



England paceman James Anderson is exultant after trapping New Zealand's Daniel Flynn lbw on the second day of the third Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Friday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17
North Zone: At the Mohakhali T&T ground, Rampura Kira Chakra edged past Gazipur Ekadash by a solitary goal.

MANIKGANJ CRICKET

SABIS defeated Gilondo United by 77 runs in the Sunlife Insurance Second Division Cricket League at Shaheed Miraj-Tapan Stadium.

In the first match of the day, SABIS defeated Gilondo United Club (GUC) by 77 runs. SABIS batted first and made 122 runs in the 20 overs. Ron top-scored with 35 runs while Jasim added 29. In reply, Gilondo were bundled out for just 49 runs in 15 overs. Lal took three wickets while Sabuj, Sumon and Rana took two wickets each.

In the other match of the day, Biltu Club defeated Babu Babu Sriti Cricket Clinic (BBSC) by 96 runs.

BANGLADESH-INDIA SKATING

India became champions in the Bangladesh-India Friendship Skating meet that concluded at the Royal Club in Utrata on Friday.

India earned maximum 15 gold, 14 silver and 8 bronze medals while Bangladesh secured nine gold, 10 silver and 13 bronze medals in the two-day meet, organized by Bangladesh Roller Skating Federation.

India will host the India-Bangladesh Friendship Skating meet in New Delhi next January.

Earlier, Bangladesh Roller Skating Federation president Abul Kalam Azad had formally inaugurated the meet.

SCB lift bank

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On Saturday, Standard Chartered reached the target in 31.5 overs, losing seven wickets. Choyon made 60 to repel an inspired spell of fast bowling from man-of-the-tournament Shuvro, who took four wickets.

Choyon received his man-of-the-match award from Standard Chartered CEO Osman Morad. Standard Chartered chief operations officer Ejaz Bijoy, Managing director of EBL Ali Reza Iftekhar, deputy managing director of EBL Mokhlesur Rahman and Arman Islam, chairman of the organising committee, was present during the prize-giving ceremony.

Crunch game

FROM PAGE 17
and conceded a loss against Sri Lanka. The hosts lead the table with four points while Bangladesh and Afghanistan are behind them with two points each.

Abu Yousuf's charges staged a remarkable turnaround in the last match against Afghanistan to keep their semifinal hopes alive. Bangladesh came back from a two-goal deficit to salvage a 2-2 draw.

Bangladesh earlier suffered a shocking 1-1 draw with Bhutan in the opener.

Rain can't

FROM PAGE 17
always been friendly to batsmen and spinners; the wicket in Mirpur is no different.

"It has even bounce but it is low," said chief selector Rafiqul Alami who also added that batting first would be the best option but due to the threat of rain interruptions, it would not be unwise to bowl first in a short and match.

The pitches are ready and so are the covers. All teams will be on tour come match day and there will be an electronic scoreboard and a giant television screen. Even the advertisement boards (mostly of Indian companies) are in place but the BCB members and officials needed to answer one question.

During match days, journalists and photographers are required to carry cards around their chest which usually comes after filling huge application forms a week ahead. The cards are then distributed a day or two before the event gets underway but something was different on the eve of this tri-series. BCB failed to hand out those and as a result, one question remained among all local and foreign journalists, photographers and cameramen.

"Where are those accreditation cards?"

James savours good day

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Two years ago James Anderson faced an uncertain future after being ruled out of the English season with a stress fracture of the lower back.

But at Trent Bridge here on Friday those times of injury torment seemed long past as he enjoyed the greatest day of his career so far.

Anderson recorded Test-best figures with both bat and ball to leave England in a dominant position as they looked to take their series with New Zealand 2-0.

Now the 25-year-old Lancashire quick wants to use this performance to mark the transformation of his Test career from a fringe player to a key member of the England side.

Anderson took all six wickets to fall as the Black Caps collapsed to 96 for six at stumps on the second day of the third and final Test in Wellington in March and has not looked back since.

Asked if he felt he was now a major player, Anderson replied: "I'm getting there. I'm not there yet. I've only shown glimpses of what I can do."

The softly-spoken Anderson, who has the ability to make the ball swing late both ways off a good length and at sharp pace too, does not conform to the stereotype of the macho fast bowler.

And he admitted that a setback early in a match could leave him on

the backfoot.

"When I have a dodgy innings I have a dodgy game, hopefully I can limit it to one every four or five. Today was ideal. I bowl at my best when the ball is swinging."

It was a memorable day too for Broad, the son of former England opening batsman Chris.

Broad, who like his father is now playing here for Nottinghamshire, made his name as a schoolboy cricketer as a batsman and it was easy to see why as he struck several textbook cover-drives.

"I'm delighted to get 64 today, hopefully there are few more runs in the bank," Broad said. "We watched our stumps and made them bowl to us."

Anderson was almost as pleased by his batting as his bowling. "I've worked hard on my batting. Me and Broad looked to get to 300, 320, so to get to 360 is a nice one. This is probably the best day I've had."

New Zealand opener Jamie How, top scorer in New Zealand's innings so far with 40, was in no doubt of Anderson's quality.

"Anderson swung the ball nicely both ways. He's a good bowler when he gets his tail up."

England who came from behind to win the second Test by six wickets at Anderson's Old Trafford home ground, again made New Zealand pay for not ramming home their early advantage.

"We are a very young team and we are learning," said How. "Our backs are against the wall but we'll be giving it our best shot."

T20 getting bigger

REUTERS, London

A Twenty20 Champions League involving eight teams playing 15 matches will be staged this year either in India or the Middle East, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Saturday.

The competition, which follows the successful launch of the Indian Premier League (IPL) this year, will feature two teams each from India, England, Australia and South Africa.

An ECB statement said the winners of the tournament, to be played over 10 days in late September and early October, would receive \$5 million.

Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings from India, the Titans from Pretoria and KwaZulu Natal Dolphins representing South Africa and Western Australian and Victoria from Australia will take part. The finalists of England's Twenty20 competition will complete the lineup.

"We are extremely grateful to our great friends from Australia, India and South Africa for their hard work and determination to get this tournament off the ground," ECB chairman Giles Clarke said in a statement.

"We are already aware of a number of broadcast and commercial partners who are anxious to become involved with cricket's latest exciting venture."

Alonso eyes Italian job

AFP, Neustift

Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso is keen on a move to Italy after four years in England, he told reporters at Spain's Euro 2008 training camp in Neustift, Austria, on Saturday.

"I know there is interest from Juventus, and that there has been contact with Liverpool and my agent," Alonso told Italian reporters.

The 26-year-old Alonso is under contract at Anfield until 2012 but said he would be proud to play for Juve.

Kiwis in tatters

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

New Zealand stumbled to 45 for 2 at tea as they followed-on at Trent Bridge after folding for 123 in their first innings on the third Test against England at Nottingham yesterday.

James Anderson couldn't become the third bowler to take all ten wickets in a Test innings, but he still finished with a career-best 7 for 43, after a delayed start prevented play before lunch.

However, England made swift work of the tail, the last three wickets falling for no runs in six balls, then secured early inroads into the second innings, as Stuart Broad backed up his half-century with some impressive bowling.

Trailing by 241, New Zealand had to face the swing music again and Aaron Redmond's miserable series continued when he became Broad's third wicket of the day. However, England's bowling wasn't quite on target in either innings, offering too much for the New Zealand batsman to leave, although they still helped in their own demise. Redmond couldn't do much about his first-innings dismissal, but second time around played a shot that doesn't belong to Test opener, chasing a full ball from Broad and edging through to Tim Ambrose.

With Gareth Hopkins, the debutant wicketkeeper, struggling to score, Vettori was New Zealand's best hope of avoiding the follow-on. Michael Vaughan may have been in two minds about sticking New Zealand back in, but the

Brendon McCullum, remaining at No. 3, responded as he did in the first innings with some powerful cover-drives, but England -- and especially Broad -- thought they had him on 12 when one appeared to graze the outside edge, only for Darren Hair to remain unmoved. Next over, however, a fired-up Ryan Sidebottom won a brief duel with Jamie How with a clever piece of bowling by holding the ball cross-seam to prevent it swinging too much. It drew How into pushing to ball he could have left, and Alastair Cook held a neat catch at third slip.

Two balls later, Broad produced a beauty to match Anderson's deliveries against Aaron Redmond and McCullum yesterday, sending Ian O'Brien's off stump backwards. The final ball of his over was too good for Chris Martin, but Anderson wrapped up the innings next over when Hopkins tried to whip across the line to a full ball that would have taken leg stump. Given the fragile confidence of the New Zealand batsmen, and if the weather stays fair during a long final session, a three-day finish isn't out of the question.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the third Test between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 364 (Pietersen 115, Ambrose 67, Broad 64; O'Brien 4-7, Mills 3-76)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 96-6) How 4-6, Ambrose 1, Anderson 1, McCullum 1

9 Extras: Total: (For 2 wkt in 18 overs) 45

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-14, 3-62, 4-62, 5-77, 6-93, 7-108, 8-123, 9-123, 10-123.

Bowler O M R W

Sidebottom 17 4 49 1

Anderson 21.3 8 43 7

Collingwood 2 0 5 0

Broad 6 3 10 2

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

How 4-6, Cook 1, Sidebottom 19

Redmond 4-7, Mills 2

McCullum not out

Taylor not out

8 Extras: 0

Total: (For 2 wkt in 18 overs) 45

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-33.

Bowler O M R W

Sidebottom 7 2 12 1

Anderson 5 3 10 0

Broad 6 2 23 1

Taylor c Pietersen b Anderson 21

Flynn lbw b Anderson 0

Hopkins lbw b Anderson 15

Oram c Ambrose b Anderson 7

Vettori c Strauss b Sidebottom 7

Mills c Pietersen b Broad 1

Martin not out 0

Extras: (b-8, lb-8, w-6) 22

Total: (All out in 46.3 overs) 123

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-14, 3-62, 4-62, 5-77, 6-93, 7-108, 8-123, 9-123, 10-123.

Bowler O M R W

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Ana's maiden

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The Russian, who had spent two more hours in Ivanovic getting to the title match, endured a nerve-wracking start to the final being broken twice to quickly slip 1-4 down before fighting back to 1-4 with two breaks of her own.

A year ago, Ivanovic suffered a numbing stage fright on her Grand Slam final debut winning just three games against four-time winner Henin.

With the recently-retired world number one now looking on from the VIP enclosure on Court Philippe Chatrier, Ivanovic stopped the rot to break back to lead 5-4.

The 20-year-old wasted a first set point but wrapped up the opener after 45 minutes when Safina, pinned behind the baseline, slapped a backhand high and long.

Ivanovic, finding depth and power with her confident, accurate groundstrokes, broke a lacklustre Safina again to take a 2-1 lead in the second set which became 3-1 thanks to a love service game.

She held another shaky service to lead 4-2 while Safina overcame her fourth and fifth double faults of the match to hold in the seventh game.

But the battling Russian finally ran out of steam in the ninth game when she handed her opponent three match points with the title gratefully gobbling up when