

Aus-SL 2nd ODI today

CRICINFO, Sydney
Australia have now lost six internationals in a row since July, and three weeks from the first ball of the Ashes that's a worrying position to be in. More immediately, they must find a way to bounce back at the SCG in the second ODI of the three-match contest, or Sri Lanka will win a series in Australia for the first time.

Ricky Ponting will come back as captain and it is likely to be a straight swap for the injured Shaun Marsh. Steven Smith hurt his back in the field during the series opener and was unable to bowl in the second half of the innings, and if he is rested, Nathan Hauritz would be the natural replacement.

Sri Lanka's top-order batting was a worry at the MCG, and if anyone is in danger of being dropped it is Chamara Silva. Jeevan Mendis was the 12th man in the series opener and could come in to calculations, especially as he would give them some more variety in the spin department on a Sydney surface that could provide some turn.

The SCG usually offers some spin, and both teams have good slow-bowling options in their line-ups. The forecast for Friday is for isolated showers and a top temperature of 18C.

SQUADS
AUSTRALIA (probable): Shane Watson, Brad Haddin, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Michael Hussey, Cameron White, Steven Smith or Nathan Hauritz, Mitchell Johnson, John Hastings, Xavier Doherty, Mitchell Starc.
SRI LANKA (probable): Upul Tharanga, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Chamara Silva or Jeevan Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Thisara Perera, Suraj Randiv, Nuwan Kulasekara, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralidaran.

Police maul Jessore

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police annihilated Jessore 103-42 in the Citycell 24th National Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Basketball Stadium yesterday.

Shahin starred with 29 points in the game that Police played after their 85-54 victory over Rajshahi.

Narayanganj, Chandpur, Bangladesh Air Force, Gazipur and BKSP also won their respective matches.



PHOTO: AFP
Russian Nikolay Davydenko makes a forehand return during his ATP Valencia Cup match against Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina in the Spanish city yesterday. Davydenko won 7-6, 6-2.

Easy win for Federer

Tennis

AFP, Basel

Roger Federer turned in a second consecutive dream performance on Wednesday to give his home fans more satisfaction as he rolled Serb Janko Tipsarevic 6-3, 6-4 at the Swiss Indoors.

The one-hour effort surprised even the in-form top seed.

"That's two perfect matches in a row," said the Swiss, equally ruthless in the first round on Monday. "How much better can it get?"

"I played well, served well and had hardly any errors. This is about as good as it gets. If I can keep it like this for the whole event, that would be amazing."

Federer is now into the quarterfinals as he bids to seize back the title he lost to Novak Djokovic a year ago, following a three-year trophy run at the St Jakobshalle, where he got his start in the sport as a teenage ballboy.

But the world number two does not want to risk over-confidence either. "I don't want to get used to this, that could be a danger," he said.

"Beating Janko [who took him to five sets in their last match at the 2008 Australian Open] is a good win. He's on a Davis Cup finals team after all."

"I'm happy to get this win, but nothing is guaranteed."

Federer got the job done in exactly one hour, leaving him plenty of time to cross the road and find his VIP seat at the Champions League fixture between his club Basel and visiting Italian side Roma.

Fourth seed Andy Roddick was planning on dining in at his central city hotel after passing up on the chance to attend the football.

Roddick marked his return to tennis after injuring his knee a fortnight ago in Shanghai with a 7-5, 7-6 defeat of fellow American Sam Querrey to reach the second round.

The American, who last played here in a 2003 semifinal, resumed the hunt for a place in the eight-man ATP season final, where three spots remain open.

Roddick hammered his trademark aces with abandon, totting up 16 in just over 90 minutes of battle.

Querrey, another big hitter, managed 16 but put a backhand into the net on Roddick's first match point to make an early exit on his debut appearance.

"My injury from Asia felt fine," said Roddick.

"After being sick [with glandular fever] in the summer and then the Shanghai injury, it's good to play a solid match."

"There is always that element of not knowing what to expect. Playing Sam is tough, we had a high level, and the tie-breaker was not easy."

In other first-round matches, veteran Czech Radek Stepanek beat Dutchman Thiemo de Bakker 6-3, 7-6, while Finn Jarkko Nieminen, a losing finalist against Federer in 2007, defeated German Daniel Brands 6-3, 6-2 in round one.

Gibbs says he is not a racist

PTI, Johannesburg

Out-of-favour veteran South Africa opener Herschelle Gibbs has no regrets about the "bunch of animals" remark directed towards the Pakistani fans during a Test at Centurion in 2007 but said by no means he was a racist.

In his recently published controversial autobiography, "To The Point", Gibbs wrote that the entire South African team was "irritated" by the unruly behaviour of the Pakistani supporters during that match.

"I think it was a tactic aimed at getting me out of the team rather than them being mortally offended by the 'racial' slur. It was a gambit to disrupt the Proteas more than anything else," he wrote.

"They made a huge noise and even kicked Rashard, my son, and his mom, Liesl, out of their seats when they took over the area next to the pitch entrance that leads up to the changing room."

Eng name team for tour tie

AFP, Perth

England team announced on Thursday for this week's three-day tour match against Western Australia, ahead of the Ashes Tests starting November 25:

SQUAD
Andrew Strauss (captain), Alistair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Ian Bell, Matt Prior, Chris Broad, Graeme Swann, Steven Finn, James Anderson, Eoin Morgan, Chris Tremlett (12th and 13th men to be named).

Real's late

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Arsenal took a 10th-minute lead through Theo Walcott in their Group H clash in Donetsk, but the hosts equalised when Dmytro Chyhyrnski's header glanced off Craig Eastmond for an own goal.

Gunners old boy Eduardo scored the winner just before the break, following an error from visiting left-back Gael Clichy, to draw the Ukrainians level on nine points with Arsenal at the group summit.

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports: "We had a good start but after that we eased off too much. We were punished against a good team. It's a good lesson for us."

Sporting Braga are three points back in third, after a 1-0 win at Partizan Belgrade that eliminated the Serbian side from the competition.

In-form German striker Mario Gomez grabbed a hat-trick as Bayern, last season's runners-up, routed Cluj 4-0 in Romania.

Roma survived a late fightback to win 3-2 at Basel, as Claudio Ranieri's side climbed from fourth to second in Group E.

Bollywood stars to bid bye to Ntini

PTI, Johannesburg

Bollywood stars Shah Rukh Khan, Anil Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra will bid farewell to retiring South African fast bowler Makhaya Ntini in a glittering concert in Durban on January 9 next year.

The 33-year-old pacer has decided to retire from all forms of cricket and the Bollywood trio will attend the concert, which will bid adieu to Ntini.

The New Age Friendship Celebration Concert will take place after a special Standard Bank International Pro20 match between the South Africa and India at the world class Moses Mabida stadium, built especially for the FIFA 2010 World Cup.

The concert will bring the curtain down on the historic one-off event in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Indian indentured labourers in 1860 to work on the sugar cane plantations in the then Natal province of South Africa.

India dominate

FROM PAGE 17

Mithun Chowdhury as the lone striker instead of the off-form Zahid Hasan Emily in a 4-2-3-1 formation.

The national players have been engaged in action since late August through the national camp and then they played the Federation Cup that ended on October 30.

With a hectic schedule, the players looked tired and the national coach operated the four-day preparation with light practice to ensure the players could recover from the tiredness.

"What we need is to keep up the fighting attitude we gained in the last two to three years and if we can show it on the pitch, I believe nothing is impossible," said captain Aminul Haque.

Clarke's perception

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Stand-in captain Michael Clarke said Wednesday Australia's inability to kill off opposing teams was becoming a serious issue.

Clarke was left nonplussed after Sri Lanka, on the back of a record ninth-wicket stand between Angelo Mathews and Lasith Malinga, staged one of the great comebacks, setting up a one-wicket win with 34 balls left in their opening one-day international in Melbourne on Wednesday.

The tourists were seemingly out for the count at 107 for eight in reply to Australia's 239 for eight from 50 overs only to come storming back to victory.

Their 132-run partnership set a world record for the ninth wicket in one-day internationals, beating the mark that had stood for 27 years.

Clarke, who was deputising for Ricky Ponting who was away at a family funeral in Tasmania, was concerned about the team's growing habit of letting the opposition off the hook.

It was also their sixth-straight loss in all forms of the game, going back to July.

Australia have two more one-dayers against Sri Lanka before the first Ashes Test against England in Brisbane on November 25.

"What I'm so disappointed in is we got so close again and we couldn't finish the game off, which is an issue we've had for a while now in all three forms of the game," Clarke told reporters.

"We've got to look at that and ask ourselves questions, find out what we can do to improve that."

"Execution cost us today with both bat and ball -- having them 8-107 we got hit around the park."

"Mathews is a very good player but Malinga is a No.10, a good No.10, but he's still a No.10 batsman."

"If we're good enough to execute our plan and get the top order out, I don't see any reason why we can't do it to the tailenders."

"But it's not the first time it's happened and it's something we need to look at."

Clarke stressed Australia could not look ahead to the Ashes, saying it was vital they improved their one-day form with the World Cup approaching early next year on the sub-continent.

"We've got a one-day World Cup coming up after the Ashes and we need to be playing our best cricket now," he said.

"The Ashes are great, everybody's looking forward to it, but we need to be focused on what's in front of us because right now, we're not playing our best cricket and we need to be."

Modi will not return to India

Cricket

ANI, London

Former Indian Premier League (IPL) Chairman Lalit Modi has stressed at a London conference that he was not hiding, but would not consider returning to India to answer corruption charges.

According to the BBC, during a rare public appearance at the International Sports Event Management Conference in London to discuss the future of Indian sport, Modi, who was accompanied by bodyguards, indicated that currently he has no intention of attending a hearing in India, and the authorities in New Delhi have shown no willingness to travel to London to speak to him, despite his apparent readiness to pay for them to do so.

Talking about the future of the Indian premier League, Modi stated that by 2016 the

IPL would be the world's most watched sporting league. He also said he would love to be part of an Indian Olympic bid and the Games will come to India in his lifetime.

Privately, Modi remains determined to stay involved in cricket and predicts that the United States is the market cricket 'must get into,' the report said.

In September this year, the 46-year-old was suspended from all involvement in Indian cricket, and was replaced as IPL chief by Chirayu Amin. He was also stripped of his position as vice-president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and also lost his job as chairman of the Champions League Twenty20, a club tournament organised jointly by India, Australia and South Africa.

Modi also faces accusations of tax evasion and money laundering but denies all allegations of wrongdoing.

School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The 12th Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament gets underway today at the Auditorium lounge of the National Sports Council Tower with an expectation of over 150 participants.

Students from KG to X, divided into three groups, would take part in the tournament as KG to V and VI to X have been kept in two separate groups of the boy's section while all girls have been kept in a single group, speakers revealed at a press conference at the NSC auditorium yesterday.

However, the interested students with class certificates will be eligible to enroll their names on the opening day of the Swiss-League system tournament.

BCF general secretary Mokaddesh Hossain, deputy general secretary Masudur Rahman and sponsor Standard Chartered head of corporate affairs Bitopi Das were among others present on the occasion.

Trio's deals

FROM PAGE 17
earned him a monthly salary of 175,000 rupees.

The PCB last month barred the suspended players from using practice facilities at the national cricket academy in Lahore and reportedly stayed away from the legal proceedings during their appeals.

The ICC has ordered Pakistan to implement measures to curb alleged corruption and other problems, warning failure to clean up its act could result in sanctions.

No international teams have toured Pakistan since a militant attack on the Sri Lankan team's bus in March last year, meaning huge financial losses and fears that interest in the sport will start to wane among youth.

In Dubai on Tuesday the former president of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Ehsan Mani, who is Pakistani, blamed the country's own cricket authorities for the state of the game there and rebuffed suggestions that the ICC was picking on Pakistan.



Design for Bangladesh design your jersey

Rules

- One participant can submit more than one design.
- A participant is required to submit the following on a separate paper attached with his/her design(s): Name, Date of Birth, Address, Contact Number
- The participants can submit the design(s) through sketch on paper or a miniature cloth replica. Both forms of the designs will be accepted.
- The color green must receive prominence in the design. Besides that, the use of red is mandatory.
- The participants are allowed to use any other color along with red and green.
- The design(s) need to be submitted by 14th November, 2010
- BCB and GP will reserve the all the right to accept/reject designs at any time without showing any reason.

The participants can submit their design(s) through

- Submitting their designs in the drop boxes situated in all Grameenphone Centers across the country
- Sending mail to : Jersey Utshob, GPO Box # 2005, Dhaka-1000
- Email to 'submit@jerseyutshob.com'
- Participants can also visit www.jerseyutshob.com and submit their designs at the website.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
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6 "Bow-wow!"
9 Muppet eagle
12 Flaxlike fiber
13 Bill's partner
14 Rd.
15 Sports venue
16 Snickers bar component
18 Epistle
20 Aching
21 Micro-brewery product
23 Scuttle
24 Aspect
25 Maze option
27 When pigs fly
29 Prayer beads
31 Geronimo was one
35 Twangy
37 Primary
38 Critter
41 Massage

DOWN
1 Support system?
2 Scull tool
3 Brunch entrees
4 Prong wheeled carriage
5 Moor
6 Give consent (to)
7 Bellow
8 In favor of
9 Pago Pago's place
10 States with conviction
11 Big brouhaha
17 Guru's retreat
19 Stage statuary
21 Spring mo.
22 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
24 Energy
26 Two-wheeled carriage
28 Worth
30 Snitch
32 The JFK administration, metaphorically
33 That guy
34 Away from WSW
36 Up
38 Complaints
39 Bert's pal
40 Shooting marble
42 Cattle ranch ID
45 Entreaty
46 Advertising award
48 Salamander
50 Rushmore face
51 "Of course"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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TAXI ALL PAPA
AMID RIO ERIN
BALBOA MENACE
INK YEN
SEPT EMPERORS
OVAR ETAR IOU
DARKSTAR PAWN
ANI ADO
ALBINO LOUNGE
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CRYPTOQUIP

A I R B I E I H Q C J R F B I O U
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B D F F I R L L R U F Y F A Y
I H T G O E ? C H R Q R U L J U R G O E .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WINDY CITY FOOTBALL TEAM WHOSE MEMBERS ARE KNOWN FOR DRINKING COLD ONES: THE CHICAGO BEERS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T