## Strauss back to hot seat

ANI, London

England's Test skipper Andrew Strauss will resume the captaincy against Bangladesh at Lord's on Thursday after watching the Paul Collingwood-lead team to Twenty20 World Cup glory in his absence.

Strauss said that he and coach Andy Flower both want to prevent a repeat of what followed England's 2005 Ashes win, when too much celebratingled to a dramatic dip in form.

"Players can get carried away, as we have seen in the past, but I'd be very surprised if it happened to this group of players. I think a healthy dose of realism is important while at the same time taking huge confidence out of what has been achieved in the T20," News of The World quoted Strauss, as saying.

"But let's not fool ourselves. In all forms of the game there is improvement we can make. Certainly in Test cricket if we want to be the best team in the world we need to make a lot of improvements," he added.

Strauss' would be making a comeback over four months' absence, but he remains convinced that he was right to take a break before a hectic year of cricket that culminates in the

"The break was very, very important. I feel refreshed and excited about coming back into the England team. Ultimately, it was done for long-term reasons," Strauss said.

"It was done with the Ashes and next year's World Cup in mind. I don't know how the players will react but if there's a problem, we'll cross that bridge when we come to it," he added.

## Ten teams for 2010 Champs League

CRICINFO

The 2010 Champions League Twenty20 will be contested by ten teams, as opposed to the 12 that participated in the inaugural edition in 2009, after the ECB said its domestic sides could not compete because the competition clashed with the end of the English domestic season. The tournament will feature 23 matches (the same number as 2009), with the format, schedule and venues to be decided in the coming weeks.

### Rossi fixes

FROM PAGE 17

Czechoslovakia and Tunisia gave Ron Greenwood's team a 100 per cent record but, in the second round, a failure to score against Spain and West Germany saw them return home empty-handed.

Holders Argentina, now featuring Diego Maradona, had endured a tough time in their group, losing to the Belgians in the opening game, but had reached the second round groups of three. They faced a group of death in the form of Brazil and Italy. Brazil fielded their best team since 1970, with the talents of Falcao, Zico, Socrates and Eder, but the lack of a genuine striker --Careca missed out through injury -- cost them dearly. The gangly Serginho was not up to the standard of the rest of the side.

The Argentines flopped badly against the Italians and were then outclassed by Brazil in a 3-1 defeat that saw Maradona sent off for kicking out at Batista. Maradona, then just beginning his career at Barcelona, had failed in the tournament in his adopted country.

TOBECONTINUED

# Greeks look

FROM PAGE 20

Katsouranis said Rehhagel understood the Greek mentality and that the only "negative feature, which also could be an advantage, is that he is stubborn. He does not easily change his mind."

Rehhagel and his 25 players departed for their Swiss training camp on Friday in preparation for their 2010 World Cup campaign.



Bangladesh League Farashganj v Abahani Time: 4:00pm Venue: Bangabandhu National

Stadium Bangladesh A v West Indies A Second Four-Day Match, Day 3 Time: 9:15am Venue: BKSP



World and Olympic triple gold medalist Usain Bolt gives a thumb up after winning the 200m title in the IAAF Diamond League meeting in Shanghai on Sunday.

# Bolt's solid start

Athletics Athletics

AFP, Shanghai

World and Olympic triple gold medalist Usain Bolt launched his IAAF Diamond League campaign in Shanghai on Sunday with a comfortable 200m win in 19.76 seconds. Bolt, who holds the world

record of 19.19, was the only man to break the 20-second barrier, with American Angelo Taylor second in 20.34 followed by American Ryan Bailey in 20.43. "It was a good run, the

feeling was good but it was not easy. I am not in the best shape but enjoyed it," Bolt said. "I look forward to the next race."

Bolt and Chinese hurdling star Liu Xiang were highlight attractions at the second stop of the 14-event Diamond League competition.

It was Bolt's first race in China since his triple-gold Olympic performance at the 2008 Beijing Games and the crowd roared him on as he jogged a victory lap around the stadium.

"I really wanted a good time, I'm not going to China very often," Bolt said.

Bolt ran 9.86 seconds -- the fastest time of the year so far -to win his season-opening 100m at South Korea's Daegu Pre-Championships Meeting last week. His fastest 200m of the season was 19.56 in Kingston earlier this month.

The 100m and 200m world record holder is being pursued by American Tyson Gay and fellow Jamaican Asafa Powell, who have both made it clear they aim to beat him this year -

played down suggestions that

the England players in action

on Monday night would be

preoccupied by the risk of

a couple of bad pitches out in

South Africa," Ferdinand said.

"You've got to deal with what is

the match that he would be

handing Joe Hart his second

England cap in order to assess

the Manchester City goal-

outstanding season on loan at

Birmingham and appears to

have earned a real shot at being

England's number one in

South Africa with Capello still

undecided between him,

Hart has just finished an

Capello confirmed ahead of

put in front of you."

keeper's credentials.

"Who knows, there could be

**FROM PAGE 17** 

injury.

Barry crucial

- and Bolt himself has said it for his one-time recordcould be the season to do it. But with Gay and Powell

staying away from Shanghai, Bolt dominated the 200m race, part of what he is calling an "off-season" in which he intends to get as much rest as possible ahead of next year's world championships.

Bolt's 200m race in Shanghai helps set the stage for three upcoming Diamond League showdowns with Gay, who fired a new warning in Bolt's direction by shattering the 44-year-old straight line 200m world record on May 18.

"If Tyson decides that he wants to make a world record, it's fine by me. If he wants to chase anybody down, I have no problem," Bolt told report-

"I'm just going out there to run and try to stay unbeaten this season so I'm looking forward to the clashes." Fans screamed as Chinese

star Liu stepped on to the track for the men's 110m hurdles. Liu, who complained of pain in his Achilles tendon before the race, defied his own expectations with a third-place finish of 13.40 seconds. American David Oliver

won the race with the fastest time of the season at 12.99 and China's Shi Dongpeng was second at 13.39. But all eyes seemed to be

on hometown hero Liu, who is seeking to regain world-class form after finishing seventh in his international return at the World Indoor Championships in March.

Liu, who at the 2004 Athens Games became the first Chinese man to win Olympics track and field gold, is striving

James and West Ham's Robert

for him to play because the

pressure at Wembley is really,

really big," Capello said. "He

has played all the games for

Birmingham this year and

improved a lot. I have confi-

dence in him like the two other

goalkeepers. I have time to

England players are due to

return to Irdning in the

Austrian Alps for further train-

ing before playing a final

warm-up match, against

injury fallout from that match

before trimming his 30-man

provisional squad to his final 23

Capello will assess the

Japan, on Sunday.

After Monday's match, the

"It will be really important

Green.

PHOTO: AFP

breaking form after an Achilles

heel injury force him out of the

2008 Beijing Olympics. "Every athlete will have ups and downs. I still have confidence in myself," Liu said, adding he was fighting through the pain and was still aiming to compete in the London 2010 Olympics.

"Going from an athlete that no one can beat to an athlete that's been conquered by someone who never beat him before [teammate Shi], that's something I have to deal with, keep calm and find out where I can improve," he said.

US sprinter Carmelita Jeter continued her women's 100m winning streak with a time of 11.09 seconds. World champion Shelly-Ann Fraser of Jamaica came second finishing in 11.29 seconds.

Season-best performances at the meet included Kenyans Augustine Kiprono Choge (1500m) and Gladys Jerotich Kipemoi (women's 3000m steeplechase), Ethiopian Entayehu Ejigu (women's 5000m) and American Lashinda Demus (women's 400m hurdles).

The Diamond League awards points depending on performances throughout the 14-event programme with the winners of the 16 meets taking home a diamond trophy and a cash prize.

For its next round, the Diamond League moves to Oslo for its first European stop on June 4.

#### Italy open **FROM PAGE 17**

minor injury to his left calf muscle.

winning the Champions League on Saturday, even though he didn't name any of the club's players in his group -- a result of Inter's squad being made up almost entirely of foreigners.

"It was a great night, a real celebration for Italian football and, above all, for a team that have won everything this season, and deservedly so," Lippi said. "I see in Inter a good sign for our road ahead at the World Cup."

Italy will be based primarily in Sestriere for the next two weeks, with day trips for warmup matches against Mexico in Brussels on June 3 and against Switzerland in Geneva two days later.

In South Africa, the World Cup holder opens against Paraguay on June 14 and will also face New Zealand and Slovakia in Group F.

## Sk Russel rout Feni

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel KC recorded an emphatic 4-1 win over Feni Soccer Club in the Citycell Bangladesh League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Moroccan Jamal Nakhli struck twice while his compatriot Salah Maslouh and striker Mohammad Rony netted one apiece for the winners, who raised their points tally to 50 from 22 matches to stay in the third position, the place they have already confirmed in the 13-team table.

In the meantime, despite their sixth loss in 22 matches, newcomers Feni are just behind Sheikh Russel with 32 points. Nakhli gave Sheikh Russel an 11th minute lead and then doubled the margin in the 36th before Manwar Hossain Raju pulled one goal back for Feni in the 40th minute, but Maslouh almost made the result safe striking the team's third goal two minutes from the break. Rony completed the rout in

stoppage time to give Sheikh Russel their 15th win in the league.

#### SR DIV FOOTBALL Purbachal win

SPORTS REPORTER

Purbachal Parisad tasted their first victory in the Bashund hara Senior Division Football League with a lone-goal win over Badda Jagarani Sangsad at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday. Sajjid struck the all

important goal in the 11th minute to give his side points to cheer after a goalless draw against Jatrabari KC in their first match. On the other hand, it was

the second successive defeat for Badda Jagarani.

## Abahani

**FROM PAGE 17** "Abahani's defence was solid

with the inclusion of Rajani and Mishu while striker Enamul played a key role upfront.' The Brothers manager said

that Abahani won the battle

against Mohammedan this year off the field where they showed better management skills than the Motijheel outfit. Abu Yousuf, a former coach

of Farashganj SC, observed that lack of fighting attitude among the players and even the officials of the mid-table teams made it easy for Abahani. He also observed that fre-

quent break and unplanned scheduling hampered the performance of the lightweights, whose cash-starved Lippi praised Inter Milan for | officials showed reluctance to continue training during the breaks. Shariful Bari Titu, AFC's A-

licensed coach who claimed to have watched every Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu Nationa Stadium, looked at it differently.

"There is a huge difference between the giants and the minnows and I also found no fighting spirit among the players," said Titu.

"Look, Mohammedan are still unbeaten in the league and they dropped points against Beanibazar and Farashganj in the dying moments. And it happened only because they looked relaxed at that time, said the former national footballer.

**ACROSS** 

5 List-

1 Record

ending

abbr.

12 Director

ger

13 Mai —

14 Mysteri-

ous

15 Blue

16 Attila,

hue

e.g.

20 Supple-

with

"out"

22 Olympi-

ans'

prizes

mented,

**17** Kin of

8 Presage

Premin-

(cocktail)

charac-

# **LOCAL SNIPPETS**

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Mehdi Hasan Parag shared points with Indian International Master Satyapragyan Swayangsu in the third round of the 2nd SCS International Open Grandmaster Chess Tournament in Bhubaneswar, India on Sunday

Parag improved his tally to 2.5 points to share the second position along with 30 other players.

GM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, Debaraj Chatterjee, Abdullah Al Saif and Hafizul Islam Chapal and FM Mohammad Javed secured 1.5 points each after the third round.

In the third round matches, Sagar drew with GM Luther Thomas of Germany, Rajib lost to IM Rahul Sangma of India, Javed lost to GM Ovetchkin Roman of Russia, Shakil beat Mohammad Ashraf of India, Debaraj beat Bharadwaj Akshay of India, Saif beat Dalai Khitindra Prateem of India, Chapal beat Tripathy Sunil of India, Eti lost to Abhishek Das of India, Mokaddes beat Arpit Pattnaik of India and Toffee beat Pattnaik Adyasha of India.

SIX SEASONS INTERNATIONAL CHESS National women's champion WFM Shamima Akter Liza won her second round board to share the lead with Enkhtuul Altanulzii of Mongolia

in the Six Seasons International Chess tournament at the Narayanganj Club. Liza beat Emon to improve her tally to 1.5 points while Enkhtuul dropped points when

FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon and national women's runner-up Sharmin Sultana Shirin have one point each.

In the other second round matches, Shirin beat Mishraz Nida Siddiqui of Pakistan.

#### U-16 NATIONAL CRICKET

The two-day final of Standard Chartered Young Tigers U-16 National Cricket Competition will start today at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. BKSP will take on Sylhet Division in the final.

BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal will inaugurate the match at 9am.

#### GIRLS'SCHOOL CRICKET

The 3rd Girls' School Cricket Tournament will start today at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi. Viqarunnissa Noon School and College-B will take on Par Gendaria (Nampara) Non Govt Primary and Junior High School in the opening match.

A total of seven schools are taking part in the competition.

The other participating teams are Viqarunnissa Noon School and College-A, Amzad Ali Govt. Pilot Girls' High School-M, Amzad Ali Govt. Pilot Girls' High School-D, Rahomotullah Model High School and Azimpur Girls' School and College.

#### **SCHOOL KABADDI**

Jatrabari Ideal High School and Haider Ali High School moved into the final of the Standard Chartered National School Kabaddi. In the first semifinal yesterday, Jatrabari

Ideal beat Ansar and VDP High School by 69-65 points with five creditable lonas at the Kabaddi Stadium while Haider Ali High defeated Shaheed Nabi High School 59-51 with three creditable lonas in the second semifinal. The final will be held on May 28 at the same

venue.

# Clarke stays T20 skipper

Cricket

she drew with Malek.

AFP, Sydney

Michael Clarke was Monday retained as skipper of Australia's Twenty20 squad for July's series with Pakistan in England despite his below-par batting performances in T20 cricket. Clarke admitted his place in the team was under threat after a

poor run of form continued in a seven-wicket World T20 final loss to England in Barbados earlier this month. Clarke's top score was just 27 in the Caribbean tournament

and he ended the event with 92 runs at a meagre average of 15.33.

**ODI SQUAD** 

Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke (vice-captain), Doug Bollinger, Brad Haddin, Nathan Hauritz, Ryan Harris, James Hopes, Mike Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Shaun Marsh, Clint McKay, Steve Smith, Shane Watson, Cameron White. T20 SQUAD

Michael Clarke (captain), Cameron White (vice-captain), Daniel Christian, Brad Haddin, Ryan Harris, Nathan Hauritz, David Hussey, Mike Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Dirk Nannes, Steven Smith, Shaun Tait, David Warner, Shane Watson.

# A teams neck

FROM PAGE 17

the day's play was made mutually to give the West Indies A players time to attend their British Visa interviews.

Earlier the visitors were bowled out for 268 runs after resuming the day on 230 for Left-arm pacer Syed Rasel,

who initiated the early damage on the first day, took two more wickets yesterday to finish with five for 59 runs while left-arm spinner Shuvo picked up the other wickets to complete his five-wicket haul for 85 runs.

Brandon Nash missed his deserved hundred by one for running out of partners as the left-hander was stranded on 99. During his 201-minute stay in the middle Nash clobbered eight boundaries.

In reply, Bangladesh A made a poor start when Nelon Pascal removed Shahriar Nafees, who hit a hundred in the first four-dayer which the home team lost by 114 runs at Mirpur, in the very first over. Nazimuddin joined Mehrab Hossain to repair the early damage associating 73 runs for the second wicket before the latter was dismissed by Shillingford for 29 runs. Bangladesh again fell in

trouble when Rokibul Hasan (4) and Farhad Hossain (1) were dismissed cheaply but Faisal and Sahagir steadied the rocking ship with a 75-run partnership in the undefeated sixth wicket stand. Wicketkeeper batsman

Sahagir was not out on 26 runs.

#### **SCORES IN BRIEF**

**WEST INDIES A:** First innings (overnight 230-7 in 84 overs) 268 all out in 95 overs (Nash 99 not out, Walton 70; Rasel 5-59, Shuvo 5-85) BANGLADESH A: First innings

205-5 in 66 overs (Mehrab 29 Nazimuddin 72, Faisal 64 not out, Sahagir 26 not out; Brown 2-43, Pascal 1-27, Shillingford 1-67)

#### **USA** series AFP, Fort Lauderdale Sri Lanka beat New Zealand by seven wickets in the second of

Lanka level

two Twenty20 matches on Sunday, part of international cricket's historic attempt to break into the US market. Sri Lanka triumphed in the low-scoring affair with more

than four overs to spare to earn a 1-1 draw in the series. Nuwan Kulasekara tore through New Zealand's top order, taking three wickets in the second over as he removed openers Brendon McCullum

with Rob Nicol. New Zealand were an embarrassing 13-5 at one

and Aaron Redmond along

Daniel Vettori and Nathan McCullum were the only New Zealanders to reach double figures, but the 81 runs amassed by New Zealand was no challenge for Sri Lanka even on the slow, lifeless pitch.

Vettori's 27 gave New Zealand a glimmer of hope, and Nathan McCullum's 36 took their total to 81 before they were bowled out in the 18th over.

Mahela Jayawardene got Sri Lanka going with a 12-ball 17. Thissara Parera added 24 and Tillakaratne Dilshan overcame his struggles to find his timing for an unbeaten 33. Sri Lanka had lost Saturday's opening game of the series, which marked the first cricket games on US soil between two

#### ICC full members. **SCORES IN BRIEF**

NEW ZEALAND: 81 all out in 17.3 overs (Vettori 27, McCullum 36 not out; Kulasekara 3-4, Malinga 3-12, Mendis 2-19)

SRI LANKA: 86 for 3 in 15.3 overs (Jayawardene 17, Dilshan 33 not out, Perera 24; NMcCullum 2-15)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 7 wickets.

# Federer off the mark

on June 1.

**FROM PAGE 17** 

razor-sharp Federer backhand. Despite the win, Federer, playing in his 42nd successive Grand Slam event, refused to look forward to a fourth Roland Garros final against old rival Rafael Nadal.

"He's in great form, but I'm just looking at my draw. The final hasn't happened yet," said Federer, who has yet to win a claycourt title this season. Spain's Feliciano Lopez, the 27th seed, was the day's biggest

early casualty, losing to German qualifier Julian Reister, the world 165, in straight sets. Caroline Wozniacki, leading the chasing pack in pursuit of the Williams sisters, shrugged off ankle injury concerns to

ond round. reeled off the first seven games of the match before clinching a 6-0, 6-3 win over Russian world 78 Alla Kudryavtseva, the 69minute victory proving a crucial confidence-booster for the

sweep into the women's sec-

third seed. Wozniacki came into Paris having retired from the Warsaw event last week with a recurrence of the ankle injury that

campaign and has cast a shadow over her entire claycourt season.

A second-round loss in Madrid sapped her optimism while also helping Venus Williams displace her as world number two. Wozniacki, dressed by Stella

nail polish, broke Dostoevskyreading Kudryavtseva three times in the first set, which was wrapped up in 25 minutes. The Russian, best known for knocking Maria Sharapova out of Wimbledon in 2008, rallied to break at 2-1 in the second

McCartney and sporting red

immediately before cruising through the rest of the match. Jelena Dokic, now a member of the women's tour seniors club, slumped to a dispiriting first-round exit, but vowed to The 19-year-old Dane keep playing despite having won just one match on the

set, but Wozniacki hit back

main tour this year. The 27-year-old Australian recently by an allergy, takes on went down to a 6-2, 6-2 defeat against Czech 24th seed Lucie Safarova and then set her sights on qualifying for Wimbledon, 11 years after her breakthrough at the All England Club where she stunned Martina Hingis.

"Outside of facing a top five meets Switzerland's Stefanie also cut short her Charleston player, this was one of the worst Voegele.

draws I could have got. She's having a great claycourt season and a great season generally," said Dokic, the world 115. Dokic came into the French

plagued by illness and an elbow injury. She played just one claycourt event, a low-key Challenger in the Czech

Open having seen her season

Republic. "I have only played four tournaments all year. But I need to keep practising and move on from this. I only started hitting three weeks ago while others were playing." Also safely through is

Chinese number one Li Na, the 11th seed, who defeated last year's junior champion Kristina Mladenovic of France 7-5, 6-3, wile Russian fifth seed Elena Dementieva beat Petra Martic of Croatia 6-1, 6-1. Later Monday, third seed Novak Djokovic, laid low

Kazakhstan's Evgeny Korolev, while British fourth seed Andy Murray faces a tough opener against France's flamboyant shot-maker Richard Gasquet. Women's top seed Serena Williams, the 2002 champion,

**26** Eng's closest DRINKINGGLASS S E C P O S E Y R H O
T O N E E V E N relative 29 Shaft HINTS LIKEN of light AVEIDIOMBOA L O C K C O M P O N E N T C A N I N E R O G U E P O L E S A G E S **30** AAA job 31 Entice LOT BYE 32 Gender

#### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 21 Crucial 23 Fear, and

then

title

tion

ment

28 Monday

27 Luau

26 Organiza-

entertain-

morning

quarter-

back's

place

32 "Franken-

stein"

author

33 Walks the

35 Mimic

36 Thick-

ness

entree

tery VIP

spot

48 Time of

preceder

your life?

catwalk

some

mentary

35 "Eureka!" much 2 Couple, 24 Parliato a 37 Retreats gossip-40 Achilles' 25 Vacillate monger

3 Impale

4 Scent

offshoot

8 Nurture

19 Follow

relent-

lessly

too

45 Bedouin 5 alcohol 47 Retriever 6 Greek type **49** Met cross 7 HBO melody

33 Antitoxins DOWN

34 Einstein's 1 Love

birthplace

36 Rice

field

downfall

41 Manually

50 Actor

9 Passe **51** ld 10 "CSI" counterevidence part 5-Across 52 Bigfoot's 11 Conger, 18 Personify

53 Soak up

54 Still

**55** Lip

LaBeouf

Solution time: 25 mins. T A J G P O Y O G A D O O R S C O N I C E R R A T A

39 Monas-

38 Skewered

42 Vicinity 43 Little lice 44 Speaker's ROME 45 Fool 46 Sigma

# 26 27 28 45 46 51 54

NBJRBKVV SP

EKVEWKUI UWBE, IVG ZVGUF

ZBUU SO PEKSJR OKBSJSJR. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE OLD IRON WASN'T

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals U

# **CRYPTOQUIP** DQWJ

OWBZQSJR SOP NSFP QVD OV

GETTING THE WRINKLES OUT OF HIS PANTS, SO HE SHOUTED "FOR PLEAT'S SAKE!"