Cricket

ment" midway through the final

session, England's resignation was

graffiti-ed across their body lan-

guage. With apologies to Hashim

ised with every passing minute.

famous pitch is already dead.

CRICINFO, undated

BHF, BAAF polls next month

SPORTS REPORTER

The elections of Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF) and Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) will be held next month, announced National Sports Council (NSC) director M Haiul Qayyum yesterday.

Qayyum, who is also the election commissioner for the two federations, confirmed that the BAAF polls will be held on August 21 and the BHF election is scheduled for 28.

Some 73 councilors will vote for a 28-member executive committee of BHE for which the draft voter list will be published on July 24. The final voter list will be published on August 5 after hearing objections and complaints.

Nomination forms will be available from August 7-10 with the deadline for submission on August 14. The final candidates with ballot numbers will be announced on August 20.

The draft voter list of the BAAF which will have a 24-member executive committee, be published on July 20 and final list on July 31.

Nomination forms will be available from August 3-4 while the nomination papers will have to be submitted on August 6.

The final list of candidates with ballot numbers will be published on August 11.

Bangladesh face Singapore

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh face Singapore today in a place-deciding match of the 6th Men's Junior Asia Cup Hockey in Hyderabad.

Bangladesh finished third in the four-team Group B ahead of Oman while Singapore finished bottom in the four-team Group A.

Malaysia, who finished third in Group A, will play Group B bottomranked Oman in other classification match today at 3 pm (IST).

The win in the place-deciding match will enable Bangladesh to play for fifth place against winner of the match between Malaysia and Oman.

Bangladesh suffered a humiliating 0-8 defeat against South Korea and conceded 2-8 defeat against Pakistan after making an empathic 7-1 victory over Oman in the group encounters.

Div II Cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Sangskritik Biplobi Sangha (SABIS) reached final in the Sunlife Insurance Second Division Cricket League with a 30-run victory over Sir Shahadat Ali Memorial Club (SSAMC) at the Shahid Miraj-Tapan Stadium yesterday.

SABIS made 104 for eight in 25 overs with Liton scoring 25 and

Jasim 23. Mizan took two wickets. In reply, SSAMC were all out for 74 runs in 18.4 overs. Sujon made 16 runs and Ujjal added 13. Liton claimed four wickets and Lal picked up two wickets.

Bangladesh A

FROM PAGE 17 selection on July 25-27.

After the three-dayers, Bangladesh A will play three oneday matches against Lancashire on July 30, Marylebone Cricket Club on August 1 and Durham on August 3.

Booters blamed

FROM PAGE 17 The committee interviewed national team leader Shafiquzzaman, coach Abu Yusuf, manager Sheikh Mohammed Aslam, assistant coach Golam Rabbani Chhoton, physician Mahfuzullah Chishti, captain Aminul Haque, vice-captain Biplab Bhattachariya, striker ZAHID Hassan Emily, National Team Management Committee chairman Badal Roy and members Hasanuzzaman Babloo and Satyajit Das Rupu. The committee also considered reports by the team leader, manager and the coach.

However, it was learned that the eight-page report reveals that lack of commitment and grouping among senior and junior players, discontentment over captaincy never gave the team a chance to be united

The team spirit was never there but none of the ten interviewees admitted that anyone had interfered in team selection over the coach, who had complained that he never had the freedom to run the show.

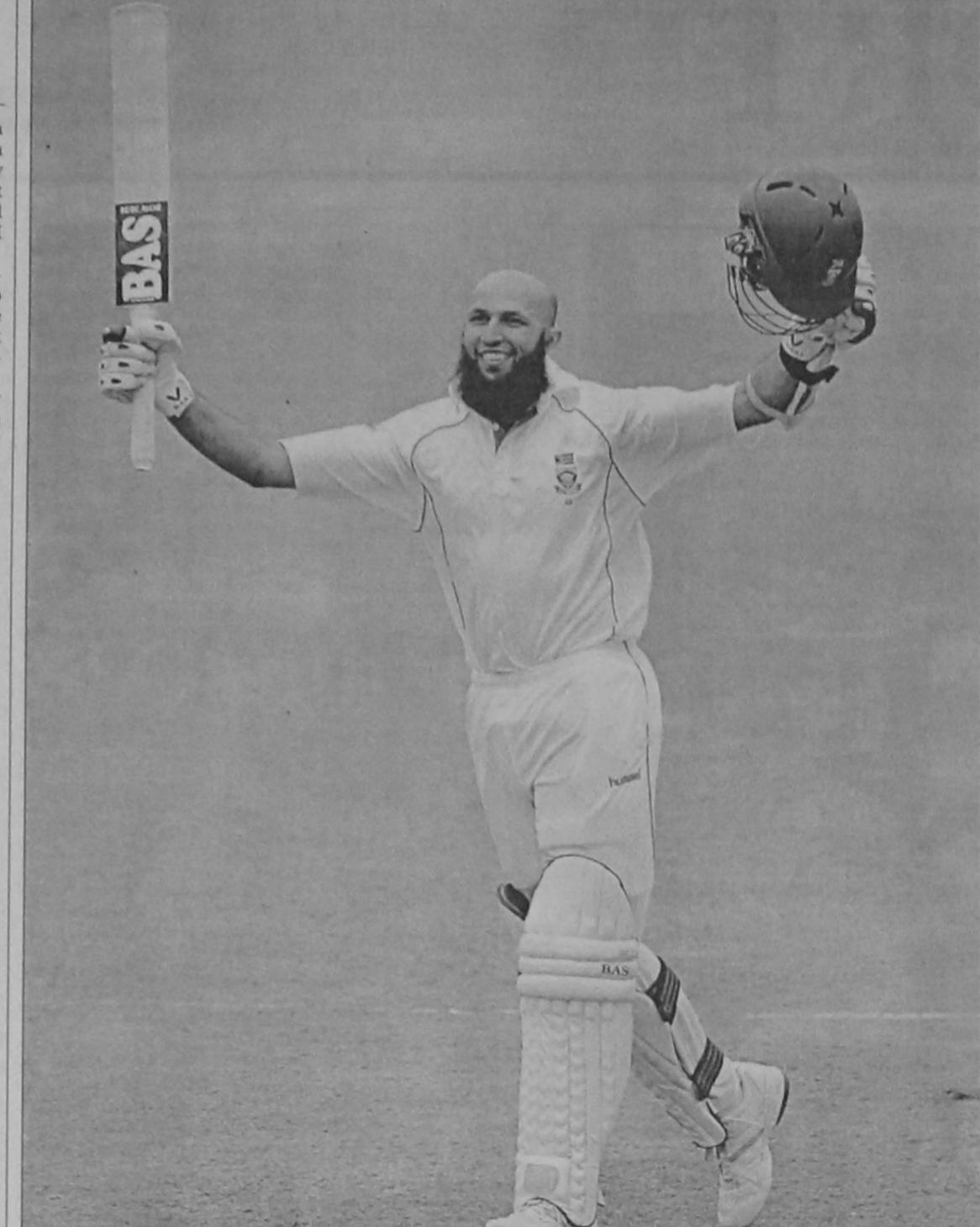
Yao Ming

FROM PAGE 17 next month's Olympics, is considered to be the most important

preparatory game for the hosts. Despite having rescheduled the Angola game so it will take place at a time in the afternoon similar to the scheduled Olympic time for the two countries' clash, Hu would not confirm whether it would mark the beginning of Yao's comeback.

"We can only say it depends on the game situation," said Hu.

China opens its Olympic campaign against the United States, who include NBA All-Stars Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, at the Wukesong basketball arena on August 10, two days after the opening ceremony.



South Africa's Hashim Amla celebrates his century against England at Lord's on the fifth day of the first Test on Monday.

Amla satisfied

Cricket

AFP, London

Hashim Amla was a quietly proud man after his unbeaten century helped see South Africa to the safety of a first Test draw against England here at Lord's and in the process erased some painful memories.

During the 2004-05 series in South Africa, Amla averaged just nine in two Tests against England before being dropped after struggling against the short ball.

But the men who got him out back then -- Stephen Harmison, Simon Jones and Matthew Hoggard -- weren't in the England side at Lord's where a placid pitch made life tough for fast bowlers.

That didn't stop England peppering Amla on Monday with a succession of short-pitched deliveries and packing the legside, close-in field.

However, that didn't stop the 25-year-old completing his fifth

hundred in 26 Tests and first a draw in the first of this four-Test against England.

dred at Lord's," said Amla, who was 104 not out when the match ended prematurely thanks to what South Africa captain Graeme Smith said was a "gentleman's agreement" even though the Proteas were only 47 ahead with a minimum of 19 overs left in the day.

"To score a hundred anywhere is a lovely feeling," Amla added.

'My experience four years ago against England didn't go too well so it's great to get some runs against them under my belt."

Turning to England's tactics, stylish shotmaker Amla -- who came into this match on the back of big hundreds in the warm-up matches with Somerset and Middlesex -- said: "It was the same strategy they used four years ago.

"I am not a big hooker or puller. Over the years I've tried to develop my skills against the short ball and take a few on the body."

England and Wales Cricket Board

(ECB) on Friday and the options

the Test and one-day series,"

Labrooy said. "The board expects a

players will be notified about the

they are not doing the camp now.

This programme has inspired the

local former footballers and

organisers but we missed many

good players who were busy for

truly represented in the trials so

the number of good players was

very small. I found two or three

who have some knowledge but the

others needed long nursing. In

fact, we have to start from younger

age because teaching the basics to

matured players, who do not know

power and power endurance or

speed and speed endurance in

such a short time is impossible. So

BFF's target to get some players

ready in short time may only be

partly fulfilled. We need more

time," added the ex-Bangladesh

defender, who was impressed by

Chapai Nawabganj's youth camp

where 8-10 years kids have been

"Also, learning about fitness,

why they are playing, is difficult.

"The whole district was not

their HSC exams.

That South Africa emerged with

series, after being made to follow-"I am satisfied to score a hun- on, owed much to opener Neil McKenzie's marathon 138, which lasted more than nine hours, "It's tough up front but you relax

> into it," McKenzie explained. "It was something I made peace

> with, that I was going to bat time. I always like to get the scoreboard ticking, so it was a role I haven't played too often but it was something that was required."

> McKenzie, by the end of his innings, was batting with a runner because of a groin strain but he was optimistic he would be fit for the second Test at Headingley which starts on Friday.

"It's feeling alright. I have some friction on it and the physio will assess it tomorrow (Tuesday)."

Reflecting on the match as whole, McKenzie said. "We feel satisfied but disappointed as well. We let ourselves down the first couple of days but we showed a lot of character to come back.

SLC with its players

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

FROM PAGE 17

ment already."

goalkeeper.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) will inform its top cricketers on Wednesday about the status of their England tour next year, Graeme Labrooy, the secretary of the Sri Lanka being considered are to hold a five-Cricketers' Association (SLCA), ODI series or rework the dates of said. The series clashes with the Indian Premier League for which 13 of them have signed three-year reply from the ECB on Tuesday. The contracts.

Labrooy told Cricinfo that two situation on Wednesday."

"This project is also providing

us some useful data about ground

conditions, facilities and what type

of background the players are

coming from. It will help us find a

target zone to find players and

the response of local players and

organisers. At many places, they

have found sponsors on their own

to start work for youth develop-

Recent past national team

coach Abu Yusuf, who returned to

Dhaka yesterday after attending

his charges at Chapai Nawabganj,

hailed the effort of the BFF but

thought the time-span was not

guide players who have already

matured but know very little about

the game's basics," told Yusuf, who

will start another camp in

"I was due to go to Naogaon but training regularly.

Gopalganj from July 20.

"Two weeks is not enough to

"The most encouraging thing is

focus on it in the future.

BFF expects good

options are being actively explored Labrooy said that the Sri Lankan players are yet to commit themto find a solution but the bottomline is that players will be selves to a particular formula and are focussed on the India series allowed to play in IPL". "I have checked with the board's CEO starting on July 23. (Duleep Mendis), and I have been However, Cricinfo has learnt informed that they spoke to the

that the Sri Lankan cricketers privately prefer the five-ODI option towards the end of May the IPL is scheduled to run from April 10 to May 29. Apparently, pushing back the Tests, which start on May 7, as late as possible and cutting the ODI series is another option, while possibly compensating some low-profile IPL players to take part, but there is concern about not playing warm-up matches due to it being early season in England.

When asked about the players' preference, Labrooy said: "The players have not committed to anything so far and are waiting for the board to get back to them. They are right now wrapped up in the India series. We have told them 'Forget about this, just focus on the India series and we will look after this issue'. Actually, we have not even discussed the issue in detail with players because we don't want to distract them ahead of the series against India. Of course, they are concerned but they have not taken any stand as yet."

On July 8, the ECB announced the dates for the Sri Lanka tour in 2009, which starts with a warm-up game against Leicestershire on April 21 and ends with the third and final one-day international against England on May 30. But two days later, following an intervention from the country's president on behalf of the players, Mendis announced that the Sri Lankan players would be allowed to appear for the IPL and that a compromise would be worked out with the ECB. on Friday.

most of this match backtracking on pathetic manner. a leaked plan to transform the height of the English summer into a And so England's Lord's hoodoo grinds on into another year. Yet another draw, their sixth in a row proposal may have its merits, the on this desperate strip of turf, and timing of the disclosure was unforby the time the two teams reached their farcical "gentleman's agree-

Lord's falls flat

the players themselves. Amla, this was a stultifying day's cricket, one that did no favours and Jack Russell defied South Africa whatsoever to a form of the game that can feel itself being marginallinked around each other's shoul-Test cricket is said to be dying, ders, into the grateful embrace of and on this evidence its most their teammates. When Glenn McGrath and Brett Lee saw off Steve England have posted scores in Harmison at Old Trafford in 2005,

six out of their last nine Tests at they'd sealed a famous win. Lord's, yet they've converted those starts into a solitary victory and five Prince seemed every bit as bored as children, but these days the dress- Vaughan, with disarming candour. ing-room honours board has about It is a crime against Test cricket that as much exclusivity as a Blairite a match that was so eagerly anticipated, and so delicately poised

It's a sad indictment of the when Kevin Pietersen and Ian Bell times. The MCC, the guardians of came together on the first afterthe game for two centuries, spent noon, could flounder in such a

compiled effort, one that built on Twenty20 bonanza. While the the foundations laid down by visitors. Graeme Smith and Neil McKenzie, and applied some sweetly sculpted tunate to say the least. The net touches as the innings wore on and effect was to create distractions on his confidence in the conditions all fronts, and in the final analysis, grew. But not even he could preno party was more distracted than tend it had been a challenge. In 2004-05, he made 36 runs in two This isn't how great escapes Tests as Harmison and Co. should feel. When Michael Atherton bounced him back to provincial cricket, and though England tried at Johannesburg in 1995-96, they the same tactic this time around, galloped off the field with arms there simply wasn't, in Vaughan's words, enough "zest" in the pitch.

South Africa's survival, which amplifies the excellence of the rearguard they mounted, but also the futility of Lord's, it's great," said McKenzie, the On Monday, Amla and Ashwell real star of the second innings. "But I haven't really rated it in terms of draws. There have been 23 English England's fielders, as between where it is. I'll definitely take the runs, centurions in the past ten matches them they concocted a spurious but I'm under no illusions that things day of Test cricket, only to be left alone, and South Africa have just appeal against the light, and will get tougher." You can't imagine booing in the late-afternoon sun, added four overseas entries in a skulked back to the pavilion. "It Atherton, or Willie Watson and Trevor might have another word for it. single contest. It's the accolade wasn't dark, we'd just had Bailey shrugging off such a monuthat cricketers dream about as enough," admitted Michael mental achievement only minutes after it had been completed.

lining to this contest, and that is the immediate onset of the second Test

at Headingley. The effort and exhaustion of the Lord's experience means England are already approaching Leeds with trepida-Amla's century was a sublimely tion, as they sense the momentum of the series swinging the way of the

"If we win the toss and bat, it'll be a long fielding session for them." said McKenzie, with a touch of relish in his voice. "We let ourselves down on the first couple of days, but we showed a lot of character in coming back for the last two days. We're into full competition mode now, and we've got away with having not been up for it for the first two days. We won't be sitting back any more."

"It's a slight concern," said Vaughan. "Our bowlers will be feel-Nor was there enough drama in ing weary, but hopefully the backroom staff can work their magic. I'm sure we won't do much fielding practice over the next few days, but excess of 500 in the first innings in the Australian balcony erupted as if the final two days. "A hundred at we haven't had to chase many balls because it's been pretty static."

Static is one way of putting it. The decent final-day crowd who turned up to watch a challenging Lord's and the MCC clearly want to be seen as innovators at this critical juncture for the game. But perhaps Fortunately, there is a silver they'd do well to break off from gazing at the stars for a while, and start looking down under their feet.

His first international outing at Sydney proved a forgettable experience as his 18 overs in Pakistan's third loss in as many Tests went wicketless.

New Year Honours List.

A swift fall

the Pakistan national team.

FROM PAGE 17

But the determined novice worked hard to ensure it was not his last, undergoing a short stint at India's MRF pace academy under the eagle eye of former Australian legend Dennis Lillee. He showed signs of improve-

ment by taking ten wickets in a first-class match against Asheswinning Michael Vaughan's England in November 2005. Injuries to his back and elbow

stopped him showing his true potential, however and he missed Pakistan's first three Tests in England in the summer of 2006. He finally arrived with a bang at

the Oval, grabbing 4-56 to help Pakistan gain the upper hand before his team ended up forfeiting the game in a protest over balltampering allegations.

He was expected to lead Pakistan's attack on Indian pitches during the Champions Trophy before the dope test saga unfurled. He and fellow paceman Shoaib Akhtar tested positive for

nandrolone. Akhtar was banned for two years and Asif for one year but the bans were however overturned on appeals.

Asif promised that he would learn from the first pitfall, but recent developments suggest otherwise.

Akhtar back

FROM PAGE 17

September 11-28 but the eight top teams event will be played under a cloud after players from Australia, New Zealand and England raised safety concerns. Last week's blasts in the capital

Islamabad and Karachi further endangered Pakistan's chances of hosting the event. The International Cricket

Council (ICC) is awaiting a security assessment of Pakistan during the Asia Cup, which finished here on Sunday. The ICC categorically said it is following a security process and will not compromise on it.

In case Pakistan is not found fit to host the Trophy, Sri Lanka has been chosen the alternate venue.

PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Shoaib Malik, Misbahul Haq, Salman Butt, Nasir Jamshed, Khalid Latif, Ahmed Shahzad, Khurrum Manzoor, Yasir Hameed, Younis Khan, Azhar Ali, Bazid Khan, Shahid Afridi, Sohail Tanveer, Fawad Alam, Mohammad Hafeez, Yasir Arafat, Mansoor Amjad, Shoaib Akhtar, Umar Gul, Mohammad Ali, Rao Iftikhar, Sohail Khan, Abdur Rauf, Wahab Riaz, Anwar Ali, Mohammad Amir, Kamran Akmal, Sarfraz Ahmed, Abdul Rehman, Saeed Ajmal.

India eye

FROM PAGE 17 bowler feels because the captain might not be in a position to say whether it was close or worth having a go.

"It all depends on what happens on the field. It is difficult to say right now whether I am going to take the call or say that we will appoint one player to take the call on an issue." Happy with the practice for the

series, Kumble said, "We just followed our plans to spend a day in Chennai before we leave for Sri Lanka. Players have all had a camp in Bangalore for about a week. We have had eight days of training before going in to the Test match. By the time the Test match starts, I am sure the team will be well prepared."

India kick off the series with a three-day warm-up match against a Sri Lanka Board XI, which starts

'Freddie is no wizard'

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Michael Vaughan warned fans against expecting too much from Andrew Flintoff after the all-rounder was recalled in a 12-man squad for the second Test against South Africa at Headingley, starting Friday.

Test cricket for 18 months, since captaining England to Ashes defeat against Australia at Sydney in January 2007, because of ankle and side injuries.

that drew the first of this four-Test series at Lord's here Monday after added: "I think we are building him proving his fitness with Lancashire. up a bit too much, I think it's a bit side for a world record six straight out of the game, he's come back for Tests and Vaughan, who plays at Lancashire and done reasonably Headingley for Yorkshire, was giving well. little away as to how room might be

found for Flintoff although the out-

of-form Paul Collingwood would

to be dropped. Vaughan's men badly missed factor about him. You know when Andrew Flintoff.

Flintoff's extra pace and move- you give him the ball he can create making South Africa follow-on, they only took three more wickets.

insisted the decision to bring back Flintoff had been a long time in the planning and wasn't a knee-jerk

mind to get 'Freddie' back into the team. He just needed another game The fast bowler hasn't played to prove to himself, "said Vaughan. "He's got through a good game against Hampshire (where Flintoff took three wickets and scored 39 not

Lancashire won by six wickets But he was added to the team Monday). He's ready to come back." However, a cautious Vaughan England have fielded the same unfair on him. He's had 18 months

out in the second innings of a match

"He's not a wizard, he's not going to come and sprinkle dust, he's just going to come and perappear to be the leading candidate form how he can.

ment with the ball when, after something and in the past when he's gone out to bat, he's made things happen. He also has the But the England captain ability to take wonderful catches.

"His stature in the dressing-

opposition teams around the world would rather play England without "I always had it in the back of my Freddie Flintoff than with him." South Africa's Neil McKenzie was unsurprised by Flintoff's

room is also important and I'm sure

return to a squad. "His name is always being thrown around, he's a serious player. We don't just prepare for one guy but he's a key figure in the England set-up and we will give

him the respect he deserves." Vaughan was coy over whether Flintoff would feature as a member of a four-man or five-man attack in Leeds. "That's the question I am going to get asked all week."

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Michael Vaughan (capt), Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Tim Ambrose (wkt), Stuart Broad, Ryan Sidebottom, "But he does have that bit of X- James Anderson, Monty Panesar,

Hashim secures draw

By Eugene Sheffer

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3 Birthright 24 Commo-

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37 Shun

FROM PAGE 17

Somerset and Middlesex respec-The 32-year-old McKenzie, who batted after lunch with a runner because of a groin strain, had added just seven runs to his score

when he flat-footedly cut at James Anderson and edged through to wicketkeeper Tim Ambrose. However, a South Africa spokesman said an intial assessment by the

medical staff was that McKenzie would be fit to play at Headingley. McKenzie, having shared a double century stand with Smith, who

made 107 on Sunday, added 125 for the second wicket with Amla. Left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom, bowling despite a stiff back, gave home fans another moment to cheer when he clean bowled the experienced Jacques Kallis for 13 with an excellent

vorker -- a delivery, which curi-

36 Queued

(up)

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50 Culture

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DOWN

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opponent

from the

ously, England rarely used. New batsman Prince, who made 101 in the first innings was given a reprieve when his flashing drive off Broad was put down by Alastair Cook, diving to his left at a wide second slip.

ACROSS

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SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the first Test between England and South Africa that ended in a draw at Lord's on Monday.

ENGLAND: 1st Innings 593-8 dec (Bell 199, Pietersen 152, Broad 76, Cook 60; M Morkel 4-121, Harris 3-SOUTH AFRICA: 1st Innings 247

(Prince 101; Panesar 4-74) SOUTH AFRICA: 2nd Innings (overnight 242-1) Smith c Pietersen b Anderson 107

McKenzie c Ambrose b Anderson

Amlanotout Kallis b Sidebottom Prince not out Extras: (b-8, lb-8, w-5, nb-1) Total: (For 3 wkts in 167 overs) 393 Fall of wickets: 1-204, 2-329, 3-357 Bowler 116 Panesar Pietersen Sidebottom Anderson Collingwood 11 Result: Match drawn

Man-of-the-match: Ian Bell (ENG)

New format

FROM PAGE 17

for the top flight teams. "We'll also make some additional donations to the clubs to improve

their ground facilities," he said. "CCDM is the platform of domestic cricket ... we'll try to increase the volume of cricket and also try to develop the skill of our players day by day. We'll also organize more tournaments through-

out the year," said Alamgir. He also wanted to increase the number of Twenty20 matches in the Premier Division, while this shorter version cricket will also be introduced for the first time in the First Division.

Asked if he has any plan to make Dhaka cricket more attractive and crowd pulling, he said, "We won't be able to bring people to the field by force. If we can deliver good cricket, can get some talented players and keep on trying, we can hope to see more supporters."

When his attention was drawn about the poor amount in the local tournament sponsorship, Alamgir assured that he will do "something positive to fulfill our minimum expectations (from sponsorship)."

27 | 28 | 29 34 35 40 41 42 44 45 46

CRYPTOQUIP

OA C KCZ OR DCXJ CWX OR

ZQTKX NCFJ SQ RCE SNCS

RTLJI-ODLQRJX Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE MY DAUGHTER ENJOYS MAKING JALAPENOS BURST, I RECKON SHE'D BE CALLED A PEPPER POPPER.



41 Gymnast FJIE RSIOBSKE JWAQIBJX, O

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S