Gayle keeps it alive

Cricket

AFP, *Napier*

West Indies captain Chris Gayle made a timely return to the century ranks Monday to ensure a final day showdown in the second Test against New Zealand at McLean Park here.

Gayle, unbeaten on 146 -- his first century from 24 Tests in three years -- provided more than half of the West Indies total as they ended the fourth day at 278 for seven in their second innings, for an overall lead of 214.

New Zealand felt in with a chance to end the West Indies innings before the final day when they had the tourists at 106 for four.

But they were thwarted by a valuable 124-run stand for the fifth wicket by Gayle and Australian-born Brendan Nash.

With no Shivnarine Chanderpaul to rely on after the world's most prolific batsman in the past two years fell on the first ball, Gayle and Nash dug in to bring the West Indies back into the Test.

Gayle started in fiery form, but became more watchful as his century neared, spending 15 overs in the 90s.

On 99 he offered one of his few chances when he played upishly to midwicket and the ball fell just short of Daniel Flynn.

He then offered a chance going for his 100 when he stopped in the middle of the pitch and had second thoughts about the run before he saw Jeetan Patel misfield at point and he was able to get home for his century.

By the close of play he had been at the wicket for nearly five-and-a-half hours in an innings that included 13 fours and six sixes.

For the West Indies, survival through the day mattered most. They only scored 216 runs in the three sessions but ensured they would go into the fifth day with three wickets to build a demanding chase for New Zealand.

Nash, in only his second Test, provided valuable support for Gayle as they stayed together for 55 overs, batting right through the middle session.

The partnership was broken soon after when a James Franklin bouncer clipped Nash on the gloves and went straight to Jamie How at second slip.

It was desperately needed stand for the West Indies after an early collapse when they lost two wickets on 106, which included the first-ball dismissal of Chanderpaul.

After resuming the day at 62 for two, Gayle and Xavier Marshall raced past the 100 mark before Patel made his breakthrough.

He had Marshall caught at first slip by Ross Taylor for 18, three balls after the same batsman had been dropped by gloveman Brendon McCullum.

Then with Patel's next ball, a full toss he would not be proud of, Chanderpaul attempted to find runs down the leg-side but instead miscued and sent the ball straight back to the bowler for the simplest of catches.

The player ranked the world's best cricketer was back in the pavilion for a golden duck after batting through the first innings for an unbeaten 126.

Franklin, who had been kept out of the attack for most of the day, followed up his dismissal of Nash by removing Denesh Ramdin for six when the batsman flashed at a wide delivery and was caught at point by Flynn.

Iain O'Brien claimed the third wicket to fall in the final session. He first upset Jerome Taylor with a a short-pitched ball that caught him on the grill and then fired a full length delivery which trapped him leg before wicket.

Patel has the best bowling figures for New Zealand with three for 83 and Franklin has two for 40.

Going into the final day New Zealand, with three wickets still to get before they can start their run chase, have only one referral left under the trial system where a side has three chances to contest an umpire's decision.

Vettori questioned two leg before wicket chances but both were turned down by the third umpire.

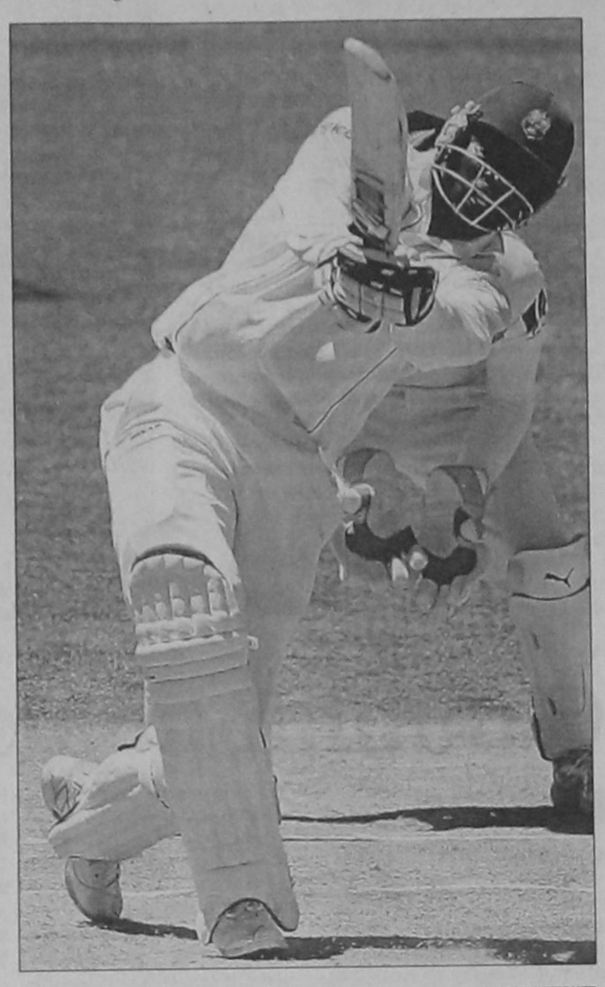

PHOTO: INTERNET

West Indies captain Chris Gayle takes the aerial route during his blazing unbeaten 144 against New Zealand on the fourth day of the second Test at the McLean Park in Napier yesterday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between New Zealand and the West Indies at McLean Park on Monday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 307 (Chanderpaul 126 not out., Nash 74; O'Brien 6-75)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 364 (McIntosh 136, Flynn 57, Ryder 57; Edwards 7-87)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 2-62)

Gayle not out	146
Chattergoon c Taylor b Patel	25
Sarwan lbw Vettori	1
Marshall c Taylor b Patel	18
Chanderpaul c & b Patel	0
Nash c How b Franklin	65
Ramdin c Flynn b Franklin	6
Taylor lbw O'Brien	8
Edwards not out	1
Extras: (lb-1, w-1, nb-6)	8
Total: (For 7 wkts in 115 overs)	278

To bat: Benn, Powell.

Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-61, 3-106, 4-106, 5-230, 6-252, 7-272.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
O'Brien	20	2	64	1
Mills	6	1	21	0
Patel	35	13	83	3
Vettori	42	19	69	1
Franklin	12	2	40	2

Biman widen gap

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman widened the gap to one point atop the Dutch-Bangla Bank First Division Chess League table after routing Madaripur Chess Club 4-0 yesterday.

Biman, whose lead was by half a point after the previous round, extended their collection to 30.5 points after the eighth round at the Chess Federation hall-room.

Destiny 2000 remained second after a 3.5-05 win over Leonine Chess Club after both had started level on 26 points.

In other matches, Pritam-Prism blanked I2 Soft Solution 4-0, Titas beat Friends 3.5-0.5, Sultana Kamal SP beat Farashganj 3.5-0.5, Overseas School of Chess beat Faith 3.5-0.5, Dhaka Metropolitan drew with Air Destiny while Dhaka University also shared points with Mohakhali Pradip Sangha.

Ayami bags women's singles title

SPORTS REPORTER

Ayami clinched the women's singles title of the Popular Pharmaceuticals Victory Day tennis tournament defeating her BKSP teammate Echo 6-0, 6-1 in the final at the Ramna National tennis Complex yesterday.

Amol Roy and Ranjan Ram beat Omar Rashid and Arjuna Fernando 6-2, 6-0 to set a final clash against Dipu Lal and Alamgir Hossain, who ousted Anwar Hossain and Mofazzal Hossain 6-4, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

The men's doubles and boys' under finals will be held today.

Dashara ride on Lal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Manikganj*

A sparkling all-round display by Lal helped Dashara Palli Mangal Samity defeat New Star Club by 40 runs in the opening match of the Victory Day T20 cricket competition at the Government Devendra College playground in Manikganj yesterday.

Batting first, Dashara were all out for 141 in 18.3 overs. Lal top scored with 30 and Kajal added 27 while Roman took three wickets and Monir and Ujjal two each for New Star, who made only 101 for nine in 20 overs.

Ujjal made 35 and Rubel 16 while Lal captured four wickets and Obaidur three for the winners.

Earlier, Manikganj Police Superintendent Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hasan inaugurated the 7-team competition.

Epic Tests make T20 tepid

Cricket

AYAZ MEMON

Two riveting matches played over the past two weeks may have given Test cricket under serious threat from Twenty20 for spectator and sponsor approval the kiss of life it so badly needs.

India chased down 387 breezily on a wearing Chennai pitch to stymie England's victory bid last week. Perhaps even more sensationally, South Africa beat Australia at Perth on Sunday by making a whopping target of 414 seem like a stroll in the woods.

While both India and South Africa won by six wickets respectively, the margin of victory does not quite reveal the intrigue and drama, the absorbing ebb and flow of fortune that defined every hour, every day of these two contests. What emerged from these was not just extraordinary performances and results, but perhaps also a new ethos for Test cricket in the 21st century.

When Don Bradman's Invincibles had incredibly chased 404 in the fourth innings against England in 1948, it seemed that record would stand the test of time. It did, for 28 years, till India made 406 to beat the West Indies in 1976. In the past 15 years, however, 400-plus fourth innings targets have been knocked down successfully twice (West Indies versus Australia in 2003, and South Africa on Sunday), not to mention a host of other stiff 300-plus targets, including India's win over England at Chennai which was the fourth best of all-time.

Nine of the 25 highest run chases have come since 2000, statistics reveal, which clearly shows a skew or trend. Significantly, the ratio of results to draws has also shown a dramatic upswing in the past decade. Indeed, this year has been the best ever (yet, since the outcome of three Tests is still awaited) with 34 out of 43 matches yielding results.

What explains this? Inclusion of weak teams like Zimbabwe and Bangladesh has obviously boosted the over all results tally, but it is also true that in the 'upper echelons' of the game the contest between players and teams has become keener, often spectacular. Better quality willow has obviously made batting that much easier, but bowling skills have surely not diminished if you consider that some of the highest wicket-takers with fantastic strike rates are all from this era: Shane Warne, Muttiah Muralitharan, Anil Kumble, Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Glen McGrath, Shaun Pollock, Allan Donald to name a few.

Moreover, fielding standards have reached astonishing levels too, so batsmen don't enjoy too much advantage as assumed.

What has clearly changed is the mindset of players. Modern cricket, and especially in this millennium, is being defined more by adventurism and opportunism than conservatism. Rewards of money and fame have grown dramatically, leading to greater expression of both individuality and collective excellence.

Time-held game theories are being turned on their head as captains and players experiment and improvise to win one-on-one battles, sessions of play, and through these also matches. The derring-do necessitated by one-day and Twenty20 cricket, to be fair, has also contributed substantially in cricketers 'opening up' to challenge old dictums. The new one could be a line borrowed from a commercial: Impossible is nothing.

Meanwhile, the fact that Australia have now lost two successive Tests at Perth, considered the graveyard for touring teams, apart form a 0-2 hiding in India, has busted their aura of invincibility and Test cricket now heads for perhaps its most exciting phase in the New Year with four or five teams believing that they could be numero uno.

Whether all this can resurrect Test cricket to pristine position is a moot question, but for those who cherish such cricketing values, the magic is still alive.

(The article was taken from the DNA website)

Gambhir holds India

FROM PAGE 17

after play began two hours late due to dense winter fog over this northern town.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh claimed three of those wickets to finish with four for 68, while left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan took one, for an innings total of three for 76.

Harbhajan has now claimed 63 wickets in this calendar year, second only to South African paceman Dale Steyn's tally of 64.

India grabbed England's last six wickets for 22 runs after skipper Kevin Pietersen's 144 and Flintoff's 62 had lifted the tourists to 280-4 on Sunday.

Yuvraj admitted any chance of a result on Tuesday will depend on the weather.

Harbhajan broke through in Monday's third over when he had Prior caught down the leg-side by captain and wicketkeeper Mahendra Dhoni.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between England and India at the Punjab Cricket Association ground in Mohali on Monday:

INDIA: First innings 453 (Gambhir 179, Dravid 136; Flintoff 3-54, Swann 3-122, Panesar 2-89)

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 282-6)

Strauss lbw b Zaheer	0
Cook lbw b Zaheer	50
Bell b Sharma	1
Pietersen lbw b Harbhajan	144
Collingwood c Dhoni b Mishra	11
Flintoff c Gambhir b Mishra	62
Anderson not out	8
Prior c Dhoni b Harbhajan	2
Broad b Harbhajan	1
Swann b Zaheer	3
Panesar c Gambhir b Harbhajan	5
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-6, w-1)	15
Total: (All out in 83.5 overs)	302

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-1, 3-104, 4-131, 5-280, 6-282, 7-285, 8-290, 9-293, 10-302.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	21	3	76	3
Sharma	12	0	55	1
Yuvraj	6	1	20	0
Harbhajan	20.5	2	68	4
Mishra	24	0	75	2

INDIA: Second innings

Gambhir not out	44
Sehwag run out	17
Dravid b Broad	0
Tendulkar c Swann b Anderson	5
Laxman run out	15
Yuvraj not out	39
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-2, w-5)	14
Total: (For four wkts in 50 overs)	134

To bat: Dhoni, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Mishra, Sharma.

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-36, 3-44, 4-80.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	15	8	32	1
Broad	11	2	22	1
Flintoff	9	1	16	0
Swann	8	2	20	0
Panesar	7	0	37	0

Gibbs makes a comeback

CRICINFO, *undated*

South Africa have recalled Herschelle Gibbs as well as naming three new players in their 15-man squad for the two Twenty20 internationals and five ODIs in Australia. Lonwabo Tsotsobe, who is already on tour with the Test team, will be joined by Wayne Parnell and Vaughn van Jaarsveld, all looking for their international debuts.

Gibbs, who was dropped from the one-day squad to take on Bangladesh at home, after breaking a team curfew, makes his return along with Makhaya Ntini, who was overlooked for the two previous home series against Kenya and Bangladesh in October-November.

At the age of 34, Gibbs's international future had been in doubt prior to this recall. Monde Zondeki, Johann Louw and Justin Ontong have failed to make the cut.

ODI & T20 SQUAD

Graeme Smith (captain), Johan Botha (vice-captain), Hashim Amla, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Albie Morkel, Morne Morkel, Makhaya Ntini, Wayne Parnell, Dale Steyn, Lonwabo Tsotsobe, Vaughn van Jaarsveld.

Barca edge

FROM PAGE 20

convincing 4-1 win over Recreativo Huelva.

Bottom-placed Osasuna produced the biggest surprise as they fired five goals past a Getafe side who had come to Pamplona in a rich vein of form to win 5-2.

Numancia looked down and out having gone 3-1 down to Valladolid but managed an inspiring comeback to win 3-4.

Jose Barkero scored the opening goal for Numancia before Valladolid responded through a Henok Goitom brace and another from Vivar Dorado.

Numancia did not give up though scoring late goals from Javier Del Pino, Carlos Aranda and Gorka Brit.

Racing drew 1-1 with Mallorca with Juan Valera equalising in the second half after Nabil Baha had put the visitors ahead, while Sporting Gijon beat Almeria through a Francisco Maldonado strike.

In the final match of the weekend, Javi Martinez's 43rd minute goal meant Athletic Bilbao had a 1-0 away victory against Real Betis in a mid-table battle.

Barisal stay alive

FROM PAGE 17

half-century was not good enough for Rajshahi to overcome a first innings hurdle as the visitors fell only four runs short to concede the lead.

Shuvo struck the team highest 55 off 111 balls that contained seven fours while a number of top order batsmen got start but failed to get a big one. Sabbir Rahman made the team's second highest 44 which came from only 37 balls with the help of seven boundaries.

Robiul was the pick among the Khulna bowlers as the right-arm pacer took five for 68 while Dollar Mahmud claimed three wickets for 52 runs.

At the end Shuvo made it his day when the left-arm spinner dismissed both the openers as Khulna were reduced to 72-3.

SYLHET-CHITTAGONG

Masumudowlla converted his overnight half-century to a hundred as Chittagong put up an impressive 382 runs after resuming the day on 278 for five. During his unbeaten 120-run knock the right-hander smote eleven boundaries in 250 balls.

Monir Hossain and Golam Mowla equally shared six wickets.

Golam Rahman and Imtiaz Hossain however showed their nerves to give Sylhet a platform. Rahman was not out on 55 and Imtiaz accompanied him with 63 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

KHULNA: First innings 255-9 dec and second innings 72-3 in 25 overs (Sadat 23, Robiul 27, Sahagir 15, Shakil 6*, extra 1; Shuvo 2-16, Sabbir 1-7).

RAJSHAHI: First innings (overnight 7-0) 251 all out in 63.2 overs (Jahurul 15, Hamidul 24, Shakil 0, Shuvo 55, Mashud 38, Anisur 38, Sabbir 44, Mushfiqur 3, Alamgir 5, Delwar 6, Safiul 0 not out, extras 23; Robiul 5-68, Aslam 1-33, Dollar 3-52, Sadat 1-15).

BARISAL: First innings 125 and second innings 111-2 in 32 overs (Rony 67*, Faruque 0, Hannan 38, Imran 0*, extras 6; Ashraful 1-30, Marshal 1-1).

DHAKA: First innings (overnight 43-3) 175 all out in 60.2 overs (Javed 62, Shamsur 22, Elias 0, Marshall 6, Iftekhar 0, Riyad 14, Nadif 19, Sunny 5, Anamul 23, Kabir 1, Ashraful 0 not out, extras 23; Talha 3-67, Arafat 3-18, Nasir 3-22, Tariqul 1-44).

CHITTAGONG: First innings (overnight 278-5) 382 all out in 137 overs (Ashraful 27, Rashedur 21, Rezaul 81, Tariq 27, Masum 120 not out, Arman 41, Sajjadul 32, Yasin 15, Rubel 0, Kamrul 7, Younus 0, extras 11; Sumon 1-76, Monir 3-97, Mowla 3-64, Imtiaz 2-22).

SYLHET: 121-0 in 32 overs (Rahman 55*, Imtiaz 63*, extras 3).

NCL one-dayers

FROM PAGE 17

with Barisal at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium and Dhaka will face Chittagong at BKSP in the opening day's fixtures.

On the following day, Barisal play Khulna at BKSP, Rajshahi meet with Chittagong at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Sylhet take on Dhaka at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Gunners baulk

FROM PAGE 20

Samir Nasri took possession just inside his own half and unfurled a sumptuous long pass towards van Persie. As Daniel Agger and Jamie Carragher dithered, van Persie controlled on his chest, turned away from Carragher and lashed a superb strike past Jose Reina.

The number of phone conversations going on down on the Liverpool bench suggested Benitez, in touch from his sick bed, wasn't a happy man. But he would have been celebrating in front of the television as Liverpool snatched an equaliser against the run of play in the 42nd minute.

Agger's long punt forward should have been dealt with by Johan Djourou, but he allowed the ball to bounce past him and Keane took full advantage, sprinting clear of the Arsenal defender before driving a first-time shot past Almunia.

As if losing control of the match wasn't bad enough, Wenger suffered the added blow of seeing Cesc Fabregas limp off with a knee injury at half-time following a crunching tackle from Xabi Alonso, with Abou Diaby coming on for the Arsenal captain.

Liverpool picked up where they left off before the break and Lucas's powerful shot from the edge of the area forced a fine save from Almunia.

Wenger's side had just begun to build up a little momentum when Adebayor, already on a booking, sent Arbeloa sprawling in the 57th minute. Webb hesitated for a moment, then showed Adebayor a second yellow card to the fury of Wenger and the home fans.

Herath spot on

FROM PAGE 17

10-ball stay scoring just one run.

That the wicket also had the potential of spin was only revealed when Herath cleaned up Rokibul Hasan for 19 in the thirteenth over. The wicket also ended a much-needed 33-run stand between Rokibul and top-scorer Imrul Kayes, who was next man gone in Herath's next over. The left-hander did not expect the ball to bounce that much and was clearly beaten by the 30-year-old bowler.

Kayes scored 26 off 41 balls in an hour-long knock that consisted of four boundaries.

Faisal Hossain was Herath's third wicket and then Mehrab Hossain, the sixth Test batsman of the line-up, top-edged a sweep off the left-armer where Chamara Kapugedera took an easy catch coming in from short fine-leg in the 19th over. That made it seven for 57 and it was looking likely that the visitors wouldn't even have to use the world's top wicket-taker Muralidaran.

Under-19's Saikat Ali and Ashraful Aziz hung around for almost an hour and took the score to 82 before the latter became Muralidaran's first victim for a 33-ball eight. Mohammad Rahi's maiden foray in big time cricket ended with a first-ball duck off Muralidaran.

It was quite apt that Herath took the BCB XI's last wicket when he had Saikat caught at mid-on by Farveez Maharoof for 22 off 52 balls.

SCORECARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the practice match between BCB XI and the Sri Lankans at BKSP on Monday:

BCB XI: First innings

Kayes b Herath	26
Nafis lbw b Vaas	0
Rajin b Prasad	1
Rokibul b Herath	19
Faisal b Herath	4
Mehrab c Kapugedara b Herath	3
Mithun c Warnapura b Herath	0
Saikat c Maharoof b Herath	22
Ashraful lbw Muralidaran	8
Rahi b Muralidaran	0
Shahadat not out	0
Extras: (b 5)	5
Total: (All out in 34.1 overs)	88

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-14, 3-47, 4-54, 5-55, 6-57, 7-57, 8-82, 9-82, 10-88.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	6	2	18	1
Prasad	7	2	32	1
Herath	11.1	4	16	6
Maharoof	5	1	11	2
Muralidaran	5	2	6	2

Sri Lankans: First innings

Vandort not out	17
Warnapura b Tariq	0
Kapugedera b Shahadat	0
Jayawardene not out	14
Extras: (lb 1, nb 3, w 1)	5
Total: (For two wickets in 19 overs)	36

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-3

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahadat	6	3	14	1
Tariq	7	3	10	1
Saikat	4	2	7	0
Nabil	2	1	4	0

Late strikes rescue

FROM PAGE 17

The skilful Manjurul then tottered an otherwise unstable Brothers backline when he dribbled past three defenders midway through the second half but an outrushing goalkeeper Zia saved the weak placing shot.

SThe tourists kept up the pressure and Tarikul, who replaced Shaik in the 77th minute, headed home after his teammate Manjurul failed to meet a right-side centre by Ashiqul but did enough to disrupt the concentration of Zia.

One minute later, Khulna Abahani got a golden chance to kill Brothers but Pikul fluffed a one-on-one situation. It was Manjurul, attacking down the left, who squared the ball at right to unmarked Pikul who got inside the area but shot onto the wall of Zia.

Brothers woke up and Matiur Munna's across-the-field pass found Henry unguarded at the right side of the box. The Ghanaian, who scored twice in the previous match, took his time and fired a bumpy and angular drive into the far post, defying a diving Nahid, in the 84th minute.

National captain Munna was then involved in a combined attack with Rikto, Henry and Divine down the left and the midfielder delivered the final pass for Shakil who pounced home from close to make it 3-1 in the 89th minute, the same scoreline in favour of the Gopibagh side in the two sides' first-leg match in Khulna.

Brothers moved within one point of leaders Abahani, who are atop on 23 points, while Khulna Abahani, who have now lost ten matches in a row since their 3-1 victory against Muktijoddha in the opening round, stuck to three points.

Red card: Arup (Brothers)

Yellow cards: Nafiz, Selim (Khulna Abahani)

TEAMS

Brothers: Zia, Ashraful (Akram), Ariful, Mishu, Arup, Divine, Shakil, Munna, Parvez (Rikto), Liton and Henry.

Khulna Abahani: Foyez (Nahid), Shaik (Tarikul), Ranjit, Shahin, Nafiz, Milton, Ashiqul, Selim (Emeka), Saifullah, Pikul and Manjurul.

Bordeaux go

FROM PAGE 20

Argentinian Fernando Cavanaghi the hero of the hour bagging the decider in the closing seconds.

Marseille were undone by a Youssouf Hadji first half double with Issiar Dia adding further misery in the 56th minute for mid-table Nancy's sixth win of the campaign.

Up in the French capital PSG were unable to follow up their heroics on Thursday when they thumped Dutch side FC Twente 4-0 to book their place in the UEFA Cup last 32.

Paul Le Guen's in-form team were seeking their sixth success in seven outings but could not overcome a determined Valenciennes side who came back twice to take a share of the spoils.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

1 Mischief-maker
4 Bird that lays green eggs
7 Rhino's cousin
12 Atl. state
13 PC-sharing setup
14 Unaccompanied
15 Greek vowel
16 Tour de France activity
18 Hindu title
19 Apportion
20 Bustle
22 "A mouse!"
23 Rams fans?
27 Frenzied
29 Cassandra Peterson's stage name
31 Belly-button
34 Arts supporter
35 Slow passage
37 Announcer Pardo
38 Poet Pound
39 Air-pressure meas.
41 Hearty drink
45 Hot spot at a spa
47 Chromosome component
48 Eco-friendly activity
52 Hill dweller
53 Old market place
54 Afternoon social
55 Ball-bearing item
56 "The Planets" composer
57 Blunder
58 Store-front sign abbr.

DOWN

1 That is (Lat.)
2 Paris subway
3 Tartan pattern
4 Exile isle
5 Sent via the USPS
6 Quitter's cry
7 Diplomacy
8 The whole enchilada
9 Luau bowlful
10 B&B
11 — U.S. Pat. Off.
17 Oxen's burden
21 The end
23 Cowgirl Dale
24 Minn. neighbor
25 Before
26 Frivolous one, in song
28 Will Smith biopic
30 Author Buscaglia
31 Dundee denial
32 Wood-shaping tool
33 Kin of: alt sp.
36 Milky gemstone
37 Main meal
40 Hotel accommodation
42 Ire
43 Central
44 Microsoft founder
45 "Begone!"
46 Culture medium
48 "Hurray!"
49 Id counterpart
50 Army rank (Abbr.)
51 Decade parts (abbr.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP

FBVSVUVC K QI KS OI ZVWIHKO R D F V V M P D G B V G M H . V U V C D Y I Z D M V V W H P I I M K S Q T O R V F K O B Y T S M H O T C V H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A ROMANTIC COUPLE FROM WARSAW END UP GETTING SEPARATED, YOU MIGHT SAY THEY ARE POLES APART.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals E