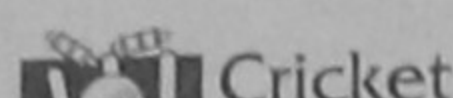


Southee buries Australia



CRICINFO, undated

If Australia were expecting an easy follow-up to their tough tour of India, their hopes were dashed by Tim Southee within 40 minutes at the Gabba on Thursday. A super spell of swing bowling from Southee reduced Australia to 3 for 23 and, despite Michael Clarke's fighting 98, the green-tinged pitch and the discipline of New Zealand's seamers made scoring hard and ensured the visitors finished the day happy. Losing to India in India brought enough questions about Australia's declining dominance, despite the difficulty of the task. The side was expected to regain its form against New Zealand, the No. 7-ranked team, ahead of home-and-away contests against the more likely challengers South Africa. Instead, Australia's batsmen spent the first day of their home Test summer battling to 214 against a relatively unheralded attack. The 19-year-old Southee was the key with his impressive swing and clever variations. He was well supported by Iain O'Brien, who nipped the ball off the seam, and Chris Martin, who nagged on a testing line, while even the slow-mediums of Grant Elliott and Jesse Ryder were dangerous. Australia's fast men could be equally successful on the second day but it wasn't quite what the fans expected at the "Gabbatour", where Australia have not lost a Test since 1988. The saving grace for Australia was the effort of Clarke, who was noticeably thinner having just overcome a virus he picked up in India, but was strong enough to hold together Australia's innings while wickets tumbled around him. He added 54 with the last two batsmen, Mitchell Johnson and Stuart Clark, and the resistance was enough to steal a fraction of the momentum from New Zealand.

Clarke had his share of luck -- edges flew wide of the slips, uppishly played shots fell short of fielders -- but his concentration was strong. He occupied the crease for most of the day after the top three fell in the first eight overs and finally departed from his 217th ball when he drove at a straight one from Ryder and was bowled. It was typical of the dismissals throughout the day in that the bowlers forced Australia's batsmen to play the majority of the time. New Zealand had sent Australia in on a surface that was always likely to help the seamers and rarely did the bowlers stray from their probing lines. Australia's batsmen struggled to adjust to a more lively pitch having only ten days ago been playing the fourth Test in India, where the benign surfaces made fast bowling a largely thankless task. Besides Clarke, the only men who looked vaguely comfortable were Michael Hussey and Andrew Symonds. Symonds has had an eventful few months on the field and his return to the top level on the field was just as action-packed. He combined for a 36-run stand with Clarke, the man who played a major role in axing him from the squad in Darwin, and his 26 featured three consecutive fours off Elliott including a muscular pull over midwicket. The most incredible entry in his scorebook was eight off one O'Brien ball when Symonds clubbed one over midwicket and ran four as the ball held up in the damp outfield. Four overthrows were added when the ball was returned to Brendon McCullum, who felt there was a chance of running Symonds out and hurled it wide of the stumps. O'Brien had the last laugh when he jaggged one away in the same over and had Symonds caught behind; it truly was a strange over as Symonds had already been dropped by Aaron Redmond. Symonds had come to the

crease midway through the second session when Hussey's precision judgment deserted him and he was lbw leaving a Martin inswinger. The most experienced fast man in the attack, Martin was the least threatening of the three main seamers but he kept the runs tight and ending Hussey's patient 35 was important as Hussey and Clarke had added 73 that began Australia's recovery following Southee's pre-lunch strikes. Southee's new-ball spell was notable not only for his swing but also his admirable thinking. He had been regularly bringing the ball back to the left-hand openers Matthew Hayden and Simon Katich but he picked them both up with offcutters that took the edge and flew behind the wicket. It became three strikes in 15 minutes when Southee removed Ricky Ponting for 4. Ponting must have initially been thrilled to face a new ball not held by his recent tormentor Ishant Sharma but he found Southee no easier. He was caught at second slip off a leading edge when he tried to work through leg off a ball that bounced handsomely and moved away late. Southee's success justified not only Vettori's decision to field -- a call that has landed other visiting captains in trouble in Australia in recent years -- but also New Zealand's inclusion of Southee ahead of Kyle Mills. For a while it seemed Southee would not have enough support as Clarke, Hussey and Symonds showed some resistance. But once Hussey and Symonds had departed Australia's lower order struggled, despite batting deep with Shane Watson at No. 7 and Brad Haddin at No. 8. Watson wafted airily and edged behind off O'Brien, whose constricting line and length caused problems all day. Haddin's aggressive drive in the first over from Ryder, who finished with 2 for 7, was not what Australia required

just before tea, and when Southee returned to add Brett Lee as his fourth wicket it was clear that it was New Zealand's day. To add to the home side's frustration, their bowlers could not break through in five overs in gloomy conditions late in the afternoon. It completed a terrific three sessions for New Zealand, who lost their warm-up game to New South Wales and have not won a Test in Australia since 1985. They might not win this one either, but they have at least taken a major step in the right direction. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the first Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Thursday: AUSTRALIA: First innings Hayden c Taylor b Southee 8 Katich c McCullum b Southee 10 Ponting c How b Southee 4 Hussey lbw b Martin 35 Clarke b Ryder 98 Symonds c McCullum b O'Brien 26 Watson c McCullum b O'Brien 1 Haddin c How b Ryder 6 Lee c McCullum b Southee 4 Johnson c Taylor b Vettori 13 Clark not out 13 Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-1) 4 Total: (All out in 77 overs) 214 Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-22, 3-23, 4-96, 5-132, 6-139, 7-152, 8-160, 9-183

Qadir made new chief selector

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday appointed former leg-spinner Abdul Qadir as head of its selection committee, an official said. The 53-year-old takes over from former fast bowler Salim Jaffer, who was made head of an interim selection committee last month. "Qadir will be our new chief selector," PCB chairman Ijaz Butt told reporters, adding that other members of the selection committee will be announced shortly. Qadir's appointment is part of the PCB's drive to use the experience of former players to put Pakistan's team cricket back on track. The Board on Wednesday also appointed former captain Javed Miandad as its director general. Qadir said his priority will be to select the most deserving players. "I want to give my honest dedication and will select players on merit and devise a system where no first class player can complain that he was not selected despite doing well," Qadir told AFP. Qadir played 67 Tests for Pakistan in the 1970s and 80s and took 236 wickets. He also played 104 one-day internationals. This is the first time that Qadir has been appointed to the selection committee. "I want to make the most of the opportunity and hopefully help Pakistan cricket with my experience," said Qadir, whose first task will be to profile the team for a high profile home series against India.

Pak PM assures India



AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani will assure his Indian counterpart top-level security will be given to India's cricket team to ensure they tour his country, a spokesman said Thursday. India are scheduled to play three tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 match from January 13 to February 19 but the tour has been thrown into doubt amid fears over security in Pakistan. "The prime minister was gracious enough to give us time and has assured that every step will be taken to save the tour. He has assured that high profile security will be given to the Indian team and in this regard the PM is ready to talk to his counterpart," said a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman. "The prime minister said that cricket is the most popular sport of Pakistan and asked the PCB to take necessary steps for improving its related facilities while chalking out an effective strategy for hunting new talent in all parts of the country," the spokesman added. Butt met the Indian high commissioner Satyabrata Pal

adding that Gilani had been briefed on plans for the high profile Indian tour by newly appointed cricket board chairman Ijaz Butt. A cricket board spokesman said the premier had assured them that the series would be played in Pakistan. "The prime minister was gracious enough to give us time and has assured that every step will be taken to save the tour. He has assured that high profile security will be given to the Indian team and in this regard the PM is ready to talk to his counterpart," said a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman. "The prime minister said that cricket is the most popular sport of Pakistan and asked the PCB to take necessary steps for improving its related facilities while chalking out an effective strategy for hunting new talent in all parts of the country," the spokesman added. Butt met the Indian high commissioner Satyabrata Pal

on Wednesday in Lahore and ensured him of the best possible security for the Indian team, said the spokesman. Pakistani cricket officials previously said they would consider switching the matches to neutral venues after the Indian government refused to let the national junior hockey team visit Pakistan this month, raising fears in Pakistan the same could apply to the January-February cricket tour. Several international teams have refused to tour Pakistan over security fears. Australia put off a tour earlier this year, saying they feared for their players' safety in the wake of suicide bombings by Islamist militants. The International Cricket Council (ICC) had to put off September's elite Champions Trophy in Pakistan for 12 months after South Africa pulled out of the event while Australia, New Zealand and England raised security concerns.

Sunny slams Ponting



PTI, New Delhi/Melbourne

Sunil Gavaskar on Thursday hit back at Ricky Ponting for his "uncalled for" remarks that the former India captain was no angel in his hey-days, saying the Australian skipper's comments were an indication that his side was "rattled" to find a challenger in India. "I think it was totally uncalled for and it is showing the world that they are rattled," Gavaskar told the CNN-IBN. The former Indian captain said Ponting's comments also smelt of publicity gimmick. "I think they have been a champion side and suddenly they find that they have a challenger in India. And therefore, it's not just Ponting but all the other statements that we have heard from other Australians," he said. "...Probably (they are) trying to sell their books or whatever it is," he added.

Ponting, in his just-published 'Captain's Diary 2008', has lashed out at Gavaskar and other former players for often blaming the Australian team for on-field confutations. "Unfortunately, as soon as a spectator or a commentator spots one of my team chipping on opponent, they assume it is a pre-meditated attack. The most laughable aspect is when I hear former players complaining, as though they never put a toe out of line in their day. "I still have a vivid image of Sunil Gavaskar angrily trying to take his opening partner off the MCG with him in 1981 when he was given out lbw in a Test match, but to hear him you'd think he was positively angelic when he was the best opening batsman in the world," he wrote. Gavaskar pointed out that Ponting would not have a clear understanding of the incident as he was just a child then. "Ponting was just seven-

year-old when MCG incident happened. He does not know the background," he said. Meanwhile, Ponting blamed Indian conditions, including their 'delaying tactics', for the slow over-rate problem which his team faced during the Nagpur Test and said the sub continent was a hard place for fast bowlers. "I have said since I got back that there are a host of things that conspire against you in India. It is a hard place for fast bowlers to keep running in and get through their overs," the Australia captain said on the eve of the first Test against New Zealand. "The sight screen and spectators play more of a part than they do anywhere else in the world. Their batsmen take up a lot more time than most opposition batsmen do. I mean runs cost you time as much as anything else. When a lot of boundaries are being scored that slows things down a lot," he was quoted as saying in 'The Australian'.

BCB board of directors

FROM PAGE 17 was a rather ineffective associate as he attended less than five out of 13 meetings of the ad-hoc committee. He was made members of several committees including the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis and the umpires' committee but hardly attended their activities. The executive committee will have its first meeting on November 26 and its first priority would be to elect a senior vice-president and two

vice-presidents within the board of directors according to the amended constitution of BCB. It is expected that the three vice-presidents will be elected in the very first meeting through secret ballot. THE NEW BCB President: Maj Gen Sina Ibne Jamali, Directors: Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul, Abdullah Al Foad Reduan, Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir, Moinuddin Chowdhury,

Mahmud Jamal, Shamsul Huda, Jahid Hossain, Shahidul Islam, Imran Chowdhury, Asaduzzaman Khasru (Category 1), Mahbubul Anam, Salman Ispahani, Aziz Al Kaiser, Iqbal Hassan, Jalal Yunus, Enayet Hossain Siraj, Ahmed Sajjadul Alam, Aminul Haque Moni, Shafiqur Rahman, Golam Dastagir, Mizanur Rahman, GM Hassan Tamim (Category 2), Gazi Ashraf Hossain (Category 3) and Feroz Ahmed (NSC nominated).

Debut of

FROM PAGE 17 In Group 3, two points behind leader Slovakia. Among the 23 friendlies spread across Europe, European champion Spain cruised to a 3-0 victory over Chile to improve its unbeaten streak to 28 matches, World Cup holder Italy earned a 1-1 draw at Greece, and France was held to a 0-0 draw at home by Uruguay with French fans calling for coach Raymond Domenech to quit. Spain striker David Villa scored a 38th-minute penalty to take his tally to 24 in 41 matches, Fernando Torres added a second in the 67th and Santi Cazorla collected the third within four minutes to go. Four minutes after Fanis Gekas had given the Greeks a 50th-minute lead, Italy striker Luca Toni levelled to maintain Marcello Lippi's record of 31 games without a defeat.

Men's team

FROM PAGE 17 After a rest day, Bangladesh won the sixth round match with Grandmaster Enamul Hossain Rajib beating the South American side's International Master Alvarez Marquez Johann. GM Ziaur Rahman drew with higher-ranked GM Iturrizaga Eduardo, FM Abu Sufian Shakil shared points with IM Prasca Sosa Rafael while FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar drew with FM Soto Paez Oliver. Bangladesh were now 37th out of 154 teams with eight match points and 15 games played. Armenia lead the points table in the Open section with 11 match points, followed by Russia also on 11. The women's team, however, went down 0.5-3.5 to a strong Lithuania side. Only WFM Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa managed half a point against WFM Limontaita Simona but IWM Rani Hamid lost to IM Cmilyte Viktorija, WFM Samima Akhter Liza lost to WIM Daulyte Deimante and WFM Tanima Parveen was beaten by WIM Sarakauskene Zivile. The women's team are in 51st place out of 114 teams with six match points and 12 games played. China lead the women's competition with 12 match points. Bangladesh men's team were playing Norway and women's team against Montenegro in the seventh round yesterday.

Tariqul puts Barisal atop

FROM PAGE 17 Veteran batsman Masumuddowla stroked 15 boundaries and a six in his patient 211-ball undefeated century. He added 63 runs for the fifth wicket with wicketkeeper Nadimuddin Mintu before closing out the day with Tariq Aziz, who was unbeaten on seven. Dhaka used as many as eight bowlers but found little success on the day. Imon Ahmed, Arafat Sunny and Elias Sunny took two wickets each. Marshall Ayub, after his stunning 181, was named man-of-the-match by match referee Roquibul Hassan. SYLHET V KHULNA The last hour did it for Khulna at the Sylhet Stadium. Left-arm spinner Atiqur Rahman prised out the wickets of first innings centurion Mithun Ali and stalwart Rajin Saleh after the first three fell by the seventh over. Kamrul Islam and Rajin's

elder brother Rezaul Haq remained unbeaten on 12 and 10 respectively as the hosts were precariously placed at 93 for five. Earlier, Raihan Anas and Mohammad Salim added 120 runs for the sixth wicket, to give Khulna the first innings lead. Anas played patiently, scoring 73 off 201 balls with the help of eleven boundaries while the former national wicketkeeper contributed 48 off 181 deliveries. Bu once again, Nabil Samad added five more wickets to his kitty and it would be interesting if his name crops up for selection in the forthcoming home series against Sri Lanka. BRIEF SCORES BARISAL: 166 and 342 RAJSHAHI: 204 and second innings 82 all out in 29.4 overs (Mahbub 0, Jahurul 0, Farhad 22, Masud 0, Anisur 11, Shuvo 12, Mushfiqur 0, Alamgir 0, Sabir 14 not out, Shahzada 19, Shafiqul 0; Talha 2-30, Tariqul 5-21, Kamrul 2-

19, Nasir 1-1) Result: Barisal won by 222 runs. Man-of-the-match: Hannan Sarkar. CHITTAGONG: 314 and second innings 314-7 in 114 overs (Salahuddin 8, Nafis 77, Rezaul 59, Tariq 10, Faisal 4, Nadim 21, Masum 102 not out, Kamrul 10, Tariq 7 not out, Imon 2-53, Elias 2-60, Arafat 2-97). DHAKA: 366-9 dec Result: Match drawn. Man-of-the-match: Marshall Ayub. SYLHET: 300 and second innings 93-5 in 37 overs (Rahman 3, Imtiaz 13, Saikat 3, Mithun 25, Rajin 20, Kamrul 12 not out, Rezaul 10 not out; Zia 1-27, Dollar 1-29, Atiqur 2-13). KHULNA: First innings 364 all out in 132.1 overs (Amit 34, Ashraf 105, Sahagir 9, Tushar 25, Nahid 18, Anas 73, Salim 48, Zia 12, Dollar 13, Atiqur 3 not out, Rabul 1; Nabil 5-81, Monir 1-91, Rashedur 1-74, Taposh 3-47).

A familiar collapse

FROM PAGE 17 wicket partnership after South Africa resumed the day on 299 for one and in the very next over, his new-ball partner Mahbubul Alam got the wicket of Graeme Smith to get the result of his disciplined bowling. South African skipper however survived twice and on both occasions Zunaed failed to grab the chances at slip off Mahbubul, playing in his second Test. Smith made 157 off 248 balls that featured seventeen fours and a six while Amla hit 112 off 165 balls with the help of 12 boundaries. It was then the turn of Shakib who captured five wickets, his second five-for in Tests after the seven-wicket haul against New Zealand at Chittagong last month, to restrict the South Africans. Shakib conceded 130 runs in

38 overs. Ashwell Prince showed the resistance while the wickets fell on the other end as the left-hander was unbeaten on 59 off 98 deliveries that contained five fours and a six. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the first Test between South Africa and Bangladesh at Springbok Park in Bloemfontein on Thursday: SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 299-1) Smith b Mahbubul 157 McKenzie c Mehrib b Shahadat 42 Amla b Mashrafe 112 Kallis c Ashraf b Shakhib 16 Prince not out 59 De Villiers c Mushfiq b Shakib 3 Boucher b Shakib 15 Morkel c Ashraf b Shakib 8 Steyn c Tamim b Shakib 1 Ntini c Mushfiq b Mahbubul 5 Extras: (b-2, lb-10, nb-11) 23 Total: (For 9 wks decl in 122.5 overs) 441

Fall of wickets: 1-102, 2-327, 3-327, 4-352, 5-365, 6-404, 7-420, 8-427, 9-441 Did not bat: Harris

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	22	4	69	1
Mahbubul	24.5	8	62	2
Shahadat	25	1	125	1
Shakhib	38	4	130	5
Naeem	5	0	19	0
Mehrab	8	0	24	0

BANGLADESH: First innings Tamim b Steyn 7 Kayes c Amla b Harris 10 Siddique c Prince b Morkel 8 Ashraf not out 1 Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-1) 7 Total: (For 3 wks 122 overs) 33 Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-26, 3-33 To bat: Mehrib, Shakhib, Mushfiq, Mashrafe, Nayeem, Shahadat, Mahbubul

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	4	1	11	1
Ntini	4	1	7	0
Morkel	2	0	3	1
Harris	2	1	6	1

Records roll

FROM PAGE 17 To bat about six hours after my recent injury, did my confidence a lot of good. The condition was quite difficult at times, which meant you had to have your basics in place and from that point of view it was a very useful start to my Test season," said Smith, who has just recovered from a tennis elbow injury.

India make

FROM PAGE 17 Makeshift opener Ravi Bopara (60) top-scored for the visitors, who rejigged their batting order, and shared 79 runs with Ian Bell (46). Pietersen (13) lofted part-time spinner Yuvraj Singh for a six but mis-hit a similar shot against Harbhajan to be caught at long-off. Harbhajan struck again in his next over when he deceived Collingwood with a 'doosra', the ball that moves away from right-handers. Bopara reached his fourth one-day half-century with a four off Yuvraj but lost his wicket soon after while he was stumped by Dhoni while trying to go for an expansive drive. His 82-ball effort included eight fours. Flintoff succumbed to the spin of Pathan, being trapped leg before for 26. Harbhajan then returned to cut short a fine 40-run knock by Shah, the dismissal handing him his 200th wicket in one-day internationals. The fourth game of the seven-match series will be played in Bangalore on Sunday.

Kepler's wise words

FROM PAGE 17 "I think Bangladesh obviously have got a few players who have lot of talent. It is the case of being able to play enough Test matches to get enough experience to put that talent into practice. I think Ashraful probably averages 24 at the moment. He is a good enough player probably to average 40 if he can get his game plan together. So definitely the talent is there, hopefully at some stage it will develop," he said. Kepler Wessels also rubbished the critics who said that Bangladesh do not deserve the Test status. "There is no point really in getting into that argument because they are part of the Test-playing circuit. Hopefully they will improve so that they can compete. That's probably

the best way to put it at the moment. Once they are part of the Test playing nations, it's a responsibility of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to try and get them to a level where they are competing on an equal footing," said the soft-spoken former cricketer turned commentator. "You have lost a lot of players and that hasn't helped them at all. It's a young and inexperienced team, you can't expect them to compete against the top Test team at the moment," he added. Wessels was critical about the batting approach of Ashraful especially in Test cricket but he was sympathetic over his captaincy. "His game plan in Test cricket needs to be a little bit more conservative. He has got to be prepared in Test cricket

to bat for longer periods. He has got to accept the fact that if he wants to get a hundred, it's going to take you two sessions. You can't just play a shorter ball in Test cricket like in one-day cricket," he suggested. "You (have) got to be fair to the guy as a captain. A lot other time he is under a lot of pressure, I mean he is never really in a situation where you can dominate the game. "So it's difficult from the captaincy point of view because he has got to try and find the way to stay in the game," he said. And the simplest thing for the former South African skipper was that Bangladesh has to find a good top six batsmen where two needs to score in every Test match and need to have strike bowlers.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 IT 1 Church seat 4 Boom times 7 "Jezebel" 12 Genetics abbr. 13 Total 14 "Oh, woe!" 15 Tourists' haven 16 "Roots" author 18 Seek restitution 19 Swing around madly 20 "Congeniality" 22 Coffee-shop vessel 23 Complained 27 Upper limit 29 First name of 35- Across 31 Mystery writer's award 34 Be a glutton 35 "It's a Wonderful Life" hero 37 Weep loudly DOWN 24 Mess up 25 Early bird? 26 Retainer 28 Is multiplied? 30 Id counterpart 31 Recede 32 Rotation duration 33 "Skedaddle!" 36 Boo Boo's mentor 37 Record jacket 40 Less healthy 42 Phantoms' bailiwick 43 Islamic Bible 44 Square-dance group 45 Inauguration recitation 46 Turned blue? 48 Dark brown-gray 49 Blood-typing letters 50 Neither mate 51 Not "dis"

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CRYPTOQUIP

H N M S P M B O P E N H X R V N E N R
V J U H Z S V J E Z G Z F N B Z H
P G N H X P M S P N Y B Z E U H J D V P
E N O P U X V P E N K P B K Y D E N P
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MUCH-WATCHED SITCOM ABOUT A MAN WHO FAVORED CERTAIN KINDS OF NOTEBOOKS: "I LOVE LOOSE-LEAF"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals L