

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.

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.

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 was 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 one-day 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 high-profile 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.



PHOTO STAR
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.

ICL on ICC agenda

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 (ICL).

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 headline position.

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.

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.

Afghans brighten chance

AFP, Buenos Aires
Afghanistan boosted their World Cup qualifying bid on Wednesday with an impressive eight-wicket 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 Africa.

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.

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 five-member working group to study the rules that govern official and 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.

Preparations for the Champions Trophy this year will be the other key subject of discussion over the weekend.

The executive will also consider a report from an ICC panel, headed by Julian Hunte, the West Indies cricket board chief.

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

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

Earlier in the day, Roger Mukuza's 67 provided the foundation for Uganda's 180 all out, with Moneer 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

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 six-figure sum if signed by one of the eight franchise teams.

But he has decided not to enter his name in the auction which takes place in Goa on February 6.

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 Test and he feels that the best preparation for that lies away from the IPL."

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.

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.

Double crowns 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 guest.

TT League

Sports Reporter
Reigning champions Abahani blanked Dhaka Women's Club 3-0 at the Woodenfloer 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 Brishi.

In the senior division super league, joint table-toppers Biman, Sheikh Russel and Palico 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, Mahub and Shovon routed Armanitola's Badal, Gautam and Luhin.

In the last match, Palico'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; Bashir 3-19)

Dead rubber can win 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'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 ended 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 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 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 sloggers 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.

SOUTH AFRICA (likely): Herschelle Gibbs, Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Neil McKenzie, Vaughn van Jaarsveld, Albie Morkel, Morne Morkel, Johan Botha (captain), Wayne Parnell, Lonwabo Tsotsobe.

Powell full of hope

Cricket
APP, Kingston
Daren Powell believes West Indies have the firepower to overcome England 3-0 in their Test series in the Caribbean.

"I am fit and ready to go, and I know that my teammates are anxious to prove that we are good enough to beat them."

But Powell is fortunate to have been selected. He has taken 79 wickets at 46.22 runs apiece in 32 Tests, and a number of on-field incidents during the recent series in New Zealand have not helped his cause.

"I have more confidence in 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 a team."

"Unity was responsible for the team's success in New Zealand. The guys are working better as a unit and fully understand their roles."

England have won their last four Test series against West Indies and 13 of their last 17 Tests against the hosts.

Federer floors Roddick

FROM PAGE 17
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Abahani
FROM PAGE 17
ABAHANI: 103-3 in 19 overs (Rony 56, Imran 27, extras 8; Bashir 3-19)

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; Sirajullah 5-25 Shafaq 2-21)

Result: City Club won by six runs
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; Naem 2-18, Rubel 1-26, Ashraf 1-36)

GAZI TANK: 141-6 in 20 overs (Imrul 28, Nafees 36, Ashraf 31, extras 10; Shakib 2-16, Abdur Razzak 2-28)

Result: Biman won by 18 runs

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 Slam.

"Right now is where I start playing my best," he said. "When it comes to the end of the tournament, that's where you should judge a great player not in the early rounds."

Federer also reached the semifinals at the previous five Australian Opens, winning in 2004, 2006 and 2007, and last failed to make the last eight in 2003.

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.

Jamal leads
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 Zakiruzaman (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 minute for his eighth league goal.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer
ACROSS 39 Earl, 54 Aspirations, 11 Hit, 13 Swap, 18 Pirates'
1 Three, Grey's family?, 21 Conquest, 22 Privileges, 23 Lake of hockey, 24 Frail, 25 Comic-strip named for a Scottish chemist, 27 Gridron scores (Abb.), 29 Protract, 31 Thwart, 32 Toyota subcompact, 33 Irritate, 34 Blue, 36 Conceive, 37 Page numbers, 38 Movie, 41 Mythological maiden, 44 Stencher, 45 Reverbate (Abb.), 48 Multi-purpose truck, 50 Filch

CRYPTOQUIP
K R U K C J Z L H D N O K D U K
O D U Q S Z U N E J T R Q H J C R U C D
U N R D T S U B E N R D N
L D G B O B K D S Z U G B F D Q G B F F D Q
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON OCCASION, THE SHEPHERD HAS HEARD SOME ANNOYED AND DISGUSTED SHEEP CRYING "BA, HUMB!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Equals H