SPORT

First U-19 match postponed

SPORTS REPORTER

The first one-day match between Bangladesh under-19 and their West Indies counterparts was abandoned due to a wet outfield at BKSP in Savar yesterday.

After two inspections, the match officials deemed the cricket ground unplayable due to several wet spots around the outfield.

The series is part of both sides' preparations for the ICC under-19 cricket World Cup to be held in Malaysia in February.

The second match will be held at the same venue on February 2 while the third and fourth matches will be held at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium on February 4 and 6.

Naved fit to play for Yorkshire

AFP, Leeds

Yorkshire have confirmed Navedul Hasan as their man overseas player for the 2008 English county season after the Pakistan pace bowler passed a fitness test on a shoulder injury.

The 29-year-old is now set to arrive at Headingley in April having sustained the injury during Sussex's successful pursuit of the County Championship title last

"I am relieved that this period of uncertainty is now over and I can become a Yorkshire player in 2008, Naved said in a statement.

"I am pleased with my progress and feel in good shape. I am confident I can take wickets for Yorkshire and look forward to joining the club at the start of the season."

Yorkshire are so determined to ensured Naved doesn't feel under pressure to make a comeback before he is absolutely ready they are planning to bring an as yet unnamed overseas player for ther first few weeks of the county campaign.

"We are delighted with Naved's progress; he has made a remarkable recovery and we are particularly impressed with his desire to play for Yorkshire," said the county's chief executive, Stewart Regan.

"We want to ensure he has the best possible chance to fully recover from his injury and therefore we have agreed with Rana and his agent to delay his debut for several weeks so that when he returns he is in top condition.

He added: "We have an exciting contingency plan for a second overseas player to play for the club during the first part of the season. This will be announced early next

Naved is an experienced bowler in English conditions after three successful years with Sussex.

Capello ignores Beckham

AFP, London

David Beckham has been told he has missed out on Fabio Capello's first England squad but reassured that he could still get the chance to win the 100th cap he craves, according to English media reports.

Capello was due to announce his first squad since succeeding Steve McClaren as head coach later on Thursday and it appeared that the 32-year-old former Manchester United and Real Madrid star would not be in it.

Capello, who famously dropped then, recalled Beckham when he was in charge of Real, reportedly telephoned the midfielder on Wednesday evening to let him know he had not made a 30-man provisional squad for next week's friendly against Switzerland at Wembley.

The Italian was said to have reassured Beckham that he would be considered for selection in future squads once he is playing club football on a regular basis.

Pakistan rest

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their playing XI for Sheikhupura. The first four ODIs had seen five players making their debut for Pakistan, and perhaps a few more are on the cards for Saturday's match.

SQUAD

Shoaib Malik (captain), Nasir Jamshed, Khalid Latif, Khurram Manzoor, Younis Khan, Misbah-ul-Haq, Naumanullah, Fawad Alam, Rizwan Ahmed, Sarfraz Ahmed Sohail Tanvir, Junaid Zia, Sohail Khan, Wahab Riaz, Abdur Rauf.

Love on her

FROM PAGE 21 the tender age of 17, she has far out-

weighed expectation. "What I have achieved has far

out-weighed my family's expecta-

tion," she added. "I would like to have children and I would like to do other things

which make me happy. "But if I had my time over, I would do it all again.



Collins Obuya of Kenya plays and misses an attempted drive during their ICC Intercontinental Cup match against Namibia at the Sharjah Stadium in the United Arab Emirates yesterday.

Snyman kills off Kenya

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

A remarkable double hundred by Gerrie Snyman provided the platform for Namibia to move top of the Intercontinental Cup table with a 105-run win over Kenya in Sharjah on Thursday.

Snyman utterly dominated Namibia's second innings, scoring 230 out of his side's 282, more than 84 per cent of the runs made off the bat and turning the match on its head. Soon after he came in Namibia were 42 for 4, still four runs shy of clearing their first-innings deficit. With precious little support, he single-handedly took on the bowlers, hammering 11 sixes and 22 fours in a brutal assault.

Namibia resumed on 241 for 8, with Snyman on 194, and he brought up his double hundred in the first over of the day and went on to make 36 of the 41 runs added before he was the last man out.

Kenya, who came into the match with maximum points, offered little in chasing 237. Again their top order folded meekly -- their Nos. 2 to 4 managed 37 runs between them in the two innings -- and the game was as good as up when Bjorn Kotze removed Tony Suji and Steve Tikolo in the same over.

The win lifts Namibia above Kenya, although the Kenyans are likely to regain top spot even if they only draw when they take on UAE next week.

Even though Kenya had little time to acclimatise whereas Namibia had already beaten UAE last week, questions will be asked about the fragility of their top order and also some odd bowling changes employed by Tikolo.

This game should have been played in Nairobi but was switched because of the ongoing violence that followed December's disputed

presidential elections. It's practice for India

he said. "At the moment I'm feeling okay but I haven't done anything to testit out yet."

Ponting will likely have one new face in his line-up with David Hussey expected to make his international debut on his adopted home ground at the MCG. Hussey's outstanding domestic Twenty20 form earned him a place and it will give him the chance to play alongside his brother Michael for the first time in three years.

The pair has not been on the same side since a couple of Australia A games three seasons ago, and they never played together at Western Australia with David having to move to Victoria to break into state cricket. "It's always been my goal to play for Australia," he said, "so hopefully it can happen and can be a special night for me with my parents flying over."

The match will be preceded by a

TEAMS AUSTRALIA (from): Michael Clarke, Adam Gilchrist, Ricky Ponting (captain), Brad Hodge, Andrew Symonds, Michael Hussey, David Hussey, Adam Voges, James Hopes, Brett Lee, Ashley Noffke,

Nathan Bracken, Ben Hilfenhaus. Virender Sehwag, Robin Uthappa, Yuvraj Singh, Rohit Sharma, Manoj Harbhajan Singh, Ishant Sharma,

women's Twenty20 international Sreesanth.

between Australia and England, which will be exposed to a huge audience with Channel Nine set to air a highlights package on February 10. The MCG crowd is also expected to be something special, with Cricket Victoria hoping to break the ground's record of 90,800 spectators, set during one day of an Australia-West Indies Test in 1961.

INDIA (from): Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Dinesh Karthik, Tiwary, MS Dhoni (captain), Suresh Raina, Piyush Chawla, Praveen Kumar, Irfan Pathan, Munaf Patel,

Eto'o claims record

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"Even after everything that happened to us, we're still the only team to have scored 10 goals. And we've got the tournament's alltime record goalscorer," said Pfister, who had special praise for his star striker.

"He (Eto'o) played his usual match, but in two or three moves he showed that he is truly world

He added: "Our first aim was to qualify for the quarterfinals. Now, we will be fully focussed on the next

"In this tournament no one is unbeatable. That's why we have to keep to our game plan. The team that keeps its concentration most is

the team that will be champion." In the other game being played simultaneously Amr Zaky netted Egypt's goal after quarter of an hour while hard-working Sudan table clash between Angola and skipper Christopher Katongo drew his team level on 87 minutes when he shot from inside the box.

Egypt assistant coach Shawki Gharib said his team achieved their targets for this game.

"We first wanted to qualify and lead our group. We also wanted to finish the game free of any injuries and we achieved all our targets, said Gharib. "We are therefore satisfied with

the result." "Egypt played well against Sudan

and Cameroon but today we gave them a good run for this draw," said Zambia coach Patrick Phiri. "This was the Zambia that

trained in Spain and played against Morocco before the tournament. It was a disaster for us against Cameroon but after this match we can go back home with some sense of satisfaction.

The full knockout stage cast list will emerge Thursday after Group D's final games with a top of the Tunisia, and struggling South Africa hoping for a last minute reprieve against Senegal.

Ballack back for Germany

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as coach Joachim Loew names an almost full-strength side with only Werder Bremen midfielder Torsten Frings and Real Madrid defender Christoph Metzelder missing.

Bayern Munich's striker Lukas Podolski is amongst the midfielders, despite suffering a slipped disc earlier this month, as Loew looks to continue the experiment of playing the 22-year-old as an attacking midfielder.

Schalke pair, midfielder Neuvilleisalsonamed. Jermaine Jones and defender Heiko Westermann, are the only

uncapped players in the 20-man Switzerland on March 26 and

Lehmann and Valencia's Timo Hildebrand as his goalkeepers, despite neither man being their club's first-choice goalkeeper.

And there are four strikers with Germany's footballer of 2007 Mario Gomez, who scored a hattrick for VfB Stuttgart in midweek, joining first-choice pairing Bayern Munich's Miroslav Klose and Schalke's Kevin Kuranyi.

Second division Borussia Moenchengladbach striker Oliver

The game is part of Germany's warm-up internationals against Belarus on May 27 before June's Loew has named Arsenal's Jens Euro 2008 tournament.

BOA to release opening day tickets

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will offer 25,000 tickets for the opening ceremony of the second Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on February 22.

Gallery ticket is Tk 20 while the VIP gallery Tk 100. The tickets will be available at BNS counters.

In the opening ceremony, paratroopers will jump down from the sky bearing the flags of Bangladesh India, BOA and the Games.

Members of both Bangladesh and West Bengal State of Indian contingent will enter the BNS and take oath after the official announcement of the inauguration ceremony. Both the contin gents will march past followed by the Games Theme song to be presented by country's leading band singer Ayyub Bachchu.

The Indo-Bangla Games will feature athletics, swimming, shooting, basketball, volleyball, kabaddi, kho kho, football and cricket.

There will be men's and women's events in football, shooting, athletics and swimming. Besides, cricket has been included in the meet for the first time this

Picture

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last year's most expensive player, could soon be seen practising his trade in Motijheel.

Two other pool players Mehrab Hossain and Rajin Saleh have drawn interest from Old DOHS, the club who shot to prominence a few seasons back.

Iqbal brothers Tamim and Nafis are expected to be seen in Biman's colours but the national airliner would suffer from the loss of talented batsman Rokibul Hasan to Mohammedan.

But the theme remains that of uncertainty, both of and from players and clubs.

Fergie toasts

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League games coming up. It is an important period, so it was good for us to go back to the top of the table."

Portsmouth continue to hold faint hopes of qualifying for the UEFA Cup, but their assistant manager Joe Jordan readily conceded the south coast club were second-best on Wednesday.

"We can play much better than that," said the former United and Scotland striker. "But United deserved to win the game without question. We didn't do ourselves justice and you cannot take any thing from United.

"Ronaldo was exceptional for United, but he wasn't the only one. Quite a few of their players were on top form."

Iraq to appeal

FROM PAGE 24

triumph.

However, any further protest on those grounds could be tricky for City, who are trying to secure work permits for three players from 107ranked Thailand, two of which only made their national team debuts last July.

Hussein was disappointed by the ruling but said Akram would have no difficulty playing elsewhere. "Many, many clubs are interested in him, from all over Europe," he said. "But we wanted him to play in England." In an interview with the Times

newspaper on Wednesday, Akram

said the work permit denial was

like a judgement against his coun-

try. "I am upset and the Iraqi people

are upset," he said.

Vermeulen in the clear

AFP, Harare

Former Test player Mark Vermeulen has been cleared of arson attacks on the Zimbabwe cricket board's headquarters after a court found he was suffering psychiatric problems, his lawyer said Thursday.

Eric Matinenga said Mishrod Guvamombe, the presiding magistrate at Wednesday's hearing in Harare, had delivered a "special verdict" which meant Vermuelen had not been in control of his actions when he carried out the attacks.

"A special verdict is retained when a person commits an offence while they are not well up there. If the person is considered to be dangerous to society, he is committed to an institution," the lawyer told AFP.

"If he does not pose a danger to society, as was found in this case,

the person is freed." At the start of his trial, Vermeulen pleaded not guilty over the torching of the cricket association offices at the Harare Sports Club in October 2006 and an arson attack at the national training

academy the next day. Vladimir Rajkovic, a private psychiatrist in Harare who examined Vermeulen, told the court his client suffered from partial complex epilepsy and impulsive behaviour disorder after he was hit and injured by a cricket ball during a

behave' match in Australia. Cricket The doctor said the condition could only be controlled by medi-

cation and could not be cured. The 29-year-old batsman played the last of his eight Test matches in 2004.

Senegal snub press

AFP, Kumasi

Senegal have imposed a media black out after the publication of a story in the local press about skipper El Hadj Diouf staying up late at a night club 48 hours before a crunch Africa Cup of Nations Group D tie against South Africa.

"We want to be focused on the match and do not want any distractions from the media," said an official.

Aliou Goloko, a Senegalese reporter with all.africa.com, said there was serious tension between the team and the local press corp in Kumasi after the report that Diouf and goalkeeper Tony Sylva broke the team curfew two days before the South Africa match.

"We have been barred from the team after this report that Diouf, Sylva and some other players were seen having a nice time just 48 hours to a crucial game," said Goloko.

"It shows the level of commitment of the players to the national team. They cannot dare do same at their European clubs."

Senegal have snubbed the press here since they arrived from Tamale ahead of their final Group D match later Thursday.

The Teranga Lions, semifinalists in Egypt two years ago, need to beat Bafana Bafana by a wide margin and hope Angola beat Tunisia by at least two clear goals to have any chance of making it to the last eight of the tournament.

Smith may not

FROM PAGE 21 could be interesting."

South Africa won their recent home series against both New Zealand and South Africa and now come to Bangladesh to play two Tests and three one-day internationals from February 22. In March, they play three Test matches in But Smith believes resting the

likes of Jacques Kallis, Mark Boucher and himself would benefit the team in the long run. "I would like to be rested for that

(Bangladesh) tour! It's a tough one, but I think we should definitely consider resting players, particularly for the three one-dayers after the two Tests," said Smith. "The wickets will spin square,

"I can't see that guys like Jacques (Kallis) and Mark (Boucher) will benefit from playing those games, but other players certainly could benefit. If we want players like Jacques to be around for the next World Cup, then we need to start managing them."

On a lighter note, Smith claimed that it is hard to date when one is a globetrotting cricketer. "It is kind of hard to go on one

chance to catch up with her again

to Chittagong."

in 2009!

Solution time: 21 mins. player's call 31 Pat's date, have a nice dinner and then cohort 32 Debtor's say: 'That was nice - what are you doing in six weeks' time? I'm going 33 Surprised P arrivals at "I met someone recently who Heaven's gates? was great fun. Maybe I'll get the 35 B&Bs

hoisin

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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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ICC accepts blunder

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

International Cricket Council chief Malcolm Speed said Thursday the organisation accepted the blame for the administrative blunder that enabled Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh to escape a stiffer penalty in his racial abuse case.

Harbhajan's three-Test suspen-

sion for allegedly racially abusing

Australian Andrew Symorids dur-

ing the contentious second Test in Sydney was overturned at a code of conduct appeals hearing in Adelaide on Tuesday. At the hearing, the charge was downgraded to a level two charge of using abusive language and Harbhajan subsequently pleaded

spinner half of his match fee. However, Hansen then revealed he would have handed out a stiffer penalty, including a possible suspension, had he been aware of

Indian one-day captain Mahendra

Singh Dhoni said on Thursday that

he expected his players to be on

their best behaviour for the

The Indians play Australia in a

Twenty20 match at the MCG on

Friday in front of an expected

90,000 people, before taking on the

hosts and Sri Lanka in a triangular

week after they lost the controver-

sial Border-Gavaskar Test series 2-1

reins from Test skipper Anil

Kumble, is aware the spotlight will

be on his leadership in the wake of

the controversies that have dogged

the Indian tour on and off the field.

The relationship between the

Australians and Indians has been

strained since the contentious

second Test in Sydney and tensions

have resurfaced after the three-

match suspension of spinner

players knew the standards they

had to meet on the field and was

confident they would do so.

Dhoni said on Thursday that his

Harbhajan Singh was overturned.

The match comes less than a

Dhoni, who has taken over the

remainder of the Australian tour.

AFP, Melbourne

one-day series.

to Australia.

'Indians will

guilty, with appeals commissioner

Harbhajan's full record. one prior misdemeanour by the spinner, with three other previous offences overlooked by the ICC, including a one-match suspended sentence for showing dissent to an

umpire in 2001. Speed issued a written statement on Thursday that acknowl-

edged the ICC had been at fault. "It is very unfortunate that human error led to Justice Hansen not having the full history of Harbhajan's previous Code of Conduct breaches and the ICC accepts responsibility for this mistake," Speed said.

Hansen said the suspended sentence did not show up in the ICC records because the incident was logged under another player's name, while the other two priors were omitted because of a database issue and human error.

Justice John Hansen fining the He said on Wednesday that Harbhajan had been very fortunate and admitted he considered increasing the penalty when informed of the oversight.

know the international guidelines

that are set out to be followed," he

said. "Each and every player should

individual more than their skipper

to know the limitations and to

"It's a fresh start and we're going

"There's always chit-chat going

"If nothing controversial is said

"It's cricket and you've got to do

Dhoni said the Indians would

not be daunted by a potentially

hostile reception in the Twenty20

He said the Indians were view-

RP Singh and Yuvraj Singh are

ing the game as practice for the tri-

lots of things with the bat and the

ball and there should be chit-chat

I think both the teams will be happy

know where they stand."

the recent controversies.

to play some good cricket.

on between the players.

out on the ground."

exciting for his team.

with it.

"It is the responsibility of an

respect it.

"Singh can feel fortunate he has Hansen was only informed of reaped the benefit of these data-

base and human errors," he said. Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said they were disappointed.

"The judge's decision is final, we accept that, there was an unfortunate error in circumstances that led to him not having all the facts in front of him at that time, but that's gone, that's unfortunate, but that's the way it is," he said.

In his statement, Speed also warned players to lift their standards of behaviour.

"One thing that has come out of this is the need for players to review their on-field behaviour," Speed said. "In this case, it is clear that Harbhajan verbally abused an opponent having been provoked to do so by that opponent.

"This is not acceptable behav-

iour on the cricket field. India play Australian in a Twenty20 match at the MCG on Friday, followed by the triangular one-day series that also includes Sri Lanka.

Eng want to

keep up the momentum

REUTERS, Wellington

England will try to sustain the momentum of back-to-back oneday series wins when they take on New Zealand next month, coach Peter Moores said on Thursday.

England beat India at home and

won 3-2 in Sri Lanka in November, Dhoni said he expected plenty showing a marked improvement of on-field chat in the limited overs from their dismal 2007 World Cup games and had no issue with that, campaign in the West Indies. but said India had moved on from "Our goal is to mentally get back to the place we finished against Sri "We don't really care about whatever has happened so far," he said

Lanka," Moores told the New Zealand Press Association. "If we do things right we'll be hard to New Zealand have lost experienced players including Stephen Fleming, Craig McMillan and

England comprehensively during the group stages of the World Cup. "We'll take nothing for granted," Moores said. "We haven't heard much about some of their playersbut it sounds as if they've brought

Shane Bond from the side that beat

clash, embracing the possibility of in some aggressive cricketers." playing in front of a huge crowd as England play one-day matches against Canterbury on Saturday and Sunday. The first of two Twenty20 games against New Zealand is on Tuesday in Auckland followed by five one-day internaout of consideration for the match



PHOTO: COURTESY Former Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury (C) hands over the champions' trophy to the winners of the Victory Day Twenty20 tournament at Bashabo ground yesterday. Also seen in the picture is Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful who has grown up and learned his cricket in that area.

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CRYPTOQUIP

QYG GKY AYBLR-ST-YTL EDXSTQ IW QYBH QMIL, S RDNNYRL WYD KYDBE JMBB GAMG M NMSX YH MJLR

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE SKILLED OPERATIC DIVA PERFORMED A SHAKE WITH HER VOICE THAT WAS THE TRILL OF A LIFETIME! Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals Y

brandt's recent trial in northwest England. 13 The same Columbia they are going to make life as diffi-48 Pub order 6 Mine But Britain's Home Office (inte-24 Burger cult as possible for us, and rightly 14 Literary rior ministry) rejected his applicaso! It'll be a wonderful opportunity collection tion for a work permit because Iraq 15 What 50 Carnival 27 Pismire for some of the upcoming players fell outside the top 70 in the FIFA homeattraction 8 "The 28 Many to learn. It is being discussed now. rankings, despite their Asian Cup wreckers 51 Fellow millennia do? 52 Beans in 29 White-

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