



West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul (C) looks on after being dismissed on the first day of the second Test against England at Trent Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

WI in early trouble

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

England dismissed West Indies' mainstay Shivnarine Chanderpaul as the tourists' collapse continued on the first day of the second Test at Trent Bridge here on Friday.

The West Indies were 154 for six at tea, with Marlon Samuels 41 not out and captain Darren Sammy, who'd won the toss and batted with the ground bathed in sunny conditions and blue skies overhead, unbeaten on 11.

Chanderpaul, who batted for over 10 hours during England's five-wicket win in the first Test at Lord's that gave the world's top-ranked Test side a 1-0 lead in this three-match series, was lbw for the second time in as many innings to Graeme Swann.

Left-hander Chanderpaul, playing back, had made 46 when Swann's appeal was rejected by umpire Asad Rauf.

But it was no surprise when England captain Andrew Strauss reviewed the decision.

Replays showed the ball would have hit the stumps.

and Chanderpaul had to go after more than two hours at the crease featuring nine fours.

West Indies' top order had failed repeatedly during a run of just two wins in 31 Tests coming into this game.

Yet such were the conditions, it would almost have been an admission of weakness had Sammy fielded first after winning the toss.

Nevertheless opener Adrian Barath, who battled hard for his runs at Lord's, was out for nought when he edged a rising ball from Stuart Broad and third slip James Anderson held a brilliant, left-handed, head-high catch.

New batsman Kirk Edwards then fell for seven when Anderson's superb off-cutter beat his defensive shot.

Much has been made of the absence of top-order batsmen Chris Gayle and Ramnaresh Sarwan after their respective disputes with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) but they, too, might have struggled to keep out such a delivery.

Darren Bravo later drove at Anderson without moving his feet and was caught by second slip Swann.

Chanderpaul, in at 86 for three and 36 for three at Lord's, entered at 42 for three with another huge repair job on his hands and was lucky to stay at the crease when he edged Anderson between second and third slips when on four.

Meantime, opener Kieran Powell, who got off the mark by cover-driving Broad for four, whopped Anderson and Tim Bresnan through mid-wicket.

But Broad, changing ends, had left-hander Powell, driving loosely, caught by Anderson for a 33 featuring seven boundaries, leaving West Indies in dire straits at 63 for four.

Samuels was given out lbw for one off Bresnan but successfully reviewed Rauf's decision.

At lunch, Anderson had taken two wickets for 22 runs in nine overs, having claimed 33 wickets in his five previous Tests at Trent Bridge.

Broad, who took a Test-best seven for 72 at Lord's, had figures of two for 34 in 10 overs on his Nottinghamshire home ground.

West Indies, 84 for four at lunch, played out four straight

maidens from Anderson and Broad early in the second session before Swann, like Broad on his home ground, struck to end a stand of 62 between Chanderpaul and Samuels after the pair had put on 157 in the second innings at Lord's.

And 125 for five soon became 136 for six when Denesh Ramdin was bowled by a ball that kept low from seamer Bresnan.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First innings

Barath c Anderson b Broad	0
Powell c Anderson b Broad	33
Edwards b Anderson	7
Bravo c Swann b Anderson	3
Chanderpaul lbw b Swann	46
Samuels not out	41
Ramdin b Bresnan	1
Sammy not out	11
Extras: (b-4, lb-8)	12
Total: (For 6 wkt in 57 overs)	154
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-26, 3-42, 4-63, 5-125, 6-136.	

To bat: Shillingford, Rampaul, Roach.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	17	9	31	2
Broad	17	3	49	2
Bresnan	13	4	38	1
Swann	9	3	23	1
Trott	1	0	1	0

ENGLAND: Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Jonathan Bairstow, Matt Prior, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, James Anderson.

Sahara keen

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neglected, Subrata said that the batsman would have been picked but had to leave the country before the last four matches.

"I told the team management to pick him as an opener in the last four matches, but he had informed that due to personal reasons, he had to leave the country," said Subrata.

It meant that Tamim left before the May 8 game against Rajasthan Royals but the player has said that he took permission from the management to leave when two matches were left.

"I took permission from everyone in Pune Warriors and I left the team with two matches left. I let the BCB know of this as well and re-applied at the cricket board for the leave that I took at the time," Tamim told over phone.

It was also learnt from a source that he took the leave and left India on May 11 after which two matches were left - against Rajasthan Royals on May 13 and against Kolkata Knight Riders on May 19.

Pune Warriors official Deep Dasgupta also cleared the air regarding reports of a bust-up between Tamim and the team management. "I don't know why this is coming up. It is merely a rumour; he's a good kid and we had no problems," said the former India wicketkeeper.

The franchise won only four games this season, finishing at the bottom of the points table and has the unenviable IPL record of losing nine successive games.

Momentum works well

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for Mobarak inside the box and the diminutive winger found the back of the net in his second attempt after goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee slipped the ball from his grasp in the 12th minute.

Sheikh Russel kept pressing the opponents for an equaliser and Cameroonian midfielder Frank Olivier tried his luck from the distance but saw his 25-yarder narrowly missing the far post on the 31st minute. During stoppage time of the first half, Mohammmedan's creative midfielder Augustine Chizoba saw his curving shot from the left go wide of the far post.

After the resumption Mohammmedan went on to strengthen their backline in the face of a lot of pressure and tried to foil Sheikh Russel's attacks throughout the second half. Goalkeeper Titumir thwarted two good attempts from Bokola and Mohammad Yousun in the 61st and 79th minutes respectively.

Again against the run of play and from a counter-attack however, Mohammmedan doubled the margin as Mobarak played for Chizoba on the left flank from the centre and the diminutive midfielder ran into the area only to have defender Aminul Islam bring him down to award the Black & Whites with a penalty.

Okalaown sent goalkeeper Biplob the wrong way four minutes from time to ensure Mohammmedan's fifth win in the league.

"We have been suffering from the lack of an efficient partner to striker Bokola as we build up the game in every match but there is a lack of quick finishing. We are not consistent in winning the game as a result," said Sheikh Russel coach Maruf Haque.

Ireland happy

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Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and West Indies will play a mixture of Tests, ODIs and Twenty20s during the same time.

The Tigers are in Group D alongside New Zealand and Pakistan, both of whom will be involved in two full series respectively. The Black Caps will play four Twenty20s against West Indies and India alongside five ODIs and four Tests while Pakistan will be in Sri Lanka to play two Twenty20s, five ODIs and Twenty Tests going into the Twenty20 world event.

Australia have six ODIs against England and Ireland during the summer and no Twenty20s scheduled, though most of their top players have taken part in the Indian Premier League while England and Zimbabwe will play four T20s each; Sri Lanka, India and West Indies three each and South Africa seven.

The counterpoint by those who push for such a one-tracked philosophy is the inconsistency of the Tigers in the shorter formats but there is no reason why they shouldn't be well prepared by playing longer formats, even one-day games, ahead of a Twenty20 mega event.

Christie lays down marker

AFP, London

Usain Bolt will find it tough to repeat the sprint double at the London Olympics because there is stiffer competition than four years ago, former 100m champion Linford Christie warned on Friday.

Bolt, the fastest man on the planet, won the 100m and 200m Olympic titles in Beijing in 2008 in world-record times and then ran even faster in both events at the World Championships in Berlin in 2009.

Briton Christie, the 1992 Olympic 100m gold medalist, said Bolt remained the favourite to defend his titles, but would face a strong field in London.

"Bolt is fast but the competition will be cut-throat this time," Christie told reporters during a visit to Bangalore to promote a marathon.

"There is Tyson Gay, Asafa Powell, Nesta Carter and others. The way Bolt won in 2008...it may not happen that way. Someone, somewhere will come up."

Christie slammed the way Bolt was disqualified from the 100m at last year's world championships in Daegu, South Korea, due to one false start.

"It is not good," he said of the existing rule. "It takes away the explosive starts that are such an important part of sprints. Now the athletes are just waiting back for the starter's pistol to go before they launch from the blocks."

Wraiths edge Old DOHS

SPORTS REPORTER

Wraiths defeated Old DOHS 57-53 in the Citycell Metropolis First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 28-26.

Shuvo caged 18 points and Samin netted 15 for Wraiths while Mamun caged maximum 23 points for Old DOHS.

In the second match of the day, The Shaons beat out-played Josephites 69-21 after leading the first half 38-6.

Clarke to quit cricket before his late 30s

AGENCIES, Melbourne

Just-married Australia captain Michael Clarke has said that he will quit cricket before he passed his mid-30s, unlike many of his predecessors.

Clarke said he won't continue to play on into his late 30s like former Australian captains Steve Waugh who played till 38, and Ricky Ponting who, at 37, is still there in the fray.

The 31-year-old said he has been 'blessed' by cricket and marriage to Kyly Boldy and would be settling down within a few years.

"I am enjoying playing now but in time I won't be the guy playing at 38, 39, 40," Clarke was quoted as saying by the Australian media.

"I hope I can have my impact in a short space of time and then be finished. I would love to see the team have success, achieve what it can achieve," he added.

Clarke said that he will draw curtains to his career the moment he finished as Australia skipper, unlike Ponting who has continued to play under his successor for 10 months.

But before that Clarke said toppling South Africa this summer and then top-ranked ranked England were his priorities.

"I have so many goals I want to see this team achieve and when my time is up, it is up," he said.

Clarke will lead Australia in a five-match ODI series against England from June 29.

Cseh makes swim history for Hungary

AFP, Debrecen

Laszlo Cseh became the first Hungarian swimmer to win 10 career European Championship gold medals on Thursday as the host nation raced away with four of the day's seven titles.

Israel also grabbed a little bit of history when Jonatan Kopelev, in the 50m backstroke, claimed a first European gold for his country.

Cseh, a medley specialist, took gold in the 200m butterfly in a time of 1min 54.95sec with compatriot Bence Biczko taking second place in 1:55.85.

The win was a perfect morale boost for the 26-year-old Cseh -- an Olympic silver medallist in 2008 over the distance -- two months out from the London Games.

Cseh, usually reserved and low-profile, burst into tears at the medal ceremony as he won his second title of the week, having captured the 200m medley on Wednesday.

He can win a third on Sunday when he goes in the 400m medley.

Hungary now have nine titles from the four days of competition.

On Thursday, Daniel Gyurta won the 200m breaststroke in 2min 0.60sec, defeating Marco Koch of Germany (2:09.26).

Boglarka Kapas, with a time of 8min 26.49sec, clinched the women's 800m freestyle title, finishing ahead of France's Coralie Balmy (8:27.79) and compatriot Eva Rizsztov (8:27.87).

Roger bets on Rafael

AFP, Paris

Roger Federer on Friday backed six-time champion Rafael Nadal to shatter Novak Djokovic's historic bid to become the first man in 43 years to hold all four Grand Slam titles.

World number one Djokovic already has the Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open crowns in his possession and a first French Open triumph in two weeks' time would make him the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to complete the sweep.

But Federer believes that it is Nadal, chasing an unprecedented seventh Roland Garros title, who will be making history here, and not the Serb.

"Rafa is the favourite for me," said Federer, the 2009 champion in Paris.

"I think he lost only two sets between Rome, Monte Carlo, and Barcelona, so that's a pretty good start."

"Then he's playing for his seventh title, so no discussion. We're crazy to even talk about this. Some people might say he's not the favourite, but to me he's the favourite."

"I played him so many times here. I know how incredible he can be here in Roland Garros."

"As for Novak, with all his results lately, he's one of the big favourites. Likewise for me with everything I accomplished. But for me it would be Rafa, Novak, and me in third position."</