Kenya tour on the cards

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team is likely to visit Kenya prior to their tour to Zimbabwe this July.

Habibul Bashar's men are scheduled to play five one-day internationals and two four-day games in Zimbabwe.

"It is yet to decide whether Bangladesh visit Kenya or not but we are working on the issue," said Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Mahbubul Anam yesterday.

If the trip is finalised, Bangladesh will play three one-day internationals against the ICC associate

BJMC in pole position

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

BJMC reached top of the list in the four-day long 30th National Cycling Championship in Patua-khali yes-

On the second day, two events were held. In the 100km road time trial, Mominur Rahman and Biplob of BDR won gold and silver medals respectively. In 30km road cycling for women, Panna Akter of BJMC won gold. In last two days 6 events had been completed and BJMC won three golds, BDR two and Patuakhali Sports Association

Langer taken to hospital

AFP, Johannesburg

Justin Langer's 100th Test was such a special occasion that his parents flew across from Perth to watch him in action - but his innings on the second day of the third Test against South Africa lasted just one ball before he took a blow to the head and ended up in hospital

The Australian opening batsman ducked into a short ball from Makhaya Ntini and was hit on the right earpiece of his helmet.

He collapsed to the ground and after receiving treatment on the field was helped off, stumbling as he took his first steps

Australian physiotherapist Alex Kountouri said Langer had suffered "significant concussion".

He also had a cut on the back of his head which required two stitches. He was examined by a doctor at the ground before he was taken to hospital for a precautionary

Kountouri emphasised that Langer was able to walk to the ambulance which took him to hospi-

Langer's parents, Colin and Joy-Anne watched the on-field drama from seats in the grandstand of the Wanderers Stadium.

Federer sets Ljubicic final

REUTERS, Miami

World number one Roger Federer swept aside Spain's David Ferrer 6-1 6-4 in their Nasdag-100 Open semifinal on Friday, setting up a final clash with Ivan Ljubicic.

Croatian Ljubicic reached his third final in six ATP events this season by routing third seed David Nalbandian 6-1 6-2.

Top seed Federer was in majestic form against Ferrer, claiming the opening set in less than 20 minutes and losing only four points on serve.

The Swiss was tested briefly in the second, but powered back effortlessly from a break down, reaching 4-3 on a Ferrer doublefault and claiming victory three games later.

Ljubicic in the space of a fortnight after the Swiss beat the 26-year-old Croat in the semifinals at Indian Sixth seed Ljubicic clinched

The final will mark the second

meeting between Federer and

victory over Nalbandian with two successive aces, his 11th and 12th of the match





(West Indies cricket legend)

"I think it's necessary that I do play some ODIs because the World Cup is in 12 months time and I'd look forward to playing in some.



43

Australia opener Justin Langer down on his knees after being struck by a bouncer from South Africa paceman Makhaya Ntini on the second day of the third and final Test at Johannesburg on Saturday.

Ntini hits Aussies hard

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

South African fast bowler Makhaya Ntini wrecked Australia's top order batting on the second day of the third Test at the Wanderers Stadium Saturday, taking four wickets and putting opening batsman Justin Langer in hospital after a blow to the

Australia were 141 for five at tea, still 162 behind South Africa's first innings total of 303.

The visitors' troubles started with the first ball of their innings when Langer, playing in his 100th Test, ducked into a bouncer and suffered a blow on the right earpiece. He was forced to retire hurt and taken to hospital for a scan.

In his next over, Ntini had Matthew Hayden caught at gully.

There was a frenetic stand between captain Ricky Ponting and Damien Martyn, who posted a halfcentury partnership in just 26 minutes off 38 balls, but it was broken by Ntini when Martyn mistimed a pull and was caught at mid-on.

The fast bowler claimed the key wicket of Ponting, who was caught at third slip, and trapped Andrew Symonds lea before wicket.

Ntini took four for 52 in a ten-over

opening spell either side of lunch Australia suffered another blow when Adam Gilchrist top-edged a

pull against Andre Nel and was

Australia's hopes rested with Michael Hussey, who was unbeaten on 34 at tea. There was no word on when Langer would return to the ground or whether he would be able South Africa added 65 runs for

the loss of their remaining four

wickets Saturday, mainly through an attacking innings of 43 by Nicky Australia took the second new ball seven balls into the day and almost immediately claimed the wicket of Shaun Pollock, smartly

caught by Australian captain Ricky Ponting at second slip off Stuart Ashwell Prince, who held the South African innings together on the first day, took his score from 79 to 93 in just over an hour of batting as he and Boje added 34 for the eighth wicket. But he was forced onto the back foot by a delivery from

Brett Lee which he edged to Langer

at second slip **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third and final Test between South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers Stadium on

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 238-6) De Villiers c Martyn b Clark Gibbs b Kasprowicz Dippenaar c Gilchrist b Clark 32 Prince c Langer b Lee

measure, and Wallace confirmed

that there were no worries on that

Nel c Martyn b Lee Extras: (lb-4, nb-9) 13 Total: (All out in 97.2 overs) 303 Fall of wkts: 1-26, 2-38, 3-97, 4-106, 5-161, 6-233, 7-251, 8-285, 9-303. R W Bowler 24 8 57 Clark 28 8 81 4 13 2 49 Warne 2 Symonds **AUSTRALIA:** First innings _anger retired hurt Hayden c Gibbs b Ntini Ponting c De Villiers b Ntini 34 21 Martyn c Nel b Ntini Hussey not out Symonds Ibw b Ntini Gilchrist c Rudolph b Nel Warne not out Extras: (b-5, lb-12, w-2) Total: (For 5 wkts in 33 overs) 141 Fall of wkts: 1-12, 2-68, 3-73, 4-89, Bowler O M R W 10 2 52 1 26 Nel Pollock 8 1 16 0 0

Rudolph c Hayden b Warne

Boje c Langer b Kasprowicz

Boucher Ibw b Symonds

Pollock c Ponting b Clark

Kallis 6 1 30 To bat: B Lee, M Kasprowicz, S Clark. Umpires: S Bucknor (WIS), A Hill

(NZL).

Sachin on the mend

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Sachin Tendulkar could be declared fit to tour West Indies next month, having made a rapid recovery after undergoing shoulder surgery in London, according to Dr Andrew Wallace, his surgeon.

Tendulkar was ruled out of the seven-match ODI series against England after suffering a tear, and faces a long tour of West Indies, which includes four Tests and five

"The surgery was fairly straightforward," Wallace told BBC's Test Match Special. "He's made an excellent recovery. I expect he will be back for India some time in the very near future."

Wallace stressed that Tendulkar felt discomfort only while throwing and that the injury had little to do with his batting. "His batting was not affected and most of the shoulder does not take too much of the force when bowling. It's a common injury in baseball pitchers and tennis players - anyone who is doing a lot of overhead throwing. The rim of the socket had become a little bit frayed so the ball was sliding out the back of the joint a little bit. It opened up a small tear in the labrum. A little bit of fluid was escaping through that tear

and created a cyst. He added: "The main reason for operating was that the cyst was slowly enlarging so we felt it was timely to do it now before we felt there was any danger."

Tendulkar also had his left elbow a case of tennis elbow had confined him to the sidelines in recent times - examined as a precautionary

Day wants

'The reality is that we are going to face a team like Australia but it is also a reality that we have good record of winning matches against India, Sri Lanka and of course against Australia in the recent past. I think in one-dayers we are okay and in the right track. But Test is a different ball game and it takes a long time to be competitive on the world stage," explained Whatmore.

The Bangladesh coach was excited with the fact that Australia has decided to send their fullstrength side for their first ever tour to this country.

"I am really happy that the full squad is coming which is fantastic for this country. It would be a great and good experience for our boys," said a delighted Whatmore.

This is also for the first time that Bangladeshi batsmen will face champion leg-spinner Shane Warne in the longer-version game and no doubt many are looking forward to see how Dav's charges fare against the spin wizard after handling Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralidaran. "Like Murali, he (Warne) will also

play only the Test matches. Warne is the highest wicket-taker in Tests and it will not be an easy task to handle him but we have no specific plan for him, rather we are focusing on our normal game," said Whatmore adding that the conditions can be an advantage for the home side as Australia will come from a very different South African conditions.

Kahn blunder costs Bayern

The joke was on Oliver Kahn for April fool's day as a howler from the Bayern Munich goalkeeper allowed bottom side FC Cologne to take a point in a 2-2 draw with the league leaders on Saturday. The point sees Bayern move ten

points clear at the summit and a 20th title looks to be on its way to Munich although Kahn's blunder will take the headlines. The 36-year-old Kahn shrugged

off a hip injury to face Cologne but will wish he had not bothered after allowing Albert Streit's speculative shot to squirm under his body to restore Cologne's lead at 2-1 Kahn, who was replaced at half-

time by Michael Rensing, will hope Germany manager Jurgen Klinsmann missed his gaffe as he bids to prove he is Germany's number one ahead of this summer's World Cup finals. For Cologne the game looks up

with the club, nine points from safety, preparing for the German second division after twice surrendering the lead at Bayern.
Bayern old boy Markus Feulner,

who joined Cologne from Munich in 2003, scored in the 12th minute to shock the German champions at the Allianz Arena. French international Willy

Sagnol equalised with his first goal of the season in the 29th minute. But Kahn then inexplicably let a 36th minute shot from Streit squirm under his body. Arsenal goalkeeper Jens

Lehmann, his rival for the number one jersey at the World Cup, will watch the replays with a smug grin. Fortunately Kahn has outfield players capable of getting him out of trouble and Dutch international Roy Makaay equalised three minutes

NY celebrates 'el clasico'

INTERNET, undated

Even "Big Apple", the melting pot of nationalities, celebrates the Clasico between Barcelona and Real Madrid and several locations in New York showing the match between the two biggest rivals in Spain at 15:00 local time Saturday. The most famous location is probably "Nevada Smiths", a pub where the 'Penya" (supporters club) Barcelona Nevada Smiths de Nueva York is situated since 2001. When Barca is playing all the bar is covered in red and blue and one can hear the Barca hymn. On a day like this, when Barca has to play an important match, the bar is completely crowded and about 300 Barca fans will create a fantastic atmosphere. But Barca has an advantage over Real Madrid in New York. Real Madrid does not have even one "Penya" in Big Apple and if one wishes to see the match as a Real fan he has to book a table at some Spanish restaurants like the Galician "Riazor Blues" or "Casa de Galicia" in Oueens

Zola sees future in football

INTERNET, undated

Former Chelsea star Gianfranco Zola has admitted his desire to work in football again in the future.

Zola hung up his boots at the end of the 2003/04 season but has been linked with a sensational return ever

"I have no idea what I will do, but the will to work is coming back." he told Gazzetta dello Sport.

"I will probably study to become a coach, but we'll see."

Zola, who saw Arsenal's convincing victory over Juventus, was not surprised at the way The Gunners took the Italians apart having played at Highbury many times in his career.

"Playing at Highbury is very difficult for anyone and Juve will have been surprised at Arsenal's determination and aggressiveness," he added.

"I think it would have still been hard for Juventus if they had been in their best form.

"Milan also played really well against Lyon and Inter have a good advantage going into the second

The 'Magic Box', as he was labelled during his time at Chelsea, is hopeful that Internazionale can go all the way and win the competition, but also looks forward to a possible Milan versus Barcelona semifinal.

"The possible semifinal between Barcelona and Milan would be my

"But I am hoping Inter can win the Champions League, it would be good for (Inter chairman) Massimo

Ronaldo reveals Spanish dream

INTERNET, undated

Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed that his dream is to one day play in Spain after rumours that Real Madrid were weighing up a bid for his services this summer swept through the media.

The Portugal international admits that he is flattered by the interest and is keen to test himself in Primera Liga where, in his opinion. the game is more technical and

"If God wants it then one day I will play in the Spanish league," Ronaldo told Marca. "It is one of my aims, but I am just starting out in the

"I am content and pleased because it (Real Madrid) is one of the greatest clubs in the world. "Nobody knows what the future

holds. I do not give these things much importance. The best thing is to allow things to run their course. What ever will be, will be." Ronaldo has become a big fan of the English game and believes that

it is on a par with Spain, but feels

that Primera Liga places more emphasis on individual ability. "They are the best leagues in the world," he said. "The football in Spain is more open though, with less physical contact and maybe because of this one can play a more attacking and spectacular game,

Palestine toy

more technical and skilful."

the Philippines was redcarded in the 85th minute after he dangerously brought down Chinese Taipei's Meng-Chian Lee.

Chinese Taipei's assistant coach Wu-Yeh Chang said "Our players were very tired during the match because they are not used to these hot conditions and rigorous training since two days."

Philippines coach Aris Caslib blamed the defeat on the redcard. "It was a crucial moment of the match because we were attacking reqularly at the rival citadel. We could have scored an equaliser," he said.

Sanath's Test finale

Cricket

AFP, Kandy

The Sri Lankan team is hoping to give former skipper Sanath Jayasuriya a grand farewell by winning the second and final Test against Pakistan starting here on Left-handed Jayasuriya, 36, Sri Lanka's highest run-scorer in both Test cricket and one-day internationals, announced his retirement from Tests on Friday. "We haven't beaten Pakistan for

tant coach Trevor Penny. Penny, who took charge after coach Tom Moody flew to England to attend the funeral of his father-inlaw, said the team would miss Jayasuriya, who will continue to play one-davers.

20 years at home. It is going to be

the last Test for Sanath and he

deserves a grand send-off for what

he has been for cricket," said assis-

"We won't be doing anything drastically different but just stick to the basics and try to come up with a good show." Penny said about the

The opening Test ended in a draw in Colombo after the home side set an improbable 458-run target for Pakistan, who played out over four sessions to save the

The home side will not be risking experienced paceman Chaminda Vaas, who is recovering from a side strain and have named an unchanged squad

"He has sort of recovered but we don't want to risk him in a match situation. The idea is to give him plenty of rest and recovery period and have him fit for the upcoming England tour." Penny added.

expected to come in for Dilhara Fernando, who went wicketless in the first match. Sri Lanka were also likely to field uncapped left-arm spinner Sajeeva Weerakoon in place of Malinga Bandara. For Pakistan, middle-order

Seamer Nuwan Kulasekara was

batsman Mohammad Yousuf, who missed the first Test with a hamstring injury, had recovered. However, all-rounder Abdul Razzaq was battling to get fit after

suffering a knee injury.

Iqbal, who put up a match-saving

partnership with centurion Shoaib Malik in the first Test. "I was impressed with the way

the youngsters performed. I am always happy when there is a problem in selection because it means

there is competition," said skipper Inzamam ul Haq.

TEAMS

SRI LANKA (from): Mahela Jayawardene (capt), Kumar Sangakkara, Sanath Jayasuriya, Upul Tharanga, Michael Van Dort, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Thilan Samaraweera, Chamara Kapugedera, Farveez Maharoof, Lasith Malinga, Nuwan Kulasekara, Dilhara Fernando, Muttiah Muralitharan, Malinga Bandara,

Sajeewa Weerakoon. PAKISTAN (from): Inzamam-ul-Haq (capt), Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Abdul Razzaq, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal, Salman Butt, Danish Kaneria, Rao Iftikhar, Imran Farhat Faisal Igbal, Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif, Arshad Khan.



 $Chelse a \, striker \, Didier \, Drogba \, (R) \, is \, airborne \, while \, heading \, at \, the \, Birmingham \, goal \, during \, their \, Premiership \, match \, at \, determine \, determ$

PREMIERSHIP

Chelsea stutter again

Football

AFP, Birmingham Birmingham City gave themselves a lifeline in their battle against relegation and revived the Premiership title race with a goalless home draw against leaders Chelsea here

Saturday. The Blues might have stunned the St Andrews crowd even more had not England striker Emile Heskey missed three first-half opportunities.

As it was Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho could only watch in frustration as the draw offered fresh hope to rivals Manchester United.

Chelsea had goals from Asier Del Horno and Damien Duff disallowed but beleaguered Birmingham boss Steve Bruce will be now even more confident of pulling off the great escape

Heskey sliced a shot horribly high from a good position before wastefully heading Jermaine Pennant's free-kick wide.

Olivier Tebily, the Ivory Coast international, came even closer after 15 minutes with a fierce drive that forced an excellent save from

37 Chopper

sound

40 Asset

42 Army

41 Take the

"A" train

honchos

ent deity

from far

away

49 Carrots

50 Small

DOWN

1 Oft-

word

48 Gis' enter

tainers

salamar

bracketed

46 Belliger-

47 Fleet

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Pouch

event

colored

affirmative

8 Multi-

12 Altar

13 Bullets

14 Black

15 "Home

Alone

directo

17 Paradise

fashions

for short

cuckoos

20 Revealing 51 Hosp.

18 Hydrox

19 Wear

22 Detail.

24 Flock of

25 Gathers

(Abbr.)

31 Buy now,

pay later

side dish

34 Butterflies

do it

35 Wanders

about

36 Ford or

Hill

29 Depot

30 Fusses

32 Picnic

Hamilton

4 Burr-

Czech Republic goalkeeper Peter

Birmingham needed Northern Ireland international Maik Taylor much maligned after conceding ten goals in two games - to keep out Arien Robben's toe poke from close range But Heskey's misery in front of

goal continued throughout the first-

half as he hooked another good opportunity high over the crossbar as Chelsea's defence dithered. And Mourinho could only sit in stunned silence with the rest of his disgruntled backroom staff as

a string of errors. Mourinho probably tore the paint off the St. Andrews dressing room walls at half-time and Didier Drogba was close to breaking the deadlock at

Birmingham forced the visitors into

the start of the second-half. Del Horno's cross found the Ivory Coast international in the box and his flicked volley required Taylor to

be alert. Then came the crucial fiveminute spell when Chelsea's frustrations piled up. Del Horno had the ball in the net in the 50th minute

when he connected with a Robben

free-kick but the goal was disal-

lowed with the linesman flagging

against Ricardo Carvalho, retreat-

By Eugene Sheffer

"Okla-

homa!"

3 Architec-

ture

style

4 Knighted

women

5 Protuber

6 Ostrich's

cousin

7 Section

8 14th

11 Unit

Solution time: 25 mins.

force

-Europeai

10 Managed,

ance

16 "Exodus"

19 Morays

21 Grooving

22 Six-pack

often

23 Work

the

soil

25 Frigid

arena

27 Foolish

28 Enos!

30 Despot

34 Satyrlike

36 Dentist's

advice

Christmas

33 Exit

37 Pre-

buv

38 Take on

39 Notion

40 Conspire

42 Prompt

43 Vacation

44 Halluci

nogen

26 Big

classifica

20 Prop.

ing from an offside position. And then Damien Duff guided a shot into the net after Frank Lampard's astute pass but the Republic of Ireland interantional

was clearly offside. Mourinho brought on Joe Cole, ernan Crespo and Michael Essien as time ticked away but Birmingham's

midfield refused to give up. Argentina striker Hernan Crespo wasted a gilt-edged chance in injury time by shooting straight at Taylor as Chelsea lumbered to a draw that will give Sir Alex Ferguson renewed hope that a shock Premiership title

Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

can yet be his.

Gorshthanpara Krira Sangstha defeated Brave Heart Sporting Club by seven wickets in the Naheed Cotton First Division Cricket League

at the local stadium yesterday. Brave Heart were bowled out for a meagre 71 runs after deciding to bat first. Gorshthanpara took only 19 overs and lost three wickets to

chase down the target.

1	2	3		4	5	б	′		8	9	10	111
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18						19				
20	21					22	23					
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			35					36				
37	38	39					40					
41					42	43					44	45
46					47					48		
49					50					51		
CRYPTOQUIP												

PS SEVQDZ ZMOPRZDNPYM

HVEHERDZR BDU OMN XEW

PZZ, P NJPUF XEW QDX

QENPEU Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'VE HEARD ACTRESS DICKINSON LIKES TO DELIVER PEOPLE

MESSAGES SHE CALLS ANGIE-O-GRAMS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals F

The Cryptoquip 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.

Brian Lara