#### H'ball course finishes

SPORTS REPORTER

A refreshers' course for the handball coaches and referees concluded yesterday at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium with some 28 participants from across the country taking part in the three-day course.

Bangladesh Handball Federation general secretary Asaduzzaman Khohinoor distributed certificates among the participants on the concluding day while general secretary of Handball Referees' Association Qumrul Islam Kiron, BHF joint secretary M Nurul Islam were also present on the occasion.

#### Adams's idea

PTI, Rajkot

West Indies have abundance of talent but will have to work on the grassroot level if they desire to produce more cricketers like Brian Lara, feels former captain Jimmy Adams.

Adams, who is in India to coach players from UAE and some local boys as part of a cricket camp being organised by G Force Cricket Academy, said that the country has enough raw material and it depends on how well we could develop them.

"The WI has been inconsistent for quite some times after retirement of Brian Lara and standard of the game is going down," Adams said.

### Reading hold

FROM PAGE 20 Earnshaw missed a secondhalf penalty.

In the all Premier League clashes, Aston Villa beat Blackburn Rovers 3-1 and Wigan came from behind to defeat Hull 4-1.

Villa went ahead through Nathan Delfouneso's 12th minute header before Rovers saw David Dunn's penalty

saved by Brad Guzan. Carlos Cuellar's header made it 2-0 before Blackburn were reduced to 10 men when striker El-Hadji Diouf was sent off for a challenge on Habib

Nikola Kalinic pulled one back for Rovers but John Carew's last-minute penalty securedVilla's victory.

Hull went ahead away to Wigan thanks to Geovanni's 35th minute free-kick.

But Wigan's Charles N'Zogbia equalised two minutes after the break and the hosts' comeback continued when James McCarthy scored in the 63rd minute.

N'Zogbia, a half-time substitute, then made it 3-1 three minutes later with Scott Sinclair adding a fourth in the last minute.

Manchester City won 1-0 away to Championship side Middlesbrough thanks to Zimbabwean striker Benjani Mwaruwari's goal a minute before the break.

Tottenham beat second-tier

Peterborough 4-0, Croatia midfielder Niko Kranjcar scoring twice before half-time. Championship side

Preston, who sacked manager Alan Irvine last week, were the day's biggest winners, hammering League One Colchester



NBA superstar Kobe Bryant was the leading scorer during the 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons.





## **Brett Lee**

(Australian fast bowler) "If it happens that I don't play cricket again I can walk away knowing I've given it my best." Wondering what the future holds as his elbow problem continues.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The City Bank chairman Aziz Al Kaiser (3rd from L) hands over a cheque of Tk. 1 crore to Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith (C) during a dinner at a city hotel last week. Bangladesh Olympic Association president and army chief General Abdul Mubeen, BOA general secretary Kutubuddin Ahmed and Bangladesh Association of Banks chairman Nazrul Islam were present. City bank as well as some other financial intermediaries have decided to come forward to help the BOA financially in a bid to making the 11th South Asian Games a success.

# Hussey disappointed

Cricket

CRICINFO, Sydney

The pitch was tough but Michael Hussey felt Australia under-performed in falling to a disappointing 127 on the opening day of the second Test against Pakistan at the SCG on Sunday. After winning the toss, the hosts tumbled to 7 for 62 and had to rely on 38 from tude, if we bowl patiently and Mitchell Johnson and Hussey's with real discipline, we'll create 28 to push them to three figures. enough chances to hopefully

have to tough it out in the first tomorrow night and then the couple of hours and we weren't toss is irrelevant." able to do that," Hussey said. "They did bowl well, we must rare in the modern game and give them credit, but for myself, the bowlers deserve to enjoy I was a bit disappointed with their days with assistance in the the way I got out after doing air and off the pitch. However, some hard work."

Hussey had played the most be fun for batsmen.

sensibly of the specialist batsmen before pulling at Asif and being caught off the top edge at first slip. It was an unnecessary mistake but Hussey wasn't the only one who messed up, with Ricky Ponting, Phillip Hughes and Brad Haddin also responsible for their exits.

"At the end of the day we are disappointed to be bowled out for 127," Hussey said. "Come tomorrow with a positive atti-"We knew we were going to have the game on an even keel

> Green tops have become Hussey said the days could still

## India, different

**FROM PAGE 17** in the fast bowling department has remained an anxiety while India embarrassingly dropped 12 catches during their recently concluded home contest against Sri Lanka.

"In the last series batsmen actually won the battles and it was not a good series for the bowlers. We have been working hard to improve our fielding also," said Dhoni when he was asked whether absence of a specialist bowling and fielding coaches is hurting the team's

was excited with his team's strongest department, which is batting and said that the batting is so strong that they can't accommodate the players who was doing well in the domestic circuit. He made the comments when asked about the absence of master batsman Sachin Tendulkar. Dhoni was also concerned

The India skipper however

with the slow over-rate for which he had to receive a twomatch ban in the home series against Sri Lanka. "It's important to complete thirteen overs in the first hour to avoid this kind of problem."

Dhoni predicted that dew would be a factor in the triseries as all the matches are day-night fixtures.

"Toss may play a big role in the tournament because dew would be a factor. Lot will depend on the spinners but it would not be an easy task for the spinner to grip the ball in the later part of the match," he

During the lively press briefing the Indian skipper also showed his good sense of humour when one inquisitive reporter asked: Whom he likes more, Don Bradman or Sachin Tendulkar?

"I was born in 1981," was the smiling response of the Jharkhand hero.

# SL's faith in youth

Trevor tried to feign optimism

performance.

for Sanath's chances of making it into the side in the near future with a very set and successful opening partnership between Dilshan and Tharanga. "We are looking for the part-

nership between Dilshan and Tharanga which is doing extremely well at the moment, to take into the World Cup. Sanath's role in the team is as a spinning all-rounder. He is not here for this tour, but I think with his experience he will be doing everything to give himself a chance to be back in the team."

One question that is expected to feature in every pre-match and post-match briefing is how big a role the dew factor will play in the tournament, since all the

matches are under lights in the cold January winter.

Trevor was ambiguous in his reply. He thought that the dew would play a key role, but insisted that any team needed to put a big total on the board or put a good bowling effort in order to make the dew factor count. The absence of captain Kumar Sangakkara or any other Sri Lankan player in the media briefing also raised a few eyebrows.

**SQUAD** 

Kumar Sangakkara (Captain), T.M. Dilshan, Upul Tharanga, Thilan Samaraweera, Thilina Kandamby, Chamara Silva, Lahiru Thirimanna, Thisara Perera, M Pushpakumara, Malinga Bandara, Suraj Randiv, Thilan Thushara, Suranga Lakmal, Nuwan Kulasekera ChanakaWelagedara

## Asif shoots six

few of Pakistan's wickets were the result of exaggerated aerial or surface movement. Disciplined Pakistani bowling and questionable Australian decision-making played as much of a role in the hosts' disintegration as swing or seam. Let the inquest begin.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday: **AUSTRALIA:** First innings Watson c Kamran b Sami

Hughes c Iqbal b Sami Ponting c Gul b Sami Hussey c Misbah b Asif Clarke b Asif North c Kamran b Asif Haddin c Yousuf b Asif

Johnson c Farhat b Asif Hauritz b Asif Siddle not out

Bollinger b Gul Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-1, nb-1) 5 Total: (All out IN 44.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-2, 3-10,

4-36, 5-51, 6-51, 7-62, 8-106, 9-Bowler O M R W 20 41 Asif

12 27 Sami Gul 10.2 38 Kaneria 2 **PAKISTAN:** First innings Farhat not out

Butt not out Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) Total: (For no loss in 4.1 overs) To bat: Iqbal, Yousuf, Misbah, Umar, Kamran, Sami, Asif, Kaneria, Gul

0 M 0 4 0

Bowler Bollinger 2.1 Siddle Toss: Australia. Umpires: Asoka de Silva and Billy Doctrove.

respects the pressure goes off the batsmen a little bit, the pressure is more on the bowlers, who are expected to get you out cheaply. It's really rewarding if you can get through the period on a tough pitch, it doesn't get any tougher than that as a batsman." A major problem for the

"I really enjoyed the chal-

lenge," he said. "In some

run-makers is they don't run into seaming surfaces very often and have to play from the memory of their club or county days. "We're generally well treated everywhere around the world with excellent batting conditions," Hussey said. "Sometimes in net practice in places around Australia and the world, you do get some spicy conditions, so you do practice a little bit. For me, growing up in Wanneroo [in Perth], plenty of our net sessions were like that. It takes you

## Enamul

**FROM PAGE 17** 

It was Rahmatganj's fifth defeat and third in a row in six outings.

back to your youth a little bit."

**TEAMS** 

ABAHANI: Biplob, Sujan, Nazrul, Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Zahed Parvez, Pranotosh Kumar Das, Ujjal (Shahedul Alam), Enamul, Samad Yousuf, Awudu Ibrahim and Mohammad Awal (Rajani).

RAHMATGANJ MFS: Himel (Nehal), Jahangir Patwary, Asif Hossain, Ddumba Michael (Hamid Sheikh), Anisur Alam, Felix, Kabir Hossain, Choumrin Rakhine (M Mamun), Idris Kasirye and Russel Alam.

Yellow cards: Ujjal (Abahani), Choumrin (Rahmatganj) Referee: Azad Rahman.

#### End of Ntini?

**FROM PAGE 17** 

has taken 390 Test wickets at an average of 28.82, second only to South African record holder Shaun Pollock, who took 421.

Ntini has taken ten wickets in a match on four occasions, the most by any South African, and claimed the best match figures in South African Test history when he took 13 for 132 against the West Indies in Port of Spain in 2004/05.

The decision to drop Ntini was not taken lightly in a country where political considerations are an unavoidable reality.

"It's a sensitive issue in South Africa," Smith said in his captain's pre-match press conference on Saturday when asked about the debate surrounding Ntini's place.

#### A stern New

**FROM PAGE 17** "I am excited to put them up

against India. We need to see where we are, whether we are improving, whether we are on track before the World Cup. This series is a fantastic opportunity for us to step up. I am looking forward to India, obviously they are a superstar team and we are not. But that's the challenge," the Australian continued.

There was a common sentiment regarding one issue which was the role dew will play in the day-night affairs which will start from 2.30pm as it would not be easy to operate the ball in the second session underfloodlight.

"The outfield got quite wet toward the end of the night. I guess we would rather be batting than bowling at that time. I think the wicket is going to be good to bat on all the way through. The problem might be bowling in the dew. So toss may be important," said Bangladesh coach.

So, before everything, the captains want to toss the coin rightly to take the first advantage.

# 97 new register with IPL

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ninety-seven players, including 26 from Pakistan and several latterly with the Indian Cricket League (ICL), have registered for the third Indian Premier League (IPL) auction, which will be held on January 19.

The list also includes four players from ICC associate countries -- Rizwan Cheema and Khurram Chohan (Canada), Ryan ten Doeschate (Netherlands), Niall O'Brien (Ireland) -- as well as former Zimbabwe nationals Murray Goodwin and Ray Price. Prominent among the players who

were part of the unofficial ICL are Shane Bond, who recently retired from Test cricket, Damien Martyn, Chris Cairns, Saqlain Mushtaq and Justin Kemp.

The Pakistanis -- the current world Twenty20 champions -- include Mohammed Aamer and Umar Akmal, and the list also includes the exciting West Indian Kieron Pollard.

Merely registering, however, does not guarantee the player will be included in the auction list. The IPL will send the list of 97 names to the franchises who will then select those players they would like included in the auction. The selected players will be informed of their inclusion by January 5.

The number of overseas players a franchise may have on its roster is capped at ten and at present it is unclear how Mahmood, Shoaib Malik, Khurram

many slots are available. In 2009, over 100 players registered for the auction out of which 50 went under the hammer to fill 17 available overseas slots. The IPL said it expected the number of places to be substantially lower this time.

The list sets a "preliminary expected availability" date against each player's name and, intriguingly, those from Australia and South Africa have been marked as free from the conclusion of their domestic competitions -- the Sheffield Shield, in the case of Australian players, and the Standard Bank Pro20 series for South Africans. This suggests that the league has shifted from its earlier stated position, that players would have to put the IPL above their domestic tournaments and be available for the entire

That decision, taken in November, said defaulting players would face penalties including termination of player contracts and a ban on future participation, although Lalit Modi, the league's chairman, told Cricinfo that this would only

#### happen in a worst-case scenario. REGISTERED PLAYERS

BANGLADESH: Shakib Al Hasan,

Shahriar Nafees. PAKISTAN: Mohammed Aamer, Shahid Afridi, Shahzad Ahmed, Saeed Ajmal, Umar Akmal, Fawad Alam, Yasir Arafat, Mohammad Asif, Salman Butt, Imran Farhat, Mohammad Hafeez, Yasir Hameed, Faisal Iqbal, Asim Kamal, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Khalil, Abdur Rauf, Khalid Latif, Azhar

Manzoor, Saqlain Mushtaq, Navedul Hasan, Imran Nazir, Abdul Razzag, Mohammad Sami. SRI LANKA: Malinga Bandara, Indika de

Saram, Chinthaka Jayasinghe, Thilina Kandamby, Chamara Kapugedera, Nuwan Kulasekera, Suranga Lakmal, Jehan Mubarak, Thisara Perera, Dammika Prasad, Muthumudalige Pushpakumara, Suraj Randiv, Rangana Herath, Gihan Rupasinghe, Upul Tharanga, Kaushalya Weeraratne, ChanakaWelegedara. SOUTH AFRICA: Yusuf Abdulla, Nicky

Boje, Zander de Bruyn, Tyron Henderson, Justin Kemp, Rory Kleinveldt, Andre Nel, Wayne Parnell, Vernon Philander, Lonwabo Tsotsobe, Johan van der Wath, CJ de Villiers. NEW ZEALAND: Shane Bond, Ian Butler,

Chris Cairns, Brendon Diamanti, Grant Elliott, Martin Guptill, Nathan McCullum, Daryl Tuffey, Lou Vincent. WEST INDIES: Carlton Baugh, Tino Best,

Daren Ganga, Wavell Hinds, Kieron Pollard, Kemar Roach, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Lendl Simmons. AUSTRALIA: Brad Haddin, Phillip

Hughes, Ashley Noffke, Jason Krejza, Ben Laughlin, Graham Manou, Damien Martyn, Clint McKay, Adam Voges. ENGLAND: Tim Bresnan, Anthony McGrath, Eoin Morgan, Monty Panesar,

Adil Rashid, Jonathan Trott Usman Afzaal, CANADA: Rizwan Cheema, Khurram Chohan.

ZIMBABWE: Murray Goodwin, Ray Price. NETHERLANDS: Ryan ten Doeschate.

IRELAND: Niall O'Brien.

#### SAG liaison officers' course concludes

SPORTS REPORTER A three-day training for 300 liaison officers for the South Asian Games (SAG) ended yesterday at the newly-built Bangladesh Olympic

Association Bhahan adjacent to the outer stadium. The liaison officers, who were picked from 3,000 applicants, will work with the eight participating nations -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan, Afghanistan and hosts Bangladesh -- during the 13-day regional sports

January 29. They were given idea about the Games and taught about communication, behaviour, Olympic movements, technical rules and tourism during the training, said a press release.

extravaganza starting from

The 11th edition of the Games will have a record number of 23 disciplines -- athletics, shooting, swimming, wushu, teakwondo, karate weightlifting, boxing, table tennis, kabaddi, football, archery, squash, hockey, handball, wrestling, golf, judo, cricket and badminton.

### Cairns eyes IPL stint

AFP, Wellington

15 Platter

16 E-mail

tive

17 Eastern

18 Villain's

20 Madeline

"Blazing

Saddles"

34 Symbol of

intrigue

liqueur

virtuoso

Stern

36 Greek

37 Violin

22 Taxi

alterna-

potentate

Former New Zealand all rounder Chris Cairns is eyeing an international cricket comeback at the age of 39 by registering for the next player auction in the lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL).

Cairns, who once held the world record for the most sixes in Tests (87) and is one of only seven players to have reached the double of 200 wickets and 3,000 runs, was a Wisden cricketer of the year in 2000.



South Africa batsman Jacques Kallis raises his bat after scoring a hundred on the first day of the third Test against England at Newlands in Cape Town yesterday. Kallis remained unbeaten on 108 as South Africa reached 279 for 6 at stumps.

# Swann rocks SA

Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

cycling, volleyball, basketball, A double strike by England off-spinner Graeme Swann plunged South Africa into trouble on the first day of the third Test at Newlands here on Sunday.

South Africa were 183 for five at tea after being sent in to bat.

The host nation appeared to be on the way to recovery after a poor start before Swann took two wickets in two balls to put England firmly in control with South Africa on 127 for five.

Swann, man of the match in the first two Tests, ended a 76-run third wicket stand between Jacques Kallis and AB de Villiers when he had De Villiers smartly caught at short midwicket by captain Andrew Strauss for 36. JP Duminy then suffered his second succes-

sive first-ball dismissal when he pushed forward tentatively and edged a catch to wicketkeeper Matt Prior.

reaching a competitive total. He was unbeaten on 55 at tea. He and

wicketkeeper Mark Boucher (37 not out) added

an unbeaten 56 for the sixth wicket to restore the

Kallis was left to carry South Africa's hopes of

balance to some extent for the under-pressure Proteas, who trail the four-match series 1-0. Swann took two for 55 and James Anderson

two for 41. Rain delayed the start of play by half-an-hour and Strauss' decision to bowl first paid an early dividend when Anderson had Ashwell Prince caught behind for nought off the fourth ball of

the match. South Africa could have been two down three balls later when Graeme Smith, on one, edged Graham Onions' first delivery into the midriff of

Swann at second slip. But Swann could not hold the chance. Although regular second slip Paul Collingwood was passed fit to play, he was fielding at fine leg to prevent further damage to a dislocated left index

finger. Smith and Hashim Amla put on 45 for the second wicket before Amla was leg before wicket to Graham Onions for 14. Smith made 30 before being caught behind off Anderson off the first

ball he faced after lunch. A shortened morning was played under overcast skies but the sun came out after lunch and Kallis and De Villiers batted brightly, adding

76 runs off 126 balls. Fast bowler Makhaya Ntini was dropped from the South African team and replaced by Friedel de Wet.

#### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 2 Harness 23 Acknowl-39 Profligate ACROSS

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**58** Cut

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1 Probabil-

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cover 49 Catch sight of 50 Binge 51 Guitar's cousin 52 Cacoph-

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ally

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40 Trinity

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EBGTCHUSJFN AVRC

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Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A SEVERE STORM IS FORMING ABOVE A LAKE, I WOULD THINK THAT'S FOREBODING FOR BOATING.

19 20 21 26 29 38 42 43 45 47 48 60 **CRYPTOQUIP** 

AHJSTFHX SDH YFJUE GJUNBU XSJSH'X GJSSRH LBLTRJSVBU:

"YFJMVUY JFVMBUJ."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T