



Andrew Strauss sweeps one on his way to 141 against West Indies on the third day of the second Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

England eye series win

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

West Indies' latest top-order collapse left England on the brink of a series-clinching victory in the second Test at Trent Bridge here on Sunday. The tourists had slumped to 61 for six in their second innings at stumps on the third day.

That gave them a lead of just three runs after England had made a first innings 428 featuring captain Andrew Strauss's second hundred in as many Tests.

Marlon Samuels (13 not out) and West Indies captain Darren Sammy (nought not out), who both made hundreds in the first innings, were together at the close.

Earlier in this match they'd shared a stand of 204 but it was now going to take something special, with two days left, to prevent world number ones England, who won the first Test at Lord's by five wickets, from going 2-0 up in this three-match series.

James Anderson removed both West Indies openers in a spell of two wickets for

three runs in eight balls while fellow seamer Tim Bresnan followed up with three for nine in 26.

Anderson bowled Kieran Powell for one and then had Adrian Barath lbw for seven.

Shivnarine Chandernaul walked out at number four instead of his usual number five slot when the tourists were forced into a rejig as regular number three Kirk Edwards was suffering with 'flu.

So far this series, Chandernaul had come to the crease at 86 for three, 36 for three and 42 for three.

But having batted for over 10 hours in total at Lord's and spent more than two hours compiling 46 in the first innings of this match, Chandernaul batted for just 24 minutes on Sunday.

The left-hander had made a mere 11 when his renowned concentration faltered as he fell into a hooking trap, top-edging Stuart Broad's bouncer to Jonathan Trott at long leg.

And when Darren Bravo, who took Edwards's spot at three, was lbw to Bresnan -- the desperate review showed the ball hitting

middle stump -- West Indies were 45 for four and still 13 runs adrift of making England bat again.

They avoided the embarrassment of an innings defeat when Samuels clipped Bresnan for a boundary through mid-wicket.

But in the space of three balls Bresnan had Ramdin and Edwards lbw, the latter out for nought. England resumed Sunday on 259 for two in reply to West Indies' first innings 370. Strauss was 102 not out and Kevin Pietersen 72 not out.

It was left-handed opener Strauss's second century of the series after he ended an 18-month wait for a Test ton with 122 at Lord's. England were still behind when Strauss was out at 363 for seven. But West Indies, who bowled well, then had to suffer a frustrating eighth-wicket stand of 53 between Bresnan (39 not out) and Broad (25).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between England and the West Indies at Trent Bridge on Sunday:
West Indies: First innings 370 (Samuels

England: First innings (overnight: 259-2)				
Strauss c Ramdin b Sammy	141			
Cook c Ramdin b Rampaul	24			
Trott lbw b Rampaul	35			
Pietersen lbw b Rampaul	80			
Bell lbw b Roach	22			
Bairstow c Chandernaul b Roach	4			
Prior b Sammy	16			
Bresnan not out	39			
Broad c Sammy b Shillingford	25			
Swann c Sammy b Samuels	1			
Anderson lbw b Samuels	0			
Extras: (b-9, lb-10, w-4, nb-18)	41			
Total: (All out in 123.4 overs)	428			
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-123, 3-267, 4-300, 5-308, 6-336, 7-363, 8-416, 9-426				
Bowler				
Roach	25	1	90	2
Rampaul	32	8	75	3
Sammy	34	3	120	2
Shillingford	26	4	110	1
Samuels	6.4	2	14	2

West Indies: Second innings				
Barath lbw b Anderson	7			
Powell b Anderson	1			
Bravo lbw b Bresnan	22			
Chandernaul c Trott b Broad	11			
Samuels not out	13			
Ramdin lbw b Bresnan	6			
Edwards lbw b Bresnan	0			
Sammy not out	0			
Extras: (b-1)	1			
Total: (For 6 wks in 26 overs)	61			
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-14, 3-31, 4-45, 5-61, 6-61				
Bowler				
Anderson	7	2	12	2
Broad	11	4	36	1

Bangoura tames

FROM PAGE 16
minute after Bangoura played a one-two with Ajagun Abdul Rasheed to enter the box before the Guinean placed the ball at the near post. Siyo Zunapio, Farashganj's Congolese striker, pulled one back with a close-range effort from a corner on the 64th minute.

But Bangoura restored the two-goal margin with his third of the game in the 75th minute after Farashganj goalkeeper hesitated to clear a long ball and Bangoura pounced on it to tap it in. The goal completed a fine treble for the Guinean and earned his side three valuable points.

Will lightning

FROM PAGE 18
"I want players who can make up a strong team, both on and off the pitch. If you can create a compact group it is vastly important.

"It is important that the player gains this experience so that it makes him less nervous and allows him to develop as a personality within the group."

Santos, who will announce his squad to go on an Austrian training camp on May 11, looks to have opted for Panathinaikos' goalkeeper Orestis Karnezis as first choice, with two attacking fullbacks in Olympiakos duo Vasilis Torosidis and Jose Cholembas.

In midfield, he has tried out two youngsters, Giorgos Fotakis and Giannis Fetatzidis, but is more likely to call on grizzled veterans Kostas Katsouranis and team captain Giorgos Karagounis.

Charisteas remains in contention up front but Santos is expected to deploy wingers Giorgos Samaras -- fresh from winning the Scottish title with Celtic -- and Dimitris Salpingidis with Fanis Gekas as the target man as they seek a cutting edge.

Del Potro gets thru'

FROM PAGE 16
next faces Irina Falconi of the United States. Stosur, who also kicked-off the 2011 tournament, said she was getting used to the French Open Sunday starts which were introduced in 2006.

"The first year they had it, there were only a few matches and it didn't feel like the tournament had really started, it didn't feel like it was happening with fewer players around," she said.

"But now with a full schedule, it really feels like the first day of the event."

Joining Stosur in the next round was Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova.

The 2009 champion, seeded 26 this year, marked her 40th Grand Slam appearance with a comfortable 6-1, 6-3 win over Croatian world number 117 Mirjana Lucic.

The 26-year-old Russian, who was also runner-up in 2006, brushed aside the 30-year-old Florida-based Lucic in just 61 minutes.

Kuznetsova, also the 2004 US Open champion, next tackles either Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine or Taiwan qualifier Chan Yung-Jan. Despite Baltacha's defeat to Stosur, British

T20 summer promises

FROM PAGE 16
in the country. As a result, someone like a Ziaur or Alauddin can expect a call-up; Ziaur can consider himself in the forefront of the selectors' mind because he is adaptable in the limited overs format and has proven himself in the Bangladesh Premier League where someone like Nazmul Hossain Milon couldn't live up to his billing as a big-hitter.

Another name that comes to mind is Mominul Haque, who impressed for Barisal Burners in the BPL and is looked at as a long-term prospect. It would probably be best to blood the youngster next season after all the Twenty20s are over.

In the bowling stakes, Enamul Haque proved himself as a class apart in the BPL while also doing well in first-class and one-day cricket in the domestic scene but since so much emphasis is on finding bowlers with some batting talent, he might lose out to Elias Sunny.

But one must also remember that Twenty20 is for specialists and it can be a perfect platform for a specialist. Enamul could lay a claim with only his bowling as much as Zia can be let go in the top of the order or used as a late-over slogger. It promises to be an interesting time leading up to the Sri Lanka event but it would be some sort of a disappointment if a new talent is not unearthed over the summer. If the BPL was a domestic tournament that gave the players an international flavour, the next few months will be its first test as a competition.

hopes were boosted when Laura Robson, who had lost in qualifying, was handed a spot in the main draw as a 'lucky loser' after Spain's Silvia Soler-Espinosa pulled out with an injury.

Former Wimbledon junior champion Robson will face Anabel Medina Garrigues.

Robson joined fellow qualifier Heather Watson, Baltacha and Anne Keothavong in the main draw, making it the most British women in the first round in Paris for 21 years.

With drawcards such as Djokovic, Nadal, Federer, Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams all spared opening day duty, the likes of Venus Williams and top French man Jo-Wilfried Tsonga get a chance to impress later Sunday.

Williams, now ranked 53 in the world after battling energy-sapping Sjogren's Syndrome, was runner-up in Paris in 2002, losing the final to sister Serena.

The 31-year-old begins her 15th Roland Garros against Argentina's Paula Ormaechea. Tsonga, who sparked controversy on the eve of the tournament, by claiming that French players had no chance of winning their home Grand Slam, takes on Russian qualifier Andrey Kuznetsov, the world 159.

Joy threatened

FROM PAGE 16
Joy, however, denied the allegations and countered by alleging that Kamal Babu has a tendency of keeping the referees under pressure during matches.

"It is quite an impossible and baseless allegation," said Joy. "They might have heard me wrong as I was instructing my players to play well on the pitch or otherwise they would be pulled out of the game."

"It is a strategy of Farashganj coach, who has been doing this for last eight to nine years in an effort to keeping the referee under pressure," said the former national captain.

Joy thought said he believes that no BFF official should be allowed to sit in the dugout with the teams. Worth mentioning here that, BFF members Amirul Islam Babu and Satyajit Das Rupu also sit in the dugout with Mohammedan and Abahani respectively.

Div-II h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Old Bandura Nabin Setu Sangha made a good start in the super-four of the Igloo Metropolis 2nd Division Men's Handball beating Quantum Foundation by 34-26 goals in the opening match at the Shaheed (Capt) M Mansoor Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 17-11 goals. Ratul scored 10 goals and Rakib scored eight goals for the winners while Dalian netted seven goals for the losing side.

In the day's other match, Star Sports managed a 38-31 goal victory over Flame Boys Club after leading the first half by 21-15 goals.

Europa's winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

Europa Youth opened their Citycell Premier Division Basketball League on a high note as they defeated newly-promoted Flame Boys by 91-25 points in the opening match at Dhanmondi Basketball gymnasium yesterday.

Europa dominated the first half by 40-8 points. Akash caged 16 points while and Bappi netted 15 points for the winners. Shakib contributed with 12 points for the losing side.

Jnr athletics meet today

SPORTS REPORTER

The 28th National Junior (Age Group) Athletics competition will be held today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Some 400 athletes, including 125 girls from affiliated districts, divisions, organisations and educational institutions are expected to participate in the meet.

SL players gagged

CRICINFO, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) is set to tighten up on players' interaction with the media. From now on, Sri Lanka players will have to obtain prior permission from SLC CEO Ajith Jayasekera before speaking with any media personnel. A letter to this effect is to be drafted by Jayasekera, in consultation with SLC lawyer Harsha Amarasekera, and sent to all the contracted players.

A spokesman for SLC said that this regulation may also be included as a clause in the players' contracts. The players are expected to sign their new contracts before the start of the series against Pakistan, which begins on June 1.

The executive committee of SLC had also decided to write a "mild" letter to former captain Kumar Sangakkara, regarding an interview he had given to a newspaper.

'Uninterrupted Euro'

SPORTS REPORTER



If you are a football fan and ready to spend sleepless nights for just over three weeks starting from June 8 when the Euro 2012 kicks off in Ukraine and Poland, Maasranga TV cordially invites you to an 'uninterrupted' roller-coaster ride in what is considered as the second-best football show in the world after the World Cup.

Maasranga, a private satellite TV channel, has won the bragging rights to telecast all the thirty-one Euro 2012 games including the July 2 final live for a football-mad audience in Bangladesh. And in its first venture of this magnitude, which is also a first by a private TV channel of the country, Maasranga's managing director Anjan Chowdhury promised that the coverage would be uninterrupted and there would be no break for news or anything else when a match is on.

"There will be no interruption or break during games. We will also show both games one after another without any break in case two matches start at the same time," said Chowdhury while making a formal announcement at a local hotel yesterday.

Football fans here have previously watched events of this magnitude on state-

owned Bangladesh Television, which has an uncompromising history of switching to its regulation news bulletins in the middle of a live game, be it football or cricket.

Chowdhury said football is the most followed sport in our country despite the fact that the game has lost a lot of gloss and popularity in the domestic front.

"We have invited a few former footballers here who are now holding important posts in the BFF [Bangladesh Football Federation]. It is a privilege to have them with us but more importantly it's an effort to put pressure on them so that they can bring back popularity of our football," said Chowdhury while he was introducing BFF's senior vice-president Salam Murshedy, vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed and member Satyajit Das Rupu on the dais.

It was understandably a promotional event of a private television channel and they sought cooperation from others so that they could reach as much audience as possible, fully aware of that fact that access to satellite TVs in remote places of the country is still a far cry.

However, for those who have access to satellite TVs can rest assured of one thing -- 'uninterrupted' service from Maasranga.

But first they better check if there is a guarantee of 'uninterrupted' power supply.



Anjan Chowdhury (2nd from L), the managing director of Maasranga TV, speaks during a press conference at a city hotel yesterday in connection with the channel's live coverage of Euro 2012.

PHOTO: COURTESY

KKR clinch

FROM PAGE 16
when Munjo Tiwari hit Dwayne Bravo for successive fours down to the square leg boundary.

Earlier, it appeared to be a similar tale for Chennai in their third straight playoff match that put them in prime position for their third consecutive IPL title. After MS Dhoni and M Vijay, it was the turn of Suresh Raina to pull off a blinder. He walked in with Super Kings already in a position of strength, with Michael Hussey (54) and M Vijay (42) clicking again, and proceeded to pulverise the best of the Kolkata Knight Riders bowlers.

Mystery bowler Sunil Narine looked ordinary in the face of Raina onslaught. The left-hander struck 73 off only 38 balls with the help of three fours and five sixes. Brett Lee was swiped over midwicket on his way to figures of 4-0-42-0, nullifying the decision to include him and provide additional firepower to the Knight Riders attack. But eventually it made little or no difference for the class of 2012.

SCORES IN BRIEF
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 190 for 3 (Raina 73, Hussey 54, Vijay 42; Shakib 1-25)
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 192 for 5 in 19.4 overs (Bisla 89, Kallis 69, Shakib 11 not out)

Result: Knight Riders won the final by 5 wickets.

Man of the Match: Bisla
Man of the Series: Sunil Narine

Central contracts for Afridi, Malik

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan on Saturday awarded former captains Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Malik central contracts, which saw players given a 25 per cent hike in their monthly salaries.

Afridi's contract was suspended after he fell out with the former Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt, who replaced him as one-day captain in May last year.

After he was sacked, the 32-year-old announced his retirement from international cricket, which prompted the PCB to suspend his contract.

Afridi returned to international cricket after Butt was replaced by Zaka Ashraf as PCB chairman in October last year.

The announcement means that Afridi has regained his place in the 'A' category of the contracts.

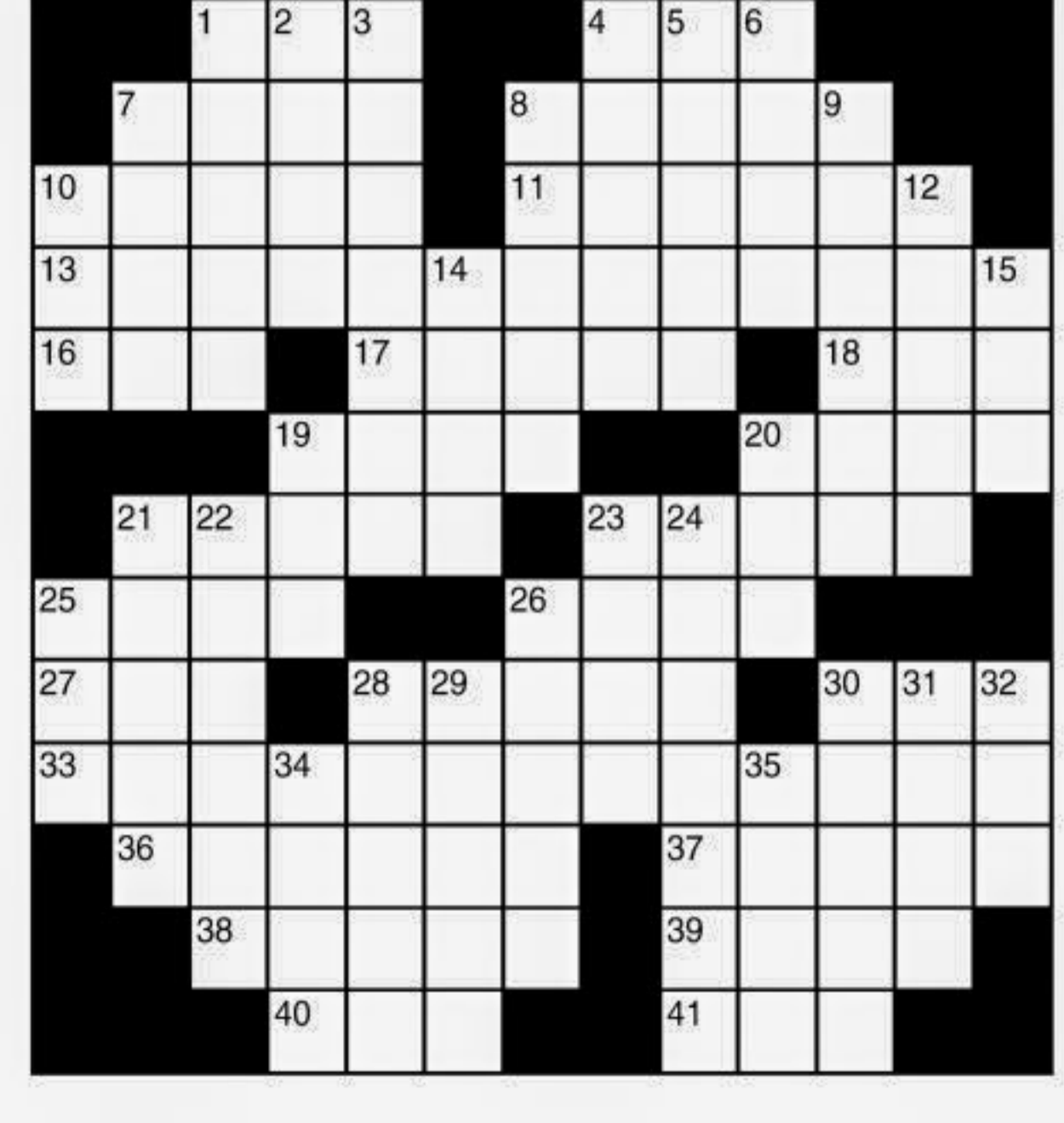
Pakistan's one-day and Test captain Misbahul Haq, Younis Khan, Twenty20 captain Mohammad Hafeez, Umar Gul, Saeed Ajmal and Abdul Rehman also retained their places in the 'A' category and will receive a monthly salary of 313,000 rupees (3,400 dollars) per month. Umar Akmal was elevated from 'B' to the 'A' grade.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Day segments (Abbr.)	28 Metric measures
4 "Hail, Caesar!"	30 "Help!" (Abbr.)
7 Shaft of light	33 Classic comedy starring
8 Trap	13- Across
10 "Who ya — call?"	36 Tried hard
11 Lube job	37 Just one
13 "The Seven Year Itch" star	38 Stay in one place, like
16 Weep	39 Drones
17 Hermit	40 Prepared
18 Charged bit	41 Golf gizmo
19 Moist in the morn	
20 Scored 100 on	
21 Spin	
23 Arousing suspicion	
25 Actress	
26 "A — home is ..."	
27 Spring mo.	
9 Improve	
10 Yukon SUV manufacturer	
12 Viscous	
14 Cry of distress	
15 Conclusion	
19 Noise	
20 Donkey style	
21 Mistakes in print	
22 Ardor	
23 Partner of — of fortune	
24 Perception	
25 — "Kapital"	
26 Creator	
28 Michael Jackson prop	
29 Construction site fastener	
30 Disgrace	
31 "My bad"	
32 Canonized Mlle.	
34 Cupid's alias	
35 Verifiable	

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	A	N	D	A	B	A	E	L	A	N
O	R	E	O	S	O	D	M	E	M	O
T	E	A	R	S	N	O	W	C	A	P
C	A	P	S	T	A	N	H	E	S	S
A	N	Y	W	E	E					
S	T	I	L	T	A	N	D	O	O	R
A	I	D	T	U	X	A	W	E		
D	O	O	R	M	A	T	F	A	R	E
		A	U	G	L	I	D			
F	R	A	N	C	M	A	T	L	O	C
L	O	C	K	H	E	E	D	I	S	L
A	B	E	L	R	O	E	B	L	O	G
W	E	R	E	A	N	N	S	O	T	S



CRYPTOQUIP

NGZH ZLUJLXM JLU DX
DQWVJU ZC, UDX OZLMS EZLUJO
Z OUGZCCS HXNGXWUXM Z
MHJV QE VHZCJLX WQCGUJQL.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO RIVERBED EXPERTS HAVE SIMILAR OPINIONS, THEY PROBABLY EXCLAIM "MY SEDIMENTS EXACTLY!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals T