

MUMBAI ATTACKS England fans urged not to be deterred

AFP, London England cricket supporters should not be put off travelling to India by the Mumbai attacks, a spokesman for the unofficial "Barmy Army" fan club said Thursday.

Paul Winslow recalled that suicide bombings in London three years ago did not deter fans, voicing hope that Test matches would go ahead in India despite the deadly attacks that have killed more than 100 people.

"It is worth remembering that just a few weeks after the 7/7 attacks we sat at Lord's watching England play," he said referring to the July 7, 2005 bombings which killed 56 in London, including four suicide bombers.

"I only hope everything is done to try and make this tour happen -- not just for our fans but for everyone in Mumbai. London did not grind to a halt in 2005 so why should they?" he added.

England on Thursday abandoned their one-day series in India following the attacks in Mumbai, and talks began aimed at salvaging the two subsequent Test matches, one of which is due to be played in the city from December 19.

The England team will stay in the eastern city of Bhubaneswar for 24 hours as England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) officials hold discussions with Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chiefs on the fate of the two-Test series.

The first match is scheduled to be played in Ahmedabad starting on December 11. Winslow said: "The overwhelming point for me is that we are all intending to go ahead with our trips to Mumbai. There is an argument that if the fans can go, so should the players."

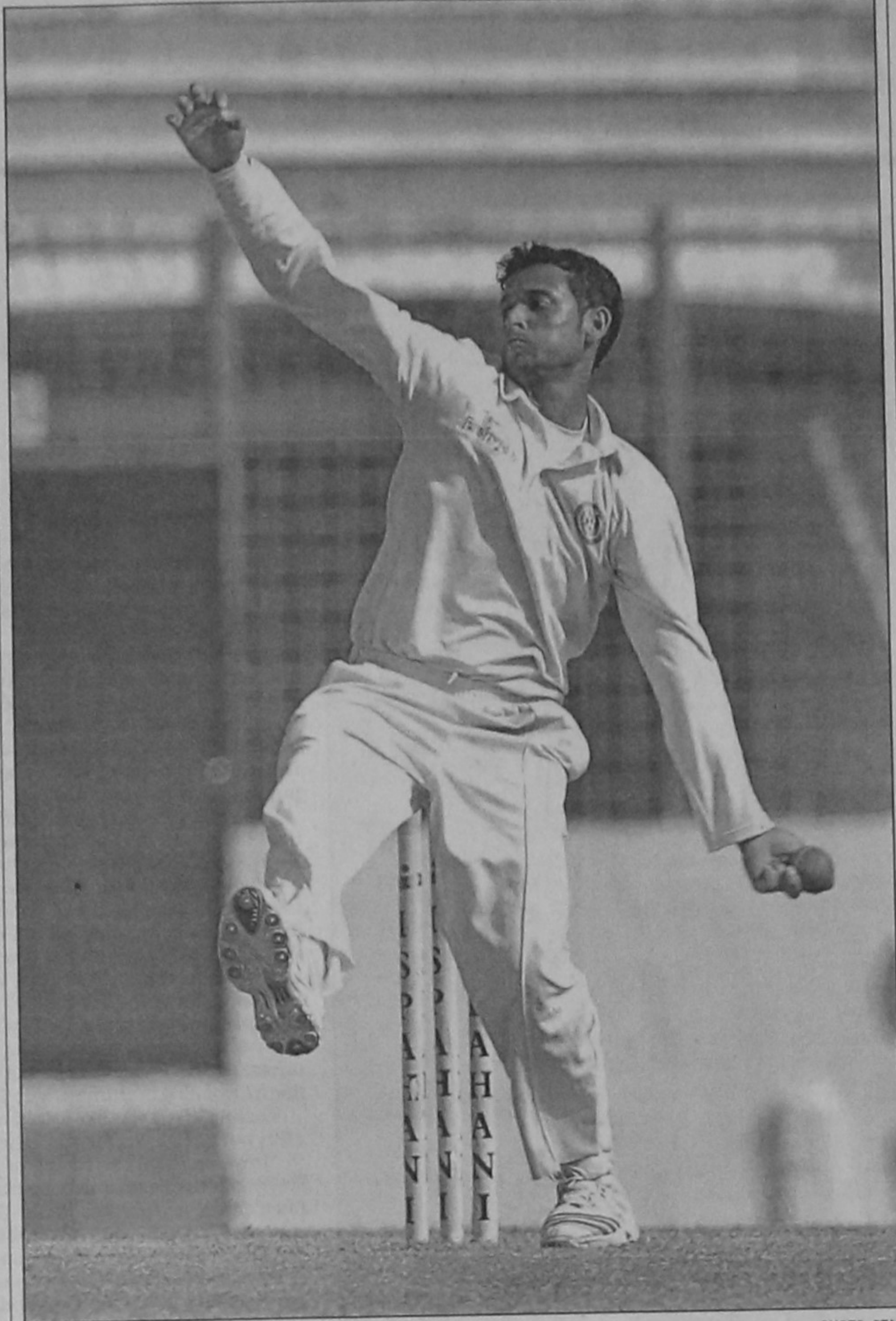
Hail little

FROM PAGE 17 Mushfiq and Zunaed also earned the praise from another South African fast bowler Morne Morkel, who caused the damage in the top-order by taking four wickets for 73 runs.

"It had been a better day for the tourists than it had been for the home side but they would need to follow through on the second day," said Morkel, who found Rokibul Hasan as the most solid batsman in the middle though the right-hander scored only 15 runs.

Bangladesh's first innings performance would certainly silence a critical South Africa skipper Graeme Smith. But Zunaed made it clear that they were very much focused on their own improvement rather than criticism of others.

"It is difficult to play on a bouncy wicket because the ball is always swinging. It's tough but we're getting better and we are very much focused on our own improvement," said the left-hander.



NINE NOT ENOUGH: Dhaka left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny is about to deliver during Sylhet's second innings on the final day of the seventh round National Cricket League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The spinner took nine wickets in the match.

WICB seeks ICC bailout

Cricket The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) for the 3 million dollars it would have received for the latest Champions Trophy, but the board has denied that it is a loan.

The WICB is not the only member country of the ICC indicating that its cash flow would be affected by not receiving the expected monies as anticipated," the board insisted. "Thus, any report that the WICB has made a loan application to the ICC because of financial difficulties is grossly inaccurate."

The WICB has also failed to find a sponsor for its domestic one-day tournament after KFC opted not to renew its deal, and this has cost it more than 500,000 dollars. The ICC is almost certain to agree to the request, but it will wipe out more than half the expected income of around 5.5 million dollars from next year's ICC World Twenty20 and ICC Champions trophy. Interest will be paid at a commercial rate on the advance.

Earlier, Uttar Baridhara Club clinched the league title and also earned promotion with one match to spare, having secured 39 points. In the other matches, BG Press defeated Kawran Bazar 1-0 while Police AC also beat Matuail Udayan Sangsad by the same margin.

Motijheel

FROM PAGE 17 and Babu as the Motijheel side entered next year's First Division after finishing runners-up with 36 points from 16 matches.

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Asif hearing postponed

CRICINFO, undated Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Asif will not be travelling to Mumbai after his Indian Premier League (IPL) drugs hearing was put off due to the terror attacks in Mumbai on Wednesday.

A tribunal, comprising former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, the former vice-chancellor of India's Maharashtra University of Health Sciences Dr Ravi Bapat, and lawyer Shirish Gupta, had set November 29 as the date for hearing Asif's appeal in Mumbai, after he had appeared before them on October 11.

Asif, who was due to leave on Thursday morning with his lawyer Shahid Karim for the two-day hearing, said he had been told to remain in Pakistan. "After the Mumbai attacks, I called them (IPL officials) up to find out the status quo of the drugs tribunal hearing and they told me they will convey fresh dates later to me," Asif told PTI. "I don't think the hearing is that important now. Whenever it is held I am confident of being cleared as we have prepared well for it."

Bowling irks Pietersen

CRICINFO, undated Kevin Pietersen, the England captain, has said he had never felt as angry as he did after his team's fifth successive loss to India.

England have lost the seven-match series with two games to go. "I was pretty angry when I got back to the dressing room," Pietersen, who is leading England in a full series for the first time, said. "It is probably the first time since I have been captain that I have been angry, really angry."

Pietersen's unbeaten 111 took England to 270 but India chased it down with more than six overs to spare. "I cannot fault the boys for their effort but we did not bowl well enough in those first 20 overs."

"We were too short and wide, and we did not hit the pitch as hard as we should have. It is quite difficult to set fields when you have superb players like (Virender) Sehwag and (Sachin) Tendulkar in form. Goodness, as a captain it is pretty difficult."

"I don't know how we will combat India. They are playing fantastic, fearless cricket, and we will have to produce something special to beat them. We have to just keep going. I want to win two games. We have two left and I really want to try and pull something off."

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Barisal first

FROM PAGE 17 target with a blistering 44-ball 52 with the help of four sixes and as many fours. Faridpur take on Khulna in today's second quarterfinal.

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Milestone for Hayden 2nd Aussie-Kiwi Test from today

Cricket CRICINFO, undated It is hard to think of Matthew Hayden as a slow starter. He has made his name by destroying opening bowlers and quickly turning shiny new balls into lifeless chunks of worn-out leather.

But when it took him six years to make his first seven Test appearances, reaching 100 Tests seemed like an unattainable goal. He will bring up the milestone at the Adelaide Oval on Friday against New Zealand, eight and a half years after regaining his position permanently, when the second Test starts. At the time he was already 29, had a mountain of state runs and wondered if his big break would ever come, but in the lead-up to the game he said his eventful career-path was not particularly special.

"My story's not any more significant than anyone else's," Hayden said. "Anyone that's got into the Australian cricket team has had to have their personal challenges met, and they've confronted those and conquered them -- that's just what it means to play for Australia, that's the fabric of playing for the baggy green."

Hayden will be the 11th Australian to reach a century of Tests, although questions remain over just how many matches he will add to the tally. His form since suffering

an Achilles tendon injury mid-year has been disappointing but he has not decided on an exit time and he said the constant speculation over his future was not a worry. "You get used to the melodramatic nature of performances, sometimes you're okay, other times you're not okay, so it's just the way it goes," he said. "And the swings and roundabouts of people's perceptions are something I've taken, never to heart, but more as a motivation as to how I can get better every single game."

"My commitment to the game hasn't changed, and more than anything if I can say what I'm proud of that would be it, Matthew Hayden in 1991 worked as hard as he works in 2008. And that guarantees you at least the best result in terms of how you prepare yourself, but it doesn't guarantee success."

The Adelaide Test presents him with an ideal opportunity to regain his best form. He will be facing an attack devoid of superstars, with the exception of Daniel Vettori, on a pitch expected to offer the seamers little help.

Vettori, the New Zealand captain, recalled once having his first ball of a Gabba Test spanked back over his head by Hayden for six. He said few men had mastered the art of dominating slow bowling like Hayden over the past decade. "Him and Gilchrist were the two guys I always thought

any ball I bowled could disappear out of the park," Vettori said. "Even if I felt like it was a good one and that always makes it tough bowling against guys like that -- so destructive. Most of the time they took it to spinners."

"He's the sort of guy that a lot of batsmen grow up wanting to emulate the way he played spin. And it wasn't just an average spinner, it was guys all the way through to (Muttiah) Muralidaran. He was aggressive against him, Harbhajan... I think he almost wrote the manual for how to be aggressive against spin bowling."

Hayden, 37, said one of the keys to his longevity in the game was having interests away from cricket. "I've pursued other passions as well, food and life around the sea, so that's who I really am as a person," he said. "I'm a bushy at heart but love the ocean."

TEAMS AUSTRALIA: Matthew Hayden, Simon Katich, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Brad Haddin, Brett Lee, Jason Krejza or Nathan Hauritz, Mitchell Johnson, Stuart Clark.

NEW ZEALAND (probable): Aaron Redmond, Jamie How, Jesse Ryder, Ross Taylor, Peter Fulton, Daniel Flynn, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori (captain), Tim Southee, Iain O'Brien, Chris Martin.

Sylhet fend off

FROM PAGE 17 mix-up with Taposh cost him his wicket. The allrounder scored ten runs from 108 deliveries in an innings that spanned exactly two hours.

Earlier, Dhaka added just 18 runs before they were bowled out for 438 runs from 130 overs. Captain Javed Omar, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match, ended with an unbeaten 112 from 191 balls, laced with 19 boundaries. His 40-run stand with Imon ended when left-arm spinner Taposh took care of the tail-end and the tall Sumon Saha rattled Ashrafal Haque's stumps.

BRIEF SCORES SYLHET: First innings 363 all out and second innings 153-7 in 77 overs (Imtiaz 47, Saikat 43, Mithun 19, Rajin 18, Kamrul 0, Ejaz 0, Rezaul 10, Taposh 9\*, Roy 0\*, Imon 1-31, Arafat 4-22).

DHAKA: First innings 438 all out in 130 overs (Anwar 12, Elias 16, Shamsur 15, Marshall 45, Riyad 103, Nadif 81, Javed 112\*, Arafat 10, Azim 0, Imon 11, Ashrafal 4; Roy 1-96, Saikat 2-71, Sumon 3-86, Nabil 1-103, Taposh 3-63). Result: Match drawn. Man-of-the-match: Javed Omar.

Mumbai attacks stop

FROM PAGE 17 itself is strictly a bilateral matter," an ICC spokesperson said. "The only time we would play a part is if there is a disagreement between the boards about whether the tour would proceed or not. In that case there would be a security assessment binding with the two boards."

Meanwhile, England's High Performance squad's tour has been called off and the players, currently training in Bangalore, will travel home immediately. The squad, which includes Michael Vaughan, Monty Panesar and Andrew Strauss, was scheduled to reach Mumbai on December 3 to play a practice game and train with the England Test side.

The strikes, including blasts and shooting incidents, were spread out across the city but the majority of them were in south Mumbai, the main tourist hub. In the early hours of Thursday morning, a major blaze was sweeping through the Taj Mahal Palace hotel, a city landmark and the scene of one such attack, which was to

host the two Test teams and was where the England side stayed during their warm-up period in Mumbai.

It is also where Middlesex were set to check-in on Thursday for their Champions League fixtures. Middlesex were due to leave London for Mumbai at 10am on Thursday to prepare for the Champions League but postponed their departure by 24 hours after being told that matches scheduled for Mumbai would be switched to Bangalore.

The Brabourne Stadium, venue of the second Test and scheduled to host three Champions League games, is in the middle of the area where most attacks have taken place. It is also the vicinity where most foreign tourists are likely to stay.

Meanwhile, the terror attacks in Mumbai have forced the cancellation of the ongoing Indian Cricket League (ICL) World Series in Ahmedabad, a senior official confirmed. ICL representatives met Gujarat government officials over the future of the tournament following terror

Marseille

FROM PAGE 20 Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez praised Gerrard's cool handling of the situation. "Steven was very professional. It is something that the UEFA delegate will take note of."

Fergie fed up FROM PAGE 20 incredibly, called upon the British press to help out him out by highlighting the rough treatment the Portugal star receives. That is the same British press that Ferguson never misses a chance to express his disdain for and rarely talks to except for mandatory press conferences.

Advertisement for Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC). The ad includes the company logo, name in Bengali and English, and a table of electricity tariffs for different categories of consumers. The table lists consumer types, time periods, and corresponding rates.

Shakib proves

FROM PAGE 17 South Africa went for lunch with 97 for 2 after resuming the day on 20 for one. Leading pacesman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shahadat Hossain might not have got any success but they were never inconsistent in their bowling.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the second and final Test between South Africa and Bangladesh at the Centurion Park on Thursday: BANGLADESH: First innings 250 (Zunaed 67, Mushfiq 65, Tamim 31, Shakib 30; Ntini 4-32, Morkel 4-73)

Crossword puzzle advertisement by Eugene Sheffer. It includes a grid for a crossword puzzle and a list of clues for both across and down directions. The clues range from 1 Across to 23 Across and 1 Down to 19 Down.