

Sunny out for a week

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's left-arm spinner Elias Sunny has suffered an injury to his finger during the Premier Division Cricket League match against Prime Doleshwar at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The national spinner, who suffered the injury when taking a return catch, will be out of action for the next week which means he will not only miss a few matches for his Club but also for the Bangladesh A team; he was included in the 13-member squad for the first three one-dayers against England Lions.

"He suffered the injury on his ring finger but there was no fracture. He will be out of action for the next week," informed BCB's physician Dr. Debashish Chowdhury.

Chief selector Akram Khan informed that Sohrwardi Shuvo may replace Sunny in the A team.

Rajdhani High

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Medium School defeated Govt. Science College Sangjukta School 4-1 in tie-breaker, Kashaituli Muslim Academy beat Agargaon Adarsha High School 1-0 and BAF Shaheen School & College outplayed Gazmahal Tanery High School 3-0.



Australia captain Michael Clarke is delighted after scoring his maiden double century on the second day of the second Test against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Aussies teach India batting



AFP, Sydney

Michael Clarke posted the highest score by an Australian at the Sydney Cricket Ground and Ricky Ponting struck his first Test century in two years as the hosts pounded India in the second Test Wednesday.

Captain Clarke scored an unbeaten double-century and Ponting broke through for his first hundred in 34 Test innings in dramatic style to put Australia a commanding 291 runs in front with six wickets left and three days to go.

The pair shared the biggest partnership -- 288 runs -- for any Australian wicket against India to leave the dispirited tourists with a mountain to climb to save the four-Test series after going down by 122 runs in last week's opener in Melbourne.

At the close on the second day, Australia were 482 for four with Clarke unconquered on 251 off 342 balls and Mike Hussey on 55. The pair had put on an unfinished 157 for the fifth wicket.

Ponting, 37, gave the perfect riposte to those calling for his retirement with a dogged 134, while Clarke basked in the adulation of his home crowd by surpassing Doug Walters' previous highest SCG score by an Australian of 242 set in 1969.

The Australians, trailing by 75 at the start of the day, lost only one wicket in a dominant day's cricket after the helter-skelter of 13 wickets tumbling on Tuesday.

"We need to bat well tomorrow morning to set up the game and then we need enough time to bowl India out," Clarke said.

"So we're a long way from being 2-0 up, a lot of hard work has to go in over the next three days, but we're in a really good position."

While the first day's play was all about wickets, Wednesday's action was purely about runs as Australia set about building a massive lead to chase after a 2-0 series lead.

Clarke brought up his 18th Test century and fourth against India with a glorious cover drive off Ishant Sharma in the last over before lunch.

He went on with the job of surpassing his previous Test best 168 against New Zealand in March 2010

and offered only one chance on 182, that Sharma dropped him off his own bowling.

"What makes me proud is that I batted the whole day, that's something I've always tried to do and haven't done very often, so that's very satisfying to bat out a full day," Clarke said.

Ponting meanwhile scampered off for a single on 99 to mid-on and flung himself full-length to make his ground as Zaheer Khan's throw whistled past the stumps at the bowler's end 20 minutes after lunch.

The former skipper clambered off the ground, his shirt coated in dirt, smiling broadly and with his bat raised to mark his first hundred since his 209 against Pakistan in January 2010.

"I know that I was probably out by two yards if the ball hit the stumps," Ponting said.

"Bit of brain fade I guess, I hit it through the gap and it just got to him quicker than I thought it would.

SCOREBOARD				
INDIA: First innings 191 (Dhoni 57 not out, Tendulkar 41; Pattinson 4-43)				
AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 116-3)				
Warner c Tendulkar b Zaheer	8			
Cowan lbw b Zaheer	16			
Marsh c Laxman b Zaheer	0			
Ponting c Tendulkar b Sharma	134			
Clarke not out	251			
Hussey not out	55			
Extras: (lb-12, w-3, nb-3)	18			
Total: (For 4 wks in 116 overs)	482			
To bat: Haddin, Siddie, Pattinson, Hillenhaus, Lyon				
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-8, 3-37, 4-325				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	26	4	106	3
Yadav	18	2	94	0
Sharma	22	0	106	1
Ashwin	28	4	103	0
Sehwag	14	1	38	0
Kohli	8	0	23	0

Will critics be silent?



AFP, Sydney

Michael Clarke said he hoped to earn some respect from home fans after posting the highest score by an Australian against India in the second Test in Sydney on Wednesday.

Clarke has battled to win over the Australian cricket public since taking on the Test captaincy and a year ago he was booed as he came out to bat in a one-day international against England in Brisbane.

But he earned the fans' adulation on Wednesday with an unbeaten 251 as Australia built an imposing 482 for four at second day stumps to hold a lead of 291 with six wickets intact and three days to play.

Records toppled for Clarke as he surpassed Doug Walters's 242 as the highest score by a home batsman on the Sydney Cricket Ground, set back in 1969 against the West Indies.

Clarke and Ricky Ponting (134) put on the biggest partnership -- 288 runs -- for any Australian wicket against India to leave the dispirited tourists with a mountain to climb to save the four-Test series after going down by 122 runs in last week's opener in Melbourne.

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disapproving of his perceived glamorous lifestyle.

On the day Clarke took over as Test captain from Ponting, a newspaper poll showed only eight percent of respondents favoured the appointment.

"Hopefully it helps me continue to earn respect. That's all I can do," Clarke said after his supreme batting performance.

"Most importantly it puts this team in another good position to win another Test match. That's our goal, that's my goal to help Australia win as many games as I can.

"One of the things Punter [Ponting] taught me before I got the captaincy was as a leader, you need to make sure you're standing up on the field. You need to make sure you're leading from the front and scoring runs."

Ponting praised Clarke's unconquered innings and said he was flourishing in the role as Australian captain, with his fourth hundred in 10 Tests as skipper.

"When I first took over my batting average went up a lot and Michael's has and will continue to if he keeps playing the way he has since he's been captain," Ponting said.

"He's said he wants to stand up and lead from the front on the field and he's done that terrifically well."

Clarke said he was especially pleased to have lasted the whole of the second day at the crease, adding 204 to his overnight 47.

"What makes me proud is that I batted the whole day, that's something I've always tried to do and haven't done very often, so that's very satisfying to bat out a full day," he said.

Injury scare for Serena

AFP, Brisbane

Five-time Australian Open champion Serena Williams was in doubt for the year's opening Grand Slam Wednesday after she was forced to pull out of the Brisbane International with an ankle injury.

The 13-time Grand Slam winner fell heavily and rolled her ankle during a baseline rally towards the end of her second round win over Serbia's Bojana Jovanovski.

Williams, who was serving for the match at the time, was able to continue following treatment and held on to beat Jovanovski 6-2, 6-4.

But the injury-prone player limped from the court and she was later forced to withdraw from her quarter-final against Daniela Hantuchova on medical advice.

"I'm disappointed to have to pull out of the Brisbane International," Williams said in a statement.

"I have been to hospital and it has been confirmed that I have a left ankle sprain that I probably shouldn't play on."

"I'm going to take a couple of days off -- not too many -- and see how I feel. I'm still hopeful of playing the Australian Open."

The 30-year-old Williams has been plagued by injuries since she won Wimbledon in 2010, beginning when she cut her foot in a German restaurant, keeping her out of the game for a year.

She came back in mid-2011 and had a series of good results before a toe complaint forced her to withdraw from a tournament in Canada.

Normalcy

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struck five boundaries in his 88-ball knock while the rest of the batsmen couldn't make any impact on the Mohammedan bowlers.

Left-arm spinner Yasim Murtaza took four wickets while Hammad Azam and Noor Hossain picked up two each.

Imrul Kayes struck an unbeaten 91 in the Motiheel outfit's reply which was propped up by the left-hander's undefeated 139-run third wicket stand with skipper Naeeem Islam who was not out on 67 runs.

Ctg outplay

notched up victories.

Satkhira managed a comfortable 86-34 points win over Chandpur (first half 36-17), Jessore defeated Rajshahi by 64-54 points (first half 29-18), Mymensingh beat Narayanganj by 71-45 points (first half 32-21) and Dhaka outplayed Comilla by 97-38 points (first half 42-22).

Kallis and co punish SL



AFP, Cape Town

Sri Lanka lost two wickets after taking a pounding from South African batsmen Jacques Kallis and Jacques Rudolph (51 not out) piled on another 127 runs off 20.3 overs in 79 minutes.

De Villiers reached his century off 176 balls and then cut loose, adding another 60 off 29 balls. His innings included 19 fours and two sixes -- the latter hit off successive balls from Dilshan.

Kallis, resuming on 159, hit boundaries off his first two balls of the day, from Dhammika Prasad. But he had an escape on 171 when Prasad was able to make a ball deviate enough off the pitch

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Great South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis (L) celebrates his double century in his 150th Test during the second day of the third Test against Sri Lanka at Cape Town yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SCOREBOARD				
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 347-3)				
Smith b Prasad	16			
Petersen c Dilshan b Welegedera	109			
Amla lbw b Prasad	16			
Kallis c Mathews b Herath	224			
De Villiers not out	160			
Rudolph not out	51			
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-1)	4			
Total: (For 4 wks in 139 overs)	580			
Did not bat: Boucher, Philander, Steyn, Morkel, Tahir.				
Fall of wks: 1-25, 2-56, 3-261, 4-453.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Welegedera	29	7	107	1
Perera	22	1	131	0
Prasad	30	2	154	2
Mathews	12	0	47	0
Herath	42	4	108	1
Dilshan	4	0	32	0
SRI LANKA: First innings				
Thirimanne b Morkel	23			
Dilshan c Smith b Tahir	78			
Sangakkara not out	35			
Jayawardene not out	7			
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-1)	6			
Total: (For 2 wks in 39 overs)	149			
To bat: Samaraweera, Mathews, Chandimal, Perera, Herath, Welegedera, Prasad.				
Fall of wks: 1-70, 2-126.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	12	2	40	0
Philander	10	2	34	0
Morkel	10	2	55	1
Tahir	7	0	15	1

PAKISTAN-ENGLAND SERIES IN THE UAE

It's not only about spin



AFP, Lahore

Pakistan coach Mohsin Khan said Wednesday that the highly anticipated series against England was about far more than just the spinners as his young side eyes a strong start to the year.

Much has been made of the dusty wickets in the United Arab Emirates, where Pakistan play their "home" games, with many pundits saying both teams' spinners will be decisive.

"I don't see it as a duel between the spinners," Khan told reporters on the opening day of a week-long training camp in Lahore.

"Both teams are doing well and I see it as a competitive fight in all the departments."

Pakistan, unbeaten since September, take on the world's top-rated Test side in the first of three Tests in Dubai from January 17.

Khan, retained as coach after Pakistan Cricket Board's search for a permanent candidate to replace Waqar Younis goes on, added: "I think both the teams have balance in spin and pace."

"Batting from both the sides will be

under pressure and Pakistani batters will have to do 100 percent to combat strong England bowling."

Former opening batsman Khan added: "There is no doubt they have a better balance than us. We do not have that much experience but our players have talent and fulfilled that recently."

He singled out for praise captain Misbahul Haq.

"In Misbah we have a very wise captain and he has led the way admirably," said the coach.

Misbah took over as skipper after the tour of England in the summer of 2010 that was dominated by allegations of spot-fixing. Pakistan players Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer were later convicted.

Khan has previously said that the series in UAE was a fresh start for his fifth-ranked side.

"England will really test us so we have to be at our best," said Khan.

"I want the players to be in the same rhythm as in our wins against Sri Lanka a few months back," he said of Pakistan's 1-0 win in Tests and 4-1 in one-dayers.

Tamim act 'unacceptable'

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indiscipline. I have read that an official has started this, which is also injurious to the game. It is very sad, whatever has happened.

"It doesn't matter what the punishment is. It can be one or three matches, the player's image will still be tarnished," he added.

Ironically, the man he attacked on Tuesday was heavily criticised when he had slapped a fan in March 2008. Though unre-

lated to his sacking as the captain and the subsequent insecurity as a national player, at the time it was seen as the first hints of a cricketer cracking under pressure.

Tamim will turn up for Victoria with a clean slate in its next game but much like Ashraf, there is an uphill battle awaiting the Chittagonian who not only has to score plenty of runs but win back the public's confidence.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**

1 Spinning toys

5 --relief

8 Help with a crime

12 Beehive

13 Every last bit

14 Crooner

15 Use a teaspoon

16 Spy-novel org.

17 "... and to -- good-night!"

18 Alaskan brown bear

20 "GWTW" hero

22 To the -- degree

23 Trail behind

24 Spoof

27 Locales for snuffing

32 Commo-tion

33 Gun lobby grp.

34 Wrestling surface

35 Confined

38 Moist in the morn
- 39 A billion years

40 Prepare Easter eggs

42 Surprise attack

45 Choco-late-coated treat

49 "Buenos --"

50 Play-wright

52 Corn territory

53 Lobs' paths

54 Book spine abbr.

55 Blueprints additions

56 Create

57 Conger, e.g.
- 58 T, in Morse code

DOWN

1 Walrus feature

2 "Beetle Bailey" dog

3 Remuner-ated

4 Psychia-trist

5 Tennis stroke

6 "The Greatest"

7 Thick chunk

8 Computer user's icon

9 Situation

10 Model Mac-pherson
- 11 Rend

19 What @ means

21 Last (Abbr.)

24 Jongg preceder

25 Praise in verse

26 Retort

28 --

Lanka

29 Court pastime

30 Deviate off course

31 Pippen

36 Fluffy dessert

37 Type units

38 Just said no

41 Rocky's greeting

42 Leading man?

43 Actress Sorvino

44 Apiary home

46 Gaucho's weapon

47 Temple University team

48 Humor-ous poet

Ogden

51 Fish eggs

ARTS	BIO	EDGE
LEAP	ADD	REAR
BALLYHOO	ALIAS	
ALLIE	RESALE	
	CASK	MEW
TAKE	LOC	ALA
SKI	KARAT	RES
PAL	EWER	BEAK
	ONE	APER
ROWEN	A	TORSO
ALAS	SANDWICH	
MITT	PRY	SLUM
POTS	SEC	ELMS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19		20	21			
			22				23			
24	25	26		27	28	29			30	31
32				33				34		
35			36	37			38			
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42	43			44	45			46	47	48
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

CRYPTOQUIP

CQAWHUQ J WL AHNNJMX
NEQ ULWDD CWMO LQLCQIU
EWJ1, RGH AGHDO UWR J'L
NIJLLJMX NEQ NIJG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT INEPT MAN
SIMPLY CANNOT BUILD ANY SMALL COTTAGES
SOLIDLY. HE ALWAYS BUNGLES BUNGALOWS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals M