

Pacers put SA on top

Cricket

AFP, Hamilton

South Africa's pace attack humiliated New Zealand's middle order in an extraordinary display Thursday that put the Proteas firmly in control on the first day of the second Test.

Vernon Philander and Dale Steyn ran rampant as New Zealand lost eight wickets in the final session - including five in a 20-ball spell when the shell-shocked home side did not score a single run - to be all out for 185.

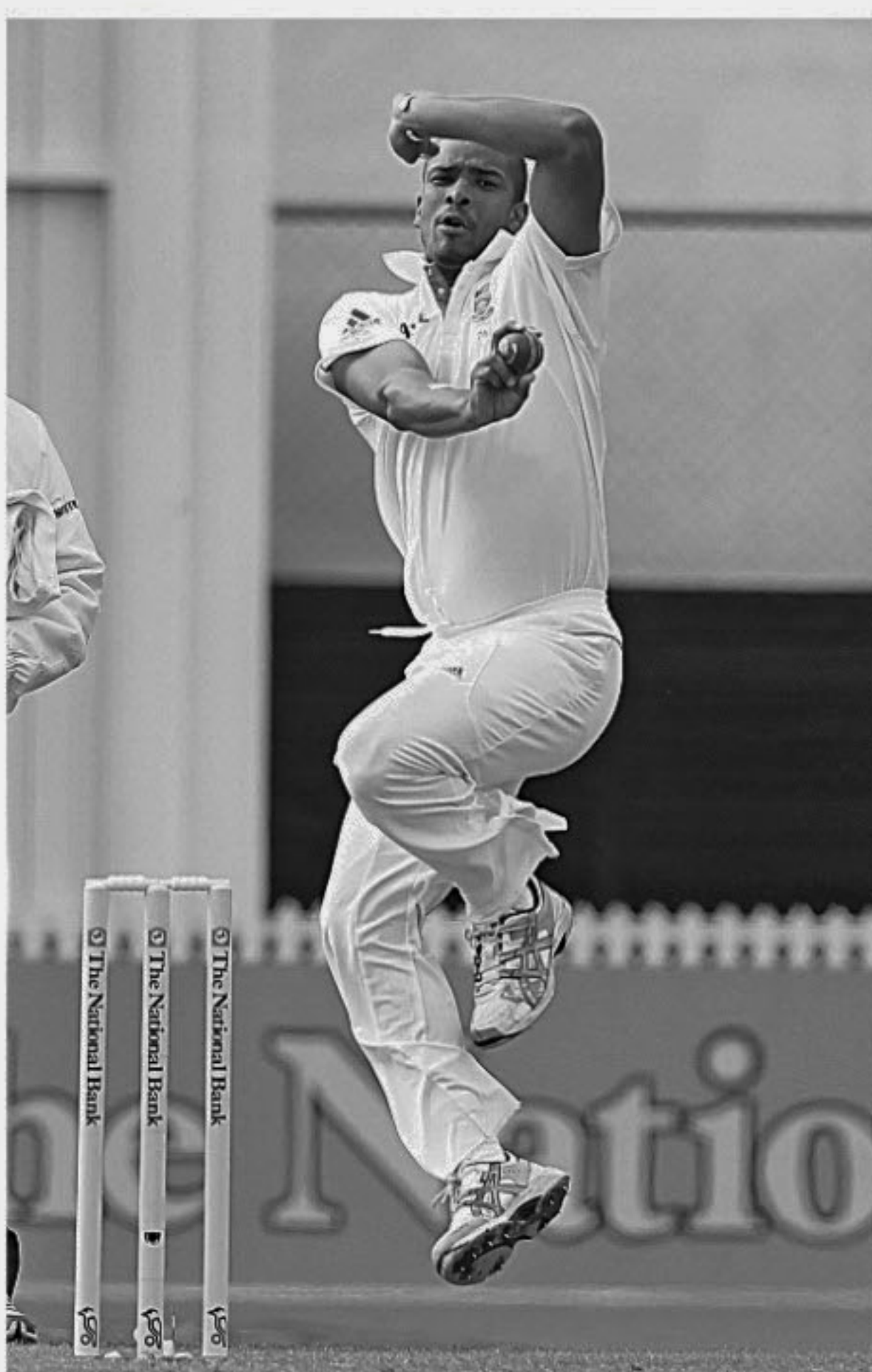
Philander finished with figures of four for 70 and Steyn took three for 49, as skipper Graeme Smith's decision to send New Zealand in to bat on a green-tinted wicket in Hamilton paid off spectacularly.

It was just reward for the South African bowlers, who had toiled for little reward after early success in dislodging New Zealand's openers Rob Nicol (2) and Martin Guptill (22) before lunch.

While New Zealand claimed consolation wickets as South Africa went to stumps at 27 for two, the Proteas succeeded in asserting their dominance after the first Test in Dunedin ended in a rain-affected draw.

More rain and a stubborn 89-run partnership between Brendon McCullum and New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor frustrated the Proteas for much of the day in Hamilton and Smith may have been having second thoughts about bowling first.

McCullum worked patiently to notch his 22nd Test half century after three hours at the crease, allowing



South Africa pacer Vernon Philander delivers a ball on the first day of the second Test against New Zealand at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

his aggressive instincts to surface as he smashed a six off Morne Morkel to bring up the milestone.

Another McCullum rush of blood to the head then sparked New Zealand's horror show, the batsman rashly trying to pull a head-high Steyn bouncer out of the park and instead offering Jacques Rudolph an easy catch on the boundary.

His dismissal on 61 was the latest example of McCullum failing to turn a good start into a big total and it had dire consequences for his team.

From a respectable 133-2,

New Zealand were reduced to 133-7 as Philander and Steyn gleefully ripped through a middle order that appeared by turns transfixed and leaden-footed.

Philander coaxed a thick edge off Taylor (44), then took two wickets in his next over, clean bowling Daniel Vettori for a duck and snaring an edge from Doug Bracewell which carried to Mark Boucher for the same score.

Steyn, not to be outdone, charged in from the other end between Philander's overs to send Kane Williamson back to the

pavilion without bothering the scorers.

Wicketkeeper Kruger van Wyk (21) and Mark Gillespie (27) mounted a valiant rear-guard action but the damage was done and South Africa had little trouble wrapping up the innings.

The Black Caps could at least take comfort in dismissing Smith (13), who scored 53 and 115 in the first Test, after an acrobatic dive from van Wyk to claim an edge from a Chris Martin delivery.

Martin also claimed nightwatchman Steyn for four and New Zealand will need more success from their pacemen on Friday if they want to remain in the match.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

Nicol c Boucher b Philander	2
Guptill b Steyn	22
McCullum c Rudolph b Steyn	61
Taylor c Smith b Philander	44
Williamson c Smith b Steyn	0
Vettori b Philander	0
Van Wyk lbw Morkel	21
Bracewell c Boucher b Philander	0
Gillespie c Petersen b Tahir	27
Arnell lbw Tahir	3
Martin not out	0
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2)	5
Total: (All out in 61.2 overs)	185
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-44, 3-133, 4-133, 5-133, 6-133, 7-133, 8-176, 9-184, 10-185.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	18	5	49	3
Philander	15	3	70	4
Kallis	9	4	9	0
Morkel	14	2	42	1
Tahir	5.2	1	12	2

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

Smith c Van Wyk b Martin	13
Petersen not out	8
Steyn c Van Wyk b Martin	4
Arnell not out	2
Extras:	0
Total: (For 2 wickets in 11 overs)	27
To bat: Kallis, De Villiers, Rudolph, Boucher, Philander, Morkel, Tahir.	
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-18.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Martin	5	2	18	2
Bracewell	4	1	7	0

Sammy banks on youth & experience

AFP, Kingstown

West Indies skipper Darren Sammy believes his team's mixture of raw youth and battle-scarred veterans can knock Australia out of their stride when the five-game, one-day series starts Friday.

The first three matches all take place at Arnos Vale, as international cricket returns to St Vincent for the first time since March, 2010.

"Johnson Charles is an exciting prospect and we also have Sunil Narine, who is a very good spinner, and also Andre Russell, the exciting all-rounder, who can do the job that is required," said 28-year-old Sammy.

"We have some players who are making a return to international cricket like Tino Best, who has been bowling very well, and Dwayne Bravo, who says he is very excited to be back in the maroon shirt.

"We are team which will be very competitive against the Australians. We will look to play hard cricket and look for wins."

Sammy said he enjoys playing at Arnos Vale. Two years ago, he recorded career-best ODI figures of four for 26 against Zimbabwe while back, in 2009, he took five for 70 against Bangladesh in a Test match.

"We have to believe we have it in us to win," he added. "We will look to hit the ground running and start the series on a winning note. Arnos Vale has been a good venue for us. The last time we played here we won the matches and we enjoy the crowd support from the fans and the atmosphere at this venue is always superb."

He added: "We are playing against the Australians, and everyone knows they are a good team ... a very competitive team. But we are focussing on us and what we have to do."

A down

FROM PAGE 16 that it is reminder of his days in domestic cricket back home.

"Two new balls is a real help for the seamers, the Kookaburra ball doesn't swing much, hardly lasts for five-six overs, at both ends it lasts 10-12 overs but here the wickets is bit flat.

"Most of our cricket is played in these conditions. Australian tracks were really good for the seamers because of the extra bounce, but here we will have to come back to how we used to bowl in Ranji Trophy, on Indian wickets, compared to other countries you have to mix it up more, bowl slower balls and variations," he explained.

The Tigers can expect a lot of variety from the Indians, but there definitely wouldn't be any high pace in the mix.

'Exciting time for Aus'

First ODI against WI today

Cricket

AFP, Kingstown

Stand-in skipper Shane Watson believes Australia's recent successes over India and Sri Lanka will mask any world-weariness when they kick-off their Caribbean tour.

Australia tackle the West Indies in the first of five one-dayers on Friday, with two Twenty20s and three Tests to follow on the seven-week tour -- a trip they set off on just 12 hours after their tri-nations win over Sri Lanka in Adelaide.

Watson, deputising for injured full-time captain Michael Clarke, insists his squad can impress, with younger players desperate to make their mark.

"It's a very exciting time in Australian cricket," Watson said.

"To think even 12 months ago that things were being said that the depth in Australian cricket might not be that good, to actually see the guys who are coming through."

Watson is keen to see how the likes of Nathan Lyon, James Pattinson and Peter Forrest perform in the Caribbean after making their mark on home wickets.

"James Pattinson has been brilliant, Nathan Lyon ... to see these guys come in and perform straight away is a very exciting thing," Watson told www.cricinfo.com.

"To actually know that we've got some great depth now and in the future with a few other guys still on their way back from injury and also some guys who will continue to improve in domestic cricket to put pressure on the

more senior guys."

In contrast, West Indies have turned to their back catalogue in an effort to gain an edge, with 31-year-old fast bowler Tino Best recalled after more than two years on the sidelines.

Best last played international cricket in the 2009 Champions Trophy.

"I'm fully focussed. I am fully aware of what is expected of me and what is required by the team. I have worked extremely hard to get back into the team and I will continue to work hard to stay in the team," Best said.

In his most recent first-class appearance in February, Best took seven wickets for Barbados in their crushing win over Combined Campuses and Colleges and bagged six for 44 in a warm-up that followed.

Another player in form is big-hitting Kieron Pollard, who smashed 151 off 120 balls in a recent squad warm-up.

"I have been playing a lot of Twenty20 cricket, but when you practise, you do not practise Twenty20," Pollard said. "When you practise, you work on your technique and there are a number of things I have been working on."

West Indies are again without former skipper Chris Gayle, who has not played for the West Indies since last year's World Cup and has been involved in a long-running dispute with the West Indies Cricket Board.

FIXTURES

March 16: 1st ODI, Kingstown, St Vincent

March 18: 2nd ODI, Kingstown, St Vincent

March 20: 3rd ODI, Kingstown, St Vincent

March 23: 4th ODI, Gros Islet, St Lucia

March 25: 5th ODI, Gros Islet, St Lucia

Big three move on

Li sent packing

Tennis

AFP, Indian Wells

Rafael Nadal raced into the Indian Wells quarterfinals with a dominating win, while Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer needed three sets each to oust unseeded opponents on Wednesday.

Tennis' big three moved on in the California desert as the world No. 2 Nadal had the easiest time, storming into the quarters by beating 21st seeded Alexander Dolgoplov 6-3, 6-2 in just 76 minutes.

World number three Federer scrambled for the second-straight day to eliminate an up-and-comer he was facing for the first time, coming from behind to beat Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Defending champ and world No. 1 Djokovic lost a second set tie-breaker en route to a 6-0, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2 win over Pablo Andujar.

Focus on good cricket

FROM PAGE 16 memories against the Indians.

The wicket-keeper batsman then threw the challenge to his bowlers. And what he hinted was that Bangladesh may play with an unchanged squad which lost the close battle against Pakistan in the tournament opener. Bangladesh preferred three pacers in the first game mainly because of the new rule of their being two new balls from each end in ODIs, and also because spinners are getting hardly any assistance from the pitch. But if the home team finally go with two pacers then the axe will likely fall on Shahadat Hossain despite his success in the first game.

"There is always a need of an attacking bowler like Shahadat who can take wickets and I think he did his job in the first match, and you

know on this kind of wicket the spinners have to bowl the right line and length. We have a plan and hopefully we can execute it tomorrow," said confident Mushfiqur.

Mushfiqur also believed that he as the captain and Mahmudullah Riyad as vice-captain should step up today if they want to do something against the Indian team. "We must play as a unit and everybody should do their duty if we want to play good cricket against them," opined Mushfiqur.

Of course, no discussion on a match involving India could be complete without mention of the possibility of Tendulkar's century.

"Like many other fans I also want his hundred in this tournament but definitely not against us. We will try to send him back early," said Mushfiqur with a smile.

WSA gets another ad-hoc committee

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday dissolved the previous ad-hoc committee to appoint another ad-hoc committee to hold the polls of the Women's Sports Association.

It is the second ad-hoc committee that has been appointed in three months as the sports regulatory body seemingly fell into trouble after dissolving an elected Women's Sports Association committee on November 29 with one year still left.

Following that, a statement regarding the Women's Sports Association was created which saw the WSA put under locks for last three months.

Rafia Akhter Dolly has been retained as the president while deputy secretary of sports and youth ministry Parvin Banu was made the general secretary of the seven-member committee which has been asked to hold the WSA elections in the next 60 days. Other office bearers are from the NSC, Ministry and Sports Directorate.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

The South Breeze School Volleyball Tournament began yesterday at the Volleyball Stadium with 22 schools taking part.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker inaugurated the meet, said a press release yesterday.

On the opening day, Baridhara Rajuk School, Jatrabari Power Development Board and Scholastica School won their respective matches in the boy's section which included 12 schools. Scholastica School, Viqarunissa Noon School, Australian School won their respective matches in the girl's section where 10 school are taking part.

Donation to 2nd div clubs

The Bangladesh Football Federation gave away Tk 50,000 to each of 17 participating clubs of the ongoing Destiny Group 2nd Division Football League yesterday.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin handed over the money while BFF vice president Badal Roy and Dhaka Metropolitan Football Committee chairman Harunur Rashid were also present. The Super League of the 2nd Division Football League will start on March 21 through a match between East End Club and Bangladesh Boys Club.

School Football

Charbata Saudaghor Hat High School of Subarnachar Upazila emerged Noakhali District champions in the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament with a 2-0 win over Yarpur High School of Senbagh at the district stadium yesterday.

The Noakhali champions will now play the Divisional-Level competition.

Besides, three more schools emerged Upazila champions yesterday to advance into the district-level competition. They are Dighirpar AC Institute of Tangibari Upazila, Chailampur Nagar High School of Nakla Upazila and Meghai High School of Kazipur Upazila.

Bandarban Table Tennis

Bandarban Invitational Table Tennis Tournament got underway yesterday at the Bandarban District Gymnasium with additional deputy commissioner Mohammad Nurul Absar declaring the three-day meet open.

A total of 12 teams are taking part in the meet, said a

CSA chief quits over scandal

AFP, Johannesburg

Acting Cricket SA (CSA) president AK Khan quit Wednesday in the aftermath of a 600,000 dollars bonus scandal that has left chief executive Gerald Majola fighting for survival.

Khan resigned at a CSA management committee meeting here along with audit and risk committee chairman John Blair three days before a board meeting which could decide the fate of Majola, who protested his innocence this week.

"I think it is time for change and for new leadership ... I am going back to grass roots cricket," said Khan, who consistently backed the chief executive through the two-year crisis.

A government-initiated inquiry headed by retired judge Chris Nicholson last week recommended prosecutors open a case against Majola over a scandal linked to the hosting of the 2009 Indian Premier League (IPL). Majola and former chief financial officer Don McIntosh were the alleged main beneficiaries of secret bonuses paid to them and other CSA officials after South Africa staged the IPL and the ICC Champions Trophy the same year.

The IPL tournament clashed with elections in India three years ago, raising security concerns and forcing the 20-over tournament to be moved to various South African venues.

Among the casualties of the subsequent fall-out was then CSA president Mtutuzeli Nyoka, who raised the bonuses alarm and was fired, reinstated after a legal battle, and fired again amid bitter clashes with Majola.

Shakib

FROM PAGE 16 certain that he won't go wicketless; a similar batting performance would either take Bangladesh close to a win or upset the apple-cart once again.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

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A D H G B L H ' M V L G U B M L A X D H :
" E A I R L X E L R G S W F S V G S G G . "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN AN EAGER KITTEN STALKS A PUPPY TIRELESSLY, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THE CAT COWS THE DOG.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

James, Monty shine

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Fast bowler James Anderson and spinner Monty Panesar warmed up for England's two-Test series against Sri Lanka with rich hauls in the tour opener in Colombo on Thursday.

Left-arm Panesar claimed 5-37 and Anderson took 4-19 as England bowled out the Sri Lanka Board XI for 169 on the first day of the three-day practice match at the Premadasa stadium.

The tourists were six for no loss off seven balls before bad light ended play early. Skipper Andrew Strauss was on six and Alastair Cook had yet to score.

Anderson picked up the first four wickets before Panesar cleaned up the tail as the home team, led by Test wicket-keeper Prasanna Jayawardene, failed to settle in after electing to

take first strike.

Ashen Silva, a 21-year-old left-handed opener, was the lone batsman to defy the tourists, making 66 with eight boundaries before he was seventh out at the stroke of tea.

Graeme Swann went wicketless in 18 overs of off-spin in which he conceded 47 runs.

England received a scare before the start when pace bowler Stuart Broad, who was originally due to play, withdrew from the game after spraining his left ankle during training.

Broad, who was replaced by Steven Finn, is expected to be fit for the next three-day game from March 20.

The first Test will be played in Galle from March 26 and the second at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo from April 3.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA BOARD XI: 169 (Silva 66, Serasinghe 31; Anderson 4-19, Panesar 5-37, Steven Finn 1-33). ENGLAND: 6-0.