

SA look to home advantage

South Africa will bank on home advantage finally paying off against England with a pitch that will boost their chances of leveling the series in the final Test at the Wanderers from Thursday. After failing to take the visitors' last wicket at Newlands, South Africa must win to avoid successive home series defeats, following last year's loss to Australia, and are looking for a few favours.

on it since the Champions Trophy to allow them to recover. "They'll be pretty much like the Champions Trophy I would say," he added. "The pitches for the Champions Trophy were not accidental, I said before the tournament that the pitches would be more lively, but I had to have them that way because I needed to look after them because they were my Test and ODI surfaces. I had to nurture them because I only had the other two to fall back on."



US star Andy Roddick holds aloft the trophy after defeating Radek Stepanek in the Brisbane International final on Sunday.

Andy storms to victory

Tennis

American Andy Roddick held off a magnificent fight-back from Radek Stepanek to claim a thrilling 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (9/7) victory in the final of the Brisbane International on Sunday. Stepanek saved six match points in the second set but couldn't save a seventh and when he served a double fault at 7-8, Roddick claimed the first title of the year. Roddick seemed to be headed for a straightforward victory when he won the first set and led 5-1 in the second.

"In the breaker I think it was the same deal," he added. "I made my first serves, and I think those thoughts were helping me hang on to the last shred of sanity I had." The title is the 28th of Roddick's career and his first in Australia. "I certainly don't know if I expected to come and win my first tournament after a pretty extended lay-off," he said. The win also put an end to Stepanek's nine-match winning streak in Brisbane, which included taking the inaugural title at the Queensland Tennis Centre in 2009. The Queensland Tennis Federation is celebrating the raw power of Roddick and crafty play from Stepanek, who put the world number seven under real pressure from the first game.

Warne spurred Hussey on

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Hussey used Shane Warne's criticism of his batting to drive him to the match-winning century against Pakistan in Sydney last week. Hussey, who stole the game with his unbeaten hundred in the second innings, had heard the calls for his sacking towards the end of the West Indies series before fighting back with 82, 4, 28 and 134 not out in the past two matches.

NSF & BWF expect Razzaq

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to wipe out their failures of the Colombo SA Games by making better results this time at home. But, Bablu did not make it clear what he meant by 'better results', rather he said the shooters have been doing well in the camp and being in the position to reveal the scores of the shooters to give the undue advantage to their opponents.

and Shah Rezaur Rahman Hiru (manager). SHOOTING SQUAD: 10m air rifles (women): Sharmin Akhter Ranta, Syeda Sadia Sultana, Tripti Datta and Sharmin Akhter (reserved); 10m air rifle (men) Abdullah Hel Baki, Asif Hossain Khan, Shovon Chowdhury and Mahmudul Hasan (reserved); 25m pistol (women): Sinthia Nazneen, Mitti Dewan and Antara Islam; 25m pistol (men): Hafizur Rahman, Moksedur Rahman and Selim Azad; 50m rifle (men): Towfique Shahriar, Ramjan Ali and Abdullah Hel Baki; 50m rifle (women): Sabrina Sultana, Tripti Dutta and Sharmin Shilpa; 10m air pistol (women): Armin Asha, Sinthia Nazneen and Farhana Kawser; 10m air pistol (men): Hafizur Rahman, Moksedur Rahman and Selim Azad; 50m pistol (men): Nadimul Islam, Selim Azad and Hafizur Rahman; skeet (men): Iqbal Islam, Nuruddin Selim and Altamash Kabir.

Kamran yes, Kamran no!

CRICINFO, undated

In the aftermath of Sydney, confusion. As Pakistan look ahead to the third Test in Hobart that starts on Thursday, contradictory noises are being made over the future of under-fire wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal. After the loss at the Sydney Cricket Ground, in which Akmal dropped four catches, an incensed Pakistan Cricket Board sent Sarfraz Ahmed as a replacement from Pakistan, insisting in a strongly-worded statement that he "will participate" in the Hobart Test.

Only pride to play for

CRICINFO, undated

Islam, who made a poor international debut against Sri Lanka and was dropped in the very next game, may come back into the side in place of Rubel Hossain. "The playing eleven hasn't been decided yet, but there might be a change in the pace bowling department," hinted Shakib. Shakhb's satisfaction over his team's batting performance in the tournament. "I am satisfied with the batting, hopefully we will keep it up. It will be great if someone scores big. We have scored fifties or seventies, but no one converted them into big ones. If any one does that, it will be good for him and the team," he hoped.

that he has the backing of a number of players within the side, including possibly the captain, Mohammad Yousuf. "I was very successful with my batting and wicketkeeping on the New Zealand tour and before the New Zealand tour. So I was very happy," Akmal was quoted as saying in Hobart by AAP. "But I think the third day of the Sydney Test match was not good for me -- this happens. I'm very keen. My confidence is very high. Management is very confident for me and coaches, Intikhab Alam, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, and my teammates also. I will play the third Test match and more matches for my country." During and after the loss in

INDIA-SL SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Did not bat, Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes names like Dhoni, Raina, Mishra, Jadeja, Zaheer, Sreesanth, Tyagi, Welegedara, Lakmal, Thushara, Randiv, Perera.

Fergie's new

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injury and played with it last week," Ferguson said. "We'll just try to get him sorted and get him fit again." Reflecting on the match, he added: "We're satisfied with a point because this is a difficult place to go to. It's not a bad point. "It's a tough league. I have been saying that for months," Ferguson insisted. "I don't know if anyone is listening. "Going to Birmingham is not going to be easy. Teams like Birmingham have really improved, Alex has players that will run 100 miles for him. It is a point gained for us."

Simons India's bowling

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made a return after a long time. Things did not improve during the Champions Trophy, and India's problems were exacerbated during the home ODI series against Australia, which they lost 4-2. During the recently concluded Sri Lanka series the Indian fast bowlers were lukewarm even if they improved on their death bowling, and in the current tri-series in Bangladesh they have been disappointing. They failed to defend a total of 279 against Sri Lanka and allowed Bangladesh to post 296. The 47-year-old Simons, who played 23 one-day internationals for South Africa and toured New Zealand in 1995, has a rich

pedigree in the coaching profession and was South Africa's head coach from 2002-2004, a period when Kirsten played under him. Simons spread his first-class career, mostly with Western Province, over 17 seasons as a right-arm medium pacer and a handy lower middle order batsman. He has never had any experience as a bowling coach except for the brief stint in the second IPL in South Africa last year, where he worked as a consultant with Royal Challengers Bangalore. Simons has worked in various capacities at the prestigious High Performance Centre in Pretoria along with the likes of Kepler Wessels.

Zoran picks 39

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camp to be started from Monday at the Bangladesh Kriya Shikha Protisthan (BKSP). He also informed that two British-born Bangladeshis -- Sarwar Ahmed and Shibli Mia -- will join the camp. Bangladesh, who were eliminated from the group stage in the last edition of the SA Games in Colombo in 2006, have been drawn in Group A along with Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan. Preliminary squad: Aminul Haque, Mazharul Islam Himel, Mostaqur Rahman, Mohammad Nehal, Mamun Mia, Ariful Islam, Mofazzal Hossain Saikat, Nasirul Islam,

Zoran picks 39

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Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Arup Baddya, Akramuzzaman Liton, Mintu Sheikh, M Sujjan, Wali Faisal, Aminul Islam, Mamunul Islam, Shudul Islam Shahed, Imtiaz Sultan Zitu, Moaem Khan Raju, Maruf Ahmed, Mobarak Hossain, Zahed Parvez Chowdhury, Mejbabur Haque Manik, Shakil Ahmed, Habibur Rahman Shohag, Alamgir Kabir Rana, Enamul Haq Sharif, Zahid Hossain, Arman Aziz, Zahid Hasan Emily, Abdul Baten Komol, Mithun Chowdhury, Touhidul Alam Sabuj, Touhidul Islam Siddique, Enamul Haque, Nasiruddin, M Yousuf, Sarwar Ahmed and Shibli Mia.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 24 mins and a grid with letters filled in.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-30 and letters. Includes the text 'CRYPTOQUIP' and 'MNNR QNAYV TPNHI T JVSDNG'.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO WIN THE LOTTERY, A GROUP OF LUCKY SWIMMERS DECIDED TO POOL THEIR WINNINGS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O