

Bengal Open squash

SPORTS REPORTER

Tareq Aziz Khan recorded a straight 2-0 win over Ershad Hossain in the Prestige Bengal Open Squash tournament at the Gulshan Club yesterday.

In the same Group A, Harun beat Hamza 2-1 while Sajju and Arif defeated Tanvir and Arif respectively to move into semifinals from Group C.

Swapan and Shahin advanced into the U-18 final after routing Ilyas and Delwar respectively.

Ganguly bats for Mishra

PTI, Kolkata

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Saturday said India should retain Amit Mishra notwithstanding the suggestions that the leg-spinner should be replaced in the second Test against Sri Lanka from November 24-28.

The Indian spinners were off colour and bowled wayward giving away the advantage to Lankans in the first Test at Motera in Ahmedabad but the ace left-hander feels there was no point blaming the duo of Harbhajan Singh and Amit Mishra.

"Performance should not be judged on basis of just one match. He (Mishra) should play in the second Test," said Ganguly.

Pool system

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When asked what the federation would do if the bracketed players could not get any team or were given less money than their expectation, Jamil said, "The clubs had assured me that they would complete the formalities with the players by December and if any player cannot find team or get less money than his expectation, then I will look after them."

Season's curtain-raising Club Cup and Premier Division Hockey League will be held after completion of SA Games, scheduled for January 29-February 9 next year.

The meeting also decided not to relegate any team like the previous year.

National team's striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy said they are disappointed with the decision taken by the league committee and they would sit together after Eid vacation to discuss the matter.

Shaky start

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the forwards, Shantoo said they might have been shaky thinking of being dropped from the final squad.

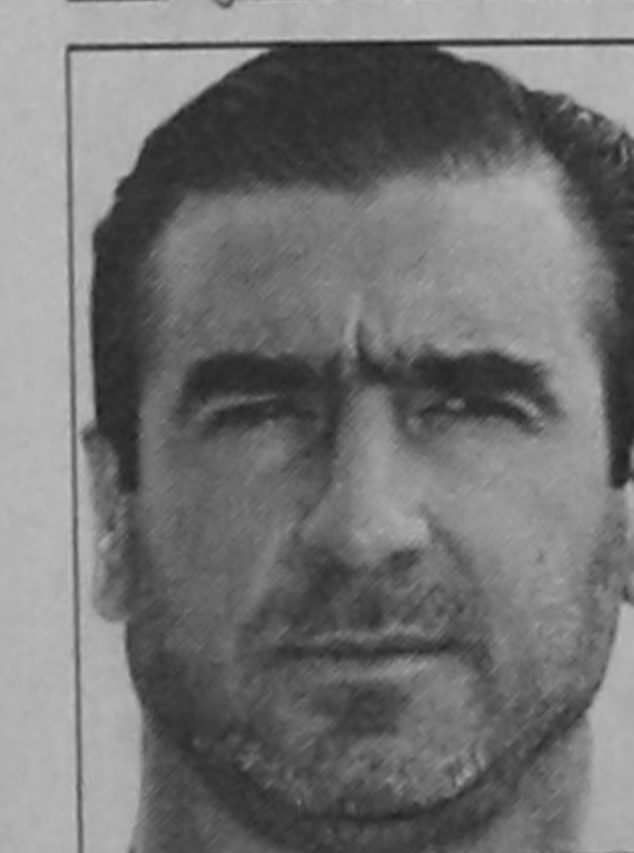
He, however, believes his side will get the real rhythm in the next two matches against BFF XI on Tuesday and Korean Ulsan Hyundai Club on Thursday.

Sheikh Russel's midfielder Maruf Ahmed, who was dropped from the national team, was the brightest point of the day, shoring up the midfield and seen everywhere behind the ball.



Did U Know?

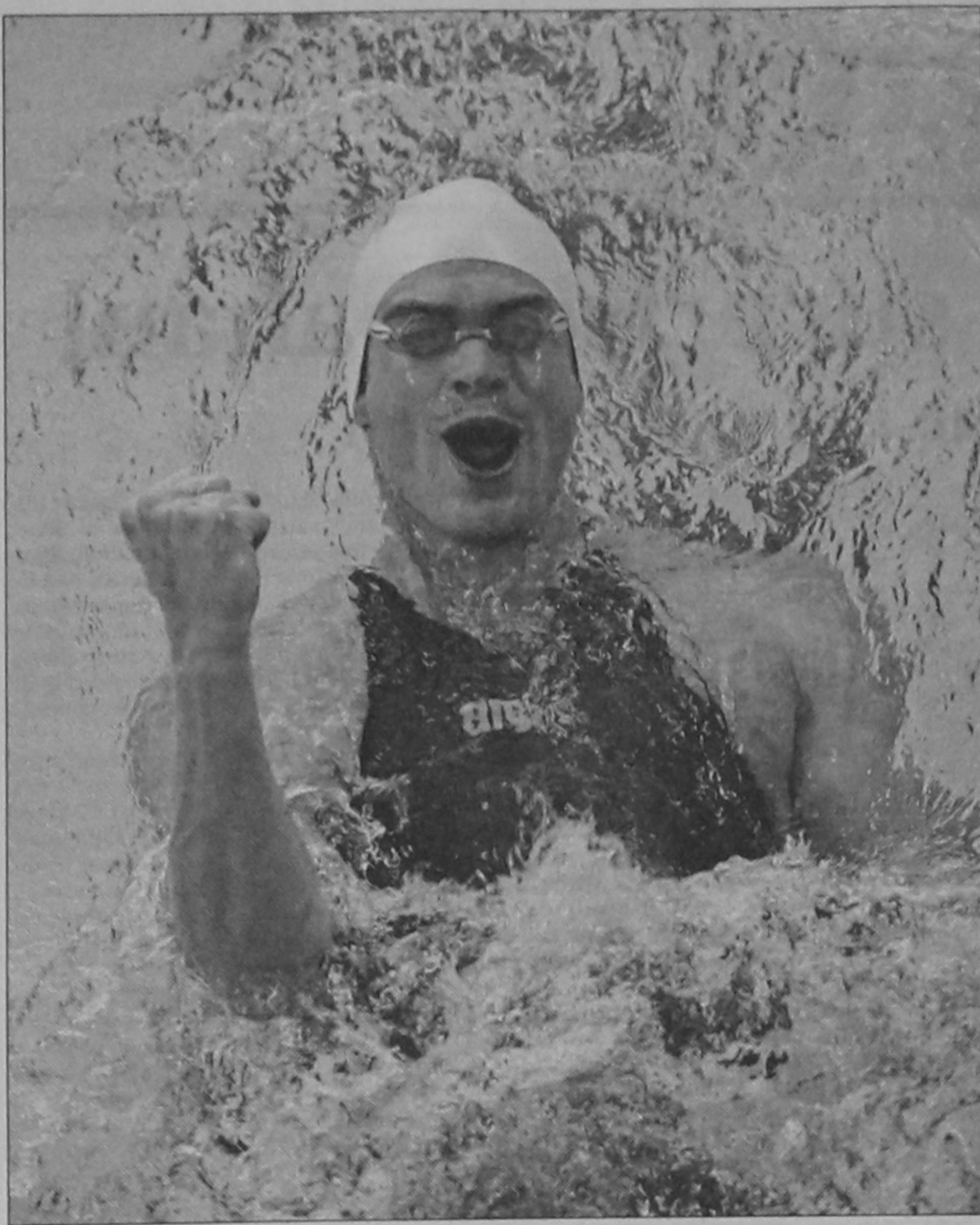
Chess is called the game of kings, because for many centuries it was played primarily by nobility and the upper classes.



Eric Cantona

(Former French international) "I think that Raymond Domenech is the worst coach in French football since Louis XVI."

On national coach following France's controversial qualification for the 2010 World Cup.



American Peter Marshall celebrates his 50m backstroke victory with a new world mark in the FINA Swimming World Cup in Singapore yesterday.

Biman surprise

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batmen capitulated once again after a promising start by the top order. Opener Imtiaz Hossain's 31 off 32 balls and Hannan Sarker's 56-ball 32 gave them hope while skipper Habibul Bashar's fine batting kept them in play for much of the chase. Bashar battled single-handedly but saw his partners fall one after another. He was the last man to get out for 52 with the score on 182 in 45.4 overs, giving Mohammedan a comfortable victory in the end.

These two results leave Mohammedan with a solo lead on 18 points from nine games followed by Abahani's 16 from same number of games. Rest of the matches of the ninth round will be played today at four different venues, the pick of those matches the one between erratic Gazi Tank and Khelaghar who have registered their first points in

the last round. The league goes to an eleven-day break after today for Eid-ul-Azha.

BRIEF SCORES

BIMAN vs Abahani
BIMAN: 238 for 7 in 50 overs (Zahurul Islam 96, Jehan Mubarak 77; Mohammad Rafique 3-43, Rabiul Islam 2-37)
ABAHANI: 209 for 9 in 50 overs (Nadif Chowdhury 44, Reshmi Ranjan 44; Shafiqul Islam 3-33, Mosharraf Hossain 2-30)
Result: Biman beat Abahani by 29 runs

Mohammedan vs Surjo Torun MOHAMMEDAN: 234 for 8 in 50 overs (Shamsur Rahman 83, Mahmudullah 70, Farveez Maharoof 33; Taposh Baisya 2-43, Sanjamul Islam 2-45)
SURJO TORUN: 182 all out in 45.4 overs (Habibul Bashar 52, Imtiaz Hossain 31, Hannan Sarker 31; Nabil Samad 3-30, Saqlain Sajib 3-37)
Result: Mohammedan won by 52 runs

Records fall at shortcourse too

AFP, Singapore

South Africa's Kathryn Meaklim, American Peter Marshall and Swedish swim queen Therese Alshammar stormed to new world records on Sunday as the shortcourse World Cup season concluded in Berlin last weekend.

In the high humidity of Singapore and at a partially-enclosed aquatic complex, the first day of the meet Saturday surprisingly saw no new world marks despite 16 being set in Berlin last weekend.

But that all changed with the powerfully-built Meaklim obliterating the women's 400m individual medley record.

She turned under world record time after the butterfly then fell off the pace on backstroke before recovering strongly with impressive breaststroke and freestyle legs to clock 4mins 22.88secs.

It knocked nearly three seconds off the old mark set by Spain's Mareia Belmonte in Rijeka, Croatia in December last year.

Like Meaklim, Marshall has been in sizzling form this year and he broke his own 50m backstroke world record, leading from start-to-finish to touch in 22.61secs.

His time shaved a fraction of a second off his previous record of 22.73 set in Stockholm earlier this month.

Gayle likely

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Excelsior High when he spoke to reporters but gave no update on his ailing mother. She is said to be suffering from a heart problem and was admitted to a hospital in Kingston, the island's capital.

Gayle, who was recently renamed the captain of the West Indies team, flew back to Jamaica last week with permission from the team's management when his mother was hospitalised.

While team officials voiced their support, there are concerns about whether Gayle will be ready to take his place in the team when the Test starts after so much travel.

Tough times

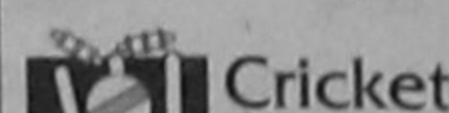
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Certainly that is the opinion of the never bashful Erci Cantona, who suffered his won World Cup heartbreak in the final qualifier for the 1994 edition when Bulgaria scored in the final minute.

"What shocked me most was that at the end of the match, in front of the television cameras, this player (Henry) went and sat down next to an Irish player to console him, even though he'd screwed them three minutes earlier."

"If I'd been Irish, he wouldn't have lasted three seconds." So if there is any good to come out of this dark episode then calls for video replays to be introduced - like they are used in tennis and rugby union - have reached a cacophony which is so loud that even UEFA supremo Michel Platini's implacable opposition to such a measure might wilt.

SL look to break jinx



AFP, Kanpur

Sri Lanka will renew efforts to win their first-ever Test in India when the second match begins here on Tuesday, after being frustrated by a flat wicket in the opening tie.

The islanders, who have never won a Test on Indian soil in six previous series, gave themselves a fair chance of scripting history at Ahmedabad by stacking up a huge 760-7 declared in their first innings.

But India wiped out a 334-run deficit on first innings, thanks to a docile pitch and some resolute batting by their top-order batsmen.

Sri Lanka's bowlers started out well to reduce India to 32-4 in the opening session but allowed them to score 426 in their first knock and struggled again in the second innings, failing to take 10 wickets over nearly four sessions.

The world's leading wicket-taker, Muttiah Muralitharan, was unable to take even a single wicket off 38 overs in the second innings, raising doubts over his effectiveness on flat wickets.

Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara said he was disappointed by the Motera track but admitted they should not have let India get away after having them on the mat on the first day of the match.

"We had our best chance when we had

them 32 for four but we gave it away after lunch" on the opening day, said Sangakkara.

"There was not much for the bowlers on the last two days. If you were a batsman you would like it. I don't think anyone expected this wicket to be this flat."

Sangakkara was not the only one rueing the pitch, which saw a whopping 1,598 runs being scored, including a world-record sixth wicket stand of 351 between Mahela Jayawardene (275) and Prasanna Jayawardene (154 not out).

His Indian counterpart Mahendra Singh Dhoni was equally critical.

"The wicket was bad. It wasn't much help to the spinners. For the fast bowlers also the wicket got slower and slower," said Dhoni.

"We knew if we didn't give early wickets to the Sri Lankan bowlers it would be very difficult for them to get 10 wickets and that's what happened."

The focus in the second Test here might once again be on the wicket that is laid out at the Green Park stadium.

The last Test played here between India and South Africa saw the home side wrap up an eight-wicket victory inside three days on a sub-standard track, prompting a warning from the International Cricket Council.

The wicket has since been relaid but the local media said the authorities wanted the match to be played on a "tried and tested" pitch.

"Our main concern is to have a full five-

day game and we don't want to experiment on a relaid track. We want to play safe," The Hindustan Times quoted a state cricket official as saying.

The other worry for Sri Lanka apart from the wicket would be the fitness of paceman Dammika Prasad, who braved a hamstring injury to bowl four overs on the final day of the Ahmedabad match.

The tourists are already without fast bowler Thilan Thushara who had to go back home after failing to recover from a freak shoulder injury, suffered during a training session ahead of the first match.

The third and final Test begins in Mumbai on December 2.

SQUADS

INDIA (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Amit Mishra, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Murali Vijay, Pragnan Ojha, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Subramaniam Badrinath.

SRI LANKA (from): Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Muttiah Muralitharan, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Tharanga Paranavitana, Thilan Samaraweera, Angelo Mathews, Thilina Kandamby, Prasanna Jayawardene, Kaushal Silva, Chanaka Welegedara, Dilhara Fernando, Nuwan Kulasekera, Dammika Prasad, Rangana Herath, Ajantha Mendis.

Consistency at stake



AFP, Dunedin

New Zealand and Pakistan start round two of their disrupted cricket series here Tuesday searching for respectability amid a background of upheaval.

The world's seventh and sixth ranked sides are two of the sport's most prominent underachievers, the result of mixing remarkable successes with spectacular collapses.

Both teams enter this three-Test series, following the one-day series in the United Arab Emirates earlier this month, wrestling with internal leadership crises and with parallel strengths and weaknesses.

For the first Test starting here on Tuesday, both sides have strong bowling armouries which will relish attacking batting line ups that have struggled in recent series to consistently control the middle for more than four sessions.

New Zealand are without a coach, entrusting both onfield leadership and off-field planning to captain Daniel Vettori after player criticism forced the resignation last month of coach Andy Moles.

Pakistan meanwhile have seen captain Younus Khan drop out of the tour over dissatisfaction with performances in the one-day series in Abu Dhabi earlier this month.

Reports from the subcontinent also indicate coach Intikhab Alam is under

pressure with former captain Javed Miandad being tipped as a likely replacement-in-waiting.

The Tests in New Zealand follow the one-day series in the United Arab Emirates which New Zealand won 2-1, and the Twenty20 series won by Pakistan 2-0.

Although officially a Pakistan home series, it was relocated after New Zealand refused to go to Pakistan over security fears after militants attacked the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore eight months ago.

Even without home track advantage, Pakistan still believe their bowling attack including Umar Gul, Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif can make life a misery for New Zealand.

"We have a bowling attack that can get 20 wickets," said coach Intikhab Alam, while conceding that batting "will be a big challenge."

Much will depend on stand-in captain Yousuf Mohammad, who boasts a Test average of 54.86 from 82 tests.

In Pakistan's one chance to acclimatise in New Zealand, a three-day match against an Invitation XI which ended in a draw, Fawad Alam also showed he was in form with a 77 in their one turn at bat while Imran Farhat made 52.

New Zealand's inconsistent batting reputation has been further hampered by the loss of Jesse Ryder through injury and Jacob Oram retiring from Test play.

Peter Fulton and Grant Elliott have been recalled to fill the batting void but neither has set the world alight previously.

Fulton, a leading batsman at domestic level in New Zealand, has an average of just 24.72 from 12 Test innings while Elliott has been to the crease five times in Tests for a top score of nine.

Selector Mark Greatbatch said the pair had a simple assignment.

"They're quite solid sorts of players and maybe that's the glue we're looking for to solid up our batting unit in between the quite exciting strokeplay we have," he said.

In last week's warm-up game opener Tim McIntosh produced an unbeaten 131 and Daniel Flynn posted scores of 49 and 56.

Shane Bond returns from two years in the cricket wilderness to share the new ball with Chris Martin.

Daryl Tuffey, who like Bond has been playing in the renegade Indian Cricket League, is likely to head Iain O'Brien as the third seamer given his record of 24 wickets in six Tests against Pakistan.

SQUADS

NEW ZEALAND: Daniel Vettori (captain), Tim McIntosh, Martin Gupthill, Daniel Flynn, Ross Taylor, Peter Fulton, Grant Elliott, Brendon McCullum, Shane Bond, Iain O'Brien, Daryl Tuffey, Chris Martin, Jeetan Patel.

PAKISTAN: Mohammad Yousuf (captain) Salman Butt, Khuram Manzoor, Imran Farhat, Shoaib Malik, Fawad Alam, Faisal Iqbal, Kamran Akmal, Danish Kaneria, Saeed Ajmal, Yasir Arafat, Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif, Mohammad Aamir, Abdur Rauf, Umer Akmal, Sarfraz Ahmed.

Colly inspires England

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the pitch was slower than usual, making scoring difficult.

Collingwood's slow medium pace proved ideal in the middle stages of the innings as he took two for 24 in six overs. He also took an acrobatic diving catch at backward point to dismiss AB de Villiers as South Africa struggled in the early stages of the innings.

Amla, playing in place of Jacques Kallis, who has been ruled out of the rest of the series because of a cracked rib, put on 73 for the third wicket with JP Duminy in the only significant partnership of the innings.

England dropped four catches but none proved too expensive, while Collingwood and Eoin Morgan, who took a leaping catch on the midwicket boundary to dismiss Albie Morkel, held out-standings efforts.

Part-time seamer Jonathan Trott proved a bonus for captain Andrew Strauss, bowling in tandem with Collingwood and conceding only 21 runs in seven overs.

England were without opening batsman Alastair Cook, who will remain in Pretoria for treatment and rehabilitation of a bulging disc in his back when his team-

mates move on to Cape Town on Monday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the South Africa innings in the second one-day international against England at the SuperSport Park in Centurion on Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA			
Amia c Strauss b Collingwood	57		
Smith c Strauss b Bresnan	12		
De Villiers c Collingwood b Anderson	20		
Duminy c Prior b Wright	41		
Petersen b Bresnan	64		
McLaren c Prior b Anderson	5		
Morkel c Morgan b Collingwood	6		
Boucher not out	30		
Van der Merwe c Bresnan b Anderson	5		
Steyn c Trott b Mahmood	12		

Langeveldt not out

Extras: (lb-3, nb-1, w-6) 10
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs) 250
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-35, 3-111, 4-131, 5-155, 6-165, 7-205, 8-222, 9-242.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	10	0	60	3
Bresnan	10	0	46	2
Mahmood	7	0	41	1
Wright	7	0	28	1
Rashid	3	0	27	0
Collingwood	6	0	24	2
Trott	7	0	21	0

ENGLAND: Strauss (captain), Trott, Pietersen, Collingwood, Morgan, Prior, Wright, Bresnan, Rashid, Mahmood, Anderson.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS			
1 Lanka lead-in	45 Playground fixture	3 Former larva	24 Inseparable
4 Hot tub	47 Weep	4 Calendar abbr.	25 Sinbad's flier
7 Kin of "Presto!"	48 Embar-rassing landing, maybe	5 "The Taking of — 1 2 3"	26 "Guinness Book" suffix
12 Basinger or Catrall	52 Chapeau	6 Klaxon	28 Part of H.M.S.
13 Silthery swimmer	53 Palatal dangler	7 November responsibility	30 Meadow
14 Frequently	54 Chaps	8 Nonfunctioning	31 Sternward
15 "Born in the —"	55 Biblical verb suffix	9 Judge Lance	32 Excessively
16 Fertilizer	56 Indigent	10 Writer Buscaglia	33 Jungfrau, for one
18 Yule fuel	57 Savings plan	11 More-over	36 Scream
19 Field goal score	58 In medias —	12 Simon or Diamond	37 Comedian Rita
20 Recognize		13 Everything, at a hot dog stand	40 Florida city
22 Parisian pal		21 Well specialty	42 Yellowish-brown shade
23 Sported			43 Deliver a speech
27 Resistance measure			44 Legends
29 South American plains			45 Fix, in a sense
31 Arcade game name			46 Sicilian spouter
34 Put into office			48 Enjoyment
35 Sociable			49 St. crosser
37 Snitch			50 Pool-room prop
38 Lids			51 Bygone times, once
39 Ostich's kin			
41 Go really fast			

DOWN			
1 Move stealthily	PAC	PITH	LOAM
2 Footballer Andre, dubbed "Bad Moon"	ILL	ALOE	IDLE
	CLUBS	SODA	PEEL
	BAS	DRESSED	
	DOCTOR	TRY	
	OVER	NAY	ANGEL
	NERD	TAJ	CORE
	ARSON	WAD	LIE
	GOAR	REEFER	
	SCORPIO	FTG	
	HARM	GLEE	CLUB
	AREA	ELAN	USE
	MOON	LARD	BAG

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13			14				
15			16			17				
18			19							
20			21		22			23	24	25
			27	28			29	30		
31	32	33					34			
35				36		37				
38				39	40			41	42	43
				45				46		47
48	49	50	51						52	
53						54			55	
56						57			58	

CRYPTOQUIP

F HKD MSFPM QS BCQ QGV
UKQGVU HFAQVT DKAKT SP
QGV TFPVU QKEAV ECQ
F VPTVT CB QSDDFPM FQ
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A TYKE WHO'S A FUTURE PLUMBER IS LEARNING TO RIDE A BIKE, MAYBE HE'LL PUT ON DRAINING WHEELS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals U