

CONFLICT OF INTEREST Gavaskar will explain in May

AFP, London

India batting great Sunil Gavaskar will chair the next meeting of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) cricket committee in May but will then have to explain to his fellow administrators whether he feels he can continue in the role while pursuing a career as a media analyst.

Former India captain Gavaskar, following a series of contentious comments, met with ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed at the global governing body's headquarters in Dubai on Wednesday.

An ICC statement said "Sunil will convey his views to the ICC" having chaired the upcoming meeting of the ICC Cricket Committee on May 5-6.

"The ICC board will then review the issue at its annual conference between June 29-July 4."

A Hayden promise

AFP, Sydney

Outspoken Australian opener Matthew Hayden has vowed to uphold what he calls the purity of Australia's baggy green cap in honour of the late cricket icon Bill Brown.

Hayden made the comments as a guest speaker at a celebration here Thursday of the life of former Australian opener Brown, a member of Don Bradman's 1948 Invincibles, who died last week aged 95.

"It (cricket today) has I think tended to lose its purity that this (Brown's) great era of cricket has produced," he told the gathering.

"I would have to put my hand up as well in delivering that and keeping those traditions in the game."

President's Cup

FROM PAGE 17 champions Abahani are pitted against Nepal Police Club, Regar-Tadaz of Tajikistan and Pakistan Army in the group.

The BFF high-ups are hopeful to bring the tournament to Dhaka as touring to Central Asian country Tajikistan would be quite expensive for the remaining three teams while the present political condition in Pakistan is not very suitable.

FAs legalised

FROM PAGE 17 earlier, get the validity as the EGM only approved them today? questioned councillor Fazlur Rahman Babul.

In all, 56 district FAs out of 64 and four divisional FAs out of six have been formed.

Only this year, the representatives of the district FAs would be able to vote but in the next election, only the divisional FAs will have voting rights.

The BFF, meanwhile, will finalise the election schedules in an emergency meeting today.



AFC general secretary Paul Mony speaks at the EGM of Bangladesh Football Federation as an observer at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

'England on way up'

Cricket

REUTERS, Napier

England captain Michael Vaughan will return home to prepare for his side's series against New Zealand and then South Africa with the knowledge his side are showing signs of improvement.

England fought back from a 1-0 deficit against New Zealand to seal the deciding third Test with a 121-run victory just after lunch on the fifth day on Wednesday.

"Hamilton was a huge disappointment, but we have shown when we come out and play we can be a good side," Vaughan told reporters. "It was important that the team got back to winning ways."

"When you go 1-0 down you are asking yourself a lot of questions, but we have shown a huge amount of character and a lot of will to go out there and win and that has been most important."

"There is work to be done, but don't underestimate what we have done here. We were 1-0 down and we hadn't won a series for a long while."

The good old Sree!

Cricket

PTI, Chennai

Shanthakumar Sreesanth claims yoga and meditation have helped him calm down but going by his antics on Day Two of the first Test against South Africa on Thursday, the Kerala speedster remains very much an angry young man on field.

After toiling without any success on Day One of the match, frustration seemed to have got the better of the sprightly pacer whose volatile temper once again found a manifestation this morning.

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড ঢাকা, রাজশাহী, কুমিল্লা, যশোর, চট্টগ্রাম, বরিশাল, সিলেট

বাংলাদেশ কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড ও বাংলাদেশ মাদরাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড

- বিজ্ঞপ্তি
পরীক্ষায় নকল একটি সামাজিক অপরাধ
নকলমুক্ত পরিবেশ বজায় রাখতে সহায়তা করুন

- পরীক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে
নকল করে পরীক্ষা পাসের পর মানসিক যত্ন
পরীক্ষায় নকলে সহায়তা করা একটি দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ

সকল মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, বাংলাদেশ মাদরাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড ও বাংলাদেশ কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ডের পক্ষে

"We fought very hard and have beaten a New Zealand team that is quite difficult to beat at home."

"We know there is a lot of work to be done but we're certainly moving in the right direction."

Despite his positive outlook, England's top-order batsmen only fired in the third Test in Napier, with Kevin Pietersen's 129 his first score above 50 since last August, while Andrew Strauss had not scored a century in his 30 previous innings before he made 177 at McLean Park.

The key to the series was Ryan Sidebottom's 24 wickets at 17.08. Time and again, the left-armed charger in and took bags of wickets at crucial occasions, none more so than his seven for 47 in New Zealand's first innings in Napier.

"Stuart Broad is a massive talent," said Vaughan. "He is very easy to captain and for a 21-year-old you don't get that opportunity often."

"You don't have to speak to him much, just a little word in his ear, every now and then, but he really does seem to know what he is doing. He fields well and bats."

"I expect him to be around the England team for the future."

"He swings it, he bowls at a decent pace and those are quite good attributes to be a bowler."

"He also has the angles of left arm over and around the wicket which is a huge advantage and he is just bowling well."

"He has got 50 odd wickets in a year of Test match cricket and I hope he gets another 50 in the next year."

Stuart Broad also emerged as a potential international quality bowling all-rounder, scoring 42 and 31 not out in the Napier Test and showing signs of being able to cement a position at number eight, something that did not escape his captain's notice.

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GM Zia in

FROM PAGE 17 In other fourth round matches GM Abdullah Al Rakib beat compatriot FIDE Master Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, Mohammad Javed beat Vaibhav Suri of India and FM Taibur Rahman beat Kavan Shah of India.

GM Viktor Laznicka of Czech Republic and GM Nguyen Anh Dung of India jointly lead the table with four points each.

Villa stuns

FROM PAGE 17 ascendancy but the Spanish back line held firm.

But the goal came 14 minutes from time as Fabio Cannavaro failed to clear the danger properly from Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta's speculative long ball forward.

Villa set himself on the edge of the area and waited for Cannavaro's headed clearance to drop before thrashing a volley into the top corner.

Late on Villa had another chance to extend the lead from a glorious long pass from Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso but Buffon was out quickly to narrow the angle and block with his legs.

Amla propels

FROM PAGE 17 but Hashim was a surprise. We did not expect him to play the way he did."

Amla's seven-hour vigil on the slow wicket ended in a run-out midway through the afternoon session but there was no respite for the tired Indian attack as Mark Boucher went on to hit 70.

Boucher, who survived a loud shout for leg-before against Shanthakumar Sreesanth when he was on 10, put on 99 for the sixth wicket with Amla.

Tailender Morne Morkel joined in the fun, stroking seven boundaries in his 35 during a seventh-wicket stand of 54 with Boucher.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh picked up the last three tailenders to earn himself a five-wicket haul, but at a cost of 164 runs from 44.5 overs.

Spin partner Anil Kumble, the Indian captain, took 2-106 while left-arm seamer Rudra Pratap Singh's 23 wicketless overs cost 111 runs.

Sreesanth was the fourth bowler to concede more than 100 runs, finishing with 1-104 on the slow pitch that offered no assistance to the bowlers.

Amla, who was on 85 overnight, reached his hundred half-an-hour after the start of the day's play with the last of his three cover-driven boundaries in one over from seamer Sreesanth.

The tourists, who were 510-6 at one stage, lost their last four wickets for 30 runs.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the sec-

Spirit of cricket, the IPL motto

REUTERS, Mumbai

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) hopes to keep offensive language and rude gestures out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) by having the eight team captains take a pledge to abide by the "spirit of cricket".

The BCCI, which is also campaigning for a ban on sledging, hopes to avoid the same kind of unsavoury incidents that marred their tour of Australia.

"We (India) are the first to adopt the spirit of cricket," IPL governing council member Inderjit Bindra told Thursday's Hindustan Times.

"And to ensure players abide by it, the captains of all eight teams in the IPL will take a pledge to play by the spirit of the game before the tournament gets rolling."

A preamble on the spirit of cricket was formally added to the laws of the game at the turn of the century on how it should be played and viewed both on and off the field.

5 Kiwis get IPL leave

REUTERS, Wellington

Five New Zealand players have been given permission to miss the start of this year's tour of England to play in the Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 tournament.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has agreed to let their IPL-signed players: Daniel Vettori, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills and Ross Taylor arrive in England a week later than their teammates.

The players have been told to report for duty by May 1, two weeks before the start of the first Test at Lord's. The IPL starts April 18.

They will miss New Zealand's first two practice matches, against the MCC and Kent, but will be available for the remaining four warm-up matches prior to the opening Test.

"We have reached a decision which I believe is fair and is also consistent with the best cricketing outcome," NZC chief executive Justin Vaughan said in a statement on Thursday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 Tutorial, Sunnysdale, Agrani Bank School and Viqarunnisa Noon School were victorious in the girl's section.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Rajshahi's Arafat and Monirul from Cox's Bazar won on the opening day of the Independence Day badminton tournament held at the Woodendoor Gymnasium.

In the boys' under-16 singles, Arafat beat Saddam of Noakhali 21-11, 21-11 while Monirul trounced Chittagongian Zahir 21-8, 21-8 as thirteen other players won in the first round matches.

Earlier, Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF) president Kamaluddin Ahmed inaugurated the event as chief guest.

OPEN PAIRS BRIDGE

Jamilur Rahman and Salah Uddin were crowned champions of the Open Pair Bridge tournament, organised by Retired Armed Forces Officers Welfare Association (RAOWA).

A total of 34 pairs took part in the competition.

ASM Sarwaruddin and Jabbar became runners-up while Jewel and Rajib took the third place.

AKM Azzur Rahman conducted the meet.

Mahela praises bowlers Loss disappoints Windies captain

Cricket

AFP, Providence

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene paid tribute to his bowlers for dismissing West Indies twice as what was widely acknowledged as a docile Guyana National Stadium pitch, and handing the visitors their first Test match win in the Caribbean.

The tourists created a bit of history, when they completed a 121-run victory over Chris Gayle's side in the opening Test on Wednesday.

"We had a challenge when we came and that was to win a Test match in the West Indies and we have achieved that," Jayawardene told reporters.

"We played hard and a lot of guys contributed. It was an amazing effort from Chaminda Vaas, and our 'quicks' took 13 wickets in the Test, so a lot of credit to them. Muttiah Muralidaran bowled his heart out, and overall it was a very good team effort."

Jayawardene felt West Indies played into his side's hands, when they chose to chase an unlikely 437 to win.

"We wanted them to play a few shots on this pitch because that's how we could have created opportunities," he said.

"That's why we gave them a target they could have achieved, rather than giving them 500 when they would have been in a very

defensive frame of mind. We gave them a target thinking this is a target they could chase especially since they have shot-makers."

Jayawardene indicated when Dwayne Bravo and Ramnaresh Sarwan were at the height of a record second wicket stand of 134, he had some reservations about if his side could complete the job, but they stuck to the task.

"The last hour of the fourth day, their attitude was totally different in the way they approached it, and we knew that we were up against a good challenge," he said.

"Bravo and Sarwan both batted really well and we had to be very patient with those two guys, make sure that we don't give them too many easy runs, wait for our opportunity, and once we got the breakthrough, pick up a few more wickets, and put pressure on the other batsmen."

"If Bravo and Sarwan had batted until about tea time, it would have been a different story. We would have struggled, but we managed to get Bravo before lunch, and then Sarwan before tea which were two crucial wickets, and in between we got Shivnarine Chanderpaul which was an important wicket for us."

Jayawardene explained that though Gayle had dropped himself down the order, his side always felt they just need to put pressure on the other batsmen and the results would come.

West Indies captain Chris Gayle was disappointed that his side could

not hold on to draw the Test and keep the two-Test series level at 0-0.

"It was tough coming out on the losing side again, but the guys really fought well to try and save the match," he said.

"We have to give them credit for this, since the conditions were tailor-made for the Sri Lankans, but there are a few positives that we can take away from this game."

Gayle's decision to bat down the order in the West Indies' second innings and allow Bravo to open the batting created plenty of discussion among the home team's fans, but he asserted this was not a long-term measure.

"When Bravo was bowling, I walked up to him and jokingly asked if he wanted to open the batting," he said.

"He replied yes because he felt it would have been a good move for him too to avoid having to face the spin bowlers right away, and get into his groove against the fast bowlers first."

Gayle admitted that Vaas had the upper-hand on him, but this was just another challenge he would have to confront in his international career.

The second Test at Queen's Park Oval in the Trinidad capital of Port of Spain begins on April 3.

Sri Lanka, eyeing a Test series victory for the first time in the Caribbean, have lost two and drawn two of their previous four Tests in this part of the World.

Failure of NZ top-order

Cricket

REUTERS, Napier

New Zealand's inability to produce runs from their top four batsmen was painfully exposed by England during the Test series that ended on Wednesday.

England won the deciding third Test by 121 runs, and but for a 40-ball, 77 not out from debutant pace bowler Tim Southee the deficit could have been much higher as the hosts chased an improbable 553 to win the match.

While number three Stephen Fleming scored 297 runs at 49.50 in the series, the top four contributed just two other innings above 50, with Jamie How's 92 in Hamilton

and Matthew Bell's 69 at McLean Park the other significant scores.

Fleming retired after the Napier match, How's innings at Seddon Park was his best and his production then dropped away, while Bell's innings was made with local media suggesting he was batting for his international future.

Ross Taylor, who did score his maiden Test century batting at number four in the first innings in Hamilton, batted at five throughout the remainder of the series, while Mathew Sinclair, who occupied the fourth position after that, averaged just 11.83.

"It's been a problem for a long, long time with New Zealand cricket, our inability to score runs at the top of the order," captain Daniel Vettori told reporters.

"It's caught us out here again. We're hoping to find some guys but we know it's been a struggle for a long time so there's no magic cure for it."

"From five down we're a pretty settled side. We've got an outstanding middle and lower order and a good set of bowlers."

"If we can set that up with a good set of openers, three and four, then we can make ourselves into a really good team."

"But until we do that we're going to put ourselves in the situations where we need a Ross (Taylor) or a Brendon (McCullum) or a Jacob (Oram) to get us out of the mire."

Taylor's emergence as a Test batsman, and to a lesser extent How's, was at least one positive for New Zealand going into the series in England.

SL's maiden win

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

any contact, and Hinds unfortunately may face ICC Match Referee Chris Broad following the game for standing his ground.

Sri Lanka also appeared to benefit, when umpire Billy Bowden adjudged West Indies vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan lbw to Thilan Thushara for a well-played 72.

Television replays again showed that Thushara had run wide on the crease and his delivery appeared to be heading down the leg-side. But there were no questions, when Chaminda Vaas bowled skillfully enough in the first hour after lunch to scalp Marlon Samuels caught behind for 10, and bowled Shivnarine Chanderpaul for three with a well-pitched delivery that breached the batsman's bat and pad.

The Sri Lankans had toiled for most of the morning before making a breakthrough just before West Indies reached lunch on 170 for two.

The Sri Lankans laboured for close to an hour and three-quarters before Muralidaran held a straight-forward return catch to remove Dwayne Bravo for 83.

The visitors' hopes for early wickets were dashed, when Bravo and Sarwan stoutly resisted the Sri Lankan bowlers after West Indies continued from their bedtime total of 96 for one.

Sri Lanka began their attack

with the spin bowling pair of Muralidaran and left-arm Rangaana Herath, but neither posed a serious threat to Bravo and Sarwan.

This allowed Bravo to reach his 50 in the first half-hour, when he edged Muralidaran past slip fielder, Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene to third man for the seventh of his 10 fours which was adjudicated by the video umpire after Herath made a mad scramble to prevent the ball from reaching the boundary rope.

The Sri Lankans did not offer the West Indies' batsmen free runs though, and Sarwan had to wait until inside the final half-hour before the interval to reach his 50, when he cut Vaas' first delivery of the day through square cover for a single.

But the Sri Lankans finally reaped reward for their perseverance, when Bravo's petulance and Muralidaran's guile prevailed to bring to an end a record second-wicket stand for West Indies of 134 against these opponents.

Sri Lanka, eyeing a Test series victory for the first time in the Caribbean, have lost two and drawn two of their previous four Tests in this part of the World.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the opening Test between West Indies and Sri Lanka

at the Guyana National Stadium on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 476 for 8 declared (Jayawardene 136, Warnapura 120)

WEST INDIES: First innings 280

SRI LANKA: Second innings 240 for 7 declared

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight) 96-1

Smith c Thushara b Vaas 10

Bravo c and b Muralidaran 83

Sarwan lbw b Thushara 72

Samuels c Sangakkara b Vaas 10

Chanderpaul b Vaas 3

Gayle not out 51

Hinds c Sangakkara b Muralidaran 10

Ramdin c M Jayawardene b Thushara 1

Benn lbw b Muralidaran 7

Taylor c Dilshan b Vaas 12

Powell c Muralidaran b Vaas 14

Extras: (b-25, lb-3, nb-14) 42

Total: (All out in 106.2 overs) 315

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-156, 3-171, 4-178, 5-212, 6-229, 7-231, 8-244, 9-291

Bowler O M R W

Vaas 22.2 7 61 5

Thushara 17 2 70 2

Herath 22 7 44 0

Muralidaran 45 6 112 3

Result: Sri Lanka won by 121 runs and took 1-0 lead in the 2-Test series.

Man-of-the-match: Chaminda Vaas.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Simon Taufel and Billy Bowden.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 33 Apes and DOWN 21 Freebie, 1 My kin, 1 Frequent...

Cryptogram puzzle: LWJU QVEJUVJ YDJTRJQ IGJJIYO, CVLVO YGVRWPJA, EPAWR VUJ DJIID RV WPE...