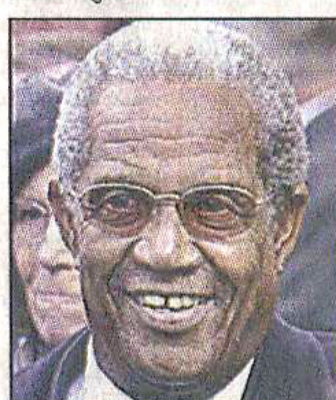
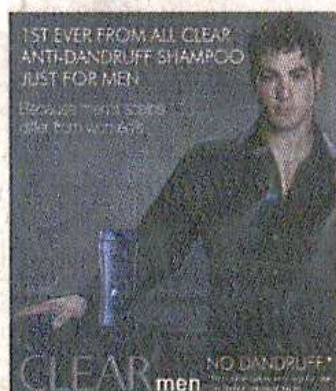




Did U Know?

Yuvraj Singh of India scored the fastest half-century in an innings in the just-concluded ICC World Twenty20 Championship in South Africa. He hammered 50 off just 12 balls against England.



Sir Garfield Sobers

(West Indies cricket legend)
"Players have to start thinking about the game as a team game and go out there and try and play the best for their team and forget self performances."
While criticising West Indies players' attitude.



NEO Sports

India v Australia
Second ODI
Live from 9:30am

TEN Sports

Pakistan v South Africa
First Test, Day Two
Live from 10:45am

ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

STAR Sports

Special Olympics
Opening Ceremony
Live from 7:00pm

Special Olympics kicks off today

AFP, Shanghai

Shanghai kicks off the Special Olympics World Summer Games on Tuesday with a rousing opening ceremony to welcome a record 7,300 mentally disabled athletes to China's financial capital.

"All the preparations are completed and we are ready after five years of considerable preparations," Shanghai Vice Mayor Zhou Taitong told a press conference here on Monday.

Zhou, the vice chairman of the organising committee, said 7,300 athletes from 164 countries and regions, a record participation for the Games, would compete in 21 medal sports and four demonstration competitions.

The event begins with Tuesday's opening ceremony at the Shanghai Stadium, attended by the city's most famous sporting sons -- basketball icon Yao Ming, a Special Olympics ambassador, and Liu Xiang, the world and Olympic champion 110m hurdler.

Teams of athletes will march into the stadium to a theme song especially composed for the event by Chinese-American Tan Dun, composer of the Oscar-winning soundtrack for "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Harder works for Bangladesh duo

Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Youngster Enamul Hossain Rajib will join Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman in Bangladesh's squad for the World Cup Chess Championship to be held in Siberia next month.

Zia was given an automatic entry thanks to the World Chess Federation (FIDE) president's special consideration but Rajib, an International Master in line to become the country's fifth Grandmaster, did a commendable job by qualifying for the prestigious event.

Rajib, who has already earned two GM norms, finished tenth but unfortunately missed his third and final GM norm for just half a point in the VI Asian Individual Chess Championship featuring players from Asia and Australia.

Only the top ten players who took part in the 11-day meet that concluded at Cebu City in the Philippines on Saturday, booked their places in the first round of the World Cup, which begins on November 23. A total of 128 players will compete in the grand event.

Zia did not have to go through the pain of qualification but Rajib had already missed a chance at

home when he finished fifth in last month's Asian Zonal Chess Championship with only the champion getting a ticket to Russia.

Rajib's trip to Siberia, how-



ENAMUL HOSSAIN RAJIB

ever, would be much more difficult, said a surprised Bangladesh chess coach Igor Rousis.

Rousis, a Latvian GM who is a regular face in Bangladesh, landed in Dhaka last week for his third stint as coach of the federation.

"I am really impressed the way Rajib played and qualified from a very tough tournament. It's a great achievement because Tajikistan and Iran, who have higher chess culture, could not

qualify," Rousis told yesterday at the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

Rousis, who has been taking care of ten top players, said he would give special attention to Zia and Rajib to prepare them for the World Cup.

"Not just because the standard of the tournament, the World Cup would be tough for the players as it would be very cold in Siberia -- well below zero -- in late November.

"According to rating, our players are expected to draw two of the top ten of the world, I guess it would be fifth or sixth. The difference is really big," he opined.

In the first round, two players face each other for two games with the winner moving ahead.

"My target would be to win at least one game out of total four so one of our players get the chance of a tie-breaking where players are time-bound and must think fast.

"I will concentrate on this area so Zia and Rajib may improve. This is an area where one can determine how good a player is," said Rousis, who trained the Bangladesh team during the 2001 and 2003 Chess Olympiads and expects to guide the players till January next year.

Farveez fires for SL

Cricket

AFP, Dambulla

Farveez Maharoof grabbed four big wickets as Sri Lanka posted an emphatic 119-run victory over England in the opening one-day international here on Monday.

The seamer dismissed Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell and debutant Phil Mustard in his opening four overs as England were bowled out for 150 on a slow pitch in reply to Sri Lanka's 269-7 to concede a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Maharoof (4-31) then removed opener Alastair Cook, who top-scored with a defiant 46. Mustard (27), Ravi Bopara (27 not out) and Graeme Swann (24) were other batsmen to reach double-figures in a dismal batting performance.

Sri Lanka earlier rode on skipper Mahela Jayawardene's solid 66 to reach a challenging total after winning the toss before man-of-the-match Maharoof drove home the advantage with his disciplined opening spell.

"Our bowlers did a brilliant job. They got a few early wickets and that really put them under pressure. Maharoof showed what he is capable of doing," said Jayawardene.

"When we saw the wicket we knew we needed to be patient. We knew a total of 250-260 would be competitive."

England got off to a brisk start when Cook and Mustard put on 43

for the opening wicket, but lost their way under lights when Maharoof was pressed into the attack after seven overs.

Maharoof provided the breakthrough in his first over when he had Mustard caught by a diving Lasith Malinga at wide mid-off and then had Bell (nought) and Pietersen (one) caught behind to reduce the tourists to 60-3.

England could never recover from early blows, losing wickets at regular intervals before being dismissed in the 35th over.

"I was happy with the way we bowled. I think the total was gettable, but we lost wickets in the middle order and that cost us the match," said England skipper Paul Collingwood.

"Hopefully, we can improve and get a win next time."

Jayawardene earlier made a half-century just when England looked like restricting Sri Lanka to a modest total with their tight bowling.

The hosts made an impressive start when veteran Sanath Jayasuriya (41) and Upul Tharanga (40) added 71 for the opening wicket but they lost momentum in the middle overs.

Seamers Collingwood, Ryan Sidebottom and Stuart Broad grabbed two wickets apiece. Off-spinner Swann took one wicket in his first one-dayer in seven years.

Jayawardene held the innings together after the dismissals of Jayasuriya and Tharanga in a space of six overs. He added 71 for the

third wicket with Kumar Sangakkara (38) and 59 for the next with Chamara Silva (33).

The foundation was laid by Jayasuriya who went for big shots after taking some time to settle down, swinging paceman James Anderson for the match's first six and then pulling for a four in the same over.

But he fell just when he looked like dominating the attack, caught by Bopara at deep mid-wicket off left-arm seamer Sidebottom only one ball after being dropped by Anderson at mid-on.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Sri Lanka and England on Monday:

SRILANKA
Tharanga c Collingwood b Broad 40
Jayasuriya c Bopara b Sidebottom 41

Sangakkara st Mustard b Swann 38
Jayawardene c Shah b Collingwood 66

Silva c Cook b Collingwood 33
Dilshan not out 11

Mubarak c Anderson b Broad 1
Maharoof c Anderson b Sidebottom 22

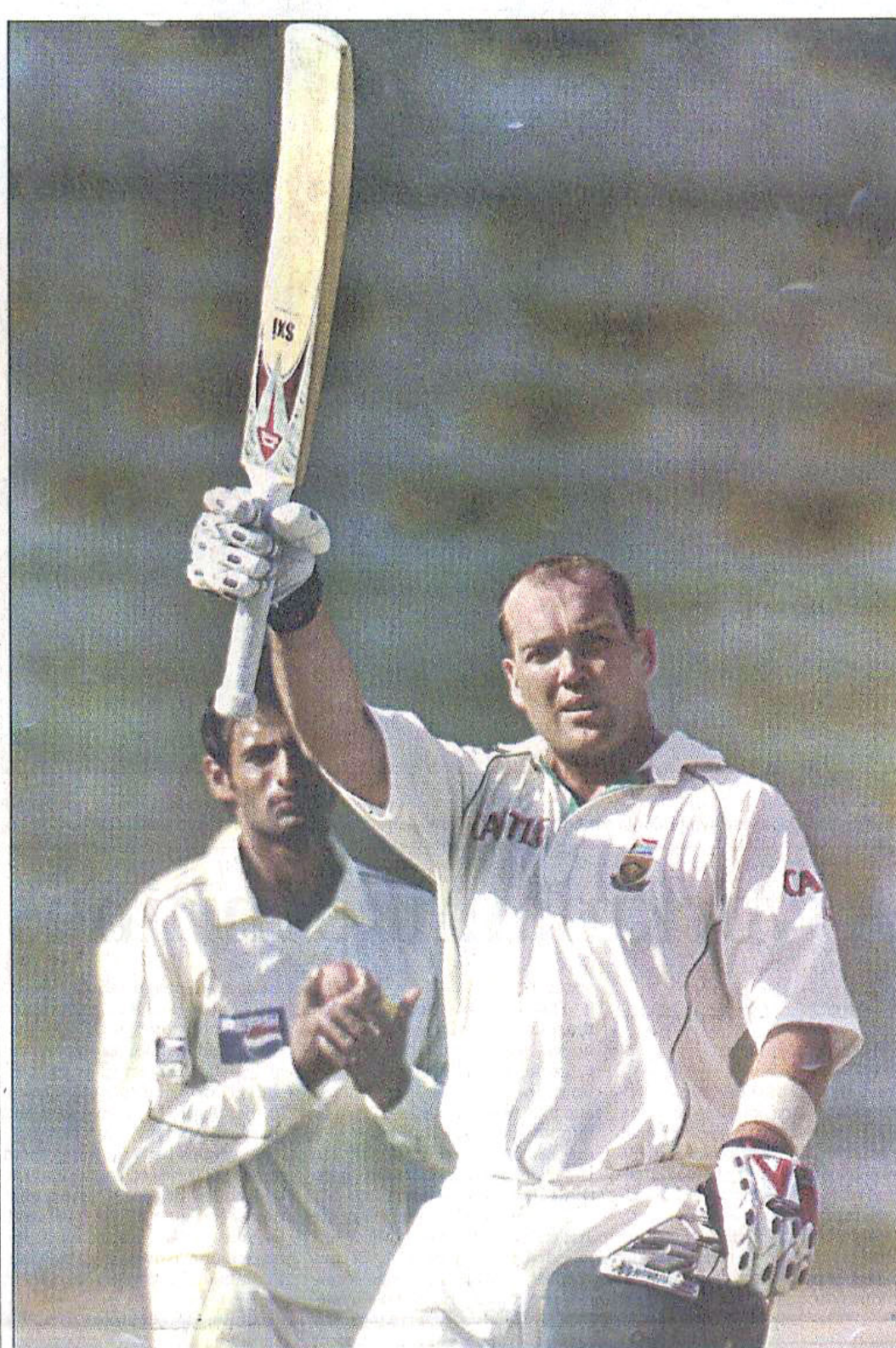
Vas not out 1
Extras: (b-3, lb-5, w-8) 16

Total: (For seven wickets in 50 overs) 269

Fall of wickets: 1-71, 2-95, 3-166, 4-225, 5-237, 6-240, 7-264.

Bowler O M R W
Anderson 8 0 47 0
Sidebottom 10 0 56 2

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



A vintage Jacques Kallis of South Africa raises his bat after reaching his hundred as Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik (background) looks on on the opening day of the first Test at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday.

Clubs remain adamant

SPORTS REPORTER

The emergency meeting of CCDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan) with the top clubs on Monday hardly produced any result about holding the Premier Division relegation league.

A frustrated CCDM chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, however, reassured that the board will not compromise with their stance of holding the relegation league as he believes that it's a question of principles.

"I told them that they can apply for more time to take preparation but I also conveyed the board decision about its determination to hold the relegation play-offs to remain within the system," said Lipu.

Except Biman, all premier league club representatives attended the meeting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Most of the clubs, however, differed the board decision.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Kallis leads SA charge

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

All-rounder Jacques Kallis made Pakistan pay for dropping him twice by scoring a brilliant unbeaten century to help South Africa make a solid start to the first Test here on Monday.

The 31-year-old scored an unbeaten 118 for his 25th Test hundred as South Africa reached 294-3 at close on the first day after winning the toss on a dry and well-prepared pitch at the National Stadium.

Kallis, in the news for the wrong reasons after quitting the vice-captaincy over his omission from the World Twenty20 Championship squad last month, shared a third-wicket stand of 170 with a resolute Hashim Amla, who made 71.

Kallis hit 15 boundaries during his 224-minute stay at the crease. He should have been out on 36

when he edged leg-spinner Danish Kaneria only for wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal to drop a regulation catch. Salman Butt then grassed a pull off Mohammad Hafeez when Kallis was on 61.

Kallis, who took 91 deliveries to score fifty, reached his second half-century off just 56 balls, hitting 11 boundaries to reach his ton, his second against Pakistan.

Amla hit six boundaries and a six during his 225-minute knock. He was also let off on one when Misbahul Haq spilled a catch off skipper Shoaib Malik.

The lapses allowed Kallis and Amla to continue untroubled before paceman Mohammad Asif bowled Amla in the second over with the new ball.

Earlier, South Africa were given a solid opening start of 87 by Herschelle Gibbs (54) and Graeme Smith (42).

Gibbs, without a hundred for 37 innings, looked set for a big score as he drove and cut with confidence

NCL squads finalised

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) finally announced all six divisional squads simultaneously on Monday for the National Cricket League which starts October 19.

There were only a few changes in the teams from the previous competition when Rafiqul Alam-led selection panel completed their first assignment by finalising a 20-member squad for each division from the list of probables.

A notable distribution made by the selectors was to move national wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim to Sylhet Division from his own side Rajshahi.

"We made the change as Pilot (Khaled Mashud) is trying to make his comeback and we want to see Mushfiqur play maximum matches as the national wicketkeeper," explained chief selector Rafiq.

Currently out-of-favour Mashud is also the Rajshahi captain, which would have naturally put the two stumpers fighting for the same position.

"We preferred current and former national cricketers and then the A team members, academy players and prospective cricketers in our selection. You know one team are only allowed to accommodate two first division players to ensure quality cricketers' participations," he added.

He believed that this season's inspiring financial boost for players would make a big impact.

As usual, Dhaka under the leadership of national skipper Mohammad Ashraful have a strong side with a number of national colours to defend their supremacy in both versions while Habibul Bashar-led Khulna also have a number of star players although they finished last in the previous season with the same team.

SQUADS

DHAKA: Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Anwar Hossain, Uttam Sarker, Shamsur Rahman, Marshall Ayub, Al Shahriar, Sajjad Kadir (wicketkeeper), Nadif Chowdhury, Javed Omar, Mohammad Sharif, Mehrab Hossain (Jr.), Nazmul Hossain Milon, Arafat Sunny.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene sweeps fine in the first one-day international against England at the Rangiri Dambulla Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Rain looms over Kochi Second Australia-India ODI today

Cricket

AGENCIES, Kochi

Rain threatened a washout of the second one-day international here Tuesday between India and Australia after the opening game met a similar fate last week.

A heavy shower Monday morning ruined the training plans of the teams at the Kerala Cricket Association ground, which has been rendered soggy after days of monsoon rains.

With the weathermen forecasting rain on Tuesday as well, chances of any play look bleak.

The opening one-dayer at Bangalore on Saturday had to be abandoned after India had batted just 2.4 overs while chasing Australia's 307 for seven.

The worries about the weather apart, the teams are also grappling with injuries ahead of the tie.

While questions remain over the fitness of Australian skipper Ricky Ponting, who missed out on the opener due to a hamstring strain, the home side will be without former captain Sourav Ganguly.

Ganguly, 35, limped off the

ground while fielding during Saturday's first match in Bangalore.

Scans revealed no serious injury and Ganguly is expected to take the field in the third game in Hyderabad on Friday, Indian cricket board secretary Niranjan Shah said.

"An MRI scan was performed on Sourav's right hamstring and it has determined no injury to the region," Shah said in a statement.

"Based on the findings, vigorous rehab approach will be commencing immediately. The team management feels that Sourav will progress quickly and hence it was decided to give him a one game rest."

The left-hander, a veteran of 303 one-day internationals, has hit 1,024 runs at an average of 51.20 since his recall to the side in January following a spell out of the team.

Indian batsman Robin Uthappa is also recovering from a hamstring problem and is expected to play on Tuesday.

Meanwhile off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has returned to fitness and will hope to gain selection in today's match.

Harbhajan missed the rain-ruined first match in Bangalore but was a

regular in the Twenty20 triumph and has recovered from a neck strain.

Australia will hope Ponting can take his place.

"Ponting is progressing very well," Gilchrist told reporters on Monday.

"He was very close to playing in Bangalore. He has a good chance of playing tomorrow without necessarily being a certain starter."

Left-arm paceman Nathan Bracken should be available after a quick visit to Sydney for the birth of his first child.

India, the newly crowned Twenty20 world champions, and one-day kings Australia are playing a seven-match one-day series that ends on October 17.

TEAMS

INDIA (likely): Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Robin Uthappa, Yuvraj Singh, Rahul Dravid, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Rudra Pratap Singh.

AUSTRALIA (likely): Adam Gilchrist (captain), Matthew Hayden, Brad Hodge, Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Brad Haddin, James Hopes, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Mitchell Johnson, Stuart Clark.