

Malinga mauls Scotland

AFP, London
Sri Lanka fast bowler Lasith Malinga ensured the islanders tour of Britain ended on a winning note as he took five wickets in a 183-run one-day international rout of Scotland here on Wednesday.

Beaten in both Test and one-day series by England, the World Cup finalists proved too strong for a Scotland side who'd only the day before piled up 323 in a shock win over fellow non-Test team Ireland.

Sri Lanka made 284 for seven, featuring fifties from openers Mahela Jayawardene (64) and Dimuth Karunaratne (60).

They then saw Malinga, one of the most difficult bowlers in world cricket to face on account of his round-arm, 'slingshot', style take five for 30 as Scotland were shot out for 101 with Majid Haq's 34 double the next best score of any other home batsman.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 284 for 7 (Jayawardene 64, Karunaratne 60, Kandamby 20, Chandimal 24, Mathews 23, Mendis 34 not out, Malinga 32 not out; Haq 2-53, Mousmsen 2-19)
SCOTLAND: 101 all out (Coetzee 10, Davey 17, Haq 34; Malinga 5-30, Prasad 3-17)
Result: Sri Lanka won by 183 runs.

An Irish appeal

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to our success and preparation for games.

"It's an accumulation of work over the past four years, and is irreplaceable.

"I'm appealing to anyone that finds these or is offered them for sale to get in touch with Cricket Ireland immediately."

DC Gold Cup

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Shahin gave the Manikganj Police team a 1-0 lead in 4th minute. Alim doubled the margin in the 16th minute and Shahin scored again in the 64th minute.

Harirampur Upazila XI will face Satura XI today (Friday).

Technical

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were not about team selection, rather opinions on how we can improve our performance. There were a lot of positive things in the discussion," he added.

Since the formation of this committee, it has been a thorn for the selectors and there was widespread speculation that the technical committee interfered in the selection during the tenure of the Rafiqul Alam-led committee on several occasions, only failing to persuade a change in the World Cup squad and Akram, who was also a member of the Rafiqul-led committee.

Akram's committee submitted the team to BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal (via the cricket operations committee) for approval on Wednesday evening but it was not clear when the team will be officially announced and after the announcement it will be clear whether the controversy will go on with the Akram Khan-led committee's first assignment.

Ilievski rings

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performers in the tournament," said the Macedonian coach whose side are scheduled to leave for Lebanon on the night of July 20.

SQUAD

Biplob Bhattacharjee, Mamun Khan, Ziaur Rahman (goalkeepers), Mamun Mia, Nasirul Islam, Wali Faisal, Ariful Islam, Mohammad Sujjan, Rezaul Karim Reza, Ashraf Mahmud Linkon and Atiqur Rahman Meshu (defenders), Abdul Baten Komol, Mamunul Islam, Monam Khan Raju, Zahid Hossain, Shakil Ahmed, Mohammad Robin and Pranotosh Kumar (midfielders) Zahid Hasan Emily, Mithun Chowdhury, Touhidul Alam and Shafiqul Islam Bipul (strikers).

ICC vows to protect its soul



AFP, London

As England and India get ready to contest what will be the 2,000th Test match ever played, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has promised to protect the "pinnacle form of the game".

Next week's first of a four-match series at Lord's, the 'home of cricket', will also be the 100th Test between England and India and is set to provide India star Sachin Tendulkar with his latest opportunity to become the first batsman to score a hundred international hundreds.

The series also gives England, currently third behind India and South Africa, the chance to leapfrog Mahendra Singh Dhoni's tourists at the top of the ICC's world Test rankings should they take the series by a margin of 2-0, 3-1 or better.

However, a 1-0 or 2-1 success for Andrew Strauss's side would leave India fractionally in front in the rankings.

There have long been fears for the future of Tests, which date back to when Australia played England at Melbourne in 1877, with current concerns based on the rise of Twenty20 -- the youngest of cricket's three international formats.

And while next week's match at Lord's is set to be a sell-out, crowds for Test matches elsewhere in the world have often proved patchy compared to those for 50 overs per side one-day internationals and the even briefer Twenty20.

However, ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat said the advent of a World Test Championship, scheduled to culminate in an inaugural tournament between the leading nations in England in 2013, would help revive the

five-day game.

"As we all prepare to celebrate the staging of the 2,000th Test match, one cannot imagine it to be any better than between two of the top teams in a series that carries with it the battle for top spot in the rankings," Lorgat said in an ICC statement issued Thursday.

"That is great context, and we will enhance that with the ICC World Test Championship in future."

And the South African administrator insisted: "Test cricket is the pinnacle form of the game, and we will continue to protect and promote it above all."

"It is our link to the game's origins; it is what defines greatness and it is recognised by the players as being the benchmark by which they wish to be graded and remembered."

"History has proven that no other form of the game can create memorable and meaningful moments like Test cricket can."

Macomm London Six's event partner

SPORTS REPORTER

Macomm, a marketing communication company, has recently been appointed as event partner of London Six's.

The inaugural edition of London Six's, organised by Bangla Tigers and Kids Cricket World, will commence in London from July 18.

Twelve teams involving international players around the cricketing world will compete in the meet supported by Middlesex Cricket Board and ECB.

A team from Bangladesh in the name of Narayanjan Club Limited will feature in the cricket festival.

TESTS THROUGH TIME



Deadliest No 7

If Shane Warne was a batsman's worst nightmare after they had tackled Glenn McGrath, spare a thought for the tired bowler who had to contend with Adam Gilchrist in a Test match.

He was Australia's most destructive batsman and he came to bat after Matthew Hayden and Ricky Ponting had completed their pummeling, Mark Waugh bored of toying with the bowlers and brother Steve exhausted his bag of concentration. After removing these great batsman, bowlers who played against Australia after November 1999, had Gilchrist walking in after all the work was seemingly complete.

Everything, however, was not smooth with the man from country New South Wales who once tried the Mark Waugh mullet to impress his girlfriend. After moving to Perth, he had to deal with the pressure of playing in place of a local favourite. Even after he succeeded in ODI cricket, his Test place was always in question and it was only after the legendary Ian Healy was unceremoniously dropped, that Gilchrist came into the picture.

But since that debut innings against Pakistan in Brisbane where he blasted 81 in no time and the six dismissals, Gilchrist never looked back.

In the next Test, he is part of one of the most remarkable come-from-behind Test victories. After Australia fell to 126-5 chasing 369 to beat Pakistan, Gilchrist hammers 149 not out during his massive partnership with Justin Langer.

In his first tour to India as a Test player, the left-hander tells his teammates that when he goes out to bat, he thinks he's already in his 20s, a mental make-up that helps him settle nerves. In the first Test, the idea seems to work. After Australia fall to 99-5, Gilchrist take the game by the scruff of the neck with his good mate Hayden and hammers 122 off 112 balls. Australia extend their winning run to 16 Tests but inexplicably, Gilchrist can't score anymore and so does Australia, losing 2-1 after taking a 1-0 lead in Mumbai.

The next year, Gilchrist ups the ante with an innings that was as brutal as it was emotional for the man. Gilchrist had been a victim of a vicious internet rumour and he lets the emotional side of him come out when he cries after reaching one of many milestones in the innings. Still, he has toyed around with South Africa so brutally that Wisden describes the innings thus: "Gilchrist was playing with them like a cat keeping a half-dead mouse alive for entertainment." The entertainment was 204 off 213 balls with 19 boundaries and eight sixes and Australia won by an innings and 360 runs.

Though he was set to revel on tired bowlers, he often got Australia out of huge trouble. Against Bangladesh in 2006, his counter-attacking 144 with 15 fours and six sixes kept Australia's head above water after the Tigers had made 427 in the first innings. Ponting finished a job that could have really embarrassed Australia with a second innings century that saw them home by just three wickets.

Among his peers, Gilchrist is too far ahead. Mark Boucher is the second highest scorer in Test cricket among wicketkeepers and the South African has already played 43 more Tests than Gilchrist, scoring 12 less centuries.

What Gilchrist did, ultimately, create was an all-rounder spot that Australia so desperately craved over the years. But he changed the definition of the wicketkeeper, troubling cricketers, coaches and administrators the world over.

-- Mohammad Isam

Dhoni's simple mantra



AFP, Taunton

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni says that if his side stick to the basics, preserving their number one Test ranking will take care of itself.

Dhoni's team, also the 50-over world champions, have topped the ICC's Test table for more than a year but could be knocked off their perch if England, currently third, win the upcoming four-match series by two clear victories.

India, who completed a 1-0 win in a three-Test series away to the West Indies on Sunday, have just one warm-up match -- a three-day fixture against Somerset starting here on Friday -- before facing England at Lord's next week.

But a congested schedule and huge expectations are nothing new for World Cup-winning skipper Dhoni.

"It's not the rankings that are important to us. What is important is to play good cricket and enjoy the sport," he told reporters at Taunton on Thursday. "The rankings will take care of themselves."

The wicketkeeper-batsman, asked about the significance of the upcoming campaign, replied: "When you represent India and 1.2 billion have expectations from you, I think every series

is important.

"We can't really take any side lightly. But it is important to still stick to the basics, not thinking too much about the opposition."

"England are a very good side. We'll have to be at our best, and try to do the small things right," he added, ahead of a match against Somerset that will see England captain Andrew Strauss 'guest' for the south-west county to get more time in the middle, even though the opening batsman represents Middlesex.

India will be coached by Duncan Fletcher, who held a similar position with England and guided Michael Vaughan's

men to Ashes glory in 2005.

The former Zimbabwe all-rounder's time in charge of England ended after a lacklustre 2007 World Cup campaign in the Caribbean and he insisted he had little inside information that could benefit India.

"It's four years since then, and the team has changed quite a lot," said Fletcher. "There are a couple of senior players, but we will have to look at the tapes we've got (of the others)."

"It's strange for me. I never thought I'd be back in this role."

"When I left England I thought I'd never get involved with cricket. But then I got the bug again."



India coach Duncan Fletcher (L) and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni address the media in Taunton yesterday.

PCB dubs ICC report 'scholarly exercise'



AFP, Karachi

Pakistani cricket bosses on Wednesday hit back at the International Cricket Council's proposals for overhauling the sport in the troubled country, suggesting it was a pointless "scholarly exercise".

The Pakistan Task Team (PTT), set up by cricket's governing body, presented a report at an ICC meeting last month with 63 recommendations -- including changes to governance and moves to revive matches with India.

Ijaz Butt, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), said his organisation had identified problems in the report.

"While the intent (of the PTT) cannot be questioned, a few discrepancies can be identified in the report, which PCB has rectified and sent to the ICC in the hope it's taken in a positive spirit," said a PCB statement quoting Butt.

The PTT was formed to revive international tours of Pakistan, suspended after a terror attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009, and to strengthen the game in the country which has been battered by allegations of spot-fixing.

Its recommendations, however, are not binding on Pakistan.

The PCB said it considered the report to be a "scholarly exercise" that has not made substantial steps to restart international cricket in Pakistan.

Butt urged the International Cricket Council and PTT to work on the resumption of games with India, stalled in the wake of a 2008 terror attack on Mumbai, which New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

"Whereas the Indian government issued favourable statements regarding the resumption of cricket, the Indian Board is still waiting formal signal from its government," Butt said.

The board also rejected a PTT recommendation that the country's cricket chief should not be appointed by Pakistan's President, who is also patron of the PCB.

"The circumstances in Pakistan are unique and cricket administration requires and deserves government support," the PCB statement said.

"Without government support international cricket may not return to the country," it added.

Butt was involved in a public spat with former one-day captain Shahid Afridi, after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) punished the all-rounder for allegedly breaching a code of conduct and making allegations against the board.

When contacted ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat on Wednesday confirmed that ICC has received the PCB's reservations but reiterated that the PTT was formed to help Pakistan.

"We have to adopt a strategy to ensure Pakistan manages to fulfil all its current and future commitments and doesn't suffer any isolation," Lorgat told AFP from Dubai.

Siddikur gears up for Selangor

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Selangor Masters when it was played at Seri Selangor Golf Club.

Siddikur is arguably the one of the most consistent golfers on the Asian Tour where he has made 15 consecutive cuts, highlighted by five-top10s since last season. He also won the Grameenphone Bangladesh Masters on the Asian Development Tour in February to add to his Asian Tour victory at the Brunei Open last year.

"Since the start of my career, I've been always trying to play par golf and if there were birdies, it would be a bonus. I'm trying to improve my short game as that's the key to making under par scores," said Siddikur.

Cricket is still the dominant sport in Bangladesh but Siddikur is hopeful golf will make inroads in his country, especially with his solid performances on the international stage.

"A lot of people now recognize me away from the golf course. They want to take photos with me when I'm back home and ask for my autograph. I feel happy and honoured. Golf is getting more popular and the golf society is getting bigger," he said.

Siddikur will be among a strong line-up of Asian Tour stars next week which include Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand and India's Jyoti Randhawa, both former Order of Merit champions, Lin Wen-tang of Chinese Taipei and Australia's Marcus Both.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Aries animal
4 Mariner's venue
7 Dutch cheese
11 Notion
13 Peculiar
14 Loosen
15 Witty poet
16 Zero
17 React in horror
18 Southern speech
20 Neap, for one
22 Charged particle
24 Looseleaf notebook
28 Green-eyed
32 Paris river
33 Eager, and then some
34 Spigot
36 Contemporary of Virgil
37 Whom Jason jilted
39 Transport to Oz
- DOWN**
1 Peel month
2 Hebrew month
3 Small plateau
4 Bart, to Homer
5 Tend texts
6 Wing it
7 12-Down playwright
8 "CSI" evidence
9 Billboards
10 Swab the deck
12 Comedy that debuted on Broadway in 1933
19 Privy
21 Affront (Sl.)
23 Kook
25 Prima donna
26 Oklahoma city
27 Start over
28 Gets stuck
29 Divisible by two
30 Verdi opera
31 Perched
35 "Wham!"
38 Hearty brew
40 Tier
42 Honey bunch?
45 Verifiable
47 — the line (behaved)
48 Saskatchewan tribe
49 KFC additive
50 Crow's cry
51 Have debts
52 CSA soldier
54 Small barrel

Solution time: 24 mins.



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CRYPTOQUIP

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Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHILE SPRINGING MERRILY TO THE HAWAIIAN COOKOUT, I COULDN'T HELP SINGING "SKIP TO MY LUU."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T