

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore (L) holds up a cricket ball to illustrate a point as his charges look on during a training session at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Friday. The first ODI against Australia will



Shane Warne took 5/113 in the second innings of the second and final Test against Bangladesh at Chittagong Divisional Stadium. It was the thirty sixth time that he has taken five wickets or more in an innings, first against Bangladesh



ESPN

English Premier Football League Live at 5:40 pm Newcastle vs West Brom Live at 7:55 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League Everton vs Birmingham Live at 7:55 pm FA Cup





Bobby Charlton

(England football legend) "I'm looking forward to the World Cup because I believe Wayne Rooney could be one of the major finds in world football.

Malik to undergo corrective surgery

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan all-rounder Shoaib Malik is to undergo a shoulder operation in South Africa next week to try to improve his suspect bowling action.

The 24-year old has twice been reported due to problems caused by the after-effects of two road accidents which have limited the

mobility of his arm extension. Malik, who has played in 15 Tests and 117 one-day internationals, has twice been reported in the

last two years. "Malik's problem is that due to those two accidents his arm tendons **SEE PAGE 13 COL 5**

Ponting blasts schedule

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian cricket captain Ricky Ponting has labelled the increasingly hectic international Test schedule "unacceptable" and has demanded more recovery time between matches. Ponting's side completed a 2-0

series clean sweep against Bangladesh Thursday but only after the Test minnows came close to a shock win in the first match against an out-of-sorts Australia The Australian captain blamed

the unconvincing performance on punishing schedule that included three Tests in South Africa immediately before the Bangladesh series.

"It has been an incredibly difficult last few months for us. Ponting said in remarks reported in the Australian media Friday.

"The Test cricket has been uite demanding and the program has been very demanding. "We certainly have to have a

Jonty set for

Pakistan are set to hire former

South Africa international Jonty

Rhodes on a short-term basis to

help improve their fielding, the

Pakistan Cricket Board said on

will get Rhodes on a short-term

contract. We should be able to have

him in Pakistan in May," a PCB

official told Reuters, speaking on

52 tests and 245 one-day interna-

tionals between 1992 and 2003 and

is recognized as one of the most

outstanding fielders in modern

to get Rhodes on a short-term

assignment to train the Pakistan

senior players before they tour

England in June and then train our

younger players at the National

senior and 'A' team players.

Cricket Academy," he added.

The official said that the aim was

"We want him working with our

The 37-year-old Rhodes played

condition of anonymity.

"The chances are good that we

Pak role

REUTERS, Karachi

look at the amount of time between Tests. We played five in five weeks, and in pretty extreme conditions here. That is, as far as I

am concerned, unacceptable."

Ponting's frayed nerves were evident in the second Test in Chittagong, when he was fined 25 percent of his match fee for dissent when he disputed a not out decision that was subsequently overruled

He said more time was needed



RICKY PONTING

to perform at their best. "We would like more time

between the Test matches, that's the big thing," he said.

"We just didn't have a break. A two-day break between Test matches we just played is nowhere near enough. I think we saw the effects of that on day one in the first Test in Dhaka.

"We had guys who, if we were fair dinkum (honest), probably shouldn't have played. Shouldn't have taken the field because they were totally exhausted and fatiqued.' Cricket Australia chief execu-

tive James Sutherland defended the schedule earlier this week and said it was the players who wanted back-to-back series against South Africa and Bangladesh. "They wanted to get straight into

it," he said. "They felt that they were in Test match mode and the appropriate course of action was to go straight there (Bangladesh) and get home sooner rather than later, so that people could enjoy a break

PCB worried about India overkill

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan is concerned that the increasing number of matches against India could lead to player burnout and a general lack of audi-"We are going to be very careful

and selective on the number of matches we play against India, especially at off shore venues," Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan told Reuters on Friday.

Pakistan and India have played three bilateral series since 2004 and met in two one-day internationals in Abu Dhabi this week

"The motivating factor for having more matches against India is obviously money, but we are concerned that an excess of such games could lead to a drop in interest among the public," Khan said. "Already we are playing against

each other too much and the marketing returns are lower when we first played in 2004.

The Board of Control for Cricket

in India recently sold media rights for a series of planned off shore games against Pakistan and other countries for 217 million dollars. The Abu Dhabi games were the first instalment of this package,

though the proceeds were donated to the victims of last year's earthguake in Pakistan and India. "Every corner of the world wants to host India and Pakistan matches

but for us finance is not the only consideration." Shaharvar said. "We will be very selective about

our future matches with India at off shore venues. We have already told them we don't want to play at neutral venues in the year we play a bilateral series," he added.

Pakistan are scheduled to tour India in 2007 for a full series after hosting their rivals this year.

SL ready for Eng pace

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody promised on Friday to fight fire with fire when his team takes on England's fast bowlers in their three-Test series starting next month.

"It will be no surprise that the ball will be whistling around our ears," Moody told a news conference. "We will prepare accordingly. A lot of our players enjoy facing pace."

England's four-pronged pace attack was crucial to their team's Harmison struck Justin Langer

Ashes success over Australia last year with Steve Harmison and Andy Flintoff setting the tone in a ferocious opening hour at Lord's.

on the arm, dented Matthew Hayden's helmet and grazed captain Ricky Ponting's cheek in an uncompromising statement of

Moody, a member of Australia's 1999 World Cup winning team who also played for Warwickshire and Worcestershire in the English county championship, said he had not been surprised that the Ashes series had been close.

"I was surprised that Australia lost," he said. "The surprising element was that so many of the Australians were out of form.

Moody praised the England team and, in particular Flintoff, who he said had a "huge impact" as an all

rounder.

But he said he was not surprised the team had struggled in their off-

"Playing on the sub-continent is tough," he said. "I'm not surprised that England had a tough time."

In the absence of the injured Marvan Atapattu, Mahela Jayawardene will lead the 16-man Sri Lanka side who will play Tests at Lord's, Edgbaston and Trent Bridge before a five-match one-day series.

Moody said the early season conditions in England where the ball can move extravagantly in the air and off the pitch would present his team with a demanding challenge.

"It's tough for us but we will be looking forward to the challenge," he said. "Quite a lot of our guys have played here in May but the SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Nat'l school soccer on

SPORTS REPORTER

The banglalink Tiger Trophy school football tournament kicked of nationwide yesterday amidst a sea

In Patuakhali, Gachanee High School XI beat Betagi High School by a 4-1 scoreline. Riden scored two goals and Ripon and Saiful bagged one each for the winners. In the other match of the day Government Boys School of Jhalakathi got a walkover as their opponents, Kakorda MK High School failed to

There are 10 teams from 5 districts taking part in the Barisal Division of the tournament.

Over in Mymensingh, the inaugural match of the day saw Islamia Government High School beat Ramizuddin Cantonment School and College by a 5-0 scoreline.

StanChart nat'l school cricket

UNB. Dhaka

Kurmitola High School crushed Bangladesh Bank Adarsha High School by 251 runs in the second round match of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers Under-15 School Cricket tournament at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Winning the toss, Kurmitola chose to bat first and piled up 346 runs losing all wickets in 49.5 overs. In reply, Bangladesh Bank

Adarsha were bundled out for 95 runs in 37.3 overs.

MA JABBAR TENNIS **BKSP** rule the roost

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Krira Sikkha Protisthan (BKSP) established their supremacy in the MA Jabbar Memorial Tennis Tournament by lifting titles of different events in Dhaka Friday.

Taimul Islam Robin of BKSP beat Delwar Hossain 6-1, 6-2 in the final to become champion in the boys' 16-years age group while Hasibul of BKSP was crowned champion in the boys' 13-year age-group defeating Arif Hossain from NTC.

Ma Hi Ching was another BKSP talent to claim the girls' 16years age-group title. Ho Jo Hosako and Ruma were the BKSF pair to snatch the women's team event beating Ha Hai Ching and Masuma.

Meanwhile, Amol Roy and Ranjan Ram Raju also moved to the men's singles final.

South Asia's 2011 WC bid faces competition

REUTERS, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board said on Friday the joint South Asia bid to host the 2011 World Cup was facing stiff competition from Australia and New Zealand.

Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh submitted their bid on Thursday to the International Cricket Council (ICC) who had given them an extension from February in the deadline for the submission.

"The ICC has acknowledged our bid but Australia and New Zealand are very keen to host the 2011 World Cup and are insisting it is their turn to stage the competition," a board spokesman told

Australia and New Zealand have jointly hosted the World Cup only once before in 1992. Pakistan and India last staged the tournament in 1996 with Sri Lanka.

The spokesman said ICC Executive Board members would meet in Dubai on the April 30 to debate the two bids. England hosted the 1999 tour-

nament and Southern Africa the 2003 edition. West Indies stages the event in 2007.

H'ball training ends

SPORTS REPORTER

A month-long handball training camp ended on Thursday at Matiranga in Khagrachhari. Khagrachhari Zilla District Office

organised the month-long camp for 12-16 years secondary school students from March 21 to April 20 More than 35 girls and boys participated and received training and were

choice

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira helieves hosts Germany rather than his own team are favourites to win

Germany Parreira's

the World Cup. "I think Germany and Italy are just as much favourites as we are," he said in an interview with the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper on Thursday. "In fact, I think Germany are

bigger favourites. They've played in seven finals, including three in a row (1982, 1986 and 1990) and they have the fans on their side." Parreira added that his players had to forget about their celebrity

status and work hard if they were to

keep the trophy they won for a fifth time in 2002. "Talent is not enough at a World Cup. We have to have emotion, an amateur spirit, and play with our

hearts," he said. "The players must forget that they are celebrities, with good contracts. We have to make them understand that here in Brazil, there are nearly 200 million fans.

"People want Ronaldinho to do the same for us that he does for Barcelona, but they have to remember that we haven't seen him for eight months." said Parreira.

Makaay, Seedorf left out

AFP, ZEIST, Netherlands

Netherlands coach Marco van Basten has left Roy Makaay and Clarence Seedorf out of a 33-strong pre-World Cup squad named here on Friday. The former AC Milan and Holland

striker will trim another ten names

from the squad which will be announced definitively on May 15. Seedorf, currently a midfielder for AC Milan, has never been picked for the national team by van Basten but had harboured hopes of travel-

ling to Germany for the June 9-July

9 tournament. Bayern Munich striker Makaay appears to have paid the price for his recent mediocre performances.

BITS AND BOBS

Van Basten appears to have gone for youth over experience by including Ajax's Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, who leads the Dutch

league in scoring this season.

Midfielders Edgar Davids (Tottenham), Mark Van Bommel (Barcelona) and defender Jan Kromkamp (Liverpool) have all been named in the squad and despite criticism from van Basten of late will be hoping to retain a place in the final 22.

With seven of their players selected so far, AZ Alkmaar can boast having most representatives in the national team so far, ahead of Ajax who have Kaka sponsors SuperPippo

INTERNET, undated

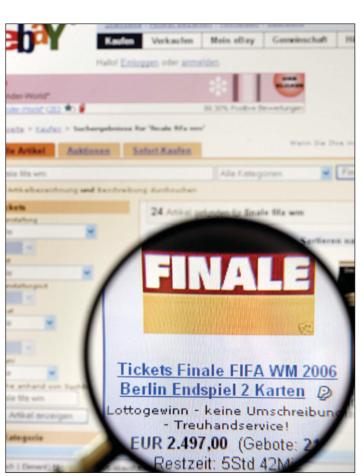
Brazilian ace Kaka has told Italy boss Marcello Lippi to select teammate Pippo Inzaghi for the World Cup Finals.

The striker hasn't appeared for the Azzurri in over two years and never during the reign of his former

Juventus mentor Lippi. But Inzaghi has made a late push for a place on the German bound

plane with a scintillating 2006 so far. "I believe that Inzaghi deserves

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



A photograph taken through a magnifying glass shows an offer for the sale of tickets for the final of the FIFA 2006 World Cup in Berlin, on an internet auction site.

WC grounds will be ready on time

venue

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Suggestions that some of the grounds scheduled to host matches during next year's World Cup will not be ready on time have been dismissed by Chris Dehring, the tournament's managing director and chief

executive officer. Concerns have grown after contractors at Sabina Park admitted that there were serious delays in the ground's rebuild, but Dehring said that it was "full steam ahead", adding that a contingency plan had been submitted to the ICC in case there

were any last-minute problems. "Everyone is moving forward as planned," he told reporters in

back-up plan in place and it is currently being reviewed by the ICC That plan will only be implemented if absolutely necessary. At present, there is no one country that is being earmarked to 'take' matches currently assigned to another host

"If a decision were to be taken to relocate matches from one host venue to another, it could only be taken by the organisers. This is not a decision that can be made by anyone outside.'

Dehring explained that it was 'critical to the overall success of the tournament, at this time every country is expected to meet its obligation to host matches. Each

SEE PAGE 13 COL1

HHH

Sachin on the recovery trail CRICINFO, undated

Sachin Tendulkar's recovery from a

Indian board has announced. Tendulkar, who had surgery in London last month, is at the end of the second phase of a three-step rehabilitation which should take eight weeks in all. But although Tendulkar is progressing as expected, he is still likely to miss the one-day segment of India's tour of the West Indies, which starts on

May 12. "He has progressed at a rate anticipated by both the surgeon and myself to this point," Niranjan Shah, the BCCI's secretary, said in a statement. "He will now move into phase three of his rehab program which will involve increasing further ranges of shoulder movement as well as commencing strengthening

activities as tolerated. Tendulkar, 32, was reviewed by John Gloster, the Indian team's physio, three weeks after the operation. The BCCI stated that Tendulkar has continued to improve as far as his range of active movement, tissue healing, and day-to-day functions are concerned. It was also revealed that the level of pain felt by

Tendulkar has decreased. The third and final phase runs up to May 1, after which Tendulkar is expected to begin batting practice with a light bat.

Aussies value Ashes most

AFP, Sydney

A Cricket Australia opinion poll has confirmed what has been evident Down Under since last September -the Ashes loss to England hurt Australians more than any other

sporting trophy, well ahead of the nearest contender, football's World Cup, on eight percent. Cricket's World Cup was next on

Davis Cup (six percent) and the Rugby World Cup on five percent. "When it comes to Australian team sporting prizes, it's clear that

the public consider the Ashes to be

the pinnacle," Cricket Australia chief

Australian spinner Brad Hogg is about to play a delivery during a practice session at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Friday.

sporting defeat. The survey of 1,200 sports fans conducted by pollsters Newspoll found 63 percent regarded the Ashes as the nation's most coveted

seven percent, followed by tennis'

executive James Sutherland