ATP Masters Series title with a victory Saturday while last year's runner-up, Novak Djokovic, also made a triumphant debut.

Djokovic, the men's third seed, posted a scrappy 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) victory over Italian Andrea Seppi. Djokovic's run to the final here last year helped launch a career year for the Serbian.

Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain. Fifth-seeded Spaniard David Ferrer advanced, downing Belgian Olivier Rochus 6-2, 6-2. Ferrer next faces South Korean Lee Hyung-Taik, who rallied for a 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 victory over Finland's Jarkko Nieminen.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Relegation League leaders Purbachal Parisad shared points with Arambagh Krira Sangha in a goalless draw in yesterday's lone match of the Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Both teams are safe from the threat of demotion with Purbachal securing 18 points and Arambagh 16 after 15 rounds. Meanwhile, today's match between Victoria and Sunrise will be crucial for title as a draw will confirm Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool's championship.

Sunrise, on 27 points, need to win their remaining three matches to stay in contention, providing super league leaders Youngmen's, who are on 36 points, lose their two matches.

Youngmen's are one point shy of the title and seal a place in next year's B. League -- the professional football league.

The Senior Division and National Football League winners will get the right to play in the B. League next year.

JFA CUP Second half goals by Shafi and Rakib helped hosts Rajshahi blank Dinajpur 2-0 in yesterday's final round match of the 4th JFA Cup Under-15 Football Championship at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

In the other match, Dhaka defeated Kushtia by an identical margin with Tuhin and Kanan scoring either side of the break.

INTER-VARSITY CRICKET UNB adds: BUET and Chittagong University won their respective matches in the Inter-University Cricket Championship at the Jahangirnagar University ground.

BUET's Al Amin claimed four wickets for 23 and Oni bagged 3-15 to help their side (82-2) thrash Khulna University (80) by eight wickets.

BUET will take on hosts Jahangirnagar University in the semifinal today.

In another match, Chittagong University (160-5) beat Islamic University (146-9) by 14 runs.

PREMIER VOLLEYBALL The Premier Volleyball League will begin in the city on April 18 while the Metropolitan First Division and Second Division leagues will start on April 26.

The last date for sending team entries is March 25 while the players' transfer will be held on April 2 and 3.

'Light decision umpires' call' The decision to allow England to bowl one over with the second new ball in failing light was the umpires' and New Zealand would have to live with it, batsman Ross Taylor said on Sunday.

Jacob Oram survived four deliveries of Ryan Sidebottom's over with the new ball but was then caught on the fifth to reduce New Zealand to 242 for six, chasing an unlikely victory target of 438, late on the fourth day of the second Test.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori then faced the final ball of the 81st over before the umpires abandoned the day's play four overs early. The players had left the field due to the poor light 30 minutes previously before they returned five minutes later. Oram had been involved in a 69-run partnership with wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum and the pair looked to have settled on seeing out the day's play in an effort to launch an attempt on an improbable victory on the final day on Monday.

"It was disappointing to lose that wicket," Taylor told reporters. "It would have been nice to go into tomorrow only being five down, but that's the umpires' call."

"He (Oram) was disappointed to get out but again it's the umpires' call. I'm sure he will reflect on that a bit later on."

Torun take FROM PAGE 17 12 off 13 balls. Aslam Ali was unbeaten on 11 off 24 balls.

But early morning, it was the two Hossains -- Delwar and Monowar -- who moved the ball measurably to perturb the Victoria batsmen.

Delwar removed both openers Farhad Hossain and Nasiruddin Faruque to win the man-of-the-match award. Monowar took the key wicket of Mahmudullah Riyad, who was out surviving eight minutes in the middle for 2. Only Waseluddin top-scored with an unbeaten 16 off 39 balls and the three boundaries and sixes was the miserable part of Victoria's innings.

BRIEF SCORES VICTORIA: 78-9 in 20 overs (Wasel 16*, Dhiman 15, Nazmul 2-13, Delwar 2-15, Younis 2-21). SURJO TORUN: 79-1 for 8.5 overs (Shamsur 42*, Uttam 12; Shahjada 1-8). Result: Surjo Torun won by nine wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Delwar Hossain

Pakistan may go for experiment ODI's against Bangladesh

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan will try out youngsters for the five one-dayers against Bangladesh next month at home. But though some new players will be given a chance, chief selector Salahuddin Ahmed said Pakistan would not take Bangladesh lightly.

"They can be a dangerous team on their day," Salahuddin told the News, a Pakistan daily. "For us the most important task would be to win the series and win comfortably."

After Australia decided to postpone their tour of Pakistan, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) searched for a team to replace them for a five-match ODI series. The PCB was keen on India to play the matches but the Board of Control for Cricket in India could not fit another series in to an already jam-

packed itinerary.

In their recent ODIs against Zimbabwe, Pakistan tried out opener Nasir Jamshed, bowlers Abdur Rauf, Junaid Zia, Sohail Khan, Wahab Riaz, Khurram Manzoor and Khalid Latif. They also played wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed for the last two games in place of regular keeper Kamran Akmal.

But Salahuddin said Pakistan would not take any chances in playing Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh proved they are a good one-day side by reaching the last-eight in the World Cup," he said. Bangladesh beat India and South Africa in the tournament while Pakistan, along with India, made an exit in the first round.

The Pakistan selectors will meet members of the junior national selection committee on March 21 for advice on the young talent available in the country and announce the squad by the end of the month.

Matty sorry for Bhajji remarks

PTI, Melbourne

Regretting his "obnoxious weed" remark on Harbhajan Singh, Australian opener Matthew Hayden said he made a mistake and was keen to patch up with the Indian off-spinner.

Hayden was sad that his poor choice of words added "fuel to the fire" as India's tour down under this summer was already packed with controversies.

"I don't know how Harbhajan is feeling but he made it clear how he feels about our team. To put closure on my indiscretion (calling Harbhajan an "obnoxious weed"), I could have used a different choice of words. In 15 years of cricket, I had a slip. It wasn't to disgrace or denigrate Harbhajan," Hayden said.

"I could have gone for a different turn of phrase. In the end all I did was put fuel on a fire that already existed. It wasn't necessary. It was a mistake," the burly Aussie opener told "The Courier Mail." On Harbhajan calling him a "big lair," Hayden said he would like to talk to the offie and try to improve their relation.

SL open WI tour today

Cricket

AFP, Providence

Sri Lanka open their tour of the Caribbean on Monday against an inexperienced West Indies Select XI at the Guyana National Stadium.

The three-day tour match will be the visitors' only chance for match practice ahead of the first Test of two against West Indies, starting next Saturday at the same venue.

"It's going to be an exciting tour, and I'm looking forward to it," said Mahela Jayawardene on arrival in Guyana.

"We've got some youngsters coming through the set-up now so it's going to be a very good experience for those guys and West Indies is a very good side so we're definitely looking forward to the challenge."

Jayawardene indicated that the key objective for his side is to win their first Test series in the Caribbean.

"We're very good at home," he said. "In our conditions, we dominate, but away from home we've been winning a lot recently."

"We beat England in England, New Zealand and we came close in Australia, so we're headed in the right direction, if we can keep

competing away from home, challenging ourselves to be better cricketers every day that's the way forward.

"It's going to be a great challenge and hopefully we can win the first (Test) series in the West Indies."

Bearing in mind that the sixth round of the West Indies first-class championship will come to a close on Monday, the home team selectors have picked a young, inexperienced side to face the Sri Lankans.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Patrick Browne, who played three One-day International for West Indies during their recent One-day International series in South Africa, will captain the Select XI.

Four members of the Young West Indies side that won the Plate Championship at the ICC World Cup in Malaysia are also in the squad.

They are Young West Indies captain Shamash Brooks, his deputy Steven Jacobs, opener Kieran Powell, and fast bowler Jason Dawes.

Brooks and Jacobs have already played at the first-class level for their native Barbados and Guyana respectively.

Former West Indies fast bowler Reon King, who was recently appointed Guyana's assistant coach for the team's home matches in the West Indies first-class championship, has been

appointed coach of the team. The match had been scheduled for Bourda Oval in the Guyana capital of Georgetown, but heavy rain left the ground waterlogged, forcing the Guyana Cricket Board to shift the game to the National Stadium, which will become the 10th Test venue in the Caribbean.

The second Test between West Indies and Sri Lanka will be from April 3 to 7 at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad.

The first two of three ODIs will be on April 10 and 12 at Queen's Park Oval; and the third ODI will be a day-night affair at the Beausejour Stadium in St. Lucia on April 15.

SQUADS WEST INDIES SELECT XI (from): Patrick Browne (captain), Christopher Barnwell, Shemroy Barrington, Davendra Bishoo, Shamash Brooks, Rajendra Chandrika, Jason Dawes, Krishna Deosaran, Jason Haynes, Steven Jacobs, Kieran Powell, Kemar Roach.

SRI LANKA (from): Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Ishara Amarasinghe, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Rangana Herath, Prasanna Jayawardene, Nuwan Kulasekara, Muttiah Muralidaran, Thilan Samaraweera, Kumar Sangakkara, Chamara Silva, Thilan Thushara, Chaminda Vaas, Michael Vandort, Malinda Warnapura, Chanaka Welegedara.

Gambhir eyes Test recall

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian top-order batsman Gautam Gambhir is hopeful his solid showing in the tri-series win in Australia would earn a recall into the Test squad for the home series against South Africa.

The diminutive left-hander aggregated 440 runs in 10 innings averaging 55.00 to emerge the highest run-getter for India as they beat the formidable Australia 2-0 in the final this month.

"It is a great challenge for any cricketer when you go to Australia and come back as the highest run-getter," Gambhir told Reuters during the launch of his Delhi DareDevils team in the Twenty20

Indian Premier League (IPL) on Saturday.

"It gives you so much of confidence as an individual and you can take your game to another level," he said. "That is very important."

Indian selectors will name the squad on Monday for the three-Test series against South Africa which starts on March 26.

The 26-year-old attacking batsman had remained in the shadow of attacking batsman Virender Sehwag, also his Delhi captain, since his India debut four years ago.

Gambhir's failure to cement his spot was also partly due to his cheap dismissals caused by undue aggression early in his innings.

He grabbed his chance at the Twenty20 World Cup victory last September, top-scoring with 75 in

the final against Pakistan. A shoulder injury saw him omitted for the Australia Test series, which India lost 2-1, but he showed excellent batting touch to guide Delhi to the domestic Ranji Trophy title.

Once in Australia, skipper Mahendra Dhoni boosted his confidence by asking him to bat freely, assuring him a regular playing spot even if he failed.

Gambhir, who has played just 14 Tests since his debut four years ago, is eager for another chance.

"When you are doing well you want to play all form of cricket," he said. "I'm keeping my fingers crossed."

"It (Australian tour) has given me an opportunity. Given my form, what I've done in Australia, that is very important."

Death anniversary

FROM PAGE 17

Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka. Rana was only 22 when he died of a road accident along with 26-year-old Setu in Khulna.

An all-rounder, Rana played 26 Tests and 25 one-day internationals for Bangladesh.

Call to end

FROM PAGE 17

The BFF, who has ensured a sponsor for the coming B. League, is even ready to give fund to the clubs, it was learned.

Organisers and footballers in a joint statement to the BFF also asked for a meeting among organisers, player, clubs and the BFF to make effort to start the transfers.

They also demanded the BFF to give time to the 13 districts and three divisions the chance to form Football Associations.

Although the EC of BFF decided not to give further time to the districts and divisions who have failed to form the FAs, it was learned that BFF president SA Sultan has been trying to make a way for the left behind associations.

4 wickets v 196 runs

FROM PAGE 17

Basin Reserve in Wellington on Sunday. ENGLAND: First innings 342 (Ambrose 102, Collingwood 65; Gillespie 4-79, Oram 3-46)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 198 (Taylor 53, Vettori 50 not out; Anderson 5-73, Collingwood 3-23) ENGLAND: Second innings (over-night 277 for 9)

Cook c Fleming b Mills 60 Vaughan c McCullum b Mills 13 Strauss lbw b Oram 44 Pietersen run out (Martin) 17 Bell c Sinclair b Oram 41

Collingwood lbw b Gillespie 59 Ambrose b Oram 5 Broad c McCullum b Martin 16 Sidebottom c How b Gillespie 0 Panesar c Taylor b Martin 12 Anderson not out 16 Extras: (b 6, lb 5, nb 5) 293 Total: (All out in 97.4 overs) 293

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-127, 3-129, 4-160, 5-219, 6-231, 7-259, 8-260, 9-277

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Martin, Mills, Oram, Gillespie, Vettori.

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Oram fined

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand all-rounder Jacob Oram has been fined for showing dissent during the second cricket Test against England at the Basin Reserve.

He will lose 20 per cent of his match fee after being found guilty of breaching the International Cricket Council's (ICC) code of conduct.

Oram was cited by on-field umpires Rudi Koertzen and Steve Davis Oram after being adjudged left before wicket to fast bowler Ryan Sidebottom.

The ICC said in a statement Sunday that after Davis raised his finger, Oram "openly showed dissent at the decision by looking at the bat first and then followed it up by a punch on the bat".

The Test resumes Sunday with England on 277 for nine in their second innings -- an overall lead of 421 with two days remaining in the match.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP YBC ZSOFYJ ENYTO E DEJSBA LTA QMY'Z EX TXJEOFMHC RGY EO BEXCZFRSXL "DEOMHG JYQZ NHZO" Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A BLUEFIN OR YELLOWFIN'S PIANO IS BADLY FLAT OR SHARP, WOULD YOU SAY IT'S OUT OF TUNA? Today's Cryptquip Clue: E equals A