



PHOTO: AFP  
New Zealand fast bowler James Franklin flicks one behind square leg on his way to an explosive unbeaten 98 off only 69 balls during the fourth ODI against India in Bangalore yesterday.

# Ricky slips down rankings

Cricket

AFP, London

Australia's Ricky Ponting has dropped out of the top 20 in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test batting rankings for the first time since 2001 after his side's crushing defeat by England in Adelaide.

Ashes holders England won the second Test at the Adelaide Oval by the huge margin of an innings and 71 runs on Tuesday to go 1-0 up in the five-match series following the drawn opener in Brisbane.

Australian skipper Ponting, on a good batting pitch, managed just nine runs in Adelaide including a first innings golden duck when in-form England quick James Anderson had had him caught in the slips by Graeme Swann.

Now the 35-year-old Tasmanian, one of the outstanding batsmen of his generation, has dropped 12 places to occupy 25th spot in the latest edition of the rankings published on Tuesday.

There are no Australians in the top 10 leading batsmen, while left-arm seamer Mitchell Johnson, dropped after the Brisbane Test, is the only Australian in the world's current top 10 bowlers.

England's Jonathan Trott, who made a century in Brisbane and 78 in Adelaide, has climbed two places to sixth in the batting rankings.

Meanwhile, Anderson has displaced India left-arm Zaheer Khan to move up to third place in the bowling rankings.

The 28-year-old claimed six wickets in Adelaide and sits behind off-spinner Swann (second), while the table is headed by South Africa quick Dale Steyn.

It is Anderson's highest ranking to date. Swann's second innings haul of five wickets for 91 runs in Adelaide took him to within 14 rating points of Steyn.

# Desailly loses Ghana interest

AFP, Paris

France's Ghanaian-born World Cup winning defender Marcel Desailly told AFP on Monday he was no longer interested in taking over as coach of World Cup quarter-finalists Ghana.

The 42-year-old - who was sent off in the 1998 World Cup final victory over Brazil - had been interested in filling the post vacated by Serbian Milan Rajevac in September.

However, Desailly, who has no coaching experience, admitted on Monday he was disappointed he had not had news from the national federation for three months.

"The administration takes a long time (to make a decision), it is more complicated than elsewhere," said Desailly, who was also a member of the Euro 2000 winning side.

# KP feels satisfied

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

The best feeling for Kevin Pietersen in winning the second Ashes Test was walking into a jubilant England dressing room after his bitter Adelaide memories of four years ago.

Man-of-the-match Pietersen hit a majestic Test best 227 and captured the vital wicket of Michael Clarke with his part-time spin in England's devastating innings and 71-run romp over Australia on the fifth day Tuesday.

Pietersen still recoils at the thought of England's collapse in the 2006 Adelaide Test when he scored 158 in England's first-innings 551 for six declared only to lose by six wickets.

"The best feeling is walking into the dressing room having won this Test match," Pietersen said.

"Four years ago was a very horrible dressing room to walk into, very quiet dressing room, a very negative dressing room and not as united as the dressing room is at the moment.

"Individual performances add to a team victory and I think the team victory today is incredible, it's the best feeling no matter who takes the wickets or gets the runs.

"A victory in Australia -- I haven't had one -

- Strauss [skipper Andrew Strauss] hasn't had one in Test match cricket, it's a great feeling but we're not going to get complacent because we know as soon as complacency sets in, it bites you.

"It's been a long time coming because a few players have been in nick and a couple that have been out of nick, and I can honestly say that all of our players are in nick at the moment."

Rated one of world cricket's most destructive batsmen in full flow, Pietersen broke through for his first Test century in 28 innings since his 102 against the West Indies at Port-of-Spain in March last year.

He also became the fifth Englishman to score a double century in Australia, joining teammates Alastair Cook and Paul Collingwood, Walter Hammond (3) and Reg Foster.

Pietersen scored his double-century off 308 balls with 34 fours and a booming six off hapless spinner Xavier Doherty.

"I'm very happy where I'm at at the moment, where I'm at in the team, and very happy with Strauss and the job he's doing and what [coach] Andy Flower's doing," said Pietersen, who quit as England captain last year after a public spat with former coach Peter Moores.

"It's been absolutely amazing, and such a happy place to be."

# Cantona's revolt fails

Football

AFP, Paris

Eric Cantona's bid to destroy global banking appeared to have failed Tuesday as his French compatriots ignored his call to withdraw cash en masse and it emerged his wife had appeared in a TV bank ad.

The wealthy ex-Manchester United star warned his own bank to expect a large withdrawal but there were no reports from anywhere else in France of large numbers of people lining up to take out their money.

He told a BNP Paribas branch in the northern town of Albert he planned to take a break from filming a gangster movie nearby and turn up later Tuesday to withdraw "more than 1,500 euros," branch manager Antoine Poissonnier told AFP.

The manager did not say how much Cantona planned to withdraw, but French banks require customers to give them prior notice when they intend to withdraw more than a few hundred euros in cash.

French and European politicians and bankers have criticised the footballer-turned-actor, saying his call for citizens to empty bank accounts and punish the financial sector was irresponsible, naive and misguided.

But tens of thousands of people in France and beyond had promised on social networks like Facebook that they would take up Cantona's call to bring down the

"corrupt, criminal" banking system that sparked the global economic crisis. By mid-afternoon Tuesday -- the day Cantona suggested his anti-capitalist revolution should begin -- very few appeared to have kept their promise.

"We have seen no change," said Didier Borriello of Credit Lyonnais bank in the southern city of Marseille, Cantona's home town, echoing reports from around France of business as usual in the nation's banking institutions.

In Paris, members of an activist group called "Save the Rich" dressed up in striped prison uniforms and withdrew several hundreds euros from a Societe Generale branch and deposited it at a nearby bank they saw as more "ethical."

Their aim was "not to bring down the system" as Cantona said he hoped to do, but "to make it work better," said activist Maxime Hupel, who was dressed in a red Man United jersey with "Cantona" written across his back.

But the protests were few, isolated and largely symbolic.

"I'm going to take out 500 euros, but I can't do more," said a woman who gave her name as Isabelle on the Boulevard de Strasbourg, in central Paris.

Cantona's apparent failure was compounded when it emerged Tuesday that his actress wife Rachida Brakni had starred in a television advertisement for Credit Lyonnais that was widely broadcast earlier this year.

Minister for Solidarity Roselyne

Bachelot was quick to point out what she said were the contradictions in the anti-capitalist campaign launched by a rich ex-football star whose "wife does advertising for the banking system."

She noted that Cantona had himself appeared in many television, cinema and magazine ads for products ranging from L'Oreal cosmetics to Renault cars.

Cantona first made the withdrawal suggestion in October as millions of trade unionists took to streets in France to protest extending the retirement age in a series of ultimately failed protests.

"What is the system?" he asked, in a video interview with a local newspaper. "It revolves around the banks, the system is built on the power of the banks, so it can be destroyed through the banks."

"The three million people in the street, they go to the bank, withdraw their money, and the banks collapse ... That's a real threat, there's a real revolution," he said in the video that went viral on the web.

"No weapons, no blood, nothing at all. It's not complicated. Then we'll be listened to in a different way," said the former footballer, who in a hugely successful career was once banned for nine months for launching a kung-fu kick at an opposing fan who insulted him.

European Union economic affairs commissioner Olli Rehn, once a director of a Finnish first division club, said was a Manchester United fan, but added: "I think Mr Cantona is a better footballer than he is an economist."

# Neuville calls it quits

AFP, Berlin

Former Germany striker Oliver Neuville announced on Tuesday that he has decided to retire from football at the age of 37, after German second division side Arminia Bielefeld terminated his contract.

"It's definitively over. I've been thinking about it for a while already but that isn't how I hoped it would happen. I hoped to play for longer," Neuville told the website of German daily Bild.

Neuville, who scored 10 goals in 69 international games, joined Bielefeld last summer after a six-year stint at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

The Swiss-born striker, who played for Bayer Leverkusen between 1999 and 2004, had made nine appearances in the German second tier and scored two goals.

He represented Germany at the 2002 and 2006 World Cups and was a member of the squad that finished runners-up to Spain at the 2008 European Championship.

# Belgrade celebrates Davis Cup victory

AFP, Belgrade

More than 1,000 people, mostly young, braved the cold on Monday, gathering in front of the capital's City Hall to celebrate Serbia's Davis Cup victory over France this weekend.

Waving Serbian flags and carrying placards with photos of the players, young Belgraders noisily welcomed "Serbia's heroes" who greeted them from the balcony of the City Hall.

"I was here when I won tournaments, but now, with my friends from the national team, it is more important," world number three Novak Djokovic told the crowd.

"We have something that no team has: friendship both on the tennis court and in private and that contributes to winning this title," he said.

For many, the main hero of the weekend matches, Viktor Troicki, could hardly hide his tears while thanking fans for their "incredible support."

"You carried me during the match and helped me and my teamsters to make this great success," a visibly moved Troicki said.

Serbia, who had never won the Davis Cup before, entered Sunday's reverse singles 1-2 down after losing the doubles in five sets on Saturday, but straight sets victories for Djokovic and Troicki over Gael Monfils and Michael Llodra turned the tide.

# Siddons

FROM PAGE 17

Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium from 1:00pm. Only seven players participated in the session. The Bangladesh team also arrived at Chittagong at 5:30pm.

Meanwhile, the ground officials informed that the construction activities for the series have been completed for the time being.

# Ponting has to score

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

A downcast Ricky Ponting says he faces one of his greatest challenges as captain and batsman to get beleaguered Australia back into the Ashes series against England.

Australia suffered their first home innings defeat to England in 24 years as Andrew Strauss's team romped to victory in the second Adelaide Test on Tuesday to go one ahead in the series with three Tests to play.

Among a myriad of Australian concerns is Ponting's poor batting return with a first-ball duck and nine runs in this Test after 10 and 51 not out in Brisbane.

"It's certainly a great challenge for me," Ponting said. "Don't worry about winning the games. I've got to make some runs, it's as simple as that."

"To make nine runs in two innings on that wicket in this game is nowhere near good enough for me and my expectations are a lot higher than that."

"There's a great challenge for me to score runs but there's a great challenge for me to captain the side well in Perth and give the guys the best chance to get our way back into the series."

"We have to win two games and we have to play good cricket to win a single game."

Ponting has a real job on his hands to rally

his men for the third Test in Perth, which starts on December 16.

The experienced skipper, who has lost two Ashes series as captain, conceded that England had "out-batted, out-bowled and out-fielded" Australia during the entire second Test.

"No doubt it's a bad loss for us, there's no hiding that fact, an innings and 71 runs having won the toss on a good Adelaide wicket. It probably says it all," he said.

"There was no lack of endeavour or fight in our guys, it's been our skills and maybe our thought processes at different times that have let us down."

Australia will almost certainly make changes for Perth, with senior opening batsman Simon Katich likely out for the rest of the series with a torn Achilles tendon.

Tyro spinner Xavier Doherty's place is also likely to come under serious review after he was belted for 1-158 off 27 overs, while inconsistent number six Marcus North again underachieved with scores of 26 and 22 after his one in Brisbane.

Ponting said the Perth squad will be named later this week.

"We have faced a lot of challenges and the guys have stood up to those challenges, but we haven't been good enough to win them. That's the bottom line," he said.

"Look, we're all under pressure, international sport is all about being under pressure, it's how you deal with those situations."

# Momentum with Eng

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Skipper Andrew Strauss savoured England's first innings victory in Australia for 24 years on Tuesday and said his confident side now had crucial momentum in the series.

England demolished Ricky Ponting's team by an innings and 71 runs in double-quick time on the final morning of the second Adelaide Test to go one up in the series with three matches to play.

"To bowl Australia out for 245 was an outstanding effort on a flat wicket, then we didn't take our foot off the pedal," Strauss said.

"We never gave them a look in the game and we're very pleased about what we've done, especially on the back of the last couple of days at the Brisbane Test."

"We've got some great momentum in the series and we've got to keep it going."

Strauss was cautious not to sound triumphant or gloat over his team's conclusive performance with bat and ball.

"We know the game of cricket and we know it's got a horrible way of biting you if you pat yourself on the back too much," he said.

"We need to enjoy this and savour it because

it was a special victory for us, in some ways it exorcised some of the demons from four years ago here [Test loss].

"But it's back to square one again, we've got the three-day game in Melbourne where we've got to keep the momentum going, then it's important that we don't let Australia back in the series now."

Strauss said the results of a tight-knit England group were becoming evident against a transitional Australian team.

"We've seen that come through, we've been a very tight unit for the last couple of years now really and we're seeing guys that are getting used to winning and celebrating each other's success, and that's a great thing," he said.

"What I would say is that at the start of the series we said the only way we'll win the Ashes is through 11 guys performing, we can't rely on one or two."

"We've seen some good performances from a number of different people on this tour so far, a lot of our batters are in good form."

"All the bowlers are bowling well, but we need to make sure we don't take our foot off the pedal because we know Australia will come back at us hard and if there's any way back into the series, they will take it."

England have a three-day tour game against Victoria, starting in Melbourne on Friday.

# Broad distraught

Cricket

AFP, London

England fast bowler Stuart Broad said he knew before anyone else his participation in the Ashes has been cut short by a stomach injury that left him "feeling like I couldn't breathe".

The 24-year-old quick was ruled out of the remainder of the five-Test campaign and the subsequent one-day series with an abdominal muscle injury suffered on the fourth day of the second Test in Adelaide.

He did not take any further part in the match Ashes-holders England won in his absence by the crushing margin of an innings and 71 runs on Tuesday to go 1-0 up with three to play.

"I'm heartbroken," Broad wrote in his column for Britain's Daily Mail newspaper. "On Monday afternoon I came back to bowl a spell and after the first ball I knew something wasn't right."

"I was driven back down the ground by Michael Clarke and as I carried on my follow through, I knew I was in big trouble. I said to Jimmy Anderson at mid-on: 'I might be struggling here, big fella.'"

"I got through three overs, but it felt like someone was stabbing me in the stomach. I came off and had an ultrasound and it con-

firmed a grade-three tear."

He added: "I had an injection then I went into the nets...I tried a couple of bouncers, because I wanted to go for broke in the time I had left, but I felt like I couldn't breathe. I knew I was out of the series."

Broad is the son of former England opener Chris Broad -- a member of the last England side to win the Ashes in Australia back in 1986-87 -- and being ruled out of this series was especially tough to take.

"Playing for England in an Ashes in Australia has been something I've dreamed of for a long time so to have that cut short by injury is devastating," Broad said.

"I'm obviously distraught, and it's been very tough, but the lads have been fantastic, very supportive."

Chris Tremlett, Ajmal Shahzad and Tim Bresnan are all vying for Broad's spot and the injured seamer said: "I wish whoever takes my place all the best."

"It's just unlucky for it to happen in the biggest series of my life," added Broad, who hopes to return to England duty at next year's World Cup in Asia.

"I could be out for eight to 10 weeks and the first World Cup game is in nine, so I can always join the competition a bit later on -- it goes on forever anyway," he jokingly added.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Eye-glasses  
6 Tourist's query  
11 Yell  
12 Working in a galley  
14 Alter  
15 Halloween shade  
16 Foreman foe  
17 Two under  
19 Card-table cry  
20 Arizona city  
22 Fish eggs  
23 Birth doc.  
24 Relieve  
26 Ahead  
28 Floral garland  
30 Bribe  
31 Confine  
35 "M\*A\*S\*H" locale  
39 Vegan's no-no  
40 Clear the tables

**DOWN**

1 Drag along  
2 Kudos  
3 Still, in verse  
4 Travolta's "Face/Off" co-star  
5 Daub  
6 Warm wear  
7 Aesopian  
8 Historic time  
9 Well-tossed  
10 Surround  
11 Con games  
13 Fellows  
18 Moo —  
21 Apportion  
22 Affront  
23 Mafia bosses  
25 Moldovan money  
27 Stir-fry pan  
29 Produce or generate within  
31 "Gotta go"  
32 Whimpered  
33 Canal zone  
34 Fix the soundtrack  
36 Streamlet  
37 Asylum seeker, often  
38 Colorado skiing mecca  
41 Greek consonant  
44 Don't merely glance  
45 Walked (on)  
48 Turner or Hentoff  
50 Keep talking

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

A	B	R	A	M	A	P	T	O	S	U
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I	N	S	E	T	E	A	R	M	U	F
T	R	A	N	N	Y	A	L	E	E	
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L	O	F	T	R	A	D	I	O		
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P	R	O	G	R	A	M	A	I	E	L
S	A	D	A	R	T	L	E	F	T	Y

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# CRYPTOQUIP

AU ZHJXF-NSVZFWZAYO CAQTQ  
UVS CSAYTQ GHC KGFFXQ,  
CV EVI QINNVQF ZGFE  
KVIXC JF SVXXFS WWHQZFSQ?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A BRUTAL FELLOW PLANNED TO BEAT UP THE WAVE RIDERS, BUT HE DIDN'T EVEN SCRATCH THE SURFERS.**

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals F