



PHOTO: INTERNET

Australia paceman Mitchell Johnson (2nd from R) celebrates his first of three New Zealand wickets with his teammates on the fourth day of the second Test in Hamilton yesterday.

NZ v AUS, 2ND TEST

New Zealand struggle

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Mitchell Johnson took out his frustration at a first Test pair by hurting New Zealand and putting Australia on target for a comfortable series clean sweep.

New Zealand need a world-record chase to level the series but there is virtually no chance of that after another modest top-order performance left them at 185 for 5.

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Four overs later Watling (24) pushed Johnson through cover for a boundary, but departed chasing a repeat and edged to Brad Haddin.

Further trouble came when Sinclair was lbw for 29 having missed a straight one from Michael Clarke's part-timers, and they were 152 for 5 after Daniel Vettori was trapped in front trying to sweep Nathan Hauritz.

He swept hard at Vettori and McCullum collected a smart legside take, with North leaving just as the New Zealanders were calling for a review following Asad Rauf's apparent not-out call.

Clarke was breezing along until he was lbw to a ball coming back sharply from Brent Arnel, walking off after a failed referral. Haddin was excited when he arrived and targeted Arnel, who he hit for sixes straight down the ground and to long-on, in his explosive 40-ball display.

Patel bowled Haddin with a big-turning off-spinner and the declaration came after Hauritz and Ryan Harris added an unbeaten 58 for the ninth wicket. Despite his harsh treatment, Arnel was New Zealand's most successful fast bowler with 3 for 77 while Vettori and Tim Southee finished with two wickets each.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 231 all out (Katiech 88, Clarke 28; Vettori 4-36, Southee 4-61) NEW ZEALAND: First innings 264 all out (Taylor 138, Watling 46; Johnson 4-59, Harris 3-50, Bollinger 3-57)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 511 for 8 (Watson 65, Katich 106, Hussey 67, Clarke 63, North 90, Haddin 48, Hauritz 41 not out; Southee 2-74, Arnel 3-77) NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 185 for 5 (Taylor 22, Watling 24; Sinclair 29, Vettori 22, Guptill 29 batting, McCullum 19 batting; Johnson 3-39)

Pinku, Ranjit advance

SPORTS REPORTER

As many as thirteen players advanced to the next round of the men's singles event of the Runner Group Independence Day Open Tennis competition after winning their respective games at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Pinku beat Anik 6-2 and 6-2, Kanchan Ram beat Sourave 6-1 and 6-1, Mohiuddin Sabuz beat Sams 6-1 and 6-2, Emdadul Haq beat Nafiu 6-1 and 6-2, Ranjit Pashi beat Mahbubur Rahman 6-2 and 6-2, Gulzar Lal beat Rakibul Hasan 6-4 and 6-4, Sazib Pashi beat Rajdan Jafri 6-1 and 6-3, Sadman Selim beat Abrar Alam 6-0 and 6-0, Jain Omar beat Karim 6-1 and 6-2, Tushar beat Rajan Ram 6-3 and 6-4, Rafiqul Islam beat Shamal 6-3 and 6-4, Channu Lal beat Christopher 6-0 and 6-0 and Abdul Latif beat Mark Tally 6-4 and 6-3.

Cricketers vow not to take drugs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Thirty-three school cricketers of Shivalaya upazila in Manikganj took oath for building a drug-free society. They raised their hands and promised that they would never take drugs.

They made the promise at the concluding ceremony of a month-long training programme held at Tepra Abdul Gani Sarkar High School under Shivalaya upazila yesterday.

Manikganj District Sports Office organised the course for the participants who came from three high schools of the upazila. Later, they were given certificates and prizes.

Khoda Baksh

FROM PAGE 17 name the press box of the football stadium after Mridha.

Abdul Hamid, a senior commentator who has worked with Mridha since the 1970s, recalled their times in the commentary box and particularly the 1999 SAFF Football Championship in Kathmandu where they worked for the radio.

"I have worked with him (Khoda Baksh Mridha) since his initial years and we did it out of passion for sports," said Hamid who began his commentary career in 1963.

"He had a very calm personality and I always enjoyed his company," said Hamid, who recalled the other fellow commentators who passed away in the past decade.

"He was younger than me; I didn't expect such a sudden departure. We already lost Tawfiq Aziz Khan, Ataul Haque Mallick and Mohammad Shahjahan so I'm very sad," lamented Hamid.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad, BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal, sports commentators of Bangladesh Radio and Television and Abahani Limited also conduced the death of Mridha.

The enigma of Pak cricket

AFP, Karachi

Record-breaking batsman Mohammad Yousuf, who said Monday he was bowing out of international cricket, is one of Pakistan's most enigmatic players, a high-profile Muslim convert whose life story is one of rags to riches.

The 35-year-old savoured the pinnacle of success, becoming one of Pakistan's top three Test run-getters with an aggregate of 7,431, but controversies dogged his illustrious 12-year career -- most notably since 2007.

Yet it remains unclear whether his emotional announcement Monday that he was bowing out of international cricket was really the final curtain call.

If close friends are to be believed, Yousuf is now committed to preaching Islam and will have no time for the sport at an international level.

But if his "for the time being, I am retiring" comment is heeded, Monday's announcement could well be just another throw of the dice.

Born to a poor Christian family in the slums of Lahore, Pakistan's cultural capital and most liberal city, his has been a tale of rags to riches.

Initially taken on as an apprentice at a tailor shop, being taught a trade to keep his family off the breadline, it was pure luck that a local team plucked Yousuf from oblivion. He never looked back.

He was drafted into the national team on the back of a successful domestic season and although he managed single figure scores in his debut Test at Durban in 1998, he slowly and gradually made his mark at international level.

Yousuf credited his record-breaking runs in 2006, a year after he converted to Islam, to his change of faith, but experts believe he possessed the talent from the start of his career.

He clocked up 1,788 runs in that calendar

year, surpassing West Indian Viv Richards' landmark of 1,710 runs achieved way back in 1976 -- a new world record which earned him Best Test player of the year award in 2007.

He also set a new record of most hundreds in a year with nine and on the pitch his classic, precisely timed batting was often peerless.

"I would like to remember Yousuf for what he produced on the 22-yards: lots of class, grace and runs," former captain Ramiz Raja told AFP. But controversy has never been far away.

In 2002, he was sent home mid-way from a tour in Kenya when he disobeyed the then-captain Waqar Younis.

Overlooked for the captaincy after Pakistan's first-round exit from the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies, Yousuf fell out with Shoaib Malik, who replaced the retired Inzamam-ul-Haq, Pakistan's second Test run-getter with 8,829.

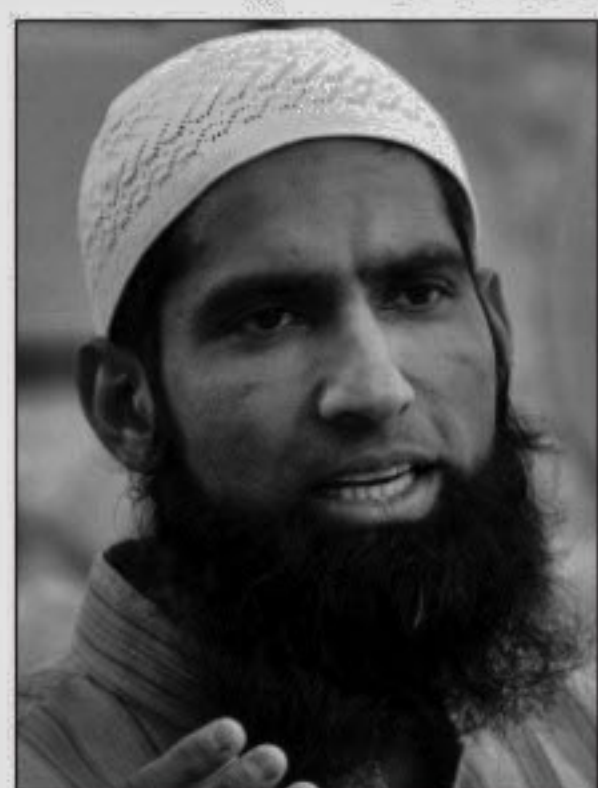
Pakistan dropped Yousuf for the inaugural World Twenty20 in 2007 and so he defected to the rebel Indian Cricket League in a bid to win back favour.

Local media reported that Yousuf took a huge sum of money from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to abandon the ICL and play again for the national team. But barely a year later, he left again to rejoin the rebel league.

But in February 2009, Yousuf got a stay order from a Pakistani court and was again allowed to play for Pakistan.

He won back the captaincy by default after Younus Khan withdrew from the tours of New Zealand and Australia late last year, but Yousuf flopped both on and off the field.

Perhaps the final nail in his coffin was hammered in earlier this month when the PCB said the "infiltrating" between Younus and Yousuf had brought down "the whole team" following an inquiry into humiliating defeats in Australia.



MOHAMMAD YOUSUF

Roger rolls, Svetlana fails

Tennis

AFP, Miami

Roger Federer had to dig deep to win a pair of tiebreaks but Svetlana Kuznetsova was not so lucky as the women's top seed was sent crashing out of the ATP and WTA Sony Ericsson Open on Monday.

Reigning Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon champ Federer swept past France's Florent Serra 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/3) in a third round match.

Serra made top seed Federer work for the win as the Swiss star had his service broken three times and he made two costly double-faults. Federer also committed 35 unforced errors to 32 for Serra.

But Federer closed out the win with a service winner as he played well in both tiebreakers on the hardcourts at Crandon Park.

"All in all, I'm thrilled to be through," Federer said. "At the end of the day, that's what counts." Watching from the stands on Monday was Spaniard Rafael Nadal, who could meet Federer in Sunday's final.

"It has always been a lot of fun playing against him," Federer said. "I hope that day is going to come soon again." Federer won the Key Biscayne title in 2005 and 2006. His 36 career victories in the event is third behind Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi.

In the women's side of the draw, top seed Kuznetsova crashed out of the tournament after suffering a 6-3, 6-0 fourth round loss to former Wimbledon finalist Marion Bartoli of France.

four years ago, received on-court treatment for a nagging shoulder injury three times in Monday's match. "I almost had stars in my eyes, it was so painful," said Kuznetsova, who won just eight points in the second set. "I cannot return. Then I cannot serve."

In the evening match, Justine Henin of Belgium breezed past Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-4.

Bartoli claimed her first win in three meetings with the Russian and advanced to the Miami quarterfinals for the second time in her career.

She has now won seven of her past 11 matches against top-five players. "I'm just trying to stay positive each day and go on the court and practice as well as I could and just get on the court and play my tennis and see how it goes," said 13th seeded Bartoli. "Obviously this week is working pretty well."

American Mardy Fish advanced to the fourth round with his second straight win over a seeded opponent, beating No. 29 Feliciano Lopez 7-5, 6-3. Fish upset defending champion Andy Murray in the second round.

Federer needed 92 minutes and six aces to dispatch Serra in their first career meeting. He won eight straight service points in the tiebreakers. Federer advances to face No. 16 Tomas Berdych, who beat Horacio Zeballos 6-4, 7-5.

Federer's 7-6, 7-6 win was his first since 2008. He played just four tiebreakers in his 14 previous matches this year, winning two.

"It's nice having won two breakers," he said. "That doesn't happen every match you play." Kuznetsova, who won here

Third seeded Venus Williams won the final seven points as the American rallied to beat Daniela Hantuchova 1-6, 7-5, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals.

Williams smashed service winners on the opening two points of the final game. "I'd like to play every game like that," she said. "It was a perfect game."

Williams is looking for her fourth Miami title and her first in nine years.

She advances to face Agnieszka Radwanska, who beat Yaroslava Shvedova 6-1, 6-4.

MANIKGANJ CRICKET Mukul Fouz, Biltu Club win big

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Bewtha Mukul Fouz recorded a four-wicket victory over Tiger Sporting Club in the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at the Government Boys' High School playground here on Tuesday.

Chasing a challenging Tiger total of 166-8 in the 25 overs, Mukul Fouz raced to 170 for 6 in 23.2 overs with Atik hammering an unbeaten 53 off 40 balls and Suruz making 29.

In another match, Biltu Club defeated Young Stranger by 68 runs. Biltu Club scored 166 for 7 in their share of 25 overs with Rakib scoring 56 not out. Erfan made 36 and Sabij added 20. In reply, Young Stranger were bundled out for 98 in 20.3 overs with Zobayer picking up three wickets.

Malik destroys

FROM PAGE 17

off half the deliveries before his partner Tamim Iqbal was dismissed for 11. Khurram's hurricane knock of 57 from just 29 deliveries ended when Tigers' score was 82. Since then it was all downhill for the Tigers. Young pacer Nur Hossain was the wrecker-in-chief with four wickets for just 7 runs while left-arm spinner Faisal Hossain took three for 16. A 9-ball 27 from skipper Mahmudullah Riyad later in the innings gave some fun for the fans but could not help his team from going down to a humiliating defeat.

SCORES IN BRIEF CHITTAGONG MOHAMME DAN SPORTING: 262 for 2 in 20 overs (Malik 92, Blizzard 86 not out, Hannan 69)

CHITTAGONG TIGERS: 145 all out in 15.3 overs (Khurram 56, Riyad 27; Nur 4-7, Faisal 3-16)

Result: Chittagong Mohammedan won by 117 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Shoaib Malik.

Mashrafe

FROM PAGE 17 and Australia but still Rafiqul was hopeful about the Tigers' chances to reach the second round.

"West Indies is a lucky place for us and most importantly the team has been playing good cricket for last few months," said Rafiqul referring to the Tigers' impressive performance on their first tour to the Caribbean, the 2007 World Cup, and their historic Test and ODI series victories.

Shakib Al Hasan's men will begin their campaign against Pakistan in St Lucia on May 1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for ACROSS and DOWN words.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I HAVE A SLIGHT UNDERSTANDING ABOUT GIVING TATTOOS, I'D CALL THAT AN INKING INKING. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T