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#### Shoaib shrugs it off

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has shrugged off concerns of a new controversy over his action. ahead of the team's forthcoming tour of England.

announced that Australian Darrell Hair and Englishman Peter Willey. the umpires who first reported him for throwing, would stand in Pakistan's first Test against England at Lord's next month.

"I have no problems with the umpires," he said on Saturday judgements but, at the same time,

I am convinced that my bowling action is correct. Akhtar has just been cleared of

throwing for the second time. He was first reported by Hair and Willey during the third test

1999 and ordered to improve his action before returning to test the was reported again after a

caland at Dunedin in February. to has since been given the allhear after further work with experts from Perth's University of Western Australia.

Akhtar was named in Pakistan's 17-strong England tour squad on Saturday despite not playing since February following

"I am keenly looking forward to the tour to England and hoping that I will enjoy it as much as I did in the 1999 World Cup," Akhtar

One of the sport's most exciting players, Akhtar has featured in 15 tests, taking 45 wickets. He also has 73 wickets in 44 one-day internationals. Pakistan Cricket Board director

Munawwar Rana told Reuters from Lahore: "We have proof that his bowling action is legal.

"Our panel of experts have cleared him and the reports will soon be dispatched to the International Cricket Council (ICC)."

#### Houghton's FROM PAGE 13

For example, I'm teaching a bat ting course for a week.

Then, we also send the 15 Academy boys to different places to give the benefit to other boys. We also take back some of the national players. In May, when the Bangladesh tour is over five of the national players will rejoin the academy. So, we do a job for them as well.

DSS: What kind of support is your Academy getting from the Zimbabwe Cricket Union?

DH: The ZCU supports us with infrastructure rather than providing its running cost. It is pumping in money to construct buildings. develop grounds and so on.

DSS: Zimbabwe is considered as one of the best fielding sides. What is the secret to it?

DH: Good fielding actually starts at the school-level because boxs play so many sports like miniature baseball that helps them to develop strong throwing arms. Our fielding standard however dropped a bit in the last couple of years but now it is picking up again. I have always found fielding

fun. We always try to avoid putting fielding and batting practice together. We choose the fielding last-ball victory over South Africa practice on a designated day.

ill at ease on bouncy pitches. What is the remedy for it?

DH: You see, the Harare wicket is different to the one at Bulawayo. And we are trying to make a very bouncy and quick wicket in the Academy. I have heard that your first-class cricket is being played on different venues, then why do not you prepare different type of wickets at different venues?

DSS: Discuss selection procedure in Zimbabwe.

DH: I am a big fan of our selection procedure. There are six selectors who pick a final fifteen. The coach and the captain are also invited but they are not selectors.

The coach and the captain are professional. They are responsible for actions on the field as well as being accountable to the public

Once the team is selected the selectors won't interfere with hap-

penings on the field. They leave the excuses to the captain and coach. DSS: You have been associated

with cricket in different capacities. Which job did give you the maximum satisfaction?

DH: I really enjoyed playing for my country because it was so much fun. I enjoyed coaching Zimbabwe for a couple of years but I found the stress level was too much. Especially when we started to enjoy some success. Anyway after coaching the national team for nearly two or three years I felt I

needed a change. Being a commentator is nice since all I get to do is talk on television. But to be honest I enjoyed the best time when I worked with the academy bees Berguse it is mee to see that the kids I beloud develop are now playing in the national team and are being successful,

DSS: Thank you for sharing your thoughts. DH: Thank you also.

## Windies win a nail-biter

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

Ridley Jacobs hammered a four off the last ball as the West Indies gained a three-wicket win over Akhtar responded after it was | South Africa in the first of seven one-day internationals at Sabina Park on Saturday.

West Indies seemed headed for a comfortable win as they chased a small South African total of 200 but the match ended in a thrilling

Brian Lara and skipper Carl "I respect them and their | Hooper put on 89 for the fourth wicket but then superb South African fielding pegged back the home side.

Fortunes swung wildly in the closing overs after Lara was sensationally caught for 54 by a diving Jonty Rhodes at backward point against Australia in November Joff Allan Donald. It was Rhodes' second remarkable catch after he dived full length to hold a flying drive by Chris Gayle off Donald.

South Africa struck a crucial the day international against New | blow when a limping Hooper, who batted with a runner towards the end of his innings, skied a catch to long-on.

Jacobs and Ricardo Powell had difficulty in pushing the score along and Powell was run out after a mix-up with Jacobs.

The balance had swung back to South Africa but man of the match Neil McGarrell hit fast bowler Jacques Kallis for a straight six in the 49th over. Then he fell to a diving catch by bowler Kallis.

Eight were needed off the last over, bowled by Donald. It came down to five off the last two balls. Jacobs had a wild swing and got two to square leg. The last ball was a low full toss which Jacobs pounded past backward point for

McGarrell's left-arm spin bowling ensured that West Indies did not post a big total. He took three for 32 in an unbroken spell which stifled the South African batsmen after the tourists had made a promising start.

Marlon Samuels took two wickets each as South Africa were unable to mount any substantial partnerships after McGarrell broke a second wicket stand of 64 between McKenzie c Jacobs b Cuffy Gary Kirsten and Jacques Kallis. Kallis went for a big hit off

Fellow spinners Hooper and

McGarrell's sixth delivery and was Pollock not out caught at long off. Three overs later Kirsten was

bowled around his legs by West Indian captain, offspinner Carl Hooper, after making top score of Total: (47.4 overs)

the pitch which was used for the 9-184 fifth and final Test which ended Bowler Monday.

Although there was good Cuffy bounce early on for fast bowlers Jeremy Mervyn Dillon and Cameron Cuffy it was the spinners who got the McGarrell

most help, with some turn and Samuels occasional low bounce.

South Africa picked only one slow bowler in their team, new cap Justin Ontong, 21, who bowled

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard in the first one-day Powell run out (Ontong) international between the West Indies and South Africa at Sabina McGarrell c and b Kallis Park on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA Kirsten b Hooper Gibbs run out (Lara) Kallis c Cuffy b McGarrell

WEST INDIES Garrick c Boucher b Pollock Gavle c Rhodes b Donald Samuels c Boucher b Kallis Lara c Rhodes b Donald Hooper c Kirsten b Telemachus 43 Jacobs not out Dillon not out

Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-6, nb-3) 15 Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 202 Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-51, 3-60, 23 4-149, 5-162, 6-177.

PHOTO INTERNET

South African batsman Neil McKenzie looks behind after being caught by West Indies wicketkeeper Ridley Jaccobs while bowler Cameron Cuffy starts to celebrate.

Rhodes lbw b McGarrell Boucher c and b Samuels Klusener b McGarrell Ontong c Powell b Hooper Telemachus c and b Samuels Donald b Dillon Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-9, nb-3)

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-75, 3-87, Hooper sent South Africa in on '4-131, 5-149, 6-149, 7-159, 8-179,

10 0 32

OM Pollock 0 38 Telemachus 0 40 5 0 23 Did not bat: C. Cuffy, K. Jer-

Result: West Indies won by 3

Man-of-the -match: Neil | Cricket Club by 62 runs. McGarrell.

Basil Morgan (both West Indies). TV umpire: Johnnie Gayle (WIs). Match referee: John Reid (Nzl). Next match: May 2 -- St John's, Antigua.

# Signs please Harper

Cricket

REUTERS, Kingston

West Indies coach Roger Harper was delighted at the way his team fought their way to a dramatic at Sabina Park on Saturday in the DSS: Bangladeshi cricketers are | first of seven one-day internation-

Wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs struck the final ball of the match bowled by Allan Donald to the boundary as the West Indies successfully chased South Africa's modest all-out total of 200 to win by three wickets.

"We are delighted with the win," Harper said afterwards. This is the sort of game that if we found ourselves in a similar position a few months back we would

But having won the fifth Test. this was a follow on from there and we sneaked home.

"We played some good cricket, especially when we bowled. We fielded well and although we lost

Ctg Div I

## cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Friends Club crushed Panchalaish Juba Sangha by nine wickets in the CJKS-Ispahani First Division Cricket League at the MA Aziz Stadium on Sunday.

Batting first, Panchalaish were shot out for 95. In reply, Friends cruised to the target (95).

### Sirajganj cricket

OUR CORESPONDENT, Strajganj

Masumpur Boys Club Ekadosh defeated Sayadhangara Boys Club by 17 runs in the Rojob Ali Smriti Cricket Tournament here on Sun-

Electing to bat, the winners replied with 114 in 26,3 overs.

some early wickets, we did enough

unavailable for comment after he we let ourselves down a bit. sustained severe cramp in both legs while batting.

89 for the fourth wicket with Brian Lara (51) which the coach pinpointed as crucial to the West Indies run chase, although he was disappointed neither was there at

Pollock was pleased his team remaining and we believe we can managed to take the game right down to the wire, although he felt that the batting effort from his side was well below par.

"200 runs isn't enough in with the bat to get home," Harper one-day (match)," Pollock said. We had set ourselves a good Captain Carl Hooper (43) was platform to build a big score and

"But the fight shown by the guys to nearly defend 200 was a Hooper shared a partnership of superb effort. It showed some of the old South African fight and I think the guys can be proud of the -way they performed.

"Obviously you have to win four games to win the series and to go down in the first game is disap-South African captain Shaun pointing. But there are six games win four of them." Pollock said.

The next match in the series is at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Wednesday.



made 131 in 30 overs. The losers | Former German tennis star Boris Becker tees off in a charity golf tournament in the island of Mallorca, Spain on Sunday.

### Div I cricket

Khelaghar SKS started their Super League campaign of the Metropolis First Division cricket with a winning note beating Orient SC by three wickets at the Jahangirnagar University ground vesterday.

Opted to bat first, Orient scored 239 runs for the loss of four wickets in stipulated 50 overs.

In çeply, Khelaghar reached their target of 240 runs for the loss of seven wickets with three balls to spare.

In the First Division relegation league match, Wari Club earned an exciting one-run victory over I-katon Sabuj Sangha at the Dhaka University Jagannath Hall vesterday.

Sent into bat first, Wari made 165 all out in 43 overs in a 45-over curtailed match due to overnight

In reply, Eskaton SS were all out for 164 runs in 44.3 overs.

### Div II cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Badda Ekota Sangha and Nabin Sangha won their respective matches in the Acme Second Division Cricket League at different

city venues vesterday. Badda Ekota beat Green Leaf Sporting Club by four wickets at the Gulshan ground.

Batting first, Green Leaf scored 175 runs all out in 48.3 overs while Badda Ekota Sangha reached the target of 176 runs losing six wickets in 44.5 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Nabin Sangha beat Prantik Kura Chakra also by four wick-

Prantik made 191 runs for all in 49.1 overs after deciding to bat first and Nabin Sangha, in reply. scored 193 runs for six wickets in 47.4 overs.

### Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Shaheed Mintu Sangha and Sotto-Mithu (Yellow) Cricket Club won their respective matches in one Beguin Wazeda Ahmed Gold Cup cricket tournament at the local stadium on Sunday.

Shaheed Mintu defeated Rising Star by five wickets in the first

Winning the toss, Rising Star batted first and collected 160 runs for six wickets in the stipulated 25

In reply, Shaheed Mintu scored 161 for five in 24.4 overs.

In the second match, Sotto-Mithu defeated Young Hercules

Batting first, Sotto-Mithu made Umpires: Steve Bucknor and | 153 runs for eight in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Young Hercules collected 91 runs all out in 19.2 overs.

### Sino paddlers clinch men's title

AFP, Osaka

China defeated Belgium to win the men's team title at the world table tennis championships on Sunday. but the beaten side admitted they were overjoyed to have got to the final at all.

In an unequal contest, China's Ma Lin, Liu Guozheng and Kong Linghui, all top five players, won 3-0 aginst the Belgians, who had not previously even reached a semi-final and never really threat-

The title follows the women's team gold China took the previously day and keeps them on course for a probable clean sweep of all the golds at the event in Osaka.

#### B'baria cricket

OURCORRESPONDENTBrahmanbaria

Progoti Cricket Club defeated Titas Cricket Club by 35 runs in the second round of the Shaheed Freedom Fighter Rangu Mia cup at Shahjadapur Junior High School playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Progoti batted first and collected 165 runs losing all wickets. . In reply, Titas managed 130

runs in stipulated 35 overs. In the other match of the day, Udayon Juba Sangha defeated Agradut Cricket Club by seven wickets in the same venue. Winning the toss, Agradut de-

cided to bat first and made 125 all In reply, Udayon reached their target of 126 runs losing three

#### What's eating FROM PAGE 13

wickets.

better to delay for a good cause," he told the DSS last night. The probe became necessary

as it was reported that Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) secretary general Zafar Imam and Shiekh Nizamuddin, a directorelect of BCB who is also the organising secretary of Zafar-led forum of district organisers, raised a huge amount of money from the Dhaka based candidates in the name of their forum to manipulate results of the election.

### Ranatunga, De Silva awaits ICC grilling

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is to question Sri Lanka's former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva this week over allegations they took bribes to throw matches.

ICC's anti-corruption chief Sir Paul Condon arrived here Saturday with his chief investigator Jeffrey Rees and three others to probe charges against the two top former Sri Lankan players, cricket officials said. They said Ranatunga and de

on Tuesday and Wednesday by the ICC's anti-corruption investigators whose visit to Sri Lanka was delayed by over two months due to the England tour here. Sir Paul was due to meet with

Silva will be questioned separately

the head of Sri Lanka's interim cricket board, Vijaya Malalasekara,

A spokesman for the interim board said another ICC official, Bob Smalley, arrived here Wednesday to prepare for Sir Paul's visit. "Mr Smalley has been here

before and is aware of the situa-

tion. He has done the spade work

for Sir Paul's visit," a Sri Lankan

cricket board official said. Sports Minister Lakshman Kiriella has vowed to cooperate with the ICC to probe allegations of match fixing against Ranatunga and De Silva.

"We are supporting a full and comprehensive investigation and will cooperate fully with the ICC," Kiriella told parliament earlier this month.

Ranatunga and De Silva have already made written observations regarding the allegations, first made by an Indian bookmaker, M. k. Gupta.

Gupta had told India's Central Bureau of Investigation that he paid 15,000 dollars for the Sri Lankan duo to engineer a Sri Lankan defeat in the 1994 Test against India at Lucknow.

Ranatunga, who led Sri Lanka to its one and only World Cup victory in 1996, has categorically denied accepting bribes, while De Silva said he was approached by bookmakers, but did not accept

any payment. Ranatunga has retired but De

Cricket sources said the ICC had been less than happy with the pace of investigations undertaken by the Sri Lankan Board of Control for Cricket which was sacked and replaced by an interim panel in

The ICC probe team was ini- terday. tially expected here in February, but sources said that their arrival was delayed due to Sri Lanka's Test and one-day series with Eng-

Yorkshire beat the rain

REUTERS, London

Yorkshire were the only winners in a rain-hit programme in the English county championship on Saturday, snatching a dramatic fourwicket triumph over Kent.

Needing 176 to win from 38 overs in their opening game of the season, the Tykes reached their target at Canterbury with just two balls to spare.

Australia's Darren Lehmann Inllowed up his 68 in the first innings with another important contribution of 41 before Gary Fellows (43 not out), skipper David Byas (23) and Richard Blakey (six not out) saw the visitors home in the last over.

However, Yorkshire's victory bid was held up by an unbeaten century from Ed Smith who made 103 from 220 balls, with 13 fours, as Kent rallied to 318 all out in their second innings.

### Silva is still a member of the Test M'singh cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Panditpara AC defeated Ratan Sangsad by 29 runs in the Beg Steel Premier Division Cricket League at the local stadium yes-

Winning the toss, Panditpara batted first and scored 144 runs for eight wickets in 40 overs.

In reply, Ratan Sangsad made 115 all out in 33.4 overs.



Members of the Chinese men's team hold the winner's trophy after beating Belgium in the World Table Tennis

## All-Spanish final

By Eugene Sheffer

2 News-

caster

14 Cardinal

26 Shackles

writers

28 Song-

org.

30 Actor

31 Stroller

32 Donkey

circuits

Stanley

Gardner

34 Track

29 Tinkerbell,

O'Con-

Tennis

AFP, Barcelona Juan Carlos Ferrero and Carlos Moya swept past the opposition in for his slender frame, lost last straight sets Saturday to set up year's final against Russian Marat only the fourth all-Spanish finale in the history of the one-million-

Chapionships final in Osaka on Sunday.

dollar Barcelona Open. The last trophy match between Thomas Enqvist 6-3, 6-3. locals was in 1997, when Albert Costa beat Albert Portas. But in the 49-year history of the event, Spaniards have had limited chances to compete against each

other for the prestige home crown. Ferrero, the fast-rising third seed with two titles already to his credit in the first four months of this season, reached the title

26 Des-

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Solution time: 26 mins.

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21 Greek

match at the Real Club de Tenis for the second year in a row, beating Swiss challenger Michel clay. Kratochvil 7-5, 6-2.

Ferrero, nicknamed Mosquito

compatriot after 11th seed Mova ousted seventh-seeded Swede Moya had played the semis here four times - and had lost them all until his win in bright

Safin. He will now take on his

sunshine. Moya snapped his jinx by putting at least some of his faith in the

Spanish folk wisdom that bad luck parting. cannot come in fives. Thave lots of confidence in my

game right now," said Moya, who

trails Ferrero 1-3 in their own carevr series, three of four played on

"Things are going well for me

and I must say I'm a bit surprised. The final will be a long match and it will come down to serve for me." Enqvist was broken three times in the opening set by Moya, who had knocked out Spanish Number

one and long-time rival Alex Cor-

himself together after trailing 0-4

The Swede managed to pull

retja in the quarter-finals.

played well from the start.

in the first but never fought back into the contest on the red clay. He saved a match point before de-Ferrero said that Kratochvil,

competing in his first career semi.

30 31 32

VCYJHTPI UW EWWU VZOL Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU COULD PRETTY

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, if 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.

CRYPTOQUIP OWRU

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