

## Indian boos fired up England

AFP, London

England captain Paul Collingwood said the boos of Indian supporters helped fire his team to victory on Sunday and send the defending champions crashing out.

England beat India by three runs at Lord's to keep alive their hopes of making the semifinals, but a second successive Super Eights defeat meant India's campaign was over.

"When we were practising at the nursery ground today, we were boozed by the Indian fans. It was hard to believe we were playing at home. So we used those boos as motivation."

## Tigers begin

FROM PAGE 17

the Caribbean from Australia.

The Tigers will leave Dhaka on June 29 to play two Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international against the hosts. The team's first stop is in Barbados where they play a tour game before moving on to Kingstown in St Vincent for the first Test from July 9.

## Pakistan

FROM PAGE 17

ugly slog sweep against New Zealand born-left-arm spinner Regan West.

Akmal, looking to press on, was dismissed by a Johnston yorker as he went down the pitch.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 159-5 in 20 overs (Akmal 57, Shahzai 23, Afridi 24, Younis 10, Misbah 20, Razzaq 15 not out, Malik 4 not out, extras 6; Johnston 1-45, Cusack 1-41, West 1-33, McCallan 2-26)

IRELAND: 120-9 in 20 overs (W. Porterfield 40, K. O'Brien 26, extras 13; Aamir 1-19, Afridi 1-26, Ajmal 4-19, Gul 2-19)

Result: Pakistan won by 39 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Kamran Akmal.

## Battle for

FROM PAGE 17

will now face Madaripur on Wednesday to decide the semifinalists.

At the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessor, Dinajpur Football Academy refused to play just five minutes before the final whistle citing unfair play by host district's team Shaheed Mukti Joddha Sangsad. Moeen Smriti Sangsad.

Tournament committee coordinator Fazlur Rahman Babul told reporters that Dinajpur left the field five minutes before the final whistle after Moeen Smriti struck the decider while a Dinajpur player laid down on the ground after sustaining injury.

The local side was leading 3-2 when Dinajpur came off the field.

Babul said that they were waiting for reports from the match commissioner as well as the referees before a decision can be taken.

## BCB lifts ban

FROM PAGE 17

avail the board's amnesty and are hence eligible to take part in all forms of domestic cricket with effect from today [Monday], said a BCB statement.

The cricketers are Habibul Bashar, Alok Kapali, Aftab Ahmed, Shahriar Nafees, Nazimuddin, Mohammad Rafique, Forhad Reza, Tapash Baisya, Mohammad Sharif, Dhaman Ghosh, Musharraf Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Mahbubul Karim and Golam Mabud.

## Tired Kewell

FROM PAGE 20

also been ruled out of the Melbourne game for the same reason, the coach said.

"Both Harry and Chris played two tough games in a very short period of time," Verbeek said after a training session.

"Besides Mark Schwarzer and Jason Culina, Harry and Chris were the only other two players to play (almost all) of the 180 minutes of the Qatar and Bahrain matches."

"Both players are disappointed that they are unable to play in the big match on Wednesday night, but physically it's best if we don't take any risks with them."

## Tevez's no

FROM PAGE 20

afford to pay Tevez the higher salary and have informed the consortium that owns the player's economic rights they will pay the £25.5m fee in one sum whereas Liverpool's proposal is to drag it out with instalments over the course of his contract.



PHOTO: AFP  
England fast bowler Ryan Sidebottom celebrates after beating India by three runs during the Super 8s match of the ICC World Twenty20 at Lord's on Sunday.

## Irish hold heads high

AFP, London



Ireland captain William Porterfield said his side had "given everything" after they came within a whisker of adding to their country's record of shock cricket wins against Sri Lanka.

The only non-Test team left in the World Twenty20, Ireland performed brilliantly in the field to restrict Sri Lanka to 144 for nine in their Super Eights clash at Lord's here on Sunday.

But having been 87 for one they crumbled in the face of pressure bowling from spinners Ajantha Mendis and Muttiah Muralidaran, as well as unorthodox quick Lasith Malinga.

In the end they finished agonisingly in sight of their target at 135 for seven and went down by nine runs to a Sri Lankan team still to lose a match at this tournament.

"The lads gave everything," said Porterfield. "That's what I asked for before the game and they left nothing out there."

"We are obviously a bit disappointed we lost the game but if you went around every lad in the changing room and asked them 'could you have given any more?', they couldn't have."

"To restrict a side like Sri Lanka to 140-odd was a fantastic effort.

"I thought we were really good in the field and

we batted pretty well before just coming up short in the end," added Porterfield, a member of the Ireland squad that beat Bangladesh and Pakistan at the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean.

Ireland's Niall O'Brien had a fine all-round match. The Northamptonshire wicketkeeper starred in the field with three catches and a stumping before making 31 despite being restricted in his running by an ankle injury.

It was a display appreciated by Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara, well caught by opposing gloveman O'Brien when the keeper was stood up to the stumps.

"I think it was a great performance," said Sangakkara. "The way he kept was absolutely brilliant and he backed that up with some very good batting. It was fortunate for us he was struck with an injury."

"But I think the way the Irish team played, I am sure it was very encouraging for them and for Ireland as a cricketing nation."

"They are going to get stronger and stronger as long as they get some good young cricketers taking up the game."

Sri Lanka were indebted to an innings of 78 from Mahela Jayawardene, their former captain.

He too was impressed by Ireland, saying: "Especially in Twenty20, you can't underestimate any team. If you make a couple of mistakes it's quite difficult to come back into the game."

## Smith sorry for Dhoni

AFP, Nottingham



South Africa captain Graeme Smith offered his support to under-fire India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Monday after the defending champions crashed out of the World Twenty20.

India's three-run defeat to England at Lord's on Sunday sparked an avalanche of criticism aimed at Dhoni with his tactical thinking coming under fire from the country's demanding fans.

"Mahendra is a very composed person but a few tactical decisions of theirs have come under scrutiny and that's always difficult to deal with as a leader," said Smith whose team face India in their final Super Eights match at Trent Bridge here on Tuesday.

"If you've captained for long enough, you've been through those phases of your career. As a leader, when things aren't going to plan, they will turn on you. How you handle yourself and handle those situations is a sign of the type of character you are and where you're going in your career."

"I certainly had a few moments like that but

hopefully we won't be facing that in this competition. Maybe it's someone else's turn."

Smith added: "We all know India, on paper, are a supremely talented team with lots of options so it was a surprise to see them not perform to that standard in Super Eights."

South Africa have already sealed their place in the semi-finals are almost certain to play their last-four match here on Thursday as Group E winners.

"(Tuesday's match) is not important to the competition but we still want to go out and play well," said Smith.

"In terms of the levels which you are playing and in terms of your combinations it is important for our semi-final."

"It is about challenging ourselves to play at the levels we have been. The challenge for us is to maintain our level of play; it's a very difficult competition if you don't do that."

"It's important, no matter what the result, that we play at the level we are comfortable with."

"Twenty20 is all about adapting to situations, committing to your skills and being well-prepared tactically."

"I certainly had a few moments like that but

## No decision yet on Pakistan

Cricket

AFP, London

The International Cricket Council said on Monday no agreement had been reached on where Pakistan will hold its World Cup matches in February-March 2011.

"No decision has been made yet," ICC president David Morgan told a media briefing after a meeting with officials from the four co-hosts countries, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Pakistan had served legal notices on the ICC after being stripped of the hosting rights in the wake of the militant attack on the United Arab Emirates, where it hosted a one-day series against Australia in May-June in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

"There are already four host nations," said Morgan. "There could be a fifth country hosting matches."

Morgan clarified that while Pakistan were removed as a host location, the Pakistan Cricket Board remained a co-host and expected a final decision to be made "in the next two weeks."

The ICC clarification was viewed as an attempt to open doors to a negotiated settlement, but that appeared to have failed at Monday's meeting on the sidelines of the 2015 event.

"We did discuss the possibility of giving the 2011 World Cup to Australia and New Zealand, the designated hosts of the 2015 event."

Morgan said in a statement that he was "pleased we were able to come together today in a spirit of co-operation to

further the process of finding a resolution to the matter.

"We had constructive discussions and I will look to follow them through with Mr Pawar (ICC vice president Sharad Pawar of India) and Mr Butt in the coming days so we can identify the best means of coming up with a recommendation on where the matches originally scheduled to take place in Pakistan can be held."

"What we need to do is settle this matter as quickly as possible within the ICC family as we need to press on with our preparations for the World Cup which is less than two years away."

Morgan declined to comment on the response of India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to the current impasse.

Katlego Mashego then came on for Fanteini and the Orlando Pirates striker quickly found himself with only Kassid to beat in the box but the Iraqi keeper did well to snuff out the danger.

With five minutes left on the clock, Parker will never know how he failed to tap the ball home when faced with an open goal.

Santana introduced Pienaar in a last-ditch effort to grab the points but to no avail.

South Africa are next up against New Zealand on Wednesday with Iraq facing the Spaniards.

## Iraq stifle

FROM PAGE 20

action again, rising above the Iraqi defence to head Siboniso Gaxa's corner just over the crossbar.

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## 2nd women's school football from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Scholastica will play the opening match of the second edition of the Citycell Dhaka Metropolis Women's School Football Championship against Rahmatullah Model High School at the Sultana Kamal Sports Complex at Dhanmondi, Dhaka at 2pm today.

The second game will be contested between Sir John Wilson School and Azimpur Agrani School at 3pm while Aga Khan School will take on Siddheshwari Girls' High School at 4:30 pm in the closing game.

14 schools, split into four groups, are taking part in the championship out of which five are English medium schools and nine are Bengali medium.

The semifinal matches will be held on June 23 while the final on June 25 both at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

BFF's women football committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bacchu disclosed the details at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday afternoon. Tournament committee convener Mahfuza Akhter Kiron and BFF general secretary Al-Masabir Sadi were also present.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker will open the event as chief guest at 4pm.

## Curtains on Pepsi First Ball-er Captain

SPORTS REPORTER

The closing ceremony of the groundbreaking "Pepsi First Ball-er Captain" and the award giving ceremony of "Pepsi Display" promotion was held on Sunday at the Transcom Beverages Ltd. headquarters.

The two-month long supplementary retail promotion of the "Pepsi First Ball-er Captain" activation came to a closing through prize distribution among the top 200 retailers.

Through the promotion and the activation, Pepsi once again proved its continuous attempt to present the consumers and at the same time the retailers with something exciting all the time.

Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, general manager of Transcom Beverages Ltd, Asrar Ahmed, sales operation manager, Pradip Kumar Halder, unit sales manager and Arif Hossain, market development manager, were present during the occasion.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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## Dhoni offers no excuse

AFP, London

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni refused to blame a packed playing schedule for the defending champions World Twenty20 exit at hands of England.

Defeat by three runs at Lord's on Sunday meant India, who won the inaugural 2007 World Twenty20 in South Africa, no longer had any chance of reaching the semifinals ahead of their final Super Eights match against South Africa at Trent Bridge on Tuesday.</