



PHOTO: AFP

England batsman Ian Bell punches the air in celebration after scoring the winning runs on the fifth day of the first Test against the West Indies at Lord's in London yesterday.

Cook, Bell see Eng home

Cricket

AFP, London

Alastair Cook and Ian Bell led England to victory in the first Test against the West Indies at Lord's here on Monday.

England, set a target of 191 to win, were faltering at 57 for four before lunch on the fifth and final day.

But Cook (79) and Bell (63 not out) shared a fifth-wicket partnership of 132 that saw England, the world's number one ranked Test side, to the brink of victory before left-handed opener Cook was out with two runs needed when caught in the gully off West Indies captain Darren Sammy.

Bell though struck the winning boundary for a win that gave England a 1-0 lead in this three-match series heading into the second Test at Trent Bridge starting Friday.

"We felt the wicket was pretty slow and flat," England captain Andrew Strauss said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"It looked a bit dicey at 40 odd for four but Alastair Cook and Ian Bell set about it in a very civilised manner and saw us home."

England's first innings saw Strauss end his 18-month wait for a Test cen-

ture and the opening batsman added: "It was lovely to score that hundred and when you do that in a winning cause it makes it all the more special."

West Indies -- who hadn't won a Test match outside the Caribbean against major opposition since defeating South Africa in Port Elizabeth in 2007 and came into this game with a record of just two wins in 30 matches -- made England work for their victory and did well to take the game into the fifth day.

"We did a lot of good things and we need to look at them and repeat them more consistently," said Sammy.

"We fancied our chances this morning but once the hardness of the ball went away, it became much easier to bat.

"An experienced batting line-up like England's showed their class and saw them home."

England resumed Monday on 10 for two after Kemar Roach had taken two wickets for seven runs in eight balls to remove Strauss and nightwatchman James Anderson on Sunday.

Both Cook and Jonathan Trott had yet to score.

Roach struck again Monday to remove Trott for 13 with a good length ball that squared him up and took the

edge with Sammy, diving to his left, holding a good catch at second slip.

And 13 also proved an unlucky number for Trott's fellow South Africa-born batsman Kevin Pietersen.

He had just pulled Test debutant Shannon Gabriel's third delivery of the innings for four when, to the fast bowler's next ball ball, he tried to repeat the stroke and got a bottom edge to wicket-keeper Denesh Ramdin.

England were in trouble but Cook got them going again.

He completed a 78-ball fifty featuring eight fours when he late cut off-spinner Marlon Samuels and after lunch Bell followed him to the landmark in 84 balls.

That West Indies started the last day with even an outside chance of victory owed much to Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Officially the world's best batsman, the Guyana left-hander made scores of 87 not out and 91 while spending more than 10 hours at the crease in this match.

Together with Samuels (86) he put on 157 for the fifth wicket in the second innings as the West Indies gave their bowlers a target to defend and a chance of a first win in 15 Tests in England.

For England, this Test was a personal triumph for Stuart Broad, the man-of-the-

match.

The fast-medium bowler took a Test-best seven for 72 in the first innings and four for 43 in the second for a match haul of 11 for 165.

Broad, who made 169 against Pakistan at Lord's in 2010, became just the fourth player to take five wickets in an innings, 10 in a match and score a century in Lord's Tests.

Only England's Gubby Allen and Ian Botham, and Australia's Keith Miller, had previously completed that 'treble'.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First innings 243				
(Chanderpaul 87 not out; Broad 7-72)				
ENGLAND: First innings 398 (Strauss 122, Bell 61, Trott 58; Gabriel 3-60, Roach 3-108)				
WEST INDIES: Second innings 345				
(Chanderpaul 91, Samuels 86; Broad 4-43, Swann 3-59)				
ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 10-2)				
Strauss	c Powell	b Roach	79	
Cook	c K Edwards	b Sammy	7	
Anderson	c Ramdin	b Roach	6	
Trott	c Sammy	b Roach	13	
Pietersen	c Ramdin	b Gabriel	13	
Bell	not out		63	
Bairstow	not out		60	
Extras	(b-4, lb-3, nb-11)		18	
Total	(For 5 wks in 46.1 overs)		193	
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-10, 3-29, 4-57, 5-189.				
Did not bat: Prior, Bresnan, Broad, Swann.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Edwards	8	0	24	0
Roach	13	2	60	3
Gabriel	5	1	26	1
Sammy	10	1	25	1
Samuels	10.1	0	51	0

Result: England won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Stuart Broad.

Super League

FROM PAGE 16 refused to take the field in the second session, resulting in Victoria being awarded two full points.

The board has set an unprecedented example as the League has never been played in June.

Fatullah Cricket Stadium, BKSP and Shahid Chandu Stadium in Bogra have been selected for the remainder of the league matches as the groundstaff are working on planting new grass seeds at the country's premier venue, the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Russel's winning

FROM PAGE 16 full points but they faced tough challenge from a superior side.

BFF's acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag informed that they have already appealed to the National Sports Council to set up air-conditioners in the dressing room to make it more comfortable for the players. He also added that they have also asked NSC to renovate the wash rooms in both changing rooms situated on the ground floor.

Worth mentioning here is that the dressing rooms, with modern facilities, situated at the first floor has been kept under locks since the international friendly between Argentina and Nigeria and those dressing rooms are used only in international matches.

Sammy has no objection to Gayle's WI return

Cricket

AFP, London

West Indies captain Darren Sammy left the door open for former skipper Chris Gayle to return in the remainder of the Test series against England after the tourists' defeat in the opener at Lord's.

West Indies went down to a five-wicket loss here on Monday to fall 1-0 behind in the three-match series.

They did so without dynamic opening batsman Gayle, who has not played international cricket for more than a year following a dispute with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB).

But Gayle said earlier this month he would not be honouring his contract with county side Somerset so as to make himself available to the West Indies during this tour of England.

As he was not chosen in the Test squad, it had been thought Gayle would return to the side for the one-day series against England, which starts in Southampton on June 16.

Gayle has been playing in the lucrative Indian Premier League Twenty20 competition but his IPL commitments have finished after the Royal Challengers Bangalore were eliminated from the tournament.

Although his fraught relationship with the WICB means it is unlikely Gayle will feature in the Test series, especially as the second match starts on Friday at Trent Bridge, Sammy refused to rule him out completely.

"Whatever happens outside this squad takes its own course," Sammy told Sky

Sports. "Whoever comes in we will welcome them into the team and hopefully they will help. It is up to the selectors to select the team."

West Indies have suffered a series of top-order collapses in Gayle's absence and twice did so again at Lord's.

Sammy said the left-hander's experience and undoubted talent would be welcomed by all the squad and West Indies coach Ottis Gibson.

"I think Chris has said he is available for Test cricket, one-day cricket and T20 so it is up to the selectors," Sammy said.

"We have been having some difficulties at the top of the order and if he comes in we would all welcome him, myself, Ottis and all the guys."

Another change the West Indies are more likely to consider at Trent Bridge is the inclusion of specialist spinner Shane Shillingford.

The 29-year-old off-break bowler was omitted at Lord's, with part-timer Marlon Samuels providing the tourists with a measure of spin, as it was felt conditions wouldn't suit the Dominican.

But having taken 10 wickets in his last Test appearance, against Australia on his home ground in Roseau last month, Shillingford could return in Nottingham.

"Shane was experiencing a bit of difficulty gripping the ball but in the course of this Test match he has done some work and hopefully his fingers will be warm enough and ready for him to play for us in the next match," Sammy said.

"He played a crucial role in the last series and once he is ready to master the cold we will have him in."

Ennis's best race, but 9 hurdles!

AFP, Manchester

British Olympic hope Jessica Ennis saw her new personal best in the 100m hurdles wiped out on Sunday by an embarrassing blunder by officials who forgot to lay out enough barriers.

The heptathlete clocked 12.75 sec, 0.04sec faster than her previous best, but it emerged after the race at the City Games in Manchester that only nine hurdles had been set out rather than the regulation 10.

"I am so annoyed. I still had a good competitive race, but I've just not got the result I wanted," said Ennis. "It's a great event but that's a massive, massive mess-up."

A tournament spokesman said: "There has been a technical error and there were nine sets of hurdles out on the course instead of 10."

"We'll conduct a thorough investigation and find out what happened and why and by whom. It's a very unfortunate mistake, we're very unhappy about it."

Special

FROM PAGE 16 said Special Olympics of Bangladesh chairman Dr. Shamim Motin Chowdhury at a press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh disabled football team won gold medal in 11-a-side football thrashing Spain 11-1 in Special Olympics World Summer Games at Athens in July 2011.

Chief executive officer of Special Olympics Faruqul Islam informed that India have already arrived here while Nepal and Pakistan are scheduled to arrive today.

Grouping of the tournament would be decided today after the managers' meeting, added Faruqul.

Wraiths

FROM PAGE 16 17 points respectively and Mamun being the top scorer for Old DOHS with 22 points.

In the final game played on Sunday, Wraiths defeated The Shaons 50-31 with Shuvo and Johnny top-scoring for Wraiths with 14 and 13 points respectively and Shetu top scoring for The Shaons with 11 points.

Feni cricket

FROM PAGE 16 In the other match, MA Kashem Krira Chakra defeated Shatabdi Cricket Club by 84 runs. Batting first, MA Kashem Krira Chakra made 151/7 to which Shatabdi Cricket Club could reply by making 67 runs only.

Into the final week

AFP, New Delhi



The Indian Premier League (IPL) heads for a thrilling climax this week when the play-offs take place to determine the champions of this season's popular Twenty20 tournament.

The fifth edition of the glitzy cash-rich event is already being hailed as the most exciting ever despite off-field troubles as packed houses watched enthralling cricket over the past six weeks.

The final spot in the play-offs was decided in Sunday's penultimate match of the 72-game league as defending champions Chennai Super Kings sneaked through while Royal Challengers Bangalore were stunned by unfancied Deccan Chargers.

Table-toppers Delhi Daredevils will take on number two Kolkata Knight Riders in the first play-off in Pune on Tuesday, with the winner advancing to the May 27 final in Chennai.

The Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings, the third and fourth teams in the league, will face-off in Bangalore on Wednesday with the losers being knocked out of the race.

The loser of the first play-off will then meet the winner of the second in Chennai on Friday to determine the second finalist.

"The play-off system rewards consistency over seven weeks," said IPL chairman Rajiv

Shukla. "One bad day in the office does not ruin a team's chances."

The winner of Sunday's title clash at the Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai will pocket 2 million dollars and the runners-up will get 1.5 million dollars.

The third-placed team will get a direct entry into the Champions League to be held in India in October between the top domestic Twenty20 clubs from around the world.

Delhi Daredevils, led by Virender Sehwag and featuring Sri Lankan veteran Mahela Jayawardene and South African fast bowler Morne Morkel, have shown consistent form by winning 11 of their 16 league matches.

But the Knight Riders will fancy their chances on a slow Pune wicket ideal for their West Indies spinner Sunil Narine, whose haul of 22 wickets this season is second only to Morkel's tally of 25.

"You can't predict what will happen in a T20 game, but we have faith in ourselves," said Knight Riders skipper Gautam Gambhir. "We want to win this one for the people of Kolkata."

Mumbai Indians, featuring the inspirational Sachin Tendulkar, bounced back after a shaky start to finish third and set up an intriguing clash against India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings.

"We must not waste the second life given to us," said Dhoni. "We must execute our plans well because Mumbai will come hard at us."

IPL rocked again

Sharma, Parnell arrested while partying

AFP, Mumbai



Indian Premier League (IPL) cricketer Rahul Sharma denied any wrongdoing Monday after he and teammate Wayne Parnell were detained by police at a late-night party, in the latest scandal to hit the tournament.

Police said Sharma and South African Parnell, who both play for the Pune Warriors, were among nearly 100 people detained late Sunday at a hotel in Mumbai where a "rave" was busted and drugs were found.

Sharma gave blood and urine samples and following his release, he said they had been invited by a friend to the gathering, a birthday celebration, which had appeared to be a "normal party" before the police arrived.

"When we reached there, the party had already started. There were about 100-odd people, around 15 sofas and a swimming pool," he told reporters.

"I did not find anything suspicious there. I know I am clean. I do not drink, not even beer, I did not find or see anyone taking drugs."

A total of 96 people were detained at the party, where cocaine, MDMA and cannabis were seized, Additional Commissioner Vishwas Nagre Patil told the Press Trust of

India (PTI) news agency.

Police later said all of them, including Sharma and Parnell, were released after giving samples for drugs tests, PTI reported, while the director of the Oakwood Premier hotel was arrested under Indian drugs laws.

The players' detention is the latest in a string of controversies to hit the IPL, which concludes on Sunday.

Last week Australian Luke Pomersbach was accused of molesting a woman and beating up her fiancée. He denies the charges and was granted bail on Saturday.

A few days earlier, five Indian players signed to IPL teams were suspended after an undercover TV report alleged they were prepared to take money for spot-fixing.

On Wednesday night, Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who is co-owner of the Kolkata Knight Riders franchise, was involved in a late-night row with officials at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

He was subsequently banned by the Mumbai Cricket Association for five years from entering the stadium.

The annual IPL tournament also faces allegations of massive corporate corruption, money-laundering and tax evasion, as well as secret deals to hide teams' real owners and even links to India's criminal underworld.

Abahani, MSC face off today

FROM PAGE 16

the last match against Brothers Union.

"We will go there with a positive mindset and expect the repeat of the performance the boys showed against Brothers Union," said Emeka. "But as a team Abahani are more organised than us as they have better management and good collection of foreign and local players, something which Mohammedan lacks."

Blaming the management again for Mohammedan's inconsis-

tent performance, the Nigerian said Abahani are maintaining the same tempo they did during his playing days back in the late 80s, while Mohammedan's standard has gone down.

Abahani's Iranian coach Ali Akbar said he was only concentrating on their own game, rather than the opponents'.

"We will definitely go there for a win but the fact that all teams come against us with a defensive mentality, may make things tough for us," opined Ali Akbar.

Abahani will feel the

absence of in-form striker Lucky Paul who is out injured and they are thinking of fielding Brazilian striker Silva alongside Ghanaian hitman Twum Frank.

"On way to the championship, every game is a final for us and we are eager to maintain the gap we have forged with Muktijoddha Sangad. However, it is also gether a different game when the opponents are Mohammedan," said Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Leno's network	DOWN	22 Perhaps
1 Big bash	37 Wan	1 Pantheon figures	23 Oil cartel
5 Virtue's opposite	38 Reflection	2 Help in a crime	24 Humongous
9 Flop	40 Pacino or Yankovic	3 Peru's capital	25 Geological time
12 Japanese sashes	41 Tangy cuisine	4 Un-changed	26 Wicker-covered bottle
13 Exotic berry	43 Ape	5 Cisterns	27 Group of hoods
14 Compass dir.	47 Yoko of music	6 Here (Fr.)	29 "Yecch!"
15 Withdrawing from office	48 "Ghost" co-star	7 Has the skill set	30 Lad
17 "Cool" amount of cash	51 To the — degree	8 Square dance group	35 Big Aussie bird
18 Ranking	52 Author Hunter	9 Cecil B. and Agnes	37 Not quite
19 Part of Hispaniola	53 Pronto, in the ER	10 One sandwich shop	39 South American range
21 Morning hour on a sundial	54 Family for	11 Formal wear	40 Intention
22 "Psycho" setting	55 Look for	16 Hit on the head	41 Hit on the head
24 Hospital furnishings	56 Highland hats	20 NRC predecessor	42 Oppositionist
27 Space Organization			43 Kitchen fixture
31 Anger			44 Greek vowel
32 Sailor's assent			45 Composer Khachaturian
33 "I" strain?			46 Profits
34 Tournament component			49 Previous night
			50 West of Hollywood

Solution time: 25 mins.

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