Chittagong in

Chittagong edged Feni 1-0 in the

semifinal at the Cox's Bazar

Stadium yesterday to reach the

zonal final of the 4th JFA Cup

Under-15 Football Championship.

after 69 minutes as Chittagong

await today's winners of the sec-

ond semifinal between Noakhali

other match, the zonal final at

AMATEUR GOLF C'SHIP

Lankan pair bag

Sri Lanka clinched the Cotton

Group 23rd Bangladesh Amateur

Golf Championship at the

Mithun and Chandradasa, the

Lankans, combined to add 280

points to claim the trophy, while

Bangladesh and Myanmar became

joint runners-up with 290 points

The other teams in the competi-

In the individual competition,

round with 139 while the Sri

Lankan pair were in second place

Pakistan's batting mainstay

Misbahul Haq on Wednesday

signed up to play for the Kolkata

team in the Indian Premier League

A source close to the Pakistan vice-

"Misbah today (Wednesday)

He said Misbah was sought by

At the IPL players auction held in

up by different franchise teams.

Mohammad Hafeez has also

entered into a contract with the IPL

rattled PSG's fragile nerves, which

were settled once again with a shot

by their longest serving player

Bernard Mendy, whose 78th minute

effort went through the Auxerre

relegation worries being just seven

grab a consolation effort three

minutes into time added on as

Julien Quercia - who had only just

come on as a substitute - shot

Chittagong Divisional Krira

earth of the stadium is badly

He said that replacement of

Sangstha, told The Daily Star.

Auxerre, who themselves have

points off the drop, managed to

Lens clinch

'keeper's Remy Riou's legs.

CDS needs

FROM PAGE 20

home.

FROM PAGE 17

signed the contract after getting a

clearance from the Pakistan

Cricket Board," the source told PTI.

the Kolkata team led by former India

captain said that Misbah had signed

up for Bollywood star Shahrukh

Khan's team for 180,000 dollars.

Misbah signs

for Kolkata

set to start from April 18.

Bo Bo Lay of Myanmar led the firs

tion were Bhutan, Malaysia, India,

Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan.

with 140 points each.

PTI, Karachi

Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Kushtia face Bogra in today's

and hosts Cox's Bazar.

team glory

SPORTS REPORTER

Saiful separated the two sides

4TH JFA CUP

zonal final

SPORTS REPORTER

## Sixth place for youths

SPORTS REPORTER

Australia progressed to the final of the fifth place play-off in the ICC Under-19 World Cup, after their match against Bangladesh at the Bayuemas Oval was abandoned due to rain yesterday.

They were declared winners on the basis of a superior average net run-rate throughout the tournament. Chasing 116, Australia's openers, Kirk Pascoe and Marcus Stoinis, had put on 18 runs in 6 overs before the players were forced off the field as the skies

opened up. Earlier, Bangladesh crashed from 51-1 to 115 all out as the Australian bowlers combined well.

Left-handed opener Amit Mazumder, playing his first game of the competition, cracked a 79ball 43 but fell to left-arm spinner Clive Rose in the 30th over. The diminutive batsman, who was a last-minute inclusion, struck six boundaries in his knock.

Rose and seamer David King were the pick of the Australian bowlers, taking two important middle-order wickets apiece.

Bangladesh topped their group, winning against Ireland, Bermuda and England but were annihilated by South Africa in the quarterfinal.

## Brothers sail, Jatrabari fail

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union and Azad Sporting Club completed their third victories by the same margin in the First Division Cricket League in two venues of BKSP in Savar yesterday.

In the main cricket venue, Azad (160-5 in 42.5 overs) earned a fivewicket win over Dhaka Wanderers Club (159-7 in 50 overs). Tarikuzzaman struck 55 for Azad.

At the other ground, Brothers (154-5 in 46.4 overs) rode on Monirul's 52 as they trounced Bangladesh Boys (151 all out in 47 overs), also by five wickets.

Saidul smacked 70 as Sadharan Bima (228-7 in 50 overs) earned their first win of the league, with a comprehensive 45-run margin over Badda Ekota (183 all out in 48.2 overs) at the Dhaka University

ground. Rony's 79 and Kamal's fivefor gave Lalmatia Club (229 all out in 50 overs) a 13-run win over Agrani Bank (216 all out in 49.3 overs) at the Dhanmondi Cricket

Stadium. At the Jahangirnagar University ground, Cricket Coaching School (162-6 in 39.3 overs) beat fancied Jatrabari (158 all out in 46.2 overs) by four wickets. Right-hander Shuvo struck 70 during CCS's chase.

# Jalal receives BCB support

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday handed a Tk 2 lakh cheque to cricket operations committee member Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, who recently underwent angioplasty at the Ibrahim Memorial Hospital in Dhaka.

Cricket operations chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain and acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury visited the noted cricket coach at the hospital and handed over a getwell card from the BCB president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali along with the cheque.

According to the BCB media release, it was a token of appreciation for his contribution to Bangladesh cricket.



KHAIRUL ANWAR PEARU

# Pearu's death anniversary

SPORTS REPORTER Today is the fourth death anniversary of footballer and organiser Khairul Anwar Pearu, who was shot to death by gunmen at the

Dhanmondi Club premises. On this occasion, a qurankhwani, milad mahfil and feeding of destitute will be held today at his native village in | in South Africa is probably not Farhadnagar, Feni.

His relatives and well wishers have been requested to attend the

programme. A national sports award winner as a footballer, Pearu was the senior vice-president of Bangladesh Football Federation and president of Dhanmondi Club.

# A needless dig

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Claims and counter-claims flew Thursday after senior Australian batsman Matthew Hayden was officially reprimanded for calling Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh an "obnoxious little weed."

Tensions continue to simmer in a summer of cricket acrimony ahead of Sunday's first final in the one-day tri-series here between the two fiercely-competitive rivals. Cricket Australia's code of behaviour commissioner Ron Beazley late Wednesday upheld a charge that Hayden had breached the code of conduct with his public

issued a reprimand. and escaped a possible suspension and fine.

comment about Harbhajan and

The Hayden incident is the latest in a series of controversies, and follows a racism row, threats by India to leave, and players fined for aggressive behaviour.

Thursday with Harbhajan claiming Hayden was one of the most disliked figures in world cricket.

"I don't want it to be a slanging match, but you only need to speak to international cricketers and international teams to know in what opinion they hold Hayden,' Harbhajan told Sydney's The Daily

Telegraph newspaper. Harbhajan also accused Australia of trying to cover up their on-field sledging by hiding among their teammates to avoid being detected by television cameras.

Another unnamed Indian player told the Hindustan Times that Hayden was "insane" and vowed to give him "the fight" the tourists believe he is asking for.

"It's not strategy, it's insane and asking for a fight. And if he wants that, we'll give it to him," the player told the newspaper.

"He will not stop making sarcastic or plain rude remarks, whether Hayden pleaded his innocence he is fielding or batting. It is very difficult to not get upset and we don't see why he is allowed to get away with his constant barbs."

The latest controversy has again

reactivated hostilities between the two teams. "Matthew Hayden was charged Singh," The Daily Telegraph said

"What is wrong with calling Harby an obnoxious little weed? It's not racist, it's not all that rude and it's certainly not bad for the game." The Australian newspaper

"foolish." "Named one-day player of the year, Hayden foolishly said on Brisbane radio before the presentation what many in the team think about

described Hayden's comments as

Harbhajan," the newspaper said. "While it was meant to be a light-hearted radio interview, Hayden's lack of diplomacy has poured petrol on a bushfire and has given the Indians something substantial to complain about."

Melbourne's Herald-Sun said Australian captain Ricky Ponting had to show leadership in the potentially explosive best-of-three match ODI finals series. "If there is a fight on hand, he

extent, that's what leadership is al about," the newspaper said. "Leadership, too, is about remaining calm and letting your

won't shy away from it. To a certain

actions tell the story. "Ponting must learn to do this The fall-out continued for simply saying what most and encourage his men to follow, Australians feel about Harbhajan otherwise the tri-series finals will be lost. Match referee Jeff Crowe must also take control."

# Bond deal under siege

Cricket

AFP, London Shane Bond's contract to play for English county Hampshire this

season has been called into question because of the player's links with the 'rebel' Indian Cricket League (ICL) after officials warned it would be taken into account when assessing his registration. Former New Zealand quick

Bond, 32, signed by Hampshire as early-season cover for Shane Warne, and Pakistan's Navedul Hasan, due to play for Yorkshire, featured in November's inaugural

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which has organised its own Twenty20 event, the Indian Premier League (IPL), due to get underway in April.

Unlike the ICL, the IPL has International Cricket Council (ICC) backing, with many of the world's top players signed up on highly lucrative contracts.

Bond took part in the inaugural ICL in November after it offered him the kind of financial security he could only dream about as a New Zealand player.

league, effectively ending Bond's matches will be taking place in where.

since he made his debut against

reconsider his decision if the officials

requested him to continue the game

after any bright performance in the

second Test in Chittagong, Rafiq said,

"Still none of the board officials

requested me of it. What I believe is

that if they have such intentions,

then they definitely would have told

me before the series. So there is no

scope for me to change my decision

quit international cricket after this

series as there is no Test series in

seven months after that. Selectors

already told me that they will not

consider me in one-day cricket and

the reality of retirement had really

hit home. However, he remains at

"There's not a decision I've made

in my life -- and this is all due

respect to my wife about marriage

because I'm pretty certain that was

the right decision -- but I've never

been surer every single day that I

wake up, that this is the right thing

to do," Gilchrist said. "I'm getting

more and more reflective and it's

natural to do that. The way people

also crying for patience from his

the key because we were not

patient enough in our first innings

in the first Test in Dhaka. So that's

something we are talking about. In

these slow and low wickets scoring

runs as quick as we are used to back

Like his Bangladesh counter-

parts, Smith also believed that the

wicket will be good in Chittagong.

easy," said the left-hander.

"I think patience is going to be

what I felt was that my Test place is future after this series," he said.

are expressing their emotions and Chamara Kapugedera, Chaminda

thoughts and opinions of me, and Vaas, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah

to me, that's making it even more of Muralidaran, Ishara Amerasinghe.

Runs craved on flat deck

Finals begin now

"I have taken this decision to

When asked whether he will

FROM PAGE 17

after the series."

FROM PAGE 17

ease with his call.

FROM PAGE 17

batsmenhere.

India at Sharjah in 1995.

Rafique bowls

New Zealand career, and ruling the injury-prone fast bowler out of his country's forthcoming tour of

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), following a "a full report on the impact and threat of unauthorised events to the infrastructure of the sport", said in a statement here Wednesday: "The ECB board are determined to disassociate and distance itself from any promoter, agent or indi-

vidual involved in such events." The statement added: "It was further noted that unqualified cricketers requiring a 'no objection certificate' to be registered for cricket in England and Wales are unlikely to receive such certifi-But the ICL is opposed by the cates from their home boards if they participate in unauthorised

"In order to protect the genuine interests in the development of grassroots and county cricket and protecting anti-doping and anticorruption measures, the ECB policy to condemn unauthorised events will be taken into consideration when evaluating any application to register players for county cricket.

It is unlikely that any top-flight English players will participate in the IPL as the dates for the tourna-In October the ICC ruled no ment, between April and June,

also uncertain," he explained.

mance in the last game.

to this game," he said.

match as his best scalp.

an emotional time."

TEAMS

Rafique also vowed to finish his

"I am a very determined charac-

career in style with a special perfor-

ter and I am also a fighter. I will

definitely try to finish my career by

showing my ability as a fighter in

the last game. I am looking forward

Rafique also recalled the dis-

"The wicket of Rahul Dravid is

Rafique also informed that he

missal of former India skipper

Rahul Dravid in the inaugural

still fresh in my mind," he recalled.

was still undecided about his

future plan. "Let me play the game

first. I will only decide about my

AUSTRALIA (likely): Adam

Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Ricky

Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke,

Andrew Symonds, Michael Hussey,

James Hopes, Brett Lee, Brad Hogg,

Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken.

SRI LANKA (likely): Sanath

Jayasuriya, Dilruwan Perera,

Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela

Jayawardene (captain), Chamara

Silva, Tillakaratne Dilshan,

He however praised his boys

"I am really happy with the way

performance in the first Test which

they won by five wickets in the

they bounced back. We were able to

chase more than 200 runs in the

fourth innings and it was encour-

aging to see the way the boys batted

ward to see whether pacer

Shahadat Hossain or any other

home bowler can produce some-

Now everybody will look for-

under pressure," he added.

can make one change."

fourth morning.

England duo Chris Read and Paul Nixon, two players whose international careers appear to be over, featured in the first edition of

The ECB reiterated Wednesday its October warning that playing in the ICL would adversely affect a player's chances of international selection.

"This policy clearly demonstrates a preference towards players and officials who do not participate in unofficial events." Counties received a similar warning over staging unsanctioned matches.

"No member, or venue receiving any funding from the ECB, will be allowed to host such events."

Traditionally, counties have had little control over where their players earn money during the offseason. But the ECB said one way of preventing them taking part in the ICL or other 'rebel' events was for players to be given year-long con-

"All counties will be actively supported and encouraged to enter into 12-month playing contracts," the ECB statement said.

Cricket administrators argue they must take action against events such as the ICL in order to ensure the money from Test matches and one-day internacontracted international player clash with the start of the domestic tionals which funds the sport at could be released for the rebel season and are at a time when Test all levels isn't diverted else-

## Amla, Harris get ODI spot

AFP, Chittagong

South Africa named batsman Hashim Amla and left-arm spinner Paul Harris in a 14-man squad for upcoming one-day clashes against Bangladesh yesterday.

The selectors opted to include the two, who are yet to play oneday international cricket, with an eye to future commitments on the subcontinent.

Pakistan are hosting the Champions Trophy this autumn while the next World Cup, in 2011, will be co-hosted by India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

And India are hosting South Africa for a Test series starting next

"Selectors were keen to try Amla in one-dayers and see how he fares. Also, we always wanted to try out two spinners in view of two key events to be hosted by the subcontinent," South African media manager Michael Owen Smith said.

"We wanted to expose Harris to the sub-continental conditions with an eye on the tour of India. We need to be fresh and ready for that

Off-spinner Johan Botha is the other spinner in the squad, playing their first ODI series since the | Championship opponents who retirement of pace bowler Shaun Pollock this month.

Veteran all-rounder Jacques Kallis, wicketkeeper Mark Boucher and paceman Makhaya Ntini are rested, with Graeme Smith continuing to lead the side. There was speculation that

Smith would be among the seniors who would fly back home after the second Test against Bangladesh beginning here on Friday, ahead of the three-Test tour of India. But Owen said an experienced

senior player was needed to guide the young team in tough conditions. Smith will also play in the much-hyped Indian Premier League Twenty20 competition,

slated to start on April 18. Opener Herschelle Gibbs, who comes in for Neil McKenzie, fast

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's chances to reach the qualifying rounds of the Junior Davis Cup was damaged as they slumped to fourth place on the penultimate day of the tournament's Asia-Oceania zone prequalifiers in Malaysia.

Bangladesh did not play yesterday but Pakistan's 2-1 loss to second-placed Kazakhstan meant the level on points. However, Pakistan remain atop the table.

Faisal Ahmed of Red House and Sharif Ahmed of Blue House emerged athletes of the year 2008 at the annual athletics meet of Bangladesh International School (BIS).

Chowdhury, Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division distributed trophies as the chief guest The students were also awarded for participating in different sports events held round the year.

The 24th National Senior Boxing Championship will get underway at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium. There will be 11 events in the three-day meet, which will be declared open by sponsor Southeast Bank Limited's managing director Neyaz Ahmed.

**JABBARTENNIS** 

The Jabbar Memorial tennis tour nament will begin in the city today at the Engineers Recreation Centre court in the city. About 20 clubs across from the country will take part in eight events. The Tk 75,800 tournament will end on March 6 with only the men's and women's singles and men's doubles having prize money.

**SCHOOL HOCKEY** 

UNB adds: Ahmed Bawany Academy crushed Narayangan High School 13-0 in the first semifinal at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium to reach the final of the Dhaka Bank Shaheed Smriti School hockey tournament. Shawon and skipper Faisal Hossain scored four goals each for the winners who led 6-0 at

the break. Armanitola Government Boys School face Mirpur Academy in the second semifinal today. The final is

KABADDI The Pran Juice 11th Premier Division Kabaddi League will begin today at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court with holders champions Bangladesh Rifles playing Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Police meeting Shaheed Mozaffar

ABM Abdul Fattah, director (administration) of National Sports Council, will formally inaugurate

the 12-day meet as chief guest. groups are taking part in the competition. Sponsors Pran RFL Group will provide Tk 80,000 of the total

## Youngmen's closer to top

moved within one point of leaders Victoria Sporting Club with a match in hand when they blanked Dipali Juba Sangha 2-0 in yesterday's Senior Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Shakawat Hossain Rony slotted both the goals, in the 16 and 18 minutes as Youngmen's extended their collection to 21 points from 11

Victoria, who have played all their 12 matches in the first leg, are on 22 points.

Jatrabari Krira Chakra, having dominated most of the fray, drew goalless with Dhaka Wanderers at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa

place with 19 points after 11 games. Sixth place Wanderers, who also have a match in hand, kept their

### hopes alive to book place in the sixteam super league with 15 points.

Boro had enjoyed the better of the first 90 minutes but it was their finished stronger.

After almost finding Rob Hulse with a knockdown four minutes from the end, Beattie could have won the tie in the final minute of regulation time but failed to hit the target after being found by Welsh veteran midfielder Gary Speed's

### Bashar rules

FROM PAGE 17 worth to make his comeback in the

"Bangladesh's next two series will be held late in 2008 and in that

# Gilly defends Hayden

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Batting star Adam Gilchrist Thursday defended Matthew Hayden, at the centre of the latest spat between Australia and India, saying he does not care what others think about his fellow opener.

Hayden ignited yet another row between the sides when he called spinner Harbhajan Singh an "obnoxious weed" on Australian radio on Tuesday.

Harbhajan replied by saying Hayden was one of the most disliked players in world cricket.

"Who is Matthew Hayden? You only need to speak to international cricketers... to know in what opinion they hold Hayden," Harbhajan

Speaking here, Gilchrist said he paid little heed to Harbhajan's

"I've not ever cared to think what other teams think of Matthew Hayden," he said. "He's one of the most well-respected people in our

team, so that's all that interests me." The wicketkeeper-batsman also defended Ricky Ponting, dismiss- with the Indians again in the triing Harbhajan's claims the Australian skipper used abusive language towards him during Sunday's tri-series game in Sydney.

He said Ponting did not say anything inflammatory during the game, after which India officially complained to match referee Jeff Crowe about the provocative behaviour of Ponting, Hayden and

Andrew Symonds. Gilchrist said the controversy swirling around his farewell international season has worn him

The Hayden incident is the latest in a series of controversies, and follows a racism row, threats by India to leave, and players fined for

aggressive behaviour. "Everyone is over it a little bit | Pabna. now," Gilchrist said. "I'm just trying to get on with the finals and play some cricket.

"I can't speak on behalf of everyone, particularly on their team, and I haven't spoken to our guys about it, but I'm sure everyone is just keen to let cricket get on.

"There's been a lot on, a lot of issues, I haven't played in too many summers where... there's been any number of issues you could bring

to mind." Australia play Sri Lanka in a "dead rubber" on Friday in Melbourne, before locking horns series finals, starting on Tuesday.

Gilchrist said it was important Australia remained focused on playing good cricket.

# Henin survives a scare

Tennis

AFP, Dubai

Justine Henin suffered an opening match scare for the second successive year as she sought to maintain an unbeaten record by winning her

fifth title in a row at the Dubai Open. The world number one from Belgium had to save two points to avoid going a break down in the final set against Katarina Srebotnik before beating the Slovenian qualifier 7-5, 6-7 (6/8) 6-3.

Last year Henin was within a point of trailing 1-4 in the final set against Tamira Paszek, an Austrian then aged only 16, but her survival kick-started a yearin which she won tentitles. Then Henin was returning to

competition after a marital break-

up. Now she is coming back after a

family reunions.

Srebotnik often hit the ball very hard and, as the chance of victory emerged, with increasing consistency too, recovering from a minibreak down in the tie-break to force

to the net more, applying pressure from the baseline with angles and variations of spin, and ending the match with several games of What had been in danger of

becoming a disaster concluded with perhaps her most encouraging performance of the year so far.

captain Sourav Ganguly as an after-Certainly Henin thought so. "I thought to fill in for some players only recovered now from what who might not be available for a happened to me in 2007," she said. period in May when the IPL is on. "Mentally and emotionally I was pretty tired in Australia. Today I Mumbai last week, Shahid Afridi, really enjoyed being out there, even Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Asif, ifIwasn't perfect. Shoaib Akhtar, Younis Khan, Umar Gul and Kamran Akmal were signed



World number one Justine Henin of Belgium makes a forehand return against Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia during their Dubai Open match on Wednesday.

digit fig. 22 Christ-

souvenir 24 Ad

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29 Sailors

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39 Verve

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45 Debt

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24 Stopper 53 Wrestling

50 Swag

21 Side road first words furniture

12 Met

13 Quaker's

15 Sturdy

17 Director

Spike

regretful

30 Blueprint

26 Firmly

32 Man-

33 Opulent

35 Basin

needed to have a fine drainage system at the CDS. Fazle Bari Khan Rubel, the current venue manager of CDS, also echoed the similar and said it's not possible to get the proper or standard drainage system without replacing the old earth.

"The earth we have now beneath the stadium is not fit for fast and proper absorbing of rain water," he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 3 Seven- 21 Concoct 23 Function-19 20 smoothly 26 27 26 Courts 27 Bygone passed 28 Angered 31 Scattered 45 46 47 43 44 37 Symbol intrigue

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TRAINED EXPERT AT HANDLING BABY SHEEP YOU MIGHT CALL ME LAMB-IDEXTROUS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals I

# LOCAL SNIPPETS

two sub-continent teams were were third by virtue of their win against Bangladesh on the opening day. In another match yesterday, Malaysia beat Sri Lanka 3-0 to

**BIS SPORTS** 

Lt Gen Masud Uddin

NAT'L BOXING

slated for March 2.

Smriti Sangsad on the opening day.

Twelve teams split into two tournament budget of Tk 1,25,000.

SPORTS REPORTER Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool

Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. It was newcomers Jatrabari's

first draw which saw them at fourth

# Boro scrape

ball into the near post.

time I will only able to play the Premier League to show my worth. It would have been better if there National Crickt League was going on. But whatever it is, board has told me not to take any decision in one year," he informed. Bashar however promised that

"I am not that kind of man."

a decider. But just when she needed it, Henin hit the accelerator, coming

colourful, high-quality attack.

knee injury and energy-sapping

CRYPTOQUIP H QHT UT blanca" heroine

"GWHMGBUM'P WHMGBZMP. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I'M A

### accessory paper "What I understand the wicket thing special to test the South 36 Partially 46 - de bowler Charl Langeveldt and all-African batsmen again in the secis much better than the first one we mine plume rounder Vernon Philander are he will not be crying for any match played in Dhaka. But I don't think ond Test and whether the local 37 Mascara 47 Pontiac expected to join the squad on to make his farewell from the field. any major changes will be seen. batsmen have learned anything muscle applicators May be in the spin department, we from their mistakes.