

## China given go-ahead

AFP, Islamabad

The Asian Cricket Council has approved special development projects to promote cricket in China, officials said Saturday.

"The ACC development committee meeting has approved a budget of 5.6 million dollars for the next fiscal year and we have special development programmes for China, where the interest is growing fast," ACC chief executive Ashraf Huq told AFP.

During its development committee meeting here, the ACC chalked out a development plan for the next five years with special emphasis on China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan.

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed visited China earlier this year and was impressed with the interest in the game there.

Huq said the ACC had also requested special funds from the ICC for China.

"The ICC has also promised help for China and we have also requested for special funds from the ICC. China's school team of under 15 years of age will be among eight teams participating in a school event in Thailand next month," said Huq, a former secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Already, 200,000 dollars has been provided by the ACC, a sum which would be matched by a further 200,000 dollars from the ICC, Huq said.

An under-15s competition among schools was held in Beijing in July this year while the first inter-university competition was also held there last month.

Sports officials in Beijing first expressed an interest in cricket a decade ago. China was admitted into the ACC in 2004 and joined the ICC the following year.

A Chinese women's team would next year tour England at the invitation of the Marylebone Cricket Club, said Huq.

The Chinese Cricket Association, headed by Zhang Xiaoning, hopes to have 15,000 cricketers by 2009. Numbers are forecast to rise to 60,000 by 2012 and 150,000 by 2020.

## Ashraf is back

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to say it would be unwise to lay off a batsman like Ashraf ahead of the World Cup when he has fulfilled our demand," he explained.

The former national skipper also informed that they would not consider Ashraf as an opener this time.

"It's up to the team management how they arrange their batting order but there is hardly any chance to see Ashraf as an opener in the series. We will definitely prefer him batting at numbers four to six."

Ashraf, not selected for the Twenty20 international, was delighted but said that it was now a big challenge for him to justify the selectors' decision.

"I think the earlier decision ultimately helped me because I got back my confidence playing the big innings. Now I have to prove my worth also in the series," said Ashraf, who was supposed to travel to Rajshahi last afternoon to play Dhaka's National Cricket League match but got the ticket to fly with his skipper Habibul Bashar, Mehrab Hossain and Forhad Reza for Khulna.

"Scoring runs is the only way to keep your position in the team," he added.

It was, however, not new that a player initially dropped from a series has managed to win back his place in time. Habibul Bashar and Minhajul Abedin are previous examples of this.

Bashar was recalled for country's inaugural Test in 2000 while Minhajul was selected for the 1999 World Cup in England.

## England live

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**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings (181 for 1 over/night)  
Langer not out 100  
Hayden run out 37  
Ponting not out 60  
Extras: (lb-4, nb-1) 5

Total: (For 1 wkt dec in 45.1 overs) 202

Fall of wicket: 1-68  
**Bowler** O M R W  
Hoggard 11 2 43 0  
Anderson 9 1 54 0  
Flintoff 5 2 11 0  
Harmison 12.1 1 54 0  
Giles 5 0 22 0  
Pietersen 3 0 14 0

**ENGLAND:** Second innings  
Strauss c Broad (sub) b Clark 11  
Cook c Hussey b Warne 43  
Bell lbw b Warne 0  
Collingwood st Gilchrist b Warne 96  
Pietersen not out 92  
Flintoff c Langer b Warne 16  
Jones not out 12  
Extras: (b-8, lb-5, nb-9, w-1) 23  
Total: (For 5 wks in 80 overs) 293  
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-36, 3-91, 4-244, 5-271.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Lee 17 0 81 0  
McGrath 12 2 30 0  
Clarke 19 5 56 1  
Warne 31 7 108 4  
Hussey 1 0 5 0

**Toss: Australia**  
**Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WIS) Billy Bowden (NZL)**  
**Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)**



Indian tennis stars Sania Mirza (L) and Rohan Bopanna hold the winners' trophy after beating Chinese Taipei pair of I-Hsuan Hwang and Ti Chen in the Asian Hopman Cup final in Hyderabad yesterday.

## India make Hopman Cup

Tennis

AFP, Hyderabad

India scored an impressive victory over Chinese Taipei in the final of the Asian Hopman Cup tournament here on Sunday to ensure a berth in the main tournament.

Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna starred in a 3-0 win as India became the first team to qualify for the Hopman Cup under a new system that reserves a berth for an Asian team.

India also earned 20,000 dollars for their win to add to an assured 50,000 dollars for participating in the main tournament in Perth, Australia, next January.

Local star Mirza reigned the packed stadium with a fluent game that saw her win 6-2, 6-4 against 316th-ranked I Hsuan Hwang.

Mirza, ranked 67, breezed through the first set by breaking her opponent's serve in the fifth and seventh games.

But the 20-year-old had to work harder in the second set as she once held serve after four deuces and on another occasion after three.

"I tried to finish some points early as I had a slight fever yesterday and knew that longer rallies would be to my detriment," said Mirza, who is preparing for next month's Asian Games in Doha.

"It has been good to get some matches before the Asian Games. But it will be much tougher in Doha as there will be more teams and better players participating," said Mirza.

Bopanna, ranked 259, excelled with his serves to prevail 6-3, 6-4 over 310th-ranked Ti Chen 6-3, 6-4.

The 26-year-old from the southern Indian city of Bangalore fired six aces in each set and also returned serves well, once breaking serve at love in the second set.

"He was under pressure as my first serves started getting in so early," said Bopanna. "I got a rhythm going after the first two

games and things were not very difficult from then on."

Bopanna too felt the matches were good preparation for the Asian Games.

"Winning three matches so close to the Asian Games are definitely a morale-booster," said Bopanna, who replaced injured star player Leander Paes in this tournament.

"I had taken up the job of helping India qualify for the Hopman Cup and have done that. I can now only wait and see whether I am asked to play in the main tournament," he added.

Mirza and Bopanna later ensured that India did not drop a set in the tournament as their opponents conceded the inconsequential mixed doubles after losing the first set 6-1.

The event was held on a league basis with six teams divided in two groups. The toppers of the groups made it to the final. China, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines were the other teams in the fray.

## Rajshahi-Dhaka

FROM PAGE 17  
match against Zimbabwe in Khulna on November 28.

Rajshahi are also on the back of a win following their seven-wicket defeat of Sylhet. They are two points adrift of Dhaka, who are well-placed with 16 points.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, struggling Sylhet take on Khulna while away at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium, Barisal play hosts Chittagong. The visitors are in good form after their previous round win over Khulna in Dhaka.

## Deisler glad

FROM PAGE 20  
"We should be grateful that Sebastian changed the game for us," said Magath. "His performance offers hope for the future."

Dutch forward Roy Makaay also paid tribute to his teammate saying he could have an important part to play in Bayern's title bid.

"We know what Sebastian can do and it is nice for him to be back after such a long time out through injury," said Makaay. "I am sure he can play a big role for us for the remainder of the season."

## 'Stop Yousuf'

FROM PAGE 17  
Richards, from the West Indies, achieved the record in 1976.

Lara, who made his Test debut in Pakistan 15 years ago, hoped he would make his last Test in this country a memorable occasion.

**SQUADS (from):**  
**WEST INDIES:** Brian Lara (capt), Ramnaresh Sarwan, Chris Gayle, Daren Ganga, Lendl Simmons, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Runako Morton, Dwayne Bravo, Denesh Ramdin, Corey Collymore, Fidel Edwards, Daren Powell, Jerome Taylor, Omari Banks, Dave Mohammed

**PAKISTAN:** Inzamamul Haq, Mohammad Hafeez, Imran Farhat, Yasir Hameed, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Shoaib Malik, Abdul Razzaq, Faisal Iqbal, Kamran Akmal, Umar Gul, Samiullah Niazi, Shahid Nazir, Mohammad Sami, Danish Kaneri

## Niaz wins but Zia held

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi Grandmaster Niaz Murshed won his sixth round game in the Commonwealth Chess Championship 2006 in Mumbai on Saturday but fellow GM Ziaur Rahman dropped points.

Zia drew with Indian Woman Grandmaster Dronavalli Harika while Niaz defeated Pakistan's Tunveer Gillani. Both the Bangladeshi players raised their tallies to four points.

British GM Nigel Short and Indian International Master Venkatesh shared the lead with 5.5 points each.

## Shakil on the verge of title

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil remained on top of the Prime Bank International Rating Chess Tournament beating Taher yesterday but he will have to win today's final round match to reap harvest of good work.

After eighth and the penultimate round, Shakil was on 7.5 points, just half a point ahead of Chanchal Kumar.

Shakil, still unbeaten in the 9-round Swiss League, face Mohammad Javed in the final round.

In other eight round matches at the federation chess-room, Chanchal beat Delwar, Monir beat Jamal, Robin beat Tarik, Naser beat Nahid while Javed received walk-over against Moniruzzaman.

## Form worries Inzy

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq has said he was "very much concerned" about his loss of form in their current series against the West Indies.

Inzamam had skipped the Champions Trophy limited overs tournament owing to a four-ODI ban following the Oval Test forfeiture in August.

He is playing his first series after their tour of England and has so far had forgettable outing with poor scores of 0, 31 and 10 in the Test-series against Brian Lara's team.

"I am very much concerned about my performance but I am very satisfied with the team's showing especially during the Multan Test match," Inzamam was quoted as saying by 'The Nation'.

Inzamam, however, said he was looking for a better performance to make the third and final Test an interesting duel.

"The final Test would also be decisive and there would be interesting contest. By winning the final game I would like to seal the series," he said.

Pakistan won the first match at Lahore by nine wickets which the second Test ended in a draw at Multan.

## Sheer magic

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Pollock was as destructive at the start of India's innings as Khan had been earlier. Virender Sehwag, who missed the first match because of a finger injury, was out for nought when he slashed the fourth ball of the innings to third man and Sachin Tendulkar made only two before

clipping a catch to square leg.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard in the third one-day international between South Africa and India at Newlands on Sunday:

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Smith b Zaheer 0  
Bosman c Tendulkar b Zaheer 6  
Kallis c Tendulkar b Zaheer 0  
Gibbs c Kaif b Pathan 35  
De Villiers c Dhoni b Agarkar 29  
Boucher run out (Kumble) 4  
Kemp not out 100  
Pollock run out (Dhoni) 33  
Hall not out 56  
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-8) 11  
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs) 274  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-0, 3-38, 4-42, 5-71, 6-76, 7-136  
Did not bat: Langeveldt, Ntini

**Bowler** O M R W  
Zaheer 10 4 42 3  
Agarkar 9 0 71 1  
Pathan 8 1 60 1  
Kumble 10 1 24 0  
Harbhajan 10 0 63 0

## Maldini mellows

FROM PAGE 20  
opened the scoring in the 31st minute after visiting keeper Morgan De Sanctis spilled the ball into his path.

Obinna grabbed his second from the penalty spot midway through the second half after Brazilian defender Felipe handled.

## Tevez

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but that is no good reason. We don't have that kind of discipline here."

Pardew said he substituted Tevez because he wanted tall players on the pitch following the hamstring injury to defender Danny Gabbidon who was carried off on a stretcher.

Pardew added: "I thought he (Tevez) was very good. He wasn't substituted because he was playing poorly. We brought Teddy Sheringham on just to defend set-plays."

## Colly cool over miss

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

England batsman Paul Collingwood dismissed the anguish of narrowly missing out on a century in the first Ashes Test here Sunday to reveal in his team's overdue gutsy fightback against Australia.

Collingwood, cruelly denied a century when he was stumped on 96, was at the heart of England's resurgence on day four at the Gabba that belied the Ashes holder's meek surrender to a fired-up Australia in the first three days.

"Today (Sunday) was about fighting, about pride, a bit of passion," he said.

"Not just talking about it but going out there and showing it. Not just stonewalling but taking the game to the Australians, that's the way we need to play."

The 30-year-old Durham right-hander came agonisingly close to posting his third Test century but was stumped by Adam Gilchrist when he was stranded after jumping down the wicket to a beguiling Shane Warne delivery.

"Got done in the flight, didn't I?" he smiled. "(Warne) just tossed it up and lured me down and I missed it. Enough said."

Collingwood was happier to focus on England's rediscovered fighting qualities than dwell on his personal frustration.

"Obviously I'm a little disappointed not to make the hundred, but if you look from the team's point of view it was an important day for us," he said.

"The first three days didn't go as well as we would have liked and it was important we came out today and put up a fight, and we've certainly done that, playing some positive cricket."

While England face a seemingly impossible task to salvage anything from the first Test as they chase a mammoth 648-run target, Collingwood said Sunday's performance would boost morale and help get the team's Ashes defense on track.

"(It's) very important, we needed a day like this as soon as we could, and thankfully it came today (Sunday)," he said.

"The first three days were hugely disappointing to us and we needed to get our confidence back and prove to ourselves that we can beat Australia."

"Certainly, if we get our heads together, put partnerships together and play in the manner we did today, then we can."

He said England would be look-

ing for their renewed aggression from the first ball of the second Test in Adelaide beginning on Friday.

England's fighting attitude was on display when Kevin Pietersen, with whom Collingwood shared a 153-run fourth-wicket stand, clashed with Warne after the Australian spinner threw the ball at his head at the end of his 15th over.

Unbowed, the England No. 5 swatted it away with his bat and snapped back at Warne, his teammate at English county side Hampshire.

"That's Test cricket ... Kevin Pietersen's a guy who likes a challenge and that why when he comes up against the best players he wants to prove himself, he's up for a fight as well," Collingwood said.

Collingwood even retained a faint hope that England could make Australian captain Ricky Ponting regret his decision not to enforce the follow-on by batting through day five to seize an unlikely draw.

"If we can get away with this tomorrow (Monday), then obviously we'd be happy with the decision that's been made, but we've got a long way to go," he said.

## Pressure works for him!

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Justin Langer has, as he puts it, been "under the pump" for most of his 101-Test career, but he takes great delight in proving his detractors wrong and he did it again in the Gabba Ashes Test against England here Sunday.

The diminutive left-handed opening batsman, who turned 36 last week, scored his 23rd Test century with 100 not out as Australia declared their second innings at 202 for one to set England a monumental 648 runs to chase in two days.

At stumps on Sunday's fourth day England were 293 for five with Pietersen unbeaten on 92 and Geraint Jones not out 12 and heading for defeat on Monday's last day.

Langer became the fifth all-time leading Australian scorer in Tests with 7,575 runs at 46.18 in his 101st Test match.

He also passed some illustrious

company to climb to 20th all-time, leapfrogging David Boon (7,422), Desmond Haynes (7,487), Clive Lloyd (7,515), Mark Taylor (7,525) and Gordon Greenidge (7,558) after his two knocks of 82 and 100 not out in this Test.

Langer batted for 199 minutes with 10 fours and celebrated enthusiastically after completing his ton by scampering through for a single off Steve Harmison.

As soon as he reached his hunched, batting partner and captain Ricky Ponting closed the Australian innings to push for victory.

"It's particularly satisfying because it's an Ashes Test match," Langer said Sunday.

"I've been building up for this for 14 months in all my preparations."

"Obviously, getting hit on the head in my last Test match (in South Africa) was a bit of a blip on the radar, but it (the Ashes) has been such a carrot in all our preparations, it's nice that all the hard work has paid off today."

Langer, playing in his 100th Test match against South Africa in

Johannesburg last April, collected a thudding blow from Makaya Ntini on his helmet, which left him in hospital with significant concussion.

Langer said he was appreciative of Ponting's gesture to bat on into the fourth day to give him his chance of reaching another century.

"It was very generous of the captain to let me get my hundred today. I said last night I thought we should just declare, but he was adamant he would like to see me get a hundred. (The head) injury had nothing to do with it."

Langer has fought a constant battle throughout his 13-year Test career to continue playing Test cricket, with New South Wales opener Phil Jaques the latest challenger for his Test position.

"I would love to be able to walk out every day and be relaxed and not have it," Langer said of justifying his Test place.

## Kemp crushes India

FROM PAGE 17

Sachin Tendulkar at first slip. Khan claimed a third wicket when Louts Bosman, who took 20 balls to score his first run, was out in similar fashion to Kallis, caught at first slip by Tendulkar for six.

Herschelle Gibbs and AB de Villiers batted brightly for 35 and 29 respectively but when Pollock was the second of two run-out victims India were on top.

Hall took full advantage of his late inclusion, however, and struck the ball crisply from the start of his innings, while Kemp delighted the crowd with his powerful straight hitting.

Pollock was as destructive at the start of India's innings as Khan had been earlier. Virender Sehwag, who missed the first match because of a finger injury, was out for nought when he slashed the fourth ball of the innings to third man and Sachin Tendulkar made only two before

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South Africa all-rounder Justin Kemp plays a lofted drive over the long-off region for a six during their ODI against India at Newlands in Cape Town on Sunday.

Tendulkar 3 0 13 0

**INDIA**  
Sehwag c Hall b Pollock 0  
Tendulkar c Bosman b Pollock 2  
Dravid c Hall b Pollock 63  
Kaif b Pollock 10

Karthik c Smith b Ntini 14  
Dhoni c Bosman b Kallis 55  
Pathan c Smith b Kallis 1  
Harbhajan c Smith b Hall 10  
Agarkar c Smith b Hall 6  
Zaheer not out 2  
Kumble b Hall 0

Extras: (lb-1, w-4) 5  
Total: (All out in 41.3 overs) 168  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-7, 3-17, 4-44, 5-129, 6-133, 7-148, 8-156, 9-168.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Pollock 9 1 26 4  
Ntini 7 2 13 1  
Hall 9.3 0 45 3  
Langeveldt 5 0 31 0  
Kallis 8 0 29 2  
Kemp 1 0 13 0  
Smith 2 0 10 0

**Result: South Africa won by 106 runs and lead the series 2-0.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Justin Kemp.**

## Smith, Lorgat clash over Nel

CRICINFO, undated

South African cricket found itself in the middle of yet another selection row when the captain Graeme Smith and coach Mickey Aron had a showdown with Haroon Lorgat, the convener of South Africa's selection committee, just before the start of the Newlands game on Sunday over the exclusion of Andre Nel and the selection of Andrew Hall in his place.

"The iff happened just 15 minutes before the toss and the matter was presumably on Smith's mind as he walked out to open the innings. Significantly, he was dismissed off the second ball and could later be seen on the team balcony, a furious expression on his face. His mood could hardly have been lifted by his team's top-order batting.

Nel had starred in the crushing 157-run victory at Durban, scything through the Indian middle order on his way to superb figures of 4 for 13. He hurt a finger yesterday (Saturday), when a spike on his shoe made contact during his follow-through. But having passed a fitness test this morning, he was almost certain to play until Lorgat intervened.