Huge setback for England

AFP, *Queenstown*

England lost their four-day warm-up match by three wickets on Saturday when a New Zealand XI chased down a 333-run target with eight balls to spare.

BJ Watling led the charge with an unbeaten 89 while opener Tom Latham made 48 as England lost a first-class warm-up match for the first time since being beaten by an Indian side seven years ago.

England declared at their overnight second innings total of 256 for nine -- with Matt Prior (68) the main contributor and Graeme Swann unbeaten on 41 -- but their hopes for an early breakthrough did not eventuate.

Latham and Hamish Rutherford, in contention for one opening spot in the New Zealand Test team, put on 56 for the first wicket when Chris Woakes dismissed Rutherford for 33.

Stuart Broad produced a glimmer of hope when he bowled Carl Cachopa for a duck before Neil Broom (41) settled in with Latham to lead New Zealand out of trouble.

Broad also dismissed Broom and Woakes removed Brownlie (17) to have New Zealand at 167-5 at tea before Watling dominated the final session in partnership with all-rounder Cory Anderson (44).

Joe Root, who claimed the wickets of Anderson and Jimmy Neesham (20) finished with figures of two for 42, Woakes took two for 67 and Broad two for 90.

BGB beat East End

SPORTS REPORTER

Border Guard Bangladesh defeated East End Club by straight 3-0 sets in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Wari Club also beat East End Boys by same margin while Fire Service and Civil Defence overcame Azad SC by 3-2 sets at the same venue.

U-14 girls

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motivated. There are no injury concerns in my team. All are very fit physically and mentally," said Razzaque.

Captain Lipi also hoped that they would bring good results. "We hope that we will bring good results for our country," she said.

Visiting

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affectionately called the 'Matara Hurricane'. And there is no need to tell the Tuk Tuk driver the address if you want to visit his residence. It is good enough to say: 'I want to visit to the house of Sanath Jayasuriya'.

It's a simple middle-class house much like any you'd see in any district town of Bangladesh. Dunstan and Breeda Jayasuriya, Jayasuriya's parents, welcomed the few visiting Bangladeshi reporters with smiles yesterday, but it was not possible to know childhood tales of their great son due to the language barrier.

Still, everybody felt the affection shared in the family by their innocent smiles. "Come tomorrow with a translator," were Breeda's parting words.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Prolific Australia captain Michael Clarke misses the sweep and is bowled by India left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, but not before he saved his team's blushes with a classy 91 on the first day of the second Test at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday.

Bowlers put India atop

Cricket

PTI, *Hyderabad*

Australia captain Michael Clarke stood tall amid the ruins with a classy 91 even as India took early control of the second Test with a dominating display by the bowlers on the opening day here on Saturday.

India bowlers produced clinical performances in the opening and the final sessions on a track which had variable bounce before Australia surprisingly decided to declare their first innings at 237 for nine, wanting to have a go at Indian openers for three overs.

At stumps, India were five for no loss with openers Virender Sehwag and Murali Vijay batting on four and zero respectively as they survived the brief period.

If Bhuvneshwar Kumar ran through the top-order during an incisive first spell, Ravindra Jadeja and Harbhajan Singh wreaked havoc in the post-tea session when Australia lost five wickets for only 28 runs as they slumped to 237 for nine from a relatively comfortable 208 for four.

Jadeja had the best figures of three for 33 while Bhuvneshwar grabbed three for 53. Harbhajan chipped in with two for 52.

Clarke continued his rich vein of form as he started from where he had left off during his superb knock in the first match in Chennai. He missed out on what could have been his 24th Test hundred by just nine runs as he lost his patience with wickets falling at the other end.

He tried a wild sweep off left-arm spinner Jadeja to get bowled. The Australian captain faced 186 balls and hit nine fours and a six in the process.

Clarke and wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew Wade (62) added 145 runs for the fifth wicket to bail Australia out of trouble after Bhuvneshwar's opening spell reduced them to 63 for four in the opening hour and half.

Credit should also be given to Wade, who played a gutsy knock of 62 off 144 balls with eight boundaries. And more importantly, he gave his captain the support he needed.

Wade played with a fractured cheekbone but that did not dent his confidence as he comfortably negotiated the spinners during his three-hour stay at the wicket.

The duo had their anxious moments but overall they handled the spin troika of Ravichandran Ashwin, Harbhajan and Jadeja with ease. While Clarke used his feet to perfection, Wade decided to play with the spin on most occasions as they scored 104 runs in the second session.

The only time that Clarke could have been out was when, on 51, he was dropped by Cheteshwar Pujara at forward short leg off Ashwin's bowling. That was the only blemish in his innings.

Just when it looked like Wade and Clarke were taking the visitors to a safe total, the former tried a cut shot off Harbhajan only to be caught by Bhuvneshwar at point.

Neither Moises Henriques (5) nor Glenn Maxwell (13) were able to stay for long alongside Clarke as Jadeja dismissed them in quick succession with classical left-armer's away-going deliveries as it put paid to Australian hopes of a sizeable first innings score.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings	
Warner b Kumar	6
Cowan lbw b Kumar	4
Hughes c Dhoni b Ashwin	19
Watson lbw b Kumar	23
Clarke b Jadeja	91
Wade c Kumar b Harbhajan	62
Henriques b Jadeja	5
Maxwell c Dhoni b Jadeja	13
Siddle lbw b Harbhajan	0
Pattinson not out	1
Doherty not out	0
Extras: (b-9, lb-4)	13
Total: (For 9 wkts declared in 85 overs)	237

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-15, 3-57, 4-63, 5-208, 6-217, 7-233, 8-236, 9-236

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	15	2	53	3
Sharma	17	5	45	0
Ashwin	15	6	41	1
Harbhajan	22	2	52	2
Jadeja	16	4	33	3

INDIA: First innings	
Vijay not out	0
Sehwag not out	4
Extras: (w-1)	1
Total: (For no loss in 3 overs)	5

To bat: Pujara, Tendulkar, Kohli, Jadeja, Dhoni, Ashwin, Harbhajan, Kumar, Sharma

Bowler	O	M	R	W

SL contract row threatens tour

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meeting, SLC will agree to let someone independent go through the contract and advise the players," de Alwis said. "The problem is that the players don't want to sign something they don't understand, but I haven't seen the contract myself, because SLC has not released it to me."

SLC paid players 25 per cent of the earnings from ICC events because the players' images and likenesses are used by the ICC to promote the tournament, and by the ICC's official sponsors, for the duration of the event.

Last year SLC had attempted to trim the amount to 20 per cent.

In addition, SLC's new contracts have moved to freeze payment to players taking part in the IPL, for as long as each player is with his IPL team. Under the new clause, if a Sri Lanka cricketer joins his IPL team a week before the 2013 tournament begins, and remains with the team until the final on May 26, he will lose 16.4 per cent of his annual salary from SLC.

Among the other sticking points in the contracts are a clause that seeks to tie payment to team performance and ICC rankings, and another to scrap the one business class ticket per year SLC offers to top players' wives, who may wish to accompany their husbands on tour. These are not expected to be major sources of debate

Tigers warm up today

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line of thought, captain Mushfiqur Rahim said that the team can draw confidence from the three-day match on their way to a new beginning in Sri Lanka.

"Mainly I would love to see our bowlers bowl in right areas in the practice match and it would be fantastic if our top order get some runs in the match. We must try to control as many session as possible, which would be our main focus. The hot and humid weather has surprised us a little, so the match gives us the chance to acclimatise," said a confident Mushfiqur.

The focus will certainly be on Mohammad Ashraful, who has a good record against the Lankans but came into the team because of Shahriar Nafees's injury at the eleventh hour. The right-hander is the only Bangladeshi player to have visited the town thirteen years ago to play the Under-19 World Cup, but he had little time for nostalgia; rather he was desperately looking forward to get back among the runs in the three-day match.

"I played one match in that World Cup. The ground and the hotel (Dickwella Resort) have remained almost the same. Actually I'm now looking forward to grab the opportunity I have received. I think it would be altogether a different story this time as this team is very confident and has been playing good cricket for the last two years. I will miss playing against Murali (Muttiah Muralidaran) but the absence of Murali and (Chaminda) Vaas definitely creates a chance for us," said the right-hander.

Booters

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crucial one, but said that even the best players in the world make mistakes.

Palestinian coach Jamal Mahmud gave credit to Bangladesh for playing well, but said his side could only apply 50 per cent of their potential.

Meanwhile, in the second match of the day, hosts Nepal thrashed Northern Mariana Island 6-0, thanks to a hattrick from Bharat Khawas.

Palestine play their next match against Northern Mariana Island also on Monday.

Kumar keeps it simple

Cricket

PTI, *Hyderabad*

India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar on Saturday said that his main aim was to bowl "within the stumps" and that has helped him pick up three top-order Australian wickets on the opening day of the second Test in Hyderabad.

"Something always happens during first hour. So I tried to bowl within the line of stumps. Since the wicket was slow in nature and the odd ball was keeping low, it [the plan] came off well," Bhuvneshwar told reporters at the media conference after the opening day's play.

Bhuvneshwar said there was no pressure on him though he had failed to get a wicket in his debut Test match in Chennai.

"We all know that spinners dominate in Indian conditions so it's good if medium pacers can get at least two wickets," said Bhuvneshwar, who had figures of three for 53 today.

Asked which among the three wickets was most satisfying, he said, "All three wickets were satisfying. Warner, Cowan and Watson have been scoring runs for Australia and I was happy to dismiss all three of them. It was always a dream to play Test for India and I was very happy when I got my first wicket. It could not have been better than this."

Bhuvneshwar said that there was no specific reason for him and Ishant Sharma mainly operating from the Visaka End.

"There was nothing specific. It was just that spinners were operating from one end and that's why we operated from the other end," he said.

Although his senior partner Ishant did not get any wicket, Buvneshwar thanked him for his "guidance".

"He is my senior and I learn a lot from him. It's just part and parcel of the game that one gets wickets and one does not. As you saw that there was not much support from the track for medium pacers, he [Ishant] did quite well," he said.

He said the Indian team was not surprised at all that the Australians declared at 237 for nine.

"We were not surprised at all. May be they understood that their last wicket will not get them too many runs and they wanted to get at least one of our wickets in the remaining three overs," he said.

Clemon T20

Our Correspondent, *Thakurgaon*

Thakurgaon Chamber of Commerce and Industries Ltd. defeated Nekmarad Cricket Ekadash by 71 runs in the final of the Muktijoddha Sirazul Islam Clemon T20 tournament at the Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School Ground yesterday.

Batting first Thakurgaon Chamber scored 156 for nine in 20 overs. In reply, Cricket Ekadash were bundled out for 85 in 17.3 overs. Thakurgaon Chamber's Emran Ahmed, who top-scored with 51, was declared the man of the match

Deputy commissioner of Thakurgaon, Mukesh Chandra Biswas, chief guest, handed over the winners' trophy. The tournament, which began on February 16, was played between 12 teams from different districts including Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari and Rangpur.

Feni sink Academy

SPORTS REPORTER

Feni Soccer Club trounced Nasrin Sports Academy by 4-0 goals in their Walton Dhaka Metropolis Women Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Runa Mali scored twice while Mili Mali and Joly Akter netted one goal each for the winners.

First-timers' final

Tennis

AFP, *Kuala Lumpur*

American wildcard Bethanie Mattek-Sands and the Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova strolled into the BMW Malaysian Open final Saturday with both seeking their first WTA singles crown.

Mattek-Sands, who has 12 doubles titles to her name, including last week's Dubai Duty Free Championships with Sania Mirza, cruised past third seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 6-4, 6-1 in 73 minutes to set-up a meeting with Pliskova on Sunday.

"This is an important tournament for me as I'll be going for my first singles title. It will mean more to me than my 12 doubles crowns if I were to win it," said Mattek-Sands, who is ranked world No. 197.

"I reached as high as 30 before all my injuries and I hope this is a good start for me to climb up the rankings.

"Anastasia played well but lost a bit of focus after the 30-minute rain delayed between sets.

"I took advantage of that to seal the win. I'm lucky to have played the last two matches in the evening so I wasn't too tired," she added.

Earlier Saturday, Pliskova crushed Ayumi Morita 6-0, 6-2 in 47 minutes to reach her first WTA final.

World number 127 Pliskova, who has not dropped a set in the tournament, said she was surprised by the ease of the victory and by how well she has been playing in the BMW Malaysian Open.

"I expected a tough match but and I'm surprised it wasn't," said Pliskova, who turns 21 on March 21.

"I've been better in other tournaments but the results were not as good as this. I'm excited to play in my first final and can't wait to see who I'll be playing.

"I'm quite surprised I have yet to drop a set but I did tell myself I must finish the matches off quickly as the weather is really tough," she added.

World number 55 Morita, meanwhile, said she had been nervous and tired.

"I tried to play my best today but couldn't get a good rhythm. I made too many unforced errors and it was difficult to break her," said Morita, who has played in all four Malaysian Open tournaments, reaching the semi-finals twice -- in 2010 and this year -- and the quarter-finals in 2011 and 2012.

"I was nervous as I wanted to reach the final. I was feeling a little tired. The heat today was not great. I played a long match yesterday and she played very well."

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

1 Hamstrings
6 Poorly lit
9 Moreover
12 Take as one's own
13 Elizabethan, e.g.
14 Luau side dish
15 Suitor
16 Sponge
18 Logic
20 Clue
21 Sapporo sash
23 Drench
24 Papa
25 File's partner
27 Women's home, said John Gray
29 Power source
31 "The — Cometh"
35 Because
37 Portrayal
38 Pop
41 Expert
43 Feedbag tidbit
44 Reed instrument
45 Askew
47 In a temperamental way
49 Archipelago component
52 Emeril's interjection
53 Lennon's lady
54 African capital city
55 Pigpen
56 A Bobbsey twin
57 Private student

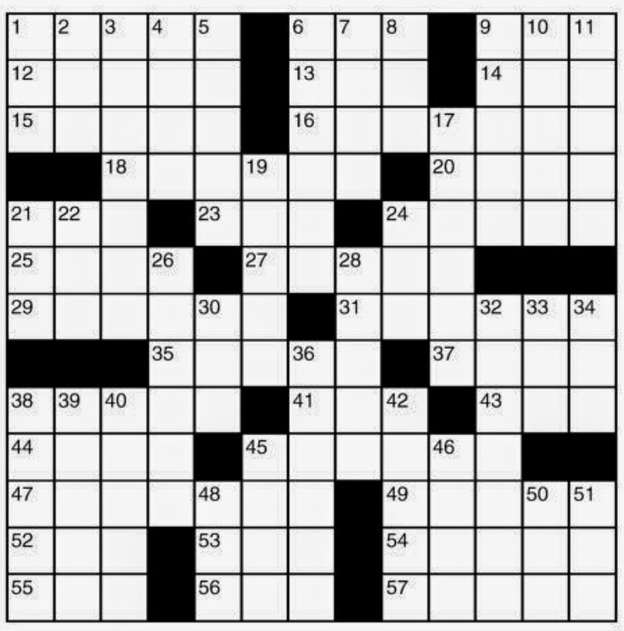
DOWN

1 Legislation
2 Commotion
3 Dock doings
4 Duel tool
5 First Little Pig's material
6 Remove a stripe
7 Press
8 Chinese chairman
9 Garden pest
10 Incessantly
11 Filthy
17 Second drink?
19 Lucky roll
21 Raw rock
22 Prohibit
24 French noble title
26 Showed affection
28 Sis' kid
30 Little louse
32 Having a romantic glow, maybe
33 Carte lead-in
34 Profit
36 Big gorge
38 Gets zero stars
39 WWII vessel
40 Spacious
42 Oust
45 Radius neighbor
46 Birthright barterer
48 Charged bit
50 Before
51 Pirouette pivot

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Friday's answer 1-4



CRYPTOQUIP

GA XFRBODIBKO PIBDPEEA VPHUOUW BJPB X VXEE MU JXR MURB RBDWUFB. X HDURR X'G BJU BUPIJUO'R MUB.

Friday's Cryptoquip: IF A HUGE AFRICAN MAMMAL HAS COSMETIC SURGERY ON ITS NOSE, I SUPPOSE IT'S A REAL RHINO-PLASTY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals M