

Ponting's ton of wins

AFP, Galle

Ricky Ponting became the first cricketer to play in 100 Test wins after Australia defeated Sri Lanka by 125 runs in the first Test in Galle on Saturday.

The former skipper, 36, was already Test cricket's most successful captain with 48 wins when he stepped down in April to make way for Michael Clarke.

Ponting, who made his Test debut in 1995, has so far played 153 matches and his 12,411 runs make him the world's third highest run-getter behind the Indian duo of Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid.

"His longevity in the game is amazing," said Clarke after Saturday's match. "For about eight or nine of our squad it was the first Test win, and here was Punter [Ponting] with his 100th."

"He has played a hell of a lot of games, captained a hell of a lot of games and won a hell of a lot of games. Just an amazing cricketer."

But Ponting will miss the second Test in Palallekele from September 8 to go home for the birth of his second child, but is expected to return for the final match in Colombo from September 16.

The seven cricketers who have been part of most Test wins are all Australians, and have all been Ponting's teammates at some stage. Following is a list of players with most Test victories (name, wins):

Ricky Ponting	100
Shane Warne	92
Steve Waugh	86
Glenn McGrath	84
Adam Gilchrist	73
Mark Waugh	72
Matthew Hayden	71

Messi for sure

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idolised. The result is that less than 25% of the Messi in for sure, but what about the masses? recipients of satellite channels within the country will be able to watch the match.

Argentina's match against Venezuela on Friday night was telecast across 152 countries including ours. Imagine the impression it created at the international arena of Kolkata as a host of high-level international football. The same impression could have been created of Dhaka if the match was telecast internationally by an internationally acclaimed channel. But the overseas broadcast issue was nullified by the backing out of ESPN from the deal. One feels, a strong initiative from the information ministry could have tweaked the deal so as to ensure that the match would be telecast overseas by an international telecast agent.

There are still two days left for the match. Let's hope that someone from the authority takes a bold step to make the dual objectives of arranging the match come true.

Crisis of

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venue in Banani should have been developed.

Instead they planned to hold the open training session in far-flung Fatullah, at the well-furnished cricket stadium. It was still a decent arrangement but BFF's slipshod approach from the start made it a tight bargain. It was obvious that if pushed through the right channels, the Bangladesh Cricket Board's hand would have been forced to let BFF use the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur for Argentina's open practice session, let alone Fatullah.

What BFF did next is well-documented; the travelling arrangement for the advance party from Argentina who came in mid-August was so poor that the round-trip to Fatullah took five hours.

One is pressed here to fully blame BFF for this chaos, but it is a well-known fact that the football federation has been a one-man show since Salahuddin became chief in 2008. It obviously doesn't mean that the legendary footballer doesn't let anyone work; his colleagues have not done anything meaningful for a very long time.

This Argentina affair could have been such a happy occasion for Bangladesh football but instead, Salahuddin is left to hope for what could have been and how good it should have been.



Australia fast bowler Ryan Harris leaps with joy after dismissing Sri Lanka batsman and centurion Mahela Jayawardene on the fourth day of the 1st Test at the Galle International Stadium in Galle yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Harris hastens victory

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Fast bowler Ryan Harris claimed five wickets as Australia beat a valiant Sri Lanka by 125 runs in the first Test on Saturday to take the lead in the three-match series.

Sri Lanka, who resumed the fourth day at 120-5 chasing an improbable victory target of 379, were dismissed for 253 in their second innings midway through the afternoon session.

Mahela Jayawardene hit a classy 105 and Angelo Mathews made 93 to hold off Australia, but the rest of the batting caved in.

It was Michael Clarke's first Test win as Australian captain, having lost to England by an innings in Sydney in January when he stood in for the injured Ricky Ponting.

The emphatic win in Galle helped Ponting set a new benchmark of becoming the first cricketer to have been part of 100 Test victories.

The 36-year-old, the team's frontline batsman, was already Test cricket's most successful captain with 48 wins when he stepped down in April to make way for Clarke.

Jayawardene and Mathews, who came together on Friday afternoon

with Sri Lanka tottering on 68-5, put on 142 for the sixth wicket in a courageous fightback.

The pair batted through the entire morning session, defying the Australian bowlers on the dusty, crumbling wicket that made strokeplay difficult.

The classy Jayawardene, 34, Sri Lanka's highest run-getter in Test cricket, notched up his 29th century with the help of 15 boundaries and a six.

Mathews, 10 years Jayawardene's junior, showed why he is regarded as one of the most exciting young talents in the modern game even though he narrowly missed his maiden Test century.

The partnership made some amends for the home team's poor batting earlier in the match, when Sri Lanka were shot out for 105 in the first innings and reduced to 68-5 in the second.

The stand was broken in the seventh over with the second new ball when Jayawardene inside-edged a delivery from Harris on to his stumps after lunch.

Mitchell Johnson had Suraj Randiv fending a catch to second slip, while Mathews was ninth out, bowled by Shane Watson attempting a big hit.

Sri Lanka had added six runs to their overnight score of 120-5 when heavy rain interrupted play for an hour.

But the weather cleared soon and the umpires delayed the lunch break by

30 minutes to make up for lost time.

Clarke rotated his four frontline bowlers in a bid to break the stand as Jayawardene and Mathews dug in to keep the scoreboard moving.

Mathews reached his third half-century with two consecutive boundaries off Johnson, guiding the left-arm seamer through third man before pulling him to the mid-wicket fence.

A confident Jayawardene lofted off-spinner Nathan Lyon for six and then played an audacious scoop shot off the same bowler over the wicket-keeper's head, a stroke made famous by his captain Tillakaratne Dilshan.

The second match in Australia's first Test series in Sri Lanka since 2004 will be played in Palallekele from September 8 and the third at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo from Sept 16.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 273 (Hussey 95, Ponting 44; Herath 3-54, Lakmal 3-55)

SRI LANKA: First innings 105 (Paranavitana 29; Lyon 5-34, Watson 3-11)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 210 (Clarke 60, Hughes 28; Herath 5-79)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 253 (Jayawardene 105, Mathews 95; Harris 5-62, Watson 2-19)

Result: Australia won by 125 runs. **Man-of-the-match:** Michael Hussey.

Singna boat race held

SPORTS REPORTER

Walton-Cute Singna Boat Race was held at Kumri Beel in Kalihati Thana of Tangail district yesterday.

Azgar Ali became champion while Habibur Rahman finished second and Fazlul Haque grabbed the third position in the competition.

Singna Samajkallayan Jubo Sangha organised the event in association with Bangladesh Rowing Federation.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Father in a mouse-trap	41 Ike's command	42 Round Table address	44 Settles a debt	46 Genus sub-group	50 Chignon	51 Broad strainer	52 Waste	56 Related	57 Rock band's gear	58 Comic Philips	59 Require	60 Sommelier's suggestion	61 Massage
1 Feds' org.	4 Cheese	8 — mater	12 Romaine	13 Loosen	14 Shake-spearean king	15 Kitchen	17 Movie pal of Stitch	18 Charlie Brown : "Good grief" :: Cathy : —	19 Defendant	21 Cold spell	24 Scuttle	25 Conclude	26 Carpet	28 Crystal-lined rock
32 — out (supplemented)	34 Do lawn work	36 Phony coin	37 Heat-resistant glass	38 Noon, in a way	40 Adulterate	43 Cut smaller boards	45 Piece of wordplay	46 Graceful bird	47 Toll road, for short	48 Adams or Falco	49 640 acres (Abbr.)	53 Bygone TV channel	54 Flightless bird	55 Plagiarize
DOWN	1 Radio watchdog grp.	2 Greet the villain	3 Crusoe, e.g.	4 Sand trap	5 Moreover	6 Concept	7 Liberty's prop	8 Refers (to)	9 Luau wreaths	10 Guy	11 Yankee nickname from 2004	16 Performance	20 Gear tooth	21 Cry
22 Black	23 Pirates' potation	27 Deity	29 Ornamental	30 Responsibility	31 Hollywood clashers	33 Drop	35 Sherman called it "hell"	38 Noon, in a way	40 Adulterate	43 Cut smaller boards	45 Piece of wordplay	46 Graceful bird	47 Toll road, for short	48 Adams or Falco
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Solution time: 25 mins.

BOB	SCUD	SWAB
LEE	FEERO	HOHO
ALL	ALLTHEWAY	
MOTIF	EER	
MOAT	XEBEC	
ALLFOURS	LAME	
DIE	DRIES	BID
DRAW	ALLTHERE	
SAKES	LARA	
FOP	USUAL	
ALLABOARD	SLY	
PEEL	LINE	EGO
ETAL	ORAL	DAN

Hosts let it slip away

Cricket

AFP, Bulawayo

Pakistan reached 357-5 in reply to the hosts' 412 all out at the close of the third day of the one-off Test at Queens Sports Club here Saturday.

Zimbabwe missed a cluster of chances to pile the pressure on Pakistan, dropping five catches with a fielding fumble also costing them an easy run out.

The day was also marked by two batsmen passing the 1,000 Test run landmark, with Mohammad Hafeez reaching 115 and scoring his third century and Umar Akmal, when he had reached 12.

However neither pair went very far afterwards.

Hafeez was out at lunch for 119, which included a six and 17 fours -- a career highest.

Umar was out for 15 off the last ball of the day. He hit Greg Lamb hard onto a close fielder's shoulder and Brendan Taylor took the rebound.

Azhar Ali moved his overnight 27 to 75 before giving a nick to Tatendo Taibu off Lamb. It was his ninth Test 50 and his third in succession.

Captain Misbahul Haq made a fluent 66, remarkably his ninth half century in his last 11 innings.

Predictably remaining to fight another day in partnership with the incoming Adnan Akmal is Younis Khan, who is on 61 after securing his 24th fifty.

Pakistan will be looking to these two to take them past the Zimbabwe total on Sunday.

There have been two significant partnerships for the tourists -- Hafeez and Ali put on 188 for the second wicket and Younis put on 100 with Misbah for the fourth.

For Zimbabwe it was a generally successful day in difficult flat-pitch circumstances, due largely to the spinners Raymond Price and Lamb.

Price was economy supreme, conceding 39 runs in 34 overs with 18 maidens but without any wickets. Lamb disposed of three tourists for 85.

However the pacemen Chrisopher Mpofu and Brian Vitori drew blanks in conceding 148 runs between them.

Pakistan will need another good partnership Sunday to gain the advantage while Zimbabwe will need two more wickets to get into the tail and that could give them pole position.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE: First innings 412 all out (Mawoyo 163 not out, Cheema 4-79, Ajmal 4-143)

PAKISTAN: First innings 357 for 5 (Hafeez 119, Ali 75, Misbah 66, Younis 61 not out; Lamb 3-85)

Skippers slam pitch

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Rival captains Michael Clarke and Tillakaratne Dilshan blasted the dry wicket in Galle after Australia beat Sri Lanka by 125 runs in the first Test on Saturday.

Clarke, celebrating his first win as Australian captain, said he had never played on a tougher pitch than the dustbowl prepared at the Galle International Stadium.

"Day one felt like day five out there," Clarke said after his team took the lead in the three-Test series, Australia's first in Sri Lanka since 2004.

"I hate to see a Test match being determined by the toss. It was obviously prepared for their spin bowlers and that backfired. I guess I was just fortunate I won the toss."

A disappointed Dilshan said he did not expect to play on such a dry surface.

"Usually, the wicket here is good for both the seamers and the spinners, but I think it was too dry and made batting difficult," he said.

The Sri Lankan captain blamed the defeat on his team's poor first innings total of 105 in reply to Australia's 273.

The hosts, set a target of 379, then rode on a

classy century from Mahela Jayawardene and 95 from Angelo Mathews to make 253 in the second knock.

"If there has to be one reason for the defeat, it must be our batting in the first innings when we managed only 105," said Dilshan.

"If we had got about 250, as we should have, the story would have been different because we lost the match by 125 runs."

Clarke said he was delighted at his first Test win as Australian captain, having lost to England by an innings in Sydney in January when he stood in for the injured Ricky Ponting.

Clarke said winning the first Test was not enough.

"We did not come here to win one Test," he said. "We have to turn up again in the next game and start all over again."

The emphatic win in Galle helped Ponting set a new benchmark of becoming the first cricketer to have been part of 100 Test victories.

Ponting will, however, miss the second Test in Palallekele from September 8 to go home for the birth of his second child, but is expected to return for the final match in Colombo from September 16.

BFF wary of Kolkata gaffes

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only 24 thousand capacity.

The football's governing body also expects to start the match on the time and in this end the match commissioner Munir Ahmed has been asked to arrange a rehearsal which is expected to take place today.

Argentina team is scheduled to land at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 9:30am on Monday by a Bangladesh Biman Airlines (flight # BG-092) and the Nigeria team will reach the capital an hour later.

The BFF will host an official dinner for both teams on the same day and sponsors Beximco has taken the responsibility to arrange the dinner for approximately 250 invited guests.

Beximco has reportedly provided Tk 30 crore to BFF to host the match but the company would take their investment back from earnings the football federation would achieve.

"Actually there is no loss for Beximco. What return we are expecting from the match will be achieved I believe," said Beximco Group's vice chairman Salman F Rahman after a meeting with the BFF high-ups yesterday, who seemed a bit unhappy with the way BFF handled the publicity affairs of the of the Argentina-Nigeria match.

"There should have been more promotional activities regarding the match on the BFF's part even though I had instructed Salahuddin to complete everything seven to eight days before the Eid. However, the kind of feedback I'm getting at present, it seems that the all tickets will be sold out before the match as it did in Kolkata," said Rahman adding that they did not sponsor the match to promote the company, rather they did it for reviving the popularity of football in the country.

Bolt back with a bang

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Asbel and Kiplagat's medal showings further confirmed the east African country's status as the dominant nation in middle distance and long distance running.

"I'm happy with the medal haul," said Kiprop. "We've been trying to balance up the medals table, to win the same amount as the girls!"

Sally Pearson handed Australia a first gold, winning the 100m hurdles in a new championship record of 12.28sec, American Danielle Carruthers winning silver in a photofinish from compatriot Dawn Harper.

"I have worked so hard to get here to this," said Pearson. "I've got faith in my coach and I could not be happier with my training, so I'm not surprised by this win."

Sharapova ousted

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sorry Mahut was hurt, but not sorry to be safely through along with Murray, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer.

"I prefer to be in the third round," he said. "I spent a long time on court in the first round. For sure it's not nice to win like this, but that's sport sometimes."

Men's 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro continued to make up for lost time with a 6-2, 6-1, 7-5 victory over fellow Argentine Diego Junqueira.

A wrist injury kept del Potro from defending his title last year, but after building his ranking back up to 18 in the world he is relishing his return to Flushing Meadows.

Meanwhile the women's field faced a definite dearth of star power.

Peng, the 13th seed, was the top-ranked player left in her quarter after a 6-4, 7-6 (7/1) victory over German Julia Goerges.

Kim Clijsters, winner of the past two US Opens and this year's Australian Open title, missed the event because of injury.

Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and Roland Garros winner Li Na failed to make it out of the first round.

Two-time champion Venus Williams withdrew because of illness and eighth-seeded Marion Bartoli, a French Open

There was, however, heartbreak for two defending champions, Blanka Vlasic of Croatia and Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen.

Injury-hit Vlasic was denied a unique title hat trick when Russian Anna Chicherova won the high jump on countback (2.03m).

And Thorkildsen was pushed into silver spot by Matthias de Zordo in the men's javelin, the German tyro nailing 86.27m.

After winning silver in the 400m and bronze in the 200m, Allyson Felix eventually got a gold running the second leg of the US women's triumphant 4x400m relay team.

The morning session saw Sergey Bakulin lead Russia to a 1-2 finish in the world men's 50km race walk to further confirm the country's top ranking in the gruelling discipline.

semi-finalist this year, was upset in the second round.

Second-seeded Russian Vera Zvonareva made it safely into the last 16, surviving some shaky moments to get past Spain's Anabel Medina Garrigues 6-4, 7-5.

However, she said she wasn't surprised that despite her number two world ranking more attention has been paid here to Sharapova and three-time champion Serena Williams than to her and world number one Caroline Wozniacki.

"Those players, I think they deserve that attention. They are Grand Slam winners," said Zvonareva, who next faces Germany's Wimbledon semi-finalist Sabine Lisicki -- a 6-0, 6-1 winner over 21-year-old American Irina Falconi.

There was no fairytale story for US teenagers Christina McHale and Jack Sock, as both lost in the spotlight of the night session on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Russian Maria Kirilenko dispatched 19-year-old McHale 6-2, 6-3 and Andy Roddick beat 2010 junior champ Sock 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.

Kirilenko next faces ninth-seeded Australian Samantha Stosur, who toiled for more than three hours to beat Nadia Petrova 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (5/7), 7-5 after wasting two match points in the second set.

E O W E G O S G R S F I L O G G B O

L J S L X W V M L Y F P W G Z P Y W B

R S F W V L A M L J O I L A X Z I

U S Z O L J O U O I L U V B E Z A M E A O .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE OUR LOCAL DANCE CLUB IS REALLY SMALL, ITS PATRONS USUALLY CALL IT A COMPACT DISCO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals P