



DESPERATE TO BE BACK: Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) sprints with other members of the national team during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Out of the national team for the last five months due to knee injury, Mashrafe is trying hard to pass a fitness test for next month's tri-series against India and Sri Lanka.

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

South Africa's lower order batsmen frustrated England as the host nation crawled past 400 on the second day of the first Test at SuperSport Park on Thursday.

South Africa were 401 for eight at tea after England's bowlers toiled under a hot sun for the second successive day.

Paul Collingwood equalled the England record of four catches in an innings by a fielder as South Africa were made to bat for runs on a slow pitch, adding only 139 runs in 57 overs on the day.

Jacques Kallis added only

eight runs to his overnight score of 112 before he edged James Anderson to second slip where Collingwood held his third catch of the innings.

JP Duminy made 56 before he presented Collingwood with a fourth catch when he edged off-spinner Graeme Swann low to the fielder at a solitary slip.

Collingwood equalled a feat which had been achieved 19 times previously.

He claimed a fifth catch when an attempted sweep by Mark Boucher, on 29, against Swann looped off the batsman's boot to slip. The on-field umpires asked for a review by television umpire Amish Saheba and slow motion replays showed the

ball had hit the ground as well as the boot.

Boucher, who did not add to his score before lunch, was dropped on 25 when he hooked Stuart Broad to Graham Onions on the fine leg boundary.

Boucher was caught at short leg off Swann for 49 but tailender Paul Harris prodded and occasionally hit his way to 33 not out by the interval.

Swann had figures of four for 103 off 42 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the first Test between South Africa and England at SuperSport Park in Centurion on Thursday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 262-4)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	37	9	104	1
Broad	32	7	74	1
Onions	27	5	76	2
Swann	42	9	103	4
Collingwood	7	1	18	0
Trott	2	0	9	0

Yet another belter?

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his next-highest score is 33 and three times he's been dismissed without scoring. The law of averages says it's about time for a century, but it will be against a side off which he has only one hundred in 55 innings. To do so, Jayawardene will need to get over his struggles against India's spinners, who have now dismissed him five times -- six if you count the run out in Rajkot during a Ravindra Jadeja over -- from his seven ODI innings against them in 2009.

Opener Gautam Gambhir has been India's most consistent Test batsman this year but his figures aren't so hot in ODIs. His only century came against Sri Lanka in the first week of February and since then Gambhir has managed four half-centuries. For a determined player, who has made a superb effort to convert fifties into centuries in Tests, changing a habit that hampered him for some time, doing the same in ODIs must be a goal. Given the nature of the Nagpur track -- India eased past 350 runs when they played Australia here in October -- it is tough to visualise one of the top three not getting a big score. Gambhir has been able to bat at the top in only ten of 20 innings in 2009; if he gets the chance to

bat at No. 3 today, count on a significant innings.

Yuvraj Singh is almost ruled out -- he has the flu, in addition to his finger injury and missed practice on Thursday -- but Sehwag has been cleared to play after picking up a knee injury in Nagpur. The batting will remain the same as the first ODI, though Sudeep Tyagi may just fancy a debut ahead of Praveen Kumar.

Apart from the injuries to Muralidaran and Fernando, Sri Lanka also had to sweat on Lasith Malinga's fitness. He

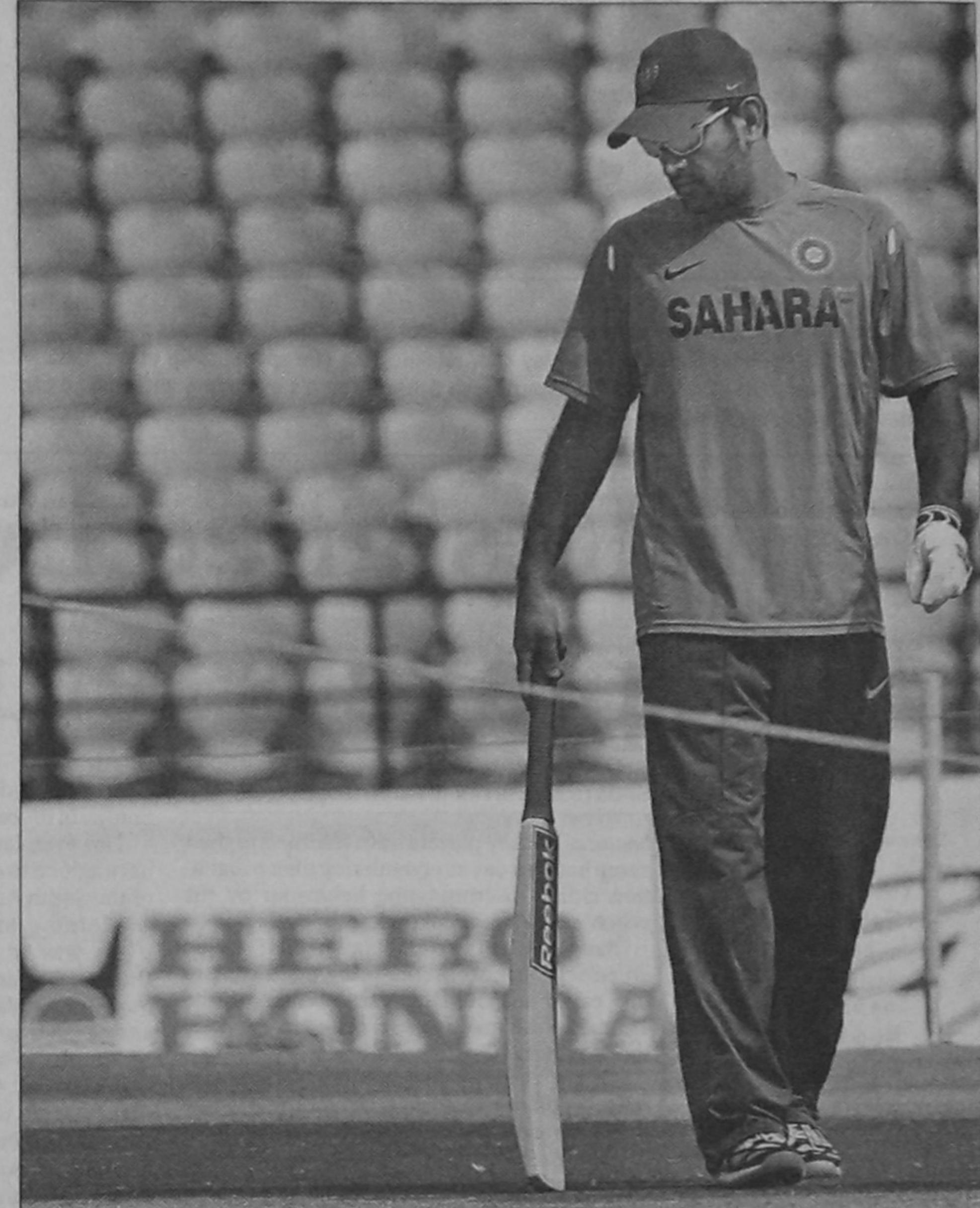
missed the first match and the management will be hopeful of his return to replace Fernando. If not, it could mean a debut for rookie fast bowler Suranga Lakmal, who teamed up with the squad today, or a spinner coming in. If it is the latter, Ajantha Mendis remains the safe bet but one of Muthumudalige Pushpakumara or Suraj Randiv could debut.

TEAMS

INDIA (likely): Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Mahendra

Singh Dhoni (captain), Suresh Raina, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar/Sudeep Tyagi, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra.

SRI LANKA (probable): Upul Tharanga, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Sanath Jayasuriya, Thilan Samaraweera, Thilina Kandamby, Angelo Mathews, Nuwan Kulasekara, Chanaka Welegedara/Ajantha Mendis/Muthumudalige Pushpakumara, Lasith Malinga, Suranga Lakmal.



WILL IT BE A CRACKER LIKE RAJKOT? India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni takes a close look at the wicket of Vidarbha Cricket Association Ground in Nagpur yesterday, ahead of the second one-day international against Sri Lanka today. India won the high-scoring first one-day in Rajkot by three runs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

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SGDHCD QXGQ'R XUTXNH

BISWNUGZ: "SWZUCWR TCZTI."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE STUDYING HOW PEOPLE RIDE TO AND FROM WORK EACH DAY, ARE YOU TAKING COMMUTER SCIENCE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

Vital Super

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will be seeking a big innings from the big spending Shakib Al Hasan, who was not at his best in the previous couple of matches.

In the day's other match, Biman take on Victoria at BKSPL.

It was learnt that Mohammedan is trying to bring an all-rounder from India before their final clash against Abahani on December 21.

Did U Know?

Thierry Henry is the only player to score 100 Premiership goals at Arsenal's Highbury ground.

TALK TURKEY

The Australians were in shock and awe, especially Hauritz, who will do well not to have nightmares of Gayle's right leg stepping down at him. Ricky Ponting kept Hauritz on hoping for a miss, and there was an edge on 81 that was split by Michael Clarke at first slip. If Gayle missed a century it would have been a bigger crime than the physical confrontation of Benn and Johnson.

He didn't and after such carnage his dismissal was as weak as the winds in the eye of a storm, a limp waltz at a short ball floating to Shane Watson at point. Bollinger was the bowler but the noise that followed was for Gayle's innings of 72 deliveries, which also had nine forgotten fours. As he exited to the first ball he had all but 34 off his side's 136. Travis Dowlin was the

His shrewd ploy that made Sri Lanka lose the plot and fall three short of India's 414 in Rajkot on Tuesday.