



Former England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff signs autographs for students during a visit to the Yusuf Meherali School in Mumbai yesterday. Flintoff is on a day-long trip to Mumbai as a brand ambassador of an airline company.

TEST RANKINGS
Sangakkara back on top
CRICINFO

Kumar Sangakkara, the Sri Lanka captain, has reclaimed the top spot in the ICC Test rankings for batsmen, ending Sachin Tendulkar's short-lived stay at the head of the table. Sangakkara's performance in the first two Tests of the ongoing series against West Indies coincided with Tendulkar's modest returns against New Zealand, leading to a swap at the top. Sangakkara has so far scored 228 runs in the West Indies series, taking him to 882 rating points, 23 clear of Tendulkar who could manage only one half-century in four innings against New Zealand. Virender Sehwag is in the third place, nine points behind Tendulkar, while Jacques Kallis is fourth, with 806. South Africa's AB de Villiers and England's Jonathan Trott have broken into the top ten for the first time, following strong performances against Pakistan and Australia respectively. de Villiers amassed an unbeaten 278 in Abu Dhabi, the highest Test score by a South Africa batsman, propelling him to fifth. Trott's unbeaten 135 was a part of England's strong second-innings resistance in the Ashes-opener, helping his side earn a creditable draw, and lifting him to the eighth spot. On the bowling front, India's fast bowling spearhead, Zaheer Khan, surged to third in the Test ratings, his highest classification to date. South Africa seamer Dale Steyn and England off-spinner Graeme Swann retained the top two positions. Australia's Peter Siddle, who picked up six wickets on the first day at the Gabba, including a hat-trick, rose to the 14th spot, while England seamer Steven Finn moved up to 19th on the back of his six-for.

Sammy to lead Windies in SL ODI series
AFP, Pallekele

The West Indies cricket selectors on Monday named all-rounder Darren Sammy as captain for next month's one-day series and a Twenty20 international in Sri Lanka. Batsman Kirk Edwards and paceman Andre Russell were the newcomers in the 15-man squad, according to a West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) press release. Edwards is one of the four players who will join the squad currently playing in the three-Test series in Sri Lanka. The Test series is tied 0-0, with the final match set to be played in Pallekele on Wednesday. All-rounder Kieron Pollard, spinner Nikita Miller, paceman Ravi Rampaul and Edwards will replace Brendan Nash, wicketkeeper Devon Thomas, paceman Nelson Pascal and spinner Shane Shillingford. The West Indies will play five one-day internationals in Sri Lanka, with the first match starting on Dec 9. The Twenty20 match will be played after the one-day series in Colombo on Dec 21. **SQUAD** Darren Sammy (captain), Adrian Barath, Carlton Baugh, Sulieaman Benn, Darren Bravo, Dwayne Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Kirk Edwards, Chris Gayle, Nikita Miller, Kieron Pollard, Ravi Rampaul, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Devon Smith.

Doug, Ryan recalled
Cricket

Changes are likely in the Australian team for the second Ashes Test after pacemen Doug Bollinger and Ryan Harris were added to the national squad following Monday's drawn first Test against England. Their inclusion in a 13-man squad follows the inability of Australia's bowlers to capitalise on a massive 221-run innings lead and press for victory over the final two days of the Gabba Test. England, spearheaded by an unbeaten 235 by opener Alastair Cook and centuries from Andrew Strauss and Jonathan Trott, had few problems blunting the Australian attack throughout 152 overs and 10 hours 25 minutes to consign the opening match to a stalemate. It was grim reading for Australia's bowlers, particularly their 166-wicket strike bowler Mitchell Johnson, who went wicketless for the match at a cost of 170 runs from 42 overs. Apart from Peter Siddle's career best 6-54, including a hat-trick, on Thursday's opening day, Australia's bowlers made little impact on the flat unforgiving Gabba strip. "One for 500 is a pretty demanding scorecard, isn't it?" skipper Ricky Ponting admitted after the match. "There's no hiding from the fact that we could have bowled a lot better as a group. "It was hard work for our boys and they are pretty tired right now and if we get a flat wicket in Adelaide again we have to make sure we are a whole lot better than we were in this game." Ponting indicated that Ryan Harris, who took nine wickets in his only two Tests

Records roll at the Gabba

Vice-captain Michael Clarke put down a regulation chance off Trott (75) at slip off Shane Watson's bowling and Ponting dropped Cook (222) in the slips. It only got worse when Simon Katich was caught at first slip by Strauss off Stuart Broad for four in the sixth over of Australia's second innings. Australia will have plenty to ponder ahead of Friday's second Test at the Adelaide Oval after England came away from the Gabba without losing for the first time since the drawn Test in 1998. Over the course of the five days only 22 wickets fell, and just seven over the last three days on the bat-friendly flat Gabba pitch. "I have never played on a Gabba wicket like that in my whole career," Ponting said. "It's normally quicker and bouncier early on and there's a lot more wickets caught behind the wicket than there was in this game. "I think the result indicates there was something different about the Gabba wicket this week." **SCORES IN BRIEF** ENGLAND: First innings 260 (Bell 76, Cook 67; Siddle 6-54) AUSTRALIA: First innings 481 (Hussey 195, Haddin 136, Katich 50; Finn 6-125, Anderson 2 for 99, Swann 2 for 128) ENGLAND: Second innings 517 for 1 declared (Straus 110, Cook 235 not out, Trott 135 not out; North 1-22) AUSTRALIA: Second innings 107 for 1 (Watson 41 not out, Ponting 51 not out; Broad 1-18) Result: Match drawn. Man-of-the-match: Alastair Cook.

New stars galore

Kiran More of India and Greg Dyer of Australia were the leading keepers of the tournament with eleven dismissals each. More played six matches while Dyer played eight. **Ansars top** Bangladesh Rifles also produced a stunning result to claim five gold, two silver and two bronze as the top three teams won two gold each on the concluding day. State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker distributed prizes among the winners while managing director of sponsors NCC Bank Mohammad Nurul Amin, Bangladesh Handball Federation general secretary Nurul Fazole Bulbul, Bangladesh Cycling Federation president Mizanur Rahman Manu and general secretary SM Imtiaz Khan Babul were present.

against New Zealand last March, would be in line for selection. "He's had some niggling knee problems in the last couple of games but the fitness staff I've spoken to believe that he will be fine for a Test match," Ponting said. "We will get a good look at him over the next two days in Adelaide and see where he's at. It's nice to have him back around the group." Ponting pointed to the Queenslanders' work ethic as a big plus for possible inclusion in Adelaide. "He's a great competitor. He runs in all day for you. He's going to bowl the right kind of length in Adelaide conditions," he said. "If it happens to reverse swing down there he's very good at that, too." Ponting said that Bollinger would be pulled out of the current Sheffield Shield match in Perth after Tuesday so he can join the Test squad in Adelaide. The Spaniard has 12,450 points, 3,305 ahead of Federer whom he replaced at the top after winning the French Open and Wimbledon during the summer. Nadal went on to win the US Open, while Federer took the year's first Grand Slam title in Australia. Andy Murray, meanwhile, moved back above Robin Soderling to fourth place on the back of his run into the semifinals in London. Nadal and Federer have filled the year-ending top two spots in the world rankings since 2005. **TOPTEN** 1. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 12,450 pts 2. Roger Federer (SUI) 9145 3. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 6035 4. Andy Murray (GBR) 5760 (+1) 5. Robin Soderling (SWE) 5580 (-1) 6. Tomas Berdych (CZE) 3955 7. David Ferrer (ESP) 3735 8. Andy Roddick (USA) 3665 9. Fernando Verdasco (ESP) 3240 10. Mikhail Youzhny (RUS) 2920

Middle-order

he believes that with the World Cup coming, everyone will try to prove his worth which would ultimately take part of the pressure off the under-performing ones. "The best thing is we have been playing well for some time now, and the good thing is there hasn't been too much tinkering with the squad," added Shakib. **CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

we've got a quick turnaround. Hopefully, I can start again in Adelaide [the second Test]." Cook, at the tender age of 25, joined Wally Hammond (3), Reg Foster and Paul Collingwood as England's double centurions in Australia with his 625-minute epic. He said he was edgy coming into the Ashes series. "The night before I was probably the most nervous I've ever been," he said. "The drive into the ground, everything about it, the hype, the national anthems, it was a very nerve-wracking time and it gave me a lot of confidence to get through that first two hours. "It's been a fantastic couple of days, obviously the pitch was amazing to bat on and got better and better."

Shakib joins anti AIDS campaign
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket's most popular face Shakib Al Hasan yesterday joined an elite group of cricketers from around the world as the International Cricket Council (ICC) appointed him the Think Wise campaign spokesperson for Bangladesh. The campaign aims at raising awareness about HIV and AIDS in order to make a positive impact on the lives of young people across the world and help prevent new HIV infections. A press briefing was held in this connection yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium where representatives of the ICC, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), UNICEF and UNAIDS were present. "I feel privileged to be a part of the Think Wise campaign. I have always had a desire to support and assist social causes because as a sportsman I know how far-reaching an impact can we make in addressing key issues like HIV and AIDS, especially in developing countries like Bangladesh," said Shakib. Some of the notable Think Wise champions from cricket are Nathan Bracken, Kumar Sangakkara, Graeme Smith, Virender Sehwag and Ramnaresh Sarwan.

Yet Rafa tops ATP world rankings
AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal has finished the year firmly atop the world rankings despite losing to Roger Federer in the ATP Tour Championship final in London on Sunday. The Spaniard has 12,450 points, 3,305 ahead of Federer whom he replaced at the top after winning the French Open and Wimbledon during the summer. Nadal went on to win the US Open, while Federer took the year's first Grand Slam title in Australia. Andy Murray, meanwhile, moved back above Robin Soderling to fourth place on the back of his run into the semifinals in London. Nadal and Federer have filled the year-ending top two spots in the world rankings since 2005. **TOPTEN** 1. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 12,450 pts 2. Roger Federer (SUI) 9145 3. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 6035 4. Andy Murray (GBR) 5760 (+1) 5. Robin Soderling (SWE) 5580 (-1) 6. Tomas Berdych (CZE) 3955 7. David Ferrer (ESP) 3735 8. Andy Roddick (USA) 3665 9. Fernando Verdasco (ESP) 3240 10. Mikhail Youzhny (RUS) 2920

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Weather still a threat
SL, WI meet in deciding Test from tomorrow

Sri Lanka and the West Indies hope for clear weather as they seek to clinch the series with a win in the third and final Test starting at a new venue on Wednesday. The series is tied at 0-0 after rain-hit drawn matches in Colombo and Galle and the weather is likely to curtail play at the Pallekele International Stadium. The West Indies, seeking their first Test victory in Sri Lanka, surprised the hosts with their impressive performance in Galle where they enforced the follow-on, restricting the home side to 378 after posting 580-9 declared. Sri Lanka came back strongly in the second Test in Colombo when they made 387-9 declared in their first innings on a new pitch before bowling the tourists out for 243. The hosts declared their second innings at 57-1 before taking two West Indies wickets, including that of former captain Chris Gayle, for 12 runs in the final session. Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara, who led from the front with a superb 150 in the first innings, expects his bowlers to repeat their performance in a bid to keep pressure on the tourists in the final Test. The hosts were indebted to their spinners for gaining the upper hand, with Rangana Herath, Ajantha Mendis and part-timer Tillakaratne Dilshan giving a good account of themselves with three wickets apiece. Debutant paceman Suranga Lakmal and fast bowler Nuwan Kulasekara also backed

Roger eyes return to top
Tennis

took the French Open and Wimbledon titles from the Swiss star. That was what made the 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Nadal in the final at London's O2 Arena on Sunday so significant for the world number two. In Federer's mind, his record-equaling fifth title in the prestigious end-of-year event was secondary to the message the win sent to Nadal and his other rivals at the top of the rankings. "I'm happy I made my ninth final this season. I've won five titles, won a slam. That obviously makes me very positive for next year. I believe I can have another great season in 2011," he said. "I'm just really happy the way I was able to finish the season in style, playing some of my best tennis, really savoring the best for last. "Obviously, beating Rafa in the finals makes it extra special because of the year he had. "I've had a good season. I don't see how someone can say it's been a bad season. I had some tough losses, sure but you're not going to win every tournament you play. "After having somewhat of a disappointing clay, Halle, Wimbledon stretch, where wasn't able to win any tournaments, maybe didn't play some of my best tennis, played a bit passive, it was important that I was able to pick up my game." The 29-year-old will take a short vacation now before starting his preparations for the new campaign, which he begins by defending the Australian Open in January. But the 16-time Grand Slam champion is well aware that Nadal would love to repeat his remarkable year, which included successive Grand Slam triumphs at the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open. Nadal leads their career head-to-head 14-8 and Federer admits every match between them seems to carry an historic edge. "I think the men's game is at an absolute high right now, with a lot of exciting games being played, with a lot of respect. Also I think having had me and Rafa both made the career Grand Slam already at a young age I think is great for the game," he said. "We're obviously playing not only for ourselves and beating the other guys, but also for history. I think there's a lot at stake always in all our matches we play in the future. I think it's wonderful."



Swiss super star Roger Federer holds the winner's trophy after beating Spain's Rafael Nadal in the final of the ATP World Tour Finals in London on Sunday.

their spinners. "If the match had gone the full distance, it would have been great to see our spinners performing," Sangakkara said after the Colombo Test. "We applied ourselves in batting and our bowling performance was a lot better than the first Test." The West Indies, who arrived in the country with new captain Darren Sammy and an inexperienced bowling attack, will need to be consistent with their batting and bowling. The tourists batted well in the opening match, with Gayle showing the way with a brilliant 333, but faltered against Sri Lanka's disciplined pace-spin combination in the next game. Darren Bravo, 21, impressed in both the Tests with his exciting stroke-play, scoring 58 on debut in Galle and an attractive 80 in Colombo. "We didn't play as well as we wanted to [in the second match], but the series is still 0-0, so we have everything to play for in the final Test. We need to keep improving," said Sammy. "Darren Bravo, Kemar Roach and Carlton Baugh all played well [in the second match]. It's been a long time we are going into the final Test of a series 0-0 and the players are looking forward to it." Wicketkeeper Baugh contributed a crucial 50 in the second innings to help his side avoid a follow-on, while fast bowler Roach bagged 5-100 in the first innings. Roach also did well in the opening Test, finishing with five wickets, but the West Indies expect other bowlers to raise their performance. The West Indies have lost five and drawn three of their eight Tests in Sri Lanka.

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CRYPTOQUIP
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FEARING THAT ANYBODY COULD GET TO KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT HIM, THE SNAIL KEPT A SLOW PROFILE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals I