



### Huge cash for tip-off

AFP, Beijing

China is offering rewards up to 500,000 yuan (73,000 dollars) to anyone who provides information on major security threats during the Olympic Games, state media reported Friday.

The rewards aim to "mobilise the enthusiasm of the masses in maintaining public security, as well as to control and eliminate hidden dangers to the Olympic Games," Xinhua news agency said, citing Beijing authorities.

The move, part of an increasingly strict security drive in China's capital ahead of the Games next month urged residents in the city to report information on major threats until October 31, Xinhua said.

They would be given between 10,000 and 500,000 yuan for credible tips, the notice said.

Examples of what police are looking for included information on terrorist attacks, sabotage by illegal organisations such as Falungong, and deaths of Olympic-related people and foreigners, Xinhua reported.

The announcement comes a day after China warned it faced a serious terror threat in its Muslimmajority northwest Xinjiang province ahead of the Olympics.

Authorities said 82 suspected terrorists had been detained and five organisations that had been planning to attack the Games had been cracked there this year.

Yang Huanning, vice minister of public security, also said last week that the Games would be a target for anti-China and "hostile forces" that were trying to sabotage the event.

However human rights groups and other critics allege the government has fabricated or exaggerated the terrorist threat as an excuse to crush all forms of dissent before the showpiece event.

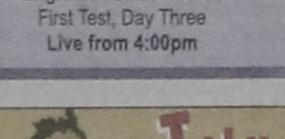
The Beijing Bureau for Social Order, which issued the notice, refused to comment on the rewards when contacted by AFP.



It takes as many as 17 people but only 30 seconds to cover the Centre Court at the Al England Tennis Club that holds the finals o the Wimbledon Championships.



STAR Cricket England v South Africa





#### Aamir Sohail

(Pakistani cricket commentator) "Countries such as Australia and England are our allies in this war on terror, yet they are not supporting us here. Are we real allies or are

we just being used?" Who is never short of making radical comments that provoke a thought or two, on major teams' security concerns over playing in Pakistan.

### Bell after Pietersen

Cricket

AFP, London

Ian Bell's Test-best score of 171 not out left England in a commanding position in the first Test against South Africa at Lord's here on Friday.

England, at tea on the second day, were 535 for six -- the first time in 15 Tests they made more than 500 or more in the first innings since their 570 for seven against the West Indies at Headingley last year.

Stuart Broad, belying his status as a No. 8, was 54 not out, having played his part in a century stand and completing a fine half-century with a superb backfoot coverdriven four off Makhaya Ntini in the last over before tea.

Earlier, South Africa-born Kevin Pietersen had made a dominating 152 in his first Test innings against the Proteas.

His partnership of 286 with Bell, who'd come in when the hosts were in trouble at 117 for three, was an England record for the fourthwicket against South Africa, surpassing the 197 shared by Wally Hammond and Les Ames at Cape Town in 1938/39.

Four members of the Proteas' attack had conceded more than 100 runs each with Jacques Kallis's 20 overs costing 70 runs.

England resumed after lunch on 422 for five, with Bell 118 not out and Tim Ambrose four not out.

But before they'd added another run Ambrose was out, edging fast bowler Morne Morkel, who at tea had taken four for 102, low to South Africa captain Graeme Smith at first slip.

The elegant Bell was unconcerned, going down the pitch to loft left-arm spinner Paul Harris for six overlong-off.

He then showed his control by precisely cutting Morkel through the offside for another four before giving himself room to force Harris off the backfoot through the covers for a high-class boundary.

Bell completed his 150 in classic style by driving fast bowler Dale Steyn straight down the ground for four into the pavilion fence.

He'd then faced 252 balls with one six and 15 fours in just over six hours at the crease.

Bell had come into this match under pressure after making just 45 runs in his four previous Test innings against New Zealand and with his place under threat from all-rounder Andrew Flintoff's imminent return from injury.

But he maintained the form

he'd shown in making 215 for Warwickshire against Gloucestershire in a recent County Championship match.

The 26-year-old went past his Mark Boucher. previous Test-best of 162 not out against minnows Bangladesh at the Riverside three years ago with a cut four off Ntini.

Smith appeared to be running out ofideas, with little in the way of unusual field placings or innovative bowling changes to worry the batsmen.

Broad may be a pace bowler but the son of former England opener Chris made his name in schoolboy cricket as a batsman and it was easy to see why as the left-hander whipped Harris for a legside boundary.

Hopes both England's centuri-

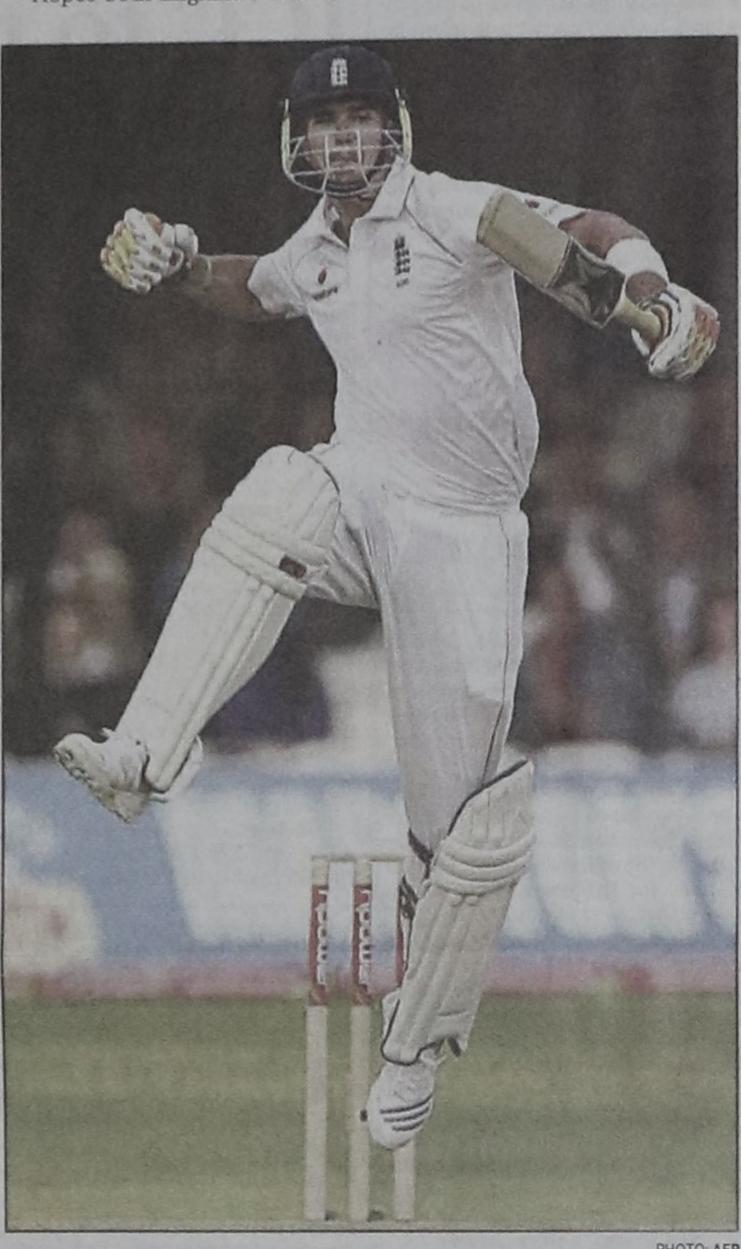
ons would bat through the morning session ended when Pietersen's gloved hook off Morkel was caught down the legside by wicketkeeper And two balls after a brief rain

break, Paul Collingwood was given out caught at short leg by Hashim Amla off Harris. England began Friday on their overnight score of 309 for three

with Pietersen 104 not out and Bell

unbeaten on 75. Pietersen produced an array of fine shots with a front foot clip off Ntini, whose first six overs on Friday cost an expensive 40 runs, through the legside reminiscent of West Indies great Vivian Richards.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



THIS MEANS SO MUCH: England batsman Kevin Pietersen celebrates reaching 150 against South Africa, his first century against his country of birth, on the second day of the first Test at Lord's in London yesterday.

### IPL wish granted

### Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket chiefs have agreed to try and postpone or reschedule next year's England tour to allow its players to take part in the lucrative Indian Premier League, officials said Thursday.

The tour, hastily arranged earlier this month after England suspended bilateral cricket relations with Zimbabwe, includes two Tests, three one-dayers and four warmup games and is scheduled to run IPL next year," Mendis said. from April 21 to May 30.

But Sri Lanka's players had objected to the timing of the tour because it clashes with the IPL, and had asked Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapakse to intervene to postpone the tour or change when

it takes place. "We will take up the matter with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) shortly to find what alternatives we can arrive at with-

out upsetting both parties," cricket chief executive Duleep Mendis told reporters Thursday after a committee meeting.

Mendis said key players had already committed to play in next year's IPL, due to be played between April 10 and May 25.

But the players had assured the cricket board that they will give the 2011 tour of England priority ahead of the IPL.

"Taking these points into consideration we couldn't let them down. Therefore it was agreed that the players be allowed to play in the

The Sri Lankan players had met Rajapakse on Wednesday and urged him to help them, a source close to the team said.

One top Sri Lankan player, who declined to be named, told AFP the cricketers had handed the president a letter when they met him to celebrate their victory in the recent Asia Cup in Pakistan.

"We wrote a letter, signed by all of us, appealing to the president to

either call off the tour or push back the dates," he said.

Rajapakse's spokesman said the president had instructed Sri Lanka's sports minister Gamini Lokuge to raise this issue when Sri Lanka Cricket's interim committee met late Thursday.

However, one of the problems the ECB would face in rescheduling Sri Lanka's tour is that the 2009 Twenty20 World Cup, which England are hosting, is due to start on June 5.

That leaves little room in the English calendar for altering the dates of Sri Lanka's visit, especially as England face Australia in a showpiece Ashes later in their season.

This is not the first time Sri Lankan players have demanded an international series be scrapped so they could play in the IPL.

Sri Lanka's limited-overs tour of Pakistan was cancelled in April-May this year because the dates clashed with the IPL's inaugural tournament

#### Zunaed one short of fifty

SPORTS REPORTER

Zunaed Siddiqui returned among runs as Bangladesh A scored 117-2 against Warwickshire before bad light stopped the proceedings on the first day of the three-day match at Edgbaston in Birmingham yes-

The left-hander remained not out on 49 to lead his side from the front while Rokibul Hasan accompanied him with 24. Zunaed hit nine boundaries in his 89-ball innings and Rokibul's innings contained five boundaries.

The strong Bangladesh A made a confident start after being put into bat first before pacer Lee Daggett removed Tamim Iqbal, who associated 50-run in the opening stand with Zunaed, for 27 runs. Tamim smashed four boundaries and a six during 49-minute stay.

Right-arm paceman Andrew Miller brought another quick success for the home side when Nazimuddin continued his poor showing by making only 8 runs.

#### Pioneer League second phase from July 18

SPORTS REPORTER

The second phase of the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League will begin at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium from July 18.

The newly formed Metropolis Football League Committee (MFLC), headed by Manzoor Hossain Malu, decided in the committee's first meeting yesterday to give each of the 20 final-round teams a financial boost of Tk 10,000. The remaining teams, who

failed to go beyond the first round, will get Tk 3,000 each. The MFLC also formed the

second division football league committee with Sajjad Hossain Lavlu as chairman and hold the players' transfer for the 18-team competition from July 25-28. Meanwhile, MFLC chairman

Manzoor Hossain Malu has warned the teams from taking part in 'fixed matches' and said that the federation will take stern action if match fixing is proved.

#### Akram not a Malik fan

CRICINFO, undated

Wasim Akram, the former Pakistan captain, has criticised Shoaib Malik for his captaincy and for not bowling his offspin regularly, and called for the inclusion of Mohammad Aamer, the 16-yearold left-arm seamer, into the national team.

"In the beginning I thought he (Malik) had the skills; now I have my doubts," Akram told Cricinfo in a wide-ranging interview. "Against Zimbabwe he bowled ten overs in almost every match, against Bangladesh he bowled a little less. But in big matches he is not bowling. Do you think nobody notices? People do.

"Most of all, players notice how the leader is doing. Shoaib Malik has to learn that," he said. "(Abdur) Rauf gets three wickets in one match, but doesn't get to play in the next. This is the captain's fault, not the selectors."

He also picked out the issues related to the selection of the XI. "Now he says the XI is given by selectors, but I know that in Pakistan if you are a strong captain there is no way the selectors can do that to you," Akram said. "We have all been through this: me,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## 'American Idols' type search for booters

On April 28 this year, Kazi Salahuddin was elected president of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), winning an election that was termed 'impartial' even by his opponent Maj General (retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury. His predecessor SA Sultan called it 'the first fair, neutral and democratic election in our football history'. The former national football captain and arguably the greatest striker the country has ever produced, Salahuddin's two months at the hot seat have been busy to in a bid to prepare future plans as well as giving shape to the cashstarved federation's operations. Here he opens up and explains his recent activities to The Daily Star Sport's Al Musabbir Sadi in an exclusive interview at his Gulshan residence yesterday.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): Two months on, you have not shown your hands to the media although we have heard that you have gone to the FIFA and AFC as well as the sponsors with your programmes. What are they and where does the BFF stand now?

Kazi Salahuddin (KS): Football is such a thing that there is no scope to do something new. It's played by 200 nations in the world. It's just the same formula, from one place to another. The only changes we see are due to weather, physical and financial conditions. Basically our programmes will be set as everyone does, like what Japan, Korea, England or Germany have. It varies fractionally with your financial capability, weather and your infrastructure. This is the only difference between the rest of the world and us.

When my committee took over, I wanted to get football to the ground as soon as possible. It's going to happen on 25th July with the Federation Cup. That is not a very bad achievement because all the clubs -- they wanted a delay in the transfer, would not accept relegation -- were giving excuses to delay football. We are lucky to overcome these problems with full support of the members of the federation. DSS: Are you close to land a big

sponsorship deal? KS: Yes, you can expect it within

weeks. Everyone asks me this thrice a day. It's not a matter of two or three days. To be very honest, I did not have a product (football) in the market for one and a half years. People should not forget that. I am trying to market a product which is So I might have to compromise. I



KAZI SALAHUDDIN ... the BFF president

ground with us.

DSS: We have heard about a 9figure deal ..

KS: My asking price to the sponsors, I think, is reasonable but they think it's higher. There we have not agreed. One asked why am I asking for such a high price while the product is not in the market. I said, 'you have already established my product is available and has a value by offering a price. Now it's a matter of opinion how much it's worth'

I am under constant pressure to land a deal because we can't start competitions without sponsors. have not been able to really negotiate the way I liked to. To really get the finest deal for this country, I don't have the leverage right now. almost extinct. I am lucky to have believe my product will be good in

response from corporations who future but everything is based on are willing to take football to the now. A big corporate house would not accept a one-year contract. They know football is going to develop, that's why they are invest-

> DSS: What about bringing professionalism into management?

KS: Professionalism is a must. I have already asked for a technical director (from abroad) but can't get one in a day. He has to like the environment and situation of Bangladesh. I have been negotiating with a few but then there is the question of wages. To add our new staff (local) I have to pay big amounts. I have to see if I can cover that. I am not rushing things and from the second year, I'll go all the way as far is professionalism is concerned.

I am also looking for a coach. It SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

# Ganguly taunts Dhoni

Cricket

PTI, Kolkata

Indirectly taking a dig at India Twenty20 and one-day skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni skipping the upcoming Sri Lanka series citing exhaustion, former captain Sourav Ganguly said during his captaincy days he would not have 'afforded' pulling out of a Test

"I don't remember missing out on a Test or a series when I was the captain. Perhaps I could not afford that. For captain Dhoni, who is also the wicketkeeper and the batsman of the team, I think he must have felt fatigued," Ganguly said on Friday.

"It also depends on your position in the side; I'm sure not many players, with a place in the side not guaranteed, will be able to do that. It depends how much threat for the place you have in the team. I know only one player who has able to do it successfully --- Sachin Tendulkar." Ganguly was quick to add that it was the Ranchi wicketkeeper-batsman's personal decision. Asked whether the Indian

Premier League extravaganza was to be blamed for the player

fatigue, Ganguly said, "I don't think it opens up the IPL vs country debate."



SOURAV GANGULY

Meanwhile, Ganguly feels Sri Lanka's new spin sensation Ajantha Mendis will be a threat for the Indian batsmen in their three-match Test tour beginning July 18.

Ganguly, who has been retained in the Test squad though being ignored from the Champions Trophy probables, said he has some "specific plans" to tackle Mendis who flummoxed the Indian batsmen, known to play spin well, claiming six for 13 in the Asia Cup final.

The elegant left-hander, who Ganguly remarked.

has the reputation of spankingspinners, plans to study the videos of the 23-year-old unorthodox right-arm spinner, who bowls a medley of googlies, off-breaks, top-spinners, flippers and legbreaks with a 'carrom ball' action. "Somebody who has made so much of damage and singlehandedly helped Sri Lanka win the Asia Cup final will obviously be a big threat. No doubt, he is a good bowler. We've to read him off the hand ... It will be too late if you start picking him up off the pitch. He'll be a force in Sri Lanka squad," Ganguly told reporters.

He, however, felt that the Indians will soon read Mendis after getting used to playing him.

"I feel once we get used to playing him it will become easier to play him; we will pick him easily. We've to study his action, see his footage before taking him in the Lankan tour," Ganguly Having negotiated Sri Lankan

great Muttiah Muralitharan well in his career, Ganguly placed the veteran offie higher than the upcoming spinner. "Murali has a variation of

pace. He is in a different league,"

### Paula fighting against time

British marathon runner Paula Radcliffe is making strides in her bid to get back to full fitness in time for the Beijing Olympics next

month. Radcliffe's agent Sian Masterton has revealed her client is training at "high intensity" as she recovers from a stress fracture of the femur in

training at high intensity and the goal is very much to be in Beijing." Masterton told BBC Sport on

revealed the stress fracture.



### details of the rehearsal were

Beijing so far so good

AFP, Beijing



Beijing Olympics organisers were upbeat on Friday after a secret but apparently successful first full dress rehearsal of the open-

ing ceremony of the Games. The test run was held amid tight

security on Thursday night at the National Stadium, the spectacular centrepiece for the Games better known as the "Bird's Nest" after its interlocking structure of steel beams.

"A dress rehearsal took place last night and it was very successful," Sun Weide, a spokesman for the Beijing Games organising committee, told AFP after a few said in an interview released on

released in the state-run press.

More than 10,000 performers Chinese culture. have been working on the blockbuster 50-minute show for three years but they have all been sworn to secrecy, and little has been disclosed about the detailed contents of the programme.

Late on Thursday the stadium was ringed by paramilitary police carrying automatic weapons, according to state broadcaster

The show is part of a three-hour August 8 opening ceremony programme that will launch the Games and also include the parade of athletes and the lighting of the Olympic flame.

Zhang Yimou, the director of the opening and closing ceremonies.

a boring history lesson about Zhang, director of hit films such as "Raise the Red Lantern" and

CCTV on Friday that it would not be

tors, including a TV audience expected to run into the billions, to have a good time. "We can't just deliver a chronological display of 5,000 years of Chinese history," he said in the

"Heroes," said he wanted specta-

rehearsal. "We have to put on a good show that people will enjoy and that will move them. This is the basic starting point for the event."

interview held before Thursday's

Zhang gave nothing away about the detailed content of the Celebrated Chinese filmmaker programme but another director working under him, Wang Chaoge, said the performance would

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5\_

# AFP, London

her left thigh. "Paula is back running. She is

Radcliffe withdrew from the 2008 London Marathon because of a toe injury before scans in May

The 34-year-old marathon Local tourists walk past a picture promoting Olympic volunteers outside the Olympic Stadium, known as the "Bird's SEE PAGE 18 COL 4 Nest", in Beijing yesterday.