#### Sunnydale's good start

UNB, Dhaka

Holders Sunnydale crushed Bangladesh International School 12-5 in the Sunnydale 5th Mini Handball tournament in the opening match at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complexyesterday.

The boys from tournament hosts Sunnydale dominated the first half 6-3.

In the day's other matches, Scholastica outplayed Mary Curie 16-2. South Point beat Mary Curie 8-3, SOS Shishu Palli beat Canadian International School 6-2, South Breeze defeated East Khilgaon Primary 9-4, South Points beat Loreto 7-4 and Banani Bidyaniketan defeated SOS Shishu Palli 21-1.

Fourteen school teams from Dhaka Metropolis, split into four groups, are taking part in the tournament.

#### Sagar, Liza, Saif in pole position

UNB, Dhaka

Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, Shamima Akthar Liza and Abdullah Al Saif jointly lead the 29th National Junior (Under-20) Chess Championship securing five points after the fifth round matches at the federation hallroom yesterday.

AM Sharon followed the leaders neck and neck with 4.5 points.

In the day's fifth round matches, Sagar beat Saimon Siddiqur Rahman, Liza beat Masum Hossain, Saif beat Shamsuddoha Shakin and Sharon beat Nazmul Hossain.

#### Vettori ruled out of Eng opener

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand cricket suffered a twin blow Sunday with injured captain Daniel Vettori ruled out of the Twenty20 series against England and Scott Styris retiring from Test cricket.

Vettori, who rolled an ankle during training last week, said the injury was improving but he would not participate in the Twenty20 games in Auckland on Tuesday and Christchurch on Thursday.

He was also in doubt for the opening one-day international against England next Sunday but would undergo a medical assessment later in the week

Experienced middle-order batsman Scott Styris announced his retirement from Test matches, saying he wanted to focus on the limited over versions of the game with the 2011 World Cup in India as his end goal.

In his 29-Test career, Styris scored 1,586 runs at an average of 36.04 and also proved a handy medium pacer taking 20 wickets at 51.15

England meanwhile won their opening warm up match in New Zealand -- a 50-over encounter against Canterbury - by 51 runs on Saturday.

Ian Bell topscored with 79 off 89 deliveries while Alastair Cook compiled a brisk 51 and Kevin Pietersen made 48.

#### Real take

FROM PAGE 20

properly and Juanito pounced to open the scoring.

Ten minutes later Almeria were fortunate not to have goalkeeper Diego Alves sent off for a blatant

body check on Sergio Ramos

metres outside of the penalty area. Real's goalkeeper Iker Casillas was furious that Ramos only received a yellow card and his protests led to him receiving the

same punishment. Things got worse for Real two minutes after the restart when Italian defender Fabio Cannavaro was adjudged to have fouled

Negredo in the penalty area. The in-form striker picked himself up to convert the penalty

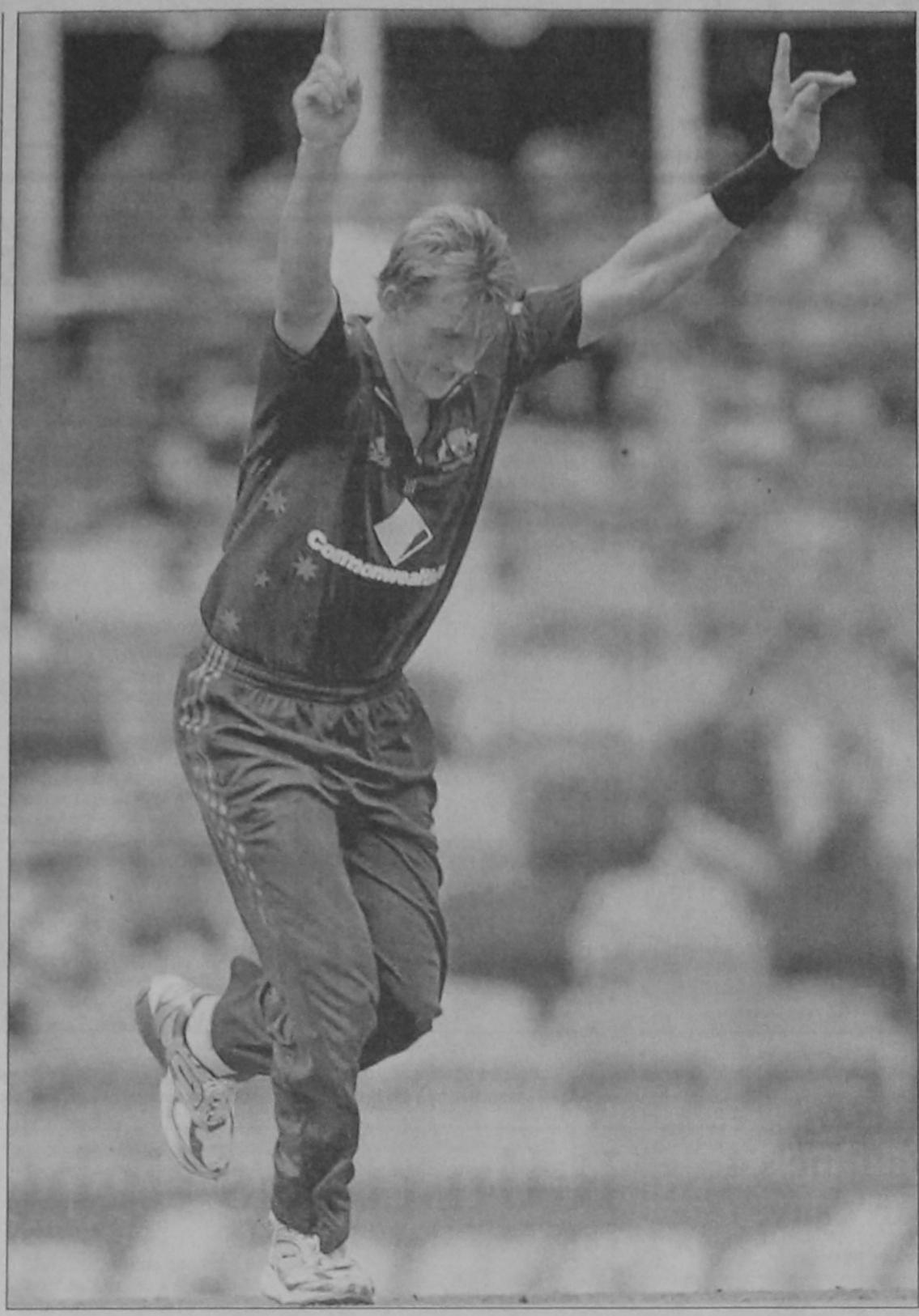
sending Casillas the wrong way for his seventh goal of the season. .In Saturday's late match Deportivo La Coruna moved out of

the bottom three with a 1-0 win at fellow strugglers Real Betis. Pablo Amo scored the only goal as

Deportivo climbed out of the relega



The record for the world's shortest badminton match is six minutes between Ra Kyung-min of South Korea and Julia Mann of England.



FIVE-UP LEE: Australia fast bowler Brett Lee celebrates one of his five India wickets in the rain-abandoned first one day international of the Commonwealth Bank Series at the Gabba yesterday.

# Symonds irate, angry

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds has rejected criticism that he sparked the racism row with India's Harbhajan Singh in the recent Test series in an article published Sunday.

In overturning a suspension against Harbhajan for allegedly calling Symonds a "big monkey," International Cricket Council's appeals commissioner John Hansen said there was not enough evidence to prove the off-spinner had made the remark.

Hansen was also critical of the behaviour of Symonds, whom he said unnecessarily instigated the verbal exchange.

"To have people questioning my integrity as a person and cricketer is pretty ordinary," Symonds wrote

in Sydney's Sunday Telegraph.

"Anyone who knows me understands that I'm a very straight up and down bloke, what you see is what you get, so to have people saying I'm not playing cricket in the right spirit really makes my blood boil." Match referee Mike Procter

suspended Harbhajan during the

controversial second Test between Australia and India in Sydney for allegedly making the remark to Symonds, Australia's only black But Hansen said Symonds had

challenged Harbhajan with an "unnecessary invective-laden attack" after the Indian patted Australian fast bowler Brett Lee on the behind in what he viewed as a sporting gesture.

India had threatened to quit the triangular one-day series beginning Sunday over the dispute.

Symonds wrote that the last

of his career.

"From the initial racism row to the threats about the whole series being called off, my head hasn't stopped spinning," he said. "It's been a rough ride and it's taken a pretty big toll on me personally, but more importantly, on my family, my girlfriend and those close to me."

Hansen downgraded the racism charge against Harbhajan to one of using general obscene, offensive or insulting language, overturned the suspension and fined him 50 percent of his match fee.

"I'm quite happy for the general public to make up their own minds about what did or didn't happen but I can assure you I wouldn't take a stand against something unless l really believed in it," Symonds

Australia beat India in Twenty20 clash on Friday night The two teams meet Sunday in a month has been the most stressful one-day international.

## Rain ruins tight clash

FROM PAGE 17

Gambhir and 20-year-old Rohit Sharma had looked to be guiding the visitors to a 250-plus score. But a middle order collapse

which saw India lose four wickets for just 15 runs meant they struggled to reach a competitive total. After losing openers Sehwag (6)

and Sachin Tendulkar (10), Gambhir and Sharma, who were controversially brought into the Indian one-day side in place of Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly, then added an entertaining 65

collapse as Sharma (29) edged Lee to Gilchrist, Manoj Tiwari (2) was bowled by a Lee yorker and Robin Uthappa (5) was caught in the gully by Michael Clarke off the bowling of Australian debutant Ashley Noffke.

Some late hitting from Dhoni Total: (All out in 45 overs)

(37), Pathan (21) and Harbhajan Singh (27) enabled India to reach a competitive target.

India will face Sri Lanka here on Tuesday for the next match in the series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first match in the triangular one-day international series between Australia and India at the Gabba in Brisbane on Sunday: INDIA

Sehwag b Bracken Tendulkar hit wicket b Lee Sharma c Gilchrist b Lee Dhoni c Ponting b Lee Uthappa c Clark b Noffke Pathan run out Harbhajan c Clarke b Lee Sreesanth run out Sharmanotout Extras: (lb-7, nb-2, w-4)

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-26, 3-91, 4 93, 5-94, 6-102, 7-147, 8-189, 9-190, 10-194.

> Noffke 46 Johnson Hopes Clarke Symonds AUSTRALIA Gilchrist c Dhoni b Sreesanth 14 Hopes b Sharma Ponting c Sehwag b Sreesanth Clarke not out Symonds not out Extras: (b-4, w-4, nb-5) Total: (For three wkts in 7.2 overs) Did not bat: Hussey, Haddin, Noffke, Lee, Johnson, Bracken. Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-38, 3-39. Bowler Pathan 0 17 3.2 Sreesanth Sharma Result: Match abandoned.

TV umpire: Bruce Oxenford (AUS) Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

Capello trims

when England's 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign begins against Andorra. But the Italian is keen to start the build-up immediately.

"We have seven months to prepare for our first competitive match, but the work really starts now," he said. "I'm looking forward to working

There is a lot of work to do but I am ready for the challenge." England's 23-man squad for Swizerland at Wembley:

GP Int'l Jr Tennis gets underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

All but three of the 12 seeded players moved into the second round qualifying draw of boys' singles in the Grameenphone International Junior (U-16) tennis tournament at the Rajshahi Zafar Imam Tennis Complex yesterday.

Three Bangladeshi players were also defeated in the 24 matches decided on the first day of the meet.

In the days' matches, Indian Sagar Manjunath thrashed third seed Russian Kovalev Egor 6-3, 6-2 while Korean Yong-Jun Lee beat India's fourth seeded Naveen Sai 6-4, 7-6 (3) while Thailand's Kongpop Lertchai upset tenth seeded Uzbek Shukhrat Gizatulin 7-6 (5), 6-2.

Top-seed Georgian Sikharulidze Sergi beat Bangladeshi Delwar Hossain 6-4, 7-5, 11th-seed Thia Wasin Wijaya beat Bangladeshi Taj Mohammad 6-0, 6-0 and Korean Geon-Hui Lee defeated Bangladeshi Rakibul Alam 6-0, 6-0.

Second seeded Russian Ilya Osintsev defeated Taipei's Yen-Ju Ho 6-3, 6-2, Korean Ki-Hoon Kim beat Indian Mohit Mayur 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-1, Uzbekistan's Botir Sapaev beat Indonesian Prasetya Wibisana 6-2, 6-0, Korean Jong-Sun Moon beat England's Paul Brown 6-4, 6-3, Indian Shahbaaz Khan won over Taipei's Chin Hsu 6-2, 6-1, Korean Yong-Jae Kwon beat Indian Veera Vasanth Venkas 6-3, 7-5 and India's Sagar Ahuja beat Indonesian Aditya Ichsand Haris 0-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

#### Sarwan goes into hiding

INTERNET, undated

According to published reports out of Guyana, West Indies middle order batsman has gone into hiding amid fears of escalating violence in the South American country.

Sarwan, who is currently training for the Stanford 20/20 tournament abruptly left practice on Thursday after relatives called him and said that suspicious men were spotted in his neighbourhood, said team manager Carl Moore and cricket board president Chetram Singh.

The former captain of the West Indies team has not received any threats and is likely just taking preventive security measures, said Guyana Police Commander Paul Slowe. Sarwan did not appear at prac-

tice on Friday as Guyana prepared for an upcoming match against Bermuda next week. He also was not expected at Sunday's practice.

Rampaging gunmen killed 11 people, including five children, in a senseless attack on the village o Lusignan on the East Coast.

### Smith spurs

**FROM PAGE 17** put on 53 off 34 balls in an unbeaten eighth wicket stand.

South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock, playing in his last international match, took one for 33 and was given a standing ovation when he finished his final spell. Bowling with the new ball, Pollock had a first spell of 7-1-14-1 in dramatic contrast to his fellow pace bowlers, who were all punished by Smith.

Pollock finished his career with 393 wickets at an average of 24.50 in 303 one-day internationals.

**SCOREBOARD** 

Scoreboard of the West Indies innings in the fifth and final oneday international against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Sunday: WESTINDIES

Parchment c De Villiers b Pollock Smith c Boucher b Langeveldt 91 Chanderpaullbwb Langeveldt 51 Brown not out Bravo c Smith b Steyn Morton c Boucher b Kallis

Ramdin c Boucher b Langeveldt Sammy run out (Steyn) Lewis not out Extras: (lb-8, nb-3, w-12) Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 295 Did not bat: Rampaul, Powell. Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-156, 3-167, 4-222, 5-232, 6-241, 7-242.

Bowler Pollock Steyn Langeveldt 10 3 0 10 1 SOUTH AFRICA: Smith, Gibbs,

Kallis, De Villiers, Duminy, Boucher, Pollock, Morkel, Nel, Steyn, Langeveldt. Umpires: D Harper (AUS) and B Jerling (RSA)

TV umpire: M Erasmus (RSA) Match referee: J Srinath (IND)

### Rafique's 4 can't

FROM PAGE 17 series, hinting that the Premier clubs' lack of interest towards him and his omission from the New

Later on, when contacted over been taken.

# Malik looks ahead

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

A surprisingly elated Shoaib Malik credited his senior players after Pakistan completed a comfortable clean sweep of the Mobilink Cup against Zimbabwe. Pakistan, led by Malik, went on a lap of honour around Sheikhupura Stadium after their win, an unusually exuberant celebration as they were expected to win 5-0. But Malik had personal reasons for smiling, having been adjudged the Man of the Series after scoring 158 runs with two half-centuries and topping the bowling charts with 11 wickets. Pakistan tried nine new players

during the series, but Malik insisted the support they received from the senior players was a major factor behind their success. "We tried a lot of new faces in the series and it is not easy for young players to perform right from the start," Malik said. "However, I'm thankful to the senior players who helped these debutants make their entry into international cricket that much easier. It is due to that the changes worked so effectively."

Hamilton Masakadza, Zimbabwe's Masakadza's decision and con-

chance to make an impression. relatively unknown pitch, I would've bowled had I won the be vital against a strong team like toss," he said. "Even though we had Australia." helpful conditions, credit must also go out to our young fast bowlers, of which two were making their debut, for bowling in the right

his team's batting, blamed Zimbabwe's lack of all-round skills three matches on this tour but let improve on that. good positions slip too easily.

Ever since their bowlers the matches so it all comes down to Australia."

received a mauling in the first ODI taking half-chances and crossing in Karachi, Zimbabwe have opted the finish line. We need to learn to bat after winning the toss. how to finish things off."

Malik, despite the win, said the stand-in captain, carried on the team had a lot to learn and impletrend here, but he was left ruing it ment before the tough series from the start as Sohail Tanvir and against Australia. "There's a lot of Abdur Rauf, one of four debutants, difference between ODIs and Test utilised overcast conditions to matches," Malik said. "Just good effect. Malik was surprised by because we have performed well in ODIs does not mean we can be firmed he would have bowled first complacent for the (Test) series in order to give his bowlers the against Australia. We need to improve our fielding and running "With overcast conditions and a between the wickets because those two departments of the game can

Having been unable to bowl out Zimbabwe in three of the five games, Malik pointed to his side's "lack of killer instinct" as one of the areas they needed to work on. "We Masakadza, disappointed with were in positions to get Zimbabwe dismissed cheaply, like today (Sunday), but we let our guard for the convincing loss. "We failed down and let opportunities slip. to capitalise on good, match- Luckily, we went on to win the winning positions," Masakadza matches so it did not come back to said. "We could've won at least haunt us but we still need to

"Our motto is to keep fighting as "We weren't thrashed or out- a unit and with the series win, the played by the opposition in any of team is confident of facing

# Zim trip raises hope

Cricket

AFP, Sheikhupura

Zimbabwe's stand-in captain Hamilton Masakadza has praised security arrangements in Pakistan, raising hopes among cricket officials that it will convince Australia to tour next month.

Zimbabwe continued their Pakistan tour despite a bomb blast which killed nine people in Karachi last month. They played matches in Karachi, Hyderabad, Multan, Faisalabad and Sheikhupura during their three-week stay.

Australia are scheduled to tour

Pakistan for three Tests, five oneday internationals and a Twenty20 match in March-April, a visit which has come under serious doubt over security fears. "We were looked after very well and security wasn't a worry for us raised security concerns on touring

"We were given proper care

are thankful. Pakistan is a safe country," said Masakadza, who led Zimbabwe after captain Prosper Utseya was injured. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

throughout our stay for which we

chief operating officer Shafqat Naghmi said the Zimbabwe tour had been a test case for Australia. "Now I can say with authority and pride that we have successfully

Naghmi told AFP. always felt safe in Pakistan.

hosted matches and hope that the

world champions will tour,"

"We hosted Zimbabwe matches on smaller centres like Hyderabad and Sheikhupura and hosting of these matches without any problems prove that there are no threats for players." Several Australian players have

18 general elections before taking a final decision on the tour, Australia's first here in 10 years.

triggered widespread violence.

Cricket Australia (CA) will send a

security delegation to assess the

situation in Pakistan after February

Pakistan had ruled out switching the series to neutral venues or relocating it to Australia. They were forced to do so in 2002 after Australia refused to tour Pakistan over security fears in the wake of

Foreign teams have shown reluctance to tour Pakistan since. Naghmi said cricketers have New Zealand cut short a tour after a bomb blast outside their hotel killed 14 people, including nine French naval officials, in May 2002. South Africa completed a tour of

the September 11 attacks in 2001.

Pakistan in October last year. They played a four-day match and a Test in Karachi but refused to return to the port city for a one-day match following an earlier assassination

attempt on Bhutto on October 18. The match was later played in the one-day series here on Bhutto in December last year Lahore.

MSC's shameful

### Victoria win hearts

in Pakistan," said Masakadza after the country where the assassina-

his team was whitewashed 5-0 in tion of former premier Benazir

Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who fielded six defenders, pushed in an attacking midfielder midway through the second half but the change hardly made any difference.

Polo saw his dipping freekick from 40 yards miss the mark for inches before Mithun squandered a great opportunity for the boys in green in the 76th minute.

The diminutive striker, who has scored six goals in seven Senior Division matches, caught veteran Jewel Rana on the wrong foot to get himself in a scoring position after latching onto a long ball but lost control under pressure from the lone keeper. An onrushing Polo got the loose ball but he was too late to get rid off the covering defenders.

Five minutes later, rightback Mamun fired from long range but fortunately for Mohammedan, the ball went wide of the far post after

in Group B for the semifinal spots intensifies today with giants Abahani and Muktijoddha facing the threat of elimination in the last group match.

beat Muktijoddha to reach the semis later in the day.

Muktijoddha, who lead the group with four points, can afford a draw in any case as Abahani and Badda both have three points.

(Mohammedan) TEAMS

Mohammedan: Zia, Kamal (Arafat), Ariful, Jewel, Biplab, Sharif, Saikat (Rony), Faisal, Monwar, Farhad and Figo.

Victoria: Mostafa, Mamun (Hassan), Kashem, Ziaul, Ashraf Zahidul (Alamgir), Swapan, Polo, Turjo and Mithun.

FROM PAGE 20 Podolski's slipped disc injury and Ballack's head gash he picked up

tional football with an ankle injury, Ballack's injury is unlikely to stop him winning his 78th cap, his first since Meanwhile, the three-way race March 2007. "I don't think Michael's injury is a big problem, "said Loew. Meanwhile Loew has gone on the

offensive after Wolfsburg coach Felix Magath's criticism of Jurgen Klinsmann, who Loew helped coach Germany at the 2006 World Cup. Magath had said Germany's

Abahani to Biman but there were also some other reasons behind the decision. I think Biman has a good Yellow cards: Ariful, Sharif, Jewel

behind my change of the tent from

FROM PAGE 17

chance to become champions," said Mashrafe. On the other hand, Moham medan's new captain Ashraful also believe that they have made a balanced squad for championship

"It's for the first time in my career that I signed for one of the popular teams. But as a professional cricketer, I have no special feeling about the issue because the scenario was much more changed in the last couple of years," said

Ashraful. "In this day, money matters," he

For the last few years Old DOHS and Sonargaon Cricketers hogged the limelight but they completed their job almost silently yesterday as everything was changed after

In a late development, promoters Surjo Tarun roped in former national captain Habibul Bashar. The country's leading Test rungetter agreed in principle to join the Dhanmondi-based club and is expected to put pen to paper

City Club, Partex Sporting Club and Young Pegasus also took part in

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QID HGD TDQIKM TDOBIHDT Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU SUPPOSE THE CIRCUS LIONS WHO WERE DOING GYMNASTIC STUNTS MIGHT BE BILLED AS ACROCATS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals T

#### before Gambhir was trapped leg Gambhirlbwb Johnson before for 39. That signalled the start of a Tiwary b Lee

Adebayor in demand FROM PAGE 20

Wenger said: "At the moment I'm grateful for every game that he plays in and the fact he's still at home and not away with the African Nations Cup (because Togo did not qualify). "I have a lot of respect for

Ronaldo, but I'm happy with the players I've got. Ronaldo is more of a winger while Adebayor is a real centre forward. "He's made a big, big improvement this year and he is remarkably consistent. He made a big impact on two very good centrebacks and had a

biginfluence on us winning the game.

of goal now. He wasn't like that

when he first came to the club. The

"He's more composed in front

tremendous. "It's not important that he finishes top scorer (in the Premiership). It's more important that the team wins.

"He's a generous type of guy. He has big stamina, strength and power and just loves to play. Thierry Henry is a world class player and we don't forget him, but to fill the void left by him is fantastic." City boss Sven Goran Eriksson

admitted his side had no answer to

Adebayor's talents and he added: "He suits Arsenal's style of play well and he is difficult to deal with. You can see he is a very talented player who has a massive future in the game. He took his goals well but there changes in his game have been is a more to his game than just that."

R Bowler 27 Lee 55 Bracken

Toss: India Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS), Rudi Koertzen (RSA)

Zealand tour were signs that his days are numbered. with them on the training ground.

telephone, he said that he would take the decision after the series Wednesday's friendly against is over and that none has yet

beating keeper Zia.

A victory by Badda -- who upset Abahani 1-0 in the opener -against winless Dhaka Wanderers in the first match would mean bad news for Abahani who will have to

39 Unruly

41 Family

42 Society

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6 Met

3 Gaithers

Referee: Tayab Hassan.

Loew pleased

for Chelsea at Portsmouth. After ten months out of internathe 1/11 episode.

third place in 2006 was more down to the players and Germany domestic coaches rather than

Klinsmann and Loew's influence, a the first day bourse. statement Loew took exception to.

HB KDQAD HGD