

England draw tour match

AFP, Bridgetown

England had a decent workout on the final day of their tour match against the Barbados Cricket Association President's XI which ended here on Monday and ended in a draw.

England's bowlers may have expected to knock over the President's XI, but the young Barbadian side reached a respectable 245.

Their captain Sharmarh Brooks led the way with 69, all-rounder Kevin Stoute made 56, and teenaged all-rounder Jason Holder scored 50.

Amjad Khan was the pick of England's bowlers with five wickets for 79 runs from 15 overs.

Alastair Cook and Ian Bell then collected comfortable half-centuries to carry England to 142 for two in their second innings at the close.

The pair added 101 for the first wicket and were both dismissed before the match ended.



A midfield action of the Shaheed Smriti Hockey Tournament match between Bangladesh Navy and Usha Kriya Chakra at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Flintoff keen to play IPL

CRICINFO, undated

Andrew Flintoff has said he has no plans to pull out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in April, despite England's concerns over the hip injury that has already forced him to miss Thursday's fourth Test against West Indies in Barbados.

Earlier this month Flintoff became the joint-richest player in the IPL -- alongside his England teammate Kevin Pietersen -- when he was bought by Chennai Super Kings for 1.55 million dollars. He is expected to play for the franchise for three weeks ahead of the first Test of England's home series against West Indies (which starts on May 6), a prospect he described yesterday as "great fun".

But the prospect will be less fun for Flintoff and England if he ends up exacerbating an injury that troubled him throughout the drawn third Test in Antigua last week, especially with the twin challenges of the ICC World Twenty20 and the Ashes fast approaching next summer.

BFF

FROM PAGE 17 the game and administrative skill.

"His main job would be to run the office efficiently and chiefly, communicate with the western world. So we need an educated person who also has passion for football," the BFF president added.

1st Indo-Kiwi

FROM PAGE 17

But the Kiwi bowling looks a shade light without Kyle Mills, who has an Achilles injury.

When India toured New Zealand six years ago, and faced green wickets, they were humbled 0-2 in the Tests and lost the ODIs 2-5.

However, India coach Gary Kirsten said that was a different era and today's team has the talent to exploit whatever conditions it faces.

"We don't focus on what's in the past, we worry about what's happening ahead," Kirsten told reporters.

"We have played 17 games of cricket since September last year and lost one. So we are very happy with our performance."

But Kirsten does believe his bowlers will need to adapt quickly to the unfamiliar windy conditions, and he has had them bowling into the breeze during practice this week.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (probable): Brendon McCullum, Martin Guptill, Jesse Ryder, Ross Taylor or Neil Broom, Grant Elliott, Jacob Oram, Nathan McCullum, Daniel Vettori (captain), Ian Butler, Tim Southee, Iain O'Brien.

INDIA (probable): Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag, Suresh Raina, Rohit Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Yusuf Pathan, Irfan Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

SCHOOL CRICKET Mahimganj High School defeated Harinsinga High School by a narrow margin of four runs in the Standard Chartered national school cricket competition at the Gaibandha Stadium.

Mahimganj, batting first, scored 152 all out in 39 overs and then bundled out Harinsinga for 148 runs in 37 overs.

WOMEN'S SOCCER Bangladesh Village Defence Party (VDP) emerged Group B champions in the CityCell National Women's Football Championship with an all-win record beating Jessore 1-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

In the day's last group match, Tithi Rani Sarkar scored the match-winner for VDP in the 26th minute.

However, Beli Khatun of Jessore was adjudged the player-of-the-match.

Besides VDP, Jessore also reached the last four of the meet as Group B runners-up along with Group A champions Bangladesh Ansar and runners-up Narayanganj.

In the semifinals on Thursday, Bangladesh Ansar will play Jessore at 2:30 pm while VDP will meet BNS.

The day's other match between Rangamati and Khulna ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Lasmi Devi Newar of Rangamati was named as the player-of-the-match to receive

the award from BFF member Mahbubur Rahman Shaheen. BFF member Azfar-uz-Zaman Sohrab and former national footballer Kaiser Hamid distributed the awards.

DU SPORTS Dhaka University Shahidullah Hall held its annual sports competition at the University Central Playground.

Abdul Aiz of Mathematics Department, Jinnatul Islam of Biochemistry and Microbiology Department and Irfanul Haque of Statistics Department became joint champions of the event.

DU Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique was present during the occasion as the chief guest.

U-13 FESTIVAL Shantoo and Abu Bakar slotted hat tricks as hosts Chapainawabganj brushed aside Rajshahi 9-0 in a one-sided match of the Under-13 Festival.

Four more hat tricks were scored on the day with Likhon (Tangail), Bappi (Kushtia), Bappi (Magura) and Saikat (Bogra) helping their respective districts to comfortable wins.

Following are the day's results: Barguna 1, Patuakhali 1; Jhalokathi 3, Bhola 0; Patuakhali 1, Barisal 0; Barguna 3, Bhola 1; Tangail 4, Netrokona 1; Sherpur 1, Mymensingh 0; Tangail 2, Jamalpur 1; Netrokona 2, Mymensingh 0; Gazipur 3, Madaripur 0; Narail 2, Manikganj 0; Chuadanga 5, Gazipur 0; Narail 2, Madaripur 0; Cox's Bazar 4, Rangamati 0; Noakhali 3, Feni 0; Chittagong 6, Rangamati 0; Noakhali 2, Cox's Bazar 1; Narayanganj 5, Comilla 1; Sunamganj 1, Rajbari 1; Kushtia 6, Natore 0; Chapainawabganj 9, Rajshahi 0; Kushtia 1, Naogaon 0; Chapainawabganj 3, Natore 0; Magura 4, Khulna 1, Bagerhat 1, Satkhira 0; Jessore 1, Magura 1; Bagerhat 3, Khulna 0; Rangpur 3, Joypurhat 1; Bogra 6, Dinajpur 0; Rangpur 0, Thakurgaon 0; Dinajpur 0, Joypurhat 0.

No progress

FROM PAGE 17 Series Twenty20 event for March due to the deepening economic recession and non-availability of Pakistan players following rising cross-border tensions.

Apart from Morgan, Monday's meeting was attended by Haroon Lorgat, the ICC chief executive, N Srinivasan, the BCCI secretary, Subhash Chandra, the ICL owner, and Himanshu Mody, the private league's business head.

Murray limps thru

FROM PAGE 20 He then broke again at once to go 3-1 up, maintained the lead, and broke at once in the final set, consolidating with fussy right through to keep a stranglehold on the match.

Stakhovskiy often attacked well, and won some great points, especially at the net, but Murray clearly enjoyed having his opponent come at him, and counter-attacked with enough mobility to turn the contest steadily around.

Both men will hope to recover well as they are likely to be on opposite sides of the net again in ten days time - at Glasgow in the Davis Cup tie between Great Britain and the Ukraine.

Earlier Marin Cilic, the super-talented, impressively ambitious young Croatian who has just broken into the world's top 20, made a bold escape to reach the second round and maintain his ominously increasing momentum.

Clarke ECB boss again

AFP, London

Giles Clarke was formally re-elected as chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Monday, despite criticism of his role in getting the England team embroiled with Allen Stanford, the Texas businessman accused of a nine-billion-dollar fraud.

Clarke's re-election had been assured since his only challenger, Jonathan Marland, withdrew from the race earlier this month after managing to secure the backing of only two of the 18 first-class counties.

Marland, who had been critical of the ECB's links to Stanford, may have fared better had the initial vote taken place after the Texan was charged with fraud by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

That emerged last week and prompted the ECB to terminate all its contracts with Stanford, ending plans for further Stanford Twenty20 matches in Antigua and regular international quadrangular Twenty20 events in England, the first of which was due to be played at Lord's in May.

ECB Chief Executive David Collier revealed on Sunday that he and Clarke had discussed their positions in the wake of the Stanford revelations but insisted they had never considered resigning.

Woodgate

FROM PAGE 20

Spurs Croatian international fullback Vedran Corluka was just the woodwork away from restoring his side's lead in the second-half when his header from Modric's freekick beat Matt Duke but came back off the crossbar.

Hull hit back, though, as Kamil Zayatte put in a good header with just under a quarter-of-an-hour remaining, only for it to come off the far post as both sides pressed for what would probably be the winner.

That eventually came four minutes from the end and to the disappointment of the home fans it was Spurs who grabbed it as Woodgate rose to meet Benoit Assou-Ekotto's cross and beat Duke - though the central defender had to leave the pitch a couple of minutes later with a head wound.

Aussie cause for concern

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Australia, clinging on to their world championship, have selection posers ahead of the first Test against challengers South Africa, starting at the Wanderers Stadium Thursday.

By contrast, South Africa have a settled team and will almost certainly go in with the same eleven who beat Ricky Ponting's team 2-1 in a recent series in Australia.

Another win for South Africa in the three-match home series would see them lifting the International Cricket Council's Test championship mace, which has been on display in Johannesburg ahead of the showdown between the two top sides.

Test crowds in Johannesburg have been poor in recent years but officials are confident that more than 90,000 will attend the five days.

Interest in cricket has been sparked by the success in Australia and cricket has dominated headlines in local newspapers despite the start of the Super 14 rugby competition and the claims of football, the country's most popular sport.

Four uncapped players are vying for a place in the Australian team. Certain to play is opening batsman Phil Hughes, while batsman and part-time off-spinner Marcus North, leg-spinner Bryce McGain and fast bowler Ben Hilfenhaus all have claims.

The biggest debates are likely to be around the number six batting place and the balance of the bowling attack.

McGain was touted as a potential match-winner ahead of the tour but had disappointing figures of two for 126 in 19 overs against a Board President's XI in Australia's only warm-up match in Potchefstroom last weekend.

Illness kept McGain off the field in the second innings when North captured a career-best six for

69, helped by some extravagant batting by the home team.

With North also making two unbeaten half-centuries, he may have moved ahead of seam bowler all-rounder Andrew McDonald, who played in Australia's consolation win in the third home Test in Sydney last month, in the battle for the number six spot.

North's inclusion could enable Australia to opt for four specialist bowlers, with McGain missing out. This would mean a first cap for Hilfenhaus alongside Mitchell Johnson, Peter Siddle and Doug Bollinger. Another option is to pick off-spinner Nathan Hauritz, who missed the warm-up match but played in Sydney.

Touring selector David Boon told reporters in Johannesburg that McGain was in the running, saying it was unfair to judge the bowler on one outing.

Whichever attack is chosen, it will be severely lacking in experience. None of the bowlers has played a Test in South Africa and Johnson, with 18, is the only one who has played in more than four Tests in his career.

Against them is a powerful South African batting line-up in which five of the top six have averaged more than 50 over the past year.

South Africa also have the edge in bowling experience, with a potent pace attack of Dale Steyn, Makhaya Ntini and Morkel, backed by the steady left-arm spin of Paul Harris.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting will carry a big responsibility as his team's leading batsman, although he can expect solid support from vice-captain Michael Clarke, who is recovering from a back injury, and the experienced Simon Katich and Michael Hussey.

Ponting said before the tour that the pressure would be on South Africa, because they would start favourites, but his counterpart, Graeme Smith, said he did not believe the weight of expectation from the South African public would distract his players from playing to their potential.

AB awaits bowling strips

Cricket

CRICINFO, Johannesburg

AB de Villiers has predicted a tough time for batsmen from both sides in the Test series that begins in Johannesburg on Thursday, with plenty of swing expected to give the fast bowlers a boost. That could mean an advantage for South Africa, who boast one of the world's strongest pace attacks, while Australia will field a vastly inexperienced group led by Mitchell Johnson.

"There'll be a bit more swing over here in South Africa," de Villiers said on Tuesday. "It will definitely favour the bowlers a bit more than what we saw in Australia. There wasn't a lot of swing there. So Dale Steyn and the boys are going to have a good advantage I think but they've also got a good bowling attack."

Despite the Wanderers' reputation as a pace-friendly venue, South Africa are planning to play left-arm spinner Paul Harris and a three-man fast-bowling unit. Australia have not decided whether to include a specialist slow bowler -- Bryce McGain and Nathan Hauritz are both in the squad -- but de Villiers expected there would be some turn later in the match.

"The Wanderers is always a good Test wicket," he said. "It will definitely move around the first day, the first two days even. I'm sure that it will get a bit more pace day three and four and maybe a bit of turn day four going into day five."

De Villiers will be lining up for his 50th consecutive Test match since his debut and he said he was keen to take a more senior role in the batting line-up. He is eyeing the No. 1 position that was occupied by Jacques Kallis during the series in Australia, although coach Mickey Arthur said on Monday Kallis was not in danger of losing his place.

"I'm definitely not a youngster any more," de Villiers said. "Definitely more responsibility on my shoulders with the bat. I think I'm in pretty good form at the moment. I've gone through some patches before and I've learnt from the mistakes. I think it's going much better now. I really enjoy taking more responsibility at the wicket, batting under pressure and pushing myself to new limits."

The South African squad got together on Saturday to start preparing for the three-Test series, which will hand them the No. 1 Test ranking if they win. The players have enjoyed a break since returning home from Australia but unlike his crocodile-wrestling teammate Dale Steyn, the time off has not been all fun and games for de Villiers.

"I had my wisdom teeth taken out so that was pretty painful," he said. "I was at home for about ten days, under mum's wing, so pretty happy and refreshed and energised for what is ahead."

The players will need to be refreshed and in the right frame of mind. Unlike during the series in Australia, the South Africans are the favourites and de Villiers said they would need to ensure they remained focused on the game rather than the hype surrounding the series.

Younis sets records roll

FROM PAGE 17

Lanka's mammoth total -- the first time in Test cricket's 132-year history that rival captains have scored double hundreds in the same match.

Younis reached his double hundred before tea, when he drove paceman Dilhara Fernando towards covers for three. It took him 528 minutes and 385 balls to reach the mark.

The stylish batsman from the northwestern city of Mardan reached 250 soon after tea and then at 254 drove debutant Tharanga Paranavitana for a boundary to post the highest Test score by a Pakistani captain.

Wasim Akram held the previous record of 257, made against Zimbabwe at Sheikhupura in 1996.

As Younis blocked one end, Sri Lanka managed only one wicket in the first session when Fernando trapped Misbahul Haq in the penultimate over before lunch for 42.

Pakistan were in a tight corner when they resumed at

296-3 but Younis and Haq gave no chances to the Sri Lankan attack, adding 61 runs before being parted.

Younis, 149 overnight, moved to 150 in the second over with a single and remained as calm as he did when he arrived at the crease in the penultimate over on Sunday.

Iqbal also batted with caution until Jayawardene, in a spell with the ball, trapped him leg-before on 57.

Veteran Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, who got his only wicket on Sunday, and new sensation Mendis, who took his solitary wicket on Monday, failed to create any problems for the batsmen.

Muralidaran managed 1-165 off a marathon 60 overs, while Mendis finished with 1-135 in 55.

The second Test will start in Lahore on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the opening Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the National Stadium in Karachi on Tuesday.

SRI LANKA: First innings 644-7 declared (M Jayawardene 240, Samaraweera 231, Sangakkara 70, Warnapura 59; Kaneria 3-170)

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 296-3) Manzoor c P Jayawardene b Mendis 27 Butt c M Jayawardene b Muralidaran 23 Younis Khan not out 306 Malik run out 56 Misbahul b w b Fernando 42 Iqbal b w b M Jayawardene 57 Akmal not out 27 Extras: (b-4, lb-11, nb-16, w-5) 36 Total: (For five wks in 202 overs) 574 To bat: Sohail Khan, Yasir Arfat, Umar Gul, Danish Kaneria.

Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-78, 3-227, 4-357, 5-531.

Bowler O M R W Vaas 32 9 56 0 Fernando 34 2 107 1 Mendis 55 13 135 1 Muralidaran 60 12 165 1 Dilshan 9 2 42 0 Paranavitana 5 0 33 0 Sangakkara 4 0 15 0 M Jayawardene 3 0 6 1

Table with 2 columns: ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড (Cantonment Board) and দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (Notice of Tender). It lists various items for tender, including construction work, supply of materials, and services, with details on dates and locations.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Clues include '36 Apiece', '37 Mum', '58 Take a spouse', etc.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a grid of letters and a key below it. The key shows the mapping of letters to the original message, such as S to D, O to U, R to P, etc.