



PHOTO: AFP
Afghanistan's Samiullah Shinwari (C) is congratulated by a teammate after scoring a century on the second day of their ICC Intercontinental Cup match against Scotland in Ayr yesterday. In reply to Afghanistan's 435, the hosts were reduced to 72 for seven.

Ex-Kiwi great digs in over ashes move

REUTERS, Wellington

One of New Zealand's greatest cricketers is proving as difficult to shift in death as he was in life. Attempts to find and relocate the ashes of Bert Sutcliffe have failed because no-one recorded where they had been buried nine years ago, the Otago Daily Times newspaper reported on Thursday. Sutcliffe's ashes were buried at the Carisbrook ground in the southern city of Dunedin in April 2001, but none of those who attended the ceremony can agree where the burial had exactly taken place. The ground is being redeveloped and the Sutcliffe family had agreed for the ashes to be relocated to University Oval, the headquarters for cricket in the city. Sutcliffe, a left-hander, was regarded as one of New Zealand's most elegant batsmen. He played 42 Tests, with five centuries and an average of 40.1. In a first-class playing career from 1941 to 1966, he scored a total of 17,447 runs, with 44 centuries, and a top score of 385.

Gul won't be replaced

CRICINFO

The Pakistan team management in England has decided against calling up a replacement bowler for the injured Umar Gul, who suffered a hamstring injury during the second Test against the hosts at Edgbaston. "We have two back up pace bowlers, Tanvir Ahmed and Wahab Riaz in the touring squad and either one of them can replace Gul for the remaining Tests," team manager Yawar Saad told PTL. Both Ahmed and Riaz have been with the team since the start of the tour. The Pakistan touring squad presently includes 17 players. "The tour selectors will decide who will play but for now we are not asking for a replacement as Gul is also due to have another scan on August 18," Saad said.

Hosts take

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TEAMS
NEW ZEALAND (probable): Martin Gupptil, Peter Ingram or BJ Watling, Ross Taylor (captain), Kane Williamson, Scott Styris, Grant Elliott, Gareth Hopkins, Jacob Oram or Nathan McCullum, Daryl Tuffey, Kyle Mills, Andy McKay.
SRI LANKA (probable): Upul Tharanga, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Angelo Matthews, Chamara Kapugedera, Chamara Silva or Thisara Perera, Suraj Randiv, Lasith Malinga, Ajantha Mendis or Rangana Herath, Nuwan Kulasekara.

Patel joining

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manage four overs before he left ground due to heat stroke. India are also without lead spin bowler Harbhajan Singh for the tri-series. Munaf played the last of his 43 one-day matches against Australia at Guwahati last year. India's next match in the tri-series is against Sri Lanka in Dambulla on Monday.

Vera's patience pays off

Tennis

AFP, Cincinnati

Sixth-seeded Vera Zvonareva waited through two rain delays totalling three and a half hours to pull off a come-from-behind victory Wednesday over Maria Kirilenko in the Cincinnati Women's Open. The two Russians needed a total of six hours, 54 minutes to complete their match. Zvonareva won 7-5, 2-6, 7-6, seizing the victory after a rain delay of two hours and 19 minutes that came with the 28th-ranked Kirilenko leading 5-2 in the third set. When they returned to the court, Zvonareva won three straight games, and once she'd forced the tiebreaker she took control of that by winning the first three points. "I always believe in myself," she said. "It doesn't matter if I'm down 5-0, I think I can win it." Zvonareva, who is scheduled to face 11th-seeded Flavia Pennetta in the third round, did know that the match was her longest in one day. "Sometimes, they're delayed to the next day, but as far as going back and forth in the same day, that's the longest," she said. Third-seeded Russian Elena Dementieva became the highest seed to be sent packing as she fell to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 6-3 in another all-Russian clash. "I had nothing to lose," said Pavlyuchenkova, who'd lost her previous two matches against Dementieva. "I just wanted to enjoy the match, give her a good game and focus on the future. "I've had a lot of chances in my other matches against her, but on the deciding points, I would go for it and rush. This time, I

tried to not make the same mistake and be more consistent. She didn't really start well, and I tried to take advantage." Dementieva, ranked sixth in the world, blamed the steamy weather for what she described as the "worst match in a long time for me." "I just felt like I wasn't into the game," she said. "My concentration wasn't there. I just wasn't ready 100 per cent." Pavlyuchenkova next plays 13th-seeded Israeli Shahar Peer, who moved on with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Nuria Llagostera Vives. While Zvonareva needed almost seven hours to win, second-seeded Caroline Wozniacki needed just 51 minutes to advance with a 6-0, 6-2 win over Sybille Bammer. Wozniacki had just four unforced errors to Bammer's 28. Seventh-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska advanced almost as easily, dismissing Alisa Kleybanova 6-4, 6-1. Christina McHale, the last American in the tournament, stayed alive with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Ayumi Morita, setting up a third-round clash with defending US Open champion Kim Clijsters. Clijsters, the fourth seed, waited out a 54-minute rain delay after the first three games of the opening set and advanced with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Dinara Safina. Their match came right after 10th-seeded Maria Sharapova beat Andrea Petkovic 6-3, 6-1. Earlier, French Open champion Francesca Schiavone was toppled by Elena Vesnina 6-4, 6-4. Schiavone, ranked eighth in the world and seeded fifth, won the first three games of the match but dropped six of the next seven. Vesnina then broke her to open the second set en route to the victory.

Top two made to sweat

Tennis

REUTERS, Toronto

World number one Rafael Nadal was made to work and number two Novak Djokovic had to sweat as they launched their North American hardcourt campaigns with battling second round wins at the Toronto Masters on Wednesday. Under a floodlit Centre Court, Nadal was put to the test by Stanislav Wawrinka, needing two hours and 20 minutes and all his weapons to put away the stubborn Swiss 7-6, 6-3. The opening set took a gruelling 92 minutes before ending in a pulsating tiebreak that Nadal took 14-12, matching the longest tiebreak of his career. In five meetings with Nadal, Wawrinka had never taken a set off the muscular Mallorcan or claimed a victory over any world number one in six tries. Wawrinka, who partnered Roger Federer to a doubles gold medal at the Beijing Olympics, looked determined to end both streaks and keep the pressure on Nadal. But Nadal, playing his first match since his Wimbledon victory in July, never panicked and seized control of the tiebreak and the second set to remain on course for a third Canadian title. "I had a little bit of everything today being my first match after awhile," Nadal told reporters. "I had difficult moments, I had moments when I played well. I did a little bit of everything. While Nadal skipped off the court looking

as if he could keep playing, Djokovic could barely stand after a gritty 7-5, 7-5 win over Frenchman Julien Benneteau in sweltering midday conditions. Drained by the sauna-like conditions, the Serb was left slumped over the net gasping for breath after finally finishing off his French opponent in a little over two hours. "I have said before, I will never risk my health to win and I was really on the edge," said Djokovic, who has struggled with heat-related issues throughout his career. "If your body gives you signs that something bad is going on you have to do something... no one can turn off the sun and do me a favour even though I would like it." A winner in Canada in 2007, Djokovic appeared uncomfortable the moment he stepped onto the court and eventually summoned for the trainer after going down a break in the second set. Struggling for air, Djokovic appeared ready to throw in the towel but hung on as Benneteau kept up the pressure. Desperate to keep the match from going to a third set, a faltering Djokovic finally finished off his French opponent on the fifth match point with an overhead slam. Briton Andy Murray followed Djokovic onto a scorching Centre Court and had to overcome a slow start before speeding past Belgian Xavier Malisse 7-5, 6-2. It was a positive start to an important tournament for the Murray, who needs a good result in Toronto to keep Swede Robin Soderling from replacing him as world number four.

Bin Hammam favours goalline technology

Football

AFP, Singapore

Asian Football Confederation president Mohamed Bin Hammam has thrown his support behind the use of goalline technology and extra assistant referees. The Qatari, seen as a potential successor to FIFA chief Sepp Blatter, suggested it was an almost inevitable development. "There must be some technology introduced to define whether the ball went in or not. That must happen," Bin Hammam, a FIFA executive committee member, told AFP. "We must take into consideration today that with hundreds of cameras in a stadium telecasting the match, they can detect each and every action.

"So people are always going to be negative about referee mistakes. "It's unfortunate for referees but maybe with introducing two extra referees in a match, it can improve the decision and judgement of referees. "Goalline technology and two extra referees can resolve a lot of the issues." The controversial issue of goalline technology will be discussed at a meeting of the International Football Association Board in October, according to Blatter. FIFA have previously rebuffed all demands to use video technology to resolve contentious refereeing decisions, despite it being successfully implemented in other sports such as tennis, cricket and rugby union. Their rationale has been that it would disrupt the free-flowing movement of the game.

Powell not running in London

REUTERS, London

Former 100 metres world record holder Asafa Powell withdrew from this week's London Diamond League meeting on Thursday with a back and hamstring strain. The Jamaican, whose 100m duel with Tyson Gay was to be one of the highlights of the Crystal Palace event, is suffering with the same injury that forced him out of the Stockholm meeting last week. "I am disappointed that I will not be able to run at the London Grand Prix as I love running in front of the Jamaican fans here," Powell said in a statement. "I visited the doctor yesterday and he has advised me not to run in order to help the recovery of my injury. I had hoped it would be better but unfortunately this is not so." The withdrawal of Powell, who held the 100 metres world record for three years until it was lowered by Usain Bolt in 2008, is a blow to organisers who had hoped to stage a showdown between Powell, Gay and Olympic and world champion Bolt.

Bolt declined to enter because of tax reasons and has since been ruled out for the season with injury. Gay's main rival in London will now be fellow American Walter Dix, the Olympic bronze medalist. The London Diamond League meeting is on Friday and Saturday.

Noble Afridi

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket star Shahid Afridi on Thursday launched a campaign to help assist millions afflicted by devastating floods in his country's worst-ever humanitarian disaster. The 30-year-old all-rounder visited Nowshera, one of the hardest-hit parts of the northwest, to take part in a flood-relief campaign and distribute funds he raised recently in the United Arab Emirates. "I feel it is my duty to help my countrymen in time of need," Afridi told AFP. "I raised a good amount in Dubai recently and this campaign will go on even in England early next month." An estimated 14 million people have been affected by massive floods caused by torrential monsoon rains lashing the country. "People are badly affected by the floods and they are left homeless, so it is our duty to help them. I will request affluent people, wherever they live, to help the worst-hit countrymen," said Afridi. Afridi, who shocked everyone with his sudden retirement from Test cricket after Pakistan's defeat against Australia at Lord's, is expected to return to England as one-day captain next month. Pakistan, currently playing a four-Test series in England, will also play two Twenty20 and five one-day internationals next month. Afridi hoped Pakistani expatriates would donate to his campaign.

Karachi slams selectors

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Cricket officials in Karachi Thursday criticised the selections of Pakistan's team currently on tour in England, calling it an injustice to players from the country's largest city. "A number of talented cricketers from Karachi have been neglected," Khalil Nanitalwala, vice-president of the Karachi City Cricket Association (KCCA) told a news conference. "The team's recent showings in England prove that merit was not followed in team selection," Nanitalwala said. Pakistan trail England 2-0 in the four-Test series, after levelling its two-Test series against Australia 1-1, on a tour marred by poor batting and fielding from a relatively young side. After losing the first Test against England by a big, 354-run margin in Nottingham, Pakistan excluded leg-spinner Danish Kaneria from the squad for the second Test, leaving pacesman Tanvir Ahmed as the only player from Karachi. Nanitalwala said Karachi players, including Kaneria, had been deliberately omitted from the squad for the second Test, which Pakistan lost by nine wickets this week. The third Test will start in London on August 18. "Kaneria was ousted after not being able to

perform well in the first Test which is quite unprecedented and a blow to Karachi cricket," said Nanitalwala, who led a protest outside the Karachi Press Club. Around 200 Karachi players chanted slogans against the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and its selection committee. "Karachi's Asad Shafiq was among the top run-getters in the last domestic season, while Khurram Manzoor, Khalid Latif, Mohammad Sami, Fawad Alam and a number of other players also deserved places in the team," said Nanitalwala. When asked why the KCCA took so long to protest after the England-bound team was announced in June, Nanitalwala said: "We have been protesting with the PCB but decided to go public only after they took no notice." He said the association wanted Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari, who is also the patron of the PCB, to remove the board's chairman, Ijaz Butt, whom it accused of "injustices and nepotism". A number of former players have also criticised the Pakistan selection and have demanded Butt's removal. No PCB official was available to comment on the KCCA's latest allegations, but on Sunday Butt brushed aside similar criticism, saying the team selection was appropriate and accusing the media of acting as selectors.



PHOTO: AFP
Karachi city cricket officials and players burn cricket bats during a protest yesterday. The officials criticised the selections of Pakistan's team currently on tour in England, calling it an injustice to players from the country's largest city.

Beckham era ends

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"You never know with David," he insisted. "I'm sure when he hears that news it will drive him on and he'll try and prove people wrong and try and get back in the set-up because I know he loves playing for England." Gerrard showed similar characteristics against Hungary with a Beckhamesque performance that saved England from what would have been a hugely damaging defeat.

MSC

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Some also blamed Mohammedan's failure to clinch the Bangladesh League title as well as their inability to retain the services of the star footballers this season at the inactiveness of the ad-hoc committee members. It has been a common whiner in the sports arena a couple of months that ad-hoc committee member Kutubuddin Ahmed, also president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, is going to replace Falu.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

1 Bedouin	37 Pouch	2 Libertine	21 Pain reliever
5 Spade or club, e.g.	38 The fifth element	3 Swiss range	22 Taxi
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12 Pop flavor	42 Sapporo sash	5 Pocket-book	24 Bachelor's last words
13 "Born in the —"	45 Unoriginal	6 Wife of Osiris	25 "Casa blanca" pianist
14 Tardy	46 Dating from long past	7 Lobbying grp.	26 Potentially will
15 Blissful	48 Indian princess	8 Having hidden spiritual meaning	27 Shad product
17 Springlike melody	49 Blond shade	9 Colorado skiing mecca	28 The whole enchilada
18 Moines precursor	50 Frail always room for"	10 "— have to do"	29 Started
19 Donkey	51 United nations	11 Kill a bill	31 Binge
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21 Not post-22 Gear tooth	53 Inquisitive	20 Happiness perfectly	35 Lightbulb measure
23 Passport endorsements			37 Cold rice recipe
26 Re a city's leader			38 Zinger
30 Hebrew month			39 October birthstone
31 Poke			40 Nevada city
32 Portrayal			41 Put on the line
33 In the not-too-distant future			42 Sandwich cookie
35 Handle effectively			43 Prejudice
36 Joke			44 Gross
			46 Possesses
			47 Possess

DOWN
1 Served perfectly

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

S G N U S N A E G L O A P L N B Z V B N
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B A F V O Y G M H D B H A E G L C D M
Z V C L G N C B N F V S Y C F M A O Y N B Z ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMOUS NOVEL FEATURING THE VIEWPOINTS OF SOME GOLDFISH: "THE WORLD ACCORDING TO CARP"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals R