



England paceman James Anderson is exultant after trapping New Zealand's Daniel Flynn lbw on the second day of the third Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Friday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17
North Zone: At the Mohakhali T&T ground, Rampura Kirta Chakra edged past Gazipur Ekadash by a solitary goal.

MANIKGANJ CRICKET

SABIS defeated Gilondo United by 77 runs in the Sunlife Insurance Second Division Cricket League at Shaheed Miraj-Tapan Stadium. In the first match of the day, SABIS defeated Gilondo United Club (GUC) by 77 runs. SABIS batted first and made 122 runs in the 20 overs. Rony top-scored with 35 runs while Jasim added 29. In reply, Gilondo were bundled out for just 49 runs in 15 overs. Lal took three wickets while Sabuj, Sumon and Rana took two wickets each.

In the other match of the day, Bilu Club defeated Bablu Babu Sri Cricket Club (BSSCC) by 96 runs.

BANGLADESH-INDIA SKATING

India became champions in the Bangladesh-India Friendship Skating meet that concluded at the Royal Club in Uttara on Friday.

India earned maximum 15 gold, 14 silver and 8 bronze medals while Bangladesh secured nine gold, 10 silver and 13 bronze medals in the two-day meet, organized by Bangladesh Roller Skating Federation.

India will host the India-Bangladesh Friendship Skating meet in New Delhi next January. Earlier, Bangladesh Roller Skating Federation president Abul Kalam Azad had formally inaugurated the meet.

SCB lift bank

FROM PAGE 17
On Saturday, Standard Chartered reached the target in 31.5 overs, losing seven wickets. Choyon made 60 to repel an inspired spell of fast bowling from man-of-the-tournament Shuvro, who took four wickets.

Choyon received his man-of-the-match award from Standard Chartered CEO Osman Morad. Standard Chartered chief operations officer Ejaz Bijoy, Managing director of EBL Ali Reza Iftikhar, deputy managing director of EBL Mokhelesur Rahman and Arman Islam, chairman of the organising committee, was present during the prize-giving ceremony.

Crunch game

FROM PAGE 17
and conceded a loss against Sri Lanka. The hosts lead the table with four points while Bangladesh and Afghanistan are behind them with two points each.

Abu Yousuf's charges staged a remarkable turnaround in the last match against Afghanistan to keep their semifinal hopes alive. Bangladesh came back from a two-goal deficit to salvage a 2-2 draw.

Bangladesh earlier suffered a shocking 1-1 draw with Bhutan in the opener.

Rain can't

FROM PAGE 17
always been friendly to batsmen and spinners; the wicket in Mirpur is no different.

"It has even bounce but it is low," said chief selector Rafiqul Alam who also added that batting first would be the best option but due to the threat of rain interruptions, it would not be unwise to bowl first in a shortened match.

The pitches are ready and so are the covers. All teams will be on tow come match day and there will be an electronic scoreboard and a giant television screen. Even the advertisement boards (mostly of Indian companies) are in place but the BCB members and officials needed to answer one question.

During match days, journalists and photographers are required to carry cards around their chest which usually comes after filling huge application forms a week ahead. The cards are then distributed a day or two before the event gets underway but something was different on the eve of this tri-series. BCB failed to hand out those and as a result, one question remained among all local and foreign journalists, photographers and cameramen.

"Where are those accreditation cards?"

James savours good day

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Two years ago James Anderson faced an uncertain future after being ruled out of the English season with a stress fracture of the lower back.

But at Trent Bridge here on Friday those times of injury seemed like a distant memory as he enjoyed the greatest day of his career so far.

Anderson recorded Test-best figures with both bat and ball to leave England in a dominant position as they looked to take their series with New Zealand 2-0.

Now the 25-year-old Lancashire quick wants to use this performance to mark the transformation of his Test career from a fringe player to a key member of the England side.

Anderson took all six wickets to fall as the Black Caps collapsed to 96 for six at stumps on the second day of the third and final Test, still 69 runs short of avoiding the follow-on.

In overcast conditions perfectly suited to his swing bowling style, he routed New Zealand's top order with six for 42, surpassing his previous Test-best of five for 42 against India at Lord's in July last year.

Earlier in the day Anderson, who bowls right-handed and bats left, had scored 28 toppling his previous mark of 21 not out against South Africa at Lord's in 2003.

Together with Stuart Broad, whose 64 was his Test-best score, he added a valuable 76 for the eighth wicket as England, who had slumped to 86 for five, were bowled out for 364.

It may not have been an all-round effort to rival the efforts of West Indies legend Sir Garfield Sobers, who was among the crowd at a ground where he starred for Nottinghamshire in the 1960s and 70s.

But even the great man, himself a superb swing bowler, may not have too many times in his glittering career where he recorded his best batting and bowling figures on the same day.

"To get through the stress fracture, you've got to be positive," said Anderson, who in five years since making his debut five years ago has played in just 25 Tests.

Often reduced to bowling at cones in practice sessions while others made it into the side, Anderson was recalled for the second Test against New Zealand in Wellington in March and has not looked back since.

Asked if he felt he was now a major player, Anderson replied: "I'm getting there. I'm not there yet. I've only shown glimpses of what I can do."

The softly-spoken Anderson, who has the ability to make the ball swing late both ways off a good length and at sharp pace too, does not conform to the stereotype of the macho fast bowler.

And he admitted that a setback early in a match could leave him on

the backfoot.

"When I have a dodgy innings I have a dodgy game, hopefully I can limit it to one every four or five. Today was ideal. I bowl at my best when the ball is swinging."

It was a memorable day too for Broad, the son of former England opening batsman Chris.

Broad, who like his father is now playing here for Nottinghamshire, made his name as a schoolboy cricketer as a batsman and it was easy to see why as he struck several textbook cover-drives.

"I'm delighted to get 64 today, hopefully there are few more runs in the bank," Broad said. "We watched our stumps and made them bowl to us."

Anderson was almost as pleased by his batting as his bowling. "I've worked hard on my batting. Me and Broady looked to get to 300, 320, so to get to 360 is a nice one. This is probably the best day I've had."

New Zealand opener Jamie How, top scorer in New Zealand's innings so far with 40, was in no doubt of Anderson's quality.

"Anderson swung the ball nicely both ways. He's a good bowler when he gets his tail up."

England who came from behind to win the second Test by six wickets at Anderson's Old Trafford home ground, again made New Zealand pay for not ramming home their early advantage.

"We are a very young team and we are learning," said How. "Our backs are against the wall but we'll be giving it our best shot."

Kiwis in tatters

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

New Zealand stumbled to 45 for 2 at tea as they followed-on at Trent Bridge after folding for 123 in their first innings on the third Test against England at Nottingham yesterday.

James Anderson couldn't become the third bowler to take all ten wickets in a Test innings, but he still finished with a career-best 7 for 43, after a delayed start prevented play before lunch.

However, England made swift work of the tail, the last three wickets falling for no runs in six balls, then secured early inroads into the second innings, as Stuart Broad backed up his half-century with some impressive bowling.

Trailing by 241, New Zealand had to face the swing music again and Aaron Redmond's miserable series continued when he became Broad's third wicket of the day. However, England's bowling wasn't quite on target in either innings, offering too much for the New Zealand batsman to leave, although they still helped in their own demise. Redmond couldn't do much about his first-innings dismissal, but second time around played a shot that doesn't belong to a Test opener, chasing a full ball from Broad and edging through to Tim Ambrose.

Brendon McCullum, remaining at No. 3, responded as he did in the first innings with some powerful cover-drives, but England -- and especially Broad -- thought they had him on 12 when one appeared to graze the outside edge, only for Darrell Hair to remain unmoved. Next over, however, a fired-up Ryan Sidebottom won a brief duel with Jamie How with a clever piece of bowling by holding the ball cross-seam to prevent it swinging too much. It drew How into pushing at ball he could have left, and Alastair Cook held a neat catch at third slip.

The ball swung far more than on the second day, which actually proved a disadvantage to the England attack as they resumed the search for New Zealand's last four wickets. Anderson twice sprayed four byes down the leg side, while Sidebottom fired one delivery between first and second slip for five wides. But it was only a question of when they would find their lines, and the breakthrough came as Daniel Vettori got a thick edge, forcing off the back foot, to Andrew Strauss at first slip. It was another ball he didn't really have to play at and ended Anderson's monopoly on the wickets.

With Gareth Hopkins, the debutant wicketkeeper, struggling to score, Vettori was New Zealand's best hope of avoiding the follow-on. Michael Vaughan may have been in two minds about sticking New Zealand back in, but the

innings ended so swiftly it suddenly became a more comfortable decision. Broad, following his maiden Test fifty on Friday, struck twice in his first -- and only over -- after a barren Test at Old Trafford. Kyle Mills, who showed he is more than capable with 57 in Manchester, chased a full, wide delivery and sent a high catch to Kevin Pietersen at point.

Two balls later, Broad produced a beauty to match Anderson's deliveries against Aaron Redmond and McCullum yesterday, sending Iain O'Brien's off stump backwards. The final ball of his over was too good for Chris Martin, but Anderson wrapped up the innings next over when Hopkins tried to whip across the line to a full ball that would have taken leg stump. Given the fragile confidence of the New Zealand batsmen, and if the weather stays fair during a long final session, a three-day finish isn't out of the question.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the third Test between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 364 (Pietersen 115, Ambrose 67, Broad 64; O'Brien 4-74, Mills 3-76)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 96-6)
How c Ambrose b Anderson 40
Redmond b Anderson 1
McCullum b Anderson 9

Taylor c Pietersen b Anderson 21
Flynn lbw b Anderson 0
Hopkins lbw b Anderson 15
Oram c Ambrose b Anderson 7
Vettori c Strauss b Sidebottom 7
Mills c Pietersen b Broad 1
O'Brien b Broad 0
Martin not out 0
Extras: (b-8, lb-8, w-6) 22
Total: (All out in 46.3 overs) 123
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-14, 3-62, 4-62, 5-77, 6-93, 7-108, 8-123, 9-123, 10-123.

Bowler O M R W
Sidebottom 17 4 49 1
Anderson 21.3 8 43 7
Collingwood 2 0 5 0
Broad 6 3 10 2

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings
How c Cook b Sidebottom 19
Redmond c Ambrose b Broad 2
McCullum not out 16
Taylor not out 8
Extras: 0
Total: (For 2 wickets in 18 overs) 45
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-33.

Bowler O M R W
Sidebottom 7 2 12 1
Anderson 5 3 10 0
Broad 6 2 23 1

Ana's maiden

FROM PAGE 17

The Russian, who had spent two more hours than Ivanovic getting to the title match, endured a nerve-racking start to the final being broken twice to quickly slip 1-4 down before fighting back to 4-4 with two breaks over her own.

A year ago, Ivanovic suffered numbing stagefright on her Grand Slam final debut winning just three games against four-time winner Henin.

With the recently-retired world number one now looking on from the VIP enclosure on Court Philippe Chatrier, Ivanovic stopped the rot to break back to lead 5-4.

The 20-year-old wasted a first set point but wrapped up the opener after 45 minutes when Safina, pinned behind the baseline, slapped a backhand high and long.

Ivanovic, finding depth and power with her confident, accurate groundstrokes, broke a lacklustre Safina again to take a 2-1 lead in the second set which became 3-1 thanks to a love service game.

She held another shaky service to lead 4-2 while Safina overcame her fourth and fifth double faults of the match to hold in the seventh game.

But the battling Russian finally ran out of steam in the ninth game when she handed her opponent three match points with the title gratefully gobbled up when an Ivanovic return died at her feet after 1hr 38mins on court.

Euro 2008 kicks off in Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Euro 2008 not only kicks off in co-hosts Switzerland and Austria, it had an official launch here in Dhaka as well.

Ambassador of Switzerland Dr Dora Rapold yesterday unveiled a string of exciting events in connection with the second largest football event at the Goethe-Institut in Dhaka yesterday.

"The events will include a party on the opening day (Saturday), live screening of matches, children film show, movies and other fun activities like face-painting, quiz, games," said Dr Rapold during a press conference at the Goethe-Institut library.

"I am very pleased and excited that the Embassy of Switzerland in cooperation with Goethe-Institut Bangladesh has organised these events," she said.

Some of these matches will be shown in both Goethe-Institut and the German Club in Gulshan, as the Swiss embassy does not have a large auditorium in Dhaka.

The ambassador informed that her country will be hosting a major sporting event after a break of 58 years, the last being the FIFA World Cup of 1954. Now, the country has four stadiums to host 15 out of 31 matches, out of which three stadiums are already used for national matches. The 30,000-capacity Letzigrund Stadium in Zurich was rebuilt and opened in August 2007, she said. Switzerland will host up to 1-1.4 million guests during the football tournament.

Along with Dr Rapold, Goethe-Institut director Torsten Oertel and deputy head of the Swiss embassy Elizabeth Bosch Maliner were present during the press conference.

No tests during Eng-SA Tests

CRICINFO, undated

The proposed trial of umpire referrals won't take place during England's Test series against South Africa in July after the boards failed to agree on the finer details.

There is unease among the players about testing the system in such a high-profile series and continued concerns about undermining the on-field umpires. The next possible series to use the technology, which will include Hawk-Eye, would be the India-Sri Lanka series in later July.

The inventors of Hawk-Eye, led by Paul Hawkins, have tested the accuracy of the system and claim it has a margin of error of just 5mm. However, the ICC have decided that only the tracking part of the software will be used, up to the point the ball hits the pad, rather than the predictive element of the package.

And the Swiss substitute should have opened the scoring when he was presented with a free header, but he directed the ball wide the right-hand post.

It was to prove a costly miss when, on 70 minutes, Czech substitute Sverkos finished smartly into the bottom corner after latching on to a ball over the top of the Swiss defence.

Yet Switzerland almost snatched a draw when Tranquillo Barnetta's shot was superbly parried by Cech and Vonlanthen smashed the follow-up against the woodwork.

Qatar down China

Football

AFP, Tianjin

China crashed 1-0 to Qatar Saturday, leaving their bid to qualify for the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa in tatters.

A Sebastian Soria penalty in the 14th minute was enough to earn Qatar the vital victory, putting them on seven points in Group 1 alongside Australia, who play later in the day against Iraq in Dubai.

China trail the group leaders by four points with just two games left to play and need to win against Iraq next weekend and the Socceroos later this month to have any hope of making the final phase of qualifying.

Qatar's lone goal came when Lebanese referee awarded them a penalty after forward Gao Lin brought down Yusef Ali in the box.

Uruguayan-born striker Soria slotted the ball into the right side of the net, with Chinese goalkeeper Sun Zhenyu sent the wrong way.

Before the match China's Serbian coach Vladimir Petrovic

promised his side would attack and he was true to his word in the early stages as Gao fired a high ball that narrowly missed barely 30 seconds into the game.

In the 11th minute, Chinese captain Zheng Zhi beat his man near the right touchline and blasted over a cross to Zhu Ting whose right-footed flick hit the post.

But the chances soon dried up for China as the Qatar back line, anchored by Brazilian-born defender Marcone Amarel, repeatedly frustrated their advances.

In the second half, China appeared tentative and overly patient in their attack, while the Qataris packed their back line and were content to run time off the clock.

Qatar could have made it 2-0 with 18 minutes left but Soria's free kick was scrambled clear by 'keeper Sun.

As the Chinese fans began shouting catcalls at their players, the team's frustration with Qatar's time-wasting tactics boiled over in a series of altercations between the two sides.

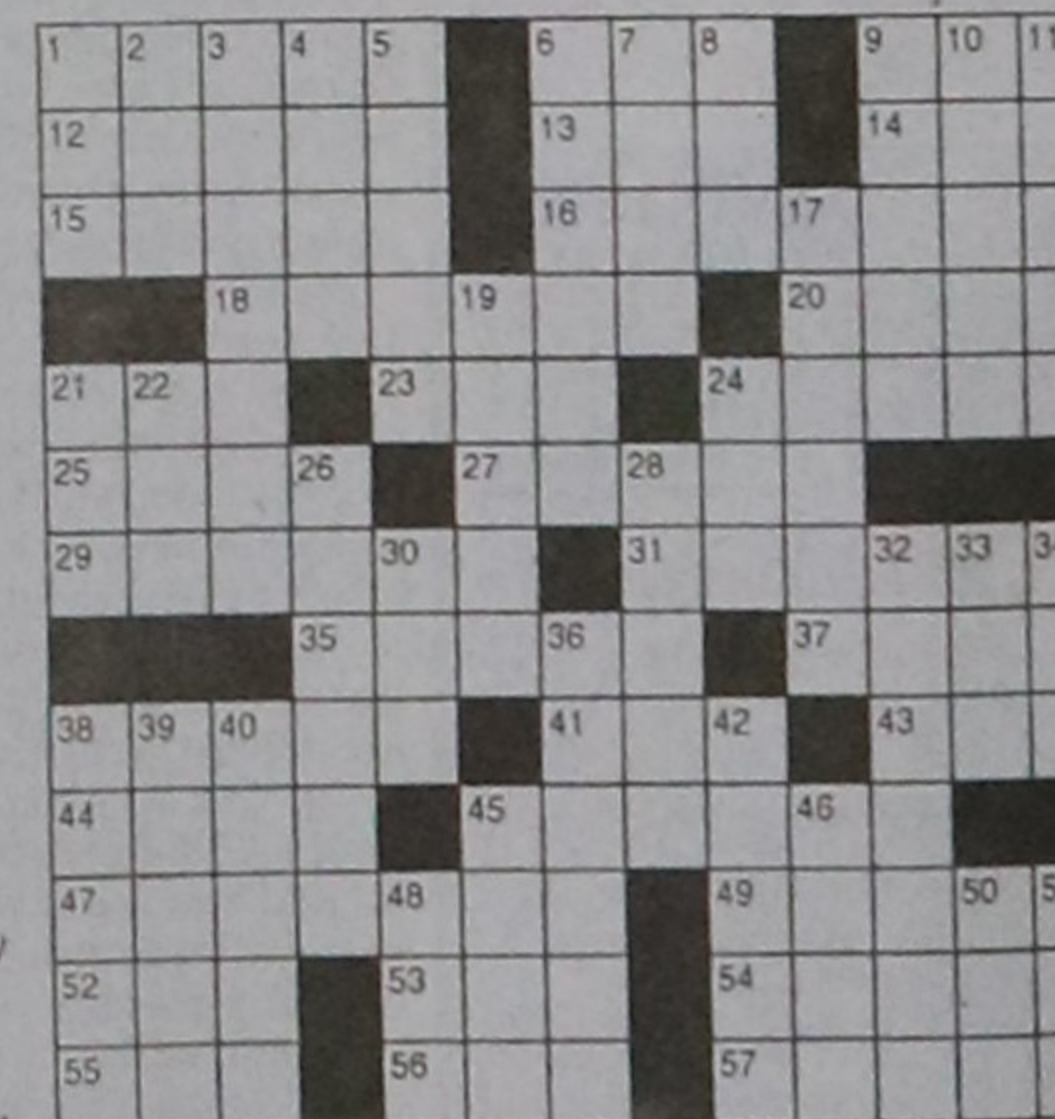


Ambassador of Switzerland Dr Dora Rapold (C) speaks during a press conference at the Goethe-Institut library in the city yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Chel's handwear
6 Period
9 Resort
12 Had a home-cooked meal
13 Poetic tribute
14 Pos-sesses
15 Wild West show
16 Destructive
18 Laundry machine
20 Guy
21 Bill's partner
23 Mai
24 Pie-in-the-face sound
25 "... bug in —"
27 Preamble
29 Put on eBay, maybe
31 Swarms
35 Skinfint
37 Oompah instrument
38 Custom

DOWN
1 Scratch
2 Judge
3 Tiresome
4 Layer
5 Treat disdainfully
6 Slain
7 Blood-hound's clue
8 Cow-poke's nickname
9 Sandbar
10 Zahn or Abdul
11 No liability accessory
17 Balance-of-trade factor
19 Carpenter's supply
21 Ford or Lincoln
22 Raw rock
24 "No seats"
26 Early-June baby
28 Plich
30 Torched
32 Stirring skepticism
33 Recede
34 Pouch
36 White-board
38 Run-down home
39 Cognizant
40 Jaunty chapeau
42 — profundo
45 "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" author
46 PC symbol
48 Lumux
50 Exploit
51 Tit for —



CRYPTOQUIP

HT GB GBHEGJ ZNLGUHXS HQK
EGMN G UHMNX XT LHQ
JHTN, V X W J M H K Z N G
V S N G K W S N K N G V L N S T N G K W S N
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SONG A CLEANER
LIKES TO SING WHEN HE'S READY TO TACKLE
DIRTY DRESSES: "SEND IN THE GOWNS."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I

Stuey keen to play

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Stuart MacGill said Saturday he was prepared to play on for New South Wales depending on fitness reports after retiring from international cricket.

MacGill, 37, who returned home Saturday from Australia's tour to the West Indies, said he believed he had another couple of years of cricket left to offer.

But spin bowling coach Terry Jenner said this week that MacGill should no longer play for NSW.

Leg spinner MacGill, who announced his retirement from international cricket last weekend during the second Test against the West Indies, indicated he still wanted to play on provided he received positive fitness reports.

MacGill, who finished with 208 Test wickets at an average of 29.02, was troubled by knee and wrist injuries last southern summer, with his knees continuing to be the

major fitness issue.

"Once the ball gets past me it takes me slightly longer than the Queen Mary to turn around, so that's not a good thing for a professional athlete," MacGill told reporters.

"I guess the next couple of months will be pretty much finding out whether or not I can continue to keep playing at all."

MacGill said he will meet with NSW physio Pat Farhart and Cricket Australia medical staff.

"There's certainly no motivational issues, I'm dying to play," he said.

"I'd like to play Test cricket but unfortunately the travel involved with Test cricket and the rigorous schedule is just prohibitive."

Former Test spinner Jenner, who was Shane Warne's spin mentor, has questioned why MacGill would keep playing for NSW and said he should move on.

"Sure, I'm prepared to accept that sort of comment. I think it's pretty clear though I've got a lot to offer the NSW team," MacGill said.

'Tigers need help'

FROM PAGE 17

players. We are actually in a learning curve. I want improvement from each ball. We hope to put some competitive cricket out there and if we get a win, that would be fantastic," he said.

Despite the recent poor performance, Siddons is enjoying every moment while coaching Bangladesh team as he has found a lot of positive signs in the last few performances.

"During the Pakistan tour and the home series against Ireland they (Bangladesh) did well and that is massively encouraging," he added.

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful also echoed his coach's sentiment by saying that his side is looking forward to show some improvement both individually and as a team in the tri-series involving two subcontinent giants.

The batting is the main concern for the Tigers because their performance in the two warm-up games remained dismal. So it was hard to believe that everything will change within a short time.

"You cannot expect any changes overnight. Our main target is to show improvement both individually and as a team. We are in a learning process, so you have to give some time to get the result," said Ashraful.

The right-handed, who has gone through a long lean patch, said that the challenge will be same for his batsmen despite the fact the Pakistan will miss their top frontline bowlers -- Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif.

"In the last series against Pakistan, Asif played only one match against us. Actually they still have some good bowlers in the team. So the challenge would be the same for us," explained Ashraful.

What Bangladesh captain believed was that they can only push their opponents if they put up a 250-plus score on the board.

But right now nobody wants to believe that they can do it and if they want to reach the target, there is none other than Ashraful who has to come out from his long hibernation to script another victory like Cardiff or at the Providence Stadium.

T20 getting bigger

REUTERS, London

A Twenty20 Champions League involving eight teams playing 15 matches will be staged this year either in India or the Middle East, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Saturday.

The competition, which follows the successful launch of the Indian Premier League (IPL) this year, will feature two teams each from India, England, Australia and South Africa.

An ECB statement said the winners of the tournament, to be played over 10 days in late September and early October, would receive \$5 million.

Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings from India, the Titans from Pretoria and KwaZulu Natal Dolphins representing South Africa and Western Australian and Victoria from Australia will take part. The finalists of England's Twenty20 competition will complete the lineup.

"We are extremely grateful to our great friends from Australia, India and South Africa for their hard work and determination to get this tournament off the ground," ECB chairman Giles Clarke said in a statement.

"We are already aware of a number of broadcast and commercial partners who are anxious to become involved with cricket's latest exciting venture."

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Alonso eyes Italian job

AFP, Neustift

Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso is keen on a move to Italy after four years in England, he told reporters in Neustift, Austria, on Saturday.

"I know there is interest from Juventus, and that there has been contact with Liverpool and my agent," Alonso told Italian reporters.