



PHOTO: AFP

West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo (L) takes off on a celebratory run after rattling the stumps of Australia lower order batsman Clint McKay during the second and final T20I at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Friday.

Windies draw level

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

West Indies defeated Australia by 14 runs at Kensington Oval on Friday to win the second Twenty20 international and draw the two-game series 1-1.

Chasing a modest 161-run target, Australia were well-set at 75-2 at the halfway stage, but their chase slowed with off-break bowler Marlon Samuels taking three crucial wickets to dismiss skipper George Bailey (24), Mike Hussey (14) and Matthew Wade (17).

Opener David Warner top-scored with a 43-ball 58 with five fours and three sixes.

Seamer Fidel Edwards, who had dismissed Shane Watson for nought in the first over, returned to turn the screw by getting rid of Daniel Christian and Brett Lee with successive deliveries in the 19th over to finish with three for 23.

That left Australia seven wickets down and needing 19 off the final over, bowled by Dwayne Bravo.

Kieron Pollard took a fine catch in the deep to dismiss David Hussey (19) off the fourth ball with 17 still needed and the game was up as Australia finished on 146 for nine.

Bravo had also played a key role in the dismissal of dangerous Warner,

running out the opener with a direct hit in the 13th over with the score on 98 for three.

"It was a great start from the West Indies, I think we pulled it back to about par, 160, and I thought we were on course to knock it off," said Bailey.

"They put pressure on us. The wicket of David Warner was huge, run-outs change matches."

West Indies captain Darren Sammy admitted his team should have scored more.

"We knew it was a 180-plus pitch. We tried Polly and myself up the order to try and get some momentum -- that didn't work but we kept going," said Sammy.

"The work we've been doing in the camp and throughout the series has been paying off and I want to ask the boys to keep doing that. We want to keep doing well in the Tests and hopefully continue the good results."

West Indies squandered a blistering start to be bowled out for just 160.

After winning the toss, West Indies looked good for a huge score when they raced to 65-0 from six overs and 110-2 by the 10th.

Opens Dwayne Smith and Johnson Charles got them off to a flying start.

Charles made 37 off 21 balls with six fours and a six before he was first man out in the seventh over.

Big-hitting Pollard, who had scored a maiden T20 fifty on Tuesday, was caught behind off Lee after making just one in the eighth over with the total on 76.

Smith top-scored thanks to a 34-ball innings of 63, which featured six fours and four huge sixes, but once he was caught in the deep off slow bowler Xavier Doherty, the runs dried up.

Bravo, with 23 off 24 balls, was the only other batsman to reach double figures as West Indies lost their last eight wickets for just 40 runs before they were bowled out with two balls to spare.

Lee was the pick of the Australian bowlers with 3 for 23.

The two sides, who also drew the one-day series 2-2, will now play a three-Test series beginning in Barbados on April 7.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 160 all out in 19.4 overs (Smith 63, Charles 37, Bravo 23; Lee 3-23, McKay 2-24, Watson 2-26)

AUSTRALIA: 146 for 9 in 20 overs (Warner 58, Bailey 24, D Hussey 19, Wade 17, M Hussey 14; Edwards 3-23, Samuels 3-23, Bravo 2-27)

Result: West Indies won by 14 runs to level series 1-1.

Man-of-the-match: Dwayne Smith.
Man-of-the-series: Shane Watson.

Rain has India

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It was announced after the match that Botha, 29, would be released from his national contract with Cricket South Africa after the Twenty20 World Cup in Sri Lanka in September in order to take up a two-season contract to captain South Australia in Australian domestic cricket.

The hastily-arranged match was billed as an annual fixture for the Friendship Cup and a tribute to South African all-rounder Kallis, with profits going to the Jacques Kallis Foundation which provides scholarships for talented cricketers from under-privileged areas to attend good schools.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 219 for 4 in 20 overs (Ingram 78, Kallis 61, Ontong 22; Raina 2-49, Ashwin 1-33, Irfan 1-44)

INDIA: 71 for no loss in 7.5 overs (Gambhir 49, Uthappa 18)

Result: South Africa won by 11 runs (Duckworth-Lewis method)

Man-of-the-match: Colin Ingram.

Siddikur slips

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"My putting wasn't good so I hope to get back on track. There's a long way to go. I'm very confident for tomorrow. I feel I have a slight advantage because I've come close to winning on this course before," said Siddikur, who finished in fifth place at the SAIL-SBI Open on the same venue last month.

Feni

FROM PAGE 16

have only six points so far and lie a point off the bottom-placed Rahmatganj. The traditional giants have seen their season spiral down after their win in the first match. Since then the Black and Whites have lost three matches and drawn the other three.

Tendulkar's record unbreakable: Gilly

Cricket

PTI, Kolkata

Former Australia wicketkeeper and explosive opener Adam Gilchrist feels there is a big gulf between Sachin Tendulkar and the rest of the top batsmen, something that makes it almost impossible for anyone to get anywhere near the legend's landmark of 100 international centuries.

Giving the example of Ricky Ponting, who has recently retired from the ODI format, Gilchrist said 29 centuries separate Tendulkar from his former skipper.

"That speaks about Tendulkar's greatness -- the gap between him and the rest. He is way ahead. I really doubt that anybody would

ever break this record," Gilchrist said, in an interview from Mohali.

"If you look at the records, Ponting is the world's best batsmen next to Tendulkar. But his combined tally [of Test and one-day centuries] is 71 [41-30]," he said.

Tendulkar's critics could argue that he has played more matches against countries like Zimbabwe and Bangladesh, he said adding that even if 10 centuries were added to Ponting's, he would still be 19 centuries away.

"Tendulkar's record is truly unique, remarkable. He is playing with the same intensity for the last 22 years. That shows how big a player Tendulkar is," he said.

Gilchrist, who was part of an invincible side that dominated

world cricket winning a hat-trick of World Cups from 1999-2007, said Indians need to be patient in the coming days.

"Rahul Dravid has just retired... Now only VVS Laxman and Tendulkar are playing. It would be huge boots to fill when Tendulkar goes away. We faced a similar phase. But the fans need to be patient," he said.

Gilchrist feels that India have cricketing talent in abundance but the supporters need to be patient.

"Undoubtedly, there is no dearth of talent in India. In fact, it's just the opposite. The fans just need to be patient with the youngsters like Virat Kohli," he said.

With his recent exploits, Kohli proved that he was ready to step up and, the Australian said, "To me, he is one of the best players in the world cricket at the moment."

Khulna's 4th

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Akhtar making 31 gave their score some substance towards the end.

Their bowlers however took little time to give Dhaka a hard time. Sukhtara took three top-order wickets before Rumana cleaned up the tail with four wickets.

Shaila was adjudged the player-of-the-match.

BKSP edge

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and Bangladesh Olympic Association president Gen Abdul Mubeen distributed prizes as the chief guest of the event. Sheikh Abdul Aziz, the managing director of sponsors Uttara Bank Limited, was also present among others.

Novak sets up Andy final

Tennis

AFP, Miami

Reigning champion Novak Djokovic beat a stubborn 21st-seeded Juan Monaco 6-0, 7-6 (7/5) Friday to book a re-match of the 2009 Miami Masters final with Scotland's Andy Murray.

Murray, who got the better of Djokovic in the 2009 title match, reached the final on a walkover when world No. 2 Rafael Nadal pulled out of their semifinal with a sore left knee.

World No. 1 Djokovic breezed through his first set in just 27 minutes and appeared to be cruising to a victory when Monaco got hot in a marathon second set which lasted one hour, 36 minutes.

It marked the second day in a row Djokovic struggled to finish off an opponent and needed a tiebreaker to clinch it.

In the quarterfinals against fifth seed David Ferrer, Djokovic easily won

the first set 6-2 but then stumbled down the stretch before winning 7-6 (7/1) in the second set.

"As I did yesterday in the quarterfinals, I started very strong, just going for the shots, being very aggressive, then I just wasn't able to close it out," Djokovic said. "It was a very similar match to the one against Ferrer."

Djokovic is in his fourth Miami final and chasing a third title here. He also won in 2007. In 2009, he fell 6-2, 7-5 to Murray.

"We all know his talent, his potential, and quality," Djokovic said of Murray. "He's dangerous on any surface."

Djokovic, who reached his first final since winning the Australian Open in January, finished with two aces and four double faults against Monaco, stretching his perfect record over the Argentinian to 5-0.

Djokovic got off to a flying start, winning all six games in the opening set and clinching it with a cross-court

forehand to the open court.

He won 71 per cent of his second-serve points compared to just 13 per cent for Monaco, who won just eight points the first set.

But Monaco turned his game around in the second, using superb baseline tactics and powerful groundstrokes.

Murray was surprised to be handed a berth in the final, especially since it was his second walkover victory of the tournament.

Murray had rallied to beat Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Chasing a second title of 2012, to go with the trophy he captured in Brisbane, Murray said he wasn't sure if the extra rest afforded him by Nadal's sore left knee would be good or bad for him come the final.

"I don't really know how I'm going to feel for the final, but I'll definitely be fresh," he said.

Narayanganj, Dhaka have it easy

SPORTS REPORTER

Narayanganj crushed Jamalpur by 146 runs while Dhaka eased past Gazipur by 53 runs in the 32nd National Cricket Championship matches held on Friday.

At the Mymensingh Stadium, Rifat struck a century while Masum made 61 as Narayanganj made 232-8 in 50 overs. Jamalpur were skittled out for just 86 runs in 36 overs with left-arm spinner Saju Dutta taking four wickets.

Dhaka also batted first but were bowled out for only 162 runs in 48.5 overs despite having some first-class cricketers in the line-up. Mehrob Hossain Jr made 65 and Tasamul Haque scored 23 but it was their bowling that won them the game easily. Raisul Islam took four wickets with his off-spin while Al-Amin picked up two as Gazipur were bowled out for just 109 runs in 36.1 overs.

In the other matches, home side Barisal beat Pirojpur by 119 runs, Magura easily beat Narail by four wickets in Jessore, Rajbari crushed Gopalganj in a low-scoring game in Sariatpur and Sirajganj beat Bogra by 36 runs in Pabna.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Pabna beat Natore by five wickets while in Moulavibazar, Sylhet rode on Mahub's five-wicket haul to crush Sunamganj by nine wickets. Khulna beat Bagerhat by 85 runs in Narail and at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Brahmanbaria hammered Laxmipur by 147 runs with Al-Amin scoring 114 runs.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Rangamati got off to a winning start in the First Security Islami Bank 2nd Tribal Hockey Competition, with a 4-1 win over Panchagar at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Shuvo Chakma scored twice while Bijoy Marma and Shafiullah Nipu netted one goal each for the winners. Sunil Hasda reduced the margin for the losing side.

Earlier, Bangladesh Hockey Federation vice president Abdus Sadek inaugurated the competition.

CJKS Athletics

4H Group CJKS Athletics competition kicks off today at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

Organised by the Chittagong District Sports Association, a total of 217 athletes from fifteen schools and eleven sporting clubs of Chittagong will participate in different events of the competition, said organisers at a press conference at the CJKS office yesterday. The competition has a budget of Tk 330,000.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Serajul Huq Khan will inaugurate the competition.

Div li Football

Bangladesh Boys Club beat ten-man BG Press S&R Club 1-0 in the Super League stage of the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Mohammad Salauddin scored the winning goal for Bangladesh Boys in the 81st minute.

Mohammad Jafar of BG Press was sent off in the 38th minute.

Bangladesh Championship League

Agrani Bank defeated Victoria Sporting Club 1-0 in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League at the Cox's Bazar Stadium on yesterday.

Agrani Bank striker Mohammad Sanwar scored the all important goal in the 80th minute after the first half ended goalless.

Nadir of Agrani Bank was sent off in the 60th minute.

The win lifts Agrani Bank to second position on the points table with ten points from seven matches.

School Football

Sher-e-Bangla Railway Girls High School drew 0-0 with Motijheel Govt Girls High School in their match of the Plan Mertropolis Women's School Football at the Motijheel Govt. Boys High School ground yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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12 "— Little Teapot"
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15 Platypus feature
17 Comedian
18 Hebrew month
19 In a crafty way
20 Mideast belief
22 You
24 Bridle strap
25 Voluntary choice
29 World-wide lending org.
30 Sloop features
31 Conk out
32 Don't fidget
34 Adolescent
35 Weight-lifter's lift

DOWN
16 "The Birth of a Nation" group
17 Gets a glimpse of
18 Cousin
19 Recovery center
20 Photo book
21 Half (Pref.)
22 Warble
23 Satan's domain
24 Address
25 Aviv preceder
26 Sander-piper relative
27 Wan
28 Bobbin
29 Say the pater-noster
30 "The Birth of a Nation" group
31 Ostrich's
32 Gets a glimpse of
33 Cosmic procedure
34 Photo book
35 Seethe
36 Web address
37 Aviv preceder
38 Sander-piper relative
39 Wan
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42 Into worse shape
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44 Dead heat
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48 Disen-cumber

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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S Y F G T W X R " Y G G Y N Y D E ! "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY CHECKING ACCOUNT HAS DWINDLED SO MUCH, WHAT THEY MAIL ME MIGHT AS WELL BE BLANK STATEMENTS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals D