



GENTLEMAN CRICKETER: India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni walks off despite being adjudged not out by confused South African umpire Brian Jerling (not in the picture) during the second one day international against Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Zimbabwe win series

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Prosper Utseya played an outstanding captain's innings to lead Zimbabwe to a series-clinching four-wicket win in the third one-day international in Nairobi on Saturday when the home side had looked on course to keep the contest alive. After battling hard to reach 234, Kenya took wickets at regular intervals but were thrown off course by Utseya, who made a career-best unbeaten 68, and a superbly-timed assault from wicketkeeper Forster Mutizwa as victory came with 10 balls to spare.

Elton Chigumbura, who has been so impressive in this series, also played his part with a different style of innings to the shot-filled efforts of the previous games. He came in with Zimbabwe tottering on 103 for 5 but compiled 43 off

50 balls to put the chase back in the balance. However, when he fell Zimbabwe still needed 85 off 11 overs with batting resources running out.

Then came Mutizwa, playing just his third ODI, and he changed the game in a one-over assault on Peter Ongondo's, who had been extremely tight until his ninth over went for 26. Mutizwa hit two sixes over deep midwicket and three further boundaries to reduce a target of over eight-an-over down to a run-a-ball.

When required, Utseya also found the boundary and two fours followed by a six took him to his maiden ODI half century off 50 balls. The stuffing had been well and truly knocked out of Kenya, who had seen a match-winning position slip away rapidly.

They had done so much right for 40 overs with a marked improvement in their bowling from the first two matches

when Zimbabwe passed 300. Although the Zimbabwe openers played their shots, Ongondo removed them both in an impressive opening burst. When the in-form Stuart Matsikenyeri drove a hard return catch to Rajesh Bhudia and Malcolm Waller was well caught at second slip, Zimbabwe were 68 for 4.

Steve Tikolo struck to increase the pressure when he removed Keith Dabengwa and when Chigumbura fell after doing the hard work Kenya were moving closer to victory. Utseya, though, has always appeared a very mature cricketer for someone of just 23 and didn't panic in a tough situation, although it was Mutizwa's blast that swung the momentum.

Kenya's batting had again struggled as legspinner Graeme Cremer took four wickets, but they managed to recover from 95 for 5 thanks to

Collins Obuya's 55. Cremer struck at vital times throughout the innings, including a spell of three in six balls, beginning by removing Alex Obanda when he lofted to long on for a hard-fought 49. Then in his next over he removed the key scalp of Tikolo, who was beaten by one that skidded through. Two balls later and the shoddy side of Kenya's batting was again on display when Jimmy Kamande pulled lazily to midwicket.

SCORES IN BRIEF
KENYA: 234 all out in 49.3 overs (Otiemo 19, Obanda 49, Tikolo 22, Ouma 33, Obuya 55, Bhudia 22, Odhiambo 19; Cremer 4-39)

ZIMBABWE: 236 for 6 in 48.2 overs (Masakadza 24, Chigumbura 43, Utseya 68 not out, Mutizwa 38 not out; Ongondo 2-42)
Result: Zimbabwe won by 4 wickets.

Miandad was unhappy with salary

CRICINFO, undated

A Pakistan newspaper has reported that Javed Miandad resigned from his position as director-general of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) because of an insufficient salary. The News, a Karachi-based daily, has carried a handwritten letter from Wasim Bari, the director of HR and administration, to Saleem Altaf, the PCB's chief operating officer, after discussing the contract with Miandad.

The report said Miandad was offered Rs 500,000 (US\$6,300) per month in the contract which the former Test captain and coach refused last Wednesday, resigning from the position he had held since November.

"He [Miandad] earns 75,000 rupees/50,000 rupees for a one hour program on TV," Bari's letter read. "As he is a renowned international cricketer therefore he should be paid accordingly as [former India coach] Greg Chappell and [former Pakistan coach] Geoff Lawson."

The letter also said that Miandad wanted to take full charge of all cricketing affairs so that he could bring the desired results.



Did U Know?

The fastest serve by a woman in tennis history is by Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands when she hit a serve at 130 mph during qualifying for the Cincinnati tournament in 2007.

Serena slays Safina

FROM PAGE 17

and come back better than ever. The Russian also lost her only previous Grand Slam final at the French Open last year, but Williams was full of praise after the match.

"Dinara has a good future," she said. "She's hitting the ball so hard I just had to go for broke."

"Thanks to her for putting on a great show for women's tennis," added the American, who continued a sequence of winning the Australian Open title in odd-numbered years, with her previous wins coming in 2003, 2005 and 2007.

Safina may take some comfort from compatriot Maria Sharapova, who also managed to take just three games off Williams when she was humbled 6-1, 6-2 in the 2007 final but came back to take the title the following year.

Williams showed no signs of the service problems that dogged her early in the tournament and aggressively took

the match to Safina from the outset.

It was Safina's serve, with its trademark high ball toss, which fell apart as she coughed up three double faults in her opening service game to gift Williams an easy break.

She continued to break Safina at will, while the Russian could only manage two points off Williams' serve in a first set that was over in 22 minutes.

"I saw that it was so fast and I thought, 'OK, I've got to stay focused,'" Williams said.

"I thought 'Safina, she's a warrior, she never gives up, she's been down a couple of match points already in the tournament, so I've got to stay focused.'"

Safina desperately tried to regroup and broke Williams in the first game of the second set but could not stop the rout and conceded the match when she hit a drop shot wide after 59 minutes.

Simmons smashes 282

AFP, Basseterre

England's batsmen finally got a chance, after Lendl Simmons missed out on a triple hundred for West Indies-A in their tour match on Friday.

England's bowlers would have been relieved when West Indies-A declared on 574 for eight in their first innings in the first hour after tea, following a magnificent 282 from Simmons on the second day of the three-day match at Warner Park.

Andrew Strauss then hit an unbeaten 59 and Ian Bell supported with 52, as England reached 134 for two at the close.

Strauss and Bell helped England recover, when they entertained in a 114-run, second-wicket stand.

But England's bowlers had been worn down earlier in the day, when Simmons continued to dominate with his majestic innings, when West Indies-A resumed on 343 for two.

He spent almost 9-1/2 hours at the crease in which time he collected 26 fours and eight sixes from 381 balls.

India go 2-0 up

FROM PAGE 17

The TV replays suggested the batsman had inside-edged the delivery on to his pads.

India managed just 46 in the closing 10 overs as seamer Maharoor (2-40) and Muralitharan did not allow the batsmen to score freely.

Record-seeking Muralitharan went wicketless but conceded only 32 in his 10 tight overs. He is still two wickets short of surpassing former Pakistani paceman Wasim Akram's world record of 502.

India got off to a brisk start as they raced to 83 off 12.2 overs but lost three big wickets in the process.

Virender Sehwag (27) and Gautam Gambhir (42) punished Sri Lanka's new-ball bowlers with their bold strokeplay after the third-over dismissal of Sachin Tendulkar (six), trapped leg-before by Kulasekara.

Kulasekara was replaced by Maharoor after conceding 42 in his opening six overs. Maharoor struck instantly,

having Gambhir caught behind with his third delivery.

Sehwag's flourish ended when he was caught short of the crease while going for a third run. He hit seven fours in his 26-ball knock.

Complete scoreboard of the second one-day international between Sri Lanka and India at R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Saturday:

INDIA					
Sehwag run out	42				
Tendulkar lbw b Kulasekara	6				
Gambhir c Sangakkara b Maharoor	27				
Yuvraj lbw b Kulasekara	66				
Raina c Kapugedera b Dilshan	29				
Dhoni c Sangakkara b Maharoor	23				
Yousuf run out	21				
Zaheer c Dilshan b Mendis	17				
Kumar c Jayawardene b Mendis	15				
Ojha not out	0				
Extras: (b-1, nb-1, w-8)	10				
Total (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	256				
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-62, 3-83, 4-168, 5-180, 6-219, 7-223, 8-256, 9-256					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Kulasekara	9	0	61	2	
Thushara	8	0	59	0	
Maharoor	10	0	40	2	
Mendis	10	0	44	2	

Muralidaran 10 1 32 0

Dilshan 3 0 19 1

SRI LANKA

Dilshan c Sharma b Zaheer 8

Jayasuriya c Ojha b Sharma 17

Sangakkara c Tendulkar b Kumar 4

Jayawardene c Pathan b Ojha 52

Kandamby not out 93

Kapugedera c Dhoni b Sharma 31

Maharoor b Sharma 7

Thushara c Pathan b Sharma 3

Muralidaran run out 7

Kulasekara run out 1

Mendis run out 18

Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-10) 0

Total: (All out in 49.2 overs) 241

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-33, 3-36, 4-136, 5-187, 6-206, 7-228, 8-236, 9-237

Bowler O M R W

Zaheer 10 0 56 1

Kumar 8.2 1 22 1

Sharma 10 1 57 4

Ojha 7 0 39 1

Pathan 5 0 21 0

Sehwag 5 0 19 0

Raina 4 0 19 0

Result: India won by 15 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Ishant Sharma (India)

Umpires: Brian Jerling and Gamini Silva.

Rain keeps Afghan WC dream alive

AFP, Buenos Aires

Afghanistan's dreams of playing at the 2011 World Cup were saved by torrential rain which swept across the Argentine capital on Friday.

Their final World Cricket League Division Three match against the Cayman Islands was abandoned when they were just 28 runs from a defeat which could have ended their hopes of reaching the World Cup qualifying tournament in South Africa in April.

Afghanistan got off to a terrible start losing openers Shafiqullah Shafaq and Karim Khan when the score was on 17.

Rais Ahmadzai and Mohammad Nabil fell within the space of four balls to Saheed Mohammed, leaving the Afghans, who started the day's play on top of the six-nation table, struggling on 47-5.

Skipper Narooz Mangal (26 not out) then led a mini recovery to 68-5 off 31 overs, before rain halted proceedings.

Once the sun returned, the Cayman Islands were set an adjusted target of 63 off 20 overs under the D/L method to win.

Although Ainsley Hall fell in the opening over, three fours in one Hamid Hassan over by Keneil Irving looked to have set them on the way to a shock victory.

But rain was to be Afghanistan's saviour, as a late downpour left the umpires with no choice but to take the players off the field forcing the abandonment of the game.

Both sides will return on Saturday to start a new match. Uganda, who also have a chance of qualifying, had their match abandoned when they were struggling at 69-4 against hosts Argentina.

Papua New Guinea, the third team in contention for the April qualifier, ended Hong Kong's hopes with a nine-wicket win and they will wait nervously for the outcome of Saturday's replayed matches.

They have eight points while Afghanistan and Uganda are currently on six, leaving the possibility of run rate deciding the two qualifiers.

Hong Kong, who started play with an outside chance of finishing in the top two, never recovered from a disastrous start against PNG and were dismissed for 91.

PNG openers Vani Morea (41 not out) and Chris Amini (38) boosted their side's run rate which had been seriously damaged following Wednesday's eight-wicket defeat to Afghanistan.

VDP outclass Rajbari

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

VDP outclassed Rajbari by 7-0 on the second day of the Citycell Women's National Football Championship at the Jamalpur Stadium yesterday.

Maleka, Salma and Shahnaz scored two goals each while Chin Marma netted one for the winners.

The day's other match between Sherpur and Shirajganj ended in goalless draw at the same venue.

Dido promises

FROM PAGE 17

Bangladesh coach as a continuation of that relationship.

"My short term plan will be to focus on the AFC Challenge Cup in April preparing the national team and after that I will work with the long term plans but before that I want to sit with my coaching staff focusing on the U-23 national team and others, I also hope to help the local coaches, and exchange the concept of modern football so that they can also develop."

Dido also said that he would try to bring self-belief amongst the players to be successful in the job.

"Motivating the players is important; players must think that they will be able to be top players, not be afraid of anyone in the world, and believe in what they are able to do, it is a long way to change a player's mentality and their behaviors," said Dido, who already watched a few local matches.

Dido was also not afraid of taking the challenge.

"I will definitely ask the federation what I require. I am not afraid of taking the challenge for I have seen teams with almost nothing but they succeeded in their level," he said.

Timing right for NZ

First ODI today

Cricket

AGENCIES, undated

Australia have lost the No. 1 ranking in one-day internationals on Friday night in Perth but have no time to mope about their summer of demotion. The crammed itinerary says that two days after finishing a five-game series against South Africa they must start another against New Zealand. Daniel Vettori's team could not find a more opportune moment to arrive at their neighbours' but they are also the only ones Australia have been able to beat comfortably since going to India, so there should be some relief on the way for the Aussies.

In two Tests in November Australia outplayed their rivals, but the gap usually narrows for 50-over contests. Officially Australia are now No. 2 - a win on Sunday in the first one-dayer at the WACA in Perth will push them back to first - while New Zealand are fourth, but guessing where the hosts really fit is as tricky as working out why the local middle order has been so unproductive at crucial times. The 4-1 defeat is so unfamiliar at home and Ricky Ponting's men are determined to hit back quickly.

While there remains no better time for New Zealand to challenge Australia, their team is also undergoing a serious redevelopment under their new coach Andy Moles. They came from a game behind to beat West Indies in January, but lost their warm-up in Canberra to the Prime Minister's XI.

Aussie paceman Shaun Tait should come back after being rested and could be a handful for the visiting batsmen, who won't have much chance to adjust to the conditions. Tait experienced some cramps in Adelaide but is not suffering from the hamstring problems that have hampered him at times during the season. Michael Clarke failed on his return from a thumb injury, but the middle looks much stronger with the vice-captain in it.

Brendon McCullum's hip is the big worry for the visitors, even though it won't keep him out of the match. McCullum, who scored a century in Canberra on Thursday, was unable to take the gloves in that game, but Vettori is confident. "I'm not allowing him any other option," Vettori told NZPA. "We need him to keep to provide us with as many options as possible." Gareth Hopkins, the back-up gloveman, is on standby and New Zealand need a replacement for Jesse Ryder, who is out for a week with a shoulder problem. Kyle Mills will probably bat at No. 7 and Vettori has spoken of playing two spinners for today's match.

SQUADS:

AUSTRALIA (from) Shaun Marsh, David Warner, Ricky Ponting (capt), Michael Clarke, Michael Hussey, David Hussey, Brad Haddin, James Hopes, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken, Shaun Tait.

NEW ZEALAND (from) Brendon McCullum, Martin Guppitt, Peter Fulton, Ross Taylor, Neil Broom, Grant Elliott, Kyle Mills, Tim Southee, Daniel Vettori (capt), Jeetan Patel, Iain O'Brien.

Biman win

FROM PAGE 17

head to head with BKSP to win their match by 18 runs in the other match held at Fatullah yesterday. National skipper Mohammad Ashraf carried his good form into this match scoring an unbeaten 30 of 33 deliveries with three boundaries. Opener Imrul Kayes also contributed with a handsome 38 of 25 balls hitting five fours.

Spinner Nayeem Islam was the wrecker-in-chief flummoxed the BKSP batters as he bowled a magical spell of four overs conceding just 15 runs and picking up three wickets. Elsewhere, Surjo Torun defeated City Club by 11 runs at BKSP and Old DOHS beat Young Pegasus in a last over eliminator at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

BRIEF SCORES

ABAHANI: 135 all out in 20 overs (Nadif 30, extras 18; Sharafullah 3-20, Arafat 2-27)
VICTORIA: 124-7 in 20 overs (Amit Mojmudar 54, extras 5; Ziaur Rahman 4-17)
Result: Abahani won by 11 runs

YOUNG PEGASUS: 121-7 in 20 overs (Abul Bashar 38*, extras 16; Raju 2-22)
OLD DOHS: 121-8 in 20 overs

(Rabbi 36, extras 20; Bashir 2-19)

Result: Old DOHS won by 1 run in a one over per side eliminator
MOHAMMEDAN: 136-5 in 20 overs (Suharwardi 37*, extras 8; Monjur 2-25)

PARTEX: 127-5 in 20 overs (Mehrab 29, extras 17; Murad 2-23, Dollar 2-22)

Result: Mohammedan won by 9 runs

SURJO TORUN: 133-5 in 20 overs (Rajin Saleh 33, Anisur 33*, extras 6; Saif 3-17)

CITY CLUB: 122-8 in 20 overs (Rasel-Al-Mamun 28, extras 9; Saklaine 3-19)

Result: Surjo Torun won by 11 runs

GAZI TANK: 136-3 in 20 overs (Kayes 38, Ashraf 30*, extras 7)

B K S P: 118-9 in 20 overs (Shaikat 38, extras 4; Nayeem 3-15)

Result: Gazi Tank won by 18 runs

C.C.S: 101-7 in 20 overs (Uttam Sarkar 28, extras 13; Nabil Samad 4-11)

BIMAN: 102-9 in 20 overs (Shahadat 22*, extras 20; Ripon 4-4)

Result: Biman won by 1 wicket

Jamal surprises

FROM PAGE 17

got to the second green. I played my natural game from then on and did not bother about how the others were playing."

He added, "I was sure of winning after the 14th where Shamim [Khan] missed a short putt for par. I had aimed to finish with a total of 15 under and that helped me concentrate better towards my goal. I did not miss any putts today, hit 11 fairways out of 14 and made 13 regulations."

As per traditional golf rules, amateurs have no share in the prize booty, as they are only allowed to win a hundred dollars worth of winnings in a year. With his ama-

teur status, Jamal's coffers may not have swelled significantly but the experience of winning this tournament will have given him a lot to work with for the future.

Before this win, Jamal had given signs of his precocious talent by winning a couple of amateur tournaments in India and Bangladesh last year. Yesterday, he outlined his short-term goals.

"My aim is to now play amateur golf for another two years before turning professional."

Another Bangladeshi hope Mohd Siddikur Rahman, finished tied fifth along with Rahil Gangjee at four under 284. Gaganjeet Bhullar was ninth at two under 286.

Pak cricketers cleared for IPL

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan's cricketers have been given the green light to participate in this year's IPL by the country's sports ministry, but they were told that their security would be their own and their IPL franchise's responsibility.

"The players can individually decide what they want to do and we have no objections to them going to India for the IPL matches," sports minister Pir Aftab Shah Jilani said. "The [Pakistan Cricket] Board has asked for our comments for individual players and not a national team so we have given our NOC [no objection certificate] and sent it to the President's Secretariat for further action."

He explained that the ministry did not allow the national hockey and squash teams to travel to India for international tournaments earlier because they had to take into consideration the tense relations between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attacks.

The Pakistan players stood to lose all their money from their lucrative IPL contracts if their government had blocked them from participating in the tournament. Some IPL franchises had also expressed uncertainty over the future of Pakistan players on their books, mostly because the current political climate could lead to extended visa restrictions.

Khelaghar

FROM PAGE 17

Kalabagan managed a three-wicket victory over Bangladesh Boys Club.

Kalabagan scored 1