

Sagar ends with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar finished with a victory in the Asian Junior Chess Championship in Chennai yesterday.

Sagar beat namesake Sagar Shah in the final round to secure 5.5 points and clinched the 20th spot out of 63 participants.

Mohammad Imran Ali Elin drew with Indian Jitendra Vel to finish 47th with 3.5 points while Rezaul Islam Babu also bagged 3.5 points after sharing points with Eshwanth Dev Kumar to secure the 48th position.

International Master Ashwin Jayaram of India became champion with 7½ points.

Clark out of 1st SA Test

CRICINFO, undated

Stuart Clark's summer could be over after he was ruled out of Wednesday's first Test against South Africa in Perth due to the recurrence of an injury to his right elbow. Clark will fly home to Sydney and have the problem assessed by an orthopaedic surgeon and if an operation is required his season might be finished.

The Victoria fast bowler Peter Siddle was recalled to the 12-man squad to replace Clark and he will likely battle with the all-rounder Shane Watson for a spot in the starting line-up with the offspinner Jason Krejza almost certain to play. Siddle made his Test debut in Mohali in October when the same elbow problem kept Clark sidelined.

"I don't think it's a secret that I've had a bad elbow for a while," Clark said after withdrawing from the squad in Perth. "It's flared up. It's not acceptable to play. I had a bowl on Friday and it was pretty sore but I had to come here and try it."

"I think it's a throwing issue that has just got worse over time. It's something that hasn't affected me until recently, until I suppose the Indian series. I've got to go back to Sydney or Melbourne and get the [surgery] process rolling. I hope there's another scenario but I don't really know."

Alex Kountouris, the Australian team physio, said the pain Clark experienced on Sunday in Perth was significantly worse than in recent times. Kountouris said it was still unclear how long Clark would be out of action.

"Based on the ongoing nature of his injury and the information available to us, it's been decided that he will see an elbow surgeon early this week with a view to having arthroscopic surgery," Kountouris said. "His return to cricket will be determined once he sees the specialist and a decision is made on the best course of management."

The loss of Clark could be a major blow for Australia on a fast and bouncy WACA pitch. Clark struggled for impact on the recent tour of India but returned to form with six wickets against New Zealand at the Gabba.

IPL transfer deferred

CRICINFO, undated

The Indian Premier League (IPL) transfer window, which was scheduled to begin on December 15, has been postponed by a week after the Mumbai terrorist attacks disrupted preparations for the event.

The IPL officials will meet some time this week to prepare the rules for the transfers which will now take place from December 22 to January 22.

The terror strikes in Mumbai on November 26 forced organisers to postpone the Champions Twenty20 League that was to kick off on December 3, with Mumbai as one of the three venues.

Many key Indian IPL officials were involved in organising the Champions League and the tournament's postponement affected the IPL's transfer window as well. "The attacks delayed a week of preparation for both the franchisees and us," an IPL official told Cricinfo.

With the Champions League pushed back by a year, it is the second season of the IPL that will decide which Indian teams participate in international Twenty20 tournament. The second season of the IPL will be held between April 10 and May 29, 2009.

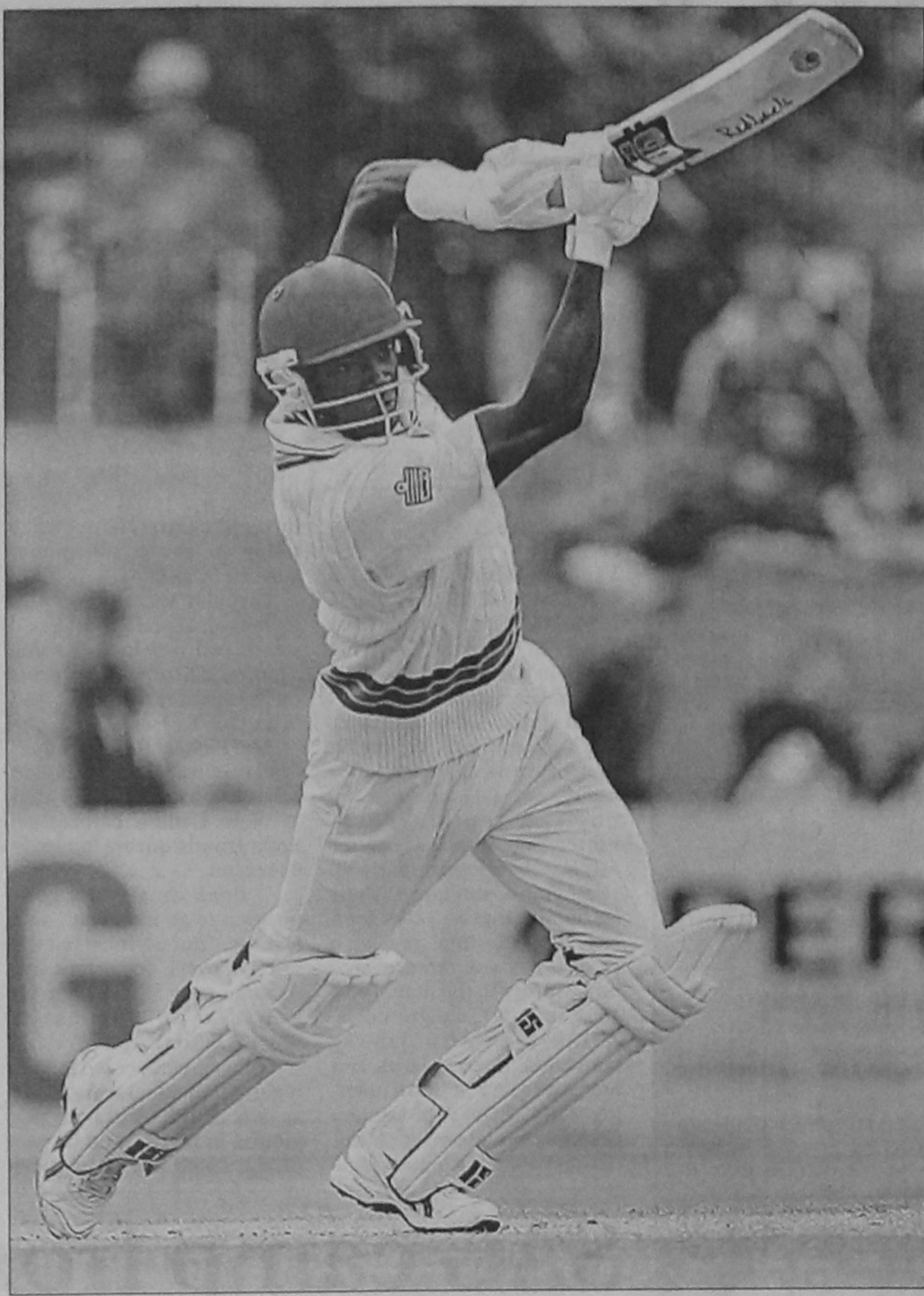


PHOTO: INTERNET

West Indies' batsman' Jerome Taylor smashes it straight down the ground during his unlikely maiden Test hundred against New Zealand on the fourth day of the first Test at the University Oval in Dunedin yesterday.

Jerome thanks Shiv

CRICINFO, undated

After making an unexpected maiden Test century to rescue West Indies in the first Test against New Zealand, West Indies fast bowler Jerome Taylor thanked his batting partner Shivnarine Chanderpaul for some sound advice during their 153-run stand.

Taylor had come to the crease with West Indies on 173 for 6 -- still 192 behind New Zealand's first-innings total -- and blasted a 107-ball 106 while Chanderpaul made a more measured 76 to lift their side to 340.

"Batting with Shiv gave me a lot of confidence. He supported me throughout and put faith in me from the start. He was in the middle talking to me and that helped me along the way," he said. "I was not thinking of the hundred, I was thinking only of occupying the crease and Shiv kept telling me, just hang around and hit the bad balls. He said 'bat and bat and bat'."

"I'm the sort of player who likes to express myself in the middle regardless of the situation. I don't think one should try to change their natural game," Taylor said later.

Taylor, who hadn't even made a first-class half-century before this game, was thrilled with

his effort. "Words can't quite describe how I feel. I always knew I had it in me to make a Test century and today I proved it. Making a Test century is everyone's dream and I have fulfilled that dream. I hope it is the first of many to come."

Eighty-six of his runs came in boundaries, including three massive sixes. "I didn't think I had to change my style because we were in trouble. I felt I should back myself and believe in myself."

"It was a very meaningful innings to the team and to me as an individual. I had to bat for the team to make sure West Indies could not lose this match. It was opportunity to show determination and guts, and I got the reward."

A Test average of 13.66 may not be something to boast about but Taylor said he was working hard to improve it. "The coaches keep telling me I have the ability to be an all-rounder and I'm taking my batting seriously and working very hard. I wanted to take it a step at a time, get a half-century first and try to move to a century. It all came at once today."

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori had praise for the aggression of his side's tormentor.

"It was a fantastic innings. He was positive and tried to do all the things a batsman should," Vettori said.

Stars miss out

FROM PAGE 17 made the grassy wicket, that had bounce and movement, count.

Ziaur Rahman (49 off 36 balls) and Dollar Mahmud (33 off 22 balls) made sure Khulna went past the 350-mark.

Zia later removed Dhaka skipper Javed Omar for a duck and ended Marshall's stay for four as Khulna got on top of the visitors, who were without inspirational pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

According to chief selector Rafiqul Alam, the Tigers vice-captain has been rested due to back and knee niggles.

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

Sylhet pacemen Shuvashish Roy and Sumon Saha continued their impressive work this season as they removed Rajshahi's top-order in the space of twelve overs after play began as late as 2:10pm due to heavy fog all day.

Among the top three, Bangladesh opener Zunaed Siddiqui was cleaned up by the long-limbed Sumon, who also removed youngster Hamdul Islam for a duck.

Later, Nazmul Hossain had Khaled Mashud caught behind for nine after Nabil Samad removed Suharwardi Shuvo, who made 27.

But that was all the action for the day as umpires called off play for the same reason it was delayed in the morning.

CHITTAGONG-BARISAL Tariq Aziz and Kamrul Islam did not care much about the slow and low wicket as they helped reduce high-flyers Barisal to three for 4 in the third over. Skipper Imran Ahmed resurrected the situation somewhat by adding 26 for the fourth wicket, but he fell leg-before to left-arm Mohammed Younus in the

15th over.

Barisal took the services of national batsman Rokibul Hasan as the right-hander added 87 for the fifth wicket with the ever-improving Nasir Hossain, who top-scored with 49 off 58 balls. Rokibul made 43 off 77 balls but his innings was cut short when Rezaul Karim's beauty of a delivery ended his innings.

Arafat Salahuddin later added a painstaking 41 as the visitors made 244 in their first innings.

Chittagong lost in-form Masumuddin for 24 but skipper Nafis Iqbal and night-watchman Rezaul Karim stayed till the balls were removed.

BRIEF SCORES

KHULNA: First innings 355 all out in 76.2 overs (Sadat 16, Kayes 58, Sahagir 48, Tushar 54, Shakib 59, Nahid 17, Anas 4, Salim 2, Zia 49 not out, Dollar 33, Rabiul 0; Robin 4-82, Azim 1-61, Arafat 1-61, Marshall 4-36)

DHAKA: First innings 38-2 in 8 overs (Javed 0, Anamul 13 not out, Marshall 4, Ashraf 20 not out; Zia 2-17)

BARISAL: First innings 244 all out in 63.4 overs (Hannan 4, Nasir 0, Shahin 0, Imran 13, Rokibul 43, Nasir 49, Arafat 41, Sajidul 22, Tariqul 1, Talha 47, Saju 1 not out; Tariq 1-46, Kamrul 2-23, Younus 2-75, Yasir 3-44, Rezaul 1-38)

CHITTAGONG: First innings 52-1 in 20 overs (Masum 24, Nafis 20 not out, Rezaul 5 not out; Salahuddin 1-8)

RAJSHAHI: First innings 56-5 in 30.3 overs (Jahurul 5, Siddiqui 10, Hamdul 0, Shuvo 27, Mashud 9, Nayeem 1 not out; Roy 1-17, Saha 2-18, Nazmul 1-16, Nabil 1-2)

Form doesn't bother How

CRICINFO, undated

Jamie How, the New Zealand opener, has said criticism over his selection for the Test series against West Indies did not bother him and despite low scores in Dunedin he felt he was in good form.

After New Zealand's 2-0 drubbing by Australia, the selectors made wholesale changes to the squad but How survived the axe that fell on batsmen Aaron Redmond, Grant Elliott, Peter Fulton and Gareth Hopkins.

"There is always pressure when you're playing for your country," How told New Zealand's Sunday News. "And when you start letting media pressure affect you, that's when you know you're in trouble. We've got high standards as players and we're our harshest critics."

"It's something you have to embrace and when you do succeed it makes it that much sweeter. I don't think pressure is a bad thing."

How aggregated 58 from the two Tests against Australia but said it was his 170 in the tour game against New South Wales that gave him the confidence and belief that he was "only one innings away from that next big score".

How has not scored a century in his 17 Tests, including the latest against West Indies in which he aggregated 20. In his last ten Test innings -- including four against Bangladesh -- he has scored 146 runs at an average of 14.60.

How said working with Andy Moles, New Zealand's new coach who opened for Warwickshire for several seasons, has been helpful.

Taylor dents Kiwi hopes

CRICINFO, undated

Defiant West Indies tail-enders Jerome Taylor scored a maiden century on the fourth day of a rain-shortened first Test here Sunday to virtually extinguish New Zealand's slim hopes of victory.

The West Indies finished with 340 in reply to New Zealand's 365 and the home side were 44 for two in their second innings at the close after Daren Powell took two late wickets with consecutive balls.

Taylor finished with a quickfire 106 in a 173-run partnership with Shivnarine Chanderpaul before being dismissed by New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori, who destroyed the rest of the tail to end with six for 56.

Scoring at a run a ball, Taylor hit the bowlers all over University Oval to belie his previous highest Test score of 31 and an average of 13.66 from 33 innings.

The opening bowler hit 17 fours and three sixes in his innings before edging left arm spinner Vettori to

wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum.

After finally getting Taylor's scalp the kiwi captain trapped Powell with his next ball and in his next over substitute fielder Sean Eathorne took a brilliant diving catch at long off to give the skipper his fifth wicket.

Chanderpaul was Vettori's last victim, bowled for a patient 76 from 198 balls after playing the anchor role.

Pace bowler Kyle Mills, only brought into the side at the last moment to replace injured all-rounder Jacob Oram, did most of the damage to the top order, finishing with three for 64.

New Zealand fancied their chances of a big first innings lead before Chanderpaul and Taylor came together when the West Indies were looking fragile at 173 for six.

Their partnership swung the momentum back the West Indies' way, although there is only the slimmest chance of a result Monday after the loss of the second day and Saturday's first session because of rain.

Captain Chris Gayle did the early damage for the West Indies, appearing on track for his first Test century since 2005 before falling on 74 after attempting a rash pull shot off

pace bowler Iain O'Brien.

The ball skied to fine leg, where James Franklin made a straightforward catch to end Gayle's dashing 103-ball innings, which included 11 fours and one six.

The experimental video referral system was a centre of attention again, with third umpire Rudi Koertzen overturning Amiesha Saheba's decision to turn down an appeal against Xavier Marshall for a bat-pad catch off Vettori's bowling.

The two-match series is being used for only the second time in Tests to trial the experimental rule where both sides can request a video review of umpires' decisions.

The first challenge by a batsman in the Test came from Denesh Ramdin, who asked for a review after being given out lbw to Vettori for five. Replays suggested the ball was close to missing leg stump but the dismissal was upheld.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth day of the first Test between New Zealand and West Indies at the University Oval in Dunedin on Sunday: NEW ZEALAND: First innings 365 (Flynn 95, Ryder 89; Powell

3-63, Edwards 3-91, Gayle 3-42)

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 39-0) Gayle c Franklin b O'Brien 74 Chattergeon c O'Brien b Mills 13 Sarwan c McCullum b Mills 8 Marshall c Ryder b Vettori 20 Chanderpaul b Vettori 76 Nash c Ryder b Mills 23 Ramdin lbw b Vettori 5 Taylor c McCullum b Vettori 106 Powell lbw b Vettori 0 Edwards c sub b Vettori 0 Baker not out 0 Extras: (b-1, lb-10, nb-4) 15 Total: (All out in 100 overs) 340

Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-87, 3-114, 4-134, 5-162, 6-173, 7-326, 8-326, 9-334

Bowler O M R W Gillespie 25 5 102 0 Mills 24 6 64 3 O'Brien 15 4 46 1 Vettori 25 7 56 6 Franklin 15 2 61 0

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

How b Powell 10 McIntosh not out 24 Mills b Powell 0 Flynn not out 4 Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-1) 6 Total: (For 2 wts in 10 overs) 44

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-33

Bowler O M R W Edwards 5 0 22 0 Powell 5 0 17 2

Nielsen keeps it up

CRICINFO, undated

Australia's coach Tim Nielsen has continued to needle South Africa ahead of the first Test, which starts at the WACA on Wednesday.

Nielsen raised the ire of his South Africa counterpart Mickey Arthur earlier this month when he said the visitors had been talking themselves up and Nielsen has admitted his comments were intended to unsettle the visitors.

"It's about us making sure that when people come to Australia, they can't just walk into here and expect to have it all their own way," Nielsen said after Australia arrived in Perth on Sunday.

"We haven't lost here for a long period of time. That's because we've played good, hard, aggressive cricket and we really do fight hard to maintain our standing in our own country."

"We enjoy playing in front of our own crowds, we love putting on a good show and entertaining the people, especially at this time of the year when people are on holidays. What better thing to do than to come to the cricket and watch Australia win?"

Australia have not lost a Test series at home since they were beaten by Richie Richardson's West Indies in 1992-93 and South Africa have won only one Test in Australia since their readmission. Nielsen said Australia, the No. 1-ranked team, would remain tough for South Africa to beat despite losing some of their aura over the past couple of seasons.

"I've been quite interested in how much they've been commenting on what we've been saying," Nielsen said. "We've just been answering questions. We protect our own backyard very strongly ... you'd expect us to do well here. That's the challenge ahead of South Africa at the moment, to come into our backyard and play well enough to beat us."

Australia are yet to announce a starting line-up with the only query being whether the offspinner Jason Krejza would win selection ahead of the all-rounder Shane Watson. Despite playing only one limited-overs match for Tasmania since rolling his ankle nearly three weeks ago, Krejza is the more likely choice as Australia seek a balanced attack.

"Last year we found out the wicket dried out pretty quickly over the week

leading up to the Test and it's forecast to be pretty warm weather over the next few days," Nielsen said. "All those things add up to [Krejza] being a real possibility. At this stage, we've just arrived and we'll get our head around the whole thing when we see it tomorrow morning."

"[Krejza's preparation] is probably not ideal. It would have been brilliant for him to bowl in Adelaide, had a really good Test match and bowled for Australia in Australian conditions. He bowled the other night in Adelaide in the Ford Ranger Cup game and got some overs in, which is nice."

"He's been training hard, he's felt no side-effects from the injury to his ankle. At the moment he's probably not much worse off than he would have been if he was 12th man in the last Test, for example. We feel pretty comfortable with where he's at."

Watson played all four Tests on the recent tour of India when Symonds was not available for selection and retained his spot alongside Symonds for the first Test against New Zealand at the Gabba. Nielsen said Watson's best chance of returning to the Test team was as an extra seamer if conditions suited, rather than as a replacement for Symonds at No. 6.

V-Day v'ball from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The two-day Pepsi Victory Day volleyball tournament will kick off this morning at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium.

Six services teams split into two groups will compete in the event, sponsored by Transcom Beverages.

Defending two-time champions Bangladesh Navy are pitted against nine-time winners Bangladesh Rifles and Fire Service in Group A while Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Police make the other group.

The final between the two group winners is scheduled for 3pm tomorrow.

BFF to honour

FROM PAGE 17

Rahman, K N Nawsherruzzaman, Subhash Saha, Fazle Hossain Khokon, Abul Hakim, Taslimuddin Sheikh, Aminul Islam, Abdul Momin Joarder, Moniruzzaman Pearsa, Sattar, Pran Govinda Kundu, Mujibur Rahman, Khondokar Nurunnabi, Lutfar Rahman, Arunndha Chatterjee, Sanjit Kumar Dey, Mahmudur Rashid, Saidur Rahman Patel, Dewan Sirajuddin and Nihar Kanti Das, Tanvir Mazhar Tanna (manager), Nani Basak (coach).

Barca clinch

FROM PAGE 17

saves in the opening period, the most notable from Victor Valdes, advancing on Drenthe after Raul had played the quick Dutchman through. Madrid had kept Eto'o relatively incognito until La Liga's leading scorer whipped a volley just over the bar soon after the interval. With 20 minutes left Eto'o then had the opportunity to score against his former club. Awarded a penalty when Michel Salgado impeded Sergi Busquets, Eto'o drove it hard to Casilla's left. The goalkeeper parried, but Eto'o later made amends.

Chennai Test on

FROM PAGE 17

Africa, the current India coach, in scoring two hundreds in a Test on Indian soil.

"It was a big moment for me," said the 31-year-old Middlesex opener. "It was a difficult situation and so it was even more satisfying."

Strauss said he was confident England could win on Monday despite Sehwag's hurricane start.

"Virus played an exceptional innings," he said. "He is pretty exciting to watch when you are not from the opposing team."

"He has given India a sniff of victory but we are confident we can take nine wickets. A lot is happening on this wicket and we need to keep our patience and hold our chances."

"India have experienced campaigners who have been there, done that. Dravid and (Sachin) Tendulkar will be important wickets for us."

Strauss and Collingwood, who came together on Saturday evening with England struggling at 43-3, hammered 214 for the fourth wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between England and India at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings 316 (Strauss 123, Cook 52, Prior 53 not out; Harbhajan 3-96, Mishra 3-99)

INDIA: First innings 241 (Dhoni 53, Harbhajan 40; Flintoff 3-49, Panesar 3-65)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 172-3)

Strauss c Laxman b Harbhajan 108 Cook c Dhoni b Sharma 9 Bell c Gambhir b Mishra 7 Pietersen lbw b Yuvraj 1 Collingwood lbw b Zaheer 108 Flintoff c Dhoni b Sharma 4 Prior c Sehwag b Sharma 33 Swann b Zaheer 7

Harmison b Zaheer 1 Anderson not out 1 Extras: (b-10, lb-13, nb-7, w-2) 32 Total: (For 9 wts declared in 105.5 overs) 311

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-42, 3-43, 4-257, 5-262, 6-277, 7-297, 8-301, 9-311

Bowler O M R W Zaheer 27 7 40 3 Sharma 22.5 1 57 3 Mishra 17 1 66 1 Yuvraj 3 1 12 1 Harbhajan 30 3 91 1 Sehwag 6 0 22 0

INDIA: Second innings (target 387)

Gambhir not out 41 Sehwag lbw b Swann 83 Dravid not out 2 Extras: (b-3, lb-2) 5 Total: (For 1 wkt in 29 overs) 131

Fall of wicket: 1-117

Bowler O M R W Harmison 4 0 33 0 Anderson 2 0 15 0 Panesar 7 1 36 0 Flintoff 8 1 15 0 Swann 8 0 27 1

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 34 Noshed 54 'Undeni- 11 Vanna's 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55

DOWN 1 Oil cartel 2 Sax eagle 3 Libertine 4 Use a wok hearing 5 Former of Houston 6 Hearty Europe, maybe 7 Ship's debris 32 Together 33 Wind-flower 35 Resort 36 Performance 37 Persistent 38 Dweeb 39 Mystical lettering 42 Potent 43 Rani's wrap 44 Stepped hard (on) 45 Potent stick 46 CSA soldier 48 Needle feature

Solution time: 25 mins.

ACROSS 1 Galley supply 5 Lummock 8 Casino currency 12 Conspire (against) 13 Under the weather 14 Actress 15 Ornamental bag 16 Zodiac cat 17 Family member 18 Achieve by threats 20 Reedy 22 First Civil War battle site 26 32- Across' band 29 Vacillate 30 Infuriate 31 Green-eyed monster 32 Rocker Morrison 33 King of Siam's friend

DOWN 2 Former ugly duckling 41 Maximum 45 General-ogy 47 Olympic perfection 49 Actor Sharif 50 Approach 51 Caustic chemical 52 Pianist 53 Recipe meas.

CRYPTOQUIP

UEIC WDLIDCI FVGIW
BOGHFOA AIFPIW OC OUYTA
ADF, H ZTIWW VDT LHZEF
BOAA EHL O WEHYFV GIPWDC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC SONG ABOUT SOMEBODY'S FRENCH FRIEND VIEWED UNDER A NIGHTTIME GLOW: "MOON OVER MY AMI"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T