Pakistan to increase speed

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan said Sunday they would add pacemen Tanveer Ahmed and Rahat Ali to their squad for the three-Test series in South Africa starting next week. The Pakistan Cricket

Board (PCB) said the team, currently playing a four-day tour opener in East London before the first Test in Johannesburg, sent a request for the extra bowlers. "After considering the

conditions and duration of the tour in South Africa the Pakistan team management has requested the national selection committee to send two fast bowlers," said a PCB press release, adding that they would reach South Africa before the start of the first Test on Friday.

Ahmed, 34, played the last of his four Tests in the West Indies in 2011 and has also played two oneday matches, while 24year-old left-armer Ali played one limited-overs international in Sri Lanka last year before he was discarded.

Pakistan will also play two Twenty20s and five one-day internationals on the tour. A squad for the limited-overs matches will be announced next month.

Slagter wins Tour Down Under

AFP, Adelaide

Dutchman Tom-Jelte Slagter from Blanco Pro Cycling won the seasonopening UCI WorldTour Down Under on Sunday. Slagter stayed out of

trouble in the final 90kilometre stage through the streets of Adelaide to win the general classification in 18hr 28min 32sec, finishing 17 seconds ahead of Spaniard Javier Moreno (Movistar) and 25 clear of British rider Geraint Thomas (Sky Pro Cycling).

German Andre Greipel from Lotto Belisol won the mass sprint to take out the final stage, his third stage win of the tour and his 14th overall. Australian Mark

Renshaw (Blanco Pro Cycling) finished second on the final stage with Sky Pro Cycling's Edvald Boasson Hagen third. Slagter, 23, went into the

final day with a 13-second advantage after a brilliant ride to finish second to Simon Gerrans in Saturday's penultimate stage up Old Willunga Hill.

He was never in any real danger of losing the ochre leader's jersey and stayed safely in the peloton for the duration of the race.

The real attack came from Thomas, who lost the leader's jersey to Slagter on Saturday, slipping from first to fifth in the process.

Thomas won the first intermediate sprint and came third in the second to pick up enough bonus seconds to move him to third place, leapfrogging Spaniard Jon Izagirre (Euskaltel Euskadi) and Belgium's Hermans Ben (Radioshack Leopard).

NSC changes FROM PAGE 16

should be passed in an EGM with a two-third majority.

Kobirul Hasan, the law officer of the NSC, stated that they would appeal against the High Court's verdict today.



England batsman Ian Bell slashes at one during his unbeaten century against India in the 5th one-day-international in Dharamsala on Sunday. PHOTO: INTERNET

England narrow gap

Cricket

PTI, Dharamsala

India paid the price for some poor shot selection by their top-order batsmen as England rode on Ian Bell's unbeaten century to salvage some pride by winning the fifth and final one-dayer by seven wickets and reduce the margin of defeat to 3-2 in Dharamsala on Sunday.

The visitors first dismissed the hosts for a modest 226 and then relied on Bell's third ODI ton -- 113 not out -- to overhaul the target with 16 balls to spare at the picturesque HPCA Stadium which hosted its first international match.

The Indians, who had already clinched the series in Mohali by taking an unassailable 3-1 lead, were done in by some poor shots by their top-order batsmen and could never really recover from the early jolts fuss, punishing the despite Suresh Raina's bowlers for loose balls and brilliant effort of 83 under pressure.

Tim Bresnan caused the bulk of the damage with 4 for 45 while Steven Finn and James Tredwell chipped in with two wickets apiece as the English bowlers exploited the bowlerfriendly conditions after winning the toss and putting

majors, but he still is yet to make a break-

through in Australia after losing a third

Djokovic's win went against the odds of

recent finals at Melbourne Park. In four of

the past five years, the player who won his

semifinal second has won the tourna-

ment. But this year, Djokovic played his

semifinal on Thursday -- an easy three-

set, 89-minute minute win over No. 4-

seeded David Ferrer. Murray needed five

energy sapping sets to beat 17-time major

The win consolidated Djokovic's posi-

tion as the No. 1-ranked player in the

world, while Federer and Murray will be

second and third when the ATP rankings

Their last two matches in Grand Slams -

- Murray's five-set win at last year's US

Open and Djokovic's victory here last year

in five in the semifinals -- had a total of 35

It was a vastly different, more tactical

Murray, who called for a trainer to

retape blisters on his right foot at the end

of the second set, was visibly annoyed by

noise from the crowd during his service

games in the third set, stopping his service

motion twice until the crowd quieted

down. After dropping the third set, he

complained about the noise to chair

times, kicking the ball football-style back

over the net after he hit a forehand long

during a lengthy point, and muttering to

battle on Sunday, with the first two tight

winner Roger Federer on Friday night.

are released Monday.

sets decided in tiebreakers.

service breaks.

umpire John Blom.

final here in the last four years.

FROM PAGE 16

the home side into bat. The Indians slumped to

a precarious 79 for five as Gautam Gambhir (24), Rohit Sharma (4), Virat Kohli (0), Yuvraj Singh (0) and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (15) perished in quick succession with some of them playing atrocious shots. Raina's brilliant counter-

attacking 83 off 98 balls and and some useful contributions from Ravindra Jadeja (39) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (31) took India to 226. In their bid to chase

down the target of 227, England openers Alastair Cook and Ian Bell started confidently putting in 53 runs before Ishant Sharma, who bowled an incisive first spell, broke the partnership. Bell, by far England's

most consistent ODI player in recent times, carried on with minimum also guiding the talented Joe Root as the duo cruised along in their 79-run third wicket stand.

Bell was joined by another seasoned pro in Eoin Morgan who hit Ravichandran Ashwin for a huge six followed by even bigger sixes off Shami Ahmed's bowling as they

Novak creates Open history

closed the match with consummate ease. **SCOREBOARD**

INDIA Gambhir c Bell b Tredwell R Sharma c Tredwell b Bresnan Kohli cTredwell b Bresnan Yuvraj c Morgan b Finn Raina c Bell b Woakes Dhoni Ibw b Finn Jadeja c Bell b Tredwell Ashwin c Finn b Patel Kumar c Finn b Bresnan Shamic&bBresnan I Sharma not out Extras: (lb-4, w-6) Total: (All out in 49.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-13, 3-24, 4-49, 5-79,6-157,7-177,8-211,9-225

Bowler

Finn	10	2	27	
Bresnan	9.4	1	45	
Woakes	9	1	45	
Tredwell	10	1	25	
Root	5	0	34	
Patel	6	0	46	
ENGLAND				
Cook b I Shar	ma			2
Bellnotout				11
Pietersen c Ja	adeja b Sha	mi		
Root b Jadeja	1			3
Morgan not o	out			4
Extras: (lb-8,	, w-7)			1
Total: (For 3 v	wkts in 47.2	2 over	s)	22
Did not ba				ake
Tredwell, Fin	n, Bresnan			
Fall of wicket			143	
Bowler	0	M	R	١
Kumar	9	1	45	- 0
	-			

Bowler	0	M	R
Kumar	9	1	45
Shami	9	1	46
ISharma	10	3	37
Ashwin	10	0	50
Yuvraj	2	0	15
Jadeja	7.2	0	26

himself while sitting down in his chair

during changeovers. But both players

were guilty of making unforced errors,

often ending long rallies with shots into

Murray's fans came dressed for the occa-

sion, with some wearing "Braveheart"-style

wigs, Scottish flags painted on their faces

and tartan caps. One group of men wore

white T-shirts with black letters that spelled

out A-N-D-Y; they serenaded Murray at the

caps and flags in the stadium, as well as

fans calling "Ajde!" or "Come on!" in

Serbian to support Djokovic. Retired NBA

basketball star Vlade Divac was sitting in

convert the break points in the first set,

frequently looking up to his box and yelling

Although Djokovic went into the match

with a 10-7 lead in head-to-heads, Murray

had beaten Djokovic five out of eight

times in tiebreakers, and that improved to

six of nine after four unforced errors by

second set, when Murray also didn't help his

cause by double-faulting to give Djokovic a

3-2 lead, and the Serbian player didn't trail

again in the tiebreaker. He leveled the match

four-time Australian champion's first trip

Down Under in nearly 10 years -- and he

later presented the trophy to Djokovic.

Andre Agassi was among those in the

Djokovic pegged back that edge in the

Djokovic to end the first set.

after nearly 2 hours, 15 minutes.

Djokovic also appeared frustrated at capacity crowd at Rod Laver Arena -- the

at the members of his team and himself.

Djokovic looked agitated after failing to

There were a number of Serbian shirts,

the net or long.

start of the first two sets.

Djokovic's box.

Gooch chooses Test only

REUTERS, London

Graham Gooch has stepped down as batting coach for England's oneday and Twenty20 teams and will focus exclusively on the Test side, the **England and Wales Cricket** Board (ECB) said in a statement on Sunday.

Graham Thorpe, like Gooch one of England's most successful batsman of the past 25 years, takes over as batting coach for the limited overs matches for the tour of New Zealand starting next month. The demands of the

three forms of the game has already led England head coach Andy Flower to step down from one-dayers and Twenty 20s with Ashley Giles taking over.

India regain FROM PAGE 16

a gap of three years.

England, which had started on 121 ratings points, slipped to 119 ratings points after the series loss, only to see India finish ahead of it by 0.2 when the ratings are calculated beyond the decimal point.

India had become the number-one ranked side after winning the third match of the series on January 19 and then held onto the spot thereafter.

England had gained the number-one spot in September 2012, while it is the second time since September 2009 that India has topped the current ranking system since it was introduced in 2002. India's cause was also

helped by South Africa, which lost to New Zealand 1-2. As a result, South Africa lost nine ratings points and dropped from second to fourth position, one ratings point behind third-ranked Australia.

New Zealand gained seven ratings points and moved ahead of Bangladesh into eighth position with 79 ratings points.

Meanwhile, Australia and Sri Lanka have retained their pre-series ODI ratings after their series ended in a two-all draw. Australia is now third at 113 ratings points while Sri Lanka is three ratings points behind in fifth spot.

MSC booters

FROM PAGE 16

and C

21 Crucial

23 Liquid

22 Crowbar

26 Doctor's

Buscaglia

chusetts

30 Hoedown

site

31 Massa-

cape

32 Carriage

33 Charged

bit

due

27 Writer

short

51 Member-

Solution time: 27 mins.

W O O D N A G T E A L A D D E M I G R E

A P S E A G A L O R E

STOLE

EMOTEDBR

ABATEANY

EMERGENCY

ship

condition of anonymity, said that the players have been assured that the dues will be cleared after the match against Brothers Union.

Fell with the feather?

AFP, Melbourne

Britain's Andy Murray refused

to blame his blisters and hamstring trouble for defeat in the Australian Open final -- but he admitted a falling feather may have played a role.

The world number three initially looked firmly in control, but a blunder in the second-set tiebreaker helped hand the momentum to defending champion Novak Djokovic, who never gave it back. US Open champion Murray, a set up

and 2-2 in the tie-breaker, halted in the middle of a second serve to catch a white feather as it floated to the ground. It broke his concentration and he double-faulted, helping Djokovic win the

set. The Serb then reeled off the third and fourth sets for victory as Murray was increasingly hampered by foot blisters and a tight hamstring. Afterwards, Murray conceded that

stopping for the feather, from one of dozens of white seagulls flying around Rod Laver Arena, may have been a mistake. "I mean, I could have served. It just

caught my eye before I served. I thought it was a good idea to move it," Murray said late on Sunday. "Maybe it wasn't because I obviously double-faulted. No, you know, at this level

it can come down to just a few points here or there." Djokovic called the double-fault

'crucial" as he was able to finally gain a

foothold in the match and win.

"He made a crucial double-fault there. I tried to use the momentum and step in on the second serve. I played it well," Djokovic told Australian TV.

However, Murray, 25, said his best chance for victory came at the start of the second set, when he let Djokovic off the hook by blowing three break points.

"Probably my biggest chance was at the beginning of the second set, didn't quite get it," he said. "When Novak had his chance [to break] at the end of the third, he got his."

And despite constantly grimacing, and noticeably slowing, towards the end of the match, Murray insisted his blisters and sore hamstring had not made the difference between defeat and victory.

"It's just a bit sore when you're running around. It's not like pulling a calf muscle or something. It just hurts when you run," he said of the foot blisters. "But it's not something that stops you

from playing. There's certain things that hurt when you run or hit the ball, especially blisters, but it's not something that stops you from playing or stops you from running for balls." Murray missed out on becoming the

only man to win his first two major titles back-to-back. But the Briton, who wept when he lost the 2010 Melbourne final and last year's Wimbledon decider, took his defeat calmly. "No one's ever won a Slam, the

immediate one after winning their first one. It's not the easiest thing to do. And I got extremely close," he said.

Port city ready for BPL FROM PAGE 16

different points in city.

The MA Aziz Stadium was the site of Bangladesh's first Test win against Zimbabwe on January 10, 2005. It was the seventh and last Test held at the venue, which also hosted eight ODIs.

Around Tk 2.15 crore has been spent to renovate and facelift the stadium in preparation for its return to cricket. The floodlights, dressing rooms, media centre, pavilion and the playing field have all been improved, said local organisers. Organisers hope that success in BPL's Chittagong leg

will pave the way for the city to host matches of the ICC World Twenty20 in 2014. Starting today, the BPL matches will continue till February 2 with a break on January 30. To make the event successful and attract spectators,

the local organisers also declared many awards for the ticket holders. Manjur Alam, mayor of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) said that the corporation will distribute over 2,000 tickets to students of schools run by CCC. AZM Nasir Uddin, Secretary of Chittagong Jela Krira

Sangstha (CJKS) urged all cricket fans of the city to enjoy the matches peacefully so that no untoward incidents take place. "Chittagong has a good reputation in the cricket arena and we want to uphold it," he added.

2nd leg begins today **FROM PAGE 16**

star Tim

9 Cruising

10 Authentic

ADOPT

bowlful

goddess

36 Intelligent

37 Brilliance

38 Knocks

39 Curved

40 Vicinity

42 Invite

43 Writer

41 Big bash

initials

Sheehy

44 Nervous

molding

35 Parthe-

non

foreign players while releasing some of their first-leg players, including Nigerian hitman Mike Otojareri, who was the second-highest scorer in the Federation Cup. But dislodging Sheikh Russel off the top will not be an

easy task for either of the two giants as the Sheikh Russel themselves have made a valuable inclusion to their side in the form of Nigerian Alamu Bukola, who is all too familiar with the domestic circuit and the coaching style of Maruful Haque.

There are other teams who could give the big three a run for their money. Mohammedan, relegation threatened Brothers Union and Arambagh also availed the mid-season transfer window to bring changes to their squads, which is bound to make the second leg all the more exciting.

rearguard recovery AFP, East London

Pakistanis'

Wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed and opening bowler Umar Gul spurred a strong showing by the touring Pakistani team on the second day of their four-day match against a South African Invitation XI at Buffalo Park on Saturday. Ahmed hit 93 and Gul

made 49 as the tourists recovered from their overnight 178 for six to reach 329 all out. Gul then took two early wickets to put the Invitation XI under pressure. They reached 213 for seven at the close in their only warm-up match before the first Test against South Africa starting in Johannesburg on Friday.

Ahmed, 25, a former Under-19 World Cup winning captain whose only Test appearance was

against Australia in Hobart last year, added 81 for the seventh wicket with Gul. Although Saeed Ajmal fell almost immediately to the second new ball,

Ahmed had partnerships of 45 for the ninth wicket with Junaid Khan and 49 for the last wicket with Mohammad Irfan before he

was last man out, caught on the boundary off Harmer.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 52 Informa-**ACROSS** 34 Curse 11 Blunders 35 Super-19 Related 1 Scenery tion 53 Thickness 20 Premarket chewer 19 4 Enersection ceding 23 Hoover's **36** Old gizes, DOWN with "up" French 1 Barber's org. 8 Give a 24 Thai coin concern 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 darn neighbor **37** List-2 Addition-12 Carte ending ally 25 Grecian 3 Title of vessel intro abbr. 26 Sly one 13 Help in 38 Cellphone respect 27 Fleur-4 Gave a wrongdoing de- add-on thumbs-42 43 44 14 Addict 45 Taj Mahal down 28 Conger, 15 "There — 5 Black city e.g. 46 Story tavern ..." 29 Insepboard 16 Romance arable 47 Blue 6 Lima's 31 Mattered novelist 48 Equal land 52 7 Added 32 Counter-49 Verve Roberts postage 17 Caboose's 50 Bookie's top 8 "Rocky material spot payment, **CRYPTOQUIP** 18 V, X Horror" **34** Luau

ULRMSLGY MR BG MGRBYMBDQL

ULBSLU MG YFL BTUMOBG

OPAGYUC QMDUBUCB. РТ

WHITE AND BUCKLEY HIT THE SACK AT NIGHT, ONE WOULD THINK THEY GO BETTY-BYE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals V

LXLUC M'XLFLBUS YFBY

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ACTRESSES