SPORT

Zimbabwe crush Kenya

AFP, Mombasa

Zimbabwe beat Kenya by 151 runs in the second one-day international match here on Thursday to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE: 351-7 off 50 overs (Matsikenyeri 90, Chigumbura 68, Waller 63) KENYA: 200 all out off 45.1 overs (Tikolo 56; Dabengwa 2-21, Cremer 2-40)

Symonds fined for McCullum remarks

BBC ONLINE, Sydney

Australia all-rounder Andrew Symonds has been fined 4,000 Australian dollars by Cricket Australia over a remark he made in a radio interview.

He swore while making a disparaging comment about New Zealand wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum.

Symonds pleaded guilty to a breach of Cricket Australia's code of conduct and was punished at a disciplinary commission hearing.

The 33-year-old had already issued an apology to McCullum for the comment.

Symonds was ruled out of the current one-day series against South Africa after having knee surgery.

He is set to return to action for Queensland in the Sheffield Shield on Friday, with the hope of being included for Australia's tour to South Africa, which comprises three Tests, two Twenty20 internationals and five oneday internationals, and starts in February.

Symonds, who has played in 26 Tests and 193 one-day internationals, has a history of off-field disciplinary problems.

He was dropped for two ODIs on Australia's tour of England in 2005 after a highprofile drinking session.

In August 2008, he was sent home from a one-day squad after missing a team meeting to go fishing.

Then in November he had to issue an apology after he went out drinking with members of the Australian rugby league side and was involved in an incident at a Brisbane hotel.

Two referrals per innings

CRICINFO, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reduced the number of reviews available to a team from three unsuccessful reviews per innings to two during the Test series between England and West Indies in February.

Earlier, each team was allowed three unsuccessful reviews per innings and the reduction was based on feedback from players and match officials. If the modification works successfully in the Caribbean, it will also be trialled in the Tests between Australia and South Africa

later in February. Once the two series are finished, the review system will be appraised, and the merits of using or discarding it will be debated by the ICC's

cricket committee in May. "That is why we have made this refinement to it," Lorgat said. "It has become clear during the trial so far that three unsuccessful reviews per innings are too many as there is potential for frivolous or unnecessary reviews to be made by one side or the other. We are testing different playing conditions so that we can find the best one and give the trial every chance of succeeding. We listen to feedback and we have been hearing that two is a preferred option.'

Dido to focus

FROM PAGE 17 Bangladesh have been made hosts of the qualifying Group A where they are pitted against Myanmar, Cambodia and winners of the Macau-Mongolia pre-

qualifiers. "It is a fantastic thing to happen to us. I also think the draw is very favourable for us as we have already played against Myanmar twice last year including a draw at their home soil. The others are also not very big and I believe they are beatable.

"If it happens in front of the home crowd, it will be a boost for

the domestic scene also." The winners of four qualifying groups and the best runnersup will join Challenge Cup holders India, Tajikistan and North Korea in the 2010 Challenge Cupfinals.



Bangladesh Football Federation's women wing chairman Sirajul Islam Bachchu (C) addresses a press conference in connection with the launching of the first-ever National Women's Football Championship at the BFF Bhaban yesterday. The competition involving 25 teams commences at four venues across the country today.

ICL on ICC agenda

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) board meets in Perth on Saturday with the key item on its agenda being an application for recognition from the Indian Cricket League

However, the issue is unlikely to reach a resolution over the weekend; it is learnt the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will once again dig in its heels and continue to back a ban on the unauthorised Twenty20 venture.

The board members will also discuss preparations for the Champions Trophy to be held in September, an internal report on Zimbabwe and international fixtures after 2012.

The ICL issue, however, may not dominate discussions as previously expected, considering the BCCI's hardline position. "Our position on ICL remains the same," a top BCCI official told Cricinfo. "We see no reason for that to change."

Debate over the ICL gathered pace this week after the Pakistan Cricket Board received a legal notice against a domestic ban it had imposed on players associated with the private league. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) had, under the previous administration last year, allowed five of its ICLlinked players to participate in a domestic

The ICL's request for recognition is based on an ICC rule that allows matches of an 'exhibition/testimonial' nature to be granted approval directly by the world body. However, the BCCI

and other national boards are firm that such permission cannot be granted in this case without the home board's approval.

The ICC subsequently formed a fivemember working group to study the rules that govern official and unofficial cricket. This group, including Shashank Manohar, the BCCI president, Giles Clarke, the ECB chairman, and Lalit Modi, the IPL chairman, has since prepared a set of draft regulations that includes stricter norms, especially on unofficial cricket.

The ICC board members will also discuss the way forward for international cricket after the current Future Tours Programme (FTP) gets over in three years. India and England have already opposed a proposal from Australia that the Future Tours Programme (FTP) be replaced by a Test Championship.

Preparations for the Champions Trophy this year will be the other key subject of discussion over the weekend. The tournament is scheduled to be held from September 24 to October 5 in Pakistan, subject to a security clearance. The event was originally scheduled to be held last year in the same country but was postponed after ICC members expressed concerns about the then security situation there.

The executive will also consider a report from an ICC panel, headed by Julian Hunte, the West Indies cricket board chief, on Zimbabwe following his visit last November which was conducted against the background of the cholera outbreak and the continuing breakdown of the economy. Peter Chingoka, the Zimbabwe Cricket chairman, won't be at the meeting after he refused to apply for a visa to enter Australia.

Afghans brighten chance

Cricket

AFP, Buenos Aires

Afghanistan boosted their World Cup qualifying bid on Wednesday with an impressive eightwicket win over World Cricket League Division Three leaders Papua New Guinea in a game

wrapped up before lunch. PNG, who had won all of their opening three games, were bowled out for a paltry 94 with Hamid Hassan taking 3-26.

A quickfire fifty from man-of-the-match Karim Khan helped Afghanistan to their target with 36.2 overs to spare.

"I am very proud that I captained my country, took six catches and scored a fifty. I am also pleased we have helped our net run rate and hopefully we go out and win on Friday (against

the Cayman Islands)," said Karim. "It's my dream to get my very poor country to the World Cup. All of our people want to watch our country play in the tournament and

watch the games live on television." The top two teams in the league will go through to April's World Cup qualifier in South

Papua New Guinea chose to bat first, despite the fact overnight rain had meant the wicket was extremely bowler friendly in the humid, overcast conditions.

It may have been a decision they were soon regretting after collapsing to 29-4 before stum-

bling to 94 all out off 31 overs.

With net run-rate likely to come into contention on Friday's final day of group matches, Afghanistan played in typically aggressive fashion and Karim's 50, off 43 balls, including eight fours, was just what they needed.

Two wickets by Ronald Ssemanda in the final over against Hong Kong handed Uganda a dramatic one-run win to leave three teams sit level on six points.

Needing just 21 runs for victory, with five wickets in hand and 27 balls remaining, Hong Kong looked all set for victory, after an 84-run third-wicket partnership from Butt Hussain (52) and Manoj Cheruparambil (51).

But inspired bowling from Kenneth Kamyuka (4-21) and Ssemanda (3-40) created a memorable finish.

With just three runs required in the final over, Ssemanda dismissed Zain Abbas (35), before Jamie Atkinson was trapped lbw.

Earlier in the day, Roger Mukasa's 67 provided the foundation for Uganda's 180 all out, with Moner Ahmed the pick of the bowlers with 4-30.

"We were cruising and then all of a sudden we lost five wickets for 19 runs. We weren't quite good enough," said Hong Kong coach Aftab

Habib. In the day's other game, Cayman Islands beat Argentina by 6 wickets to condemn the hosts to relegation.

In Friday's matches, Argentina play Uganda, PNG faces Hong Kong, while Afghanistan take on the Cayman Islands.

Broad's no to IPL

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, London

England fast bowler Stuart Broad has turned down the chance to take part in the Indian

Premier League (IPL). The 22-year-old is England's highest-ranked one-day bowler and could have earned a sixfigure sum if signed by one of the eight franchise

But he has decided not to enter his name in the

auction which takes place in Goa on February 6. Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff head a list of 13 England players hoping to land IPL deals.

Hugh Morris, the managing director of the England team, said: "We've got a very important summer ahead of us with the Twenty20 and the Ashes and this is a decision Stuart has made and we must respect that.

"Players will prepare in different ways for this summer. Stuart has chosen one way and others have chosen another way."

Broad's county coach at Nottinghamshire, Mick Newell, added: "Stuart's main aim is to play a part in the Ashes Tests and he feels that the best preparation for that lies away from the IPL.

"He's a young player and he'll have an opportunity to play in the IPL in the future but he wants a break and turning his back on quick cash for the benefit of his career is a very mature decision."

Broad is not the only England player to decide to give the IPL a miss, with captain Andrew Strauss, former skipper Michael Vaughan, batsman Alastair Cook, as well as wicketkeepers Matt Prior and Tim Ambrose also opting out.

But Pietersen and Flintoff are expected to be two of the highest-paid signings for the second IPL season.

James Anderson, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Steve Harmison, Monty Panesar and Ryan Sidebottom are the other centrally contracted players hoping to take part.

Ravi Bopara, Samit Patel, Owais Shah, Luke Wright and Graeme Swann are the players on incremental contracts, who will be up for auction.

Former England players Darren Gough and Shaun Udal, as well as Kent captain Rob Key and Essex wicketkeeper James Foster, are also reported to be on an unofficial list of players who could take part in this year's competition, along with around 70 players from other countries.

Gough, 38, retired from first-class cricket with Yorkshire in September but should find out on Thursday whether he is on the final list of 50 names for the player auction.

The IPL will run from April 10 to May 29, although the ECB will only allow centrally contracted players to go for three weeks, so they will be back in time for the Lord's Test against the West Indies on May 6.

Players who are unlikely to be part of the Test squad, such as Patel and Wright, would be allowed to stay in India for four weeks. With a limited amount of franchise places available for overseas players in the IPL auction, it is

unlikelyall the England players will be picked up. But Morris is confident that for those who do secure a spot in the IPL it will prove to be a positive experience: "It's very much down to the players It's their choice, the IPL is a fantastic opportunity.

"With the Twenty20 world championship happening in England at the beginning of the summer, it's nice to have the opportunity for some our players to play Twenty 20 cricket. "The players who are going there are going to be playing with and against some of the best

players in the world in what we see as a very

high-profile and very important tournament."

for Amol, Ayami SPORTS REPORTER Top seed Amol Roy and

BKSP's Japanese player Ayami earned double crowns in the Runner Group Tennis tournament which concluded yesterday at the Ramna National Tennis Complex.

Amol clinched the men's singles title beating Dipu Lal 6-2, 6-0 and shared the doubles glory with Ranjan Ram beating Prithul Mondal and Tajmul Islam 6-1, 6-2.

Ayami shocked women's top seed Sathi Sarkar 7-6, 7-6 in a nail-biting singles final before pairing with Sadia to cruise to a 6-0, 6-0 victory in the doubles final against Sathi and Sarda.

Rustam Ali won the boys' (U-14) title while the U-12 boys' trophy went to Delwar.

Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of the sponsors Runner Group of Companies, distributed prizes as chief

TT League

SPORTS REPORTER

Reigning champions Abahani blanked Dhaka Women's Club 3-0 at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium yesterday in the women's competition of the KDS Dhaka Metropolitan Table Tennis League.

Abahani's Soma, Jayati and Rahima won their respective games against Eeti, Shimol and Brishti.

In the senior division super league, joint table-toppers Biman, Sheikh Russel and Palolic won their opening games against Ajax, Armanitola and Wari Club by identical margin of 3-0.

Biman's Anirban, Manash and Ruchi defeated Ajax's Helal, Rana and Bappi while Sheikh Russel's Sougato, Mahbub and Shovon routed Armanitola's Badal, Gautam and Tuhin.

In the last match, Palolic's Soumyajit, Ripon and Shahed outplayed Wari's Tuhin, Anup and Rokin to bring victory to their team.

Clark to miss S Africa tour

BBC ONLINE, Sydney

Seam bowler Stuart Clark will miss Australia's forthcoming tour to South Africa because he is still recovering from surgery on his right elbow.

The 33-year-old sat out the recent home series, which South Africa won 2-1.

And the decision not to consider him for next month's tour means he will not play any more Test cricket before the Ashes tour to England this summer.

Chief selector Andrew Hilditch said they were taking a "conservative approach" to Clark's recovery.

"Stuart hopes to play again for New South Wales at the end of February, a decision that will be made in close consultation with Australian and New South Wales medical staff," he explained.

Abahani

FROM PAGE 17 ABAHANI: 103-3 in 19 overs (Rony 56, Imran 27, extras 8; Bashar 3-19) Result: Abahani won by seven

wickets PARTEX: 106-6 in 20 overs (Arafat 25, Sazzadul 24, extras 16; Salauddin 2-15, Aslam 1-

17, Palash 1-21) VICTORIA: 109-8 in 19.3 overs (Raihan 32, Salahuddin 25, extras 14; Tariq 3-14, Omar 2-

Result: Victoria won by two wickets

MOHAMMEDAN: 130-8 in 20 overs (Rashedul 33, Ayub 23, extras 15; A. Hasan 4-24) OLD DOHS: 115-8 in 20 overs (Ahmed 57, extras 11; Tareq 2-24, Sajidul 2-17) Result: Mohammedan won by

15 runs CITY CLUB: 142-4 in 20 overs (Rasel 55, Hamidul 23, extras 5; Shanto 1-21)

CCS: 136-8 in 20 overs (Uttam 45, Nizamuddin 47, extras 4; Sirajjulah 5-25 Shafaq 2-21) Result: City Club won by six

B K S P: 117-7 in 20 overs

(Saikat 45, Sabir 20, extras 12;

Saklain 4-22) SURJO TORUN: 99 in 19 overs (Hannan 37, extras 1; Mominul 5-19) Result: BKSP won by 18 runs

BIMAN: 159-4 in 20 overs

(Shakib 46, Tushar 37 not out, extras 7; Naeem 2-18, Rubel 1-26, Ashraful 1-36) GAZI TANK: 141-6 in 20 overs (Imrul 28, Nafees 36, Ashraful 31, extras 10; Shakib 2-16,

Abdur Razzak 2-28) Result: Biman won by 18 runs

Dead rubber can win Double crowns Proteas the top rank

Cricket

CRICINFO, Perth

The similarities between today's match at the WACA and the Sydney Test are striking. Both turned into dead rubbers after South Africa claimed the series early and both provided opportunities for South Africa to claim the No. 1 ranking. Australia hope the parallels continue and they take a consolation win and hold onto top spot, as they did at the SCG. South Africa will rest some key players but neither team wants to give their opponent any extra confidence ahead of the return Test and one-day series in South Africa, which begins in a month.

South Africa's victory at Adelaide Oval on Australia Day gave them an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-game contest. It was not the outcome that most observers expected from a one-day side that entered the series as the underdogs, led by the inexperienced captain Johan Botha. Now they can jump Australia on the ICC rankings with another triumph in Perth. That task will be harder without their strike bowlers Dale Steyn and Makhaya Ntini, while Australia have added strength to their line-up after what Ricky Ponting described as their worst performance of the summer on Monday.

Australia have regained Michael Clarke, who was resting due to a thumb injury, and Nathan Bracken after his minor calf problem. It adds significant strength to both the batting and bowling departments, with Cameron White and Shaun Tait making way. Ricky Ponting insisted that Tait's absence was not due to injury -- he spent time off the field in the fourth ODI -- but was simply a matter of managing his SOUTH AFRICA (likely): Herschelle Gibbs, workload. It means they will need to rely on getting ten overs from the part-time spin of David Hussey and Michael Clarke.

Steyn and Ntini are being rested at the tail- Parnell, Lonwabo Tsotsobe.

end of a tiring tour on which they have helped bowl South Africa to success in the Test and ODI formats. It means that the two left-arm fast men Wayne Parnell and Lonwabo Tsotsobe will make their one-day international debuts after appearing in one of the Twenty20 internationals. Jacques Kallis will also take a break, provided the batsman Vaughn van Jaarsveld proves

his fitness after suffering a sprained ankle. Shaun Marsh entered the series under a form cloud but goes into the final game as the leading run scorer from either team with 213 at 53.25. His opening partner David Warner has captured the headlines but it is Marsh who has been more consistent in giving Australia a solid start. His technically correct, unfussy strokeplay has been welcome in an order where cross-bat slogs have been a little too frequent. It is also Marsh's first international appearance at his home ground at the WACA, where he has spent the past few seasons making his name at domestic level.

In the space of three weeks, Johan Botha has transformed from a captain who was struggling to control his Twenty20 side to a man who has led admirably in the 50-over format. Not only has he juggled his bowlers and placed his fields well, he has also led by example. Only Steyn and Ntini have taken more wickets in the series than Botha's seven at 21.42. He has been easily South Africa's most economical bowler and his variations in pace and flight have contributed to Australia's middle-order problems.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Shaun Marsh, David Warner, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Michael Hussey, David Hussey, Brad Haddin, James Hopes, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken, Ben Hilfenhaus.

Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Neil McKenzie, Vaughn van Jaarsveld, Albie Morkel, Morne Morkel, Johan Botha (captain), Wayne

Powell full of hope

Observer newspaper.

"(England) made some

"I am fit and ready to go,

comments about us after our

last tour of England, following

our success in the one-day

and I know that my team-

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

Daren Powell believes West series that they could not wait Indies have the firepower to to return to the Caribbean. overcome England 3-0 in their Test series in the Caribbean.

The West Indies fast bowler mates are anxious to prove made the prediction a week that we are good enough to before the first Test at Sabina Park in his native Jamaica, and is looking forward to playing a big role.

a 3-0 series win over England

in the Test series, and we are

going to beat them also in the

one-day series," Powell confi-

dently told the Jamaica

But Powell is fortunate to have been selected. He has taken 79 wickets at

not helped his cause.

"I am definitely looking for 46.22 runs apiece in 32 Tests, and a number of on-field understand their roles." incidents during the recent

series in New Zealand have

what I do now," he said. "It is up to me to go back to the nets and sharpen up for the challenges ahead. I want to improve my game even further and get more wickets.

He added: "I would like to

see the West Indies continue to improve their form coming off the tour of New Zealand and stay as focussed as we were as "Unity was responsible for the team's success in New

England have won their last four Test series against West Indies and 13 of their last 17

Zealand. The guys are working

better as a unit and fully

Federer floors Roddick

beat them.

FROM PAGE 17

the umpire when he swore loudly and received a code violation, and was left staggered when Federer dug himself out of trouble with a brilliant drop shot, lob and stopvolley to hold for 5-5.

The American was then guilty of a howler as he patted the ball to Federer's feet with the court begging, gifting the crucial break point which the Swiss converted with an unstoppable forehand before calmly serving out the win.

An ailing Federer lost in the semis here last year and was beaten in the Roland Garros and Wimbledon finals by Nadal, who ended his record 237-week stint as world numberone.

by winning his fifth US Open title to move to 13 Grand Slam victories, one fewer than American great Pete Sampras. "This year I do feel mentally, and I'm obviously more

really focus on playing well," "I'm really pleased with how I've played in this tournament because the draw was

difficult and dangerous."

39 Earl

Grey's

family?

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Three.

17 Gold

20 Carry

23 Sax

26 Woman

Hat

painter

28 Roulette

bet

30 Atlanta-

based

health

agcy.

31 Golf tally

bottomed

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35 Flat-

With the

they say

healthy so that helps and I can

Federer beat Andreas Seppi, Evgeny Korolev and 2005 champion Marat Safin in the early rounds before fighting back from two sets down against Tomas Berdych.

He then thrashed

Argentina's Juan Martin del

Potro in the quarterfinals, winning 6-3, 6-0, 6-0 in his most comprehensive victory in the last eight of a Grand "Right now is where I start playing my best," he said. "When it comes to the end of the tournament, that's where

player not in the early rounds." Federer also reached the semifinals at the previous five Australian Opens, winning in But he rescued his season 2004, 2006 and 2007, and last failed to make the last eight in

you should judge a great

He can join Roy Emerson, Andre Agassi, Jack Crawford and Ken Rosewall as the only men to have won four or more

titles here. Federer moves to 16-2 against Roddick, the former number one who won the 2003 US Open but has not reached a Grand Slam final since 2006.

By Eugene Sheffer

13 Swap

18 Pirates

numbers

swash

buckler

41 Mytholog-

maiden

ical

44 Stench

45 Rever-

48 Multi-

berate

purpose

truck

50 Filch

38 Movie

54 Aspira-

star

gredients

Solution time: 27 mins.

tions

"I have more confidence in Tests against the hosts.

FROM PAGE 17

Harendra Gupta (69, 72) and Gaganjeet Bhullar (72, 69) have matching totals of three under 141 and are placed tied sixth.

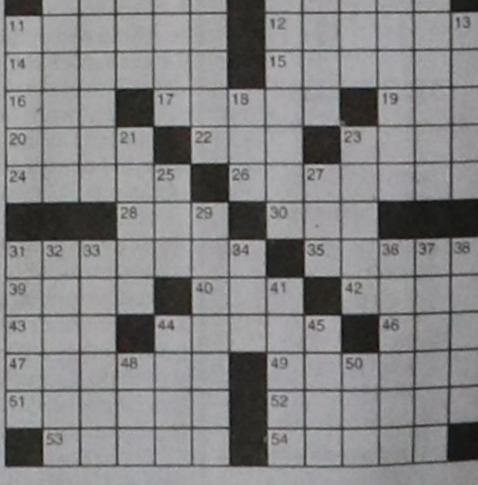
Lutfur Rahman (72, 70) is the highest placed professional from Bangladesh. He lies tied ninth at two under 142. Mohammed Zakiruzzaman (74, 68), an amateur from Bangladesh also totaled two under 142 to share ninth place with Lutfur

Rahman. Siddikur Rahman (74, 71), one of the local favourites, signed off round two with an overall score of one over 145 to be tied 16th.

Mithun slams

FROM PAGE 17 the 49th minute for their next goal when Mithun got his second while Rony also came into contention for a treble after netting in the 72nd min-

ute for his eighth league goal. Mithun had a last laugh, slotting his third just five minutes for time, the seventh hattrick of the league. The young striker now has seven goals.



CJZ LHDNO'K DUK ODUQSZ UN EJTR QHJCRUCD

LDGBOBKDSZ U GBFDQ GBFFDQ

UN RD TSUBEN:

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON OCCASION, THE SHEPHERD HAS HEARD SOME ANNOYED AND DISGUSTED SHEEP CRYING "BAA, HUMBUG!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals H

quaff DOWN 40 Enthusi-21 Conti-1 Larval nental 11 Evening 42 Ameri-2 Privileges 43 Samovar 3 Bobby of 23 Lake of "Hairhockey A Frail spray 14 Dr. Phil brunette? 5 Flask 25 Comic-15 Singer strip Barbara 46 TV named for a cry Tarzan 16 Reaction 27 Gridiron Scottish portrayer to firescores 47 Folkchemist works (Abbr.) 6 Annual singer 29 Protects Rod publicameasure 31 Thwart 49 Politico 19 Mas-32 Toyota 7 Denom-John seur's subcom workplace 51 Threw ination 8 Part of pact stones 33 Imitate 52 Light-22 Scoot 34 Blue 9 Oblitintensity 36 Conerates measure player's CRYPTOQUIP ceive 10 "Passen-53 Vichys-37 Page ger 57" 24 Follow