

# No Cardiff repeat, SL survive at Lord's

**London:** Sri Lanka safely negotiated a draw on the final day of the second test against England at Lord's on Tuesday after being set a daunting 343 from 58 overs to win. The Sri Lankans, who collapsed for 82 in their second innings within 25 overs in the first of the three tests in Cardiff last week, reached 127 for three when play was called off.

Andrew Strauss declared the England second innings closed at 335 for seven after Alastair Cook had completed his sixth century in his last nine tests. It was also his third hundred in four innings after he fell four short of a century in the first innings.

Cook batted for more than five hours before he was finally stumped off left-arm spinner Rangana Herath for 106.

Kevin Pietersen, out in single figures in both his previous innings in the series, played with all his old authority to reach his half-century from 85 balls.

He was dismissed by Herath 10 minutes before lunch for 72 by a



T Paranaivana hits the ball into the back of Ian Bell (R) as Matt Prior looks on during the second Test at Lord's

tailed a hairline fracture of his right thumb during an epic 193 in Sri Lanka's first innings, was again out cheaply. **REUTERS**

**SCOREBOARD**

England 1st Innings: 486  
Sri Lanka 1st Innings: 479  
England 2nd Innings: A Strauss lbw b Welegedara 0 A Cook st P Jayawardene b Herath 106 J Trott b Herath 58 K Pietersen b Herath 72 I Bell not out 57 E Morgan c Lakmal b Fernando 4 M Prior run out 4 S Broad c P Jayawardene b Fernando 3 Extras (lb12, w1, nb18) 31 Total (7 wks dec, 78.1 overs) 335. Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-117, 3-244, 4-305, 5-312, 6-319, 7-335. Bowling: Welegedara 10-1-50-1; Lakmal 17-0-70-0; Maharoof 7-0-24-0; Fernando 20.1-2-92-2; Herath 24-2-87-3

Sri Lanka 2nd Innings: T Paranaivana lbw b Trott 44 K Sangakkara c Morgan b Tremlett 12 M Jayawardene c Pietersen b Broad 25 T Samaraweera not out 17 P Jayawardene not out 12 Extras (b7, lb3, w6, nb1) 17 Total (3 wks, 43 overs) 127. Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-66, 3-96. Bowling: Tremlett 9-1-31-1; Broad 9-2-29-1; Swann 12-2-19-0; Finn 8-2-31-0; Trott 4-1-5-1; Pietersen 1-0-2-0

# Court reprieve for sacked Afridi

## PCB Disciplinary Hearing Suspended

**Islamabad:** The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) disciplinary committee proceedings against retired captain Shahid Afridi have been suspended by a court, a lawyer for the player said Tuesday.

Afridi filed a petition at the Sindh High Court on Tuesday, protesting against the PCB's decision to suspend his central contract and revoke his No Objection Certificates, which prevented him from playing abroad. The PCB's disciplinary committee hearing was due to begin in Lahore on Wednesday.

"The court has suspended the hearing and the PCB is bound to abide by the High Court," Afridi's lawyer Syed Ali Zafar said. Zafar had argued on Monday that Afridi would boycott the hearing because the PCB panel had already punished him without giving him the opportunity to defend himself.

PCB officials have been summoned to appear before the Sindh High Court on Thursday. PCB chief operating officer Subhan Ahmed told reporters in Lahore that the board will be represented by its lawyers. "We will honor the orders of Sindh High Court," Ahmed said,



Shahid Afridi is surrounded by supporters as he leaves after filing a petition at Sindh High Court in Karachi on Tuesday

adding, "Our lawyers will appear before the court and we will accept whatever the court decides."

Dozens of Afridi's supporters were present outside the SHC on Tuesday, carrying portraits of their favorite cricketer. The enigmatic all-rounder shook hands with his supporters before leaving the court premises. Afridi's differences with the PCB began soon after the tour of West Indies last month when he criticized team management for interfering. He subsequently was removed as captain for the two-match series against Ireland. **AP**

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Indian pugilists win one silver, 5 bronze in Cuba

**New Delhi:** India's hopes of winning a bagful of gold medals at the Giraldo Cordova Cardin Memorial Boxing tournament suffered a setback as the pugilists settled with just one silver and five bronze on the concluding day of the event in Havana, Cuba. Manpreet Singh (91kg) won the lone silver medal for India, while Nanao Singh (49kg), Suranjoy Singh (52kg), Santosh Harjan (52kg), Kuldeep Singh (75kg) and Parmajet Samota (91kg) had to be content with a bronze medal each.

### City eyeing 100 million pound transfer package for Tevez

**London:** Manchester City will sell captain Carlos Tevez only if a club is willing to pay 100 million pounds in transfer fee and wages. Tevez dreams of moving to Real Madrid, Barcelona or Inter Milan. However, City are adamant that they do not want to sell their skipper and would want a fee of around 50 million pounds if they were forced to admit they could no longer hang on to him. The 27-year-old is paid around 250,000 pounds-a-week, which would cost any prospective buyer 48 million pounds over the length of a four-year contract.



### Barca must sign Fabregas: Cruyff

**London:** Barcelona legend Johan Cruyff has said that the club must sign Cesc Fabregas so that they can get even better. Cruyff is adamant that the Champions League winners need to add strength and depth.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger is desperate to keep Fabregas, but Cruyff believes signing the Gunners star would mean midfield stars Sergio Busquets, Andres Iniesta and Xavi can be kept fresher during the season. "If Cesc signs there will be four players for three places, which means all of them can share out a lot of games," *The Sun* quoted Cruyff, as saying.

### Chelsea in race to snare Sneijder

**London:** Chelsea have joined the 30-million-pound chase for Inter Milan midfielder star Wesley Sneijder - on the advice of Turkish national team coach Guus Hiddink. The Dutchman has told them to outbid rivals Manchester United and Manchester City for compatriot Sneijder, reports *The Sun*. The playmaker, 27 this week, looks certain to quit Inter this summer and is eager to move to England. **AGENCIES**

# Kirsten welcomes two-captain move

**Capetown:** Former Indian cricket team coach Gary Kirsten will coach South Africa for two years, starting from August this year. He will have Russell Domingo as assistant coach and former Test quick Allan Donald as bowling coach.

Kirsten said that he had decided on taking charge only from August 1, as he felt there was a need for a "cooling off period" following his three-year stint in India.

Domingo will also start work on August 1, but Donald will start immediately and travel with the South Africa A team to Zimbabwe this month.

Kirsten, 43, who played in 101 Tests for South Africa, said being appointed coach of his native country was a "major honour" but set no specific goals.

But Cricket South Africa chief executive Gerald Majola said one reason why there had



Gary Kirsten (2-L) pose with Hashim Amla (L), AB De Villiers (2-R) and Graeme Smith (R) during a press conference in Johannesburg on Monday

been an exhaustive process to find the new coach was a lack of consistency in the South African team's results and its failure to land a major global event such as the World Cup.

South African cricket was "a very different environment" from that in India, said Kirsten.

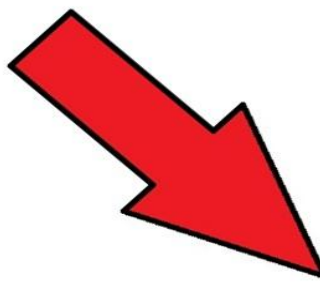
He added: "It is important to get back into understanding the South African cricket environment and I am looking forward to working with the captains and the players."

Kirsten also said Paddy Upton, the mental conditioning coach who shared much of the

credit with Kirsten for India's success, would work with the South African team, although not on a full-time basis.

He said he will have no problem in working with two captains — AB De Villiers and Graeme Smith — in different formats and called it a positive step. Kirsten said the 27-year-old De Villiers is the best candidate to lead in the ODIs and Twenty20. He succeeds Smith, who continues to lead the Test side.

Kirsten guided India to their first World Cup victory and also elevated them to top Test side before taking up the job with Cricket South Africa. One of the reasons for India's success was the



# World 10K was an enriching experience

Constantina Dita



The four days I spent in Bangalore as the event ambassador for the TCS World 10K Bangalore was an enriching experience and I'll go back with memories to cherish for the rest of my life.

I was pleasantly surprised by the welcome accorded to me by the media on my arrival, which also made me aware of the impact of winning the Olympic gold on my athletic personality.

I was also humbled by the infectious enthusiasm displayed by the athletes, young and old, who I met at the Kanterava Stadium and was taken aback by the amount of knowledge they had about my running career.

I have only encountered

such a response in Japan.

Though I had visited India before in 2004, it was as a participant in a professional race and I never imagined distance running could be such a rage in this country, which has yet to produce an Olympic or world champion in the discipline.

However, I have learnt that there has been a huge improvement in the performances of athletes like Preeja Sreedharan and Kavita Raut and it won't be long before a world beater emerges from India.

Over 20,000 participants from different age groups participating in a mass event is

definite testimony that the running movement has gained tremendous momentum.

The improvement in performances, to a large extent, is due to the exposure and experience the athletes are gaining from competing against the world's best in their own backyard and it is only by learning from the work ethics and discipline of their leading international

counterparts that other aspiring athletes can hope to improve.

The event itself was a cracker, with some super fast timings from the elite athletes.

letes. Though the weather was cool, the humidity was quite high, or we would have definitely seen some new course records.

I was also kept busy with the periphery activities revolving around World Environment Day as well as the charity drive connected to the event, which filled me with a sense of wellbeing.

The event has raised in excess of Rs3 crores already and the charity drive this year is expected to generate another substantial amount.

I hope I get another opportunity to visit India to promote the other long distance events. After having achieved so much in my life through athletics it's the perfect vehicle for me to give back to society.

(The writer is the current Olympic marathon champion and was the event ambassador for the TCS World 10K Bangalore)

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