



PHOTO: AFP

Australia batsman Shane Watson hammers a square drive while scoring 122 in the 3rd ODI against West Indies at the Manuka Oval in Canberra yesterday.

Watson back with a bang

Cricket AFP, Canberra

Shane Watson hit a century on his return from injury and James Faulkner claimed four wickets as Australia beat the West Indies by 39 runs to claim their one-day international series on Wednesday.

Watson, opening the innings after four weeks out with a calf injury, smashed 122 off 111 balls. Supported by 86 from Phil Hughes, he helped Australia reach 329 for seven after winning the toss in the third ODI of the five-game series.

The home side then dismissed the West Indies for 290 off 47.3 overs with left-arm medium pacer Faulkner claiming four for 48 -- all bowled -- to achieve another emphatic victory after wins by nine wickets and 54 runs in Perth.

Watson reached his seventh ODI century off 102 balls and then set about Kumar Roach, clubbing a huge six logged at 114 metres (374 feet) into the stands. This was followed by a four as he threatened to go on for a big ton on the bat-friendly Manuka Oval pitch.

But two balls later

Watson holed out to Kieron Pollard, one of four catches to the athletic West Indian, top-edging to deep backward square leg as he went after Roach's second-last ball of his eighth over.

It was a welcome return to form for Watson before this month's four-Test tour to India.

Hughes, who gave a chance cutting through slip on six, lost the opportunity to make his third ODI century this season when he was caught behind off Darren Sammy for 86.

He scored his runs off 93 balls with 10 fours and a six. The West Indies would have had to make history to overhaul the Australian total, with their biggest previous ODI run chase 324 for eight against India at Nagpur in 2006-07.

Brothers Darren and Dwayne Bravo gave the tourists early hope with a fighting 114-run partnership for the third wicket before Mitchell Starc bowled Dwayne Bravo middle stump for 51 off 50 balls.

The wickets began to tumble, with Faulkner claiming two of them in his sixth over.

He bowled Chris Gayle for two with the first ball after drinks, and was given

a warning by the umpire for his over-zealous sending off of the batsman, before removing the dangerous Darren Bravo three balls later.

Faulkner bowled him for 86 off 96 balls to put the skids under the West Indians. He finished with two more wickets, clean-bowling spinner Sunil Narine (1) and skipper Sammy (8) to wrap up the Australian victory.

Pollard, who was run out for nine by Mitchell Johnson, earlier put in a sensational performance in the field with two stupendous catches on the boundary ropes.

Glenn Maxwell was left shaking his head when he was out to a brilliant one-handed catch for four by a leaping Pollard on the boundary as he looked to smash spinner Narine for six.

Pollard then plucked another near-replica one-handed leaping catch on the rope to end George Bailey's cameo of 44 off 22 balls and give Narine his second wicket.

The series moves to Sydney for the fourth ODI on Friday before the fifth and final match in Melbourne on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA

Watson c Pollard b Roach 122

Consensus panel in swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

Swimming organisers submitted nomination papers on the last day of nomination submission for the February 18 elections yesterday.

There had been initially four candidates, including the incumbent one, for the general secretary post. But it has been learned that the consensus will have Gazipur DSA general secretary Rafizuddin Rafiz as the new general secretary.

Incumbent Mahbubur Rahman Shahin has been kept out of the running because he is believed to be involved with the politics of Bangladesh Nationalist Party and he has been given the vice president post while two other candidates -- swimming coach Amirul Islam and MB Saif, general secretary of Awami Jubo League of Gopalganj -- have been given the joint secretary posts to make the consensus panel.

Out of 26-member committee, the organisers submitted a 23-member panel as the federation president is nominated by the government and two members are selected directly by the National Sports Council.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Finch, Hughes, Clarke, Bailey, Maxwell, Wade, Faulkner, Johnson, Extras, Total, Did not bat, West Indies, Powell, Thomas, Darren, Dwayne, Gayle, Pollard, Russell, Sarwan, Sammy, Narine, Roach, McKay, Starc, Johnson, Faulkner, Maxwell, Clarke.

Gibson staying put

Cricket AFP, St John's

Ottis Gibson is set to remain as coach of the West Indies for a further three years after it was announced Tuesday he had signed a new contract.

The former West Indies paceman had been linked with a move to English county champions Warwickshire, following Ashley Giles's appointment as England one-day coach, before the Midlands side promoted Dougie Brown from within their existing set-up.

However, Gibson -- who is presently overseeing the West Indies' tour of Australia -- has now clarified his future by signing a new three-year contract which will run till 2016.

The 43-year-old has served as West Indies coach for the past three years, from January 2010, having previously been England bowling coach.

"Ottis has added significant value to the development of the West Indies team during his tenure and we are delighted to have secured his services for another three years," West Indies Cricket Board chief executive Michael Muirhead said.

"Most notably is that he led the implementation of a system of professionalism within the team unit and curbed the negative results which we were

experiencing with some frequency.

"There have also been clear successes under his stewardship from 2010 to date. These include, most notably, having coached the team to the World Twenty20 title, the team showing consistent improvements in the other formats, the reintegration of players into the team unit and the achievement of the set goals as outlined in the WICB Strategic Plan 2011 -- 2016."

Muirhead added that whilst Gibson's tenure had not been without its problems they were part and parcel of the job.

"While there have also been some challenges along the way, these are not to be unexpected in such a dynamic and high pressure environment and the WICB looks forward to the continued development of the West Indies team through this next critical phase under Ottis' stewardship at the elite team level," Muirhead said.

Gibson, a pace bowler who played two Tests and 15 one-day internationals, said he was delighted to have been signed up for a new term.

"There is a lot to do and things to look forward to. There is the Champions Trophy in England this year, we will be defending the World T20 title in Bangladesh next year and there is the World Cup in 2015.

"These are things we have talked about and these are things the selectors have been planning for," added Gibson.

England lose T20 warm-up

Cricket AFP, Whangarei

England lost their second Twenty20 warm-up game in New Zealand when a New Zealand XI snatched a three-wicket victory off the last ball of the match here Wednesday.

A defiant 64 off 38 deliveries by Tom Latham and a final swipe to the mid-off boundary by Matt Henry denied the tourists back-to-back wins after England won the opening game by 46 runs.

Sent into bat first, England made 170 for five, largely through a batting master-class by Eoin Morgan (51) and Jos Buttler (51 not out) who put together a fifth-wicket partnership of 87 in 50 deliveries.

Michael Lumb was the only other serious contributor to the scoreboard with 45.

Hamish Rutherford (30) and Anton Devcich (33) made a brisk start to New Zealand's reply, reaching 58 in less than seven overs before Samit Patel dismissed Rutherford bringing Latham to the

crease.

Latham had a horror start to the match when he dropped a sitter of a catch in the second over, but he showed no sign of nerves with the bat, putting together a confident 64 before falling in the penultimate over.

After New Zealand had reached 162 for four with two overs remaining, Latham was the first of three wickets to fall for the addition of only four runs in the space of six deliveries as England threatened an unlikely comeback.

In a tense final over, however, New Zealand held their nerve with Henry clouting Jade Dernbach over the rope for the winning run off the final ball.

The first T20 international between England and New Zealand will be in Auckland on Saturday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 170 for 5 in 20 overs (Lumb 45, Morgan 51 not out, Buttler 51; Wagner 2-38, Ellis 2-27)

NEW ZEALAND XI: 171 for 7 in 20 overs (Rutherford 30, Devcich 33, Latham 64, Broom 16; Broad 3-24)

Result: New Zealand XI won by three wickets.

U-15s to tour West Bengal

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-15 team will leave Dhaka today for a two-week tour of West Bengal.

The visitors will play three two-day games and three one-day matches against the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Under-15 team during the tour.

SQUAD

Afif Hossain, Fahim Aryan, Mohammad Asadullah Al Galib, Asadur Rahman, Kazi Reazul Islam, Aminul Islam, Mohammad Jalal Uddin, Samir Mohammad Kutubuddin, Qazi Onik Islam, Moidul Islam, Golam Rabbi, Mohammad Mezbaur Rahman, Ishak Ali, Monirul Islam and Rabbi Hasan.

Winning

FROM PAGE 16 The Vina del Mar event is a starting point for a clay court season that culminates with the French Open in Paris starting in May.

"My aim is to compete courageously and hopefully the knee will stand up to it," Nadal said this week.

Nadal had been due to return to action at the notoriously physical Australian Open in January, but pulled out due to a viral condition.

Pep to face Barca

AFP, Berlin

Pep Guardiola's first game as Bayern Munich coach is set to be against his former club Barcelona with the Spanish giants to be hosted in a friendly at Munich's Allianz Arena on July 24.

Guardiola will succeed Jupp Heynckes as Bayern coach on July 1 and three weeks later the Bundesliga leaders will take on Barcelona in a charity match for the Uli Hoeness Cup, named after the current Munich president.

Having won 14 titles in his four years as Barcelona coach, Bayern pulled off a major coup for the German league by signing Guardiola on a three-year deal.

All revenue from the match will be donated to charity and the club are billing the game as Hoeness' belated 60th birthday present.

Guardiola quit Barcelona at the end of last season.

Injuries a concern

FROM PAGE 16

He also stated that there were a few positions in the team that were up for grabs. "There is scope for new names to emerge in the second, third and fourth positions in the batting order. The positive is that a number of batsmen have been among the runs," said Bashar.

Bangladesh used two opening pairs in the Test series against West Indies in December, with Tamim Iqbal being the constant. Both Nazimuddin and Junaed Siddique, courtesy of their poor displays, are unlikely to get opportunities on the tour.

Anamul Haque, who has been in fine touch ever since his debut in ODIs last year, has a good chance to make his Test debut in Sri Lanka.

As for the performers in the recent domestic leagues, batsman Marshal Ayub has stood apart so far. He was the top-scorer in both the National Cricket League and the Bangladesh Cricket League competitions and scored two double centuries. Shane Jurgensen is most

likely to continue his role as head coach of the national team. The BCB also decided to employ a local assistant coach from the upcoming tour onwards.

Bangladesh will play two Tests, three one-day internationals and one Twenty20 international on their month-long tour of Sri Lanka in March. The Test series will begin on March 8 with the ODI series to follow from March 23.

Div I cricket

FROM PAGE 16 overs (Hafizur Rahman 53, Ali Hossain 40; Touhidul Islam 5-42, Mahfuzur Rahman 3-43, Nuruzzaman 1-39). Result: Bangladesh Boys won by 16 runs CITY CLUB: 118 all out in 25.2 overs (Ashish 27, Saddam Hossain 27; Kazi Shamim 6-29, Mahebulah 2-43). MAGNUM CRICKETERS: 121 for 8 in 22.2 overs (Sohel Rana 33, Mostafizur Rahman 33; Jubair Hossain 5-27, Monjur Ahmed 2-45). Result: Magnum Cricketers won by two wickets.

Rajshahi, Rajbari in v'ball final

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajbari and Rajshahi districts moved into the final of the Walton Inter-District Volleyball Championship beating their respective rivals at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday. Rajbari thrashed Khagrachari in straight 3-0 sets while Rajshahi defeated Pabna in 3-1 sets in the semifinals. The final will take place on February 11 at the same venue.

Muktijoddha

FROM PAGE 16 threw water-bottle, tea cup and plates at the referee during their match against Sheikh Russel. However, those three have only been served show-cause notices. BJMC's event manager GM Haider Moni, however, has been given stadium ban as he attempted to assault the referee.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 21 mins. and Yesterday's answer: 1-2.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters U, W, U, J, C, C, F, M, D, S, M, V, G, J, M, J, B, U, H, U, Y, M, J, Y, W, I, L, U, J, E, X, I, C, O, F, C, V, Q, E, I, L, X, I, J, B, O, Y, A, X, A, V, G, A, C, H, X, M, J, C, U, I, J, E, X, G, I, Y, Y, J, C, C, S, G.

CRYPTOQUIP Yesterdays Cryptoquip: WHEN A COLONY OF RODENT'S WANTS TO ENACT A REGULATION, MUST IT THEN ULTIMATELY GET RAT-IFIED? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T