

England

FROM PAGE 17 Collingwood added 94 with Pietersen for the fifth wicket, 62 with Prior for the seventh wicket, and the same amount with Broad for the eighth wicket, as England extended their innings to an hour and 20 minutes past tea.

At lunch, England had reached 391 for four, after they suffered an early, but not totally surprising setback.

The visitors continued from their overnight total of 301 for three, and lost nightwatchman Anderson, when he was caught behind off Edwards for four in the second over of the morning.

But Collingwood joined Pietersen and launched into the West Indies attack with a succession of blistering strokes.

Both batsmen were prepared to bring out their pull and hook to good effect, but there were a few crisp drives as well.

They, however, had to survive a torrid opening spell from Edwards in which both were peppered about their body with a couple of short, rising balls.

Pietersen, unusually subdued, was fortunate on 25, when he almost gave a return catch to Edwards looking to drive a low full toss.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third Test between West Indies and England at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Monday:

Table with 4 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Extras. Includes players like Strauss, Cook, Pietersen, Anderson, Collingwood, Flintoff, Prior, Broad, Swann, Extras, Total, Did not bat, Fall of wickets.



Australia captain Ricky Ponting poses with the Reliance Mobile ICC Test Championship Mace, the trophy awarded to the number one ranked team in the world, on his arrival in Johannesburg on Monday.

A Ponting warning

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Australia captain Ricky Ponting said on Monday the pressure was on South Africa ahead of the three-Test series beginning next week.

"After winning the recent series in Australia, South Africa go into this one as favourites," Ponting told a media conference when the team arrived at OR Tambo airport from Sydney.

"There will be high expectations from their home crowds and South Africa will have to deal with that. If we get off to a great start, things could turn against them pretty quickly."

South Africa completed a historic double in Australia last month, winning the Test series 2-1, and the one-day internationals 4-1 despite the absence of injured skipper Graeme Smith.

"I think we can compare these Tests with the 2005 Ashes when we lost in England. They arrived in Australia for the return series as favourites, but did not live up to expectations and could not handle the pressure."

"Being number one in the world is also very important to us because every sportsman aims to be the best in the world. Even though we have been number one for some time, we always

train as if we were number two," said Ponting.

The skipper said Australia had been through a demanding time with a tour to India followed by Test series against New Zealand and South Africa and a host of ODIs.

Among the Australian luggage was the International Cricket Council Test championship trophy, which will be presented to the winners of the Test series.

Also at stake is 175,000 dollars which goes to the Test nation ranked number one in the world on April 1 with Australia clinging to top spot after winning the final Test in the recent series.

"The trophy is important, but we play to win matches for our country. Winning this series would mean more to us than retaining the trophy," added Ponting.

Australia will be based in the tranquil university town of Potchefstroom west of Johannesburg and play South Africa A there from Friday in a three-day warm-up game.

Wanderers in Johannesburg hosts the first Test from February 26 with traditional venues Kingsmead in Durban and Newlands in Cape Town staging the others.

The tour follows a similar format to the South African visit to Australia with the Tests followed by two Twenty20 matches and five one-day internationals.

Shahzad, Ali hit contrasting tons

AFP, Karachi

Opens Ahmed Shahzad and Azhar Ali hit contrasting centuries for Patron's XI in the warm-up match against Sri Lanka here Tuesday to press claims for a Test place.

Shahzad, aged just 17, scored an aggressive 146 while Ali notched a sedate 100 as Sri Lanka's bowlers toiled hard on a placid Defense Stadium pitch -- their only warm-up match before the first of two Tests starting here on February 21.

The pair helped Patron's XI reach 395-4 at close on the first day after home team captain Shahid Afridi won the toss and decided to bat. At close Asim Kamal was unbeaten on 18 and Sarfraz Ahmed on 13 not out.

Shahzad, who represented Pakistan in the Junior World Cup last year, hit 22 boundaries and a six during his 174-ball knock and added 204 runs with Ali.

Shahzad had to retire after he was hit in the groin by a delivery from paceman Thifan Thushara.

Ali, who took 54 deliveries to open his account, hit nine boundaries and two sixes during his 208-ball innings, making a strong case for selection for Pakistan in near future.

Afridi, who is pressing for a Test recall, hit eight boundaries and a six during his rapid-fire 29-ball 49.

Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan went wicketless in 11 overs, while Ajantha Mendis took 1-69.

Muralitharan was unlucky not to have dismissed Shahzad when skipper Mahela Jayawardene spilled a catch in the slips. Shahzad was then 74.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PATRON'S XI: First innings 395-4 (Shahzad Butt 146, Azhar Ali 100, Shahid Afridi 49; Vaas 1-27)

PCB lifts ban

FROM PAGE 17

"Imran Nazir, Imran Farhat, Humayun Farhat, Riaz Afridi, Arshad Khan and Taufiq Umar got their bans suspended by the court and are now free to play in domestic matches," the players' lawyer Zahid Fakhruddin told AFP.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) respected the decision and cleared the players for domestic matches. Eleven players were reprieved last week, nine of whom featured in the latest round of Pakistan's premier Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

A total of 19 Pakistani players featured in the ICL, which is bankrolled by India's largest media group, Zee Television, but not recognised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India or the ICC.

SL lift

FROM PAGE 17

the same pool in next month's showpiece tournament where they will meet on March 9, at the Manuka Oval in Canberra.

BRIEF SCORE

PAKISTAN: 123 all out (Javeria 23, Sana Mir 16, Almas Akram 16, extras 14; Polgampola 3-16, Sashikala 3-24)

SRI LANKA: 124-4 (Fernando 44*, De Silva 27, De Alwis 12*, extras 20; Urooj 2-16) Result: Sri Lanka won by six wickets

Pavlyuchenko

FROM PAGE 20

In January 2008, then-Tottenham fitness coach Marcos Alvarez criticised food at the club when he arrived with former manager Juande Ramos, saying he had changed it for the better.

Alvarez said: "It was mostly English food and it wasn't healthy. We needed to change the diet because food is very important, it is the fuel for the players."

"To eat healthy means there is no fried food, fatty food, no sauce on the dishes. Now there are salads and fruit, while fish and meat is grilled rather than fried."

Pavlyuchenko continued his assault on his new home when he asked whether Russia or England had the better-looking women, replying: "Russia, of course - there can't be any comparison."

The striker, who has 12 goals this season - nine in cup competitions - also said he was baffled at English attempts to pronounce his name.

"I hear how all the English football commentators pronounce my last name - but I can't even reproduce it," he said. "It sounds so distorted, I can't even say it."

Smith likes the favourites tag

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Australia will be a touring team under pressure, according to South Africa captain Graeme Smith.

Australia arrived here on Monday to play three Tests, five one-day internationals and two Twenty20 internationals on a two-month tour.

South Africa will be favourites after winning both the Test and one-day series in Australia recently.

It is a position with which the host nation will be comfortable, Smith told the South African Sunday Times, although warning that he expected an Australian backlash.

"It's going to be an unusual place to be for a South African team," said Smith.

"It's a great feeling and a reward for all the sacrifices everyone has made. But we know that Australians are very competitive people and they don't like to be on the back foot."

"The only way we can keep them there is by playing better cricket again."

The side Ricky Ponting will lead is one of the most inexperienced Australian touring parties in recent history, and Smith said they would lack the confidence that previous sides had on the

second leg of back-to-back tours that have been the norm for South Africa-Australia contests.

"On previous tours they have come here with confidence having had the foot on us right through the summer there and they've just carried it on."

"Now, even their experienced guys will come here in a different frame of mind, while the younger players are coming here for the first time."

Smith said the Australians faced several selection issues while South Africa had already announced they would field the same starting eleven, with the addition of left-arm pace bowler Lonwabo Tsotsobe that won the first two Tests in Australia before losing the third.

"They're a touring team under pressure and it's never easy," he said.

"If we can play well in the first Test maybe we can open up a few cracks."

One good omen for the Australians is that they will travel to the small university town of Potchefstroom, an hour's drive west of Johannesburg, immediately after their arrival.

With good training facilities and no big-city distractions, Potchefstroom was chosen by Australia as their pre-tournament base before the 2003 World Cup in South Africa and they went on to lift the title without losing a match.

Colly backs Eng chances

AFP, St John's

Paul Collingwood believes batting will become a lottery over the last three days on an Antigua Recreation Ground pitch that has started to play unevenly and this favours England to win the third Test against West Indies.

Collingwood was speaking after he hit his eighth Test hundred of 113 in England's first innings total of 566 for nine declared on the second day of the Test.

The Test was hurriedly organised at the ARG, when the second Test at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground was abandoned last Friday after 10 balls because of an excessively sandy outfield.

The ARG, however, has been used mainly for football, following the opening of the VRCG two years ago for the World Cup staged in the Caribbean.

As a result, football markings are visible and part of the centre circle cut through the pitch leaving a ridge which some of the bowlers have targeted.

"When you are consistently hitting that area the ball is misbehaving quite a bit," Collingwood said.

Flintoff helped to unsettle Chris Gayle with a few deliveries which also pitched near the barely noticeable indentation and this led to the West Indies captain's dismissal at the hands of Steve Harmison.

Earlier in the day, Flintoff and before him Kevin Pietersen had been on the receiving end, when Jerome Taylor dismissed them with deliveries which pitched in the same area.

"The other parts of the pitch are behaving quite well and there's not a lot in it for full length balls," Collingwood said.

"The short balls are going through quickly, but the more you hit that halfway area there is inconsistent bounce."

"Hopefully, we can come in on that" on Tuesday.

Collingwood was also happy that he could build the foundation that was provided the previous day by captain Andrew Strauss and the other top-order batsmen.

"It was a day where it was important we backed up [Sunday]," he said. "It was important to start again and build on it and not look at the scoreboard. I thought we had another great day."

"What we spoke about after last week was to go out there and put your hand up and I think everyone did... Everyone was desperate to do well."

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

The six-team Shaheed Smriti Hockey Tournament, organized by Bangladesh Hockey Federation, begins today at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium in Dhaka.

In the inaugural match, Bangladesh Army will meet Dilkusha SC at 2:30 pm while Usha KC will play BKSP in the day's other match at 3:30 pm.

Secretary of the National Sports Council Irtiza Ahmed will inaugurate the 11-day meet in the afternoon.

The other two teams of the six-team fray are Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force. The six teams will initially compete on league basis. Later, two top teams will play the final on February 28 also at the same venue.

INT'L TENNIS

The lone Bangladeshi player Mufazzal Hossain made an early exit from the boys singles of the Dhaka Bank 23rd International Junior Tennis Championship losing to top seed Sumeet Shinde of India 1-6, 4-6 in the 2nd round match at the Ramna National tennis Complex.

Starlet Sian Bayliss of Great Britain beat Huang Hui of Taipei 7-6, 7-5 to qualify for the next round.

A total of 13 matches were played in the boys singles round and 15 in the girls singles round.

glesround.

The pre-quarterfinal matches of both the boys' and girls' singles will be held today.

DIV III FOOTBALL

Rampura KC beat Rahmatganj SC 3-0 in the Citycell Third Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium at Kamalapur.

In another match Tongi KC got the better of BKSP by 2-0 at the same ground.

SCHOOL CRICKET

Sahebulla High School defeated Kanchipara Academy High School by 3 runs in the Standard Chartered National School Cricket Competition at the Gaibandha Stadium.

In today's match, Gaibandha Govt. High School will face Piyerapur High School at the same venue.

WOMEN CHESS

Three players shared the lead in the points table after the third round games in the Begum Laila Alam 3rd Open FIDE Rating Women Chess Tournament at the chess federation hall room. The three players are IWM Hamid Hamid of Titus Club, WFM Samima Akter Liza and Sharmin Sultana Shirin of 12 Soft Solution Ltd.

The fourth round games will start today from 3.30 pm at the same venue.

Brilliant

FROM PAGE 20

a famous win after pushing Arsenal hard at Ninian Park.

But this was one occasion when the phrase 'men against boys' could be used in praise of the boys.

Wenger's side had a youthful look even by his standards but they completely outclassed Cardiff's collection of battle-hardened journeymen and scored again in the 34th minute.

Nasri curled over a corner and Bendtner out-jumped three defenders to power his header past Heaton.

Bendtner should have got a third before half-time but he somehow hit the post with his first effort before directing the rebound straight at Heaton.

Eduardo wasn't content with just one goal however. He won a 60th minute penalty with a slightly theatrical tumble after Gavin Rae's challenge and picked himself up to send Heaton the wrong way from the spot.

A smart stop from Heaton denied Eduardo his hat-trick and he departed to a standing ovation after 66 minutes.

Van Persie came on for Eduardo and stroked home a clinical strike in the 89th minute but all the attention rightly remained on the Croatian.

Milan face

FROM PAGE 20

out on UEFA Cup action after being told to take 48 hours rest after injuring an ankle on Sunday, while veteran striker Sylvain Wittord has a knee knock.

Gerets has the good news that striker Mamadou Niang will be in the squad for the first time, since fracturing his foot at the beginning of December.

FIXTURES

Table with 2 columns: Day, Match. Includes Wednesday (Dynamo Kiev v Valencia, Zenit St. Petersburg v VfB Stuttgart, Olympiakos v St Etienne, Aston Villa v CSKA Moscow, Werder Bremen v AC Milan, Paris St Germain v VfL Wolfsburg, NEC Nijmegen v Hamburg SV, Sampdoria v Metalist Kharkov, Bordeaux v Galatasaray, Aalborg v Deportivo La Coruna, Braga v Standard Liege) and Thursday (Lech Poznan v Udinese, Shakhtar Donetsk v Tottenham, FC Copenhagen v Manchester City, Marseille v FC Twente, Fiorentina v Ajax).



Former FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo giving away prizes among the winners as chief guest in the annual sports competition of Siraj Miah Memorial Model School at South Baridhara in the city recently.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes clues like '43 Cornfield', '2 Bob's', '11 Apiece', '1 Do sums', '4 Appraiser', '8 Film', '12 Anger quickly', '13 Medley', '14 Similar to', '15 Brooks or', '16 Chair', '18 Filch', '20 Corrode', '21 Open', '24 Tibels', '28 One with', '32 Satan's', '33 Subma-', '34 Jazz', '36 A', '37 Raised', '39 Pirate', '41 Comic', '43 Cornfield', '2 Bob's', '11 Apiece', '17 Western', '19 Croy', '22 Birds', '23 Violin's', '25 Tel', '26 Paddock', '28 Taverns', '29 Pound of', '30 Wedding', '31 Bellow', '35 Teacast', '38 Maiden', '40 Possess', '42 Possesses', '45 Fishing', '47 Attention', '48 Storm', '49 French city', '50 Space', '51 Falsehood', '52 Praise in', '53 Solemn', '54 Historic time'.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters B Q H M P A L L J L C C B A D Q F Z L A L Z R K R U B K S Q J M Z A M Z L U D B K S W M P F C H M P W R F F U D L Z J M A L - W M F M J L C S R A L A ?

CRYPTOQUIP B Q H M P A L L J L C C B A D Q F Z L A L Z R K R U B K S Q J M Z A M Z L U D B K S W M P F C H M P W R F F U D L Z J M A L - W M F M J L C S R A L A ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHILE THE MOVIE MIGHT HAVE FURTHER SUBSEQUENT VERSIONS, THIS WILL BE THE FIRST AMONG SEQUELS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals Y

Acid test

FROM PAGE 17

Dhoni's India begin the New Zealand tour next week buoyed by victories in the recent home Test series against Australia and England, and a 4-1 rout of hosts Sri Lanka in a one-day series.

But Daniel Vettori's New Zealand, playing on home soil, will test the Indian team's mettle.

History is also against the tourists - India last won a Test series in New Zealand 41 years ago, when Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi's team prevailed 3-1.

On the previous tour of New Zealand, in December 2002, India lost both Tests inside three days with totals of 161, 121, 99 and 154 in the four innings on bowler-friendly seaming wickets.

The Black Caps also went on to win the one-day series 5-2.

Only six players in the touring squad have played a Test in New Zealand before -- Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Dravid, Venkatesh Laxman, Zaheer Khan and Harbhajan Singh.

India's back-breaking itinerary of two Twenty20 internationals, followed by five one-day matches and three Tests, does not include a simple practice match to acclimatise to the conditions.

"It's going to be a big challenge," Tendulkar, a veteran of six New Zealand tours, admitted to reporters last week.

"Ours is a fairly new team and playing in New Zealand is a completely different experience from what most are used to."

India, who arrive in New Zealand on February 20, open the tour with the two Twenty20 matches in Christchurch (Feb 25) and Wellington (Feb 27).

McEnroe

FROM PAGE 20

hope. Obama inspires but a lot of people who I've met have inspired me."

McEnroe has been the inspiration for many to start a tennis career and although it's been 17 years since he played as a professional, friends and rivals have warm memories.