

SARADO meet, workshop in city

SPORTS REPORTER

The South Asian Regional Anti Doping Organisation's (SARADO) board meeting and a workshop will begin today in Dhaka.

Keraniganj cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Kalindi Krira Chakra defeated Mandail Pragti Sangha by 145 runs yesterday in the Keraniganj Cricket League.

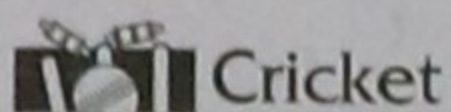
Focus on Gazi

"I think Gazi Tank are a very good side and they beat us in the Twenty20 semifinal. We are looking forward to play a good match tomorrow.

Pathans power

Starting after winning the toss as Sanath Jayasuriya (33) and Dilshan added 53 off just five overs.

'No need for change'

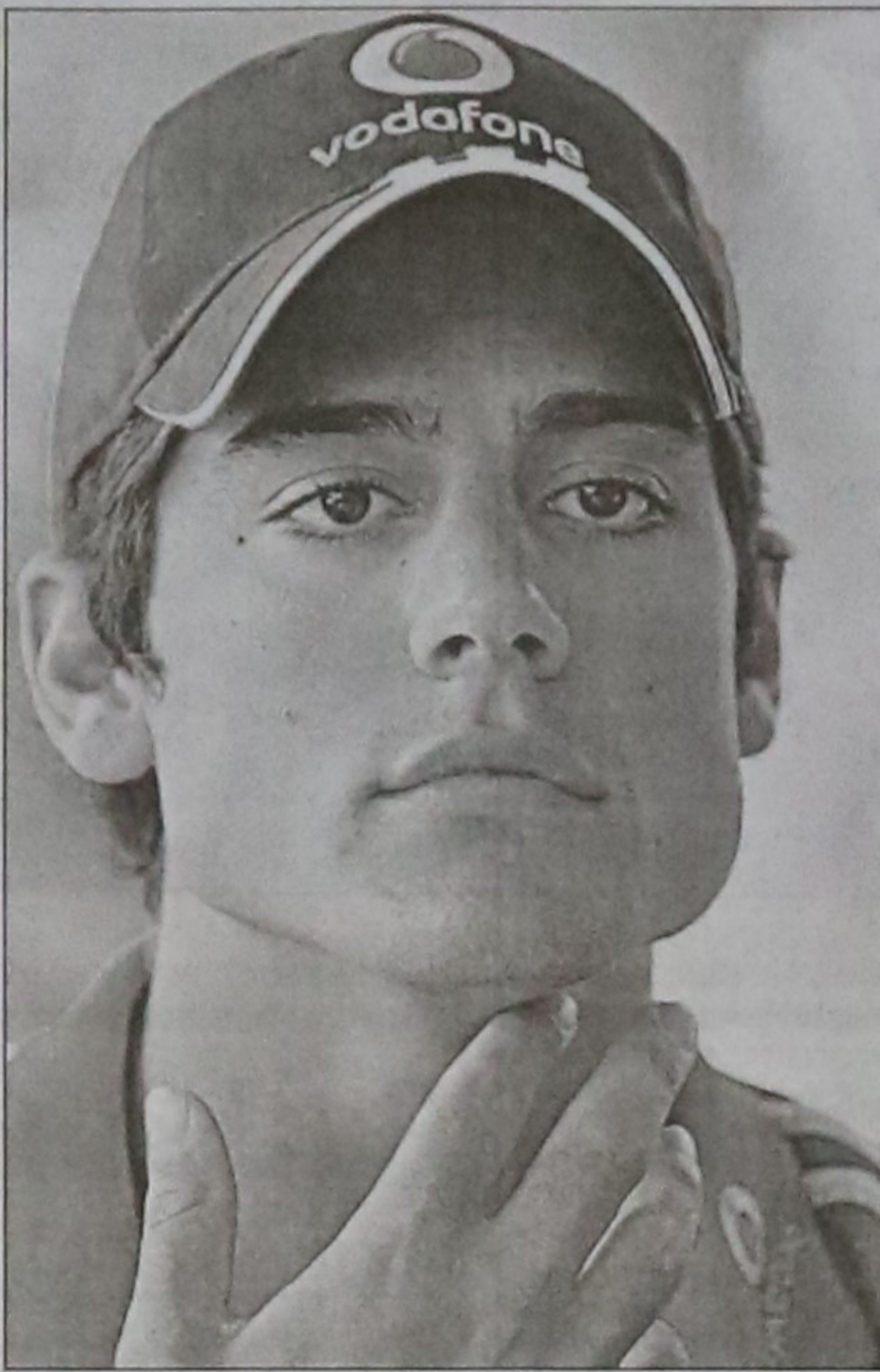


BBC ONLINE, Kingston

England opener Alastair Cook claimed there is no need for radical change ahead of the second Test against the West Indies in Antigua on Friday.

is stay together as a side, you have to retain your self-belief as individual players.

"You go through lots of ups and downs. But ultimately if you don't believe in yourself out there you will not score runs or take wickets."



England opener Alastair Cook speaks during a press conference in Kingston on Monday.

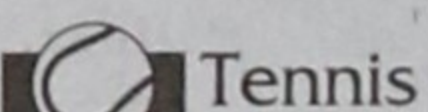
Cook was the first man dismissed in England's humiliating 51 all out at Sabina Park which led to an innings defeat in the first Test.

"We cannot act too hastily. The players are ultimately responsible, we've got to take it on the chin," he said.

"If it happens again, then things have to change. But those are three isolated incidents over three years, so it is not as though it is happening every week."

"It has obviously happened before in other sides, but we hope it won't happen again."

Serena plots 'Family Slam'



AFP, Paris

Having already held all four Grand Slams titles at the same time, newly installed world number one Serena Williams has a fresh target in her sights - the 'Family Slam'.

flat here, and describes it as her 'second home'.

"I absolutely adore Paris. I don't know what it is, but I actually love the cold weather. Maybe it's because I live in Florida," she said.

"I love my flat. Every morning I wake up and I can go outside and buy a croissant. I could totally live here full-time."

"There's a big danger of that so I guess I'd better be really careful," she said sarcastically when quizzed about the strength of her focus.

"Kudos to him for admitting it. I know there's a lot of players in baseball still denying it, but tennis is a great sport because we get drug-tested all the time," she said.

The American won the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open in 2002 before securing the 2003 Australian Open to achieve what she refers to as the 'Serena Slam'.

"We're trying to complete the Williams Slam," Serena said on Tuesday, ahead of her first-round match against the Czech Republic's Iveta Benesova at the WTA Paris Open.

"We only have one more to go. One of us has to win the French and then it'll be like a Family Slam, which isn't bad."

So enamoured is she with the city that she now owns a

defended the schedule. "We are going to give the footballers two months off: that would be June and July when the rains take control.

"We try our best to keep the sport clean and that's what gives it its honour. Everyone's playing only with what they have inside them."

"We're headed toward having single digits in (medals in) the next few Olympics if we don't make these changes."

"I have nothing against continuity if a team are winning. But haven't England been getting their backsides kicked around the world for the past two years?"

"Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff are still great players who would get into any side on the planet. But what about the rest of this sorry lot?"

"Alistair Cook still has the same technical issues outside off-stump that the Australians exploited in the last Ashes series."

"Steve Harmison still blows hot and cold. And Monty Panesar still bowls the same ball six times an over."

"Ian Bell still keels over at the first hint of pressure," Boycott, one of the best defensive batsmen of his generation, added.

"The 32-year-old left-hander played the last of his 12 Tests against England in 2005 before losing his place due to poor batting form."

Kamal has been brought back in a bid to fill the huge void in the Pakistan batting line-up left by the absence of batting mainstay Mohammad Yousuf, who last year defected to the unrecognised Indian Cricket League (ICL) and was subsequently barred from playing for Pakistan.

"We have a good cushion in the middle-order with batsmen like Kamal, Faisal Iqbal and uncapped Saeed Bin Nasir," said Qadir, who singled out Kamal as a possible replacement for Yousuf.

Frontline paceman Shoaib Akhtar was ruled out of the series because of an injured knee, while fast bowler Rao Iftikhar was ignored.

"Iftikhar is a good fast bowler for one-day cricket, but we have depth in our fast bowling for Test matches," Qadir said.

Qadir said the squad would be cut down to either 14 or 15 players by February 18 after a short training camp, starting in Karachi from February 15.

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LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

The Sunnydale Mini Handball Tournament will start from today with 22 school teams split into 7 groups participating.

The tournament has been organised by Bangladesh Handball Federation and is sponsored by Sunnydale School.

Dhaka University Haji Mohammad Mohsin Hall celebrated their annual sports competition at the DU central playground yesterday.

An estimated 100 students participated in a total of 15 events, where Ibrahim Hossain, a Masters student from Department of Bengali and Saidul Islam from Information Science and Library Management became the joint champions.

Jahidul Islam Sheikh from Department of Public Administration became the runner up.

US revamps for London Olympics

AFP, Indianapolis

USA Track and Field will revamp Olympic preparation and training methods in the wake of a disappointing Beijing performance under recommendations revealed on Monday from a nine-member panel.

The Project 30 Task Force, named for USA Track and Field chief executive Doug Logan's medal goal for US athletics at the 2012 London Olympics, included US legend Carl Lewis and analyzed American struggles six months ago at Beijing.

"We're headed toward having single digits in (medals in) the next few Olympics if we don't make these changes."

Frings puts Loew spat behind him

AFP, Berlin

Torsten Frings returns to the international fray for Germany in Wednesday's friendly with Norway intent on putting his public spat with Joachim Loew behind him.

The Werder Bremen midfielder fell out with the Germany manager after being dropped to the bench for last October's World Cup qualifiers against Russia and Wales and not even picked for November's friendly against England.

"I see my role as exactly the same as it was before. Players have never had a guarantee of getting picked. Rudi Voller, Jurgen Klinsmann or Joachim Loew never said 'You, my boy, you will systematically play as long as I'm the coach,'" Frings told a press conference on Tuesday.

"My last cap goes back to the Euro 2008 final. I reckon that I've regained my best level, but it's the manager who decides."

Loew let it be known that he was planning to start Frings against Norway in Dusseldorf.

"He's shown in the past few weeks that he's stepped up a gear."

"I should have resolved the problem differently. We've talked, there's no problem," Frings, who will be earning his 79th cap on Wednesday, added.

Cricket

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's humiliating defeat against Sri Lanka in the one-day series last month forced the removal of captain Shoaib Malik, rubbished as a 'loner' who lacked leadership, a report said Monday.

Malik was replaced by senior batsman Younis Khan after Pakistan suffered their worst ever one-day defeat -- by 234 runs -- in the third and last one-day match in Lahore, handing the visitors a 2-1 win in the series.

"We found Malik a loner, aloof and involved in his own little world, which is okay, but not when the team required a fully committed captain which he wasn't," wrote coach Intikhab Alam and manager Yawar Saeed of Malik.

The confidential report, prepared as part of an inquiry initiated by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) into the defeat, was made public at a senate committee meeting on Monday.

Malik a loner: report

AFP, London

England great Geoffrey Boycott has slammed the current side for 'spinelessly' collapsing during their innings-and-23-run first Test defeat against the West Indies in Jamaica.

He also accused England's backroom staff of "virtually wiping the players bottoms for them", adding their presence inhibited team members from thinking for themselves.

England were bowled out for just 51 -- their third lowest innings total of all-time -- at Sabina Park on Saturday and former Yorkshire opener Boycott said too many players had enjoyed an extended run in the side which was not justified by their form.

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Butt won't resign

AFP, Lahore

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Too much rest

AFP, Paris

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

30 Eventual 3 More 19 That
ACROSS 1 Sandwich aces 33 Here 20 One

Cryptogram grid with letters and numbers

CRYPTOQUIP
NRAL W MATPIL NRJP TAMSHQLK
QP BTDSH EASWLQRJSH
HJD EQKRBO WSS RQE W
CAPMJLALCB TAPMJLALCB
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOU HAVE A JOB
DEEJAYING FOR A MUSIC STATION, IT MIGHT
BE SAID THAT YOU ARE RADIO-ACTIVE.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: N equals W