



PHOTO: AFP

AFTER A SHORT BREAK: Indian batsman Virender Sehwag shadows a shot during a training session at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Tuesday.

## UNO win by five wickets

GAIBANDHA CORRESPONDENT

Club UNO recorded a comfortable 5-wicket win over Adhunik Sporting Club in the Second Division Cricket league here yesterday.

Adhunik elected to bat first after winning the toss at the Gaibandha Stadium and were all out for 160 in 19.4 overs. IN reply, UNO took 20 overs to reach 161-5.

Jhanker will meet DCP Club today.

## Umps to use stump mikes in World Cup

REUTERS, Karachi

Umpires will be wired to stump microphones in the World Cup to help them make decisions, a Pakistan Cricket Board official said on Tuesday.

The issue was discussed in detail at last month's meeting of the chief executives of the International Cricket Council (ICC) member boards, Saleem Altaf, the director of cricket operations for the PCB told Reuters.

"It has been decided to use a new technology for this purpose and a British company would be providing the software," Altaf said.

"Umpires during the World Cup will be able to use the stump microphones to pick up snicks and inside edges to help them improve their decision making," he added.

The World Cup will run from March 13 to April 28 in the West Indies.

The ICC experimented with the idea in 2004 in the Champions Trophy and countries have also tested it in their domestic cricket.

"In the past inferior equipment has been used and it didn't really help the umpires. This time the umpires will be able to use state of the art technology," Altaf said.

## Scots set up

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Championship in South Africa. Omer Hussain received a reprimand for showing dissent at being given out lbw during the Scotland innings.

Hussain "appeared to gesture with both hands, indicating his unhappiness with the decision", according to a statement from the International Cricket Council.

Tournament referee Roshan Mahanama said: "Hussain is a young player with potentially a long time in the game at a high level.

"But he will find that if he acts in this way in future then some of that time will be spent in disciplinary hearings.

## Vaughan very

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performances we have in the last two games because we have a World Cup coming up.

"We haven't played the cricket we wanted to early in this series but we're starting to get it right now.

"Everybody goes through drops in form and it's been hard to get it back but I'm just thankful it came good."

## 'C'Ron better

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the more attractive option. "Cristiano needs to move somewhere where the team is an integral part of the club -- not somewhere where the system is based on individual 'heroes' or 'stars'.

"Moving to a club where there are four or five 'stars' who do their own thing is unworkable," said the Brazilian.

Ronaldo scored his 15th goal of the campaign in the Premiership leaders 4-0 win over Tottenham on Sunday.

# Bangladesh host HK today

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coach Yusuf got the team to train but the former national centre-back said that his boys are now 'fit enough to match an international opposition'.

"The players have recovered well after two practice matches and now look ready to fight any team for full 90 minutes in international standard," said Yusuf, whose side drew 2-2 with Dhaka Mohammedan and lost 2-3 to touring South Korean amateurs Ulsan Hyundai Mipo Dockyard FC last week.

"We've used the recovery period after those games and my preparation is satisfactory. I don't know much about the opponents but the

level of Hong Kong's football is higher than us.

"Still, I think they would not be better than Ulsan, whose temperament and experience put pressure on us to win after conceding a 2-0 lead.

"We showed lacking in midfield and attack but have to improve if we want to beat Hong Kong.

"We are not in a position to set a strategy beforehand. We have different plans and will go according to situation," he said replying to a question.

"We will play positive football and certainly to win in this leg," added Yusuf, who also trimmed the 25-member squad to 18 yesterday.

Abahani fullback Waly Faisal has been chosen to lead the side to play in a 4-4-2 formation.

Meanwhile, the Global Beverage Company who bought the commercial rights of the match from the Bangladesh Football Federation for Tk 2 lakh, will distribute 20,000 eastern gallery tickets for students.

The makers of Virgin soft drinks, who has earned the rights of setting 30 billboards inside the ground, will also organise gallery parties.

"We are hoping at least 10,000 students would turn out. This is our first involvement in football and we hope to continue it," told Nasir Rizvi, director of Global Beverage.

Tickets will cost Tk 50 and Tk 20 respectively for VIP and the west gallery.

BANGLADESH SQUAD: Tariq, Himel, Aurup, Arif, Jahirul, Sony, Waly, Saikat, Aminur, Mamun, Nasir, Sharif, Zahid Parvez, Zahid Hossain, Maruf, Robin, Ujjal and Emily.

## Kanpur burns for Kaif

PTI, Kanpur

Local cricket fans burnt an effigy of chairman of selectors Dilip Vengsarkar to protest the dropping of Uttar Pradesh skipper Mohammad Kaif from the Indian team.

Protestors assembled at the Green Park Stadium and burnt the effigy and raised slogans alleging bias in selection matters.

They said the performance of Kaif was much better than many of the players in the team and his non-inclusion, along with that of Suresh Raina, Rudra Pratap Singh and Piyush Chawla, betrayed a prejudice against Uttar Pradesh cricketers.

# England into finals!

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29-5 as the match slipped away and their recent run of narrow and frustrating losses continued.

Captain Fleming notched his seventh one-day century and first in almost three years in making 106, but it wasn't enough and he also wore the blame for the run-out of Ross Taylor.

Astute captaincy by returning skipper Vaughan and tight bowling by Andrew Flintoff, Monty Panesar, Collingwood and Plunkett slowed the Kiwis' progress before they started losing vital wickets.

While Plunkett claimed the wickets, Collingwood bowled some brilliantly defensive medium pacers at the other end to back up his good work with the bat.

After taking the wicket of Scott Styris, Collingwood all but sealed the win when he had Daniel Vettori caught by Vaughan from the last ball of his 10 overs, which yielded 2-46.

Flintoff was also outstanding and bowled better than figures of 1-37 suggested, while it was the introduction of Panesar that put the brakes on a flying start by the Black Caps.

England had looked in trouble early in their innings at 52-3 before Collingwood and Andrew Strauss made timely returns to form.

Collingwood (106) and Strauss (55) bolstered the innings with a 123-run fourth-wicket stand, both players making their first substantial scores of the series.

Collingwood had been horribly out of form, but returned after missing last Friday's win over Australia due to illness to score a superb and much-needed hundred.

He made the most of an early life, with Black Caps all-rounder Jacob

Oram grassing a costly caught and bowled opportunity when Collingwood was 18.

Collingwood, who also teamed with James Dalrymple for a handy partnership of 59 in the latter overs, brought up a well-deserved century -- his third in one-day internationals -- when he pushed Shane Bond down to long-on for two.

He was eventually bowled around his legs by Bond in the 48th over as he looked for quick runs, having faced 121 balls for eight fours.

Having missed the last five games of his comeback series after knee surgery with a hamstring strain, Vaughan watched as Bond's first delivery sailed through innocuously for a wide.

The next delivery was a perfect in-swinging yorker that crashed through his defences and hit middle stump to have the England captain for a duck.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular one-day series match between England and New Zealand at the Gabba on Tuesday:

ENGLAND			
Joyce c McCullum b Franklin	26		
Vaughan b Bond	0		
Bell c Styris b Bond	12		
Strauss b Styris	55		
Collingwood b Bond	106		
Flintoff c Franklin b Bond	17		
Dalrymple not out	29		
Nixon b Gillespie	0		
Plunkett not out	15		
Extras: (lb-4, w-3, nb-3)	10		
Total: (For seven wks in 50 overs)	270		
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-28, 3-52, 4-155, 5-191, 6-250, 7-251			
Bowler			
Franklin	8	1	45

Bond	10	2	46	4
Gillespie	10	0	52	1
Oram	7	0	36	0
Vettori	6	0	37	0
Styris	9	0	50	1

### NEW ZEALAND

Vincent c Flintoff b Panesar	31
Fleming c Nixon b Flintoff	106
Fulton c Bell b Plunkett	12
Taylor run out	25
Styris c Panesar b Collingwood	16
Oram c Nixon b Plunkett	5
McCullum b Plunkett	2
Vettori c Vaughan b Collingwood	10
Franklin not out	22
Bond not out	8
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-15)	19
Total: (For eight wks in 50 overs)	256
Fall of wickets: 1-81, 2-107, 3-169, 4-203, 5-208, 6-212, 7-224, 8-232	

Bowler			
Plunkett	10	0	60
Mahmood	10	0	62
Flintoff	10	3	37
Collingwood	10	0	46
Panesar	8	1	38
Dalrymple	2	0	9

Result: England won by 14 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Paul Collingwood.

Toss: England

Umpires: Daryl Harper (AUS) Ian Howell (RSA)

### STANDINGS

Final standings in the triangular one-day series after England beat New Zealand on Tuesday (played, won, lost, bonus points, points):				
Australia	8	7	1	3
England	8	3	5	1
New Zealand	8	2	5	1

# Sehwag in the spotlight

## Extra cover for Chappell in Kolkata



REUTERS, Mumbai

India's Virender Sehwag will aim to regain his form ahead of next month's World Cup when the hosts take on Sri Lanka in a one-day series beginning later this week.

The 28-year-old batsman was dropped for the recent one-day series against the West Indies due to a form slump and is on trial for the first two matches as India seek to achieve a settled combination ahead of March's showpiece event.

The four-match series will be the last for both teams before the World Cup in the Caribbean where they have been drawn together in the preliminary phase along with Bangladesh and Bermuda.

The matches against Sri Lanka will be played in Kolkata on Thursday, Rajkot (February 11), Goa (February 14) and Visakhapatnam (February 17).

India's World Cup squad will be

announced on February 12.

Chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar said Sehwag will be tried in the middle-order.

A fierce striker of the ball, the experienced Sehwag made his mark as an opener and scored all his seven centuries and 21 of his 24 fifties batting at that position.

But young Robin Uthappa appears to have sealed his place as Sourav Ganguly's partner with his aggressive knocks during the 3-1 win over West Indies last month after Sachin Tendulkar was pushed down to bolster the brittle middle-order.

Sri Lanka lost a one-day series 6-1 on their last tour in 2005 and failed to qualify for the semifinals of the Champions Trophy here last year.

"We want to do well in all three departments of the game, that's the confidence we want to gain before the World Cup," experienced all-rounder Sanath Jayasuriya told reporters on Monday.

Strike bowler Chaminda Vaas

and experienced off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran have been rested for this tour.

Meanwhile AFP adds from Kolkata, India's coach Greg Chappell will be provided special security when he arrives here for Thursday's one-day match against Sri Lanka at the Eden Gardens, police said.

Officials in the cricket-crazy eastern metropolis are clearly not taking a chance on Chappell, who was assaulted by an unruly fan during the recent home series against the West Indies.

The former Australian captain, 58, was pushed and hit on the back when the Indian team arrived at Bhubaneswar airport in the eastern state of Orissa on January 22.

Chappell, who was rushed into the team bus stationed outside the airport gate, escaped unhurt.

Kolkata police official PK Chatterjee said his force would not allow such an incident to happen again when the Indian team

arrives over the next 24 hours.

"Special security has been planned for Chappell," Chatterjee told AFP. "We will not allow Bhubaneswar to be repeated."

"We will throw a ring around Chappell during his stay in the city."

"If Chappell travels by car from the airport, police vans will escort the vehicle till the hotel."

"If he goes by the team bus, at least five senior police officials will be deployed inside."

Thousands of security men will frisk each spectator at the entrance of the 100,000-seater Eden Gardens on match day, Chatterjee added.

Kolkata police commissioner Prasan Mukherjee also heads the Cricket Association of Bengal, which is organising the match.

Chappell, who took over as Indian coach in June 2005 for a two-year term, has faced close scrutiny in a cricket-mad nation desperate to see its team succeed on the international scene.

# Amelie feels fine in Paris



AFP, Paris

Former world number one Amelie Mauresmo admitted Tuesday that she is glad to be back in Paris after a stuttering start to her season in Australia.

Frenchwoman Mauresmo could reach only the last 16 at the Australian Open in Melbourne where she was the defending champion, losing in straight sets to the unheralded Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic.

And before that she made it through only one round at the Sydney International before the in-form Serbian Jelena Jankovic dismissed her with aplomb.

But now the world number three is just pleased to be in her native home and playing in a tournament, the Paris Indoor Open, that she won a year ago as she celebrated her Australian Open victory -- her first Grand Slam title -- in style.

"I feel better than I did training in Sydney and in Australia, I feel more at ease here," said Mauresmo.

"Last year the feeling of coming out on court for my first match was incredible. Everyone came to celebrate my Melbourne victory."

"Every time I am here I feel the

people are happy to see me, to support me and get behind me. It's nice, it's a different atmosphere to Roland Garros."

Mauresmo has always crumbled under the pressure cooker atmosphere at Roland Garros where the expectation of an entire nation rests on her shoulders.

That is far from the case in the relative intimacy of the Pierre de Coubertin indoor stadium where the Paris Indoor Open is held.

Mauresmo says part of that is due to the knowledge of the crowd.

"On court here you feel how close people are. It's very nice, there's always lots of emotion."

"These people really know about women's tennis whereas at Roland Garros there's many people who just go because it's Roland Garros. Here they are true amateur tennis players."

Mauresmo possibly starts the tournament as the favourite as top seed and world number two Justine Henin is playing for the first time since November and since breaking up with her husband of four years.

The reigning US Open champion has little to say about her Belgian rival's return to the tour but chose to focus on two other rivals not present.

Mauresmo had high praise for

Belgium's Kim Clijsters, who will retire at the end of the year.

She said: "It's a shame she's stopping. She brings a lot to tennis, especially off the court with her kindness and personality."

"I think it's a shame at her age but I hope to play many more games against her before she quits."

Mauresmo may have limited opportunities left to do battle with Clijsters but that may not be the case of new Australian Open champion Serena Williams, who Mauresmo was highly impressed with in Melbourne.

"I saw her second round match and she was getting frustrated and didn't seem at ease with her tennis but what's incredible is how she turned it around."

"It's very interesting how she turned her form around over two weeks."

Neither Clijsters nor Williams will be in Paris but there is plenty of tough opposition with eight of the world's top 13 players.

Mauresmo and Henin, who both received first round byes, are due to begin their campaigns in the second round on Thursday against French opposition, Nathalie Dechy and Emilie Loit respectively.

# Safina crawls



AFP, Paris

Seventh seed Dinara Safina struggled to find her rhythm early on but eventually battled through to the second round of the 600,000-dollar WTA Paris Indoor Open here on Monday, beating Michaela Krajicek 6-4, 7-5.

In a clash between two sisters of considerably more famous tennis-playing brothers, a solitary break of serve in each set sufficed to send the Russian through at the expense of the Dutchwoman.

Safina, who was champion here

in 2005, made the most of a loose ninth game from Krajicek before serving out for the set at the first opportunity.

The second set followed a similar pattern but this time it was a poor 11th game from Krajicek that handed her opponent another break and Safina served out the match despite dropping to 15-30 in the final game.

The Russian has been in fine form this year, claiming the Gold Coast title last month by beating Martina Hingis in the final.

"This was a tough first round, she's a good player and I lost to her the last time," said Safina.

"I tried to stay focussed and just

play my game."

Safina won a thrilling three-set battle against world number three and home favourite Amelie Mauresmo in 2005 before the French woman claimed the title for the second time last year.

"This tournament has always been good for me. The first time I came here I reached the semifinals," added Safina.

"The people working here are very nice so it feels like a little family and it's really nice to always come back here."

The Russian was the biggest name playing on the opening day and did not let the centre stage get to her, upping her game at the vital moments in both sets.

In the day's other first round match, France's Emilie Loit outlasted Eleni Danilidou of Greece in a marathon three-setter, 7-6 (9/7), 6-7 (1/7), 6-4.

Belgian world number two Justine Henin is the top seed and both she and Mauresmo, who have first round byes, are due to launch their campaigns on either Wednesday or Thursday.

## B. League now

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Sports Management of India had also requested the federation for a deferral to settle the sponsorship issues.

It was learned that Leisure all but secured the main sponsorship deal with Nitol-Tata as expected, but it needs some more time to lure five co-sponsors.

Sources said that the sponsors actually wanted to buy some time and conveyed the message to BFF through Leisure.

The two-month long transfer window, which began on December 14, is also expected to be extended till the start of the B. League.

The first date for the Pro League transfers was set for July 7, 2006 and the first official date for the start of the league in the first week of November same year, which has been now delayed for the umpteenth time.

Meanwhile, two representatives from each of the 11 clubs and 15 match commissioners will take part in the B. League's Event Management seminar, which will be conducted by two Asian Football Confederation officials.



PHOTO: AFP

Russia's Dinara Safina talks to herself on losing a point against Netherland's Michaela Krajicek in the first round of the Paris Open on Monday.