



Australia pacer Doug Bollinger (R) celebrates the dismissal of Ross Taylor with his teammates on the second day of the first Test against New Zealand in Wellington yesterday.

# Kiwis in dire straits

Cricket

CRICINFO, Wellington

After being overwhelmed by Michael Clarke and Marcus North in the field, New Zealand watched their top-order fail to leave them facing a massive task to save the first Test in Wellington on Saturday. Clarke's outstanding 168, his highest score, and a career-saving century from North allowed Australia to declare at 459 for 5 and the hosts limped to 108 for 4 at stumps on the second day.

Doug Bollinger struck in the first over of New Zealand's reply and they were 43 for 4 when the left-arm removed Ross Taylor, the side's main batsman. Daniel Vettori, the No. 6, scrambled an entertaining 42 to stop the damage in combination with the more subdued Martin Guptill, who had 19.

New Zealand were relieved the declaration came so soon -- it arrived less than an hour after lunch -- but their cheer was brief. BJ Watling was lbw first ball to Bollinger, who got one to swing back, and Peter Ingram (5) was run out by Mitchell Johnson's stunning kick on to the stumps in his follow-through. Tim McIntosh wanted a quick single but it was a horrible call and Johnson saved himself some crucial time by not bothering to bend over for the pick-up. Everything was going Australia's way.

McIntosh lasted to tea but soon became Ryan Harris' first wicket on debut -- replays showed a tight no-ball -- when he followed some short deliveries with a full one that was squirted to Michael

Hussey in the gully. Twelve runs later Taylor was forced into an edge to Clarke, who dived to his right to collect another memorable moment from an unforgettable game.

At the time Bollinger had 2 for 3 off 5.1, including four maidens, and he finished with 2 for 21. The pitch was still good for batting, but Australia's bowlers were enjoying operating against an un-fancied line-up. It was such hard work for the top order that there were nine maidens in the first 14 overs.

Australia rarely stalled in their innings. Clarke was classy again while North made sure of the No.6 spot with an unbeaten 112 as the visitors dominated through a 253-run partnership. Clarke followed up his aggressive play on the first afternoon with another bright performance and was putting the team situation ahead of his ambitions for a double-century when he was stumped off Vettori.

North brought up his fourth hundred in 14 Tests -- and his first significant contribution of the season -- with a top edged pull off Chris Martin and celebrated the change of fortune by jumping, punching the air and kissing his helmet badge. Clarke had helped North relax on both days and was the leading man, scoring 151 to North's 93 in the fifth-wicket record for Australia against New Zealand.

After lunch Clarke charged at Vettori to loft over mid-off and overhaul his previous highest score, the 166 he gained against Pakistan in Hobart in January. Clarke went at Vettori again and was beaten down the legside by a late-drifting slower delivery to give the bowler his first breakthrough. During the 253-ball

innings Clarke collected 22 fours and two sixes in an impressive display, especially when considering the break-up of his engagement and subsequent publicity over the past fortnight.

He was responsible for Australia's strong first-day position and he wasted no time in making it even better after they resumed at 316 for 4. North tended to avoid the flourishes of Clarke and added 32 for the opening session before becoming more aggressive after lunch.

Starting with a crisp off drive in the first over of the morning, he brought up the 200-run partnership with a back-foot push off Vettori. North slog-swept a fierce six off Vettori to move to 90 and struck him for another two boundaries after his century. He accumulated 11 fours and two sixes during five hours at the crease. New Zealand were so disciplined for the opening two sessions on day one, but were unable to recapture the line. Martin and Tim Southee could not contain while Vettori and Daryl Tuffey were able to slow things down at times. What they really missed was a fast bowler like Shane Bond who could ruffle the batsmen and take wickets. Brent Arnel, the debutant, was the most successful with 2 for 89, but the best moment for the attack came when Ponting called his batsmen in.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 459 for 5 declared in 131 overs (Clarke 168, North 112, Katich 79, Ponting 41; Arnel 2-89)  
**New Zealand:** First innings 108 for 4 in 47 overs (Vettori 42 not out, Taylor 17, Guptill 19 not out; Bollinger 2-21)

# PCL ready to roll

Cricket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

After the grand success of the first edition, the Port City League (PCL) to be held in Sharjah this season will see 100,000 dollars up for grabs for the winners, said organisers yesterday.

Apart from the champions, the runners-up will receive 30,000 dollars with the budget of the tournament going up to Tk7 crore.

All this was revealed at a press conference in the port city where it was also informed that eight teams would take part in the competition.

The PCL chairman AJM

Nasiruddin said that they could collect around Tk 5 crore till now and hoped to collect the rest of the money of the budget soon.

"The title sponsor Bashundhara Group gave Tk 2.5 crore while satellite television channel ATN Bangla, which bought the broadcast rights, co-sponsors First Security Bank and other sponsors including MEB Group, Agrani Bank, Janata Bank, Sonali Bank, Rupali Bank, Banaful, RF Properties and Habib Exchange helped financially to hold the tournament in abroad," he said.

Nasiruddin guaranteed of transparency when it comes to the finances of the venture.

"All the money are being received with optimum transparency and the media will be informed about the expenditure and earnings after completion of the tournament," he said.

Asked about the PCL foundation, Nasiruddin said the foundation is a totally different entity from the Divisional Sports Association which is organising the tournament for the second time.

"We formed the foundation to promote sports in Chittagong and would try to assist the players who are deprived and distressed," he said adding that a group is conspiring against them.

"We can talk openly with anyone regarding the trans-

parency of the PCL," he added.

Meanwhile, the trophy unveiling ceremony of the tournament will be held at the Hotel Sheraton in the capital tomorrow.

### FIXTURES

Day	Match	Time
March 26	MSC Ctg v Top Sports	5:00pm
	Dhaka Sports v Biman	8:40pm
March 27	Brothers v Ctg Tigers	5:00pm
	Pirates of Ctg v Tigers	8:40pm
March 28	Dhaka Sports v Tigers	5:00pm
	MSC Ctg v Tigers	8:40pm
March 29	Pirates of Ctg v Biman	5:00pm
	Brothers v Top Sports	8:40pm
March 30	Tigers v Top Sports	5:00pm
	Tigers v Biman	8:40pm
March 31	MSC Ctg v Brothers	5:00pm
	Dhaka Sports v Pirates of Ctg	8:40pm
April 1	Semifinal 1	5:00pm
	Semifinal 2	8:40pm
April 2	Final	8:40pm

# Tigers

FROM PAGE 17  
mindless play across the line with only 20 minutes of play left in the day.

### SCOREBOARD

on the opening day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and England at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Saturday:

**BANGLADESH:** First innings  
Tamim c Prior b Tredwell 85  
Kaye c Finn b Broad 12  
Junaed lbw b Swann 39  
Jahurul lbw b Swann 0  
Riyad c Collingwood b Finn 59  
Shakib lbw b Tredwell 49  
Rahim c Prior b Bresnan 30  
Nayem not out 33  
Razzak lbw b Swann 3  
Shafiq not out 8  
Extras: (b-1, lb-10, nb-1) 12  
Total: (For 8 wks in 94 overs) 330  
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-119, 3-122, 4-167, 5-226, 6-254, 7-301, 8-314  
To bat: Rubel  
Bowling: O M R W  
Broad 14 4 48 1  
Bresnan 13 4 40 1  
Swann 30 4 94 3  
Finn 7 2 44 1  
Tredwell 29 5 85 2  
Collingwood 1 0 8 0  
**ENGLAND:** Cook, Trott, Pietersen, Collingwood, Bell, Prior, Broad, Bresnan, Swann, Finn, Tredwell.  
Toss: Bangladesh.  
Umpires: Tony Hill and Rod Tucker.

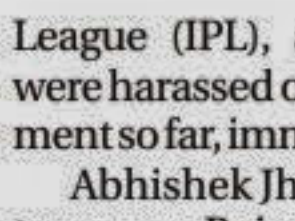
### It was one-day

FROM PAGE 17  
"Maybe it was possible to take those singles but I made similar mistakes. It's fine and there was nothing wrong," he said.  
The young batsman was also diplomatic when asked about his dismissal.  
"I'm confused. I would not say it's out or not out because the ball touched a few things. I really don't know," said Tamim with an inquisitive smile.

# Rajasthan win at last

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated



Finally, Rajasthan Royals clicked as a unit and won a game. It was a slow wicket, perhaps one of the slowest tracks in this Indian Premier League (IPL), and Rajasthan, whose batsmen were harassed on bouncer pitches in this tournament so far, immediately looked more at home.

Abhishek Jhunjhunwala led with a serene 45 to ensure Rajasthan capitalised on a solid start to end up with a very competitive 168, a total which they defended with a disciplined show from their spinners against Kolkata Knight Riders in Ahmedabad yesterday.

Kolkata didn't help their cause by a poor batting effort in the chase. Keeping wickets in hand is a sound ploy of course but they struggled to score runs and allowed the pressure to build up. Brad Hodge was the guiltiest of the lot. It might seem harsh for he scored almost a run-a-ball 36, but he never accelerated and allowed the chase to meander along. Hodge's approach was even stranger, considering Angelo Mathews and Owais Shah were cooling their heels in the dressing room. Even when he was well-settled, he waited for the new batsmen to attack, which was always going to be difficult on this slow track which aided the spinners.

And Sourav Ganguly, too, struggled though unlike Hodge, he tried to go for the big shots but could rarely find his timing. It might have been a plan that Hodge would drop anchor and the others hit around him but he never adapted to the changing demands of the chase.

Rajasthan relied heavily on spin -- they started with Yusuf Pathan who took out opener Manoj Tiwary with a quick skidding delivery and later returned to take out Brad Hodge -- and it paid rich dividends on this pitch. It also helped that Shane Warne finally found his mojo -- he found drift and turn to keep the batsmen honest. Hodge was content, nudging Warne around, Pujara couldn't break free against him, and Ganguly couldn't connect with his intended big hits. Only Pujara played with a sense of purpose, hitting four fours right away on arrival at the crease but he too was slowed down by the spinners. And the chase had derailed.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**RAJASTHAN ROYALS:** 168 for 7 in 20 overs (Jhunjhunwala 45, Voges 37 not out, Fazal 31, Ojha 27; Dinda 2-28, Ishant 2-32, Bond 2-33)  
**KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS:** 134 for 5 in 20 overs (Hodge 36, Ganguly 33, Pujara 29; Yusuf 2-23)  
Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 34 runs.  
Man-of-the-match: Abhishek Jhunjhunwala.

# Robin ends Andy bid

Tennis

AFP, Indian Wells

Robin Soderling denied Andy Murray a return trip to the Indian Wells Masters 1000 final Friday, ousting the Briton in straight sets to set up a semifinal showdown with Andy Roddick.

Sixth-seeded Soderling defeated Murray 6-1, 7-6, his booming serves and powerful groundstrokes giving the Briton no chance to work his way into the match.

Roddick, seeded seventh, continued his dominance of Tommy Robredo, advancing 6-3, 7-5 as he notched his 11th victory over the Spaniard in as many meetings.

Soderling steamed through the first set against Australian Open runner-up Murray in 36 minutes, taking a 5-0 lead before an out-of-sorts Murray managed to hold serve.

"He played very well to start, and I didn't," said Murray, who fell in the final here last year to Rafael Nadal. "I didn't move particularly well. I was hitting the ball really short, and he's obviously got a big game and he was able to dictate all of the points."

"So from my side it was poor, but he hit the ball really big from the back of the court and served well when he needed to."

Soderling said his level in the opening set was "really good."

"I didn't make any mistakes at all, I think. I was moving pretty well, serving well, and I went for my shots and in the right moments."

Soderling was on his way with a break for a 2-1 lead in the second set. But Murray fought off three match points against his own serve in the ninth game - two of them with service winners and one with a backhand drop shot that the Swede couldn't handle.

Serving for the match in the next game, Soderling instead surrendered the break as Murray belted a backhand winner down the line.

That seemed to give Murray new life and he fired three of his 10 aces in the next game to hold serve.

"I was a little bit nervous going out serving for the match at 5-4," Soderling said. "I got up to 30-love, and then I don't think I really did anything wrong. So all credit to him, because he played well where he needed it the most."

# BCB launches

FROM PAGE 17  
"We hope this single-league tournament will help our national players to prepare for the T20 World Cup," he added.

BCB's director Gazi Ashraf Hossain, also chairman of the tournament committee, informed that national selectors will play a big role to make sure that the leading players are distributed equally among the teams.

"If we want to participate in the Champions League T20 then there is no alternative other than to introduce this kind of tournaments in the domestic calendar. We suspended the national cricket league one-day competition because of time constraint and we thought that it would be helpful for us if we play T20 cricket ahead of the World Cup," said Ashraf.

One team can register six foreign players but can field two in a match.

# Wolves hold

FROM PAGE 20  
Hahnemann punched away a cross from Emile Heskey aimed at Young, then held a weak header from Carew as Villa's fans began to show their frustration.

Just as Villa looked to have run out of ideas, Heskey laid a pass into Steve Sidwell's path in the 82nd minute and the substitute's shot was turned in by Carew.

# MIRPUR MASALA

FROM PAGE 17  
The right-handed batsman who hastily retired just two days before the first Test and subsequently gave a letter to the BCB asking to be re-established as an international cricketer. While the cricket board accepted his letter, they took him to task by banning him for three months and terminating his contract.

Sympathy could have been forthcoming for Rokibul but the Jamalpur lad found none. In fact, BCB's swift action was praised, something that happens rarely.

Some said it was the precise punishment but most thought it was balanced since he's only 22 and the termination of the contract would prevent such occurrences in the future.

And that probably induced Tamim, who was 15 runs away from a hundred, to play a false shot as the batsman went for a sweep, but instead found the glove and looped up for Matt Prior to take a diving catch.

"It was a very proud moment," said Tredwell. "To play [Test cricket] was a proud feeling, but to have an impact on the game was even prouder, and that dawned on me as the ball looped up."

PRIORDOESAMUSH  
This series has enhanced the reputation of Mushfiqur Rahim the batsman but not the wicketkeeper. He has, on several occasions, dropped a sitter or missed a stumping that gave the batsman the lifeline one requires when making a big score.

So he must have felt justice at long last when his opposite number Matthew Prior dropped him on 27.

Mushfiqur pushed at a James Tredwell delivery only to edge the ball but Prior failed to gather it in two vain attempts.

The Johannesburg-born wicketkeeper kicked away in disgust but the let-off cost England just three runs as Mushfiqur got a beauty from Tim Bresnan for 30.

That's cricket nowadays. More and more batters can take the game away from you, but we also know that if we stick to our guns, and picked up a couple of wickets here and there, we'd be right in them, and it advances the game really."

Tredwell believed the wicket at Sher-e-Bangla had more to offer for spinners than it had in Chittagong. "We'll take eight-down. There are a few cracks and plates [developing] on the wicket, so it does seem to be deteriorating. But to get eight on the first day is itself a decent effort."

# GRANDMASTERS CHESS

## Saptarshi keeps lead

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Saptarshi Roy Chowdhury of India was maintaining his solo lead with 5.5 points after the end of the seventh round of the Six Seasons Grandmasters Chess Tournament at the Tulip Lounge of Uttara Club yesterday.

Grand Master Iuldashev Saidali of Uzbekistan was following his with five points while GM Dibyendu Barua of India was in third position with 4.5 points. Bangladesh GM Niaz Murshed and Praveen Kumar of India were sharing the fourth position with four points each.

In the seventh round games, Saptarshi drew with Niaz, Saidali beat FM Minzahuddin Ahmed Sagor, Dibyendu beat Praveen, Sahaj Grover beat FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Eym. Aminul Islam drew with Abu Sufian Shakil.

The eighth round games start today at 10:30am at the same place.

# Feni players

FROM PAGE 17  
The morning. Eight or nine players suffered minor injuries and after primary treatment the injured players were also checked in different clinics in the capital. Everybody is now fine and fit to play tomorrow's (Sunday's) match," said the club's general secretary Golam Rabbani, who also suffered minor injury.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 Kills
- 2 Buy, fix up and resell
- 3 Links
- 4 Big Bird's street
- 5 Urban fleet
- 6 Eggs
- 7 In medias
- 8 Where the action is
- 9 Emergency treatment
- 10 Tend texts
- 11 Get a glimpse of
- 16 Give it a go
- 20 Priest's garment
- 24 Vitriol
- 27 By way of
- 28 Lambs' cries
- 31 Underwear with underwire
- 32 Corn spike
- 33 Sort
- 34 "Deal or No Deal" choice

**DOWN**

- 1 Lum-moxes
- 2 Forest goddess
- 23 Have coming
- 24 English channel?
- 25 401(k) alternative
- 26 Bartender's pronouncement
- 27 Bride's cover
- 29 Every iota
- 30 Firmament
- 35 Historic time
- 37 Foot part
- 39 Let
- 40 Fool
- 41 Bleacher-ites
- 42 Ashta-bula's state
- 43 On
- 44 Rice-shaped pasta
- 45 Incursion
- 46 " company, ..."
- 49 Lead-in
- 50 Round Table address

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

A	R	E	A	C	I	T	E
R	E	A	M	R	O	O	N
A	N	T	I	M	O	N	Y
B	O	S	N	I	A	E	N
O	F	T	D	I	P	S	
O	P	P	F	I	B	B	I
H	U	L	A	A	I	D	E
S	P	A	C	E	B	R	A
T	U	B	A	I	M	P	
C	L	I	M	B	S	P	I
A	O	N	E	H	D	R	O
S	P	U	N	E	A	R	F
H	E	M	S	S	P	Y	S

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47				48	49	50					
51				52					53		
54				55					56		

**CRYPTOQUIP**

DFNT M DESV RUTQZ UBZNR  
 NTPOEZLNQ UT M RKYYW  
 RSKUB, U ZKGGZWN WEK  
 PEKOQ ZMW UB'Z UVGNMFPNQ.

**Yesterday's Cryptquip:** PLACE WHERE PATRONS FROLIC ABOUT PLAYFULLY WHILE BETTING ON GAMES OF CHANCE: GAMBLING CASINO.  
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals I