

Pietersen may skip IPL

INTERNET, undated

England batsman Kevin Pietersen has admitted he could pull out of the Indian Premier League if security experts warn him against playing.

The former England captain will make his decision after consulting his IPL team, Bangalore Royal Challengers, following the ongoing fifth Test against West Indies.

Pietersen also intends to take advice from England and Wales Cricket Board officials before making a final decision on whether to take up his lucrative contract.

The terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka cricket team in Pakistan has heightened concern about the security of the world's top players who have been tempted to the IPL by the riches on offer.

Pietersen was bought by the Royal Challengers for USD 1.55million (£1.1million) last month, and is due to spend three weeks with the team.

He told the News Of The World: "If I don't think it's right then I'll not be going."

"After this final Test against the West Indies I'll be speaking to Bangalore, to the ECB, to my agent, and to security advisers."

"Hopefully the security will come right for India but if everybody pulls out of the IPL then it would be a disaster, a catastrophe, and world cricket would really be on a down."

Although terrorists in India have not targeted cricketers, the co-ordinated attacks in Mumbai which occurred during England's tour of India in November prompted the team to fly home.

They agreed to return after being promised high levels of security during their two Test matches.

Sachin should play 2011 WC: Ganguly

PTI, Patna

Master batsman Sachin Tendulkar, despite being dogged by injuries, should play in the 2011 World Cup, feels former India skipper Sourav Ganguly.

"Sachin is quite capable of playing in the 2011 World Cup and he should play in it though the decision has to be entirely his," Ganguly told reporters at a promotional programme here.

Ganguly expressed concern over the recent terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore.

Asked whether Pakistan should be denied hosting rights of 2011 World Cup matches, Ganguly said, "The terror strike on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore proves that Pakistan as of now is not safe for the game." The Kolkata Knight Riders captain, however, dismissed apprehensions of any terror threat to the Indian Premier League (IPL), saying, "It is completely safe and preparations are already underway for holding the matches."

"The Knight Riders will begin practice from March 16," he said.

Describing the current Indian team led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni as a 'balanced' one, Ganguly said when he was captain, he often suggested the gifted wicketkeeper-batsman to go up in the batting order.

Hertha go

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shot the visitors into the lead though Bayern were soon back on level terms when Belgian defender Daniel van Buyten headed home six minutes later.

By the break, Munich had scored another two goals through Miroslav Klose and Hatim Altintop before Lukas Podolski hit his fourth goal of the season on 73 minutes before Martin Demichelis finished off the scoring with a minute to go.

Hoffenheim, however, yet again failed to show their early-season form in a goalless draw at home to Werder Bremen.

Hamburg meanwhile suffered their second successive defeat, losing 4-1 at Borussia Monchengladbach who moved off the bottom of the table with the win.

Tevez propels

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in the 35th minute.

The Argentine collected the ball just inside the Fulham half and with the home defence backing off, advanced towards the edge of the box where he unleashed a powerful right foot drive that flashed into the top corner.

Tevez's moment of brilliance meant that Rooney's earlier astonishing miss - the striker turned Park's low cross against the post from just five yards out - was quickly forgotten as United took total command.

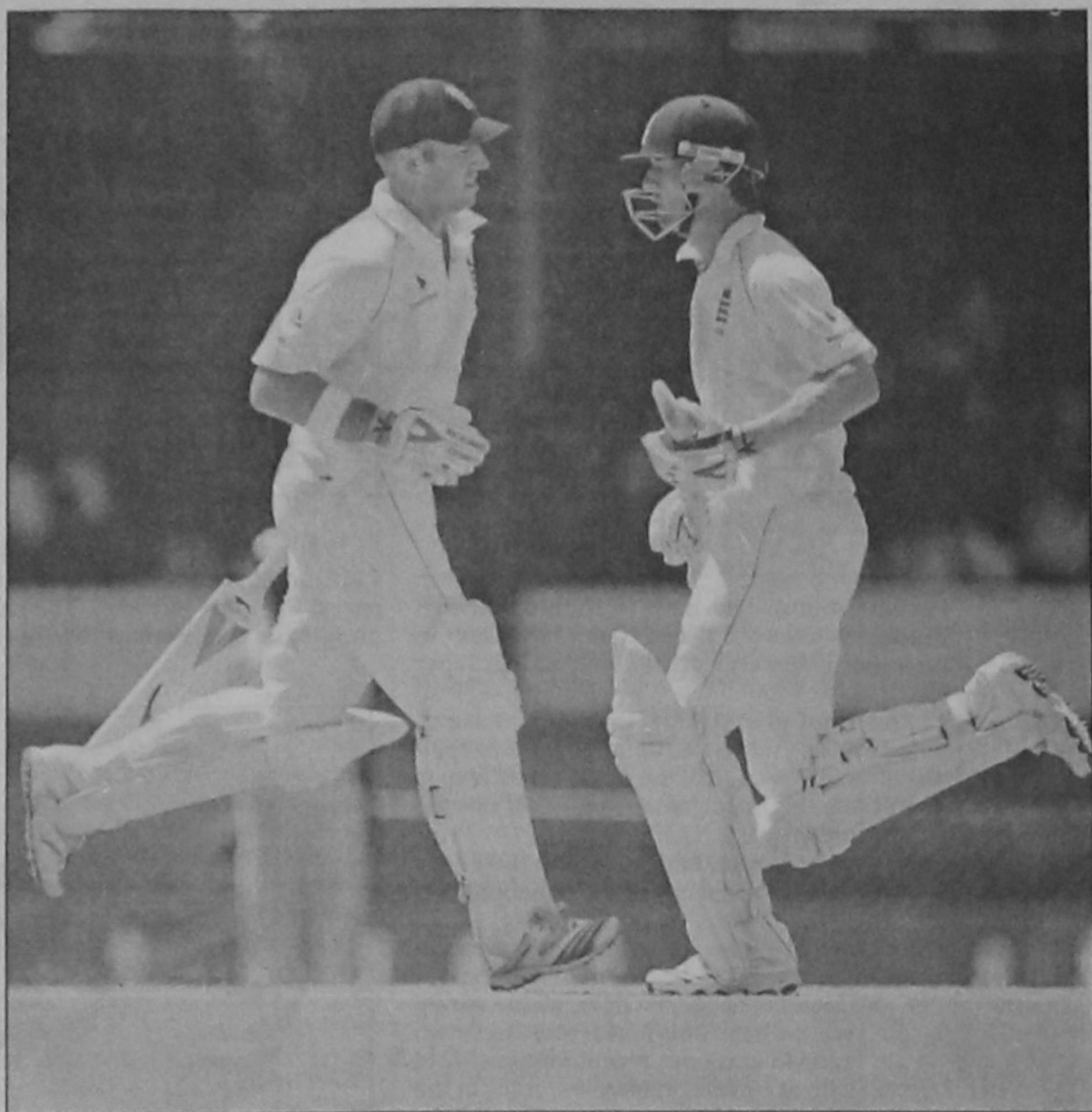


PHOTO: AFP

English batsmen Matt Prior (L) and Paul Collingwood cross while scoring a run during the second day of the last Test against West Indies at Queen's Park Oval in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad on Saturday.

Prior, Collingwood

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Collingwood batted steadily, but it was Prior, playing his first innings after his week of paternity leave, that led the counter-attack, reaching his 50 from 52 balls, when he cut Hinds to deep cover for a single.

The pair were brought together with England on 268 for four, and West Indies felt justified about their decision to take the second new ball immediately.

Strauss was bowled around his legs for 142, when he moved too far inside the line to flick Fidel Edwards, following an innings that lasted close to 6-1/4 hours in which he struck 11 boundaries from 271 balls.

Shah, who had retired hurt on 29 with severe cramps in his hands the previous day, returned to continue his innings with a scintillating straight drive for four off Lionel

Baker before he was run out for 33, failing to beat substitute fielder Dwayne Bravo's direct hit at the bowler's end.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the fifth and final Test between West Indies and England at Queen's Park Oval on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings (over-night 258 for two)
Strauss b Edwards 142
Cook c Ramdin b Powell 12
Shah run out 33
Pietersen b Hinds 10
Collingwood lbw b Baker 161
Prior not out 131
Broad c Simmons b Baker 19
Swann not out 11
Extras: (b-8, lb-7, w-1, nb-11) 27
Total: (For 6 wickets declared in 158.5 overs) 546
To bat: Anderson, Amjad, Panesar.
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-156, 3-

263, 4-268, 5-486, 6-530.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Edwards	24	5	63	1
Powell	16	1	79	1
Baker	23	4	77	2
Nash	23	3	77	0
Gayle	26	1	80	0
Hinds	39.5	2	126	1
Smith	1	0	3	0
Simmons	6	0	26	0

WEST INDIES: First innings
Gayle not out 49
Smith b Panesar 28
Powell not out 0
Extras: (b-6, nb-9) 15
Total: (For 1 wkt in 19 overs) 92
To bat: Sarwan, Simmons, Chanderpaul, Nash, Hinds, Ramdin, Edwards, Baker.
Fall of wickets: 1-90.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	4	0	13	0
Broad	5	0	19	0
Amjad	4	0	27	0
Swann	4	0	21	0
Panesar	2	0	6	1

Masterful Sachin

FROM PAGE 17
"The kind of shots he can play, he's an amazing batsman. He hits the ball everywhere, all over the park."

New Zealand's stand-in captain Brendon McCullum echoed his admiration.

"The way Sachin played was outstanding," he said.

"It was obviously pretty tough trying to control such great players and in the end we didn't bowl well enough."

The 20-year-old New Zealand quick Tim Southee went for a humbling none for 105 off 10 overs.

The most successful of the New Zealand bowlers was Kyle Mills with two for 58, while Jacob Oram took none for 34 off eight.

Faced with a mammoth total and an asking rate of 7.86 per over, New Zealand had no choice but to attack from the start and Brendon McCullum and Jesse Ryder raced to 166 by the 22nd over before the innings fell apart.

Ryder pushed the ball to Suresh Raina, who had not been comfortable out in the field, but this time he fired a return straight back to wicketkeeper Dhoni and McCullum was run out for 71.

Ross Taylor made seven before stepping out of his crease seeking a possible leg bye, whereupon he was run out by a perfect shy at the stumps from Yuvraj.

The Indian fielding, which had seen Ryder dropped on 43 and McCullum let off on 38, was suddenly on song.

When Martin Guptill fell leg before wicket to Yuvraj, New Zealand were 182 for three with the wickets falling in 21 balls.

Ryder posted his first ODI century before playing a half-hearted shot and was caught by Zaheer Khan off Harbhajan Singh for 105, including 12 boundaries and four sixes.

But there was no other New Zealand innings of note until bowlers Mills and Southee came together at 251 for eight and restored a little pride after the pasting they took with the ball.

Mills cracked 54 and Southee 32 before they fell in successive balls to end the game.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between New Zealand and India at AMI Stadium in Christchurch on Sunday:

INDIA
Sehwag b Mills 3
Tendulkar retired hurt 163
Gambhir c McGlashan b Butler 15
Yuvraj Singh c McGlashan b Elliott 87
Dhoni c McGlashan b Mills 68
Raina not out 38
Y Pathan not out 1
Extras: (lb-5, w-8, nb-4) 17
Total: (For 4 wickets in 50 overs) 392
Did not bat: Kumar, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Patel.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-65, 3-203, 3-338, 4-382.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	10	0	58	2
Southee	10	0	105	0
Butler	5	0	37	1
Oram	8	1	34	0
Patel	5	0	37	0
Ryder	5	0	56	0
Elliott	7	0	60	1

NEW ZEALAND
Ryder c Zaheer b Harbhajan 105
McCullum run out 71
Taylor run out 7
Guptill lbw b Yuvraj 18
Elliott b Zaheer 18
Oram b Harbhajan 7
McGlashan b Zaheer 7
Butler b Yuvraj 24
Mills c Zaheer b Pathan 54
Southee c & b Kumar 32
Patel not out 8
Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-2) 8
Total: (All out in 45.1 overs) 334
Fall of wickets: 1-166, 2-179, 3-182, 4-188, 5-203, 6-217, 7-218, 8-251, 9-334, 10-334.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	9	0	65	2
Kumar	8.1	0	60	1
Patel	7.2	0	79	0
Yuvraj	10	0	71	2
Harbhajan	10	0	56	2
Pathan	0.4	0	1	1

Result: India won by 58 runs and lead five-match series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar.

Toss: New Zealand
Umpires: Gary Baxter (NZL), Rudi Koertzen (RSA)
Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)

ICC Women's World Cup

Kiwis stun holders

BBC ONLINE, undated

World Cup favourites Australia suffered a miserable start to their 2009 campaign when they were beaten by New Zealand in Sydney.

Chasing 205, the five-time winners were 13 runs short of the par score under the Duckworth-Lewis method when rain stopped play with the hosts on 132-6.

New Zealand skipper Haidee Tiffen fired a fine 57 but the White Ferns lost the last seven wickets for only 36 runs.

They then managed to restrict the hosts before the match was abandoned.

Tiffen provided her team with a good platform and received support from Suzie Bates (29), Amy Satterthwaite (38) and Sara McGlashan (29).

But New Zealand collapsed, Ellyse Perry taking 3-40 despite dislocating a finger.

Australia lost an early wicket but Rolton and Shelley Nitschke got the holders off to a quick start.

Although New Zealand dropped three catches in the first 20 overs, they managed to claim regular wickets before the players were forced from the field in the 31st over.

Play did resume but three overs later the match was abandoned because of bad light and light showers.

Also in Group A, the West Indies started their World Cup with a thrilling two-wicket victory over South Africa.

Stafanie Taylor, 17, was the bowling star for the West Indies, taking 4-17 as South Africa slumped to 116 all out - losing the last seven wickets for 22 runs.

The West Indies made hard of their reply, however, losing the two openers for just 16.

Shanel Daley and Stacy-Ann King steadied the innings with a

45-run third-wicket partnership but progress was slow in the latter part of the innings and the West Indies reached 117-8 with just eight balls to spare.

"We are very happy and all the girls worked hard for this. We knew what we had to do and we came out and did it," said West Indies captain Merissa Aguilera.

"We knew we could take our time getting the runs, the girls didn't rush anything. Even though it took a long time at the end of the day we came away with the win."

With opener Alicia Smith (46) only one of three South African players to record double figures, skipper Sunette Loubser criticised her side's batting.

"A little bit disappointed is not the word for it at the moment," she said. "We made a meal of the batting. The bowlers did really well to almost defend that score."

"No one is to blame. It's the whole team thing but we just need to score more runs to be able to defend it."

"The girls showed a lot of heart and passion to almost defend it like they did. They never gave up and I'm proud of that fact."

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 205 all out in 48 overs (Tiffen 57, Bates 29, Satterthwaite 38, McGlashan 29, extras 21; Perry 3-40, Osborne 2-37, Sthalekar 2-35)

AUSTRALIA: 132 for 6 in 33 overs (Nitschke 27, Rolton 21, Fields 26 not out, Cameron 15, Perry 17 not out, extras 15; Devine 2-19, Pulford 3-32)

Result: New Zealand won by 13 runs (D/L method)

Player-of-the-match: KL Pulford.

SOUTH AFRICA: 116 all out in 45.2 overs (Smith 46, Chetty 17, Fritz 18; Taylor 4-17)

WEST INDIES: 117 for 8 in 48.4 overs (Daley 26, King 13, Jack 19, extras 18; Kilowan 1-18, Ismail 1-24, van Niekerk 1-24)

Result: West Indies won by 2 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: SR Taylor.

Super Cup plans to attract fans

SPORTS REPORTER

A caravan will tour the city today as part of the organiser's campaign plan to attract fans to the Super Cup, which begins in Dhaka on March 11.

The caravan will start from the BFF Bhawan in the afternoon to take the city streets.

Later, models will show the eight team shirts with captains of the participating clubs beside them.

The winners will receive Tk one crore as prize money from the most expensive domestic competition in history of the country.

Army cruise in to final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army blanked Bangladesh Navy 4-0 to reach the final of the Need for Speed Shaheed Smriti Hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Shahadat Hossain struck twice while Jamal Hossain and Mustafa Sharif scored one goal each for the winners, who dominated the first half 1-0.

Army's opponents in Wednesday's final are national star-studded Usha Krira Chakra.

Prior to the match, a minute's silence was observed to pay homage to the memory of those who were killed in the mutiny at BDR headquarters on February 25.

The tournament resumed yesterday after eleven days' break following the tragic BDR mutiny.

Hughes hits

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To bat: North, Haddin, McDonald, Johnson, Siddie, Hilfenhaus.

Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-219, 3-260.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	12	1	59	0
Ntini	11	1	38	0
Morkel	14	1	60	1
Kallis	8	0	21	1
Harris	31	8	68	0
Duminy	11	1	38	1

LOCAL SNIPPETS

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U-13 DEV SOCCER

Six more league matches of the under-13 development football festival were held at the Mymensingh Stadium.

In the day's matches, Narayanganj shared points with Sathkira, Chittagong blanked Chapainawabganj 3-0, Narayanganj beat Bogra 2-0, Chittagong beat Chapainawabganj 4-2, Sathkira outplayed Jhalakathi 4-0 and Tangail edged past Chittagong by 2-1 goals.

Inter click

FROM PAGE 20
rescued a point for Roma just past the hour mark.

The most controversial moment of the game came right at the end of the first half as Switzerland midfielder Gokhan Inler burst into the Roma box only for France defender Philippe Mexes to clearly handle the ball.

Only the referee failed to spot the infringement.

Justice seemed to be served on 54 minutes when Antonio Di Natale crossed for the unmarked Felipe to score easily with a header at the back post.

Roma coach Luciano Spalletti threw Vucinic into the fray and he ran unchallenged across the Udinese box before shooting home right-footed to restore parity.

That's because, in my view, that is a barrier that has been breached and once you cross over something of that sort, I think things will change forever."

"We are all aware of how that is likely to change the landscape on security assessments going forward and the kind of threat we might face not just in cricket but in all sports," Lorgat said.

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'ICC can't guarantee'

INTERNET, undated

The terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka team convoy in Lahore this week forever changed the sporting world's landscape, and the International Cricket Council cannot guarantee the safety and security of any national teams, chief executive Haroon Lorgat said yesterday.

When asked if the ICC