

Players and officials of the Bangladesh under-15 cricket team pose for a photograph at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Younis has no plan to retire

PTI, Karachi

Younis Khan's pullout midway from the ongoing ODI series against Bangladesh may have triggered speculation about his future but the senior Pakistani batsman yesterday said he has no intention of taking an early retirement.

The right-hander told PTI that he had not thought about retiring at this stage and was keen to play for a few more years.

Younis withdrew from the squad for the last three ODIs against Bangladesh, leading to speculations that he might retirement as he was unhappy by the Pakistan Cricket Board's indifference to his questioning by International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) last week.

withdrawn from the ongoing series as he had to attend to a personal problem, but manager Talat Ali and selectors said the senior batsman wanted rest.

Younis didn't elaborate on this issue but said he did want to rest for a few days. "But this talk about me retiring is

not correct. Neither has the cricket board spoken to me about any disciplinary action being taken against me for whatever reason," he said.

Meanwhile, sources said Younis was still upset over the manner in which the board had allowed the ACSU official to interview him without any prior notice before the first one-day international against Bangladesh in Lahore.

Rainy season opener in England

AFP, London

Rain, as much a part of cricket in England as Lord's itself, had the last word here Sunday in the opening match of the 2008 English season when a persistent downpour washed out the final day's play in the traditional curtain-raiser between MCC and the county champions, Sussex. Not a ball was bowled Sunday

on the fourth day at Lord's, the match ending in a draw. The game was already heading

towards a stalemate with Sussex 474 for five in their second innings overnight, a lead of 440, with Luke Wright a career-best 155 not out and Robin Martin-Jenkins unbeaten on 73. Earlier, Sussex's South Australia

pace bowler Ryan Harris took four for 36 as MCC were bowled out for 205 in an innings where England batsman Owais Shah top-scored with 72 and no-one else made more than 33.

Sussex begin the defence of their County Championship title away to south coast rivals Hampshire at the Rose Bowl on Wednesday.

BRIEFSCORES

474-5 (LWright 155 not out, C Nash 90, R Martin-Jenkins 73 not out; C Shreck 3-119)

MCC: 205 (O Shah 72; R Harris 4-

Result: Match abandoned as a draw.

Nat'l booters

FROM PAGE 17

organisation. "We will play exhibition matches to collect money and it would be our main source of income but we will also try to collect money from other sources," said Joy adding that they will play their first match at Cox's Bazar on April 16 and the second match on

the following day at Chokoria. Besides Joy, striker Alfaz Ahmed and Arman Miah were the other notable faces among nearly 30 footballers present during the briefing.

Mendis makes his mark

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ajantha Mendis's maiden one-day international performance has come in for praise from both the Sri Lankan and West Indian camps, with Dwayne Bravo expressing how difficult it was to pick the rookie spinner. Mendis bowled impressively to collect 3 for 39, flummoxing Chris Gayle and Darren Sammy with his crafty variations, as Sri Lanka narrowly failed to win the opening match of the three-game series.

"To be honest, when we saw his stats -- after 19 first-class matches, he had 111 wickets at an average of 14.54 -- we knew he had to be bowl-The board said that Younis had | ing something good," said Bravo, who won the man-of-the-match award. "[Ramnaresh] Sarwan had problems picking him, and from the time we saw this, most of the batsmen retreated to the dressing room, and had a close look at his hand on the TV monitor.

"I actually went and had a look effort from Mendis and believed he at his hand on the computer, and it was still really difficult to pick him, but I found that once you are prepared to watch the ball closely, it is half the job done. He is a very good



AJANTHA MENDIS

bowler, and we will have to go back to [the] drawing board to try to come up with a way to score off his bowling freely."

Sri Lanka's coach, Trevor Bayliss, felt it was a promising

could have a long career. "I could tell you about his variations if I knew what they were and even a lot of our guys struggle to know what he is doing with the ball," he said. "The poise that he had in the first

ODI -- not just what he was bowling -- to be able to keep a lid on things under pressure in one-day cricket is a very good sign. This has been the exceptional thing from my point of view. To be able to maintain his composure and do what he normally does was brilliant."

Bayliss said he was prepared to allow Mendis to experiment in the one-day format. "We just told him to go out there and do whatever he has done in the past. But it's how young players handle the pressure of international cricket that's critical, and he handled it very well.

"From my point of view, the higher up the ladder you go in this game, it's more of a mental thing. It's how you cope with pressure, and if something is working for him at one level, it's no reason why it cannot work at the next."

Dyson delighted

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

West Indies coach John Dyson heaped praise on his side Sunday for clinching their One-day International series against Sri Lanka with a game to spare.

Sri Lanka ran into the rampant pair of Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Marlon Samuels, and lost the rain-marred match by seven wickets under the Duckworth-Lewis Method on Saturday at Queen's Park Oval.

Chanderpaul hit an unbeaten infront of their home crowd." 52, and Samuels scored 54 not out in a stand of 107 -- unbroken -- for the fourth wicket, as West Indies, chasing 125 for victory from 25 overs, hit the jackpot with 27 balls remaining.

"The guys did a sensational job first ODI. overall," Dyson told reporters. "We bowled well and fielded well. There were a couple little errors that we would like to avoid, but overall the fielding effort was very, very good.

"When we batted, the experience of Chanderpaul and Samuels was perfect. They batted superbly."

The victory gave West Indies an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the threematch series, after they won the opening ODI by one wicket in a dramatic finish last Thursday at the same venue.

"Every series is important," he said. "I've always said that at international level, your aim is to win the series.

"Our group of guys has been working hard for some time and I'm really pleased for them that they've been able to put it together

Dyson however, reserved special praise for the embattled Marlon Samuels, whose place in the side was under question, following a string of low scores in the preceding two-Test series and the

Samuels returned from South Africa as the best batsman on either side of the West Indies' series there, but he has had to contend with a couple of major career Lucia.

India square series

threatening issues which seems to have undermined him.

He was banned by the ICC, cricket's World governing body, from bowling in international matches because of a suspect action, and he is to face a West Indies Cricket Board disciplinary hearing to answer charges of match-fixing after an investigation into his relationship with an Indian bookmaker.

"I've been saying all along that in the nets, Marlon has looked in great form," Dyson said. "Within himself, he has been relaxed and confident about his ability.

"It was a superb innings he played under a bit of pressure because of all the talk that has been going on and because we lost a couple of wickets with the new ball. He played the match perfectly. It just goes to show that Marlon has great skill.

The third and final ODI in the series will be contested on Tuesday at the Beausejour Stadium in St

to level three-match series 1-1. Man-of-the-match: Sourav Ganguly. Man-of-the-series: Harbhajan Singh.

have been difficult," said Ganguly, named man of the match for his 87 in the first innings. SCOREBOARD

FROM PAGE 17

Complete scoreboard on the third day of the third and final Test between India and South Africa at Green Park in Kanpur on Sunday: SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 265 SUSSEX: 171 (S Kirby 4-39, J | (Smith 69, Amla 51; Harbhajan 3-52) Tredwell 3-19, G Onions 3-49) and | INDIA: First innings (overnight 288-9)

Jaffer lbw b Morkel	1
Sehwag Ibw b Steyn	
Dravid b De Villiers b Morkel	2
Laxman b Morkel	5
Ganguly c Amla b Steyn	8
Yuvraj c De Villiers b Harris	3
Dhoni st Boucher b Harris	3
Harbhajan lbw b Steyn	
Chawla c Smith b Ntini	
Sreesanth c Prince b Harris	2
Sharmanotout	1
Extras: (b-8, lb-6, nb-4, w-1)	1
Total: (All out in 99.4 overs)	32
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-35, 3-1	13,
123, 5-188, 6-248, 7-268, 8-27	79,
279.	
Powler O M I) Y

Bowler	0	M	R	W
Steyn	20	1	71	3
Ntini	21	7	47	1
Morkel	15	2	63	3
Harris	32.4	8	101	3
Kallis	9	1	23	0
Amla	2	0	6	0
SOUTHAF	RICA: Seco	ondi	nning	S
McKenziell			-	14

Smith b Sehwag Amla c Jaffer b Harbhajan Kallis c Jaffer b Sehwag Prince not out De Villiers c Laxman b Harbhajan 7 Boucher c Dhoni b Sharma Morkel b Sharma Harris c Dravid b Harbhajan Steyn b Harbhajan Ntini c Ganguly b Sehwag Extras: (b-12, lb-1, nb-2, w-1) 16 Total: (All out in 55.5 overs) 121 Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-27, 3-65, 4-72, 5-90, 6-101, 7-101, 8-102, 9-114. Bowler OMRW 23 7 44 Harbhajan 18 Sharma Sreesanth Chawla 4 0 18 8.5 2 12 Sehwag 1 0 Yuvraj INDIA: Second innings Jaffer lbw b Morkel

Sehwag c Prince b Harris Ganguly not out Dravid not out Extras: (nb-1) Total: (For two wkts in 13.1) Did not bat: Laxman, Yuvraj, 51.15. Dhoni, Harbhajan, Sreesanth, Sharma, Chawla. Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-32. Bowler

Steyn

Ntini

Harris

Morkel

R W the home crowd by snatching silver in 52.22.

Lochte smashes his own record

AFP, Manchester

American Ryan Lochte smashed his own world record in the 100m individual medley on the final day of the World Short-Course Swimming Championships in Manchester on Sunday.

Lochte had posted a world best 51.25 seconds qualifying for the final on Saturday. But the United States swimmer went even better in a thrilling final as he clinched gold in a time of

Slovakia's Peter Mankoc took silver in 52.21 while Great Britain's Liam Tancock thrilled

It was a stunning response by Lochte, who earlier had to make do with silver in the final of the Result: India won by eight wickets 200m backstroke.

Rampant Shiv, Marlon

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

Sri Lanka ran into the rampant pair of Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Marlon Samuels, and lost the rainmarred second one-day international against West Indies by seven wickets under the Duckworth-Lewis Method on Saturday.

and two sixes in an unbeaten 52 from 42 balls, and Samuels struck opening spell of three overs. three fours and three sixes in 54 not out from 49 balls, as West Indies, to spare. The result was formalised, when

Chanderpaul, who named man-ofthe-match, tucked a delivery from port, and the match was trans-Tillakeratne Dilshan into midwicket for a single to spark tumultuous celebrations.

opening ODI by one wicket on erator. Thursday at the same venue. series will be contested on Tuesday at

the Beausejour Stadium in St. Lucia. Sri Lanka had earlier reached 112 for five from 30.3 overs, but persistent unseasonal rain disrupted their innings twice -- the last of which cut short their innings half-century just before the end. - and caused a 3-1/4 hour long

Indies to their final target. Upul Tharanga's 40 from 82 balls was the best effort from the Sri Lankans with the bat, and Kumar

Wright shocked

Luke Wright has said it was 'scary'

to see Steve Kirby, one of his best

friends, lying on the dressing room

floor after being knocked out by his

bouncer on the second day of

Sussex's match against MCC and

ducked into a sharp short ball then,

after unsteadily making his way off

the field, passed out again in the

dressing room before being taken

to hospital. He was kept in over-

night for observation before being

released on Saturday morning then

returned home via a quick stop at

Lord's for some lunch. Kirby has

been given the all-clear by the

up a bit, "Wright said after making a

career-best 155 during the third

see something like that.'

and laugh about it in the future."

Smith paid tribute to India's bowl-

square the series. The hosts fin-

"We let ourselves down slightly.

Despite that disappointment he

"India bowled superbly. It is not

5 Basilica

fraction

d'oeuvre

17 Opposite

18 Affleck's

wood-

cated

21 Former

24 Role in

0-

31 Sound

32 "__

28 Blue

"Evita"

27 Not worth

shade

Father.

33 Sailors'

34 Naviga-

tor's

stack

org.

intensifier

19 Lubri-

land role

Toulouse

area

9 King

12 Mile

14 Boxer

15 Hors

was full of praise for the Indian

attack on what was a difficult

easy to score quickly when one

delivery is going through the top

and another is keeping low. They

kept us under pressure and made

The South African captain said

"It has been a terrific season. We

he was satisfied with his team's

recent performances in the sub-

had three series and I don't think

many people gave us any chance.

We won in Pakistan (in 2007),

Bangladesh (this year) and came

up against a very good Indian

1-1, they probably won't be very

happy. We would obviously have

loved to win the series as we have

Dhoni lauded man-of-the-

match Sourav Ganguly for scoring

a gutsy 87 in the first innings as

"It was crucial the way Souray

batted in the first innings. On a

track like this where any ball can

kick and bounce, you have to be

positive and keep scoring," said

Dhoni, who led the team in the

absence of unfit Anil Kumble.

played some terrific cricket."

India posted a handy 325.

"Playing at home with the series

us work for our runs," Smith said.

Give players

the summer.

FROM PAGE 17

ished at 64-2.

wicket.

continent.

team," said Smith.

Kirby was struck when he

by Kirby

incident

AGENCIES, undated

Lord's on Friday.

Sangakkara made 28.

was his side's most successful bowler with two wickets for six runs

from 1.3 overs. Sri Lanka then enhanced their chances of winning the match, when Nuwan Kulasekera put the skids on the West Indies batting when he mistimed a drive at a delivwith three cheap, early wickets.

Kulasekera removed makeshift opener Dwayne Bravo, West Indies Chanderpaul smote three fours captain Chris Gayle, and his deputy Ramnaresh Sarwan in a purposeful

Kulasekera bowled Bravo for 11 in the fourth over, and struck twice chasing 125 for victory from 25 in his third over -- the sixth of the overs, hit the jackpot with 27 balls innings -- to have Gayle caught at mid-on for 11, and Sarwan lbw for

But Kulasekera lacked for supformed, when Chanderpaul struck 4, 6, 4 off the last three balls of Kaushalya Weeraratne's second The victory gave West Indies an over to put West Indies marginally unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three- ahead of the scoring rate, and they match series, after they won the never eased their foot off he accel-

Chanderpaul reached his 50, The third and final ODI in the when he punched a rising ball from Kulasekera into the covers for a single, but the biggest cheers were reserved a few balls later for Samuels, a struggler throughout Sri Lanka's visit, when he drove the same bowler for four to cross the threshold to his

Kulasekera was the pick of the delay which condemned West Sri Lanka bowlers with three wickets for 28 runs from five overs.

> Earlier, Sri Lanka had a measured start from their openers, but Mahela Udawatte was caught at

back-foot drive. Sangakkara joined Tharanga Tharangac Taylor b Bravo and they built on the work of the openers, but the West Indies' bowl-

ers kept a tight rein on the scoring. Tharanga was dropped on 32, ery from Bravo, and Fidel Edwards running to his right at mid-off, dived chance in the 21st over.

of his reprieve and was caught at deep fine leg for 40 essaying a hook at a short, rising delivery from Bravo to leave Sri Lanka 78 for two in the 23rd over,

Rain soon stopped play with Sri Bravo Lanka on 83 for two, and resumed an hour later with a reduction in Gayle the number of overs to 47.

This turned into a horrific period for Sri Lanka. They plunged to their final total, losing SarwanlbwbKulasekera Sangakkara, Kaushalya Weeraratne, and Chamara Silva for seven runs in the space of 13 balls before rain came down a second Total: (For 3 wkts in 20.3 overs) 125

Sangakkara was caught at backward square leg for 28 off Gayle, Weeraratne was caught at square cover for 15, and Silva was beaten and bowled for two by a full-length delivery from Gayle.

But the players and the sell-out crowd had a long wait before they were able to get back onto the field, and for West Indies, their patiencewas rewarded.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the rain-marred second one-day international

backward point off Jerome Taylor between West Indies and Sri Lanka West Indies captain Chris Gayle in the ninth over, when he skied a at Queen's Park Oval on Saturday: SRILANKA

Udawatte c Chattergoon b Taylor Sangakkara c Sarwan b Gayle 28 Weeraratne c Bravo b Sammy Jayawardene not out Silva b Gayle Extras: (lb-8, w-1)

Total: (For 5 wkts in 30.3 overs) 112 full stretch, but failed to hold a low Fall of wickets: 1-38; 2-78; 3-105; 4-109;5-112. But Tharanga failed to make use Did not bat: Kapugedera, Dilshan,

Vaas, Kulasekera, Mendis. OMRW Bowler Taylor Edwards Powell 16 Sammy 1.3 0 6 2

WEST INDIES Gayle c Weeraratne b Kulasekera 11 Bravo b Kulasekera Chanderpaul not out Samuels not out Extras: (lb-3, w-2) Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-15; 3-18.

Did not bat: Chattergoon, Ramdin, Sammy, Taylor, Powell, Edwards. OMRW Bowler Vaas 4 0 21 0 Kulasekera 28 3 24 0 Weeraratne Mendis 0 21 0 25 0 Kapugedera Dilshan

Result: West Indies won by seven wickets on D/L method and lead the three-match series 2-0. Man-of-the-match: Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Sharapova gets a walkover

Tennis

AFP, Amelia Island

Australian Open champ Maria Sharapova reached her first claycourt final Saturday after 16th seeded American Lindsay Davenport withdrew from their scheduled match due to illness.

Sharapova was 0-3 career in claycourt semifinals prior to the walkover win at this 600,000 dollar event. The top seed will be after her third title of the year and the 19th of

her career on Sunday when she faces Dominika Cibulkova. "I feel great; it's amazing," Cibulkova said. "I beat some great players here this week and am now "I'd never seen anything like | in the final of Amelia Island - I still

forward to the final."

promising tournament for Davenport, who was a win away 6-4 victory over Alize Cornet. from reaching her fifth career final at this Tier II event.

won 14 straight matches here,

having gone 10-0 in winning back-

to-back titles from 2004-05. She

up in 2003. "I am very disappointed to not and No. 14 Victoria Azarenka. be able to take to the court today,"

Davenportsaid. "Right after my quarterfinal over No. 9 Sybille Bammer and victory I started feeling sick while 13th-ranked Virginie Razzano, but receiving treatment. I returned to was denied what would have been my hotel where the tournament her first Tier II final appearance.

doctor came to see me. "Unfortunately I was running a her first championship match at fever and had aches, pains and a the Tier III Acapulco event last headache. Those symptoms have month, finishing as runner-up to that happen before so it shook me | can't believe it. I'm really looking worsened today."

In a battle of unseeded 18-year-It was a disappointing end to a olds in the other semifinal, Cibulkova emerged with a 6-2, 2-6,

The 34th-ranked Slovak will be appearing in her maiden WTA Tour The 31-year-old American had final Sunday when she faces Sharapova for the first time. Cibulkova has made an impres-

sive run through the draw with also won in 1997 and was runner- upsets of No. 2 Anna Chakvetadze, 11th-seeded Amelie Mauresmo Cornet also had posted her share of surprises here with wins

The Frenchwoman played in

Flavia Pennetta.



PHOTO: STAR Action from yesterday's Brac Bank Club Cup hockey tournament clash between Abahani and Wari Club at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

By Eugene Sheffer

drag

23 Almo-

24 Bread

25 Ms.

26 Book

27 Earth

device

sphere

spread

supple

ment

35 - Paulo

for a

39 Tennis

surface,

some-

times

40 Affliction

the floors

41 Cleans

42 As well

nation

spouler

lope's

playmate

43 Puffed

45 Sicilian

46 Ante-

49 Bit of

50 Expert

44 Asian

Thurman

for one DOWN

1 Some-

where

there

weapon

dejected

4 Spielberg

6 Peace, to 29 Work

Deutsch?" 37 Statistic

or Tyler

7 "Sprech-

8 Slip-up

tion

10 Entice

11 On in

Solution time: 25 mins.

9 Garment

decora-

years

5 Black-

birds

2 "Clue"

3 Look

38 Two

first word

43 Cooked

eggs

in a

way

Who?"

star

for

short

51 Omega

52 Foolproof

preceder 40 Constitu

of "post-" 47 Antique

22 Tuesday, 54 Chicago

13 Depilatory 41 Estate

22 Click-and-29 30 44 45 46 30 Moreover 48 49 50 14-Across CRYPTOQUIP

FUGXOVS'I JUX IJOSI IUGYMTYDY

CUVK-JYDG, E'W FOCC TEG

JTY DYIEWYVJ XDYIEWYVJ Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WONDER, WOULD A SPORTSCASTER WHO CALLS SOME BIG GAME BE CONSIDERED THE COURT REPORTER? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals I