

Mashrafe's

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afternoon and will fly to South Africa the same day to sign the deal," said Mashrafe over telephone.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraf will fly to the Indian city of Mumbai today to join his IPL side Mumbai Indians. He will depart later at night after playing a Premier Cricket League match for his team Gazi Tank against Partex at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Ashraf will reach Mumbai early tomorrow and depart for Durban in South Africa on April 7, where the Mumbai Indians side will be based.

An excited Ashraf who was at a promotional event for soft drink giant Pepsi yesterday said that the Mumbai Indians were a very strong side in this year's IPL.

"We have players like Jaysuriya, Sachin, Duminy, Pollock, Bravo, Zaheer and Harbhajan and their presence makes our team a strong contender this year. The team is full of talent and experience and I am sure we will be able to eventually translate that into a big success," said Ashraf.

Mumbai Indians, which is owned by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, bought the Tigers skipper at his base price of 75,000 dollars on February 6 at the IPL auctions in Goa.

The Mumbai Indians kick off the second edition of the IPL on the opening day (April 18) against last year's runners-up Chennai Super Kings led by Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

India inch

FROM PAGE 17
Zealand found themselves struggling at 80-3 and many hopes rested on burly batsman Jesse Ryder, the hero of the second Test with a double century that followed hard on the heels of a century in the series opener.

Ryder's naturally aggressive instincts have been tempered since his introduction to Test cricket in October last year.

But in a lapse of concentration he took a wild swipe at a short pitched Khan ball, sending a simple edge to Dhoni after scoring just three.

India extended their lead in their second innings with Gautam Gambhir unbeaten at stumps on 28 and Rahul Dravid not out on nine.

Typically aggressive opener Virender Sehwag was the only wicket to fall, caught by Taylor at first slip after a short ball from Chris Martin seamed into him and ballooned off his glove.

Sehwag hit two consecutive fours off Martin before falling for 12 off just seven balls.

On Friday India had recovered from 204 for six shortly after tea on the first day to reach 375 for nine at stumps.

But the final pairing of Ishant Sharma and Munaf Patel could only add another four runs on Saturday morning.

Sharma fell to pace bowler Martin, who finished with four for 98 from his 25.1 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of the second day of the third and final Test between New Zealand and India at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on Saturday.

INDIA: First innings 379 (Tendulkar 62, Dhoni 52, Harbhajan 49, Martin 4-98, O'Brien 2-89),

NEW ZEALAND: First innings McIntosh c Yuvraj b Zaheer 32, Gupthill b Zaheer 17, Flynn c Dhoni b Zaheer 2,

Taylor c Dhoni b Harbhajan 42, Ryder c Dhoni b Zaheer 3, Franklin c Sehwag b Harbhajan 15, McCullum c Dhoni b Harbhajan 24, Vettori c Dhoni b Sharma 11,

Southey c b Zaheer 16, O'Brien c Dhoni b Patel 19, Martin not out 4,

Extras: (b-9, lb-3) 12, Total: (All out in 65 overs) 197, Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-31, 3-80, 4-98, 5-120, 6-125, 7-138, 8-160, 9-181, 10-197.

Bowler O M R W Zaheer 18 2 65 5, Sharma 14 3 47 1,

Patel 8 2 20 1, Harbhajan 23 4 43 3, Yuvraj 2 0 10 0

INDIA: Second innings Ghabrin not out 28, Sehwag c Taylor b Martin 12, Dravid not out 9, Extras: (lb-2) 2,

Total: (For 1 wkt in 16 overs) 51, Fall of wickets: 1-14, To bat: Tendulkar, Laxman, Yuvraj, Dhoni, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Sharma, Patel.

Bowler O M R W Southey 3 0 13 0, Martin 4 2 13 1,

O'Brien 5 2 8 0, Franklin 3 0 15 0, Ryder 1 1 0 0



HATTRICK HERO: England allrounder Andrew Flintoff walks off with a souvenir after beating West Indies in the fifth and final one-day international in St Lucia on Friday. Flintoff finished with 5 for 19.

Flintoff takes treble

FROM PAGE 17
"The Test series was very important to us. It means we have turned a bit of a corner but we still have a long way to go," said Gayle.

A late flourish from Paul Collingwood and Matt Prior helped England to reach 172 for five off their 29 overs.

Collingwood made 35 not out from 31 balls and Prior scored 25 not out from 25 balls to pull England out of a wobble with an unbroken stand of 60 from 49 balls for the sixth wicket.

England stumbled to 112 for five in the 21st over, following an 80-run stand between Kevin Pietersen and Ravi Bopara.

Pietersen hit the top score of a run-a-ball 48 and opener Bopara gathered 44 from 49 balls before they were two of four wickets that fell in the space of 33 balls.

Pietersen was out in controversial circumstances when Darren Sammy claimed a catch even though TV replays suggested the ball wasn't taken cleanly.

James Anderson then gave England a bright start, when Gayle edged his third ball to second slip and the West Indies captain was dismissed for a duck.

England continued to make the breakthroughs, and West

Indies slumped to 69 for four in the 15th over with Gayle, Ramnaresh Sarwan, and Shivnarine Chandernepaul all back in the pavilion.

But England were held up by a stand of 55 from 59 balls between Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard.

Stuart Broad had Bravo caught at square cover in the 24th over for 33 off 46 balls which was the top score, and Anderson had Pollard caught inside the long-on boundary in the next over for 30 off 31 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the rain-affected fifth and final one-day international between England and West Indies at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in St Lucia on Friday.

Scoreboard table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists players like Strauss, Broad, Flintoff, etc.

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Lists players like Rampaul, Bravo, Pollard, Sammy, Bann, Gayle.

Table with columns: Team, Player, O, M, R, W. Lists West Indies players like Gayle, Simmons, Sarwan, etc.

Table with columns: Team, Player, O, M, R, W. Lists England players like Gayle, Broad, Collingwood, etc.

Table with columns: Team, Player, O, M, R, W. Lists England players like Broad, Flintoff, Harbinson, etc.

Table with columns: Team, Player, O, M, R, W. Lists England players like Strauss, Broad, Flintoff, etc.

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Djokovic floors Federer

who lost seven straight games bridging the second and third sets.

That span included four breaks of Federer's serve, after he had surrendered his serve just once in the tournament and contributed to a rare glimpse of temper from the normally restrained Swiss, who broke a racquet after yet another forehead miss in the third game of the final set.

"I was just frustrated," Federer said. "Didn't feel great. It's just a natural thing I did."

While Federer struggled in virtually every aspect of his game, his forehand was his biggest liability.

Djokovic said he tried to exploit Federer's difficulties.

"I tried to change pace and play fast, and then play a bit slower with more spin," Djokovic said. "He usually expects a ball on the backhand side, because that's where the players try to play him. But I'm not giving him any consistency on one side so he can't really be comfortable."

"You try hard and then it's just not working," Federer said.

"Today it is different just because there's so much wind as well. Once you start feeling bad, it's kind of tough to regroup."

Djokovic said the windy

weather and some early nerves both played a role in his shaky start.

"Even though I served really well I was quite nervous and making lots of unforced errors," he said of the first set.

"But then it changed. I was just playing smarter afterwards... We kind of changed roles."

Djokovic said that even when Federer lost his cool, he tried not to get distracted.

"Look, it's obvious frustration," Djokovic said. "I just tried to keep my focus. I was on a roll in this period of the match, so I just tried to continue on playing patiently and win the match."

Murray, 21, booked his second straight final in a Masters 1000 event, having fallen to Nadal in a wind-whipped championship match at Indian Wells.

While del Potro got off to a slow start in the wake of his physically demanding victory over Nadal on Thursday, Murray was unable to put him away in the second set, dropping his serve at love to in the 12th game to lose the set.

Trailing 2-4 in the third set, del Potro called for a trainer for treatment of cramps, but Murray kept his concentration and took the game on his fourth break point and went on to serve out the match.

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It's Beauty and Masudul

FROM PAGE 17
up, rather it's my hard work that is behind it. I must thank my coach Milton sir who enabled me to continue on the track," said a grateful Beauty.

"Now I will concentrate on the next assignment -- the South Asian Games -- but you know money is the main problem in my life. Also I have to concentrate on my education, otherwise I simply can't survive in this world," she added.

She also rued the same old practice of hand timing in national competitions and believed that without electronic timing they simply couldn't understand their position.

The two-day competition finished with one national record being broken on the final day as Rawshan Ara Putul of Ansar & VDP finished

in 11:07.10s in the 3000m to better the previous mark of 11:08.15s.

Bangladesh Army dominated the medal table with 14 gold, 16 silver and 6 bronze while Bangladesh Ansar & VDP followed them with 7 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze and Daffodil International University finished third with 4 gold and 3 bronze.

Bangladesh Navy and BJMC secured three gold each while BKSP bagged two gold and Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Athletic Federation captured one gold each.

A total of 692 athletes -- 531 men and 161 women -- from 81 teams took part in the meet.

Following are the other gold winners of Day 2: MEN'S 5000m: Enamul Haque (Daffodil

International University), hammer throw: Mamun Sikdar (Army), 10,000m: Obaidur Rahman (Army), 4x100m relay: Masudul Mizan, Khalil and Nurul Islam (Army), Marathon: Golam Mawla (Army), pole vault: Humayun Kabir (Navy), 400m hurdles: Afzal Hossain (Air Force), 800m: Selim Miah (Army), 3000m steeple chase: Mujahid Khan (Army), hammer throw: Afsar Ali (Army), long jump: Sajib Hossain (BKSP), 4x400 relay: Azaharul Mainul, Aminul, Dulu (Army).

WOMEN'S: Javelin throw: Hazera Akhter (Daffodil), long jump: Fouzia Huda Jui (BKSP), 4x100m relay (Ansar & VDP), discus throw: Josna Afroz (BJMC), shot put: Hazera Akhter (Daffodil), 4x400m relay: Shamsunahar, Khurshida, Rawshan and Shapila (Ansar & VDP).

Pepsi brings out unique chance

SPORTS REPORTER

Soft drink giant PepsiCo has brought out a unique opportunity to Bangladesh cricket fans giving them the chance to bowl a ceremonial ball before the start of play in the ICC Twenty20 World Cup match between Bangladesh and New Zealand at Trent Bridge, Nottingham on June 11.

The ball will be bowled in the Centre Pitch to a legendary cricketer who has not been named yet and the match will not commence until the ball is bowled. PepsiCo has named this one of a kind campaign as "Pepsi First Ball Er Captain".

Country manager of PepsiCo Tejinder Khurana, CEO of Transcom Beverages Ltd Golam Quddus Chowdhury along with Tigers skipper Mohammad Ashraf and ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan informed the media about it in a joint press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

Fans have to collect a "Dream Card" by purchasing a bottle of Pepsi and each Dream Card will have a unique code, which the consumers need to send to 6969 via SMS. By sending the SMS fans will have a chance to win attractive prizes.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17
in the national talent hunt to be held in early 2011.

On the concluding day, Sports Minister Ahdal Sarker was present as the chief guest while Graemeophone deputy CEO Arif Al Islam also attended.

SCHOOLVOLLEYBALL
BIT School beat New Light School 25-11, 25-11 while Children Academy defeated Badda Alattunnessa School 25-9, 25-8 in the boys' group in the opening day of the Europa School Volleyball Tournament yesterday at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium.

In the girls' group, Vigarunisa Noon School beat BIT School 25-17, 26-25, 25-12 while Green Herald School beat South Breeze School 25-10, 25-12.

A total of 20 schools, 12 in the boys group and eight in the girls, are taking part in the competition.

DIVII HOCKEY

Rayer Bazar AC registered their second consecutive victory in the Super League match of the Green Delta Metropolis 2nd Division Hockey beating Shantinagar Club 5-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Sajib Hossain struck twice, Rakibuddin, Mithun and Shaheb Hasan netted one each for the winners, who dominated the first-half 3-1.

Fariduddin scored the consolation goal for Shantinagar Club.

In the day's other match, Rakim Sangha tasted their first win in their second match beating Udity Club 2-0 at the same venue in the afternoon.

After a barren first-half, Saddam Miah and Johnny scored one each for Rakim Sangha.

MYMENSINGH CRICKET

TS Sporting Club defeated Golpukurar Eleven by four wickets in the inaugural match of the Mymensingh Second Division Cricket League at the Circuit House ground.

Winning the toss, Golpukurar chose to bat and scored 123 runs in the stipulated 25 overs. In reply, TS Sporting chased down the target playing 21 overs with four wickets to spare.

A total of 45 teams are taking part in the league.

KHULNASWIMMING

A daylong Khulna Divisional Swimming Competition was held in the Jessore Swimming Pool Complex.

Kushitia became champions winning 24 gold medals alone and Kushitia Amla Club won the runners up trophy.

151 competitors from seven districts and 13 swimming clubs participated in the competition.

Navy chief Rear Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed distributed the prizes among winners of the competition as the chief guest.

PANCHAGARH CRICKET

Shukhtara JS defeated Panchagarh CC by 59 runs in the opening match of the Panchagarh Cricket Competition.

Winning toss Shukhtara decided to bat and made 194 runs losing all wickets.

In reply, Panchagarh were all out for 135 runs.

Sixteen teams of the Panchagarh district are participating in the tournament. Deputy commissioner of Panchagarh Mohammad Munir Hossain inaugurated the event as chief guest earlier in the day.

India reveal T20 side No room for Sreesanth, Agarkar & Chawla

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

In the absence of the domestic Twenty20 tournament, which was postponed for the second year in a row, performance in the Indian Premier League (IPL) will be crucial for the 30 players selected in India's preliminary World Twenty20 squad for the tournament in England. The notable omissions were Sreesanth, Joginder Sharma, Ajit Agarkar and Piyush Chawla, who were part of the team that won the World Twenty20 in 2007.

The final squad of 15 to 16 players will be announced a month before the tournament begins on June 5. The IPL assumes significance because it ends on May 24, leaving little time for a camp before the players leave for England.

Sreesanth ruled himself out of the IPL due to a back injury and had recently admitted he would be out of action for at least three months. The selectors had always been skeptical once he struggled on his return to domestic cricket after sustaining an injury during last season's IPL. "He is a quality bowler when he is fit. I don't think he is fit," a selection committee source told Cricinfo.

There were no specific parameters that the

selectors looked at when they prepared the 30-man short list. "We looked at performance and experience," the source said. Joginder, Agarkar and Chawla were left out because they did not impress during the domestic season.

The list contains no surprises with most players picking themselves due to their form in the current season. One exception could be Bengal fast bowler Ashok Dinda, a BCCI contracted player, who did not make the cut. "After the Challenger Trophy, Dinda has not bowled well. He remains a potential and that is why he is a contracted player," the source said.

Tamil Nadu offspinner R Ashwin was picked as a back-up to Harbhajan Singh after a successful domestic season where he was the leading wicket-taker in Challenger Trophy (eight wickets) and took two more in three Deodhar Trophy games.

SQUAD

Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, MS Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Rohit Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Yusuf Pathan, Irfan Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Munaf Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, Pragnan Ojha, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar, Dinesh Karthik, M Vijay, Ajinkya Rahane, S Badrinath, Robin Uthappa, Virat Kohli, Manoj Tiwary, Wriddhiman Saha, Abhishek Nayyar, Amit Mishra, R Ashwin, RP Singh, L Balaji, Dhawal Kulkarni, Naman Ojha.

Hussey returns to form Aussies in the lead with crushing victory

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Captain Ricky Ponting hailed the return to form of Mike Hussey as Australia gained a crushing 141-run win over South Africa in the first one-day international at Kingsmead, Durban on Friday.

Hussey hit 83 not out as Australia piled up 286 for seven.

South Africa were bowled out for 145 in the opening encounter of a five-match series.

Ponting said Hussey's attitude had never wavered despite the worrying loss of form.

The left-handed Hussey's 79-ball innings enabled Australia to recover from two chaotic run-outs which cost the wickets of two of the team's top four batsmen.

South African captain Graeme Smith made an attacking 52 and put on 74 off 72 balls for the second wicket with Herschelle Gibbs (33).

But the South Africans lost their way against accurate bowling by medium-pace James Hopes and off-spinner Nathan Hauritz.

Hopes took two for 24 and

Hauritz four for 29 as South Africa were bowled out with 16.5 overs remaining.

Australia's big win seemed a distant prospect when the tourists found themselves in trouble at 114 for four after Ponting won the toss and made first use of a good pitch.

David Hussey and Brad Haddin were run out in the space of nine balls, on both occasions after mix-ups which saw the dismissed player stranded at the wrong end of the pitch.

Wicketkeeper Haddin, who opened the batting, hit an aggressive 53 off 60 balls.

He and Ponting put on 77 off 81 balls for the second wicket. Then Haddin and David Hussey put on a quick 28 for the third wicket before first Hussey, then Haddin were run out.

But Mike Hussey showed his best form for the first time on the tour with an innings which included two sixes and six fours.

He put on 53 for the fifth wicket with Callum Ferguson (25) and 67 for the sixth wicket with Hopes, who made an impressive 38 off 35 overs. He and Hauritz (20 not out) finished the innings in style with an unbeaten 43 off 22 balls for the eighth wicket.

South Africa lost Hashim

Amla in the fourth over of their innings but Smith and Gibbs threatened to take control before Gibbs sliced a back foot shot against Hopes to back-warp point.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard in the first one-day international between South Africa and Australia at Kingsmead in Durban on Friday:

AUSTRALIA: 286 SOUTHAFRICA Amla c Haddin b Bracken 7, Smith c & b Hauritz 52,

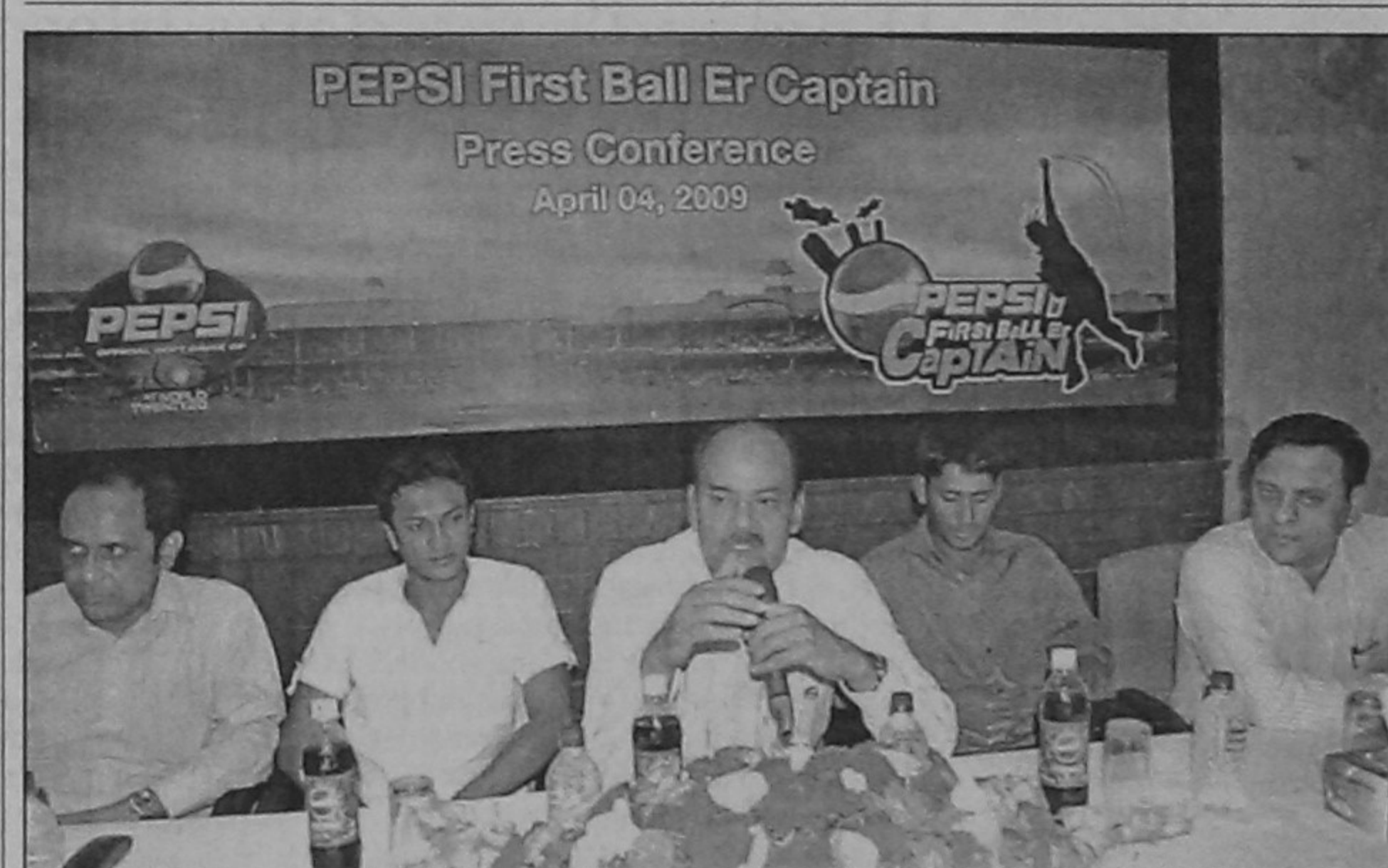
Gibbs c Clarke b Hopes 33, De Villiers lbw b Johnson 2, Duminy c Johnson b Hopes 15, Boucher c Haddin b Hauritz 0,

Botha c Hussey b Johnson 8, Morkel c Haddin b Hauritz 14, Morkel c Laughlin b Hauritz 2, Steyn c M Hussey b Laughlin 1,

Ntini not out 2, Extras: (lb-4, w-5) 9, Total: (All out in 33.1 overs) 145, Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-91, 3-94, 4-110, 5-112, 6-125, 7-132, 8-142, 9-143.

Bowler O M R W Johnson 7 0 24 2, Bracken 6 0 36 1, Laughlin 5 0 28 1,

Hopes 7 1 24 2, Hauritz 8.1 1 29 4, Result: Australia won by 141 runs. Man-of-the-match: Mike Hussey.



CEO of Transcom Beverages Limited Golam Quddus Chowdhury (C) speaks at a press briefing in connection with the 'Pepsi First Ball Er Captain' at the National Press Club yesterday. National captain Mohammad Ashraf (2nd from R) and ace all-rounder Shakib Al-Hasan (2nd from L) were also present.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Down clues include: 38 Dynamite inventor, 1 Gospels' follow-up, 22 Terrible taker, 23 Cookware, 24 High-arc shot, 25 Under the weather, 26 Al Bundy's dog, 27 Domestic cat, 29 To and —, 30 Tree fluid, 35 Took the prize, 37 Grayish red, 39 Skeleton components, 40 Milwaukee product, 41 Long lunches, 42 Small combo, 43 Sleeping dog, 44 Sgt. Snorkel's dog, 45 Undo a dele, 46 Gilch in print, 49 Historic time, 50 Cacophonous.

Cryptopuzzle grid and clues. Clues include: WN F QATYX LN HWRZOAITGVH, YLBVHWFR TZFZVHW, FBLQ QDFDG, DLAGH IXFI, QV F GFAZX OWLI?

Yesterday's Cryptopuzzle: POPULAR ANIMATED MOVIE THAT DEPICTS SUPPOSED EVENTS IN HOMER'S 'ILIAD' EPIC: 'TROY STORY'. Today's Cryptopuzzle Clue: Q equals B.