UNB, Cox's Bazar

Australia clinched the men's title of the 2nd Asian Beach Volleyball tournament beating Thailand in two sets to nil in the final at Laboni point of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

China lifted the women's crown defeating Thailand by the same margin.

The men's and women's champions each received 1100 dollars as prize money while Thailand, runners-up of both the men's and women's meet, got 900 dollars each for the two groups.

Sri Lanka B team finished third in the men's group beating Sri Lanka A while Nepal was in third place in the women's group defeating India. A total of eighteen teams from seven countries took part in meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker was the chief guest at the final and distributed prizes.

Ponting waits on old rivals

AFP, London

Ricky Ponting believes his Australia side are likely to be facing both Michael Vaughan and Steve Harmison in the upcoming Ashes series against England.

Vaughan, who captained England to Ashes glory in 2005, and pace bowler Harmison, who was one of the stars of that series, are currently out of an England squad which won the first of a two-Test series against the West Indies in convincing fashion last week.

But Ponting expects a greater emphasis on experience from the England selectors when they mull their options for the task of reclaiming the Ashes from a new-look Australian touring party.

"I've just got a bit of a feeling that they might want to get Vaughan back into the set-up and they might pick Harmison for when we get there. Ponting told Sky Sports News on Wednesday.

Fahad

FROM PAGE 17

Fahad was able to hit the stump consistently in sudden death and was adjudged the

Hasan presented Fahad with the air ticket to England while the other four top contestants earned the opportunity to have diner with players from the Bangladesh national team.

Tejinder Khurana, country manager of PepsiCo International, and general manager of Transcom Beverages Limited Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury were also present at the event.

Indian bench

Roy a chance to play in the next match," he added

FROM PAGE 17

Bangladesh has had a disastrous tournament so far, losing 5-0 to Japan, 7-1 to hosts Malaysia and 9-0 to South Korea.

Ashgabat-SL

FROM PAGE 17

opponents to be a potent one. Team spokesperson for Ashgabat, Taganmamedova Bahar said the team is going into the match with full strength and there are no injury concerns. She also played down the weather saying the high temperatures are not going to be a problem as back home they experience a similar sort of weather.

"We will be fielding our strongest side and although the players in training found the weather to be a little hot it's pretty much the same back home during summer. I strongly believe we are in a position to win and a victory will put us in better contention to qualify for the third and final match," said Bahar.

Sri Lanka Army team trained at the Navy Ground in Kurmitola yesterday.

Ashgabat will play their last match against Abahani on



A modern table tennis match at the elite level lasts on the average about 30 minutes. Top players often smash the ball at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour.



England captain Andrew Strauss deals with a short ball in the nets at the Riverside Stadium in Chester-Le-Street yesterday.

Last Test before Ashes' Cricket becomes Asian Games

Cricket

AFP, Chester-le-Street

Andrew Strauss, the England captain, may be bowling. reluctant to talk about the Ashes ahead of the start of the second Test against the West Indies but that has not stopped Paul Collingwood.

The Durham all-rounder, set to play in front of his home crowd when the final Test of this brief series starts at the Riverside here on Thursday, is well aware that a strong showing form." following England's 10-wicket first Test win at Lord's, will help cement players' places ahead of the Ashes.

This is England's last Test before their series opener with Australia in Cardiff on July 8.

Collingwood, a bit-part player when England won the Ashes on home soil in 2005, was a regular when the Australians got them back in 2006/07 with a 5-0 thrashing of their oldest foes.

England will regain the Wisden Trophy they lost earlier this year in the Caribbean if they century. avoid defeat at the Riverside. But Collingwood could not help looking

the biggest prize of the lot. "There's been a real progression, the players threat.

feel that and we realise this is the last Test match before the Ashes," middle-order batsman He's got all of us out so far, so we have to make Collingwood told reporters here on Tuesday.

"We can't get away from the fact that it is win this trophy back -- it hurt us when we got beaten by the West Indies out there and we want to get it back."

time and get into a position where we can win considerably less than 377. those Ashes," he said.

squad. But they are likely to be unchanged matches in a row are slim. after wrapping up victory inside three days at Lord's against an undercooked West Indies on out here and play as well as we know we can, the back of fine individual displays from some of their least experienced players.

Ravi Bopara, in his first Test at No 3 made win this game."

143, off-spinner Graeme Swann won the manof-the-match award for his maiden Test fifty and six wickets while Collingwood's Durham colleague Graham Onions took seven wickets on his debut with some well-directed fast

"The atmosphere we've created in the dressing room is very relaxed at the moment," Collingwood said.

"The new guys that have come in have pointed out it's a very enjoyable place to be and that has made it easier to go out and per-

One reason why England won so quickly at Lord's was that Swann, who turns the ball away from left-handers, removed Shivnarine Chanderpaul for a golden duck and then a second-ball four. Chanderpaul, who up until that match was

ranked as the world's number one batsman, was all but impregnable when West Indies last toured England two years ago, batting for nearly seven hours during the corresponding Riverside Test while making an unbeaten He may not have been unduly concerned by

his own Lord's failure but, with the West Indies ahead to what all-English cricketers regard as having four left-handers in their top six, Chanderpaul admitted Swann was a real

"It puts all our left-handers in the firing line. sure we go out and find a way to deal with it."

England though would be well advised not and we want to put a big performance in and to get too far ahead of themselves. Had not West Indies dropped six catches in the final session of the first day to undo some of the good work of fast bowler Fidel Edwards, "We just want to keep progressing all the England's first innings total might have been

And the chances of both West Indies captain England have added batsman Ian Bell and Chris Gayle and Chanderpaul, who played at left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom to their the Riverside for Durham, failing for two

> "We just have to put Lord's behind us, come Chanderpaul said. "We're one down already, so the only way to save the Wisden Trophy is to

discipline

AFP, Singapore

Cricket officially became an Asian Games sport Wednesday when it was approved by the Olympic Council of Asia, with India and Pakistan pledging to send their best available teams.

It will make its debut in Guangzhou next year.

Both men's and women's teams will participate in a Twenty20 format contest, with India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh automatically qualifying, along with host nation China.

Other countries will have to play a qualifying round to fight for three additional spots.

"India and Pakistan were the drivers. Pakistan and India will come with their best teams because it will be a big competition," said OCA president Sheikh Ahmad Al-Sabah after the organisation's general assembly.

"Asia's four Test-playing nations have committed to sending their best available teams," he added.

The 2010 Asian Games will take place from November 12-27 in the southern Chinese city.

India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are all scheduled to play Test and one-day series that month, but the OCA said once a schedule for Guangzhou was in place "truly the best players for that format will be available".

Cricket was last seen at a major multi-sport event at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, but was dropped for the next two editions in England and Australia.

Madan asks for ICL release

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Madan Lal, the former India allrounder and coach, has applied for a release from the ICL in what is the first officially known response from the unauthorised league's players and support staff to the BCCI's recent amnesty offer. Lal, who was coach of ICL's Delhi Giants, said he expected more cricketers and some support staff to follow suit and hoped the BCCI would utilise his

Star all-rounder Shakib Al | services appropriately. from the ICL contract," Lal by the end of the last season national cricket after a 'cooltold Cricinfo. "I am thankful to due to "personal reasons". "At ing period' of one year. the BCCI for allowing an the meeting with the ICL, they Significantly, the ICC's new opportunity for those with the gave the coaches the option to ICL to return to the official continue or step down," Patil fold. I have coached various told Cricinfo. "In any case I Indian teams at different had resigned even before the levels before and I hope the BCCI decision to grant BCCI will utilise my services amnesty to the ICL players, and experience in the best coaches and backroom staff. I manner possible."

Lal's request followed an regrets.' ICL communication to its players and support staff last week to send in their requests for a release, if needed, before May 15. The ICL will then hold a management meeting, possibly on May 18, to decide on these requests and the future course of action.

Sandeep Patil, Balwinder Sandhu and Karsan Ghavri, three former India players, and Ajit Wadekar, a former India captain, had approached the ICL for a release before the due to cross-border political BCCI's offer because of a "lack tensions following the of adequate cricket".

"Days before the BCCI decision, three of us coaches --Sandeep Patil, Balwinder Singh Sandhu [Dhaka

had a meeting with Himanshu the 1983 World Cup-winning Mody [ICL business head] and Kiran More [ICL board mem- the right time to move on ber]," Ghavri told Cricinfo. "We told them about our issues including no cricket staff who think similarly." being played from November 2007 and also about the salaries not being paid after that. conditions, we asked them to sion channel. release us. We then got a call and would get our release letter by May 20. On April 30,

Ajit Wadekar and I submitted

the application for a release." Patil, who had coached ICL's Mumbai Champs, had "I have applied for a release stood down from active duty will become eligible for interhave no complaints and no

refused to confirm whether they had received any official requests from players or support staff for a release. "We remain confident about our future plans, especially the October programme," an official said. The ICL had cancelled its March tournament due to the deepening economic recession and the non-availability of Lahore Badshahs, the Pakistan team, Mumbai attacks.

"I have had an excellent relationship with the ICL over the last two years and I have no complaints at all about that Warriors coach and myself -- association," Lal, a member of

squad, said. "But now I feel it's professionally. There are many other ICL players and support Apart from his ICL commit-

ments, Lal runs a coaching academy in Delhi and has a Keeping in the prevailing media contract with a televi-The BCCI had announced saying we were free to leave on April 30 that ICL players and support staff who wished to return to the official fold should do so by May 31. These

> players would be immediately allowed to play domestic cricket, including the IPL, and rules for official and unofficial cricket, which aims to plug existing loopholes, will come into force from June 1.

> > BCCI officials were not

available for comment but it's understood that the board has written to various state associations to confirm the amnesty ICL officials, however, offer and stipulate the norms that needed to be followed while readmitting such players. "We have been told that we would either have to produce an NOC from ICL or hand over a copy of the contract termination letter that has been sent by us to ICL," a senior ICL player told Cricinfo. "We might then have to sign an official undertaking with the BCCI, which would bar us from participating in leagues or tournaments not authorised by the Indian

Better being

FROM PAGE 17

The Bangladesh captain, batsman Mohammed Ashraful, is probably in the same state of mind: He hasn't made the eleven in any of the Mumbai Indians' eleven games. The Sachin Tendulkarled team has, however, been winning.

bought at the last auction, for two seasons.

ping 600,000 dollars, thanks to a rather bizarre bidding war between the Knights and the Kings XI Punjab, where Preity Zinta has a big stake. For whatever reason,

Shahrukh didn't want to come

off second best and that was

made clear to his men at the auction table in Goa. Ashraful, incidentally, came cheap for the Mukesh Ambani-owned Mumbai Indians. The franchise paid no

While just about everybody

pen to a professional. wrote this on the Kolkata

PCB sues

FROM PAGE 17 decided to strip Pakistan of its matches, was not entitled to do so.

"The IDI gave the World Cup to four countries... so the ICC Executive Board was not entitled to take a decision on a World Cup move, only the annual general meeting can take such a decision," said Rizvi.

Rizvi said until an ICC dispute committee or the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sports resolve the case, the World Cup secretariat cannot be moved out of Pakistan.

"Pakistan can also claim a relief on the relocation of the secretariat," said the legal adviser.

Pakistan's already dented reputation as a safe sporting venue was left in tatters after attacks by gunmen on the Sri Lankan cricket team bus in Lahore on March 3 left seven Sri Lankan players and their assistant coach wounded and eight policemen dead.

Even before the attacks, foreign teams had refused to tour Pakistan over security fears in a country locked in an increasingly bloody conflict with Taliban and Al-Qaeda extremists.

Siriwardena

FROM PAGE 17 Pradeep and Thisara Perera.

Only Nasiruddin Faruque held firm as the left-hander batted for more than three hours to score 45 runs from 145 balls.

The tourists also won the first four-day game by ten wickets.

1 What the 31 Priests

12 Certain

20 Super

Bowl

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poster

letters

Umps' review from Oct

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

This summer's Ashes series implemented." will be one of the last in which the umpire's decision is final, after the ICC confirmed that the basis of a "phased roll-out" from October 2009.

plans at a press conference at Indies in February. Lord's, following a two-day nine months' worth of trials were assessed by the ICC's cricket committee.

ICC's chief executives com- want to get decisions right." mittee and their main board, from June 22-26.

"I'm excited that the committee concluded the umpire decision review system had a positive effect on the game," said Lorgat. "It reduced the staging a trial five-day game number of incorrect decisions and also cut down on they said more research was instances of player dissent.

Jones'

fruits

mists'

50 Work

with

subject

specifications and protocols, taking place. ensure additional training for brief the players so that the process can be successfully Though designed to reduce

controversy, the new system -which gives players the opporits controversial Umpire tunity to request a review by weight restrictions on bats Decision Review System the third umpire of a decision (UDRS) is set to be introduced made by the on-field umpire permanently into the game on they believed was wrong -- has so far muddied the waters in several instances, not least The ICC chief executive, during the Jamaica Test Haroon Lorgat, confirmed the between England and West

"The protocols were clear, meeting in which the results of maybe the application was not so good," said Lorgat. "It's the really bad errors we want to eliminate. We had a fair A final decision on whether amount of feedback from the new system will become a players and most of it was permanent feature of Test positive. They accept the cricket will be taken by the fundamental thing that we

The cricket committee, whose next meetings are due chaired by the former West to take place during their Indies captain Clive Lloyd, said annual conference at Lord's it believed the new system, for all its faults, would reduce instances of bad decisions.

The committee also looked into the possibility of playing day/night Test cricket, and under lights in 2010. But first needed on finding a suitable "We will seek (provided the ball, with the standard red one ICC chief executives and unsuitable for floodlit cricket, board agreel to roll out the while Lloyd pointed out the system from October 2009. effect of early evening dew The time ahead of that date would also have to be considplaying conditions, technical and pink balls are currently injust 14.1 overs.

The committee also said match officials and further there was no need to alter the present format of 50-overs international cricket, amid concerns the format was becoming jaded in the Twenty20 era, and that there was not a need to impose

It also said it had no problems with double-sided bats and confirmed that the switch-hit, as pioneered by Kevin Pietersen, should remain legal.

The committee also called for stricter enforcement of rules on over-rates, and the doubling of fines for slow play, so as to cut down time-wasting by both batting and bowling sides. Lorgat said it was vital Test match over-rates were maintained or improved so the five-day game could continue to "engage" with spectators.

BUET, JU

FROM PAGE 17 Jahangirnagar University

Half-centuries from Zahidul Islam and Mahfuzul Ahmed made sure BUET reached 261-7 and while Khulna University responded well to score 160-3 from 34

overs, rain intervened. Kazi Nazrul Islam University (108 all out) found life difficult against the likes of Ali Hossain and Foyaz Ahmed who took three wickets each before Jahangirnagar will allow us to firm up the ered. Trials with light green University reached the target

Gayle's gaga!

FROM PAGE 17 arena without Test cricket -the Middlesex man was left out at his own request of

England's squad for next month's World Twenty 20. On the other hand Gayle, a Ramnaresh Sarwan in 2007. fan of the short and often lucrative format, said he there's a possibility I might would not miss Test cricket, still regarded by most players as the pinnacle of the game, if

commercial pressures caused

its downfall. said. "Some other players go and do, you know, extra. would be. Maybe Andrew Strauss would be sad. Maybe he will be sad if Test cricket thing for the captain. dies and Twenty20 comes in. Because there is no way he can son. I can't take on too many make the change. So tough things. So soon I will be hand-

"I have liked Twenty20 soonfinish with it." since it came in. I like it. Who doesn't? Maybe a couple of the Cricinfo website on play Twenty 20."

this series, had been much because as captain you want as a West Indies captain, including his leadership in the 1-0 win over England in a five- Thursday.

match campaign in the Caribbean earlier this year.

But the hard-hitting 29year-old batsman said he would be standing down from the post he took over from "To be honest with you

give it up -- I will be giving it up

shortly," he said. "I need some time for myself, to be honest with you, it's a lot of travelling. There's "I wouldn't be so sad," he always something you have to Lunch or dinner, some other thing, there's always some-

> "I'm not that type of pering over this captaincy. I will Lloyd, in an interview with

Englishmen wouldn't like to Tuesday, said of the timing of Gayle's arrival in England: "I Gayle, up until the start of found [it] pretty strange, praised for the work he'd done to be there with your team, and with your team early." The second Test starts on

what's the use of sitting?"

Like Mortaza, Ashraful was Mortaza went for a whop-

more than \$75,000.

else has, among other things, been getting invaluable exposure in the lead-up to next month's World T20, the Mortazas have been getting Nothing worse could hap-

(Lokendra Pratap Sahi Telegraph website).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 30 "Told ya!" 52 In a con- 13 Indy ACROSS

temptible

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35 Not Old bugaboo way 18 Carte Woman slouching 53 Battling in a Shoe 39 Unctuous lead-in factions 54 In other 21 Too bright 40 Guffaw fed her 23 No staysyllable words, to kids Caesar at-homes 6 Turkish 42 — gin 25 Schuss fizz officials 27 "Golly!" 43 Sch. DOWN 11 Do a 29 One-1 Propelslow group lered seeded 44 Michener burn

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OREN

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CRYPTOQUIP

WEGLM MGZQWKG XGURA

URIMRXF SPG PWK MPA MGNF GJ MPARZ PGLFAF EOGSQ

GJJ: "ZGGJOAFF NAGNOA"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE HE REPEATEDLY SPRINGS INTO THE AIR WHILE TAKING STRIDES. COULD YOU SAY HE'S LEAPWALKING?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals P