

U-19 WC

FROM PAGE 17 Host nations haven't fared as well as one would expect, with Australia the only side to win the tournament at home.

In 2004, Bangladesh were beaten by New Zealand and India in group play, qualifying for the Plate competition which they won.

Ireland's Eoin Morgan, who now plays for England, remains the tournament's leading run-scorer with 606 at an average of 50.50 over the two events he played in (2004, 2006).



Finance Minister AMA Muhith (C) poses for a photograph with the representatives of eight government-owned financial intermediaries and Bangladesh Olympic Association officials after an agreement signing ceremony at the BOA Bhaban yesterday.

Ponting, Clarke hit tons

FROM PAGE 17 recent times, and today they were pounding in pain when he misjudged a hook off Umar Gul and was hit on the helmet.

Gradually, the Ponting trademark returned: a text-book back-foot drive through point, a cover-drive on the up to the boundary, an aerial loft off the legspinner Danish

Kaneria. His 39th Test century and his second at his home ground in Hobart arrived with a paddle sweep for two.

At the other end, Clarke was watchful early but never looked scratchy. He has made several starts this summer without going on, but in con-

cert with his captain he was keen to ensure a fine finale to the home Test season. Clarke drove and cut with aplomb, and in typical style used his feet brilliantly to Kaneria, who looked all out of sorts and rarely appeared likely to get a wicket.

Unlike Ponting, Clarke didn't give a chance and their wonderful partnership was their highest stand together at Test level, beating the 210 runs they put on against India in Adelaide two seasons ago, and Australia's highest fourth-wicket effort against Pakistan.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third and final Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart on Thursday:

Table with columns: AUSTRALIA: First innings, Pakistan: First innings, Bowling, Extras, Total. Includes names like Watson, Farhat, Gul, Katich, lbw b Asif, etc.

PAKISTAN: Farhat, Butt, Manzoor, Yousuf, Umar, Malik, Sarfraz, Aamer, Gul, Kaneria, Asif

Toss: Australia. Umpires: Aravinda de Silva and Rudi Koertzen.

Steyn guns Eng down



AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa's fast bowlers took advantage of helpful conditions as England crashed to 180 all out on the first day of the fourth and final Test at the Wanderers Stadium on Thursday.

Dale Steyn took five for 51 and Morne Morkel three for 39 after England captain Andrew Strauss won the toss and decided to bat.

England's troubles started with the first ball of the match when Strauss was caught at backward short leg off Steyn.

The tourists, leading the series 1-0, lost their first four wickets for 39 runs inside the first hour.

Paul Collingwood (47) and Ian Bell (35) put on 76 for the fifth wicket but when Collingwood provided a first

Test wicket for Ryan McLaren soon after lunch the slide resumed and England were bowled out shortly before tea.

Strauss used his bat first in conditions which offered swing and seam movement. He turned a lifting delivery on leg stump firmly behind square leg but Hashim Amla dived to his right to hold an excellent catch.

Morkel followed up in the second over when Jonathan Trott played across a full delivery and was out leg before wicket.

Kevin Pietersen's run of poor scores continued when he pulled Morkel straight to new cap Wayne Parnell at mid-on after making seven.

Alastair Cook went back on his stumps and was a second leg before victim. He asked for a review but umpire Tony Hill's decision was upheld.

Collingwood looked in good form before he was squared up by new cap McLaren and caught at point off a leading edge.

Steyn bowled Bell with a delivery which cut back between bat and pad after a series of away-swingers and England's resistance was effectively broken, although Graeme Swann made a breezy 27 off 27 balls before he was the last man out.

England surprisingly left out fast bowler Graham Onions, bringing in left-arm swing bowler Ryan Sidebottom.

Onions was one of England's most impressive bowlers in the first three Tests, despite taking only eight wickets at an average of 45.75, and as a number eleven batsman twice played over the last over to secure a draw for his team, in the first and third Tests.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the fourth Test between South Africa and England at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Thursday:

Table with columns: ENGLAND: First innings, South Africa: First innings, Extras, Total. Includes names like Cook, lbw b Morkel, Pietersen, etc.

Table with columns: Strauss, Amla, b Steyn, Cook, lbw b Morkel, etc. Includes scores and averages.

Table with columns: ENGLAND: First innings, South Africa: First innings, Extras, Total. Includes names like Onions, Sidebottom, etc.

Torres out for six weeks

AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool will be without striker Fernando Torres for six weeks, the club announced Thursday as the fall-out from their FA Cup loss to Reading hit home.

The Reds will also be without their other star player, Steven Gerrard at least for fortnight and Yossi Benayoun could be sidelined for up to a month.

All three players were injured during Liverpool's FA Cup third round replay defeat by second-tier Championship club Reading at Anfield on Wednesday.

"Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres both underwent scans earlier today (Thursday) after coming off in the FA Cup tie against Reading," a Liverpool spokesman said.

"Steven has a hamstring strain and will be out for a fortnight, while Fernando has torn a cartilage in his right knee. The injury will require surgery and he is expected to be sidelined for six weeks."

"Yossi Benayoun also suffered a fractured rib in the game and will be unavailable for between three and four weeks."

Shakib FROM PAGE 17 "This pitch is brown in colour," he said, opting not to make any comment on how the pitch may behave.

The hosts arrived in the port city at around 11:30am yesterday while the visitors arrived at around 4:30pm amid tight security.

Bangladesh team held their first practice session at 2:30pm while the visitors will have their first practice at 2:30pm today.

BCB director and the venue chairman Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir said all preparations have already been taken to host the match successfully.

A total of 13,000 tickets in three categories will be available at all the sales centres of Grameenphone from today. The ticket price is fixed at Tk 300 for club house, Tk 200 for special enclosure and Tk 50 for gallery, he said.

Tickets will also be available at the makeshift counter of Grameenphone at the stadium premise during the matchdays, informed Sirajuddin.

Wickmayer not seeded



AFP, Sydney

Belgian world number 16 Yanina Wickmayer on Thursday missed out on a seeding for next week's Australian Open and may go through qualifying to play in the year's Grand Slam opener, officials said.

Wickmayer, who won last week's Auckland Classic final, would normally have been awarded a seeding but was unable to register in time before the closing date for main-draw entry because of a doping ban.

Wickmayer was suspended last November by the Flemish Doping Tribunal for failing to give her whereabouts for compulsory drug tests on three occasions, and a Belgian court banned her.

But the ban was suspended by an injunction on December 16.

Wickmayer, 20, successfully appealed the ban, but by the time it was overturned, she had missed the closing date for regular entry into the Australian Open.

She made an unsuccessful bid for a wildcard into the Open, and her only path into the tournament's main draw will now be through qualifying, officials said.

"I don't deserve to start off in 'qualifiers' and have to play three matches to qualify for the main draw," Wickmayer said.

"Everyone who knows my story, and how everything went, thinks I deserve to be on court."

Otherwise, tournament organisers kept the Australian Open seedings according to world rankings.

World number ones Roger Federer and Serena Williams will be top seeds for the Open.

Belgian seven-time Grand Slam winner Justine Henin, making a comeback after 19 months in retirement, has been granted a wildcard and will be unseeded when the tournament begins at Melbourne Park next Monday.

The men's and women's singles draws will be held on Friday.

SEEDINGS MEN: 1. Roger Federer (SUI), 2. Rafael Nadal (ESP), 3. Novak Djokovic (SRB), 4. Juan Martin del Potro (ARG), 5. Andy Murray (GBR), 6. Nikolay Davydenko (RUS), 7. Andy Roddick (USA), 8. Robin Soderling (SWE), 9. Fernando Verdasco (ESP), 10. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA), 11. Fernando Gonzalez (CHI), 12. Gael Monfils (FRA), 13. Radek Stepanek (CZE), 14. Marin Cilic (CRO), 15. Gilles Simon (FRA), 16. Tommy Robredo (ESP), 17. David Ferrer (ESP), 18. Tommy Haas (GER), 19. Stanislas

Wawrinka (SUI), 20. Mikhail Youzhny (RUS), 21. Tomas Berdych (CZE), 22. Lleyton Hewitt (AUS), 23. Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP), 24. Ivan Ljubicic (CRO), 25. Sam Querrey (USA), 26. Nicolas Pietrangeli (ESP), 27. Philipp Kohlschreiber (GER), 28. Jurgen Melzer (AUT), 29. Viktor Troicki (SRB), 30. Juan Monaco (ARG), 31. Albert Montanes (ESP), 32. Jeremy Chardy (FRA).

WOMEN: 1. Serena Williams (USA), 2. Dinara Safina (RUS), 3. Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUS), 4. Caroline Wozniacki (DEN), 5. Elena Dementieva (RUS), 6. Venus Williams (USA), 7. Victoria Azarenka (BLR), 8. Jelena Jankovic (SRB), 9. Vera Zvonareva (RUS), 10. Agnieszka Radwanska (POL), 11. Marion Bartoli (FRA), 12. Flavia Pennetta (ITA), 13. Samantha Stosur (AUS), 14. Maria Sharapova (RUS), 15. Kim Clijsters (BEL), 16. Li Na (CHN), 17. Francesca Schiavone (ITA), 18. Virginie Razzano (FRA), 19. Nadia Petrova (RUS), 20. Ana Ivanovic (SRB), 21. Sabine Lisicki (GER), 22. Daniela Hantuchova (SVK), 23. Dominika Cibulkova (SVK), 24. Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez (ESP), 25. Anabel Medina Garrigues (ESP), 26. Aravane Rezaei (FRA), 27. Alisa Kleybanova (RUS), 28. Elena Vesnina (RUS), 29. Shahar Peer (ISR), 30. Katerina Bondarenko (UKR), 31. Alona Bondarenko (UKR), 32. Carla Suarez-Navarro (ESP).

Straight Drive

FROM PAGE 17

backs just that little bit more to extract a little more bounce that defeated the Indian batsmen's attempts to play the horizontal bat shots.

Welegedara has been the find of the last two months and if he can spend a bit of time with Chaminda Vaas and learn to swing the ball into the right hander then he will be taking lots more wickets and prove a handful in any format of the game. Sri Lanka deserved to win for don't forget the injuries that they had which meant that three of their players had to go back home in the early stages of the tournament and that's never easy for a team. They had just finished an unsuccessful tour of India and this tournament

provided the perfect opportunity for them to show their supporters that they are a very good team which lost to a team that played in familiar conditions.

India did not get the start that they were used to and Yuvraj's loss of form meant that the middle order had a big hole in it. The skipper Dhoni bravely tried to fill that gap and was successful too but in the final it got a bit too much even for him. The big plus for India was the form shown by Virat Kohli who has a bright future ahead of him if he continues to show the desire to learn and improve. The century in trying situation by Raina also was pleasing to see for he lost his batting position to Kohli and needed to show

that he wants it back. The Sri Lankan fielding was top class and their commitment too was tremendous. The manner in which their fielders were throwing themselves in the field was energising to everybody else and lifted their attack too.

India have not begun the new year well and they will have to work harder to make it better.

Younus back

FROM PAGE 17 Pakistan have also announced their squad for the Twenty20 internationals; Afridi will lead the side and the batting will be boosted by the inclusion of the attacking opener Imran Nazir.

Advertisement for Bardez (বারডেম) featuring a logo and text about a competition. Includes details like '11th SOUTH ASIAN GAMES DHAKA 2010' and 'Sponsorship Agreement Signing Ceremony'.

Advertisement for Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD). Includes a logo, company name, and a 'Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for selection of consulting firm' for electrical system networks and reduction of system loss in the Greater Lalbag area.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes a grid and a list of clues for across and down words. Solution time: 25 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP. Includes a grid and a list of words to be found. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE OF MY CLOSE FRIENDS LIKES TO THINK OF A SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AS A MARCH IN MARCH. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals Y