

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. Johnson stung the hosts in their impossible pursuit of 479 with 3 for 39 and left a few physical bruises as well during hostile spells either side of tea.

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. While the pitch is still excellent and the forecast is for another sunny day, they still require 294 runs, with Martin Guptill (29) and Brendon McCullum (19) the only remaining men capable of long stays.

They will do well to make it to lunch if Johnson repeats the effort he produced after Marcus North's 90 rushed Australia towards their lunch-time declaration of 511 for 8. Johnson removed Tim McIntosh and BJ Watling before tea and after the break delivered the crucial blow when Ross Taylor edged a ball angling across him.

There was no respite for the batsmen when Johnson was involved as he operated around 150kph and moved the ball teasingly at times. New Zealand had to open with a century stand or more to have a chance and they did well until Johnson came on at second-change.

In his second over he bowled McIntosh with an off-cutter that darted between pad and a diagonally-defensive bat. Johnson quickly made Sinclair wince when hitting him in the back with a short one that deflected for four leg-byes.

Four overs later Watling (24) pushed

Johnson through cover for a boundary, but departed chasing a repeat and edged to Brad Haddin. The wickets made Johnson the fastest left-arm bowler to 150 wickets, with the milestone arriving in 34 Tests, and he had 2 for 18 from his opening spell of six overs.

Taylor and Sinclair were in decent shape during a stand of 54 before Taylor (22) was tempted into pushing at a rising ball going away from him and Haddin had his second catch. Taylor was the only man capable of collecting a massive score to worry the Australians, who were triumphant at his departure.

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. A large batch of replays couldn't save the captain in his 100th Test and his milestone match is almost certain to end in a heavy defeat. In the first session North, Clarke (63),

Haddin (48) and Hauritz (41) all swung

freely to increase the advantage after Australia resumed on 333 for 4. Ricky Ponting has given his rebuilding attack more time to dismiss their opponents this summer, knowing he lacks the firepower of previous years, and he closed the innings after the two-and-a-half-hour first session. Given the work of Johnson and the application of the local batsmen, he could have gone on for much longer.

North was attacking, especially when driving down the ground, and the freedom of setting a target allowed him to relax. There were brutal shots in his 16 fours and a six as he hoped for his second century of the series, but he went 10 runs short after walking to a catch behind.

He swept hard at Vettori and McCullum collected a smart legside take, with North leaving just as the New

finals.

points as the American rallied

to beat Daniela Hantuchova 1-

6, 7-5, 6-4 to reach the quarter-

winners on the opening two

points of the final game.

in nine years.

6-4.

Williams smashed service

"I'd like to play every game

Williams is looking for her

She advances to face

Agnieszka Radwanska, who

beat Yaroslava Shvedova 6-1,

MANIKGANJ CRICKET

Mukul Fouz,

Biltu Club

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Bewtha Mukul Fouz recorded a

win big

Manikganj

Zealanders were calling for a review following Asad Rauf's apparent not-out call. Next ball Vettori watched Johnson hit his first delivery to Jeetan Patel at long-on, but the mistake didn't matter at the time as the side's lead had already passed 400. It would be a problem for New Zealand a couple of hours later.

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 bigturning 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. The locals deserved to be upbeat after the first day when they dismissed Australia for 231, but since then they have been out-classed by an outfit determined to finish the summer with an unbeaten Test record.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 231 all out (Katich 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

SPÖRT

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 Nafiul 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 ir 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 per-

sonality 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 condoled the death of Mridha.

ACROSS

1 Goya

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subject

The enigma of As many as thirteen players advanced to the next round of the man's singles awart of the man's singles

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 12year 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

mitted 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

believed, Yousuf is now com-

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 **MOHAMMAD YOUSUF** 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

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-

captainWaqarYounis. 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 rungetter 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

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 "infighting" between Younus and Yousuf had brought down "the whole team" following an inquiry into humiliating defeats in Australia.

Peace deal down under

AFP, Sydney

looked back.

Media groups and Australian sports bodies signed a code of conduct on Tuesday aimed at ending years of disputes and boycotts over press coverage of major sporting events.

The voluntary code, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, scraps a number of reporting restrictions which sports administrations had imposed, leaving news agencies unable to cover cricket and Australian Rules Football matches.

Australia's leading sports bodies and media organisations including Agence France-Presse (AFP) signed the document, which was backed by the government and brokered by the country's competition watchdog.

The row centred on restrictions on the use of sports news and images on the Internet, including attempts to limit the number of updates and the sites eligible to use sports images, as well as availability on mobile platforms.

Media that did not agree to the restrictions, which they regarded as an infringement of press freedom, were unable to cover sports such as cricket. "There have been issues

several media agencies have been unable to gain access to major sporting events for the purpose of reporting the news," said Communications Minister Stephen Conroy. "The government was concerned that these break-

between some sporting and

media organisations and

downs in communication would adversely affect the Australian public's traditional access to news reporting of sporting events." The code, which all

Australian sports bodies will be asked to sign, ensures media are able to report freely on sports events, and sets up a committee to resolve future disputes. Cricket Australia, the

Australian Football League (AFL), the Australian Rugby Union, the National Rugby League and Tennis Australia are all core signatories, along with AFP, Fairfax Media, News Limited, Australian Associated Press and Getty Images. The sports bodies won

assurances that media groups would not use photographs or text taken at events for commercial purposes beyond news reporting.

Lee called **FROM PAGE 17**

preparation for this tournament." Ryan Harris, who made his

Test debut in New Zealand, was "extremely unlucky" to miss the 15-man squad while Travis Birt was overlooked after playing three matches during Australia's summer. The allrounder Daniel Christian holds his spot and Michael Hussey's experience and strong recent form earned him a trip. It is a strange selection because Hussey hasn't appeared in a T20 international since the 2009 global event in England.

"Dan Christian had limited opportunities in the lead-up to this selection but we see him as an exciting Twenty20 cricketer with his all-round skills with bat and ball," Hilditch said. "We've also added Tim Paine to give us cover in case of injury to Brad Haddin and, of course, Tim's ability with the bat more than

Australia must finish top of a group also including Pakistan and Bangladesh to avoid going out in the first round for the second tournament in a row. Their opening game is against Pakistan on May 2 in St Lucia before facing Bangladesh on May 5 in Barbados.

warrants his selection.'

SQUAD

David Warner, Shane Watson, Michael Clarke (captain), Cameron White, David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Tim Paine, Steven Smith, Daniel Christian, Brad Haddin, Brett Lee, Dirk Nannes, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Hauritz, Shaun Tait.

Roger rolls, Svetlana fails Third seeded Venus



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 doublefaults. 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

Bartoli of France.

round loss to former Wimbledon finalist Marion

Kuznetsova, who won here you play."

four years ago, received oncourt treatment for a nagging shoulder injury three times in

eyes, it was so painful," said Kuznetsova, who won just eight points in the second set. "I cannot return. Then I cannot serve."

Justine Henin of Belgium breezed past Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-4.

second time in her career.

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

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.

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

Williams won the final seven

Monday's match. "I almost had stars in my

like that," she said. "It was a In the evening match, perfect game.' fourth Miami title and her first

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

She has now won seven of her past 11 matches against

this week is working pretty well." American Mardy Fish

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 Federer needed 92 minutes

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. in their share of 25 overs with

Biltu Club scored 166 for 7 Rakib scoring 56 not out. Erfan made 36 and Sabij added 20. In reply, Young Stranger

victories. 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-inchief 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

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

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

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