

Rutherford stakes NZ Test claim

AFP, Queenstown

Opening batsman Hamish Rutherford pressed his claim for a Test debut as a New Zealand XI made slow progress against England on the second day of a four-day warm-up match in Queenstown on Thursday.

The home side were six for 224 at stumps in reply to England's first innings total of 426, with two late wickets for the tourists swinging momentum their way.

England started the day at seven for 357 and Ian Bell added 31 to his over-night total before the first innings came to a close when he was dismissed on 158.

Rutherford, the son of former New Zealand opener Ken Rutherford, made a classy 90, including 13 fours and one six, before being bowled by Chris Woakes.

While the 23-year-old was disappointed not to bring up a century, his performance is likely to be enough to cement a Test spot in a New Zealand team missing Martin Guptill through injury.

SA-Pakistan first T20 today

CRICINFO, Durban

South Africa's summer of Test cricket is over but the sunshine and good times are not. Another three weeks of activity awaits and it is up to the limited-overs formats to turn what has been a one-sided series into a competitive, two-way street.

The balance has definitely tipped. It is no longer a No. 1 ranked team in conditions that suit them up against a side determined to prove something. Both South Africa and Pakistan, who meet in the first of two Twenty20 Internationals at Kingsmead on Friday, hover in the middle of the Twenty20 rankings at the moment. While South Africa have never tasted the success of a major trophy, Pakistan have and were responsible for dumping South Africa out of the 2009 World Twenty20 -- which they went on to win -- and beating them in both other meetings at a major tournament.

A wake up call

AFP, London

Former Arsenal footballer Tony Adams has revealed that professional cricketers are receiving treatment at his Sporting Chance clinic, in the wake of the inquest into the death of Tom Maynard. "We are already putting cricketers through the Sporting Chance Clinic, rugby players, jockeys," Adams told the Independent newspaper. Adams established his clinic after struggling with alcoholism himself.

Confident

FROM PAGE 16 series is our best chance to do something positive against Sri Lanka," said Jurgensen.

Both captain and coach expressed their optimism over the young players as they believed that the youngsters will grab the chance to prove their worth and hoped that it will be a very good and competitive series.



New Zealand XI batsman Hamish Rutherford, who hit a magnificent 90, plays the ball towards fine leg on the second day of England's four-day warm-up match in Queenstown yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Sack Whatmore: Moin



AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Moin Khan Thursday demanded the sacking of national coach Dav Whatmore following the team's 3-0 whitewash by South Africa, saying a local man should replace him.

Pakistan flopped miserably against the world number one Test team, losing the first Test by 211 runs, the second by four wickets and the last by an innings and 18 runs.

Whatmore masterminded Sri Lanka's triumph in the 1996 World Cup and led minnows Bangladesh to their first-ever Test series victory and their first appearance in the World Cup Super Eights in 2007.

But Moin said he was not up to the job. "Whatmore is an overrated coach," Moin told AFP. "There is a concept in Pakistan that a foreigner will not get involved in players' politics but Whatmore is now fighting for survival."

Former Australian batsman Whatmore took over in March last year and led Pakistan to the semifinals of the World Twenty20 tournament, but he has come under fire after two successive Test series defeats.

Moin, who managed only four wins in his 13 matches as Pakistan captain, said Sri Lanka's World Cup win in 1996 owed more to its players than Whatmore.

"Ask any player of that team and he will tell you that in 1996 Sri Lanka had world-

class players and their success was due to their players and not because of the coach," said Moin.

Moin also criticised Test and one-day captain Misbahul Haq.

"Both coach and captain are fighting for survival. They should have a plan and a vision with which they should leave the team on a firm footing but I can't see any plan. Instead, they keep their interests before the team."

Pakistan has never been short of cricketing talent but the national team has suffered over the years from bickering and infighting. Moin, who played 69 Tests, said a foreign coach could not communicate with the players properly.

"When a foreigner is our coach, our players have a communication problem and the coach is also unable to brief the players on their mistakes and it's a big problem," said Moin, a member of the World Cup-winning team in 1992.

Moin said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had blundered in replacing Mohsin Khan with Whatmore last year.

"Pakistan players were happy in Mohsin's coaching," said Moin of the former coach, under whom Pakistan routed the then-world number one Test team England in January last year.

"If Whatmore doesn't resign himself, then the PCB should sack him," he added.

Pakistan play the first of two Twenty20 Internationals against South Africa at Durban on Friday. They also play five one-day internationals on the tour.

Shooting camp ends

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-week training camp for the budding shooters has been completed yesterday at the National Shooting Complex as 47 shooters including 22 girls took part in it.

Out of those shooters, 16 shooters have been selected for the further training. All participants were taught the basic of shooting, rules and regulation, way of the practice, said a press release from the National Shooting Federation of Bangladesh yesterday.

Baridhara in second

SPORTS REPORTER

Uttar Baridhara Club notched their second victory in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League with a 2-0 win over Chittagong Abahani at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Jibon struck a brace in the 54th and 64th minute respectively for Uttar Baridhara, who climbed up to the second position with eight points from four matches, just two behind leaders Farashganj SC. Chittagong Abahani remained with six points from four matches.

In the second match, Argani Bank defeated Victoria SC by a single goal, thanks to a 67-minute strike from Shamim. The maiden win took Agrani Bank to the sixth position from the bottom with four points from as many matches.

AIUB win

FROM PAGE 16 and Stamford University beat ULAB.

A total of 32 universities took part in the eight-a-side competition, which was held for the first time in the country. The tournament was a brainchild of former national cricketers Akram Khan, Athar Ali Khan and Khaled Mashud.

Players press

FROM PAGE 16 national football team reached Nepal on Wednesday midnight and had their first practice session yesterday at the Chyasal Technical Centre while hosts Nepal Football Association declared its squad with five new faces yesterday.

On collision course?



AFP, Dubai

Novak Djokovic, the world number one, and Roger Federer, the defending champion, moved nearer to a showdown in Saturday's final when both raced into the quarterfinals of the Dubai Open.

Federer set the pace by getting there in only 71 minutes against Marcel Granollers, the world number 34 from Spain, with Djokovic taking just 90 minutes to get past another Spaniard, Roberto Bautista-Agut, the world number 55.

Djokovic applied constant pressure with his speedy court coverage and the weight and angles of his ground strokes, and might have won in under an hour had he not lapsed briefly in the second set, letting Bautista-Agut back into it.

This enabled the man nicknamed "Bati" to launch some hard blows, come from 2-5 down, and save four match points in a 24-point ninth game before going down 6-1, 7-6 (7/4).

Federer mixed phases where he appeared to be coasting, with moments when he suddenly switched two gears to deliver stunning winners, in a 6-3, 6-4 success.

He was also tactically unpredictable. Encouraged by the fast court and perhaps by his opponent's frequent charges into the forecourt, Federer came to the net more often than usual. But he was curiously unclear about why he did not attempt this more often.

"It's something I have been trying my whole life, to be more aggressive," he said. "I would like to serve-volley more -- but I'm winning, so it's okay."

"I don't know why I don't do it more. Perhaps because courts around the world are on the slower side, and you come to the quicker courts like this and you don't dare. It's a habit."

Later he explained it as an outcome of his bright new pink shoes, about which he was questioned.

"That's the problem: I come to the net

S'kara to play in tour

FROM PAGE 16

are also in the Test squad, have also been included for the fixture, but 19-year-old offspinner Tharindu Kaushal misses out, and may instead be given a Test debut in the two-Test series. Kaushal is the leading wicket-taker in the ongoing first-class tournament, having bagged 31 wickets at 13.22, with four five-wicket hauls in four matches. He had also been named in the Test squad for the home series against New Zealand in November, before he'd played any first-class or List A cricket, but didn't get a match in the series.

The Emerging XI is coached by former Sri Lanka wicketkeeper-batsman Romesh Kaluwitharana.

SQUAD

Angelo Perera (captain), Kithuruwan Vithanage, Kumar Sangakkara, Ashen

Silva, Niroshan Dickwella, Udara Jayasundera, Shehan Jayasuriya, Ashan Priyanjana, Ishan Jayaratne, Dushmantha Chameera, Kasun Madushanka, Chaturanga de Silva, Dulanjana Mendis, Ramith Rambukwella, Vishwa Fernando, Lahiru Gamage.

Cox's Bazar

FROM PAGE 16 (Nazmul Hassan Papon) made a presentation on the 2014 World Cup. We had a very fruitful meeting with the Prime Minister," said Mallick without elaborating further.

It was learnt that the BCB is going to get their desired ground at the golf course and the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry is likely to hand over the land within the next two weeks to implement the project before ICC's mega event.

U-16 football

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel came from behind to taste their first victory in the Grameenphone U-16 Football Tournament when they handed a 4-3 defeat to Team BJMC in their last group match at the BFF Artificial Turf yesterday.

BJMC went ahead with strikes from Ibrahim and Hasan in the 24th and 35th minute before Imran reduced the margin in the 51st minute. Shahed levelled the margin in the 64th minute.

Rana put BJMC ahead again in the 70th minute while Mainul equalized five minutes later and Shahed wrapped up the victory for Sheikh Russel one minute from time.

In the day's other match, Brothers Union played out a goalless draw against Feni Soccer Club.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS				DOWN			
1	Move rapidly	35	Math tables, e.g.	1	Hump-backed animal of India	21	Japanese sash
5	Pirates' quaff	38	Ratio phrase	24	"Let me think ..."	24	"Let me think ..."
8	EPA concern	39	Auto Hr.	25	"The — Daba Honey-moon"	25	"The — Daba Honey-moon"
12	World's fair	40	Hr. portion	26	Compact car maker?	26	Compact car maker?
13	Detergent brand	42	Religious retreat	28	Citric beverage	28	Citric beverage
14	Hardy cabbage	45	Declare	29	Devil's home?	29	Devil's home?
15	Tolerate	49	See 38-Down	30	Chow down	30	Chow down
16	Whatever number	50	A billion years	31	— -mo replay	31	— -mo replay
17	"— have to do"	52	Lotion additive	36	Toughest to find	36	Toughest to find
18	Release	53	Faraway fleet?	37	Gershwin or Glass	37	Gershwin or Glass
20	Heart lines	54	Blackbird	38	Young one	38	Young one
22	Sauce source	55	Palm variety	41	Kipling poem	41	Kipling poem
23	Prickly seedcase	56	Libretto	42	Touch	42	Touch
		57	Meadow	43	Protected	43	Protected
		58	— off (angry)	44	Repast	44	Repast
				46	Nastase of tennis lore	46	Nastase of tennis lore
				47	Lasso	47	Lasso
				48	Anthropologist Margaret	48	Anthropologist Margaret
				51	Individual	51	Individual

Solution time: 25 mins.

EPIC	TSP	WISP
MONO	EEL	ANTI
INCUBATE	SCOT	
TEASE	ASTRAY	
	ITEM	TEE
AKIN	DELI	AWE
DEN	EIDER	SEA
SAC	STAG	DEER
	OVA	LONE
FAMOUS	IMAGO	
ARID	INCLINED	
DINK	ZAP	SOLE
SAGA	EMU	ENDS

Yesterday's answer 1-24

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
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42	43				44		45			46	47	48
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53					54				55			
56					57				58			

CRYPTOQUIP

F G H L M W K H G S F B H Q A H A A H T

L H J B U J A K R F B J M S W K S V

U Q F R J Q U J K F J M D D U J K

F R ' J H S K H T S L F Q U - D T H J R V .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE BAND ANNOUNCED IT WOULD NO LONGER BE GIVING LIVE TOURS, WAS THAT DIS-CONCERTING NEWS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals I