'Pak attack not scary'

Trent Bridge Test starts today

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Paul Collingwood is adamant there is no reason why he or his fellow England batsmen should feel daunted by the challenge of facing Pakistan's bowlers here at Trent Bridge.

Pakistan go into the first of four-Test series starting Thursday on the back of a dramatic threewicket second Test win over Australia at Headingley where they dismissed Ricky Ponting's men for just 88 in the first innings last

Teenage left-arm quick Mohammad Aamer has been compared to Pakistan hero Wasim Akram while Mohammad Asif was likened to Australia great Glenn McGrath by Pakistan captain Salman Butt.

Umar Gul is a fine third seamer while legspinner Danish Kaneria completes an admirably balanced attack.

However, Collingwood -- returning to Tests after missing England's early season 2-0 home series win over Bangladesh with a shoulder injury -- suggested Pakistan were flattered by overcast conditions at Headingley.

"I don't want to go overboard on 'these guys are the best thing since sliced bread' -- or Wasim Akram, or this, that and the other," Collingwood told reporters on Tuesday.

Nevertheless he praised the 18-year-old Aamer, saying: "When I was 18 I was just getting a contract for Durham and playing club cricket out in Australia -- so it was bare bones at the time. "Seeing a youngster like that [Aamer] is excellent for the game.'

But Collingwood added: "If we can get through those periods where it can be really

tricky, I think we can get on top of them. "To say they're the number one bowling attack

in the world I would say was over the mark. "They have come up in conditions recently

where it's done a fair bit. "Their confidence is going to be sky-high. But

we're a confident team ourselves.'

England will take heart from the way an inexperienced Pakistan batting line-up lost seven wickets in pursuit of a relatively modest

victory target of 180 at Headingley.

So England's bowlers will fancy their chances at Trent Bridge, where paceman Stuart Broad and off-spinner Graeme Swann play for Nottinghamshire.

Pakistan, in what will be only opening batsman Butt's second match as captain, are likely to go in with the same side as played at Headingley.

Meanwhile England, who have a 12-man squad, are set to stick with a policy of six specialist batsmen and four bowlers that has become standard under the regime of coach Andy Flower and captain Andrew Strauss.

Wile this might work against Pakistan, it could leave them a bowler light in Australia where they begin the defence of the Ashes in November and where no England side has won a Test series since 1986.

"We have done very well with the three seamers, and Swanny's pivotal role in giving the seamers rest -- with the wickets he gets and the pressure he puts on," Collingwood said. "Sometimes I tend to think that when you do

have four seamers one of them never bowls too much anyway. As batsman Ian Bell is out with a series-

itself. And so will, it seems, England's attack after Yorkshire seamer Ajmal Shahzad was ruled out Wednesday with an ankle injury.

ending foot injury, the top six appears to pick

Shahzad's county colleague Tim Bresnan was called into the squad as a replacement but it would now be a major surprise if England fielded an attack of anything other than James Anderson, Steven Finn, Broad and Swann.

As for Pakistan, Butt said: "We know it will not be an easy ride so we have to stick together and try our best. That's all we can do."

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Eoin Morgan, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, James Anderson, Steven Finn, Tim Bresnan.

PAKISTAN (probable): Salman Butt (captain), Imran Farhat, Azhar Ali, Umar Amin, Umar Akmal, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Aamer, Umar Gul, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Asif.

Maria Sharapova of Russia serves to Zheng Jie of China in the Bank of the West Classic at Stanford University on Tuesday.

Sharapova's revenge



AP, Stanford

Contador

parts with

from each other, the team

wanted to know urgently

whether or not [he would

renew his contract]", said a

statement from Tour de

France champion Contador's

rejected the ultimatum of

Astana," the statement read,

adding the Kazakh-funded

team had expected a decision

Astana in 2008 after the

Discovery Channel team was

disbanded following the

Pinto-born rider's Tour tri-

times Tour champion won the

Tour de France twice (2009

and 2010), the Giro and Vuelta

BCB to discuss

coach and ahead of a big

tournament like the World

Cup, the presence of a psy-

burning issues to be solved

immediately too. To make the

National Cricket Academy

functional is one of the major

issues as they got the two-

storied building with all the

necessary modern facilities

but still has not been fur-

nished with all the compo-

The Rafiqul Alam-led

selection panel, which is

under tremendous pressure

after the Tigers' ignominious

defeats against lowly Ireland and Netherlands, is likely to

get the extension in the meet-

the appointment of new CEO

and CFO. Former cricketer

Manzur Ahmed is all set to join

be also approved during the

meeting. BCB has already con-

firmed that the 2011 World Cup

preparations will not hurt this

the list for tomorrow's (Thurs-

day's) meeting," informed

"There are 32 agendas in

season's domestic calendar.

The domestic calendar will

as new CEO from September.

The board will also approve

ing till next June.

nents that will make it work.

The board has some other

With Astana, the three-

Contador, 27, joined

by Tuesday at the latest.

"Alberto Contador has

Astana

REUTERS, Paris

Astana team.

press officer.

umph in 2007.

(both 2008).

FROM PAGE 17

chologist is crucial.

Alberto Contador will not Maria Sharapova would have preferred to renew his contract with the forget about the last time she played China's Zheng Jie. At least she can move forward after "Although the position of settling a score. both parties was not so far

Sharapova made a triumphant return to hardcourts, beating Zheng, 6-4, 7-5, in the first round of the Bank of the West Classic on Tuesday night. Sharapova suffered a loss to Zheng the last

time she played on hardcourts, at Indian Wells in March. "That was a scratchy match," said the fifth-

seeded Russian. "I wasn't feeling good and I didn't want to remember it." The 15th-ranked Sharapova missed six

weeks right after that loss because of an elbow injury and shoulder problems. "After you don't play for a while you have to

be ready from the beginning," said Sharapova, who won for the 15th time in her last 18 matches. "I wanted to adapt as quickly as I could. She's a competitor and a good player and I had to be ready."

Sharapova meets Olga Govortsova of Belarus in Thursday's second round.

"I'm just trying to work myself toward the US Open," Sharapova said. "I'm just happy to be back playing.

Defending champion Marion Bartoli was another of the five seeds to advance, beating American Ashley Harkleroad 6-1, 6-4. The fourth-seeded Frenchwoman, ranked

14th, beat Harkleroad for the first time in three meetings, though it was their first meeting in six "She played really well, especially in the

second set," Bartoli said. "For someone who hasn't played that much lately, she was giving me a hard time out there." Bartoli, who faces wild card Ana Ivanovic in the second round, won 81 percent of her first

serve points to overwhelm the American, who played her second match on the WTA Tour in "The matches Ana and I have had in the past have been really, really close," Bartoli said of

facing the former top-ranked Serb. "I'm definitely looking forward to it. I think this is great preparation for me if I want to do well at the US Open."

In the final match of the night, American teenager Melanie Oudin recovered from a 5-1 deficit in the second set to beat Canadian Aleksandra Wozniak, 6-7 (6), 7-5, 6-3 in a match that lasted 2 hours, 29 minutes.

the special guest of the ceremony which was chaired by Managing Director of meet's sponsor Knit Concern Group of Industries Joynal Abedin Mollah. Knit Concern Badminton

New Vision

took both singles and doubles

titles beating his compatriots

crown beating Loke Kok Pong

and shared the doubles crown

with Cheng Gann defeating

Loke Kok Pong and Woon Kog

Federation's vice president M

Nurul Haque distributed

prizes among the winners as

the chief guest of the closing

Malaysia Tang C Lieong was

Sales Manager of Kawasaki

Bangladesh Badminton

Krishnan lifted the singles

FROM PAGE 17

in the finals.

Hong pair.

ceremony.

PHOTO: AFP

Club of Narayanganj and New Vision Badminton Academy Team of Malaysia will meet each other on home and away basis each year to improve their standard of badminton.

Ton-up Sachin

FROM PAGE 17

Laxman partnered Tendulkar for most of the afternoon session, before falling just ahead of the tea interval when he was leg-before to Mendis.

Tendulkar moved to his half-century by lofting Randiv for a six over long-on and celebrated the milestone by hitting the off-spinner for two consecutive boundaries.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 642 for 4 declared (Paranavitana 100, Dilshan 54, Sangakkara 219, M Jayawardene 174,

Samaraweera 76 not out) INDIA: First innings 382 for 4 (Vijay 58, Sehwag 99, Tendulkar 108 not out, Laxman 29, Raina 66 not out: Randiv 2-108, Mendis 2-92)

Mushie in favour of Butt-Younis combo

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Mushtaq Ahmed has urged Pakistan to persist with the combination of captain Salman Butt and coach Waqar Younis.

Former Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq, now England's spin bowling coach, will find himself on the opposite side to his compatriots when a four-Test series gets underway at Trent Bridge here on Thursday.

But he insists his advice is heartfelt nonethe-

Butt jumped into what has long been the

hottest of hotseats when he became Pakistan's latest captain at Headingley last week. However, the opening batsman promptly led Pakistan to a first Test victory over Australia

in 15 years as Pakistan upset the odds to win by three wickets. Mushtaq, who played alongside fast bowling

star Wagar in the Pakistan team of the 1990s, said: "Salman is lucky. He has Waqar Younis as coach. "It is very important for a young captain to have a very good, mature coach.

"Personally, I think this is a good combina-

Mushtaq, who starred in the Sussex side that won three County Championship titles in 2003, 2006 and 2007, added: "Maybe it will take some

"A young captain has to make his mistakes sometimes, and that's why the coach will play a huge role.

"But overall, as long as they both have a

freedom, I think it can work." Pakistan have been unable to play matches

'Blind' Smyth

makes history

Legally blind Irish sprinter

Jason Smyth is used to being top

The partially-sighted 23-

year-old has made history as

the first Paralympian to com-

pete at a European

Championships, and pro-

duced a storming run on

Tuesday at a breezy Olympic

Stadium in Barcelona to qualify

for Wednesday's semifinals of

Smyth ran 10.43 seconds,

compared with a personal

best of 10.32, in the same heat

as Frenchman Christophe

Lemaitre, the fastest

European this year after set-

ting a national record of 9.98 at

the French championships

"When you come here and

compete against guys who've

run 9.9 you're worried about

getting destroyed," Smyth said

in the stadium that hosted the

number one and expected to

win but here the competition is

a lot harder and you get away

dence competing against

athletes of this quality and

competing well. I definitely

believe I belong here with these

"But it does give you confi-

with very little," he added.

"In the Paralympics you're

REUTERS, Barcelona

biggest stages.

the 100 metres.

this month.

1992 Olympics.

at home since an armed attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore in March last year and Mushtaq believes this is a key factor in the side's erratic form. "Naturally, they will struggle -- for consis-

tency -- because they do not have that home advantage," he said. "Just imagine how much it must hurt -- that

no team wants to come to my country. That really hurts. "You are always away from your family,

hardly spending any time in Pakistan. "That is hard. It reminds you, and you think,

'What is going on?'"

But in the absence of any international cricket at home, former Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq believes playing in England is the next best option for the team.

Saglain, credited with pioneering the 'doosra' (a ball that turns the opposite way to a conventional off-break) during a 49-Test career that yielded 208 wickets, helped Surrey win a trio of County Championship titles around the turn of the century and knows England well.

"It shouldn't be a long-term solution -- we need to play at home," Saqlain said. "If we're not playing in Pakistan it will be a big loss and our grassroots level will suffer.

"But if they're playing on a neutral venue, England is an excellent place. Pakistan players love playing in England.

"There is a big Pakistani community and they really lift us. Also, if the weather is good, pitches are good to bat on, you can reverse the ball and there is a bit of spin.

"If the weather is good the conditions suit overseas in England for that reason."

us. There are a lot of Pakistan players who play

dog at the Paralympics but now Cricket feels more than ready to mix with elite athletes on the world's

> Ajmal Shahzad was ruled out on Wednesday of the England squad for the first Test against Pakistan, starting at Trent Bridge here on Thursday, with an ankle injury.

Yorkshire seam bowler Tim Bresnan.

Nick Peirce said in a statement: "After twisting his left ankle with Yorkshire over a week ago Ajmal went on to successfully play in a

England practice at the NCPC (National Cricket Performance Centre) on Tuesday and as a precautionary measure it is felt he is best to undergo rehabilitation on the ankle for the remainder of this week.

"We expect Ajmal to make a full recovery, he hasn't been ruled unavailable for the second Test starting next week [at Edgbaston]. He will continue to be assessed this week before a

Shahzad, 25, has so far played just one Test, against Bangladesh in Manchester last month, where he took four wickets in the match for 63 runs.

England's preference for playing only four specialist bowlers. However, some impressive displays during England's oneday series win against Bangladesh had seen Shahzad put himself

England national selector Geoff Miller, speaking to Sky Sports, said of Shahzad: "His career's just starting. There's a lot for him to

work at. It's disappointing for him, obviously, but he'll fight back. "We'll monitor and work on his problem, his ankle. He'll

for England

AFP, Nottingham

Maradona **FROM PAGE 17** regional tournament next year but Grondona said there was

Yunus.

training staff. Local media said former Boca Juniors coach Carlos Bianchi, who led the Buenos Aires club to a string of national and continental titles in two stints between 1998 and

plenty of time to recruit a new

2004, was a popular favourite. Other names circulating as possible successors include Estudiantes coach Alex Sabella, Independiente's former coach Americo Gallego, former Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa and ex-River Plate, Inter Milan and

Argentina striker Ramon Diaz.

Grondona said youth team coach Sergio Batista, Maradona's former 1986 team mate, was the logical choice as caretaker coach and he will lead the team for a friendly against Ireland in Dublin Aug. 11.

Mohammedan eye

FROM PAGE 17

Bhuiyan, member secretary of Mohammedan's ad-hoc committee.

"After the early moves by Sheikha Jamal and Muktijoddha, there are virtually no big names left in the market which is why we are looking forward to forming a youthful side that would offer an edge in terms of spirit. Within a couple of days, our squad will get a definite shape," said Nakib.

It was learnt that Mohammedan have been in touch with Nehal, Hasan Al Mamun, Abullah Parvez, Faisal Mahmud and a bunch of players from U-20 national

36 Tubular

pasta

37 "Give a

hoot,

40 A billion

years

type

42 Kate of

47 On the

briny

48 Entry on a

schedule

sports

49 Disarray

beest

51 World's

fair

DOWN

1 Wood-

tool

shaping

50 Wilde-

41 Beefcake

reality TV

don't pol-

lute" owl

ACROSS

1 Slightly

open

5 Spinning

meas.

songbird

12 Mournful-

ly, in

music

14 Continen-

tal coin

Hathaway

17 Moray, for

15 Airship

16 Actress

one

18 Mortar-

board

dangler

20 Earning a

bronze

medal

23 Horse's

neck

hair

25 Wool

24 Bankrolls

grease

28 Praise, in

Muslim

verse

29 Sacred

text

30 Corn on

the —

32 Olympics

spear

34 Libertine

amorously

35 Eye

8 Small

league. When asked why Moha-

squad and the senior division

mmedan failed to retain the services of last season's players, Lokman said, "It is true that Mohammedan are going through financial crisis as well as organisational trouble, but none of the leaving players discussed with us before leaving. It is sad but true that players only play for money and have no feelings for the club." "We will rope in quality

foreign players and request the Bangladesh Football Federation to increase the quota of foreign players to six for a match," he added. Last season, Mohamme-

By Eugene Sheffer

2 Namath

3 Matter-

4 "Three's

couple

partner

before

omega

dweller

5 Rock

6 Letter

7 Butte

8 "Pop

Goes

the —"

9 Baseball

scores

11 Playwright

Coward

ist's sliver

B B C L E O A T E

13 Clarinet-

19 In due

time

Solution time: 24 mins.

G U R U O D E S A T E
S T E P U S A S H A D
T E N T W O
I N R O A D S H U T U P

C U I N G O P E R A E N G U L F D O Y E N S T E L U P S

J A W S O A F A M I D U S E O R F F L O B E L I E H I R E E V E N

Y A P O D O R S E X Y

E G O S A P S E G O G O B O W S

10 Sea eagle 33 Bar

DiMaggio

horn, e.g.

Company"

or

20 Pair

21 Pilgrim-

age to

Mecca

22 Concept

23 "Every-

body

mom

25 Dawdle

27 Part of

picture

speech

29 Frat party

31 Spelling

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contest

orders

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34 Fail to

suit

36 Flower

37 "Pow!"

38 North-

ampton-

shire

river

als

39 Individu-

40 Birthright

43 Possess

44 Remiss

46 Ultra-

45 Mischie-

vous tyke

modernist

barterer

26 PC

Loves

Raymond"

with a couple of local players skipped training protesting unpaid wages and subsequently drew 2-2 with lowly Farashganj in a crucial league match that virtually ended their title aspirations. Mohammedan's arch-

dan's foreign recruits along

rivals Abahani's manager Satyajit Das Rupu said they have almost recovered from losing key players retaining services of Uzzal, Robin, Nazrul, Pranotosh, Abul, Zia, Siraji, Mintu, Shohag. He also added that they are in constant touch with Alfaz Ahmed, Arup, Shuvro, Arafat Ronny, Choumin Rakhain, Himel, Kamal and Jitu.

12

32

13 18 19 21 22 42 45

CRYPTOQUIP

48

50

ZGZS QWIHZ W YGDWLZL

QEYKKWIJ WIBD BMYB WIREYBYVEZ VDYB, TZDTEZ MYGZ

HYEEZL KZ Y SYRB LDLJZS.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IN OUR CLOTHING

COMPANY'S GRAB BAG, I HAD HOPED TO CHOOSE LONG PANTS, BUT IT CAME UP SHORTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals P

Shahzad out

Shahzad's place in a 12-man squad has been taken by fellow England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief medical officer

40-over match for his county last Monday. "Unfortunately Ajmal felt some discomfort following

decision on his fitness is made."

It appeared he was in line to miss out on selection for the team for the first of a four-Test series against Pakistan, given

in competition for a Test place with the likes of James Anderson.

come in and the medical staff will work on him," the former England off-spinner added.