



A visually impaired cricketer (R) is taking lessons from the coach during a blind cricket camp at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

## Blind cricket camp in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A five-day long 'Blind Cricket Camp 2008' began here in the port city yesterday.

Chittagong Blind Cricket Club organised the camp in association with the Rotary and Rotaract Club of Islamabad and non-government organisations -- Sangsaptak, YPSA, UTSA and Chittagong Society for the Disabled at the MA Aziz Stadium.

Chittagong Mohanagar Krira Sangstha general secretary and Concern Services for Disabled (CSD) chief adviser Professor Sayestha Khan inaugurated the camp through a ceremony chaired by the Club Executive Member Mostafa Kamal Jatra.

Rotary Club of Islamabad president AM Mohiuddin, secretary KaZi Jahed Iqbal, local daily People's View Editor Osman Gani Mansur and YPSA programme officer Vaskar Bhattacharya spoke on the occasion.

Speakers in the ceremony hoped that the training would help the blind cricketers to bring some success for the country.

They lauded the performances of the disabled sportsmen in the Special Olympics and said the success created example for future.

A total of 25 blind cricketers are participating in the camp under the supervision of trainer Shamim Ahmed.

The closing ceremony and a friendly match will be held on July 22.

## Laxman, Chawla barred from English counties

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs on Friday barred two national stars from signing up with English counties because those sides included players aligned with a rebel Twenty20 league.

Veteran batsman Venkatsai Laxman and young leg-spinner Piyush Chawla were not allowed to play in English domestic cricket in a move seen as another attempt to crush the unauthorised Indian Cricket League (ICL).

Laxman was due to play for Nottinghamshire after India's upcoming Test series in Sri Lanka, while Chawla was called up by Hampshire to replace retired Australian great Shane Warne.

"Our boys will not play alongside ICL players," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) spokesman Rajiv Shukla said.

"It is the board's policy not to have any dealings with the ICL or its players."

The BCCI, which holds its own Twenty20 league, does not recognise the ICL, bankrolled by India's largest listed media company, Zee Telefilms, and headed by former World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev.

At least 15 of the 18 English counties field ICL players from across the world fearing restraint of trade action.

The ICL players with Nottinghamshire, where Laxman was due to play, are New Zealand all-rounders Andre Adams and Chris Cairns and England's discarded wicketkeeper Chris Read.

Hampshire also has three ICL cricketers in South Africa-born wicketkeeper Nic Pothas, former South African paceman Nantie Hayward and former Australian all-rounder Ian Harvey.

## Shock debut for Pattinson

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Former roof tiler Darren Pattinson was given a dramatic England debut at Headingley here Friday after being named in the side to play South Africa in the second Test.

Pattinson, who has appeared in just 11 first-class matches, wasn't in the original squad for this match and nor was he even the first reserve. But, having been called up as cover for James Anderson on Thursday, the 29-year-old swing bowler was included in the team.

Anderson was passed fit but left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom, who suffered a back strain during the drawn first Test at Lord's, was omitted.

All-rounder Andrew Flintoff was recalled for his first Test in 18 months at the expense of the out-of-form Paul Collingwood in the other change to the England team.

Pattinson, born in Grimsby, northern England, but raised in

Australia, only made his first-class debut in January 2007 after several seasons playing for Melbourne club side Dandenong.

The paceman, whose family moved to Australia when he was six, said he was "as shocked as anybody" to have been selected and had to cancel a family trip to the Alton Towers amusement park in central England.

"It's a bit different to riding the rollercoaster at Alton Towers but I am looking forward to this," Pattinson told Sky Sports 1.

"I was born in Grimsby and I was a roof tiler - I don't think people know much more about me than that."

In his brief senior career, Pattinson has had a habit of starring on his debut. His first match for Victoria saw him take four wickets for 87 runs against South Australia.

He joined Nottinghamshire at the start of this season after being recommended to the Midlands county by Australian batsman David Hussey in 2006 and impressing in several net sessions.

Pattinson, who signed a two-year

deal with Trent Bridge-based Nottinghamshire in April, took eight wickets on his County Championship debut, against Kent, and was recently included in England's provisional 30-man squad for the ICC Champions Trophy.

England did have the option of calling-up the likes of 2005 Ashes heroes Simon Jones, Stephen Harmison and Mathew Hoggard but instead opted for Pattinson, who has taken 29 first-class wickets in six matches this season at 20.86 apiece.

Hampshire fast bowler Chris Tremlett, who had been called up as cover for Sidebottom, was left out.

South Africa were unchanged with opening batsman Neil McKenzie, whose marathon century lasting more than nine hours helped ensure the opening match of this four-Test series ended in a draw after the Proteas followed-on at Lord's, fit despite suffering a groin strain.

Pattinson's first taste of Test action was delayed when South Africa captain Graeme Smith chose to field first after winning the toss.

## Rudolph has no regrets

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Jacques Rudolph has insisted he has "no regrets" over swapping his South Africa career for one with Yorkshire.

The 27-year-old left-handed batsman could have been forgiven for feeling a few mixed emotions as South Africa play England in the second Test at his adopted home ground of Headingley, starting here Friday.

Rudolph, who joined Yorkshire aged 25, has averaged over 58 in first-class cricket for the 'White Rose' county.

In 35 Tests for South Africa his average was a less impressive 36.21 although plenty of observers felt it was just a matter of time before his record started to match his ability.

"I've got no regrets," Rudolph, who is committed to Yorkshire until 2011 and who could qualify for England under residency rules by 2012, told Friday's edition of the Yorkshire Post newspaper. "There are no hard feelings."

Rudolph, who played all five

Tests on South Africa's previous tour of England in 2003, found himself caught in the Proteas' controversial 'transformation' policy, designed to encourage more non-white players.

Twice his Test debut was delayed after he had been named in the team after South African officials insisted on 'quota' batsmen being chosen ahead of him.

Increasingly overlooked, Rudolph decided a stop-start international career was not doing him any favours and so in 2006 he opted for Yorkshire.

"At that stage of my career, I felt I needed stability and security," said Rudolph. "I was in and out of the South Africa side and it was creating a lot of stress for me and my family."

"For that reason, I signed for Yorkshire. It was a great opportunity and I think I'm in a much better position at the moment."

Looking ahead, a cautious Rudolph added: "Will I play for South Africa again? There's a possibility. I've got three more seasons on my Yorkshire contract after this one and after that, I could qualify for England."

"I'll make a decision on that if and when I get there. At the moment, I'm just enjoying my Yorkshire career."

South Africa's batsmen managed four hundreds between during the drawn first Test at Lord's and an admiring Rudolph said: "You can't take anything away from South Africa's batting."

"A little bit of me wants South Africa to win. I played for them for so many years, and you don't just change overnight."

"England will take a lot out of the first Test - a lot of people expected South Africa to roll them over. This will be a wake-up call for South Africa and I think they will hit the ground better at Headingley."

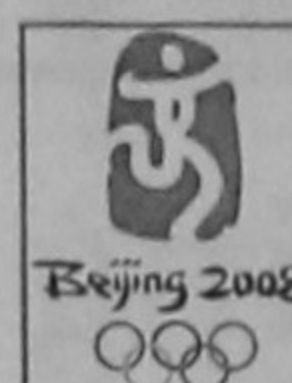
He added: "They are renowned for their character and their ability to fight back, and they showed that at Lord's in the second innings."

"We haven't seen the best of the South Africa attack. Dale Steyn has had an unbelievable couple of years."

"I think Headingley will suit them better than Lord's, and Morné Morkel should be able to give them some insight from his time at Yorkshire."

## Venues set to awe

REUTERS, Beijing



While feats of athletic brilliance may be the main focus of cameras during the Beijing Olympics, the telegenic venues set to host the athletes will draw their own share of gasps from admiring spectators.

Beijing's Olympic construction boom has bequeathed an 800-year-old city with some of the world's most futuristic architectural statements, potent symbols of a resurgent power's desire to showcase its development and mastery of technology.

"I think the venues show a new openness and tolerance among common Chinese people. They also show our amazing achievements," said Zheng Fang, a Chinese architect who worked on the acclaimed National Aquatics Centre, dubbed the "Water Cube" for its shape and bubbly facade.

The Olympic swimming venue, designed by a consortium of Arup engineers, architects from Australian firm PTW and Zheng's China Construction Design International (CCDI), competes with the adjacent National Stadium for the affections of thousands of camera-wielding tourists who flock to the main Olympic Green every day.

The 91,000-seat Herzog & de Meuron-designed National Stadium, known as the "Bird's Nest" for its lattice work of interwoven steel, has made such an impact as to displace late Chinese leader Mao Zedong's face from commemorative Olympic bank notes.

Standing together, the stadium and the swimming venue form "one of the most powerful urban precincts in the world," said John Bilmon, a principal director with PTW.

Many Games visitors' first experience of Beijing's building ambitions, however, will start well before they get to the competition venues.

The city's new airport terminal designed by British architect Norman Foster is supposed to resemble a dragon, complete with triangular windows cut into the ceiling as though they were scales.

After touching down at the \$3.6 billion terminal, passengers will be able to board a brand new airport train to the city centre, and then ride a new subway link to Beijing's business district, where the vertiginous CCTV building looms improbably over lesser towers.

Designed by Rem Koolhaas' Office for Metropolitan Architecture as a subversion of the traditional skyscraper, the nearly completed headquarters for China's staid state broadcaster

joins two towers sloped together with a gravity-defying canopy at 80 storeys' height.

The buildings are not just testament to China's engineering skills, but an authoritarian country's ability to rapidly mobilize manpower and resources, according to Ming Liang, a design professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts.

"Authorities can simply order 1,000 of the country's best welders to leave their homes and come weld the 'Bird's Nest' together in Beijing," said Ming. "This is what can be done here."

Politics, which have re-shaped Beijing's landscape for more than eight centuries, have also played an undeniable part in the city's modern transformation.

Architects see little coincidence in the Olympic Green's location directly north of the Forbidden City and its modern equivalent Zhongnanhai, where the Communist Party's top leaders live and govern in almost total secrecy.

"No wealth or power can be concentrated in the south as that would be challenging the king. All rich people live behind the king on the left and the right," said Ming.

The controversial National Theatre, a shiny half-sphere that looms south of imperial-era Zhongnanhai, is an exception to the rule, albeit one endorsed by opera fan and former Chinese

President Jiang Zemin, reportedly the first soloist to grace the stage on its completion last year.

While eye-catching and widely praised, Beijing's new architectural marvels have also weathered a storm of criticism, from academics complaining of a developing country's wastefulness, to environmental experts panning the venues for not living up to the "Green Olympics" pledge.

Chinese architect Ai Weiwei, a design consultant for the "Bird's Nest," last year said he regretted that the stadium he helped inspire had become a symbol of a one-party state's "fake" Olympic smile.

Other architects prefer to focus on the benefits derived from the global skills and technologies concentrated for the Olympic construction.

"In reality, in building these stadiums and other buildings like the CCTV Tower, we brought the world's best technology and masters to Beijing," said CCDI's Zheng.

Criticizing China for wanting to showcase its development achievements is in any case misguided, said Tristram Carfrae, a structural engineer for Arup and the mastermind behind the Water Cube's playful facade.

"If you look at Beijing's history of architecture and design as being about monumentalism, about the grand statement, then why should these sport venues be any different?"

## India to host 2010 hockey World Cup

AFP, New Delhi

New Delhi will host field hockey's men's World Cup in 2010, the game's world governing body announced on Friday.

International Hockey Federation (FIH) president Els Van Breda Vriesman confirmed the venue after an FIH executive board meeting in Hyderabad.

"The 2010 men's World Cup will be held in New Delhi, which will also host the 2010 Commonwealth Games," Vriesman told reporters.

India were provisionally awarded the event last year but were in serious danger of losing their hosting right after the FIH said in March it was worried at the game's falling standards in the country.

The FIH, which devised a "Promoting Indian Hockey" project last year, warned Indian officials they could miss hosting the 2010 World Cup if the project was not implemented immediately.

Eight-time gold medalists India have failed to qualify for the coming Olympics for the first time.

Since winning the last of their eight Olympic golds at the western-boycotted Moscow Games in 1980, India claimed just one major title when Dhanraj Pillay's men took Asian Games gold in Bangkok in 1998.

## Kiwis search for coach

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) Thursday launched a worldwide search for a new national coach to replace John Bracewell who is returning to England.

Bracewell has said he will not look to renew his New Zealand contract when it expires in nine months but will instead begin a second stint in charge at English county Gloucestershire.

NZC chief executive Justin Vaughan said in a statement he wanted to hear from "suitably qualified candidates from throughout the world."

"We are looking for candidates who have the experience and drive to both improve the Black Caps in both forms of the game," Vaughan said.

## Bangladesh A

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off 82 deliveries to take the total beyond the 300-mark. The wicketkeeper smashed ten boundaries in his nearly two-hour knock.

J Naik picked up two wickets for 70 while Smith, Rowe and Cliff each chipped in with two wickets.

The second-string Bangladesh side will play Derbyshire from July 21-23 and the visiting South Africans from July 25-27 in their remaining first-class fixture.

They will play three limited-overs matches against Lancashire (July 30), MCC (August 1) and Durham (August 3).

## Kandamby

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In reply, the Indians were four for one wicket at stumps after losing in-form opener Gautam Gambhir early in what is the only warm-up game ahead of the three-Test series beginning here on July 23.

India have not won a Test series in Sri Lanka for 15 years.

## BRIEF SCORES

Sri Lanka Board XI: 224 in 71.5 overs (Kandamby 84, Silva 68, Mubarak 25) India: 4 for one in 0.4 overs.

## Pace duo destroys Eng

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for 18 by umpire Billy Bowden, caught down the legside by Boucher off Morkel, when it appeared the ball had brushed the batsman's trousers and missed the edge of the bat.

However, there was no doubt at all when, nine balls later, Vaughan, who made just two at Lord's, edged a full-length Steyn delivery to Smith.

It was not the way Vaughan, on his Yorkshire home ground, would have wanted to mark his 50th Test as England captain.

Former roof tiler Pattinson, who has appeared in just 11 first-class matches, replaced fellow Nottinghamshire pace bowler Ryan Sidebottom after the left-arm quick was ruled out with a back strain.

Born in Grimsby, northern England, but raised in Australia, the 29-year-old only made his first-class debut, for state side Victoria, in January 2007 after several seasons playing for Melbourne club side Dandenong.

This is Pattinson's first season of county cricket and he has so far taken 29 first-class wickets in six matches at 20.86 apiece, figures which persuaded the selectors to pitch him in at Headingley.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the second Test between England and South Africa at Headingley on Friday.

ENGLAND: First innings  
Strauss c Boucher b Morkel 27  
Cook c Boucher b Morkel 18  
Vaughan c Smith b Steyn 0  
Pietersen c Smith b Steyn 45  
Bell b Kallis 31  
Ambrose c Boucher b Ntini 12  
Flintoff c Boucher b Steyn 17  
Broad c De Villiers b Morkel 17  
Anderson not out 11  
Panesar c De Villiers b Morkel 0  
Pattinson c Boucher b Steyn 8  
Extras: (lb-6, w-6, n-5) 17  
Total: (All out in 52.3 overs) 203  
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-27, 3-62, 4-106, 5-123, 6-150, 7-177, 8-181, 9-186, 10-203.

Bowler O M R W  
Steyn 18.3 2 76 4  
Ntini 11 0 45 1  
Morkel 15 4 52 4  
Kallis 8 2 24 1

SOUTH AFRICA: Graeme Smith, Neil McKenzie, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, Ashwell Prince, AB de Villiers, Mark Boucher, Morné Morkel, Paul Harris, Dale Steyn  
Toss: South Africa  
Umpires: Daryl Harper (AUS) and Billy Bowden (NZL)

## Foreign imports

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Like most of the title contenders, defending Federation Cup champions Brothers Union also want to stick to a trusted player.

"We have talked with (Elijah) Junior, who is now playing in Finland," informed manager Amer Khan, whose side won the last edition of the competition more than two years ago.

"We are covered for all positions and have a shadow eleven ready. The only problem is lack of an experienced striker and I feel Junior is the best to have played in Dhaka in recent times," he told of the Nigerian forward who top scored with 14 goals in the inaugural professional league.

"He has wanted to know our season's schedule. Even if he is not available for the Federation Cup, we look forward to have him for the B. league, which is our main target."

"As soon as we know when the Federation Cup final round starts, we will contact him again."

The only heavyweights to part

with their previous year's collection would be Mohammedan, who are expected to replace one set of Nigerians with another.

Mostaque Ahmed, additional general secretary of the black and whites, informed that two of the four Nigerians -- Roberto, Souleiman, Bokola and Emmanuel -- have already reached Kolkata and are due to be in Dhaka by Sunday.

"We will only sign the players when we are satisfied with their performance in trial," said Mostaque. "We are also expecting Egyptian midfielder Khaled Mahmud here on July 22."

Chittagong Abahani have already registered their old players, Nepalese striker Santosh Shahukhal and goalkeeper Kiran Kumar apart from Liberian Otello Baney while their city rivals Mohammedan have retained Liberia's Anthony Doe.

Old-Dhaka outfit Rahmaiganj signed Mathurin Roland of Cameroon.

## Chambers fails

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Simeon Williamson, beaten by Chambers at the trials, for the 100 meters in Beijing. Sprinter Craig Pickering is now expected to be added to the team.

"We now consider the issue closed and look forward to Beijing and must all turn our focus to our final preparations with the athletes who will represent Great Britain," UK Athletics said in a statement.

The Chambers case has dominated British athletics this year and split opinions throughout the sport.

He was controversially selected for the world indoor championships in Spain, against the wishes of UK Athletics, and won a silver medal.

The BOA's stance has gained support from many leading names in the sport including former British gold medalist Sebastian Coe, now vice-president of the governing IAAF and chairman of the London 2012 Games, and rowing great Steve Redgrave.

After serving his ban Chambers briefly returned to athletics in 2006 and was a member of Britain's gold medal-winning 4x100 meters relay team at the European championships that year.

Chambers was stripped of the gold he won at the European championships in 2002 and was asked to return a substantial amount of prize money he had earned while taking drugs.

## Asif tests

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play," said Karim. Asif had a taste of trouble earlier this year when he was seized at Dubai airport while returning from the IPL in India on June 1 on charges of possessing opium.

He was detained at the airport for 19 days before the Gulf police deported him after they found the quantity of the drug "insignificant."

The fast-rising bowler was banned for one year after he first tested positive for nandrolone two years ago, while Akhtar got a two-year lay-off. Both bans were overturned on appeal.

The Pakistan Cricket Board dropped Asif from a 30-man provisional squad for September's Champions Trophy squad announced on Tuesday.

The World Anti-Doping Agency said on Friday that it was monitoring Asif's case.

"We are monitoring the case and since it is under process we would not like to comment any further. The B-sample test is a player's right," media manager Frederic Donze said.

## Gooch questions call-up

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Former England captain Graham Gooch has questioned the "leftfield" decision to hand a Test debut to Australia-raised Darren Pattinson.

The 29-year-old Nottinghamshire bowler was a surprise choice to replace his injured county colleague Ryan Sidebottom in the England side for the second Test against South Africa at Headingley here Friday.

Although born in Grimsby, northern England, Pattinson grew up in Melbourne and his younger brother has represented the Australia Under-19 team.

Ex-Essex and England opening batsman Gooch, writing on his BBC website blog, said selecting players such as Pattinson, who only started playing county cricket for Nottinghamshire earlier this season, risked devaluing the international game as a whole.

"Today's selection of Darren

Pattinson for England is one of the most leftfield decisions I've ever seen," Gooch said. "I've got no problem with Darren but we've got to look at the bigger picture."

"The international game is in danger of being devalued if we have many more selections like this."

He added: "I captained England 34 times and many of the players under me were born overseas."

"I'm talking of Allan Lamb, Robin Smith (both born in South Africa) and Graeme Hick (born in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe) - none of them born in England but all fantastic servants for this country."

"These were men who decided to make their life in England and bring up their kids here."

"They were passionate about playing for the three Lions, but Pattinson's father says he's a proud Aussie - and his brother plays for their Under-19 side," Gooch added.

"Can you switch from being a proud Australian to a passionate Englishman overnight?"

"I grew up in London watching great men like Ken Barrington, Colin Cowdrey and Fred Trueman

play for their country.

"Representing England is more than just cricket, more than just a game or a pay packet. It's a tremendous honour, and it should be treated as such by players and the selectors."

"Is this what playing for your country has come to?"

## Ottoy's final

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in the second half of July. Ottoy, who became a Slovenian citizen in 2002, has also won 14 world championship medals, including two titles.

At the 2000 Olympics, Ottoy won a silver in the relay for Jamaica to become the oldest female track and field Olympic medalist.

She also has a 100 metres bronze from the same Games after her U.S. rival Marion Jones last year admitted to taking steroids and returned her medals from the Sydney Games.

Ottoty won her first medal - one of a record five bronzes - in Moscow 28 years ago. She has yet to win an Olympic gold.