



South African batsman Jacques Kallis flicks the ball during the opening day of the first Test against England at SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday.

Imran to deliver 2010 Cowdrey Lecture

AFP, London

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan will give the tenth MCC Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture at Lord's next year, organisers announced here Tuesday.

Imran will become the first Pakistani to deliver the lecture.

Previous speakers include Geoffrey Boycott, South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu and, most recently, Adam Gilchrist.

Imran's address, on July 19, is due to take place two days after the scheduled conclusion of the Pakistan-Australia Test match at Lord's - the north-west London ground owned by MCC.

MCC president John Barclay, who played alongside Imran at English county Sussex in the 1970s and 1980s, said: "Imran was an inspired cricketer.

"He was never short of opinions and rarely was he reluctant to hold back.

"We will be in for a treat on July 19 when Imran will display the depth of his knowledge and breadth of his experience."

Imran, a formidable fast bowler, is arguably Pakistan's greatest cricketer and widely regarded as one of the best all-rounders ever to play the game.

India, Pakistan

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The match schedule will be released before December 31, the FIH said.

Pool A: Germany, the Netherlands, South Korea, New Zealand, Canada, Argentina.

Pool B: Australia, Spain, England, Pakistan, India, South Africa.

V-Day hockey

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margin through a penalty stroke and made it 3-0 converting another penalty corner.

Rimon, who was kept out of the national squad, reduced the margin for Bangladesh Police through a field goal while Trishna sealed the fate of the game through a field goal one minute from time.

Ziaur propels

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wickets in 43.2 overs in reply to 229.

Wicketkeeper batsman Mohammad Mithun top scored with 56 off 64 balls that saw three boundaries while Shahriar Nafees smashed seven boundaries to score 30 off 24 balls.

Shaker Ahmed captured three wickets for 34 runs.

Earlier Shaheed Jewel XI rode on Shabbir Rahman's unbeaten 70 and Quazi Nurul Hasan's fifty to score 229 in 42.2 overs.

Shabbir smashed four boundaries and as many sixes in his 65-balls 70 while Nurul Islam struck eight boundaries in his 48 balls stay.

Kamrul Islam picked up three wickets for 28 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SHAHEED JEWEL XI: 229 all out in 42.2 overs (Anamul 10, Amit 14, Sarkar 15, Nurul Hasan 50, MH Sourav 16, Shabbir 70 not out, Saikat 20, Babu 23, extras 9; Kamrul 3-28, Farhad 2-34).

SHAHEED MUSHTAQE XI: 230-8 in 43.2 overs (Faruque 26, Nafees 30, Mithun 56, Farhad Reza 15, Farhad Hossain 32, Zia 38, extras 13; Babu 2-27, Shaker 3-34). **Result:** Shaheed Mushtaque XI won by two wickets.

Swann halts SA fightback

AFP, Centurion

England off-spinner Graeme Swann struck four balls before tea to halt a South African fightback on the first day of the first Test at SuperSport Park on Wednesday.

South Africa were 159 for four at tea with Jacques Kallis unbeaten with a polished 51.

Kallis and AB de Villiers seemed to have weathered an early onslaught by the England bowlers as they put together a fourth wicket stand of 66, but De Villiers was caught at short leg for 32 to give Swann his second wicket of the innings.

De Villiers did not add to his score after surviving a television review when Swann appealed for a catch behind.

England used up their quota of reviews for the innings, with television umpire Amish Saheba earlier confirming a not-out decision by on-field official Aleem Dar

against Kallis when James Anderson was bowling.

The series could hardly have got off to a worse start for South Africa. Strike bowler Dale Steyn was ruled out after feeling tightness in his left hamstring during the pre-match warm-up. He was replaced by new cap Friedel de Wet.

Then captain and batting mainstay Graeme Smith was caught behind off Stuart Broad without scoring in the second over after England captain Andrew Strauss won the toss and sent South Africa in. Smith's attempted glance was held by wicketkeeper Matt Prior, who lunged to his right.

Prince and Hashim Amla put on 50 for the second wicket but it was slow going against tight bowling before Amla was caught at second slip off Graham Onions.

Prince, who successfully sought a referral after umpire Steve Davis gave him out lbw to Onions when he had 19, made 45 before he was caught slip off Swann's second ball of

the match.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the first Test between South Africa and England at SuperSport Park in Centurion on Wednesday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings
Smith c Prior b Broad 0
Prince c Collingwood b Swann 45
Amla c Collingwood b Onions 19
Kallis not out 51
De Villiers c Cook b Swann 32
Duminy not out 0
Extras: (b-1, lb-9, w-2) 12
Total: (For 4 wks in 55 overs) 159
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-51, 3-93, 4-159.

To bat: Boucher, Harris, Morkel, Ntini, DeWet.

Bowler O M R W
Anderson 15 6 39 0
Broad 13 5 26 1
Onions 12 2 43 1
Swann 11 2 34 2
Collingwood 4 1 7 0
ENGLAND: Strauss (captain), Cook, Trott, Pietersen, Collingwood, Bell, Prior, Swann, Broad, Anderson, Onions.
Toss: England

Majola hails ton-up Ntini

AFP, Centurion

CRICINFO, undated

Gerald Majola, the Cricket South Africa chief executive, has hailed Makhaya Ntini's career as the fast bowler reached 100 Test caps in the opening encounter against England in Centurion.

"Makhaya Ntini's 100th Test match for South Africa marks a major milestone in one of the most incredible journeys yet undertaken in world cricket," he said. "Makhaya rose from being a herd boy in the tiny village of Mdingi in the Eastern Cape to being rated as one of the world's best fast bowlers and becoming the most popular sports person South Africa has known."

"He has stridden the world cricket stage like a colossus since making his Test debut at the age of 20," he added. "His 10 wickets against England at Lord's in 2003 also stands alone in the South African record books at the home of cricket."

Majola praised the impact that Ntini has had within the sport and the way he has played the game over an 11-year career. "For more than a decade, Makhaya has been the face of South African cricket wherever the game is played," he said. "His has been the face of friendship, enjoyment and a fierce will to win for his country."

Ntini himself has spoken of the pride of reaching his hundred milestone and admitted he never thought he would get the chance to represent his country. "For me, playing 100

times for my country - from a time when you thought, as a black cricketer, it wouldn't be possible to penetrate and be successful among a white-dominated sport, it gives a lot of inspiration to younger people. If I can do it, so can they."

Ntini will have an even more important role to play in his 100th Test after South Africa lost the services of Dale Steyn shortly before the toss. Steyn pulled up during the warm-ups with a recurrence of the hamstring injury that has troubled him since the third ODI in Cape Town.

He had appeared on course to make the Test after coming through South Africa's training camp in Potchefstroom and his absence leaves Graeme Smith short of his main strike bowler. It also meant a last-minute debut for 29-year-old Friedel de Wet who had been kept with the squad on standby.

Graeme Smith, the South African captain, said it had been a privilege to have had a part in Ntini's career. "He's a great success story, and he has worked very hard for this honour. He has always been an important part of the team - his work ethic, his commitment, his energy and his vibrant personality. I wish him every success in his 100th match."

"He'll tell you that his success is down to a lot of hard work. He's had his ups and downs, but he's always met them with 100 percent commitment," he added. "Makhaya has become the spearhead of our attack and I've been very grateful for his energy and commitment as a leader. He's a vibrant person and he's played a prominent role, not just in this team, but in South Africa."

Aus wallop WI

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Australia's record of not owning a century in the three-match series.

At least Watson didn't briefly lose his mind, with Roach's sharp ball going away and brushing his edge on 89, but it didn't ease the pain of missing a maiden hundred, just as he did after reaching 96 in Adelaide last week. The day began with a 132-run stand between Watson and Katich, a partnership which was so comfortable it seemed like they would be unhappy if they didn't reach 600. By stumps, on a pitch missing the traditional steeping bounce, Hussey had taken them to comfort with a bright 81.

Ponting headed for hospital shortly before tea after being shaken by the spell of Roach, who had picked up the captain twice in the series. Life was immediately uncomfortable for Ponting, who ducked and turned his head in response to a 146kph short ball that arrived as his second delivery.

His arm remained high to

take the impact and following a delay for treatment he was breathing deeply again when hit in the stomach jumping back to Roach. Ponting is now 34 and was noticeably slow at the start, although Roach had some inspiration after the captain said in the lead-up to the match that the extra speed did not worry him.

The injury continued to bother Ponting for the next 36 minutes and he managed to ignore the pain briefly to pull Roach for six, not worrying about the two men on the boundary. However, he was grimacing again following a pull off Dwayne Bravo and went off to give Hussey a chance to secure his spot.

On his home ground, Hussey produced his most authoritative innings of the series, pulling powerfully on occasions and working the ball cleverly. His innings peaked with three fours in Roach's opening over with the second new ball and he will be desperate to reach three figures on the second morning when he resumes with Marcus

North (23).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the first day of the third Test between Australia and West Indies at Western Australia Cricket Association Ground in Perth on Wednesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings
Watson c Ramdin b Roach 89
Katich c Roach b Benn 99
Ponting retired hurt 23
Husney not out 81
Clarke c Gayle b Deonarine 11
North not out 23
Extras: (w-1, nb-12) 13
Total: (For 3 wks in 90 overs) 339
To bat: Haddin, Johnson, Hauritz, Bollinger, McKay.
Fall of wickets: 1-132, 1-175*, 2-260, 3-277.

Bowler O M R W
Roach 13 0 67 1
Rampaul 14 4 38 0
Tonge 13 0 65 0
Bravo 13 0 56 0
Benn 19 3 61 1
Deonarine 18 3 52 1
WEST INDIES: Gayle, Dowlin, Sarwan, Deonarine, Nash, Bravo, Ramdin, Benn, Rampaul, Tonge, Roach.
Toss: Australia.

Muralidaran, Fernando out of India ODIs

AFP, New Delhi

Sri Lanka suffered a double blow when Muttiah Muralidaran and Dilhara Fernando were ruled out of the one-day series in India with finger injuries, a team official said on Wednesday.

Off-spinner Muralidaran, the world bowling record holder, sat out Tuesday's first one-dayer in Rajkot in which the tourists almost chased down India's 414-7 before being restricted to 411-8 in the high-scoring thriller.

Fast bowler Fernando injured his finger during that game while trying to take a return catch off Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, team manager Brendon Kuruppusaid.

"Fernando hurt his finger during that match. His replacement will be announced shortly," Kuruppu told reporters.

"Murali injured his ring and middle fingers in his right hand during the Mumbai Test earlier this month and is going back home.

"We have decided to rest Murali to allow him to recover fully and be available for future tournaments," he said.

Muralitharan, whose 792 Test and 512 one-day wickets are world records, will be replaced by two off-spinners, Muthumudalige Pushpakumara and Suraj Randiv, for the rest of the series.

The duo will join the squad ahead of Friday's second match in Nagpur, Kuruppu said.

Sri Lanka lost the Test series against India 2-0 and both teams won a Twenty20 international each ahead of the one-dayers.

Sri Lanka are due to play a tri-series with India and Bangladesh in Dhaka from January 4-13.

Victoria post

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Tarequzzaman 29, Butt 61, Nazmul 23, extras 7; Saju 2-33, Monir 3-52)

VICTORIA: 225-5 in 48 overs (Kamrul 86, Bashar 54, Salahuddin 31 not out, extras 13; Aslam 2-34)

Result: Victoria won by five wickets.

Victory Day

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finish second and third.

Despite taking more time than his previous best, Rubel Rana finished first in the 50m backstroke timing 29.36 seconds. His previous best was 28.28 seconds. Fanga, a Korean swimmer, finished behind Jewel clocking 30.51 seconds while Sumon took 30.65 seconds to finish third.

"The women swimmers put up a better performance compared to the men swimmers as the women swimmers almost reached the records of SA Games while the men swimmers went close to our national records," said coach Amirul Islam.

Korean coach Park Tai Gun said that Rubel Rana, Shahajan Ali Rony, Mahfuzur Rahman Sagar, Sabura, Dolly have been doing well in their respective events.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS			
1 Comes-	36 Bad odor	55 Catch	11 Grime
tibles	37 Cover	sight of	20 Chubby
5 Singer	38 Listener	56 Highway	one
Campbell	39 Do	division	22 Campbe
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12 Highly	all day	DOWN	Judd
rated	42 Best-	1 Spaces	24 Trattoria
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Veeru's best knock

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Virender Sehwag is arguably the only player in the world who will score a 102-ball 142 and then put his money on the opposition for superstitious reasons. Yet even there he was a winner - at the end of a day on which 825 runs were scored, his knock propelled India to an ultimately unreachable score and he later said it was his best ODI innings.

"It is my best knock, better than the 130 I made earlier [against New Zealand in 2003]," said Sehwag, who had scant sympathy for the bowlers, most of whom had their averages ruined. "One-day cricket is a batsman's game. It was a very good one-day wicket. Yet Ashish Nehra bowled 28 to 30 yorkers in his last five overs and Zaheer also bowled a lot of yorkers. That helped us win in the end."

Batting first on a better can be fraught with the danger of under-achieving and Sehwag acknowledged that the goal-posts kept shifting during India's innings. "When Tendulkar

and I were batting we thought we could reach 350 as the wicket was that good," he said. "But then when I and MS Dhoni got together to raise the 300 in the 32nd over, we felt we could get 400."

The batting Powerplays proved to be crucial as both India and Sri Lanka lost wickets that robbed their respective innings of momentum. Sehwag singled out the dismissals of the rampant Kumar Sangakkara and Tillakaratne Dilshan during the restrictions as the key moment in the match. "When they were batting so well it looked like we might lose the match," he said. "Their dismissals turned the match in our favour."

India's win was almost undone by some sloppy fielding - they dropped easy catches and gave away several runs in the outfield - but Sehwag chose to dwell on the manner in which the standards improved towards the end of the match. "We have dropped a lot of catches in the T20 and also dropped a few here," he said. "But later we realised that we need to focus on fielding well. We effected run-outs and fielded very well which contributed a lot to the victory."

Morgan for day-night Test

Cricket

AFP, London

International Cricket Council (ICC) president David Morgan said on Wednesday he would be "surprised if we don't see day/night Test cricket within the next two years".

While attendances for Test match cricket in England remain strong, crowds for five-day cricket in other leading nations have been in decline for several years.

As part of plans to boost Test match crowds around the world, the ICC has been looking at staging five-day games in a day/night format - something that currently happens only for one-dayers and Twenty20 internationals.

The ICC is also looking into creating a World Test Championship although Morgan, speaking at a meeting of the Indian Journalists' Association at the Oval here on Wednesday, shied away from the term and stressed the need for Tests to have "context".

Morgan, a former chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), said: "I'd be surprised if we don't see day/night Test cricket within the next two years, surprised and disappointed."

"In terms of each Test match having a context beyond bilateral series, real progress could be made soon," he added, saying there might be a "climax" although he didn't say how this would be achieved.

Injury ends Hodge's first-class career

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Brad Hodge has played his last first-class game after a knee injury ruled him out of what was intended to be his finale against New South Wales in Newcastle starting on Friday. Hodge struggled with knee soreness after aggravating an existing problem during Tuesday's FR Cup match against South Australia.

He announced his impending retirement from first-class cricket last month after family commitments won out over the desire to add to his six Test caps. Hodge leaves the first-class arena with 17,084 runs at 48.81 from 223 appearances, with 51 centuries and a top score of 302 not out.

However, Hodge is keen to play on for Victoria in Twenty20 and one-day cricket and he has not given up hope of making the Australia squad for the ICC World Twenty20 in the West Indies next year. The Bushrangers will reassess Hodge's fitness next week before the one-day against New South Wales in Sydney.

Victoria have also lost Darren Pattinson to a calf strain, while his brother James Pattinson is having his workload managed and will miss Friday's Sheffield Shield match. Jon Holland, Steven Gilmour and the uncapped left-arm fast bowler Will Sheridan have been included in a 12-man squad.

New South Wales will again be captained by Moises Henriques, who at 22 last week became the fourth-youngest skipper in the state's history. The legspinning allrounder Steven Smith will rejoin the side after a quick trip to Perth to act as cover for Nathan Hauritz in Australia's Test squad.

Victoria squad Chris Rogers, Nick Jewell, Lloyd Mash, David Hussey, Cameron White (capt), Andrew McDonald, Matthew Wade (wk), John Hastings, Jon Holland, Bryce McGain, Steven Gilmour, Will Sheridan.

New South Wales squad Phillip Hughes, Phil Jaques, Usman Khawaja, Moises Henriques (capt), David Warner, Ben Rohrer, Daniel Smith (wk), Steven Smith, Grant Lambert, Stephen O'Keefe, Aaron Bird, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc.

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