

Chocolate coated
fresh Strawberries

Available only on order.

The *Kandos* Shop

Tel: 011- 2370771



The Island Sports

Thursday 6th August, 2009



Kumar Sangakkara

Dubai: Sri Lanka, riding on its Test series win over Pakistan, levelled India (119) on points in the ICC Test championships table but, replaced M.S. Dhoni's team at No. 3 after re-calculation upto the nearest decimal — 0.01 ratings points difference after the annual update released on Tuesday, which reflects the performance of

ICC Test rankings

Sri Lanka at No 3, India drops to fourth

only the last three years with the older results being discarded.

The progress of Kumar Sangakkara's team is due to a consistently high performance during the period of the rankings. In that time, the team has played 10 series, winning six, drawing three and losing just one (in Australia).

Australia (124) clung on to the top above second-placed South Africa (122) as just five ratings points separate top four teams.

But Ricky Ponting's men must win both the remaining Ashes Tests to stay there. Otherwise, it will be Graeme Smith's turn to lead the No. 1 Test team in the world.

Australia has led the Test rankings ever since the current method was introduced in May 2003.

No matter how the Ashes finishes, England (99) will remain in fifth position but if the home side wins the series, Australia will drop to fourth position in the Test Championship table.

If the series ends in a 1-1 draw, South Africa will rise to the top. Australia, Sri Lanka and India will all have the same rating, but with Australia still clinging on to second place by a decimal point.

In the batting list, Gautam Gambhir remained on second spot with 847 points behind Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara (862). (PTI)



The champion Thailand girls' team is all smiles after winning the team championships at S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, gymnasium. (Pic by Kamal Wanniarachchi)

Thailand and Hong Kong win badminton titles

by Ravi Nagahawatte

Thailand and Hong Kong shuttlers proved their class by winning the girls' and boys' team events respectively on the third day of the Asian Under-16 Badminton Championships worked off at the S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia gymnasium yesterday.

The girls' team event produced the sparks with the contest between the two countries going to the doubles event to find the winner.

Thailand were cock a hoop after winning the first singles through the efforts of I. Ratchanok who beat Malaysia's Lee Meng Yean. But Malaysia replied strongly taking the second singles with Lim Yin Fun beating Sarita Suwanakijbor.

This produced a final showdown between Thailand's I. Ratchanok and P. Maetane who beat Lee Meng Yean and Chow Mei Kuan of Malaysia quite convincingly.

Hong Kong took the boys' team event beating Malaysia 2-0. Both wins came in the singles events which left no room for a doubles event.

Thailand coach N. Pattapol told *The Island* that the Thais had fielded a strong girls' team and was happy win-

ning the team championships. He said he was impressed by the high standards shown by the Hong Kong and Malaysia players.

Today Sri Lanka's girls and boys will be seen in action when the tournament enters the individual events.

Sri Lanka coach Chinthaka Fernando said that both the boys and girls were looking forward to the individual events which he described as a tough challenge. "The individual events are tougher and calls for a better performance," said Fernando. He said that it was important for Sri Lanka to have a ranked player in Achini Ratnasiri. Ratnasiri is ranked second in the girls' event. "All the international exposure has enabled her to have a high ranking. She is one of the most experienced players in the tournament," Fernando said.

Sri Lanka's fitness trainer M. Jayatilaka said that his players could be the fittest in the tournament and should perform well. Sri Lanka have fielded 23 players for the individual events.

The Sri Lanka squad - Boys-Omal Wishvanath, Lahiru Ambegoda, Damitha Yatawara,

Chamika Karunaratne, Vibhavi Madusha, Pamoda Hettiarachchi, Sachin Shirantha, Damith Rathnayake, Charith Tennakoon, Evinu Moragoda, Vinura Manapperuma, Mahela Thalapawala.

Girls-Achini Ratnasiri, Upuli Samanthika, Sushmita Illangakoon, Oshadie Kuruppu, Kavidi Ishadika, Thilini Hendaheewa, Maneesha Fonseka, Shehani Modaragama, Dinitha Dias, Puneesha Pasqual

Results

(Team events)

Girl's singles 1-I.Ratchanok (Thailand) beat Lee Meng Yean (Malaysia) 21-15, 21-7

Girl's singles 2- Lim Yin Fun (Malaysia) beat Sarita Suwanakijbor (Thailand) 21-14, 15-21, 21-16

Girls' doubles -I. Ratchanok and P. Maetane (Thailand) beat Lee Meng Yean and Chow Mei Kuan (Malaysia) 21-17, 21-11

Boy's singles 1-Lee Chun Hzi (Hong Kong) beat Mundadib Haiqud (Malaysia) 21-7, 22-20

Boy's singles 2-N.G.K.A Long (Hong Kong) beat Tan Kian Meng (Malaysia)

Lay off Ponting, the ECB tells England fans

by Nick Hoult

Giles Clarke, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, will plead for supporters at the fourth Ashes Test starting at Headingley on Friday not to jeer Ricky Ponting, the Australia captain.

Ponting was booed by sections of the crowd at Edgbaston in the third Test, which has prompted Clarke to write a message in the Headingley match programme.

In it he calls on supporters to respect Ponting and all the players, while continuing their vocal support for the England team.

Clarke writes that Ponting, the third-highest run scorer in Test history, has "earned the respect and courtesy" of the crowd and that the game "may never see his like again". He asks supporters to respect both teams, who have provided "exciting batting and Herculean bowling efforts".

The Australia team have played down the issue and have been reluctant to criticise England supporters, probably in an effort to ensure the abuse does not worsen. "It's part and parcel of the game now," Marcus North said.

"A lot of us get booed out there. That's the home-ground advantage, I guess. The atmosphere when playing Test cricket here is great, even though, without a doubt, the crowd is into us. When England come and play in Australia, it's exactly the same for them, so it is part and parcel of the game now."



Ricky Ponting

"The atmosphere is great and it's a pleasure to play Test cricket in front of 20,000 England supporters who appreciate the cricket that's being played."

Ponting received a standing ovation at Edgbaston when he became Australia's highest Test run scorer, and much of the chanting has been good-humoured. But Headingley has been the scene of crowd disturbances before and the board is keen there should be no repeat. Yorkshire confirmed on Tuesday night that security around the players' dressing rooms and where they enter the field will be stepped up in the light of events at Edgbaston.

Australia have learnt not to criticise fans after an incident in the 2002-03 Ashes. In the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne, England supporters chanted "no-ball" when Brett Lee bowled, in reference to his action being investigated by the authorities.

Justin Langer, the then Australia opener, attacked the England fans, labelling them a "disgrace" and saying "these people stand behind a fence drinking beer with most of them 50 kilos overweight making ridiculous comments". The following day Langer was pictured signing the belly of one England fan as the Australians tried to defuse the situation.

An official spokeswoman for the Barmy Army yesterday distanced them from the barracking of Ponting. "We weren't responsible for the booing," said Katy Cooke, general manager of the group. "From what I can gather it was pretty tongue-in-cheek. He's one of the best, if not the best, batsmen in the world and if we can get under his skin and stop him concentrating 100 per cent on his batting, then we're doing a service to the England team."

The ECB's One Game Charter is posted at various points around Test match venues, apart from Lord's, where the MCC promotes its own Spirit Of Cricket message, and appeals for supporters to respect the players, officials and fellow spectators. The Drink Aware campaign video featuring England bowler James Anderson, which aims to promote responsible drinking, is also shown on the big screen.

Barracking is nothing new in the Ashes. During the Bodyline series of 1932-33 the Adelaide crowd counted out England fast bowler Harold Larwood with the chant: "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, out you bastard." It was foolish. Larwood was riled and nearly killed Bill Woodfull with a blow above his heart. The England fans should be wary of motivating Ponting.

© The Telegraph Group, London, 2009

Opening bat Khurram Manzoor struck a dominating 175, after resuming from an overnight 27 n.o., in Pakistan A's reply to SLC Development XI's 1st innings total of 207 all out, with a solid 394 for 9, a lead of 187 runs, as their two-day practice match ended in a draw at Welagedara Stadium at Kurunegala yesterday.

Manzoor, 23, hit 21 fours and two sixes in his 225-ball stay which ended when their total was 350. Jeevan Mendis and Sachith Pathirana shared three wickets each for the

Khurram Manzoor strikes 175 for Pakistan A



Khurram Manzoor

hosts. The first of the two-match unofficial (4-day) Test series between the two countries will begin tomorrow (7) at Dambulla.

Brief Scores:
SLC Dev. XI 207 all out in 63.2 overs (Nadeera Nawela 64; Kanchana Gunawardene 38, Naved Arif 5-67)

Pakistan A 394 for 9 wickets in 97.2 overs (Khurram Manzoor 175, Umar Amin 38, Sheharyar Ghani 39, Faisal Iqbal 36, Fahad Iqbal 34; Jeevan Mendis 3-38, Sachith Pathirana 3-102, Sachithra Senanayake 2-112).

MSBA Semi-League Basketball Tournament

Expolanka, Airport & Aviation record wins

by Manjula D. Phillips

Roshan Wickramaratne (21) and Thariq Mashud (14) of Expolanka played leading roles, to beat Standard Chartered Bank by a mere five points in the 'D' segment match of the MSBA Semi-League Basketball Tournament played at the Otters Aquatic Club Courts on Tuesday (4).

At half time, the score was 31-28 in favor of Expolanka. Rishan Yousuf (24) and Lasantha Fernando (13) displayed fine performances for Standard Chartered Bank but,

Expolanka won by 67 to 62 at the end.

Cakewalk for Airport & Aviation

In the second match played at the same venue, Airport & Aviation outplayed Softlogic Group B in a one-sided game 72-37.

At half time, Airport and Aviation were comfortably placed 37-11.

Indika Silva (25) and Susil Udakkubura (19) were the leading scorers for the winners while Rusiru Ranathunge scored (24) for the losers.

Twenty seven reputed bas-

ketball teams from the mercantile sector are competing in the tournament.

Teams are divided into five divisions in the men's category and two divisions in the women's category.

The semi-finals will be worked off from August 31st onwards and the finals will be played on September 8th.

Matches will commence at 5.30 p.m. at the Otters Aquatic Sports Club Courts.

The tournament is organized and conducted by the Mercantile Services Association (MSBA).

Salgado proud on leaving Madrid

MADRID (AP) - Defender Michel Salgado said Wednesday he felt proud to have spent the past decade with Real Madrid, adding he would welcome the chance to return to the club in some capacity in the future.

Salgado's contract has been terminated by Madrid a year early, with the tough-tackling right back reportedly receiving euro4 million (\$5.75 million) in compensation.

The 33-year-old former Spanish international's

chances of remaining were ended when Madrid signed Liverpool right back, Alvaro Arbeloa, one of eight new players in the club's euro254 million (\$365 million) spending spree this offseason.

