SPÖRT

Cricket going to China?

AFP, Karachi

China could be playing international cricket within two decades after being cleared to join the Asian cricket family later in November, the Asian Cricket Council announced Tuesday.

"We are all set to give China associate membership later this month,' the council's chief executive Ashraful Hug told this news agency.

"I am amazed at the level of cricket interest in common people and seriousness of the officials in China."

Huq, who visited Hong Kong for the recent Super Sixes tournament. said Chinese officials approached him and said they were applying for membership of the Asian Cricket Council. They were also seeking affiliate membership of the

 $International\,Cricket\,Council.$ Hug visited China in September and met Chinas director of sports Lu Zai Hua, paving the way for China's entry into the Asian Cricket Council.

He said the council feels Chinas inclusion in their fold will lift Asian

"The Chinese officials have done their homework and are so meticulous in their planning that I see them playing international cricket in the next 15 to 20 years," he said.

"The Chinese say cricket is a game with no body contact and thats why Chinese people are taking interest. Their eye-to-hand skills in table tennis and body balance in martial art help them in cricket."

Wanna be 2nd

FROM PAGE 13

do badly. But on hindsight, I suppose people could say it worked because things got much better in the second

Now that he has returned to the international fold in the one-dayers, Blackwell says he is also gunning for a Test spot.

"I believe there is a chance that a third spinner might be included for the Sri Lanka tour and I think I have an advantage over the others because I'm here in Bangladesh with a chance to prove my

England travel to Sri Lanka for three Tests and three one-dayers after the oneday series in Bangladesh ends on November 12.

Taibu lifts Zimbabwe

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Harare

West Indies seamer Fidel Edwards earned his three wickets the hard way as Zimbabwe reached 284 for six on the first day of the first Test on Tuesday.

Tatenda Taibu was 75 not out at the close, his second Test half-century and career-best score, with Heath Streak on 16 following an unbroken partnership of

Edwards was the pick of the attack with figures of three for 73 from 17 overs on a hot, humid day and on a pitch that offered little encouragement to pace

Zimbabwe's troubles were largely self inflicted, with five batsmen chasing wide deliveries and falling to catches by wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs or Brian Lara at first slip.

The best of the home side's batting came in a sixth-wicket stand of 79 between debutant Stuart Matsikenyeri, who scored 57, and Taibu.

At tea, Zimbabwe were 186 for 5 with

Lara just holding the initiative.

Streak had won the toss and decided to bat on a wicket which offered opportunities for fast bowlers early on but which was eventually expected to favour

Debutant batsmen Vusi Sibanda and Stuart Matsikenvere performed promisingly, Sibanda making 26 before edging to Jacobs off Edwards and Stuart Matsikenvere on 37 not out at the break. Opener Trevor Gripper looked

secure until he went after a wide ball Mark Vermeulen and Stuart Carlisle never got to grips with their task and Craig Wishart, who looked likely to

make a big score, nipped one to Jacobs off Wavell Hinds. But Wishart's 47, and Gripper's 41, have kept Zimbabwe in the Gripper and Wishart added 54 for the fifth wicket and the partnership of Matsikenvere and Taibu was worth 32 at the break. Zimbabwe only had Streak

and Andy Blignaut as recognised bats-

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the Indies at Harare Sports Club on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings Sibanda c Jacobs b Edwards Gripper c Lara b Taylor Vermuelen c Hinds b Edwards Carlisle c Lara b Collymore $Wishart\,c\,Jacobs\,b\,Hinds$ 47 Matsikenveri not out 37 15 Taibu not out 12 Extras: (b-1, w-1, nb-10) Total: (For 5 wkts in 56 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-35, 3-58, 4-112, 5-

To bat: Streak, Blignaut, Price, Mahwire 3 63 47 36 25 0

WEST INDIES: Gayle, Hinds, Ganga, Lara, Sarwan, Chanderpaul, Jacobs Drakes, Taylor, Edwards, Collymore.

McGrath targets India

first Test between Zimbabwe and West

Cricket

Australia's leading fast bowler Glenn McGrath is targeting next month's opening cricket Test against India in Brisbane as his comeback match from ankle surgery.

Australia are shaping to field their first-choice bowling attack against the Indians with fellow injured bowlers Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie and Stuart MacGill also expected to be available.

The quartet is missing the current one-day triangular series in India which also involves New Zealand.

McGrath was originally expected to be back in action for the Melbourne Boxing Day Test but his manager Warren Craig said the bowler's recovery was progressing better than expected.

'The original thought when he had the surgery was that he wouldn't be back until the Boxing Day Test match but he's well ahead of schedule now," Craig said

first Test (at the Gabba starting December 4) and then it's up to the selectors as to which way they want to go



GLENN McGRATH

Craig said McGrath, who underwent ankle surgery in early October, was looking forward to facing the Indians. Lee is also recovering from an ankle operation, performed just 10 days ago

but he is walking around and confident of being fit for the opening Test of the

"It was a reasonable operation, Lee's manager Neil Maxwell said on Tuesday. "He was walking around last Friday without any assistance. He was wearing sand shoes and walking normally.

"He's obviously shooting for the first Test. He's having daily physio so he's going alright. It'll all depend on how well his rehab goes."

Gillespie continues his rehabilitation from a side strain in Adelaide.

Maxwell said Gillespie would bowl in the nets today and was aiming to play in a Sheffield Shield match against New South Wales.

NSW leg-spinner Stuart MacGill (calf) was due to play in the Shield match against Western Australia, which started here on Tuesday but was a late withdrawal.

Team officials expect him to be available for the next match against Tasmania in Hobart next week.

He was given a scan on Monday

and the results underlined that he

had suffered only muscular dam-

age and is therefore on course to

make his return to the England

"Scans suggest there is no

serious cause for the pain Steve felt

in his lower back during the first

Test," said Dr Peter Gregory, the

England and Wales Cricket Roard's

"Steve will continue to undergo

treatment and strengthening work

for his back at the ECB National

Academy, and I am very optimistic

he will rejoin the England Test

chief medical officer.

squad in Sri Lanka."

INDIAUNDER-19S Shukla c Sagir b Rubaiyat

Sunny c Zia b Rubaiyat

Raina c Naeem b Nadif

Pathan c and b Naeem

Gomez c and b Nadif

Karthik b Naeem

Singh b Nadif

Uthappa c Sagir b Shahadat

Rayudu c Arafat b Shahadat

Harmison

FROM PAGE 13

New-look SL pace attack

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka's selectors have picked a new-look pace bowling attack for a three-match one-day international series against England later this month.

First-choice Dilhara Fernando (back) and Prabath Nissanka (knee) are still recovering so left-armer Chaminda Vaas will lead the attack that could include Dinusha Fernando, the recalled Nuwan Zoysa or newboy Nuwan

But Sri Lanka are most likely to play three specialist slow bowlers off-spinners Muttiah Muralitharan and Kumar Dharmasena as well as leg-spinner Upul Chandana.

Marvan Atapattu, Sri Lanka's one-day skipper, said on Tuesday: "The make-up of the final team will depend on conditions, which may suit the pace bowlers more than you would expect in Sri Lanka.'

In all, there are five changes to the squad that won 2-1 against the West Indies in the Caribbean in June, Sr Lanka's last ODI series

Wicketkeeper Lanka de Silva has been called up as cover for Romesh Kaluwitharana, who is recovering from a hamstring injury and is expected to be fit.

Middle order batsmen Russel Arnold and Chamara Silva will be competing for one final batting place, with Arnold tipped to claim back the spot he lost after a low-scoring World

England arrive in Sri Lanka on November 13 for a six-week tour that will include three one-davers and three Tests. The first one-dayer is on November 18.

Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Russel Arnold, T.M. Dilshan, Upul Chandana, Kumar Dharmasena, Nuwan Zoysa, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chamara Silva, Nuwan Kulasekera, Chaminda Vaas, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Lanka de Silva Dinusha Fernando.

Mahmud stars

FROM PAGE 13

Disgraceful Under-19s

0

77

34

The CJKS side scored 153 for eight with Shabib falling one run short of a half-Besides, Masum and Azam each

Mahmud rounded off a fine day by

picking two wickets. Off-spinner Jamal made up for his batting failure snaring two wickets too.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BCB XI: 194/7 in 40 overs (Hannan Sarker 22 n.o, Moniruzzaman 6, Habibul Bashar 33 n.o. Rajin Saleh 23 n.o. Khaled Mahmud 61, Mushfigur Rahman 8, Jamal Uddin 7, Khaled Mashud 13, Tapash Baishya 5; Rashed 3/22, Masum 2/25, Dalim 1/28 and Monir 1/43.

CJKS XI: 153/8 in 40 overs Shabib 49, Masum 21, Azam 21, Mithu 9, Ripon 9, Dalim 9, Arafat 11, Azam 21, Jamal 12: Saleh 1/22, Alok Kapali 1/30, Mahmud 2/28, Jamal 2/31 and Tapash 1/35. Result: BCB XI won by 41 runs.

BANGLADESH UNDER-19S Naeem c Karthik b Pathan

Igbal b Pathan

Kamrul lbw b Pathan

Naiim c Shukla b Pathan

Bashar c Karthik b Singh

Sagir c Karthik b Pathan

Extras: (lb-1, w-8, nb-1)

17,6-20,7-22,8-34,9-34

Total: (All out in 14.5 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-14, 3-15, 4-16, 5-

7.5

3 16

0 17

Rubaiyat lbw b Pathan

Arafat lbw b Pathan

Shahadat b Pathan

Nadif not out

Zia b Pathan

the City of Manchester Stadium.

"No decisions can or will be taken on this issue without the support and approval of the club's members," said a Lancashire statement.

capacity of 30,000 for the new ground a an old ground but there is an awful lot of surroundings play a part in that."

30 per cent increase on Old Trafford. Lancashire chief executive Jim Cumbes told BBC Radio Five Live: "It's a

Test cricket was first held at the venue in 1884 but the club has been threatened

attendances in the last few years.

through hosting music events have been hit by opposition from the local author $ity, Trafford\, Borough\, Council.\\$

Council are eager to attract top-level teams to its Sport City area, which also includes a cycling velodrome and national squash centre.

neglect and an awful lot needs doing,

could spend it in a year and you wouldn't know where it had been spent."

got a great atmosphere, people still love Old Trafford but we're struggling to do what we need to do to upgrade it."

Any new ground would not automatically gain Test status, but the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) indicated

it would look favourably on a new, highquality venue. "Many things go into deciding on a

Test venue and clearly facilities play a part in that," an ECB spokeswoman told the BBC Sport website.

the pur-

48 Continen-

49 Picture of

answer

52 Autumnal

abbr.

novel

53 Jane

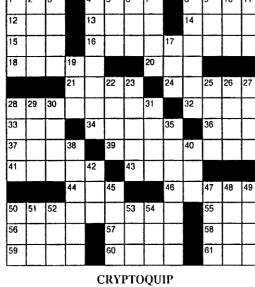
50 Kipling

51 Altar

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 43 Old 3 Calendar 23 Ganges garments 1 Retiring portico quota 44 Wander 4 Feature 25 Mediocre tennis about of old-26 Paradise 46 Alphabet-27 Piguancy fame time 8 Rowan school 28 Chocolate ized Atkinsor desks 29 PC character 50 Bible 5 Morning 12 West of symbol versior hour 30 "Quo Hollywood 55 Sharers 13 Al Hirschpolitico Vadis?" 56 "Ameri-Richards feld's characte 7 Comdaughter plains 14 For fear 57 Refuses 35 Divas, constantly typically 15 Cable 58 Detergent 38 Fastening 8 Points a 16 John 59 Relocate 9 Wet 40 Nebr. Goodman 60 Affirmaneighbor wriggle 42 Trump movie 18 Pitched actions 20 Aggregate 61 Sauce 11 Ultimate hotel. 21 Compre-17 Massource familiarly 45 Daybreak

hends 24 Plagued DOWN 19 Early 1 Pornogbird? 22 Ship-28 Shakeraphy speare tragedy podge Solution time: 21 mins 33 Lemieux 34 Lash of old oater **36** Sun 37 Work in the mailroon 39 Skull Island

41 Snob



| CRYPTOQUIP |
|---|
| XP VUT ZSJMSOG VUTJ |
| Q T Z O F M Z C M P U J M |
| OFXQCXLW D SJMM, |
| X Z T N N U Z M S G D S ' Z |
| F X Q C M J X L W T N Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR CITY'S ANNUAL POAT SHOW WAS LOVELY BUT IT DIDN'T HAVE |

A YACHT TO OFFER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T The Cryptoguip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

BOAT SHOW WAS LOVELY, BUT IT DIDN'T HAVE

Chawala c and b Naeem Yadav not out Extras: (lb-2, w-13, nb-2) Total: (All out in 48.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-11, 3-28, 4-40, 5-160, 6-186, 7-196, 8-200, 9-206 **Bowler** Shahada Rubaiyat Arafat

Flemo fumes Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "We can complain, but it won't

0

10 3 25

9.4

0

1

0 40

38

35

47

3

matter. It will fall on deaf ears because India are not playing," he said. "So much rides on the toss. At least in New Zealand it seams for 100 overs,

here it seams for 25 and after that it's a

Ponting, whose world champion side is assured of playing the November 18 day-night final at Calcutta after three wins in four games, agreed the early starts made it difficult for batsmen

before the wickets dried out. "I was telling some of our guys that the wickets at both Faridabad and Pune would have been ideal for day-night games after they got a few hours to dry out," he said.

"India are trying to better their

wickets for the standard of their own

cricket but they've just left too much

juice in them for one-day cricket.

Man-of-the-match: Irfan Pathan.

"When you're starting at that time of the morning it's bound to swing, and the wickets have had life in them which is tough for the side batting first,

A BCCI spokesman said both Australia and New Zealand had been given the itinerary a month before the series began on October 23, but neither team had complained. New Zealand must win both their

remaining day-night games against India, at Cuttack on Thursday and Hyderabad on November 15, to have a chance of playing in the final. India, whose opening encounter

against New Zealand at Madras was washed out, beat Australia at Gwalior before losing the second match against the world champions at Bombay last Saturday.



WE ARE WITH YOU: Some of the England cricket team members and coach Duncan Fletcher visited the Islamia Eye

Hospital in the city on Monday.

Ponting praises mates Needing 21 from 12 balls, Andrew run win over India in Bombay on Cricket Saturday

REUTERS, Pune

Australia captain Ricky Ponting praised his team's character after their tense penultimate ball victory over New Zealand on Monday.

Australia sealed a two-wicket win chasing 259 in the latest match of the TVS Cup one-day tournament also involving hosts India.

"We didn't really struggle," Ponting told reporters after Australia all but secured a place in the November 18 final

 $in\,Calcutta\,with\,their\,third\,straight\,win.$ "The great thing about this team is we have got ourselves into trouble in a lot of games, even in the World Cup, and somehow managed to get out and win

Symonds (37 not out) held firm to see his side through.

"It says a lot about the character of some of these players," Ponting added.

Champions Australia had to dig deep to beat England and New Zealand after the top order failed during their undefeated run to this year's World Cup final

Michael Clarke once again earned praise after top-scoring with 70 to rescue his team from 65 for four alongside Michael Bevan (50).

"He played beautifully today and probably was the main reason we stayed in the game as long as we did," Ponting

The 22-year-old has also played a key

role with the ball, taking four for 42 with

his occasional left-arm spin in the 77-

The youngster also vindicated his captain's faith after being sent in before Bevan and Symonds.

dismissed.

Ponting said the 32 wides delivered by his bowlers had helped New Zealand to recover from 21 for four to 258 for

Clarke, playing only his eighth one-

day international, has rapidly risen in

stature after making a huge impression

on debut in West Indies, where he made

208 runs in four innings before being

Seamers Andy Bichel and Brad Williams, who took a career-best five for 53, bowled 13 wides each.

Lancs on the move?

Cricket

them," Ponting said.

BBC ONLINE, London

Lancashire are considering plans to move away from Old Trafford, one of England's oldest Test cricket venues.

The county are investigating proposals to move to a purpose-built site near

Football side Manchester City play at the new stadium, where the Commonwealth Games were held last

Plans are believed to include a seating

bit early to say we're on our way but it is a

serious proposition and we'd be daft not to look at it seriously.

with losing Test matches after poor And plans to increase revenue

Neighbouring Manchester City

We think we do well considering it's

Cumbes added. "You could give us £10m today, we

"It's still an attractive ground, it's still

"We want people to get the best