#### German coaches take over hockey squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has shortlisted its 32-member preliminary squad to 20 yesterday for the coming Asia Cup, confirmed BHF general secretary Khondokar Jamil Uddin.

"Our new coaching staff will work with these 20, whose names would be published tomorrow," Jamil said.

"However, ten more players will train with the squad so we can replace a player if someone is injured.

BHF's director of coaching Gerhard Peter Rach and head coach Oliver Michell Kurz, both from Germany, officially took over charge of the team yesterday.

"We are also keeping additional players because we will form an Ateam," added Jamil.

The Asia Cup was scheduled for May 8-18 in Dubai but it has been shifted to Malaysia. A new schedule has yet to announced.

#### MCG is Mekong Cricket Ground!

AFP, Sydney

An April Fool's Day prank in Australia suggesting a Chinese firm wanted to buy naming rights for the famous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) sparked a furious online reaction Wednesday.

In a sign of sensitivities at Chinese takeover activity in Australia's mining sector, the story on the Herald Sun's website saying the stadium would be renamed the Mekong Cricket Ground drew more than 200 comments by midday.

While many realised it was a joke -- with the story quoting a spokeswoman named April Fulton -- most expressed anger at the idea of renaming the 100,000 capacity ground regarded as a symbol of Australia's second largest city.

"Let's just give up this whole country to the Asians and be done with it," posted "Mister Master."

"What did our diggers (soldiers) fight and die for in the past wars???? And they still expect us to be patriotic. This country is selling its soul.

Anthony of Melbourne expressed similar sentiments. "Are we serious... de we

have to sell everything to the Asians!!! "They are taking over the this month from Sachin be able to watch them live at

world, and we are letting them. I am not being racist when I say this, but aside from the Australian Asians, what possible interest do China have in the MCG?" A reader using the name

Cam linked the story to recent Chinese moves to buy stakes in Australian resources firms.

"The Chinese corporate takeover of Australia has begun," he posted. "OZ Minerals, Rio Tinto, Fortescue Minerals, now the MCG. What next?"

#### Mash leaves

FROM PAGE 17

recover from injury. However, there is little doubt that the Narail Express would be bowling his usual sharp medium pace when the second edition of the IPL starts on April 18 in South Africa. Tigers captain Mohammad

Ashraful, who will play for the Mumbai Indians in the IPL, will leave the capital for Mumbai on April 5 to join his squad.

Kolkata Knight Riders will face the Deccan Chargers from Hyderabad on April 19 in Newlands, Cape Town.

#### BCB hands

**FROM PAGE 17** 

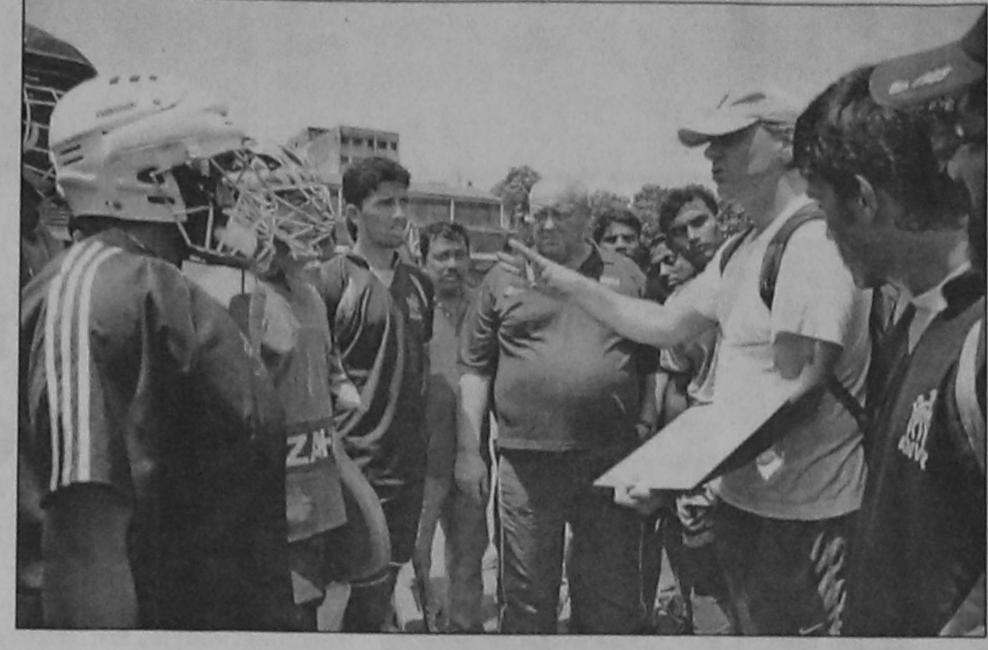
Shahidul Islam, acting CEO of BCB Nizam Uddin Chowdhury and BCB Councillor Kazi Shamim Ahsan handed over the cheque to Kazi Monirul Islam, father of the late Bangladesh all-rounder.

#### Hosts triumph

FROM PAGE 17 Min Min won their doubles match against Qatar's Jabor Al-Mutawa and Mousa Zayed by 6-1,6-3.

In the last match UAE whitewashed Yemen 3-0 winning both their singles and the lone doubles match. UAE's Mahmoud Nader Al Baloushi and Hamad Abbas Janahi beat Yemen's Amhed Sife 6-1, 6-1 and Momen Hasan 6-2, 6-1 in the singles round and Rashed Obaid Al Falasi and Faisal Yousef Bastaki of UAE defeated Yemen's Mohammad Sife and FahdThabit 6-0, 6-0.

Vietnam will play Iraq while UAE take on Yemen in Group A encounters and Myanmar take on Jordan in Group B matches.



Bangladesh Hockey Federation's director of coaching Gerhard Peter Rach (C) and head coach Oliver Michell Kurz (2nd from R) briefing the national hockey players before a training session at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

# Gautam impresses Kris

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Gautam Gambhir's matchsaving 137 in the second Test against New Zealand in Napier has impressed Kris Srikkanth, India's chairman of selectors. Srikkanth said Gambhir showed tremendous patience and maturity in playing according to the situation after India were asked to follow on.

A naturally aggressive player, Gambhir focused on occupying the crease and his innings spanned 643 minutes and 436 deliveries. Srikkanth reflected on the progress Gambhir made since establishing his place in the side.

"Gautam has come of age. He has now become a com-

Jean-Paul

Duminy, the

batsman,

has admitted

Indian Premier League (IPL) sure it will be a good learning

forward to pick up some tips heroes are playing in IPL and to

Tendulkar and Sanath some of the venues is going to

The IPL opens on April 18 in that he hasn't yet got used to

Cape Town's Newlands, the price tag placed on him by

Duminy's home ground, with a Mumbai Indians, the richest

match between Mumbai IPL franchise, at the players'

Indians and Chennai Super auction in February. "It's just

Kings. And Duminy, who will about sinking in," he said. "I

turn 25 four days before the am still pinching myself just to

tournament starts, knows he make sure that I am serious

"It's very exciting to know it to good use and hope it works

However, Duminy says that But it's going to be a great expe-

South win Korean

right for me."

Jayasuriya, his Mumbai beagreat experience."

CRICINFO, undated

**DLF** 

pinching himself to make sure

he has been bought by an

franchise for 950,000 dollars,

and says he is now looking

Indians teammates, who he

could possibly become the first

South African player to take the

field for the Indian Twenty20

that," Duminy told Cricinfo.

"It's just such a rush though; we

play our last one-day game

against Australia on April 17

and the next day I play for

Mumbai Indians. It would have

been a lot better if there was

time to mingle with the guys

before, just to know everybody.

But unfortunately the circum-

stances won't allow that, so I

have to get into it as soon as

the experience of sharing

dressing rooms with some of

the greatest players of this era

will be unforgettable. "I am

really looking forward to play-

ing with those players, the likes

of Tendulkar and Sanath

Jayasuriya," he said. "I looked

up to them as a young boy and

to be playing alongside them is

a great honour. I am definitely

going to try and learn as much

from the left sailed over the bar

while Ki set up Hwang Jae-

Won for a header deep in the

box 10 minutes later, but the

Park Chu-Young's low shot

from the left rolled just wide

and six minutes later Ki teed

one up for the charging Lee

Young-Pyo whose shot skid-

lead early in the second half,

as Hong's cross found the

South Korean defence nap-

keeper Lee scooped a sure

goal from Jong Tae-Se off the

North Korean coach Kim

"Referees must be fair. I've

Jong-Hun was fuming about

the call, claiming the ball

line with his right hand.

crossed the line.

The North almost took the

ded past the right-hand post.

On the half-hour mark,

FROM PAGE 17

shot also went high.

league in South Africa.

looked up to as a young boy.

PREMIER LEAGUE

plete batsman," Srikkanth told the Indian Express. "For the last couple of years he has been pretty consistent. But this Test saw him raise his game several notches.

"I don't think he has made any technical adjustments. But now he watches the ball more closely and till the end. He has tightened his offside game, especially leaving deliveries outside the off stump. His judgement as far as the corridor of uncertainty goes is a lot better."

Gambhir was the world's leading ODI run-scorer in 2008 with 1,119 at 46.62. His form in Tests was just as good, finishing fifth in the run charts with 1,134 runs at 70.87. He was also the second-highest run-getter in the Indian Premier League with 534 runs at 41.07, rounding off an exem-

as I can from them and get to

the IPL would be a defining

experience not just for the

international players involved

watching it. "It will be a big step

for the young guys and I am

curve for everyone," he said.

"For a lot of youngsters, their

Duminy admits with an

embarrassed laugh, though,

about it, and realising what has

actually happened. It's lovely

to be able to earn such a lot of

money, and hopefully I can put

Asked to assess the pitch and

weather conditions in

Newlands, where IPL plays out

its first week, Duminy says the

ground could throw up some

big scores, but only if the

weather permits. "The pitch has

been really good of late but

normally in May we get into the

winter months," he said. "It

could be a little bit cold at night

and we might get some rain too.

rience for me to try and perform

has been tagged as an Indian

domestic competition, attract

enough crowds in South Africa?

"Definitely, on weekends we are

going to get good crowds in," he

said. "I am not too sure about the

weekdays. But there has been a

keen interest in the IPL around

the country and I am sure that

never seen anything like this,

the ball clearly went over the

line but the referee ignored it,'

he said before leaving the

post-match press conference

South and they started push-

Keun-Ho latched onto a Park

Chu-Young pass in the penalty

area but his drive went straight

passes by Park Ji-Sung and

Park Chu-Young found the

charging Lee in the middle of

again fell into the arms of Ri

before Kim rescued the day

ing on June 6, with the South

travelling to the United Arab

Emirates and the North host-

The Koreas resume qualify-

Three minutes later, nifty

The close call woke up the

In the 65th minute, Lee

without taking questions.

ing forward.

at the goalkeeper.

with his late goal.

ing Iran.

But in a spectacular save, the box, but his shot once

But will the 36-day IPL, which

infront of the home crowd."

in it but also for junior cricket-

he is still ers in South Africa who will be

In fact, Duminy feels that

knowthern as well as I can."

Duminy can't wait

plary year in all three formats.

had developed into a fine opener and his association with Virender Sehwag is currently the best in the world. "You don't grow into a job overnight. Everybody matures with time. He was always a very capable strokeplayer, but now he has proved that he can bury his head into the ground and guide the team to safety. He is a great player in the making

"He [Sehwag] might not have had a very good Test in Napier, but make no mistake, over the years he has contributed immensely to help Gautam develop his game. Together, they are the best opening combination in world cricket at the moment."

even if people don't come to the

ground they will be watching it

tional debut in 2004 but hit the

headlines on his Test debut last

December with an unbeaten

half-century to help AB de

Villiers guide South Africa past

Australia in Perth. In the next

Test in Melbourne, he hit a

stunning 166, adding 180 with

Dale Steyn, to help South Africa

which got him the prized IPL

ticket in the auction that imme-

diately followed. However, he

has since returned scores of 13,

16, 17, 29, 73 not out, 17 and 7 in

the subsequent four Tests, of

which the last three were in

South Africa. "Yes, it hasn't

gone according to plan,'

Duminy said. "Especially, in

this return series in South

Africa (which Australia won 2-

1). It's not a huge worry though

because I am still feeling fairly

confident. Hopefully, if the

one-day series can go well for

me, I can take a bit of confi-

dence going into the IPL."

It was a timely performance

clinch a historic series win.

Duminy made his interna-

Srikkanth felt that Gambhir

SPORTS REPORTER

hall room yesterday. Three players closely fol-

In the day's eighth round

**DIV2HOCKEY** 

Udity edged past Rayer Bazar AC by a solitary goal in the only match of the Green Delta Metropolis 2nd Division Hockey League at Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Mohammad Nayeem scored the all-important goal for Udity early in the ninth

Meanwhile, the six-team super league begins today at the same venue with Combined SC taking on Shantinagar SC and Rayer Bazar AC meeting Raktim Sangha.

super league are Rayer Bazar AC, Combined SC, Udity, Dilkusha SC, Shantinagar SC and Raktim Sangha.

#### Miandad made China adviser

AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan great Javed Miandad said Wednesday he had agreed to become an adviser to the Chinese Cricket Association and would do his best to promote the game in the sports-mad Asian giant.

"The Chinese Cricket Association in a letter offered me the role of their adviser on cricketing affairs, which I have accepted," Miandad told AFP.

The 51-year-old toured China as cricket ambassador last month and predicted China would become a top team in the next few years.

"I have made a lot of suggestions to promote cricket in China which the authorities there liked very much and I see this new role as a reward," said Miandad, who played 124 Tests for Pakistan and is regarded as a top batsman.

President Asif Ali Zardari appointed Miandad as cricket ambassador to China last year in a bid to boost Pakistan's cricketing profile in its neigh-

Miandad, who also returned as director general of the Pakistan Cricket Board on Monday, said he has proposed annual tournaments in China, to which other international teams will also be invited.

"Besides Pakistan, teams from Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia and other Asian countries will be invited to play in China, which will cultivate the youth in China who are already charmed by the game," he said.

DIV I CRICKET

#### Kalabagan, Jatrabari inch closer

SPORTS REPORTER

Jatrabari KC drew closer to the race of winning the First Division Cricket League yesterday when they beat Baridhara Dazzlers by 23 runs at the Jagannath University Ground.

Batting first, Jatrabari were all out for 176 in 49 overs and successfully defended their total when they wrapped up Baridhara's innings in 47.4 overs.

Jatrabari are in second position in the table with 18 points from 13 games.

Kalabagan KC earned an emphatic ten-wicket win over Indira Road KC in a match at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Indira Road were all out for 101 in 45 overs.

Islamul Ahsan and Rokibul each for nine and 17 runs respectively while Salahuddin Ahmed and Shihab Ahmed took two wickets apiece. In reply, Kalabagan rattled 104 in 11 overs without losing any wicket with openers Tareguzzaman and Habibur Rahman blasting to 62 and 35 runs respectively.

Kalabagan are leading the table with 20 points from 13

#### **LOCAL SNIPPETS**

Seven players are currently sharing the lead in the preliminary phase of the Mercantile Bank 35th National Chess Championship with 6.5 points after the eighth round games ended at the chess federation

lowed them with six points each.

matches, Shakil drew with Taibur, Parag drew with Debaraj, Jamal beat FM Aminul Islam, Nasir beat Monir Hossain, Mostafa beat Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Emon beat Imran Ali Elin, Palash beat Mohammad Ali and Shafiq beat Masum Hossain.

Participating teams in the

#### Bata wins **FROM PAGE 17**

League, is being held without any sponsor.

It was learnt that two companies took part in the bidding and Bata won the rights as the highest bidder by offering US dollars 2.25 lakh for three years.

#### KP 'fully

FROM PAGE 17

hadn't seen my wife since January 21. It's the longest period of time I've been away fromher." Pietersen confirmed he had

asked for a 48-hour break to be with Taylor, who has been competing in the British television show 'Dancing on Ice'.

That request angered some England fans but Pietersen, who averages 51 in Tests and 46 in one-dayers, was adamant it had not caused a rift between himself and the rest of the squad.

"We decided it probably wouldn't be a good idea for the team going forward," he said. "There were no arguments, no nonsense, no disappointment on my behalf," Pietersen said. "I have been totally supportive of everything that has happened on this tour.

Pietersen was dramatically stripped of the England captaincy after the India tour following his admission he could no longer work with coach Peter Moores, a row which cost Moores, who has since joined Lancashire, his England post.

### Ahad urges

BOA should work as a team to make all these successful.

## Federer, Nadal advance

Tennis

AFP, Miami

Swiss Roger Federer cruised through while top seed Rafael Nadal survived a stiff challenge as both reached the quarterfinals of the ATP and WIA tournament on Tuesday with straight-set triumphs.

Federer rolled over American qualifier Taylor Dent 6-3, 6-2 while Spaniard Nadal was made to work for his 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/4) win over Swiss No. 16 seed Stanislas Wawrinka.

Federer needed just 85 minutes to earn a berth in the final eight by ousting 27-yearold Dent who squandered eight break-point chances.

"I had to come up with some good passing shots to be able to make a difference," Federer said. "He might have got a bit tired towards the end."

Nadal needed two tiebreaks to beat the pesky Wawrinka in Hasan captured three wickets | the two hour, 42 minutes marathon match. Wawrinka jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the second set before Nadal clinched it 7-4 in the final tiebreak. Nadal and Wawrinka traded

blows in the first set then Nadal stepped up his game in that tiebreak winning 7-2. "Important win for me here.

Very important," Nadal said. "To be in quarterfinals is always agood result. "I was very focused and I

played two good tiebreakers, so that's very good." Russian eighth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova became the first semifinalist in the women's draw by beating Danish 13th

seed Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-

The 2006 champion will play in the semifinals Thursday against No. 11 Victoria Azarenka, who beat unseeded Samantha Stosur 6-1, 6-0.

Nadal's victory means eight of the top 10 seeds are into the quarterfinals for the first time in the tournament's 25-year history. It is also the first time there are eight seeds in the quarterfinals.

"I think that's good for tennis," Nadal said. "And I think we are in one moment of the tennis history that the best players are always winning.

"For that reason winning titles is almost more difficult than ever. Because all the time you have to play against the

Federer advances to the next round where he will face fifth seeded American Andy Roddick who advanced with a 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 win over France's Gael Monfils.

"We've had some big matches over the years," played him at the Australian fight. Open and played well against him. He seems like he changed a couple of things in his game so it should be a good match."

Serbian third seed Novak Djokovic also took a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Czech Tomas Berdych while British fourth seed Andy Murray routed Djokovic's Serbian teammate ViktorTroicki 6-1, 6-0.

Scotsman Murray will next face eighth-seeded Spaniard Fernando Verdasco, who bounced Czech 18th seed Radek Stepanek 6-2, 6-2.

"I didn't make a lot of mistakes, high per centage of first serves, used my slice well - just kept thinking all the way

through the match," Murray said.

"Right from the start, to get a break early, set the tone for the rest of the match. He didn't

really recover from that." Djokovic, who won the Miami crown in 2007, pounced upon Berdych's every mistake to advance.

"I was trying to stick with him all the time, because I knew he's very aggressive, but not

really consistent from the baseline," Djokovicsaid. "He makes a lot of unforced errors, especially from the forehand side, so I changed the

pace and I played a really good tennis. Djokovic will next face French 10th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who eliminated seventh-seeded countryman Gilles Simon 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-2 in

another fourth-round match. Tsonga, who felt slightly ill before the match, is the first Frenchman in a decade to reach the quarterfinals at Miami. And Federer said of Roddick. "I Djokovic knows he is in for a

> "I lost to Tsonga four times in a row, so he has a little advantage probably there," Djokovic said. "But I think all the matches we played were very close so it's going to be a challenge for me to

Kuznetsova fell the court in exhaustion at the completion of her two hour, 54-minute match in the mid-day heat.

"I was until 5-3 feeling very comfortable out there, but I got so dizzy and tired," Kuznetsova said. "The conditions played a big role in my game."

Wozniacki extended the match from 6-4, 5-2 down, but the Dane lost all momentum at the start of the third set.

### India's toughest test

7(5/7),6-1.

That even the New Zealand players are finding it cold shows just how big a factor the conditions will be. "I think they [India] will find it a little bit cold," Brendon McCullum said. "If we find it cold here, no doubt they will be freezing. I am sure, from their point of view, they will be hoping that the wind dies down and the sun comes out but, from ours, it will be great to have them on the park when the conditions are like this. I am sure we are going to find the conditions a little bit more pleasurable than they

Chris Martin said that New ground on which they have "had some success in the past". "It's something a lot of touring teams dislike and quite a lot of

CROSSWORD

41 Tuna

42 "Indubi-

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DOWN

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19 Anger

20 Wool

people playing here domestically find it tough as well," Martin said. "But it's character building, and is definitely something the supporters will have to put up with as well.

"I know most subcontinental sides that have come out here find it very difficult to keep their bodies warm and I think they might want their bowlers to get us out even quicker. But I suppose that's one of the things you have to put up with just as we put up with the heat in India and places like that."

Gary Kirsten, India's coach, said his team was looking forward to the challenge posed by the conditions. "Little bit Zealand were used to the cold for the Indian guys, but we weather at the Basin Reserve, a have adjusted pretty well," Kirsten said. "The guys are looking forward to it. There has been talk about the third Test with the toughest test of the within our camp. We have got a tour.

fair amount of rest watching the guys bat [in Napier]. So I think the bowlers are pretty keen to get out there."

Kirsten also said it was too early to change any plans because of the windy conditions. "We will have to see when we get out there," he said. "Conditions look good certainly for the first few days. But it does effect things a little bit, but you can only make those decisions when on the field."

When the sun is out, the Basin Reserve presents the spectators one of the best viewing experiences for a Test match. Without doubt it is the best cricket ground in New Zealand, and is protected by an Act of Parliament. It is fitting it should present a visiting team



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sk Jamil Uddin (2nd from R), director of Akij Food and Beverage Ltd, addresses the 'Clemon Sports Development Program' press conference at the CIRDAP Auditorium in the city yesterday. With a motto 'Sports is the spirit of youth' the programme is designed to provide hi-tech training equipment like bowling machine, speed measuring ball, video camera analysis, training CDs and complete cricket manual to the country's youth. Former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud (2nd from L), the ambassador for the programme, was also present at the function.

By Eugene Sheffer

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11 No longer 29 Collection

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CRYPTOQUIP

YCKBIEQ VEIVUET GLKIQ CKY IOICKUE ZUJIOO JIEI DGLEQDT, L QNZZUQI

KEEPS PLAYING THAT SAME TUNE REPEATEDLY I GUESS HE HAS A ONE-TRACK MIND. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals E

#### Solution time: 21 mins. 30 State 41 Brat's **FROM PAGE 17** 31 Tibetan stocking stuffer "We have a lot of works to do critter 32 Reed 42 Holler including the SA Games. So we instrumen 43 Differently need to a set a target and all 44 - gin 33 Inhabitant BGUQI DCZ JCDIE 35 Michigan fizz work together to reach that 46 Nipper's city goal," Ahad Ali said adding 36 2004 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY DISC JOCKEY JUST 47 Move that the ministry, NSC and the horror back movie