

## Div III cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russell KC and Meradia Rebel Club won their respective group matches to emerge as group champions in the Metropolitan 3rd Division Cricket League qualifiers at separate city venues on Thursday.

Sheikh Russell KC beat DRS Sporting Club by a massive 140 runs at the Jagannath Hall ground to reach the next round of the qualifiers. Batting first, Sheikh Russell KC scored 235/10 in 45.5 with Arman top scoring with 56 runs. Saiful took four wickets for 34 runs.

In response, DRS managed only 95 runs after being bowled out in just 32.3 overs, with Abdullah top scoring with 27 runs. Sami and Saleh took three wickets each for Sheikh Russell KC.

In another match, Meradia Rebel Club lifted the Group L title to reach the next round beating Great Dhania Sports Academy by six runs at the Dhaka University ground. Meradia RC scored 157 all out in 41.4 overs with Ibrahim scoring 32 runs. Saiful took four wickets for 29 runs.

In response, Great Dhania SA were bowled out for 151 runs in 44.1 overs. Momen scored the highest 26 runs while Pintu took 4/29 for Meradia.

In the day's other matches, Young Bright Future Social Organization (216/10 in 42.1) beat Savar South Rajasan Academy (97/10 in 27.4) by a massive 119 runs at the City Club ground while Mitali Boys Club (184/5 in 35.3) defeated Winhunter Sporting Club (182/10 in 38) by five wickets at the Gulshan Youth Club ground.

## Ishchenko claims double

AFP, Rome

Russia's Natalia Ishchenko secured a double title haul by winning the synchronised swimming solo free gold medal at the World Championships here on Thursday.

Ishchenko had already retained her solo technical title on Monday and once again beat Spain's Gemma Mengual into second position by just half a point, scoring 98.833 to the Spaniard's 98.333.

Italy's Beatrice Adelizzi delighted the home crowd by snatching the bronze medal with 95.500 to pip Canada's Chloe Isaac (95.000).

Ishchenko performed her routine to Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake, a popular choice among synchronised swimmers as China's free combination team also picked that piece on Wednesday.

Mengual opted for a version of the Beatles' 'Yesterday' sung by Ray Charles in a blues style but there was no repeat of Wednesday's success for the Spaniard.

Having finally won her first World Championship gold medal in the team free combination on Wednesday -- having previously won 15 silver and bronze medals -- the Spanish swimmer could not repeat that success and once again settled for silver behind her nemesis Ishchenko.

## Langer the leader

AFP, London

Somerset's Justin Langer became the highest-scoring Australian batsman in first-class cricket when he overhauled Sir Donald Bradman's career total of 28,067 runs on Thursday.

The 38-year-old took 20 minutes to score the six runs he needed having resumed with 89 to his name on the third day of the rain-delayed County Championship match at Worcestershire.

He went past the milestone with a cover drive for four off fellow Australian Matt Mason from the ninth ball he faced.

Langer, now in his 18th year in first-class cricket since making his debut for Western Australia, reached the milestone in his 615th innings compared to only 338 by the great Bradman.

After an earlier spell in county cricket with Middlesex, Langer made his debut for Somerset in 2006 and became captain in the following season. Born in Perth, he also captained Western Australia up to the 2006-07 season.

Since his scoring a century against Tasmania in his last match for WA in March 2008, he has played exclusively for Somerset.



Australia's (L-R) Peter Siddle, Ben Hilfenhaus and Michael Hussey stretch during a practice session in Northampton yesterday.

## Watto wants to get nasty

Cricket

AFP, London

Shane Watson admits Australia may have to get nasty in the Ashes because their competitive edge has been blunted since they were told to stop sledging.

Ahead of the series in England, Cricket Australia reminded Ricky Ponting's players of their responsibility as role models and warned them to set a good example following several high-profile clashes in recent years.

Watson admitted his teammates have struggled to find the right balance between being gentlemen and intimidating opponents.

But with England now 1-0 up in the series, Watson believes Australia must do whatever it takes to ensure the Ashes don't end up with the old enemy.

## 7 wickets v 309 runs

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at the bowling crease for veteran Sri Lankan seamer Chaminda Vaas, who retires from Test cricket after the match with 355 wickets from 111 Tests.

The 35-year-old, who was overlooked for the first two Tests, claimed just one wicket in 39 overs in his final match.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club on Thursday: **PAKISTAN:** First innings 299 (Manzoor 93, Yousuf 90, Malik 45, Thushara 5-83, Kulasekera 3-47)

**SRI LANKA:** First innings: 233 (Sangakkara 44, Jayawardene 79, Dilshan 44; Kaneria 5-62, Ajmal 3-70)

**PAKISTAN:** Second innings (overnight 300-5)

Manzoor b Herath 2  
Fawad c b Thushara 16  
Younus lbw b Kulasekera 19  
Yousuf c Sangakkara b Herath 23  
Misbahul c Sangakkara b Mathews 65  
Malik c sub (Lakmal) b Herath 134  
Akmal c Jayawardene b Kulasekera 74  
Gul c Vaas b Herath 46

Kaneria c Thushara b Herath 5  
Aamer not out 22  
Ajmal not out 3  
Extras: (b-10, lb-2, nb-2, w-2) 16  
Total: (For 9 wks declared in 123 overs) 425  
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-22, 3-54, 4-67, 5-186, 6-319, 7-371, 8-399, 9-405

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekera	20	5	55	2
Thushara	28	2	121	1
Herath	46	6	157	5
Vaas	19	6	47	0
Mathews	10	1	33	1

**SRI LANKA:** Second innings  
Paranavithana c Fawad b Malik 73  
Warnapura c Malik b Kaneria 31  
Sangakkara not out 50  
Jayawardene c Akmal b Kaneria 2  
Samaraweera not out 20  
Extras: (lb-5, nb-2) 7  
Total: (For 3 wks in 59 overs) 183

To bat: Dilshan, Mathews, Herath, Vaas, Thushara, Kulasekera  
Fall of wickets: 1-83, 2-139, 3-155

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gul	6	0	27	0
Aamer	9	0	20	0
Younus	3	0	16	0
Ajmal	16	1	36	0
Malik	9	1	23	1
Kaneria	16	1	56	2

## Greats slam WICB, WIPA

FROM PAGE 17

As an example Lloyd cites payments for West Indies' tour of England where, according to him, WIPA got away with ransom. His main grouse was why the board needed to pay the five players who had to opt out of the IPL mid-way to join England tour earlier this summer. "WICB received 2 million dollars for the England series but our players wanted 600,000," Lloyd said. "Then we had to compensate someone for missing out on the IPL. What I can't understand why do we need to compensate and pay somebody to play for your country. That to me is nonsense. We moved up to 1.48 million dollars but they stuck to their guns and said the board still had to compensate the players who missed out on the IPL."

Lloyd and Holding agree the WICB was, and has been, the original culprit in the case and both have had a pungent taste of the closed environment within the WICB ranks. A few years ago the pair were

part of the cricket committee of the West Indies board, comprising former greats, formed to help kick West Indies cricket out of the rut it had found itself after the retirement of the Sir Viv Richards in the mid-1990s. Holding later resigned over differences of opinion with the board. Both now agree that the board needs a desperate infusion of modern professional methods of governance if the game has to progress in the Caribbean.

"It can't be a case where a board member is there for life. The honorary secretary has been around for 40 years," said Lloyd. "The solution is to set-up as that would help administrators manage the game better once they understand clearly where the players are coming from."

Holding said the obvious damage to West Indies cricket is the way sponsors will look upon the entire entity. "The performances on the field have not been heart-warming

and if the people entrusted to run the game, the people the sponsors will be interacting with directly, are made to look so incompetent, what will encourage them to get on board with West Indies Cricket?" he said. "Nothing works without sponsorship in the Caribbean. It is not a rich part of the world."

According to Lloyd, the only way for players to be on top of the bargaining is by "winning", but the WICB needs to take charge as well. "WICB needs to be in charge just like other countries' boards -- Australia, England etc -- are."

As a long-term solution, Holding suggested that both organisations first get their act together and become trustworthy. "They then need to copy the formula used by Cricket Australia to compensate their cricketers. It is a very equitable formula that is not a secret and both their players association and the board are happy with it."

## Bell flops in Ashes test

AFP, London

Ian Bell suffered an Ashes setback Wednesday when he slumped to his second-lowest score of the season, just hours after Kevin Pietersen was ruled out of the remaining three Tests against Australia.

Bell, tipped to replace Pietersen whose Ashes campaign was ended by an Achilles injury, made just seven for Warwickshire in their County Championship clash with Hampshire at the Rose Bowl.

Teammate Jonathan Trott took the plaudits with 140 not out to help his side recover from 90 for five. Warwickshire ended the second day at 383 for seven.

Bell lasted just 27 deliveries before edging James Tomlinson to wicketkeeper Tom Burrows.

## I'm reborn: Asif

AFP, Lahore

Disgraced Pakistan paceman Mohammad Asif lauded his "rebirth" Thursday, determined to put his derailed career back on track after learning his lesson from brushes with drugs.

The 26-year-old paceman, embroiled in failed dope tests and a detention case, spoke a day after he was included in the preliminary 30-man Pakistan squad for the Champions Trophy in South Africa in two months' time.

The paceman's fast-track career derailed last year after he failed a dope test in the inaugural season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), resulting in a one-year ban from all cricket.

The ban expires on September 22, the day when the biennial Champions Trophy starts in South Africa. Pakistan face the West Indies in their first match on September 23 in the event which ends on October 5.

"You can say that it's a sort of rebirth for me," Asif told AFP. "I was performing well but then suddenly my career derailed and it was tough to get over those difficult days."

## Tigers' ODI

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Shakib Al Hasan will once again stand in as Bangladesh captain as regular captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza flew back home due to injury. Three others, paceman Shahadat Hossain, left-arm spinner Enamul Haque and wicketkeeper batsman Sahagir Hossain also took flight back home.

Meanwhile paceman Nazmul Hossain has gone as replacement for Mashrafe while another pacer Syed Raseel, left-arm-spinner Abdur Razzak and all-rounder Nayeem Islam have been sent to the Caribbean as one-day specialists to replace the returning trio.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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## Bayliss's realisation

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lankan coach Trevor Bayliss believes the play of going into the third and final Test against Pakistan with one spinner has not worked to their advantage. The visitors batted themselves into a strong position on the third day at the SSC, with their lead swelling to 366 and Sri Lanka facing an uphill battle.

"We felt the absence of a second spinner and regret not having played one," said Bayliss. "If we had played two spinners it doesn't guarantee you anything, but it would have given us more options. Our attack in this game has lacked a little bit in variety."

Sri Lanka left out spinner Ajantha Mendis and opted for four seamers, giving veteran fast bowler Chaminda Vaas an opportunity to make his farewell appearance in Tests.

"Pakistan have played well in this match and batted quite well," Bayliss said. "Misbah (ul Haq) and (Shoaib) Malik put their heads down today and looked like they really meant business. They grafted out for two hours and once they got in they started to blossom. I thought they batted really well."

"Pakistan put a partnership together and batted well and on the flattest wicket we've played on in the series. A few balls out there turned today and that will happen over the next two days. It's probably been the best conditions to bat. The ball seems to be more evenly paced and coming on to the bat, than the first few days when it was slow and some were a bit quicker and somewhat two-paced."

Bayliss also said the team regretted not having scored more runs in the first innings. "So far we haven't got batters out of form but batters out of big runs," he said. "They are all striking the ball well and playing nicely. The difference in this series and in the last couple of years is that they haven't gone on to make the big scores. This is something a little bit out of the ordinary."

"They'll be looking to turn that around in the second innings. It's not a real concern chasing down runs. We know we have quality players and we may not be too far down the track before

they start producing those big scores once again."

Bayliss said Sri Lanka's first priority tomorrow would be to take the remaining five wickets as soon as possible. "If we don't, it's left to Pakistan and what sort of a target they want to set us. We certainly won't be giving up. Whatever the target is, we'll be trying to bat for a long time and score the runs. It's not impossible to bat on this wicket as the guys showed today. It will start to take a little more turn in the next couple of days but we've got some quality players who have scored big runs on these types of wickets before. I am pretty happy with the effort put in by the boys today."

Pakistan batsman Shoaib Malik who brought up only his second Test century said he enjoyed batting at the SSC, the venue where he scored his maiden hundred. "Even on that occasion I had to save the team from defeat," Malik said. "This ground is quite a lucky one for me. Today I thought no matter what I will just go out there and play my natural game. I got the same message from the captain and the coach. I've been telling myself a long time that we had to compensate for the two opportunities we missed out in the first two Tests."

Malik was also full of praise for Misbahul Haq, with whom he put on 119 for the fifth wicket to take Pakistan to a commanding position. "After Sri Lanka took the first four wickets, the match was in their grasp," Malik said. "The major thing was the way Misbah played and our partnership. Misbah was not in good form and he came back at a crucial stage. Once you've broken the bowlers' confidence you can take them on and get some runs. The best time to bat on this wicket was between lunch and tea. We have performed well while batting in this Test. We are hoping the bowlers will produce something for us."

"We've worked hard and learnt from our mistakes. The way the team is playing at the moment we have covered a lot of ground. The batting didn't perform well in the first two Tests we got the opportunities but couldn't win from there. This is a good batting wicket, turning a bit but not supporting the fast bowlers anymore. That's what I felt when I was batting. What target we'll set Sri Lanka depends on the captain and coach. We will play accordingly."

## Flintoff will defy pain

Cricket

AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff has reiterated his intention to play through the pain barrier as he seeks to get fit enough to face Australia in next week's third Ashes Test

## KP miss could be vital

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well for Warwickshire but whoever comes in we have to move on pretty quickly and get our bodies and minds right for the Test next week."

Only 24 hours before his operation, Pietersen had spoken of his determination to follow Flintoff's example and play through the pain barrier.

Despite pain from a knee injury that has forced him to announce he will retire from Test cricket after the Ashes, Flintoff took five wickets in the second innings to kill off Ricky Ponting's men.

Pietersen wanted to perform similar heroics but has been forced to accept defeat.

"As an England cricketer the Ashes are the pinnacle of the game so I'm absolutely devastated to be missing the rest of this series," he said.

"Up until now the Achilles

at Edgbaston.

With the loss of Kevin Pietersen following Achilles surgery Tuesday, Flintoff's availability is now of vital importance as England bid to extend a 1-0 lead was instrumental in conjuring in a second Test which saw the Australians sent packing at Lord's for the first time since

injury has been manageable but it recently reached the point where we needed to look at other options in terms of treatment.

"I hate missing matches for England and especially during an Ashes summer but now that the decision has been made to undergo surgery I'm confident I can return to the England team injury-free following a course of rehabilitation."

"Unfortunately the injury has recently deteriorated. To leave a winning dressing room at this time is heart breaking but it wouldn't be fair to the team or myself to continue given the severity of the injury."

"I'll be supporting the team closely and wish them the best of luck as they look to build on the brilliant win at Lord's and reclaim the Ashes."

1934. Flintoff, who will end his Test career after the Ashes series, says he will do whatever it takes to play.

"There are no guarantees for anybody. But I have three Test matches left, and I'd do anything to get through, maybe put myself through things I wouldn't do if I was looking more long term," Flintoff, 31, told Thursday's Independent newspaper.

"I will do whatever it takes to get out on the field. If I don't it has to be something extremely serious. The encouraging thing was that I bowled regularly over 90mph at Lord's."

"The knee was sore on Tuesday and it's still sore but I'll rest up in front of the telly for the next few days and then get ready for Edgbaston."

Flintoff, battling a knee injury, produced a man-of-the-match performance with a second-innings five-wicket haul as England triumphed after the first Test had ended in stalemate in Cardiff.

On Tuesday, Flintoff had expressed similar defiance in the face of his struggle for fitness although he admitted in a BBC interview that "the things I am going through to get on the cricket field I can do short term but I won't be able to do it much longer."

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## CRYPTOQUIP

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Saturday's Cryptoquip: I MET MY FUTURE HUSBAND IN A DOWNPOUR, SO MY PET NAME FOR HIM HAS ALWAYS BEEN "RAIN BEAU."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals U