LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Rayer Bazar A.C beat Green Leaf C.A by 58 runs in the Second Division Cricket League at the Jahangirnagar University Ground yesterday.

The winners batted first and amassed 177 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the allotted 50 overs. Pappa top scored with 43 for Rayer Bazar and Masum took 4 wickets for the opponents. Green Leaf was then bowled out for 119 runs in the 33rd over.

In another match, Talent Hunt C.A won by six wickets against Young Cricketers at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. **GAIBANDHA FOOTBALL**

Azad SC defeated Gaibandha CCC 1-0 in the opening match of the Fariha Knit First Division Football League at the Gaibandha Stadium.

Gaibandha Sadar Upazilla Chairman Abdur Rashid Sarker inaugurated the opening match.

Pasbon of Azad scored the single goal for the victors.

Moulvibazar Cricket cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Ward No-3 team o Moulvibazar Municipality became champions of the Mayor Cup 20-20 Cricket tournament' when they beat Ward No-7 by four wickets at the M Saifur Rahman Stadium on Thursday.

Ward no-7 scored 83 runs for 8 wickets.

In reply, Ward No-3 reached the target with 84 runs for 6 wickets.

Man-of-the-match Ejaz hit 38 and Sourav, who was adjudged man of the tournament, added 32 runs.

ICL's Russell makes way into IPL

CRICINFO, undated

Phil Russell's status at the Kingsmead ground is unique -- the much-respected curator is probably the only person involved with the IPL and its bitter rival, the ICL Russell, who was the ICL's curator last season, is currently an advisor on the ground preparations at Kingsmead for the IPL tourna-

The antipathy of the Indian board -- which owns the IPL -towards the ICL is famous: it has adopted a heavy-handed approach to players, officials, unauthorised league being established in the groundsmen and scorers, even commentators, involved with the unofficial league. It has even sought to influence other boards to adopt a similar stance. Somehow, Russell has slipped under the radar.

He entered into the reckoning when the ground's assistant curator was posted to Newlands to get that ground ready in time for the tournament and the Natal board sought someone with experience to fill the gap. Russell has been associated with the Kingsmead stadium for two decades and coached the Natal team, including Kevin Pietersen, for two years.

Then came the ICL. "He has been with us for the last two years," Kiran More, a member of the ICL's executive board, said. This year, too, we have asked him to come during July-August to take a look at the grounds and get them in shape for the November season."

Russell isn't the only ICL connection -- the overhead sky cameras the IPL is using this season was used by the ICL in its last season. The camera -- which slides on a cable approximately 40 feet above the centre pitch -- is owned by the same company that loaned it to the ICL.

Two overs

FROM PAGE 17 sixes and a four in the final over with his charismatic captain looking on approv-

ingly from the other end. Kolkata's innings started with a twist, a spinner and a dibbly-dobbler opening the attack. The captain fell early but the cavalier, who hits sixes as casually as most batsmen tap singles, was looking like running away with match when the ageing magician got him to spoon one to his best fielder. Then, with match slipping away, a besieged folk hero produced two stunning sixes but, just when the matter seemed to have been sealed, a rookie who had been playing tennis-ball cricket in obscurity till he was discovered by Rajasthan in a talent-hunt survived a first-ball wide to bowl six impeccable balls to force a tie.

Who needed more? I don't | tops. know about you, but the Super



AFC Challenge Cup organising committee chairman Anwarul Huq Helal (2nd from R) briefs the press about the competition at the Bangladesh Football Federation Bhaban yesterday.

Imran's solution

AFP, Dubai

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan said Friday international cricket authorities should swap the 2011 and 2015 World Cup venues, rather than deprive Pakistan of its matches in the earlier tournament.

"Pakistan should have gathered the support of its Asian partners and swapped the 2011 World Cup with Australia (and New Zealand) because the situation could improve by 2015," Imran said in an interview with AFP.

The 2011 event was scheduled for India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh but the International Cricket Council (ICC) has stripped Pakistan of these matches because of the country's "uncertain security situation."

Imran's appeal for a swap with 2015 cohosts Australia and New Zealand echoes a call made this week by Javed Miandad, the directorgeneral of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Miandad made the call for a swap with the 2015 hosts after the PCB filed a protest against the ICC's decision to deprive Pakistan of its World Cup matches.

However, Imran, who is in Dubai for the relocated Pakistan-Australia limited overs series, said there was no question of Pakistan hosting international cricket in the near future, because it was now caught up in someone else's war.

"I would blame the governments of (former military ruler) Pervez Musharraf and (current president) Asif Zardari for the situation," said

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has

child of local entrepreneur Jay Mir, is a

Twenty20 tournament scheduled to be held in

October on a converted baseball field in Staten

Island, New York City. Although there remains

some uncertainty about the whole venture, it is

believed that a number of current and former

cautioning that the event was unauthorised,

and in effect would have the same status as the

rebel Indian Cricket League, whose players

have been banned from international and

much domestic cricket. That could mean that

anyone taking part in the APL would face simi-

lar sanctions, and any team fielding such an

individual would be barred from the Twenty20

from Pakistan, but rumours, many emanating

from the organisers, have linked the league

with several current county players. The Daily

Telegraph claimed that David Collier, the ECB

chief executive, had warned county chairmen,

John Aaron, the secretary of the USA Cricket

Association, confirmed to Cricinfo that the

board's "blessing was not sought in promoting

the tournament". He added that "the entrepre-

neurial sprit is alive and well in the USA, there-

fore many individuals continue to seek oppor-

To date, the only named signings have come

The ICC issued a statement earlier this week

players have been approached to take part.

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

ICC warns of APL

warned players against signing up for a new firms that the event has been approved."

The American Premier League, the brain- Hadlee had joined as an executive consultant.

Imran, who heads his own political party --Tehrik-e-Insaaf (Movement for Justice).

"We are fighting the United States' war in the region and Musharraf dragged us into it... Investors and sportsmen are not willing to come, so we are bearing the loss," he said.

"Until it's finished there is no chance of cricket. "Why was Pakistan was dragged into the war, because no Pakistani was involved in the 9/11 attacks on the US," said Imran.

"But we have become involved in it and now there is an enormous loss of life, finances and cricket."

Imran, who in 1992 captained his country to its only World Cup title, said Pakistan was also paying the price for failing to provide adequate security for the Sri Lanka team, which was attacked in Lahore last month.

"Had we provided the presidential level of security we promised the Sri Lankan team we would definitely have been hosting more cricket, but that event hit us badly," said Imran. The attacks on the team as it approached the

Gaddafi Stadium for the second Test, killed eight Pakistanis and injured seven Sri Lankan players and their assistant coach. After growing concerns about the safety of cricket tours to Pakistan, the attack prompted the

ICC to reallocate Pakistan's 16 World Cup venues to the tournament's other South Asian hosts. "Pakistan is left with no opportunity," said

Imran. "The players have been suffering because of poor first-class structure and, with no international cricket, the revenues are on the verge of bankruptcy."

ers have not sought the approval of the USA

Cricket Association or the ICC, although I under-

stand that the APL is approaching players

directly to participate in the event. Members are

therefore precluded from releasing their players

There was some good news, however, for the

APL with the announcement that Sir Richard

tant of the APL, I am delighted to be involved

with this event," Hadlee said. "The APL..

brings a different format of the game to the USA

-- namely Twenty20 -- with top-class players

from around the world participating. This

should be the best possible way in which to sell

president and CEO of American Sports And

Entertainment Group Inc, who wants to raise

six sides using the IPL's model of franchises and

auctions. Several Pakistan players have been

linked with the league, including former cap-

tain Inzamam-ul-Haq, fast bowler Mohammad

Asif, and batsmen Imran Nazir and Imran

from the ICC, who have advised their Member

countries not to allow players to participate in

soon and said the league was keen to work with

the USACA. "It would be shrewd if the USACA

allowed the APL to help champion their cause

and further cricket's appeal there [in the USA]."

ture is the timing, as the weather in New York in

October is not really suitable for cricket. One

veteran administrator in the USA told Cricinfo

that "unless they have plans to play indoors, this

A further question mark over the whole ven-

The APL is yet to receive a stamp of approval

Hadlee hoped the APL gets official sanction

Farhat who are currently with the ICL.

The tournament is promoted by Jay Mir, the

. cricket to America's sport-loving people."

"As an ambassador and executive consul-

to play in this event until such time as ICC con-

IWM Rani Hamid along with three other players continued their winning spree to share the lead in the Prime Bank 4th International Rating Women Chess Tournament at the end of the second round at the federation hall-room yesterday.

Rani, Sharmin Sultana Shirin, WFM Shamima Akter Liza and WFM Zakia Sultana secured maximum two points.

The 3rd round games will take place at the same venue today.

A book on Sachin's birthday

PTI, Mumbai

A new book on champion batsman Sachin Tendulkar, who celebrates his 36th birthday today in South Africa where he is leading Mumbai Indians in the IPL, was released here to mark the occasion.

The book, titled 'If Cricket authored by two graduates of IIM (Ahmedabad), Vijay Santhanam and Shyam Balasubramaniam, was unveiled by billiards ace Geet Sethi and former India Test skipper Nari Contractor today.

Green baize master Sethi paid glorious tributes to Tendulkar and questioned the title of the book itself.

"No need to ask, cricket is a religion in our country and Tendulkar is the epitome of it. There's a huge visibility to Sachin, but I look beyond visibility. I look at his character and hunger (for the game)" Sethi said.

"He's one of the greatest sportspersons of our times and surely the finest cricketer of our times," the cue ace said.

Sethi said what was most remarkable about Tendulkar was the way he has handled himself and his fame right from his early teens.

"A guy like (Swedish tennis legend) Bjorn Borg quit the game at the age of 24, unable to handle the fame and money," he said.

Flintoff to have knee surgery

AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff is to undergo surgery on his right knee, ruling him out of the upcoming two-Test series against the West Indies.

Flintoff has returned from South Africa, where he was playing in the Indian Premier League, to undergo the surgery but England cricket chiefs expressed confidence that their star player would recover in time for the World Twenty20 in June and the Ashes series starting in July.

That will be greeted with scepticism in some quarters however, given Flintoff's long history of injuries.

And the fact that Flintoff suffered the injury while playing in the IPL will inevitably spark debate about whether a player with his injury record should have been taking part in the competition rather than concentrating on preparing for England's summer Tests.

Women's Club

FROM PAGE 17 while Academy Mohammedan, Victoria, Ansar & VDP and Indira Road has been pitted in the Group B. Two top teams from each

group will play in the semifinals to be held on May 4. The final match will be held

on May 6 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur after a day recess on

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 17

Younis c Haddin b Laughlin 28 Malik c Haddin b Hauritz Misbah c Hussey b Hauritz 12 Afridic Haddin b Hopes 41 Akaml c Hussey b Hopes Gul c Hauritz b Symonds

Iftikhar not out Ajmal run out Total: (All out in 46.2 overs) 207 Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-58, 3-71, 4-103, 5-122, 6-161, 7-176, 8-

Akhtar c Clarke b Symonds 25

206, 9-206 MR 1 24 1 26 0 45 1 41 0 57 0 12

AUSTRALIA: Clarke, Haddin, Watson, Hussey, Symonds, Ferguson, Hopes, Hauritz, Bracken, Bollinger, Laughlin

Rating Chess PCB looks to move on

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated Nearly a week after the ICC's decision to move

away the 2011 World Cup from Pakistan and effectively rule out international cricket in the country due to security concerns, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is weighing up options of how to move on. Though officially there has been silence from the board -- apart from filing an official protest to the decision with the ICC -contact has been maintained with the ICC hierarchy on how best to proceed and two options on where Pakistan will play its designated 'home' cricket from now have become clear.

One is playing cricket at a designated neutral venue, such as Dubai. As an indication of the viability of this option, it is learnt that the PCB is considering putting forth a proposal to host its share of the World Cup matches in Dubai, with Pakistan as 'host.' It seems, however, that the proposal has been ruled out already by the ICC. "No, that is not an option," Haroon Lorgat, chief executive, ICC, told Cricinfo. "The board has made a decision. But I think this is a proposal (the PCB) is considering making. That is flowing from discussions I had today [Thursday] and yesterday with various people, including Pakistan ministry of sport."

Even as a longer-term option, the PCB concedes there are concerns. Logistically, in terms Is a Religion, Sachin is God', of distance at least, it is workable but board What they will lose, however, is the gate money officials currently in the UAE are wary of the and that raised through hospitality. financial difficulties involved. "Dubai is a very expensive option," a senior board official told Cricinfo. "Security costs, hotel costs and just hosting a cricket match here is very expensive so that aspect has to be looked at."

The other option that has come up in discussions is for the PCB to work out individual arrangements with other countries to host its matches. New Zealand, for example, were due to tour later in the year: that series could now be held in New Zealand with Pakistan as the designated hosts. In such a case, Pakistan gets the hosting fee while NZC will charge the PCB a nominal amount for expenses.

But this bilateral, case-by-case arrangement months, it could be the end of this year." could run into complications with TV rights. Ten Sports owns the right to broadcast Pakistan's home matches for the next five years. In New Zealand's case, Sky New Zealand owns

rights to home matches and clearly some agreement will have to be worked out in such a scenario: the PCB says it will go ahead with this arrangement only if it is guaranteed TV rights money. A neutral venue such as Dubai or Abu Dhabi -- where Ten Sports owns the rights --

makes that option more attractive. There is still a belief in Pakistan's cricket circles that countries can be convinced to visit. But one official said you would have to be "senile" to expect countries to come now. "After the attacks of March 3, it is impossible to expect anyone to come here. We fought at the meeting to retain the tournament but the simple truth is that players are just not willing to travel here right now," he said.

The board "protested vigorously and fought to retain Pakistan's host status, but there was no support," an official present at the meeting told Cricinfo. The BCCI, it is learnt, didn't support Pakistan openly because there was a chance of the World Cup being lost altogether to Australia and New Zealand. Indeed, Pakistan is said to have preferred this option, asking instead to be inked in for the 2015 World Cup.

The financial fallout from the loss of the World Cup may not be as hefty as was originally predicted. World Cup hosts receive 750,000 dollars per game from the ICC but this mostly covers the expenses of organizing the match. All 10 full members share 75 per cent of the total profit: thus each country will get a 7.5 per cent share, and Pakistan will not miss out on that.

The ICC insists it will stand by and help Pakistan through this, rejecting the notion that the country is being isolated. "I am worried that there was any message suggesting we were looking to distance ourselves from Pakistan," Lorgat said. "That is not true. In fact, it is quite the opposite. We are very keen for Pakistan to continue playing international cricket.

"There is a great reluctance from all players to go to Pakistan right now. Let's allow the situation to cool down, and make sure Pakistan continues to play international cricket in the interim. It is impossible to put a timeframe on this. It could be next month, it could be six

Lorgat added that the PCB had been offered 7 a taskforce to work with them and monitor the situation. "We hope the offer will be accepted. The offer is on the table."



PHOTO: AFP

Rajasthan Royals' Yusuf Pathan (C) leaps in the air while being surrounded by ecstatic teammates after slamming eighteen from four balls in the Super Over against Kolkata Knight Riders during the Indian Premier League at Newlands in Cape Town on Thursday night.

Warne hails Pathan

CRICINFO, undated



Shane Warne, the Rajasthan Royals captain, has called Yusuf Pathan's batting 'fantastic' after he plundered 18 runs from the first four balls

of the Super Over to give the defending champions their first win of the season. Yusuf's performance in the tie-breaker capped a strong show with the ball and bat; he had blasted a 21-ball 42 besides sending down four tidy overs.

"Yusuf Pathan was fantastic," Warne said after the victory over Kolkata Knight Riders. "To have walked out and clubbed two sixes like that, was well done." Warne was also thrilled with the 18-year-old

rookie fast bowler Kamran Khan, who sent down a tight final over to force a tie before being entrusted with the Super Over ahead of several seasoned campaigners. "We thought about Yusuf and myself as spin

options," Warne said. "But I thought if a couple of deliveries went, then the ball would have got wet because it's pretty dewy. Kamran gave six runs off the last over (of the scheduled 20) and I to them rather than try find someone else."

thought he did well to hold his nerve."

Kolkata captain Brendon McCullum was 'gutted' by the outcome. "We thought we had got ourselves across the line," he said. "In the super over we thought we had a reasonable score, but Yusuf came out and took it away from us."

He also praised deposed captain Sourav Ganguly's 30-ball 46 which dragged Kolkata back into the game after a middle-order collapse. "I thought the way Sourav played to get us into that situation was superb," he said. "But yes, it feels like this one has been stolen away from us not winning it in the end there."

He also said he had no regrets at giving Sri Lankan spinner Ajantha Mendis, playing his first match of the season, the responsibility of bowling the Super Over. "The way Mendis bowled in the game itself, he bowled outstandingly well and he got Yusuf Pathan out as well, so I thought that maybe if Yusuf tried to hit him once too. often and maybe put one straight up in the air then that would be enough to win the game.

"Also I asked Mendy if he wanted it and he was jumping out of his skin for it, so anyone who wants a job like that I'm more inclined to give it

Hughes struts to 100

Cricket

AFP, London

Australia batting prodigy Phillip Hughes marked his Middlesex debut with 100 not out at Lord's here on Thursday.

The 20-year-old left-hander, who scored two hundreds in only his second Test against South Africa in Durban earlier this year, showed spectators what all the fuss was about after Glamorgan had made 505 in a Second Division County Championship match.

and the county have been criticised by the likes of England national selector Geoff Miller for allowing the opening batsman invaluable experience of local conditions before the Ashes reply to Durham's 362. get underway in July.

several opportunities to appreciate his offside play with some superb drives through extracover and he brought up his hundred in the last over of the day, off just 141 balls with 17 fours.

Elsewhere, fast bowler Stephen Harmison reply to Hampshire's first innings 379. struck as Michael Vaughan suffered a setback opening day's matches of the | Umpires: Billy Bowden and | in his quest to regain a place in the England side.

Vaughan has not featured at Test level since resigning the captaincy during last year's series loss at home to South Africa.

But he is eager to regain his place, with the first of two Tests against the West Indies starting at Lord's on May 6. But playing for Yorkshire in their First

Division match against county champions Durham, he was caught behind off fast bowler Harmison for 24.

Vaughan was visibly unhappy with the decision but had to go.

Harmison, an inconsistent performer at international level who was dropped from the Hughes is only with Middlesex for six weeks England Test side in the Caribbean earlier this year, also dismissed South African Jacques

Rudolph for 51. Yorkshire finished the day on 264 for six in

In-form England quick James Anderson The New South Welshman gave spectators added two wickets to go with his first innings haul of six for 56 to leave Sussex 148 for five against Lancashire.

> An unbeaten hundred from Jim Troughton helped Warwickhire to a total of 224 for four in

Elsewhere, Nottinghamshire enforced the follow-on and then saw Worcestershire slump to 24 for three, still 127 runs adrift.

Captain runs the show'

The ICC were less concillatory. "The organis- whole idea is, to out it mildly, ambitious".

INTERNET, undated

Champions League.

about their players signing up.

tunities to arrange events".

PDLF.A.

In what can only be seen

Buchanan, Shane Warne questioned the Kolkata Knight Riders' team spirit and also reiterated his belief that international cricketers don't need coaches. It is no secret that Warne

and former Australia coach Buchanan don't see eye to eye. The legendary leg-spinner famously accused Buchanan of "living in pixie land" and suffering from "verbal diarrhoea".

between the Rajasthan Royals

and the Knight Riders, who are

coached by Buchanan, saw

the duo go head-to-head and it was Warne who came out on The match ended in a tie Over ruined for me what had after 20 overs. The Royals,

questioned the opposition's team spirit during the postmatch conference.

o h n those games last year in the where they stand." last over and I think we won two or three off the last ball including the final," he said. "I think those close games

are won by teams who have a really good team spirit. We got that. With three or four captains for the Knight Riders, I'm not sure they got that." Warne has also previously suggested that Buchanan's role

as Australia coach is "unneces-

sary" and accused him of "over-complicating issues" Thursday's IPL clash and "lacking common sense". The spinner, who fill the role of both coach and captain for the Royals, again made it clear that there should be only

one leader in the dressing room. "I believe in one captain. Coaches should be there for been the perfect match till then. | though, won the game during underage cricket and first-

the Super Over, and Warne class cricket, but international cricket I think the captain runs the show and one voice for the captain is the best way to go "I think we won four of because everyone knows

Int'l football FROM PAGE 17

financial support from Citycell, Nokia, Premier Bank and Aamra Network to defray other expenses apart from the central expenses which are

To make the tournament a success BFF has carried out an extensive publicity over the last few days, which included decorated horse-drawn carriages, leaflets with tournament fixtures at different parts

BFF has also decided to hand over the unclaimed car of the Super Cup prize to a lucky spectator through a lottery of entry tickets of the AFC Challenge Cup.

Extras: (lb-2, nb-1) borne by AFC.

Bowler Bracken Bollinger Hopes Hauritz Laughlin Symonds of the city.

> Toss: Pakistan. Asad Rauf.