# An Englishman's delight

AFP, Karachi

Renowned pitch curator Andv Atkinson Monday said he felt hon oured to develop pitches for the Pakistan-India cricket series and promised they would excite fans.

"An Englishman developing pitches for a high-profile series like an India-Pakistan series is a great honour although there will be pressure. But I promise the pitches will help create the excitement the fans seek from this series," said

India and Pakistan are set to renew their cricketing rivalry after their bilateral ties were stalled for three years, with the Indian team touring Pakistan for the first time in

15 years The 15-man Indian squad led by Sourav Ganguly is due in Lahore on Wednesday to open the tour with a warm up one-day game there the following day. The first of five oneday games is scheduled in Karachi on Saturday.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) sought Atkinsons help after criticism of slow pitches by former captain Rashid Latif, coach Javed Miandad and PCB chairman Tauqir Zia last year.

The bespectacled curator, who worked in South Africa from 1993 to 2001, said he is keenly looking forward to the series and agreed it would be a high class battle between Pakistani bowlers and Indian bats-

"I am sure it would be an exciting series and since India has a strong batting line-up and Pakistan boasts good bowlers it will be a tussle between bowlers and batsmen," he said.

# Magura soccer

**OUR CORRESPONDENT** 

The only match of the Econo First Division Football League between Zia Smriti Sangsad and Sreerampur Friends Club ended in a goalless draw at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

## Hamilton

bowler Daniel Vettori, who hails from Hamilton, is likely to make the side, while South Africa may include left-arm duo Paul Adams and Nicky Boje.

"Even the South Africans are talking about playing two spinners so it must be a burner," said Vettori.

"It's something to look forward

"It's something that comes around once in a while, and that's probably the biggest test for me in that I'll be expected to perform and hopefully play a major part in

CROSSWORD

37 "Song of

South'

figure

40 Ohio

**ACROSS** 

1 Stylish

8 Blame-

32 Utah

campus

letters

33 Aware of

34 Feedbag

35 Tramp

units

36 Data

morsel

bearer

5 Baby dog

# Giles waiting for Lara

Cricket

**BBC ONLINE** 

England spinner Ashley Giles is looking forward to a reunion with West Indies captain Brian Lara when the Test series begins in Jamaica on Thursday.

The two played together at Warwickshire in 1998 but the spinner was not selected for the Ŵest Indies' last tour to England in

"Brian is the type of guy who likes to devastate spinners as soon as they come on," said Giles.

"I do know a bit about him, but it was 1998 the last time I played with The slow left-armer added: "It's

a long time ago and he's obviously playing very well now. "It's going to be important to mix it up and mix my pace and variations up as much as I can to try

Craig McMillan has good reason to

be focusing with renewed confi-

dence on the Test series against

South Africa starting on

Having just become a father,

McMillan expressed relief at being

Test series and attempt to pass the

perspective when you become a parent and I had my wife and the

imminent birth on my mind a lot

The 27-year-old 48-Test vet-

eran's test tally stands at 2,909 at an

overage of 41.55, with a highest

"My dream is to score a century

"That's how you're gauged as a

score of 142. He has scored six

against South Africa," McMillan

batsman, by how many runs you

"I haven't got a bad ratio of centuries to 50s, but I want to

McMillan had one good innings

n the one-day series against South

Africa, won 5-1 by New Zealand,

scoring 70 not out in the second

match when New Zealand squared

That day the Canterbury bats-

man had been strongly criticised in a column in one of the country's

piggest newspapers, although he

said he had not heard about it until

centuries and 18 half-centuries.

during the one-day series,'

McMillan said on Monday.

"You look at things in a different

able to concentrate on the three

Cricket

REUTERS, Hamilton

Wednesday.

3,000-run mark

improve it."

the series 1-1.

after his innings.

and keep him guessing."

Giles still has vivid memories of how aggressive the Trinidadian left-hander could be from his time



**ASHLEY GILES** 

in Birmingham.

A second chance

"The only time I've ever bowled at

"I'm afraid it had no bearing on

"You've got to take criticism on

how I played that night, but it was

the chin and somehow prove you

McMillan has perhaps been lucky to be in both one-day squads

against Pakistan and South Africa

this year as he opted out of the five-

match series in Pakistan in

Africa a year ago, McMillan was

dropped from the subsequent tour of

**CRAIG McMILLAN** 

Sri Lanka, although he was rein-

stated for the next tour, to India, with

a triangular one-day series tacked on

dropped can be a good thing,

"Sometimes you need a small break and re-evaluate yourself."

frame, McMillan believes South

Africa are going to be a totally differ-

Now he is firmly back in the

"It may sound funny, but being

involving Australia.

McMillan said.

After a poor World Cup in South

November for personal reasons.

Brian was in the nets and the sort of nets we used to have at Warwickshire were steel cages," he recalled.

"They became very dangerous if someone hit the ball hard, it became like pinball.

"There were times when you used to bowl at Brian and run backwards to get out of the net because he would come at you and try and take you apart.

After a successful series in Sri Lanka last year, when he returned to form with 18 scalps in three Tests, he is now just 17 short of the magical 100 Test-wicket milestone

"I don't think I'm going to get there [in this series] but I'm nearing the 100-wicket mark in Test cricket and that's one of the goals I've set

myself," he added. "On the back of Sri Lanka I want

to carry on the work I've done. "I feel I've made progress and I want to carry on moving in the right direction rather than go back mentally and physically to where I was in Bangladesh."

"We've obviously got a bit of confidence, but it's a whole new ball

game now. They are going to be smarting a bit and really keen for

"We're determined to do well

because we lost our third place in the ICC Test rankings when we lost

to Pakistan (1-0 in December).

We've managed to move up in the

ODI stats, so a nice double would be

Fourth-seeded American Vincent

Spadea outlasted seventh seed

Nicolas Kiefer of Germany, 7-5, 6-7,

6-3 to claim his first career title on

Sunday at the 380,000 dollar ATP

"I'm quite excited" Spadea said.

Spadea was runner-up in his

Top players to form

I'm 29-years-old, I guess you can

only two finals appearances, most

The selectors rewarded left-

handed batsman Faisal Hossain

with a call-up. Faisal has been a

consistent performer in the

National League which finished

two days ago. The Chittagonian

was the highest run-getter in the

four-day competition with 730 in

couldn't watch all the National

League games and that's why had

to rely on the statistics in some

The national players who have

been called up will miss the first

four-day fixture starting on March

17 at Rajshahi because they will

Shahriar Hossain, Hannan Sarker, Alok Kapali, Rajin Saleh, Tareg Aziz Khan. Mohammed Ashraful,

Manzarul Islam Rana, Enamul

Haque Junior, Al Shahriar, Anwar

Hossain Munir, Alamgir Kabir,

Nafees Iqbal, Nasiruddin Faruque, Dhiman Gosh, Shahadat Hossain,

Abdur Razzak, Rashedul Haq, Mazharul Haq, Tushar Imran,

only return home on March 16.

**BANGLADESH ATEAM** 

cases to choose a player.

teach an old dog new tricks.'

some revenge

a Test series win.'

Spadea's

maiden

crown

AFP, Scottsdale

tournament here.

## **USA book Champs** Trophy place

AFP, Dubai

The United States hope that their stunning victory in the Six Nations Challenge here will boost their chances of hosting matches in the 2007 World Cup.

The Americans pulled off a fivewicket win against Scotland on Saturday, a win which has given them a place in the ICC Champions Trophy in England in September when they will play their first ever official one-day internationals.

# Federer retains Dubai title

AFP, Dubai

World number one Roger Federer became the first man to successfully defend the Dubai Open title when he defeated unseeded Spaniard Feliciano Lopez 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 in Sunday's final.

The top seeded Swiss player claimed his second title of the year, after the Australian Open, and the

13th title of his career. It also ensured that Federer would maintain a cushion of at least 400 points at the top of the world rankings over Juan Carlos Ferrero, and edge further ahead of the third-placed Andy Roddick, who lost in the semi-finals in

But Federer was given a tough time for a set and a half by the 22-year-old left-hander who was playing in the first ATP final of his career and could now reach the top 20 for the first time

# M'singh cricket

**BBC ONLINE** OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Mohammedan Sporting Club beat Abahani Krira Chakra by four wickets in the Navana Premier Division Cricket League held at local Circuit House ground today.

Batting first, Abahani scored 65 all out in 22.5 overs. In reply, Mohammedan lost six wickets before reaching the required total

#### **SCORES IN BRIEF**

**ABAHANI:** 65/10, Arman, 25, Lipon, 10, Arafat, 5/11, Haris, 3/32,

**MOHAMMEDAN:** 68/6, Moni, 29, Roni, 2/14, Iqbal, 1/5, Hira, 1/14. Result: Mohammedan won by four

Mohammad Selim, Gazi Alamgir,

Jamaluddin Babu, Nazmul

Hossain, Faisal Hossain and

The selectors also named a 13-

member Bangladesh Cricket Board

(BCB) Under-23 squad for the

Naeem Islam has been named

Bangladesh Under-19 opener

The players have been asked to

report to coach Sarwar Imran and

Shahidul Alam at 8am tomorrow at

the Bangabandhu National

Naeem Islam (captain), Shahriar

Nafees, Nasiruddin Faruque,

Nazimuddin, Nadif Chowdhury,

Dhiman Gosh, Arafat Sunny,

Ashraful Haque, Rubayet Haque, Gazi Alamgir, Abdur Razzak, Faisal

Hossain and Imran Ahmed.

Ehsanul Haque.

captain of the side.

Stadium.

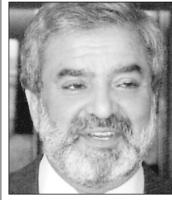
**U-23 SIDE NAMED** 

# Cricket

World cricket bosses say the ICC Champions Trophy should stay in the UK even if England boycott

The ICC executive board meets on Tuesday with Zimbabwe pushing for the tournament to be moved

Athletics Championships in Budapest on March 7.



**EHSAN MANI** 

to India.

"We should be seeking to clearly The Zimbabweans will open their separate these matters," said ICC tour against Bangladesh Under-23 president Ehsan Mani. in a three-day practice match at the Fatullah Stadium on March 10.

bers do not spill over and impact on broader issues that could affect all

**Mani supports ICC** 

meet in England

Mani added: "I believe that through the board and the ICC's dispute's resolution process there are mechanisms in place for these bi-lateral concerns to be effectively

Maria Mutola of Mozambique celebrates after winning her historic sixth 800-metre gold in the 10th IAAF World indoor

However, Mani is non-voting director on the executive board and could still be overruled if seven of the 13 voters back Zimbabwe at the Auckland meeting

He conceded: "Ultimately this decision is in the hands of the executive board and I will be guided by the views of the direc-

The Champions Trophy is currently set to take place at three English venues from 10-25 September, a month before England's scheduled tour to The England and Wales Cricket

Board have been urged by the government not to make the trip because of its objections to the regime of President Robert

But according to ICC regulations, teams may only pull out of touring commitments because of security concerns or an out-right

Australia and Sri Lanka both "It is important that these genu- confirmed this week they will go anead with tours to Zimbar the next few months. just accidental contact.

# Mutola makes history

Maria Mutola of Mozambique become the first athlete in history to win six titles at the World Indoor Championships here on Sunday.

The 31-year-old Olympic champion held off a determined chal-lenge in the 800 metres from Jolanda Ceplak of Slovenia to take the gold medal 11 years after collecting her first World Indoor crown in Toronto.

There was disappointment though for Gail Devers, who saw her bid to win a unique sprint and sprint hurdles double crushed by Perdita Felicien of Canada who beat her to the 60m hurdles title.

Russia's Tatyana Lebedeva made history as she added the long jump title to the triple jump gold, a feat never achieved in the 19-year

history of the championships. Christian Olsson of Sweden equalled the world indoor record in the triple jump with a leap of 17.83 metres, meaning both the men's and women's record were beaten or equalled over the three days of

competition. Mutola's victory was tarnished by accusations from Ceplak that the Mozambican had jostled her as she overtook 100m from the line and made her charge for home to win in 1min 58.50sec to Ceplak's

"I have run against Maria many times but I don't think she has ever come so close to me as she did today," said Ceplak.

Mutola reacted angrily.

"I think that is pathetic, I ran a clean race. I did not push her, it was



Syed Anisul Huq, president and managing director of Bank Asia Limited and Shah Md Nurul Alam, managing director tor of Prime Bank are seen with the players of both banks in a friendly cricket match held recently.

By Eugene Sheffer

11 Exces

19 Trench

21 "--- the

ramparts

39 Catcalis?

42 Thought

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45 Foolish

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46 Resort

48 Crucial

DOWN

1 Untalk

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2 Story-

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C	ousin	45	Largest	3	Dr.		ough
14 F	Puerto —		of the		Seuss' "If		Fair"
15 F	Rob		seven		— the		herb
F	etrie's	47	Ring		Zoo"	24	Speck
b	oss		decision	4	Horse-	25	Slaughter
16 (	3ame-	49	Paradise		man?		of base-
9	show	50	Detail, for	5	Praline		ball
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# CRYPTOQUIP

PZS'XQ F Z C

LOZSNT PZS AYNN OQM Y

JZMQHFR AZMMQLDZRTQRC?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ANY MIME HAD A

FAVORITE SONG, I BET IT'D REALLY HAVE TO BE "SILENT NIGHT." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals P

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.

### Aussies in Murali maze **FROM PAGE 13** day of the first Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Monday: some of the damage, batting positively as they added 72 in 131 balls either side of the lunch interval. AUSTRALIA: First innings But Kumar Dharmasena, bowl-Langer c Sangakkara b Dharmasena 12 ing to a 7-2 leg side field, broke the partnership when Martyn swept a catch straight to Mahela Jayawardene at leg slip.

Martyn had scored 42 from 81 balls and hit three boundaries. Debutant Andrew Symonds was caught at slip by Jayawardene a few minutes later for a duck and Adam Gilchrist's (4) poor form continued

Australia teetering on 163 for six. Lehmann partially rescued the innings again with Warne before Muralitharan ran through the tail immediately after the tea interval.

Lehmann was bowled behind his legs, Warne edged a Vaas off-cutter behind, Michael Kapsprowicz was bowled by a fizzing off break and Stuart MacGill

was trapped lbw. The last two wickets fell off consecutive deliveries.

Brett Lee failed a late fitness test on an injured left ankle while

series starts in Kandy next Tuesday with the final contest taking place in Colombo from March 24.

Gilchrist c Dharmasena b Muralitharan Warne c Sangakkara b Vaas Gillespie not out as he miscued a sweep shot to leave

Total: (All out in 68.3 overs) Bowler

Thilan Samaraweera tore a muscle in his right groin during the first session and may have to bat with a runner in the Sri Lanka

Earlier, Australian fast bowler Kasprowicz returned to the side after a three-year absence.

**SCOREBOARD** 

Hayden c Chandana b Muralitharan 41 Ponting st Sangakkara b Chandana 21 Martyn c Jayawardene b Dharmasena Lehmann b Muralitharan  $Symonds\,c\,Jayawardene\,b\,Muralitharan \qquad 0$ 23 Kasprowicz b Muralitharan MacGill lbw b Muralitharan

Fall of wkts: 1-31, 2-62, 3-76, 4-148, 5-153, 6-163, 7-215, 8-219, 9-220. **O M** 12 2 39 20 4 52 5 14 1 59 1 0 2

Jayasuriya lbw b Warne 35 Sangakkara not out 16 Extras: (b-1) Total: (For one wkt in 22 overs) 81 Fall of wkt: 1-53. The second of the three-match Bowler

Atapattu not out

Kasprowicz

Warne

Symonds

MacGill

Scoreboard at stumps on the first

Extras: (b-3, lb-6)

Dharmasena 2 Muralitharan 21.3 Chandana Jayasuriya SRI LANKA: First innings

29

0

1

15

1 18

0 17

0 20 0

0 10