

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 Ikrumal Haq Siam earned 5 points, Tanzina Akter Tani and Tahmina Akter Tisha secured 4.5 points each.

In the other seven 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 Shenny 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 Barcelona.

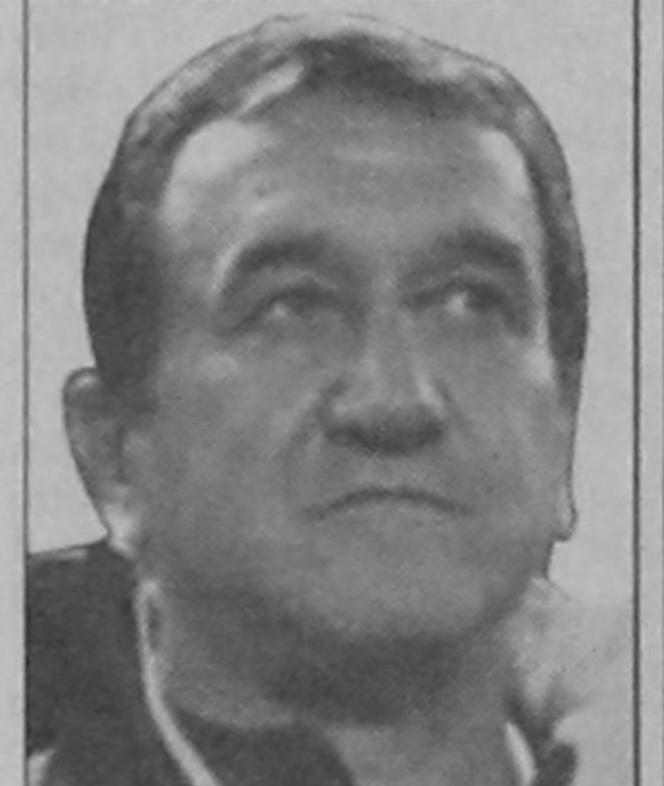
"It was an incredible moment to return as captain after winning here nine years ago," said Spanish team captain Albert Costa, who as a player helped Spain to its first ever Davis Cup title in 2000, beating Australia at the same Palau Sant Jordi Arena in Barcelona.

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.



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.



BTV

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

Apahani v Surjo Torun

Venue: Share-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium

Mohammedan v Khetaghar SKS

Venue: Biman v Victoria

Venue: BKSP-2



PHOTO: INTERNET

West Indies spinner Sulieman 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



CRICINFO, undated

On a day of good old-fashioned Test cricket, a persistent Sulieman 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 Diananath 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 2-111)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 174 for no loss)

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: (For no wkt 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: First innings 264

Kamran 70, Umar 46, Farhan 32, Gul 31; Vettori 4-58, Tuffy 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 (Farhan 35, Younis 83, Misbah 33, Umar 52; Martin 4-52, O'Brien 4-66, Elliott 2-8)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 70-3)

Guptill 12, Asif 15

McIntosh 12, Asif 2

Flynn c Akmal b Asif 20

Taylor c Misbahul b Aamer 97

Elliott b Kaneria 6

McCullum c Akmal b Kaneria 24

Vettori c Akmal b Asif 40

Tuffy lbw b Kaneria 3

O'Brien c Malib 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

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.

Pakistan level series

FROM PAGE 17
Zealand's batsmen are 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 hooks 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 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, dollies 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 ways 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 Tuffy 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:

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Mohammad Asif.

PAKISTAN: First innings 264

Kamran 70, Umar 46, Farhan 32, Gul 31; Vettori 4-58, Tuffy 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 (Farhan 35, Younis 83, Misbah 33, Umar 52; Martin 4-52, O'Brien 4-66, Elliott 2-8)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 70-3)

Guptill 12, Asif 15

McIntosh 12, Asif 2

Flynn c Akmal b Asif 20

Taylor c Misbahul b Aamer 97

Elliott b Kaneria 6

McCullum c Akmal b Kaneria 24