

Telegraph chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdullah Al Saif drew his seventh round board with Prakash Ved of Bihar in the 21st Telegraph School Chess Championship in Kolkata yesterday.

Asif improved his tally to 5.5 points while Ikramul Haq Siam earned 5 points, Tanzania Akter Tani and Tahmina Akter Tisha secured 4.5 points each.

In the other seventh round games, Siam beat Debangshu Chakrabarti of West Bengal, Tani beat Neelarghya Mandal of West Bengal, Tisha beat Purvi Malani of West Bengal and Protiva lost against Bidita Shennay of West Bengal.

Spain retain Davis Cup title

AFP, Barcelona

Spain won its fourth Davis Cup title on Saturday when the doubles pair of Fernando Verdasco and Feliciano Lopez demolished their Czech opponents to give the hosts an unassailable 3-0 lead.

Spain becomes the first country since Sweden in 1998 to retain the Davis Cup, after triumphing last year in Argentina.

"It was an incredible moment to return as captain after winning here nine years ago," said Spanish team captain Albert Costa, who as a player helped Spain to its first ever Davis Cup title in 2000, beating Australia at the same Palau Sant Jordi Arena in Barcelona.

Spain won again in 2004, defeating the USA.

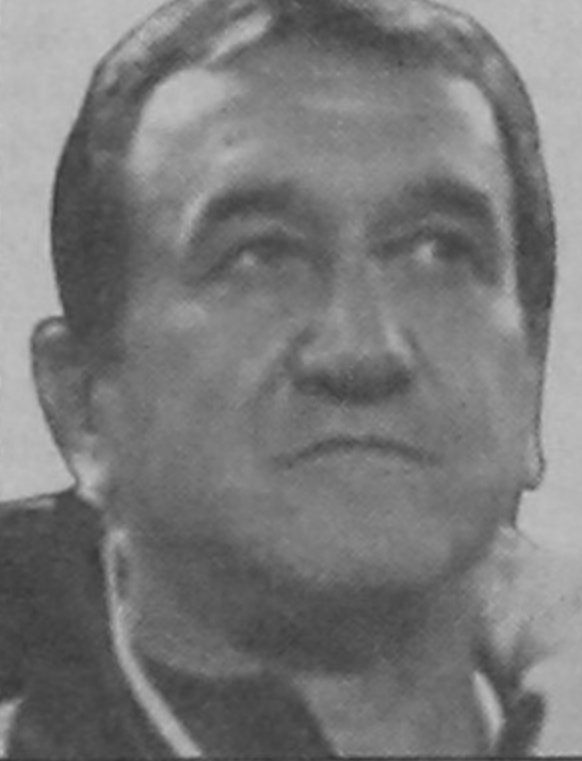


Did U Know?

AC Milan boast the longest Serie A winning streak to date 58 games in 1991-92.



TALK TURKEY



Carlos Alberto Parreira

(South Africa soccer coach)

"The greatest challenge is getting to the second phase. I hope that with the backing of home fans we will reach the quarterfinals and after that the sky is the limit."

About 2010 FIFA World Cup.



What to WATCH

BTB

Bangabandhu SAFF Championship

Maldives v Afghanistan

Live from 4:00pm

India v Nepal

Live from 7:00pm

STAR Cricket

Australia v West Indies

Second Test, Day 4

Live from 7:00am

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live from 9:30pm



Bangabandhu SAFF Championship

Maldives v Afghanistan (4:00pm)

India v Nepal (7:00pm)

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Premier Div Cricket League

Abahani v Surjo Torun

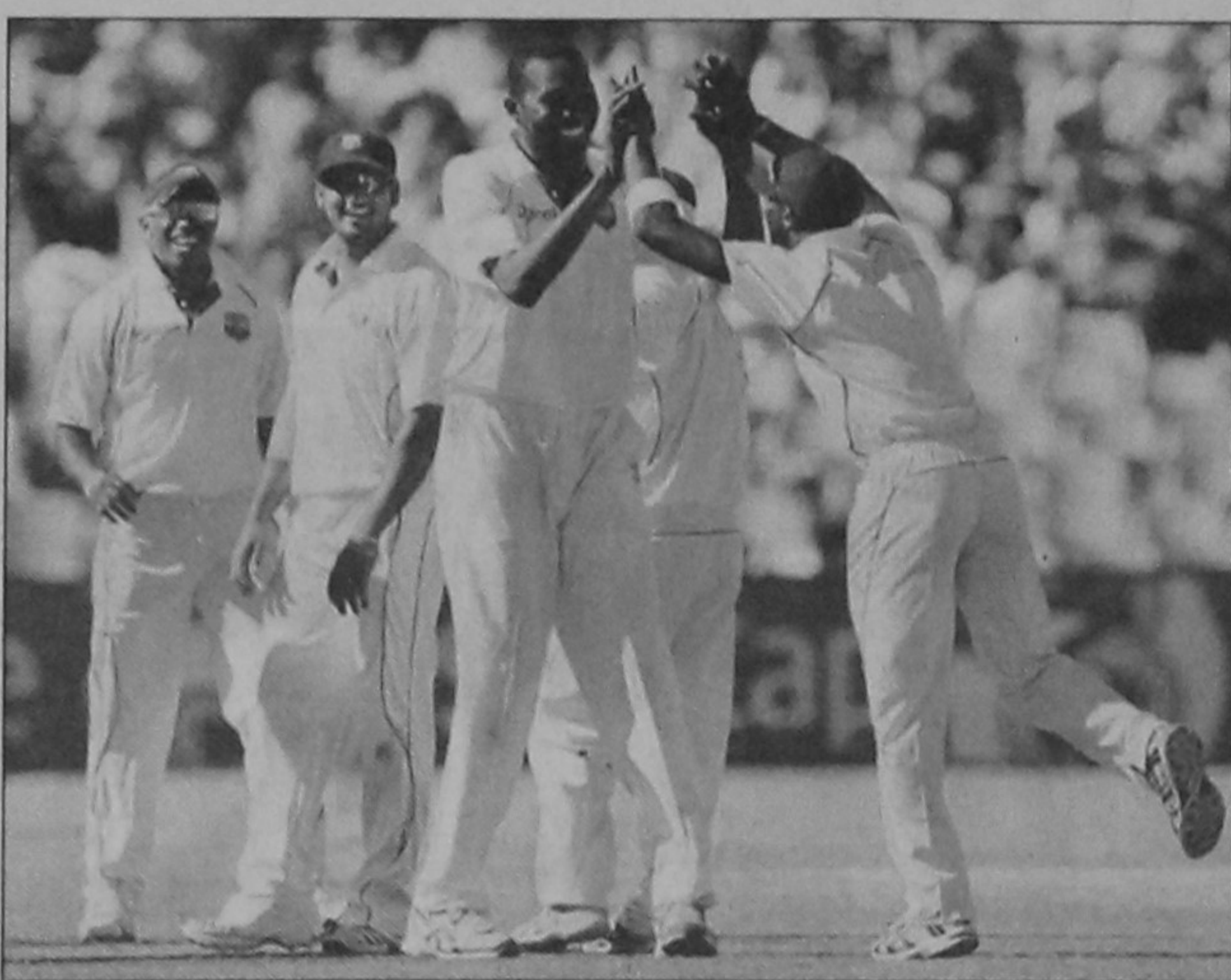
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium

Mohammedan v Khelaghar SKS

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Biran v Victoria

Venue: BKSP-2



West Indies spinner Suleman Benn (C) celebrates after taking one of his five wickets on the third day of the second Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

Advantage West Indies

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

On a day of good old-fashioned Test cricket, a persistent Suleman Benn and a powerful Kemar Roach dragged West Indies into an unexpectedly strong position with two days to play.

Half-centuries from Michael Clarke and Brad Haddin guided Australia to within 12 of West Indies' first-innings 451 but having resumed at 174 for no loss Australia had anticipated batting out the day and building a lead from which they could push for victory.

Instead it was West Indies who finished with an advantage. They had reached 23-0 with Chris Gayle on 12 and Adrian Barath on 10, and although the odds of a draw have shortened, the visitors will undoubtedly have victory on their minds when they begin their charge 35 runs in front on the fourth morning. They could be helped by the potential absence of Peter Siddle, who has stiffness in his hamstring.

Progress wasn't easy for either side. The towering Benn was forced to send down 53 overs for his 5 for 155 and Roach worked hard, regularly in the 150kph region for his three wickets. Clarke reached 71 but

had trouble against Roach, Michael Hussey compiled a painfully unconvincing 41 and the top-order players struggled early against Benn's turn and bounce. Haddin looked as good as any of Australia's batsmen in a confident 55 before he ran out of partners.

The star of the day was Benn, who had endured some long spells in Test cricket, including 47 overs in an innings against Australia in Bridgetown last year, but had never bowled this many. He toiled unchanged for the first three hours and was rewarded with the first five-wicket Test haul from a West Indies spinner since Gayle four and a half years ago. And he was the first specialist to achieve it since Dinanath Ramnarine nearly nine years ago.

By the time he grabbed his final wicket, Siddle caught edging to gully, Benn was understandably tired but still smiling. He had his moments of good fortune - Marcus North was caught at leg slip when he tried to sweep and the ball ran off the back of his bat - but it was Benn's drift and spin and lift that created the opportunities.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between Australia and West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday:
WEST INDIES: First innings 451 (Gayle 26, Sarwan 28,

Chanderpaul 62, Nash 92, Bravo 104, Sammy 44, Rampaul 40 not out, Bollinger 2-67, Johnson 3-105, Hauritz 2-111, Watson 2-57)
AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 174 for no loss)

Batter	Runs	Wicket
Watson b Benn	96	
Katich c Barath b Benn	80	
Ponting c Bravo b Roach	36	
Hussey c Ramdin b Roach	41	
Clarke c Sarwan b Benn	71	
North c Bravo b Benn	16	
Haddin not out	55	
Johnson c Gayle b Sammy	7	
Hauritz c Ramdin b Roach	17	
Siddle c Bravo b Benn	0	
Bollinger run out	0	
Extras: (lb-2, nb-18)	20	
Total: (All out in 131.1 overs)	439	
Fall of wickets: 1-174, 2-193, 3-233, 4-312, 5-353, 6-370, 7-377, 8-418, 9-419.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Roach	25.1	3	93	3
Rampaul	14	1	52	0
Bravo	12	1	43	0
Sammy	18	2	79	1
Benn	53	8	155	5
Gayle	9	1	15	0

WEST INDIES: Second innings
Gayle not out 12
Barath not out 10
Extras: (nb-1) 1
Total: (Forno wkts in 4 overs) 23
To bat: Sarwan, Chanderpaul, Bravo, Nash, Ramdin, Sammy, Benn, Roach, Rampaul.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Johnson	2	0	12	0
Bollinger	2	0	11	0

Pakistan level series

FROM PAGE 17

Zealand's batsmen is as wide as that of Mexico.

He had started a dull morning like a man on speed. Quick hands and feet helped him drive easily through covers but an ugly slog across the line for six off Asif unleashed something even more in him. Adrenaline and heart, rather than just head, carried him through an exhilarating high-risk, high-octane bouncer battle with Gul where words were exchanged as freely as were blows and boundaries.

The books weren't always textbooks though when were textbooks last any good? Eyes came off the ball regularly, but intent takes a batsman a long way these days. He took care to mix in some more dapper strokeplay as well, a whippy cut through point and a couple of fine sweeps off Kaneria that easily carried for six. Before you knew it, he had put on fifty with Brendon McCullum, though it was more monopoly than collusion really.

Some control came back Pakistan's way with the return of Aamer and the nearing of Taylor's hundred, a spell before lunch where run-scoring calmed down a little. Pakistan lost what little they had gained

as Gul dropped a sitter at point from McCullum: what he was doing at a position made famous by men such as Jonty Rhodes will take some answering. Yesterday's drops, dummies each one of them, were suddenly looking a little less funny. And when McCullum was rightly reprieved two overs later by the review system - hitting the ball rarely makes a good case for leg-before - things seemed to be not going as much Pakistan's way as they would have liked.

But the impressive Aamer persisted from round the stumps, no doubt furthering comparisons with you-know-who. Taylor's nerves - hidden so well for so long - reappeared as he chased one and finally, as hell froze over, a Pakistani slip catch was held onto. Straight after lunch, Kaneria shut the door temporarily on the spin debate in Pakistan, reminding all of the innate beauty of his art. McCullum was done in by a delicious legbreak, and the googly that got Daryl Tuffey would have - and has - gotten rid of better men.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at Basin Reserve in Wellington on Sunday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 264 (Kamran 70, Umar 46, Farhat 32, Gul 31; Vettori 4-58, Tuffey 4-64, O'Brien 2-78)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 99 (Taylor 30, Flynn 29; Asif 4-40, Kaneria 3-6, Gul 2-21)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 239 (Farhat 35, Yusuf 83, Misbah 33, Umar 52; Martin 4-52, O'Brien 4-66, Elliott 2-8)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 70-3)

Batter	Runs	Wicket
Guptill b Asif	15	
McIntosh lbw b Asif	2	
Flynn c K Akmal b Asif	20	
Taylor c Misbah b Aamer	97	
Fulton c K Akmal b Aamer	13	
Elliott b Kaneria	6	
McCullum c K Akmal b Kaneria	24	
Vettori c U Akmal b Asif	40	
Tuffey lbw b Kaneria	3	
O'Brien c Malik b Asif	31	
Martin not out	0	
Extras: (b-6, lb-6)	12	
Total: (All out in 82.5 overs)	263	
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-36, 3-37, 4-80, 5-108, 6-186, 7-206, 8-212, 9-252.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Aamer	16	3	64	2
Asif	23.5	9	67	5
Kaneria	31	6	74	3
Gul	11	2	41	0
Malik	1	0	5	0

Result: Pakistan won by 141 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Asif.

Manchester toasts

FROM PAGE 20

result beyond doubt in the 71st minute with United's third before England striker Wayne Rooney added a fourth goal.

"It's always a difficult game and we had six defenders missing before the game," United manager Sir Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports.

Then Gary Neville and Wes Brown had to come off.

Basement club Portsmouth won in the league for only the third time this season with a 2-0 victory at home to Burnley.

Arsenal leapfrogged North London rivals Tottenham, who play Everton on Sunday, into third place with a 2-0 win over Stoke.

Andrey Arshavin gave Arsenal Wenger's side a 26th minute lead but it was not until 11 minutes from time, when substitute Aaron Ramsey scored, that the Gunners could

start to relax.

Liverpool were held to a frustrating goalless draw away to Blackburn while Aston Villa maintained their push for European football with a 3-0 victory at home to Hull courtesy of goals from Richard Dunne, James Milner and a late penalty from John Carew.

Birmingham came from behind to beat Wigan 3-2. Sebastian Larsson scoring with two free-kicks for the winners, while Wolves defeated fellow relegation candidates Bolton 2-1.

At Fratton Park, second-half goals from Iceland defender Hermann Hreidarsson and Ivory Coast striker Aruna Dindane, who had earlier missed a penalty, saw Portsmouth, who remain bottom, to their first win under new boss Avram Grant.

Ronaldo

FROM PAGE 20
minutes later by collecting a second yellow card for kicking Juanma Ortiz.

Sergio Ramos headed his first goal of the season to give Real a first half lead but Fernando Soriano and Kalu Uche scored twice in six minutes to give the hosts a fright before they mounted their late comeback.

Earlier Sevilla dropped two vital points in a 1-1 draw at home against 10-man Valladolid and they trail Barcelona by nine points.

Sevilla host Rangers in the Champions League on Wednesday looking to secure top spot in their group, having already qualified for the knock-out stage.

Real are also in Champions League action and need a point at Marseille on Wednesday to qualify for the last 16.

Bayer held

FROM PAGE 20

Champions League behind Sevilla and Babel will find out in the winter break if he will keep his job.

Defending champions Wolfsburg needed a late goal to seal a 2-2 draw with Freiburg on Saturday as they prepare for Tuesday's crunch home Champions League match against Manchester United, which they must win to progress.

Freiburg took the lead when Cameroon striker Mohamadou Idrissou netted after only 19 minutes, but Wolves equalised when Freiburg's 21-year-old defender Felix Bastians headed into his own net.

Wolfsburg's Germany defender Marcel Schaefer hauled down Freiburg's Daniel Caligiuri and Croatia midfielder Ivica Banovic slotted home the penalty on 51 minutes.

But Wolfsburg's Fabian Johnson scored on only his fourth appearance two minutes from time to give his side a valuable point.

Dortmund moved up to seventh in the Bundesliga table and did their goal difference tally the world of good when they hammered Nuremberg 4-0.

Hamburg were held to a goalless draw at home to Hoffenheim.

India

FROM PAGE 17

of boundaries to lift Sri Lanka past the 300-run mark, but Zaheer was not to be denied his fifth wicket.

The seamer lifted a ball outside Kulasekara's off-stump and the batsman edged a waist-high catch to Venkatesh Laxman at second slip after making 19.

"India outperformed us in all departments of the game in the last two Tests," Sangakkara admitted.

"We nearly put 400 on the board, which is a good score, but (Virender) Sehwag took the game away with his 293."

"The guys fought hard through the series but it was just not good enough."

SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard at stumps on the fifth day of the third and final Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday:
SRI LANKA: First innings 393 (Dilshan 109, Mathews 99, Paranavithana 53; Harbhajan 4-112, Ojha 3-101)
INDIA: First innings 726-9 declared (Sehwag 293, Dhoni 100 not out, Vijay 87, Dravid 74, Laxman 62, Tendulkar 53; Muralidaran 4-195, Herath 3-240)

SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 274-6)
Paranavithana lbw b Sreesanth 54
Dilshan lbw b Harbhajan 16
Sangakkara c Dhoni b Zaheer 137
M Jayawardene c Dhoni b Zaheer 12
Samaraweera c Laxman b Zaheer 0
Mathews c Dhoni b Ojha 5
P Jayawardene lbw b Ojha 32
Kulasekara c Laxman b Zaheer 19
Herath c Ojha b Zaheer 3
Muralidaran c Dhoni b Harbhajan 14
Welegedara not out 0
Extras: (b-12, lb-1, nb-3, w-1) 17
Total: (All out in 100.4 overs) 309
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-119, 3-135, 4-137, 5-144, 6-208, 7-278, 8-282, 9-307.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harbhajan	34.4	5	80	2
Ojha	23	4	84	2
Zaheer	21	5	72	5
Sreesanth	13	4	36	1
Sehwag	9	2	24	0

Result: India won by an innings and 24 runs; clinched series 2-0.
Man-of-the-match: Virender Sehwag.

Man-of-the-series: Virender Sehwag.

The Lanka trainer Sumith

Captains divided on review system

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara on Sunday called for the umpires' review system to be made mandatory after India defeated his side 2-0 in the Test series.

But his Indian counterpart Mahendra Singh Dhoni was not in favour of the umpires' review system, saying it was not "100 per cent fool-proof."

India won the third and final Test by an innings and 24 runs here on Sunday to rise to the top of the International Cricket Council's official Test rankings.

Sangakkara, whose team had also lost the second Test in Kanpur by an innings and 144 runs after the first match ended in a draw, said umpiring errors contributed to the defeat.

"You got to accept the fact that we were outbowled and outplayed," Sangakkara told reporters.

"But not to have the review system when every other side in the world is using the review system, it becomes an extra handicap and it cost us quite a huge amount of runs in the last two Tests."

"This series is probably the best advertisement for having the review system when decisions cost us over 500 runs and a lot of wickets."

The Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS), which allows batting or bowling teams to challenge decisions by on-field umpires through television replays, was not

used in the series.

The Indian cricket board declined to say why the system was not used, but media reports indicated the television company broadcasting the series did not want to bear the additional costs involved.

The tourists were set back by umpiring mistakes against in-form batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan in both innings of the final Test.

Dilshan's first-innings century was cut short when English umpire Nigel Llong ruled the batsman caught at forward short-leg even though television replays appeared to show the ball bounced off the pad.

In the second innings, Australia's Daryl Harper ruled Dilshan leg-before to Harbhajan Singh when he padded up to a ball that spun sharply from the middle-stump and hit the batsman's front leg.

Television replays showed the ball missing the leg-stump by at least six inches.

Dhoni did not agree with Sangakkara. "I don't think it is 100 per cent fool-proof," he said. "It is not like a vehicle which is 100 per cent bullet proof."

"If you are traveling in one of those vehicles, you would want it to be either 100 per cent bullet-proof or nothing. You don't want to try something that is not fool-proof."

"The system has its own advantages and disadvantages. If we were at the receiving end, I would say it's not good. At the same time if your spinners get wickets because of the review system you tend to be on its favoured side."

"It's very difficult to judge right now whether it's good or not."

Lanka run riot

FROM PAGE 17

himself unmarked inside the box, took it past an advancing Leki and gently prodded it home. A few minutes later the

Bhutan keeper made a brilliant save that denied Jayasuriya his hat-trick. The Lanka striker however made it his day and got his third on the 78th minute, as he coolly tapped in an angled pass from the left hand side from Izzeddin.

The other scorer Channa could have had his third too had he not wasted a golden opportunity on the 83rd minute, his lob over the advancing keeper missing the open net by some distance. Bhutan, in the mean time, pressed hard for a consolation on the counter attacks, but their efforts ran dry in the last quarter of the Sri Lanka half, much to the disappointment of the cheering neutral supporters. Sri Lanka, though, put the icing on the cake with a sixth, just before the final whistle as

Gunaratne, who scored from a penalty against Pakistan, heading in a cross from Channa.

The Lanka trainer Sumith

Walpole was ecstatic but not overjoyed with this easy win.

"We lost a couple of important players in the match against Pakistan. And we missed a key player through flu. Even though this was expected to be an easy game for us, we came home strongly. We have a seven goal advantage now which puts us in a strong position in the group."

Walpole's counterpart Koji Gyotoku took the defeat gracefully admitting that even though their initial plan was to snatch a point from this game, they were found wanting against a much better side both physically and technically.

TEAMS

Sri Lanka: KCK Lankesara, Y Sadhishkumar (Ajith Kumara), SK Chatura M Weerasinghe, WN Kasun Jayasuriya, EB Channa, S Sanjeev (LAND Bandara), L Duddley Steinwall, WRD Ruwanthilaka, MNM Izzadeen, WA Chathura Gunaratne and MAsmeer

Bhutan: Leki, Tandin Tshering, Prema, Passang Tshering, Sonam Tenzin,

Nawang Dendup, Karun Gurung, Gyetlshen, Chimi Dorji, Kinley Wangchuk and Dawa Gyetlshen.
Referee: Adil Ali (Maldives)

Shabby BCB

FROM PAGE 17
heavily on the cricket operations committee for the chaos surrounding the Tamim issue but he cannot avoid his own responsibility when he himself holds a senior post in the board; just after the BCB president. Anam is also a chairman of the working committee in the BCB, which would mean that he has to point the finger of blame at