AFP, New Delhi

India's injury woes ahead of next week's Test series against South Africa increased on Tuesday after recalled spinner Murali Kartik was ruled out with a torn ligament.

Kartik adds to

India's woes

Kartik, 31, who played the last of his eight Tests against the South Africans in November 2004, was on Monday picked in India's 14-man squad for the first two Tests of the three-match series.

But the left-arm spinner suffered a ligament tear in his left ankle while fielding in a domestic one-day match the same day and doctors said he would be out of action for three weeks.

Teenage leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, 19, will replace Kartik for the first Test starting in Chennai on March 26 and the second in Ahmedabad from April 3.

Chawla, who was named a standby on Monday, will be in line to play his second Test as part of a spin attack that also includes captain Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

India are already without pace spearheads Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma, who have yet to recover from injuries suffered during the recent three-month tour of Australia.

Khan opted out of the series with an ankle injury while in-form Sharma, 19, was ruled out of the opening Test due to toe and finger

niggles. Sharma was the find of the Australian tour, where India lost 2-1 in the four-Test series, but bounced back to win the tri-series finals 2-0

against the hosts. Wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and off-spinner Harbhajan, included in the Test squad despite minor injuries, have been asked by officials to pass fitness tests on March

Graeme Smith's South Africa arrive in India for the three-week tour on March 22. The Chennai and Ahmedabad Tests will be followed by the final match in Kanpur from April

Lee misses maiden ton

AFP, Sydney

Australian paceman Brett Lee fell agonisingly short of his maiden first-class century Tuesday when he was caught on 97 in the interstate cricket final between New South Wales and Victoria.

Lee's dogged innings put his NSW side in a dominant position as the final heads into its fifth and last day, with Victoria on 2-96 and chasing an almost impossible target of 629 for victory.

Lee, who has signed a 900,000 US dollar contract for the Indian Premier League, reached a career high score in first class cricket and was within three runs of his first ton when he was caught and bowled by Victoria's Peter Siddle.

Ron tricks

FROM PAGE 17 Joining from Paris Saint-Germain in 2003, his goofy optimism and exuberance giving the fans a new

sense of expectation. He helped Barca to back-toback Liga titles in 2005 and 2006 and guided the team to the 2006 Champions League - at the same time as winning the European Footballer of the Year and the FIFA

World Player awards. But his performances since 2006 have been sluggish and indolent, amidst persistent rumours of

an unprofessional personal life. This season Ronaldinho has started only 13 out of Barca's 28

league matches. Barca apparently turned down lucrative offers for him last sum-

mer from AC Milan and Chelsea, decisions that they may now be regretting.

Relief

FROM PAGE 17 Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-20, 3-43, 4-81 5-97, 6-115, 7-180.

Bowler	0	M	R	W	
Mortaza	10	4	22	3	
Razzak	10	0	36	0	
Mahmudullah	10	0	31	1	
Shakib	10	1	38	1	
Reza	10	0	49	1	
BANGLADESH					
Igbal c Thompson b Langford-Smith				13	
Nafees not out				90	
Aftab c Strydom b Johnston				11	
Ashraful not out				64	
Extras: (w-8)				8	
Total: (For 2 white in 39 5 overs)				186	

Total: (For 2 wkts in 39.5 overs) 186 Did not bat: Shakib, Raqibul, Dhiman, Reza, Razzak, Mortaza, Mahmudullah.

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-56. R W OM Bowler 30 KO'Brien

49 Langford-Smith 17 Johnston 1 20 Botha 28 0 0 McCallan 16 0 Cusack 0 26 0 Thompson Result: Bangladesh won by 8 wick-

Man-of-the-match: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Toss: Ireland Umpires: Enamul Haque (Bangladesh) and TH Wijewardene (Sri

Lanka) Match referee: RS Madugalle (Sri Lanka) Reserve umpire: Nadir Shah

Patel still undecided Pakistan to

Cricket

AGENCIES, Johannesburg

The International Cricket Council (ICC) may have jumped the gun while announcing the name of Imtiaz Patel for the chief executive's job.

Patel, the chief executive officer of SuperSport, indicated on Tuesday that he was yet to accept the offer, made on Monday, and said he will consider his position "very carefully in the coming weeks."

A statement from him was released on the SuperSport website, shortly after its spokesman told Cricinfo the deal had not been finalised and Patel was weighing his options.

In his carefully-worded statement, Patel said he was "humbled the ICC has stated that it will invite me to fulfil such an important role within cricket."

"I enjoy a most rewarding and happy career in my current role as CEO of SuperSport, which is a dynamic organisation within a wonderful international group. I will therefore be considering my position very carefully during the coming weeks and will be engaging in discussions with the ICC during this period."

Patel said that he would comment further on the issue only after finalising his plans to protect the "interests of the confi-

Malinda Warnapura and Sri

Lanka captain Mahela

Jayawardene warmed-up for the

first Test against West Indies later

this week when they took advan-

tage of an inexperienced Guyana

Cricket Board President's Select

Warnapura retired out on 132

and Jayawardene was dismissed

for 99, as the visiting Sri Lankans

reached 343 for five when stumps

were drawn on the opening day of

their three-day, non-first class,

tour match at the Guyana

Warnapura struck 14 fours and

No GCB President's Select XI

bowler distinguished themselves,

as they were made to toil in swel-

tering heat, after allowing the

captain Patrick Browne is the

most experienced player in his

side, since choices for the com-

posite West Indies side were

restricted by the involvement of

GCB President's Select XI

one six from 184 balls in just over

four hours and shared in signifi-

Cricket

XI attack on Monday.

National Stadium.

visitors to bat first.

hours.

AFP, Providence

dentiality of all candidates." His colleague Guy Hawthorne,

the SuperSport spokesperson, confirmed that Patel was still weighing his options.

"He has been offered the chief executive since 2001. executive's job by ICC, but he hasn't agreed yet," Hawthorne told Cricinfo. "The terms between ICC and Patel have not been agreed upon yet, and noth-



IMTIAZ PATEL

ing has been finalised. Patel is still weighing his options."

"We hope he will stay back with us and we will try our best to ensure that he does. Of course, this is Patel's personal decision and it's between him and the ICC. But as of now, at SuperSport, it's business as usual, and Patel remains the chief executive," Hawthorne said.

On Monday, ICC presidentelect David Morgan said in Dubai

more established players in the

sixth round of the West Indies

first-class championship which

Lankans in the runs

ended on Monday.

that they were in the process of "negotiating the details with Patel before he can be officially appointed" to replace Malcolm Speed, who has been the chief

Patel's name was recommended to the ICC executive board for a three-year term starting June by a sub committee comprising Ray Mali the ICC president, Sharad Pawar, the Board of Control for Cricket in India president, Creagh O'Connor, the Cricket Australia chairman, and Morgan, with Nasim Ashraf, the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman, present as a non-voting observer.

Patel, 43, has been the CEO of SuperSport since 2005 and if he takes up the ICC job he will bring wide experience of the highfinance world of television sports coverage after being involved in some of the biggest deals in South African sports history.

Patel joined SuperSport in 2000 after a stint as director of professional cricket with the then United Cricket Board of South Africa.

Patel, a former schoolteacher and first league cricketer, has hands-on experience of administration in major sports through SuperSport's ownership of a professional soccer club and financial stakes in two professional rugby franchises and a cricket franchise.

Jayawardene joined

Warnapura and fortune also

favoured him, when Roach

dropped him on six on the mid-

wicket boundary off Steve Jacobs,

the West Under-19 vice-captain

The Sri Lanka captain contin-

ued to play as languidly as he

at the Youth World Cup.

Jayawardene.

pick squad next week

CRICINFO, undated

SPORT

Pakistan's national selectors wil meet next week to pick the squad for the five-match ODI series against Bangladesh in April. A selector told the News that the selection committee will start taking inputs from the Pakistan team management before naming the squad.

The selectors will be particularly keen on speaking to the management after it emerged that Geoff Lawson, the coach, was unhappy with the selection procedure before the ODI series against Zimbabwe.

Lawson said, in a report to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), that despite assurances from the board he was not consulted in the finalisation of the 15-member squad named for the series, which Pakistan won 5-0.

There have been reports of friction between coach and selectors earlier but this was the first time Lawson had put it in writing, PCB rules stipulate that national selectors should consult the captain and coach while finalising the squad during a home series.

The selectors, though, have the prerogative to pick the final playing eleven, a change from the past when the team management had the authority to do this.

Lawson's grouse was that the selectors had not even consulted him while picking the full squad. In his report on the series against Zimbabwe, Lawson also talked about the 2011 World Cup and his doubts over whether all-rounder Shahid Afridi had a role to play in the tournament. "The performance of Shahid Afridi will have to be closely monitored before finalising the likely team for the World Cup 2011," he wrote.

The series against Bangladesh was hurriedly lined up by the PCB after Australia refused to go ahead with the tour scheduled for March-April because of security concerns. Bangladesh are scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on April 6 to play five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international. According to the unofficial itinerary, the opening match will be played on April 9 in Lahore, which will also host the second one-dayer on April 11. The rest of the ODIs will be played on April 14 in Faisalabad and April 17 and 20 in Rawalpindi. Karachi will host the only Twenty20 match on April 22.

O'Connor, Ashraf to discuss tour rescheduling

REUTERS, Sydney

Cricket Australia (CA) chairman Creagh O'Connor has invited Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Nasim Ashraf to discuss rescheduling the April tour which was post-

poned last week. CA pulled out of the planned tour of Pakistan due to security con-

"Dr Ashraf and I have taken the opportunity to catch up during the current International Cricket Council (ICC) board meeting in Dubai and we have had a preliminary look at dates which might be suitable to reschedule the matches," O'Connor said in a CA statement from Dubai.

"I have assured the PCB that Australia is committed to finding new dates, and we are committed to the ICC principle that cricket will only develop as a genuine global sport if all nations play each other away and at home on a regular basis." O'Connor said he needed to discuss technical issues with Ashrafin order to find new dates for the tour.

FROM PAGE 17 hattrick gave Dinajpur a massive 5-0 win against all-losing Kushtia. WOMEN'S KABADDI

of the Fresh Independence and In the semifinals today, Japan

will play Ansars while West Bengal take on fellow Indian side Tripura. Tripura beat Jatrabari KC 40-24 while West Bengal dumped Nepal

62-7 at the Outer Stadium kabaddi In the afternoon, Japan emerged Group A champions with a 34-12 win over Tripura while West

Ansars 58-12.

HOCKEY

UNB adds: Old Dhaka got off to a flying start in the Independence Day hockey tournament outplaying Bangladesh Air Force 5-2 in the opening match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Alam Habul scored two goals each while Rasel Mahmud Jimmy netted the other for the winners who led 3-1 in the first half. Mamun Hossain and Romen Ali

netted one each for Air Force. In the day's other match, Bangladesh Army beat Police SC 4-2 with three goals from Mustafa.

If Maradona can...

Football

AP, La Paz

Diego Maradona and Evo Morales matched soccer skills at a charity game in the Bolivian capital as the Argentine hero joined the soccermad president in rejecting a FIFA ban on high-altitude international matches on Monday.

The two 47-year-olds played every minute of the spirited hourlong game, delighting 25,000 fans from both countries at Hernando Siles Stadium, high in the Andes at 11,800 feet (3,600 meters) above sea level. Maradona's diamond earrings

flashed in the brilliant mountain sunlight as he led a team of retired Argentine all-stars to a 7-4 victory over Morales' motley squad of several dozen former Bolivian greats, palace staffers, security guards, and local television newscasters. "I speak for all of Argentina

when I say that we do not fear the altitude," Maradona told the cheering crowd at halftime. "All of us have to play where we

were born, my brothers and sisters. "Not even God can ban that -much less (Sepp) Blatter," he added, referring to the president of

FIFA last week ratified a rule requiring players to arrive at the host city a week before international games above 9,000 feet (2,750 metres), and two weeks for matches higher than 9,800 feet (3,000 metres), to allow time to adjust to the thin air.

With soccer teams' complicated travel schedules, the rule essentially bans high-altitude games. FIFA has expressed concern about possible negative health effects on lowland players, and said that high-altitude games would give highland nations like Bolivia a greater home-field advantage.

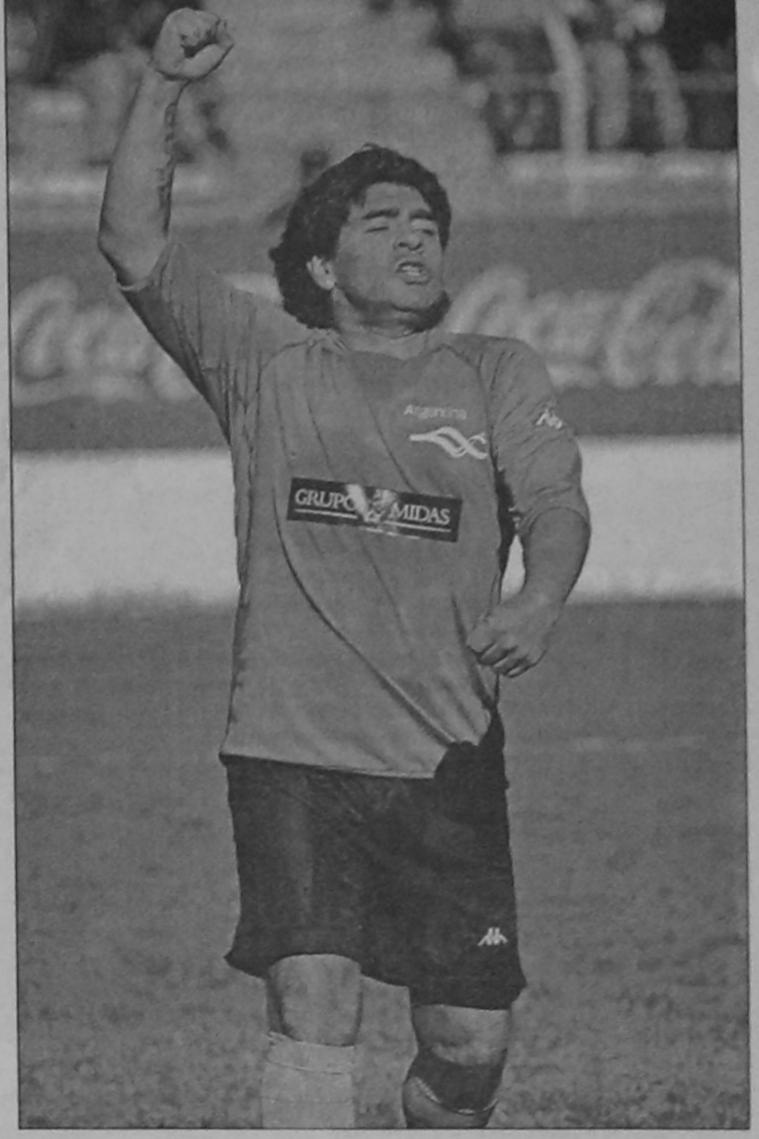
Not all countries seemed to mind, however. Chile announced on Monday it would ignore the FIFA ruling for its upcoming World Cup qualifying match against Bolivia and play the June 14 game as originally scheduled in La Paz.

Admission for Monday's charity match was a donation for victims of catastrophic flooding in Bolivia's eastern lowlands, and fans arrived at the park bearing clothes, bags of sugar or rice, even packages of final whistle, a winded but exultant toilet paper.

Morales' one. A military band launched into a Bolivian patriotic song after Maradona's first score,

as if the great player had in a single moment brought back the dignity Bolivian fans feel FIFA has stripped away from their national game.

As he departed the field after the Maradona defiantly pounded his Maradona scored three goals to still-heaving chest and issued his verdict on playing at high altitude: "Yes you can!" he hollered, giving the delirious crowd a thumbs-up.



Argentine legend Diego Maradona celebrates after scoring a goal during a charity match in La Paz on Monday.

Captain content

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

England captain Michael Vaughan on Tuesday claimed the decision to drop Matthew Hoggard and Steve Harmison was vindicated by his side's victory in the second

Replacements James Anderson and Stuart Broad impressed in the 126-run win over New Zealand in Wellington on Monday.

"We made two tough decisions at the start and those were proved to be right," Vaughan explained. "It was exciting being out there

with a young set of bowlers who have a decent amount of pace and created chances." Anderson, 25, and Broad, 21,

claimed 10 wickets between them

as England levelled the threematch series on the final morning. Lancashire seamer Anderson took five in the first innings, while Nottinghamshire's Broad took two wickets in one over after lunch

on Day Four. In the previous match, Hoggard and Harmison took just one wicket apiece as England slumped

to a 189-run defeat in Hamilton. "Jimmy Anderson in the first innings was outstanding and I thought Stuart Broad's spell on Sunday afternoon was very impressive for a 21-year-old," said

Vaughan. "That's not to say Matthew Hoggard and Steve Harmison aren't going to try and push to get back into the team.

38 Modern-

ACROSS

piece

22 The

24 Eggs

27 Klingon

the

out

trail

aboard

did very well and offered us a bit of pace which was a little bit lacking in Hamilton."

Apart from a poor fielding display that saw five catches dropped and a straightforward stumping chance missed by Tim Ambrose, England's performance was in stark contrast to that in the

opener. Having been put in to bat on day one they slumped to 136-5 before Ambrose scored his maiden Test century and put on 164 with Paul Collingwood for the sixth wicket.

England then bowled the hosts out for 198.

"It was a poor display in Hamilton but this week I can't speak highly enough of all the players and all the backroom team -- the way we responded to that defeat has been magnificent," said Vaughan.

"We lost the toss -- we probably would have bowled on the first day -- but the defining moment was the partnership between Paul Collingwood and Tim Ambrose.

"With a 140-odd lead on that pitch it is always a fair advantage to have and thankfully we took home the advantage.

"Winning is a habit and hopefully it will continue in Napier next week because it's a happier dressing room than it was in Hamilton."

Ambrose, in his series debut, batted with freedom for his 149ball 102 and, despite dropping a difficult chance and missing the stumping in New Zealand's sec- shout."

"But the two lads who came in ond innings, generally he keptwicket well.

> "[The partnership with Collingwood] was a crucial moment of the game and we won that stage, which gave the bowlers something to work with," he said.

> "They did a fantastic job, bowled brilliantly on that pitch and got us over the line."

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori is looking forward to getting to Napier and playing on a wicket that could potentially play into his side's hands.

Ross Taylor, with 53 in the first innings and 55 in the second, was the only batsman in New Zealand's top five to post a halfcentury and Vettori is looking for more from the top order.

"I'm sure the wicket in Napier will be a good, flat wicket -- more similar to Hamilton than here I would have thought -- and that will hopefully suit us more," he

"We're probably not getting the

run production we'd like from our top order -- our lower order is saving us a bit -- and they need to come to the party and score big runs for us in future.

"England have regrouped and come back fighting, as we knew they would, and have found a couple of bowlers with good enthusiasm and skill.

"But there are still good levels of confidence in this team and if those guys who didn't quite perform this time around step up in Napier we'll be in with a great

CRYPTOQUIP

BTFW MGZSLAG. S SDTJSCG PCG LPOAL Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE NEW SOCIETY Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals S

FORRPFSCJ T FZGAABSFZ SF

LTAA SW T DOFFGA LTV GIRL ENDURED MUCH TERRIBLE TEASING. YOU MIGHT SAY SHE WAS A DEB YOU TAUNT.

Bracewell sings Southee song

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand are considering turning to teenage newcomer Tim Southee in a bid to secure their first home Test series win against England for 24 years, coach John Bracewell

said Tuesday. Fast bowler Southee, 19, would be the first teenager to debut for New Zealand since skipper Daniel Vettori started his Test career in 1997 at the age of 18.

Bracewell said Southee's ability to swing the ball could make the difference as New Zealand attempt to hit back after their 126-run loss to England in the second Test in Wellington.

"The defining factor may be swing bowling and I think at the moment England have the edge on us," Bracewell said. "All of their bowlers swing it apart

from (Steve) Harmison, and swing it reasonably late." English bowlers James Anderson and Ryan Sidebottom in particular showed the value of quality swing bowling in Wellington, taking 13

wickets between them. "We really have only got Kyle Mills that swings the ball on a consistent basis," Bracewell said. "Having that extra option

(Southee) of genuine swing may put the balance back on an even keel. It's a handy option to have." Southee was Player of the Tournament at the under-19 World Cup in Malaysia last month, taking

17 wickets at an average of 6.64. He was added to the squad after Mills complained of soreness in his left knee after the second Test but Bracewell has suggested Southee

Warnapura added 115 for the

cant partnerships with opener Michael Vandort, who scored 29, first wicket with Michael Vandort, and Jayawardene, whose knock but they were both fortunate to have survived until lunch, when contained a dozen boundaries Sri Lanka had reached 102 withfrom 110 balls in just over two out loss.

West Indies Under-19 side that

This failed to dampen the desire of the Sri Lankans for solid batting to send a strong message to their opponents for the upcoming Test and One-day International series, and Warnapura and Jayawardene

Kumar Sangakkara came to the ond wicket before leg-spin bowler Shamarh Brooks, the West Indies Under-19 captain at the Youth World Cup, bowled him

could be in contention even if Mills

The third Test starting on

Saturday will be played in Napier and

expectations are for a docile batting

To Pakistan cricket was immense,"

June, 2004, it was a period of turmoil

archrivals India -- both in Tests and a

one-day series -- had shaken

Pakistan cricket and had led to the

axing of legendary batsman Javed

Pakistan levelled their two-Test

home series against Sri Lanka before

Australia thrashed them 3-0.

Woolmer took time to settle as

The turning point came when

Pakistan beat Ashes-winning

England 2-0 on home soil in 2005

before squaring Test series in India

and the West Indies, and beating Sri

they were willing to help at

Woolmer's academy in South Africa.

are the real sufferers. Whenever they

need me to coach at Bob's academy, I

will be more than willing to go," said

backforwhathedidforPakistan."

"Perhaps through this we can pay

Both Inzamam and Mushtaq said

"I feel for his family because they

When Woolmer joined Pakistan in

The defeat at the hands of

said PCB chairman Nasim Ashraf.

for the game in the country.

Miandad as coach.

Lanka away.

Inzamam.

does recover.

England in Hamilton.

playing his first full season of first-class cricket for his native Barbaods, and uncapped, teenaged, fellow fast bowler Jason Dawes, a Jamaican member of the

As a result, Kemar Roach,

won the Plate Championship of the ICC Youth World Cup in Malaysia, were the new-ball bowlers.

made sure they achieved this

lost Vandort to leg-spin bowler Davendra Bishoo when he was bowled for 29. crease and added 59 for the sec-

always does and reached his 50 minutes ahead of tea, but not before Warnapura reached his hundred. At tea, Sri Lanka were 253 for two, and Warnapura retired his innings during the break to allow Thilan Samaraweera to join

They continued to dominate the bowling and put 68 for the third wicket before Jacobs bowled Jayawardene and Samaraweera was run out just before the close. The first Test between West Indies and Sri Lanka will con-

After the interval, Sri Lanka

tested from March 22 at this same venue, and the second Test will be from April 3 at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad. The first two One-day Internationals will be on April 10 and 12 at Queen's Park Oval, and

behind his back for 22.

SRI LANKA: 343-5 (Warnapura 132 retired out, Jayawardene 99, Samaraweera 36, Vandort 29, Sangakkara 22)

Bayliss looks

in St. Lucia on April 15.

BRIEF SCORES

the third ODI will be a day/night

affair at the Beausejour Stadium

to Murali

AFP, Georgetown Sri Lanka coach Trevor Bayliss has identified off-spin bowling legend Muttiah Muralidaran as the player that will make the difference in Sri

Muralidaran has captured 70 of Another option for New Zealand is to bring back Jeetan Patel, who formed an effective twin-spin comapiece in 10 Tests. bination with Vettori in the home side's 189-run first Test victory over and I'm sure if he bowls well we are

West Indies in the Caribbean.

going to be right in the game, no doubt about it," Bayliss said. "We will be hard to beat if he

"We have two spinners on this tour and if we meet pitches which turn we have options there." Though Sri Lanka are without

winning will be the batting. "Our main concern has been our batting," he said. "We showed in the Test series at home against England recently that we can bat well. If we score enough runs, we will always have the chance to

and we have to keep the focus on our game. Of course, we will look at the opponents and their strengths and weaknesses but most of our concentration will be on what we do well."

Lanka's two-Test series against

his World record 723 Test wickets against West Indies at 17.34 runs "Murali's record speaks for itself

bowls well. Guyana pitches take a bit of turn, but we will take a look at all pitches on the morning of the game and see where we go from

fast bowlers Lasith Malinga, Dilhara Fernando, and Farveez Maharoof, Bayliss is satisfied with the composition of his side's bowling attack and believes the key to

establish winning positions. "What we want to do is concentrate on what we do best and not worry too much about what the opposition is doing. The guys play to their best when that happens

LOCAL SNIPPETS

Visiting Japan, West Bengal and Tripura joined local side Bangladesh Ansar in the semifinals National Day women's kabaddi

Bengal won Group B beating

Iqbal Nadir Prince and Maksud

21 Jima Brother preceder host evidence statistic 23 Chapeau 40 "Zounds!" 6 Calch-24 Discover-"My Name shipper 12 Shocked CTY 4 "Guinness 13 Only U.S. 25 What Book" capital couch sullix 44 Measures, sharing potatoes do 6 Detail, for 46 Kind of with its 26 First short hairdo state beast 7 Sausages, 50 Gamer's 14 Nap in the often picture 15 Incense dictionary 8 -- the 52 Having a 16 French 28 Harmonic we go" arrange-17 Canoodle 54 Minimum ment 9 Apprecia-55 Dump 19 Bushy 30 Expert tive 56 Shackles' clump 31 Roulette 10 Golden site 20 Verdi bet Fleece 57 Pastoral master

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